

# VINYL CHILD

by  
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BASED ON A TRUE STORY

OPENING TITLES

An animated sequence showing montages from the short.

1 EXT. RESTAURANT - PARKING LOT - NIGHT 1

Only a handful of cars remain in a dimly-lit lot for a small Mexican restaurant.

2 INT. RESTAURANT - DINING ROOM - NIGHT 2

A mom-and-pop restaurant is nearly empty except for a few chipper families straggling behind. Amidst all the cacophony, a stoic-looking couple sit silently, waiting, unblinkingly, as people dart to and fro. Their waiter, DUNBAR, 30, takes notice and stops abruptly as he passes.

DUNBAR  
Are you ready to order?

The man, JERRY, responds slowly, deliberately, putting equal emphasis on each word. \*

JERRY  
Yes...we...are. I will have...the  
Tacos...Envenenados.

Dunbar jots this down.

DUNBAR  
All right. And for you?

The woman, GLORY, speaks in a similar tone.

GLORY  
I will...be having.....the...  
Huitlacoche.

DUNBAR  
Got it. Anything else?

They stare at him, blankly. He smiles, uncomfortable.

JERRY  
Aren't you forgetting something?

DUNBAR  
Uh... is it your birthday?

JERRY  
You didn't ask Kevin what he  
wanted.

DUNBAR  
Kevin?

GLORY  
He's 16! We don't order for him.

DUNBAR  
What...

Dunbar turns and sees, at the far end of the table, a Cabbage Patch Kid doll strapped into a high chair.

DUNBAR  
Oh... the doll.

Dunbar chuckles and nods at the couple, grinning. Glory glances at her husband, who is staring intently at Dunbar.

JERRY  
This...is...our...son.

DUNBAR  
(sardonically)  
Ohhh.... I got you.

Dunbar crosses to the other end. Kneels down to be eye level with the doll.

DUNBAR  
Hiii, Kevin. Nice to meet you.

Dunbar returns to his feet, winks at the couple.

DUNBAR  
All right, guys, let me know if you  
need anything. My name's Dunbar.

\*  
\*

He finger points, then does a slow-moving jog and exits frame. We stay on Jerry, silently fuming, and Glory, who leans in and squeezes the doll's shoulder. She tells him --

\*

GLORY  
I'm so sorry, honey.

Jerry has had enough. He slams his paper napkin on the table and crosses out of frame.

3 INT. RESTAURANT - LOBBY

3

Jerry approaches a man wearing a name tag, as he speaks to the hostess.

\*

JERRY  
Excuse me, sir. Are you the  
manager?

MANAGER  
Yes. Can I help you with  
something?

Glory has made it up to them with "Kevin" in her arms. Simultaneously a young African-American boy runs past them, to the gumball machine in the background. He fishes in his pocket for a coin.

JERRY  
Yes, you can. You see, we have a  
little problem here.

MANAGER  
All right.

GLORY  
Our waiter completely neglected our  
son and wouldn't take his order.

At this exact moment, the boy looks up from the gumball  
machine and glances in their direction. The manager notices  
him, nervously.

MANAGER  
Are you sure it wasn't a  
misunderstanding?

GLORY  
(matter-of-fact)  
Oh, no. He refused to take his  
order. When we asked him about it,  
he just laughed and walked away.

JERRY  
(unenthusiastic)  
This isn't the first time someone's  
discriminated against us. And we  
won't stand for it.

GLORY  
Our son was completely humiliated.

The manager panics. He

CROSSES TO THE BOY at the gumball machine, fishes some  
quarters out of his pocket and hands them over. One, two.  
Three, four. Five, six, seven, eight, as he rambles --

MANAGER  
Here you go, buddy. Have another.  
And another.

BACK IN THE LOBBY -

JERRY  
Excuse me! We would appreciate it  
if you would not walk away during  
such an important discussion.

The manager pauses. Then RETURNS TO THEM.

MANAGER  
Oh, I'm sorry, I just...

GLORY  
We request this matter be sorted  
out, immediately!

MANAGER  
Yes, of course. Who was waiting on  
you?

Jerry and Glory turn and point. We PAN LEFT to follow their  
gesture. Then DOLLY ZOOM IN on an innocent Dunbar. His  
smile fades as he notices he is being stared at.

4

INT. RESTAURANT - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

4

Dunbar and his manager are in a heated discussion.

DUNBAR  
I didn't know they were serious!  
They said he was their son.

MANAGER  
Why couldn't he be their son?

DUNBAR  
Because it makes no sense.

MANAGER  
(conspiratorially)  
Look, honestly, families like that  
used to freak me out, too. But now  
that I run a business, I can't  
judge our customers.

DUNBAR  
Am I living on a different planet?  
I've never heard of any families  
like this.

MANAGER  
Dunbar, you can't say things like  
that! Not in this day and age.

DUNBAR  
Casey, I slant very liberally. But  
I think political correctness is  
getting a bit out of hand.

The manager gives him a good, hard look.

MANAGER  
I'm going to have to let you go.  
Pack your things.

He walks off. Dunbar calls after him --

DUNBAR  
You can't fire me over THIS! My  
car needs repairs!

5

EXT. RESTAURANT - PARKING LOT - LATER THAT NIGHT

5

CRANE DOWN to find a single car in the nearly empty parking  
lot.

Dunbar sits inside a parking spot, far away from the exit. He is sweating, sitting in the driver's seat with an open window, trying to turn his car on. But the engine floods each and every time.

DUNBAR  
Damn it!

He pulls his phone from his pocket. INSERT SHOT reveals a "dead battery" symbol.

Dunbar SCREAMS in frustration. He pops the hood and slides out of the car. As he's lifting the hood, he notices a man walking on the sidewalk, shrouded in the darkness.

DUNBAR  
Excuse me. Do you have a phone?

REVEAL: He's a homeless man.

HOMELESS MAN  
RAAARRRRR!!!!

He throws some leaves at Dunbar and then scurries on. Dunbar sighs in response. His head turns to see

A COUPLE emerging from the restaurant's exit, towards the other parked car.

DUNBAR  
Excuse me... are you good with cars?

The couple enters the pool of light illuminating Dunbar, revealing it's Glory and Jerry, with Kevin held among them.

DUNBAR  
Oh, no. Not you. Leave me alone!

Dunbar slams his hood closed and jumps back into his car. He shuts the door but the window is rolled down. From his POV, we see Jerry LEAN INTO HIS OPEN WINDOW. Glory stands over his shoulder, holding Kevin.

JERRY  
Would you like some assistance?

DUNBAR  
No thanks.

JERRY  
We can help.

DUNBAR  
You can't help me! I got fired because of you!

GLORY  
(laughing hysterically)  
Do you blame everyone for your problems?

DUNBAR  
I'll be sleeping in this car soon.  
All because I didn't wait on your  
doll.

Jerry winces. Glory takes a breath, squashing her emotions.

JERRY  
He's not a doll. He...is...our...  
son... Kevin.

Jerry retrieves Kevin. Extends his doll hand to Dunbar.

DUNBAR  
You know what... just stop.

Dunbar tries to turn over the engine again but it won't start. He slowly slides down into his seat, in a goo of frustration. And then violently shakes the steering wheel.

DUNBAR  
Why does God hate me? Is it  
because I'm an atheist?

Now Glory joins Jerry at the window, leaning in so she is right in Dunbar's face.

GLORY  
If you ever got to know him... you  
would love him, too.

Glory and Jerry stay fixated on Dunbar. He responds by reaching over and ROLLING UP THE AUTOMATIC WINDOW. They finally take the hint.

From inside his car, Dunbar turns his head, watches as Jerry and Glory saunter over to their own car. They get inside. Within seconds, they drive away. Dunbar shivers, disturbed.

6 EXT. JERRY AND GLORY'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

6

Glory and Jerry drive through the dark, empty streets of their city. A pool of light through the back window illuminates Kevin, strapped to a car seat behind them. Glory turns up the volume on a CD of Sing-A-Long kids songs. She begins to sing along, operatically, like a trained soprano.

GLORY  
*Over the river and through the  
woods...*

Jerry joins in.

JERRY & GLORY  
*To grandmother's house we go...*

JERRY  
Take it, Kevin.

CLOSE ON Kevin's painted on expression as he remains silent.

Back on Jerry and Glory, waiting for him to join in. Then back to Kevin. Then to the two in front, waiting. And as the CD loops into its second chorus, we're back on Kevin as we hear a high-pitched, cartoon voice sing...

KEVIN  
*The horse knows the way to carry  
 the sleigh...*

KEVIN & GLORY  
*Through the white and drifted  
 snow...Oh!*

From the front seat, Glory turns back around, giggling maniacally.

GLORY  
 Kevin's got such a great voice.

And then we see Jerry, his eyes fixated on the road, clearly speaking as Kevin in response.

JERRY  
 (as Kevin)  
*Why, thank you, mom! And your  
 pipes ain't so bad yourself.*

Glory chuckles and beams at Kevin in the back.

7 EXT. JERRY & GLORY'S HOUSE - NIGHT 7

Their car pulls into their darkened driveway of a house decorated in bright colors, like '80s neon clothes. Crickets chirp as they exit the vehicle. Both lean into the backseat to claim Kevin. The couple heads to the front door.

8 INT. JERRY & GLORY'S HOUSE - ENTRYWAY - MOMENTS LATER 8

Jerry and Glory enter their home, quickly turning their attention to --

A young woman with an edgy look, in dark clothes. She looks at the couple, somberly.

GLORY  
 (mildly surprised)  
 Oh, Velvet. You're here.

Despite her look, when she speaks, she sounds broken, sad --

VELVET  
 Yeah, I told you I was driving in  
 today.  
 (heartbroken, to herself)  
 But I guess you got dinner without  
 me.

Jerry and Glory immediately return their attention to Kevin.



GLORY  
Kevin, your sister is home from college.

JERRY  
(as Kevin)  
Hooray!

Contrary to their feigned excitement, the couple continue up the stairs past Velvet, not even stopping to chat. Velvet sinks into the couch. Pull out to reveal she is under a shelf of vacation photos, starring Kevin exclusively.

VELVET  
(sotto)  
Sorry to infringe on your time with Kevin.

9 EXT. AUTO BODY SHOP - NEXT MORNING

9

Dunbar waits nervously outside of an auto shop, hoping for the best. The mechanic calls him over.

MECHANIC  
Hey, man, it's the alternator. Six hundred twenty five dollars.

DUNBAR  
That's my entire paycheck!

No response. Dunbar sighs and hands over his credit card. As the mechanic returns to his car, he walks away, says to himself --

DUNBAR  
That doll ruined my life!

10 EXT. JERRY & GLORY'S HOUSE - SAME MORNING

10

Jerry and Glory carry Kevin, in his car seat, to the car they've left parked on the driveway. All are dressed in sunny attire - Hawaiian shirts, shorts, sunglasses, sunblock on the nose. Velvet, in her goth-version of beach attire, emerges from the house, rushes to keep up.

VELVET  
Hey, Kevin. Are you excited about going on Pacific Plunge?

Glory gasps and covers Kevin's eyes with his hands.

GLORY  
Velvet, watch your mouth. You know that Kevin is afraid of the drop.

Velvet retreats, hurt, embarrassed.

VELVET  
 Uh... I was just kidding, little  
 bro. We'll keep it strictly at a  
 Frog Hopper level.

Jerry puts Kevin's hand on his hip.

JERRY  
 (as Kevin)  
 Well, I can handle more than that!

11 EXT. PACIFIC PARK - DAY 11

Upbeat music plays during a montage of the family spending the day at Pacific Park, treating Kevin like their favorite child, while Velvet tags along in all the photos and footage.

12 EXT. PACIFIC PARK - WEST COASTER ENTRANCE 12

The family approaches the WEST COASTER. Before entering the queue, Jerry leans down and speaks to Kevin, authoritatively.

JERRY  
 Now, Kevin, you may finally be old  
 enough for big rides but you might  
 not be tall enough. Just keep this  
 in mind.

They step up to the "YOU MUST BE THIS TALL" sign.

GLORY  
 Let's see...

Glory dramatically crosses her fingers while Velvet stoically looks on. Jerry holds Kevin by his hands and bounces him up in the air above the sign.

JERRY  
 (as Kevin)  
 I'm tall enough! I'm tall enough!

Glory enthusiastically claps while Velvet lightly cheers. They enter the queue.

13 INT. PACIFIC PARK - WEST COASTER - DAY 13

The family is now waiting in the loading area. Kevin swings himself in Glory and Velvet's arms although it's really an oblivious-looking Glory leading the motion. The train approaches.

JERRY  
 Here we go!

The group gathers into the back two rows. Kevin is given a seat beside Glory, in the second to last. She leans in and whispers--

GLORY  
 Now don't be scared, honey. It  
 just makes you think you're going  
 to die.

The employee notices Kevin, positioned in the coaster's  
 restraints.

PARK EMPLOYEE  
 You have to put the doll in your  
 backpack.

JERRY  
 We can't do that!

GLORY  
 He would suffocate!

PARK EMPLOYEE  
 He'll fly out of the vehicle.

JERRY  
 He is our son! If you  
 discriminate, we'll take it to the  
 courts!

The employee wrinkles his brow, not sure how to respond. He  
 slowly steps backwards, away from the coaster. Gives the  
 signal. The ride departs.

JERRY  
 (as Kevin)  
 This sure is fun, Dad. Wheeeeeeee!

NEWS TELECAST - ON TV

14

EXT. PACIFIC PARK - ENTRANCE

14

BREAKING NEWS SOUND over footage of a news report, starting  
 with a journalist live in front of Pacific Park.

NEWS REPORTER  
 I'm live at Santa Monica Pier which  
 has just reopened after an incident  
 earlier today which has been under  
 investigation. A family is  
 complaining after their son flew  
 out of the coaster and onto the  
 track. But don't be alarmed  
 because the twist is their son...  
 is a doll.

\*  
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A vintage Cabbage Patch Kid commercial plays over--

NEWS REPORTER (V.O.)  
 The Westergrens won Kevin in a toy  
 expo 16 years ago -- you might  
 remember him as part of a craze in  
 the '80s.

15 INT. JERRY & GLORY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM 15

Now seated on the couch, Jerry is being interviewed by the news station.

JERRY [ON TV]  
He's a rare left-handed exclusive!  
He came mint in box, with adoption papers!

16 EXT. PACIFIC PARK - WEST COASTER 16

B-Roll of the West Coaster.

NEWS REPORTER (V.O.)  
This morning, the family wanted to take Kevin to his favorite amusement park. But things went awry when they boarded the West Coaster a little after 11 A.M.

17 INT. JERRY & GLORY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM 17

Now seated on the couch, Glory is being interviewed by the news station.

GLORY  
(overdramatically)  
This was the first year Kevin was tall enough. He was so excited.

\*

18 EXT. PACIFIC PARK - WEST COASTER 18

NEWS REPORTER (V.O.)  
Another guest caught the incident on tape. And she shared this footage with us.

THROUGH AN IPHONE, the coaster rounds a bank and we see Kevin FLY OUT OF THE VEHICLE (visual effect). The family SCREAMS as if witnessing a murder. We see it again, a second time, in SLO-MO. The SCREAMS are comically slowed down.

19 EXT. PACIFIC PARK - WEST COASTER 19

The news reporter interviews the employee.

NEWS REPORTER  
What's your response to the accusation of child endangerment?

The employee from before responds, blase --

PARK EMPLOYEE  
Uh... it's a doll.

As we go back to Glory, we pull out to reveal we're in --

20 INT. DUNBAR'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

20

The telecast continues on a small television screen being watched by a standing Dunbar.

GLORY [ON TV]  
(venomously)  
He's not a doll. He's our child!  
Look what you did to our child!

She now reveals Kevin, completely in tact, except for a tire track across his face.

REVERSE: Close on Dunbar, his jaw dropping at the telecast.

Back to the TV --

JERRY  
I mean, it will wash off with soap.  
But what about all the other  
families in our position? The ride  
should have safety protocols to  
prevent this from happening.

Still distraught, Glory throws out --

GLORY  
He's a collector's item, for Gosh  
sake!

Pan to Velvet, also on the couch, being prompted to speak.

VELVET  
See, this is why I'm in therapy.

Dunbar pauses the DVR and takes a moment. And then --

DUNBAR  
AGGGGGGGHHHHH! Leave Pacific Park  
alone, you freaks!

Dunbar looks at the screen, paused on the telecast.

DUNBAR  
Wait a minute...

He uses the remote to roll backwards over the news report. Pauses it when we first see Glory and Jerry on screen. With the lower-third reading GLORY & JERRY WESTERGREN.

An evil smile slowly grows over Dunbar's face.

21 INT. DUNBAR'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

21

Dunbar sits at a computer. We see the screen as he types "GLORY AND JERRY WESTERGREN" into a search engine.

Their address pops up as the first match.

CLOSE on Dunbar as his face turns to eerie glee.

22 INT. JERRY & GLORY'S HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT 22 \*

Jerry and Glory are watching television with Kevin. Velvet is watching from the floor. A doorbell resounds, stealing their attention.

23 INT. ENTRYWAY - MOMENTS LATER 23

Jerry crosses to the door, Glory behind him with Kevin. As they pull open the door, a REVERSE SHOT reveals Dunbar, wearing a Pizza Place uniform, holding a pizza box.

DUNBAR  
Surprise! I got a new job!

Beat.

JERRY  
Who are you again?

DUNBAR  
(chuckling)  
Remember? You guys got me fired.  
After I didn't wait on your son.

GLORY  
That could be a lot of people.

DUNBAR  
Last week. You complained to my  
manager.

Blank stares.

DUNBAR  
At the restaurant.

No response.

DUNBAR  
The Mexican restaurant.

No response.

DUNBAR  
My car was broken down in the  
parking lot.

Glory and Jerry finally remember.

JERRY  
Oh, that's right. How you doing,  
son? Look, we can't talk now.  
"Judge Judy" is on.

Jerry is about to shut the door but Dunbar pushes it open and walks inside the foyer.

DUNBAR  
I heard about the incident at the pier. What a travesty!

He notices Velvet.

DUNBAR  
Hello.

Velvet half waves.

JERRY  
(as Kevin)  
That's my sister, Velvet. She picks on me sometimes, but... I love her!

Dunbar looks at Velvet again.

DUNBAR  
Yeah, hey.

Dunbar turns his attention to Kevin.

DUNBAR  
Well, Kevin, to cheer you up, I brought you... a pizza!

He holds out the box.

JERRY  
(as Kevin)  
Oh, boy! I hope it's mushroom and olive 'cause I don't eat meat!

Dunbar grins, almost maniacally.

DUNBAR  
Oh, sure, Kevin. It's whatever you want.

He reaches out for the doll.

DUNBAR  
Can I hold him for a few minutes?

GLORY  
Uh, well, let me ask him.  
(nervously)  
Kevin... uh... would you like this strange... dirty... boy to hold you?  
(doing a poor Kevin)  
Oh, golly, no.  
(as herself)  
Oh, I'm sorry. He's still recovering from the trauma.

DUNBAR  
But I want to get to know him.  
Maybe I could take him on a walk.

GLORY  
He doesn't leave the house without  
us!

Impressed with the pizza, Jerry suggests --

JERRY  
You could join us for Game Night.  
(beat)  
But that would give us an odd  
number of people.  
(beat)  
Well, Velvet doesn't have to play!

Velvet pouts.

DUNBAR  
Yes. Game Night!

Jerry opens the pizza box, realizing it's empty.

JERRY  
Hey, there's nothing in here!

Dunbar laughs, crazily.

DUNBAR  
What are you talking about?  
(chuckling)  
It's an air pizza!

He pantomimes taking a slice, bites into it, and then offers some to Kevin.

DUNBAR  
Mmm, Kevin, your favorite...  
pepperoni and sausage.

Dunbar continues pantomiming eating. Glory and Jerry exchange annoyed looks.

24 INT. JERRY & GLORY'S HOUSE - LATER

24

A montage of Dunbar playing games with Kevin.  
- Playing Monopoly. Kevin has a pile of money, much to Dunbar's chagrin.  
- Playing Catchphrase. Jerry gives weak clues to Kevin and immediately shouts out the answers in his Kevin voice. Dunbar shoots him a look as he's handed the buzzer.  
- Playing Twister. Dunbar struggles to hold his position. We pan right to reveal Kevin twisted into a pretzel.  
- Playing Pictionary. Kevin's positioned on the easel but unmoving. Jerry grows in frustration as the time runs out.  
- Velvet counts while everyone hides for Hide and Seek. Glory and Jerry are visibly hidden (under sheet, lampshade, etc.). Dunbar emerges from his hiding spot and finds Kevin, under the couch. He looks up and there is Velvet, towering above him --

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*



VELVET  
Found you!

25 INT. KITCHEN - LATER THAT NIGHT 25

Dunbar sits at the kitchen counter, looking like he's been hit by a train. Velvet sits beside him, sulking.

DUNBAR  
(desperately)  
Do your parents ever leave Kevin alone?

VELVET  
No!  
(whimpering)  
He gets all the attention!

She storms off. Dunbar sighs deeply. He grabs the pizza box and enters

26 INT. FAMILY ROOM - CONTINUOUS 26 \*

-- finishing up a slice of air pizza. He notices --  
Jerry and Glory watching television. No Kevin in sight.

DUNBAR  
Where's Kevin?

GLORY  
He talked back to us. So we had to give him a Time Out.

Dunbar glances up the stairs. From his dazed mind, we see them in a DOLLY ZOOM.

DUNBAR  
He's up there now? Alone?

JERRY  
He's perfectly safe. We lock it from the outside. The only way someone could get in is through the window. And it's two stories up.

DUNBAR  
Riiight... well, I'll be right back. I have to check something... outside.

Dunbar urgently races out the front door before anyone can protest. Jerry and Glory exchange passive looks but neither are concerned.

GLORY  
I think Kevin's learned his lesson.

They leap to their feet, head upstairs.

\*  
\*  
\*

27 INT. SECOND STORY HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER 27

Jerry and Glory stand outside Kevin's bedroom door.

GLORY  
Kevin? Is everything all right in  
there?

No response.

JERRY  
If you're ready to behave, you can  
come out.

No response. Jerry turns to Glory --

JERRY  
He's ignoring us!

28 EXT. JERRY & GLORY'S HOUSE - SIMULTANEOUSLY 28

Dunbar sets up a ladder, scales up onto the roof. Crosses to Kevin's window. He pushes it open.

29 INT. KEVIN'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS 29

Kevin is sitting with his arms crossed and his back to the door, like he's pouting.

GLORY (O.S.)  
Kevin, don't be a baby.

Dunbar slides through the window; collapses on the floor.

DUNBAR  
Ugh!

CLOSE ON DUNBAR as he crawls towards Kevin, an insane hunger in his eyes.

REVERSE: A grinning Kevin stays put.

KEVIN'S POV: Dunbar crawls closer and closer, then reaches out, his body filling the screen.

30 EXT. JERRY & GLORY'S DRIVEWAY - MOMENTS LATER 30

Dunbar scurries down the ladder, Kevin in his arms. We PAN LEFT as he sprints to his car, holding Kevin by one hand.

Without missing a beat, Dunbar yanks the back door open, tosses Kevin inside. He then climbs into the driver's side, starts the engine, and reverses backwards before speeding away. Amidst all the noise and excitement, we SMASH CUT TO:

31 INT. JERRY & GLORY'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - SIMULTANEOUSLY 31  
 Jerry and Glory quietly waiting outside the door.

GLORY  
 He's not answering!

The two exchange looks. Then Jerry unlocks the door and  
 FLINGS IT OPEN.

32 INT. JERRY & GLORY'S HOUSE - KEVIN'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS 32  
 The two fly into the bedroom and immediately stop short upon  
 seeing Kevin missing from his chair.

JERRY  
 Kevin's gone! You know what this  
 means?

Glory nods --

GLORY  
 He's run away from home!

33 INT. DUNBAR'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 33  
 From inside the computer, we see Dunbar turn on his webcam  
 and film a message.

DUNBAR  
 Okay, listen up. I have your  
 precious little Kevin. And if you  
 want to see him alive, you'll  
 follow my instructions.

34 EXT. JERRY & GLORY'S HOUSE - OFFICE - LATER 34 \*

The video is full screen, now being played on the couple's  
 computer. We zoom out gradually as it continues --

DUNBAR [ON VIDEO]  
 But first, no police or he's dead!  
 Now, wait for an envelope outside  
 your door. It will tell you where  
 to send the ransom money.

A terrified Glory and Jerry watch in horror at the screen. A  
 curious Velvet stands beside them.

DUNBAR [ON VIDEO, CONT'D]  
 Before I go, Kevin has to say  
 something to his mommy and daddy.

CLOSE ON VIDEO: Dunbar rotates his webcam to show Kevin with  
 a cheerful disposition despite being tied to a chair, with  
 duct tape over his mouth.

In the computer room, Glory and Jerry gasp. Even Velvet's mouth drops open.

Back on the video, there is now a close-up of Kevin's cheerful face.

Close-up of Glory and Jerry's collectively worried eyes.

Close-up of Kevin's remaining cheerful expression, unchanging.

Back to Glory and Jerry's eyes.

On the video, Dunbar leans into the frame.

DUNBAR  
That's enough!

He leans in. Lowers his voice to its deepest register.

DUNBAR  
(villainously)  
You know what to do.

The camera is shut off.

In their computer room, Glory looks at Jerry, fear in her eyes. He remains brave, unmoving.

JERRY  
You heard him, Glory. No police.

She sobs in his arms, as Velvet watches, helpless.

35 INT. FAMILY ROOM - LATER 35 \*

OFF CAMERA, the doorbell is rung in rapid staccato. Glory and Jerry rush to the front door. \*

36 INT. ENTRYWAY - MOMENTS LATER 36 \*

The door is opened but nobody is there. Pan down to reveal an 8 x 11 manila envelope on the stoop. \*

The two shut the door, then carry the letter a few feet inside. Glory rips it open and pulls the contents out. She reads it aloud.

GLORY  
(reading)  
*If you want your son back, safe and sound, meet me here to make the final transactions.*

She looks at the next page -- instructions and a small plastic bag with a piece of yarn inside. She gasps, holding up the object. Jerry glances at what is now revealed to be a lock of Kevin's hair.

JERRY  
 (tearing up)  
 My son's beautiful, gorgeous locks.

Glory and Jerry begin to sob. Velvet appears from the kitchen, holding an ice cream cone.

VELVET  
 Where do we have to meet him?

37 INT. JERRY & GLORY'S HOUSE - OFFICE

37 \*

CLOSE ON COMPUTER: We're on eBay. A search is run for "CABBAGE PATCH DOLL - KEVIN - RARE LEFT HANDED EXCLUSIVE." Only one match.

REVERSE: On the couple, at the computer --

JERRY  
 The opening bid is 100,000 dollars!

GLORY  
 We've got to do it. It's Kevin.

JERRY  
 (no duh)  
 Yeah, I know!

CLOSE ON THE SCREEN as the bid is slowly typed in. 1-0-0-0-0-0-.0-0.

VELVET  
 Only one minute left!

Jerry takes a breath and then clicks on "CONFIRM BID."

But instead of listing them as top bidder, the screen loads with an error, reading -- "YOU HAVE BEEN OUTBID". The price now is listed as \$100,001.

GLORY  
 Gosh darn it.

They enter in another bid - \$100,002.00. The screen says: "YOU HAVE BEEN OUTBID - THE CURRENT PRICE IS NOW \$100,003."

GLORY  
 They must really want him.

Twenty seconds left. They enter \$100,005 and the bid takes. The page announces, "CONGRATULATIONS! YOU WON THE ITEM!"

JERRY  
 Thank goodness!

38 INT. ENTRYWAY - THE NEXT DAY 38 \*

Jerry slices over the top of a large cardboard box with a utility knife. He pulls the flaps apart and reaches inside. After tossing out a slew of Styrofoam peanuts, he finally pulls out Kevin. Glory grabs him, clutches him to her chest.

GLORY  
You're home! You're home!

VELVET  
I want to hold him! How come only  
you get to hold him?

Jerry leans over and whispers in her ear, softly...

JERRY  
I think he needs a mama's love  
right now.

GLORY  
(with tears in her eyes)  
Oh, Kevin, we know you were so  
scared. But you were very brave.  
We'll call Veronica tomorrow and  
get that hair woven in. You were  
due for a haircut anyway.

CLOSE on Kevin's smiling face.

JERRY  
How you feeling, son? Do you need  
anything?

Same close-up. No response.

JERRY  
We know it was very traumatic for  
you.

Same close-up. No response.

JERRY  
Okay, son. You don't have to talk  
if you don't want to.

No response -- just Kevin's eternal smile on his face.

39 EXT. JERRY & GLORY'S HOUSE - ESTABLISHING SHOT 39 \*

**Super: "A Month Later..."** \*

Shot of the house in the morning time. \*

40 INT. JERRY & GLORY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY 40

Glory's speaking into in a mounted landline telephone, in a hushed tone. She is almost in tears -- \*

GLORY  
 (into phone)  
 I know, doctor, but he hasn't been  
 the same since the incident. He no  
 longer talks to us. This is the  
 first time he's acted like this in  
 16 years. Just the other day, we  
 found him alone with a girl in his  
 room!

With perfect timing, we hear JERRY SCREAM from upstairs.

GLORY  
 She's back!

Glory leaves the phone hanging from its cord and rushes  
 upstairs.

41 INT. KEVIN'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

41

Jerry and Glory stand in the doorway of Kevin's bedroom,  
 mouths agast.

REVEAL: A seven-year-old girl, sitting on the bed, playing  
 with the doll. She becomes aware of the couple glaring at  
 her. A beat and then --

LITTLE GIRL  
 Sorry.

She stands up and exits the room. Glory gives her an icy  
 look. Jerry crosses into the bedroom. Glory follows.

Velvet appears in the doorway.

VELVET  
 What are you doing?

REVEAL: Kevin is bent over Jerry's knee, getting a spanking.

GLORY  
 He's been a bad, bad boy.

VELVET  
 Dad, stop!

Jerry looks up from the doll. Velvet grabs Kevin and holds  
 him tightly to her chest. She launches into a tirade.

VELVET  
 You say Kevin's 16 years old.  
 Well, guess what -- 16 year olds  
 don't want to hang out with their  
 parents. If you want your children  
 to respect you, then stop treating  
 them like crap! I mean, wake up --  
 not everything centers around you!

She takes a deep breath, then collapses onto the bed, settles  
 down between her mom and dad. Still clutching Kevin.

VELVET  
 Give your kids some space but check  
 in every now and again to ask them  
 how they feel. Learn what makes  
 them happy. Parents shouldn't be  
 smothering but it's still nice to  
 know that you're loved.

Glory takes this in. She has wised up. Jerry leans over to  
 give Velvet a hug --

But stops short. Instead he grabs Kevin from her arms, hugs  
 him instead. Glory leans in and also hugs him while Jerry  
 asks--

JERRY  
 Son, what would make YOU happy?

GLORY  
 You're 16 now. Do you think we  
 should treat you accordingly?

\*  
 \*  
 \*

SLOW ZOOM IN on Kevin's smiling face.

JERRY  
 (to Glory)  
 We've been dreading this moment.  
 But it's finally here...

\*  
 \*  
 \*  
 \*

42 EXT. STREET - DAY 42

A car sputters and starts down an empty neighborhood.

43 INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS 43

Kevin sits on a panicked Jerry's lap, "driving" his car down  
 the street. Jerry instinctively leans forward to correct him  
 but pulls himself back, trying to allow Kevin the freedom to  
 make mistakes.

From the passenger seat, Glory is scrunched up in the corner,  
 clinging to the ceiling.

GLORY  
 I haven't been this nervous since  
 we taught Velvet to drive.

From the backseat, Velvet is moping.

VELVET  
 You guys didn't teach me to drive!  
 I had to ask the creepy guy from  
 the hardware store.

JERRY  
 You know what, Velvet... I'm glad  
 you're home from college. I love  
 that you're a part of our family.



Velvet takes this in, then a smile erupts on her face. This is what she's wanted to hear for the last 16 years.

VELVET  
Thanks, Dad.

JERRY  
(as a teen Kevin)  
That wasn't Dad! It's me! My  
voice changed!

Velvet's smile fades. Glory reaches forward to turn on a CD.  
And we CUT TO:

44 EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

44

The car slowly rolls up the street as "Over the River and Through the Woods" begins to play. We hear Kevin sing along but this time, in Jerry's voice. Glory joins in.

CRANE UP as the car winds back and forth, stopping and stuttering down the street. Shot continues as credits roll.

THE END