

THE DANGEROUS BOOK FOR BOYS

"How To Walk on the Moon" (PILOT)

Written by  
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*Based on 'The Dangerous Book for Boys'  
by Conn Iggulden and Hal Iggulden*

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MOON SHOT ENTERTAINMENT



BETH

No headphones at the table.

Strange SOUNDS are coming from the headphones.

BETH

What are you listening to?

WYATT

Whale mating sounds. It relaxes me.

BETH

Hey, guess what? I'm sending out a patent application today!

WYATT

(lighting up)  
For which invention?

BETH

The pickle popper!

WYATT

That was one of Dad's best. If it sells like the Lid Lifter...  
(indicates to his mother)  
We'll be rich.

Beth twists the lid off a jar with the help of a **rubber disc**.

BETH

Ha! I wish. We sold just enough of these suckers to buy ourselves the 12 year old Chevy Astro Van.

WYATT

The Van That Can.

Suddenly a pair of big, gnarled feet are plopped onto the table in front of Wyatt. They belong to his grandmother.

TIFFANY

Your mom told me you gave her a groovy foot rub. Let's see what you got.

Wyatt is horrified.

TIFFANY

I went out boogalooing last night. They're killing me.

WYATT

What's book-a-looping?

TIFFANY

Boog-aloo. Dancing. Your old grandma  
had her first date in a long time.  
(offering a pumice stone)  
Don't forget to shave my corns.

Beth is about to object but... Off-Screen we hear a LOUD  
CRASH! Followed by DASH CRACKING UP.

BETH

Wyatt, I could use your help.

Wyatt gives his mother a "thanks" look as he follows her out.

INT. DASH & WYATT'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Beth and Wyatt enter the monkey house. Liam is on the floor,  
holding his side, writhing. A bookshelf is knocked over.

BETH

What is going on in here?!

LIAM

It's his fault! Ow.

DASH

He's the spaz, not me!

LIAM

I was saving those elixirs for Ludvik!

BETH

Who's Ludvik?

DASH

This stupid French guy he's fighting  
in World of Warcraft.

LIAM

He's not French, he's Czech!

DASH

(scoffing)  
Like there's a difference.

Liam socks his brother in the arm and the fight is back on.  
Dash puts him in a headlock. Beth issues a PIERCING WHISTLE.  
The boys finally stop. Exasperated, Beth yells to the world.

BETH

Family meeting. Kitchen in 5!

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING - FEW MINUTES LATER

The family is gathered around the table. The three boys,  
heads bowed in shame, hands in their laps. Beth paces.

BETH

We've all been through a lot lately, and there's more... tough times ahead, but we're just not being nice to each other lately. We're not acting like a family. I'm not mad, I'm disappointed.

TIFFANY

(whispering to Beth)  
Go easy. Look how sad they are.

BETH

(looking at her boys)  
On the table. NOW.

The boys sheepishly reveal that they were all playing with their iPhones under the table. They surrender them. Beth takes a moment, then switches tactics.

BETH (CONT'D)

You boys go back to school in two days, and this weekend is... would've been your father's 45th birthday. I think we should do... something. Your dad made such a big deal out of your birthdays, it seems right that we honor his... So, any ideas?

Silence. No one seems motivated -- not even Tiffany, who's suddenly fascinated with her fingernails. Wyatt is also ambivalent about the idea, but wants to support his mother.

WYATT

Um, what if... what if we have some friends over and we show them Dad's inventions?

BETH

That's an interesting idea. They were his pride and joy. You guys like it?

LIAM

I guess.

DASH

I dunno.

BETH

The inventions need a little spiffing up... We should all help Wyatt with his plan.

Wyatt reacts, "my plan?". The boys nod without enthusiasm.

TIFFANY

Whatever you want, hon.

LIAM

Is the meeting over?

BETH  
(sighing)  
Adjourned.

Liam and Dash bolt from the room.

TIFFANY  
I need some grub.

Tiffany crosses to the fridge. Wyatt and Beth whisper...

WYATT  
It was just an idea, not a plan.

BETH  
Oh Wyatt, if you don't think -

WYATT  
(finishing her sentence)  
-Think I can handle it? Of course I  
can... It's, It's just kinda - crazy.  
(off her concerned look)  
In a good way. Dad loved crazy ideas.

TIFFANY  
I'd make my own omelette, but I just  
can't find anything in this kitchen.

Beth makes a playful "she drives me crazy" look to Wyatt that Tiffany can't see. Wyatt smiles. Beth kisses his forehead.

BETH  
Allow me.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Wyatt crosses through the living room. He stops by a framed photograph that sits atop a dresser in front of a window.

INSERT: A smiling, handsome man with three young boys.

It's Wyatt's recently deceased father, Patrick. Wyatt smiles.

Suddenly there's a RAP at the window above the dresser. Wyatt looks up to see a MAN outside the window - his face pressed up against it. And the man looks EXACTLY LIKE HIS FATHER.

MAN  
Surprise!

Wyatt's eyes flutter and he faints out of the frame.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Wyatt's POV: A fuzzy image of a ceiling and distorted faces. We HEAR a CACOPHONY OF VOICES SPEAKING RANDOMLY ODD PHRASES. Wyatt comes to and sits up. The family is gathered around, **including the man who looks like his father**. Wyatt sees him and starts to faint again but his mother prevents that.

BETH

No no, stay with us, honey.

WYATT

I'm okay.

MAN

Sorry I scared you, Wyatt.

TIFFANY

Wyatt! You remember your Uncle Terry!

UNCLE TERRY (45, well-meaning underachiever) smiles at Wyatt.

DASH

(to Terry)

Wyatt's a fainter.

LIAM

It's called syncope. Shock triggers a reduction in blood flow and cuts off --

DASH

Bla bla bla... I faked chopping off my finger once, blood squirting all over. Wyatt went down hard. Lights out!

BETH

Still not funny, Dash. I'm sorry, Wyatt, are you okay?

She hands Wyatt a glass of water. He nods and takes a sip.

UNCLE TERRY

Seems like yesterday, but it's been over five years since I've been here.

WYATT

(trying to remember)

Did you burn down our tree-house?

UNCLE TERRY

That was all conjecture and hearsay.

BETH

How did you happen to come home now?  
Been trying to reach you for months.

TIFFANY

I sent my baby boy a message.

BETH

How? Email?

TIFFANY

(tapping her temple)  
Mind Mail.

UNCLE TERRY

(indicates his brain)  
Got my wires crossed up a bit, but  
once I heard Tiffany's call, I bolted.

Beth and her sons exchange looks. *Are those two insane?*

DASH

You call grandma, Tiffany?

TERRY

Yeah... that's her name.

TIFFANY

Everyone knew Patrick was smart,  
(caresses Terry's face)  
but little brother has some brains  
too.

LIAM

I thought dad and Uncle Terry were  
identical twins?

TIFFANY

Oh no, Terry's a good nine minutes  
younger, and he was always... more  
delicate. I breast fed him 'til seven.

Terry smiles at Tiffany, sharing the happy memory.

WYATT

(hopefully to Beth)  
Months, right?  
(off Beth's head shake)  
Eew.

TIFFANY

Are you hungry, honey?

UNCLE TERRY

Famished.



Tiffany undoes her sweater. **Beth and the boys object**, but Tiffany just removes the sweater and heads into the kitchen.

TIFFANY

I'd make you an awesome breakfast, but-

BETH

I know, can't find anything. I got it.

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

Beth cleans while Uncle Terry and Tiffany enjoy a big breakfast. The boys stare at their long-lost uncle.

UNCLE TERRY

A party! That is a killer plan, Wyatt!

WYATT

It's not a party! It's not even a plan - It was just an idea, that's all.

UNCLE TERRY (CONT'D)

Pat wouldn't want a bunch of sobbing, boring speeches. A party! Perfecto!

TIFFANY

And it's your birthday, too!

BETH

We weren't really picturing a party-

UNCLE TERRY

We'll make it totally rad! Hey, we should get a Kiss cover band!

LIAM

Let's just get Kiss. What the hell else are they doing?

UNCLE TERRY

Beth, you've had so much - let me lift this burden off of your shoulders.

(his hands like claws)

See? This is me lifting the weight off your shoulders... ah, it's so heavy.

Beth, uncertain, grins & nods. She's non-confrontational.

INT. GARAGE - DAY

Patrick's workshop. Wyatt worried, peruses his father's diverse inventions and experiments -- most covered in dust, dirt, and in disrepair. Wyatt's not at all ready to dive in.

INT. DASH & WYATT'S BEDROOM - LATER

Wyatt's in a bottom bunk-bed, halfheartedly playing a game of **online chess** on his iPad. He looks over at Dash, who zombie-stares at a Playstation screen. It's **Madden NFL 2008**.

WYATT

Dash... You, um, ever think about Dad?

On Dash's back. He stops playing... shifts uncomfortably, gives a pained, cursory glance at Wyatt, then goes back to playing. Liam enters with a box filled with his stuff.

LIAM

Mom says I have to move in, Uncle Terry's getting the den for now.

DASH

No. Way.

LIAM

You think I'm happy about this? Last year I had to give up my room to grandma, now I have to give up the den to Bizarro Dad? It's total B.S.!

Liam grabs Wyatt and flips him onto the floor.

WYATT

Liam!

LIAM

Seniority.

Liam sits on the bottom bunk with his box.

DASH

Go sleep on the living room couch.

LIAM

That thing smells like a cat's butt.

DASH

Wyatt, you sleep on it.

WYATT

I'm allergic to cats - and cat butts.  
(a pause)  
So, gonna help with Dad's inventions?

DASH

Chill. We've got all week.

LIAM

Uncle Terry's got the party.

WYATT

How long is Uncle Terry going to stay?

Liam unfolds his laptop and puts on a headset.

LIAM

Until he gets arrested again.

WYATT

...Again?

LIAM

Silence, mortal! I'm about to enter  
the Forest of Shadows.

The SOUND of fingers on buttons. Wyatt returns to his iPad.

INT. HALLWAY/TIFFANY'S ROOM - LATER

The walls vibrate with JEFFERSON AIRPLANE'S "WHITE RABBIT."  
Beth passes Tiffany's room, sees her slowly mirror-dancing.

INT. DASH & WYATT'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Beth enters. Sees Wyatt in a corner on an air mattress,  
reading, headphones on, a pillow over his head, blocking out -

DASH

Dig! Dig! Oh no you don't,  
chump! YEA-NO-NO-NOOO! FOUL?!  
WHAT FOUL?!

LIAM

Wanna mess with a level 54  
Paladin?! Eat Flametongue  
Spell-- HEY, OFF MY ELF!

BETH

Okay, I think you guys have-  
(nobody hears her)  
HEY! YO! MOM HERE! HELLOOO!!!

She exhales, and exits.

INT. BETH'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

She opens the top drawer of her dresser and takes out an  
envelope. Written on it: "DB4B"

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Beth runs her finger down a circuit breaker panel. She finds  
the breaker marked "DASH & WYATT". She switches it off.

WE HEAR THE BOYS MOAN "NOOOO!", "WHAT?", "WHY?!" The boys  
stream out of the room complaining. Beth waits for quiet...

BETH

I have something here from your dad.

Beth holds out the envelope. The boys stare at it  
apprehensively -- then attack it like a cobra strike. Dash  
muscles his way in first and tears it open. He reads aloud.

DASH

"Under the Ga-nome".

The boys look at Beth... thinking. Then suddenly sprint away.

INT/EXT. MCKENNA YARD & HOUSE - MONTAGE - DAY

IN QUICK WHIP PANS, the boys race around collecting clues -

- Dash lifting up a garden gnome. Underneath is a note that reads: "Tree house".

- Wyatt ripping off a note taped in the 'fire ravaged' tree house. It reads: "BBQ."

- Dash is hunched over a Weber grill, digging through the ashes. He uncovers a note in a baggie: "Purple Haze."

- Tiffany pulls a record from her collection - Jimi Hendrix, and hands it to Liam. He finds a card inside: "Bermuda".

They're finally stumped. They stare at the card... Then Wyatt smiles and runs from the room. His brothers give chase.

INT. ATTIC - CONTINUOUS

PUSH IN ON a steamer trunk. A flashlight illuminates a yellowed, peeling vintage sticker that reads "Bermuda".

Wyatt flips open the trunk. His brothers catch up behind him.

The boys peer inside but only see a thick book with a red cover, embossed in gold glitter are the words -

**THE DANGEROUS BOOK FOR BOYS**

*What the hell is it?! They look for anything else... nope.*

DASH

Damn. I was hoping it was a puppy.

LIAM

There's no air holes, moron!

WYATT

It's too dark up here, let's go downstairs.

On Wyatt's flashlight clicking off, WE CUT TO -

INT. LIVING ROOM - A MINUTE LATER

The boys lie side by side on the floor, about to open the amazing DANGEROUS BOOK. Beth holds out another envelope.

BETH

There's also a letter from your dad.  
(off the boys immobility)  
Do you want me to read it?

They nod cautiously. They divert their eyes into the book.

## BETH READING

Hi kiddos. Hey, I know this may seem weird, but I had a lot of fun making this book for you guys. I know it must feel like I'm not there - but I am...  
On every page of this book.

The book is pages and pages of hand-written, crossed out, annotated, erased entries. There are maps, photos, diagrams, dog-eared, coffee ringed, and smudged pages, with wide-ranging topics: How to build a go-cart, Lists of great books, How to shoot a crossbow, Stories of bravery, How to tie any knot, Historic battles, How to talk to girls, The rules of football, The 7 wonders of the world, etc. A wondrous book.

## BETH READING (CONT'D)

Maybe, if this book sparks your imagination, you'll put down the gadgets for a few minutes.

The boys snap a look to mom when their name is mentioned.

## BETH READING (CONT'D)

Wyatt, I want you to have a chess match with a real person. Dash, I want you play football with other boys.  
Liam, I want you to fight a real war.  
(Beth gasps)

Joking. Liam, seriously, I'm joking!  
But maybe you could discuss peace strategies... I love you boys. Be dangerously good - and take some chances. Remember my motto: *Just do it!* Wait, no that's Nike. Mine is: *You can't succeed unless you're willing to fail.* Life's an adventure, so live it!

The three boys are excitedly flipping through the pages.

EXT. MCKENNA HOME - TWILIGHT

As night falls, we hear the boys talking over each other. "Chariot races!", "Pirates!", "Tiger Tanks!", etc.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. KITCHEN/HALLWAY - NEXT DAY

Terry is on the phone, while Beth unloads the dishwasher.

## UNCLE TERRY

Hold on a sec? Gotta count the change we found under the sofa cushions in the orphanage's common room.

Terry covers the receiver, grinning slyly at Beth.

BETH

It's amazing how much you look like Patrick, and yet you're nothing alike.

UNCLE TERRY

Ah... I don't know. You couldn't tell us apart when you first dated Pat?

BETH

That's not true - I could always tell.

UNCLE TERRY

Like your first kiss with Pat at midnight on the rooftop of the motel in Daytona Beach on spring break?

BETH

Pat told you that story?

UNCLE TERRY

Well... no, he, uh, he wasn't there...

Beth's eyes open wide, mouth agape.

BETH

THAT WAS YOU?! YOU BRAT! YOU JERK!

Her shock turns to laughter, pummeling Terry with oven mitts.

BETH

He never told me that!

(sudden shift)

Eeew! Now I know why he smelled like sage that night, that's what you wear!

UNCLE TERRY

The cowboy cologne.

More pummeling. Terry laughs, then gets back on the phone.

UNCLE TERRY (CONT'D)

I'm back... What? Really? Oh, that's awesome! The orphans will be so happy.

(he hangs up the phone)

Boom! Just got a killer deal on a deluxe fog maker.

BETH

(cheesy idea)

A fog maker? You're kidding.

(sarcastically)

Why don't ya get a frozen margarita machine while you're at it?

UNCLE TERRY  
(on the same wave length)  
Oh, the lovely Margarita will be here!

An oven mitt smacks him in the face.

INT. DASH & WYATT'S BEDROOM - A WHILE LATER

Liam and Dash have returned to their electronic devices. But Wyatt is still completely hooked on the Dangerous Book.

TIFFANY (O.S.)  
Wyatt, my dogs are killin' me!

Wyatt jumps, book under his arm, wanting to hide - but where?

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Wyatt zips into the kitchen.

TIFFANY (O.S.)  
Wyatt! Where are you?!

He slips into the pantry and pulls the door closed behind him, just as Tiffany peeks into the kitchen. Empty.

INT. PANTRY - CONTINUOUS

Darkness. A flashlight clicks on. Wyatt sits on the floor, waiting for the danger to pass. Might as well read DB4B, Oh, that's what it means. He eagerly digs back into the book.

CLOSE ON the book, an entry that is titled -

**HOW TO LAND ON THE MOON: The Apollo Missions**

Taped on the page is a photograph of Wyatt, age 5, wearing a homemade astronaut costume -- tin foil suit, white football helmet, ski goggles, etc. Wyatt smiles, devours the rich information like a boy who just found the entrance to Narnia.

WYATT  
(quietly)  
The command module separates from the Saturn rocket. Cool... It rotates and docks with the lunar module, also known as the LEM.

*SUDDENLY - A LOUD BURST OF STATIC! Wyatt is startled. THEN - A CRACKLY VOICE SPEAKS!:*

VOICE (O.S.)  
*Do you read me? Come in, Adventurer.*

*Wyatt looks up from the book and HE'S SUDDENLY INSIDE -*

INT. APOLLO SPACE CAPSULE - DAY

Wyatt, in full astronaut suit and helmet, sits alone in the cockpit of the Apollo spacecraft. He's slack-jawed. Ecstatic, but also apprehensive. He looks out a porthole window to see:

The **beautiful Earth** in all its colorful glory. Magnificent.

ANOTHER BURST OF STATIC, followed by the Voice.

VOICE (OVER INTERCOM)  
Adventurer, this is Houston, come in.

Wyatt sees a button that reads 'COM'. He pushes it.

WYATT  
Um. Hello?

VOICE  
Wyatt! There you are. Glad to hear communication's back up and running.

WYATT  
(confused)  
...Dad? Is, is that you?

INT. MISSION CONTROL, HOUSTON - CONTINUOUS

Busy place. Wearing a headset and squeezing a stress ball is **Wyatt's dad, PATRICK** [45, Same actor as Uncle Terry]. Healthy and happy. Like Ed Harris from 'Apollo 13' (crew-cut and all).

PATRICK  
Yep, it's me. Well, there's lots of dads around here so we better keep it official. I'm Houston, you're Adventurer.

INTERCUT WITH -

INT. SPACE CAPSULE - CONTINUOUS

Wyatt is trying to make sense of what is happening to him.

DASH (O.C.)  
Why don't you have the TV on, dummy?

Where did Dash come from? Dash punches a button and on comes a TV screen. **Wyatt can see Patrick at mission control.** He's caught in a state of happy disbelief...

WYATT  
Dad?! It's really you!

END OF ACT ONE



ACT TWO

*INT. SPACE CAPSULE - A MOMENT LATER*

*Now it appears that Wyatt is just plain freaked out.*

*PATRICK*

*Adventurer? Adventurer do you read?*

*WYATT*

*(to himself)*

*How do I get out of here?*

*LIAM*

*The hatch.*

*Wyatt (now without a helmet) turns. What? Liam's in the previously empty seat beside him! He's not wearing a helmet either, and eats reconstituted food from a tube.*

*DASH*

*But you'll explode like an egg in a microwave. I saw that on YouTube.*

*Dash is doing zero-gravity somersaults - couldn't be happier.*

*WYATT*

*No, no, how do I get out of this dream?!*

*DASH*

*Awesome! Even my puke floats!*

*PATRICK*

*Adventurer, do you copy?*

*LIAM*

*Better tell dad you hear him numbnuts.*

*WYATT*

*(pressing COM button)*

*Yes, yes, I'm here dad.*

*PATRICK*

*Oh good, I thought we lost ya again.*

*(whispering)*

*And remember buddy, it's Houston.*

*WYATT*

*Right. Right, sorry.*

*PATRICK*

*Okay, you're a go.*

*WYATT*

*Go? Go where?*

PATRICK

To the moon.

Wyatt looks up from the console to see the Moon. THE MOON!

An exterior view of the space capsule shows it is docked to a lunar module. And it's heading toward the moon.

BACK INSIDE THE CAPSULE -

WYATT

WHAT?! No, I can't. I can't do that!  
I'm ten!

THEN, ON THE TV SCREEN -

Tiffany crowds next to Patrick, admiring his appearance.

TIFFANY

Ohh, I like the haircut, Patrick.

PATRICK

(like a 7 year old)  
Moooooom, I'm at work!

TIFFANY

(looks at Wyatt)  
There you are, you little sneak!

INT. PANTRY - DAY

A light clicks on and Wyatt looks up. His grandmother is staring down at him. WE ARE CLEARLY BACK IN REAL LIFE. Wyatt can't possibly begin to make sense of what just happened.

TIFFANY

Well? These feet aren't going to rub themselves!

EXT. MCKENNA HOME - MORNING

America wakes up. A dog takes a crap on the front lawn, the nefarious pet owner looks both ways and then takes off. Jerk.

INT. DASH & WYATT'S BEDROOM - MORNING

An aerosol can being sprayed into a sneaker. The can reads: **McKenna's 'Stink No More!'**. A foot slips into the sneaker.

As Wyatt dresses for school, he spots a moon globe on his dresser. He examines it... thinking: What happened yesterday?

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Uncle Terry, with party-planning notes, is at the table.

WYATT  
(upon entering)  
Grandma, some old motorcycle guy is  
outside - think he's waiting for you.

Beth cleans, Tiffany primps herself. Wyatt takes a seat.

TIFFANY  
My date!

BETH  
In the morning?

TIFFANY  
My blood sugar crashes after lunch.

Wyatt places a piece of bread into a strange, chunky device.  
Wyatt cranks a handle like a salad-spinner... and voila! **The  
bread is now buttered toast!**

UNCLE TERRY  
Hey Tiffany, if you ever hook up with  
my dad again let me know... it would  
be kinda cool to meet him.

TIFFANY  
That would be cool. Wonder if he ever  
achieved his dream?

We wait... Beth seems to be the only one that's curious.

BETH  
Okay! I'll bite. What was his dream?

TIFFANY  
(confused by the question)  
Well, I really don't know, Beth. It's  
his dream. I barely knew the man.

BETH  
Ok, time to go! Astro-van leaves in 5!

Beth exits to her bedroom, Tiffany to the front door.

UNCLE TERRY  
This party is going to rock! We've got  
game booths, fireworks, hot wings with  
a ranch dressing fountain, a petting  
zoo. And you boys won't believe this,  
but I once worked as a carny -

LIAM  
Not remotely hard to believe -

UNCLE TERRY  
- so I've got a lead on a  
Tilt-A-Whirl. Best of all...

He holds up a publicity photo of FOUR LITTLE PEOPLE, in black-and-white makeup and studded leather costumes.

UNCLE TERRY  
We've got Mini Kiss.

Wyatt and Liam gape at the photo, while Dash stuffs his face.

DASH  
Love the Mini Kiss.

INT. MCKENNA ASTRO VAN - DAY

Beth drives the boys to school. Dash up front - RADIO is ON.

WYATT  
Liam. Remember how Dad used to imitate  
the radio?

LIAM  
(deer in headlights)  
Uh...yeah. Um, I kinda...um...  
(looks out the car window)  
Oh, look... you ever notice that the  
Home Depot sign is orange? Hmph.  
Interesting. I just now noticed that.

Once again, one of Wyatt's brothers won't engage.

INT. MR. TREE'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Kids are streaming into the 4th grade class, including WYATT. SAM, a timid, nerdy, Filipino boy, with little command of English, approaches Wyatt. They stare at each other a bit...

SAM  
I not knowing when you come back, ipso  
fatso, made completion four food-group  
mobile without you. Don't be mad.

WYATT  
(smiles at his friend)  
I'm not mad, Sam. Ipso facto.

A hand clasps Wyatt on the shoulder belonging to MR. TREE, his teacher. He CLAPS HIS HANDS to command attention.

MR. TREE  
Quiet down, now, quiet down. Let's  
welcome Wyatt back to class.

He presents Wyatt like a show-n-tell. Kids ad-lib hello's.

MR. TREE

(oh so sensitive)

We need to let Wyatt know that he has support in this classroom. Because he's hurting. Deep down inside. Here.

He touches Wyatt's heart. The public attention is excruciating for Wyatt. He wants to crawl in a hole.

MR. TREE

It's the kind of hurt you can't put a band-aid on.

(his real self)

Alright, take a seat.

Wyatt makes a beeline to his desk. As he sits, he notices a pretty, exotic-looking classmate, MAYA, giving him a warm, sympathetic smile... the kind a young boy will remember.

INT. MR. TREE'S CLASSROOM - AFTERNOON

As Mr. Tree drones on about quadrilaterals, Wyatt wearily glances up at the clock. The second hand ticks down 5, 4, 3,

PATRICK (O.S.)

Two, One, Zero. Adventurer -

*PULL BACK* from the schoolroom clock to *SEE* it's now inside...

INT. LUNAR MODULE CAPSULE - DAY

Secondhand points North. Wyatt's back inside the spaceship!

PATRICK (ON TV SCREEN)

Disengage the LEM from Command Module.

WYATT (INTO COM)

Houston, I can't do this! Send someone else. You need to send someone else!

**The moon is way bigger and closer than before.**

SUDDENLY MR. TREE'S face appears in the porthole next to Wyatt! Like in a horror movie! Wyatt SHRIEKS.

MR. TREE

Looks like the smartest boy in class discovered something he can't do!

Wyatt pulls down the porthole shade.

PATRICK

Commander, press the big red button.

Wyatt presses a button that is labeled: **big red button**. LIGHTS START FLASHING! The ship shakes uncontrollably.

WYATT  
What's happening?!

ON TV SCREEN - Another Patrick enters frame. Two Patricks!

NEW PATRICK  
Terry! Stop trying to take over!  
Sorry, Commander, your uncle snuck in  
here while I was getting my Ovaltine.

Uncle Terry grins and exits. Meanwhile, Wyatt is panicking.

WYATT  
How do I fix this?!

PATRICK  
It's simple. You just need to take -

LIAM  
GET OFF ME!!!

Dash has Liam in a headlock.

DASH  
In space, no one can smell your farts.

WYATT  
STOP! MOON! CRASH! HOUSTON!!!

PATRICK  
Don't worry, the answer is -

SUDDENLY - A VERY LOUD BELL STARTS RINGING!

INT. MR. TREE'S CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

THE BELL SOUND CONTINUES. Students are rushing out the door, except for Sam, Maya, and Mr. Tree who just stare at Wyatt.

MR. TREE  
Are you okay?  
(Wyatt nods)  
Then get the H-E-double-hockey-sticks  
out of my classroom. It's recess.

Wyatt is still recovering, and wondering how **the fantasy occurred at school, without the book.** It scares him a little.

INT. MCKENNA HOME - FRONT DOOR - LATER

The boys burst into the house, followed by their mother.

BETH  
We're home! Children are present!

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Tiffany hustles Slim out of her room toward the front door. Beth sighs, trying to cope. Chocolate helps, then she exits.

INT. GARAGE - DAY

QUICK CUTS of Wyatt working with his father's inventions -- a dirty job; dusty, dirty, oily. Things falling apart, he jams his finger - he's determined, but getting more frustrated...

INT. DASH & WYATT'S BEDROOM - SOON AFTER

Wyatt pokes his head in. He has soot on his face like a chimney sweep. Liam plays W.O.W., Dash reads a comic book.

WYATT

You guys said you would help me.

LIAM

Can't! Ludvik has me pinned down!

DASH

Me neither. I'm doing homework.

WYATT

No, you're not.

DASH

Any minute now.

Frustrated, Wyatt pulls out the Dangerous Book.

INT. PANTRY/KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Wyatt, cleaned up now, closes himself inside the pantry. Flashlight on, he opens the Dangerous Book to a chapter heading: "How to skip a stone on water." He closes his eyes. Trying to 'will' himself into the fantasy... Nothing. He folds his arms and nods, a la "I Dream of Jeannie". Nada.

As Wyatt sits, he overhears his mother on the phone and cracks open the pantry door to see her through the sliver.

BETH

No, Mom, I don't think the patents are a waste of money. Patrick's inventions have created a - goodly amount of income... Well, your goodly is just different from my goodly... Of course I'm worried about the boys - Mom, I gotta go... I know you do, Bye.

As Beth puts the phone back on the cradle, Wyatt sneaks out of the pantry, slips out of the room -- then re-enters...

WYATT

Hey, Mom.

BETH

(nods at Dangerous Book)  
So you're the only one who stuck with  
it, huh?

WYATT

Liam and Dash really like it. They  
just had other stuff they had to do.

BETH

(gently)  
Hey, how's it going -

WYATT

With the inventions?  
(covering for her sake)  
Really great. Yep.

Beth cocks her head and smiles wryly at him. Wyatt pauses.

WYATT

Um, are you okay with Uncle Terry -

BETH

Taking over the party planning?  
(covering for his sake)  
I trust that he'll do the right thing.

Finishing each others sentences is nothing new for them.

UNCLE TERRY (O.S.)

(singing loudly)  
*... You keep on shouting, you keep on  
shouting...*

They turn to the window. Uncle Terry is on the stage, using a  
hammer as a mic, He gyrates - pretending to be Gene Simmons.

UNCLE TERRY

*IIII wanna rock and roll all niiiight!  
And party ev-ery day!*

Terry loses his balance, tumbling off the stage.

BETH

I'll get the first aid kit.

WYATT

I'll get an ice pack.

END OF ACT TWO



ACT THREE

EXT. FRONT YARD, MCKENNA HOME - MORNING OF PARTY

Uncle Terry, with a bandaged head, directs guys unloading a truck. Stage lights, cotton candy, a spin-wheel game, etc.

Wyatt watching from the porch. Inscrutable.

INT. GARAGE - DAY

Wyatt enters and crosses to the biggest contraption - it looks like some kind of crazy carnival ride, with five unicycles welded together in a circle. A plaque...

**THE DYNAMO CAROUSEL: Invented 2014**

Is affixed to the beast. Wyatt sits on a seat and pedals. It won't budge. He stands and puts his weight into it. The machine groans but doesn't budge. CRACK! A pedal snaps and Wyatt tumbles to the ground... He angrily wipes away a tear.

INT. HALLWAY/GRANDMA'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Tiffany's drying her hair with one towel and wearing another.

TIFFANY

What's shakin', Wyatt?

WYATT

(nervously at her door)

Grandma, can you... help me fix one of Dad's inventions? I can't do it alone.

TIFFANY

(flustered)

Gosh, sweetie, No, I'm not handy. And I'm going out in a little while...

Beat. Wyatt starts to leave -- but then turns back.

WYATT

Why won't anyone talk about Dad?

Tiffany sighs. She sits on the bed and beckons Wyatt to join her. He does. She takes his hand.

TIFFANY

Oh, honey. There's a good reason... If we talk about Patrick now, he'll think we're calling him back. We need to let his spirit make its journey.

WYATT

(confused)

Oh. So... when can we talk about dad?

TIFFANY

He needs three moon cycles to reach  
his bliss in the Celestial Terminus.

Wyatt is motionless with confusion. Tiffany smiles, then she abruptly stands, goes back to drying her hair.

TIFFANY

Hey, do me a solid?

WYATT

Do a solid?

TIFFANY

Yeah, a favor. Hand me the, the - on  
the dresser...

Tiffany gestures to the dresser. Wyatt picks up a **glass bong**.

WYATT

The vase?

TIFFANY

(flustered)

Uh, no, no, not the flower vase...that  
I use for flowers. The hair brush.

As she gestures vigorously, **her towel slips off to the floor**.

TIFFANY

Oops!

Wyatt gets an eyeful, and..... There he goes. He faints.

*BLACKNESS... TWINKLING STARS supply the only light. FLOATING  
IN SPACE is... **Tiffany?** YEP. AND SHE'S NAKED! (Pixilated)*

TIFFANY

*Forget you saw this, sweetie...*

*EXT./INT. SPACE CAPSULE - DAY*

*Wyatt peering out of the porthole window of the capsule.*

WYATT

*(squeezing his eyes shut)*

*I want to... but I know I never will.*

*The Apollo space capsule ZOOMS INTO FULL FRAME. Impressive.*

*PATRICK (V.O.)*

*Adventurer!*

*BANG! Inside the capsule, Dash, floating upside down, punches things. Liam is playing World of Warcraft on a computer.*

DASH  
I am ASTRONAUTUS, God of  
strong...things!

LIAM  
NOOO! A Death Knight! Where's  
my enchanted runeblade?!

PATRICK (ON TV)  
Prepare for lunar landing!

Wyatt looks out the windshield. **The moon is rapidly getting closer!** A LOUDER BANG as Dash smashes the control panel. Sparks and flames! THE SHIP STARTS TO SPIN!

DASH  
HELP! WYATT!!!

LIAM  
WHAT DO WE DO?!!!

WYATT  
(to Patrick, panicked)  
Look, you said you had the answer!  
WHAT IS IT?!

PATRICK  
It's you. For you to become a leader.

Wyatt is petrified, but swallows his fear in a deep breathe.

WYATT  
Dash, put that fire out! Liam, plot  
the landing trajectory and speed!

Dash grabs an extinguisher and blasts the flames. Liam jumps on his computer. Wyatt grabs a controller.

WYATT  
Dash, front and center.

Dash releases the extinguisher and rushes up to Wyatt.

WYATT (CONT'D)  
I need you to slow us down.  
(Dash shakes his head)  
You can do this, I know you can.  
(handing him the  
controller)  
It's like a video game. Give short  
trigger bursts, until the needle goes  
under the red line.

DASH  
Okay. If I accidentally kill us, I'll  
just start the level over again.

WYATT  
It's not that much like a video game.

LIAM  
I have coordinates and landing specs.

WYATT

Great. Enter the data into the main frame. Dash, are we stabilized?

DASH

The thingy is under the thingy... Now!

WYATT

Excellent! Good work guys. Follow me! We have to get in the Lunar Module!

THE SCREEN IS FILLED WITH JETS OF FIRE shooting right at us.

From the moon's surface, the LEM makes a perfect landing. Inside, the boys CHEER and hug each other. Then...

Outside, Wyatt in full space suit, perched low on the ladder. Wyatt's boot is about to touch the moon's surface!

WYATT (O.C.)

One small step for man. One giant -

DASH

- Hunk of green cheese!

Dash knocks Wyatt aside, landing on the moon first. He's without a spacesuit and runs off, laughing like a madman.

MONTAGE -

The helmet-less boys ecstatically moon-hop. Liam is examining soil with some instruments. Dash pops moon dust in his mouth.

DASH

(shocked - spits it out)  
That's not cheese!  
(warning his brothers)  
Hey, IT'S NOT CHEESE!

Wyatt sees Maya & Sam (his friends from school). Sam waves, Maya smiles at him the same way she did in class.

The brothers are high-fiving. "We did it!" "You did it, Wyatt!" This is the first time we see Wyatt happy.

Wyatt notices something peeking out from the grey soil. He brushes it off. It's the Dangerous Book. Wyatt picks it up. He closes his eyes...

WYATT

Dad, are you still here?

A pause.

PATRICK (O.C.)

Always.

*Wyatt turns. His father is standing nearby, dressed in the same clothes from Mission Control. Patrick picks Wyatt up. Wyatt looks up at his father, who smiles as he carries him.*

INT. HALLWAY, MCKENNA HOME - DAY

CLOSE ON Wyatt's face in someone's arms. His eyes open.

HIS POV - now it's Uncle Terry carrying him. Wyatt smiles.

WE SEE the rest of the family gathered.

BETH

Are you okay, sweetie?

WYATT

Yes. I want to call a family meeting.

Dash and Liam guffaw. But Beth sees that Wyatt's serious.

BETH

Everyone. Living room in 2!

INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

As Wyatt addresses his family WE PAN AROUND the entire group, ending on some random OLD GUY wearing a bow tie.

WYATT

Okay, I want to talk about - Uh, wait, who are you?

OLD GUY

I'm Joe. I'm taking Tiffany out.

TIFFANY

Oh, yeah, I forgot in all the hoopla.

UNCLE TERRY

(thumbs up)

Alright, Mom.

TIFFANY

I exude a natural attractant to men. Like Cinnabon.

WYATT

Well, Mr. Joe, can she make it another day? We need to have an important family discussion.

OLD GUY JOE

But this was our third date. And you know what that means...

WYATT  
Actually, I don't.

TIFFANY  
(somewhat affronted)  
I never promised you a trip to the  
candy store, Joe.

DASH  
(to Joe, earnestly)  
Don't feel bad, she never promised me  
a trip to the candy store either.

Beth blanches... Awkward silence. Joe gets up and leaves.

OLD GUY JOE  
Ah heck, I even splashed on some Aqua  
Velva for the occasion.

The front door CLOSES. They all look at each other.

BETH  
Is this about the party?

WYATT  
Well, yes. And no. It's about Dad. I,  
um, I want us to talk about him...  
Maybe everyone could say just one  
thing about him... anything...

A long silent pause...

LIAM  
I remember how Dad tipped everyone.  
Not just waiters and delivery guys,  
but bus drivers and doctors.

They all laugh at this.

DASH  
I remember how Dad had six toes on his  
right foot. That was weird. And two  
were webbed! He swam like Aquaman.

More laughter. Who goes next?

TIFFANY  
Patrick gave a heck of a foot rub. He  
was like a Michelangelo of foot rubs.

WYATT  
(gently)  
Grandma, is that really what you  
wanted to say?

TIFFANY

(honest self-reflection)

... No, honey... it's not. Guess I've been trying to run away from these feelings, 'cause I miss him so much. Maybe that's why lately I've been trying to get my groove on...

Wyatt looks at his mother for some clarity.

BETH

It's, uh, it's when you find ways to make yourself - feel better.

TIFFANY

I remember Patrick's smile. Ah, his beautiful smile made me feel... loved.

A tear rolls down Tiffany's cheek. Beth takes her hand.

UNCLE TERRY

I wouldn't have graduated high school without him. He took a test for me once - Okay, he took a couple of - fine! - he took several tests for me. And the SATs. Anyway, Wyatt's turn.

WYATT

I remember how Dad made me finish everything I started - even things I hated. Like that stupid diorama of Washington crossing the Delaware.

BETH

That came out so well.

WYATT

It was junk! But like Dad said: *You can't succeed unless you're willing to fail.* I know what he means now.

DASH

Okay, Mom.

BETH

Okay. I remember the way your father loved to sing along to songs, but could never get the lyrics right.

UNCLE TERRY

That's right! When we were kids, he'd sing that Creedence song...

(singing)

*And I wonder, still I wonder - who'll stop Lorraine!*

Laughter erupts.

LIAM

What about this one...

(belting it out)

*Every time you go - away... you take a  
piece of meat with you.*

BETH

Even our first dance at our wedding,  
we chose a Stevie Wonder song. He sang  
so softly and lovingly into my ear...

(singing sweetly)

*Isn't she lovely  
Isn't she'a waterfall  
Isn't she preg-nant  
Les-bian mar-i-gold...*

This has gotten them all cracking up and crying now.

BETH (CONT'D)

God, a party? What was I thinking?

UNCLE TERRY

No, I messed it up... I think I was  
just keeping busy - so I wouldn't...

He trails off... Tiffany pulls him close, kisses his head.

UNCLE TERRY (CONT'D)

I'll call and cancel everything.

WYATT

Wait. I didn't know you could laugh  
and cry. We should have a party.

OFF of family's intrigued reaction, WE CUT TO -

EXT. MCKENNA BACKYARD - LATE AFTERNOON

Wyatt and Beth watch the party unfold in full swing. Guests  
are milling about. The ranch dressing fountain is a big hit.

Terry, surrounded by folks, ignites a fuse to a mannequin.

UNCLE TERRY

Simply light the wick, and behold...  
Rapunzel's Magical Sparkling Hair!

Nothing happens. He's confused but undaunted, trying again.

At another booth, Liam demonstrates the "Bread Buddy", the  
auto-buttering device we saw Wyatt use earlier.



LIAM

Butter goes here. Cranking the handle  
this way creates friction to toast the  
bread. Clockwise applies the butter.  
(handle is stuck)  
Just a sec.

The handle breaks off, launching the butter into the air,  
which SPLATS on the back of a man's suit. He turns but sees  
nothing. Liam feigns ignorance. The man turns back around.

Grandma puts "A Real Head Scratcher", a battery powered head  
massager, on a woman's head and flips the switch - it shakes  
so vigorously it pulls off the woman's wig.

DASH (O.C.)

First, I spray the "Stink No More".

Dash uses an aerosol can to spray into an old sneaker.

DASH

Now take a deep whiff of that bad boy.

WOMAN

Oh my God, that's worse! Like  
something died in there!  
(she leaves, muttering)  
Why do I always fall for those things?

The others give Dash dirty looks. Dash looks at the can...

DASH

Wait, I used "Smell Enhancer!" My bad!

A well-to-do OLDER COUPLE walk into the party. They're very  
confused by what they're seeing.

Beth and Wyatt observed the mishaps. Beth musters a smile.

BETH

I, I think it's going pretty well.

WYATT

Mom. Grandma and Grandpa are here.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

Elizabeth?!

Beth cringes. DOUGLAS and ELLIE WALDRON approach Beth.

ELLIE

Elizabeth! What on earth is going on?

DOUGLAS

Is this some kind of yard sale? Are  
things that bad?!

BETH

Everything's great. Let me explain -

BOOM! SHRIEK!

They turn to see Terry, singed from the explosion, smiling. The head of the mannequin is gone. Sparks emit from the neck.

Beth's parents look at her with disappointment. She shrinks. Wyatt sees this. Beth appeals to Wyatt in weakening bravado.

BETH

Well, all these need instructions,  
and, your father's not here, so...

Wyatt looks at his mother with defiance. The power stops her.

WYATT

Yes he is, Mom. Dad's here. And he'll  
always be with us when we need him.

Wyatt steels himself and steps up onto the stage.

WYATT (CONT'D)

(a mantra to himself)

You can't succeed unless you're  
willing to fail.

(to the crowd, nervously)

Um, hi. I, uh - can I say something?

Beth lets go a PIERCING WHISTLE. All is quiet.

BETH

My son has something to say.

WYATT

(apprehensively)

So, uh... So, I wanted to show-

GUEST IN THE BACK

Speak up!

WYATT

(more loudly)

Um, yeah, I wanted to show everyone my  
dad's last invention. The Dynamo  
Carousel. He called it a Smile Maker.

He pulls a sheet off the five-seat contraption we saw in the garage, but now it appears cleaner, grander, more curious.

WYATT (CONT'D)

Dad finished it, but we never got a  
chance to use it. Dash, Liam, Mom,  
will you guys come up here? Uncle  
Terry, we need you, too.

The family members step forward and Wyatt motions for them to get onto the seats of the Dynamo Carousel. They do.

WYATT (CONT'D)

I tried to make it work the other day but I couldn't, because I was alone... And what I realized is that it takes a group of people, acting as one, to make it work. A team. It takes a family, to make anything worth doing, work.

Beth beams with pride at her son, as he takes his seat.

LIAM

(aside to Wyatt)

You sure this is gonna work?

WYATT

(whispers back)

It has to.

(to his family)

Okay. Let's give it a try.

They each start to pedal. **One pedal has been doctored with copious amounts of duct tape.** The carousel CREAKS and SQUEAKS as it turns ever-so-slowly. The family shares worried looks. They all put more weight into it. It starts RATTLING. A few NOTES of a SONG PLAY, painfully slowly with the movement.

WYATT (CONT'D)

Oh no. Please. Please do something.

(with quiet intensity)

Pedal harder!

The gathered friends look on with embarrassed curiosity. The family wants to quit. This is an epic fail in the making.

WYATT (CONT'D)

No! No, we don't quit. We keep working together. We have to keep going!

The cylinder WHIRS inside the core, but still... Beth keeps pedaling but her heart breaks for Wyatt. The family grunts and complains as their sweat equity shows no dividends.

Beth's parents are horrified by the debacle.

WYATT (CONT'D)

(to heaven, whispering)

Dad, you said you'd always be here...

Wyatt's is crestfallen... But **suddenly changes to: quizzical.**

Wyatt's POV. An ON/OFF Switch high up on the Dynamo Carousel.

Wyatt reaches up and flips the switch - **ON**.

A SUDDEN BURST of LIGHT and SOUND escape from the carousel as if had been waiting for just this moment. JOYOUS AND BRIGHT.

GASPS from the crowd. Smoke rings burst out of the top! The interior cylinder is awash in SPINNING COLOR. SPARKLERS RED GLARE. CALLIOPE MUSIC BLARES! It's ridiculous and beautiful at the same time. The guests break into APPLAUSE & LAUGHTER.

Beth's parents are amazed and charmed, in spite of themselves. Douglas wants to pedal. Beth dismounts, as do the rest, and others take their places. The carousel slows down during the exchange - adding to the fun of the team effort!

Uncle Terry notices something away from the action.

UNCLE TERRY

Ah, crap, I knew I forgot something.

WHIP PAN TO -

MINI KISS, in full leather and make-up regalia.

UNCLE TERRY (CONT'D)

MINI KISS!

The crowd CHEERS. Dash is confused, and says to Liam...

DASH

That's Mini Kiss? Oh wow, I thought we were talking about little chocolates.

Beth kisses and embraces Wyatt with love and pride.

BETH

Your dad would have loved this!

Wyatt smiles at her, genuinely happy. He looks up at the sky.

WE TILT UP from the party to the MOON. Full & Steadfast.

THE END

TAG

Mini Kiss BELTS out "I Wanna Rock and Roll All Night". Everyone cuts loose, dancing, laughing, and having a blast.

This family just might make it after all...