

WATERSLIDE

by

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FADE IN:

INT. MEYER'S GUSHER INDOOR WATERPARK - DAY

Splashes and gurgles resonate with laughs, hoots and hollers.

Sun beams through snow framed skylights onto a hot tile beach.

A fat guy in too-tight trunks whips by. His T-shirt shouts:  
WISCONSIN DELLS - MORE BARS IN MORE PLACES.

Wet bodies of all ages whoosh down waterslides.

Water coaster carts climb up...up...up water filled flumes  
and shoot down, splashing roostertails onto bystanders.

Toddlers' giggles and laughs drift from...

INT. TODDLER POOL - DAY

Dozens of happy TODDLERS splash and play in water up to their  
BEAMING PARENTS' knees.

A stepped-on-cat yowl breaks the mood.

MALLORY CARLINI, 13, gawky cute and Girl Scout wholesome in  
her blue one piece bathing suit, lives every babysitter's  
nightmare with yowling AUDREY, 4.

MALLORY

Audrey, come on, she'll be here soon.

Mallory takes Audrey's chubby hands, spins and slides her  
into the water.

Audrey giggles, catches herself, and remembers to cry.

AUDREY

Where's mommie? Mallory! Mallory,  
where's my mommie?

MALLORY

She's coming, really.

(off Audrey's fussing)

Enjoy it while you can, sweetie.  
Someday, you'll appreciate this.

AUDREY

But Mallory, I want my mommie, now!  
I want mommie! I want --

MALLORY

Let's float, okay? Want to float on  
your back? You like that.

AUDREY

I. Want. My. Maaaaahhm!

Mallory eyes her custom surfboard laying on the pool's edge.

MALLORY

Hey, look what I brought today.

Mallory takes Audrey's hand and sloshes to the board.

Audrey pokes and fondles the board while sing-song talking.

AUDREY

Mallory, is it yours?

MALLORY

Yup. All mine. Built it myself.

AUDREY

It's a..a...sur...sur --

MALLORY

Surfboard.

AUDREY

Can you ride it?

MALLORY

(murmurs)

Soon as your mom gets back.

(to Audrey)

You bet.

Mallory gazes at a giant cartoon clock hung high on a rock wall near the entrance. Above the clock, Buck Meyer, a Gold Rush prospector rendered large in animated neon rocks, waves his tattered hat and rides a blue and white neon gusher.

Above Buck blinks his message: Howdy Friend! The clock's ornate hands clunk to 9:30.

Mallory frowns. Audrey stands on the board.

AUDREY

Do you have to go potty?

MALLORY

No, I --

AUDREY

That's how I look when I got to poop.

MALLORY

I'm fine, Audrey.

AUDREY

'Cause if you got to go, I can watch  
it so no little kids touch it.

SARA HAUN, 13, sashays toward them, brimming with attitude.  
Her scooped one piece accents her burgeoning womanhood.

SARA

Still in the kiddy pool, Mal?

MALLORY

I'm babysitting.

SARA

Sure you are. Have fun, kiddy.

Sara struts away, chuckling.

Audrey watches Mallory unconsciously tug her swimsuit straps.

MALLORY

Not everyone has five dads to buy  
them stuff.

AUDREY

I don't like her.

MALLORY

You are so smart.

WOMANLY VOICE (O.S.)

Having trouble keeping your headlights  
harnessed, Mallory?

Mallory looks up at KIM, 27, her red one-piece and baggy  
shorts wrap a classic lifeguard body and attitude.

MALLORY

Funny, Kim. There some kind of trick  
to this I should know?

KIM

Get a new suit. It's not like you're  
ten anymore.

Mallory points her thumbs at her chest.

MALLORY

This going to keep happening?

KIM

Those? Don't worry. They'll stop  
growing. And sooner than you want.

Kim sweeps Audrey up and snuggles her.

KIM

Thanks for taking care of her.  
Surfing today?

MALLORY

If I can ditch my stupid interview  
for the Hills without the 'rents  
having a major meltdown.

KIM

Don't bet on it. My mom still whines  
about me quitting nursing. She's  
all, hey, you can get a job anywhere.  
Right, Ma. That's who I want taking  
care of me when I'm bleeding to death.  
Someone who'll take a job anywhere.  
(to Audrey)  
Let's get you to daycare.

Mallory grabs her board and follows them.

INT. PROMENADE - DAY

Mallory carries her board and holds Audrey's hand. Kim holds  
Audrey's other hand. The tot runs and swings between them.

MALLORY

I just don't get why they're making  
the Hills such a big deal.

Audrey swings hard, lets go and runs ahead.

KIM

Hey, you! Don't get lost.  
(to Mallory)  
I'd love to have some of that back.

Sara and her sidekick HALEY, 13, slip in behind them. Haley,  
a tarty blonde, imitates Sara's style and attitude.

KIM

(to Mallory)  
Nothing wrong with Darien Hills, if  
you can afford it.

MALLORY

That's what I keep telling them.  
They can't afford it. And it's in  
Chicago. I can't handle Milwaukee,  
let alone school in Chicago.

SARA

Ooo, moving to scary Chicago. Might  
have to leave your stupid surfboard.

Haley joins Sara in a hearty snicker.

Mallory's lips struggle to form a killer comeback.

Sara and Haley meld in with the throngs of wet, happy guests.

KIM

Mal, she's a walking wad of  
insecurity. Don't listen to her.

INT. DAY CARE CENTER - DAY

Mallory walks with Kim and carries her board on her head.  
Audrey runs ahead to the door.

MALLORY

You think Sara's right?

KIM

Yeah. Chicago's pretty scary.

MALLORY

I mean about not being grown up.

KIM

How grown up do you want to be?

MALLORY

Enough that I don't get mocked and  
hassled every time I go to school.

KIM

Get used to being hassled. That's  
just life. The mocking...You could  
ease up on the waterpark chatter.

MALLORY

But what else is there?

KIM

You do know there are towns that  
don't have dozens of them, right?

MALLORY

I'm not stupid. I know there are  
places where there aren't waterparks.  
I just don't want to live in them.  
For one thing, where would I work?

KIM

Mal, it's a big world. You might  
want to check it out before --

MALLORY

That's what the Internet's for.

KIM

I mean live in it.

MALLORY  
But you like it here, right?

KIM  
Love it.

Mallory and Kim get to the door.

KIM  
I'm just saying, maybe this Darien  
Hills thing would be good for you.  
You can always --

MALLORY  
-- come back and work in the park.  
Already heard that from Dad, like a  
zillion times.

Kids rush up to touch Mallory's board.

MALLORY  
But it's what I want. So, why leave  
in the first place?

Audrey crosses her chubby little arms to stand them off.

KIM  
It's one way to get away from Sara.

AUDREY  
Stinky Sara! Stinky Sara!

Mallory crouches down to Audrey's level.

MALLORY  
Yeah! And we can't let her to win,  
can we?

Audrey waggles her head "No". Kim kisses her and shoos her  
into the playroom.

Mallory grabs her board and turns to leave.

KIM  
Doesn't hurt to think about it.

MALLORY  
It's a one way ticket to studying  
24/7, running up debt I'll never pay  
off...

KIM  
It's only high school.

MALLORY

...Groveling at a job I hate until I  
have an early heart attack. Nope.  
Not getting on that bus.

KIM

You could blow the interview.

MALLORY

Right. Then they'll be pissed and  
I'll be embarrassed. Not my style.

KIM

So?

MALLORY

So, I'll surf and hope I think of  
something before five. Or, you could  
kidnap me until then.

KIM

What's in it for me?

MALLORY

Demand the tuition money.

KIM

Nah. Might have to shoot you. Saw  
Monkey Boy at the Magic Carpet.  
Maybe he needs the money.

Kim's walkie chirps.

MALLORY

Yah. A phone call from him? They'll  
be terrified, until his voice cracks.

Kim holds the walkie to her ear.

KIM

So it's broken. I'm a guard. What  
do you want me to do about it?

(to Mallory)

It's the tubs again. I gotta...

(into walkie)

You can call a plumber just as well  
as I can!...

Mallory nods that she understands, leans her board against  
the wall and exits.

INT. MAGIC CARPET WATERSLIDE - DAY

Sliders clutch colorful plastic mats and swoosh down sheets  
of gushing water.

Mallory weave through a crowd of teens on the top platform, watching for clues that reveal the fastest chute.

TROY, 13, bobs toward her on wiry legs carrying two mats under his ropy wrestler arms. A cheeky grin lifts his hint of a shadow of a moustache.

He drips water on Mallory's back.

MALLORY

Geez, Troy!

He thrusts a mat at her.

TROY

Come on. Who's your Monkey Boy?

She snatches the mat and punches his shoulder.

TROY

Which one looks good today, Mal?

MALLORY

You'll see, when I beat your butt.

Mallory and Troy each line up at a chute. They eye each other. Mallory nods.

They SWOOSH down.

Troy leads at the first hump.

Too much lift. Mallory gains.

Second hump. Mallory catches Troy.

Third hump. Mallory squirts ahead.

Splash! Sploosh! Into the pool.

Mallory by a hair.

TROY

How do you do that? Okay, one more.

Troy swims hard to the ladder and beats Mallory. He sloshes out of the pool. Mallory follows and grabs his arm.

MALLORY

Got to talk to you about something.

TROY

So talk.

MALLORY

It's personal. Private.

Troy's face lights up. Mallory steps toward a staircase.

TROY  
Righteous! Finally!

He follows her to a quiet spot...

UNDER THE STAIRCASE

Troy checks his breath. Loosens up his shoulders, his lips.

Mallory turns to face him. Troy leans in. She backs off.

MALLORY  
What the...? Troy, this is serious.  
It could mean my whole future.

TROY  
I know. This is big for me too. I  
mean, I've done this before but --

MALLORY  
Quit making that face and listen.

Troy, deflated, leans against the stairs.

TROY  
Just trying to be, you know...

MALLORY  
What?

TROY  
Sexy.

MALLORY  
This.

Mallory mimics his look.

MALLORY  
Dorky.

TROY  
How about this?

He tries another, even dorkier look.

MALLORY  
Tro-oy.

TROY  
Okay, what?

MALLORY  
You know, Darien Hills.

TROY

The interview. Right. You're afraid you'll miss it and you want me to --

MALLORY

No.

TROY

It's not about the interview? So you do want me. I mean, I thought you might and of course, I --

MALLORY

What? Want you...what? No, it's the interview. I'm ditching it. I need your help until five.

TROY

Oh, you only need me 'til five. What then? I'm supposed to disappear? Like, poof, a genie?

MALLORY

Why are you being like this?

TROY

You're the one who --

MALLORY

All I need is for you to help me hide out until the principal bails.

#### NEAR THE SPLASH POOL

Sara edges toward the couple, a vulture hovering over a dying relationship.

#### UNDER THE STAIRS

TROY

Mal, look. We're buds and all. Love to help. Really. But you think that's a good idea? Getting into Darien Hills is the gateway to --

MALLORY

Hell. Get into a school like that? Everyone expects you to go to some muckity-muck university. Then, you're supposed to work your butt off to get a job. And, if you're not already a burnout, you work your butt off to --

TROY

Excuse me? Do you know how hard it is for us regular people to get a chance like that?

MALLORY

Thanks for making me feel weird!

Mallory shoves her mat at him. Troy grabs it.

TROY

Yeah, well...

Mallory stalks away.

Sara sidles to Troy's side.

SARA

(loud enough for  
Mallory)

Want to slide around with me?

Mallory turns to see Sara put her hand on Troy's shoulder. As males do, his gaze ratchets down to Sara's chest.

Mallory marches back to Troy, punches his other shoulder and marches away.

SARA

Mature much?

MALLORY

(over her shoulder)  
I'm getting my board.

Troy, confused and forlorn, clutches both mats.

SARA

You don't need that.

TROY

Usually she's a lot of fun.

SARA

I'm always a lot of fun.

TROY

But Mallory, she's got this thing...

SARA

Inner beauty's for kids.

INT. BLUE CRUSH WAVE POOL - DAY

Tweens, teens and adults surf and boogie board. Some catch waves surging across the pristine pool. Some not.

Mallory throws herself and her board onto a wave.

ACROSS THE POOL

Troy holds his surfboard and watches Mallory pop onto a wave.

Two Cub Scouts in blue trunks push their three buddies in a rolling canvas laundry cart and swerve to miss him.

DAVE The Lifeguard, 34, all abs and pecs, square jaw with an off-kilter smile, flip-flops after them.

DAVE

Whisky-Tango-Foxtrot! That ain't a ride, boys.

Troy gets in front of them with his board.

Dave grabs the cart and peels the pushers off. Kids climb out giggling.

DAVE

Thanks. Rockin' like a hurricane?

TROY

Livin' on a prayer.

Dave tracks Troy's gaze, on Mallory again.

DAVE

Friend with benefits?

TROY

More like a friend with unclaimed residuals.

DAVE

You kissed her though, right?

TROY

No. How old were you when you --

DAVE

Had my first kiss?

TROY

-- Got laid?

DAVE

Right to the chase, eh?

He points to a small pile of wet towels.

DAVE

Pick those up for me, would you? Wouldn't worry about that too much.

Troy grabs the towels.

The two roll from spot to spot picking up towels.

TROY

What if a truck hits me before it happens? What if I get a brain tumor? What if...it doesn't...work?

DAVE

It'll work. Geez, kid. There's a lot scarier things than that. Wait until you're my age. You'll worry about when your last time will be.

TROY

Well that crushed the cream out of my ding dong.

DAVE

Next time, don't ask.

Dave bends to pick up a towel. He catches two HOT MOTHERS eyeing him. He exchanges coy smiles with them.

HOT MOTHER 1

You are the sexist thing I've seen all day.

Troy, uncomfortable. Dave, pleased.

HOT MOTHER 2

Nothing sexier than a man who picks up towels. Can you come to my house?

Dave does a strip tease move and throws a towel in.

TROY

See? If you're so worried about your last time, maybe you should marry someone.

DAVE

You are such a pup. You think it's just about having a woman handy.

Dave continues having fun tossing towels for the women.

TROY

Well then, what's the point?

Dave throws a towel at Troy's head. He catches it.

DAVE

Geez, kid. Ease up with the questions.

TROY

Everyone says I wouldn't be so hyper if I could get laid. Gaad, I hate feeling like this all the time.

DAVE

The only people who don't want to be horny teenagers are horny teenagers.

(off Troy's quizzical look)

All I know for sure is, marriage is a lot more complicated than it looks.

TROY

Even if you marry someone hot like Kim? She's smart. She's nice. She likes you. And she's hot.

Dave takes a bow and rolls the cart away. Troy follows.

DAVE

Geez, Troy. What the hell do you think about all day?

TROY

Plans.

DAVE

You got plans.

TROY

Sure. Don't you have any goals?

DAVE

Safety is my goal.

TROY

I mean life goals.

DAVE

That is my life goal.

TROY

No. I mean like, star on the wrestling team. You know, for scholarships.

DAVE

Sure. Of course.

TROY

Get into a top ten law school. Graduate, sign up with a good law firm, get married...

Troy, wistful, watches Mallory slice back and forth.

TROY

Have three kids. Work my way to partner and maybe even --

DAVE

Woah, woah, woah! You might want to squeeze in a little, I don't know, spontaneity, flexibility...

TROY

Here we go, the find yourself speech.

DAVE

I didn't say --

TROY

My parents found themselves. Now we can't even afford...It's not like it used to be. No jobs...market's down...economy in the toilet...

Troy, frustrated, grabs his board and stalks away.

DAVE

Economy? When did kids...? Geez...

INT. BLUE CRUSH WAVE POOL / DECK - DAY

Sara and Haley, at the side of the pool, lean on their boards and flirt with three SURFER STUDS.

SARA

We're kind of new at this.

HALEY

Bet you've got some tricks you can show us.

The ALPHA STUD of the gang nods toward Mallory.

ALPHA STUD

She's good. You know her?

HALEY

Can't remember. I guess she's in our class.

SARA

Kind of a dweeb though.

Troy totes his surfboard past Sara. She leans into his path.

SARA

Troy, show me how to...

His eyes on Mallory, Troy launches his board.

HALEY

Harsh.

SARA

He's straight to cable. And anyway,  
I could kick her ass if I wanted.

EXT. BLUE CRUSH WAVE POOL - DAY

Troy slides onto Mallory's wave. Mallory cuts him off.

TROY

Okay, I'm sorry!

She cuts back for emphasis.

MALLORY

About not helping me?

Cuts in.

MALLORY

About making me feel stupid?

Cuts back.

MALLORY

Or about Sara?

TROY

I'm sorry I didn't think about your  
feelings.

MALLORY

Come up with that all by yourself?

TROY

Dad says it to Mom, a lot. Come on.

MALLORY

Come on, what?

TROY

We'll hang out, okay?

MALLORY

And?

TROY

Okay, okay, I'll help.

She drifts to his side to get in his face.

MALLORY

And don't you dare lecture me.

INT. HOT SPRINGS HOT TUBS - DAY

Dozens of guests nestle in swirling steamy comfort.

Mallory and Troy, boards under arm, approach.

TROY

I was thinking we should start at  
The Big Gusher. Lots of tubes to  
hide in. They'll never --

MALLORY

We should do The Shaft.

TROY

The Mine Shaft? Have you lost it?  
We might as well jump out of a plane!

MALLORY

Don't be a wuss. It's so high,  
they'll never see us.

They stroll towards Kim, who paces in front of a...

BROKEN HOT TUB

Mallory and Troy stop near Kim.

TROY

Tough talk for somebody who's never  
done it.

KIM

Kind of busy here. Can we have the  
bonk talk later?

Huddled next to each other in cushy white robes, TWO  
HONEYMOONERS gaze into its still water.

In a tub behind them, a lascivious Lone Ranger, sporting a  
cowboy hat, watches wistfully.

KIM

(to honeymooners)  
Sorry about this.

Kim's gaze strays to the Lone Ranger's tub.

KIM

It's a little less romantic, but  
maybe you can share a tub with...

The Ranger gives her a grin and hat tip.

KIM  
 (into her walkie)  
 You gotta call the plumber!...I tried  
 that already, like, a dozen  
 times...Because when I call, he talks  
 like we're in a plumber porno.

She steps away and lowers her voice.

KIM  
 (into walkie)  
 Really? And how would you interpret -  
 Hey baby, need some pipe laid?

Troy grins. Mallory hands her board to him.

TROY  
 Again with the...I'm not your Sherpa.

MALLORY  
 I gotta take care of this. I promise --

TROY  
 -- that we won't do The Shaft?

MALLORY  
 Just be there.

Troy trudges away.

Dave shuffles to Kim's side.

DAVE  
 Got a problem here?

KIM  
 I can handle it.

Behind Kim, Mallory shakes her head "uh-uh."

DAVE  
 I owe ya. Let me take a look.

KIM  
 You don't owe me. It was meaningless.

DAVE  
 Hey, it's not meaningless if you're  
 paying attention.

KIM  
 The plumber's on his way.

MALLORY  
 No he's not.

Kim's gives Mallory an irked smile and lowers her voice.

KIM

(to Dave)

It was one night, okay? If we didn't happen to be in the same bar, I never --

DAVE

Two people, in the same bar, in the Dells? The odds are astronomical! Let me take a shot at this.

Dave kneels and pops open the tub's access panel.

KIM

You sure you know what --

DAVE

I got this. Compared to the pipes in my lab --

KIM

You have a lab?

Mallory and Dave peer at the valves deep in the hole.

DAVE

Had.

MALLORY

Last time it was that ball valve. 'Course it could be the injector.

DAVE

Probably the flocculant.

KIM

That's not even a word.

MALLORY

It's a chemical. Makes stuff clump together and drop out of solution, water. They need to bump it up or --

DAVE

-- the gunk jams in the downstream filters. They teach that in grade school now?

MALLORY

Sometimes I hang with the maintenance guys. Maybe it's the ozonator.

He reaches up to his shoulder and fiddles with a valve.

KIM

You guys...

He hits the ON switch. Water churns to life.

KIM  
I'm impressed --

DAVE  
I'm a little amazing when it comes  
to fluids.

KIM  
-- by how you make this crap up.

MALLORY  
He didn't make it up. Look. It's  
working.

The couple slides into the tub.

DAVE  
And...and we have a lot in common.

KIM  
Like?

DAVE  
Beer. You like it. I like it.

KIM  
This is Wisconsin.

Dave's walkie chirps. Resigned, he answers.

DAVE  
Yeah...a flosser? Be right there.

INT. THE MINE SHAFT FREE FALL SLIDE - DAY

Towering over the rest of the park like Mount Everest, The Shaft's tower scrapes the roof at eight stories.

A vertical sign half the height of the tower spells out "THE MINE SHAFT" in monstrous flashing blue letters. Messages scroll across and pop on its jumbo LED screen: Liquid Thrills!...Splashtastic!...Go for it!

Troy gapes at its near vertical slide that swoops to the deck like a stock market plunge. Mallory sneaks up on him.

MALLORY  
Gonna wuss out again?

TROY  
Geez! No. You?

A MIDDLE AGED BIRTHDAY GROUP watches teens and adults mount the steep stairs that spiral up the tower.

An awed FORTYISH WOMAN in the group speaks.

FORTYISH WOMAN

Woah! What a way to turn forty. Do we all have to do this?

A few in the group nod.

MALLORY

(to the woman)

It's not that bad.

TROY

If you mean I never heard of anyone actually dying on it, then yes, I guess it's not that bad.

Fortyish woman goes slack-jawed.

Yelps of surprise burst from the top of the tower.

Screams of terror echo from the near vertical chute.

Rooster tails rise from the long landing strip.

TROY

I'd feel a lot braver if I knew I wouldn't die a virgin.

MALLORY

Cripes, will you stop?

TROY

You're not afraid of that?

MALLORY

I tell you what I'm afraid of...

TROY

Don't start with The Hills again. You're like a bulldog on a biscuit.

INT. FRONT DESK - DAY

Dave swaggers toward the desk manned, more like boyed, by AARON, 18, fresh faced and sweating through his light blue Meyer's Gusher sport shirt.

DAVE

Where is she?

Aaron jerks his head in the direction of what could be a short college girl. Hard to tell with her facing away.

She tosses her head. Ripples run through her long blonde tresses and graze her overly exposed ass.

DAVE

Yeah. That's a problem. That is definitely a thong. I'll talk to her about it.

Aaron steps ahead of Dave.

AARON

I can take care of it.

DAVE

It's really more of a guard problem.

The blonde swings around to face them. Her hair settles around the 13 year old face of...Haley.

Aaron and Dave backpedal.

DAVE

Yeah...ah, Aaron you go ahead.

AARON

What was that about a guard problem?

DAVE

Sorry. Rank. Chain of command and all that.

Sweating even more, Aaron drags himself to Haley.

AARON

Hey...ah...excuse me.

Haley turns. Conflicted, he melts in her high beams.

AARON

Look...ah...hmmm...thongs aren't permitted in the park and --

She plucks a strap like a banjo string.

HALEY

It's not a thong.

Sara sashays through a growing crowd to her aid.

SARA

Aaron, it's not a...hmmmm, well...

AARON

I'm sorry Sara. She's gonna have to change or go home.

HALEY

Ah, my name's Haley?...

Haley does a Victoria's Secret model move.

HALEY

...and look what you won't be getting  
any of when I get older.

Aaron, bewildered, looks to Dave for guidance, who smirks.  
Sara leans in and murmurs in Aaron's ear.

SARA

She's put on a little weight.

HALEY

Sara!

Sara gives Haley a go-with-me look and unrolls Haley's straps  
into a less revealing configuration.

SARA

Just a little too tight is all.

AARON

Well...okay. Sorry.

SARA

You could make it up to us by giving  
us a day pass.

HALEY

Come on Aaron, one little day pass?

AARON

Why do you do this? You know I can't --

A chime from the PBX saves him. He picks up the handset and  
punches one of its blinking lights.

AARON

Howdy Friend! Welcome to Meyer's  
Gusher. How may I help you?

Mallory's anxious DAD responds.

DAD (V.O.)

Is there any way you can track down  
a teenager for me?

AARON

Sure. What kind? We got princesses  
and drama queens, jocks, health nuts --

DAD (V.O.)

That didn't come out right.

AARON

-- emos, nerds, dweebs, geeks,  
gossips, gamers, rebs, loners --

DAD (V.O.)

What I mean is, we're trying to find our daughter, Mallory Carlini.

On hearing Mallory's name, Sara's eyes go foxy.

AARON

Mallory? Sure, she's here.

DAD (V.O.)

You know her?

AARON

Everyone knows Mallory. There was this one time, she thought this ride could go faster, so she --

DAD (V.O.)

Great. Look, she missed a very important appointment. We got it rescheduled, but if she misses it... Well, she can forget about your darn waterpark. We will yank her pass. Count on it.

AARON

That would be sad. Let me get her for you.

INT. THE MINE SHAFT FREE FALL SLIDE - DAY

Mallory, Troy and the birthday group edge closer to the tower's staircase.

FORTYISH WOMAN

You two getting in line?

MALLORY

You can go ahead. We're going later.  
(to Troy)  
Right?

FORTYISH WOMAN

Think I'll wait for the party. Safety in numbers and all that.

MALLORY

There's only room for one in the launcher.

FORTYISH WOMAN

Launcher? You get launched?

Aaron's voice blares from loudspeakers.

AARON (V.O.)

We have an urgent phone call for  
Mallory Carlini. Would Mallory  
Carlini please come to the desk?  
There's an urgent --

MALLORY

I cannot believe they're doing this!

TROY

Maybe you should let it slide. You  
know, lay low until --

MALLORY

This aggression will not stand.

She marches to the front desk.

INT. FRONT DESK - DAY

Sara and Haley loiter near Aaron to watch the fireworks.

A Cub Scout pack, all in matching blue trunks, crowds the  
desk. Their adult leader corrals them to let Mallory through.

Aaron hands Mallory the phone handset.

AARON

He sounds pretty pissed.

Mallory grabs the handset. Aaron gives her privacy.

Mallory, steamed, breathes out. Sara leans in.

MALLORY

Dad, we need to --

DAD (V.O.)

Mallory, we need to talk.

MALLORY

Dad, there's really a good reason --

DAD (V.O.)

You knew your interview was at ten,  
right? I mean, what have we all  
been doing for the last five months?  
Don't make me take away your pass.

Sara's eyes widen.

Cub Scouts push each other and bump Mallory.

MALLORY

Cut that out you little dweeb!

DAD (V.O.)

Mallory, there's no need to --

MALLORY

Not you, Dad. I'm being attacked --

Mallory's frantic MOM interrupts in the background.

MOM (V.O.)

What did I tell you? That place --

MALLORY

-- by Cub Scouts. Take it easy, Mom. I'm thinking that it's not so much the interview that's the problem.

MOM (V.O.)

It's not a girl...a woman problem, is it Mal?

A few Cub Scouts giggle and point.

MALLORY

Mom, please! This is embarrassing enough.

Their adult leader clenches a smile and leads the pack away.

DAD (V.O.)

Embarrassing? I'll tell you what's embarrassing young lady. Having to call the school, beg them to let us reschedule and then call the hotel to find the principal.

MALLORY

Principal? Really, you didn't have to do all that.

MOM (V.O.)

We do it because we love you.

MALLORY

Dad, maybe the best thing is for me to save you money and --

DAD (V.O.)

Your heart's in the right place, but there's no need. We'll manage.

MOM (V.O.)

We really want to do this for our little girl.

MALLORY

Maybe I'm not so...What if I don't --

MOM (V.O.)

You'll do fine. You're just a little nervous. Like your second grade ballet recital, when you threw up.

MALLORY

Mom, it's really not the same.

DAD (V.O.)

Once you get in there, you'll be so pumped about the school. The interview's at five.

MOM (V.O.)

We had to twist a lot of arms. After that, he's out of here and done for the year.

MALLORY

Mom, it's cool that you --

MOM (V.O.)

We'll be by at three with your outfit.

MALLORY

But I...fine. Thanks.

She hands the handset to Aaron.

SARA

Tough break, Mallory. To be fair, I can see why they think you're still a little kid.

Mallory pushes headlong through the pack chased by Sara and Haley's cackles and snickers.

INT. BIG GUSHER WATERSLIDE - DAY

The Cub Scout pack joins crowds of kids that OOH and AH at the monstrous serpentine waterslide, swooping up six stories.

Water gushes through colorful fiberglass tubes and half tubes that spiral and twist down to a giant pool. Yelps of joy echo from happy sliders splashing into it.

Mallory and Troy enter the line winding up the stairs to the top platform.

MALLORY

...and of course Sara had to be there.

TROY

They'd really yank your pass?

MALLORY

Definitely. It's like they're all out to get me. Teachers, coaches, counselors. I love it when an adult tells you they have your best interests at heart.

TROY

Sometimes they do.

Screaming sliders accelerate past them like cannonballs.

MALLORY

By accident. They never listen. We should give them pop quizzes sometime. What's wrong with me wanting to work in a waterpark?

(slider scream)

Nothing, right? It's fun, interesting. I could make a lot of money. Work my way up. Buy my own someday. Even design it. That would be so excellent! But will they let me run my own life? Nuh-uh.

TROY

I kind of like having things laid out for me.

MALLORY

Who's side are you on, Monkey Boy?

TROY

Hey, I'm here, right? I just think it's nice to have someone care enough to do stuff so you don't have to. Like, my parents wash my wrestling stuff. I just wrestle.

MALLORY

What if they told you that you had to stop wrestling?

(off Troy's horror)

Don't look at me like that. They could, you know.

ON THE TOP PLATFORM

Kim sits in a chair above the tubes. Her gaze bounces from the sliders in line to the video monitors showing the tube interiors and the splash pool.

She glances at her watch, scans the stairs and sees...

...a hunky RELIEF LIFEGUARD, 21, charge up the stairs, snorting like a racehorse.

KIM

Don't tell me. Car? Hangover?  
Girlfriend?

RELIEF GUARD

You must be psychotic.

KIM

You better mean psychic.

RELIEF GUARD

Yeah, that. I was hung over and  
puked in my girlfriend's car.

KIM

You know, I wouldn't care, but Audrey  
gets so cranky when she's hungry.

She slides out of the seat and rushes into...

...Mallory and Troy, arguing.

MALLORY

All I'm saying is that if you don't  
make decisions about your life --

TROY

Will you please let it go?  
(to Kim)  
Will you tell her to let it go?

KIM

Whatever it is, Mal, let it go.

MALLORY

Taking control of your own life.  
That's important, right?

KIM

Let's put a pin in that. Aren't you  
supposed to be hitting the showers?

Kim doesn't see Troy frantically waving her off.

KIM

You got that interview, don't you?

MALLORY

So it's official! Everybody here  
thinks I can't run my own life.

Troy, serious, holds Mallory hands and gazes into her eyes.

TROY

I know you can run your life, Mallory.

MALLORY

Please.

She rolls her eyes, steps past him and dives down a tube. Kim sees her opening and scoots.

TROY

How'd I blow that?

KIM

(over her shoulder)

Too sincere. Leave her hands alone next time. And don't stare so much.

Troy, baffled, steps to a tube and slides down.

INT. CRAZY CARTS WATERCOASTER - DAY

Sara and Haley slide into a roller coaster cart.

A gush of water sweeps the carts down a trough. Titters and giggles. Good times.

HALEY

You really nailed her. Did you see the look on her face? She was so pissed, I thought she'd puke.

SARA

She's such a little girl. My Mom lets me go wherever I want, whenever I want. She'd never chase me down like that.

HALEY

Can you imagine what's going to happen when her parents show up?

SARA

Haley, you are such a bad girl.

HALEY

We should totally hang at the desk and see. It'll be a blast.

SARA

Maybe we can do more than hang out.

INT. BIG GUSHER WATERSLIDE / SPLASH POOL - DAY

Dave strolls the deck's edge surveying the cannonade of sliders that sploosh up and out of their tubes and fall a few body lengths into explosive splashes.

Like a burst from a breaking dam, a surge launches Mallory into a seemingly infinite flight to a magnificent splashdown.

A surge from another tube blasts Troy across the pool.

Doing a fast crawl, he swims to Mallory's splash.

She surfaces underneath him.

His hand goes down the top of her bathing suit.

Both shoot upright and stare at each other, treading water.

TROY

Sorry, Mal. Honest, I was just swimming. I wasn't trying to --

MALLORY

No problem. Guys put their hands there all the time, when I let them.

TROY

Yeah? I put my hands there all the time on girls...and they let me.

MALLORY

Name one.

They swim to the ladder and climb up to the deck.

TROY

You name a guy first.

MALLORY

It's because you can't.

TROY

I could, but I'm not supposed to.

MALLORY

Says who?

TROY

Some lady on the web.

MALLORY

Was it a porn site?

(off his guilty look)

It was! It was! Troy, Troy, Monkey Boy cruises pornos!

She punches his arm.

TROY

Ow! I do not. Not much.

Dave slips in behind them.

DAVE

Hey kiddo, no punching. I know you're messing around, but the little ones see you? They all start.

TROY

Dave, you watch porn, right?

DAVE

Whisky tango foxtrot, man, what --

MALLORY

Troy, Troy Monkey Boy is a sex fiend!

TROY

Am not!

DAVE

Mallory obviously does not understand the valuable service they provide.

MALLORY/TROY

What?

DAVE

Think about it. You guys probably don't know this, but porno actors used to be attractive. Now, any ugly person can make them. It's comforting, doncha' think?

MALLORY

Cool. Like "be yourself," eh?

DAVE

Where'd you learn that crap? If you only act like what you are now, how you gonna improve? It's personal growth. Run that by your guidance counselors. I bet their sex ed classes are all disease, danger and plumbing. Am I right?

TROY

Exactly! No one tells you how to get laid.

INT. FRONT DESK - DAY

Aaron, entranced by a live version of the Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Edition sashaying by, let's the PBX beep and blink.

Sara struts to the desk with Haley.

SARA

Shouldn't you be answering those?

AARON  
It's under control.

He picks up the handset and punches buttons.

Sara checks the Buck Meyer clock: 2:45. She nods to Haley.

SARA  
Time to rock.

Haley catches Aaron's eye with a well timed wiggle.

Sara sneaks behind the desk and grabs the PA system mic.

INT. BIG GUSHER WATERSLIDE / STAIRCASE - DAY

Mallory and Troy edge up with the queue. Dave, at the bottom, surveys the splash pool.

MALLORY  
What do you think will happen if I don't show when they get here?

TROY  
Do you want to keep your pass?

MALLORY  
If I hide, at least I can skip the interview. Cowardly? Sure, but totally worth it.

TROY  
Be there. Minimize the collateral damage. Please.

Over the PA system, Sara impersonates a male voice.

SARA (V.O.)  
We have a missing child alert. She's about five feet tall and wearing a blue swimsuit. Her name is Mallory Car --

MALLORY  
AAAAAHHHHHHH!

SARA (V.O.)  
-- lini. If you find Mallory, please bring her to the front desk.

Concerned panic ripples through the crowd.

DAVE  
It's okay folks. Under control.

MALLORY

Gaad! They're all looking at me.

TROY

Well, you did scream pretty loud.

MALLORY

Shut. Up.

Mallory charges to bottom of the stairs. Troy follows.

MALLORY

(mutters)

Treat me like a three year old...aaah!

Mallory stops and charges back. Troy hops out of the way.

MALLORY

No. No, not gonna give them the satisfaction. If I go, they'll think I'm a --

TROY

Three year old?

She circles him. His startled Spongebob eyes track her.

MALLORY

What did you just call me?

TROY

I wasn't calling...you said...

She pushes past him and rampages toward the front desk.

TROY

(yells after her)

Can't help it. I finish sentences. I'm a big sentence finisher.

(mutters)

A very stupid sentence finisher.

DAVE

What say we work on those boy-girl dynamics, eh?

They both go after Mallory.

INT. FRONT DESK - DAY

Mallory's DAD, 41, robust and Land's End, head to toe, inside and out, strides to the desk and talks on his cellphone.

DAD

It's about three now, so maybe sixty-thirty?...

(MORE)

DAD (CONT'D)

Call Cheryl. She's trained on that MRI. I'll pick up her shift.

Mallory's MOM, 39, business casual with repressed flair, paces past him and talks on her cellphone.

MOM

You can't skip the item numbers...It's a patent illustration, not a Pop Sci ad...I'll get it done tonight...

She punches the off button and slips her phone into her purse.

MOM

Lawyers. If it weren't for the last minute...

DAD

...they wouldn't get anything done. I hope they let me slide one more time. I hate this.

Her gaze drifts to...

INT. FOOD COURT - DAY

Kim straps Audrey into a high chair.

KIM

How about if I order you...Brussel sprout pancakes?

AUDREY

Mommy silly.

KIM

No, really. They're today's special.

INT. FRONT DESK - DAY

Mom watches Kim juggle a baby bag and stuffed toys while hanging onto Audrey's hand.

DAD

What happened to that whole alternate jobs strategy we had?

MOM

Remember when she was that little?

INT. FOOD COURT - DAY

Audrey wiggles in her high chair.

AUDREY

No.  
 (yells)  
 I want porn!

KIM

Shhhh! It's corn. Kah, kah-orn.  
 Can you say kah-orn?

AUDREY

Kah...porn!

KIM

(to anybody overhearing)  
 Corn, she wants corn.

AUDREY

Porn! I want porn!

INT. BLUE CRUSH WAVE POOL - DAY

Mallory, a seething volcano of teen angst and anger, weaves through teeming throngs of happy wet people. Troy races to block her. Dave comes from behind.

MALLORY

Out of my way! They can't do this!

TROY

Mal, don't make it worse.

DAVE

What's the problem? It's an interview. What, coupla' hours?

MALLORY

It's not the time, it's -- If I cave on this, they'll keep treating me like a little girl. I'll turn into one of those women who live above their parent's garage and only come out when the social worker stops by.

TROY

You don't have a room over the --

Mallory glares are-you-that-clueless? and heads for the desk.

TROY

Mallory! This is a bad idea.  
 (to Dave)  
 So, am I supposed to help her do what she wants or do what she needs?  
 (off his frown)  
 I can't win, can I?

DAVE

Now you're getting it.

TROY

I bet if I was her boyfriend, she'd listen to me.

DAVE

And he's off in the weeds.

INT. FRONT DESK - DAY

Sara and Haley lounge in deck chairs close enough to catch all the action.

Curious and concerned, Kim, with Audrey in hand, joins Troy and Dave as...

...Mallory marches out of the crowd toward Mom and Dad.

Sara and Haley stifle giggles.

MALLORY

What? You didn't think the emergency phone call embarrassed me enough?

DAD

Mallory, we told you we were coming.

MALLORY

With a missing child alert? All you had to do was --

MOM

Missing child...what?

MALLORY

-- talk to the lifeguards.

DAD

Who's missing?

MALLORY

They always know where I am.

MOM

Don't get so upset, honey. Who knows where you are?

MALLORY

Kim and Dave, the lifeguards.

Mallory nods toward them. Kim half-waves to her parents.

MALLORY

The point is, you can't embarrass me into going to that interview. You know, mostly, in a lot of ways, I'm an adult.

DAD

Mallory, you just turned thirteen.

MALLORY

But, if you think about it, I'm really more of an adult than a child.

MOM

You said that when you were six. Remember, she wanted that skateboard?

MALLORY

Mom...

Troy, cautious, slips in near Mallory.

MALLORY

I've been thinking, a lot. I can make my own decisions about my own life and you can't stop me.

DAD

Troy, what is she talking about?

MOM

You guys aren't...she's not...?

MALLORY

What? No! With Troy?

TROY

Hey, it could happen.

DAD

What?

TROY

What? How about I go get everyone corndogs?

DAD

Not really in the mood, Troy.

TROY

Nachos?

Mom hands Troy a bill.

MOM

That'd be great.

Troy grabs the bill like a life preserver and heads to the food court.

DAD

So, what is this about?

MALLORY

I don't want to go.

MOM

To the interview?

MALLORY

The interview. The school. None of it. Ever.

DAD

Ever? Ever. After all we did for your education? The sacrifices your mother and I made?

MOM

And you don't want to go there?

MALLORY

I have a plan.

DAD

Really? I was not aware of that.

MALLORY

You guys! Come on. What have I been talking about since I was little? Didn't you read my appli... Never mind. My only point is --

MOM

You can't mean the waterpark thing?

MALLORY

What's wrong with me working in a waterpark?

DAD

What's wrong? It's...amusement.

Dave steps into the bickering family's circle.

DAVE

You know, that's not such a bad thing. We all work really hard --

AARON

-- to make happy memories!

DAD

Bet you use that fancy ketchup in the restaurants, too.

(to Mallory)

If you don't come with us, right now, and I mean, right now, I'll yank your waterpark pass.

MALLORY

You can't do that. Do you know how much babysitting I had to do to --

Kim edges into the group.

KIM

Take it easy, Mal.

(murmurs)

You're in the system. We can get you a new one.

DAD

Trying to talk to my kid here.

MALLORY

What? By embarrassing me into going to that stupid interview?

DAD

Enough! We've got your outfit in the van. Go get dressed. I already missed my shift.

MALLORY

You wouldn't have to work so much if I don't go to Darien Hills.

DAD

Mallory, you don't know enough about how the world works to --

Troy carries a rack of food and drinks.

TROY

Let's eat! So, youse got it all worked out then?

MOM

Troy, do you think Mallory should go to the interview?

Troy scans Mallory's face. He stares at Dad and Mom. Mallory. Them. Mallory. Them.

TROY

I think Mallory --

Mallory grabs Troy and kisses him, hard on the mouth.

MOM

Mallory!

TROY

(through smooshed  
lips)

Muul-luury?

DAD

Mal-lo-ry.

MALLORY

There! I can do whatever I want.

Mallory yells and races toward the toddler pool.

MALLORY

You're going to yank my pass anyway.  
Might as well make the most of it!

DAD

Young lady, where are you going?

Mom and Dad chase Mallory. Dave and Kim chase them.

INT. TODDLER POOL - DAY

Toddlers, oblivious to the drama their parents find so  
intriguing, squirt water and blow bubbles.

Mallory sashes to the middle and takes a stand.

Mom and Dad stop at the edge of the pool with Kim and Dave.

DAD

I can't believe you're acting like  
such a child!

MALLORY

Want this child to go to that  
interview?

She kicks a splash.

MALLORY

Come and get me!

DAD

(to Kim)

Are you people going to do something?

KIM

She can splash in the kiddie pool if  
she wants.

MOM

I don't believe this.

Dad and Mom close in on Kim and Dave.

DAVE

Ma'am, we'd love to help, but it's not our business to --

DAD

I'll tell you what your business is, buddy.

DAVE

I'd appreciate it if you wouldn't, sir.

Troy slobes through the pool towards Mallory.

TROY

Was it good for you?

MALLORY

Splashing?...Oh, that thing.

TROY

Yeah, that. Think it'll happen again?

MALLORY

Maybe. If you come with.

Mallory, her eyes on the arguing adults, sneaks to the opposite side of the pool. She gestures "Well?" to Troy.

Troy, checks over his shoulder and joins her.

They climb onto the deck and scurry out of sight.

INT. TODDLER POOL

Mom and Dad pace and badger Kim and Dave.

MOM

What kind of ideas have you been putting in her head?

KIM

Ms. Carlini, Mallory thinks up plenty of her own ideas. Maybe you --

MOM

You saying it's my fault?

DAVE

She's a good kid. Maybe you two are, I don't know, too used to her?

KIM

Working in a waterpark isn't the worst thing a kid could do.

DAD

Can you believe this? Lifeguards, in a waterpark of all places, lecturing us on how our daughter should make a living.

Dave smiles, but gets in Dad's face.

DAVE

Listen, bud, I was an aerodynamics engineer at NASA for twelve years. What do you do?

DAD

NASA. Right. For this?

DAVE

I don't have to explain my life to you, bro...sir.

KIM

You worked for NASA?

DAVE

How about that, eh?

INT. PROMENADE - DAY

Mallory and Troy, going as fast as possible without running, head toward the rafts bouncing along the Lazy Rafting River.

TROY

Have you totally lost it? What was that back there?

MALLORY

Desperation. No turning back now.

TROY

No. We can totally turn back and right now.

MALLORY

Maybe you can.

Mallory races ahead of him.

TROY

Mal, don't do this! Mal...

INT. TODDLER POOL

Mom and Dad face Kim and Dave.

MOM

Where is she?

DAD

Great. That's just great! If you two were doing your job --

KIM

Hey, our job is to keep everyone here safe. If we had to track down a kid every time a --

DAVE

Maybe we can help, a little.

Kim pulls Dave aside.

KIM

Oh really? How?

DAVE

You know where she hangs out. We'll find her. She'll patch things up with her folks and we can get back to work. Otherwise...

(glances at the  
Carlinis)

I've seen that look before. They will not let up.

KIM

Alright, but if this goes sideways...

DAVE

I'll take the hit. You'll keep your job. No problems.

KIM

NASA, wow. You really don't seem like the engineer type.

DAVE

Is that a good thing or a bad thing?

KIM

Not sure yet.

INT. LAZY RAFTING RIVER - DAY

Carefree families and raucous rolling parties pile into a dozen colorful rafts corralled behind a metal gate.

Checking over their shoulders, Mallory and Troy race through the zigzag queue barriers.

MALLORY  
Stop complaining, will you? It's three-thirty. I'm just asking you to keep a lookout for me until five.

Mallory hops into the last empty raft. Troy rolls into it.

MALLORY  
Move over! You're going to sink us!

The gates swing open. Rafts bump and wobble down the river.

Mallory scans the area.

MALLORY  
I don't see them.

TROY  
Maybe they left. Yeah, that's probably it. They left.

MALLORY  
Troy.

TROY  
Okay, okay. I'll help.

Upriver, Troy sees the first tunnel. His face brightens. He slides closer to Mallory and glances at her chest.

MALLORY  
You see them?

TROY  
What? No!

INT. FRONT DESK - DAY

The hands of the Buck Meyer clock clunk to 3:35. Kim and Dave face Dad and Mom.

MOM  
Isn't there somebody we should be calling about this?

DAVE  
I suppose we could --

KIM  
Sorry, Ms. Carlini, we're it.

DAVE  
Ah...? Yup. We're it.

Kim yanks Dave aside.

DAVE

Want to tell me why you just blew a chance to unload this problem?

KIM

Because it's Mallory.

DAVE

And?

KIM

I kind of want to help her --

DAVE

-- ditch her parents? What happened to worrying about your job?

KIM

I know it sounds nuts, but Mallory's right. If she let's them tell her what to do now --

DAVE

She's thirteen. She'll get over it.

KIM

I didn't. And you didn't either.

DAVE

Man, I let you in on one secret. Okay, yeah, I didn't get over it.

KIM

So, why should Mallory waste her time doing something she doesn't want to do?

DAVE

Kim, listen to me. I put my head down, plowed through Cal Tech and didn't look up until I quit NASA. But, you know what? That gave me choices. Mallory won't have any, if she doesn't --

Dad and Mom step into the huddle.

DAD

Are we going to find her or --

KIM

Mr. Carlini, we're professionals here. We'll do all we can to help.

DAD

You all better do something pretty soon or I'll call --

DAVE

If you want to do this, you're going to have to listen to us.

Dad and Mom, lips clenched, glance at each other.

DAVE

Now, I say we start with her favorite ride which is...?

MOM

Well, she's always talking about...that one that has the...

DAD

Yeah, yeah...the one with the spinning, swooshing...This is stupid.

KIM

Her favorite ride is the Big Gusher. This way.

Dad and Mom follow Kim. Dave brings up the rear.

A DAPPER GENTLEMAN, 72, with neatly trimmed gray hair steps to the front desk. He pulls a wallet out of the pocket of his tweed jacket.

DAPPER GENTLEMAN

A day pass please...What's all the ruckus?

AARON

Lost child alert. Don't know why. She's here all the time.

DAPPER GENTLEMAN

Doesn't take much to set off parents. There was this couple from Oak Park --

AARON

If they bitch to my boss, I'm screwed.

INT. LAZY RAFTING RIVER / TUNNEL - DAY

Pop music blares. Spinning, darting multicolored laser beams bounce off the walls and water.

MALLORY

I love this part! Remember those dorky colored spotlights they had before the lasers?

Troy, fascinated by two teenage couples making out in the raft ahead, snaps to attention.

TROY

Yeah. Dorky.

He glances back at another entwined couple.

Black lights bathe the amorous teenagers.

Ahead, full color images of tall ships, whales and mermaids, flit across a water curtain.

Mallory splays out, head back, ready to get wet.

TROY

Oh...man...

The curtain soaks them. Mallory SQUEALS. Troy SIGHS.

Troy scoots toward Mallory. He slides his arm across the raft's tube behind her.

MALLORY

What are you doing?

TROY

Balancing the raft. So we don't fall in. See, if I keep my arm --

Mallory pushes his arm away.

TROY

Fine. It's not like I've been waiting for this since seventh grade.

MALLORY

Seventh grade? I wasn't even thinking about that kind of stuff.

TROY

You thinking about it now?

She punches his shoulder, hard.

TROY

Ow! Somebody's got think about it or we'll never --

MALLORY

Never what?

TROY

Never mind.

Mallory massages his shoulder.

MALLORY

Troy, seriously, you've got to be my wingman.

TROY

What are we, cruising?

MALLORY

You know what I mean.

TROY

They can't see us in here anyway. How about we make out? You know, see how it goes.

MALLORY

Nothing's going. We need a plan.

TROY

You wake up this morning, decide you're going to throw away your future and now you want a plan?

MALLORY

Some friend you are. What have I been talking about all year? Do you even listen to me?

TROY

Mal, I listen. But my parents are going to kill me when they find out --

MALLORY

You want to quit? Fine.

TROY

I'll help you. But, when it's all done, we are back in this tunnel.

Mallory yanks her arm back for a punch. He flinches.

INT. LAZY RAFTING RIVER - DAY

Mallory and Troy drift out of the last tunnel.

Mallory sits up and scans the river.

Troy's gaze sweeps the perimeter. He spies Mallory's parents approaching the river.

He dives and flattens himself against the raft bottom. The raft rocks hard.

INSIDE THE RAFT

MALLORY  
You're gonna dump us!

On his back, Troy flips through special ops hand signals to indicate her parents are coming.

Mallory, baffled, whispers.

MALLORY  
What are you --

TROY  
Ssshh!

He pulls Mallory down. She lands on him, face to face.

TROY  
Remember how we used to wrestle?

MALLORY  
That is no longer age appropriate.

TROY  
And that is sad.

She rolls off him.

TROY  
They're heading his way.

Mallory peeks over the edge of the raft and sees...

...her frantic Mom and Dad look every which way and hurry ahead of Kim and Dave. The calm professionals scan the area.

INSIDE THE RAFT

Mallory lays down next to Troy and whispers.

MALLORY  
Stay down.

TROY  
I'd like to revisit the whole  
wrestling age appropriate issue.

MALLORY  
And shut up.

They squish themselves against the raft's rim tube.

ABOVE THE RAFT

Flustered Dad stops the group.

DAD

This Gusher, are you sure she's there?

MOM

We should call the police.

INSIDE THE RAFT

Mallory winces. Troy mumbles.

TROY

Great. The cops.

Mallory stares him into silence.

KIM (O.S.)

We'll find her. They couldn't do anything in time anyway.

DAVE (O.S.)

Let's not overreact. She's not --

ABOVE THE RAFT

DAD

Maybe you're underreacting! These kids you watch, they come and go. When it's your own kid, it's like --

MOM

Watching her walk off a cliff. Okay, that's a little extreme, but --

DAD

If you had kids of your own --

KIM

Excuse me. I've got a four year old daughter. I think I know --

MOM

Four isn't thirteen. You wait. You cannot imagine the things she'll do to drive you nuts.

DAVE

I don't think she's doing this just to piss you off.

KIM/MOM/DAD

But it does!

Astonished by their shared feelings, the search party moves on towards The Big Gusher.

IN THE RAFT

The RAFT OPERATOR grabs a handle on the raft.

RAFT OPERATOR

I got to get this raft going. Go mess around someplace else.

TROY

I wish.

MALLORY

We're going. Gaad!

INT. BIG GUSHER WATERSLIDE - DAY

Little children stand in awe of the six story monster.

Serpentine tubes and half tubes twist and turn around flights of stairs running up from platform to platform.

Sloshes and splashes echo through the tubes and stairs punctuated by yelps and screams of terrified delight.

Kim climbs a staircase between platforms. Dave, Mom and Dad follow past the line of happy sliders inching up the stairs. The foursome stops on a platform for a breather.

MOM

I don't see them. This is taking too long! You've got a PA system. Use it.

DAVE

Sure. Let's panic the whole park again.

DAD

We're just saying --

KIM

Ms. Carlini, unless she's in real danger --

DAD

But she is! Her whole career, her whole life...If we don't get her to that interview...

Mom punches numbers on her cellphone and listens.

INT. TOAD HALL LILY PAD WALK - DAY

A glowing green plastic Mr. Toad swings his legs with a jaunty mechanical strut, twirls a colorful umbrella and beams down on a pool dotted with giant plastic lily pads.

Swim suited guests of all ages steady themselves on the overhead netting and wobble from pad to pad. They stumble, laugh, fall, and scramble up.

Mallory and Troy hurry along the edge of the pool.

TROY

They're going to see us out here.  
(leers)  
Let's go back to the tunnel.

MALLORY

Not gonna happen, Monkey Boy.

TROY

Just keeping it on the table.

MALLORY

We're good here. It's exactly opposite the direction they were going. And it's really crowded. If we stay in middle, we'll be fine.

Mallory leaps onto an open pad and hangs off the net. Glum Troy does not follow.

MALLORY

Come on. You might even have fun.

TROY

Hey, I been trying. But you --

MALLORY

Come on!

Troy grabs the net and swings onto the pad next to her.

Sara peeks at them from behind the entrance booth.

INT. BIG GUSHER WATERSLIDE - DAY

Dad and Mom, bursting with frustration, listen to Mom's phone spew tedious on-hold music.

Kim and Dave pace to a private distance from the Carlinis.

MOM  
 Finally...This is Ms. Carlini,  
 Mallory's mother.

Sara lurks in the crowd behind Kim and Dave.

Dad motions to give him the phone. Mom waves him off.

MOM  
 She's scheduled for an interview  
 this...Yes, at five...

Dad grabs the phone and gives Mom a let-me-try look. She lets him have it.

DAD  
 Look, we've been very patient...This  
 is her father. I know today's a  
 busy day...but we have to talk to  
 the principal...  
 (to Mom)  
 They say he's not available.  
 (into phone)  
 What the hell does that mean?

Mom grabs the phone.

MOM  
 Hi, Ms. Carlini again...Listen, we're  
 all a little on edge here...

DAD  
 Well, what does it mean?  
 (to Dave)  
 It's a valid question, right?

MOM  
 Is he interviewing another student?...

DAD  
 Ask them if they called his hotel.

MOM  
 ...Yes, I'm still here. Could you  
 perhaps call his hotel?...

DAD  
 If he's with another student, and  
 that kid gets in instead of Mallory...

MOM  
 (to Dad)  
 They called his room, but...  
 (into phone)  
 Have you called their desk?

Dad reaches for the phone. Dave steps between them.

DAVE

Ease up a little. I'm sure they give everyone a fair shake.

DAD

A fair shake? A fair shake. Have you ever gotten a fair shake, at anything? I haven't.

Sara steps out of the crowd and touches Dad's arm.

SARA

I think they're at the Lily Pad Walk.

DAD

Excuse me, I don't --

SARA

I'm from Mallory's school.

Sara extends her hand like a poised adult.

SARA

Sara.

INT. TOAD HALL LILY PAD WALK / CENTER - DAY

Hollering as only a Cub Scout pack can, the blue trunked balls of energy leap from pad to pad.

Mallory and Troy, side by side, use the overhead net to swing across the pads through the herd.

MALLORY

Dude, I'm sorry about all this.

A gaggle of Scouts scurry between them.

MALLORY

I thought if I applied, they'd ease up on me and forget about it.

Troy swings to a stop.

TROY

Forget? These are your parents we're talking about! You couldn't see this would happen?

MALLORY

Didn't think I'd get an interview.

TROY

You. Not get an interview? Teachers love you!

Mallory grabs the net with one hand to step close to Troy.

MALLORY

The application I showed my parents?  
I didn't send it.

TROY

But, then how --

MALLORY

I sent in a crappy one. Not so awful  
that they'd get suspicious, but bad.

TROY

That worked well.

MALLORY

I don't know. Maybe I mixed them  
up. Look, I'm sorry, okay?

TROY

(looks past her)  
You're going to be sorrier.

Dad and Mom follow Dave and Kim to the pool.

MALLORY

It's cool. We can wait them out.

She sees Sara and Haley approach Mom and Dad.

MALLORY

Ah, man.

INT. TOAD HALL LILY PAD WALK - DAY

Dad and Mom approach and scan hundreds of carefree wet  
families and friends hopping and swinging across the pool.

Dave walks with them and pretends to scan.

Sara and Haley tag along.

Kim walks, careful to stay between Sara and the Carlinis.

Sara scurries past Kim.

SARA

(to Dad and Mom)  
All this crazy stuff with Mallory.  
So immature.

MOM

Sara, dear, we really need to --

SARA

It's too bad she doesn't appreciate how much you love her.

MOM

I don't think that's the issue here.

DAD

We need to find her pretty quick so if you don't mind...

SARA

Let me help you.

Kim steps in with a glare at Sara.

KIM

We really don't need --

Haley backs away and slips into the crowd.

MOM

It couldn't hurt.

INT. TOAD HALL LILY PAD WALK / CENTER - DAY

Mallory, panicked, watches Sara rush to the pool's edge.

MALLORY

It's okay. We'll be fine, right?

TROY

As long as they stay --

Sara step onto a pad.

MALLORY

Great.

INT. TOAD HALL LILY PAD WALK - DAY

Sara swings onto a pad occupied by a PUCKISH SCOUT. The eight going on fourteen scout jumps into her path.

PUCKISH SCOUT

Wow! You're pretty!

SARA

I know. And you're in the way. Move it!

PUCKISH SCOUT

Want to be my babysitter?

SARA  
Move, you little dweeb.

He wraps his arms around her knees.

PUCKISH SCOUT  
I got a really good game.

She peels him off.

SARA  
Bug off!

PUCKISH SCOUT  
Come on! Play with me!

He bounces on the pad and jostles Sara. Cub Scouts on nearby pads watch and giggle.

SARA  
Cut it out! Little jerk!

She struggles to balance between the two rolling pads.

PUCKISH SCOUT  
You're a bigger jerk! Jerk! Jerk!

Sara grabs him and steps onto the pad.

PUCKISH SCOUT  
Jerk! Hey!

He wiggles and giggles. She lifts him off the pad and...

SARA  
Stay out of the way!

...tosses him in the water.

He comes up giggling and climbs back on the pad.

PUCKISH SCOUT  
That was fun! You're fun!

Nearby scouts join in. They bounce their pads and send steep waves everywhere.

SARA  
Out of the way!

Sara swings over him and charges toward Mallory.

INT. TOAD HALL LILY PAD WALK / CENTER - DAY

The Scouts' waves jostle Mallory and Troy's pads.

Mallory struggles to land on her next pad. She bobbles, misses the rope, and...

MALLORY  
Whooooaaaaahhhh...!

Mallory falls backward. Troy grabs for her. Misses.

Kapoosh! She hits the water and sinks.

Mallory comes up and grabs for a pad.

It tilts. She slides off.

The Cub pack, a flurry of blue trunks and frisky arms and legs, swarm on the surrounding pads blocking Troy's view.

TROY  
Mal? Mal!

INT. FRONT DESK - DAY

Aaron slides a pair of ID bracelets across the counter to the honeymoon couple from the hot tub.

AARON  
These will get you into everything.  
Sorry about the tub thing. You have  
a great day.

They grab the bracelets and stroll into the crowd out of which strides Haley.

HALEY  
Hey A-ron, I can make your day great.

AARON  
You're not getting a pass. And  
don't talk like you know what's what.

HALEY  
How do you know I don't know?

AARON  
I know I better not guess for at  
least five years. Bug off.

HALEY  
You're worried about your job. I'd  
be too, if I knew my boss was going  
to nail me for that false child alert.

AARON  
Will you shut up? He's everywhere.

HALEY

So wouldn't it be great if you knew  
who did it?

INT. TOAD HALL LILY PAD WALK - DAY

Dave and Kim blow whistles and yell at the bouncers.

DAVE

You! Out of the pool.  
(to Kim)  
How the hell did this get started?

KIM

Yellow trunks. Out!  
(to Dave)  
It was fine until Sara showed up.  
(to Cub Scouts)  
You three! Out!

Dad and Mom peer into the mess of bobbing pads and people.

DAD

I can't see her. Is Troy in there?

The dapper gentleman, his tweed jacket replaced by baggy  
plaid trunks and an oversized T-shirt, sidles to Dad's side.

DAPPER GENTLEMAN

Looks like they're having a heck of  
a time. You know, when I was that  
age, we didn't have --

DAD

No offense, but I'm a little  
preoccupied at the moment.

DAPPER GENTLEMAN

None taken.

Dapper wanders over to Dave.

DAVE

You two! In the blue trunks!

DAPPER GENTLEMAN

Quite the folderol, eh?

DAVE

Whisky tango f---  
(splash!)  
You! Off the net!

DAPPER GENTLEMAN

Anything I can do to help?

DAVE  
Find another ride.

DAPPER GENTLEMAN  
I'm pretty good with kids.

DAVE  
All grandparents think that. Thanks,  
we got it.

Kim, red faced from whistle blowing, hurries to his side.

KIM  
This is nuts!

INT. TOAD HALL LILY PAD WALK / CENTER - DAY

Troy hauls Mallory onto a pad and sits beside her.

MALLORY  
That was a little scary.

TROY  
They haven't seen us yet. All we  
have to do is stay put.

MALLORY  
For two hours? We're running out of  
Cub Scouts.

Sara tosses another giggling scout into the water. Eyes on  
Mallory, she leaps from pad to pad.

TROY  
She's a little scary.

MALLORY  
Follow me!

Mallory and Troy slip, slide and hop from pad to pad.

Sara leaps over a Cub Scout and closes in on Mallory.

Mallory glances over her shoulder and speeds up.

With Sara three pads back, Mallory and Troy race for poolside.

INT. TOAD HALL LILY PAD WALK - DAY

Peering into the chaos of water and floating plastic, Mom  
sights Mallory heading for the pool's edge.

MOM  
Over here! She's over here.

Mallory swings and hits the deck. Troy, behind her.

Mom and Dad race to cut off them off.

DAVE

No running!

DAD

Are you kid--

He slips and sploosh! Dad comes up splashing mad.

Dave's in the water swimming fast.

KIM

Great.

Kim dives in near Dad.

MOM

Oh my! Oh my goodness! Honey!

With the adults occupied, Mallory and Troy run for daylight.

Haley sneaks up within earshot of them.

Sara, exhausted, struggles to the pool's edge.

MALLORY

Keep going that way. We'll double back to the Zipper.

Haley meets Sara at pool's edge.

SARA

Where the heck were you? I had to fight off Cub Scouts all by myself.

HALEY

I had to use the -- You fought Cub Scouts?

SARA

Harder than it sounds. They're tough little bastards.

HALEY

Come on. They're heading to the Zipper. If we cut through here --

Sara scurries ahead of Sara and motions her back.

SARA

Better stay here. Tell the Carlinis. and meet me there.

HALEY  
Who made you boss?

INT. WET ZIPPER ZIP LINE - DAY

Parallel cables strung from a twenty foot high platform run above a long, narrow pool and down into its end.

Below, Sara scurries to the queue. She makes eye contact with a THIRTEEN YEAR OLD BOY near the front of the line.

Without breaking her gaze, she strolls to his side.

SARA  
Been waiting all by yourself?

INT. TOAD HALL LILY PAD WALK - DAY

Dad towels off his hair. Mom wrings out his sock and hands it to him. Forlorn, he stuffs it in his pocket.

Haley slips out of the crowd and approaches them.

Dad checks his watch. Dead. He squints to see the Buck Meyer clock across the park. He turns to Kim and Dave.

DAD  
Twenty to five.

MOM  
Can we still make it?

DAVE  
Kim, any guess about where they went?

HALEY  
The Zipper.

INT. WET ZIPPER ZIP LINE - DAY

Mallory and Troy, panting, blend into a line of teens.

TROY  
I don't see them.

On the platform, kids, teens and adults grab zip trolleys.

Wssss...ssss...ssss! They slide down at stunning speeds.

MALLORY  
If we can stay ahead of them until five...

TROY

You'll be grounded until you collect social security.

The amped up zippers woosh past The Mine Shaft.

MALLORY

That's going to happen no matter what. At least I won't have to go to Darien Hills.

Sploosh! Splash! Splat! They hit the water, some smoother than others. All come up laughing and ready for more.

INT. WET ZIPPER ZIP LINE / PLATFORM - DAY

Mallory and Troy move with the line toward the zip trolleys.

MALLORY

You know what's weird?

TROY

Running through a waterpark all day because of one stupid interview?

MALLORY

You're lecturing again.

TROY

Can't I support the troops but not the war?

MALLORY

I meant the child alert thing. Mom and Dad really didn't know about it.

She sees Haley leading the search party to the zipper pool.

MALLORY

One break. Can I get one break today?

SARA (O.S.)

Guess not.

Sara stands between Mallory and the zip trolley.

TROY

(to a bystander)

Bad idea. Mal's like a badger. Doesn't like being cornered.

Mallory takes a step toward her.

Sara hunches into a wrestling stance.

MALLORY

Really?

INT. WET ZIPPER ZIP LINE - DAY

Dad and Mom scurry and push through the queue.

DAD

Excuse me...excuse me...

The dapper gentlemen in plaid trunks steps aside.

MOM

It's an emergency. We're looking  
for our daughter.

DAPPER GENTLEMAN

I saw a little girl crying over there.

He points toward the Wave Pool. Kim and Dave arrive.

MOM

She's not that little.

DAD

And I doubt she's crying.

INT. WET ZIPPER ZIP LINE / PLATFORM - DAY

Mallory and Sara grapple, head to head, each grabbing at the  
other's neck and any free limb.

Dozens of amped up TEENAGERS surround them.

A STRINGY LIFEGUARD alternately blows his whistle and yells  
into his walkie.

STRINGY LIFEGUARD

It's out of control here!

(tweet!)

Get me some backup!

Troy worms through the crowd. He yells to Mallory.

TROY

Ankle pick! Your left! Your left!

Like lightning, Mallory drops and reaches for Sara's ankle.

Sara kicks it off.

Mallory pushes her shoulder under Sara, lifts her off her  
feet and drives her onto the deck.

TROY

Fireman's carry. That's good too.

Sara rolls out. Mallory's on her back.

TROY

Ride her...ride her. You're too high!

Mallory drops low. Sara twists out and onto Mallory's back.

TROY

Chicken wing! Chicken wing!

Mallory hooks Sara's arm with hers and rolls.

TROY

Switch! Switch! Don't let her --

Sara breaks free and brute forces Mallory onto her back.

She sits on Mallory's chest and pins her arms to the deck.

MALLORY

Troy!

Troy gets on his knees and leans close to Mallory. She twists and wiggles to keep her shoulders off the deck.

TROY

You okay?

MALLORY

I got this. Meet me at the Carts.

TROY

Kick her ass, Mal!

Troy breaks through the crowd, grabs a trolley and zips down.

Mallory rolls onto the top of her head, arches her back, pushes up hard with her legs and topples Sara forward.

Mallory back rolls over her and lands on her back.

Sara scrambles on her hands and knees.

Mallory yanks her arm back and pushes her down.

MALLORY

When I let go, you better walk away.

SARA

Okay! Okay.

Mallory stands and turns.

Sara leaps up and sweeps Mallory into a crushing bear hug.

MALLORY  
That's it! No mercy!

SARA  
You got it!

INT. WET ZIPPER ZIP LINE - DAY

Troy hops out at the end of the pool and charges for the exit. Haley sees him and blocks it. She yells to Mom.

HALEY  
He's over here!

Mom charges toward them.

Troy breaks left. Haley blocks. He breaks right. Blocked.

TROY  
(to Mom)  
Wow, Ms. Carlini. Don't you just  
love Haley's hypertrichosis?

Genuine thinking effort crinkles Haley's unblemished forehead.

Troy races past Haley and out the gate.

Mom gets to Haley. Troy disappears in the crowd.

HALEY  
Hyper's good, right?

MOM  
Dear, it means excessive hair growth.

INT. WET ZIPPER ZIP LINE / PLATFORM - DAY

Mallory reaches for Sara's head and misses. Sara flops Mallory around like a rag doll.

SARA  
You like this? You like this?

Mallory hooks her leg behind Sara's and drops them both. She backrolls over Sara's head before they even hit the deck.

Mallory races for the trolley. The amazed crowd parts.

Sara scrambles for Mallory. Life guards rush up the stairs.

Mallory grabs the nearest trolley and...

...Whissss! Shoots down the zip line.

MALLORY  
Suck it Sara!

INT. WET ZIPPER ZIP LINE - DAY

Mom's head snaps around toward Mallory's voice.

MOM  
There! She's up there!

Dad, confused about which way to move, looks back and forth.

KIM  
Dave.

Kim nods to the end of the zip lines.

DAVE  
Crazy Carts?

KIM  
That's where I'd go.

Mom and Dad strain to see Mallory on the tower.

Dave and Kim slip away to the Crazy Carts Watercoaster.

ON THE ZIP LINES

Mallory whips past the Mine Shaft...

...past the Big Gusher...

...and splashes in near the Crazy Carts Water Coaster.

Exhausted, she climbs out. She sees Mom and Dad bearing down. Summoning everything she's got left, she bolts.

INT. CRAZY CARTS WATERCOASTER - DAY

Amped up kids pile into roller coaster carts. The rubber traction conveyor belt scoops the carts out of a long pool and scoots them up the first of many steep hills.

The RUUSSSHHH of the water coaster crescendos.

Mallory, breathing hard, checks over her shoulder, and follows the crowd into...

...an impossibly long queue. She bounces in place.

MALLORY  
Come on!

She straightens her shoulders and marches to the gate. A brawny YOUNG FATHER herding his antsy kids grumbles.

YOUNG FATHER  
Hey, kid! Wait your turn.

MALLORY  
Just asking a question.

Doing her best coy kitten routine she addresses the CRAZY CART OPERATOR.

MALLORY  
Excuse me, I was wondering if --

CRAZY CART OPERATOR  
Can't do it.

MALLORY  
You haven't even --

CRAZY CART OPERATOR  
No cuts.

Deflated, she looks at the end of the queue and its two new members: Mom and Dad.

MALLORY  
(to operator)  
Mister...sir...dude, I'm sure if you understood the situation --

CRAZY CART OPERATOR  
Sorry, kid. Rules, ya know?

She searches for an escape route. Behind her, a voice cracks.

TROY (O.S.)  
She's with me.

NEAR THE GATE

Kim keeps an eye on the approaching Carlinis.

KIM  
Incoming.

At her back, Dave tracks Mallory and Troy.

DAVE  
They're getting in.

END OF THE QUEUE

Mom, like Mallory, bounces in place.

MOM

There! She's up there!

Mom dashes ahead. Dad follows.

MOM

Hurry, Hon! We're losing them!

YOUNG FATHER

What is it today?

He steps into the Carlinis path.

YOUNG FATHER

Hey, bud. No cuts.

Dad sizes up the young father. Yeah, he's bigger.

DAD

I can see you've got children, so I think you can appreciate our situation. You see, our daughter...

INSIDE THE GATE

Mallory and Troy slide into the front bench seat of a cart.

MALLORY

You are the man!

TROY

Hey, who's your Monkey Boy?

MALLORY

How did you --

TROY

He's another wrestler.

OUTSIDE THE GATE

Kim sees Mallory and Troy's cart take off. She nudges Dave.

KIM

Okay.

Dave does a lifeguard-in-charge walk to the Carlini standoff.

DAD

...and then she just took off!

The young father, unimpressed, stands his ground.

DAVE

Excuse me, sir. Let me get this guy  
out of your way.

MOM

(triumphant)

Okay! We can still catch them!

Dave grabs Mom and Dad by their arms.

DAVE

I'm sorry, sir. These two have been  
causing trouble all day.

DAD

Hey! What the --

DAVE

(whispers)

Run with it.

Dave leads Mom and Dad through a service gate.

DAVE

Get in! Get in!

The confused couple hops into a cart.

The guard rail drops. They're off!

MOM

Quite a hill. Didn't look that big  
from the ground.

DAD

Least we can't get wet.

They crest the hill and whoosh!

Splash! Into the first pool.

DAD

As wet...

MALLORY AND TROY'S CART

Mallory and Troy scream their lungs out at every twist, turn  
and dip. Between screams, being jaded Crazy Cart veterans,  
they talk as though in a quiet restaurant.

MALLORY

Man, I'm beat. YAAAH!

TROY

WHOOOAAAHHH! No kidding. They  
don't let up, do they?

MALLORY

Exactly. AAAAAGGGGGHHH! See what I've been putting up with all year? Nothing scarier than -- WOOOOOW! -- a worried parent.

TROY

Still, you can't blame them. WHOOOAAAHHH! -- health care, insurance, social security...

MALLORY

When you were born, did the briefcase come out before or after you? YEEAAAAH!

TROY

WHOOOOOOO! I'm just afraid of getting old and -- YAAAHAAA! -- poor, not having anybody, dying a virgin.

MALLORY

Sex is -- YO00000AAAAH! -- the least of my worries.

TROY

How can you say that? It's the only thing worth growing up for.

Down the final plunge.

MALLORY/TROY

WHOOOO0HAAAEEEEEEAAAAHHH!

Mallory and Troy's cart slides to a halt.

TROY

Mal, I've had it. I got to bail.

MALLORY

Some wrestler. Where's your endurance?

TROY

What's the point? There's no way they'll get you to that interview now. I'm already in deep doodoo. When your parents call my parents...I won't see daylight until grad school.

MALLORY

Please?

(off his weary look)

I have the perfect ride. You can float around and keep watch for me without doing anything else. Promise.

MOM AND DAD'S CART

Mom and Dad are both soaked and giggling.

MOM  
You're laughing.

DAD  
I'm being serious. You're the one.

MOM  
You are too laughing. Over there!  
It's Troy!

They hop out of the cart and dash toward him.

Troy rushes after Mallory who's racing toward...

INT. HAMSTER WHEEL POOL - DAY

Pink and yellow plastic letters spell out "Hamster Wheels" around an exercise wheel spun by a tan fiberglass hamster sucking on a snorkel.

The sign arches over a pool jammed with inflated vinyl wheels spun by kids and teens. Wheels roll every which way and bounce off each other like bumper cars.

Mom and Dad, still soaked, hurry, trying not to run.

MOM  
Mallory! Stop right now!

DAD  
You're being...this is crazy!

Mallory and Troy each step into an inflated plastic wheel.

MALLORY  
Go!

TROY  
Where?

MALLORY  
Away!

The two fugitives head into the spinning melee.

Dad and Mom eye two empty wheels.

DAD  
Oh, hell, we're already wet!

Not as sure footed as the youngsters, they roll towards them.

MOM

We're never going catch her!

DAD

Cut them off! Cut them off!

Dad veers left. Mom veers right. Like a silly, slow motion dogfight, Mallory and Troy dodge Mom and Dad.

Dad speeds up.

DAD

Think I'm getting it now!

Dad gains on Troy.

DAD

(to Mom)

Break right! I'll get them on the other side.

Troy and Mallory circle each other.

MALLORY

Get going! They're closing in.

TROY

This is nuts! Look at your Mom. You want her to have a heart attack?

MALLORY

She's fine. Pilates and hockey.

Mom closes in.

Troy reverses his wheel.

His sudden stop catches another wheeler off guard. They bounce off each other.

Boooiinnggg! Splash! Sploosh!

Troy hits the water. His splash bounces Mom. She tips and wobbles.

MOM

Whoa!

Mallory races past Mom to the pool's edge and leaps.

TROY

(melodramatic)

You go on, Mal. I'll be okay.

She gives Troy an eyeroll, hits the deck and charges past the dapper gentleman who ambles after her.

Dad rolls his wheel to the deck and helps Mom out.

MOM

She's headed to that tower!

INT. THE MINE SHAFT FREE FALL SLIDE / TOP PLATFORM - DAY

Eager and not so eager riders climb to the top platform.

Across the jumbo LED screen crawl the words "WELCOME - Larry Searing and Friends - Happy Birthday Larry!"

At the top, the MINE SHAFT OPERATOR recites instructions into the PA system as though narrating a space shuttle launch.

MINE SHAFT OPERATOR (V.O.)

When you get to the top, please stay back from the launch tube until it is your turn.

On the launch tube, a red light dims. A green one lights.

MINE SHAFT OPERATOR (V.O.)

Wait for the green light. When it turns on, the door will open. Step in and stand straight. Cross your arms and legs and wait for the launch...When you get to the top,...

The message repeats as a TERRIFIED RIDER enters the launcher.

CLUNK!

TERRIFIED RIDER

WWWHHAAAAHHHHHH!

Terrified rider shoots the steep trough at free fall speed!

MINE SHAFT OPERATOR (V.O.)

The platform is closing for thirty minutes. Will the Searing birthday party please come up? Searing party, please come up to the platform.

A few hard chargers in the crowd grumble. Most heave relieved sighs and traipse down the stairs.

INT. THE MINE SHAFT FREE FALL SLIDE / DECK - DAY

Terrified Rider slooshes into the long pool and throws up a fifteen foot rooster tail. Adrenaline pumping hard, he stumbles out of the pool and warns onlookers.

## TERRIFIED RIDER

I hang glide, snowboard mountains  
and bungee jump, but, I tell you  
what, that thing...

Dazed and shaking, he wanders into the crowd coming down the  
stairs and out the gate.

Mallory scurries in the gate.

## MINE SHAFT OPERATOR (V.O.)

The platform is now closed and will  
reopen at 5:15.

## MALLORY

Perfect. Of all the times...

Mallory joins the crowd heading out.

## MINE SHAFT OPERATOR (V.O.)

Welcome Larry Searing! Happy birthday  
from Buck and the whole crew!

Birthday boy LARRY SEARING, a chubby but fit 40, with a dozen  
of LARRY'S FRIENDS, march past the outgoing crowd. Mallory  
does a one-eighty and joins them.

The wet and wild birthday party marches up the stairs...

...with Mallory tagging along at the rear.

Mom and Dad, breathless, weave through the outgoing crowd.

## DAD

Was there a girl here? Thirteen,  
blue suit...?

A few people point up the stairs.

## MOM

No. Really?

Dad and Mom plod up the stairs.

## INT. THE MINE SHAFT FREE FALL SLIDE / TOP PLATFORM - DAY

Breathing hard, Mallory crests the last step. She sees the  
Buck Meyer clock -- 4:47.

Larry's friends surround him and finish SINGING "Happy  
Birthday."

## LARRY

You guys...thanks! Well...this is  
it...Yup...

Anxious, Mallory turns and sees her parents making their way up the stairs. She hides in the crowd.

LARRY

You know I've never done this  
before...first time...yup...

Mallory peeks down the stairs.

Mom and Dad start up the last long flight.

She turns back. Light goes green. Larry locks up.

MALLORY

Come on! You can do it!

Startled, his friend's take up the chant.

LARRY'S FRIENDS

You can do it, Larry! You can do  
it! Lar-ry...Lar-ry...Lar-ry...

He steps into the launcher.

LARRY'S FRIENDS

Lar-ry...Lar-ry...Lar-ry...

CLUNK. Larry's launched. His eyes go dinner plate size.

LARRY

OOOOOMMMMMMAAAAAGAAAWWWD!

He flashes down the impossibly steep trough!

Mallory stares at the red light on the launcher.

MALLORY

Come on. Come on.

Green. Knees knocking, Mallory shuffles into the launcher.

Her parents mount the last step.

Launcher door slides shut.

DAD/MOM

Mallory!

She crosses her arms like a medieval saint.

CLUNK.

Mallory drops! In a second, she's going eighty!

MALLORY

YYYYIIIIIIIIIEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!

Her ecstatic scream echoes up to her parents.

Faster...faster...faster!

Everything's a vertical blur.

Sssssshhhhhh...like water turning to steam!

Is this what you see before you die?

INT. THE MINE SHAFT FREE FALL SLIDE / DECK - DAY

The vertical blur goes horizontal.

Mallory hits the trough!

Her splash rises, and rises, and rises...

The Buck Meyer clock clunks to 5:00.

Droplets cascade onto the deck, merge and flow back in.

Mallory, triumphant, climbs out of the trough, spent.

INT. THE MINE SHAFT FREE FALL SLIDE / TOP PLATFORM - DAY

Mom and Dad charge down the stairs past Larry's friends.

FORTYISH WOMAN

Not sure I still want to do this.

INT. THE MINE SHAFT FREE FALL SLIDE / DECK - DAY

The dapper gentleman in baggy plaid trunks approaches Mallory.

DAPPER GENTLEMAN

Congratulations Ms. Carlini.

Vanquished your fear. Good for you!

He extends his hand. She stares at the creepy old man who somehow knows her name.

DAPPER GENTLEMAN

We haven't met, but I did read your emails and --

MALLORY

Eeyeeew! Look, I only hit that site once, by accident.

Confused by her reaction, he drops his hand.

DAPPER GENTLEMAN

-- your application. Site?

MALLORY

Application?

DAPPER GENTLEMAN

Darien Hills Academy? I'm Jonas  
Burgess, the principal.

In seconds, Mallory's expression goes from stunned, to  
confused, to embarrassed.

MALLORY

So you're like...Mr. Burgess...Funny  
story...I know I had an appointment.  
Really sorry. This thing came up.  
This really important thing --

DAPPER GENTLEMAN

-- that you can't seem to remember?

Kim and Dave hurry to Mallory's side.

MALLORY

Kim, Dave, this is Mr. Burgess.  
He's the principal of Darien Hills.

With quizzical looks at Mallory, Kim and Dave offer handshakes  
to Mr. Burgess.

MR. BURGESS

So, Ms. Carlini, what was so important  
that you couldn't attend our  
interview?

Mallory's eyes dart left, right, up, down.

MR. BURGESS

Must have been very important. Your  
parents sent me URLs, news clippings,  
and DVDs since you were six.

MALLORY

Be glad you don't live here. Ask my  
teachers.

MR. BURGESS

Perhaps we could chat now?

MALLORY

Chat? Sure, I can...I can do that.

Mom and Dad hurry toward Mallory.

DAD

Mallory!

MOM

Stay put, young lady!

Mom gets in Mallory's face.

MOM

If I have to chase you one more step,  
I swear --

DAD

(to Mr. Burgess)  
Thanks for your help. Love the  
trunks.

MALLORY

Mom, Dad, this is Mr. Burgess.

DAD

Burgess. Burgess! Burgess? The --

MOM

-- principal.

DAD

Those trunks, really are...great.  
(to Mallory)  
Hope you had fun today because that's  
going to be it for a long time, missy.

MALLORY

Dad, sorry I snapped out about the  
missing child alert. But seriously,  
was that fair?

MOM

Missing child...what?

MALLORY

I mean, how would you feel?  
(off their blank looks )  
The missing child alert you guys  
called in to get me --

MOM

Honey, we didn't do that.

DAD

The only call we made was --

Mallory's eyes widen. Her lips tighten. She bolts.

DAD

Mallory, what did we just say?

MALLORY

(over her shoulder)  
Ten minutes! Give me ten minutes.

Helpless, Mom and Dad watch her dash away.

MOM

I keep hoping my side of the family  
will kick in.

The adults exchange awkward looks.

MR. BURGESS

I'm quite peckish. Anybody else in  
the mood for dinner?

INT. FRONT DESK - DAY

Mallory charges to the desk.

Sara and Haley fall in behind her.

SARA

What's the matter, Mallory? Did  
daddy yank your pass?

HALEY

Too bad the principal caught you.

Mallory stops at the desk.

MALLORY

Aaron, got a minute?

INT. FOOD COURT - DAY

Dave and Kim sit at a picnic table across from Mom, Dad and  
Mr. Burgess. Unsure of who should say what first, each  
nibbles fast food.

DAD

I don't know how you guys do it.

Dave takes a long pull on his drink.

DAVE

Sometimes I don't either.

KIM

I am totally wiped out.

DAD

Fatigue makes cowards of us all.

DAVE

If winning isn't everything, why do  
they keep score?

DAD

(a kindred spirit?)  
Show me a good loser, and I'll show  
you a loser.

DAVE

The harder you work, the harder it  
is to surrender.

DAD

You do this a lot?

DAVE

Quote Lombardi?

DAD

Help people with their kids.

KIM

We weren't much help. If Mr. Burgess  
hadn't showed up...

MOM

(to Mr. Burgess)

Thank you again. We are so sorry  
things turned out like this.

MR. BURGESS

Why? To be candid, lately I've been  
bored and awfully discouraged. What  
with all the pushy parents -- not  
you of course -- meetings, call after  
call, ungrateful children --

MOM

She's really not like that, Mr.  
Burgess. Mallory worked so hard on  
her application --

DAD

-- without a skosh of help from us.  
It's not she doesn't appreciate --

KIM

She really is a good kid. Sometimes --

Mr. Burgess gestures to them to calm down. They do.

MR. BURGESS

I've been a principal for quite a  
long time. I've learned that when a  
student as talented as your daughter  
keeps putting off interviews, there's  
usually something amiss. It's obvious  
that is not a lack adult supervision.

INT. FRONT DESK - DAY

Mallory faces Aaron across the desk.

MALLORY  
That missing child alert...

AARON  
The one for you?

MALLORY  
Yeah, that one. Who called that in?

AARON  
Why, that would be Sara.

SARA  
Really? Is that your first guess?

AARON  
It's not a guess. Got a witness.

He looks at Haley.

SARA  
You did not.

HALEY  
Hey, it was worth a pass.

She laughs and slinks past Sara.

HALEY  
See ya'.

Sara stares a dagger into Haley's back.

HALEY  
Or, maybe not.

SARA  
(to Mallory)  
I'm glad you know. Makes it even  
more fun.

MALLORY  
You know what? I don't even care.  
It's over. My parents will bring  
this up every holiday, but it's over.

She stalks back to the food court.

SARA  
Oh, it's over. I never have to see  
you in this place again!

AARON

You're not seeing anybody in this place again. When I tell my boss I found out who made that announcement --

SARA

I'll tell him you're stealing passes.

AARON

I get them as a perk. You'll find out about that stuff when you grow up and work for living.

INT. FOOD COURT - DAY

Mallory slides into a seat next to Kim. Kim and Dave stop eating and watch Mom and Dad. Mr. Burgess keeps munching.

MALLORY

Okay. I'm going to apologize now.

DAD

That's the least you can do after --

MOM

Let her talk, honey.

MALLORY

Sara made that missing child alert. I was stupid for believing it. I was stupid for blaming you guys. I'm sorry. I'm really, really sorry.

DAD

We accept your --

MALLORY

I'm not done.

(waits for his  
attention)

I wouldn't have fallen for it if I hadn't let Sara make me think I was a little kid. I'm not. You need to understand that. I've got a lot of growing up to do and I hope I do it, but I'm not a little kid any more.

DAD

So you'll go to Darien Hills?

MALLORY

Darien Hills and waterparks, they don't...fit. I mean, you don't go to a school like Darien to work in a place like this.

DAD

Finally she gets it! Why waste a quality education on --

KIM

-- working in a waterpark?

Between bites of a corndog, Mr. Burgess swallows and speaks.

MR. BURGESS

Actually, our education applies to --

MALLORY

(to Dad)

You keep missing it!

Burgess goes back to munching.

MALLORY

Whether or not it's stupid to work in waterpark, I want to find out for myself, for me.

(to Mr. Burgess)

You've been really nice and all, but --

MOM

Mallory, please. You put so much work into your application.

MR. BURGESS

It really would be a waste. In forty years of running educational institutions, I've never seen such a passionate presentation. Your waterpark design --

DAD

Waterpark? Mallory, what happened to the photo history of Lustron homes?

MOM

What about the DNA computer model?

MR. BURGESS

I'm beginning to see the problem.

DAD

And the study on African economics?

MR. BURGESS

We've seen dozens of those. Mallory's application was unique. Inspired. Her waterpark -- a work of art.

Troy, carrying a nacho mountain, sits next to Mallory.

TROY

Mal, you okay? Want some?

MR. BURGESS

With all of this afternoon's folderol,  
I don't think we...

MALLORY

This is Mr. Burgess.

TROY

Oh, yeah. Nice trunks, dude.

MR. BURGESS

I was just saying that in Mallory's  
design, the layout, every ride and  
attraction, were designed to a level  
of detail and sophistication most  
adults don't achieve. She included  
a business plan with marketing, sales  
projections, computer models...

MALLORY

Mr. Burgess...I...really? That's so  
weird because...I really tried to  
screw it up. Like, majorly.

DAD

What? You, what?

Splashes, gurgles, laughs and yells fill the group's silence.

MALLORY

You guys wouldn't take no for an  
answer. I thought if I sent in a  
really bad application on a really  
weird topic, The Hills would reject  
me and I could do what I wanted.

MOM

So what happened?

MALLORY

I...I...

TROY

Mallory did two applications. The  
one she showed you guys and the one  
she sent in. Only thing is, once  
she got started on waterparks, she  
couldn't help herself. She couldn't  
screw it up.

MALLORY

Monkey Boy! I showed you that  
application! You said --

TROY

Mal, I couldn't help you screw up your chances. Crap...excuse me... I didn't understand most of it anyway.  
 (to Mr. Burgess)  
 So, you come here to bawl her out?

MR. BURGESS

I came her to find out why a perfect candidate for Darien Hills wouldn't attend two previous interview sessions. I came because Mallory's application reminded me why I do this job.

DAD

Seriously.

MR. BURGESS

That, and I needed a vacation. And this is a heckuva place for it.  
 (to Mallory)  
 You're an unusually gifted girl.

MALLORY

Is that a nice way to say I'm weird?

MOM

Mallory.

MR. BURGESS

And witty too. You write well and you draw well. Your design and engineering skills are quite advanced.

MALLORY

Thanks. It's just stuff I do.

MR. BURGESS

You made it clear today that you don't lack drive or initiative.

MALLORY

You're being really decent, but the Hills, it's not for me.

DAD

Mallory.

MR. BURGESS

(to Mallory)  
 Let's take a walk...If that's okay with everyone?

Nods all around.

Mallory and Mr. Burgess wander into the teeming masses of wet, happy people.

DAD

Guess she's going to do what she's going to do.

MOM

(to Kim)

Is there someplace we can get out of these wet clothes?

INT. WET ZIPPER ZIP LINE - DAY

Mallory and Mr. Burgess stroll along the pool. Zippers whip by YELLING, falling, and SPLASHING.

MALLORY

It's a great school, but not for me. I'm not looking for a way into Stanford or Harvard or...all I want --

MR. BURGESS

You're pretty sure about what you want, aren't you?

MALLORY

Were we not in the same waterpark today? Yes, I'm sure!

MR. BURGESS

Humans like to believe we know what's going to happen next, but we really don't, do we? Like, today, for instance.

MALLORY

No kidding.

MR. BURGESS

Maybe what you believe is going to happen at Darien Hills, won't.

MALLORY

Okay, I don't know absolutely, totally for sure that I won't like it, but --

MR. BURGESS

Would you be willing to spend five minutes on our campus?

Puzzled and suspicious, she stops and looks him in the eye.

MALLORY

Why are you asking me that?

MR. BURGESS

I think I've earned one answer. One honest answer?

A splash hits Mr. Burgess. He laughs and nods for them to keep moving. They stroll.

MALLORY

Okay, yeah, I could do five minutes.

MR. BURGESS

How about, say...an hour?

MALLORY

Maybe...What are you --

MR. BURGESS

Well, there you go. That's all you need to do.

Mr. Burgess sits on a bench and gestures for Mallory to sit. Puzzled, she does.

MALLORY

That's it? Come on, you didn't come all this way --

MR. BURGESS

I needed a holiday. You made this sound like a good one.

MALLORY

Wasn't exactly my plan.

MR. BURGESS

What's a plan, but a detailed dream.

MALLORY

Yeah, well mine doesn't include the Darien Hills detail.

MR. BURGESS

Plans change.

MALLORY

Not this one.

MR. BURGESS

Don't get too tangled in it. A plan's only good if it helps you live the next moment.

MALLORY

Like a bulldog on a biscuit.

MR. BURGESS

Excuse me?

MALLORY

Nothing. You reminded me of someone.  
You wanted a vacation. I'll show  
you the best ride here!

INT. WATERSPOUT FUNNEL - NIGHT

Rafts jammed with ecstatic riders slosh and slide around a one hundred foot wide blue and white checkered funnel set at a jaunty angle. Rafts shoot out of waterslide tubes split off the funnel's narrow end.

A queue of eager riders winds up the stairs its top.

Mallory gets in line with Mr. Burgess and her parents, now wearing Buck Meyer swim gear.

Troy hangs back with Kim and Dave.

TROY

She's gonna kill me.

DAVE

How bad could it be?

Troy rubs his shoulder.

TROY

Bad.

KIM

It'll be okay. She's trying to make sense of her life. She has all these feelings that are new. Her mom wouldn't listen to her.

(glassy eyed)

When she says she doesn't want to be a nurse, she get's grounded. So then she goes out with the worst guy in school, gets pregnant and --

TROY

Nurse? Pregnant?

KIM

Sorry. Drifted off there.

DAVE

Sounds like somebody's filter could use a little flocculant.

KIM

I guess I could.

TROY

Flocculant?

DAVE

It's a --

KIM

Makes gunk in the water clump  
together.

TROY

Didn't sound like that.

IN THE QUEUE

Dad and Mom turn away from Mallory and whisper to Mr. Burgess.

DAD

Is she going?

MR. BURGESS

She's rethinking it.

(off Dad and Mom's  
dejected expressions)

Don't be too concerned. Our school  
can amplify what Mallory's got, but  
we can't put it in there.

MOM

I don't want her job hopping like I  
had to. If I could have gone to a  
school like Darien Hills...

MR. BURGESS

Can I be frank?

The line surges forward. They move with it.

MR. BURGESS

Our school is a business.  
We provide a service and we'd love  
to take your money for it, but  
really...Parenting by example is the  
most important thing. You've  
obviously done a great job. Compared  
to that, schools like Darien?  
Inconsequential.

INT. WATERSPOUT FUNNEL / PLATFORM - NIGHT

Kim and Dave steer Troy up the stairs and past eager riders  
to join the group.

Mallory, her parents and Mr. Burgess approach the metal gate.

DAVE

(to Troy)  
Go ahead.

KIM  
 (to Mallory)  
 Take it easy on him.

TROY  
 Mal, I only told them about the other  
 application because I thought it was  
 the right thing for you.

Mallory steps into Troy's personal space. He's never seen  
 that look in her eye, but it's not scary.

MALLORY  
 It was.  
 (to everyone)  
 Sorry I put you all through this.  
 Mr. Burgess, I --

MR. BURGESS  
 You know what's fascinating about  
 this place? It's really hard to  
 avoid being yourself. You can hide  
 in a waterpark, but it won't let you  
 hide who you are. I think it was  
 Camus who said --

The gangly WATERSPOUT OPERATOR interrupts.

WATERSPOUT OPERATOR  
 You gonna ride, or what?

He tugs a cloverleaf shaped raft into place behind a metal  
 gate. They pile in.

The ride operator swings open the gate.

Water rushes under the raft and sweeps it down.

Playful torrents sweep cloverleaf rafts of amped up, laughing,  
 screaming guests down the funnel like Scrubbing Bubbles.

Mallory and Troy clutch rubber handles. They bounce off  
 each other and sway into each turn.

Mom and Dad's laughs and screams echo and mingle with others.

Mr. Burgess, young with wonder and excitement, chuckles.

Their raft sloshes through a dark tunnel and into the funnel.

Going almost vertical, they SLOSH way up the steep sides.

At each peak, they whoop at the zero gee feeling.

They swoosh down and back up the other side.

SWOOSH! WHOOP! SWOOSH! WHOOP! SWWWOOOOOSH! HHH!

Water jets shoot them out the narrow end of the funnel.

Their raft SPLASHES into the landing pool.

MR. BURGESS

Go again?

Mallory and Troy eye each other.

MALLORY

You guys go ahead.

INT. LAZY RAFTING RIVER / TUNNEL - DAY

Romantic POP MUSIC with vibrato you can swim through bounces off dark walls and foaming water lit by multicolored laser beams. A raft drifts in. In it, Mallory and Troy snuggle.

MALLORY

I wasn't trying to make your life a living hell.

TROY

It's okay. It'd be great if you could lay off punching, for a while anyway.

MALLORY

I'll stop. Punching's for kids.

TROY

Ah, you could punch me once in a while...but not hard, shoulders only.

The raft toddles toward a GUSHING water curtain.

MALLORY

You're a good guy, Troy.

TROY

And you are...like...a beautiful sunset...only with boobs.

Mallory's fist jerks up. Drops.

Troy, hesitant, lifts his arm. Unsure about putting his arm around her, he leans against the raft tube.

Images of shells, starfish, turtles, squid, and seahorses flit across the RUSHING water.

MALLORY

Troy, Troy, Monkey Boy...

Mallory pulls his arm across her shoulders.

Troy beams and leans in.

Water curtain images flicker and dance: whales, dolphins, mermaids, sharks, more mermaids, fanciful cartoon submarines, even more mermaids, really long submarines.

The curtain drenches them. They kiss.

FADE OUT: