

QUICKSAND

Written by

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QUICKSAND30 -- CAST REPORT

Character	Total Dialogues	Speaking Scenes	Non-Sp. Scenes	Total Scenes
JADEN	80	14	0	14
KENNY	22	6	0	6
BRIANA	19	6	0	6
GUY	23	4	0	4
SYDNEY	14	4	0	4
BIG DOG	8	3	0	3
LONNIE	12	2	0	2
SHOULDER DEVIL	7	2	0	2
RENEE	8	2	0	2
SHOULDER ANGEL	5	2	0	2
DEJUAN	6	1	0	1
BOY 1	1	1	0	1
BILLY	3	1	0	1
KIMARA	2	1	0	1
BANK TELLER	6	1	0	1
PETER PAUL CLERK	1	1	0	1
HUSTLER	11	1	0	1

INT. RICE'S HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

JADEN RICE (14), a good-looking, clean-cut Black kid sits at the kitchen table fiddling with a red bandana with Asian symbols.

QUICK SERIES OF SHOTS: VARIOUS BANDANA TIES: Jaden checks his look with each one in the selfie image on his cellphone.

The Cowboy around the neck.

The Do-Rag.

The 80's exercise Headband.

The Tupac-style. Yes! This is the one.

JADEN

Hey Dad. Check this out. Tupac.

LONNIE RICE (40), turns from the stove wearing a goofy "Aunt Jemima" apron. He crunches his face at Jaden and shakes his head, NO.

Lonnie turns back to the spaghetti sauce that simmers in a large pot. He stirs it with a wooden spoon. The spoon makes its way up to the his mouth, testing the temperature of the sauce before practically shoving the entire spoon inside.

RENEE (O.S.)

(yelling)

Don't put that spoon back in the pot.

Lonnie jumps! Spaghetti sauce flicks on the wall.

Jaden shakes his head and rolls his eyes at his dad.

RENEE RICE (40), Jaden's mom, enters from the hall. She's all business, but charming, just in time for the dinner that she didn't have to make.

LONNIE

(wiping down wall)

Why you gotta scare me like that?

RENEE

No double dipping.

LONNIE

Well, it's good. I can't help it.

JADEN

Third time this week we had spaghetti. I don't know how you can still get excited about it.

Lonnie strains the pasta.

Renee heads to the refrigerator and pulls out a nice bowl of salad... places it on the table and sits.

Jaden frowns.

RENEE

(to Jaden)

Listen, you can make dinner. Make whatever you want. I won't hold you back. In fact, I expect you to start cooking more, especially now that's it's summer and you have more time.

Lonnie points to a shelf filled with cookbooks.

LONNIE

Take your pick.

Jaden throws his paper airplane at the shelf, but it falls short, taking a nosedive to the floor.

Lonnie places three plates of spaghetti on the table and joins them.

JADEN

Can I have a few dollars? I'm going to meet Billy and DeJuan at the mall.

LONNIE

Doesn't Big Dog pay you?

JADEN

Yeah Dad, but I've only been there for two weeks, and I haven't got my first paycheck yet.

(a beat)

But I can pay you back.

LONNIE

Be smart with your money. At the end of the summer it won't matter how much you've earned...

JADEN

It's how much you saved.

LONNIE (CONT'D)

It's how much you saved.

JADEN (CONT'D)

I know, I know... but until then...

Lonnie slips Jaden a ten dollar bill.

JADEN (CONT'D)

That's it? That's not even enough
to go see a movie.

LONNIE

Last I checked, student admission
was eight dollars. That leaves you
two dollars to get there and back
on the bus.

(a beat)

Take it, or leave it.

Jaden grabs the money, but SIGHS.

JADEN

I'm out.

RENEE

Jaden Alonzo Rice, are you a thug?

JADEN

What? No. I pulled up my pants.
See?

RENEE

I'm talking about that filthy
bandana. It makes you look like
some kind of gang member.

JADEN

Mom, please. It's okay.

Jaden slides the bandana off and stuffs it in his rear pant
pocket before he dashes out. The front door SLAMS shut.

RENEE

This spaghetti-every-day stunt
better work.

LONNIE

Trust me. He'll soon realize that--

Door bell RINGS.

INT. RICE HOME - FRONT DOOR FOYER - DAY

Lonnie answers. SYDNEY (14), a nice girl-next-door, hair in
Afro twists with funky blond tips that form a pretty angelic
halo around her head.

SYDNEY

Hello Mr. Rice. Is Jaden home?

LONNIE
You just missed him.

SYDNEY
Okay. Next time.

LONNIE
I'll tell him you stopped by,
Briana.

SYDNEY
Briana?!

Renee steps into the Foyer.

RENEE
(to Lonnie)
That's Sydney, Lonnie.
(to Sydney)
How's your mother doing with that
big case?

SYDNEY
You know, saving the world, one
defendant at a time.

LONNIE
Aren't you the little girl who used
to come over here every day?

Sydney and Renee exchange and eye-roll.

SYDNEY
(to Renee)
She says, if white collar criminals
posing as honest business men
didn't bring down our economy, then
blue collar criminals might not
exist.

RENEE
She got that right. You can catch
Jaden at the mall.

SYDNEY
Okay thanks. See ya!

Sydney flips on some headphones and skips off. Lonnie smiles
and just shakes his head.

LONNIE
(mumbles to himself)
Got the girls chasing after you,
just like your old man. Who is
Briana?

INT. SHOPPING MALL - FOOD COURT - NIGHT

BRIANA (14), way too sexy for a young teen struts down the corridor.

A typical teen hangout -- GROUPS OF KIDS scattered all over the place having a good time, trying to impress each other. It's loud and rowdy.

CLOSE ON: Grubby fingers dig into a giant pile of greasy french fries on a split-open brown paper bag.

Jaden leans back and squeezes a stream of ketchup into his potato stuffed mouth. Suddenly - ketchup squirts everywhere!

One of his buddies, BILLY (14), has just smashed the sides of the bottle between his hands.

JADEN
(muffled)
Hey!

Billy laughs. Another buddy, DeJUAN (14) joins in, but abruptly stops.

DEJUAN
Briana, one o'clock.

Billy turns to see Briana, then Jaden looks as he quickly tries to wipe the ketchup from his face.

Briana appears "HOT" to a fourteen year old boy. She stops and looks in Jaden's direction.

JADEN
She's looking!

He quickly wipes the ketchup from his "Big Dog" T-shirt.

BILLY
She's coming this way.

Their excitement grows as she heads right toward them.

DEJUAN
(Jabbing Jaden)
Say something.

Jaden, mouth wide open, is LOCKED IN on Briana. Words won't come out. His anticipation grows as she breaks into a goofy smile.

Jaden, Billy, and DeJuan break with lovesick grins and she...
BREEZES RIGHT PAST THEM to--

An Asian-American kid, MIKA (14) a cool, spiked-haired, but geeky boy wearing black horn-rimmed glasses. Mika flicks a delicate PAPER AIRPLANE aimed right at Briana. As it floats towards her she catches it with glee.

CLOSE ON: In Briana's hand we see that the "paper airplane" is made from a TWENTY DOLLAR BILL.

She smiles at Mika and he motions for her to join him and his buddies at a table full of origami made from real paper money.

Jaden frowns in disappointment.

DEJUAN (CONT'D)

Forget it. She's too much for your virgin ass anyway.

BILLY

Yeah, and dangerous.

(switches thoughts)

Hey! Weren't you two friends in grade school?

JADEN

In the crib. We shared the same baby sitter, but we were never friends.

DEJUAN

You play doctor with her, or what?!

JADEN

Doctor?

BILLY

She's hard core skank.

JADEN

(annoyed)

Man--

Jaden playfully smacks Billy around, then stops and watches Mika showing off his expensive origami animals to Briana. She takes one and slips it in her cleavage.

Mika throws a SMUG "I got your girl" SMIRK right at Jaden.

Jaden sneers back at Mika.

DEJUAN

Forget it, Man. There's nothing you can do. Mika's got money. You can't compete against that.

JADEN

Oh yeah?

Jaden jumps up on the table and does a series of hip hop DANCE MOVES. He's really good and draws attention from a lot of other kids, including Briana. They move in and cheer him on; clapping and drumming out a funky beat for him to dance to.

Mika climbs up on his table to watch over the crowd. He has admiration AND warrior jealousy toward his rival in puppy love, Jaden. His feet crush his own origami creations.

But Briana's attention refocuses on the MONEY ORIGAMI that's crushed under Mika's feet.

Sydney squeezes into the crowd with her no-nonsense, best friend, KIMARA (14) right behind her.

SLOW MOTION

Sydney LOCKS IN ON Jaden who continues to impress with his moves.

Sydney grins from ear to ear, she can't hide her deep puppy love for Jaden and SQUEALS with delight.

SYDNEY

Check out my husband.

Kimara looks up at Jaden making his cool dance moves. He's good, but she shakes her head.

END SLOW MOTION

Kimara slaps Sydney out of it by saying--

KIMARA

Last month it was BTS.

SYDNEY

I know but I can't marry seven boys... and Jaden's right here.

Jaden unconsciously smiles at Sydney, who's moving right along with him to the beat.

Then Jaden watches as Mika escorts Briana away... he stops dancing realizing he hasn't impressed her after all.

Kimara notices Jaden jonesing for Briana, then she looks back at Sydney.

KIMARA

He's a lying, thieving, selfish punk, verging on sociopathic tendencies. Just another boy heading for juvenile detention.

SYDNEY

Hmm... what?

Kimara puts her hands on her hip and cocks her head with a "you heard me" look.

Jaden hops off the table.

DEJUAN

Didn't you say you had to get to work at Big Dog's?

JADEN

Oh yeah. I gotta go.

Jaden takes off.

INT. BIG DOG CARS & RETAIL SHOP - BATHROOM - DAY

The sensor LIGHT FLICKS ON as BIG DOG enters frantically zipping down his pants at the same time. He lets out a moan through an unlit stubby cigar as his stream pours into the toilet. His pock-marked and ruddy face reminds one of a pit bull who's been in one too many fights.

He chuckles at the a little sign right in front of his face.

CLOSE ON: "Please do not throw cigarette or cigar butts in the urinals, as they get soggy and wet, and hard to light. The Janitor"

The sensor LIGHT FLICKS OFF. The only light streams in from a high horizontal window.

BIG DOG

Hey! Oh...

Big Dog swings his free arm out to catch the sensor... swinging back and forth a few times. The light flicks on.

BIG DOG (CONT'D)

Damn light.

There is sprinkled urine on the toilet seat. Big Dog zips up and leaves the room.

INT. BIG DOG CARS & RETAIL SHOP - DAY

Big Dog struts through the place which is decked out with high-end auto parts for muscle cars and expensive vehicles: designer rims, leather goods, and racing car memorabilia.

BEHIND THE COUNTER

A box cutter slides through a large, sealed box revealing a stack of shiny wheel rims. African-American KENNY (30s) pulls out the packing sheet and meticulously records the serial numbers into the computer register.

BIG DOG

You need to adjust the timer on that light sensor.

KENNY

I did. You said thirty seconds is enough time for anyone to go to--

BIG DOG

I meant 30 seconds is enough time for you knuckleheads that work here. I don't pay you to sit on the toilet all day.

KENNY

Okay, I'll fix it.

Big Dog makes his way through the back of the store.

EXT. BIG DOG CARS & RETAIL SHOP - BACK LOT - DAY

Water hits the soaped up side of a mustang ragtop convertible.

GUY

Hey!

GUY (early 20's), a clueless soul with a cheeky smile, pops out from the driver's side door. Even though he's just a detailer, he wears clean, mechanic coveralls to make himself feel more like a technician.

GUY (CONT'D)
It's leaking.

The trajectory of water swings up and splashes his face.

GUY (CONT'D)
Hey!

JADEN
What?

Guy ducks. Jaden laughs.

They look inside to the roof of the car. Water drips through tiny pinholes.

GUY
Big Dog ain't gonna like that.

Jaden dries off the seats with a towel.

JADEN
So don't tell him.
(a beat)
What he doesn't know won't hurt
him?

GUY
But you know about it now.

BIG DOG (O.S.)
Jaden!!

Jaden scrambles out of the Mustang to face his boss.

BIG DOG (CONT'D)
When you're finished with that, you
need to clean up the men's room.
Some idiot pissed all over the
seat.

JADEN
Again?

BIG DOG
(to Guy)
And you gas up that Mustang. Should
be able to turn that over in a
couple of days.

As Big Dog turns away, Guy gives him a Nazi salute. Jaden laughs and abruptly stops when Big Dog looks back sharply.

BIG DOG (CONT'D)
And use the cheap grade.

Big Dog heads back into the shop.

GUY
He really is a butthole.

JADEN
Takes one to know one.

Jaden hits the Mustang with the sprayer and pretends like the water noise drowns out his reply by silently mouthing words.

GUY
What are you sayin'?

Guy plays along with the gag and cocks his ear.

GUY (CONT'D)
What? You said you want to gas up
the car for me? Give me a break?

JADEN
Yeah, that's what I said. You're a
good lip reader. You deaf?

INT. BIG DOG CARS & RETAIL SHOP - COUNTER - DAY

The cash register drawer pops open. Kenny lifts out the cash drawer and pulls out a gas credit card. He gives it to Jaden.

KENNY
Tell Guy he's gotta return this
card as soon as he gets back with
the receipt.

EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

Looking cool with the ragtop down, Jaden pulls out of the gas station. He looks to the left at the "Big Dog Cars" sign down the street.

He thinks for a moment -- and then turns away.

EXT. SUBURBAN COMMERCIAL STRIP ROADWAY - DAY

Jaden slowly makes his way down the street in the Mustang trying to look cool. He finds his target outside a:

EXT. DAIRY QUEEN PARKING LOT - DAY

As Jaden pulls into the parking lot, he notices three tough-looking BOYS (16-ish) surround Briana!

Jaden keeps back - just watching.

The Boys push Briana around. Unwanted grubby fingers grab at her body. She tries to push them away but they taunt and tease her relentlessly -- laughing and making overt sexual gestures.

BRIANA

No... stop... leave me alone.

Jaden pulls the Mustang into a parking spot and ducks down. He peeks out... then slides back up in the seat, not knowing what to do.

Briana punches one Boy in the face. The other laughs. Then she kicks the other Boy in the nuts. He doubles over in pain. The first Boy laughs.

Jaden POPS UP - GUNS the engine. The wheels PEEL OUT as the MUSTANG CHARGES directly toward them!

CUT TO:

EXT. BIG DOG CARS & RETAIL SHOP - BACK LOT - DAY

Guy's lower half sticks out from under a car.

Sydney approaches with a cute box with a red bow on it. She looks around for --

SYDNEY

Jaden!

Guy slides out.

GUY

Oh, hi beautiful.

SYDNEY

Is Jaden around?

GUY

You just missed him. He should be back soon if you want to wait.

SYDNEY

I have something for him.

She holds out the box.

GUY
You can leave it. I'll make sure he
gets it.

SYDNEY
You sure?

GUY
It's not going to explode or
anything like that, is it?

EXT. DAIRY QUEEN - PARKING LOT - DAY

Just as Jaden drives up to the Boys, he covers his eyes with his arms and SLAMS ON THE BRAKES, mortified at what he almost did.

BOY 1
Get him!

EXT. BIG DOG CARS & RETAIL SHOP - BACK LOT - DAY

Sydney covers her mouth.

SYDNEY
(giggling)
No.

GUY
Just put it over there on the
picnic table.

AT THE PICNIC TABLE

Sydney places a box in the center of the table. She starts to leave but comes back and gives the box a kiss. Then puts it back.

EXT. DAIRY QUEEN - PARKING LOT - DAY

Jaden struggles as two Boys drag him from the Mustang. The third Boy is doubled over in pain.

Briana's wide-eyed and crying at the same time - jumping up and down in a frenzy while she kicks the Boy repeatedly as he falls to the ground.

JADEN (O.S.)
GET IN THE CAR, BRIANA!

The Boy on the ground tries to grab her, but she scrambles out of reach. She jumps into the driver's seat.

One Boy clamps Jaden from behind. BAM! A punch to Jaden's face. He backs up and charges for another punch, but Jaden jams his foot into his upper chest knocking them all to the ground.

BAM! The Mustang BUMPS one Boy from behind giving him momentum to slam down on top of Jaden but he keeps rolling and Jaden scrambles away.

Jaden rushes around the Mustang and hops in the passenger seat.

JADEN (CONT'D)
DRIVE!

Briana HITS THE GAS - the Mustang charges ahead.

JADEN (CONT'D)
LOOK OUT!

Jaden YANKS THE WHEEL just in time to avoid running over one of the Boys.

EXT. SUBURBAN COMMERCIAL STRIP ROADWAY - DAY

Jaden darts his head back sharply to see if the Boys are chasing them.

JADEN
Whaddya do that for? I was handling them!

Briana swerves the Mustang to the side of the road. It bumps up over the curb and comes to a halt.

She looks at Jaden with beaming excitement.

BRIANA
Oh, please! Who was it who kicked them to the ground?

JADEN
Well, you would've just cracked up the car on that curb if I hadn't, uh... taken evasive action!

BRIANA
Is this your car?

JADEN
Nah. My boss just asked me to give
it a test drive.

BRIANA
You want to go for a drive or
something?

JADEN
Can't. Gotta get back to the shop.

BRIANA
Aw.

Briana flips a switch as her edges instantly smooth out and
looks like she's about to cry.

JADEN
I wasn't going to let those guys
hurt you.

BRIANA
Some guys are just jerks. If only
Mika had shown up, then--

JADEN
That show off?! He only wants you
around to impress his friends
'cause he thinks it's cool.

BRIANA
Thanks. I guess.

JADEN
I mean... he never showed, did he?

Briana nods slightly.

JADEN (CONT'D)
He's not really into you--I mean--
geez that came out all wrong.
You're just--

BRIANA
Just what?

JADEN
Nothin'. Listen, if you want, I can
pick you up after work. We can, uh
I dunno... go to the mall or
somethin'.

BRIANA

Okay.

JADEN

Wait. What? You will?

BRIANA

You're my night in shining armor.

Jaden lets that sink in for a quick moment.

JADEN

But I gotta get back to work now.

Reluctantly, Briana gets out of the Mustang. She stands there holding the door open with a worried look on her face.

JADEN (CONT'D)

Big Dog's such a hard-ass. You'll be alright. They're gone.

Standing on the sidewalk... Briana watches Jaden drive off with a sly smirk on her face. She looks back towards the Dairy Queen and tears start to well up.

She really is alone.

EXT. BIG DOG CARS & RETAIL SHOP - BACK LOT - DAY

Over the moon with confidence, Jaden cruises into the lot.

Guy and Kenny sit at the picnic table eating lunch. They watch Jaden park the Mustang. Kenny shakes his head at Guy.

KENNY

(to Guy)

You let him take that car off the lot?!

Guy shrugs.

AT THE PICNIC TABLE

Jaden joins them. He helps himself and eats chips out of a large bag they share. Kenny eyes him.

KENNY

Since when do you have a license?

JADEN

Is the car wrecked, dented, or scratched?

KENNY

You mean like your face?

Jaden slides a hand up to the darkening bruise on the side of his face.

KENNY (CONT'D)

Anyway, I'm just sayin... You better be careful. Big Dog sees you driving one of his cars...

With a devious grin, Guy slides the decorated box to Jaden.

JADEN

What's this?

GUY

Your little girlfriend, Sydney dropped by when you were gone.

Jaden opens the box. BROWNIES! He stuffs one in his mouth.

JADEN

She's not my girlfriend.

GUY

Awww! Ain't that sweet.

Guy snatches one from the box.

KENNY

A girl who bakes for you... that could only mean one thing.

GUY

I wish my girlfriend baked for me.

KENNY

You don't have a girlfriend.

GUY

If I had one, I'd want her to bake.

JADEN

Saw Briana.

GUY

I knew it. You sly dog. A two-timing ladies' man at fourteen.

JADEN

I'm fifteen now... And I asked her out tonight.

KENNY
Yeah, who with?

JADEN
Choke on this, man.

Jaden throws the open bag of chips at Kenny.

GUY
Nice. She lives in the apartment
building across the street from me.
(a beat)
But isn't she a little too old for
you?

JADEN
What are you talking about? I'm
three months older than she is.

In mock surprise, Guy mouths the words "what?!"

KENNY
Girl like her... let me put it this
way, I know the type -- high
maintenance. I'd go with the baker
if I were you.

JADEN
No way. She can take care of
herself, ya' know? I just saw her
take out three...

KENNY
What?

JADEN
Nothin'. She's cool. Leave it at
that.

GUY
Where you taking her? Got money?

JADEN
Oh man... I'm broke. Can you loan
me a few bucks?

GUY
I can, but hello... No!

Kenny shakes his head.

KENNY
Pay day is tomorrow. Why don't you
just wait?

JADEN

I can't. You know how long it took me to get her to even notice me, and say yes?!

GUY

You better stop eating those chips. They'll give you zits.

Jaden spastically spits out the chips in his mouth. Guy and Kenny burst out LAUGHING.

JADEN

Think I can get an advance on my paycheck?

GUY

Ha! Even if Hell froze over you wouldn't get that.
(snickering)
And don't forget about the toilet.

KENNY

And the gas card.

Jaden gets up to leave. He sees Guy reaching for another brownie, punches him in the shoulder, and then grabs the box.

Jaden chows down on another brownie as he moonwalks[like Michael Jackson to "Smooth Criminal"] his smug-ass self back inside.

INT. BIG DOG CARS & RETAIL SHOP - DAY

DING! The cash drawer springs open. Big Dog looks up from a CUSTOMER. When he sees it's only Jaden he goes back to the Customer.

Jaden lifts the drawer and tosses the gas card and receipt underneath. Jaden eyes the cash in the drawer.

Big Dog directs the Customer out the front door to the lot.

Jaden looks back at the cash, then around the store - empty.

A TINY ANIMATED DEVIL THAT LOOKS LIKE SAMUEL JACKSON IN RED pops up on Jaden's left shoulder.

SHOULDER DEVIL

Look at all that cash.

A TINY ANIMATED ANGEL THAT LOOKS LIKE MORGAN FREEMAN IN GREEN pops up on Jaden's right shoulder.

SHOULDER ANGEL
Don't even think about it.

SHOULDER DEVIL
That Briana, she ain't going for no
broke ninja.

Jaden looks around once more. There is no one in the store.
He quickly snatches two twenty dollar bills and stashes them.

SHOULDER DEVIL (CONT'D)
Yessss!

Shoulder Angel SIGHS and shakes his head in disappointment.
He looks up at a SECURITY CAMERA behind the counter that's
aimed down at the cash register.

INT. BRIANA'S APARTMENT - FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

Conservatively dressed, Briana opens the door with a huge
smile.

BRIANA
Bye Dad.

And she hurries out the door.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - STAIRWAY - NIGHT

Briana peels off her outer clothes as she makes her way down
the stairs.

At the bottom of the stairs BAM! She wears a tight, sexy
outfit now.

Jaden watches her from below. He does a double-take and
smiles at her with a fat grin.

Briana stuffs her abandoned clothes underneath a mail table
in the foyer of the apartment building door.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - NIGHT

Jaden spots Guy sitting on his front stoop of a little
apartment building across the street, smoking a cigarette.

Jaden reacts by grabbing Briana's hand and pulling her in
close. He nonchalantly waves to Guy as he leads her down the
street.

Guy blows out smoke and grins with a nod -- then COUGHS.

BRIANA
Where's the car?

JADEN
I can only drive it while I'm at work. And besides, I don't have my license yet. But, I'm saving up for a car. I got my eye on one now.

BRIANA
How are we going to get to the mall?

INT. CITY BUS - NIGHT

Briana frowns as she looks through the grimy bus window. Jaden sees that she's disgusted and SIGHS.

EXT. SUBURBAN COMMERCIAL STREET - NIGHT

The bus lurches to a stop. Jaden and Briana step off onto a dirty sidewalk across from the mall.

INT. SHOPPING MALL - NIGHT

Jaden and Briana stop in front of a fashionable window display. A sleek mannequin wears a sexy and elegant, full body leather outfit.

JADEN
Wow!

BRIANA
I've had my eye on that for a long time.

JADEN
You really like that? It seems a little too--

BRIANA
A girl would do anything for an outfit like that.

JADEN
That's gotta be at least a thousand dollars.

BRIANA
Two thousand. It's a Carla Hallston design.

Briana is under a spell. Jaden shrugs "whatever" and grabs her hand.

JADEN

Come on. Let's go to the arcade.

INT. ARCADE (LIKE DAVE AND BUSTERS) - NIGHT

Begin MONTAGE: Jaden and Briana play various games, both having fun.

- Race cars
- Target shooting bad guys on a big screen
- Instant photo booth: Four flashes. Four photos pop out.
- Whack-a-Mole
- Water squirt, horse race. Jaden wins a large stuffed animal. He gives it to Briana, who's not impressed.

BRIANA

Wanna get something to eat?

Jaden pulls out the last two dollar bills in his pocket.

JADEN

I'm kind of broke now.

BRIANA

I have some money.

JADEN

It's getting late. I have to work in the morning.

BRIANA

That sounds so grown up. "I have to work in the morning." Just like my dad.

INT. BIG DOG CARS & RETAIL SHOP - DAY

Kenny sticks his head inside the--

BATHROOM

Jaden mops the floor.

KENNY
You got something to tell me?

JADEN
No.

KENNY
There's forty bucks missing from
the til, and I know you took it.

JADEN
What? Why are you accusing me?

Kenny cocks his head with a long, hard, stern look at Jaden.

JADEN (CONT'D)
Aw, gimme a break, please? I just
borrowed it, okay? I was gonna put
it back. Today is pay day, right?!

KENNY
Got your check right here.

Kenny hands Jaden an envelope, then eyes him carefully.

KENNY (CONT'D)
You need to put that money back
before Big Dog gets here.

JADEN
Can't I do it on my lunch break?

KENNY
Do it now. Don't make me regret
hiring you.

JADEN
Alright.

KENNY
And don't forget to punch out.

INT. BANK - DAY

Jaden stands in a short line of Customers. He pulls out the
check from it's envelope.

JADEN
(to himself)
One hundred and seventy-two
dollars.

Jaden breaks a grin.

The BANK TELLER waves Jaden in.

Jaden slips his check and ID card through the slot.

JADEN (CONT'D)
I want to cash this check.

BANK TELLER
Do you have an account with us?

JADEN
Yes, but I just want the cash.

BANK TELLER
Hold on a minute.

The Bank teller punches a lot of things on his computer.
Jaden sees a clock. It's 10:02 a.m.

BANK TELLER (CONT'D)
There's a two-day hold on this.

JADEN
You sure I can't get the cash now?

BANK TELLER
Two business days. Bank rules.
It'll be available on Monday
morning.

JADEN
But I worked two whole weeks to
earn that money. I need it now.

BANK TELLER
There's not enough in your account
to cover it, otherwise--

JADEN
How much is in there?

BANK TELLER
Thirty-nine cents.

INT. RICE HOME - DAY

Jaden rushes in.

JADEN
Mom...? Dad...?

He looks around before he heads up the stairs to--

JADEN'S BEDROOM

Jaden looks around. It's a typical boy's room with all the wants a boy could have: a small flat screen television, a computer, video games, etc...

He rushes out.

PARENTS' BEDROOM

Jaden looks around the prim and proper room. Shoulder Devil pops up on his left shoulder.

SHOULDER DEVIL
You know there's some good,
valuable stuff in here.

Shoulder Angel pops up on his right shoulder.

SHOULDER ANGEL
Nothing in here belongs to you.

SHOULDER DEVIL
Jewelry box.

Jaden spots a jewelry box on a dresser.

SHOULDER ANGEL
No, don't do it.

Jaden carefully rummages through the jewelry box. He pulls out a cute velvet box and opens it -- A sparkling jade necklace with matching earrings. His eyes light up.

SHOULDER DEVIL
Saweeet!

SHOULDER ANGEL
Your mother will notice and she
won't be happy about you touching
her jewelry with your grubby hands.

Conflicted Jaden looks from one shoulder to the other, confused and worried.

SHOULDER ANGEL (CONT'D)
She might hate you forever.

SHOULDER DEVIL
You can pawn it and return it
before Mom ever finds out.

He stares at the jewelry. It SPARKLES.

INT. PETER PAUL PAWN SHOP - DAY

Jaden walks into the empty shop that could pass for a state prison storage bin. He approaches the window, but before he can say anything, a grizzly, leaky-eyed PETER PAUL CLERK appears.

PETER PAUL CLERK
 Sorry kid. You gotta be at least
 eighteen before you can do business
 in here.

EXT. SIDEWALK NEAR PAWN SHOP - DAY

Disappointed and worried, Jaden looks up and down the street.

HUSTLER (O.S.)
 What's the matter, kid?

Jaden looks up at an Old Man. He's really old like your granddaddy or your great granddaddy, with kind and gentle, trustworthy eyes. But he's a seasoned HUSTLER.

JADEN
 Man won't let me do business in
 there.

HUSTLER
 That don't seem right.

JADEN
 I gotta get back to work but--

HUSTLER
 Maybe I can help. I'm a business
 man. You're a business man. We can
 do business together.

JADEN
 Will you pawn something for me and
 then bring me back the money?

HUSTLER
 What you got?

Jaden looks around for suspicious witnesses. He sees none. He pulls out the velvet box from his backpack.

JADEN
 This is very valuable and...

He opens the box revealing the jade necklace and earrings.

HUSTLER

Wow, that's nice kid. Where'd you get that? Steal it from some old lady?

JADEN

No! I don't steal. I'm not a thief. Do I look like a thief?

HUSTLER

I do business here all the time. I won't deal with stolen property and ruin my good standing.

JADEN

I borrowed it from my mom. Jade stones are her favorite. That's how I got my name... Jaden.

HUSTLER

Then why do you have it?

JADEN

I plan to get it back. I just need some cash, forty bucks right now.

The Hustler takes the box and heads into the pawn shop.

MINUTES LATER

Jaden nervously waits outside. He fans the perspiration stains that begin to show in his armpits.

The Hustler emerges from the shop.

HUSTLER

No sweat.

He hands fifty dollars and the pawn ticket to Jaden. He looks at it.

JADEN

You got a hundred dollars for that. This is only fifty.

HUSTLER

Hey, I'm a business man. That's the cost of doing business.

JADEN

But--

HUSTLER

You said you needed forty. I got you fifty. So what are you complaining about?

Jaden throws him a frustrated look and leaves disappointed. The Hustler yells after him.

HUSTLER (CONT'D)

Nice doin' business with ya. Let me know when you're ready to get it back. I'll be here.

INT. BIG DOG CARS & RETAIL SHOP - DAY

Kenny purposely turns his back on Jaden as he slips two twenty dollar bills in the cash register.

JADEN

Okay.

Kenny turns back.

KENNY

Now get out of here. Don't make me regret hiring you.

Kenny SMACKS the back of Jaden's head. Jaden stumbles.

JADEN

Hey!

KENNY

You ever come near that drawer again, I'm gonna fire your ass and call you mother. You only get a second chance once. You feel me?!

Jaden rubs the back of his head.

JADEN

Sorry, Kenny.