

305 Drama
Female

Ms.
Schaefer

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

1 RETRO STOCK FOOTAGE -- Kids having tough times at high school. 1
A student gets the books knocked out of his hands in the
hallway, a girl can't find an open seat at lunch, a boy can't
open his locker...

revised

10/30

FRANKIE (V.O.)

High school is chock full of
landmines, but Axl'd made it through
his four years pretty much
unscathed... Until the first day of
the last semester of his senior year.

2 INT. HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM -- DAY (D1)

2

AXL, looking bored, sits at his desk as the teacher, MS.
SCHAEFER, 40's-50's calls roll.

4 scenes

Foster. MS. SCHAEFER

Here. JENNY

Granville. MS. SCHAEFER

Here. PAUL

Heck. MS. SCHAEFER

Here. AXL

Heck. MS. SCHAEFER

Axl looks around -- what's with the teacher?

AXL
Uh... still here.

MS. SCHAEFER
No, it says here I have two Hecks in
this class...

AXL
Must be a typo. ~~There's no other~~
~~Heck, except~~

It dawns on Axl just as the classroom door opens, revealing
a flustered SUE.

stop

⇒ 1/6

W. Mawer's wright (The Middle)
Casting. SC. 1

BRICK

So now I need a therapist? Am I really that weird?

FRANKIE

Look, you're no weirder than you've ever been -- It's just suddenly the school seems to care.

BRICK

Don't you think that's something we should talk about? Whatever happened to, "You're growing up, Brick." "We should include you in the conversations?"

MIKE

It's for your own good and it's free. You're doing it.

Brick storms off to his room.

MIKE (CONT'D)

It is free, right?

FRANKIE

Oh yeah. Checked twice.

Mike puts down the phone he's been holding.

MIKE

Good, 'cause I finally got through to the insurance company. Apparently they're backed up and it's gonna be at least a week before they can process our claim.

FRANKIE

What? A week with no windshield? Have you looked outside? This is not convertible weather, Mike. What are we supposed to do?

SMASH CUT TO:

10 INT. FRANKIE'S CAR -- LATER (D4)

10

Frankie drives the car with no windshield, wind blowing in her face -- freezing her butt off.

11 INT. HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM -- THE NEXT DAY (D5)

11

Sue sits at her desk, attentively taking notes while Ms. Schaefer talks to the class.

MS. SCHAEFER

Now for your first Life Skills project, you'll be assigned a career.

(MORE)

SC. II

Start

cont. => 2/6

MS. SCHAEFER (CONT'D)

In addition to a ten-page written paper, you will be expected to create a resumé and have talking points and visual aids for your presentation. You will have two weeks to research and present your findings to the class. Remember, my young professionals, be creative.

Meanwhile, Axl sits next to Sue, not paying attention. Instead, he's focused on tying his shoelaces together into one big shoe.

MS. SCHAEFER (CONT'D)

We're going to be doing this assignment in pairs, so why doesn't everyone go ahead and find a partner?

The students start splitting into groups of two. Sue, in a frenzy, runs from person to person, but as soon as she reaches someone, they seem to have just agreed to be someone else's partner. At the same time, Axl finishes his creation. His feet are completely tied together.

~~AXL~~

~~(to himself)~~

~~And they said it couldn't be done...
my shoelaces~~

He pulls out his phone to take a picture. By now, everyone in class is paired up.

MS. SCHAEFER

So is there anyone who still doesn't have a partner?

Sue, standing alone in a sea of partners, raises her hand. Axl, still engrossed in his feet, starts to realize something is happening. He absentmindedly raises his hand, then looks up to find he and Sue are the only people with their hands in the air.

MS. SCHAEFER (CONT'D)

Perfect. You two are now a team.

Sue and Axl's eyes meet as Axl quickly realizes what's happened.

AXL

Nooooo!!

Horrified, he jumps up to protest, but with his shoes tied together, he falls over immediately.

STOP

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF ACT ONE



3/6

SUE (CONT'D)

That's it. We're gonna get an F.
I'm a kid who gets F's now. That's
who I am. Maybe I should just get a
tattoo.

AXL

That's it? You're just gonna give
up? Oh my God, what is your problem?
It's not even due yet, we have like
five minutes. We can do this.

SC. III

Axl snaps into action. He stops a student, STEVE, who is
entering class.

AXL (CONT'D)

Steve. What's up?

STEVE

What up, Ax!

AXL

Not much. Hey, remember that time
at the lake when I introduced you to
Lindsay Sullivan? How's that going?

STEVE

Dude, she's my girlfriend now. I
owe you one.

AXL

Yes, you do. And don't forget that.

Steve enters the classroom. Axl picks up a distraught Sue
from the floor and herds her into class.

24 INT. HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM -- CONTINUOUS (D10)

24

Axl leads Sue to her chair, then sits in his own. He takes
out his cell phone and starts texting.

~~AXL~~

(as he types)

~~Hey Michelle, need a favor...~~

Ms. Schaefer stands up in the front of class.

start

MS. SCHAEFER

Okay, I'm looking forward to hearing
everyone's presentations. We don't
have a lot of time, so let's get
started. Let's see, Sue Heck signed
up to go first.

Sue looks like she's about to throw up. Just then, the P.A.
comes on.

⇒

4/6

P.A. (O.S.)
Hi, this is Michelle with your morning
announcements. But first, will Axl
Heck please report to the office?

Axl looks to Ms. Schaefer with fake confusion.

MS. SCHAEFER
Well, Axl. We had a presentation
order, but if you can find someone
who'd be willing to --

Axl looks to Steve -- now's the moment to pay him back --
Steve quickly raises his hand.

STEVE
Right here. I'll switch!

MS. SCHAEFER
Okay, Steve. You and your partner
can go first. Axl, you'll be last,
so I guess you can go to the office,
but make it quick.

And with that, Axl's out of there in a flash.

25 INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY/STAIRWAY. ~~MOMENTS LATER (D10)~~ 25

Axl tears down the hallway and up the stairs. Upbeat music
plays as he runs.

FRANKIE (V.O.)
*The class was called Life Skills.
And Axl sure put his to good use.*

A girl, ERICA, is using markers to make a Thundering Hens
poster in the stairway. Axl stops.

AXL
Hey, Erica. Look at you, making
posters. You're really good.

ERICA
Thanks!

AXL
Know what I could use?

We see Axl talk to Erica. His hands outline the shape of an
imaginary poster.

26 INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY -- MOMENTS LATER (D10) 26

Axl speeds down the hall as another boy, ALAN, pushes an AV
cart towards him. Axl jumps on the cart and rides along.

⇒ 5/6

BONNIE

Wow. I just came in for my clothes,
but I ended up learning so much more.

SC. IV

Start The class applauds as the students take their seats.

MS. SCHAEFER

Okay, it's time for our last
presentation. Sue, where is Axl?

Sue, dying inside, has no answer. The silence is broken
when Axl, pushing the food cart, bursts through the front
door of the classroom.

AXL

Ladies and gentlemen, the Ax is back!

Axl leaves the cart up front, heads to the back of class and
tosses another apron to Sue. While he's there, he opens the
rear door of the class and we see Beth quickly hand him a
picce of paper. Axl shuts the door, then gets a confused
Sue up and moving. As they walk to the front of class, Axl
passes by the open window.

MS. SCHAEFER

(looking around her
desk)

I don't see your report here. Do
you have it?

Outside the window, we see Alan, who stealthily hands Axl a
stack of stapled papers through the window.

AXL

Of course.

MS. SCHAEFER

And it's ten pages?

AXL

(flipping through it)

Actually, it's eleven. Hope that's
okay.

stop

~~With a smile, he drops the report and the resumé on Ms.
Schaefer's desk and walks to the front door of the classroom.
As if by magic, a posterboard slides under the door, which
Axl coolly moves over to himself with his foot. He picks it
up and sets it on the chalkboard. It's a menu cover for
their Italian restaurant, *Bistro Heck*. Sue looks on, her
mind reeling. How is Axl doing this?~~

~~AXL (CONT'D)~~

~~Hello, this is Sue, my name is Axl
and we will be your chefs today.~~

6/6