

SCENE THREE

The teacher's lounge. A young woman, SUSAN, is reading a magazine, sipping from a coffee shop cup. CHAD enters and goes to a coffee maker.

SUSAN

There's no coffee.

CHAD

There's never coffee.

SUSAN

I stopped on my way in for this very reason.

CHAD

Why isn't someone in charge of making coffee?

SUSAN

Maybe it's you.

CHAD goes about making coffee.

SUSAN (cont'd)

I don't think there's time. You a sub?

CHAD

Yeah. McReedy. Chemistry. You?

SUSAN

Bradley. Home Ec. So what's "snow?"

CHAD

Huh?

SUSAN

I keep hearing about the "snow" assembly.

CHAD

Oh. It's the name of the drug awareness club or whatever it is. It's actually called "Students Saying No." So the initials are S-S-N-O. So it looks like "snow." But with two s's.

SUSAN

Okay. We'll never get this time back.

CHAD

Huh?

SUSAN

All the time you just spent explaining that acronym to me. Gone forever.

CHAD

Yeah. Sorry.

SUSAN

Isn't "snow" slang for cocaine?

CHAD

Seems like it should be.

SUSAN

Did you see how many of us there are today?

CHAD

You mean subs?

SUSAN

Yeah.

CHAD

Yep. Lots.

SUSAN

It's Hitler's birthday.

CHAD

No, it's his death day. The day he died. Last week was his birthday. The day of the shooting.

SUSAN

Oh. Okay. Did they pick that day on purpose?

CHAD

I don't know. It would make sense, I guess.

SUSAN

I wonder if Hitler would be touched by that, you know? Like, "Awww, you *guys!* You shouldn't have."

CHAD smiles. He's intrigued.

SUSAN (cont'd)

Sorry. Too soon, I guess.

CHAD

For Hitler jokes?

SUSAN

For Columbine jokes.

CHAD

Oh. Yeah, it's definitely too soon for Columbine jokes. I tried it last night and got punched in the face.

SUSAN

Literally?

CHAD

Literally.

SUSAN

What was the joke?

CHAD

I don't remember.

SUSAN

One of those nights.

CHAD

Yeah.

SUSAN

And yet you made it to work all bright-eyed and bushy-tailed.

CHAD

Well I am an adult.

SUSAN

Isn't that so fucked up? That we're adults?

CHAD

Incredibly fucked up.

SUSAN
Do you do anything besides sub?

CHAD
Not really, no. Well I mean I temp.

SUSAN
Who do you use?

CHAD
Randstaad.

SUSAN
I use Pinnacle. You do data entry?

CHAD
Yeah.

SUSAN
Me too.

CHAD
Ten key?

SUSAN
Fuckin' A, ten key.

CHAD
Do you remember the day you realized you could use the ten-key without looking?

SUSAN
Yes!

CHAD
Really?

SUSAN
Yes, it was such a bittersweet moment.

CHAD
Part of me died.

SUSAN
Signing up for the temp agency was one of the best days of my life.

CHAD

That's the saddest thing I've ever heard.

SUSAN

The women in the office were so impressed and surprised when they looked at my typing results. Their eyes brightened up and they looked at me and I was the cream of the crop. Finally. I wanted to look around at the other rudderless losers in the waiting room and gloat. I mean, I don't get graded anymore, you know? In my life, I mean. I don't get evaluated in any way so I don't really know how I'm doing. I don't know what my value is since getting out of school. I have no means to measure my success or failure. I was never an A student, but I was a solid C, sometimes B. So when the lady beamed at my words per minute after the typing test, I felt a moment of accomplishment.

CHAD

Wow. That's beyond "big fish small pond," that's like-

SUSAN

I know. Not even a pond. Just a fish. Flopping around. Dying.

CHAD

So what do you do? Words per minute?

SUSAN

Oh, I don't remember.

CHAD

I think you do. And I think you're dying to tell me.

SUSAN

I average sixty.

CHAD

Bullshit!

SUSAN

I do!

CHAD

That's impressive.

SUSAN

One time I did eighty.

CHAD

Wow.

SUSAN

Yeah, I was in the zone that day.

CHAD

I guess so.

SUSAN

So what's sadder? That we both temp or that we've just had an extensive conversation exclusively about temping?

CHAD

This conversation, for sure. More time we'll never get back.

SUSAN

Dude, we gotta start living.

CHAD

I know.

SUSAN

I mean, we could die today and what will we have to show for it?

CHAD

Nothing.

SUSAN

Diddlysquatch.

CHAD squirms due to the vest.

SUSAN (cont'd)

Is that thing uncomfortable?

CHAD

The vest?

SUSAN

No, the tie. Yes the vest, dummy.

CHAD

You didn't get one?

SUSAN

I declined.

CHAD
You can decline?

SUSAN
I had to sign a waiver. So if anybody starts shooting I'm gonna need to you to jump in front of me, okay?

CHAD
Okay.

SUSAN
Do you think it could really happen here?

CHAD
A shooting?

SUSAN
Yeah.

CHAD
I don't see why not. The suburbs are the suburbs, right?

SUSAN
Yeah. I guess they are.

DAVE enters.

CHAD
There's no coffee.

DAVE
Well *that's* some bullshit.

CHAD
I'm making some.

DAVE
Have you seen him?

CHAD
No.

SUSAN
Who?

DAVE

Coach Perkins. He's the football and wrestling coach. He's a dick.

SUSAN

He's a coach.

DAVE

Exactly. He hasn't changed a bit since we went to school here.

SUSAN

You went to school here?

DAVE

Yeah.

SUSAN

(to CHAD)

When did you graduate?

CHAD

Four years ago.

SUSAN

And now you're a sub?

DAVE

Pretty pathetic, huh. Hi, I'm Dave. Custodian.

He shakes SUSAN's hand.

SUSAN

Susan. Sub.

CHAD

(to DAVE)

Like you can judge me.

SUSAN

At least he's got benefits.

DAVE

That's right. Suck it, I do have benefits I think.

DAVE begins to exit.

DAVE (cont'd)

(to CHAD)

See you for lunch?

CHAD

Yeah.

DAVE

Susan, you want to join us for lunch?

SUSAN

Yeah, sure, thanks.

DAVE exits.

SUSAN (cont'd)

Where'd you go to college?

CHAD

I didn't.

SUSAN

I thought you had to have a degree to be a sub.

CHAD

You do. Mrs. Davis sort of made a loophole for me.

SUSAN

Wow. That does wonders for my self esteem. Here I thought those four years meant something.

CHAD

Nope.

SUSAN

What's it like to sub here?

CHAD

Nothing special.

SUSAN

I mean for you personally as an alum.

CHAD

Oh, that sucks.

SUSAN
So why do you do it?

CHAD
It's a job.

SUSAN
You couldn't pay me to sub at my high school.

CHAD
I was... sort of a jock.

SUSAN
So?

CHAD
I guess it's not that bad. I don't mind it too much, I guess.

SUSAN
Ah, big man on campus and all that.

CHAD
I guess.

SUSAN
Well, I better get. Nice to meet you.

CHAD
You too.

SUSAN
Maybe I'll see you for lunch.

CHAD
Cool.

She's almost out.

SUSAN
Hey.

CHAD
Yeah?

SUSAN
What's your name? You didn't tell me your name.

Chad. CHAD

I'm Susan. SUSAN

I know. CHAD

She exits. The bell rings.

LIGHTS SHIFT TO: