

All by Myself

A screenplay by

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INT. A BEDROOM - DAY

WENDELL lies below a picture of Rita of Cascia, patron saint against loneliness, and of lost causes.

He opens his eyes, and gets up. After making his bed neatly, he brushes his teeth in the bathroom.

INT. THE KITCHEN - DAY

A toaster oven rings on the counter. Wendell removes two halves of an English muffin. He puts them on a flowered plate, and takes them to the table, where he pours himself a glass of orange juice.

As he eats, his MOTHER emerges from behind, and enters the kitchen sleepily.

WENDELL

Good morning.

MOTHER (O.S.)

Hey.

WENDELL

Did you sleep well?

MOTHER (O.S.)

No.

WENDELL

I'm sorry.

He sips his orange juice.

WENDELL

Is it ok if I go out tonight?

MOTHER (O.S.)

Where to?

WENDELL

This band called The Deuces is doing a show.

MOTHER (O.S.)

. . . if it's ok with your father, I guess.

WENDELL

Ok.

He eats for a bit.

WENDELL
I was hoping on bringing a girl
actually.

There is a sudden sound of tumbling dishes in the kitchen.

WENDELL
Are you ok?

EXT. A CITY STREET - DAY - ESTABLISHING

A poster for The Deuces hangs on a lamp post. Wendell walks by and rips it away.

INT. UPSTAIRS SCHOOL HALL - DAY

MARI walks through the hall between classes. Wendell appears from a room and stops her.

WENDELL
Hey, Mari.

MARI
Hey.

She starts to continue on.

WENDELL
So how was your weekend?

MARI
Uhh, it was good.

WENDELL
Good, good.

They nod at each other's shoes for awhile.

MARI
Yours?

WENDELL
Oh, it was good, thanks.

Wendell thumbs the poster in his pocket, and begins to pull on it.

MARI
Well, I gotta go to class.

WENDELL
Yeah, me too.

MARI

See ya.

WENDELL

Bye.

Wendell watches her leave.

INT. THE LUNCH ROOM - DAY

Wendell sits with VICTOR. Across the room, Mari sits with a BOY. Both laugh hysterically as he tells a story, and munches from a bowl of chips in front of him.

BOY

So he's on this goat right, and
this Amish dude is just beating
the hell out of him with this
sack of corn, so then the goat
finally starts moving . . .

Wendell stares at him poisonously from across the room.
Victor nudges him.

VICTOR

Yo. Careful, she'll see you
staring.

WENDELL

Oh.

He resumes a more indifferent glance.

WENDELL

So what do I do?

Victor looks.

VICTOR

I dunno, just ask her, what
could happen?

Wendell looks at him, and then gets up. He moves to another corner of the room where BLOSSOM is quietly eating a thoroughly vegan lunch.

WENDELL

Hello there!

She starts.

BLOSSOM

Oh . . . hi.

WENDELL

Enjoying your meal today?

She nods deliberately, eyes wide.

WENDELL

Good, I'm glad to hear it.

He takes a slow bite of a sandwich.

BLOSSOM

What?

WENDELL

Hmm?

BLOSSOM

Oh, uh, I can't.

WENDELL

I didn't say anything.

BLOSSOM

Oh.

WENDELL

Well, have a nice day.

BLOSSOM

Ok.

He returns to his seat.

VICTOR

What's up with her?

WENDELL

I asked her out once.

VICTOR

So that could happen?

WENDELL

That could happen.

INT. THE COMPUTER LAB - DAY

Mari sits across from Wendell, hacking away at a computer science assignment.

MARI

Did you get a solution for 1.2?

WENDELL

Uhh, yes.

MARI

How did you get at the average.

WENDELL

I used a global in stead of a static.

MARI

Oh, ok.

Long silence.

WENDELL

Do you like music?

MARI

Yeah, sure?

WENDELL

What kinds?

MARI

Um, I'm into Top Tier, The Preps, Pretty Boy Floyd. . .

As she speaks, he begins to withdraw the paper.

TEACHER

Wendell.

He looks over.

TEACHER

Can you find the problem in this example?

WENDELL

Uhh . . . yeah, the pointer was never allocated or assigned an address.

TEACHER

Meaning?

WENDELL

He's referencing something he doesn't know is there.

TEACHER

Very good.

INT. DOWNSTAIRS HALL - DAY

Wendell and Victor talk in the hall.

VICTOR
So you still didn't ask her?

WENDELL
Nope.

VICTOR
The day's almost over. Are you
sure you're going?

WENDELL
No, I'm not sure.

VICTOR
Well, good luck.

WENDELL
That's it?

VICTOR
What?

WENDELL
I was hoping for some kind of
advice.

VICTOR
Do you want me to give you a
makeover?

WENDELL
. . . Not really.

VICTOR
Then you're on your own.

Victor walks off.

INT. UPSTAIRS HALL - DAY

Wendell stands around the corner at the end of the hall. In
one hand there is the flyer, in the other a coke can
rattling with his nerves.

Down the hall waits Mari.

Wendell is just about to turn the corner when Victor passes
by Mari.

MARI

Victor, hey!

VICTOR

Oh, hey, what's up?

MARI

Are you doing anything after school today?

VICTOR

Um, no, why?

MARI

Well, there's this concert, with the Deuces, you know them?

She hands him a flyer.

VICTOR

Vaguely, yes.

MARI

Yeah, and I was hoping you'd tag along.

VICTOR

Um . . . sure.

MARI

Great.

VICTOR

See you then.

They part. Wendell is distraught.

INT. THE BATHROOM - DAY

Wendell walks into the bathroom, and goes to wash his hands.

He presses the plunger on the soap bottle, but it yields no soap.

When he goes for the paper towels, he knocks over the bottle again, this time catching it before it topples. He lifts his hand in a fist, in a forced sarcastic threat toward the bottle.

He takes out the flyer, wipes his hand, and throws it away.

As he turns, the soap bottle tumbles again. He spikes it violently across the room.

He walks over to it, and stares down angrily. The bottle stares back with indifference.

Then he moves to the wall, and leans against it, breathing heavily for a moment.

Before he leaves, he replaces the bottle on the sink.

EXT. A STREET - DAY

The school lies in the background as Wendell walks down the street.

A car pulls up in front of him, and Victor leans out.

VICTOR

Wendell!

Wendell stops.

VICTOR

Me and Mari are going to the
Deuces show. You wanna come?

Wendell seems surprised.

WENDELL

You wanna go with me?

The rear window of the car opens.

MARI

C'mon, it'll be fun.

Wendell pauses.

The face of the boy from the lunch room appears behind Mari. He hugs her from behind.

BOY

We got an extra ticket.

Mari playfully tries to shove him off. A playful quarrel erupts in the back seat.

Wendell stands for another moment, then snorts.

WENDELL

Nah, I probably shouldn't.

VICTOR

C'mon, It'll be fun.

Mari wrests her lover away.

MARI

If you've never been, you
should. Deuces concerts are
great.

Tickling resumes.

WENDELL

If I belonged at a Deuces
concert, I'd have gone a long
time ago.

Victor takes a look into his back seat.

VICTOR

You sure you're alright?

WENDELL

Never better.

They look at each other.

VICTOR

Take care of yourself, man.

WENDELL

I will.

Victor nods, then drives up the street. Wendell turns, and
walks back up the sidewalk.

THE END