

WAKE OF '69

Written by

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A coming of age love story..

They are 12 and at the beginning of teenage discovery. The year is 1969 and America is at the end of a tumultuous decade.

On a tiny American atoll in the middle of the Pacific thousands of miles from Vietnam and the mainland U.S., the sixties and childhood innocence come to an end for a young couple as they encounter for the first time.. love, sex, death and war..

RATED PG-13

FADE IN:

1 EXT. STREET - OAHU NEIGHBORHOOD SUBURB - NIGHT

JANUARY 1, 1969 12:01AM...

Vintage STRANDS OF FIRECRACKERS simultaneously ERUPTING from every family driveway... the NOISE is DEAFENING!

Long firecracker strands hanging from fishing poles, makeshift platforms and the sides of wooden telephone poles... lit from the bottom, they begin to POP their way up until... *EXPLODING in a ROAR at the top!!!*

[VOICE OVER]

Someone once said that a memory is only a dream... and can only become real if someone else share's it...

Continuous fireworks too numerous to count... entire neighborhood is blanketed in dense smoke... neighbors, families and children celebrate together... move about as silhouettes in the thick smoky haze...

[VOICE OVER] (CONT'D)

...and in that sharing, they become a witness for you... a testimony, to help celebrate what was your life...

NICKY, 12 years old... watches in wonderment with a bunch of neighborhood friends.

[VOICE OVER] (CONT'D)

..1969 is that kind of memory for me.

A young, 30 something woman (Nicky's MOM) calls out to him from a kitchen doorway.

MOM

Nicky!

He can't hear her above the noise.

She walks out to him. Nicky's friends great her with "Happy New Year."

NICKY

Mom.

MOM

Your Dad's on the radio.

NICKY

He is?

MOM

Wants to talk to you.

2 INT. OAHU HOME - NIGHT

Simple classic 1960's furnishings.

Vintage HAM RADIO on a small desk.

Nicky's rushes up excitedly. Picks up the radio hand receiver...

NICKY

Dad!

Static can be heard over the radio. A VOICE breaks through...

RADIO VOICE

Hey son!

NICKY

Happy New Year Dad!

RADIO VOICE

Happy New Year Nicky. But you know what, for me... its already January 2nd.

NICKY

How's that?

RADIO VOICE

Well. They say, over here is where America's day really begins.

NICKY

Can't wait to get there.

RADIO VOICE

Me too son. Miss you a lot.

NICKY

Miss you too Dad.

RADIO VOICE

But hey... the good thing is, I'll be picking you and Mom up at the airport real soon.

NICKY
I'll be there.

RADIO VOICE
(laughing)
I'm sure you will. All packed and
ready to go?

NICKY
Pretty much. But Mom said we have
to leave the television.

RADIO VOICE
She's right. There's no TV here.

NICKY
So, no TV huh?... what'd you do
over there at night Dad?

RADIO VOICE
Don't worry... I don't think you'll
be bored...

CAMERA pulls back as their conversation FADES into the
background...

[VOICE OVER]
*Dad was right... on Wake Island...
I was never bored.*

INTERRUPT AND
CUT TO:

3 INT. NEWSROOM - WINTER

[NOTE: THIS SEGMENT FORMAT repeats and is the marker for ACTS
TWO (SPRING), THREE (SUMMER) & FOUR (FALL)]

Black & white grainy television weather forecast circa 1969.

A bespectacled WEATHERMAN in a suit and tie, stands to the
side of a Map of Wake Island.

WEATHERMAN
(professional and serious)
And now for all of you vacationers
and travellers... winter weather
has finally arrived on Wake Island.
Gone are those punishing highs in
the mid 90's. And replaced by the
much anticipated cooler
temperatures in the lower 90's.
(MORE)

WEATHERMAN (CONT'D)

Pack accordingly as while there is a chance of rain, there is a higher probability of bright sunny sunshine before and after...

MUSIC STARTS... "Everyday People" by Sly & The Family Stone.
(plays over the Montage)

MONTAGE - 1969 WINTER NEWS (ACTUAL VINTAGE FOOTAGE)

- New York Jets win the Super Bowl
- Nixon sworn in as President
- Beatles concert on the roof of Apple Records
- Sanka coffee TV commercial
- Pontiac GTO TV commercial
- Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In television show
- Thirty six Marines killed near a Vietnam DMZ base camp

BACK TO:

4 INT. 1967 RAMBLER STATION WAGON - DAY

Nicky and Mom driven by family...

(suitcases visible in the back.)

As his Mom talks with others in the car, Nicky looks out of the window to...

5 EXT. HONOLULU CITY SCENES - CIRCA 1969 - DAY

Vintage archival and stock footage of Honolulu 1969.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

- Old Honolulu Civic Auditorium
- Original Honolulu Stadium
- Dole Cannery Pineapple Tower
- Coco's Restaurant
- Aloha Tower

[VOICE OVER]

*No one in my school had ever heard
of Wake Island. Even my teacher had
to look it up for me.*

(beat)

*All she could find was that it was
a tiny island between Hawaii and
Japan where the military refueled
their planes on the way to Vietnam.*

6 EXT. BARBER'S POINT NAVAL STATION - MILITARY AIR HANGAR - DAY

Nicky's Mom tearfully says her good-byes to family and friends.

Nicky leans against a fence and stares out to the tarmac at a sleek grey Military KC135 jet aircraft.

To his right, he notices's a YOUNG SOLDIER dressed in a crisp Army dress uniform... also looking out to the runway.

The soldier glances at Nicky...

SOLDIER

Hi.

NICKY

Hi.

SOLDIER

We traveling together?

NICKY

I'm going to Wake Island.

SOLDIER

Oh.

NICKY

You too?

SOLDIER

(shakes his head)

Just to stop for a bit. Going a
little further.

Nicky notices a BRONZE METAL CROSS on his left chest with an eagle in the middle. It dangles from a blue ribbon with thin red and white stripes at the edges.

NICKY

(motions to the medal)

What's that?

SOLDIER
This?

NICKY
Yeah.

SOLDIER
(thoughtfully)
Uh...
(pause)
Well... a bunch of my buddies
thought I should have it.

NICKY
They bought it for you?

SOLDIER
(recalling something
painful)
Yeah... actually they did.

NICKY
Good friends.

SOLDIER
Yeah... the best.

Nicky's Mom calls out to him.

NICKY
Gotta go. See you over there.

SOLDIER
See ya.

Nicky's walks over to his family for one last hug and kisses
goodbye.

[VOICE OVER]
*Regular airlines didn't go there.
You had to take an Air Force
plane... one with no windows... no
flight attendants... no movie...
and not even food.*

(beat)
*What was I going to do for six
hours?*

CUT TO:

Other FAMILIES also boarding the same plane.

CLOSE ON: an ADORABLE BLOND in a pony tail, BECKY, age 12,
catches Nicky's eye and smiles.

MUSIC STARTS... "Dizzy" by Tommy Roe.

*"...First time that I saw you girl,
I knew that I just had to make you mine..."*

7 EXT. TARMAC - CONTINUING

Nicky leads the way... his Mom and other families following.
He repeatedly turns back to steal looks at Becky.
They walk up a stairs platform to the front of the plane.

8 INT. KC135 AIRCRAFT - CONTINUING

Nicky entering with his Mom.

NICKY

Mom. Can we sit up front?

MOM

Oh I don't know. I prefer to be
closer to the bathroom.

NICKY

Aw. C'mon Mom. This is the only
seat that is close to a window.

MOM

Will you be okay if I leave you
here and I sit in the back?

NICKY

Of course.

MOM

Okay... just check in with me now
and again.

NICKY

I will. I promise.

MOM

Alright.

She continues on.

Other passengers start to enter.

Becky enters and stops.

BECKY
 (to Nicky)
 Can I sit here?

NICKY
 Sure.

She takes her seat. Searches for the seat belt.

NICKY (CONT'D)
 Oh... here... let me help.

Nicky reaches around her waist. Gets the seat belt for her.

BECKY
 Thank you.

NICKY
 No problem.

BECKY
 What's your name?

NICKY
 Nicholas. But my friends call me
 Nicky.

She extends her hand.

BECKY
 Rebecca. But my friends call me
 Becky.

He shakes her hand.

A WOMAN walks up, stops and leans toward Becky.

BECKY'S MOM
 Honey... you gonna be okay sitting
 up here?

BECKY
 Yes. I'm fine Mom.

BECKY'S MOM
 Who's your friend?

BECKY
 (to Nicky)
 Are we friends?

NICKY
 Sure.

BECKY
 (to her Mom)
 This is Nicky.

BECKY'S MOM
 Well good. You two behave up here.
 I need to find a seat closer to the
 bathroom.

She continues on. Nicky chuckles.

BECKY
 What?

NICKY
 That's exactly what my Mom said.

BECKY
 (laughing)
 When you're old and over thirty,
 you do need to go a lot.

They laugh together.

[VOICE OVER]
*I never hated girls. I just got
 bored being around them... but with
 Becky, it was different. It was the
 first time that talking to a girl
 wasn't actually... painful.*

9 EXT. KC135 AIRCRAFT - DAY

Banking upward in the sky as it reaches cruising altitude.

10 INT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUING

Nicky and Becky talking....

[VOICE OVER]
*She liked baseball, my favorite
 team the Cincinnati Reds and even
 knew who catcher Johnny Bench
 was... my all time most favorite
 ball player and idol.*

SERIES OF SHOTS: Nicky and Becky looking at baseball cards,
 sharing some snacks, playing checkers... and simply chatting
 away like old buddies.

[VOICE OVER] (CONT'D)
*But more than that, for the first
 time... I actually found myself...
 listening... I mean before that,
 girl talk was always like noise to
 me.*

(beat)
*But when Becky talked... it was
 interesting...*

CLOSE ON: Nicky. Listening intently to Becky. Soaking up every word.

11 INT. AIRCRAFT - LATER

Nicky's Mom comes over.

MOM
 Hey, they say you can see the
 island now.

NICKY
 Really? We're there already?

MOM
 Almost. Let's look.

They move to the front aircraft entrance door and crowd around the small window.

BECKY
 I don't see anything.

NICKY
 Yeah. Me neither.

MOM
 It's way over there... see that U
 shaped patch?

THEIR POV: AERIAL VIEW of Wake Island in the distance.

NICKY
 That's it?

MOM
 Uh-huh.

NICKY
 It looks flat.

BECKY
 I don't see any hills or anything.

MOM
No. There aren't any hills there.
It's an atoll.

NICKY
What's that?

MOM
Well... more or less a big coral
reef.

NICKY
Big? Doesn't look big to me at all.

12 EXT. WAKE ISLAND TERMINAL - DAY

Nicky's DAD, waits near a portable gate.

Other family members stand nearby waiting too... a mobile
stairway is placed up to the KC135 Aircraft door and
passengers start to walk out.

He catches sight of Nicky and his Mom.

DAD
Nicky!

Nicky is squinting against the bright sunlight. He see's his
Dad.

NICKY
Dad!

He runs and jumps into his Dad's embrace. His Mom follows
quickly and they hold on to each other tightly.

DAD
(smothering his wife with
kisses)
Oh I missed you guys soooo much!

MOM
We missed you too.

Dad notices Nicky's eyes are closed as they are hugging.

DAD
What's wrong son?

NICKY
I can't see. It's so bright I can't
open my eyes.

Dad searches in his pockets and pulls out two sunglasses.

DAD

Ahah! I came prepared. I knew you guys would be needing these. Kind of necessary out here. The sun reflects off the white sand and it takes a while to get used to.

They put on their sunglasses. Eyes adjusting...

DAD (CONT'D)

Better?

MOM

Perfect.

13 INT. TERMINAL - CONTINUING

A tiny, minimalist terminal with SERVICE MEN lounging about and passing the time

Dad strides happily with his arms around his son and wife.

A GROUP of Army enlisted men LAUGH LOUDLY, making a COMMOTION near a snack bar.

DAD

(soberly)

You can always tell who's going home... and who's heading to Vietnam.

Nicky notices ANOTHER GROUP of soldiers sitting quietly in a corner. Each one keeping to themselves... and their thoughts.

One of them is the same YOUNG SOLDIER that traveled with them on the plane. He smiles as Nicky passes by and gives him a short salute.

14 EXT. TERMINAL PARKING LOT - CONTINUING

Dad walks up to a 4 SEATER JEEP.

DAD

Here it is. How do you like it?

NICKY

Far out. A Jeep!

MOM

What about our bags?

DAD

I'll take care of that later. I
want to show you our new home.

(beat)

C'mon. It's a long ride with tons
of traffic.

15 EXT. MAIN ROAD - CONTINUING

As the Jeep exits the parking lot and onto a very small two
lane road... no other cars can be seen.

They pass sparse clusters of buildings... all concrete with
concrete roofs and all windows boarded up shut with plywood.

There are minimal spots of greyish green shrubs... but mostly
glaring white sand everywhere.

After only a few minutes... they turn into...

16 EXT. HOUSING AREA - CONTINUING

Duplex homes with the same concrete roof design and all
windows boarded up.

MOM

Why are all the windows boarded
shut?

DAD

No one turns their air conditioners
off. It gets so hot, blocking the
windows helps to conserve the cool
inside.

They pull up to a duplex with the beach in the background.

DAD (CONT'D)

This is it. On the beach! What do
you think?

They get out and take in the sights of the area. Mostly
sand... everywhere.

Rows of the same sand colored duplex homes extend down the
road and across the street.

But no people are in sight. It looks deserted.

MOM

Where is everybody?

DAD

Well its a school day so kids are in class. You can see the school building down there. Couple of blocks. Every one else is at work or inside.

He turns to Nicky.

DAD (CONT'D)

What do you think Nicky?

NICKY

It's really neat Dad.

DAD

C'mon. Let me show you inside. We got everything we need...

Dad excitedly takes his wife inside the house...

Nicky notices a CAR drive up and stop on the other side of the duplex. Becky and her family get out.

BECKY

(yells to Nicky)
We're neighbors?

NICKY

I guess so.

She grins and walks off with her Dad.

17 EXT. NICKY'S HOME - LATER THAT DAY

Nicky outside on the patio. Checking out his surroundings...

- a shared clothesline area between his house and Becky's
- an old weathered picnic table on his patio
- shrubbery and sand to his left
- a long row of homes and sand to his right
- a long stretch of sand between him and the beach

18 EXT. BEACH - CONTINUING

Nicky takes in the ocean sounds and salt spray... sand crabs appear from holes after the shore break retreats, but disappear when Nicky approaches...

[VOICE OVER]

Wake Island was really small. Actually tiny. Not much bigger than two square miles. With one third taken up by the airport runway and another third with birds... that left less than a mile for the rest of us.

(beat)

So what's so special about a tiny patch of sand way out in the middle of the Pacific Ocean? Maybe being isolated like that made you appreciate whatever company was around... even your own family.

19 INT. NICKY'S HOME - THAT NIGHT

Mom is clearing the dinner table.

Nicky is frowning at his glass of milk.

NICKY

Mom. This doesn't taste right.

MOM

Don't worry. Its just powdered milk son.

NICKY

Powdered milk?

MOM

That's the only kind they have here. You'll get used to it.

Nick holds the glass up to the light. He can see grains of dried milk sticking to the glass.

Dad stands and goes into his room. Returns with a cardboard box.

DAD

Remember when I told you that you wouldn't get bored? Even with no TV?

NICKY

Yeah.

DAD

This isn't everything. But its a start.

Puts the box on the dinner table. Opens it to reveal... COMIC BOOKS of all kinds... Fantastic Four, Superman, Spider Man, Thor, The Hulk and a variety of Archie.

NICKY

Wow.

DAD

All the kids trade this stuff. So when you're finished or not interested in one... you trade for something else.

MOM

How did you know that?

DAD

I work with other Dads.

NICKY

Thanks.

He hands Nicky a small hand-held transistor radio.

DAD

And although you can't watch television... you can still listen to music. There's only one station here, KEAD. I think, you'll find it... but at least you can hear what's going on in the world.

NICKY

Right on. I think this even fits in my pocket.

DAD

It's supposed to. Carry it with you everywhere.

MOM

But not to school.

DAD

Right. Except there.

NICKY

Even if I don't play it?

MOM

If you won't be playing it, why would you need it?

NICKY
For later... after school.

MOM
After school you'll be here, doing
your homework.

20 INT. NICKY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

He lies awake with the radio on. Searching through the dial,
he finds the single radio station KEAD...

DISC JOCKEY (O.S.)
"This is Jay with Armed Forces
radio. Letting you know you that
even though you're far from home,
the songs are right here with you
every step of the way. Walk safe
soldiers..."

Mom leans in the doorway...

MOM
Bedtime son. School tomorrow.

He turns the radio off.

NICKY
Ok Mom. Good night.

MOM
Good night.

When she leaves, he turns the radio back on and puts it under
his pillow.

RADIO PLAYS... "Get Back" by The Beatles.

Lying on his side with his ear pressed tight against the
pillow, he can still listen to the music...

21 EXT. NICKY'S HOME - NEXT MORNING

Nicky stands looking down the street... kids of all ages are
exiting their homes... walking to school.

Next door, Becky appears with her Mom.

BECKY'S MOM
Hey there Nicky.

NICKY
Hi. Good morning.

Nicky's Mom walks up. Nicky hides his radio in his pants pocket.

MOM
I guess we'll be checking in together as the new arrivals. Same class and all.

NICKY
(embarrassed)
Mom, you really don't need to go all the way down there. I'm pretty sure I can introduce myself.

MOM
Yes, I know you're all grown up and everything but it's me that needs to introduce myself. To your Principal of course.
(beat)
And don't worry... I won't embarrass you in front of your classmates. Just remember to give me a big smoochy kiss before I go.

She winks at Becky.

Nicky puts his head down and groans.

22 INT. SIXTH GRADE CLASS - DAY

A fairly large class of 30+ students sit attentive to its TEACHER, MR. GORDON.

PRINCIPAL, MR. PETRIE enters with Nicky and Becky.

PRINCIPAL PETRIE
Morning Class.

CLASS (IN UNISON)
Good morning Mr. Petrie.

PRINCIPAL PETRIE
As we told you last week, we have two new students from Honolulu that are joining us. This is Nicholas and Rebecca.

Mr. Petrie nods to Mr. Gordon.

TEACHER GORDON

Thank you Mr. Petrie. We're very excited to have Nicholas and Rebecca join us.

He points to two empty desks up front.

TEACHER GORDON (CONT'D)

And instead of the usual back of the class desks for newcomers... its our tradition to welcome new friends by having them sit up front.

PRINCIPAL PETRIE

Thank you Mr. Gordon.

Principal Petrie exits.

Nicky and Becky take their seats.

TEACHER GORDON

(to Nicky and Becky)

So... did they tell you that we all go home for lunch?

They nods "yes".

TEACHER GORDON (CONT'D)

Good.

(to the class)

Well I expect you to welcome Nicholas and Rebecca. We all remember what it was like when we first got here not knowing anybody. Lets make them feel at home shall we?

23 EXT. BEACH PLAYGROUND - MORNING RECESS - DAY

Nicky looks out over the playground... a sectioned area of the beach... One side with a back top volley ball court, and another area with a baseball backstop for a makeshift baseball field (only with beach sand instead of grass)

[The water's edge can be seen in the background.]

Becky seems popular already. Girls crowd around her, talking excitedly. Becky smiles at Nicky. He smiles back.

[VOICE OVER]

Kids came and went all the time at Wake...

(MORE)

[VOICE OVER] (CONT'D)
*it happened so often, it really
 wasn't a big deal to see new kids
 to show up.*

An Asian kid with a hearing aid and glasses, BUD, approaches Nicky.

BUD
 Hey.

NICKY
 Hi.

BUD
 You play ball?

NICKY
 Yeah.

BUD
 C'mon... hit some so the guys can
 catch a few.

24 EXT. MAKESHIFT SANDY BASEBALL FIELD - CONTINUING

A bunch of guys stand waiting in the outfield.

Bud hands Nicky a bat, puts on a glove and stands behind him.

BUD
 Go ahead. I'll catch for you.

NICKY
 I need a ball.

BUD
 Oh yeah.

Bud picks up a softball and hands to Nicky.

NICKY
 This is a softball.

BUD
 Yeah. So?

NICKY
 I thought you meant baseball?

Martin, an African-American and tallest one of the guys is getting impatient.

MARTIN
Hey C'mon! We only got 15 minutes!

BUD
(yelling to Martin)
He said he plays baseball!

MARTIN
What?

BUD
He plays BASEBALL!

MARTIN
So? Tell him to take one out of his
ass and hit one already!

Bud looks uncomfortably at Nicky.

NICKY
That's okay. This is fine.

Nicky calmly lifts the bat to his shoulders... tosses up the softball... and SLAMS a BLAZING LINE DRIVE BULLET straight at Martin's face.

Martin ducks as the ball zooms past all of them, heading toward the water's edge.

All of the guys look at the ball, then at Martin, then at Nicky... stunned.

BUD
Wow.

Martin stands. Dusts the sand from his pants.

MARTIN
Lucky hit. Its different when its
coming at you.

Martin moves up to the pitchers mound. The other boys cheer him on. "Give it to him Martin" "Burn one in"

CLOSE ON: Nicky and Bud.

BUD
(under his breath to
Nicky)
Martin's our best pitcher.

NICKY
Oh yeah?

Someone tosses Martin a softball. He stares down Nicky.

Winds up, and lets fly a hot underhand pitch and...

POW!!! Nicky SLAMS the ball skyward, over the heads of everyone, and landing near the water.

Everyone silenced.

NICKY (CONT'D)

If that was a real baseball, it
would be in the water.

BUD

I think we have one.

Bud rushes to the gear pack, rummages through it... finally retrieving an old worn regulation sized baseball.

BUD (CONT'D)

Here.

NICKY

Throw it to him.

Bud tosses the baseball to Martin.

NICKY (CONT'D)

(to Martin)

Know how to pitch one of those?

MARTIN

Of course I know how.

NICKY

Let's see.

The other guys start to cheer Martin again... "Give it to him Martin" "Knock his head off"

Martin hesitates a bit... his pride on the line... takes a grip on the baseball... takes his position... winds up... and WHIPS a FAST BALL straight down the line and...

KERPOW!!!!

Nicky cracks a mile high hit that soars skyward, seemingly to hang forever in the air... until splashing down in the ocean.

CUT TO:

25 EXT. STREET - LATER

Nicky... a sudden celebrity!

Boys from his class following him home for lunch, talking excitedly about baseball... Martin has his arm around Nicky's shoulder like a best friend...

[VOICE OVER]
*There's just something about
 baseball... it can make enemies
 into friends in an instant.*

MARTIN
 So you're officially invited to be
 on the team. What position do you
 play?

NICKY
 Catcher.

MARTIN
 (to Bud)
 Bud, you don't mind right?

BUD
 No. My hand hurts every time you
 through a fast ball anyway.

ARNOLD
 That's because you use a first
 baseman's glove.

BUD
 That's all I got.

TINO
 (to Nicky)
 You got a catcher's mitt?

NICKY
 Of course.

MARTIN
 Okay good. Bud goes to left field.
 Nicky catches for me.

DEXTER
 Hey. I play left field.

MARTIN
 We'll rotate. Don't worry. We all
 play.

(beat)
 (MORE)

MARTIN (CONT'D)
 So anyway... this is where I live.
 Where's your house?

NICKY
 (points)
 Down there on the beach.

MARTIN
 Right on. So see you after lunch.

NICKY
 Okay.

Martin walks off. The other kids start to disperse to their own homes too.

Nicky and Bud stand alone.

NICKY (CONT'D)
 So where's your house?

BUD
 (motions)
 Over there... one block over.

NICKY
 Ok.

BUD
 We all meet up here to walk back to class.

NICKY
 Ok... and uh... thanks.

BUD
 For what?

NICKY
 I don't know... but thanks anyway.

BUD
 Later...

26 EXT. BEACH PLAYGROUND - AFTER SCHOOL

Boys separated into teams playing softball... serious and intense, it is a no holds barred competition...

[VOICE OVER]
 Wake was everything great about a
 small American town...
 (MORE)

[VOICE OVER] (CONT'D)
the closeness, looking out for each other... but without any of the bad that a small town can sometimes have when people stay together too long.

Becky and other girls, hang out by the swings. Watching the boys play ball...

[VOICE OVER] (CONT'D)
We all came from different parts of the country...

CAMERA features CLOSE-UP of the boys as Nicky describes them...

[VOICE OVER] (CONT'D)
Martin was from Mississippi... Tino's parents were from Greece but were now American... Bud was born in San Francisco... Dexter was from Texas... George was from someplace in Michigan I couldn't remember... and Arnold was from Hawaii like me.
 (pause)
But here, we were all just Wake Islanders.

27 INT. NICKY'S HOME - NIGHT

Nicky is oiling the inside of his catchers mitt with baby oil... sticks a softball in the pocket and ties it up tight with a string.

DAD
 Isn't that broken in by now?

NICKY
 Guys play softball out here Dad. I need to get the pocket bigger.

[VOICE OVER]
Nobody locked their doors...

There's a knock on the door, but before anyone can answer it... a bunch of Dad's co-workers enter.

DAD
 Hey guys. Eat yet?

[VOICE OVER]
*...and people never called before
 showing up at dinner time. Mom just
 always made extra just in case.*

28 EXT. BEACH ROAD - DAY

Boys are having an organized bike race on the road... complete with girls cheering, flags and a chalked lined straight-a-way track.

Martin quietly lets the air out of Dexter's rear tire as he waits for the starting flag...

[VOICE OVER]
*The only crime we had was maybe a
 little cheating... but nothing
 harmful.*

29 EXT. MARTIN'S HOUSE - DAY

Nicky walks up as Martin exits his house.

[VOICE OVER]
*Since there was no place to go...
 we just wound up going to each
 other...*

He and Martin go next door to get Dexter.

- then next door to get Arnold

- then next door to get Bud

- then next door to get George

- and then several houses later to get Tino

- and several houses later... the whole crew is walking down the street

[VOICE OVER] (CONT'D)
*...and since there wasn't much to
 do... whatever we did, just always
 seemed to be a lot of fun.*

- the boys in two teams, playing water balloon fights around an old concrete WWII Japanese bunker, complete with a rusted canon.

30 EXT. WINDY PALACE - NIGHT

An outdoor movie theatre. Like an old fashioned drive-in theater, but with benches instead of car stalls.

Some cars park alongside the snack bar in back. But most choose to sit on the benches beneath the night sky.

[VOICE OVER]

But Windy Palace was something special. They showed movies there on most nights, but it was the weekends when everyone showed up.

9th grade TEENAGERS "making out" in the front row.

[VOICE OVER] (CONT'D)

There was an unspoken rule as to where you sat... Since adults didn't like to sit close, 9th graders took the first row so no one could see them making out... 8th graders took the 2nd row, 7th graders the 3rd... and so on toward the back.

Nicky and his parents park their jeep and step out... his first sight of the movie theater.

[VOICE OVER] (CONT'D)

It was close to our homes so most of the kids just walked. But for my first time, I went with my parents... I thought it was the most magical thing I had ever seen.

Nicky staring at the night sky, the big movie screen, a crowd is already growing. A gently breeze cools the evening.

Families with small children are there... service men... older couples...

His Dad hands him a box of popcorn and a soda.

DAD

Where do you want to sit?

NICKY

Up front?

DAD

Too close for me. We'll sit back here. Come find us afterwards.

NICKY

Sure.

Nicky wanders toward the front where he sees popcorn being tossed back and forth between the fourth and fifth row.

MARTIN (O.S.)

Hey Nicky!

He see's Martin gesturing to him in the fourth row.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

Over here.

Nicky makes his way over. Takes a seat among what appears to be the entire sixth grade class. Everyone seems to be there. He looks around amazed.

Dexter leans over from the fifth row.

DEXTER

So... what do you think?

Nicky scans the area.

NICKY

Far out. This is so cool.

He see's BECKY sitting in another section with her parents. She sees him and smiles back.

The LIGHTS GO DOWN... and "The Love Bug" movie starts on the screen...

Nicky notices two 9th graders kissing in the front row.

MARTIN

(nudges Nicky)

You know, most people come here for the movie.

Nicky nods absentmindedly. But can't help staring at the teenage couple.

[VOICE OVER]

I loved Windy Palace...

FADE OUT:

END OF WINTER

FADE IN:

31 INT. NEWSROOM - SPRING

Black & white grainy television weather forecast circa 1969.

A bespectacled WEATHERMAN in a suit and tie, stands to the side of a Map of Wake Island.

WEATHERMAN

(professional and serious)

As we bid farewell to the brutal cold of Winter with its frequent dips below 90, we say an enthusiastic hello to Spring and its warming temperatures and increasing humidity. While rain is in the forecast, we have absolutely no idea when or where it may occur...

MUSIC STARTS... "Aquarius/Let The Sunshine In" by the 5th Dimension. (plays over Montage)

MONTAGE - 1969 SPRING NEWS (ACTUAL VINTAGE FOOTAGE)

- First artificial heart transplant by Dr. Cooley
- First AIDS case, "Robert R" dies
- Rated X film Midnight Cowboy debuts
- John Lennon & Yoko Ono stage a "Bed In"
- Gunsmoke television show
- Kentucky Fried Chicken TV commercial
- Camel cigarette TV commercial
- 46 die in Vietnam at the battle of Hamburger Hill

32 INT. SIXTH GRADE CLASS - DAY

Mr. Gordon sits at his desk while the students are quiet in their studies.

The end of the day BELL sounds!

TEACHER GORDON

Alright Class. See you tomorrow.

Students rise from their seats.

Tino comes over to Nicky's desk.

TINO
So what are you doing after school?

NICKY
I don't know.

TINO
Wanna hang out at my house? We can figure something out there.

NICKY
Sure. Why not.

33 INT. TINO'S HOUSE - CONTINUING

Tino and Nicky enter.

Tino's Mom is just starting dinner prep in the kitchen.

TINO
Hey Ma. You remember Nicky right?

TINO'S MOM
Of course I remember you Nicky.
Your Dad works at the Fire Station right?

NICKY
Yes ma'am. He does.

TINO'S MOM
In fact. I saw your Mom today at the commissary.

NICKY
What's a commissary?

TINO'S MOM
Like a grocery store son. Where we all do our shopping.

NICKY
Oh.

TINO'S MOM
Anyway, you're Mom is such a dear.
I really like her.

NICKY

Thanks... umm... I need to call her
and let her know where I am.

TINO'S MOM

Oh of course, the phone's right
here.

NICKY

Thank you.

Nicky picks up the phone and can hear people talking
excitedly on the line... two women gossiping about something.

NICKY (CONT'D)

Uh... excuse me, but there's people
talking on your phone.

TINO'S MOM

Oh, I forgot... its called a party
line. We all share the phone with
the neighbors next door.

(beat)

Don't worry. I'll call your mother
in a minute when they get off.

(to Tino)

Tino, go get your brother.

34 INT. TINO'S BEDROOM - CONTINUING

Tino and Nicky enter.

Tino's eight year old BROTHER is leaning over a playpen where
their TODDLER sister is standing, holding onto the railings.

TINO'S BROTHER

(to his baby sister)

Shit... say shit. C'mon... say
shit...

BABY SISTER

Shit.

Tino and Nicky HOWL in LAUGHTER!!!

TINO'S BROTHER

Isn't that funny?

TINO

You taught her that?

TINO'S BROTHER

Yeah. Just now. I'm trying to teach her to mix it up too.

NICKY

She knows more?

TINO

Yeah. It's driving my Mom crazy. She thinks my Dad is responsible since he swears a lot.

NICKY

What else can she say?

TINO'S BROTHER

(to his sister)

Say "crap"

Baby sister stares at them.

TINO'S BROTHER (CONT'D)

C'mon you can do it.

BABY SISTER

Oh Shit!

Nicky and Tino laugh uncontrollably.

TINO'S BROTHER

No, not shit... say "crap"

BABY SISTER

Crap!

TINO'S BROTHER

Ok, now say shit.

BABY SISTER

Shit.

Nicky can't stop laughing.

NICKY

Stop. Stop... I can't breathe.

35 INT. TINO'S HOUSE - KITCHEN AREA - CONTINUING

Tino's Dad enters.

TINO'S DAD

Hey, hey, hey. Where's everybody?

His wife comes over to give him a kiss.

TINO'S DAD (CONT'D)
Wher're the kids?

Tino enters with his brother, baby sister and Nicky.

TINO
Hey Dad. Remember Nicky.

TINO'S DAD
Hiya Nicky. How's it going?

NICKY
Good. Thank you sir.

Tino hands his baby sister to his Dad.

TINO'S DAD
Oh look at my little princess.

He notices a fullness in her diaper.

TINO'S DAD (CONT'D)
Uh, oh... looks like we have a
package in here. What's in here?

BABY SISTER
Shit!

TINO'S MOM
(horrified)
What did she say!?

TINO'S BROTHER
I think she said shit.

BABY SISTER
Crap.

Tino's Mom slaps his Dad on the arm.

TINO'S DAD
Ow. What was that for?

TINO'S MOM
I told you... you can't be swearing
in front of the kids.

TINO'S DAD
I don't. I promise. I don't know
how she gets this stuff...

Tino and Nicky try to suppress their laughing.

TINO'S MOM
Where else would she be getting it?

BABY SISTER
Aw Fuck!

Tino's Mom GASPS in HORROR!

BABY SISTER (CONT'D)
(looking worried)
Oh shit...

Tino and Nicky are on the floor in convulsions!

36 EXT. BEACH - LATER

Nicky and Tino walking towards the waters edge. Music plays from Nicky's hand held radio.

NICKY
Did you ever teach your sister any bad words?

TINO
Naw... I just teach them to my brother... and then he goes ahead and teaches my sister.

NICKY
(laughing)
That was sooo funny.

TINO
(laughing)
I know. It was, wasn't it?

NICKY
Too funny.

TINO
Too funny...

They reach a steep sand embankment that leads down to the waters edge.

At first out of sight... but then COMING INTO VIEW, they see... LAUREN and CINDY (both very mature for their age 14 year old)... in bathing suits, reclining on towels and smoking cigarettes.

CLOSE ON: Nicky as he stares, mouth open.

SLOW MOTION: CINDY turns to see Nicky. Smiles.

[VOICE OVER]
*Its a funny thing... but when
 you're twelve... girls that are
 only two years older at fourteen...
 somehow look like women.*

MUSIC STARTS... "Crimson & Clover" by Tommy James & The Shondells

*"...Ah, now I don't hardly know her
 But I think I could love her
 Crimson and clover..."*

SLOW MOTION: continues as Cindy and Lauren sit up seductively. Giggling, they motion for the boys to come over.

Tino looks nervously at Nicky. They slowly make their way over.

Lauren grabs Tino's hand and makes him sit next to her.

Nicky stands near Cindy.

CINDY
 Well?

NICKY
 Huh?

CINDY
 You wanna sit down?

NICKY
 Sure.

Nicky sits next to her on the towel. Props his radio up in the sand.

Cindy hands him a pack of cigarettes.

CINDY
 Want one?

NICKY
 Uh... no thanks.

Lauren is still holding on to Tino's hand. Tino looks terrified as he stares at the sand.

CINDY
 So... you're the new guy?

NICKY
 Yup... Nicky.

CINDY
I'm Cindy... that's Lauren.

NICKY
That's Tino.

CINDY
We know.

NICKY
Oh... right.

Cindy puts out her cigarette.

CINDY
So... you're not gonna tell anybody
you saw us smoking right?

NICKY
No. Of course not.

Cindy nudges Tino.

CINDY
How about you Tino? Gonna tell?

TINO
No. Never. Not me.

Lauren giggles and teasingly tickles Tino's arm.

Cindy nuzzles up closer to Nicky. Examines his face closely.

CINDY
I would guess... that... you've
never kissed a girl before.

NICKY
(stammering)
...I have...

CINDY
(laughing)
...no you haven't. You're lying.

NICKY
I'm not.

CINDY
Oh yeah? Prove it.

NICKY
What?

CINDY
Prove it. Show me.

NICKY
Show you?

CINDY
Yeah. Kiss me.

NICKY
Right here?

CINDY
(points to her lips)
No. Here.

She puckers up. Leans forward...

Nicky gives her a quick touch on the lips.

CINDY (CONT'D)
(laughing)
That wasn't a kiss. What am I? Your mother?

NICKY
What'd you mean?

CINDY
That's not how you kiss a girl.
(beat)
Here... I'll show you.

She takes out a stick of gum... unwraps it... gives it to Nicky...

CINDY (CONT'D)
Chew this.

Nicky takes the gum, chews on it.

CINDY (CONT'D)
Okay... now put the gum in my mouth...

Nicky takes the gum out and holds it up to her mouth.

Lauren breaks out laughing. Tino watches intrigued.

CINDY (CONT'D)
No silly. Wait until I put my mouth on yours. Then you use your tongue to push the gum into my mouth.

Nicky slowly puts the gum back into his mouth.

CINDY (CONT'D)

Ready?

He nods nervously.

Gently and slowly, Cindy leans forward. Their lips meet... and open.

Tino stares, mesmerized.

Cindy pulls back... chewing the gum.

CINDY (CONT'D)

That was perfect. Good job.

NICKY

Thank you.

CINDY

Okay, I'm gonna give it back to you now.

NICKY

Okay.

This time, Nicky leans toward Cindy eagerly. Their lips meet again... Nicky pulls back... chewing the gum.

NICKY (CONT'D)

(excited)

I got it!

Lauren claps approvingly. Tino wipes drool from his lip.

CINDY

So now... I want you to try something.

NICKY

(very eager now)

Okay.

CINDY

I want you to hide the gum in your mouth... and I'm going to use my tongue to try to find it.

NICKY

Okay.

CINDY

Alright. Here we go.

CLOSE ON: Nicky & CINDY. As their lips meet... open... and then lock tight for a long... slow... sensual kiss...

Lauren reaches for the pack of gum... shows it to Tino.

LAUREN
Want some gum?

Tino nodding "YES!" enthusiastically.

[VOICE OVER]
*Even now... I've never had a piece
of chewing gum that was like that
day on the beach.*

37 EXT. NICKY'S HOUSE - LATER

Nicky walks up.

Becky is in their shared courtyard, hanging clothes on the clothesline.

BECKY
Hey Nicky.

Nicky averts eye contact.

NICKY
Hey Becky.

BECKY
Something wrong?

He stops.

NICKY
No. Why?

BECKY
I don't know. You look...

NICKY
What?

BECKY
...guilty or something.

NICKY
(defensive)
Guilty? I didn't do anything wrong.

BECKY
Okay...

NICKY
I mean... I was just down by the
beach...

BECKY
Yeah? With who?

NICKY
Uh... Tino.

BECKY
Oh.

NICKY
Yeah, just me and Tino. Nobody
else. Just the two of us.

BECKY
What were you guys doing?

NICKY
Huh?... uh... nothin... just... guy
stuff... you know...

BECKY
Guy stuff?

NICKY
Yeah... guy stuff... anyway...
gotta go... I'll see ya...

BECKY
See ya.

Becky watches bewildered as Nicky hurries into his house.

38 EXT. SCHOOL - NEXT DAY

Nicky sits on a wooden table in the 6th Grade area.

He stares at CINDY across the courtyard in the 8th grade
area. She is laughing and talking with Lauren and other
classmates.

He tries to get her attention. Their eyes briefly meet... but
she quickly turns away.

[VOICE OVER]
*I learned the very next day, that a
kiss does not mean love...*

Nicky walks up to Cindy. Smiles warmly.

She abruptly turns her back to him as if he didn't exist.

[VOICE OVER] (CONT'D)
*...and of the unwritten rule that
 says... no matter what happens in
 private... 8th grade women do not
 ever associate with little 6th
 grade boys in public.*

Nicky's smile fades. He turns to walk away.

CUT TO:

39 EXT. CLASSROOM - CONTINUING

CLOSE ON: Becky. Witnessing the entire scene.

40 EXT. PLAYGROUND - LATER RECESS

Tino and Nicky sitting in swings on the playground. "Hurt So Bad" by the Lettermen plays from Nicky's radio.

[VOICE OVER]
*I was actually okay by recess...
 but Tino took it kinda hard...*

Tino is sniffing.

TINO
 (wiping his eyes)
 ...I told my Mom last night that I
 had a girlfriend...

MUSIC from Nicky's radio swells louder with the lyrics...

*"...Well let me tell you that it hurts so bad
 It makes me feel so sad..."*

41 EXT. SHALLOW REEF - DAY

Nicky and Arnold are waist deep in water... Nicky holds a spear while Arnold peers into a wooden box with a glass bottom... allowing him to see into the water...

NICKY
 So what exactly are we looking for?

ARNOLD
 The octopus goes into a hole and
 covers himself with rocks.
 (MORE)

ARNOLD (CONT'D)

The rocks are white, so that's what we look for.

A quick SPLASHING nearby. They turn to see an extremely FAST and LARGE movement in the water nearby.

NICKY

What was that?

ARNOLD

Barracuda.

NICKY

Wow. That was huge.

ARNOLD

Chasing fish. You don't want that one hitting your balls.

NICKY

No way.

ARNOLD

But they're not as bad as the eels. That's what we need to watch out for.

NICKY

Why?

ARNOLD

Just don't walk toward a big rock, or step off one. Call me first.

Arnold see's a few irregular white rocks around a crevice in the reef.

ARNOLD (CONT'D)

Here... take a look.

Nicky hands him the spear... peers into the box.

NICKY

I don't see anything.

ARNOLD

Watch.

Arnold takes the spear and pokes just where the white rocks are. Black ink SQUIRTS OUT and TENTACLES reach out from under the rocks.

NICKY

Whoa.

Arnold jabs the octopus and raises it out of the water... tentacles writhing all over.

NICKY (CONT'D)

Now what?

ARNOLD

We need to kill it.

NICKY

How?

ARNOLD

Bite it behind the eyes. That's where the brain is.

NICKY

You're kidding me?

ARNOLD

No. I'm serious.

NICKY

I'm not gonna do that.

ARNOLD

Alright. Here, I'll show you.

Arnold grabs the octopus head... tentacles writhing on his arms... and bites down hard...

NICKY

He's still moving.

ARNOLD

Don't worry. He's dead. They just keep moving like that for a while. But he won't go anywhere now.

He hands Nick the glass bottom box.

ARNOLD (CONT'D)

Here. Hold this. I gotta put him on the beach.

NICKY

Okay.

Arnold starts off. Nicky looks around in the water.

After a few steps...

ARNOLD

Hey Nicky.

NICKY

What?

He turns to Arnold standing on a large rock that is just submerged under water. He waves for Nicky to come toward him.

ARNOLD

Use the box.

Nicky wades over slowly using the box to see through the water. But he is nearly chest deep and his visibility angle is poor.

ARNOLD (CONT'D)

Can you see it?

NICKY

See what?

As Nicky nears...

ARNOLD

You better stop.

NICKY

Why?

ARNOLD

Actually, go around this way. Don't walk straight. Go around and come up here.

Nicky shrugs, takes a long way around Arnold's position and climbs up on the back of the rock.

Arnold points straight down into the water.

NICKY

What are we looking at?

ARNOLD

See that brown triangle?

Nicky focuses.., sees a dark brown pointed THING protruding from below the rock they are standing on... about ten inches wide and extending about a foot out into a point... it doesn't appear to move.

ARNOLD (CONT'D)

Remember I was telling you to be careful when walking up to a boulder like this one?

Nicky nods.

Arnold grins, takes his spear and gently pokes the brown thing... A GIGANTIC SEVEN FOOT LONG EEL thrashes out into the open... then it stops and turns its head back toward the boys.

ARNOLD (CONT'D)
Oh oh... RUN!!!!

Boy boys jump and start thrashing for shore!... Adrenaline and fear making them almost run on top of the water!!!

They reach shore and collapse...

ARNOLD (CONT'D)
(breathing hard)
That's why you need to be careful
walking around rocks like that.

A COMMOTION is happening down the beach. A group of their classmates are jumping up and down, yelling, throwing things into the water.

Arnold and Nicky stand. They run over to SEE...

42 EXT. BEACH - FURTHER DOWN

Their classmates pulling on a rope that extends into the water where at the other end is a HUGE THRASHING SHARK!

Martin is at the front of the rope near water's edge. Dexter, Tino, George and Bud are behind him... all tugging hard on the line.

MARTIN
(to Arnold)
C'mon you guys! Grab a hold!

Arnold and Nicky grab a part of the line.

Martin wades into the water.

DEXTER
What're you doing? He's going to
get you!

MARTIN
Shut up! I'm getting more rope.

Martin grabs more of the rope from the water.

Each time the shark moves toward shore, Martin runs up the beach... getting the shark closer each time.

Pretty soon, the shark is in the shallows... unable to maneuver as well... His mouth is open... Teeth barred... The rope disappears down his throat, he's obviously swallowed a bait and hook... boys are yelling excitedly...

All the commotion has attracted other classmates and neighborhood kids... a small crowd gathers...

Becky, with girlfriends run down to the beach to see what's going on.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

PULL!

The shark is on the sand now at water's edge. But his full weight is on the sand... making it difficult for the boys to drag him.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

C'MON! WE CAN DO IT! PULL!

All of the boys are straining, leaning backwards, groaning... inch by inch, the shark is slowly pulled up on the beach... gradually out of the water... until finally... the boys collapse in exhaustion as the shark just lays there... now quite docile and still...

Out of breath, they all slowly rise... surround the shark... and stare at it speechless...

GEORGE

Now what?

MARTIN

What'd you mean?

TINO

What do we do with it?

DEXTER

He's too big for my fish pond.

ARNOLD

Ha ha funny guy.

BUD

Can you get the hook out?

Martin bends down to look into the shark's mouth.

MARTIN

I have an idea.

He turns to pick up a thick plank of drift wood.

He starts to shove it into the sharks mouth, but the animal suddenly THRASHES and knocks Martin to the ground.

The shark's tail whips sideways and knocks Becky off balance. Nicky catches her and breaks her fall.

Girls scream. Everyone jumps back.

Martin picks up the driftwood plank again. Approaches cautiously.

BUD

What're you doing?

MARTIN

I need to put this in there so he won't be able to bite.

GEORGE

Good idea. Not biting is good.

Martin slowly puts the driftwood near the sharks mouth... then shoves it in.... Half of it goes in, with the other half sticking out like a cigar...

The boys cheer...

BECKY

I've never seen a shark this close before.

ARNOLD

There's a lot of them out there. We see them all the time.

NICKY

No kidding.

BUD

But this is a big one. Definitely a man eater.

(beat)

Hey Tino, go lay down next to it so we can measure it.

TINO

Shut up.

Others chuckle.

MARTIN

You know, if we cut this thing open and push it back in... the blood and guts will attract more of them.

FAYE

That's mean.

DEXTER

Yeah right, and how are we supposed to surf if more sharks come around?

NICKY

You guys surf out here?

GEORGE

When the waves are good... Like today... we take our boards out by the edge of the reef. Its fun.

NICKY

Wow.

BUD

You surf?

NICKY

Yeah. But I don't have a board.

ARNOLD

We don't have surf boards either. We just make our own. Like this.
(holds up a wooden plank)
We'll make you one.

43 INT. NICKY'S HOME - NIGHT

They are at the dinner table. Mom is upset.

MOM

No. He is NOT going out there surfing with those sharks!

DAD

But sharks are always a part of the ocean. They're always there. We have them back home too.

MOM

Did you see that shark out there. It must have been 30 feet...

NICKY

...6 feet Mom.

MOM
 I DON'T CARE IF IT WAS ONE FOOT
 LONG! You are NOT going into that
 water and that's final!!!

She stands and storms away from the table. Slamming her
 bedroom door behind her.

Dad and Nicky exchange looks.

DAD
 Probably not a good idea to tell
 her about that barracuda.

NICKY
 The giant eel?

DAD
 That too.

44 INT. NICKY'S HOUSE - ANOTHER NIGHT

Nicky playing cards with his parents.

[VOICE OVER]
*I learned that there are some
 things you just don't share with
 your Mom.*

A "KNOCK" on the door...

[VOICE OVER] (CONT'D)
*And I'm not sure if it was a
 coincidence or not, but soon
 after... at least for a little
 while... something kept me away
 from the water anyway.*

Two young men walk in carrying guitar cases.

DAD
 Hey Guys! Glad you could make it.
 (to his wife)
 Hey Hon... you remember Jerry...
 and Randy?

MOM
 Of course, come on in. Did you have
 dinner?

JERRY
 Yeah, we caught a late one at the
 Mess Hall.

DAD

Nicky. Come over here. Meet my buddies that work with me at the station.

Nicky shakes their hands respectfully.

DAD (CONT'D)

This is Jerry Lewis... and Randy Bloodworth.

NICKY

Jerry Lewis?

Jerry laughs.

JERRY

Afraid so.

NICKY

Now I can tell my friends that Jerry Lewis was at my house.

JERRY

Yes you can.

RANDY

Where do we set up?

DAD

Right... uh, just leave the cases over there... and... right around the dining table would be great.

RANDY

Alright.

They both put down their cases, open them and pull out beautifully decorated ACOUSTIC GUITARS.

Nicky stares...

[VOICE OVER]

I had never seen a guitar up close before. One look is all it took. I knew I had to have one.

DAD

(to Nicky)

Jerry and Randy play for us all the time at the station. I thought it might be something you'd be interested in.

NICKY
Interested? You bet!

Jerry and Randy take seats around the table. Nicky scurries close.

JERRY
(to Nicky)
Ever play a guitar?

NICKY
No sir.

JERRY
Well, if it strikes your fancy.
Randy is a good teacher.

NICKY
Really?

RANDY
I only have time for serious
students.

NICKY
I'm serious.

RANDY
We'll see.

NICKY
But I don't have a guitar.

RANDY
Gonna need one to play one.

Nicky looks at his Dad.

DAD
I only have money for serious
students.

NICKY
I'm absolutely serious.
(to Jerry)
What can you play?

JERRY
What do you like?

NICKY
Know any Simon & Garfunkel?

RANDY

Well... Let's see... How about this one?

Randy starts the GUITAR RIFF to *"The Boxer."*

Jerry joins in with an accompaniment guitar part.

RANDY (CONT'D)

(singing)

*"I am just a poor boy
Though my story's seldom told
I have squandered my resistance
For a pocket full of mumbles
such are promises
All lies and jests
Still a man hears
What he wants to hear
And disregards the rest"*

Nicky jumps in instinctively with a HARMONY on the second verse...

RANDY & NICKY

(singing in perfect harmony)

*"When I left my home and my family
I was no more than a boy
In the company of strangers
In the quiet of the railway station
Running scared..."*

Randy looks at Jerry surprised... Jerry Looks at Dad... Dad looks at Mom...

RANDY & NICKY (CONT'D)

(continuing)

*"Laying low,
Seeking out the poorer quarters
Where the ragged people go
Looking for the places
Only they would know"*

Randy stops playing. Jerry shakes his head grinning.

RANDY

(to Dad)

You didn't tell me he could sing.

DAD

I didn't know.

(to Mom)

Did you?

MOM
 (smiling, proud)
 No.

Randy stares at Nicky.

RANDY
 Where'd you learn how to sing like
 that?

NICKY
 My Dad gave me a radio.

45 INT. RANDY'S HOUSE - DAY

Randy giving lessons to Nicky on the guitar.

[VOICE OVER]
*Baseball kinda took a back seat
 after that. And Johnny Bench was
 replaced by Neil Diamond as my new
 idol.*

(beat)
*The neat thing was I didn't need a
 team or good weather to play the
 guitar. I could play it almost
 anywhere... and I did.*

SERIES OF SHOTS: Nicky PRACTICING everywhere...

- in his room playing along with the radio
- outside on the patio picnic bench
- at the school playground as the guys play softball in the background
- on the beach with Becky
- in his Dad's jeep
- on the toilet seat... pants around his ankles

46 INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Randy with his guitar over his shoulder.

Nicky stands next to him with his own guitar.

The room is packed with 6th, 7th and 8th graders.

RANDY

...so I have some great news. Some of our friends in the Coast Guard will be playing with us, so we'll have a full band.

Cheers and whistles from the group.

RANDY (CONT'D)

The Officers Dinner is a pretty big deal and they are very excited to have the School Choir perform for them.

More applause and cheers.

RANDY (CONT'D)

The other great news, which I think is pretty cool... Nicky is going to be the Emcee for the evening. The guys took a vote and thought it only right that this concert be 100% student lead... so cheers for Nicky.

Randy leads some applause. Nicky takes a bow.

Martin teasing, throws a wad a paper.

RANDY (CONT'D)

Anything else before I go?

Faye raises her hand.

RANDY (CONT'D)

Yes, Faye?

FAYE

Can you do 59th Street Bridge song?

RANDY

Yeah, I think we can do that. Sure

He turns back to Nicky.

RANDY (CONT'D)

(whispers)

That line "feeling groovy" is a little high for me. Can you take it?

NICKY

Ok.

Randy starts the SONG...

RANDY
 (singing)
*"Slow down, you move too fast.
 You got to make the morning last.
 Just kicking down
 The cobble stones.
 Looking for fun and..."*

NICKY
 (voice cracks and squeaks
 at "groovy")
"...feeling groovy!"

The entire room bursts out laughing.

Randy looks at Nicky. Nicky clears his throat embarrassed.

RANDY
 (2nd verse)
*"Hello lamp-post,
 What cha knowin'?
 I've come to watch
 Your flowers growin'.
 Ain't cha got no rhymes for me?
 Doot-in' doo-doo..."*

NICKY
 (voice squeaks again)
"...feeling groovy!"

Classroom cracks up laughing even louder.

Randy starts to chuckle. Nicky tries to hide.

RANDY
 (last verse)
*"I've got no deeds to do,
 No promises to keep.

 I'm dappled and drowsy
 And ready to sleep.
 Let the morning time drop all
 It's petals on me.
 Life, I love you..."*

Class waits in anticipation...

NICKY
 (cracking and squeaking)
"...all is groovy!"

The entire room ERUPTS in HYSTERICS!!!

RANDY
 (laughing and barely able
 to finish)
 "Ba da, Ba da, Ba da, Ba
 da...Feelin' Groovy"

Laughter continues uncontrollably.

CLOSE ON: COMPLETELY EMBARRASSED Nicky

[VOICE OVER]
*Unfortunately... voice change
 decided to make a grand entrance in
 my life... both early... and in
 front of the whole class.*

47 EXT. NICKY'S HOUSE - EARLY EVENING

Nicky sits on the wooden picnic table in his patio with his guitar. Strumming and humming to himself... occasionally clearing his throat from a high note.

He see's Becky in her kitchen window. She looks up, see's him and waves.

She steps out of her kitchen door and takes a seat next to him.

NICKY
 I was so humiliated.

BECKY
 It wasn't that bad.

NICKY
 You were laughing too. I saw you.

BECKY
 We weren't laughing at you... it was cute.

NICKY
 I felt like a big goof.

BECKY
 For now, you just have to pick songs that don't have any high notes that's all.

NICKY
 I guess so... still, its depressing.

BECKY

Well don't be. I like to hear you sing. In fact, play something for me now.

NICKY

(sighs)

Something with no high notes?

BECKY

Yeah, something with no high notes.

Nicky thinks for a while. Rummages through a few chords.

NICKY

How about we do something together?

BECKY

Like what?

NICKY

Do you know that song by Merrilee Rush?

BECKY

Angel of the Morning? I love that song.

NICKY

If you take the melody, I can do a lower harmony.

BECKY

Okay.

Nicky starts to play the BEGINNING GUITAR CHORD PROGRESSION to "Angel of the Morning"...

NICKY & BECKY

(singing in harmony)

*"There'll be no strings to bind your hands
Not if my love can't bind your heart.
And there's no need to take a stand
For it was I who chose to start.
I see no reason to take me home,
I'm old enough to face the dawn.*

*Just call me angel of the morning angel
Just touch my cheek before you leave me, baby.
Just call me angel of the morning angel
Then slowly turn away from me..."*

48 INT. NICKY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUING

Mom is looking out of her Kitchen window... watching her son and Becky singing in the moonlight.

(ORIGINAL RECORDING of the song continues in the background...)

MOM
(to her husband)
Hey... come here.

Dad comes over.

DAD
What?

Points to the youngsters.

MOM
You see what I see?

Becky and Nicky smiling and singing. Their heads close together.

DAD
(nodding)
Hmmm...

MOM
Isn't that adorable?

DAD
You think, they even realize...?

MOM
Well, even if they don't. I see it.
You see it... It's just precious.

49 INT. OFFICERS CLUB - NIGHT

Tables covered in white linen... Military and civilians in casual but dressy evening wear... waiters serving dinner... stage set up with choir platform risers... drum set, amplifiers, microphones set up...

50 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - NEAR THE STAGE - CONTINUING

Entire choir is relaxing and waiting.

Nicky peers out of the door at the crowd. Sweat beading up on his brow...

Becky approaches.

BECKY

Hey.

NICKY

I can't do it.

BECKY

What?

NICKY

I can't go out there. I didn't know there would be so much people.

BECKY

Wait. Calm down.

NICKY

I feel like I can't breathe. Becky, I know I'm gonna pass out.

BECKY

Listen, just pretend you're playing for me. You'll be fine.

NICKY

But I'm not playing to you.
(points to the crowd)
I'm playing to them.

She thinks for a moment.

BECKY

I tell you what... I'm gonna sit out there...

NICKY

What?... no...

She grabs his shoulders...

BECKY

Listen... I'm gonna sit out there. So you can see me. And I want you to just look at me... and play for me.

NICKY

But your parents... they came to see you...

BECKY

And they will... but for now, I
want you to see me... play for me.

NICKY

Play for you.

BECKY

Right. Just like we do all the
time. Forget about everybody else.
Just sing for me. You can do that.

Nicky calms down. Nods.

NICKY

Yeah. I think so.

BECKY

I know so.

NICKY

Okay.

BECKY

Okay. Good.

51 EXT. STAGE - LATER

Nicky with his guitar on his shoulder, walks up to the
microphone and looks out to...

BLINDING SPOT LIGHT shinning directly in his eyes... He can't
see a thing!

For a moment he stands there... frozen...

Crowd waits.. long awkward silence...

NICKY

(into microphone)

Uh... good evening everyone...
uh... welcome to the... uh... Wake
Island School's Spring Concert...

His eyes are beginning to adjust to the light... makes out
SHADOWS in the crowd... STERN faced Mr. Petrie... his worried
but proud parents... strangers STARING at him... UNTIL
FINALLY... HE SEES...

Becky... smiling reassuringly.

He smiles back at her, relieved... takes a deep breath and
exhales... starts to relax.

NICKY (CONT'D)
 Our first song is... the favorite
 of our 6th grade class. Holly Holy
 by Neil Diamond.

He looks back at the band. They count it off and start the
 slow pulsing intro to the song.

Nicky steps back up to the microphone... but misses his cue.

The band repeats the intro for him again... then...

NICKY (CONT'D)
 (singing tentatively)
 "...Holly holy eyes
 Dream of only me
 Where I am
 What I am, what I believe in
 Holly holy..."

The band picks up a little. The CHOIR starts in gently...

NICKY & CHOIR
 (more confident)
 "...Holly holy dream
 Wanting only you
 And she comes
 And I run just like the wind will
 Holly holy..."
 (a little stronger now)
 "...Sing a song
 Sing a song of songs
 Sing it out
 Sing it strong..."

The band picks up the INTENSITY... Nicky matches them with
 strumming on his guitar.

NICKY & CHOIR (CONT'D)
 (getting louder)
 "...Call the sun in the
 Dead of the night
 And the sun's gonna rise in the sky
 Touch a man who can't walk upright
 And that lame man, he's gonna fly
 And I fly
 And I fly..."

The MUSIC SWELLS IN A GIANT CRESCENDO...

NICKY & CHOIR (CONT'D)

(Loudly and proudly)

*"...Holly holy love
Take the lonely child
And the seed
Let it be full with tomorrow
Holly holy..."*

TANYA, a 7th grader, steps forward to the microphone and takes over...

TANYA

(confidently & with soul)

*"...Sing a song
Sing a song of songs
Sing it out
Sing it strong... Yeah, yeah..."*

*Call the sun in the
Dead of the night
And the sun's gonna rise in the sky
Touch a man who can't walk upright
And that lame man, he's gonna fly
And I fly, yeah
Gonna fly..."*

As Tanya sings, Nicky looks back out into the crowd for Becky... but she is gone.

He turns back to the choir... and she is there... standing in her place... smiling and giving him a thumbs up!

MONTAGE: Happy faces of kids singing... happy faces of parents proud... smiling faces of strangers... hands clapping... band playing... a great memorable evening...

... as the MUSIC slowly FADES into the night... *"Holy, Holy Love..."*

FADE OUT:

END OF SPRING

FADE IN:

52 INT. NEWSROOM - SUMMER

Black & white grainy television weather forecast circa 1969.

A bespectacled WEATHERMAN in a suit and tie, stands to the side of a Map of Wake Island.

WEATHERMAN

(professional and serious)

Summer heat has arrived pushing our highs near 100. Remember that these next few months represent typhoon season. So please be prepared... on the other hand, since there really isn't anything you can do in a typhoon, just be ready to leave quickly...

MUSIC STARTS... "In The Year 2525" by Zager & Evans. (plays over Montage)

MONTAGE - 1969 SUMMER NEWS (ACTUAL VINTAGE FOOTAGE)

- Neil Armstrong steps out onto the moon
- Woodstock Festival
- First ATM machine installed in Rockville Centre, New York
- TV show " The Brady Bunch" debuts
- Bonanza television show
- IHOP TV commercial
- Lucky Charm cereal TV commercial
- First U.S. Troop withdrawal begins from Vietnam

53 EXT. NICKY'S HOME - DAY

Martin throws softball pitches to Mickey in the driveway.

Martin winds up and whips an under hand fast ball.

It "smacks" tight in Nicky's glove.

NICKY

Hey. Why don't you try one over hand?

MARTIN
With a real baseball?

NICKY
Yeah.

MARTIN
Got one?

NICKY
Yup. Right here.

Nicky tosses him a regulation size baseball.

NICKY (CONT'D)
Just take the wind up slow... feel
like you're falling forward on your
left foot.

Martin takes a stance... raises his arms... makes a slow
windup and burns in a fastball... "SMACK"

Nicky takes his gloved hand out of the mitt.

NICKY (CONT'D)
Oww... that one really stung! Whew,
good one!

MARTIN
Really?

NICKY
If we were back home, you would be
starting on my team for sure.

MARTIN
Thanks.

Nicky puts his glove back on and tosses the baseball back to
Martin.

[VOICE OVER]
*Puberty started earlier for girls
than boys. And while we didn't
really care about things like
that... with no school during
summer, and nothing to do but spend
more time together... you somehow
noticed things you normally
wouldn't...*

They continue practicing pitches back and forth...

MARTIN

So... what's going on with you and
Becky?

NICKY

What do you mean?

MARTIN

C'mon. Don't act like a dope. You
know what I mean.

NICKY

No I don't. What're you talking
about?

MARTIN

What I'm talking about? What
everybody's talking about. The two
of you... two peas in a pod...
inseparable... you going steady or
what?

NICKY

Steady?

MARTIN

What are you? Deaf?

NICKY

Well... she's... she's kinda
like... my best friend I guess.

MARTIN

Yeah? That's good, that's good...
but do you like her?

NICKY

Of course I like her.

MARTIN

Yeah, but do you... you know...
REALLY like her?

NICKY

You mean... like that?

MARTIN

Yeah... like that.

CUT TO:

54 EXT. BECKY'S HOUSE

As Becky steps out in hip hugging bell bottoms and a midriff revealing top.

She has a towel wrapped around freshly washed hair.

SLOW MOTION: As she loosens the towel... her golden blond hair cascading out in waves... moisture from her hair gleaming on her cheeks...

[VOICE OVER]

Becky always wore a pony tail. That was the first time we ever saw her hair down...

- Nicky is staring at Becky. Distracted.

- Martin is in the midst of releasing a pitch. He also gets distracted by the sight of Becky.

BACK TO REAL TIME:

- Nicky looking at Becky

- Martin releasing the wild pitch

- The ball hits the ground in front of Nicky and bounces right into his crotch!

MARTIN

Oh shit...

- Martin rushes over.

- Becky rushes over.

- Nicky is crumpled on the ground. GROANING in AGONY!

Becky and Martin lean over Nicky in concern.

BECKY

What happened?

MARTIN

I hit him in the balls.

BECKY

Where?

MARTIN

In the nuts. The sack. Scrotum. Testicles!

BECKY
Let me see...

NICKY
(groaning in agony)
...Noooo.

BECKY
I'm gonna get your Mom...

NICKY
(embarrassed)
Nooooo!...
(catching his breath)
...I'll be okay.

MARTIN
I'm so sorry buddy. I thought you
were looking.

NICKY
I thought you were looking.

MARTIN
(eyeing Becky)
Well... I guess we were both
looking.

Nicky tries to kick Martin.

MARTIN (CONT'D)
Sorry, sorry... I was just
kidding... just kidding.

Becky and Martin trying to help him up.

[VOICE OVER]
*Seems I was the last one to
realize... that I really did like
Becky... like that.*

55 EXT. BEACH ROAD - DAY

Becky and Nicky riding their bicycles. Nicky's radio dangling
from his handle bars.

MUSIC playing... "What Does It Take To Win Your Heart" by
Junior Walker & The All-Stars

*"...What does it take
To win your love for me?
How can I make
This dream come true for me?..."*

No cars on the road... they crisscross slowly back and forth... coasting... but going no where.

With a free hand, Becky takes off her pony tail ribbon... shakes her hair loose in the wind.

Nicky stares.

NICKY
I like your hair that way.

BECKY
How?

NICKY
Without the pony tail.

BECKY
You mean just loose... like this?

NICKY
Yeah.

BECKY
Why, do you think I'm pretty this way?

Nicky looks down at the road.

BECKY (CONT'D)
(teasing)
C'mon. Say it. I want to hear you say that I'm pretty. Tell me. C'mon. Tell me how pretty I am.

Nicky finally looks up...

NICKY
(seriously)
Yeah... I think you're pretty. Actually... I... I think you're beautiful.

Becky stops her bike. Caught off guard by his seriousness.

Nicky stops his bike too...

NICKY (CONT'D)
(confused)
What?

BUT THEN...

Dexter comes pedaling furiously toward them on his bike.

DEXTER
Hey!!! A planes gonna crash!

NICKY
What?

He speeds past them...

DEXTER
Hurry! It's coming in right now!

Nicky and Becky turn their bikes around and race after Dexter.

[VOICE OVER]
*I felt like I needed to tell Becky
more... but for now it had to wait.*

56 EXT. MAIN TERMINAL - CONTINUING

All three race up with their bikes.

SIREN is BLARING... people are rushing about... confusion and chaos...

DEXTER
We can see everything upstairs with
my Dad.

Dexter drops his bike and races into the Air Terminal stairway.

Becky starts to follow. Nicky grabs her arm...

NICKY
Wait. I know a place...

57 INT. CONTROL TOWER

Dexter's Dad is overseeing the crisis.

Air Traffic Controllers, calm and soothing, talk the pilot into the landing.

CONTROLLER
(to Dexter's Dad)
Hydraulic leak.

DEXTER'S DAD
Vertical stabilizer?

CONTROLLER

Gone.

Dexter runs up.

DEXTER

(breathless)

Dad.

DEXTER'S DAD

Dex, what are you doing here?

DEXTER

I wanted to see the crash. I brought my friends.

Dexter's Dad looks around.

DEXTER'S DAD

What friends?

58 EXT. END OF RUNWAY

Literally ending on the beach at the end of the island.

Nicky and Becky stop their bikes.

BECKY

Is it safe to be here?

NICKY

The planes never come this far.

(points)

They always stop down there.

In the distant sky, they can see the small outline of an approaching aircraft... wings tilting side to side.

59 INT. FIRETRUCK

Engine is on... waiting near the side of the runway. Randy in the driver's seat.

Other Firemen, including Jerry and Nicky's Dad in full gear, prepped, on FULL ALERT.

Jerry nudges Nicky's Dad.

JERRY

Hey... isn't that Nicky out there?

Nicky's Dad looks to the end of the runway and see's Nicky and Becky... in direct path on the incoming plane.

DAD
OH, CHRIST!!!

60 EXT. END OF RUNWAY

Becky sees the Firetruck turning... and speeding toward them.

BECKY
Look.

The truck almost screeches to a halt in front of them. Worried and angry, Nicky's Dad jumps out...

DAD
Nicky! What the hell are you doing here?
(before they can speak)
Never mind, get in! GET IN NOW!!!... No leave the bikes. LEAVE THEM!... GET IN THE TRUCK NOW!!!

Dad grabs each of them, one in each arm and pushes them into the Firetruck.

61 INT. FIRETRUCK

Nicky and Becky are pushed into the back.

DAD
Stay there.

RADIO CRACKLES with communication.

TOWER CONTROLLER (O.S.)
Uh... Tower to Fire One?

RANDY picks up the handset.

RANDY
Go ahead Tower.

TOWER CONTROLLER (O.S.)
They're fighting it side to side. It's gonna be a tough one.

RANDY
Roger that... can she stop?

TOWER CONTROLLER (O.S.)
*If she lands straight... but if she
 tilts... its gonna be a slider.*

RANDY
 Copy that Tower. Fire one is
 advised.

Randy turns to Nicky's Dad.

RANDY (CONT'D)
 Landing gear won't be able to hold
 that angle. That wing's gonna hit
 and break...

DAD
 ...fuel spray... we're gonna have a
 fire.

Randy nods.

JERRY
 How many on board?

RANDY
 Fifty six. All heading back from
 Vietnam.

DAD
 (sighs)
 Let's get them home.

62 EXT. APPROACHING AIRCRAFT

A Military StratoTanker KC135 pitching side to side,
 struggling to fly straight as it nears.

63 INT. CONTROL TOWER

Professional calm as controllers talk the pilot in.

CLOSE ON: DEXTER'S DAD

CLOSE NO: DEXTER. Holding his breath

64 INT. FIRETRUCK

Randy starts driving slowly up the side of the runway.

JERRY
 Where do you want to position?

DAD
Better to chase it than be in front
of it.

CLOSE ON: Becky and Nicky. A front row view of the crisis.

CLOSE ON: OTHER FIREMEN. BRACING FOR ACTION...

65 EXT. APPROACHING AIRCRAFT

Landing gear down... near touch down... still swaying side to side... THEN...

It touches down at an angle... the back landing gear snaps off from the weight... the wing tilts down into the ground... sparks flying...

...it finally breaks off... fuel gushes out and catches fire!

66 INT. FIRETRUCK

As the plane skids past them.

RANDY
Here we go!

67 EXT. AIRCRAFT

- Skidding on its belly sideways....

- Fire and fuel trailing...

- It is headed for the end of the runway...

- 2nd wing cracks... breaks off...

- More fuel spill... more fire...

- Other FIRETRUCKS give chase after the plane...

- Plane finally screeches to a stop... FIRE engulfing the front part of the aircraft.

- Firetrucks rush up... fire retarding foam and water spraying everywhere...

MONTAGE: THE CRISIS (SLOW MOTION)

Smoke, fire, extreme heat... men shouting... fire gradually under control... aircraft door melted shut... pried open... men enter... sweltering heat... steam...

injured lowered to waiting cars... blood... visibly broken leg bones... injured screaming in pain... exhaustion...

CLOSE ON: Nicky and Becky. Faces pressed to the window. Seeing everything.

68 EXT. FIRETRUCK

Nicky steps out. Becky follows.

Work continues on the smoldering aircraft. Heat radiating everywhere.

Large greenish plastic bags start to emerge from the plane... heavy, requiring two men to carry... one on each end.

They are carried to the other side of the firetruck.

69 EXT. FIRETRUCK - OPPOSITE SIDE

Nicky and Becky walk around slowly to see where the green bags are taken.

On the other side of the truck, they SEE...

THEIR POV: GREEN BODY BAGS lined up side by side. There are eleven of them.

One bag is not zippered completely. A WIND GUST blows it open to reveal...

A SEVERELY BURNT CORPSE. Hardly distinguishable except for a partial fixed facial expression of horror.

Becky GASPS and hides her face in Nicky's shoulder.

Dad comes around the corner looking for them... too late to hide them from the trauma.

[VOICE OVER]

I didn't really know what Vietnam was about... just that soldiers were dying over there.

(beat)

For a long time, I couldn't stop thinking about those men on the plane. Surviving the war, happy to be going home, then burning to death on a tiny island in the middle of the Pacific.

70 INT. BURNT FUSELAGE OF PLANE - WEEKS LATER - DAY

Nicky and friends enters carefully... entire interior is burnt, bent and broken... debris everywhere... wires dangling...

Partial seats are still visible...

[VOICE OVER]
Several weeks later... what remained of the plane was dragged to the side of the runway. We weren't supposed to go near it... but it was right there. Anybody just could climb right in.

His friends horse around in the background. Laughing and rummaging through the debris... unaware of the tragedy the wreckage represents.

In contrast... Nicky, somber and serious... stares at a burnt seat with a melted seat belt buckle.

[VOICE OVER] (CONT'D)
I could almost imagine what it was like to be inside during the crash and the fire... the fear... the panic...

He notices something wedged into the seat cushion.

Leaning down, he peers closer... he reaches in... and pulls out a burnt blue cloth with red and white stripes on the outer edges...

...on the end of it is a charred BRONZE CROSS with an EAGLE with wings spread in the center...

...the same cross he had seen on the young soldier in Honolulu.

[VOICE OVER] (CONT'D)
It was the first time I became aware of death... and the fear of it.

71 EXT. BEACH - LATE AFTERNOON

Windy... dark, stormy skies... waves are large, crashing up onto the beach...

Nicky & Becky walking.

[NOTE: For the rest of the story, Becky no longer wears a pony tail. She leaves her hair long, flowing and free]

She reaches for a green glass ball.

BECKY

Look. A nice one. Still has the net around it. I think I'll keep this.

Nicky is preoccupied.

BECKY (CONT'D)

Something wrong?

He picks up a rock. Throws it into the ocean.

NICKY

You ever think about dying?

BECKY

Sometimes. Why.

NICKY

I never did... Until recently.

BECKY

Because of that plane crash?

He nods.

They walk quietly for a while.

BECKY (CONT'D)

I think I'm more afraid of being alone.

NICKY

Isn't that what dying's all about? Leaving everybody? Everything? Not knowing where you're going? All alone?

She contemplates that thought...

Then notices Nicky's Mom approaching, far down the beach near their homes.

BECKY

Hey, isn't that your Mom?

72 EXT. BEACH - CONTINUING

As Mom approaches.

Waves are noticeably larger washing up the shoreline.

NICKY

Mom.

MOM

I was so worried. I'm glad I found you two.

NICKY

What's the matter?

MOM

There's a big storm coming. It's not safe out here. We need to get inside.

73 INT. NICKY'S HOME

Dad is hurrying them.

MOM

But what about you?

DAD

Just the women and children.

MOM

I'm not leaving.

DAD

Honey, C'mon please. There's no time. It'll just be for a day or two until the Typhoon blows over.

NICKY

Dad?

DAD

No. Son. All your friends are leaving. Becky too. You all need to stick together. There's no discussion here.

74 EXT. MAIN TERMINAL - CONTINUING

Rain is pouring down. Wind is wiping.

Several large propeller C-130 CARGO PLANES are waiting, engines on and backside ramps down...

A hundred or so women and children line up in the rain, waiting their turn to board.

Hardly any time for tears... mothers and children are hurried by Air Force personnel onto the tarmac and into the waiting planes.

Nicky turns back for one last glimpse of his Dad as he is lifted onto the cargo ramp.

75 INT. C-130 CARGO PLANE - CONTINUING

Seats are lined on the sides of the plane, facing across from each other...

...the floor between them is metal grated where suitcases and bags are piled.

Mom takes a seat next to Becky's mom. Nicky hurries to sit next to Becky.

The interior is LOUD with ENGINE NOISE. YELLING is needed to communicate.

MOM
(to Becky's Mom)
You okay?

BECKY'S MOM
(worried)
Where are we going?

MOM
Guam.

BECKY'S MOM
I heard the Typhoon is supposed to have over a hundred mile an hour winds.

MOM
I'm more concerned about the storm surge.

BECKY'S MOM
Why is that?

MOM
They're expecting twenty foot waves... the island is only fourteen feet above sea level.

CLOSE ON: Nicky. Reacting.

76 INT. C-130 CARGO PLANE - NIGHT

Dark. Minimal light in the cargo area. Everyone is sleeping.

Nicky is wide awake... looks around the interior of the plane...

(INSERT: Brief "FLASHBACK" of the burning KC135 crash scene)

...he reaches into his pocket and pulls out the charred BRONZE METAL CROSS... stares at it...

[VOICE OVER]

Even with the noise... most fell asleep from the exhaustion, anxiety and worry. No one had ever experienced a Typhoon before. And I didn't know what a hundred mile an hour wind could do.

(beat)

But I did understand that a twenty foot wave could easily bury a fourteen foot island... an island that my Dad was on.

Becky stirs in her sleep. Awakens... notices Nicky's worried look.

In the dark, amidst the engine noise and clatter... she reaches over and gently touches his hand.

Startled a bit, he turns to her.

She smiles reassuringly.

He nods... and puts her hand firmly in his.

77 EXT. NIGHT - ANDERSONS AIR FORCE BASE - GUAM - NIGHT

The Wake Island families exit the rear ramp of the C-130 Cargo plane.

78 INT. ANDERSONS AIR BASE TERMINAL - NIGHT

Military personnel receive the weary travelers with coffee and donuts.

Nicky's Mom talks to an officer with a clip board.

She comes back to Nicky.

MOM

The ladies are going to a convent.
Sisters of Mercy. The Nuns have
made some room for us over there...
You boys are going to the
Archdiocese nearby.

She kisses him, hugs him tight.

MOM (CONT'D)

Try to get some sleep. See you
tomorrow.

She turns to leave.

NICKY

Mom?

MOM

Yeah Hon?

NICKY

What about Dad?

She comes back to him. Puts a hand on his cheek.

MOM

We'll know more in the morning.
Okay?

NICKY

Okay.

79 INT. CATHOLIC RECTORY - NEXT MORNING

A large study... furniture moved to the sides... Sleeping
boys on the floor in duffle bags and assorted blankets...

A Priest smoking a pipe, sits at a HAM RADIO... Dialing
through different frequencies...

Nicky wakes from the radio noise... squints... see's the
priest... walks over...

NICKY

Good morning Father.

PRIEST

Good morning... sleep okay?

NICKY

Yea.

Priest continues dialing through frequencies.

NICKY (CONT'D)
My Dad has a radio.

PRIEST
On Wake?

NICKY
Uh-huh. And at the Fire Station
where he works.

PRIEST
I've been trying to get a signal.
Nothing yet.

NICKY
What does it mean?

PRIEST
Not sure. Could be the wind took
down their antennas. Or something
else.

Priest notices Nicky's worry.

PRIEST (CONT'D)
I'm sure he's going to be okay son.
They wouldn't have stayed if it was
going to be that dangerous.

Nicky nods.

PRIEST (CONT'D)
You said he's a Fireman?

NICKY
Yeah.

PRIEST
Even more so... there's no typhoon
strong enough that can knock down a
Fireman.

80 EXT. TUMAN BAY BEACH - DAY

A school bus stops... Wake mothers and kids exit... other
cars unload food trays... picnic material...

[VOICE OVER]
*After two days... we still hadn't
heard anything. Our Moms were
noticeably worried.*
(MORE)

[VOICE OVER] (CONT'D)
*The Nuns tried to distract us by
 taking us to the beach for a
 picnic.*
 (pause)
*The warm ocean water and beach did
 help a little to not think about
 the typhoon.*

*MUSIC starts... "Crystal Blue Persuasion" by Tommy James &
 The Shondells.*

81 EXT. OCEAN - LARGE FLOATING PLATFORM

Anchored about 30 yards off shore.

Crowded with kids jumping, diving and racing around the
 platform.

Martin organizes two teams (boys & girls) to see who can push
 the other off the platform.

Arnold notices Becky alone on the beach.

ARNOLD
 (to Nicky)
 Hey. Did you see Becky?

NICKY
 No. Why?

Arnold points to the beach.

NICKY (CONT'D)
 I'll go see.

Nicky dives in and swims for shore.

82 EXT. BEACH

Becky sitting on a towel. Nicky emerges from the water.

NICKY
 Hey Becky.

BECKY
 Hi.

NICKY
 Why aren't you in the water?

She hesitates. Nicky sits down next to her.

NICKY (CONT'D)
You okay?

BECKY
Yeah.

NICKY
Don't feel like swimming?

She hesitates again.

NICKY (CONT'D)
That's okay. I'll sit here with
you.

BECKY
No. Its not that.

NICKY
Ok.

He searches her face.

BECKY
(softly)
I can't swim.

NICKY
What? Are you serious?

She nods. Embarrassed.

NICKY (CONT'D)
(chuckles)
Is that all?

BECKY
You making fun of me?

NICKY
No. No. No. I was just worried it
was something else. Its no big deal
that you can't swim.... I couldn't
swim before I learned how to swim.

BECKY
Very funny.

NICKY
Listen, its really not a big deal.

BECKY

But look it... everybody's out there... everybody having a great time.

Nicky thinks.

NICKY

I got an idea. Wait right here.

83 EXT. OCEAN

Nicky is swimming on his side, a rope is tied to his arm and connected to... Becky floating close by with a bright orange life preserver on.

NICKY

You doing ok?

BECKY

(laughing)

This is great! I love it!

84 EXT. OCEAN - LARGE FLOATING PLATFORM

Their friends cheer as they see Becky approaching with her life preserver. She is all smiles.

As she nears, they reach down and lift her up onto the platform... then promptly THROW HER BACK into the water!

She pops up safely, floating easily with her life preserver. Coughing but laughing.

Her friends cheering, laughing, encouraging... "Way to go Becky!"

CLOSE ON: Nicky. Happy to see her having fun.

85 INT. WATER - LATER

Under the floating platform... Nicky and Becky swim into a small space... the deck above them, the floats around them, providing a private intimate cave.

Nicky holds onto a rope dangling from the deck above.

Becky floats on her own with her life preserver.

She splashes Nicky. Laughs. He splashes back.

BECKY
 (laughing)
 Stop. I give up. Stop.

Nicky stops splashing... Becky wipes her face... THEN...

They look at each other...

Suddenly both realizing their seclusion and privacy...

Becky shivers a bit...

NICKY
 Cold?

She nods.

Nicky reaches out, gently grabbing the string on her life preserver... and pulls her slowly to him

As she nears, Becky puts her arms around his neck... they embrace.

After a moment... she puts her hands on his face...

Then ever so slowly... and ever so gently... kisses him... lovingly... a kiss of pure innocence...

But then...

The moment is broken by someone YELLING from the beach...

Nicky peers between the floats to look... it is a Nun waving her arms in the air at them.

BECKY
 What is she saying?

NICKY
 I think she said... the typhoon has passed. Everyone's okay.

86 EXT. WAKE ISLAND TERMINAL

Wives and children running down the ramp of the C-130 Cargo Plane and into the arms of waiting men.

A relieved and happy reunion... hugs... kisses...

Nicky and his Mom cling tightly to his Dad.

NICKY
 Were you under water Dad?

DAD
(laughing)
What? No. Not at all.

Mom scans the area... Lots of debris, broken items and more sand everywhere...

MOM
Where were you?

DAD
Right here in the Terminal. It was okay. Kinda exciting actually.

As they walk toward the terminal, Nicky catches a glimpse of Becky's reunion with her father.

He smiles at her. She smiles back.

FADE OUT:

END OF SUMMER

FADE IN:

87 INT. NEWSROOM - FALL

Black & white grainy television weather forecast circa 1969.

A bespectacled WEATHERMAN in a suit and tie, stands to the side of a Map of Wake Island.

WEATHERMAN

(professional and serious)
 Fall begins today and with it some relief to the summer heat. While highs remain in the mid 90's, humidity levels are expected to drop giving the impression that things are cooler than it really is...

MUSIC STARTS... "I Can't Get Next To You" by the Temptations.
 (plays over Montage)

MONTAGE - 1969 FALL NEWS (ACTUAL VINTAGE FOOTAGE)

- New York Mets win the World Series
- Sesame Street premiers on National Education Television
- Legendary soccer great "Pele" scores his 1,000th goal
- Altamont Speedway Concert tragedy with Rolling Stones
- First commercial flight of the Boeing 747
- Mayberry RFD television show
- Cheer detergent TV commercial
- Cybill Shepherd's Noxzema TV commercial
- Withdrawal from Vietnam continues. 40,000+ U.S. Soldiers have been killed

88 EXT. SCHOOL COURTYARD - MORNING

All grade levels and classes stand at attention as the Star Spangled banner is played over the speaker system and the "Red White & Blue" is slowly raised up the flag pole.

[VOICE OVER]

Everyone was excited for school to start again and to be the new 7th grade class. Moving up one more notch in the school hierarchy and seniority.

MUSIC starts... "Good Morning Sunshine" by Oliver

*"...Good morning starshine, the earth says hello
You twinkle above us
We twinkle below..."*

MONTAGE: Nicky and classmates

- Balloon fights in old WWII bunkers
- Dodgeball with his classmates (girls & boys together)
- Cuddling with Becky at Windy Palace watching "Romeo & Juliet"
- Swimming in the Lagoon
- Surfing on the Reef
- Walking the beach looking for Glass Floats
- Riding a scooter through the flying birds on Bird Island
- Enjoying life with the guys at the 8 lane bowling alley
- Being with Becky

[VOICE OVER] (CONT'D)

For the next few months... things couldn't have been better. Actually it was the best time of my life.

(pause)

But as with all things... change was right around the corner.

89 INT. NICKY'S HOME - DAY

Mom and Dad sitting at the dining table.

Nicky enters, towel around his neck, hair still wet from the beach.

Mom and Dad look at him with concern.

NICKY

What's wrong?

90 EXT. NICKY'S HOME - DUSK

Nicky sits on his wooden picnic table. Brooding.

[VOICE OVER]

*I don't remember when I fell in
love with Becky... but I do
remember when I realized that I
did.*

(beat)

*And it wasn't because of a warm
fuzzy feeling. It was from the pain
in my chest.*

Becky steps out of her kitchen door. Joins him on the bench.

Nicky tries to give her a half hearted grin.

BECKY

You're leaving.

He nods.

BECKY (CONT'D)

When?

NICKY

Couple of weeks.

BECKY

So soon.

NICKY

They needed someone. My Dad had to
decide right away... said its an
opportunity he couldn't pass up.

Tears well up in her eyes.

91 INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Nicky staring out of the window... lost in thought.

[VOICE OVER]

*Families come and go on Wake so
often, most times you hardly
notice.*

Classmates joke and horse around in the background.

[VOICE OVER] (CONT'D)

*There's always the same going away
picnic...*

INTERCUT: A going away beach picnic party for another kid...

[VOICE OVER] (CONT'D)
*And the dance party at George's
 house the night before you leave...*

INTERCUT: George's Mom bringing out a "Bon Voyage" cake at another going away party.

[VOICE OVER] (CONT'D)
I had been to a lot of them.

92 EXT. BEACH - DAY

Windy, overcast... Nicky walks alone along the shore break.

[VOICE OVER]
*But things feel different when its
 your turn... you feel alone... like
 your time is up.*

93 INT. NICKY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Nicky's friends turn over and empty several large cardboard boxes. Hundreds of comics spill onto the floor.

MARTIN
 Why don't you take them with you?

NICKY
 We have TV remember?

ARNOLD
 Lucky you.

DEXTER
 (grabbing a comic)
 Lucky me. I get first dibs on this one.

BUD
 (looking through a stack)
 You sure like "Everything's Archie"
 don't you? Must be fifty of these
 here. Still with the plastic on.
 Like you didn't even read them.

NICKY
 Take 'em. They're yours.

[VOICE OVER]
*If only I had known that those
 comics would be worth about a
 hundred dollars each one day.*

94 EXT. LAGOON BEACH - GOING AWAY PICNIC - DAY

A large banner reading "Good Luck Nicky - Bon Voyage" is tied between two coconut trees.

Some classmates are on the beach while others hang around the food picnic tables.

Nicky and Becky sit together on a towel. Just watching everyone around them.

She rises from her towel.

BECKY
 I'm gonna get a soda. Want one?

NICKY
 Yeah. Thanks.

She heads toward the picnic area.

Bud runs up with a Frisbee.

BUD
 Nicky! Go long!

Nicky stands up and starts running down the beach.

BUD (CONT'D)
 Faster!

Bud launches the Frisbee. It catches a wind gust and zooms over Nicky's head.

While looking up at the Frisbee, he trips on a tree root and tumbles over a sand bank that hides a secluded cove.

He rises, sand on his face, he dusts himself and sees...

HIS POV: Cindy... sitting alone on a towel.

CINDY
 Hey.

NICKY
 Hi... what're you doing here all
 alone?

CINDY
I don't know. Just thinking.

NICKY
About what?

CINDY
Nothing.

She hands him a towel.

CINDY (CONT'D)
Here... Use this.

Nicky walks up. Takes the towel.

NICKY
Thanks.

Cindy reaches behind her and unlatches her bikini top strap. It falls, and she covers her exposed breasts with her hands.

CINDY
Oops... oh no... there it goes
again. Been happening all day....
That's actually the real reason I'm
over here alone.

NICKY
Well I can call...

CINDY
No. Thanks... can you just give me
a hand?

Nicky hesitates.

CINDY (CONT'D)
Please?

NICKY
Uh... okay...

CINDY
Can you...?

She motions to her bikini top.

NICKY
Right...

Nicky grabs it and holds it up to her.

She pretends to be irritated.

CINDY

Gee whiz... do I have to do it myself?

She grabs the bikini top from Nicky with both hands... completely exposing her breasts to him.

[WE DON'T SEE ANY NUDDITY... BUT WE SEE THE SHOCKED LOOK ON HIS FACE AND KNOW WHAT HE IS STARING AT]

CINDY (CONT'D)

Oh look... its full of sand.

She starts to shake the sand out of her bikini top. Nicky is frozen... staring... speechless...

She stops... remembers something...

CINDY (CONT'D)

Oh... did you want some gum?

95 EXT. PICNIC AREA - CONTINUING

Becky with two soda cans in hand. Doesn't see Nicky on the beach. She stops Bud.

BECKY

Did you see Nicky?

BUD

(points to the secluded cove)

He went to get my Frisbee. I think the current took it that way.

BECKY

Okay. Thanks.

96 EXT. SECLUDED COVE AREA - CONTINUING

Nicky starts to back up.

NICKY

Uh... no thanks... not really in the mood for gum.

Cindy moves closer.

CINDY

Oh yeah? What are you in the mood for?

NICKY

Uh... I don't know... I... uh...

Drops her bikini top to the ground.

CINDY

Want to kiss me?

NICKY

I can't...

Puts her arms around him.

CINDY

Can't... or don't want to?

He steps back.

NICKY

Sorry... I gotta get back...

CINDY

It's okay. You can touch them...

NICKY

No...

97 EXT. SAND BANK - CONTINUING

Becky walks up over the rise and SEES...

HER POV: Cindy kissing Nicky and holding his hand to her breast.

Becky's face goes pale...

BECKY

(tears welling up)

No...

Nicky jumps. Startled. Turns to see Becky staring at him in complete horror and disbelief...

NICKY

(in total panic mode)

I... uh... uh...

Becky runs off. He runs after her...

98 EXT. PICNIC AREA

Everyone stops as Becky runs past them sobbing. Nicky follows close behind.

NICKY
Becky! Please... Stop!

99 EXT. COAST GUARD BRIDGE

A wooden structure fifteen feet above a strong ocean current below.

Becky runs on to the bridge. Nicky catches up. Grabs her by the shoulders.

BECKY
LET GO OF ME!

He lets go.

NICKY
Ok. Ok... I'm sorry... please don't run... please...

BECKY
(sobbing uncontrollably)
I can't believe it!

NICKY
It's not like what you saw...

BECKY
...I SAW YOU KISSING HER WITH YOUR
HAND ON HER BREASTS!!!

NICKY
Ok. Ok. I... I know... but...
but...

BECKY
But what?

NICKY
I don't know... its just... it just
wasn't...

BECKY
WHAT?!!!

NICKY
I didn't want to...

BECKY

If that's what you want, you could
have just told me! In case you
haven't noticed, I've got them too!
You want to touch my breasts?

NICKY

No...

BECKY

NO?

NICKY

I mean...

BECKY

(crying)

You don't want me. But you want
HER?

NICKY

I want you Becky...

He tries to approach her again.

BECKY

Get away from me!!!

She pushes him, turns away, trips and... FALLS OVER THE
BRIDGE!!!

NICKY

NOOOO!!!!!!!!!!!!...

SLOW MOTION: Nicky watches HORRIFIED as Becky plunges into
the water below...

People nearby see her fall, start running to help...

BACK TO REAL TIME: Nicky DIVES into the water after her...

100 INT. WATER

Becky struggles to get to the surface... starts swallowing
water...

Nicky reaches her... in a panic, she grabs onto him, pushing
him underwater... he struggles to get her to the surface...
but she is thrashing... they both sink deeper... he is
running out of air... then... SHE GOES LIMP...

Nicky grabs her... starts swimming for the surface...

101 EXT. BEACH

Several Coast Guard men dive into the water... A crowd gathers at the shore...

102 EXT. PICNIC AREA

FAYE
Becky fell!

Everyone starts running to the bridge...

103 INT. WATER

Nicky breaks to the surface... gasping for air... Becky unconscious in his arms...

A small dingy rows up... swimmers take her from Nicky... pulls her up into the boat... pulls Nicky up too...

104 INT. DINGY

Becky is pale. Her lips already blue. They start CPR.

Nicky is coughing up water, but grabs onto her hand, terror and tears filling his eyes...

105 EXT. BEACH

- They place Becky on the sand. CPR continues...
- Classmates stand around her. Worried. Many in tears...
- Onlookers crowd around...
- Nicky kneels at her side...
- First man applying CPR stops and leans back winded...
- Second man pushes him away and continues CPR...
- Several ANXIOUS moments pass... and nothing...
- But then...
- She coughs...
- They turn her to the side as she expels water and starts coughing... and breathing

- Audible SIGH from the crowds. Classmates weep.
- A stretcher is brought. They place her in and carry her to a waiting station wagon.

NICKY
Where are you taking her?

MAN
To the infirmary.

- The Station wagon drives off.
- Nicky's Dad drives up in his jeep. Worried. He jumps out and grabs Nicky by the shoulders.

DAD
You ok?

Too overwhelmed. No words. Nicky starts to break down and cry.

His Dad pulls him into a hug.

DAD (CONT'D)
It's alright son... It's gonna be okay.

106 INT. INFIRMARY - NIGHT

Nicky and his Dad enter.

Becky's family are in a makeshift waiting area. Becky is in a small room next to them.

DAD
I'm gonna go talk to them.

Nicky walks over to Becky's room. Stands in the doorway.

A NURSE walks up.

NURSE
She's sleeping.

NICKY
Can I just sit? I promise I won't bother her.

The Nurse examines his face.

NURSE
You're the one that saved her
aren't you?

NICKY
I wouldn't say that.

NURSE
(smiles)
Go ahead.

107 INT. BECKY'S ROOM

She is on her side. Facing away from the doorway.

Nicky takes a seat. He stares at the IV bottle with the tubing connected to her arm.

He leans close to the bed...

NICKY
(whispering a confession)
I'm so sorry Becky... I just feel
so bad...
(pause)
I've never had a girlfriend
before... and I'm not sure of what
to say a lot of times... or what I
should do...
(beat)
All I know, is that thinking of
being away from you... makes me
hurt so much inside... and today,
at the beach... when I thought I
lost you...
(choking back emotions)
Nothing in the world mattered
anymore...

His Dad comes to the doorway, but stops when he hears his Son talking to Becky... He pauses for a moment...

NICKY (CONT'D)
(whispers)
I love you Becky...

His Dad enters respectfully...

DAD
Son?

Nicky wipes the tears from his face. Rises slowly.

He walks up to his Dad with his head down. They walk out together.

CAMERA PANS BACK TO: Becky... she is awake... tears streaming down her face and on to her pillow.

108 INT. GEORGE'S HOME - BACKYARD PATIO - NIGHT

Decorated with party lights... George is playing music on a record player... girls gossip near a food table... Nicky sits sullen at a table with his friends...

George's mom brings out a cake that reads "BON VOYAGE NICKY!"

MARTIN

How's Becky?

NICKY

They wanted to keep her for one more day.

DEXTER

I guess they need to be careful.

TINO

Of what?

DEXTER

I dunno. I've never drowned before.

MARTIN

She didn't drown stupid.

DEXTER

Yes she did. My Dad said she was pretty much dead and they brought her back to life.

TINO

You can't bring someone back from the dead.

DEXTER

I didn't say dead. I said pretty much dead.

MARTIN

You guys are idiots.

ARNOLD

So if you're only pretty much dead, can you be a ghost?

TINO
I don't think so.

DEXTER
Maybe an angel?

Nicky notices the girls making a commotion at the patio door. As he looks up, the girls are excitedly greeting Becky as she walks in.

[VOICE OVER]
I wasn't paying attention to what they were saying... but at that moment... I did see an angel.

George opens a Dionne Warwick album and puts the needle on a song...

MUSIC BEGINS... "This Girl's In Love With You"...

*"...You see this girl,
This girl's in love with you
Yes I'm in love
Who looks at you the way I do..."*

SLOW MOTION: Nicky and Becky as their eyes meet... she smiles... he rises... walks toward her... she walks toward him... they meet in the middle of the dance floor... standing a foot apart...

BACK TO REAL TIME...

NICKY
Hi.

BECKY
Hi.

NICKY
Are you ok?

BECKY
Yeah.

NICKY
Your parents let you come?

BECKY
I wanted to. It's your going away party.

Nicky and Becky. Looking into each others eyes.

George sees the two of them standing apart. He shakes his head. Walks up to Nicky. Pretends to bump him accidentally... Pushing them into each others arms.

CLOSE ON: Nicky and Becky... Finally embracing... Slow Dancing...

BECKY (CONT'D)

I heard what you said at the infirmary.

NICKY

You did?

She leans her head against his shoulder.

BECKY

I love you too.

MUSIC SWELLS...

*"...Tell me now is it so
Don't let me be the last to know
My hands are shaking
Don't let my heart keep breaking 'cause*

*I need your love, I want your love
Say you're in love and you'll be my guy,
if not I'll just die..."*

109 INT. NICKY'S HOME - LATER THAT NIGHT

Nicky enters quietly. The Dining room light is on. The rest of the house is dark.

His Mom walks out sleepily in her nightgown.

MOM

Nicky?

NICKY

Sorry Mom. I didn't mean to wake you.

MOM

It's okay. Mom's don't sleep until her children come home.

He grins and takes a seat wearily at the dining table.

She looks at him knowingly and sits.

MOM (CONT'D)
So... how was it?

NICKY
Great.

MOM
Good send off?

NICKY
Yeah.

MOM
See Becky?

NICKY
Yeah. I just walked her home.

MOM
You know... everybody is pretty proud of what you did. How you went after her and all.

NICKY
That's not exactly how it happened Mom.

MOM
Oh?

He stares at the ground.

MOM (CONT'D)
Want to tell me?

He takes a long slow deep breath. Sighs.

NICKY
We were arguing.

MOM
Arguing?

NICKY
Well... I wasn't... but she was pretty mad at me... I was trying to calm her down... then she tripped and fell off the bridge.

MOM
I see...

Nicky stares at the table.

MOM (CONT'D)

I've never seen Becky upset. What did you do to make her so mad?

Awkward pause.

NICKY

She saw me kissing Cindy Anderson.

MOM

What?

NICKY

Yeah.

MOM

Well... that is a very good reason to be mad at you.

NICKY

I know... but I wasn't like... kissing Cindy... I don't even like her... it just happened so fast.

MOM

So... Cindy kissed you?

NICKY

Yeah. That's it. That's what I've been trying to say all this time.

MOM

Did you talk about this with Becky?

NICKY

Kinda... sort of... but it never came out really as clear... as you just said it.

(beat)

But I did say I loved her.

Mom tries to hide a smile.

MOM

You told her you loved her?

NICKY

Yeah.

MOM

And what did she say?

NICKY

She said she loved me too.

MOM

Oh... well... that's so sweet... I mean, that's great.

NICKY

Yeah. At least she's not mad at me anymore.

MOM

I'm glad son.

She rises, walks over and gives him a hug.

NICKY

Mom?

MOM

Uh-huh.

NICKY

Do we really have to leave tomorrow?

MOM

(sighs)

Afraid so Nicky... Afraid so.

There's a soft KNOCK at the door.

Nicky goes to open it. It is Becky.

BECKY

Hi.

Nicky turns to his Mom.

NICKY

We'll just be right out here on the patio.

MOM

(smiles and nods reassuringly)

Ok.

110 EXT. PATIO - NIGHT

They sit close together on top of the wooden picnic table.

The stars are out. A gentle sea breeze.

NICKY

Cold?

BECKY
No. I'm fine.

He puts his arm around her. Draws her close.

[VOICE OVER]
*We didn't talk much that night...
Just held each other. As if trying
to store up as much of that moment
as we could... Saving those
feelings so we would always have
them forever... And hoping the
morning would never come...*

111 EXT. HORIZON - DAWN

The faintest glow of morning peaks over the distant ocean horizon.

MUSIC STARTS... "Leaving On A Jet Plane" by Peter, Paul & Mary..

*"Oh, kiss me and smile for me
Tell me that you'll wait for me
Hold me like you'll never let me go*

*Cause I'm leaving on a jet plane
I don't know when I'll be back again
Oh, babe, I hate to go"*

112 EXT. PATIO - CONTINUING

Nicky holding Becky in his arms. She is teary.

BECKY
What time is your flight?

NICKY
10:15

BECKY
That's morning recess.

NICKY
You can't just leave school.

BECKY
I want to be there.

NICKY
But what if...

BECKY
...I want to.

NICKY
(nods)
Okay.

A light goes on in Becky's home.

BECKY
I better go.

NICKY
Okay.

She kisses him. Gets up slowly. And walks to her kitchen door. Glancing back to him as she enters.

113 EXT. NICKY'S HOME - BACKYARD PATIO - MORNING

Nicky staring at the beach and ocean. His Dad approaches, puts a hand on his shoulder.

NICKY
Hey Dad?

DAD
Yeah?

NICKY
Do we have time to stop by the
Windy Palace?

DAD
Windy Palace... Uh... yeah I guess
so... Why?

NICKY
Just for sec.

DAD
Ok.

114 EXT. WINDY PALACE

Nicky gets out of the jeep... walks out to gaze at the rows of wooden benches... the picture screen... the snack bar... the beach in the background...

Dad and Mom walk up.

DAD
Kinda special huh?

NICKY
Yeah.

MOM
Looking for something in
particular?

NICKY
Nope... just trying to put it in my
memory.

115 EXT. MAIN ROAD

As the jeep makes it's way back to the main terminal.

SENTIMENTAL SERIES OF SHOTS... As they drive past key
landmarks...

- Coast Guard station
- Coast Guard bridge
- Drifters Reef
- Bowling alley
- School playground
- The school
- Commissary
- Past the burnt fuselage of the crashed KC135
- The boat ramp
- Bird Island
- and finally... back to the Main Terminal

116 INT. 7TH GRADE CLASSROOM - DAY

TEACHER is leading the class through out loud, verbal
repetitions of Spanish phrases...

Becky is lost in thought... staring out the window...

117 INT. MAIN TERMINAL - DAY

Mom and Dad say goodbye to friends as Nicky stares out to the tarmac and the waiting KC135 plane.

He turns on his radio... *MUSIC STARTS*... sad melody from "Love Theme - Romeo & Juliet" by Henry Mancini...

118 INT. CLASSROOM - CONTINUING

Class deep in study.

Becky fidgets at her desk...

Looks at the clock... 9:56 A.M.

119 INT. MAIN TERMINAL

Nicky looks toward the snack bar where a group of soldiers talk loudly, laughing and carrying on.

In another corner of the terminal... other soldiers sit quietly, deep in their thoughts.

120 INT. CLASSROOM

Becky staring at the Clock as it reaches... 10:00 A.M.

RECESS BELL RINGS! Class rushes out to the playground.

Becky hurries to the door...

7TH GRADE TEACHER

Uh... Becky?

She stops in her tracks.

BECKY

Yes?

7TH GRADE TEACHER

Can I see you for a second?

121 INT. MAIN TERMINAL

Nicky looks up at a Clock... 10:13 A.M.

122 EXT. TARMAC - CONTINUING

People start to board the aircraft.

Nicky follows his Mom and Dad toward the waiting plane.

123 EXT. BEACH ROAD

Becky pedaling her bike as fast as she can.

124 EXT. AIRCRAFT

Nicky at the bottom of the aircraft ramp.

He stops, turns back toward the terminal... looking... she's not there... he puts his head down...

Follows his parents slowly up the stairway ramp.

But as he reaches the top... He HEARS...

BECKY (O.S.)

Nicky!

He turns again... and SEES...

Becky riding up to the gate on her bike. She stops, breathless... gets off her bike... waves...

He waves back.

For a moment... they just stand there... helpless that distance is already separating them...

CLOSE ON: Becky... crying

CLOSE ON: Nicky... tears streaming down his face

After a while, Mom steps out looking for Nicky...

She see's the two young lovers... recognizing the youthful anguish before her, tears well up in her eyes.

She puts a hand on her sons shoulder... gently brings him into the plane... waves goodbye to Becky...

...and enters the aircraft as the door is finally closed.

125 EXT. END OF RUNWAY

Becky... sobbing uncontrollably as she watches the KC135 aircraft take off and rise up into the sky...

126 INT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUING

CLOSE ON: Nicky... tears in his eyes... peering out of the aircraft door window.

127 EXT. AERIAL VIEW - WAKE ISLAND - DAY

As it drifts further away... getting smaller... clouds obscuring its view...

[VOICE OVER]

*For some, a wake is a funeral,
something that is sad and ends. For
others, it just means to get up and
begin...*

(beat)

*For me... the Wake of '69 was a
little of both... some things began
there, and some things ended...*

Wake Island slowly disappears from view amidst the clouds.

[VOICE OVER] (CONT'D)

*I never saw Becky after that... We
wrote for a while... but I guess
the 8th grade and the 1970's kind
of overwhelmed us both...*

MUSIC STARTS... "Traces" by the Classic IV...

[VOICE OVER] (CONT'D)

*I thought about her often... where
she was... what she was doing...
and while I can only visit her in
my memories now... she is never a
dream... for what we shared is as
real today as it was back then...
and when I close my eyes...*

(pause)

I can still see her...

MONTAGE: GRAINY 8MM FILM "FLASHBACK" of Becky... sentimental scenes... melancholy memories... the romance... the innocence...

[MUSIC plays over the flashback montage...]

*"Faded photographs
 Covered now with lines and creases
 Tickets torn in half
 Memories in bits and pieces
 Traces of love long ago
 That didn't work out right
 Traces of love*

*Ribbons from her hair
 Souvenirs of days together
 The ring she used to wear
 Pages from an old love letter
 Traces of love long ago
 That didn't work out right
 Traces of love
 With me tonight*

*I close my eyes
 And say a prayer
 That in her heart she'll find
 A trace of love still there
 ...Somewhere"*

CLOSE ON: Becky... taking the ribbon from her pony tail...
 lets her hair down... smiling into CAMERA...

FREEZE FRAME...

SLOW FADE OUT:

THE END

SOUNDTRACK

- Original Recordings from 1969 -

Angel of the Morning - Merrilee Rush
Aquarius - 5th Dimensions
Build Me Up Buttercup - Foundations
Crimson and Clover - Tommy James & the Shondells
Crystal Blue Persuasion - Tommy James & the Shondells
Dizzy - Tommy Roe
Everybody's Talkin - Harry Nilsson
Get Together - Youngbloods
Good Morning Starshine - Oliver
Holly Holy - Neil Diamond
Leaving On A Jet Plane - Peter, Paul & Mary
Love Can Make You Happy - Mercy
Love Theme From Romeo & Juliet - Henry Mancini
More Today Than Yesterday - Spiral Staircase
Someday We'll Be Together - Diana Ross & The Supremes
Sugar Sugar - Archies
Suspicious Minds - Elvis Presley
Sweet Caroline - Neil Diamond
The Boxer - Simon & Garfunkel
These Eyes - Guess Who
This Girl's In Love With You - Dionne Warwick
Time Of The Season - Zombies
Too Busy Thinkin About My Baby - Marvin Gaye
Traces - The Classic IV
Wedding Bell Blues - 5th Dimension
What Does It Take To Win Your Love - Jr. Walker & All Stars
Yester-Me, Yester-Tou - Stevie Wonder