

MYSTERY REBOOT

Written by

The Bitter Script Reader

INT. BASEMENT OFFICE - DAY

A FATHER (37) sits at his desk in his home office, scribbling away at work, then turns to start typing on his early-90s era PC.

NOTE: He's shot from angles that don't feature his face.

SON (O.C.)

Dad, want to play catch?

He's a pre-teen, perhaps eleven or twelve, and small for his age at that. Without looking up, the Father answers abruptly.

FATHER

I'll be right there.

EXT. HOUSE - SUNDOWN

An Instagram-worthy sundown paints the whole scene golden and romantic. There is beauty in the stillness, and also sadness.

The boy stands alone in the yard. Even without the fact he's unaccompanied, the slump of his shoulders would tell the story. Father never came.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

The Father's WIFE, clearly stressed, enters, dressed in her pajamas while the Father writes on a notepad.

WIFE

Do you have any idea how hard this is for a young boy?

FATHER

My father once told me "Don't ever get old." I wasn't sure whether he meant me, or him. I guess we both knew it didn't really matter. We didn't have a choice. Growing up is never easy.

WIFE

You need to stop obsessing over the past! Look how it's affecting your son.

She snatches the pad out of his hands, tosses it away. It flies out through the door into the hallway.

FATHER
Thirteen is a crazy age--

INT. THE HALLWAY - NIGHT

The son, listening from just outside the door.

Close on - the discarded pad.

FATHER (O.S.)
*You're too young to vote, and too
old not to be in love. You live in
a house someone else owns--*

The son picks up the pad.

FATHER (O.S.) (CONT'D)
*But your dreams are already
somewhere else.*

CLOSE ON - The pad. It's a design for a machine of some kind.
A contraption big enough to hold a person. And in the
corner... two words...

"Time Machine."

INT. BASEMENT OFFICE - NIGHT

It's late. Father pulls a sheet off of a mechanical device we
don't get a good look at. Maybe it's phone-booth sized, maybe
a refrigerator. We can't tell.

CLOSE ON - box of keepsakes. Trophies. School shirts.

And a yearbook - "Robert F. Kenn--"

ANGLE ON - the boy walking down the stairs. Light bursts from
the machine.

FATHER (V.O.)
I remember a place...

In a brilliant flash of power, his father vanishes.

SON
DAD!

The flash becomes effectively a FADE TO WHITE, which
dissolves to....

EXT. A SUBURBAN STREET, 1968 - DAY

Seen from behind, Father takes in the sight.

Anytown USA. Post-war. A simpler era.

FATHER

*...A town... A house... like a lot
of other houses...*

ON - a suburban home. Single-story. It probably looks familiar, but maybe that's because it's just the style at the time.

FATHER (CONT'D)

*...a yard like a lot of other
yards; on a street like a lot of
other streets...*

Children playing in the street, Junior high age. Across the street, an older teenager works on his car. His younger sister (12), in pigtails, nearby.

FATHER (CONT'D)

And the thing is...

IN THE STREET - among the group of kids, an older brother shoves his younger brother down.

FATHER (CONT'D)

...even after all these years..

180 DEGREE SPIN OF THE CAMERA, starting on Father's back as he watches. We take in the whole street. Yes, this really is the '60s.

FATHER (CONT'D)

...I still look back...

And as we come around, we see Father's face for the first time.

FATHER (CONT'D)

...With Wonder.

It's KEVIN ARNOLD, age 37. And this is a scene we might recognize from the Pilot of the Wonder Years.

EXT. COOPER HOUSE - DAY

Kevin faces BRIAN COOPER (18), the young man is the essence of cool.

*FATHER/KEVIN ARNOLD (V.O.)
I stopped Brian from going off to
Vietnam--*

EXT. WOODS - SUNDOWN

It's that moment from the pilot. Kevin and Winnie share their first kiss on a rock. Except... the moment dissolves into nothing...

INT. HOUSE - DAY

CLOSE ON Kevin.

*KEVIN ARNOLD
Since Brian didn't die, Winnie and
I never kissed and things are...
different.*

INT. HOME, ENTRYWAY - DAY

Kevin back in 1993, walks in the door.

*FEMALE VOICE (O.C.)
Oh good, you're back!*

Except it's not the wife we've seen earlier. This woman is...

*KEVIN ARNOLD
Madeline?!*

...the girl who chased Kevin when he was with Winnie. The girl Kevin dumped when she said, "I don't see what's so great about Winnie Cooper anyway."

An 16 year-old GIRL passes into the room.

*GIRL
Hi Dad.*

*KEVIN ARNOLD (V.O.)
Once upon a time, there was a girl
I knew who lived across the street.
Brown hair, brown eyes. When she
smiled, I smiled.*

EXT. STREET - DAY

Kevin approaches WINNIE COOPER (37). She looks better than ever, but in her eyes, we can see her searching to recognize the man standing before her.

WINNIE

Kevin? We lived across the street
from each other, right? Gosh, it's
been so long.

Kevin is crestfallen. He means nothing to this version of
Winnie.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Kevin runs, as if letting off steam. His face is agony.

KEVIN ARNOLD (V.O.)

*When she cried, I cried. Every
single thing that ever happened to
me that mattered, in some way had
to do with her.*

As he speaks we see flashes of their good times together.

A slow, dark ballad version of The Byrds's "Turn! Turn!
Turn!" plays...

- Kevin and Winnie skating.
- At a junior high dance.
- holding hands while walking home.
- Kissing outside the burger place.
- Saying "I love you" through Winnie's bedroom window after
she broke her leg in the car accident.
- kissing under a blanket in the barn, in the finale...

KEVIN ARNOLD (V.O.)

Until... it didn't happen.

EXT. THE WOODS - SUNDOWN

Kevin stands at the rocks where they kissed, remembering,
wistful.

KEVIN ARNOLD (V.O.)

*Winnie's life was so much happier.
Her parents were together. She had
her brother...*

INT. HOME OFFICE - NIGHT

Kevin sits at his desk, writing in a journal.

*KEVIN ARNOLD (V.O.)
But the life I had was gone.
Replaced.*

He looks up, deep in thought.

*KEVIN ARNOLD (V.O.)
And somehow... I needed to find a
way to hold on to it.*

Kevin's gaze finds someone off-screen...

*JACK ARNOLD (O.S.)
Kevin?*

Kevin's face. "No, it can't be!"

*KEVIN ARNOLD
Dad?*

SMASH TO BLACK