

FADE IN:

OVER BLACK

A calm teenage voice breaks the silence.

DAVID GRAHAM (O.S.)

(sarcastically)

My name is David Graham, I am 17 and a senior in high school. Most people think they know what their last year is supposed to be like. Truth is... none of us really do.

(exhales loudly)

I've been in school ever since I can remember, I really don't know what to expect... I'm just hoping to survive it.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! the door rattles.

MS. WHEELER (O.S.)

David! You up!

INT. DAVID'S BEDROOM - MORNING

The room is neat but modest. School books stacked neatly. DAVID GRAHAM (bi-racial, blind), sits upright in bed. A white cane rest beside him.

DAVID GRAHAM

(yawning)

Yeah, I'm up.

The door opens, MS. WHEELER (40's, thin, warm but worn) peeks in, wig slightly off-center, like she rushed.

MS. WHEELER

You need to get up, you're going to be late for school.

DAVID GRAHAM

Relax. I still have time.

MS. WHEELER

Your clothes are laid out on the dresser.

DAVID GRAHAM

Thanks.

She lingers for a moment and then shuts the door. SHUFFLING! BUMPING! sounds fill the room. The door opens back up.

MS. WHEELER

Need some help?

DAVID GRAHAM

Mom! I'm getting dressed can you give me a minute?

MS. WHEELER

Oh! Right, sorry. I'll be in the kitchen.

She closes the door, while making a subtle laugh. David stands up and stretches, before navigating the room with practiced familiarity.

DAVID GRAHAM (V.O.)
My mom worries about everything.
(softly)
And that worries me.

INT. WHEELER HOUSE - DINING ROOM - MORNING

Ms. Wheeler is excitedly holding a small camera as David enters.

MS. WHEELER
(into the camera)
This is my handsome son on his first day of school. He is a senior with a bright future ahead of him. He was so excited waking up this morning.

DAVID GRAHAM
Mom what are you doing?

She grows silent.

DAVID GRAHAM
Are you filming me?

MS. WHEELER
No? I mean yes, can you just say something nice for the camera.

DAVID GRAHAM
I literally, just woke up and don't feel like being recorded right now. I have a mass-com class for that.

MS. WHEELER
(into the camera)
He is just shy world.

DAVID GRAHAM
No I'm not, I just would like you to stop it, PLEASE!

MS. WHEELER
OKAY! OKAY!

She puts the camera down. David sits down at his usual spot and Ms. Wheeler places oatmeal with cut up fruit in front of him.

DAVID GRAHAM
(excited)
Is that, bacon and eggs I smell.

Ms. Wheeler puts her head down.

MS. WHEELER

There were only 3 slices of bacon
and 1 egg left, we both couldn't--

DAVID GRAHAM
We both? Mom this is MY! first day
of school and you decided to save
the good stuff for yourself?

MS. WHEELER
I didn't think you would mind, since
you--

DAVID GRAHAM
(shaking head)
Well you thought wrong, SHEESH!

She feels bad about breakfast then ponders a few seconds
for a solution.

MS. WHEELER
How about I cook your favorite
dinner tonight?

DAVID GRAHAM
Deal, but I would have wished you
asked me before you assumed.

David starts eating his oatmeal. While his mother watches
carefully. Moments pass and something seems off.

DAVID GRAHAM
Why are you staring at me?

MS. WHEELER
I'm not staring, Im just--

DAVID GRAHAM
You're definitely staring.

MS. WHEELER
(embarrassed)
How would you even know if--

DAVID GRAHAM
(smirking)
I may be blind, but i'm not
retarded.

The room falls silent.

MS. WHEELER
Im just proud of you.

David shrugs it off.

DAVID GRAHAM
Its just High school mom.

MS. WHEELER
It's your last year and the hurdles
it took for me to get you to this
point means a lot to me and should
to you as well.

The statement lands for the moment with David and he ponders.

DAVID GRAHAM (V.O.)

My mom says senior year is the start of the rest of my life. Personally, I think that's a lot of pressure for someone who just got snubbed over a plate of bacon and eggs for oatmeal.

INT. FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL - MASS MEDIA CLASS - DAY

David sits in front of the camera, waiting to deliver the school year's first morning announcements. These announcements are televised in every classroom of the school during the last 8 minutes of 1st period.

CAMERA MAN

We are on in 3,2,1...

David starts reading from his braille imprinted note cards slowly.

DAVID GRAHAM

Hello Franklin High, this is David Graham coming to you with this morning's announcements; as you know this is the first day of school, so if you need to make changes to your schedule make sure you do it by Friday. There will be physicals administered on Thursday for those of you who need them to play sports. We also have a new salad stand in the cafeteria for everyone to take advantage of. It is going to be hot for the next couple of days, so make sure you dress properly. That is all the announcements that I have for you right now, I hope everyone will have a wonderful first day and GO MUSTANGS!"

The Production team turns off David's mic and AIRS on the school years previous sports highlights

CAMERA MAN

... And we're done.

The production team then replays recordings from the captured moments from today's first day of school until the bell rings for class dismissal.

DAVID GRAHAM

Did my guide make it here yet?

YESSICA GONZALEZ, a short, energetic female sitting in the corner stands up.

YESSICA

Yes David I'm here.

DAVID GRAHAM

I'm glad that you made it.

BING! The bell rings to transition between classes and Yessica goes over to help David up to escort him.

INT. HISTORY CLASS - DAY

Yessica escorts David to his desk, while the other students fill the empty classroom seats rapidly.

YESSICA

OK David, I'll see you in an hour.

David nods. Yessica, hurries to get to her own class.

CLASSMATE

Hey David, how was your summer?

A classmate leans towards David.

DAVID GRAHAM

Great. Spent time with my grands,
did some charity work, and interned
with a non-profit.

CLASSMATE

I see Yessica came back to be your
guide.

DAVID GRAHAM

We've been friends for a long time.
Our schedules are almost the same
besides this period, 5th period, and
lunch.

CLASSMATE

I wish I could leave classes early.

DAVID GRAHAM

She isn't doing it to skip class
man, she helps me and its not
exactly easy.

CLASSMATE

No disrespect dude, I just wouldn't
be doing it if I wasn't benefitting
from it but Im proud for you.

DAVID GRAHAM

(sarcastic)

Yeah... I figured.

BING! Final bell has rung.

MR. BILLUPS, the teacher stands in front of the class.

MR. BILLUPS

Welcome back, I'm sure you had a
great summer, but it is now time to
get back to work.