

INT. EMPTY CLASSROOM - DAY

The camera focuses for a moment on an empty chair. JOEY SALAZAR (17, chubby, a little awkward, the kind of kid you'd pass in the hall without a second glance) takes a seat.

He's clearly reading from a cue card.

JOEY

Hello. I am Joseph Salazar, and this is my senior project for Mrs. Allen's second period Advanced Media Studies class. I have chosen to focus my project on the importance of student government and the role it plays at Little Valley. It is my belief that our student council is an in-inde-

Joey deflates.

JOEY

I can't read that.

BILLY (O.S.)

(hushed tone)

Indispensable.

JOEY

In-Indistensable.

BILLY (O.S.)

Indispensable.

JOEY

Billy, I don't even wanna do this. Can't we go with my idea? It's my proje-

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - LOCKERS - DAY

BILLY HOWARD (17, preppy, clean-cut, not a hair out of place) closes his locker and flashes a rehearsed smile at the camera. The perfect politician.

BILLY

When Joey came to me with this idea, I couldn't have been happier.

INT. HALLWAY - BULLETIN BOARD - DAY

Billy pins a poster to the board: "Student Council elections Friday! Do your part and vote!"

BILLY (V.O.)

My name is William Howard, I'm a senior here at Little Valley High School, and I am also a member of our student council.

EXT. BACK OF SCHOOL - DAY

Billy picks up discarded cigarette butts, placing them in a nearby trash receptacle.

The littering culprits, a GROUP OF SMOKING TEACHERS, look on with annoyance.

BILLY (V.O.)

I truly think that without our leadership, Little Valley would fall apart. It's my hope that through this project, others will begin to feel the same.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Billy, clipboard in hand, seeks signatures from passing STUDENTS. They ignore him.

BILLY (V.O.)

Y'know, I've always been interested in politics. In a way, I feel as though I was born for it.

BACK TO:

INT. HALLWAY - LOCKERS - DAY

Billy's talking head continued.

BILLY

I was literally named after William Howard Taft who, in my opinion, was one of the most successful presidents we've ever had.

He beams. A beat.

JOEY (O.S.)
He only served one term, right?

Billy's facade drops.

BILLY
Whenever you speak we have to start over-

JOEY (O.S.)
Alright, I'm sorry!

BILLY
No, because how many times do I have to-

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

Billy walks down the halls as he talks to the camera.

BILLY
Because this is my senior year, I'm finally able to run for student body president. I think this is a great opportunity, it's really not even about winning. It's about learning from the experience. And hey, isn't learning what life's all about?

He flashes that signature phony smile. Joey audibly sighs from behind the camera.

They come across a campaign poster for LIBBY FLETCHER (17, odd, quiet type). It looks like a second grader made it. In the center is a small, low quality photo of Libby awkwardly posed.

Billy gives it a condescending nod.

BILLY
As you can see, campaign season is already among us. This is Libby Fletcher who is the only other student running against me. So, uh...yeah. Isn't she adorable?

Joey PANS OVER to a DRUG DOG that is sniffing a SUSPICIOUS STUDENT's bag.

BILLY

Drugs have become a pretty hot topic this year. Over the summer we lost a student to an overdose. Luckily, he was a kind of a dick, so morale really hasn't faltered that much. But I do commend the administration for cracking down. This is really serious. I mean, what if next time it affects someone we actually like?

They come across a painted mural of rainbows and dancing children. Billy proudly stands next to it.

BILLY

Ooh Joey, get this. Last May some kid got hate crimed, so to rectify that I decided to come together with the art club and make this! I wanted to boost awareness of inclusivity at Little Valley. Students of all walks of life are welcome here.

Billy spots LIAM (17, well dressed, kind of camp) walk by. He waves him over.

BILLY

Liam, Liam, Liam!

Liam stops. He shoots the camera a confused glance.

BILLY

This is Liam Hurwitz, he is our resident thespian here at Little Valley. He also identifies as LGBTQIA and plus. Liam, tell us, how much more accepting everyone has been of your lifestyle choice since my mural?

LIAM

Um, I'm sorry. I'm-I'm not gay.

BILLY

...What?

LIAM

I'm not gay.

BILLY

What do you mean? When we did Hairspray you played the mom.

LIAM
So? You know I have a girlfriend.

BILLY
I thought you meant like... 'gurrri
friend.'

Liam furrows his brow. Billy glances to Joey, unsure of what to do.

LIAM
You know, we all thought you made
this because *you're* gay.

BILLY
Please. That's way off base.

LIAM
You don't have to get defensive
there's nothing wrong with that.

BILLY
What!? No! I mean- I- But- No- I
mean- Like-

As Billy stammers, Liam eyes one of the children on the mural. He's dancing extremely flamboyantly and looks a lot like Liam.

LIAM
Sorry, hold on. Is that supposed to
be me!?

Billy subtly motions for Joey to cut the camera.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

It's lunchtime. The cafeteria is buzzing with student activity. Billy stands at the center of it all.

BILLY
A huge part of my campaign has been
focusing on amplifying the voices
of our students. Everyone deserves
to be heard.

He holds up a suggestion box.

BILLY
So I proposed this! It's a place
where kids can voice their concerns
anonymously without any fear of
retaliation from staff.

(MORE)

BILLY (CONT'D)

We set it up during lunch hours,
and every few weeks we open this
bad boy up.

He reaches into the box's slit pulls out a folded up piece of
paper.

BILLY

Okay, let's see...
(reading, terrible
pronunciation)
Más recursos para estudiantes que
no hablan inglés.

SUBTITLED: More resources for students who don't speak
English.

A beat.

BILLY

Sometimes people put jokes in here.
We'll just disregard that.

He throws out the paper and digs his hands back into the box.

BILLY

Okay, I feel something...

Billy pulls out a folded up bag of Cool Ranch Doritos. He
unfolds it more and more, it's huge. He sighs, dejected.

BILLY

A bag of Doritos. Party Size.
Great.

JOEY (V.O.)

Cafeteria doesn't even sell those.
Did they just bring that from home-

BILLY

I don't know!

INT. MS. LUCIA'S CLASSROOM - DAY

MS. LUCIA (Early 20's, doe-eyed teacher, who has yet to lose
faith in the students...for now) delivers a talking head.

MS. LUCIA

Oh Joey, this is so cool! I love
this. Okay, so right into the
camera? Like this? Okay. Oh my
gosh, I feel like I'm on Survivor.
Hi!

(MORE)

MS. LUCIA (CONT'D)

My name is Ms. Lucia, this is my second year teaching at Little Valley High School, and my first year leading the student council! I'm beyond excited to take on this position. We have some really promising students this year.

INT. HALLWAY - LOCKERS - DAY

Billy leans against his locker, texting.

JOEY (O.S.)

What do you think of Ms. Lucia?

Billy snorts.

BILLY

(not looking up)

She had a huge booger in her nose first period and no one said-

Joey coughs. He looks up and notices the camera's on.

BILLY

You have to tell me when you're doing this. Just ask me again.

Billy puts his phone away and fixes himself up.

JOEY (O.S.)

What do you think of Ms. Lucia?

BILLY

Amazing question. When I think of her I think...integrity. A real leader...a mentor.

A beat.

BILLY

How was that? Believable?

INT. MS. LUCIA'S CLASSROOM - DAY

A student council meeting is underway. Ms. Lucia addresses the smattering of CLUB MEMBERS seated in front of her.

MS. LUCIA

Okay people, the polls open in T-minus four days! Are we feeling good? Excited?

A few stray claps. Billy gives a passionate applause.

MS. LUCIA

Before we get into election stuff,
I wanted to go over a few things
about the Fall Festival, I passed
out some papers-

There's a KNOCK in the doorway. It's CALVIN MCFADDEN (17,
effortlessly cool, Hollister model looks).

CALVIN

Hey, is this, uh, the student
council meeting?

MS. LUCIA

Mhm. Can I help you?

CALVIN

Um, I wanted to ask about the class
president thing? Like, I wanna sign
up.

MS. LUCIA

To..To run?

Calvin nods. Billy's face drops. He's fucked.

INT. HALLWAY - LOCKERS - DAY

Billy talking head.

BILLY

How do I describe Calvin McFadden?
Nonchalant, chill, y'know, Mr. Easy-
breezy. And that's all fine. But,
do I think those are traits of a
class president?

Billy shakes his head.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Billy, alone with his clipboard, glares at Calvin, who is
sitting at a table with the POPULAR KIDS. They're all
laughing, having a great time.

BILLY (V.O.)

I just don't think people gravitate
towards that.

INT. HALLWAY - LOCKERS - DAY

Back to talking head.

BILLY

To be blunt. He doesn't have what it takes to be a leader.

JOEY (O.S.)

I mean, to be fair, he is captain of the baseball team.

BILLY

Well, yeah.

JOEY (O.S.)

That's kind of a big deal. He even got the team on the news last year because he let that terminal kid play with them.

BILLY

Right, right, but I'm moreso talking about doing stuff that actually matters.

INT. MS. LUCIA'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Calvin fills out some forms with Ms. Lucia's help. The club meeting's over, but Billy still remains.

MS. LUCIA

I'm really impressed, Calvin. This'll be good for you.

CALVIN

Yeah, yeah, totally.

BILLY

Right, I guess I'm just a little concerned because deadlines to submit were last week. So...

MS. LUCIA

Well, I'm sure you and Libby could use the competition.

CALVIN

Yeah, I'm just trying to make a difference here, Billy. Aren't we all?

CUT TO:

EXT. BLEACHERS - DAY

Calvin's talking head.

CALVIN

I don't actually give a shit about the school. I just want the parking spot.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Calvin drives around, searching for a parking spot.

CALVIN (V.O.)

Parking at this place's a mess. Like, it takes dumb long to find a spot, and then you have to walk like forty fucking miles to the front of the building.

Calvin goes to park, but another car swoops in and steals his spot. He bangs his head on the steering wheel in frustration.

CALVIN (V.O.)

It sucks.

INT. HALLWAY - LOCKERS - DAY

Billy's talking head.

BILLY

The student body president gets a reserved spot in the staff parking lot. It's sort of like a thank you from the school.

EXT. STAFF PARKING LOT - DAY

Billy stands there, staring at the "RESERVED FOR STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT" sign. It's kind of creepy, like a man obsessed.

BILLY (V.O.)

I don't have my license yet, I keep failing the test. But once I master the three point turn-

INT. HALLWAY - LOCKERS - DAY

Back to Billy talking head.