

BLACK SCREEN

CUE IN: Carnival music

Title (in white flowery letters): THE BIG MOMENT

FADE IN

EXT. CARNIVAL - DUSK (FLASH - FORWARD)

It is late summer at your typical small town carnival. It sits just outside of town surrounded by trees.

There are lights flashing and CHILDREN running through CROWDS of the young and old alike.

The Ferris wheel is lit up brightly and as it spins, the passengers shriek with glee and nervous excitement.

Everyone is having a good time...well not *everyone*.

INT. FERRIS WHEEL CARRIAGE - CONTINUOUS

PAUL, 14, a chubby, awkward young man with dark hair is in very real distress. He sits in the carriage.

The person sitting next to him, A WOMAN in her fifties with graying brown hair is disheveled, oblivious and grinning like a child.

A LARGE GROAN rings out as the gears of the Ferris wheel shift into action and the ride begins.

WOMAN

Was that *supposed* to happen?!

PAUL

How should I know...

Paul rolls his eyes and then continues to watch the carriage a few rows ahead where CAROLINE (15) and JEREMY (17) sit.

His look of quiet desperation returns.

Paul shifts in his sit, and tries to ignore the Woman once more.

WOMAN

Goddamn, I nearly shit myself!
(cackling)

Paul continues to ignore her.

Caroline GIGGLES loudly.

Paul looks over the side of the carriage, and stares for several seconds. His eyes go dark and he becomes very still, a look of utter defeat on his face.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

We're up so hiiigh...

The Woman leans over the edge. Her movement triggers the carriage to sway unsteadily.

Paul snaps back to the present moment, as his body reacts to the swaying of the carriage before his mind can catch up. He grips the side of the carriage and clenches his jaw.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

Did I forget to tell you that I'm afraid of heights?

She grins and winks. Her cackle begins again, but much louder this time. Paul turns away with disgust.

Caroline giggles again, catching Paul's attention. Her long blonde hair shimmers in the glow of the carnival lights.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - DAY

SUPERIMPOSITION: A Week Earlier

Caroline walks along a residential street, her long blonde hair shines in the bright summer sun. She is quite pretty, and surrounded by an air of confidence.

Paul runs to catch up to her. He trips on a crack in the sidewalk and nearly falls.

CAROLINE

You all right there Paulie?

She puts up a hand to shield the sun, holding back a smirk.

Paul lets out a forced laugh to cover his embarrassment.

PAUL

Yeah, totally. I'm totally fine.

Paul breathes heavily as he tries to catch his breath.

PAUL (CONT'D)

So, hey. Hi. How's it going?
What, what have you been up to?

Caroline looks down at Paul with a hand on her hip. She's several inches taller than him.

CAROLINE

Fine. Busy with summer workouts.
Volleyball tryouts are coming up.
Gotta get ready.

Paul nods and tries to look cool.

PAUL

Oh, uh huh. True dat. You'll make
the team fo sho!

Caroline raises an eyebrow, turns and keeps walking.

CAROLINE

Um...thanks Paulie.

Paul power walks his way up to her pace and struggles to match her long strides.

Paul puffs out his chest and swings his arms.

He clears his throat and drops it an octave

PAUL

So, are you going to the
carnival?

Paul looks away, trying to seem uninterested. However, he peeks at Caroline in his peripheral vision.

CAROLINE

Duhhh. I'm meeting Lauren S. and
Ashley.

Caroline flips her hair.

PAUL

Maybe we could...I mean, do you
want to walk together?

Paul drops his manly facade and stares up into Caroline's eyes like a love sick puppy.