

Kung Holden

Revised
June 2

MOTHER (CONT'D)
(puts hand over the phone)
Luke, no -- dinner's in 20
minutes...

LUKE
But I'm hungry --

MOTHER
I know, sweetie... we'll eat soon.
Go find your brother... Here --
(hands him the walkie-
talkie)
Take this.
(back to phone)
Sorry... the six o'clock circus,
right on schedule.

We FOLLOW Luke into --

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Luke RACES through and is scooped up by his FATHER, seated on
the couch, eyes glued to a TELEVISION broadcast.

FATHER
Whoa, kiddo... Slow down.
(re: TV)
... You see this? There's gonna be
a meteor shower. Closest one to
earth we've had in a century.

But Luke couldn't care less. He wiggles out of his father's
grasp and rushes out. His father shrugs, watching him go.
Valiant effort. He takes a swig of beer as we CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Intricate constellations hang from the ceiling. Baseball
BOBBLE-HEADS watch out over the room like small, plastic
sentinels. An entire LEGO CITYSCAPE occupies a corner of the
bedroom. It's a quiet oasis from the chaos of downstairs. *
More CLUBHOUSE than bedroom, CRAMMED with boyish fascination *
and flashes of IMAGINATION. *

At his desk is HOLDEN MATTHEWS (13), screwdriver in hand,
adjusting some kind of CONTRAPTION. Like a small MOTOR. *

A yellow LABRADOR PUPPY sits patiently on the bed, lacking in
attention. He WHIMPERS, wanting to play.

HOLDEN
Hang in there, Ralphie. Almost
done...

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SC. 1

Start



[REDACTED]

Luke runs into the room, hands Holden the walkie-talkie like it's a telephone.

LUKE
Here. It's for you.

HOLDEN
(into Walkie-Talkie)
Falcon, this is Deathstalker. I'm on my way. Over.

He tosses the walkie-talkie on his bed, then goes back to work. He flips a SWITCH on the contraption and TINY GEARS come to life. Holden's face LIGHTS UP. It worked.

LUKE
What's that?

Holden SMILES. Can barely contain his excitement.

HOLDEN
Get the door.

Luke closes the door and the room grows dark. Holden slides a CHAIR over to his bed. He stacks up several HARRY POTTER HARDCOVERS, then carefully CLIMBS atop the pile. The books shift under his weight -- this whole operation is dangerous -- but this is a practiced routine. He REACHES up towards his ceiling and CONNECTS the MOTOR into the center of what looks like a giant MOBILE...

Holden looks down at Luke.

HOLDEN (CONT'D)
You ready?

Luke nods emphatically. Eyes WIDE.

Holden climbs down -- HITS his LIGHT SWITCH and SUDDENLY --

Our entire SOLAR SYSTEM COMES TO LIFE -- rotating against Holden's ceiling. Tiny LIGHTS illuminate all NINE PLANETS, spinning in orbit around a GLOWING model of the SUN.

And what's more impressive than the visuals themselves is the fact that Holden fucking BUILT this thing...

We HOLD ON LUKE AND HOLDEN. The light from the mobile dances across their captivated faces...

LUKE
I like the red one...

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[REDACTED]

HOLDEN
Me too. That's Mars. That's where
the martians live.

*
*
*

LUKE
Martians...?

*
*

HOLDEN
Yeah. You know. E.T. Phone Home.

*
*

Holden grabs a backpack from the bed, stuffing it with
BINOCULARS and the walkie-talkie --

*
*

LUKE
Can I go with you? To watch the
meteors?

*
*
*

HOLDEN
Not this time, Kemosabe. It's too
dangerous.

*

LUKE
... Then when?

Holden stops. Looks down at this little brother. Holden is
everything to Luke, and Holden KNOWS it. He doesn't want to
hurt him so he chooses his next words carefully.

HOLDEN
Next time. I promise. But for now
I have a very important job for
you. I need you to take good care
of Ralphie. Okay? Make sure he
eats all his dinner. Can you
handle that?

Luke NODS. Emboldened with a new sense of responsibility.
Holden holds up his right hand --

HOLDEN (CONT'D)
You swear?

LUKE
(raises his hand)
I swear.

Holden smiles, satisfied. He lifts his backpack onto his
shoulder and we SMASH TO:

*
/End

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HOLDEN
Going out to meet Kevin.

MOTHER
It's a school night, be back here
by ten thirty--

WHAM. The door CLOSES. The Mother shakes her head in
frustration. Turns to her husband, looking for support.

FATHER
... What?

EXT. HOLDEN'S HOUSE - DUSK

A MOTORBIKE RIDES out of the open garage and veers onto --

EXT. STREETS OF FORT SCOTT - DUSK

As Holden RIDES, we see VARIOUS SHOTS of this small town lit
by a spectacular mid-west SUNSET. Snapshots of an older
America. Churches, bait shops, rolling fields bifurcated
with idle railroad tracks. Jesus, it's like an Amblin movie.

EXT. WATER TOWER - NIGHT

Holden pulls his bike up to a security fence and parks it
beside a ten-speed. He starts to SCALE THE FENCE, using a
"NO TRESPASSING" sign for footing.

The Young Boy (KEVIN) shouts to him from above:

KEVIN (O.S.)
Hurry your ass up here -- I think I
saw something.

Holden drops to the other side of the fence and we SMASH TO:

ANGLE THROUGH BINOCULARS

RIBBONS OF LIGHT STREAK BY US as breathtaking speeds. A
spectacular METEOR SHOWER slicing through the night sky.

KA-CHSHHH -- a BEER CAN pops open spilling FOAM over the
edge. Kevin hands it to Holden for the binoculars. REVEAL
they're HIGH UP on --

THE RIM OF THE TOWER

Holden lets his feet dangle over the edge as he takes a sip.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
(re: binoculars)
Duuuuude, you weren't kidding.
(MORE)

FYI

FYI

Sc. 2

Start
→

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[REDACTED]

KEVIN (CONT'D)

These things are sick.

(then)

Can I borrow them?

HOLDEN

Just be careful. They're Vortex.
The kind the military uses.

KEVIN

Cool. Y'know, Todd's older
sister's lookin' real good since
she made the squad. Rumor is she
practices routines in a sports bra.

*

HOLDEN

Really? Christine?

(he smiles)

Cool.

*

*

*

*

KEVIN

You remember Todd's birthday? The
pool party? She wore that itsy
bitsy teenie weenie --

*

*

*

*

HOLDEN AND KEVIN

-- purple polka dot bikini.

*

*

Holden LAUGHS... and so does Kevin. They're CLOSE. Tom and
Huck. Kevin puts down the binoculars and cracks a BEER.

*

*

KEVIN

High school girls -- high school
women. It's gonna be awesome.

Holden looks down. Doesn't seem convinced.

*

HOLDEN

Yeah, maybe. Aren't they all the
same girls we knew in middle
school? Just... without braces?

*

*

*

KEVIN

You're just saying that 'cause
you're too afraid to talk to them.

*

*

HOLDEN

I'm not *afraid*.

(then; defensive)

Besides I've never seen you talk to
any girls. Like, ever.

*

KEVIN

Sure I have.

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[REDACTED] (dd/yyyy)

HOLDEN

Who?

Shit. Kevin's mind races to come up with an answer.

KEVIN

You don't know her. Julie. From summer camp.

(busted)

Whatever, it doesn't matter. What matters is we're teenagers now.

A whole world's open up to us.

(then)

A new frontier.

*

But Holden is lost in the endless blanket of stars -- the only frontier that interests him.

HOLDEN

Did you know there's over a hundred billion stars up there, and they're all different?

KEVIN

Yeah, so?

HOLDEN

So aren't you ever curious? What's beyond high school? Beyond this town? This planet...?

(then; wistful)

Just look up. We're all a part of something bigger. Like pieces in a giant jigsaw puzzle. Don't you ever wanna know what we're a picture of?

*
*
*
*

A beat as Kevin digests that. And then:

KEVIN

Not unless it's a picture of Todd's sister in that bikini...

*
*

Kevin bursts out LAUGHING -- but Holden isn't smiling. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

/End

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