

CREEPED OUT

"A Boy Called Red"

Written by

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SHOOTING SCRIPT

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1 **EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY 1 - (09:00)**

1

A thin and lonely back road. Deserted.

The sound of UNEVEN FOOTSTEPS - a distinct arrhythmic trudge.

A lone boy steps into frame, walking with a distinct gait...

NARRATOR (V.O.)

He had a name for his stories, he
called them 'happenings'.

The boy is THE CURIOUS. Mask on. The long road stretches away
behind him into the distance. Who knows how far he has
walked.

His satchel clanks at his side like a bag of treasure.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Him witnessing them wasn't
coincidence. He said he was *drawn*
to them before they began...

The sound of his footsteps and satchel is joined by the
distant sound of an approaching car. And soon we see it in
the background, coming closer.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

I asked why he never warned people
what was about to happen to them.

The sound of the car grows loud as it joins the same stretch
of road as The Curious, and we move to:

The car POV

Empty back road through the windscreen, until it pulls The
Curious into frame. He walks on the side of the road with his
back to us.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

He said there's no fun knowing how
things are going to end.

As we pass the Curious he turns to us, revealing his strange
mask. He watches us pass, as if we're the weird ones.

We JUST catch the sound of WHISTLING as we pass, before The
Curious is left behind, along with the sound - gone.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

But if you were to ever hear him
whistle, then run - because
something strange is about to
happen...

Back to: The Curious, walking along the road - now whistling
that distinct and eerie whistle of his.

JEAN
 (to Andrew)
 Andrew Jablonowski! I never thought
 I'd see my big brother back at
 Bundanoon!

As Vincent gets out of the car he sees Jean give his dad a big hug. Then Jean sees Vincent and squeals again.

JEAN (CONT'D)
 Look at you! Look at you look at
 you!

She grabs Vincent's face, beaming, and plants kisses all over his head. Vincent winces, ducking and smiling awkwardly.

JEAN (CONT'D)
 You got big, Vinnie!

ANDREW
 Vincent. He's too old for
 nicknames.

Jean puts an arm around Vincent and leads him towards the house.

JEAN
 (deep voice)
 'Too old for nicknames'. I bet your
 mum still calls you Vinnie.

Vincent smiles, nods. Behind them Andrew sighs wearily and starts unloading luggage from the boot of the car.

CUT TO:

4 INT. BUNDANOON - HALLWAY/LIVING ROOM - DAY 1 - (11:00) 4

Vincent approaches the living room and stops. Jean is talking with Andrew inside, the door slightly ajar. Vincent listens:

JEAN (O.S.)
 ...Can't get over what a handsome
 little gent he's grown into.

She glances at a picture on a side table of Vincent with his dad and mum, Sophie.

JEAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 He gets his height from his
 mother's side. Pure Sophie-

ANDREW (O.S.)
 (changing subject)
 I appreciate this. Putting us up.

JEAN (O.S.)
Don't be stupid-

ANDREW (O.S.)
Won't be forever.

JEAN (O.S.)
Does that mean you'll finally get
over yourself and call your wife?
Sort this nonsense out?

ANDREW (O.S.)
It means - I'll be finding my own
place. A new home.

Andrew's eyes are drawn to the window, and outside, far down
the garden.

Andrew's POV: an old ivy-covered STONE WELL.

He stares at it, almost hypnotised by the sight of it.

Jean notices, she touches his arm, snapping him out of it.
Andrew looks to her, then, coldly:

ANDREW (CONT'D)
I'm fine.

Andrew ends the conversation by heading for the door. Vincent
hides out of sight.

Andrew walks past, oblivious.

Vincent re-enters the living room. Jean's clearly unsettled.
She spots Vincent, plasters on a warm smile-

JEAN
You get a look round?

VINCENT
Uh-huh. It's...nice.

JEAN
Your dad and I grew up here you
know. It was such a weird place. He
couldn't wait to leave - took off
as soon as he was old enough - but
me, I would miss it too much.
(she looks off for a
moment, then)
Why don't you explore? I'll make us
lunch.

CUT TO:

5 **EXT. BUNDANOON - GARDEN - DAY 1 - (11:10)**

5

An EERIE WHIRRING SOUND, rising and falling like a haunting moan.

Vincent emerges from the back of the house into the garden, engrossed in a game on his tablet as he walks.

Eyes glued to his tablet, he doesn't see he's approaching the old ivy-covered stone well - the source of the disturbing wail. It's almost as if it's calling to him.

Vincent collides with the well and doubles over, hands splayed out. They land on old planks boarding its mouth. The creepy wail is wind whistling over the top, like the sound of blowing across the top of a bottle but more horrific, almost supernatural.

He stares down through a knot-hole, blackness below, hypnotised for a moment. The wailing sound HOWLS LOUD as a gust of wind picks up.

 ANDREW (O.S.)
 VINCENT!!

Andrew's voice is thunderous. Vincent spins to see his dad running towards him, a look of anger and urgency on his face.

 ANDREW (CONT'D)
 S-stay aw-way from the well!

Andrew grabs him and drags him back towards the house. He is beside himself, breathing heavily.

Jean is standing at the entrance to the house.

 ANDREW (CONT'D)
 (to Vincent)
 Go near it again and you're banned
 from the garden.

 JEAN
 Don't shout at him, I told him to
 go exploring.

This seems to sober Andrew up for a moment. He glances at Vincent a little guiltily. But he can't bring himself to apologise - instead he enters the house.

Vincent watches him go, mutters:

 VINCENT
 I hate him.

Aunty Jean fixes Vincent with a benign look.

JEAN

I haven't heard that stammer for a long time. Which means he's stressed. Don't be too hard on him.

She stares down the garden.

JEAN (CONT'D)

When your dad was younger, he had a best friend, a boy called Red.
(sadly)
Red disappeared down that well.

Vincent looks up at her with shock.

JEAN (CONT'D)

From then, everything just seemed to unravel for your dad.
(almost to herself)
It got really weird around here.

She looks lost for a moment. Vincent stares back at the old well with new understanding. A gust of wind picks up and it HOWLS, almost monster-like.

CUT TO:

6 INT. BUNDANOON - LIVING ROOM - DAY 1 - (11:30) 6

Vincent ambles, running a hand along the stair balustrade, bored. He opens a few cupboards. Closes them again.

He spots a series of markings on the wall, written in pencil. They chart his Dad's height growth, starting age two all the way up to 14.

Vincent measures himself against his Dad's height at 12. He's slightly taller. He walks away, proud.

He notices the stairs leading to the cellar...

CUT TO:

7 INT. BUNDANOON - CELLAR - DAY 1 - (11:40) 7

Vincent tentatively descends the steps. It's dark, dusty, like no-one's been down there in decades. He's a little freaked, but soldiers on.

The cellar is full of boxes, his Dad's old course books, Jean's cot, old paintings, Christmas decorations.

He turns to leave, but stops at...

...a dull white light, coming from behind an old wardrobe.

He frowns, moves to the empty wardrobe and shifts it to reveal:

The light spills from a FLOATING ORB.

VINCENT

Whoa...

Hypnotised by it, he feels a sense of ease, of comfort. Something seems to draw him closer to it, like it's destiny.

He waves a hand over it and below it - there is nothing holding it up.

Curiosity getting the better of him, he slowly reaches out to touch it, and:

Gets a static electric shock, snapping his hand back.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

OW!

CUT TO:

8 INT. BUNDANOON - CELLAR - 1985 - DAY 1 - (11:41) 8

Vincent turns from the orb and stops. He looks around, confused. He seems to be in the same cellar but different: different junk, different smell.

Then he hears distant cheering. The kind you hear at a sports match. It's a little girl's voice.

YOUNG JEAN (O.S.)

Stay awake, AJ! Stay awake! You're gonna pass your old record!

Vincent, confused, looks around, trying to get his bearings.

He turns to the cellar stairs leading up to a dim light.

CUT TO:

9 INT. BUNDANOON - HALLWAY/LIVING ROOM - 1985 - DAY 1 (11:41) 9

The door to the cellar swings slowly open and Vincent emerges, tiptoeing warily. The girl's cheers grow louder. And there's another voice - a boy's.

YOUNG JEAN (O.S.)

THERE! The top right, watch out for the-

AJ (O.S.)

I see it, I see it.

Vincent hears something else now too - electronic beeps and laser sounds.

But mostly he's distracted by the outdated wallpaper: flowery and loud. And the carpet: a thick cream shag-pile.

VINCENT

Hello?

No one hears him. Vincent continues on, past distinctly 1980s furniture, a snapshot of another time.

YOUNG JEAN (O.S.)

You just broke your personal best!
You're only thirty thousand away!

AJ (O.S.)

No more talking.

Vincent follows the voices to the living room, which is the money shot: full-on 1980s decor.

In it is the boy, AJ, 11, sitting on a bean bag, and YOUNG JEAN, 9, standing behind AJ. Their backs are to Vincent - they don't see him.

They face a giant dark-pine 'entertainment centre', which has a fat cathode TV in it, antenna on top, and also a VCR player, a massive stereo sound system, and video tapes lined up like books...

On the TV screen is an old-school Asteroids video game. It's wired up to a classic Atari games console, which sits on the coffee table, next to a magazine with Knight Rider on the cover.

AJ hammers an old-fashioned joystick, the girl eggs him on. AJ is bleary-eyed, playing the game zombie-like.

A woman's voice from upstairs. Their MOTHER:

MOTHER (O.S.)

Don't make me say it twice young lady!

YOUNG JEAN

(calling up)

Muum! AJ's getting close to hitting the highest score on Asteroids ever!

Vincent sees the score - it's in the ridiculous of millions.

MOTHER (O.S.)

Bath! Now!

Young Jean stamps her feet petulantly.

With it, AJ's last ship dies in a withering electronic explosion. He wilts, staring at the flashing GAME OVER in exhausted disbelief.

YOUNG JEAN

Sorry AJ.

(starts to move away)

Maybe now you can get some sleep.

She exits and marches upstairs. Vincent watches her go, and then blurts.

VINCENT

Who are you?

AJ leaps up, and spins around - YELPS.

AJ

...Who are YOU?

Vincent puts his hands up, apologetic.

VINCENT

Sorry, sorry, I must've got lost
and- I thought this was my
Aunty's...

Vincent catches sight of marks on the wall: it's the height marks for his dad he saw at home - as in, *exactly*, with the same cartoon doodles - except it only goes up to 11.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

...house.

He's rattled now - he looks around the room with new eyes: it's exactly the same space as the living room in Aunty Jean's house, only decorated differently. OLD FASHIONED.

The hairs on the back of Vincent's neck are going up.

AJ

Does this l-look like y-your
Aunty's house?

Vincent stares at the boy suddenly, recognising the stammer in an instant. The boy's features look familiar too-

Vincent's head starts spinning. He looks at the High Scores flashing on the TV. They all say 'AJ' next to them.

VINCENT

...What does AJ stand for?

AJ

Andrew Jablonowski. P-leased to
meet you!

He sticks out a hand but Vincent feels dizzy. He looks up the stairs, in the direction the Young Jean went.

VINCENT
Who's...that girl?

AJ
My s-sister? That's Jean. Ignore her.

Vincent spins out hearing the name 'Jean'. He backs up.

AJ (CONT'D)
Are y-you okay?

VINCENT
(woozy)
This *is* my Aunty's house...
(stunned)
This is Bundanoon.

AJ
(obviously)
Yeah?

Vincent backs into the coffee table. And that's when he claps eyes on the magazine cover with a thunderbolt. The date screams at him and us:

3 July, 1985.

Vincent takes off running - back down the hall, bouncing off the flowery walls, and flies down into the cellar.

CUT TO:

10 INT. BUNDANOON - CELLAR - 1985 - DAY 1 - (11:50) 10

...Vincent flies back down the stairs and looks around - the orb isn't where it was. Then:

He sees the dull light - and turns to see it has moved.

He walks up to it holding out his hand.

VINCENT
Take me back!

And ZAP! Static electricity again.

CUT TO:

11 INT. BUNDANOON - CELLAR - PRESENT - DAY 1 - (11:50) 11

But when he looks around - he's back - the basement is as it was in the present.

Rubbing his head, he turns to look back at the orb, freaked.

CUT TO:

12 INT. BUNDANOON - KITCHEN - PRESENT - DAY 2 - (09:00) 12

Vincent, Aunty Jean and Andrew are seated round a circular table, breakfast spread out before them.

Vincent STARES long and hard at his Dad. Like he never has before.

ANDREW
(testily)
What?

Vincent snaps out of it. Shakes his head, 'nothing'. Vincent's eyes are puffy and red. Aunty Jean brushes a hand over his forehead.

AUNTY JEAN
You okay sweetie?

VINCENT
I didn't sleep so well. Um, Aunty Jean, you ever notice anything weird about the cellar?

AUNTY JEAN
Ooh, I don't like to go down there. Why?

VINCENT
No reason.

Silence. Andrew gets up to wash up. To Vincent-

ANDREW
Make yourself useful today. Put your stuff away. No more games.

He scoops up Vincent's tablet. Vincent looks incensed.

ANDREW (CONT'D)
Try getting some fresh air too. I don't understand you kids. When I was your age we were always outside.

CUT TO:

13 INT. BUNDANOON - CELLAR - PRESENT - DAY 2 - (09:30) 13

Vincent enters the cellar, apprehensive but curiosity getting the better of him.

He rounds the wardrobe, then stops:

No orb. Vincent frowns, looks around. He shakes his head. Was it a dream? It all felt so real.

VINCENT

Where'd it-

And then he catches a reflection of light in the wardrobe mirror. He turns to see the orb - moved, by a different wall, higher up.

Odd. Is this thing alive?

Vincent climbs up to it, pauses, then apprehensively holds his hand out to it.

ZAP!

CUT TO:

14 INT. BUNDANOON - HALLWAY/LIVING ROOM - 1985 - DAY 2(09:40) 14

Vincent follows the familiar sound of Asteroids to the living room to reveal: AJ, joystick in hand, eyes glued to the TV.

Vincent steps to the door to the garden, opens it and stands in the threshold to make it look like he's just arrived from outside. He knocks.

AJ half turns, keeping his eyes on the screen.

AJ

Oh hey. You're baaaaaaaahhhh!

He rolls over on his side, leg jutting out, comically falling on his face - never stops playing though.

AJ (CONT'D)

CRAMP! I got a cramp!
Eeeoowwarr...

He grabs his leg, writhing and contorting like he's being electrocuted. But he's more concerned about the game - on screen his ship explodes and he loses a life.

AJ (CONT'D)

Grab the joystick!

VINCENT

Joystick?
(realising)
Oh, the controller.

Vincent scoops it up, frowns at it - it has only a stick poking out and ONE button.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

One button?

AJ

How many do you need? FIRE!

Vincent starts manoeuvring the ship and firing, while AJ comically limps and hops back and forth behind him, trying to walk off the cramp.

AJ (CONT'D)

That's it that's it that's it! Hey, you're pretty good. You play Asteroids?

VINCENT

Nope. First time.

AJ looks taken aback. He settles down to watch, grabbing an 80s chewing gum called HUBBA BUBBA and throwing one in his mouth. He blows bubbles throughout the remainder of the scene.

Vincent glances at the score - around 36 million.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

How long you been playing this?

AJ

Since ten last night. Had to wait for my parents to finish watching Dallas.

Vincent explodes an asteroid and narrowly misses dying.

VINCENT

What's the record score for this?

AJ

41,336,440. Kid stayed awake for two nights to get it. Almost killed him.

Vincent turns from the telly, shocked. Behind him, his ship explodes on screen. GAME OVER flashes up.

VINCENT

Oh man! Sorry.

Vincent's expecting a testy outburst from his young dad. But AJ shrugs.

AJ

No probs. G-got my whole life to beat it.

There's a classic what-now pause between the two boys.

VINCENT

So... you wanna go outside?

AJ

(screws up his face)

Outside? *Why?*

(then)

Come on, I'll show y-you my Star Wars collection.

Vincent watches him go with a smirk.

CUT TO:

15 INT. BUNDANOON - AJ'S BEDROOM - 1985 - DAY 2 - (10:00) 15

One VERY 80s bedroom. If you're a person of a certain age watching this you will practically tear up.

80s posters on the walls. One or two bands and cars, including that 4x4 from *Back To The Future*.

There's a small portable TV in the corner. It plays *Inspector Gadget* silently.

Vincent is trying to open a cassette tape cover and failing. AJ walks up and takes it from him, opening it easily.

Smurf figures line a shelf. Vincent picks them up one by one as AJ inserts the tape into a cassette player and presses play on soft-rock. Vincent must be looking at Star Wars figures (unseen).

VINCENT

You like Star Wars too?

AJ

D-doesn't everyone?

Away from Atari, AJ's stutter is more pronounced. He plonks on his bed and scoffs another Hubba Bubba.

AJ (CONT'D)

Who's your f-favourite character? M-mine's Han Solo.

VINCENT

Yeah, wait til you see what happens to him in the latest one.

AJ

Latest what?

Vincent realises where he is.

VINCENT

SO. Asteroids. I didn't know you played games.

(off AJ's look, huh?)

I mean- You seem pretty good at it.

AJ

I'm gonna b-break the world record if it k-kills me.

VINCENT

Why's it so important?

AJ shrugs, accidentally honest.

AJ

I don't stammer when I play it.

They exchange a look. Vincent smiles.

VINCENT

I should get back. My dad'll be going nuts.

AJ

You just got here. Y-your dad sounds lame.

Vincent pauses, doesn't answer. He watches AJ blow a big bubble, eyes the packet of HUBBA BUBBA, trying to work this version of his dad out. AJ sees him staring at it.

AJ (CONT'D)

You want one? Take it.

(hands him the packet)

I got loads. I'm obsessed with these things.

Vincent holds up the packet, looks at it, ponders.

CUT TO:

16 INT. BUNDANOON - LIVING ROOM - PRESENT - DAY 2 - (12:00) 16

Vincent enters and stops in the doorway:

Andrew is perched on a chair in the exact spot his young self played video games. He has his phone in his hand, staring at it. He is crying.

Vincent watches: Andrew stares at a contact on screen that shows Vincent's mum, which we recognise from the picture on the fridge. The contact is not yet dialled. A long moment, then he shakes his head. Puts the phone away.

Vincent pauses, debates with himself, then enters.

VINCENT

Um. Dad?

Andrew hides his face, wipes tears.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

Just wondering - if you want some gum?

Silence. Vincent pulls the gum out of his pocket.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

Dad?

ANDREW

No. I don't.

VINCENT

You - sure? It's great.

ANDREW

(losing it, snaps)
How many times, Vincent? No gum, okay-

Andrew sees the gum, is struck by it.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Where'd you get that?

VINCENT

Corner shop. Limited re-release apparently.

He presents the gum to Andrew. In Andrew we see a powerful emotional reaction. His face brightens.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

Go on.

This time there's no resistance. Andrew slowly takes a piece, transfixed, then chews. Memories explode in his head.

Vincent chews too. They look at each other. Andrew slowly starts to smile. Vincent smiles back.

ANDREW

Haven't had these since I was a kid. Drove my mum crazy, sticking gum all over the house.

With that, Vincent attempts the biggest bubble he can. He blows until POP! The gum bursts.

Then, to Vincent's surprise, Andrew does the same... blowing a bubble to rival Vincent's effort.

CUT TO:

17 INT. BUNDANOON - CELLAR - PRESENT - DAY 2 - 12:05 17

In the cellar, we see the orb's border suddenly contract, jerk, and then, strangely, it appears to shrink slightly.

BACK TO:

18 INT. BUNDANOON - LIVING ROOM - PRESENT - DAY 2 - (12:06) 18

Vincent and Andrew where we left them - blowing a huge bubble.

As it bursts, they both smile. Andrew is a kid again for the briefest of seconds. Until-

JEAN

Would you look at you.

Jean is standing in the doorway, looking at Andrew, amused. It's enough to embarrass Andrew back to his old self.

ANDREW

I need to get on.

He takes the gum out of his mouth, gets up and walks out.

JEAN

You know, for a minute I could've sworn I saw your Dad smile.

(Vincent ponders)

Nice work...

CUT TO:

19 INT. BUNDANOON - LIVING ROOM - 1985 - DAY 3 - (14:00) 19

Vincent and AJ are in front of the Atari, laughing. Vincent has his hoodie pulled up. Both are zombie-like, having been playing for hours. Fatigue is making everything extra funny.

VINCENT

I'm seeing double!

AJ

Does that mean we have double the points?

They crack up laughing again. Vincent in particular is bleary-eyed. And when he's tired his eyes are red rings.

VINCENT

You're going to have to take over soon. My hands are turning into claws.

AJ

And look at your eyes. You look
like the Emperor.

He cracks up at his own joke as Vincent passes him the joystick, doing an Emperor impression, claws out.

VINCENT AS THE EMPEROR

*Your feeble skills are no match for
the POWER of the dark side...*

They both laugh. Vincent moves to AJ's parents' cheesy 80s bar in the corner.

VINCENT

Mind if I get a drink?

AJ

Go for it, Red.

Vincent is snapping the ring on an 80s can of soda. His smile fades.

VINCENT

What did you just call me?

AJ

That's your name from now on. Red.
For your
(Emperor voice)
Emperor's eyes...

Vincent's mind starts to race, then he sees something out the window. The sight of it makes him drop the can and it sprays on the shag-pile rug.

He's staring at the well in the garden. In 1985 it ISN'T boarded up.

It gapes at Vincent like a MOUTH TO HELL. The wind makes it **HOWL WILDLY** - destiny is calling to him.

CUT TO:

20

INT. BUNDANOON - CELLAR - PRESENT - DAY 3 - (14:05)

20

ZAP! The orb, in a slightly different position.

Vincent yanks his hand back from it, crashing to the ground, panicked.

Above him the orb's border contracts again, shrinks again.

Vincent moves to the wardrobe mirror. He stares into it. Takes a deep, deep breath-

VINCENT
I can't be him. I *can't* be...

CUT TO:

21 INT. BUNDANOON - KITCHEN - DAY 3 - (14:20) 21

Vincent nervously interrogates Jean while she cooks.

JEAN
I'd rather not talk about Red
Vinnie, it upsets your dad.

VINCENT
Please-
(determined)
I have to know. How did it happen?

Jean sees something in his eyes, a beat. Then Jean shrugs.

JEAN
Honestly, I don't know. I
remember...
(sad smile)
I was going for a world record
too...

As she talks, her dialogue overlays a brief flashback:

22 INT. BUNDANOON - 1985 22

Young Jean, in a loud 80s bubble-skirt, inside the house with a Walkman on, skipping rope flipping over her head.

JEAN (V.O.)
Hundred skips in a minute.

Young Jean spots Red and AJ outside in the garden, near the well, glances away.

JEAN (V.O.)
And then I heard your dad. He just
started shouting-

A SCREAM makes Young Jean freeze, she spins her head back to the garden, to see:

AJ at the well, staring down, screaming.

Young Jean rushes to the back door, scared. As she looks out, she notices light near AJ-

Back to the present:

23 INT. BUNDANOON - KITCHEN - PRESENT - DAY 3 (14:23) 23

JEAN has snapped out of her memory and turns back to face VINCENT.

JEAN
I just remember this... weird sort
of light... And then it was gone.

Jean looks off for a moment - that lost look Vincent's seen before.

JEAN (CONT'D)
My dad used to say that when you
lose something special, the pain
and shock can be so great that it
can ball up, and follow you around
until you deal with it. Or let it
go...

She shakes her head.

JEAN (CONT'D)
That's what I always imagined was
the light I saw that day. Your
dad's sense of loss. Bigger than
anyone can imagine.

Vincent takes this in, before:

VINCENT
Dad never told you what happened?

Jean frowns, shakes her head, hurt.

JEAN
I asked your dad. But - he never
wanted to talk about it.

Vincent looks scared.

JEAN (CONT'D)
The only time I saw him react was
when he smashed up his games
console.
(sighs)
It was like a piece of him had
broken, and it never got fixed.

Vincent reels, trying to process what he's hearing.

CUT TO:

24 INT. BUNDANOON - AJ'S BEDROOM - 1985 - DAY 3 (15:00) 24

Vincent stares out the window down at the open well from the safety of AJ's upstairs bedroom. It's wind-induced moan seems to call to him.

Behind him, AJ is setting up an Evel Knievel toy and a giant ramp. At the foot of the ramp is a row of Matchbox buses.

AJ

Red.

Vincent jumps.

AJ (CONT'D)

I s-said is your dad g-going to let you sleep-over?

Vincent scoffs.

VINCENT

No way.

AJ

It's the only w-way we're going to beat this r-record. What's his p-problem?

VINCENT

He's kinda stubborn. Like you.

AJ

I like him already.

VINCENT

You know that's nothing to be proud of.

AJ

N-never been a problem so f-far.

VINCENT

(getting worked up)
Maybe if you actually talked for once... then things wouldn't seem so bad.

(voice cracking)

Maybe your wife wouldn't leave.
Your family would stay together.

AJ stares back at him. Beat. Vincent clears his throat.

AJ

What are you t-talking about? WIFE?
I'm never getting married.

Vincent stares down at him, sighs. AJ has finished setting the Evel Knievel jump up.

AJ (CONT'D)
Are you g-gonna help me jump this
th-thing or what?

Vincent gets on the floor with him, grabs the toy's wind-up wheel.

AJ (CONT'D)
On your m-marks, g-get set, go!

Vincent winds and the toy Evel shoots along a track, flies up the ramp, and sails out the window.

Both boys jump up to the window and look down - it's in the garden. Within metres of the well.

AJ (CONT'D)
You go g-get it. I'll set this up
again.

VINCENT
NO!
(gathers himself)
You set up last time. I'll do it.

AJ gives him an amused look, but he heads for the door.

He stops in the doorway with a thought.

AJ
What does he love to do?

VINCENT
Huh?

AJ
Your d-dad. Maybe if you both do
something that he l-likes doing,
he'll relax a bit, and you can get
through to him?
(grins)
And then you c-can sleep over!

Vincent lifts his eyebrows - that's not bad advice. AJ disappears out the door.

CUT TO:

25 INT. BUNDANOON - CELLAR - PRESENT - DAY 3 - (17:00) 25

Vincent walks straight past the orb.

Instead he searches the cellar, opening every box, looking in every drawer. But to no avail.

Finally, Vincent spies a dusty old box resting on top of the wardrobe.

He pulls the box down. The child-like handwriting on it reads: AJ'S STUFF. TOUCH UNDER PENALTY OF DEATH.

Vincent smiles, then he opens the box and gasps. Yes! Exactly what he was searching for.

VINCENT

Yes.

Carefully, Vincent pulls out his Dad's dusty old ATARI CONSOLE. It's broken - with a great crack down it...but it's fixable.

CUT TO:

26

INT. BUNDANOON - KITCHEN - PRESENT - DAY 3 - (17:20)

26

Andrew has his head in one hand, furrowed brow, working through paperwork at the kitchen table, pensive.

Vincent appears in the doorway behind him, holding a box.

ANDREW

(without looking up)

Not right now, Vinnie.

(corrects)

Vincent.

VINCENT

Look what I found.

Vincent, bolder now, slides the box on table, messing the paperwork. Andrew's face is pinched as he straightens it.

ANDREW

What did I just say...

He trails off as Vincent pulls out the Atari console, setting it down. Its crack has been carefully taped back together. Andrew softens at the sight of it. He can't help it.

He runs a hand over it, lost for a moment. Vincent holds up the Asteroids cartridge.

VINCENT

Aunty Jean said you never beat the world record. I thought maybe we could do it together.

ANDREW

This is broken-

VINCENT

It was. I fixed it.

Andrew stares at the cartridge.

CUT TO:

27 INT. BUNDANOON - LIVING ROOM - PRESENT - DAY 3 - 17:21 27

The Atari is wired up to the flat screen TV. Andrew stands, still reluctant. Vincent holds out the joystick.

ANDREW

Vincent. It'd take hours to beat this record. Days.

VINCENT

That's what you're doing here isn't it? To take time? That's what mum said?

(holds out joystick)

So take it.

With a sigh, Andrew takes the joystick. He taps mindlessly at first, then, as it goes on, his interest grows.

He leans forward slightly, getting drawn in. Then sits down.

Vincent watches him, a sly smile.

CUT TO:

28 INT. BUNDANOON - LIVING ROOM - PRESENT - DAY 4 - (06:00) 28

Early hours of the morning. The curtains are still drawn.

The sounds of beeping and blapping continue.

Vincent and Andrew still on the sofa. Vincent drifts off, but Andrew's very much awake, tapping furiously on the joystick, now totally in the zone.

ANDREW

Oh wow...

(excited)

Oh boy... Vincent... Vinnie!

VINCENT

(waking)

Huh? Whu?

ANDREW

Look at the score. Look!

VINCENT

(squints)

Forty-one million, three hundred and thirty-six thousand, three...

ANDREW
 (overlapping)
 ...hundred and fifty. Yeah!

Vincent leaps up, excited.

VINCENT
 Only ninety-one to go! Okay, just
 keep calm, steady.

ANDREW
 I never got past this bit. I was
 always stuck-

VINCENT
 Then we'll get through it...
 together.

A quick look to each other. Then Andrew nods. Determined.
 Confident. He returns to the screen.

He taps away, tongue sticking out.

VINCENT (CONT'D)
 Steady...

More taps.

VINCENT (CONT'D)
 That's it.

Frantic tapping...

VINCENT (CONT'D)
 Oh wow, oh wow, oh wow....

A final tap. Andrew stops, winces. Vincent pauses.

The computer game makes a weird noise. We don't know if
 that's good or bad.

They slowly look at each other...

Then, they both explode with excitement.

VINCENT (CONT'D)	ANDREW
FORTY-TWO MILLION!!!	FORTY-TWO MILLION!!!

Andrew sweeps Vincent up and spins him around.

VINCENT
 WE DID IT!

When Andrew puts him down, Vincent watches as his Dad does a
 victory dance, pure joy in his face.

Vincent's never seen him like this before.

CUT TO:

29 INT. BUNDANOON - CELLAR - PRESENT - DAY 4 - (12:00) 29

Vincent, full of beans, skips down into the cellar to go to the orb.

He stops and looks up at where he last saw it near the cellar window - it's not there.

CUT TO:

30 EXT. BUNDANOON - GARDEN - PRESENT - DAY 4 - (12:02) 30

Vincent walks up to the outside of the cellar window - sees the orb a metre or so away in the garden.

He walks up to it - it's tiny now. He looks it over, unsure.

He shrugs, reaches a hand out to it. ZAP!

CUT TO:

31 EXT. BUNDANOON - GARDEN - 1985 - DAY 4 - (12:03) 31

Vincent goes to jerk his hand back but it's not as bad this time.

VINCENT
It's getting weaker.

The orb shudders and shrinks even more. Vincent sags as reality hits:

VINCENT (CONT'D)
(solemnly)
It's running out...

CUT TO:

32 EXT. BUNDANOON - GARDEN - 1985 - DAY 4 - (12:04) 32

Vincent approaches the back door, which is open. Inside we see Young Jean in that distinctive bubble skirt we saw in Auntie Jean's memory. She sees Vincent and calls out

YOUNG JEAN
AJ! Red's here!

AJ appears in the doorway, stopping Vincent seeing:

Jean put her Walkman headphones on, and scooping up her skipping rope - she now looks just as we saw her in Aunty Jean's memory.

AJ

Red! What you d-doing here?

VINCENT

I - came to say thanks. What you said about my Dad, it totally worked. Haven't seen him that happy since, forever.

AJ

I told you I was a legend. C-come on in. Mum j-just made Butterscotch Angel delight!

He heads back inside. Vincent is about to enter too when he stops at the sight of the orb:

It's NOT THERE.

Vincent looks around, eyes scanning. Then he sees a light from INSIDE THE WELL and knows instantly where it is:

THE ORB IS NOW IN THE WELL.

Vincent feels sick.

VINCENT

No...

Vincent approaches the well slowly. Up close and uncovered, the open-mouthed well howls like some other-worldly animal - the loudest and creepiest we've heard it so far.

Vincent puts a hand on the stone edge, leans over, peering down - the well spirals into inky blackness. Several feet down is the orb - out of reach.

Vincent's mind is spinning - THIS is how it happens. You can't escape destiny!

He loses it, kicks the dirt, snaps off a tree branch. Furious.

Then he stops, out of breath, gathers himself. He needs to do something. He stares down the well. The orb inside shudders and shrinks again. Vincent knows he's got no choice. He's got mere moments.

He looks back to the house - any moment now AJ is going to come out of there and witness him disappearing down the well.

Vincent looks back in the well.

INSERT FLASHBACK: Jean, speaking to Vincent in the kitchen after Andrew had warned him away from the well:

JEAN

From then, everything just seemed
to unravel for your dad.

Back to: Vincent, looking back to the house. Behind him the well GROWLS AND HOWLS as wind kicks up. Vincent jumps and spins - inside, the orb shudders and shrinks again.

VINCENT

(to himself)
...But... I can't stay... I
can't...

Behind him, AJ emerges of the house, frowning. Behind him in the house is Young Jean on her skipping rope. This footage now matches Aunty Jean's memory. This is it. This is the moment.

Vincent's DESTINY has arrived.

AJ

Red? You coming or what?

Vincent pauses at AJ's voice. It seems to make his decision for him.

He steps back from the well.

Staring down it, he watches as the orb shudders, shrinks suddenly, then withers and blinks out. GONE.

Vincent is stuck. Forever.

He turns round, breathes heavy, the full magnitude of what he's done sinking in.

VINCENT

I'll never see home again.

His sense of loss is profound.

AJ

Red?

AJ beckons him into the house. Then sees Vincent's face.

AJ (CONT'D)

Oh, is your dad gonna be mad?

Vincent looks up at AJ - his words bringing Vincent close to tears. As this happens, he doesn't see behind him in the flower bed:

A sparkle of light appears...

A new orb starts to grow behind him.

Vincent doesn't see it, he walks towards the house in a state of shock.

AJ (CONT'D)
If it helps - mum said you can
sleep over!

He grins. It comforts Vincent, and he lets out a breath. As he does:

The new orb shudders and shrinks again, threatening to disappear.

AJ moves inside and Vincent begins to follow. Then:

He sees something reflected in the back window. A light...behind him...

He turns to see the new orb.

His jaw hangs open.

INSERT: Jean, talking to Vincent...

JEAN
*My dad used to say that when you
lose something special, the pain
and shock can be so great that it
can ball up, and follow you around
until you deal with it, or let it
go...*

Back to:

Vincent, as it sinks in. He grins.

AJ (O.S.)
Red. You stayin or you going?

Vincent turns back.

VINCENT
AJ?
(beat, then genuine)
You're the best friend I ever had.

Vincent pulls AJ in for a heartfelt hug. AJ frowns.

AJ
...Er, okay. Weirdo.

VINCENT
I need to go.

AJ
Cool, Red. Smell you later.

AJ smiles, totally unaware he's just said goodbye for twenty years, then heads off. Vincent watches him go with a heavy heart.

VINCENT
(sadly, to himself)
Much later...

A sad beat, then he turns back to approach the orb...

CUT TO:

33 EXT. GARDEN - PRESENT - DAY 4 - (12:07)

33

Present day. ZAP.

We see the new orb in the flower bed, where we saw it in the past. And Vincent standing next to it, shaking the static electricity out of his hand.

He looks about him with supreme relief: The sun shining, the birds tweeting. The well in the present covered up.

He smiles, and as he does:

The orb shudders and withers and blinks out. Gone.

Vincent smiles to himself and turns around-

To see Aunty Jean, standing frozen in the garden, staring at him, speechless. She's just witnessed him returning.

They stare at each other for a long moment. Then:

AUNTY JEAN
I knew there was something weird
about this place.

Aunty Jean is smiling, a look of wonder on her face.

CUT TO:

34 INT. BUNDANOON - LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - PRESENT - DAY 4 - 34
(12:09)

Vincent enters from the garden with Aunty Jean, who shakes her head in awe, having been filled in by Vincent.

AUNTY JEAN
...So that's what my dad meant.
Every boy in the family must have
it.

...they hear clattering in the kitchen - food being prepared.

Vincent follows the sound to the kitchen, gently pushes the door open, to reveal:

A Sunday dinner spread out on the table.

Vincent rounds the corner to reveal Andrew in a 'Kiss the chef' apron, carrying a roast to the table.

Vincent watches askance as Andrew sets it down.

VINCENT
Dad... You can cook?

ANDREW
What're you talking about? I always
make roast on a Sunday, Vinnie.

Vincent sees there's an extra place set at the table.

VINCENT
Who's the extra place for...

He trails off as:

SOPHIE enters, the woman from the picture and Andrew's phone and the pictures in the living room - Vincent's mum.

VINCENT (CONT'D)
Mum...

She kisses his head and takes her seat opposite Andrew, smiling warmly at him.

Vincent looks between his parents, then at Jean, who winks.

CUT TO BLACK.

35 **EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY 4 - (16:10)**

35

The Curious stands on a section of the back road we met him on. He is holding something up in his hand, staring at it:

A piece of HUBBA BUBBA CHEWING GUM.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Fate. The turn of events beyond a
person's control, predetermined by
a supernatural power.

The Curious just stares at the gum - is this his version of chewing it?

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Is there really something out
there, shaping our every decision?

Then he carefully inserts the piece back into a packet of Hubba Bubba, and neatly folds the opening closed.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Or are we the ones in charge? Are
you shaping your own future?

He puts it in his satchel, then sets off walking again - this time in the opposite direction he came.

END OF EPISODE