

EXT. ADOPTION AGENCY - DAY

BEN and MOLLY Whitman pull up to the adoption agency.

INT. ADOPTION AGENCY - DAY (CONT.)

The Whitmans are seen having a conversation with a lady at the front desk, who is sitting in front of a computer. You can tell by her expressions that she was expecting them. She slides some forms across the counter to them.

After spending some time filling out the forms, they return to the desk and hand over the papers. The lady at the counter walks into a backroom and reemerges with a very young child. He has red hair. The Whitmans carry him out of the adoption agency.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE:

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - DAY

PETER is about 7 years old now. He's up to bat at his little league game; his parents watch from the bleachers. The pitcher throws the ball and PETER hits it far into left field. His parents stand and cheer as he runs to first, second and third.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

PETER is roughly 12 years old now. In a room with the lights off, he sits in front of his television playing video games. The light of the TV shines onto his face. He's very absorbed and his focus is set solely on the game. His mother walks in, turns the light on and puts her hands on her hips. She doesn't look pleased. Peter is still focused on the game but slightly glances up to see his mother standing there. He quickly looks between the game and his mother but eventually realizes he should probably get in bed before she kills him. He slowly turns off the game system and television before getting into bed. His mother smiles and turns the light off as she leaves. PETER lies in bed for a few minutes after she leaves, but then promptly gets out of bed to turn on the TV and game once more.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

PETER is in his mid-teens and is in the driver's seat of a car, his father is the passenger. Peter starts the car and

slowly begins reversing out of the driveway. He starts turning the wheel to put his car onto the road, but backs up into a trashcan, knocking it over. He slams on the brakes and the car comes to a halt. His father looks over at him and sighs, then chuckles.

END MONTAGE

FADE TO:

INT. HOUSE - DAY

PETER is in his room, cleaning out his closet. His mother walks by his open bedroom door.

MOLLY
Isn't spring cleaning just wonderful?

PETER
(sarcastically)
Yeah mom, it's a real blast.

MOLLY
Oh come on, Peter! It's not so bad! Besides, it looks like you're about done there.

PETER
Yeah, just a few more things and I'm good on this end.

MOLLY
When you finish up there do you think you could help your father in the garage?

PETER
Yeah, I guess I'll have time in my busy schedule for that.

MOLLY laughs.

MOLLY
Thank you, dear.

PETER finishes what he was doing and walks to the garage.

INT. GARAGE - DAY (CONT)

PETER
I'm here to help. What do you need me to do?

BEN

Hey Pete. Could you take that box of papers inside and sort them by date? God only knows what's stuffed down in there, but we've been trying to find some missing receipts. Maybe you'll have some luck.

PETER

Yeah, no problem.

PETER takes the box of papers inside the house.

INT. HOUSE - DAY (CONT)

PETER sits the box of papers on the floor and flops down on the couch. He begins pulling papers out of the box and checking to see what they are. Important-looking documents in manila folders are checked, as well as several receipts and other types of papers. After a while, he stumbles upon another document which looks to be very important. He reads over it then begins to get more and more visibly upset. The camera reveals the words "DATE OF ADOPTION" on the document.

PETER exits the room and walks back into the garage.

INT. GARAGE - DAY (CONT)

PETER

What is this?

PETER holds up the document.

BEN looks up but can't form words to say to PETER.

PETER

I said, what is this!

MOLLY walks into the garage, hearing the commotion.

MOLLY

What's going on?

PETER

Can you tell me what this is?!

MOLLY stares at the document then quickly turns to BEN, who is staring right back at her.

PETER

For God's sake, would somebody please say something!

MOLLY

Peter... where did you find that paper?

PETER

What, was I not supposed to? You didn't want me to know that I was adopted?

BEN

It's not that we didn't want you to know—

PETER

Then what was it? Huh? I'm nineteen years old! I'm nineteen years old and I'm finding out now? And I had to find out myself? What if I had never found that paper? Would you have ever told me?

MOLLY

Peter, we always wanted to tell you but could never bring it up!

PETER

Bring it up? This isn't a casual conversation, mom! This isn't "we're going to get some dinner, oh by the way you were adopted"! What is wrong with you people?!

BEN

Peter, calm down—

PETER

No! Don't you tell me to calm down! If you can't tell me I'm adopted then you're sure not gonna tell me to calm down!

MOLLY

Peter, please, you're going to make me cry!

PETER

Well you'll be crying without me, I'm getting out of here.

BEN

Hey! Where do you think you're going?

PETER

I don't owe you any explanation.

BEN

We're your parents, you owe us plenty!

PETER

...you're not my parents.

PETER grabs his car keys and slams the door behind him as he exits the house.

MOLLY

Ben, what do we do?

BEN

Nothing. The boy has a lot on his mind. He just needs time to think. The best thing to do now is let him be.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

PETER has tears streaming down his face as he drives down the road. He doesn't have any real direction, he just needs to get away. Feeling like he can't go back, he decides to head to his friend's apartment and stay with him for a few days.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

PETER

Listen, Matthew, I owe you one for letting me stay here.

MATTHEW

Hey, Peter, no problem. You know we go way back. You stay here as long as you want, I can't imagine the kind of shock that had to give.

PETER

Thanks, man. That means a lot to me.

MATTHEW

Well, you can stay as long as you want up to a point: then I start charging rent, hahah.

PETER

(laughs)

Yeah, I get you. Don't worry, I just need a few days.

MATTHEW

That's fine. Listen, I gotta run, but you just make yourself at home.

PETER
Alright, see ya man.

MATTHEW
Later.

MATTHEW exits.

PETER remains standing, wondering what to do next.

EXT. ADOPTION AGENCY - DAY

PETER walks up to the adoption agency he was at so many years ago. He walks up to the door and goes inside.

INT. ADOPTION AGENCY - DAY (CONT.)

Peter approaches the counter.

PETER
Excuse me, I'm looking for some information.

COUNTER LADY
Yes? How can I help you?

PETER
I was adopted here when I was a kid and I'm trying to locate my birth parents, is there any way I could-

COUNTER LADY
Sir, I'm sorry, but there's a confidentiality form that everyone is required to sign that prevents the child from locating the parents.

PETER
Really? Isn't there anything you can do?

COUNTER LADY
I'm sorry, sir. Legalities.

PETER
(sighs)
You don't understand. I've just had the worst day of my life. I'm nineteen years old and just today I found out that I was adopted. Today! And I had to find this out on my own! My good-for-nothing parents who obviously don't have a brain in their heads decided they would just

never tell me. Isn't that great? And then, to feel at ease about this whole matter, I figured I'd come to this adoption agency in an attempt to find my birth parents, and sure enough I'm shot down after walking through the door. My day sure is going swell! I'm sure it could only get better if I was in a wreck on the way home and was thrown out of my car into a wood chipper!

The COUNTER LADY stands wide-eyed staring at PETER.

COUNTER LADY
Well, uh... perhaps we can help you.
What's your name?

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

MATTHEW
Hey, how's that search coming along?

PETER
It's a work in progress. They told me they'd call if they had any more information.

MATTHEW
They couldn't just give it to you?

PETER
No, I'm lucky to have gotten as far as I did. Apparently there's a law that prevents kids from finding their parents.

MATTHEW
Wow. Well at least you're getting somewhere with this.

PETER's cell phone rings.

MATTHEW looks at PETER, who looks back then down to the phone. The phone says "Mom" on Caller ID.

MATTHEW
You gonna get that?

PETER
No. I'm not in the mood.

PETER walks out of the room as the cell phone finishes ringing.

INT. APARTMENT - MORNING

PETER is up and brushing his teeth. He walks out into the living room of the apartment and flops onto the couch. He reaches for the TV remote and his cell phone rings.

PETER

Hello?

COUNTER LADY

Hello, is this Peter Whitman?

PETER

Yes, it is.

COUNTER LADY

Hi, Peter. I'm calling from the adoption agency, it's about finding your parents.

PETER

Oh, okay. Is there any news?

COUNTER LADY

Yes. We're trying to get a hold of some documents from the hospital right now, but everything should go through. If we can contact your parents, we can set up a meeting place for you. Would that be alright?

PETER

Uh, yeah, sure, that'd be great.

COUNTER LADY

Alright, Mr. Whitman. I'll call you when we have more information.

PETER

Great, thanks.

COUNTER LADY

Have a good day.

PETER

You too, bye.

COUNTER LADY

Goodbye.

PETER puts the phone into his pocket and goes into the bedroom to get dressed.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

PETER drives in front of his house and stops right outside. He spends a few seconds watching the house then drives away.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

PETER and MATTHEW are watching television. PETER gets up to get a snack. His phone rings.

MATTHEW

Aren't you expecting a call?

PETER

Yeah—

PETER quickly grabs the phone right before it stops ringing.

PETER

Hello?

MOLLY

Sweetie?

...

Listen, Peter, I have no idea what you must be going through, but you need to come home. Your father and I are worried sick about you. Please dear. I know you're there, I can hear the television on in the background. We have some things we need to tell you.

PETER pauses a moment. He hears a beep coming from his phone. He glances at it and sees the number of the adoption agency. He quickly switches calls.

PETER

Hello?

COUNTER LADY

Mr. Whitman?

PETER

Yes, I'm here. Did you contact my parents?

COUNTER LADY

Actually, yes, we were able to. They

still live in the area, it seems.
 Would it be alright if you met
 tomorrow in Finch Park at noon?

PETER
 Yeah! Yeah, that'd be great.

COUNTER LADY
 Alright, I'll let them know.

PETER
 Thank you, thank you so much.

PETER changes the call back to his mom.

PETER
 Mom?

She ended the call, thinking PETER hung up on her. PETER sighs.

INT. APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

PETER gets up and quickly gets dressed. He is obviously excited and has a spring in his step.

EXT. FINCH PARK - AFTERNOON

PETER walks through the park and spies a bench in the distance with a man and woman sitting on it. He takes a deep breath and walks over. To his surprise, his adopted parents are seated there. His mother spots him and runs toward him with open arms.

MOLLY
 Peter!

PETER
 Mom?

MOLLY grabs PETER and embraces him. PETER has a confused look on his face.

PETER
 Mom, what are you doing here?

MOLLY
 Sweetie, there's something you should know. Your father and I had a son before we adopted you. I tried to tell you this on the phone last night. We were recently contacted to meet our real son in the park today. I called you to see if you wanted

come with us.

PETER stares at them then breaks down into tears.

BEN

Son, what's wrong?

PETER

I'm meeting my birth parents in the park today... right here.

BEN and MOLLY start to tear up then hug their son.

MOLLY

Peter, we love you so much.

PETER

I love you too, mom.

BEN

C'mon, let's go home. Your mom is making lasagna tonight.

PETER smiles and the three of them leave. After a minute passes, a new couple arrives in the same location. The couple has red hair just like PETER. A few seconds later a different child approaches them.

OTHER KID

Mom?

CUT TO BLACK

END CREDITS