

SCENE 1
EXT. MARTIN HOME - EARLY MORNING

Birds sing and crickets chirp. Behind the house is a highway with old-fashioned cars zooming by, their headlights still on. Winds move the branches of the few trees around the house. A truck pulls into the dirt driveway parking behind the Martin's much older truck. The driver leaves the car on and runs to the front porch dropping off a stack of newspapers. He runs back and drives away on the unpaved road. A window lights up. Three knocks are heard.

MARYANN

Joey! The papers are here!

JOSEPH

I heard him, Mom!

MARYANN

Okay!

Another window lights up. Soon Joseph opens the front door and grabs the stack of papers.

INT. MARTIN HOME - EARLY MORNING

Joseph shuts the front door using his foot. He carries the papers to his room. MARYANN yawns.

MARYANN

How'd the speech come along?

JOSEPH

I'll read it to you once I'm done with my route.

MARYANN

Well try to be extra quick. We're going to church today. Graduation Day or not.

JOSEPH

I'll be quick, mom.

Joseph re-enters his room and shuts the door. He rolls each of the papers in the stack and puts them in a bag. He gets dressed in a red and blue sweater, jeans, and sneakers, puts the bag of rolled papers over his shoulder, and heads to the front door.

JOSEPH

Be back soon!

MARYANN

Watch for deer!

EXT. STREETS OF DEERFIELD, KS

Joseph delivers newspapers, some thrown onto porches, some into curbside mailboxes marked "The Lakin Independent". He waves only with two fingers to people passing in their cars. They wave back with their hand still on the wheel. The streetlights turn off as the morning light starts in.

JOSEPH

(Like checking off a list as he throws each paper)
The McElroys. The Millers. Mr. Applegate. The
Johnsons.

Neighbors, still in the pajamas, let their dogs out into the yards and collect their paper. The dogs sometimes running after Joseph on his bike. He pivots away as they call it back.

JOSEPH

Mornin'!

NEIGHBOR

Mornin'!

EXT. MS. WILDE'S HOUSE

Only the roof of MS. WILDE's house can be seen. Thick bushes and trees create a natural fence around the whole property except a dirt driveway with a station wagon.

Dawn breaks as Joseph chucks a newspaper over the bushes and hears a crash. His face crunches up, anticipating the trouble he is in.

JOSEPH

Son of a gun.

Joseph puts his kickstand down and timidly goes around the bushes. He looks around the front yard, surprised to see that behind the tall bushes was a yard full of well-kept flowers, birdbaths and feeders, and statues of assorted

animals, all bright white. Joseph walks around impressed and astounded.

JOSEPH

(Softly.) How pretty. Who knew?

Next to today's paper near the porch was the remnants of a dove statue. He tiptoes over and picks up the newspaper. He notices a "Lakin Independent" mailbox next to the front door.

JOSEPH

How was I supposed to know there was -

A large dog runs from behind the house and dashes towards Joseph, barking. Joseph silently panics before raising the newspaper up high. The dog launches at Joseph biting at his jeans. He flounders onto the porch to the front door. The dog persists until Joseph gives him one good shove and goes inside the house for safety, shutting the door in the dog's face.

WOMAN

AAAH!

INT. MS. WILDE'S LIVING ROOM

Decorated comfortably with lacy tablecloths and clean furniture. Joseph turns around and leans on the door, frantic and embarrassed.

JOSEPH

Ms. Wilde, I'm so sorry. Your dog -Ope!

Joseph eyes bug out when he sees a WOMAN (40s) naked on the couch. She covers her breasts with a throw pillow. Her legs are wrapped tightly around another woman's face buried and trapped on the WOMAN's privates. The other woman, on her knees, flails her arms trying to free her head from the other's thighs.

JOSEPH

(Covering his eyes.) Holy - Oh my - Ms. Wilde?

The other woman finally breaks free her head and gasps for air. Ms. Wilde covers herself with throw pillows.

MS. WILDE

Joey Martin! What are you doing?

JOSEPH

I accidentally broke a statue and - were you just -

WOMAN

Sorry, hun. You okay?

JOSEPH

No. I think I'm gonna be sick.

MS. WILDE

I'm fine. Joey!

JOSEPH

(Pacing covering his eyes with
his hands.)

Sorry, I'd never seen your box before with all your
big bushes.

The WOMAN reluctantly snickers.

JOSEPH

If I'da known, course I woulda -

MS. WILDE

For Christ's sake, Joey! Get out of here!

JOSEPH

(Still covering his eyes.) Ope. Right. Sorry! Yes,
ma'am! Sorry! Sorry!

JOSEPH peeks through his fingers looking for the door knob
before bolting outside slamming the door.

EXT. MS. WILDE'S FRONT YARD

Joseph rests his back on the door catching his breath. The
dog races full speed at him. Joseph runs out through the
driveway, trying to shoo the dog away.

TITLE

WATCH FOR DEER