THE WESTBOROUGH CRUSADERS

"Excelsior"

written by

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EPISODE(S) # 4

Registered WGAw

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1 INT. TALER KITCHEN TABLE - EARLY MORNING

Mom, Ares, Puck and Julie are eating breakfast. There is a place setting barren, it is left open for ALBERT, the father. Julie has on her cheer-leading outfit.

MOM
How is eveyone?

The three siblings grumble inaudibly through their eggs.

MOM(CON'T)
I see.

PUCK
Ares. Loan me five smacks.

ARES
No money, but I'll smack you for free.

PUCK
Julie. Loan me five bucks.

JULIE
Jill owes me ten. I see her fifth if you want to come pick it up.

PUCK
Never mind.

JULIE
I need the car.

MOM
Ask your father.

PUCK
Mom. I need five dollars.

MOM
Someone got into the peanut butter money.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ARES
So thats it.

Albert comes to the table. He just woke up and we can tell. He is unruly, wearing nothing but boxer shorts. He tries to belch, but can't. He could be compared to a modern day Boo Radley.

MOM
Late flight last night, Albert?

ALBERT
(finally belching)
'Morning. Damn air controllers. Sat on runway four for god knows how long.

MOM
What did you do?

ALBERT
I took off anyway.

MOM
What? Without clearance?

ALBERT
Yep. Got off the damn plane and took a buss.

MOM
But, Albert. Dear. You were the pilot.

PUCK
Dad. Loan me five big ones.

ALBERT
Don't have $50.

PUCK
No, no. Only five.

Albert reaches inside his boxer shorts, gropes for a few moments, then bears a tattered Lincoln. He holds it out for Puck to take.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

PUCK
Keep it.

MOM
Who do you play tonight?

JULIE
Northside.

ARES
The Barbarians!

PUCK
Used to be a bunch of fags.

ARES
Still are.

MOM
Please. Not at the table.

PUCK
It's true.

MOM
Boys.

JULIE
But it is true. In the game against Lakeshore, the football team came on the field nude. Nobody could tell the difference.

MOM
What?

JULIE
School colors...

ARES
Black...

PUCK
...and blue.

Dad giggles.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ABLBERT
Thats funny.

PUCK
You think everything's funny.

ARES
You're an easy target.

ALBERT
I am not. Try me.

PUCK
Let me think...

Dad begins to laugh.

ARES
See?

ALBERT
I wasn't ready. Try again.

PUCK
There's a new car rental place in town, "Gay Rentals." Instead of walking or running, you skip through airports.

Dad almost loses it. He is bubbling, churning, turning red, and persperation is beginning to build. He does manage not to laugh.

JULIE
Dad. I need the car.

Now, Dad bursts out laughing. He is sliding down in his chair. Regaining control, he sits up straight, and wiping away the tears, he says...

ALBERT
No.

The doorbell rings, and Julie gets up to answer it. It is Crew, and he still has the cast on his arm.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

MOM
Why, Crewly. Your arm is in a cast.

CREW
Yes, 'mam.

MOM
How did you do it this time?

CREW
I didn't.

JULIE
You didn't break it?

CREW
No.

MOM
But it's in a cast.

CREW
Yes..'mam.

Puck has been saying little things since Crew arrived. He has Albert going pretty good.

PUCK
A side order of grits.

Albert laughs.

MOM
Albert. Please. We have a guest. How are you getting to school?

JULIE
I'm meeting Andy on the way.

ARES
Crew?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

CREW
I have mom's motor-
cycle.

MOM
It's takes two hands
to drive one of those.

ARES
He has two hands.

MOM
But his arm is broken!

CREW
No, 'mam. It's not
broken.

MOM
Let Puck take you.

For a moment, Puck focuses his attention to Mom.

PUCK
I'm not chopped liver,
you know.

DAD
Chopped liver! I'm
dying. I'm just dying.

Ares has his coat on and is heading out the door. Julie slips on her spirit jacket, and leave. Mom follows to watch from the screen door, and Dad and Puck do their continuing bad imitation of the Smothers Brothers in concert.

From the door, mom sees Julie walking on the sidewalk, and Ares on the back of the motorcycle. Crew starts, travels for 4 feet, then stops and repositions his grip. After several attempts, they almost run down Julie at 5mph. Mom only shakes her head, as Albert is heard laughing.

2 INT. WESTBOROUGH HIGH - MORNING

It is before school, and we SEE Julie's locker. It is covered in spirit signs, with stupid, trivial sayings in multi-colored crayons.

Julie opens her locker, and Andy is with her.

ANDY
Whats going on after school?

JULIE
Bake sale. I'll make good on the 50¢ I owe you if you come.

ANDY
Offer like that, hard to pass up. Main hall?

JULIE
Under the clock, Be early. Good treats this time.

ANDY
Like what?

JULIE
Lots of goodies. Cookies, muffins, cupcakes, candy. Lots of goodies.

ANDY
Sounds...goodie.

3 INT. WESTBOROUGH HALL - MORNING

Crew and Ares are at their locker, readying for the first class of the day.

ARES
You almost killed us twice on the way here, you know. Three if you count the cat on 42nd Street.

CREW
Almost a miracle. Makes you appreciate life, doesn't it?

(CONTINUED)

At the last locker in the row, a scuttle is brewing. Ares and Crew look down at the corner locker, and we RACK FOCUS. Mike, Stan, Gary and Herb are bantering around with Bergie. Mike is the predominant one. He shows off as Crew and Ares slowly make their way down to see what they can do to help out Bergie.

MIKE
Hey, man. I don't like how you run after school.

GARY
Scared, Bergman?

HERB
It's Bergie.

MIKE
Yeah, man. He belongs at Northside.

GARY
Yeah, Bergie. What you at Westborough for?

MIKE
You're not a Crusader, man. You're a Barbarian.

Everyone but Stan laughs.

STAN
Mike. Knock it off. I got some stuff in my locker. We'll get smashed.

MIKE
Later, man. No booze. I'm flying, man. Off the fuckin' ground.

BERGIE
I have to get to class.

Mike, steps aside.

MIKE
Why, be my guest. You Barbarian, you.

(CONTINUED)

Bergie moves his leg, and Mike grabs his chest, and slams Bergie against the locker.

MIKE (CON'T)
You stepped on my foot, man. Nobody steps on my foot.

BERGIE
Don't hurt me, Mike. Please don't hurt me.

MIKE
Fuck you, man. I'm sick of you.

BERGIE
I didn't mean to. I'm sorry.

Mike slams Bergie again and again and again. Gary, Herb and Stan look scared. The joke has gone too far. Mike is out of control, and scary. Stan turns and leaves this scene.

MIKE
You hurt my foot. Now I have to hurt you back. I hate people like you, Bergman.

GARY
The bell's gonna ring. Let's go.

HERB
Yeah, man.

MIKE
Shut up. Just shut up! I really hate you Bergman.

With that, Mike steps back, and Bergie relaxes. At that moment, Mike cocks his arm, and fires his fist straight into Bergie's nose.

Ares and Crew are ready to move into action.

(CONTINUED)

ARES
My, god.

CREW
I can't believe it.

Again Mike puts his left hand at Bergie. He is holding him up while blood pours from Bergie's nose. Once more, Mike slams his already bloody knuckles into Bergie's nose.

ARES
That's it. I'm pissed.

CREW
Let's get the bastard.

While Crew and Ares reach the spot of action, Bergie has somehow managed to reach into his locker. Mike is laughing.

MIKE
What, Bergie? Getting your lunch so you can eat away your sorrows?

At the end of that line, Ares reaches for Mike, but Bergie has produced a pistol from his locker. Everyone freezes and silence slices through the previous din. Bergie has blood pouring from his nose, but he doesn't care. Bergie has a loaded pistol trained on Mike. It is inches away from Mike's upper lip.

BERGIE
No more. My mom told me to just take it from you, Mike. Not no more. I can't. Everyday you punch or hurt me, or call me names. She told me to take it from you, Mike. I don't want to. Not no more.

Bergie begins to well tears in his eyes, and shake. But, the gun never moves. Crew and Ares seem at a loss for just what to do. Mike is like a trapped animal looking for a way out. There is no way out of this one.

(CONTINEUD)

CONTINUED: (3)

MIKE
Hey, Bergie. Just a little joke. Don't get so upset, man. Just a joke. Thats all. No more. No more.

BERGIE
You call this a joke?

Bergie feels his own blood.

BERGIE (CON'T)
I'm bleeding, Mike. Thats not a funny joke. I can't no more.

MIKE
Put the damn gun down.

BERGIE
Don't! Don't say them words. I don't like it when people say them.

From around the corner, we hear Andy and Julie. Bergie turns to see who is coming.

ARES
Andy! Julie! No!

Bergie then turns and aims the gun at Ares. Blood continues to flow, and Bergie is confused. Too many things are happening. Bergie begins to sob.

Ares' warning is late, as Bergie turns back to Julie Andy who have just come around the corner, Mike finds his escape route. The trapped animal moves and the scene turns into mass confusion.

MIKE
Hit him!

Mike and his gang charge Bergie. Andy deftly takes Bergie's wrist, squeazes it and the pistol falls to the floor. Bergie is wrestled to the floor and the pistol is kicked down the stairs and it discharges.

All is silent, except for Mike who is punching Bergie again. All the rest realize how close a call they just had.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

ANDY
I got the gun away.

CREW
Yeah, lay off.

MIKE
He's gonna pay.

Mike stand Bergie up and again grabs his chest. Mike's back it to the rest of the group. Andy consoles Julie.

ARES
Knock it off.

CREW
Mike, stop it.

Mike continues, Bergie is still crying. Finally, Ares begins to pull on Mike, and Crew steps up and slams his cast into Mike's kidney. It was a powerful blow, and added to Are's pulling; Mike releases his grip and is thrown against the opposite wall. He is sputtering.

MIKE
I'll kill him, man. Nobody pulls crap like that with me.

As Bergie slithers to the floor, a mass of battered flesh and warm blood, Julie tries to help him. As Ares and Crew turn to leave, Ares has a closing statement.

ARES
You're an asshole, Redson.

4 INT. WESTBOROUGH JOURNALISM ROOM - MORNING

Andy Crew and Ares are sitting in the staff room. They are the only ones back there, they are taking the day off. Mr. Canterbilly is working at his desk.

CREW
I only thought things like that happened in movies.

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CONTINUED:

ANDY
Thank god nobody was killed.

CREW
Thats wierd. "Nobody was killed." You'd hear it in a dream. Not you highschool.

ANDY
Maybe it was a dream.

ARES
"I think, therefore I am." Redson musn't be alive. he sure as hell doens't think.

CREW
I gotta be in a dream.

All aglow, Mr. Canterbilly comes into the back room.

CANTERBILLY
Gentlemen. This has been an event-filled day. But we do have deadlines. Mr. Taler, Mr. Smith, may I read you latest literary masterpiece?

CREW
It's not done. Don't yell.

CANTERBILLY
Have it in tomorrow. I'm sure it will be completed by then.

Canterbilly turns to leave, and is snickering happily.

ARES
Wait, laughing boy. Why the extra time? You sick?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CANTERBILLY
If the only thing I had to fret about was your article, I would be a happy man. Although I am happy anyway.

CREW
You're hiding something. You haven't been this happy since the Beatles broke up.

CANTERBILLY
I'm leaving Westborough.

ANDY
You can't do that.

CANTERBILLY
In order to be married, it is a good idea.

ARES
How could anybody stand to live with you. Compared to you, Felix Unger is Oscar The Grouch.

CANTERBILLY
Is he a Beatle?

CREW
We won't be able to make it without you.

CANTERBILLY
No need for theatrics. The decision is made. I have this indomitable feeling that your trite, high school lives will thrive without me.

ARES
Who's the replacement?

(CONTINUED)

CONINUED: (3)

CANTERBILLY
An interesting man I picked myself. Jeremy Bryant. He will move here from Beligh High in Edgefield South Carolina. Six year man there.

CREW
This is going to be a challenge.

CANTERBILLY
Of course. Please excuse me, as I need to make a Pilgrimage to the Library.

Canterbilly exits out the side door, and the boys are left alone. Ares slaps Crew, who slaps Andy, who in turn slaps Ares. They stare at each other.

ARES
Guys. We're not dreaming.

5 INT. CITY COURTHOUSE COURTROOM - AFTERNOON

We are sitting in on Bergie's day in court. He has been charged with attempted murder for pulling the revolver. Mike's father Milton is sitting in the audience. Mrs. Bergman is sitting across the aisle from Milton. Mr. Warner the Bergman's lawyer is making his final statement.

WARNER
...Therefore I ask that you beyond the alleged act, and to the original cause. Look how my client was badgered, beaten, make a mockery of...

FRAZIER
Objection. Your honor, we aren't looking at the past, or what the defendant had for breakfast. Instead, let's stick to the subject. Possesion of a deadly weapon. No permit, attempted murder.

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CONTINUED:

WARNER
How can you stand there and make a statement like that? Looking at the result and not the cause is senseless. All I'm trying to do is uncover the truth.

JUDGE
One crime at a time, counselor.

WARNER
Forgive me. It is uncomprehendable that the learned prosecution deem the events previous "irrelevant."

FRAZIER
I never said irrelevant. Step down off your soap box so that we can get on with this trail.

JUDGE
This is not a trail. This is a hearing to find an acceptable solution to the problem. I have heard enough testimony, and arguments.
Mrs. Bergman. I have decided to place Bergie in the Kerway Institute for behavioral studies and then when improvement has been made, we will hold another hearing. A decision will then be made if Bergie will return to Westborough or another out of state high school.

In a furious rage, Milton Redson stands up and shouts at the judge.

MILTON
How the hell can you do that? You call that justice? My son was almost killed. Murdered.
(more)

(CONTINUED)

MILTON (CONTINUING)
He's sick. Lock him up and keep him there 'til he dies, or rots in hell. How could anybody raise a son like that?

Intense and angry, the Judge looks at Milton.

JUDGE
Sir. You are out of order. May I ask that you not cast stones at Mrs. Bergman for the way in which she raised her son, but instead take a long look at the way you raised yours? Court dismissed.

6 EXT. WESTBOROUGH HIGH LAWN - AFTERNOON

Crew and Ares are toting rakes, brooms and hoes. They are waiting for Andy to show so they can begin. Since they don't plan to it alone, they sit on the grass and wait.

ARES
Who're you taking to Homecoming?

CREW
I'm working on Katie.

ARES
A transfer from Lakeshore asked me. Or was it Southwedge?

CREW
Hope it's a Pilgrim. The Saviors are tough women.

From his hip pocket, Crew takes out a brand new pack of unfiltered cigarettes. He unwraps them and carefully lights it with a new Bic lighter.

ARES
What are those?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CREW
Cigs.

ARES
Cigs. I see. You don't smoke, Crew.

CREW
I know.

ARES
Whats that in your mouth?

CREW
A cig.

ARES
I don't get it.

CREW
I used to smoke. I can quit whenever. No big deal.

ARES
I get it. You're a chain smoker for two days, then quit.

CREW
Something like that.

ARES
I'm going to find Andy. If you get lung cancer while I'm gone, call.

Crew nods, blows a smoke ring that looks like a sausage and coughs. Ares goes inside Westborough to seek out Andy.

7 INT. JOURNALISM HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

Stan is standing against the wall nervously. He has thrown his cigarette trash on the floor. He looks nervous, and seemingly straight for the first time.

(CONTINUED)

Andy is walking down the hall.

ANDY
Hi, Stan.

STAN
Oh, yeah. Andy, how's it goin? You seen Canterbilly?

ANDY
I was going to ask you the same thing. He has the layouts. What do you need him for?

STAN
Nothin', really. The usual stuff. You know. Krugerand stuff.

Andy spies the discarded cigarette wrapper on the ground.

ANDY
Some people. I can't get why they can't throw trash way. Only half a step away. Lazy, lazy, lazy.

Andy picks it up, throws it away. Since it was Stan's trash, something twists within. Stan all of a sudden realizes that something in him has changed. He feels guilty, and takes the balme for this, but is really wanting to change his ways in general.

STAN
My wrapper. I put it there. I'm sorry.

ANDY
You?

STAN
I should've thrown it away. I didn't mean to do it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ANDY
No big deal. Maybe next time you'll remember.

STAN
It shouldn't have happened. It was wrong. I let it get out of control. Too late to change. I didn't mean to hurt you all.

ANDY
You didn't hurt me, Stan. I never should've mentioned it. Forget it.

STAN
I have been. Look where I am. Noplace, man. Noplace. What good am I anymore? I don't help. Loser. Thats what I am now.

ANDY
Stan, if you're gonna be sick, I can go get Mr. Doublewe.

8 INT. WESTBOROUGH - AFTERNOON

Ares is walking down the hall. Mike is at his locker doing some suspicious things, although we can't see what he is working on.

MIKE
Hey, Taler.

ARES
What.

MIKE
Come over here, man.

ARES
You seen Andy?

MIKE
Harper? No. Come on.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Ares goes to Mike's locker.

ARES
What.

MIKE
I wanted to say sorry about what happened with Bergman. You know, man.

ARES
Don't tell me. Bergie.

MIKE
You like that fat pig?

ARES
I don't have time for this.

Ares begins to walk.

MIKE
Don't go.

ARES
What is it?

MIKE
You seen Harrison?

ARES
No. See ya.

MIKE
Wait. Stay.

ARES
What do you want?

MIKE
I'm going to the movies. You can come.

ARES
No thanks.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MIKE
I got some coke.

ARES
No body has coke. Too expensive.

MIKE
No, man. I got this guy who'll front me a gram. I sell, pay him back later.

ARES
(flatly)
What a pal.

MIKE
I was just getting ready to toot some lines.

Rolling up a dollar bill, Mike does three lines on his math book. Ares is in disbelief.

MIKE (CON'T)
Here. Take a couple of snorts. You can use my bill.

ARES
Why in school? Go outside.

MIKE
I can't wait.

Mike takes out a hanky and blows his running nose.

ARES
Neither can I, man.

Ares turns and leaves Mike there with coke snot running out of his nostrils. We can hear Mike snorting more coke as Ares moves away down the hall.

9 INT. WESTBOROUGH JOURNALISM HALL - AFTERNOON

As Andy looks around, Stan secretly pops a little red pill in his mouth. It strangely instantly calms Stan down.

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CONTINUED:

ANDY
Are you okay?

STAN
Yeah. I'm great.

ANDY
You're sure?

STAN
Yeah. Yeah. Just a little wierd today. You know how those days go.

ANDY
I know. You're certain you feel all right?

STAN
Fine. Fine. Go on. I can handle it now. No big deal. Just lost it for a while. Happens to everybody.

ANDY
I have a spare trash can at home I'd sell you cheap.

STAN
(laughing)
I'm fine. Thanks.

Andy begins to leave.

STAN (CON'T)
I hear you're going with Julie Taler.

ANDY
Who told you that?

STAN
I got connections. How is she?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ANDY
Fine. Why?

STAN
You don't know, do you? Julie and I went with each other for three and a half years.

Andy is unbelieving.

ANDY
What?

STAN
Three and a half years. She's beautiful. Best pair of thighs I've ever seen. God she was beautiful. She hasn't told you?

ANDY
No. Did Ares know ?

STAN
I hope so. I lived with them for two months over summer vacation. Tell me Does she still wear the perfume that smells like the early morning ? Like the dew on roses ?

ANDY
No. She changed.

STAN
Haven't we all. Tell her hello for me. Please. I loved her with all my heart.

ANDY
What happened?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

STAN
I wish I knew. Ask her. She used to smell so good.

Andy begins to leave. He seems depressed.

STAN (CON'T)
Hey, Andy. When you find out...could you let me know?

Andy slowly looks at Stan. Looks into his eyes. Seems to see him in a different light, and nods.

ANDY
Sure. No problem.

As Andy leaves, Stan sighs, looks starry eyed, with a hint of excess liquid in the corners of his eyes. Stan walks, and thinking back the the better days, says very softly underneath his breath as he travels away from the camera...

STAN
(longingly)
Just like the morning dew on roses. Blood red. Her favorite.

10 INT. WESTBOROUGH MAIN HALL - AFTERNOON

Ares is walking, and Andy comes down the stairs from second floor. Andy meets Ares and they walk outside to get to work and help out Crew.

ARES
There you are.

ANDY
I just saw Stan.

ARES
Oh, yeah? How's he doing?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANDY
Told me the wierdest story. About Julie and him.

ARES
Oh, really.

ANDY
Why didn't you tell me?

ARES
Why? Does it make a difference?

ANDY
Yes, it does. I feel cheated.

ARES
Thats dumb. It must not've mattered to Julie. Why do you care? She likes you now anyway.

ANDY
Does she? Does she really.

ARES
You know that. Andy, you over react to everything.

ANDY
Oh, do I?

ARES
Sometimes.

ANDY
Great. Julie likes some other guy, you hate me. Who likes Andy? No one. Not even the family dog.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ARES
Right there. Thats what I'm talking about. Jumping to conclusions.

Andy stops, and shuts up for a moment.

ANDY
Oh. I think I might be falling in love. I don't want to get hurt.

ARES
Nobody does. But to grow, you have to hurt. It's like bodybuilding. To gain power and mass, you have to tear your muscle, so when they grow back, they have...

ANDY
Scar tissue. Not very pretty...

ARES
But strong. It can hurt like hell sometimes. Just like love. But after the hurt...

The two have now reached Crew. He is sitting staring off.

ANDY
Whats with him?

ARES
Cigarettes. Rot the mind. Turns to mush.

CREW
I kicked the habit.

ARES
What changed your mind? A new warning from the surgeon general?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

CREW
Nope. Cupid. Katie was on her way home, and I talked to her, and she saw me smoking.

ANDY
You blow it in her face, or what?

CREW
No. She loved it. Thought I looked tough. Like Bogart. So, she left me three dozen cookies and told me to pick her up tomorrow and I'd blow smoke rings for her.

ARES
Isn't that what you wanted?

CREW
I thought so. I threw them away.

ANDY
What'd you do with the wrapper?

CREW
I put it in the trash. Why?

ANDY
Good. Very good.

ARES
Where are the cookies.

CREW
I ate 'em.

ANDY
Three dozen cookies!

CREW
Gimme a break. I was kicking the habit at the time.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED : (4)

ARES
Let's get raking.

For the first time we see just what the boys have to do. All 15 trees that surround Westborough are covered with toilet paper. The boys did it last night.

ARES (CON'T)
Why I did this, I don't know. Cost me 16 bucks in toilet paper alone.

We begin to pull back from atop a neighboring building.

CREW
Plain label is cheaper. I told you that, but you had to have perfumed.

ANDY
Please. Don't mention perfume.

Halfway there. Almost pulled back to full extent.

CREW
Whats the complaint? Sure we got caught. Sure we have to clean it up. Sure we have to pay a $50 dollar fine. But we made the front page of the morning paper!

ARES
If either of you says "Whats the price of fame." or "Thats the price of success." or "The price is right", I will personally shove the morning paper down Bob Barker's throat.

Our pull back is complete.

11 INT. WESTBOROUGH PHONE BOOTHE - AFTERNOON

Stan is placing a call.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

STAN
Yes. I'd like to send a dozen roses. Blood red. "To Julie, from..."

Stan has another flood of emotion sweep him. He stops.

STAN (CON'T)
Pardon? Last name? Never mind. Not yet. Maybe after some things change. I don't feel it anymore. Later. I'll call back later. Yes. Thank you.

Stan hangs up the phone, looks past the camera, and makes a private, personal decision. He then sighs as the memories come back once more, and whispers...

STAN (CON'T)
Julie.

FADE DOWN AND OUT

THE END
episode # four