

1 INT. WEYFIELD ACADEMY, HALLWAY - DAY 1

A banner reads "2006 WEYFIELD ACADEMY SCIENCE FAIR", draped above the doors to the sports hall.

Fifteen-year-old GIDEON SMART is quietly hurrying down the hallway towards the sports hall doors. He's holding his bag protectively to his chest.

2 INT. SPORTS HALL - DAY 2

Stalls with science projects and pupils are spread out throughout the hall. PARENTS and TEACHERS are walking around, the space is filled with excited CHATTER and NOISE.

Gideon walks up to his two team members, a BOY and a GIRL, at a presentation called 'Teleportation'. Two small domes on either end of their table are lit up - underneath one dome is a small toy car.

BOY
Where were you?

GIDEON
Making sure we'll really have the power we need.

GIRL
Gideon, it's only a model.

GIDEON
Why would you build a teleporter if you don't want it to work?

Gideon slips behind the table. He takes out of his bag a small, metal locket with shimmering blue light seeping through its cracks.

He opens up a fuse box behind their cardboard display and folds the copper end of a wire into the glowing fissures of the locket. Strange, wispy, blue sparks race along the wire into the fuse box.

On the table, the domes light up with a much brighter, blue light. With astonishment, the boy and girl watch the toy car in one dome begin to jump over to the other dome and back...

GIRL
That's not possible...

At another table across the hall, science teacher WILLIAM BAILEY is seeing the same thing with shock.

Gideon is still holding the locket, grinning proudly.

Then, the locket begins to vibrate. The light inside it flickers and brightens. Gideon's grin fades.

The lights inside the domes become brighter as well. The toy car seems to be in two places at the same time. The boy and girl move away from the table...

Gideon pulls the locket away from the wire connecting it to the fuse box, but it's too late... The domes are extinguished in a bright FLASH and the installation short circuits.

Gideon appears from behind the table looking frustrated and sheepish.

BOY
You ruined it!

GIDEON
It should have worked...

The girl flicks their switch a few times but nothing happens. Embarrassed, Gideon tries to brush it off.

GIDEON (CONT'D)
The wiring was probably faulty. One of the connections...

GIRL
It's not the wiring. It's you. Nothing is ever good enough for you. You always have to be better than everyone else.

GIDEON
Because I am! Do you even know what I used-

BOY
You only think you are.

Gideon becomes angry under their reproachful stares. Seeing Bailey make his way over, Gideon turns around, grabs his bag, and heads for the doors.

Bailey intercepts him, both worried and disappointed.

BAILEY
What happened? Your project was ready.

GIDEON
It was boring. Sir.

BAILEY

Gideon, there's nothing left to prove for you. You are top of your class. Of all my classes.

GIDEON

I am so much more than that.

Angry and determined, he storms out of the hall.

3 INT. HALLWAY - DAY

3

It's deserted and quiet. Gideon rushes up to his locker, fuming.

He opens it and removes the panel at the back of the locker.

Behind it is an alcove in the wall filled with sheets of paper and mysterious scientific objects and devices.

Gideon takes out some schematics, a small, metal orb and a small tool of undefinable purpose.

4 INT. SCIENCE CLASSROOM - DAY

4

Gideon closes the door behind him and locks it.

He puts the schematics, the locket and the tool down on a workstation and grabs the orb.

GIDEON

(to himself)

I'll show them...

He opens up a small, electric panel at the back of the orb, takes the tool in his hand and begins to work on the circuiting.

The schematics in front of him describe a 'Conductor' that looks exactly like the orb. The rough drawings seem to depict the Conductor's energy connecting with a person.

The word 'POWERS' is scrawled out at the bottom...

Gideon has finished. He closes the panel and turns the orb around.

An opening reveals itself like a diaphragm. He holds the locket close to it and flicks that open as well.

A vibrantly blue light jumps over from the locket into the orb, like liquid lightening, CRACKLING.

Gideon puts the locket down - still open, and now very empty. He takes a breath and holds the orb at arms length. It opens up again and reveals the pulsating blue energy inside.

Gideon grins victoriously, but then again the orb begins to vibrate. Suddenly, Gideon looks scared...

GIDEON (CONT'D)

No!

It's too late. Waving flames of blue energy suck his body into the orb! It closes up and CLATTERS to the floor.

It rolls away, to the cabinet in the corner of the room, and further away underneath it. For a moment the blue light glows from under it, neon-like, and then it fades.

All that is left of Gideon are his schematics, work tool, bag, and the empty locket on top of the workstation.

CUT TO:

5 TITLE SEQUENCE 5

6 EXT. WILDERNESS - MORNING 6

Caption appears on screen: "Present Day".

We move slowly through thick shrubbery, not much more is visible except the leaves all around.

SAM (V.O.)

He crawls through the trees, remaining hidden. Brave and determined he continues his mission.

7 EXT. GARDEN - MORNING 7

SAM DOYLE is crawling through the flower bed. He's eleven years old, dressed in a school uniform. We've been seeing what's in front of him.

He's slinking towards a book on top of the patio table. On a chair nearby sits a cat, bored, staring off into the distance.

SAM

(to himself)

The beast is guarding it,
but the hero won't be deterred...

THEO (O.C.)

Sam!

SAM

He will have to find a way past...

A hand is slammed on the book and the cat jumps away with a disgruntled SCREECH.

THEO, one of Sam's dads, dressed in a work suit, is staring down at him.

THEO

Stop ruining your uniform and come inside to finish your breakfast.

Disappointed, Sam gets up.

8

INT. DOYLE HOUSE, KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

8

One wall is covered in a multitude of family photos; among them, a picture of Sam's adoptive sister STEVIE DOYLE as a baby with Theo and MARTIN, their other dad; Sam as a baby with another pair of parents; all six happily together...

Then, a photo of Theo and Martin introducing baby Sam to baby Stevie; and many more photos of the two children growing up together and the new family unit.

Placed proudly among the photos are two adoption certificates, one for Sam and one for Stevie.

At the kitchen table, Theo puts a bowl of cereal down for Sam, who puts the book away and takes a seat.

One seat over is STEVIE DOYLE, also eleven years old, also in uniform, eating cereal and reading a comic book.

Theo is putting important papers in his bag.

THEO

Stevie, did you do your geography project?

STEVIE

Hmm.

She looks away from her comic book briefly to reach next to her and apathetically hold up a small hand-made poster about the water cycle. It's rudimentary at best.

THEO
 (sarcastically)
 I see you've really given it your
 all.

STEVIE
 Maybe I did.

THEO
 You know what, maybe you did.

9 INT. DOYLE HOUSE, MARTIN'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS 9

The office is cluttered with furniture, books, and a lot of drawing and painting material. Finished drawings are stored everywhere on the floor and on shelves.

MARTIN is sat at a drafting table, working on a colourful illustration for a children's book. He's wearing a baggy jumper and has paint on his hands.

He stops to look at his work. He's not sure. He checks his watch - then jumps up, takes the drawing from the drafting table and another off a pile on the side, and rushes out of the room.

10 INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS 10

They can hear him THUNDERING down the stairs, and then Martin enters the room.

He holds up a drawing in each hand to the rest of the family.

MARTIN
 Which one?

SAM
 What's it for?

MARTIN
 Illustrations for a new book.

SAM
 Is it a scary story?

MARTIN
 No...

SAM
 The left one.

STEVIE
 The left one.

Martin looks at both drawings again, a bit confused.

THEO
 Stevie, show your dad your
 homework.

Stevie holds the poster up again, non-plussed. Martin looks at it with a pained face.

MARTIN
 Huh. Well, Stevie has other
 talents.

THEO
 I wish trying hard was one of them.

MARTIN
 I'm sure Stevie will try her
 hardest when it matters.

Both Sam and Stevie pull a face that says they doubt it.

Theo puts his bag on his shoulder.

THEO
 You'll both be late, come on.

Sam and Stevie scramble to stuff some more bites of cereal into their mouths and grab their bags. Sam takes the book off the table and slides it into his bag on the way out.

11 EXT. WEYFIELD TRAIN STATION, PLATFORM - MORNING 11

A train is pulling out of the station. A few people on the platform are walking towards the stairs.

Among them is ROSALYN CLEARY, a fourteen-year-old girl dressed in a kind of space ranger boiler suit. She's carrying a camper's backpack and an old, leather suitcase.

A greying, simple-faced conductor regards her with wary curiosity. Rosalyn blanks him.

She stops to look at the sign on the wall that welcomes her to Weyfield. "A place for everything, and everything in its place", it says. She rolls her eyes.

12 INT. TRAIN STATION - CONTINUOUS 12

Just before the exit, Rosalyn walks past a station shop and spots some bags of toffees for sale.

She stops and digs around in her pocket for some coins.

CUT TO:

13

EXT. WEYFIELD - MORNING

13

Rosalyn exits the station, putting a toffee in her mouth. It gives her a brief moment of contentedness. And then she sets off again.

She walks through the town, exploring it with mild apathy, occasionally eating a toffee.

Across the central market square with its large statue; the plaque tells her it's of Fabian Norwood, most esteemed mayor of the town from 1874-1905.

Past the city hall; mayor Percival Lewicki's reelection posters are still stuck to the side of the building. His slogan was: "Certain and Predictable".

Past the obscure, intriguing Weyfield Museum of Myths and Stories, that is now closed to be refurbished and restructured as the Weyfield Museum of Town Facts.

And past the colourful, inviting windows of the café Cakes for All Occasions, where they're selling Upside-Down Cakes and a three-tiered Funeral Cake with a tiny coffin on top.

Rosalyn is taken in by the window display and the warm interior. She's also getting hungry. She enters the shop.

INT. CAKES FOR ALL OCCASIONS - CONTINUOUS

Rosalyn seems truly engaged for the first time.

Small tables, occupied with customers, are dotted around the café. The sides are stacked with shelves of bread loafs and other baked goods. More elaborate cakes and pastries are displayed at the till.

HAMZA QADIR, the baker, a kind, cheerful woman, is beckoning Rosalyn over.

HAMZA

Can I help you, love?

Rosalyn looks at the board describing the sandwiches.

ROSALYN

One Cheery Cheese Roll, please.

Rosalyn pays and Hamza begins wrapping it for her. She looks Rosalyn over.

HAMZA

Shouldn't you be in school?

ROSALYN

No, I've finished school. I'm just travelling.

HAMZA

On your own?

Rosalyn pointedly ignores the question. She spots a framed photo on the wall of a broadly smiling Hamza next to an imposing, serious man in a neat suit, at the café's opening. He looks familiar...

ROSALYN

Is that the mayor?

HAMZA

Oh, yes. Percival Lewicki. Isn't it a great photo? He's done wonderful things for this town. It's nice to know exactly how things are and how they're going to be.

Rosalyn frowns. What is with this town?

Below the photo frame is a noticeboard with flyers. An old, faded one, hidden away, clearly forgotten, catches her eye. It calls for a disused youth centre to be saved from demolition, with a photo of a bleak, overgrown building.

ROSALYN

Where is this?

Hamza hands Rosalyn her sandwich and peers at the flyer.

HAMZA

That's the old youth centre in Norwood Park. It's been abandoned for years.

ROSALYN

Can I take this?

Hamza nods and Rosalyn folds the flyer away. She turns around without another word and Hamza stares after her, befuddled.

15 EXT. WEYFIELD ACADEMY - MORNING 15

Pupils are arriving and moving into the building, laughing and talking. Sam and Stevie walk across the yard among them to the open doors.

16 INT. WEYFIELD ACADEMY, HALLWAY - MORNING 16

Sam and Stevie stop at their respective, adjacent lockers. Stevie carelessly folds her geography poster to fit it into her locker. She sees Sam put his book away.

STEVIE

What's it about?

SAM

It's the diary of a scientist who went to Siberia and discovered all these weird things in the ice.

STEVIE

Sure. And then someone just found the diary?

SAM

It really happened. Anyway, you read comic books.

STEVIE

The difference is I know what I'm reading isn't real. I'm not pretending to be a superhero. I don't want to be a superhero.

SAM

It would be too much work for you.

Stevie scoffs playfully at him. She's not *that* lazy.

SAM (CONT'D)

It's about solving the mystery. It could be real.

Nearby, the door to the Headmaster's Office opens, and PE TEACHER DEBBIE MUTTON and HEADMASTER BENSON WALSH step out into the hallway.

MUTTON

Don't worry, Mr. Walsh. Everything is ready for tomorrow.