

American Sheppard
by
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FADE IN:

EXT. SHEPPARD HOUSE - NIGHT

Standard suburban house with a mowed lawn and neat walkway with track lighting. The house fits in with the rest of the neighborhood.

INT. SHEPPARD HOUSE - BASEMENT STAIRCASE - NIGHT

CHARLIE SHEPPARD, 10, thin with shaggy hair, plays with a platoon of military action figures.

Making an EXPLOSION NOISE Charlie tosses a handful of toy men down the stairs.

SKIPPY SHEPPARD, 13, wiry with short hair, appears at the top of the staircase.

SKIPPY

You better pick those up, butthole.

CHARLIE

You're a butthole.

CAROL SHEPPARD, 50, red cheeks and plump, slaps the back of Skippy's head and pushes him aside.

CAROL

That's enough butthole talk. Charlie, pick up your toys. Skippy, go talk to your father.

INT. SHEPPARD HOUSE - PARENTS ROOM - NIGHT

MICHAEL SHEPPARD, 50, grizzly and bearded, pulls on his work boots.

MICHAEL

Your ma and me are going to my work party tonight.

SKIPPY

Yeah.

MICHAEL

That's 'yes, sir' and I wasn't finished talking. It's about time you looked after your brother.

SKIPPY

No way, dad. I'm going skateboarding with the guys.

MICHAEL

Your baby-sitting your brother. I'll pay you ten bucks and you better not pick on 'em. You need to step up and be a man.

SKIPPY

Do I have to?

MICHAEL

Skippy!

SKIPPY

Yes, sir.

MICHAEL

I'm trying to teach you responsibility. If you need any help, just ask Jenny next door. Her parents will be attending the same party.

A smile finds Skippy's face.

INT. SHEPPARD HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Carol and Michael put their coats on and grab the car keys.

CAROL

We'll be home by ten. Behave.

SKIPPY

Yes, ma.

INT. SHEPPARD HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jumping on the couch set in front of the picture window, Skippy and Charlie watch their parents drive out of the neighborhood.

SKIPPY

Are you thinking what I'm thinking?

Charlie nods.

EXT. SHEPPARD HOUSE - BACKYARD - NIGHT

Skippy pulls an M-80 Firecracker out of his pocket. He tapes an action figure to it.

Charlie digs in his pocket and pulls out a lighter.

Thumbing the flint, a fire licks out of the lighter. Charlie lights the fuse.

Skippy tosses the firework.

BOOM. Plastic toy particles rain down on the boys.

A bedroom light from the Tomlin house next door captures Skippy's attention.

With a sly grin, Skippy motions his head toward the neighbor's house.

EXT. TOMLIN HOUSE - JENNY'S BEDROOM WINDOW - NIGHT

Standing on their tip-toes, Skippy and Charlie peek into Jenny's bedroom.

SKIPPY

I wanna marry her.

CHARLIE

You're too much of a wimp.

INT. TOMLIN HOUSE - JENNY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

JENNY TOMLIN, 17, fit and beautiful, sits in front of her vanity mirror applying eye shadow. She wears panties and a black bra.

She stands and checks out her butt in the full length mirror in the corner of her room and removes her bra.

EXT. TOMLIN HOUSE - JENNY'S BEDROOM WINDOW - NIGHT

The eyes of both boys widen as they watch Jenny undress.

CHARLIE

I bet I could get her.

SKIPPY

You're dreaming. And I'm not a wimp. Take it back.

CHARLIE

You never stand up for yourself. Girls like guys who have balls.

SKIPPY

You're a ballsack.

Skippy shoves Charlie. Charlie loses his balance. CRASHES against the side of the house.

INT. TOMLIN HOUSE - JENNY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jenny covers her breasts, turns toward the THUMP outside her window.

JENNY

Skippy Sheppard! You little perv!

EXT. TOMLIN HOUSE - JENNY'S BEDROOM WINDOW - NIGHT

Skippy takes one last peek, grabs Charlie, and bolts across the yard.

EXT. SHEPPARD HOUSE - BACKYARD - NIGHT

The boys stop to catch their breath near a tree.

SKIPPY

I can die a happy man.

CHARLIE

She's perfect.

SKIPPY

I know.

CHARLIE

Ask her out.

SKIPPY

Yeah right. I'm not good enough for her.

CHARLIE

If you keep saying that I'll believe it. You're my brother. Sheppard's get the ladies.

SKIPPY

You're such a dork.

CHARLIE

You're a wimp.

Skippy shoves Charlie to the ground.

Charlie rolls over and looks across the yard.

EXT. WILDY HOUSE - NIGHT

Donald SCREAMS at his wife.

DONALD

You think you're gonna leave me!

MIRTEL

I've had enough!

EXT. SHEPPARD HOUSE - BACKYARD - NIGHT

Skippy and Charlie watch in silence.

SKIPPY

Let's check it out.

EXT. WILDY HOUSE - NIGHT

Skippy and Charlie sneak across the poorly mowed lawn. They stop at the kitchen window and watch the Donald and Mirtel Wildy fighting.

SKIPPY

They're really yelling.

CHARLIE

If you ever grow balls that could be you and Jenny Tomlin in twenty years.

SKIPPY

Shut up.

Mirtel SCREAMS.

The boys watch.

INT. WILDY HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

The kitchen is cluttered with plates, old food and unopened mail. A butcher's block sits in the corner.

DONALD
Good riddance, slut.

Mirtel slaps Donald. He punches her. She stumbles into the counter.

Donald grabs a butcher knife and plunges it into Mirtel's mouth.

EXT. WILDY HOUSE - NIGHT

Blood splashes across the window that Skippy and Charlie watch from.

SKIPPY
Let's go.

CHARLIE
We got to call the cops.

Charlie steps on a rake. The rake SHATTERS the window.

Skippy looks up.

Donald stares at them from the broken window.

SKIPPY
Run.

Skippy grabs Charlie and runs.

Donald sprints out the back screen door. He grabs Charlie as he goes.

Skippy grabs the rake and slams it across Donald's face.

Charlie bites Donald's hand, wiggles free, and runs toward home.

EXT. SHEPPARD HOUSE - BACKYARD - NIGHT

Donald chases Skippy and Charlie to the back door.

Once inside, Skippy slams the door shut on Donald's arm.

INT. SHEPPARD HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Donald kicks the door open and chases Skippy and Charlie to the basement.

INT. SHEPPARD HOUSE - BASEMENT - NIGHT

Lunging down the steps, Skippy and Charlie maneuver around Charlie's action figures.

Donald slips on an action figure, lands on his back, and slides to the base of the stairs.

The CLICK OF A LIGHTER leads to the HISS of a fuse.

SKIPPY

Take this, creep-a-zoid!

An M-80 flies through the air and lands on Donald's groin.

DONALD

Please. God. No.

BOOM.

The boys zip past Donald and kick him as they go.

Jenny appears at the top of the stairs.

JENNY

Are you guys okay? I called the cops.

Skippy points downstairs.

Donald has recovered and climbed the stairs. He grabs Skippy's finger.

JENNY (CONT'D)

Mr. Wildy?

Donald punches Jenny in the face. She drops to the floor.

SKIPPY

You son of a bitch!

Skippy wails on Donald then jump kicks him in the chest.

Donald TUMBLES down the stairs. His ANKLE SNAPS on the bottom step. He cracks his head on the floor and lays still.

Skippy extends his hand to Jenny. He helps her up.

SKIPPY (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

Jenny nods and tries to speak, but can't find words.

EXT. SHEPPARD HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

The red and blue lights of a police car illuminate the darkness. A police officer assists Donald to a police car. Jenny sits on the curb next to Charlie.

Skippy talks with a DETECTIVE MEYERS, 60, barrel chested.

DETECTIVE MEYERS

It takes a lot of guts to do what you did.

Michael and Carol pull into the driveway. Carol rushes to Charlie.

CAROL

Did he hurt you?

CHARLIE

No mom. Skippy took care of it.

JENNY

Skippy, can I talk to you for minute?

Skippy looks to Charlie. Charlie winks.

SKIPPY

Yeah.

They walk behind one of the police cars.

JENNY

That was really brave.

SKIPPY

He hit you.

JENNY

I can't believe I'm gonna do this.

SKIPPY

What?

Jenny plants a long wet kiss on Skippy.

FADE OUT: