

EXT. SCHOOLYARD - DAY

Gabriel and Jonathan pull up to the front of the school in Gabriel's truck. Kids begin lining up for class.

JONATHAN  
That was so bad.

GABRIEL  
Yeah it was. Come on, I'll walk ya.

JONATHAN  
I'm okay dad.

GABRIEL  
Naw, I'll go with you.

JONATHAN  
No.

Gabriel stops the truck.

GABRIEL  
I'm your dad. I'll hold your hand if  
I damn well...Why did you...

Gabriel takes notice of the kids in line. The bullies are looking towards Jonathan and snickering to one another.

GABRIEL (CONT'D) (CONT'D)  
What, you embarrassed of your dad?

JONATHAN  
No.

GABRIEL  
Those boys the ones giving you a  
hard time?

Jonathan doesn't answer.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)  
Want me to talk to them?

JONATHAN  
No.

GABRIEL  
I will, I'll set em straight.

JONATHAN

No, dad. I can walk from here.

Gabriel hesitates for a moment.

GABRIEL

Well, it doesn't matter what they think. These people, friends, bullies, girlfriends...

JONATHAN

Gross.

GABRIEL

Right. Why did they start messing with you in the first place?

JONATHAN

They heard mom.

GABRIEL

Heard mom what?

JONATHAN

Mom always yells, "I love you" when she drops me off.

GABRIEL

Right. Gotchya. Well we gotta fix that.

He leans down to Jonathan and whispers.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

I won't pull a mommy. Aint gonna yell, "I love you", in front of everyone.

Jonathan laughs.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

So, we got to pull a covert op on this one. Mom will always yell that kind of stuff. Let's see.

There is a long pause.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

I got it! We need a code word. No one will suspect it.

JONATHAN

Okay.

GABRIEL  
You ready for this one? Gonna blow  
your mind.

JONATHAN  
I'm ready.

GABRIEL  
Man Down.

JONATHAN  
Man Down?

GABRIEL  
That's right. Remember when I said  
it earlier? I say, "man down", you  
know I love you. Deal? Come on, it's  
manly.

JONATHAN  
Okay.

GABRIEL  
Alright then, get going to class.  
I'll pass the word to mom.

Jonathan walks away.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)  
Hey buddy!

Jonathan turns back to Gabriel.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)  
Man Down.

Jonathan smiles and walks into the school. The bullies stare  
at Gabriel. Gabriel stares them down and mutters to himself.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)  
Yeah. Punk ass...I see you. See if  
I don't come over there.