

"Anyone"

screenplay by J. Mathews
v3

FADE IN:

EXT. AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING

The buses unload their morning haul into a shiny new school. (Title GFX - Anyone) Cast of characters exit the vehicles and enter the building.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL MAIN HALL - MORNING

The large hall receives all personalities and each has their nemesis. The camera finds a meek boy WILLY dressed in a wrinkled red shirt, too many books to carry, his eyes cast to the ground. His demeanor infuriates JACK, a confident and popular senior. Like a jackal on his prey he must taunt the weak.

JACK

Willy! Wait a minute. (blocking his path Willy not looking up)
Willy... Look up! Geez what is wrong with you.

Jack glances over to his friend. An Edger Allen Poe book dropped from his clutch. Willy bent over to pick it up.

JACK

We used to be friends in grade school.

FRIEND ONE

No Way

JACK

Yup. Then he turned into this

WILLY

I-I Nee

JACK (AGGRESSIVELY
MIMICKING THE STUTTER))

I-I I Need to what?!

WILLY

Class. I need to get to
class(aggressive)

Willy shrugs and passes Jack as he speaks. Pulls out his phone. Eyes down and scurries away while Jack is shaking his head in disgust.

JACK

Can't believe I used to like that
guy

(Follow Willy to the Lunch Room)

Willy walks down the hall, still on his phone and even though his eyes are lowered and trying to avoid contact he feels the crowds avoiding him like his unkempt appearance may be contagious. Camera follows him down to the cafeteria tables where he sits. Overtime, the space clears students while he's alone and on his phone.

BELL RINGS

VO

Meet Willy. A 17 year old boy in a suburban high school. Shy to a fault and likes all the wrong things. He probably needs a shower and gets too nervous in social situations to ever be able to defend himself. Students don't like to be around him, his teachers and principals are frustrated with him because he is so smart and so incompetent all at the same time. Willy's situation isn't so unusual. High school is a brutal environment and we all must endure its wrath. But today Willy is going to take a trip to the Northern Zone. It remains to be seen whether or not he's strong enough to return.

Willy leaves the Lunchroom

INT. CLASSROOM - MORNING

Willy enters class. He's the last one in.

Teacher 1

Cutting it close Mr. Lazarr. Get
to your seat, we are about to
start.

Willy walks to a tall table covered with beakers and Bunsen burners. As he settles in. A BOY at the table intentionally knocks over a container with water and it spills all over Willy's mid section

BOY 1

Dude you peed yourself!

The class erupts . Willy steps back and looks around ashamed and unable to say anything. Jack jumps to stop the teasing in the room.

JACK (WHISPERING TO HIM)

Dude?...

WILLY (EMBARRASSED)

He spilled it on me

Jack eyed the boy at the table and he stops laughing

JACK (TO CONVINCING THE OTHER STUDENTS WE
DIDN'T SUPPORT WILLY)

Dude, go clean up.

The teacher approached and walked him to the door. Hands him a pass to the bathroom

TEACHER

Hurry back. We got a lot of work
to do today

INT. HALLWAY - MORNING

Willy heads to the bathroom, pulling out his phone on the way. He shuffles to the boys room

INT. BOYS RESTROOM - MORNING

Three boys are talking at the sinks and Willy walks to the towel dispenser and disperses the barely absorbent brown paper towel to dry himself off. The towels are useless and he's angry and barely notices the other boys.

BOY 2

Ah you gonna cry? Poor little guy

They move toward him and Willy feels his rage, he hears the blood rush to his brain.

WILLY
Leave me alone..

BOY 2
What did you say

WILLY
LEAVE ME ALONE

BOY 2
Oh you want me to..

WILLY
...yes! That is what I want. I
want you to leave me alone. I
didn't ask you for anything or you
(pointing to the other boy). All I
want is to be left alone

BOY 2
Hey chill, I didn't..

BOY 3
Be careful This guy looks like a
school shooter

WILLY (snaps)
I'm not a shooter and you did, you
bothered me anyway. I wish you and
you and you and everyone didn't
exist, (the room swelled with his
anger) I wish you all were gone,
(the room thumped) I wish...you
all never existed!!

And with his final request a blinding light flashed. The room was empty. Willy stood for a second a bit confused by what just happened. Not a soul in the bathroom. Willy took a breath and straightened his hair with his hands and checked his midsection. His pants were dry. He thought that was odd and left the bathroom to return to class

INT. HALLWAY - MORNING

The hallway is empty and Willy heads unobstructed to the classroom. He gets on his phone and finds no service. He takes a moment at the door and checks his pants again. With a sigh we entered the classroom.

INT. CLASSROOM - MORNING

Willy walks in prepared for more shaming and is surprised by an empty classroom. He walks over to the window and looks around and nobody is in sight. Not sure what to do he heads to his seat and pulls out the assignment and looks at the clock.

WILLY (more about settling himself)
I'll just wait.

Willys looks to the chalk board and there's an odd quote written on the board. Willy walks up to the board

WILLY
"Sleep...those little slices of
death - how I loathe them."
- EDGAR ALLAN POE

Willy smails and starts to walk back to his desk

WILLY
I love Poe, "True Nervous, very
nervous had I been and am. But why
would you think I'm mad?"

Willy smiles again and pulls out his computer as he sits, the network is down then pulls out his phone, no signal.

WILLY
Maybe I am Mad.

Over the next 15 minutes Willy sits, paces, goes back to the window and finally walks to the door as the bell is about to ring.

CLASS BELL RINGS

The bell was loud and echoed a lot. He didn't remember hearing that way before. Willy exits the class

INT - HALLWAY - MORNING

When 2000 kids occupy a school and are set to a schedule ruled by a bell, it goes from quiet to chaos in seconds. Willy didn't even know he had a passing period pace. Shoulders in, books clenched tight and ready to move with the flow of hundreds of kids trying to make it to their next destination. Willy entered the hallway ready but found

a desert of Navy Blue lockers and tile floors and hand painted signs designed to boost your school spirit. He just stopped and had to think about the new pace the day's events demanded. There was nobody there.

WILLY

Where is everyone?

Willy scouted from bathroom to bathroom, from the front hall to the back hall. Every tight corner of the school where people hid. His pace quickened to a run as he searched. Running down the hallway he came to a full stop as he recalled something the kid in the bathroom said.

BOY 2 (Willy is recalling)

Be careful...He looks like a school shooter

WILLY

Oh Crap

Willy looked around expecting someone to be there, but no one was. He quietly moved to a back hallway to make his way out of the school.

WILLY

Ok you're alright..Cops outside...the back door.

Willy slinked down the hallway, careful of open doors as he made his way to the back door. Once close he sprinted to safety. Throwing open the doors and exiting the building.

EXT - BACK DOCK - MORNING

The parking lot was full of cars as he remembered. But nobody was there. No Cops, no kids cutting class, no teachers driving in or out, nothing but the sounds of a single truck running somewhere. He could hear the exhaust. Someone must be there. Willy finds a blue truck with the door left open just idling. Nobody there. He looked inside and the radio came to life,

SFX : The opening line from the song "Talking in your sleep" by The Romantics

RADIO

When you close your eyes and you fall asleep, sleep, sleep.(the word trailed off like a dream.

Willy backed out of the truck as the song continued. He paused for a minute and then ran around the side of the building. No cops, no teachers, no principals, no students, just him all alone. He takes a pause to try and wrap his head around it.

WILLY

Where are they?

He looked up at the Highway outside the school and began to walk. His pace quickens faster and faster until he's at a full run. Quickly he reaches the road and walks into the middle of a quiet, desolate, empty road. The sign on the church Monument sign reads

MONUMENT SIGN

Psalm 127:2...for he grants sleep to those he loves.

WILLY

Too Weird

Willy runs into the school
INT. SCHOOL HALLS - MORNING

WILLY

They're all gone.

Willy Flashes back to the moment he wished everyone was gone.

WILLY

They're all gone! (With a smile)

He stops in front of the LMC and checks his phone again but the networks are down. Frustrated he pockets his phone and enters the LMC

INT - LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER (LMC) - MORNING

Running into the Library he grabs a remote, his shaky hands push the power button. On screen reveals an empty news set and another and another. The TV in the empty set oddly reads 2 letters U R The table in front him is littered with papers. One slides off the table and turns as it hits the floor, it reads "UR" in large font almost filling the page. Willy steps on the page as he rushes off.

WILLY

Nobody's anywhere...

Willy takes a moment trying to digest his current situation. Over his shoulder a sign reads, "UR A"

WILLY

I wished everyone away! Everyone.
Ha! Suckers! Yes!!!!!! It's mine
now, all of it!

When you're afraid of everything and everyone, what relief you must feel when they are all gone.

WILLY

Excuse me! No you get out of my chair! (snaps his finger) you're gone! (point to something else you're gone too, and you and you and you are all gone!

Willy confidently sits down and grabs a book.

WILLY

Oh God, Thank you!

Opens the book and stares at it blankly. There's something wrong.

WILLY

Where's the words..

Looking at the cover he notices the cover art is fuzzy and not readable. He shuffles through several, no words

WILLY

There's no words,

A copier randomly starts making copies and Willy heads that way. Brzz thunk, Brzzz Thunk, Brzzz Thunk. Willy always liked that sound. But he didn't know what to make of what the copies read. "UR Asleep."

WILLY

What?

Willy hears his name.

FROM SOMEWHERE

Willy? Can you hear me?

WILLY (CONFUSED WHERE TO
TALK TO)

Yes I can. I'm here

He follows the voice to a TV and see's a nurse leaning over
the camera shining a bright light.

TV NURSE

Willy, can you hear me. His eyes
aren't responsive. Call an
ambulance now!

WILLY

I am responsive! I'm here. Please,
I'm here!!

The TV goes to black again and Willy can't hear the nurse
anymore.

WILLY

No no Where did you go I'm here!
Oh Noo!! Come back! Please Come
Back, I'm here, I'm in here!

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE LMC - MORNING

From a stunned state to a full run Willy exits the library
then exits the school shouting

WILLY

Is anyone there? Hello...is anyone
there? Somebody please

EXT - LIBERTY NORTH HIGH SCHOOL - 8 AM

Willy runs out the front entrance and shouts to the air.
The drone pulls out an extreme wide shot, his voice trails
off slowly as the camera rises.

WILLY

Mom dad I'm here. Hello...anyone,
please anyone Somebody please
anyone anyone anyone

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT - BATHROOM - MORNING

The three boys are standing outside the bathroom talking to
a principal.

BOY 1

He was really mad about something.
I was trying to help him and he
just passed out.

In the bathroom, a group of adults surround a meek boy in a wrinkled red shirt crumpled on the floor. The nurse is shining a flashlight in his eyes from his lips barely audible words exit.

WILLY

Anyone?

NURSE 1

Shh! What did he say?

TEACHER 1

I didn't hear anything

The camera pulls out to a wide shot. In the bathroom a nurse, teacher and Jack are all standing looking horrified at the boy's condition lying on the floor.

NURSE

The parents are on the way and an
ambulance. Give him room.

INT. MOVING DOWN THE MAIN HALL - MORNING

The camera pulls into the main hallway. The further the camera removes itself from the situation the more normal life in high school becomes again.

VO

What happens when we keep pushing
someone just because we can.
Sometimes they push back in
horrible ways. Sometimes they
disappear and become a blip of
everyone's radar. Willy took the
extraordinary measure of
withdrawing from the world
completely and repelled to a world
inside his mind, his only refuge.
But there were consequences for
such a drastic retreat. The kind
of consequences you'll only find
in the Northern Zone.

Willy's voice (echoes)
Is there anyone there? I'm still
here.....

MUSIC FULL

FADE OUT: