

EXT. KEVIN'S OFFICE - MORNING

Through a window we see Kevin meticulously place his iPad, pen holder, coffee mug, and counseling books on his desk.

INT. KEVIN'S OFFICE - MID MORNING

A small plaque that reads "BELIEVE IN THE KIDS AND THEY WILL BELIEVE IN YOU" is hung carefully on the wall. Kevin, finally settled, grabs his mug and takes a rewarding sip. Mid-sip, he notices a blemish on the desk, under a corner of his iPad, mocking his very presence.

INSERT: "THIS SCHOOL SUCKS ASS"

Kevin searches for a cleaning solution and settles for Kleenex, spit and friction. Unfortunately this mark is permanent and true.

EXT. KEVIN'S OFFICE - MOMENT'S LATER

Through the window Kevin spits and rubs vigorously at the graffiti as PRINCIPAL SCOTT ANDERS, black, petulant, close to retirement and hardened by the system, watches his new hire make an ass of himself.

INT. KEVIN'S OFFICE - MOMENT'S LATER

Principal Anders enters as WE HEAR the BELL RING.

Kevin looks up like a boy hiding porn.

KEVIN
Good morning.

Principal Anders does not waste time with small talk.

PRINCIPAL ANDERS
Do you know what that bell means?

Kevin pauses recalling his employee handbook.

KEVIN
The students have five minutes to get to class?

PRINCIPAL ANDERS
It means twelve hundred troubled youths just entered my house.

KEVIN
That's why I'm here.

PRINCIPAL ANDERS

You're here because a student shot up another school and the state thinks throwing band-aids on other schools will stop the bleeding. We haven't had a counselor here in four years, so chances are the money will run out or you will run out on the job.

KEVIN

I'll do what it takes to make a difference here.

A MUFFLED VOICE BOOMS on the Principal's walkie-talkie.

RADIO DISPATCH (O.C.)

Principal Anders you're needed at the front office.

Principal Anders quickly grabs the radio and answers.

PRINCIPAL ANDERS

I'm on my way...

Principal Anders calmly holsters his radio without looking and takes two steps towards the door.

PRINCIPAL ANDERS (CONT'D)

Mr. Moore, I've read your resume, I know who you think you are. I thought I was the same person twenty years ago, but a black superman doesn't exist. You are one person for 1,200 confused, angry, temperamental youth. The odds are not in your favor.

Kevin is determined to not let his boss crush his spirit.

KEVIN

I will do what I can to save who I can. I see the troubled students as lemons that . . .

PRINCIPAL ANDERS

We don't make lemonade here, so save your idealism for your dates with girls.

Kevin is surprised and slightly offended.

PRINCIPAL ANDERS (CONT'D)

I know you were once a teacher. You probably went back to school because you wanted a bigger pay check, a longer lunch, less oversight and the chance to save lives. But I want one thing clear, This is High School, not the peace corps and you still have to follow my rules. While you are here, in my house, I want you to remember one word, "focus". Focus on finding the ones that threaten the safety of this school. Understand? Find them so I can remove them before they make a mess of my house.

THE SECOND BILL RINGS.

PRINCIPAL ANDERS (CONT'D)

I've lived in this house for five years and no one has died. Keep it that way.

Principal Anders exits.

CUT TO: