

"FERRIS BUELLER'S DAY OFF"

by

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"FERRIS BUELLER'S DAY OFF"

1 BLACK SCREEN

1

MAIN TITLES

IT'S SILENT. A BEAT...AND AN EXPLOSION OF SOUND. A HOUSEHOLD IN THE MORNING. KIDS GETTING READY FOR SCHOOL. CLOCK RADIOS. KITCHEN APPLIANCES. SHOWERS. FIGHTING. PEOPLE YELLING. DOG BARKING. APPLIANCES BUZZING. CAR HORNS. IT SOUNDS JUST LIKE YOUR HOUSE DID. STREAMS OF ROCK 'N ROLL FADE IN AND OUT. HUEY LEWIS TO LIONEL RITCHIE TO HUSKER DU. SURROUND MAKES IT FEEL LIKE YOU'RE IN THE ROOM. AN AURAL TOUR OF A HOUSE ON A SCHOOL MORNING. BEGINING IN THE KITCHEN AND MOVING UPSTAIRS.

FATHER'S VOICE (TOM)

Where's my wallet?!

SEVEN YEAR OLD BOY (TODD)

YOU IDIOT!!

TWELVE YEAR OLD GIRL (KIMBERLY)

MOM!

TODD

SHUT-UP!

EIGHTEEN YEAR OLD GIRL (JEANIE)

I NEED A TOWEL!!

TOM

JOYCE!

KIMBERLY

(whispers, sadistic)

When you turn ten, your head's going to swell up real big like a watermelon and we're going to have to put you to sleep like they do with a dog.

TODD

MOM!

TOM

JOYCE!!

JEANIE

WHO PISSED ON THE TOILET SEAT!? MOTHER!!

TOM

Where's Mom?

TODD

Is my head going to swell up?

TOM

What?!

JEANIE

OH, MY GOD! THE TOILET PAPER'S ALL WET!!!

MOTHER (JOYCE)

(screams)

TOM!

The house falls dead SILENT. We hear footsteps thundering through the house. A TENSE STRAIN OF MUSIC FADES UP.

TODD

What's that?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KIMBERLY  
Wait! Hold still!

TODD  
What?!

KIMBERLY  
Your heads starting to swell up!!

Todd screams. We hear the sound of Tom's footsteps running through the kitchen, down the hall, up the stairs, up the hallway. A door open.

TOM  
(breathless)  
What's the matter?

JOYCE  
(worried)  
It's Ferris!

TOM  
What's wrong?

JOYCE  
(snaps)  
What's wrong? For Christ's sake! Look at him!

2 CLOSE-UP. FERRIS 2

An eighteen year-old boy. He's staring lifelessly at CAMERA. His mouth's open. His eyes are bugged-out. His tongue is fat and dry in his mouth. He's laying in bed, on his side.

3 INT. BOY'S BEDROOM 3

Ferris' parents, TOM and JOYCE BUELLER are standing at bedside. They're in their late forties, early fifties. Handsome, upper-middle class parents. They're both dressed for work.

TOM  
Ferris?

JOYCE  
He doesn't have a fever. But he says his stomach hurts and he's seeing spots.

4 CLOSE-UP. FERRIS 4

His lifeless eyes blink.

5 INT. BEDROOM. PARENTS

5

Tom bends down and touches Ferris' forehead.

TOM  
What's the matter, Ferris?

JOYCE  
Feel his hands. They're cold and clammy.

Tom takes one of Ferris' hands.

TOM  
(discreetly)  
Should you call the doctor?

JOYCE  
(whispers)  
He doesn't want me to.

TOM  
Why don't you want Mom to call the  
doctor?

Ferris exhales loudly. He tries to speak but all he can manage is a choked gasp.

TOM (CONT'D)  
What?

Ferris tries again.

FERRIS  
(raspy)  
Don't make a fuss. I'm fine. I'll get up.

He starts to get up. Joyce gently pushes him back down.

FERRIS (CONT'D)  
I have a test today. I have to take it. I  
want to get into a good college so I can  
have a fruitful life...

JOYCE  
You're not going to school like this.  
(to Tom)  
Maybe I should call the office and tell  
them I won't be in.

FERRIS  
I'm okay, Mom. I feel perfectly...Oh,  
God!

(CONTINUED)

He's gripped by a seizure. His body stiffens and he chokes. His older sister, JEANIE, walks into the room. She's dressed for school. She's cute and stuck-up. A major pill.

JEAN

Oh, fine. What's this? What's his problem?

JOYCE

He doesn't feel well.

JEAN

Yeah, right. Dry that one out and you can fertilize the lawn.

TOM

That's enough, Jeanie.

JEANIE

You're not falling for this, are you? Tell me you're not falling for this.

FERRIS

Is that Jeanie? I can't see that far. Jeanie?

JEANIE

Pucker up and squat, Ferris.

JOYCE

(annoyed)

Thank you, Jeanie. Get to school.

JEANIE

(angry, defeated)

You're really letting him stay home? I can't believe this. If I was bleeding out my eyes, you guys'd make me go to school. It's so unfair.

FERRIS

Please don't be upset with me, Jeanie. Be thankful that you're fit and have your health. Cherish it.

JEANIE

(to herself)

Oh, I wanna puke.

She glares at Ferris. Her eyes are mascara and vengeance. She slips out of the room. Ferris' brother, TODD and sister, KIMBERLY peek into the room.

(CONTINUED)

KIMBERLY  
Myocardial infarction?

JOYCE  
Get your stuff. Daddy'll be right down.

KIMBERLY  
Syphilitic meningitis? That would be a  
huge family embarrassment.

TOM  
Get downstairs!

KIMBERLY  
If he dies, I got dibs on his stereo.

She turns sharply and exits.

TODD  
(worried)  
Dad? Does my head look alright?

JOYCE  
Get downstairs! Now!

TODD  
Just answer me one question! Is it  
swelling up? Kim said it was going to get  
as big as...

KIMBERLY (OC)

A WATERMELON!

TODD  
(yells out the room)  
Shut-up!

JOYCE  
Get downstairs! NOW!

Todd backs out of the room.

FERRIS  
I'll be okay. I'll just sleep. Maybe I'll  
have an aspirin around noon.

JOYCE  
(to Ferris)  
I'm showing houses to the family from  
California today but I'll be in the area.  
My office'll know where I am, if you need  
me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TOM  
I'll check it with you, too.

FERRIS  
It's nice to know I have such loving,  
caring parents. You're both very special  
people.

6 CU. FERRIS 6

He acknowledges Tom with a pathetic flutter of his eyelids.

7 INT. BEDROOM. JOYCE 7

She strokes Ferris' hair.

JOYCE  
I hope you feel better, pumpkin.

She leans down and kisses his forehead. Tom pats his  
shoulder.

TOM  
Get some rest.

8 CU. FERRIS 8

Ferris lets out a wheeze. His glassy eyes follow his parents  
to the door.

JOYCE (OC)  
We love you, sweetie.

TOM (OC)  
Call if you need us.

They close the door. The lock clicks. Ferris' eyes shift from  
the door to CAMERA. A sly, little smile crawls across his  
lips.

FERRIS  
They bought it.

The MTV theme music ROARS IN.

9 CU. TV SCREEN 9

The TV at the foot of Ferris' bed. The MTV logo is playing.

10 INT. BEDROOM 10

Ferris yanks open the drapes. The pall of the sickroom  
disappears in the brilliant glow of morning sunlight.

(CONTINUED)