



Griffin takes the keys and opens the trunk.

                  GRIFFIN (V.O.)  
But its times like these that I remember  
something, Bobby told me almost a year  
ago.

He holds up the trunk lid as Bobby lays the Grocery bag  
inside.

                  GRIFFIN (V.O.)  
It was on his birthday, we were heading  
over to Doug's house, just like we are  
right now.

He closes the trunk. Bobby is talking about something.

                  GRIFFIN (V.O.)  
He told me that every year, on his  
birthday he renews his 'best-friend'  
contract. He has done since he was a  
kid.

Griffin unlocks his door, gets in.

                  GRIFFIN (V.O.)  
Then he did a little laugh and shook my  
hand. He said "Here's to one more year",  
and shook my hand, just like that.

Griffin reaches across the car and unlocks the passenger side  
and Bobby gets in.

                  GRIFFIN (V.O.)  
I'd never really thought about it before,  
I'd just assumed that your best friend  
knew he was your best friend and vice  
versa.

Bobby continues talking, Griffin slowly looks over to Bobby ,  
clearly not listening, but thinking, thinking something that  
will get him into some trouble.

                  GRIFFIN (V.O.)  
But ever since he said that, I haven't  
been able to get it out of my mind. I'm  
under some kind of contract, legally  
beholden or something.

Griffin starts up the car, looks back at Bobby.

1 CONTINUED: (2)

                  GRIFFIN (V.O.)

Now the contract is almost up. Bobby's  
birthday is a week away. Now, he's a  
good guy and all.

CU BOBBY, PANS OVER TO GRIFFIN

                  GRIFFIN (V.O.)

But, I bet I could do better.

CUT TO:

TITLE CARD "THIS YEAR'S MODEL"  
TITLE CARDS AND OPENING CREDITS

CUT TO:

2 EXT. DOUG'S HOUSE - NIGHT

2

The car pulls up to the house. The two men get out, go over  
to the trunk, remove the beer, and pace up to the door.

                  GRIFFIN (V.O.)

Video night at my brother Doug's is a  
Tuesday night tradition. Each week, for  
years now, we've been getting together  
and watching some of the worst films ever  
put on tape.

POV (GRIFFIN) DOUG OPENS DOOR

Doug, 30 opens the door, his face lights up, greetings are  
exchanged. Griffin and Bobby step in.

3 INT. DOUG'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

3

Bobby gives the beer to Doug. He takes it and heads off to  
put it in the fridge. The living room contains two other  
people, TONY 27 and WAYNE 27. Greetings are exchanged.  
CU EMPTY FRIDGE

The fridge opens, empty and sad. A case of beer is thrown  
in, the door closed. The fridge is happy.

Doug returns to the living room. Tony, holds a video rental  
box up as if it were for inspection. Groans rise from the  
others, Tony holds up two fingers and says something along  
the lines of 'Part 2!' The picture freezes on a group shot.

                  GRIFFIN (V.O.)

These are my friends, contestants,  
candidates if you will.

CU STILLS OF EACH PERSON IN THE ROOM, FINISHING ON GRIFFIN

(CONTINUED)

GRIFFIN (V.O.)

Loyal, yes. Qualified, certainly. But only one, one of these men can be the best. Which one of the contestants will rise above the others, which one is... "this year's model"

A few portfolios, a few sheets of paper, a few photos, all spread out on a desk.

XCU SPEAKERPHONE

GRIFFIN (O.S.)

Wayne, Hey, it's Griffin. I was thinking coffee, usual place, two o'clock.

WATCH FACE 2:11

4 EXT. STREET CAFE - AFTERNOON

4

Griffin sits alone at a table clearly meant for two people, he was looking at his watch. He looks at his micro cassette recorder, shakes it and puts it in his jacket pocket.

GRAPHIC: "#1 WAYNE" YEARBOOK PHOTO

A manila envelope, pinned on the front is the picture of Wayne, inside are several pieces of paper and a couple of photographs. Griffin reviews the file.

GRIFFIN (V.O.)

Wayne Keener, age 27. High school Graduate, some college. Wayne is the assistant manager at Al's Animal Kingdom in the mall. Wayne likes include...

Papers ruffle, the information is not forthcoming.

GRIFFIN (V.O.)

(grasping)

Well I guess Wayne like animals... and he lives at home with his parents.

Wayne arrives, plops down in the seat. Griffin turns the folder over and covers it with his hand. He checks the time, it is clear that he is taking points off for tardiness. Wayne does not seem to notice any of this.

WAYNE

First one here? Or am I early?

GRIFFIN

No, no your not early Wayne. The others aren't coming. I needed to talk to you about something. And I'd prefer the others don't find out about it.

(CONTINUED)

Wayne appears a mixture of curiosity and dread.

WAYNE

Uh, Griffin, I think I know what this is about.

GRIFFIN

(genuinely surprised)  
You... do?

WAYNE

(like he's hearing confession)  
I think so. I've been wondering how long it would be. To be honest I didn't think it would be you too Griffin.

GRIFFIN

(with some horror)  
Was it Bobby? Did he already ask you about this?

WAYNE

(like Barney Fife)  
No it wasn't Bobby. But if it had been the answer would've been the same. No.  
(beat)  
I can't use my employee discount at the store for friends.

Griffin is confused. Wayne continues.

WAYNE

Not even family, Mom has to pay full price for Bobo's Cycle-4. When Al says 'discount is not transferable' I take those word seriously.

Griffin gets it. Wayne raises his hand as if waving off a bribe.

WAYNE

I just can't do it Griffin, don't beg me.

GRIFFIN

But Wayne, Bobo is your dog too, couldn't you buy the Cycle-4 yourself and use your discount?

The look on Wayne's face is as if it has been touched by light for the first time.

(CONTINUED)

GRIFFIN  
                  (continuing)  
                  But that's not why I called you here.  
                  (beat)  
                  I'd like to talk to you about being...

He almost dreads to utter.

                  GRIFFIN  
                  My best friend.

The change is immediate, Wayne melts into something more like the puppy he sells at Al's.

                  WAYNE  
                  Am I your best friend Griffin?

Griffin is doubting the validity of his screening process. He chooses his words carefully.

                  GRIFFIN  
                  Let's just say that there might be a  
                  vacancy.

                  WAYNE  
                  Really? That would be great, I mean.  
                  I've always thought we kinda.

He makes a motion with his hands.

                  WAYNE  
                  Gelled, or y'know kinda psychic friends  
                  connection...

Wayne's speech decays into random phrases. Griffin raises his hand to silence him.

                  GRIFFIN  
                  Wayne, hold on just a sec. For the  
                  purposes of this... interview, could you  
                  describe some of the things that might  
                  make you a well. Make you a really good,  
                  best friend?

Without a beat.

                  WAYNE  
                  In a word, loyalty. I'm very loyal. I  
                  mean I've been at Al's Animal Kingdom for  
                  nine years, loyalty...

Unsure of his answer, Wayne panics.

WAYNE

And my parents have a Jacuzzi, we could use it whenever we want.

A triumphant parley, Wayne nods.

GRIFFIN

(frowning)

I thought you said that the hot tub was busted.

Wayne's mind rolls (slowly).

WAYNE

Uh, no. Actually its just that. You see...uh. Well my parents don't want everyone, and well its not that big you see and...

Griffin cannot hide his disapproval. Wayne tries to save himself.

GRIFFIN

I think that's enough for now Wayne.

Wayne senses that he has scored poorly.

WAYNE

Can I have another go? My Dad might be getting a satellite dish, two-hundred channels.

Wayne crumbles.

WAYNE

I just don't test very strongly, ever since school, I get all, all all...

Griffin dislikes this side of Wayne.

GRIFFIN

Really, its okay, you did just fine, you did.

Wayne has a shimmer of hope.

WAYNE

Really?

GRIFFIN

(with a nod and an insincere smile)

Really, I'll let you know. But for now,  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: (4)

                  GRIFFIN (cont'd)  
          lets just keep this to ourselves, 'kay?  
          Really, you did quite well.

Wayne looks like he has just finished a marathon, dead last.

5 EXT. STREET - DAY 5

Griffin and Bobby are sitting on the curb in front of Griffin's car. They are eating take-out food from styrofoam boxes.

                  BOBBY  
                  (making conversation)  
          So... waht've you been up to Griff?

                  GRIFFIN  
                  (guilty.)  
          Uh, Nothing, not much, really. What makes you ask?

Bobby is foraging thru the food bits.

                  BOBBY  
  
No reason. Urp! God, why do you let me get this stuff?

                  GRIFFIN  
          But you love Chinese.

                  BOBBY  
          But, it doesn't love me. Urp!

Bobby drops his take-out box into the brown bag sitting next to him in the gutter. Stands up and stretches. He looks at the car. Griffin is still picking at his food.

                  BOBBY  
          Tell me Griff, when are we gonna finish fixing up this thing?

                  GRIFFIN  
          We? What do you mean we Kimosabe?

                  BOBBY  
                  (cheeky)  
          Well, I got to thinking. If I don't help you finish, it'll never get done.

He throws a grin towards Griffin, who has just dropped his box into the bag.

                  GRIFFIN  
          Not so fast, I did some of the stuff.

Bobby looks doubtful.

                  GRIFFIN  
          I got the alarm put in.

He pulls out his keys and swings the alarm remote like a trophy.

                  BOBBY  
          The alarm...  
                  (snatches remote)  
          This one?

He clicks the button, many times, nothing happens. Griffin is defeated.

                  BOBBY  
                  (teasing)  
          Are you sure?... This one? Maybe this  
          one. No no, this one.

Griffin cannot hide the fact that he is amused.

                  GRIFFIN  
          Tony installed it for me.

Bobby is doing a teasing 'remote' dance.

                  GRIFFIN  
                  (continuing)  
          Sometimes it works... I think its  
          because of all the rain we've been...

The dance goes on.

                  GRIFFIN  
                  (continuing)  
          Okay, okay can we go? I have an  
          appointment.

Bobby is waving the remote just beyond Griffins reach. He stops his silly dance. Hands Griffin the keys.

                  GRIFFIN  
          Thank you.

He looks at the remote for a moment.

                  GRIFFIN  
                  (continuing)  
                  (holding out keys)  
          Can you do that... That thing?

(CONTINUED)

Bobby takes the remote, blows into it and clicks off the alarm. Without a word he smiles and hops around to the passenger side of the car, tossing the keys to Griffin.

                  GRIFFIN  
                  (catching keys)  
                  How do you do that?

GRAPHIC #2 TONY YEARBOOK PHOTO

A manila envelope, its contents are splayed out over a table, Griffin tucks them back in and picks up the folder.

                  GRIFFIN (V.O.)  
                  Tony Burgess, a self styled hessian in high school, Tony was the only one of us to actually go away to school after graduation. Returning after only one semester having accumulated virtually no knowledge of political science, his major, but having gained many 'life-lessons'. Tony enjoys watching television, talking about watching television, and telling stories that begin with the phrase 'when I was away at school'.

6 EXT. AUTO SHOP - DAY

6

Griffin (with folder) walks along the front of an auto shop. Talks to someone inside who goes off inside. Moments later Tony appears, in dirty overalls, he wipes off his hand and shakes Griffin's hand.

                  TONY  
                  Hey, how's that alarm working out for you?

Griffin decides to lie.

                  GRIFFIN  
                  Great, really, thanks again for that.

                  TONY  
                  (with a dismissive wave, and a very bad Brando accent)  
                  S'okay, but one day I will come to you, and on that day I will ask youse for a favor, favor that youse cannot refuse.

(CONTINUED)

He makes the familiar, 'cheek scratch' with his right hand. This makes a black grease mark with prompts Griffin to look at his own hand and wipe it on his pants.

GRIFFIN

Godfather, yes. Very good, very funny. Uh, Tony I need to talk to you about something. Its kind've a secret, I'd rather you don't tell the others about it.

Tony is nodding his head, paying attention.

GRIFFIN

(continuing)

Its a bit awkward actually.

Tony sweeps his hand in the air.

TONY

You don't have to tell me.

(beat)

You're gay.

GRIFFIN

What? No, I, I no

TONY

You're gay and you're in love with me. Listen you're not the first guy to misread my vibes y'know.

GRIFFIN

Vibes?

TONY

But I should tell you right now. I'm all about chicks man, all about 'em. And they are all about me Griffin.

Griffin is only slightly amused at the misunderstanding.

TONY

'See Griffin, I'm what's known as a man's man. I don't know if its genetic, like what you've got, or if its something you pick up. Guys pick up on that, they pick up on it, and they respect it. Yes, some men may even hate me for it, but what can I do? And some men, like you get a bit mixed up and think that maybe I'm, well maybe I'm like that way. Its a simple mistake Griffin, you shouldn't feel bad.

(CONTINUED)

GRIFFIN  
          (irony)  
I don't know what I was thinking.

Griffin nods as Tony speaks.

                  TONY  
Now, I don't want you worrying. I won't  
tell the others if you don't. But I  
don't want you, y'know checkin' me out  
and having some kinda fantasies and  
stuff, cause its not gonna happen, don't  
even do that to yourself man. You just  
gotta fine tune that homo-radar or gay-  
dar or whatever you've got.

                  GRIFFIN  
Gay-dar?

                  TONY  
'Cause with me its all about chicks, and  
not just one chick either, this one time  
there were these twins...

Griffin has had enough.

                  GRIFFIN  
Buy Tony, you haven't had a girlfriend  
the whole time I've known you. I've  
never even seen you talk to a girl.

                  TONY  
          (flustered about being cut off)  
Now, Griffin, you're just being bitter  
now all right? Now when I was away at  
school...

CU LIST CONTAINING WAYNE, TONY AND DOUG'S NAME

Tony's name is crossed out, repeatedly.

CU MANILA FOLDER DROPS INTO TRASH ON FIRE

7 INT. GRIFFIN'S APARTMENT - DAY

7

Montage of various other friends as they are being  
interviewed by Griffin.

                  GRIFFIN  
So, Brian, Brent, Eric, Craig...  
          (Long list of names)  
...tell me a little about yourself.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

Various friends relate why they should and could be Griffin's best friend. And at the end...

                  GRIFFIN (cont'd)  
                  (As he crosses out a name)  
                  ...I'll let you know.

GRAPHIC: #3 DOUG YEARBOOK PHOTO

CU MANILA FOLDER WITH DOUG'S NAME ON IT

Griffin pulls out a stack of paper.

                  GRIFFIN (O.S.)  
                  (after the sound of a phone  
                  ringing)  
Doug? It's...

                  DOUG (O.S.)  
Oh, It's you, I was expecting you to  
call. I think you should come over.

                  GRIFFIN (O.S.)  
Wha' is something wrong?

                  DOUG (O.S.)  
Just come over.

                  GRIFFIN (O.S.)  
Am I in trouble?

                  DOUG (O.S.)  
Just get over here, or I'm telling Mom.

8 INT. DOUG'S LIVING ROOM - DAY 8

Doug meets Griffin at the door.

                  GRIFFIN  
Wayne called you, didn't he?

                  DOUG  
Twice, and Tony called. Something about  
you making a pass at him.

                  GRIFFIN  
That guy needs help.

                  DOUG  
So what the hell is going on?

Griffin collects himself.

(CONTINUED)

GRIFFIN  
Doug, you're my brother. But you're my  
friend too, right?

                  DOUG  
          ( (leading)  
Yess...?

Griffin uses each word like a maneuver.

                  GRIFFIN  
          (slowly, trying to trick Doug)  
Would you say that you were, my best  
friend?

                  DOUG  
Mmm. Best friend? No, no I wouldn't.

A little shocked, Griffin continues.

                  GRIFFIN  
Would you... like to be?

Doug takes pause, thinks.

                  DOUG  
No, no I don't think so.

Griffin did not expect out and out rejection.

                  GRIFFIN  
No? Why not?

                  DOUG  
'Cause you're a pain in the ass.

Griffin is hurt.

                  DOUG  
          (continuing)  
Griffin, listen, I love you as a brother,  
but as a best friend you're a nightmare,  
an A1 total nutcase. I don't know how  
Bobby can stand it. There's no way I'd  
pull double duty.

                  GRIFFIN  
          (defensive)  
I'm telling Mom you said 'Doodie'.

                  DOUG  
These, these are harsh words Griffin, but  
what kind of a best friend are you?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: (2)

DOUG (cont'd)  
Interviewing replacements, trying to  
upgrade. If Bobby found out, how do you  
think he'd feel.

Griffin is six years old.

GRIFFIN  
Lousy, I guess.

DOUG  
Yes, pretty lousy.

GRIFFIN  
You won't tell him will you?

DOUG  
No, I won't tell him.

Griffin gives himself a pitiful little chuckle.

GRIFFIN  
If he found out he'd probably replace me.

Doug's face turns grim, he has just worked something out.

DOUG  
Maybe that's what Wayne called back  
about.

GRIFFIN  
Wayne?

DOUG  
I told you he called twice. The second  
call he asked for Bobby's number, said he  
lost it and wanted to get a hold of him  
before tomorrow night.

GRIFFIN  
Tomorrow night?

DOUG  
Tuesday... video night.

Griffin snaps his fingers.

GRIFFIN  
And, Bobby's birthday. I gotta go.

Griffin springs up and dashes off.

DOUG  
Nutcase!

9 EXT. DOUG'S HOUSE - DAY

9

Griffin is stymied by the remote for his car alarm, useless as ever. After a brief, almost tribal dance around the hood, he shrugs, opens the door, setting off the alarm. He hops in and drives off, alarm wailing.

DRIVE-BY CAR WITH ALARM

10 EXT. STREET CAFE - DAY

10

Wayne is sitting with Bobby, Griffin's car screams by. They watch it go. They hear it stop. It reverses back. Out hops Griffin, he slams the door, the alarm falls silent.

BOBBY

Griffin, what're you doing here?

WAYNE

Uh, yeah.

Griffin swaggers, as if he had caught his wife in bed with the mailman.

GRIFFIN

(nodding to each)

Bobby, Wayne. What a coincidence.

(trying to appear composed)

Wayne I was just coming to see you about something at Al's Animal Kingdom.

Wayne is nervous.

WAYNE

(aware that he is caught)

Uh, I'm on a break.

GRIFFIN

(high and mighty)

A break, good for you. A break. Yes, it must be nice to get away from the hustle and bustle of Al's Animal Kingdom once in a while. Oh yes, I bet it must really get to you.

Wayne begins to crack.

GRIFFIN

I don't know how you do it Wayne. I mean the stress, animals, food, food animals. Keeping fully stocked with that chalk that parakeets like to chip away at.

(CONTINUED)

WAYNE  
(a whisper)  
Shill.

GRIFFIN  
Shill indeed. How do you do it Wayne?  
Assistant manager and everything, I bet  
that there's nothing you'd like more, at  
the end of a busy day stocking up on  
Shill  
(beat)  
Than to relax in a hot bubbling, smooth  
out the knots...  
(shout)  
JACUZZI!

Griffin scans Bobby and Wayne for their reaction. Wayne falls apart at the table, Bobby does not flinch.

BOBBY  
What did you want him for Griff?

GRIFFIN  
(building tension; groping for  
an answer)  
What did I want him for, what did I want  
him for? That's a very good question,  
very good, good question indeed. What  
did I want?

Griffin looks at Bobby, then at Wayne, then back at Bobby, then back at Wayne, who is quivering with fear. Griffin speaks each word like a spear in Wayne's chest.

GRIFFIN  
I...wanted..a..

XCU EYES GRIFFIN, BOBBY, WAYNE, GRIFFIN.

GRIFFIN  
PUPPY!

Wayne suppresses a shriek.

GRIFFIN  
(quickly, trying to convince us  
that was what he meant the  
whole time)  
A little puppy dog, a puppy. For...your  
birthday, your birthday tomorrow. I  
wanted to ask Wayne to use his discount  
at Al's Animal Kingdom to get you a puppy  
dog for your birthday, that's it.

(CONTINUED)

Bobby and Griffin face Wayne, a wreck.

WAYNE

But...I...can't! I can't use that  
discount, I can't, I can't.

Wayne breaks down and begins sobbing. Bobby is not quite  
sure what's going on, Griffin is triumphant.

BOBBY

I'm allergic to dogs Griff, you know  
that.

GRIFFIN

(with a dismissive sweep)  
Oh, that's right, I forgot, silly me.  
What would you like?

BOBBY

Well, I saw a nice microphone down at  
Ed's Microphone Kingdom.

GRIFFIN

Lets go!

Bobby gets up, Wayne is still quivering at the table.  
Griffin holds out the remote, clicks it once, the alarm turns  
off (what did you expect?), he looks at Bobby who is also  
surprised.

GRIFFIN

Here's to one more year.

They shake hands. Bobby crosses to the passenger side.

GRIFFIN

Uh, Wayne?

Wayne looks up.

GRIFFIN

Why don't you come with us?

Wayne waves a 'yes, go away', kind of wave, and collapses  
onto the table.