

SCENE THREE

*[JOSH tears out of the house in a panic. He looks at his arms and legs in horror, as if they were disembodied aliens. Kids pass, on their way to school. JOSH assumes a pose of desperate, unconvincing nonchalance. BILLY and another kid pass]*

KID

Did you believe that science homework? I had to work on it all weekend!

BILLY

We had science homework?

*(The KID chuckles, shakes his head and continues off)*

JOSH

*(Urgently, under his breath)*

Billy!

BILLY

*(Stopping)*

Yeah?

JOSH

Billy, its *me*!

BILLY

Who?

JOSH

Josh!

BILLY

*(Nervously)*

Josh who?

JOSH

Josh Baskin!

BILLY

*(Taking a step backwards)*

Oh! Right! Of course! How are you, Josh?

JOSH

*(Stepping towards him)*

Billy, get over here!

BILLY

Absolutely! Just give me a minute, I wanna get some –

*(He turns and runs)*  
Help! Help! Help --!  
*(JOSH grabs him)*

JOSH

Billy!... We shot foul shots yesterday for three hours!... We had a pop quiz last week in Algebra! You got a twelve!... You gave me your last French fry last night at the carnival! You made me get down on my knees and beg for it like a dog!

*(BILLY stops struggling; JOSH releases him. BILLY stares wide-eyed at JOSH, who starts to do a desperate version of their dance routine, singing)*

JOSH

*(Cont'd):*  
Come on, baby, let's ride  
Come on, baby, let's ride  
Come on, baby, let's take that ride  
Let's ride, let's ride to the other side  
Come on, baby, come on, let's move it  
If you think you're ready for love, let's prove it  
Sha bop, sha boom, sha beep, sha bop shimmy  
Come on, baby, gimme, gimme, gimme, gimme...

*(BILLY starts to echo JOSH's movements, until JOSH finishes, and looks at BILLY pleadingly)*

BILLY

Josh?

JOSH

Yes!

BILLY

Man, you look terrible.

JOSH

Billy, you gotta help me!

*(Police sirens and flashing lights. BILLY grabs JOSH's hand)*

BILLY

Let's go!

*(They run off)*

*(PAUL enters, struggling with BILLY)*

PAUL

Look at this! A child in a toy company! Call security!

*(Hub-bub and confusion. JOSH cuts through it, as MACMILLAN enters)*

JOSH

It's all right! I'll take charge of this! I think everyone here has an assignment, yes? People, we've got a toy to deliver!

MACMILLAN

*(To JOSH)*

I'm back in business, kid. Yes!

*(MACMILLAN exits, improvising a reprise of "Fun!" Everybody else scurries off except JOSH and BILLY. JOSH beams, gestures to a chair)*

JOSH

Billy! Come in, sit down!

BILLY

I've been trying to call you for two days! Didn't anybody tell you?!

JOSH

They probably did. I'm sorry. I've got this crazy deadline. I haven't been able to think about anything else.

BILLY

*(Coyly, holding up the envelope)*

You mean, anything else like this?

JOSH

What's that?

BILLY

*(Handing him the envelope)*

I told you! It's the list of carnivals! I got it! It finally came!

JOSH

Oh, yeah. Great. Good job.

BILLY

Our best bet is this warehouse for old carnival stuff in Long Island City. Or there's

JOSH

*(Tossing the list on the desk)*

Billy, I don't need this anymore.

BILLY

What d'you mean?

JOSH

*(Confidentially)*

Billy, I made it. I passed the test. I'm a grown-up now.

BILLY

A couple of weeks ago you were hiding in my basement begging me to save you from Danny Toback. Now you're a grown-up.

JOSH

*(Laughing)*

A lot can happen in a couple of weeks. Hey, you know what you should do? You should find this Zoltar machine. You can make the same wish I did! We'll get you some clothes. We'll get you a job –

*(Putting an arm around BILLY's shoulder)*

I'll get you a job *here!*

BILLY

*(Shoving his arm away)*

I don't want a job here!

JOSH

Hey, what's wrong with you?

BILLY

What's wrong with *you*, asshole?! First you beg me to save you from this stupid wish you made! Then when I *do* save you, I can't even get you on the phone!

*(JOSH stares at him; a beat)*

JOSH

You know, I know what's going on here. This cool thing happened to me and it didn't happen to you and you can't stand it, can you? Well, I'm sorry about that, but I've got work to do and it's important –

BILLY

I'm your best friend. What's more important than that?

*(SUSAN enters, talking, making a beeline for JOSH -- not seeing BILLY)*

SUSAN

Crisis in the Art Department! Tod needs you to review his sketches *now*.

*(She gives JOSH a quick kiss. She sees BILLY and steps back)*

Oops! Sorry.

BILLY

*(To JOSH)*

You know what? I'm a bigger asshole than you are.