

TURBO JAM BOOSTERS

Writer # 16-DE07-W42

A 12-year-old boy, who feels like a fifth wheel in his family,  
tries to ruin his older brother's academic future.

FADE IN

EXT. OUTER SPACE

A loud explosion rips from the engine of a spaceship that drifts perilously close to a massive sun.

INT. SPACE SHIP BRIDGE

Three 12-year-old boys in Star Trek-style uniforms lurch left, then right as the ship stabilizes from the explosion.

JOSH BAXTER, peers down at a control panel, then looks up to TOM MASON, who stands behind him. The large viewscreen in front of them fills ominously with sunlight.

TOM  
What was that, Josh?

JOSH  
We lost another engine, Captain. It can't take the heat. If we lose one more, we'll be sucked into the sun!

TOM  
Scotty, you've got to give me more power now!

SCOTT RODRIGUEZ, behind the captain, punches buttons feverishly on a computer.

SCOTT  
I'm giving you everything I've got, Captain!

TOM  
Everything is not enough. Activate the Turbo Jam Boosters!

JOSH  
But Captain, they've never been tested!

Each of them shields his eyes from the brightening sun.

TOM  
We don't have a choice.

SCOTT  
Activating the Turbo Jam Boosters now!

With a loud screech, a door-shaped hole filled with sunlight suddenly opens beside the viewscreen. The silhouette of a man steps into the light and his voice booms with anger.

SILHOUETTE

Josh. You need to come home now.

The light on the boys' faces washes away, along with the bridge and the space uniforms, replaced by three boys in jeans standing in a tree-house at play. In the doorway stands BILL BAXTER.

JOSH

Dad! You're interrupting us.

CONTINUOUS. OUTER SPACE

The spaceship flies straight into the sun and *poof!* - it blows up into a molten mushroom cloud.

CONTINUOUS. TREE HOUSE - DAY

BILL

You were supposed to be home an hour ago. We had an agreement. You were going to watch your sister.

JOSH

I forgot what time it was.  
(turns to his friends)  
Sorry guys.

Josh and his dad climb down a rickety ladder.

BILL

Your mom's been trying to reach you. Where's your phone?

Josh walks to a picnic table and picks up his phone from a pile of gadgets. He looks down, and grimaces as he sees the number "4" over both his text and phone icons. He reaches for his bike propped up against the table.

BILL (CONT'D)

Let's put your bike in the car. Mom and I are already late for dinner.

JOSH

Why can't Sam watch Sarah tonight?

BILL

(loads up the bike)  
Stop already.

(MORE)

BILL (CONT'D)

You know your brother's trying to finish his senior project. He needs to be at the library.

Josh makes a face - hidden from his dad - as he slinks into the car.

JOSH

(under his breath)  
Sam's so perfect.

FLASHBACK - BAXTER'S HOUSE - DAY

Josh sits around the kitchen table with SAM, 18, and his dad and MOM, who holds SARAH, 3, in her lap. Sam excitedly holds an envelope in his hands.

BILL

Well, go ahead and open it son.

Sam with a smile, slices open the envelope with a knife.

BILL (CONT'D)

Drum roll!

Josh and his parents rap out a drum beat on the table, as Sam pulls out the paper and reads.

SAM

Dear Sam. On behalf of the USC collegiate community we wish to congratulate you on your acceptance into the University of Southern California!

They all break into a boisterous cheer.

BILL

A second generation of Trojan Baxters! I'm so proud of you son.

Josh's smile slowly dims as he watches his parents shower their accolades on Sam.

INT. CAR - DAY

Josh's dad looks at him as they drive home.

BILL

Son, we're getting tired of this behavior of yours.

JOSH  
Said I'm sorry.

BILL  
Sorry's not good enough. You're old enough to start being responsible. And yesterday we heard from your teacher that your grades are still down. So we're grounding you for a week. I want you straight home from school every day, and...

Josh starts to protest.

BILL (CONT'D)  
...you're not to go anywhere.

JOSH  
Dad. No! I'll get my homework done.

BILL  
You said that last time and nothing changed.

JOSH  
I stopped with all the video games. I went outside like you said. You're right. Outdoors isn't scary.

BILL  
Sorry. End of discussion. Get your grades up, and start being reliable, and you'll start having more freedom. That's how it works.

JOSH  
Whatever happened to forgiveness? I thought we were Christians.

BILL  
Oh no, don't you play the church card on me, young man. When I messed up with money years ago, God put me over his knee big time. He loved me too much to let me keep being stupid. He let me feel a lot of pain and that's how I learned. And that's how you'll learn.

Josh looks sullenly out the window and vents a huge sigh.

INT. BAXTER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Josh looks sullenly out the window - from the living room - and vents a huge sigh.

He turns away and shuffles down the hallway, pausing to peek in on his sleeping sister. Satisfied that she is in Never-Neverland, he continues to the end of the hall.

Just as he turns to enter his room, his eyes drift to a small poster plastered sternly on a closed door next to him.

"Sam's Cave - Enter At Your Own Risk".

Josh pushes open the door and stares inside. A small clip lamp over Sam's desk beams down a cone of light on a small mountain of papers and books.

Josh saunters innocently up to the desk, then casually forages through the papers. A photo of Sam and a beautiful girl catches his eye.

FLASHBACK - SAM'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Josh peers secretly through a crack in the doorway at his brother, whose feet are on his desk with a phone wedged to his ear. As he talks on the phone, Sam mindlessly fingers one of his biceps.

SAM

Hey babe...Oh nothing much...Trying to work on my project. I think I've written about as much as I can tonight.

Josh inspects his own biceps.

SAM (CONT'D)

I'd love to see ya too, but I'm pretty tired. I'll dream of you tonight though. Dream of you in that yellow dress you wore the other day.

Josh twists his face in disgust.

SAM (CONT'D)

K. Sounds real good. Alright. See you after math...Love you too.

Sam makes a big smooching sound, and looks back at the doorway, which is black and empty.

INT. SAM'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Josh looks away from the photo, and picks up a piece of paper -- Sam's letter of acceptance from USC. He studies it.

INT. BAXTER'S HOUSE - DAY

Josh sits around the kitchen table with Sam, his parents, and Sarah in Mom's lap. Josh excitedly holds an envelope.

BILL

Well, go ahead and open it son.

Josh excitedly rips open the envelope with pre-teen fervor.

BILL (CONT'D)

Drum roll!

Everyone raps on the table, as Josh reads the letter.

SAM

Dear Josh. On behalf of the USC collegiate community we are sorry to inform you that your application was not accepted. Your 1.97 GPA did not meet our standards for admission. You should have listened to your father the day in the tree-house.

BILL

I'm so sorry son. Better luck next time.

MOM

(exaggerated Mom-tone)  
But at least we still have our wonderful Trojan son, Sam. We love you!

Mom and Dad press against Sam like a hamburger bun, squeezing his cheeks and ruffling his hair.

INT. SAM'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

JOSH

Sam's so perfect.

As he puts the letter back down, his hand brushes the mouse on the desk which wakes the computer out of sleep-mode. On the screen pops up a Word project.

JOSH (CONT'D)  
 (reads)  
 Final Senior Project - Sam Baxter.

His eyes suddenly flash with an idea -- forbidden, daring and evil. He leans over with the mouse, and peers at the screen.

JOSH (CONT'D)  
 Close...Recent places...There you are. Oh my. A whole folder called 'Senior Project'. That's so creative. Right click...Delete... Minimize...Recycle bin...Empty the recycle bin.

A sinister smile creeps over Josh's face. Suddenly the doorbell rings, startling him.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Josh pulls open the front door and is surprised to see his friend Tom there.

TOM  
 Heard you were babysitting tonight.

JOSH  
 It's all I'm good for anymore.

TOM  
 I heard you were good for video games.

Josh smiles and signals for Tom to come in.

INT. FRONT OF TV - LATER

They're thick into an Xbox game.

JOSH  
 You're so lucky man. Go anywhere you want. Whenever you want. I've always got my parents breathing down my neck.

TOM  
 You think I'm lucky? Seriously? I'd love to have a dad who worried where I was at. My step-dad could care less. In fact, the less I'm around, the better.

JOSH  
You mean that?

TOM  
Heck yes. That was so cool the way  
your dad came charging in today,  
'cuz you'd screwed up, and he  
needed you. You're lucky.

JOSH  
Sure don't feel lucky. Seems like  
he's always on my case.

TOM  
You're such a moron. He's on your  
case because he cares for you. I'd  
trade places with you in a minute.

Josh's heart sinks, and as he loses focus, Tom finishes him  
off.

TOM (CONT'D)  
Gotcha. What's the matter?

JOSH  
I think I did something really,  
really dumb.

INT. SAM'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Tom is perched at Sam's desk looking intently at the computer  
screen with Josh behind him.

TOM  
I have no idea how to get it back.  
Once you empty recycle, you need  
someone with some super-duper  
computer skills.

Tom and Sam suddenly look at each other.

TOM AND JOSH  
Scott!

INT. SAM'S BEDROOM - LATER

Scott sits in the captain's chair as Josh and Tom look  
hopefully over his shoulder.

SCOTT  
I have no idea how to get it back.

JOSH

What?

SCOTT

You'd have to send the hard drive out and they'd hook up one of those FBI gizmo machines. Are you sure he didn't save it anywhere else?

JOSH

He might have a flashdrive but it's not here.

TOM

You better hope for your sake. Or you're dead meat.

SCOTT

Did he put it on the cloud?

He leans closer and clicks around with the mouse.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

He's got Dropbox here. It's password protected. Has he written out his passwords?

JOSH

Looked.

Scott pokes through some of the loose papers on the desk. He sees the picture of Sam with his lady.

SCOTT

Is this his girlfriend? Bet she knows.

INT. SAM'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Now Josh is in the chair with the house phone in his hands.

TOM

You can do this. Come on. Your parents or your brother are going to be home any moment.

JOSH

This is insane. I've never talked to a girl before.

He hits the send button and waits. The muffled voice of a girl answers. Josh puts on his best imitation of his brother's voice. It's pathetic.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Hey babe.

Tom and Scott fall on the floor in hysterics. Josh glares at them.

JOSH (CONT'D)

It's Sam...Well I got a cold or something...I sound like Josh don't I?

More laughter. Scott looks out the window and sees a car's headlights slow to a crawl and turn into the driveway.

SCOTT

(whispers vehemently)  
It's your parents. Hurry!

JOSH

(in his own voice)  
So I was like...  
(resumes fake voice)  
So I was like working on my paper and the computer just swallowed up the file. And I'm like brain dead.

SCOTT

The car's stopped!

TOM

(whispers with Scott)  
Scotty, you have to hold 'em off!

SCOTT

I'm giving you everything I have, Captain!

JOSH

I totally forgot my Dropbox password.

The voice gets decidedly heated all of a sudden.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Oh yeah. It's our anniversary.

He hesitates, but knows he has to hit the hornet's nest.

JOSH (CONT'D)

When's that again?

Josh holds the phone away from his ear as the hornets erupt.

SCOTT  
Getting out of the car!

TOM  
Activate the Turbo Jam Boosters.

He shakes Josh's shoulder.

TOM (CONT'D)  
Activate the Turbo Jam Boosters!

JOSH  
I told you. Brain dead. I love you forever. Tomorrow I'll make it up to you. Biggest ice cream sundae ever. Just help me out here.

TOM  
Walking to the front door!!

INT. BAXTER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

From a dark bedroom, the hallway light flicks on illuminating the edges of a door, barely ajar. Footsteps creak on the floor, then the bedroom door pushes open. The silhouette of Josh's father fills the doorway.

BILL  
Josh? Are you in bed?

Josh leans up in his bed under the covers, rubbing his eyes.

JOSH  
Oh hey Dad. Yeah, I was tired. All that homework.

BILL  
Sure. I wish. Everything go alright tonight?

JOSH  
Yeah. Sarah went right to sleep.

BILL  
Okay. Sleep well.

JOSH  
Thanks Dad.

When his father retreats, Josh looks down on a text from Tom that he had been reading under his sheets.

ON JOSH'S PHONE

"That was close. Glad we got the file back. Like I said - UR luckee. He cares!!!"

Josh ponders it for a minute then calls out.

JOSH (CONT'D)  
Hey Dad!

His father returns to the doorway.

BILL  
Yeah.

JOSH  
Just wanted to thank you for today.

BILL  
What do you mean?

JOSH  
For like, grounding me. I didn't know you cared.

A perplexed smile crosses his father's face.

BILL  
Okay.

JOSH  
Well love you.

BILL  
Love you too. Night.

JOSH  
Dad. One other thing.

BILL  
Yes son.

JOSH  
Something happened tonight that I need to tell you about. Got a minute?

FADE OUT.

BLANK PAGE