

Mighty Engineering

17-DE01-W04

A young CEO teams up with his awkward high school self to face a bully from their past and learn what true power is.

FADE IN

FLASHBACK: INT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY (18 YEARS AGO)

RINGGGG. Students file into a classroom and take seats. The neon clothing and big hair suggest the 80's are alive and well. CHAD WILTON, 14, a goofy haired freshman with thick, black rimmed glasses and a tie-dye shirt walks through the paper air planes and gossip like a thick fog.

The TEACHER, a balding man still living in the 70's, begins calling roll. He waits for a response before calling the next name. Chad reaches his seat behind a modestly dressed brunette girl organizing pencils next to other craft supplies at her desk.

TEACHER
Maggie Williams?

The young brunette girl, MAGGIE WILLIAMS, 14, puts down the pencils and throws her hand up.

YOUNG MAGGIE
I'm here!

TEACHER
Chad Wilton? Is Chad here?

Chad is about to speak when a buzzcut jock in a blue letterman jacket pulls Chad's underwear above his head, lifting him out of the seat. KEITH BOWMAN, 14, throws his head back in a wolf howl.

KEITH BOWMAN
CHAD "WEDGIE" WILTONNNNNNNNN!

TEACHER
Keith, watch it! Do you know how often bullies end up begging their victims for jobs some day?

Keith laughs.

KEITH BOWMAN
I'd never beg that dork for a job!
Even if it was the last job on
Earth!

Chad boils over.

YOUNG CHAD
And I would never hire you!

Keith locks eyes with Chad, reaches past him and then above him. Streams of glue pour down Chad's face covering his glasses. Chad clears his glasses with his pointer fingers.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. STREET - SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

A sleek SPORTS CAR'S window wipers sweep the streams of water off its windshield as it drives down a perfect suburban street. The brilliantly sunny day shining through the trees moves shadows across the speeding car like hands running through hair. The car turns sharply into a parking lot.

EXT. PARKING LOT - MIGHTY ENGINEERING - DAY

The sports car parks in the closest spot to a commercial building. The spot is adorned with a CEO ONLY sign. Chad Wilton, now in his early 30's, emerges from the car. His styled brown hair, fitted business suit, and thick black rimmed glasses scream innovative professional. He walks to the entrance past a sign reading MIGHTY ENGINEERING, stopping only to glare at a pile of garbage bags outside the door.

A YOUNG FEMALE INTERN, early 20's, opens the door for him.

YOUNG FEMALE INTERN

Good Morning, Mr. Wilton! Welcome back. I wasn't sure what coffee you liked so I brought regular and decaf.

She winces.

YOUNG FEMALE INTERN (CONT'D)

Please don't fire me.

Chad takes one of the cups and pushes past her. She jogs to catch up.

INT. LOBBY - MIGHTY ENGINEERING - DAY

The lobby looks like it fell out of a magazine for modern design. The office is immaculate, dressed in gray-scale with a simple and open floor plan. The employees are almost as inerrant as the desks they sit at. They make a show of working harder as they notice Chad walking by, avoiding eye contact.

CHAD WILTON
I'm here Sunday through Saturday.
There is no need to welcome me
back. Where's Susan?

SUSAN, 45, appears bright and cheery wearing vibrant floral patterns. The Intern drifts away relieved by Susan's presence.

Chad and Susan begin moving toward a large office in the back of the room.

SUSAN
It's a beautiful morning, Chad!

Chad lowers his voice.

CHAD WILTON
Please call me Mr. Wilton, I have a
reputation to maintain.

Susan rolls her eyes sarcastically.

SUSAN
Well, MR. WILTON! YOU get to
interview the candidates for the
janitorial position this morning!

CHAD WILTON
There are bags of trash outside!
What happened to our janitor?

SUSAN
He quit, Mr. Wilton. Ever since the
expansion you've become...

CHAD WILTON
Powerful beyond belief?

SUSAN
A jerk.

They reach the office entrance. Susan sits at a desk outside the door. A gate keeper.

Susan smiles broadly.

SUSAN
Would you prefer me to conduct the
interview? He should be arriving
any minute now.

Chad opens the door, walks in, and pokes his head out before closing it.

CHAD WILTON

I am more than capable of
conducting my own interviews,
Susan. Don't forget who led us to a
record-breaking third quarter. I
don't need help.

The door shuts.

INT. CHAD'S OFFICE - MIGHTY ENGINEERING - DAY

A black desk sits in the middle of a sparsely decorated
office. Sunlight and greenery peak through a window behind
the desk. Filing cabinets and book cases adorn the walls.

Chad walks in, throws his keys onto the desk and sits. He
picks up a double-picture frame from his desk. The first
frame shows Young Chad and Young Maggie wearing their
tie-dye and modest 80's outfits. The second picture shows
them as adults at their wedding.

Susan greets someone outside the door. He takes a long sip
of coffee and puts the picture down.

SUSAN (O.S.)

(Muffled)

Good morning! You must be Keith
Bowman.

KEITH BOWMAN (O.S.)

Yes mam, I'm here for the
interview. Am I too early?

Chad stands with a mouthful of coffee. Keith Bowman, now in
his 30's, stands outside the office wearing an ill-fitted,
wrinkled suit with desparate sunken eyes.

Chad frantically paces around the office. The pain of the
hot coffee he never swallowed begins to register.

Young Chad in his tie-dye glory suddenly appears beside him.
Chad stumbles backward and stares at Young Chad in
disbelief. He spits the coffee onto the floor slowly,
without breaking eye contact.

YOUNG CHAD

Gross.

Susan and Keith walk to the office door. Chad locks it.

YOUNG CHAD (CONT'D)

They're coming! Drop!

Chad army rolls over the desk. Young Chad does a sad summersault. They peer over the desk together. The door knob RATTLES.

SUSAN (O.S.)
Mr. Wilton? Mr. Wilton? He must
have stepped out for a moment...

Susan and Keith walk away. The two Chad's exhale.

YOUNG CHAD (CONT'D)
You CAN'T HIRE HIM! Do you remember
what he used to do to us!?

CHAD WILTON
I know! It was awful! I was so
young and weak!

Young Chad deflates a little at the comment.

YOUNG CHAD
Thanks for that. But I get it! He
is a danger to ourselves AND
society!

Chad moves to the window leading outside and opens it.

CHAD WILTON
There is no time, MOVE!

Chad launches through the window.

EXT.OUTSIDE CHAD'S OFFICE - DAY

Chad lands calf high in mud. Young Chad appears beside him and helps pull him out. Chad loses a shoe and turns back.

YOUNG CHAD
Leave it! It's not worth it!

Young Chad points to the sports car on the side of the building. Chad searches his pockets for the keys. Nothing.

INSERT- KEYS ON DESK

BACK TO SCENE

Young Chad rides a WOMAN'S BIKE from around the corner of the building.

YOUNG CHAD
Get on.

CHAD WILTON

Wait, I am an adult! I am the CEO
of this company. I am in control!

YOUNG CHAD

Like we were in control at prom?

Chad looks pensive. Then remembers. He grabs the bike.

EXT. OUTSIDE CHAD'S OFFICE - DAY

Young Chad begins to pedal away on the woman's bike as Chad struggles to hop on. Chad looks back to see Susan leaning out the window.

SUSAN

Mr. Wilton? Where are you?

Chad manages to get onto the handlebars. Young Chad plops a pink helmet onto Chad's head, and RINGS the bell.

EXT. STREET - SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

The pink bike and two riders cruise lazily down the street. Chad tries to constantly adjust his sitting position.

CHAD WILTON

Am I crazy, who are you? I mean
you're me, but how? Why? Did I go
crazy or something? Can I drive?

YOUNG CHAD

You would have been crazy to stay
in that room! How many times has
that guy hurt us!? I am not
stopping until Keith Bowman is
miles away.

CHAD WILTON

I need to see a doctor. Or
psychiatrist.

YOUNG CHAD

You and me both.

EXT. PARK- SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

The two Chad's begin riding through a park. Sweat is pouring from Chad's face. He loosens his tie.

CHAD WILTON

So, you are my irrational fears, or
something like that, right?

YOUNG CHAD

I prefer to be called your "Voice
of Reason."

CHAD WILTON

Actually, my "Voice of Reason"
is...someone else. Someone
somewhere else. Turn left.

Young Chad makes a quick turn in a new direction.

EXT. CHAD'S HOUSE - SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

They park the bike in front of a beautiful two-story home. Chad breathes heavily as he knocks on the door. Young Chad stands awkwardly behind him.

Maggie opens the door. She is beautiful and styled simply. Chad is sweating through his muddy suit, with his one shoe and pink helmet. She panics.

MAGGIE

Are you OK?!

Chad moves inside and sees three HOUSEWIVES sitting on a couch holding Bibles. A table with sandwiches behind them.

Maggie calls to the women.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, ladies. I think we are
going to have to end early today.

The housewives move quickly toward the door after seeing Chad. The LAST HOUSEWIFE rubs his shoulder as she exits.

LAST HOUSEWIFE

We will be praying for you.

They leave.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CHAD'S HOUSE - DAY

The house is clean and homely. The door closes and Chad collapses into Maggie's arms. She holds him and moves him onto the couch. She positions his head to rest on her lap.

MAGGIE

What happened?

Chad groans. Young Chad begins eating the sandwiches.

CHAD WILTON

Keith Bowman came in to interview
for a job. I freaked out, Maggie.

MAGGIE

Wedgie pulling, locker smashing
Keith Bowman from high school?

Young Chad yells through a mouthful of food.

YOUNG CHAD

That's the one Maggs!

Maggie motions to Chad's appearance.

MAGGIE

So how did...THIS.. happen?

Chad looks up at her in a daze.

CHAD WILTON

Everyone at work RESPECTS ME! I am
admired. I have everything I could
ever want and then Keith shows up
and I fall apart!

Maggie cuts him off.

MAGGIE

Susan tells me your employees are
afraid of you. That's not respect.

Chad is bewildered by the news. He shakes it off.

CHAD WILTON

I have worked SO HARD for the last
ten years. I went from being a weak
kneed highschool kid to a
successful business man! I deserve
to be recognized by them!

MAGGIE

You only have the power that has
been granted to you. Exercise it
with mercy and good stewardship.
The economy is crashing and you are
thriving. Maybe this is your wake
up call to do something great.

CHAD WILTON

All I know is that Keith showed up
to MY business. I finally have the
POWER and HE is the weak one!

Young Chad throws his sandwich and leaps to his feet.

YOUNG CHAD
Let's destroy him!

Maggie stares heavily at Chad.

MAGGIE
So how does it feel to be a bully?

Chad and Young Chad stop their diatribe. Guilty. Maggie removes the helmet from Chad's head. Her gaze softens.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
This is an opportunity to show true power. To change things.

Maggie continues in a soft but serious tone.

MAGGIE
You are not the same person you were in high school. But maybe, neither is he.

Young Chad marches toward the door trying to gain back his momentum.

YOUNG CHAD
You are a hardcore CEO that can get building security to throw people onto the street! So do it!

Chad gets up. Young Chad throws his fists up in mock victory.

CHAD WILTON
I need to go back to work. Thank you Maggie. Thank you for always being there.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CHAD'S HOUSE - DAY

Maggie, as well as Young Maggie, are now sitting next to each other on the couch smiling back at Chad reassuredly.

CHAD WILTON
Can you drive me to work?
Opportunity is knocking and I forgot my keys.

EXT. PARKING LOT - MIGHTY ENGINEERING - DAY

Maggie rolls the window of her minivan down facing the sidewalk where Chad and Young Chad are standing.

MAGGIE

Do you want me to come with you?

CHAD WILTON

I think I can handle this.

Chad smiles. She pulls away from the building, leaving Chad and Young Chad staring at the entrance.

YOUNG CHAD

I can't wait to see the look in his eyes when he realizes who we are! Which Security guard are you going to call? I'd pick Bruce.

Chad moves towards the door. Young Chad follows enthusiastically.

YOUNG CHAD (CONT'D)

Sweet, sweet revenge!

Chad opens the door and shuts it behind him, leaving Young Chad outside. Young Chad bangs on the door behind him.

INT. LOBBY - MIGHTY ENGINEERING - DAY

The office is running just as it had when Chad walked in that morning. The Young Female Intern rushes to him again.

YOUNG FEMALE INTERN

Mr. Wilton, would you like me to take care of the trash? I heard you were disgusted by it!

She eyeballs his messy hair, muddy clothes, and flip-flop replacement for his shoe. He pats her shoulder and grins.

CHAD WILTON

Thank you for offering, but I think that is something I can take care of. I value your willingness to help though. I hope you find a home here long-term.

The Intern leaves happy, but confused. Susan scurries toward him.

SUSAN

Where in the world have you been?
You're lucky your applicant is
still here!

Chad is incredulous.

CHAD WILTON

Good. I want to meet with him.

SUSAN

He is waiting inside your office.

CHAD WILTON

Thank you for helping with this.
I'll be there in just a minute.

Susan smiles and walks away. Chad takes a moment to breathe and collect himself, then follows.

INT. CHAD'S OFFICE - MIGHTY ENGINEERING - DAY

The office is a mess from Chad's dramatic escape. Keith rises slightly out of his chair as Chad enters.

Chad notices the bags under Keith's eyes and his shabby beard. He looks defeated. Keith extends his hand. Chad stares at it unsure, and sits down without acknowledging it. Keith's hand withdraws.

KEITH

Thank you so much for meeting with
me. It really means a lot to me
Mr... I apologize, I don't have
your name.

CHAD WILTON

Wilton. Chad Wilton.

Keith's face drops. He begins to fidget.

KEITH

Did we...go to school together?

CHAD WILTON

Yes. We did.

Keith puts his head in his hands. His eyes return misty.

KEITH

I lost my job. I have a wife and
two little girls.

Keith gets on his knees.

KEITH (CONT'D)

Jobs are disappearing Mr. Wilton. I NEED this job. I know I don't deserve it. I know I did terrible things to you and I know I don't deserve your forgiveness. I would be so honored to work for you. I'll clean toilets, show up early, stay late, wash your car, anything!

Chad leans back in his chair.

CHAD WILTON

I have the power to change your life, Keith. You ruined mine for a long time. It's hard to forget.

Keith lowers himself further on the floor starting to tremble. His voice is quiet and slow.

KEITH

Please, Mr. Wilton. Please give me a chance.

Chad moves from behind the desk toward Keith.

CHAD WILTON

Keith, I can't let you take the Janitorial position.

Keith goes limp.

CHAD WILTON(CONT'D)

But, we just expanded to another territory. You can't raise a family on a Janitor's salary. Let's go over your resume tomorrow and find a better position for you.

Chad offers his hand to Keith. Keith takes it and allows Chad to pull him to his feet. Keith's smile broadens.

KEITH

Thank you, Mr. Wilton.

CHAD WILTON

Please call me Chad! If you can excuse me for just a minute, I need to go apologize to my staff and take out the trash. I have a reputation to maintain.

FADE OUT

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