

School's Out  
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INT. BEDROOM - DAY

MATTHEW PARKER, 16, good looking in an All American way, combs his hair, readies his backpack with text books, a notebook, other school supplies.

He opens a drawer, reaches under the clothing, takes out a ...

... hand gun and ammunition, puts them in his pack.

He heads for the door, suddenly remembers his ...

... cell phone, again heads for the door.

KITCHEN

Matthew enters the kitchen, never breaks stride as he greets SANDY PARKER, late 30s, Betty Crocker type, grabs a lunch bag, heads for the door.

MATTHEW

Love you mom!

SANDY

Coming strait home?

MATTHEW

Goin' to Jimmy's, play some video games.

He's already out the door when Sandy replies ...

SANDY

Hope it isn't more of that ...

He's gone.

Sandy turns ...

SANDY

So violent.

... as DOUGLAS PARKER enters the kitchen.

DOUGLAS

What's that?

SANDY

Oh, sorry. Blabbin' to myself again.

DOUGLAS

Matty?

SANDY

Blazed through a few seconds ago.

DOUGLAS

Oh. Didn't get to say goodbye.

He sits at the breakfast table, rubs his hands.

DOUGLAS

What has the lord blessed us with this morning?

Sandy sets coffee and eggs for him, looks out the window as a YELLOW SCHOOL BUS passes.

EXT. STREET - DAY

The school bus along manicured suburban streets. Matthew sits alone, stares out the window.

INT. BUS - MOVING - DAY

Filled with chattering students. Matthew sits alone. Quiet. Resolved. At peace.

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

The bus arrives, students file out.

Matthew steps down, smiles at the perfect weather, then the school, heads for the door.

INT. SCHOOL - DAY

Matthew steps in, waves to a few friends, heads for his ...  
... locker. He opens the door, sees a photograph of a GIRL, BRENDA MARTINSON, 16, pretty.

Matthew plucks the photo, looks closer.

MATTHEW

Happy Valentines.

As he closes the locker, JIMMY, 16, a little dorky, joins him.

JIMMY

Comin' over after school?

MATTHEW

Not likely. Valentines.

He shows Jimmy the photo of Brenda.

JIMMY

Dude, that bitch dumped you.  
C'mon. (game name) I got a score  
to settle.

MATTHEW

Me too.

Mathew walks into a ...

CLASSROOM

... sits as the bell rings. A few rows over sits Brenda. She  
hides her face.

MR. ROBERTS, late 50s, stocky, greets the class.

MR. ROBERTS

Morning everyone -- on this day of  
friendship and love!

A classwide ...

CLASS

Morning, Mr. Roberts.

MR. ROBERTS

As promised, I thought we would  
start today by reading a poem by  
Robert Argyle Campbell,  
Appropriately titled the --  
valentine song.

A few students grown.

MR ROBERTS

Fear not, oh loveless ones!. Your  
turn is next.

He picks up a book, puts on his glasses, begins to read.

MR. ROBERTS

*Dearest, let these roses  
In their purity,  
Be a present symbol  
Of my love for thee.  
Underneath the blossom  
Thorns are sure to grow;  
Take heed lest you touch them,  
They would pain you so!  
Ah! my faults like thorns are,  
But cannot they be  
Hidden 'neath the flower  
Of my love for thee?*

He sets the book down.

MR. ROBERTS

Who would like to start us off today?

ABBY ZIMMER stands.

MR. ROBERTS

Ms. Zimmer.

ABBY

Just a few lines by Edgar Allen Poe.

MR. ROBERTS

Excellent choice.

ABBY

Should I start?

Mr. Roberts motions to start.

ABBY

*It was many and many a year ago,  
In a kingdom by the sea,  
That a maiden there lived whom you  
may know  
By the name of Annabel Lee;  
And this maiden she lived with no  
other thought  
Than to love and be loved by me.*

Abby sits.

MR. ROBERTS

Ah yes. Annabel lee. Thank you Ms.  
Zimmer.

He scans the room as students try to vanish behind books.

MR. ROBERTS

No volunteers to profess a secret  
admiration?

Matthew raises his hand.

MR. ROBERTS

Matthew. This is a pleasant surprise!

Belinda buries her face as Matthew stands.

MATTHEW

I'd like to share something with the  
girl who -- broke my heart.

Belinda looks up as Matthew pulls the gun from his pack.

Without so much as a blink, he fires, hits Belinda in the  
chest, knocks her to the floor.

Pandemonium as students scatter, claw one another to get  
through the door.

The classroom is empty.

Matthew points strait at Mr. Roberts. A silent standoff as  
Belinda spits blood, eyes wide, fingers clawing the cold  
tile.

Matthew smiles, drops his aim.

MATTHEW

Have a wonderful day, Mr. Roberts.

Matthew exits.

Mr. Roberts runs to Belinda's side.

MR. ROBERTS

Oh, Jesus. Don't move, honey.  
Gonna be fine. Gonna be ...

He watches as she takes her final breath; tears run, blood pumps from her chest, spit and blood bubble from her mouth.

He eyes close. Silence.

MR. ROBERTS

Oh God no. Oh, God ...

Suddenly, gunshot and screams in the b.g.

A panicked Mr. Roberts crashes through desks as he runs for the door, exits into the ...

HALL

... where two students lie in blood. He just sees Matthew vanish around a corner.

Mr. Roberts runs for the injured students, both alive.

JULIA MORGAN, 17, pretty blonde, holds her gut, moans with agony.

JULIA

He -- shot me. Matthew. Oh God, it hurts. It ...

MR. ROBERTS

Don't try to speak.

JULIA

Am I gonna die?

She cries. Mr. Roberts comforts her as YOLANDA PEREZ bursts from an office, runs to Julia and Mr. Roberts.

MR. ROBERTS

It's Matthew Parker. Has a gun.

He points to his classroom, loses his emotions.

MR. ROBERTS

Killed -- killed Belinda.

As Yolanda tends Julia, Mr. Roberts turns to GRACY ADAMS, 16, chubby. She's been shot in the chest, clings to life.

Mr. Roberts dials his cell.

911 picks up.

VOICE (through phone)  
911. State your emergency.

MR. ROBERTS  
Shots fired. Middleton School. Oh  
fuck, um three students down. One  
dead. Matthew Parker. Has a ...

More shots, more screams.

MR. ROBERTS  
Can you hear ...

Gracy grabs at Mr. Roberts, knocks his phone away as she  
spits blood, tries to speak.

GRACY  
Belinda. Where's Belinda.

MR. ROBERTS  
She's -- safe. Safe

More blood. Julia turns to see Gracy spit blood, shake,  
eyes searching.

Gracy turns, looks directly into Julia's eyes, and dies.

Julia screams.

JULIA  
I -- can't be here.

She tries to crawl away, Yolanda holds her.

More shots fired. Mr. Roberts stands.

MR. ROBERTS  
Stay with her.

YOLANDA  
What are you -- stay here. Please  
don't ...

Mr. Roberts moves like a cat to the corner, peeks, sees ...

... thee more students down. Two are moving, one is still.

Mr. Roberts holds his heart, breathes in sporadic bursts.

More shots.

MR. ROBERTS

Oh fuck. Please tell me this is  
just a nightmare.

He slaps himself.

He turns the corner, creeps toward the injured students.  
Matthew steps from a classroom, aims at Mr. Roberts.

Mr. Roberts freezes.

MATTHEW

Is she dead?

Mr. Roberts struggles to shake his head yes.

Matthew smiles.

MATTHEW

Every tragedy needs a hero,  
Roberts. Today's your big day!

And he's gone, on the hunt for more.

Mr. Roberts runs to the injured students while ...

... Yolanda comforts Julia.

Julia looks again to Gracy's dead eyes.

JULIA

Why is she staring at me?

YOLANDA

She can't see you, honey.

JULIA

Yes she can. She wants to come  
back -- wants me to help ...

Julia reaches for Gracy, Yolanda holds her back.

YOLANDA

She's gone, Julia.

JULIA

She wants ...

Julia goes into hysterics, Yolanda covers Gracy's face, then tries to pin Julia down.

YOLANDA

You're losing blood. Need to stay  
-- calm.

Julia starts to breathe, while ...

... Mr. Roberts tends to the injured students.

CHIP, 17, is slightly wounded, helps Mr. Roberts comfort DARLENE, 15, shot in the face. She is barely conscious.

CHIP

She aint doin' so good.

MR. ROBERTS

There's a clean exit wound.

He eyes a bathroom.

MR. ROBERTS

We need water.

The third student, FAYE, 16, wounded in her arm, stands.

FAYE

I'll go.

MR. ROBERTS

Stay down. Here. I'll go.

Faye keeps moving. Closer. Closer. She reaches for the door just as a classroom door ...

... BURSTS open, and WILLIAM ZHOU runs out, screams. Matthew exits right behind him, fires.

William drops, lays motionless.

Matthew, eyes ablaze, again points to Mr. Roberts.

MATTHEW

Another one for you. Don't go  
away!

He sees Faye, points the gun

Faye trembles, pees uncontrollably.

Matthew drops his aim.

MATTHEW

Bad luck to shoot the same whore  
twice.

A smirk. Faye collapses.

Out of nowhere, Chip tackles Matthew, knocks the gun  
loose. It slides toward Faye.

A fight ensues between Chip and Matthew.

Mr. Roberts runs for the gun, slips in blood, knocks  
himself a little dazed. The room spins.

MR. ROBERTS

Faye? Faye, are you there?

Faye is frozen.

MR. ROBERTS

Get the gun.

Faye crawls, pees and vomits as she does.

She reaches for the bloody gun, aims.

MR. ROBERTS

Faye, no!

In the b.g., sirens scream, a helicopter nears.

Faye fires. Nothing. She fires again. Nothing. The gun is  
empty.

Faye sits in her own blood, piss and vomit, fires over and  
over at the fighting boys.

Matthew gets the upper hand, stomps Chips injuries. A  
blood curdling scream.

Matthew searches for the gun, sees Faye fire it over and  
over. He laughs.

MATTHEW

Can always say you tried.

Matthew flees.

Mr. Roberts crawls toward William. A bullet to the spine. William is conscious and silent.

He sees Mr. Roberts

WILLIAM

Why can't I move? I can't -- I  
can't feel my legs.

MR. RPBERTS

Don't try to move. Get you outta  
here.

The sirens grow louder, the helicopter hovers. The sound echoes off every wall. Metal lockers reflect the red, flashing lights.

Mr. Roberts looks into the classroom, sees another student, one TEACHER down.

Mr. Roberts yells ...

MR. ROBERTS

Terry. Can you hear me?

The teacher moves a little, groans, just as the school doors burst open, a sharpshooter moves in, sees ...

Faye points the gun, still fires. Mr. Roberts sees the Sharpshooter stake aim.

MR. ROBERTS

Noooooo!

He jumps in front of Faye, takes the shot, drops to his knees a few feet from Faye.

Blood runs from his mouth, and he goes down.

AA few more SWAT enter, guns pointed. They sees Faye.

SWAT 1

Drop the weapon. Now.

CHIP

It's not her. It's not -- her.

The swat advance, check the doors, the open lockers, check Williams pulse, Darlene's pulse. She struggles to speak with her shattered face.

DARLENE

What's ha - what's happening.

SWAT 2

Don't try to speak.

One Swat member begins first aid. Chip points in the direction Matthew ran.

CHIP

That way. I think he's unarmed.

Swat 1 gets closer to Faye.

SWAT 1

It's ok. It's ok. We're here.  
Gimmie the gun.

Faye looks at a dying Mr. Roberts, drops the gun, falls into unconsciousness while ...

Swat members approach Yolanda and Julia, now holding Gracy's hand.

YOLANDA

Around the corner. I think he's  
around the corner.

She points toward Mr. Roberts' classroom.

YOLANDA

There's a girl in there I think.

SWAT MEMBER

Condition?

YOLANDA

I don't know. I don't -- Belinda.  
Her name is Belinda.

A swat member goes in, sees Belinda, beside her a valentine poem never read, while ...

CLASSROOM

Matthew hides. A Swat member enters, gun points, searching.

Matthew jumps up, aims a BROOMSTICK. The Swat member fires.

GO TO WHITE

INT. MATTHEW'S HOME - DAY

Sandy does chores. The phone rings. She answers with a happy ...

SANDY  
Parker residence!

She listens. Her face twists and freezes.

She collapses.

FADE OUT