

10 yr old  
boy

Zach

TEASER

IN:

1 INT. BEDROOM -- DAY (DAY 1)

1

Open on a FAMILY PHOTO, two playful parents, JEFF and LYNNE HANSON, tickling their five-year-old son, ZACH, over which we hear what sounds like YOGA BREATHING and... Scratching?

As we move off the photo and across the DESK, we pass by some unopened mail, car keys, and a computer keyboard before we find the source of the scratching... a pencil. CLOSE ON the graphite tip as it scratches out the last line of a long letter, "I'm sorry."

PULL BACK to reveal Jeff, the source of the breathing, now five years older than he was in the photo. He appears pained, physically and emotionally, as he puts the pencil down, folds the paper in half and leaves it on the keyboard. He eyes the photo one last time before he PULLS OFF HIS WEDDING BAND and places it sadly on top of the note.

Jeff winces as he gets up, grabs his keys, and walks over to the closet. He hesitates, looking over his and his wife's clothes, then starts grabbing shirts and pants off hangers.

Off Jeff, knows he's doing the right thing, but it doesn't make him feel any better--

LYNNE (V.O.)

(prelap)

Damn it, Zach!

2 INT. CAR -- DAY

2

Zach, now 10, dressed in warm-up pants and a hockey jersey, reacts defensively to Lynne's maternal ire.

LYNNE

This is the last time I'm turning around; next time you forget something you're gonna be on your own.

ZACH

I can't play without a stick.

LYNNE

Then I guess you won't play.

ZACH

I don't care.

(sotto)

I suck anyway.

(CONTINUED)

House

Start

1/2

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2

CONTINUED:

2

Lynne reacts, the anger melting.

LYNNE  
Don't say that.

ZACH  
I'm the worst guy on the whole team.

LYNNE  
No, you're not.

ZACH  
Then who's worse?

LYNNE  
Don't worry about anyone else, just do your best.

ZACH  
See, you can't name anyone.

LYNNE  
Zach, stop it.

ZACH  
Then name someone.

Lynne looks over, sees the tears welling up; realizes the only thing worse than thinking you're the worst kid on the team is thinking your mom thinks you're the worst.

ZACH (CONT'D)  
You can't, can you?

On Lynne, torn between being honest to teach her son how to deal with adversity, and lying to make him feel better about himself... She chooses to lie.

LYNNE  
Donny Lamoreaux, Mark, Navid...

ON Zach, still skeptical, as Lynne turns into the empty driveway of the suburban New Jersey home.

ZACH  
You really think I'm better than those guys?

LYNNE  
Yes.  
(off his relieved smile)  
But don't tell anyone. Now hurry up, get your stick.

STOP →

4/2

(CONTINUED)