

Not that Book

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FADE IN:

INT. JASONS ROOM - DAY

JASON, a 17-year-old student with a knack for reading non-scholarly books. He often keeps to himself and stays in his room reading. Today he is finishing up a project.

MARGRET, a middle-aged single woman who is stern and often seen as mean. She is Jasons' mother. She struggles with things she can't control and tries to take charge in any given situation.

Jason is hunched over his desk listening to music in his headphones working on a math project. He doesn't hear his mother coming down the hall. She enters the room and touches him on the shoulder spooking him.

MARGRET

How are we doing?

JASON

(startled)

Not too bad. How about yourself?

MARGRET

(pacing)

Good, good.

Margret notices a suspicious stack of papers on the desk. She moves towards them.

JASON

Hey, so I was thinking-

MARGRET

What's under here?

Jason looks at the stack of papers, and back at his mother.

JASON

Nothing...

MARGRET

Nothing? Are you sure?

She places her hand on the stack and so does Jason trying to stop her. Both hands are on the stack.

JASON

Yes. I'm sure.

Magret reveals that there is a book under the papers and grabs it right off the desk. She walks out of the room down the hall. Jason Chases her.

JASON

Wait! No no no no!

EXT. THE BACKYARD - DAY

A closeup of a book is seen. zooming out from the book reveals that it is in a firepit and about to be on fire. Jason is watching.

Title.

INT. JASON BASEMENT - DAY

Jason enters the basement with a bundle of clothing. He goes down into the crawl space. He unwraps a book called "SUPERMARKET and begins to read. A montage of Jason enjoying his book plays. Margret scares Jason again by quickly opening up the doors to the crawl space.

JASON

Okay! Okay! But this one is actually pretty good.

MARGRET

(Suspicious)

Really? Well, let me see it then.

Jason hands over the book. She scans for a quote from the book and says

MARGRET

(Quoting)

Who knew you could find sex, drugs,  
and murder all in aisle nine?

JASON

No! That's just the blurb on the back!

MARGRET

I'm sorry Jason but we've had this talk. Your father used to read books like these and now look where he is.

She looks around for a second and takes the book with her leaving Jason in the frame.

JASON  
(to himself)  
I gotta find a better hiding place.

EXT. FRONT YARD - DAY

Jason is asleep in bed. He hears a loud "clunk" against the wall of the house and it wakes him up. He goes outside to find his mother mowing the lawn. Jason sees one of his books in front of the mower.

JASON  
No! Please stop!

Jason runs after the book but Margret runs over it instantly. Jason walks over and looks at the destroyed book.

MARGRET  
Now. If you're gonna read those un-  
scholary pieces of trash you can move  
out.

Margret hops back on the mower. We see Jason make a tight fist as she drives off.

EXT BACKYARD - DAY

Jason is relaxing by a pool reading a book. His mother comes by and gives him a glass of lemonade and he is calm. He takes a sip of the lemonade puts down the book and jumps in the pool. Once he is under the water he sees something falling down in the water. It's his book. He is again seen making a fist as the book falls to the bottom of the pool.

INT JASONS ROOM - NIGHT

Jason is in a hurry. He is packing cloths, books, toiletries, and money in his bag. He takes of the plate from his window and hops out. He walks down the street and disappears into the night.

INT. MARGARETS KITCHEN - DAY

Margret goes to were the coffee machine is and sees something. It is the "SUPERMARKET" book she had taken and hidden from Jason. It's open to a page and quote reading "I didn't yet have the mental stability to write, but I could read. The stories in the books transported me to other

worlds. They let me become someone else. Not that I needed any help with that, but the stories in the books actually grounded me. It was the power of literature."

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - DAY

It has been 1 month since Jason left. Jason is now heading back home. He has the same bag as when he left but he is in tattered clothing that looks almost impossible to wear.

EXT. FRONT YARD - DAY

Jason walks up to front the front door and hits the doorbell. His mother comes the door and the two of them hug.

MARGRET

I was so worried about you. Are you all alright?

JASON

Yeah, I'm ok. I'm just glad to be back home.

MARGRET

Here

She takes his stuff.

MARGRET

Why don't you get those cloths off and take a shower?

JASON

Yeah. Yeah, that sounds good thanks mom.

INT HALLWAY - DAY

Jason walks down the hallway as him mom walks behind him. He goes into his room and closes the door and she goes past frame.

INT BATHROOM - DAY

Jason walks into the bathroom with a towel over him and turns on the shower. He walks over to the toilet and lifts up the lid. He looks down and sees the "SUPERMARKET" book inside the toilet. He takes a second and again he makes a fist with the book in the frame. THE END