

Rebel Robin
Season 1 Episode 1
“Rebel Robin (Pilot)”

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Based on Characters by
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&

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First Draft

OVER BLACK--

HAWKINS, INDIANA. JUNE 8, 1984.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR HALL- NIGHT

ROBIN BUCKLEY is frantically running in the senior hall of the high school as students kiss around her. Some stitches on her jacket break apart and Robin briefly looks at said stitches. One of the CHAPERONES notices Robin running.

CHAPERONE

Stop right there, Miss Buckley!

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - NIGHT

CHIEF HOPPER APPEARS and begins to catch up to Robin as she keeps RUNNING.

CHIEF JIM HOPPER

Hey! Back here! Now!

Robin runs AROUND THE CORNER and runs past the CONCESSION STAND. Robin is facing forwards as DASH YELLS off-screen.

DASH MONTAGUE

Robin!

View of the back of Robin as she turns her head as Dash is running towards Robin.

Robin looks at the punch bowl stand and tackles the punch bowl, causing a great spill. Robin manages to jump over the spill as everybody around the stand screams.

Robin runs toward the gym's double doors and prepares to tackle them.

INT. GYM - NIGHT

Robin busts into the gym. Loud music plays as Robin wanders around looking for TAMMY THOMPSON. CUT TO Tammy alone in the middle of the dance floor as Robin approaches and stops there.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

Hey, Tam.

Tam looks at Robin.

CLOSE-UP - Robin's exhausted face.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

Do you want to dance?

INT. ROBIN'S BEDROOM - DAY

Robin suddenly wakes up.

OVER SCENE --

SEPTEMBER 6, 1983.

Robin is lying on her bed, rubbing her forehead before sitting up.

INT. BUCKLEY RESIDENCE BATHROOM - DAY

Robin prepares for the day by washing her hands and face.

INT. ROBIN'S BEDROOM - DAY

Robin is applying her makeup before picking out her wear for the day. Robin looks into the mirror again to apply her hairspray to maintain her perm.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

Sophomore, here I come. Hmph.

INT. BUCKLEY RESIDENCE PASSAGE - DAY

Robin runs down the stairs and swings around the corner towards the kitchen.

INT. BUCKLEY RESIDENCE KITCHEN - DAY

Robin stands by the doorway.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

Morning, dad.

RICHARD BUCKLEY is holding a breakfast bar in his hand as he looks up.

RICHARD BUCKLEY

Morning, Robin. Catch!

Richard throws the bar and Robin catches it.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

Thanks! See you later!

Robin runs back out into the passage as Richard smirks.

RICHARD BUCKLEY

(mutters) Talkative as usual.

EXT. BUCKLEY RESIDENCE - DAY

WIDE SHOT of Robin in leaving her home with her bike. She begins to climb onto the banana seat, grimacing in pain as she sits down. She begins to pedal her bike and leave for school.

EXT. HAWKINS STREET - DAY

Robin is cycling down the sidewalk as the intro credits roll.

EXT. HAWKINS HIGH - DAY

Robin puts her bike on the rack and puts her helmet on the handlebars. She makes a movement towards the school entrance, gripping the straps of her backpack tightly.

INT. MISS CLICK'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Robin goes to her seat and takes off her backpack. She sits down and waits, silent from thinking about how the year is going to go. She looks up to see Tammy walk into the room and becomes fascinated in her. Tammy goes to her table as music plays in Robin's head, looking down in shame. She looks behind her to see NED WRIGHT sit in the back of the room holding a boombox on his shoulder. Robin turns her head to Tammy as she sits down at her seat while her FRIENDS look at her hair.

TAMMY'S FRIEND 1

Oh my gosh, your hair!

TAMMY'S FRIEND 2

How was the beach, Tam?

Robin looks away as Tammy talks to her friends.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

(whisper) Tam...

MISS CLICK looks up, prompting Robin to go under her desk and reach for her bag. She looks up at the hardened gum on the underside of the desk then looks back down towards her bag, just before Tammy starts singing. Tammy is singing while everybody but Robin watches. Robin is looking at her bag to get her pencils and papers. She looks back up from the desk to see everyone listening to Tammy sing, spinning a pencil in the meantime. Cue the bell ringing and Miss Click standing up.

MISS CLICK

Morning, class. I am going to go over the register to check to see if there are any absentees.

Time passes until STEVE HARRINGTON barges in, looking lost.

STEVE HARRINGTON

Hey, people.

Everybody but Robin and Miss Click laugh, while Miss Click smiles at him.

MISS CLICK

Hello, Steve. We've just started, so take a seat.

Robin is disgusted at that remark. Steve sits besides Tammy and she blushes.

Robin looks like she's frozen and ends up dropping the pencil. After it does, she turns her head in surprise.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

(whispers) Shit!

Robin goes under the desk again to reach for the pencil, but struggles.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

(whispers) Come on!

Robin reaches harder for the pencil. Her face is red due to her straining.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

(whispers) Al... most... there!

Robin finally grabs the pencil.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

(whispers) Yes!

Robin gets a bit too excited and hits her head on the underside of the desk.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

Ah, shit!

Miss Click looks at Robin as she rubs her crown.

MISS CLICK

Robin, do you need to go to the nurse's office?

ROBIN BUCKLEY

Unless the nurse has a time machine that will take me back exactly one class period, no.

MISS CLICK

Alright, then. Now that everyone is here...

Robin looks down on her desk, still rubbing her crown. She looks to her left again to see Tammy swoon over Steve.

INT. GYM - DAY

The camera pans down from the giant clock in the gym to students going around into their groups. Robin is sitting in a circle with KATE HULL, Dash, and MILTON BLEDSOE.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

(whispers) This year sucks. It's like all the teachers just gave up, like they collectively decided that this year is the dead zone of our education.

Kate looks towards Robin.

KATE HULL

If our teachers don't care about education, we're going to have to care twice as hard.

Dash looks towards Robin, then Kate, then Milton.

DASH MONTAGUE

We're all reaching the point where we're pretty much smarter than our teachers, anyway.

Kate giggles, turning blushing pink.

DASH MONTAGUE

Seriously though, I think all four of us are smarter than ninety-percent of teachers in this school.
Cut to MISS GENOVESE looking at her sheet music.

MISS GENOVESE

Yet you're not smart enough to realize I can hear you.

The group look towards Miss Genovese, then back at each other.

MILTON BLEDSOE

Wow. She's got scary-good hearing.

Miss Genovese goes towards Milton.

MISS GENOVESE

Yes. Yes I do. That's why I'm the band teacher. I can hear every wrong note you play, too, and it pains me. Your reedy squeaks haunt my dreams.

Miss Genovese moves away from the group as they huddle back together.

DASH MONTAGUE

(whispers) Teachers are scary in general.

MILTON BLEDSOE

(whispers) Like vampires?

DASH MONTAGUE

(whispers) Think about it: They're not really that bright, they move slowly through the halls, and need our brains to survive. They're clearly zombies.

Milton and Robin groan. Kate giggles. Robin looks back up and scans the room, seeing half the girls wearing jewelry inscribed with names, making her look disgusted. She then looks at both Kate and Dash blinking at each other before looking at Milton.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

If our teachers are really undead, they're also undernourished. Have you noticed how hungry people like Miss Genovese look? Maybe we aren't as smart as we think we are.

Robin begins to slowly turn her head towards Kate and Dash.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

Maybe it's because everyone's too obsessed with dating stuff all of a sudden.

Kate nervously laughs before beginning to practice on her trumpet.

MISS GENOVESE

All right, time to get your squads for the 1983 marching band season in order! You have three minutes to name yourselves, and not a second longer. And for the love of God, please don't ask how long it's been. There's a clock above the door.

Students get themselves into groups of four except for Robin's already-gathered group. Robin spaces out for a bit, thinking about how she doesn't fit in.

DASH MONTAGUE

All right!

Robin snaps out of her trance.

DASH MONTAGUE

Sophomore year squad name, go!

MILTON BLEDSOE

We're going to be Odd Squad again, right? We already voted on it last year. I think we should keep it that way, for continuity, and also because coming up with a new name sounds like an ordeal.

KATE HULL

I love Odd Squad!

DASH MONTAGUE

Odd Squad it is.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

Hmph.

Robin looks down to see Dash and Kate ankle-flirting, looking on in mild disgust. Robin begins practicing on her French horn when she notices Miss Genovese looking at the clock, seemingly ready to go. Robin looks at the clock too, thinking of leaving this class as soon as Miss Genovese is gone for her smoke break. Later, the clock strikes 3:00 in the afternoon.

MISS GENOVESE

I'm letting you all have a minute-long break to practice. You all should have group names by now. If I come back and your group is nameless, that's detention. See you in a minute.

The band kids begin to practice on their instruments. Not long after Miss Genovese leaves, Robin ends up seeing SHEENA ROLLINS in the corner of her eye trying to head for the exit when a BULLY blocks her way out.

GYM BULLY

Hey, Sheena, what do you think you're doing? Teacher's not her to give out passes. Sit your polka-dotted ass down.

Sheena looks like she's about to say something, but stops herself and goes back towards her seat, when CRAIG WHITESTONE stands in her way, grinning at her.

CRAIG WHITESTONE

Where are you going?

Sheena shrugs sheepishly. Dash stands up.

DASH MONTAGUE

She's lying!

ROBIN BUCKLEY

(whisper) Dash!

Robin tries to elbow Dash but ends up hitting his trumpet instead. Robin rubs her pained elbow.

KATE HULL

She spends the whole period in the bathroom.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

So? Who cares?

MILTON BLEDSOE

Band kids don't ditch.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

Miss Genovese just ditched.

KATE HULL

She's the teacher!

Sheena tries to get around Craig in multiple ways, but gets blocked every time, leading to him grabbing her ponytail. Some other bullies join in and laugh. Robin stands up.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

Hey! Let her go, you walking spit valve!

KATE HULL

It's their mess. Don't get involved.

Robin sits back down again. Craig is still pulling at Sheena's ponytail.

CRAIG WHITESTONE

Hey Sheena, you're all dressed up with nowhere to go. Do you want to dance?

Sheena breaks out of Craig's grip as some other band kids play sloppily to mock her. Sheena jumps on a chair to try to avoid this charade.

SHEENA ROLLINS

Get the hell away from me, you goddamn leech!

Craig kneels down and makes Sheena angrily blush.

CRAIG WHITESTONE

Come on, girl. Just one dance.

The other bullies laugh. Sheena sees an opportunity and tries to head for the door again, only to be caught by Craig and spun around. The other bullies circle Craig and Sheena and perform horrid dancing. Craig throws Sheena to the ground. VICKIE MULHERN goes towards the bullies.

VICKIE MICHAELS

Hey! Leave the poor girl alone!

CRAIG WHITESTONE

Hey, I must be popular.

Vickie smacks Craig in the face, prompting an "ooh" from the rest of the students, except the prone Sheena. One of the bullies comes forward to confront Vickie, but then other students get beside her and devolve the Gym into pure and utter chaos. Robin and the Odd Squad duck down from an oncoming drumstick.

MILTON BLEDSOE

What the heck is going on?

ROBIN BUCKLEY

I don't freaking know!

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY – DAY

Miss Genovese is smoking a menthol outside of the gym doors when she begins to hear commotion going on in the gym. She quickly puts out the light and rushes back inside the gym.

MISS GENOVESE

Oh shit!

She quickly puts out the light and rushes back inside the gym.

INT. GYM – DAY

Miss Genovese comes back in to see almost every student in a massive brawl.

MISS GENOVESE

Stop it!

Everyone in the gym stops fighting immediately after.

MISS GENOVESE

Now, back to your seats!

Those who left their seats quickly scurry back into said seats. Miss Genovese crosses her arms and looks around the room.

MISS GENOVESE

Who started this mess?

Robin goes to point at Craig, but Kate stops her. Most of the rest of the class point at Sheena, still crumpled to the floor, just beginning to get back up on her feet, nearly crying. Miss Genovese walks towards her and kneels.

MISS GENOVESE

That's detention. Impressive that you did it on the first day, really. Now back to your seat!

Sheena moves back to her chair, slowly and painfully, picking up her oboe in humiliated anger.

MISS GENOVESE

I will not tolerate any more fighting in this class for the rest of this year. Got it?

Everyone in the room nods their heads. Miss Genovese goes towards Craig's group first.

MISS GENOVESE

Now, what's your group's name?

Robin looks at Sheena and her face slowly morphs into one of shock, and then to one of despair.

DASH MONTAGUE

Robin?

Robin turns towards Dash with a sullen look on her face.

DASH MONTAGUE

What's the matter?

ROBIN BUCKLEY

Maybe I've watched too many horror movies with you, Dash, but something's become clear to me.

DASH MONTAGUE

And that is?

Robin looks around at her squad.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

High school is a monster, and it's eating everyone we know.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY – DAY

Robin walks down the hallway and passes by Sheena's locker. Sheena looks at her vandalized textbooks and shakes her head. She gets out one textbook that is cut in half and glued back together, trying in vain to open it. Robin shakes her head.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

(muttered) Who even has time for things like that?

Robin tries to go towards Sheena, but she has moved away from her locker fast, making a movement towards the trash can, throwing the ruined book into it as MISS GARVEY appears.

MISS GARVEY

Hey! Miss Rollins!

Sheena closes her eyes and sighs.

SHEENA ROLLINS

What?

Miss Garvey picks up Sheena's ruined textbook from the trash can.

MISS GARVEY

Students are not allowed to mess with school property. If you aren't going to respect us, then we are under no obligation to respect you. That's the second time this week you've just gotten yourself detention. Come with me.

Garvey grabs Sheena by her shoulder and escorts her to the principal's office.

MISS GARVEY

Things like this wouldn't happen if you made it just a smidgen easier to understand you.

Robin gets angry and begins to go towards the principal's office, but stops herself. Feeling like she can't do anything about it, she instead makes a motion towards the exit.

EXT. HAWKINS HIGH – DAY

Robin goes to her bike and takes it out of the rack. She climbs onto the banana seat and grimaces before cycling away.

EXT. HAWKINS STREET – DAY

Robin happily rides on her bike and puts on her WALKMAN. She puts in a cassette tape into the Walkman and presses play on it.

WALKMAN

French, Tape 2, Side 1: The Weather. Repeat after me. Le temps.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

Le temps.

WALKMAN

La tempête.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

La tempête.

WALKMAN

La brise.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

La brise.

WALKMAN

Le soleil.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

Le solei-

A car drives by quickly and honks its horn, almost causing Robin to fall onto the pavement, leading her to put her hand on her Walkman. She keeps on riding until she gets to that car, then she puts both her middle fingers up at THE DRIVER with a smile.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

Choke on diesel!

DRIVER

Die, loser!

ROBIN BUCKLEY

So non-specific!

Robin gets off the bike.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

You need a comeback coach!

Robin gets back on the bike and passes by the car again, ringing her bell aggressively at the driver before he drives away again.

EXT. SATTLER QUARRY - NIGHT

Robin, Walkman back in place, stops at the quarry to rest, turning off the Walkman afterwards. She sits on the cliff-edge over the lake, contemplating about leaving Hawkins. She initially feels sullenness, but then looks up at the waxing crescent moon, becoming

angrier as she thought about the prison she felt Hawkins was like, before calming herself down and closing her eyes. After a few seconds, she reopens them.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

Screw it.

EXT. BUCKLEY RESIDENCE - NIGHT

Robins rides her bike all the way to the outside of her house, frustrated with her situation. She goes to the front door and takes the spare key from under the planter to unlock the door, going in afterwards.

INT. BUCKLEY RESIDENCE LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

MELISSA BUCKLEY is dancing around with music playing in the background. Robin barges in, already yelling.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

(yelling) I can't believe you voluntarily chose to be here!

MELISSA BUCKLEY

Can't believe what, honey?

Robin looks at the record player and back at her mother.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

I can't believe you chose to live here.

MELISSA BUCKLEY

Oh, those words are so pointive, Robin. Can you please start again from a place of peace?

Robin moves towards the record player and turns down the volume, causing Melissa to open her eyes and stop clicking, looking at her daughter.

MELISSA BUCKLEY

Did you know that Fleetwood Mac created this song by taking parts of other songs and melding them into one great masterpiece?

ROBIN BUCKLEY

Did you know that they've released two albums after Rumours?

MELISSA BUCKLEY

Yes, but neither of them are nearly as good. Robin, baby, you know how I feel about this. People are so obsessed with new stuff.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

And you and dad are obsessed with old stuff. If something's made in the sixties, you'd immediately think of it as sacred. You know that you can't worship macramé and lava lamps, right?

Melissa crosses her arms and steps back slightly, squinting at Robin.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

Seriously, how the hell did two complete flower children end up stranded here in Hawkins, Indiana?

Robins sits down on the floor tucking her feet under her.

MELISSA BUCKLEY

You REALLY want to know?

ROBIN BUCKLEY

Yeah, I really do.

MELISSA BUCKLEY

What for?

ROBIN BUCKLEY

A school project. I'm working on writing an essay about the origins of our families.

Melissa laughs and swirls her bracelets.

MELISSA BUCKLEY

Your origins began in the summer of '67. Me and your father were in the back of a Volkswagen van one particularly magical night on the Oregon coast...

ROBIN BUCKLEY

(Yelling) Nope!

Robin jumps up and puts her hands over her ears, running out of the room and up the stairs.

MELISSA BUCKLEY

Every time.

INT. ROBIN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Robin is lying on her bed, Walkman in hand, and turns said Walkman on.

WALKMAN

French tape 2, side 1, "Greetings and Goodbyes." Bonjour! Salut! Coucou! Allô? Au revoir! Je suis désolée, mais je dois y aller-

ROBIN BUCKLEY

No.

Robin turns off her Walkman and takes out the tape. She gets up to look at her limited set of music and takes out *Bella Donna* from its case.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

This should counteract the endless amounts of Fleetwood that my mother's obsessed with.

She puts this cassette into the Walkman, turns it on, and holds the fast-forward button until it reaches the song she wants to play: *Edge of Seventeen*. She falls to the carpet, staring up at the ceiling and thinking about when she comes of age. The camera slowly zooms in on her face as she closes her eyes.

EXT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

Robin is queuing at the checkout, junk food in hand, when she spots KAREN WHEELER looking for her son MIKE WHEELER and his friends LUCAS SINCLAIR, DUSTIN HENDERSON, and WILL BYERS. The kids are running around the cereal aisle shouting cryptic phrases at each other.

KAREN WHEELER

All right, Mike.

Mike is turning his attention towards Karen.

KAREN WHEELER

Not too wild, okay?

Mike snarls at Karen and runs away. Karen turns her head towards the CHECKOUT LADY.

KAREN WHEELER

They're complete hellions.

Both Karen and the Checkout Lady chuckle.

KAREN WHEELER

Hey, have you heard about the new stop sign at Adam Street?

CHECKOUT LADY

Yeah. Not that far from where I live, and for the best too. The traffic there was God-awful. Hopefully those drivers get their stuff together.

KAREN WHEELER

Hopefully stuff like that can get to the rest of Hawkins. Last night, I saw a girl cycling past my house and then some guy honked his horn and caused her to fall onto the pavement. She managed to get back on and ride again.

CHECKOUT LADY

Aw, I feel sorry for that girl if that's the case. I wonder how she reacted to that horn.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

(muttered) I flipped the driver off and told him to choke on diesel.

The Checkout Lady finishes scanning Karen's groceries.

CHECKOUT LADY

That will be 66 dollars and 91 cents, please. Do you want a bag boy to help you?

KAREN WHEELER

Hold on a moment.

Karen turns her head towards the returning Mike.

KAREN WHEELER

(Yelling) Mike! Bring your friends over here and help with the bags!

MIKE WHEELER

(Yelling) Mom, we're busy!

Karen's face turns red, but she manages to keep herself from exploding in anger. Robin is looking on in curiosity.

KAREN WHEELER

Fine, Mike, just... meet me outside?

MIKE WHEELER

(grumbling) We're meeting the Brunette Medusa outside.

Karen looks towards the Checkout Lady with a smile.

KAREN WHEELER

Yes, I'll have a bag boy help me.

A bag boy comes to help Karen pack her bags, with her berating him all the while, while Robin looks on in mild disgust. The Checkout Lady looks mildly uncomfortable. Finally, Karen moves and lets Robin put the junk food on the counter. Robin digs through the pockets of her jeans for change when Karen looks at her and then towards said junk food.

KAREN WHEELER

Oh, sweetie, just candy? You know, you are so lucky that you don't have to worry about your figure yet.

Karen smooths down the front of her dress to reveal the shape of her toned stomach.

KAREN WHEELER

I remember being like that in high school. I was just like you.

Robin ends up laughing awkwardly. Karen looks slightly offended.

KAREN WHEELER

Oh, you think I'm just being a silly old lady, but I grew up in this town, and I can tell you that those years in high school are golden. You should enjoy them. You have to enjoy things...

Karen looks out of the shop window to see Mike, Lucas, Dustin, and Will, all pretending to be spies.

KAREN WHEELER

...while you still can.

Robin leans forward towards Karen.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

What happens to the people who already aren't enjoying any of this?

Karen turns her head towards Robin.

KAREN WHEELER

I'm sorry... what?

ROBIN BUCKLEY

How much worse is it going to get for us? What horrible fate does this town have in store for anyone who isn't starting at the top of the social order?

Karen begins to look horrified when Robin is snapped out of her daydream by the Checkout Lady. Karen is still looking out the window.

CHECKOUT LADY

That will be 2 dollars 34 cents, please.

Robin dumps the change onto the counter and begins to leave, passing Karen.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

Oh, by the way, I don't appreciate my incident last night being told as casually as that. Good day.

Robin runs out of the store and Karen looks on in confusion.

KAREN WHEELER

The hell?

Robin gets on her bike and rides away.

EXT. HULL RESIDENCE - NIGHT

Robin rides her bike to Kate's back door. Robin knocks on the door and Kate answers.

KATE HULL

Come on in. Parental coast is clear.

Robin goes into the house.

INT. HULL RESIDENCE KITCHEN - NIGHT

Kate takes a bowl of popcorn out of the stove.

KATE HULL

Robin. The chocolate.

Robin pours the M&M's into the popcorn bowl and Kate mixes it before lifting up a piece of the mixture with both hands.

KATE HULL

Ahh, the food of the gods.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

Isn't that ambrosia?

KATE HULL

If there are any gods that would step foot in Hawkins, they would definitely eat something like this.

Kate takes a bite out of the mixture.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

I heard that "if." And gods? Plural?

KATE HULL

Blasphemy squared! It's a good thing I don't have any younger siblings to snitch on me! Let's take this to the den.

Cut to the News, where GABRIEL CODD is delivering the news, with the camera slowly panning away from the television.

GABRIEL CODD

Good evening, everyone. This is Gabriel Codd, CBS Evening News coming out of Indianapolis. Big news from the tech world as Tandy are releasing an updated form of their successful TRS-80 Color Computer, also known as CoCo, and we can revealed that it has been named the Tandy Color Computer 2, shortened to CoCo2, set to be available in your local Radio Shack soon.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

CoCo2? That sounds more like an experimental chimpanzee than a computer.

KATE HULL

Well, scientists are great at discovering things, not naming them. Why do you think they defer to Greek or Latin? It makes everything sound fancy and respectable, when they're really hiding the fact that, left to their own devices, they'd name planets things like Neville, after some random scientist who happened to have his telescope pointed in the right direction.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

Hey. Robin would be a superlative planet. Free one-way tickets for anyone who needs to start over.

Robin's face changes to one of wistfulness while Kate reaches for the remote.

KATE HULL

Can we change the channel, please? It's my one day off from a fully educational diet. I want my MTV.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

You know my dad thinks the government puts subliminal messages in the news. I have to get my fill of the outside world while I can.

Kate briefly looks frustrated.

KATE HULL

Fine. I guess it keeps me up-to-date on things I might need to know for debate.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

Right, like whether or not CoCo2 will develop sentience and Radio Shack will lead the fight for human survival in the robot uprising.

KATE HULL

Well, I'm taking the negative stance.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

So the robots win, then?

Kate looks dumbfounded and shakes her head.

KATE HULL

You really don't know anything about debate. I wish I could guilt you into at least one after-school activity.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

Not likely.

GABRIEL CODD

And now we get to Sports, starting off with the US Open Women's Tennis, where Martina Navratilova has beaten long-time rival Chris Evert Lloyd to get her first ever US singles title.

KATE HULL

(concurrently) Can you do a braid for me, Robin?

ROBIN BUCKLEY

Alright.

Kate sits on the floor criss-crossing in front of Robin. Robin does her braid and makes sure the right bit of hair is overlaid over the others to make a pair of high-quality French braids.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

Aaaand done!

KATE HULL

Thank you.

Kate pats her braids and smiles.

KATE HULL

Want me to do yours?

ROBIN BUCKLEY

No, that's okay. I really should cut my hair off. At the very least, I should hack off the parts that touched old gum. It's been days, and I swear I can still feel it...

KATE HULL

Do you want me to shave your head with my dad's beard trimmers?

ROBIN BUCKLEY

My dad would never get over it, which is funny, because he talks a good game about sticking it to his own parents by growing his hair out. Mom would pretend she's proud of me to make Dad feel like he's given into the man, but I'm pretty sure she'd secretly hate it, too. Just going to feel ghost gum in my hair forever, thanks.

KATE HULL

I can't believe that happened in front of Steve Harrington and he didn't crack a single horrible joke. Maybe he's evolving.

Robin scoffs.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

Steve Harrington is always going to be the same, he's going to suck exactly this much forever.

Kate swivels around and takes out the last of the popcorn from the bowl, leaving Robin with salt-covered candy and burnt kernels.

KATE HULL

I heard that Steve likes Nancy Wheeler. That seems like new territory for him.

Robin sits up suddenly with a look of keen interest.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

Really? Nancy Wheeler doesn't seem like his type.

KATE HULL

Who does?

ROBIN BUCKLEY

I don't know, Steve just seems to like girls who are a little more...

Robin becomes quiet as she looks down and puts her hand on her mouth slowly.

KATE HULL

You seem to have a pretty vested personal interest in this topic, Robin. If I didn't know better, I'd think that *you* like Steve Harrington.

Robin looks at Kate with the look of being offended before they both look at the television.

GABRIEL CODD

In more serious news, the CDC has ruled out all forms of casual contact for acquired immune deficiency syndrome, or AIDS, for short. As of yesterday's report, the virus cannot be transmitted by food, water, air, or environmental surfaces. While this eliminates a number of vectors for the disease, it's known that the transmission rate among homosexuals is still high enough to cause-

The television is flickered off by Kate.

KATE HULL

Maybe that'll get my parents to stop talking about this whole thing like it's going to invade their perfect lives. Any thoughts, Robin? Robin?

Robin is back in the same position as she was a few minutes before: looking down, hand over mouth, this time transitioning into a facepalm.

KATE HULL

Alright, back to the matter at hand. You're not getting out of this.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

Out of what?

KATE HULL

Who do you like?

Robin lowers her hand and looks at Kate.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

Well, who do *you* like?

KATE HULL

Oh no no no no. You're not deflecting this question this time. Besides, you know I like Dash. I've been talking about it nonstop all Summer, while you haven't talked about *any* crushes since eighth grade.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

Because I've had none since eighth grade.

KATE HULL

So you think you're over Matthew Manes?

Robin stands up to get another ginger ale.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

I just think that I'm going to wait until after high school to cultivate a love life.

KATE HULL

Why?

ROBIN BUCKLEY

High school relationships are fleeting, whereas band squads...

Robin smiles while opening up the can.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

...band squads are forever.

Kate laughs.

KATE HULL

That doesn't negate my point. You should get a boyfriend, any boyfriend.

Robin's smile fades as Kate is talking.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

You wouldn't tell me to settle for just any study partner, yet you think I should grab the first guy I see in the cafeteria and... what? Start making out with him? And then inform him that we are going to spend every Friday night together to fulfil some sort of social contract?

Kate gains a look of mild frustration before sighing.

KATE HULL

Robin, you're making it sound so onerous. Dating in high school is fun, good for you, and excellent practice. Would you go to the state tournament in debate if you hadn't practiced?

ROBIN BUCKLEY

I'm going to take the negative stance.

KATE HULL

(shouting)You don't even know what that means!

ROBIN BUCKLEY

I know that I can't imagine practicing on any of the boys in our high school. And exactly *what* are we rehearsing for?

KATE HULL

Life. We're going to grow up at some point, Robin, and soon. Think about it mathematically. We're closer to marriage and babies than we are to being little kids.

Robin throws up in her mouth a little bit.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

Oh, God. I don't want that. I want anything *other* than that.

KATE HULL

Well, that's going to be a problem. Our lives are pretty much graphed out already, and anyone who wants to change has to draw a bold line in a new direction, which might be harder than you think. Because you're no rebel, Robin. You're a nerd.

Robin puts down her ginger ale and hugs Kate.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

Kate, you're a genius.

KATE HULL

Right! Because I, too, am a nerd.

Both Kate and Robin hug for a bit.

EXT. HULL RESIDENCE - NIGHT

Robin is at the back door, bike in hand, ready to ride off when Kate comes by.

KATE HULL

Wait, where are you going? You promised me we'd finally listen to Madonna together!

ROBIN BUCKLEY

I'm all tapped out for tonight, and I'm not in the mood for Madonna. I'm just going home to sleep.

KATE HULL

Fair enough. Good night.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

Good night.

Robin rides off as the camera pans out to the rest of the street.

INT. ROBIN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Robin is standing on her bed, looking down at her floor. Polaroid photographs litter her carpeted floor, almost all of them of her parents in their youth doing rebellious actions. Robin ponders for a moment before moving some of the photos out of the way to lie down.

Staring at the ceiling again, she moves her right arm around and looks at the photo she grabbed: a photo of a kid Robin with a large chunk of her hair cut off. She then turns her head to the group of photos of her parents doing more rebellious things, promptly making Robin unhappy.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

(muttered) Kate was right. I'm no rebel. Just a nerd.

Richard does a singular loud knock on Robin's door, causing Robin to jump up.

INT. BUCKLEY RESIDENCE LANDING - NIGHT

Richard is leaning towards the wall next to Robin's bedroom.

RICHARD BUCKLEY

You in there, Robin?

ROBIN BUCKLEY

I am.

RICHARD BUCKLEY

Stew for tonight. Your mom's put in the carrots this time, just as you like it.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

Thanks, dad.

RICHARD BUCKLEY

No problem.

Richard walks back down the stairs.

INT. ROBIN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Robin pushes her back towards the bed, stretching her legs out as she sighs. Robin looks around on the floor before her face changes to that of someone who has an idea.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

I know what I'm going to do.

She stands up and looks out the window.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

I'm going to Europe.

CUT TO BLACK.

CREDITS.