

From Brothers
By Don Zolidis

BRANDON, 21, a skinny, messed-up criminal.

(BRANDON is on parole. His brother's girlfriend is attempting to tutor him in math to help him pass the GED. BRANDON has nearly given up, however, and warns her against spending too much time with his family.)

BRANDON

You'll end up crazy. Anything that enters this house goes nuts. I mean, we get a dog, right? Every dog this family ever had ends up losing its shit. They're nice before we get 'em, after they live here a couple months they come down with rabies or the mange or some other disease nobody's ever heard of before, and the next thing you know, the dog's living out the rest of its days on the farm somewhere because living here made it unfit for human society. We had this one dog, Bear, oh man I loved that dog. Bear was huge, and he was mean—he used to pee on the neighbor kids and he just... Bear was like eating the house, right? You'd come home and a chair would be missing cause Bear had torn it apart with his teeth and was eating it, you know? I mean, that dog was chewing the walls. He was awesome. I loved him. Cause he was so perfect for this house, you know? I mean it totally made sense that the dog was trying to swallow the whole goddamn house—it was the logical response to this place—if I had teeth like that, I woulda done the same damn thing.