

BROWNIE POINTS
- draft 03 -

By

Eric Hackler

TEXT: COMPANY CREDITS

1 INT. APARTMENT KITCHEN - SATURDAY

A cloud moves and daylight floods in.

ROSALIND STEVENS (20s), is working on cookies. She's listening/dancing to music.

TITLE TEXT: BROWNIE POINTS

ROSALIND
(to her credit)
Ah Ah, off the table.

Dutifully, the text switches to another spot on the screen.

An expensive briefcase, overflowing with legal paperwork dominates a nearby table.

Her phone rings, silencing the music. Licking batter off her fingers, she fumbles through all the paperwork until she finds and picks up her phone.

TEXT: ROSALIND'S ACTOR CREDIT

ROSALIND
Yello'

2 EXT. CITY STREETS - DAY

Walking away from a news stand & looking livid is SHANE GRAY (20s). He is dressed tech-professional.

He is holding a newspaper.

TEXT: SHANE'S ACTOR CREDIT

SHANE
Did you see what he did!?

3 INT. APARTMENT KITCHEN - AS BEFORE

Rosalind steps away from the counter. Still idly sampling the batter.

ROSALIND
He said he did it all by himself?

4 EXT. CITY STREETS - AS BEFORE

Shane slaps the paper against PASSERBY's head.

	PASSERBY	SHANE
Hey!		He said he did it all by himself!

He holds up the page to read it to Ros.

SHANE
 Quote: Mister Van Winkle credits
 his keen observation and his camera
 skills in his discovery - HIS
 discovery - of the whereabouts of
 the exiled former head of state.
 Unquote.

Over his shoulder, we can see the headline: Indicted
 Ex-Premier In Custody. Awaits Extradition.

Below the headline is a picture of DIMITRI BOON (70s),
 handcuffed & being escorted by police.

In an upper corner of the picture is a headshot of ROBERT
 MATTHEW VAN WINKLE (20s). He is holding his camera and looks
 smug.

TEXT: ROBERT'S ACTOR CREDIT

Shane is still scanning the article.

SHANE
 I mean for fuck's sake! He goes on
 to thank Ansel Adams and Robert
 Redford. Doesn't mention me once!
 And I did most of the work!

5 INT. SHANE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Shane is sitting at his computer.

On his screen are various news articles and photos of
 Dimitri. In several, he is holding a bag of Pasha's Fudgy
 Biscuits.

Shane switches to a map window showing several marked pins.
 He writes addresses down in a notebook.

TEXT: LOCATION MANAGER - PABLO NORGSVENBERG

SHANE (V.O.)
 I mean, if it wasn't for me staying
 up all those nights, doing that
 research, making those probability
 charts--

There's a hammering on Shane's door. The gruff voice of
 SHANE'S DAD comes through.

TEXT: DUBBING EDITOR - THOMAS WISEAU

SHANE'S DAD (O.S.)
 Shane! Your sister and I are going
 out to catch ice cream and eat
 fireflies. You wanna come?...What?
 No, I didn't say that. We better
 get your ears cleaned too while
 we're out. Shane! You comin?

SHANE
 No thanks, Dad. You have fun!

SHANE'S DAD (O.S.)
 Ok. Hey don't forget to apply for
 that journalism internship. You've
 been putting it off.

SHANE
 I won't, Dad.

He rolls his eyes and gets back to his computer.

SHANE (V.O.)
 Anyway, as I was saying...

6 INT. APARTMENT KITCHEN - AS BEFORE

Shane is now in the apartment with Rosalind. He is drinking
 a glass of milk and idly trying to sample the batter.

TEXT: CATERING - GEORGE DONNER & SID C MONSTER

SHANE
 ...I'm the one who did most of the
 work. None of this would have been
 possible if it hadn't been for me
 and yet he's out there taking all
 the credit!

Rosalind slaps his hand away from the bowl.

SHANE

I mean, you know how much this meant to me. This was supposed to be my break!

ROSALIND

Where is he now?

SHANE

Oh, preparing for his big, fucking interview tonight, probably.

The door to the apartment opens and Robert swaggers in. He is dressed casually in very branded/graphic clothes. There's excitement coming out of every pore.

TEXT: SWAGGER CONSULTANT - CJ SPARROW

ROBERT

Hey guys! Did you see it!?

Rosalind & Shane look up at him.

ROSALIND

How'd you get in here?

ROBERT

Oh, I uh...swiped James's key that night you threw him out.

ROSALIND

When you were comforting me?

ROBERT

Yeah. I mean, this was after you'd stopped crying so...

He stops when he sees the look on her face.

ROBERT

...yeah, here you go.

He tosses her the key. She catches it and turns to Shane.

ROSALIND

He's all yours.

Robert looks from her to Shane.

ROBERT

What's she talkin about?

Shane holds up the newspaper with Robert's face?

SHANE
Oh, we saw it alright.

Beat.

TEXT: BEST BOY - AURELIA FETCHER

ROBERT
(genuinely)
...Well, what did you think? I
thought I came across pretty--

Shane throws the newspaper at him.

SHANE
You took all the credit!

ROBERT
I di...what?

SHANE
You took all the credit. You made
it seem like you were the--

TEXT: JUST OK BOY - TOM HOOPER starts to appear.

ROSALIND
Not now.

The TEXT disappears. Shane looks back to Robert and
continues.

SHANE
Like you were the only one who did
anything.

ROBERT
I mean, that's kinda what happened,
man.

7 EXT. ARTISANAL BAKERY - EARLY MORNING - FLASHBACK

The day is just starting to break. Robert is sitting across
the street in his car, yawning. He's bundled in layers and
is holding his camera.

TEXT: KEY GRIP - LOUIS LORTIE

SHANE (V.O.)
Oh, so a little fairy just told you
where to find Boon?

ROBERT (V.O.)
Well, I mean look, man. Sure, I
talked to you guys about it, and I
don't want to, like, say you didn't
contribute...

His phone rings, cutting off his voiceover. He answers.

ROBERT
(into the phone)
Hey Babe. Nah, I'm still waiting.
What? No, I didn't. I'm serious.

He looks down to see he's wearing very girly socks. This surprises him.

TEXT: DOORKNOB GRIP - DOORGEN MICHAEL DOOR

ROBERT
Uhhh nope. Just checked, these are
definitely mine. You must've
forgotten where you put yours.

The baker unlocks the door and turns on the "Open" sign.

ROBERT
Oh, something's happening. I gotta
go. Yeah, yeah, mmhmmm, love you
too bye.

He hangs up.

ROBERT (V.O.)
Like I was saying, sure, I bounced
ideas off you, but I was the one
who actually got the picture that
proved where he was.

Robert snaps to attention as a black, official-looking car
pulls up to the bakery. He readies his camera.

A bodyguard gets out of the car. He is wearing sunglasses &
has an official looking seal pin on his lapel.

Robert raises his camera. It noticeably has a different lens
from the previous shot.

TEXT: CONTINUITY - KEN KESEY

Robert begins taking pictures. He gets the license plate,
the bodyguard, and the pin.

The bodyguard enters the bakery.

SHANE (V.O.)
 Oh, so because you snapped one
 picture suddenly you deserve all
 the credit?

ROBERT (V.O.)
 It wasn't just one picture, man. I
 had to drive to the place. I had to
 sit up and wait to see if they'd
 come. You know how many days it
 took me before they showed up?

The bodyguard returns. He is carrying several bags of
 Pasha's Fudgy Biscuits. Robert gets pictures.

8 INT. APARTMENT KITCHEN - AS BEFORE

Shane's face is turning red. Robert is looking defensive and
 crestfallen. Rosalind is spatula-ing batter onto cookie
 sheets.

SHANE
 That's not the poi--

TEXT: ARMOURER - ANYONE FROM MONTANA

ROBERT
 THREE! I was there for three days,
 bro!

TEXT: LEGOURER - BRUCE "HITMON" LEE

SHANE
 Oh, listen to you! You wouldn't
 have known where to go if it wasn't
 for me.

TEXT: THANKS - ALAN SMITHEE

ROBERT
 Oh yeah, sure. 3 days of actual
 work vs 5 minutes on Google. Yeah,
 that totally balances out.

TEXT: YOU'RE WELCOME - ADELE DAZEEM

SHANE
 5 minutes? It took me weeks to
 narrow it down to that bakery!

TEXT: RIGGER - RUDOLPH "YES DADDY" MYRTLE

ROBERT
STOP IT!

He slaps the credit TEXT offscreen. Shane laughs hatefully.

SHANE
Oh sure! Ignore everyone who wants credit for their work! Why don't we all fuck off so you can keep all the brownie points for yourself!?

ROBERT
That's not what I'm...this is kinda an important moment and they're interrupting.

SHANE
Oh yeah! Every moment you're on screen's important. Who cares what any of this means to us? It's not like you're reading them anyway.

ROBERT
Oh don't. Of course, I am. Everybody's important. It's a collaborative thing. Just because I get top billing--

SHANE
Whose name did you just slap away? Come on, you read it!

Robert doesn't say anything.

SHANE
You know what, I'll make it easier. Who plays Ros?

He gestures over to Rosalind who looks back at the two of them like a perturbed deer.

Robert looks from Shane to Rosalind. He tries to answer several times, but never gets an answer out.

He changes tack.

ROBERT
Oh yeah? Well, who took the pictures that actually caught him!? That's the important thing here!

SHANE

Who stayed up researching every night? Going through bakery after bakery just so you'd know where to go!?

ROBERT

Well, whose idea was it to look at bakeries in the first place!?

SHANE

Not fucking yours! You weren't even thinking about looking until I told you to!

ROBERT

Oh, so this was all your idea! Tell you what, Dog, if this was your big plan, why don't you tell me how you came up with it.

SHANE

I'd be happy to. It was like a month ago. We're all hanging out here after the puppybowl. The news comes on...

ROBERT

Yeah, and...?

Shane's trying to piece it together. Something is dawning on him.

SHANE

The news comes on...

Robert takes the lead.

ROBERT

You were sitting there. I was sitting here. They were showing footage of him in some kinda meeting, and that's when I...

They both look at each other, trying to remember.

The oven dings.

Robert and Shane both look over to see Rosalind putting on oven mitts.

9 INT. APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Shane & Robert are spread out on the couch.

Rosalind is sitting at her desk, flipping through legal briefs.

The TV is on and in the middle of a broadcast about Boon.

REPORTER (O.S.)
Boon, who fled prosecution
immediately after leaving office,
has not been seen outside his
social media for the past 6 months.

The footage shows him in an important meeting, munching on Pasha's Fudgy Biscuits.

Rosalind looks up from her work.

ROSALIND
You know, that's like the third
time we've seen him eating those
brownies. I bet if he's hiding out
here, he's close to somewhere that
sells them.

Shane and Robert look at her. Both of them start thinking.

10 INT. APARTMENT KITCHEN - AS BEFORE

Rosalind turns around with a sheet of cookies and sees the boys staring at her.

SHANE
Holy shit.

ROBERT
I'm so fucking sorry, Ros.

Rosalind allows a smile.

ROSALIND
The important thing is we caught
him. Right?

TEXT: AFFIRMATIVE MANAGER - SHIRLEY N DEED

Robert goes to push the text away.

SHANE

Don't.

Robert lowers his hand.

11 INT. APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The plate of cookies is half empty. Shane reaches for another one.

ROSALIND

If you eat all of them before he gets back, I'm letting him cut you open.

SHANE

It'll be worth it. These are amazing.

Robert enters. He's wearing a casual suit with an untied tie.

ROSALIND

How did you..?

Robert tosses her another key.

ROBERT

I forgot. I...uh, grabbed that a couple years ago when you broke up with Francis.

ROSALIND

Shane, eat Robert's cookies.

SHANE

How'd it go?

ROBERT

I think you'll both like it.

ROSALIND

Well, come on, sit down.

Robert joins them on the couch.

ROBERT

Come on, then.

TEXT: BASED UPON THE FEVER DREAM BY MONTAGUE ANACONDA

Robert eyes the text acceptingly.

The news tease comes on a moment later.

NEWS ANCHOR

Coming up tonight, we take you to our exclusive interview with Robert Matthew Van Winkle, the unemployed amateur photographer who first tipped police off to the location of former head-of-state, Dimitri Boon.

The screen changes to see Robert in his interview.

ROBERT (ON TV)

Yeah, I snapped the pictures, but it wasn't just me. I wouldn't have even known where to look if it wasn't for my friend Shane Gray, he's a journalist & Rosalind Stevens, she was the one who had the idea in the first place.

ROBERT

I already told them, the next interview is all three of us.

Shane pats Robert on the back.

NEWS ANCHOR

Mr. Boon was indicted on sedition, fraud and charges shortly after leaving office as well as instituting what many experts have called "concentration camps for refugees". We'll have the full interview with Mr. Winkle tonight at 11 as well as an expert panel to discuss the potential negative effects of Mr. Boon's apprehension on viewership.

Shane turns the TV off. Robert & Rosalind are looking at the screen.

SHANE

Did they say negative effects?

ROSALIND

They said negative effects.

SHANE

I'm just...hmmmmm

ROBERT
That was...kinda surprised me there
at the end.

Rosalind pushes the cookies to him. He takes one, still
staring at the screen.

ROSALIND
At least you got your bit right, Mr
Winkle.

ROBERT
Yep, and apparently hurt their
ratings by doing it.

He takes a bite.

ROBERT
Wow, these are good!

ROSALIND
Thanks!

SHANE
Seriously, who the fuck told them
to say that!?

CUT TO BLACK.

TEXT: SCREENWRITER - ERIC HACKLER