

UNITED TALENT AGENCY COVERAGE

**TITLE: BRAD CUTTER RUINED
MY LIFE . . . AGAIN**

FORM: Screenplay

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READER: Tanya Seale

**LOGLINE: A former supernerd finds success in the business world, finally
managing to “fit in”, until the cool jock that tormented him through high school is
hired, forcing him to relive the entire high school experience.**

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

DAVE FISCHMAN: (18 year old Dave) – An “awkward graduate with bad hair, acne, and headgear hiding honest eyes and a good heart.” Has unknowingly adopted the name of “Noseplug” by Brad Cutter and posse due to Dave’s additional swimming attire. A geek of the highest order. (30 year old Dave) – More confident and certain of himself. He has settled into a productive career at Centerpoint Agency, an “in-store promotions firm” that creates cardboard cutout stand-ups advertising products and services for clients. Dave is a planner. He makes meticulous charts and graphs for everything, including major life decisions. He wants to propose to his girlfriend, LEAH MARSHAK, but everything must be planned just right, and one of those plans includes being comfortably rooted in a higher-level position. He is currently up for a promotion to Vice President when BRAD CUTTER, his high school arch nemesis is hired, is immediately loved by all, and begins competing for the same position.

BRAD CUTTER: (18 year old Brad) – “Good looking, charismatic, confident. Picture the coolest guy from your high school, multiply by then, and you get the idea.” (30 year old Brad) – “Handsome, tanned, athletic, and dripping charisma”

with “a full head of hair and hardly an ounce of body fat.” Brad is the golden boy, who can charm people “within five minutes” and who naturally finds success. He is the idea guy; the face of “cool.” His caveat is that while he can win people over, he lacks the organization to plan effectively.

LEAH MARSHAK: (Reads 30) – Dave’s current girlfriend. “An easy going beauty” with a “disarming confidence.” Not the prom queen by any stretch, Leah is the girl-next-door: supportive, charming, easy to talk to. Leah unexpectedly and quickly befriends Brad’s wife, JENNY, after a chance meeting. Jenny convinces her to work on the Centerpoint company get-together, which will have a “prom” theme. Leah loves Dave, but gets frustrated when he begins acting like someone other than himself in an attempt to be “cool” like Brad Cutter.

JENNY HANSON CUTTER: (18 and then 30) – The quintessential sweetheart and “former prom queen” who, at 30 looks “even better than she did in high school. She’s beautiful and sexy and perfect.” She is now married to Brad Cutter, and through a coincidental meeting befriends Dave’s girlfriend, Leah, they become fast friends and partners on a project that Leah heads up—organizing a “prom” themed dance for the employees of Centerpoint.

ARTURO: (60) – Janitor at Centerpoint, where Dave and Brad now work. Arturo plays the part of the wiser, older, but much less educated friend who imparts common sense, wisdom, and advice about love and life to the protagonist.

ALEX WHITMAN: (40s) – Dave’s boss, “a bit of a dick” who has dangled the carrot of promotion in front of Dave but now has hired Brad Cutter, whom he pits against Dave in a head-to-head battle for the position.

JUDY FISCHMAN: (Reads 40s and then 50s/early 60s) – Dave’s mom, who is recently separated from Dave’s father. Judy comes to live with Dave and immediately turns to online dating sites where she begins meeting fat, unattractive men and having sex, much to Dave’s horror. She also makes candid, outspoken comments about Dave’s sex life, which provide comedy relief during his impending crisis.

PALMER GAINES: (50s) – CEO of Just Juice, the corporation seeking commercial representation from Centerpoint. Gaines is “slick and corporate, but with a harsh edge.” He is also demanding, and wants a new image for his product, which will propel the product to the top of the juice market because of its “cool” factor.

SCOOT MCILVANE: (18 and then 30) – A “cool looking guy”, one of Brad’s cohorts since high school. A jock whose main interests seem to include women and poker.

DEEKUMS RANSALA: (18 and then 30) – “Another studly looking fat guy” with similar characteristics and interests as Scoot McIlvane.

WILL STENSON: (early 40s) – Coworker of Dave and Brad. He is a suck up who is blinded by Brad’s charisma.

GINA HACKETT: (30s) – The flirty mailroom girl at Centerpoint. She is charmed by Brad Cutter and repulsed by Dave Fischman.

SIMON WALDRON: (18 and then 30) – “Pale, skinny computer dork” who, in high school, was Dave’s only friend. At 30, after not having spoken to Dave in many years, he still is willing to bail Dave out of jail. He now is an Internet startup millionaire who has married KATE BLANCHARD, the girl Dave crushed on in high school.

KARA BLANCHARD: (18 and then 30) – “A cute, mousy girl” who Dave crushes on in high school and who, at 30, is a medical doctor and married Simon Waldron. She tells Dave on their reunion that she would have gone out with him had he been brave enough to ask, and encourages him not to let a fight with Leah cause him to lose out on her as well.

BEN AFFLECK: Plays himself, the token “famous friend” of Brad Cutter, who (of course) has a famous friend. A frequent player at Cutter’s poker games, who wins big and takes all of the money Dave has been saving and planning to spend on Leah’s engagement ring.

SHEILA HYDALE: (40s) – “From accounting.” She is highly offended when Dave blurts out “Yeah, let’s assrape this donkey!” in the boardroom in an attempt to outcool Brad Cutter, who makes a similar comment.

ANWAR: (Reads late 20s) – The “foreign computer tech” who serves as another member of the Centerpoint team who just doesn’t “get” Dave.

GEOFFREY: (Reads 50s) – The retreat moderator at a team building “outward bound, back to nature” place, where Dave, Brad, and the staff from Centerpoint must go to “clear the air,” reconnect, and participate in a “safe circle” environment so that they may go back and unleash their creative beasts in an attempt to win the Just Juice account for Centerpoint.

SYNOPSIS:

Open on DAVE FISCHMAN at high school graduation, after which he and his only friend SIMON WALDRON burn their P.E. uniforms, yearbooks, and other things that remind them of their awful stint at Franklin High. Dave narrates a humorous montage (masturbating to the prom queen’s cheerleading photo, sitting in front of a video game on prom night, eating Hot Pockets) to show his total geekitude, as compared to BRAD CUTTER, the “cool guy,” who sleeps with the prom queen,

makes winning touchdowns, is voted most likely to succeed, best smile, funniest guy, best kisser, etc.

We briefly meet KARA BLANCHARD, a girl on whom Dave is crushing, but who obviously has a crush on Brad Cutter, just like all the other girls.

Dave goes to college, where his skin finally clears up, he ditches the headgear, gets a haircut, and makes new friends. He also becomes more confident as he meets and sleeps with progressively more attractive (read: less fat) women.

After college, Dave lands a job at Centerpoint Agency, where he has moved up through the ranks and now works under Alex Whitman, who is about to promote someone to the position of Vice President of Creative Affairs. If Dave can land the account for the company “Just Juice” he is certain the promotion is his. This is the final step in Dave’s plan—Dave is a planner and likes things to be perfect. And when he finally gets this promotion, Dave will ask his girlfriend, LEAH MARSHAK, whom he’s been dating for two years, to marry him.

Enter BRAD CUTTER, who now looks even more handsome and is even more charming than ever. With Brad’s exuberant enthusiasm, he wins over the entire office instantly, and suddenly Brad is the new IT guy. Dave tries to befriend Brad, but Brad is more of a jerk than ever. This intensifies when their boss, ALEX WHITMAN, assigns them to head up opposite teams, competing for the spotlight on the same project—the Just Juice account that will make or break the company’s profit margin for the year.

Dave tries to emulate Brad’s coolness, but the harder he tries, the more he fails. His officemates are repulsed by Dave’s lame attempts at trying to sit at the “cool people table” and his obvious blunders when talking about sports or poker, which he obviously knows little about. Dave tries out for the company baseball team, which Cutter has been put in charge of, and ends up striking out in many huge and hilarious ways. But Leah, who has shown up at try-outs to support Dave’s efforts, meets and befriends JENNY HANSON CUTTER (the former prom queen cheerleader), who has come to support her husband, Brad.

The two women hit it off and begin working together on a project that Whitman has asked Jenny to lead: a company get-together with the theme of “prom.” Leah, whose own prom was a disaster, is looking forward to sharing this night with Dave. But Dave, who feels his plans for the future slipping away at the hands of Brad Cutter, struggles both with the desire to fit in with the Cutters and the desire to succeed at work regardless if he’s the only one who can’t get along with Cutter.

Dinner with Leah and the Cutters and a subsequent poker game with Brad and his friends turn out to be colossal disasters, and Dave ends up getting caught stealing Jenny Hanson’s dirty thong, using Brad’s face cream (which causes a bad acne-like reaction), and losing all the money he’s saved for Leah’s engagement ring to Brad’s

friend, Ben Affleck. Dave also experiences tension at home when his mother shows up on his doorstep saying she's left Dave's father and is now dating men she meets on Internet dating sites, some of whom she will parade around half-naked with as she camps out in Dave's apartment for the rest of the film.

A team building exercise gone bad, an increasing frustration with Leah for getting closer to the Cutters, and the sinking feeling Dave feels as all his life plans are being usurped by Brad Cutter, Dave goes into crisis mode and enters the hall where the women are setting up for the "prom" and destroys whatever he can get his hands on—decorations, boom boxes, Cutter's car in the parking lot. He is arrested and taken to jail.

Enter again Simon, Dave's estranged (but truest) friend, who bails him out and takes him away for a few days. Simon is now married to Dave's former high school crush, Kara, and they live in a mansion they have purchased on their two large salaries. While deliriously happy with Simon, Kara reveals that had Dave asked her out all those years ago, she would have gone. She warns Dave that if he doesn't repair his wrongs with Leah, he will miss out on her as well.

Dave agrees to go back and repair the damage he's done, both physically and emotionally. He makes new decorations, asks Leah to the prom, and patches things up with Cutter, who reveals that even though he ultimately got the promotion, he's a lousy planner and needs Dave on the project, as an integral part of his team and his ultimate success. Cutter promises to treat Dave nicer and offers him a permanent position at poker, but Dave tells him he doesn't even care about that stuff anymore. He only cares about Leah.

Dave takes Leah to the prom and proposes, where she says yes, as long as he doesn't try to be "cool" anymore.

COMMENTS:

BRAD CUTTER RUINED MY LIFE . . . AGAIN is a smart, funny comedy that doesn't bother delving too much into messy subtext or subplots. The storyline is simple and although the script begins with a whirlwind energy that sweeps you into the lives of the characters, there is a fair amount of cheesy sentimentality, especially toward the end.

The characters are—for the most part—uncomplicated and one dimensional, and the plot is nothing if not predictable. But in spite of this, it works as a lighthearted comedy, because it is a no-brainer, and because the arc is fun and easy to follow. Its success lies in its bawdy humor and its accurate portrayal of awkward geek moments. The dialogue is fresh and unapologetically honest, and no matter where one fell on the popularity scale in high school, he can find a character in this film with whom he identifies. All the stereotypes are here: the cool jock, the geek, the

geek's even geekier friend, the cheerleader, the girl-next-door, the freaktastic slut, the wallflowers. The caveat, then, is that there is little dimension, and each character is really little more than a stereotype.

I feel like I've seen the scene toward the end where we visit Simon and Kara's mansion. Simon has become a startup millionaire whose impressive is outfitted with all manner of dork toys ("full-size R2D2 replica, arcade games, an actual contestant podium from the set of Jeopardy—it's a dork paradise.")

Also, the scenes with Ben Affleck feel completely gratuitous and superfluous. I would recommend ditching him as a character altogether.

The directions in this are equally as humorous as the dialogue, and it is a fun read.