

MY FRIEND MATTY

"Bus Stop Scene"

This scene between Stephen and his son, Nick, occurs early on in the script. The family has just moved into a new home in the hopes of a fresh start.

Today is seven year old Nick's first day at a new school. As he and his father wait for the bus, Stephen is surprised to hear that Nick's thoughts are not about school at all. They are about his mother, who passed away two years earlier.

They stand at the corner...

EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAWN

Stephen and Nick stand at the end of the driveway, waiting for the bus. Nick breaks the silence.

NICK
Mom always kissed me before I got
on the bus.

STEPHEN
Oh?

NICK
Yeah. It was kind of embarrassing.
But I think it was how she liked to
say 'goodbye.'

STEPHEN
It was how she liked to say a lot
of things.

NICK
Do you have to kiss me goodbye?

Stephen seems thrown by the question.

NICK (CONT'D)
Because, I don't think it would be
good for a guy to get kissed by his
dad.

STEPHEN
Mmmm. Well, of course not. We're
men. So, we'll just shake hands.
How's that? Would that be okay?

NICK
Yeah. That's good.

Nick turns to wait for the bus. Stephen can't help but gently kiss his son on the top of his head. A moment later, the bus pulls around the corner. Nick turns to his dad and gives him a very formal handshake. He cautiously boards the bus. Stephen holds back tears as he watches it drive off.