

FROGGIE  
by August Adams

BLACK. AN ALARM CLOCK SHATTERS THE SILENCE.

FADE IN:

INT. FRANCIS GREENBURG'S BEDROOM. MORNING.

An alarm clock continues ringing in what seems an ordinary teenager's room. A Greenpeace poster is visible.

We can see a body in bed, as if it is our own. This is FRANCIS GREENBURG'S perspective.

A smiling woman in a bathrobe opens the door and enters.

This is JEAN GREENBURG, Francis' mother.

JEAN  
Francis, honey. Rise and Shine.

A mumble-grunt heard O.C. from Francis.

JEAN (CONT'D)  
It's time for school.

The same mumble-grunt is heard again.

Jean walks around the bed, turns off the alarm clock, and pulls the sheets down. We see Francis' teenage body in Kermit the Frog underoos and Kermit slippers.

JEAN (CONT'D)  
There we go.

She pats his leg, smiles, then leaves the room.

The body swings out of bed. Francis leaves the bedroom.

A teenage girl, age 17, approaches him and stops. Eyeliner crud is thick in her eyes. She's just woken up.

This is JACKIE GREENBURG, Francis' sister.

JACKIE  
Mom! I'm roasting! Gene freak's  
got it like 85 degrees up here.

A manly male voice answers from downstairs. It belongs to ARCHIBALD GREENBURG, father of the family.

ARCHIBALD (O.C.)  
Pretend its Florida!

JEAN (O.C.)  
Don't call your brother names.

JACKIE  
(huffs; glares at Francis)  
Brother my ass! He doesn't even  
have a birth certificate!

She storms back into her room.

We lurch into the bathroom and stop before an open medicine cabinet. Two strange green hands with crusty nails grab a toothpaste and brush, and turn on the faucet. The hands drop the toothpaste and brush into the trash can, then dip into the flowing water. Streams of dried blood come off and swirl around the drain. Finally, the hands reach up and shut the cabinet door mirror.

We see FRANCIS GREENBURG.

With his mostly bald scalp, warty green skin, and bulging eyes peculiarly located on the sides of his oversized head, it is obvious: he is half boy, HALF FROG.

He stares absent-minded at the mirror, then blinks and licks a grimy tooth.

FADE TO BLACK.

Animal noises sound, mainly monkey screeches. Very primal.

OPENING CREDITS.

[NOTE: THE FILM IS SHOT DOCUMENTARY-ESQUE STYLE.]

FADE BACK IN.

It is an ordinary Monday morning in

PINE CREST, GA

We are greeted by images of a tranquil southern town. Things are peaceful, the day begins with:

The sun rising on a town square statue.

A friendly storekeeper sweeping his sidewalk.

An old woman polishing a City Hall plaque.

A three legged dog hobbling past a gleaming shop window that reads: GREENBURG HUNTING GOODS.

We have seen the TOWN, but now we move to the neighborhoods. They stir quietly with:

A man in a bathrobe picking up the paper.

A paper boy on his morning run.

And then a dead center shot of:

EXT. THE GREENBURG HOME

It's a peaceful middle class home in Anytown, USA. Black shingles. Fake wood siding. A mailbox mimicking the house.

SUPER: GREENBURG HOME. PINE CREST, GA.

The camera ambles up the front walkway onto the porch.

A sign reads: *God loves all creatures. And if he doesn't, we do.*

JEAN (V.O.)

I knew the second I saw that little green head poking out...

INT. GREENBURG KITCHEN.

SUPER: MONDAY MORNING. 6:15 A.M. 2 WEEKS UNTIL GRADUATION.

Francis eats breakfast. Jean prepares his lunch.

JEAN (V.O.)

We had something special. Like the whole world blessed us.

Jean holds up a gloopy, mysterious sandwich.

JEAN

Onion and strained peas hoagie. His favorite.

She sets down the sandwich.

JEAN (V.O.)

Hard to believe he's graduating high school.

INT. GREENBURG LIVING ROOM

It's a pre-taped family interview.

The whole family sits on the couch.

Jean and ARCHIBALD GREENBURG sit beside Francis.

Jean is the nurturing mother. Archibald is the MAN of the house. They're your average American parents.

Francis wears clean-cut, boyish clothes.

Jackie dresses in black goth. The loner child. She ostracizes herself on the couch's edge.

JEAN

When people look at Francis,  
they'll see a frog. But he's a  
person. Has dreams.

ARCHIBALD

Goals.

JACKIE

Green skin.

An uncomfortable pause.

JEAN

Same as you and me.

ARCHIBALD

A little different on the outside.  
That's all.

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY. BATHROOM DOOR. MONDAY MORNING.

SUPER: 6:57 A.M.

Jackie stomps furiously outside the bathroom door.

JACKIE

(waiting irritably)  
Mom, he won't come out!  
(to camera)  
One time he took a shower for a  
whole fucking hour.  
Mom says it's good for his pores.  
Fuck that.

Francis bursts out the door in a waist towel. He walks away like he hasn't even heard her.

ZOOM in on a GROSS shower scum ring around the tub.

BACK TO FAMILY INTERVIEW

ARCHIBALD

We're the first to admit adjusting  
to life with Francis was...

(beat)

Challenging.

Immediately we see: a PICTURE of riots at the White House  
with pickets saying: Frogs aren't human!

JEAN (V.O.)

People can be judgmental.

INT. TOWN GROCERY STORE

Francis helps Jean put fruit in the cart. An old woman runs  
face to face with Francis and nearly faints.

JEAN (V.O.)

Slowly, they came around.

Francis quickly kneels to help the old woman. Meanwhile  
several people wheel by and wave warmly to the Greenburgs.

INSERT MAGAZINE COVERS

The covers of several publications like SCIENCE DIGEST,  
TIME, USA TODAY.

ARCHIBALD (V.O.)

We got some good PR.

A young Francis dominates the covers like a tiny green  
superstar. One title boldly reads: *It's Easy Being Green*.  
Another: *American Prince*.

JEAN (V.O.)

People got tired of hating him.

BACK TO FAMILY INTERVIEW

ARCHIBALD

Realized he's harmless.

JEAN

Couldn't ask for a better son.  
He's perfect.

Francis gnaws on his nails. Jean pats his back.

JEAN

Don't be embarrassed. It's true.

ARCHIBALD

Wish we had two just like him.