

INT. STEVEN'S ROOM - MORNING

STEVEN KARP, a tall eighteen year old wearing a brand new college sweatshirt, is packing a duffel bag. He holds a stack of comic books. He tries to decide whether or not to pack them. He takes half and puts them in the bag.

He holds a porno magazine. His mother DEBRA and father HAL enter the room. He quickly stuffs them in his duffel bag.

DEBRA

Are there phones there?

STEVEN

Yes mom, there are phones in college. They have that technology.

DEBRA

Well, call us when you get there and let us know you're alright.

HAL

It's fifteen miles away. It's closer than the mall. Steven, don't call. He'll be fine.

DEBRA

(starting to cry)

I know. I'll go make you breakfast.

Debra starts to well up with tears. She leaves the room.

HAL

She's just upset because now she's stuck here with me.

STEVEN

I'm kind of nervous.

HAL

Get over it. You're a man now. And remember, I didn't work my ass off selling cars for twenty years so you could go to college and drink beer.

Hal stands up and walks out of the room. We see the hallway is filled with Hal's exercise equipment. Steven's room will be a gym the moment he leaves. Steven follows him out into the hall.

STEVEN

Where will I stay when I come back?

HAL

Don't worry. We'll figure it out. That's what sleeping bags are for.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Steven sits at the table eating scrambled eggs, bacon and Frosted Flakes. His mom stares at him as she cleans up. There is a long silence.

DEBRA

Things are never going to be the same.

STEVEN

Sure they will. I'll be back all the time.

DEBRA

I know, but things won't be the same. There comes a time for change, for all of us, and this is that time.

STEVEN

Mom, sit down.

She sits.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

Mom, you did a great job. I am eighteen years old and I'm going to college. I made it. I didn't do drugs, basically. I didn't get trampled to death at a rock concert. I am still technically a virgin. You are an amazingly successful mother.

She smiles.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

That being said, I can't wait to get the hell out of this house. I have been counting the seconds until I am allowed to leave. But that doesn't mean I don't love you.

His mother starts crying.

DEBRA

Brooke Shields was a virgin until she was almost thirty years old. It's nothing to be ashamed of.

EXT. STEVEN'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Steven stands in front of the house. He has packed all of his things into the car.

Steven stands outside for an awkward beat. He sees his neighbor MR. MATUCCI, an unfriendly looking sixty year old man.

Steven waves. Mr. Matucci stares at him.

STEVEN

Hi, Mr. Matucci. Going to college.

MR. MATUCCI

Huh?

Steven walks over to him.

STEVEN

I'm going to college today. Moving out. It's really exciting.

MR. MATUCCI

Good luck. I'm sure you'll do well.

STEVEN

Thank you.

Steven thinks for a moment, then:

STEVEN (CONT'D)

Do you remember when I was in fifth grade and I shot out your window with a BB gun?

MR. MATUCCI

Uh-huh.

STEVEN

And you didn't tell my parents, you just made me mow your lawn for a year.

Mr. Matucci nods, unemotionally.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

Thank you so much for that.

Steven hugs Mr. Matucci. It is a long, hard hug. The hug he wishes his parents would just give him. Mr. Matucci looks perplexed. When the hug ends Steven looks embarrassed and satisfied.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

See ya' Mr. Matucci.

Hal and Debra exit the house.

HAL

Come on college boy! Will you get out of here already.

Hal laughs. Steven walks to his car.

DEBRA

It's the beginning of a great adventure.

Debra runs into the house sobbing.

CUT TO:

MUSIC UP: OPENING TITLE SONG

TITLE UP: "UNDECLARED"

EXT. UNIVERSITY - DAY

Establishing shot of a medium sized state university. The kids here are B or B plus students who come here because the tuition isn't insanely high. Many grew up in the general vicinity.

Steven carries a duffle bag across campus. He walks into Freedom Hall.

CUT TO:

INT. FREEDOM HALL - DAY

Steven walks out of an elevator and looks for his room. He passes a few male students who do not say hello. Then a gorgeous girl, Beth, walks out of the community bathroom and walks past him. She is wearing nothing but a white robe and wet hair. He looks shocked. He has never lived with young women before.

He walks past an activities room which has a huge picture window then finds his room and enters.

CUT TO:

INT. QUAD LIVING ROOM - DAY

Steven enters a living room area which also contains two, two-person bedrooms. He peeks in one bedroom, it has someone's stuff in it. He peeks in the other bedroom. A handsome, blonde Englishman is sitting on the bed.

STEVEN
Hey. I'm Steven.

LLOYD
Lloyd.

STEVEN
Aren't we supposed to be at the R.A.'s meeting?

LLOYD
(without moving)
Yes.

STEVEN
You wanna walk over there?

LLOYD
God no.

STEVEN
Okay. Well...

Steven does not know what to say. He exits.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMPUS LAWN AREA - DAY

The two OVERLY EAGER RESIDENT ASSISTANTS, LUCIEN and HILLARY, are setting up a picnic table as they speak.

HILLARY
Okay, I'll speak first. I'm going to have all the residents introduce themselves. Then I'll explain what an R.A. is. Then, I'll run the name game with them, do the resident assistant poem and close with the calendar of events.

LUCIEN
Really?

HILLARY
Yeah. Why?

LUCIEN
(timidly)
It doesn't seem like there is any time for me to do the speech about respect. I was up all night preparing it and by the time you are done they'll have already eaten the pizza and they'll be ansty to get going.

HILLARY
I'm not going to bore them to death. I know how to hold a crowd.

LUCIEN
I'm not saying that, it's just...the respect speech kind of needs to happen early...before they get tired from the pizza.

HILLARY

Don't fight with me.

LUCIEN

(backing down)

I'm sorry. Just, just, if you see an opening, I'd like to do the respect thing.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMPUS LAWN AREA - LATER

We see a two-shot of Hillary and Lucien.

HILLARY

If you enter my room feeling lost, my hope is to show you direction. If you enter my room full of tears, my hope is that you will leave with a smile. If you enter my room feeling like a stranger, my hope is that when you leave, we will know each other. If you enter my room glowing with love, my hope is to share in your warmth.

(beat)

Guys, welcome. I'm Hillary. This is Lucian. And I'm going to go out on a limb right now and make a prediction that this is going to be the best floor ever!

We reveal that there are only nine students in attendance. They sit in a circle, all cross-legged like they are at camp. Steve sits near RON, a thick Canadian, and MARSHALL, a skinny guy with a stoner look and a crooked front tooth.

LUCIEN

This turnout is a little lower than we would have hoped, but, you know, when you see the other kids tell them how much fun you had and they'll come to the next one.

HILLARY

We're going to do this on Tuesdays. Now you three guys are all in room 508?

RON

You guys are in 508?

STEVE

Yeah, I am.

MARSHALL

I guess so. That lady seems to know what she's talking about.

HILLARY

Good. You and the boys in 502 over here are going to have a little competition. It's called the human knot.

LUCIEN

It's knots of fun.

HILLARY

You make human knots with your arms and the first to untie-- wins.

LUCIEN

This is like a physical metaphor for working together to untie the knots of life... which bind us.

HILLARY

Go get' em.

Steve, Ron, and Marshall all slowly rise. Steve grabs Ron's hand.

RON

Whoa! What are you doing there, man?

STEVEN

(excited)

Come on! Let's do it!

Hillary gets the guys to hold hands in several variations, across chests, through legs etc. This creates a human knot. The goal of the game is to try to untie the knot without letting go of each others' hands.

HILLARY

On your mark. Get set. Go.

RON

I don't want to do this. I feel like an idiot.

MARSHALL

I don't even think it's possible, what she just asked us to do.

STEVEN

Of course, it's possible. If we're going to do it, we might as well win. Those guys are already like half done.

MARSHALL

Think about it, man. If we're all holding hands, and that makes a circle, I don't think there's a way to do that without, like, accidentally having oral sex with each other.

RON

It doesn't matter. We don't want to do this.

STEVEN

I can't believe we're going to lose.

Steven twists around and pulls Marshall through his legs.

MARSHALL

This isn't about winning or losing. They're trying to trick us into becoming friends.

RON

It's not working.

Hillary ushers over RACHEL, an attractive, slightly neurotic brunette, and BETH, a cheerful, blonde New Yorker.

HILLARY

Hey guys! Hold up. Looks like we have four new arms for your knot.

RON

(suddenly enthusiastic)

Alright! Let's kick some ass.

Hillary joins peoples hands up. Steve is holding Beth's hand.

HILLARY

Okay guys, let's make a knot, now don't get naughty!

STEVE

Hi there, I'm Steve. Wow. Your hands are really soft.

BETH

Thanks. I'm Beth. Yours are sweaty.

STEVEN

Sorry.

They start untying.

MARSHALL

(in pain)

Ow! Somebody's pulling on my elbow! Somebody's pulling on my elbow!

RACHEL

That's me. I'm Rachel.

MARSHALL

Oh. I'm Marshall. That's my elbow. But do what you have to do to untie this thing. I'll take one for the team.

Ron presses up face to face with Steve. They stare at each other faces for a beat.

RON

I've never been this close to another man's face before.

STEVEN

Really? That's interesting. Me too, that's cool. Where are you from?

RON

Alberta. This is terrible.

They continue. Steven is forced to roll over Beth on the ground.

STEVEN

So, Beth. You're really good at "Human Knot". You must have been in human knots before.

She gives him a look.

CUT TO:

INT. PHOTO I.D. ROOM - DUSK

Marshall and Lloyd are waiting in a long line for photo I.D.'s.

MARSHALL

I like that girl Rachel.

LLOYD

So do I. She's lovely.

MARSHALL

Oh, no.

LLOYD

What?

MARSHALL

Now I have no chance.

LLOYD

Why do you have no chance? You have as good a chance as I do. Let the games begin.

MARSHALL

Please, man. You're like the dashing English guy and I'm like the guy with the weird front tooth. You know when I was in tenth grade my parents said to me, we can send you to college or get you braces, which do you want to do? I said college. Biggest mistake of my life.

Marshall sits in the chair to have his picture taken.

LLOYD

You want to know the trick with women. They like to be listened to. Just ask them a lot of questions. The problem most guys make is they think women want to listen to them. They don't. So listen and be positive.

MARSHALL

Positive?

They take Marshall's picture. He smiles, revealing the tooth.

LLOYD

Really positive. Who wouldn't want to be around that?

CUT TO:

INT. STEVEN'S ROOM - DUSK

Steven and Ron are decorating their room as they talk. Ron hangs posters of Beer Girls and rock bands. Steven hangs up pictures of his family and a "Far Side" calendar.

RON

You gonna go to the party tonight?

STEVEN

I don't know. Classes start tomorrow. I want to be rested. My dad worked really hard to get me here.

RON

Well, it was a waste of time. In this day and age you don't even need a degree anymore. This is the computer age. Bill Gates didn't even go to college.

STEVEN

I think he went to Harvard.

RON

Whatever. He didn't need to. Now all you got to do to become a millionaire is get on the internet and day trade. That's what I'm gonna do. And I can do it from any pool in any country around the world.

STEVEN

So, why are you here?

RON

To have a good time before real life starts.

STEVEN

But don't you have to learn how to day trade?

RON

I'm gonna take a class... after college.

STEVEN

Why not just do it now?

RON

They have those classes here?

STEVEN

Yeah, it's called business. That's my major.

RON

Oh.

CUT TO:

EXT. STUDENT HEALTH CENTER - DUSK

Beth and Rachel are getting inoculations at the mobile student health center.

BETH

I mean, if you had a boyfriend, would you break up before college?

RACHEL

I don't know. It would depend on who he was, how I felt about him, whether or not he was a good guy or a prick.

BETH

Do you think making out is cheating?

RACHEL

It depends on what part of him you are making out with.

BETH

That's true.

RACHEL

(annoyed)

I have a feeling you are gonna want to talk about this a lot.

(very long annoyed beat)

But that's fine.

The DOCTOR gives her the shot.

CUT TO:

INT. DORM ROOM - NIGHT

We reveal the two R.A.'s are in bed together. They have clearly recently finished having sex.

HILLARY

I thought the meeting went really well.

LUCIEN

You never gave me a chance to do the respect thing. Now, who knows what's going to happen.

HILLARY

Hello, that's what next week's meeting's for?

LUCIEN

Yeah, if anyone shows up.

HILLARY

Well, you're in charge of flyers.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Lloyd, Steven, Marshall and Ron are having a beer, preparing for the party. Lloyd holds up several scrunchies (women's fabric covered hair rubber bands).

LLOYD

Here's how we do it in my country. If I am in the room with a girl I will put a blue scrunchie on the doorknob.

STEVEN

Where are you going to get a scrunchie? You just have scrunchies?

LLOYD

If I am with two girls and I don't mind you joining me, I will put a green scrunchie on the door. And if I'm with two girls and I would prefer privacy, I'll put a red scrunchie on the door.

MARSHALL

You want us to have sex with you?

LLOYD

No. Alongside me. And only sometimes, if you want to, I don't care.

STEVEN

Wow. Okay... Right-o.

RON

Two women in one night. Man, I was hoping to get laid twice in four years. This is like Caligula.

STEVEN

Who was that?

RON

It's a guy who would have sex alongside you.

LLOYD

Don't make me out to be the weird one because I like sex. A lot of people would seize the opportunity.

MARSHALL

I'm not seizing anything of yours.

LLOYD

Forget it. I guess I'm living with a bunch of children. I won't mention it again.

STEVEN

(to Marshall)

You should put a flesh colored scrunchie on the door when you are wacking off.

RON

Women don't think it's weird that you have all these multi colored scrunchies laying around? I thought the whole idea was to have a signal that looks like it belongs in the environment. Like a post it note that says 'be back soon.'

LLOYD

Fine. Post it notes it is. Okay, I'm heading to the party. Are you guys ready?

MARSHALL

If you want to have a three way use three post it notes.

Steven's dad, Hal, walks in and looks around.

STEVEN

Dad, what are you doing here?

HAL

Sorry. Didn't see any post it notes, so I thought I could come in. Just wanted to stop by, check out the new digs. It's nice. I like the highway cones.

STEVEN

Dad, I've been gone for six hours. Is something wrong?

HAL

No. Well, I guess it depends on how you look at it. Do you have a minute?

STEVEN

(to the guys)

I'll catch up with you guys there.

CUT TO:

INT. STEVEN'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

They are sitting on the bed.

HAL

Cool poster. Beers of the world. I've had a few of those.

STEVEN

Will you stop it. Why are you here? Did grandma die?

HAL

No, grandma's not dead yet. It's just, your mother and I have some news for you. We've decided to get legally separated.

STEVEN

You're getting divorced?

HAL

No legally separated. You are going to have a new life and now we get to have a chance at a second life. We love each other so much that we're setting each other free.

STEVEN

What are you talking about? You're getting a divorce!

HAL

I told her the you wouldn't buy the setting each other free
crap.

(beat)

Your mom is sick of me.

STEVEN

I know, but so? She's always been sick of you. What did
she say?

HAL

She says she's miserable. She doesn't love me anymore.
She hasn't wanted to have sex in years. She feels dead
inside. Life is passing her by. I don't know.

STEVEN

Well, what happens now?

HAL

What can I do, I'm moving out. With you gone she says
there's no reason to pretend anymore.

STEVEN

So, you've been pretending?

HAL

I haven't been pretending. Your mother's been
pretending. I've been very happy.

STEVEN

Why are you telling me this? This is my first day at school.
Why are you doing this to me?

HAL

I'm not doing anything to you. I need to talk to you.

STEVEN

Well, I don't want to talk about this. This is your life. I
have nothing to do with it. I have enough to deal with
getting set up at school.

HAL

You know what, I don't care. I'm your father and I need to
talk to you right now. I've given my entire life to you and I
need a little support. So if I come in here and I want to tell
you about my problems you're gonna listen.

STEVEN

(scared)

I'm sorry dad.

Hal tries to mellow out. He's a little embarrassed.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

So, why do you think mom feels dead inside?

HAL

I don't know.

STEVEN

Have you really not had sex for a long time?

HAL

You know what, I think you're right. This isn't the time.

He gets up.

HAL (CONT'D)

It's your first day at school. You should be having fun.
So....have fun.

Lloyd walks by the door reading a magazine.

STEVEN

Dad, what are you gonna do?

HAL

I'll get a room at a motel. I'll be fine.

STEVEN

I'll call you tomorrow.

HAL

Don't worry about it. I'm fine. Take care kiddo.

He walks out. Steven's left standing there. Marshall sticks his head in the door.

MARSHALL

Come on. We're headed upstairs to the party.

STEVEN

I'll meet you up there in a minute.

Marshall leaves. Steven lays on his bed absorbing the news.

CUT TO:

INT. BETH'S ROOM - CONT.

Beth is on the phone.

MALE VOICE (V.O.)

What's going on?

BETH

(into the phone)

Not much, Eric. Listen, I can't talk right now. I'm running
out the door to a party.

Silence.

ERIC(V.O.)

That was fast.

BETH

(defensive)

What?

ERIC (V.O.)

Nothing. It's just, it didn't take you long to, you know,
start going to parties and stuff.

BETH

Eric, you said you weren't going to do this!

CUT TO:

INT. COMMUNITY BATHROOM - NIGHT

Steven is splashing water on his face. Lucien enters.

Hey...?
LUCIEN

Steven.
STEVEN

Yeah, Steven. I'm still memorizing the names. How you
doing?
LUCIEN

Steven's lip begins to quiver. Lucien looks scared to be faced with an actual problem.

CUT TO:

INT. ELEVATOR - NIGHT

Hal, Marshall, Lloyd and Ron stand in the elevator.

Ah... it's going up. I was trying to go down.
HAL

It's no fun down there. The fun's up here.
MARSHALL

That's right. Care to join us?
(laughing)
LLOYD

What the hell... one beer.
HAL

I was kidding.
LLOYD

The door opens and they all get out.

Where's the keg?
HAL

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Steven and Lucien are talking.

I think they waited till I was out of the house. I mean... I
never thought my parents would get a divorce. And I really
don't know how to deal with it. It's like I've lost my home.
I mean, my childhood, was it a lie?
STEVEN

LUCIEN

(long beat)

That's a really... I mean I...

Well, actually, there was this student last year, Tom, who had a very a similar type of problem. But... his parents liked each other... and they weren't splitting up.

Steven stares at him, needing help.

LUCIEN (CONT'D)

Do you have a dog?

STEVEN

No. Why?

LUCIEN

Well, you're not really allowed, but I could let you have a dog in your room, if it would make you feel better. I mean, if it's a small dog. And you know... quiet.

STEVEN

A dog? A dog isn't gonna help me.

LUCIEN

Well... Hillary's really good at stuff like this. But she went drinking with some girlfriends.

(beat)

You're not going to kill yourself, are ya'?

STEVEN

No, I don't think so.

LUCIEN

I'm not really that good at this... aspect of... of this. I'm mainly here for the free rent. You could go to Health Services and see the school psychiatrist. I could walk you over there in the morning.

STEVEN

Uh... No thanks.

Steven exits.

CUT TO:

INT. REC ROOM - NIGHT

At the party, Hal is playing BEER PONG (Ping Pong combined with Quarters) with Lloyd and Ron.

LLOYD

You seem young!

HAL

I feel young! In my head I'm still eighteen.

Lloyd hits one into a cup. Hal drinks a beer.

LLOYD

I can't believe your wife says you have no passion. You're a passionate man.

HAL

I know. Who is she to judge me?

RON
My girlfriend is just like that. She's always on my ass.

HAL
It never ends. You can do no right.

He pulls up his shirt and grabs his gut.

RON
Mr. Karp, there are girls here.

HAL
Let 'em see it. It's their future too. One day they'll dump
their slightly out of shape husbands.
(yells to a girl)
Sorry I ruined your life! I didn't know watching the Classic
Sports Channel too much would destroy twenty good
years of marriage!

CUT TO:

INT. BETH'S ROOM - CONT.

Beth is on the phone.

BETH
(into the phone)
You don't own me. I'm not going to sit in my room for four
years.

ERIC (V.O.)
Aren't there other activities on campus other than getting
drunk on the eleventh floor? I mean, is that what your
parents are spending all this money for?

BETH
(on the phone)
Don't guilt me. I hate when you do that.

CUT TO:

INT. ELEVENTH FLOOR - NIGHT

The party is on. Marshall is trying to talk to Rachel.

MARSHALL
This place is great, huh?

RACHEL
I'm thinking about leaving.

MARSHALL
Really?

RACHEL
Yeah. I just got done with thirteen years of school. And
now I'm supposed to do it again? Only this time it's
harder?

MARSHALL
You can't leave.

RACHEL
Why not?

MARSHALL

(very positive)

You haven't even been to a class yet.
I've got an idea. Let's go to all your classrooms right now.
Sit in them. Visualize going to class like ballplayers
visualize their bat hitting the ball. It'll make it seem less
scary. That's what I always do.

RACHEL

Are you serious?

MARSHALL

Yes, let's do it!

RACHEL

You're not going to try to get me in some empty building
and try to make out with me, are you?

MARSHALL

No. God. I just want to see your classrooms.

She smiles. They exit. Lloyd sees this and smiles.

CUT TO:

INT. STEVEN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Steven enters. He stands in the middle of his room, overwhelmed by everything that has
happened today.

CU-- A pillow. Steven's head drops into frame and we see him begin to cry, hard. PULL
BACK and see that he's on his top bunk.

ANGLE ON THE DOOR: Beth peeks her head inside the door.

BETH

Are you alright?

Steven couldn't be more embarrassed. He immediately comes up with a cover for his
tears.

STEVEN

Yeah, I'm just really...excited about being here at college.
You know what I mean?

BETH

I do.

STEVEN

It's like...this is a whole new beginning. I've waited so long
for this. Worked so hard. It's just overwhelming.

She sits down on the bed next to him.

BETH

I so know what you mean. It's like today is the first day of
our adult lives. From now on nobody can control us or tell
us what to do. It's amazing.

STEVEN

Yeah. That's exactly what I was thinking about... when
you came in.

BETH

I mean, this is the time in our lives when we're supposed to be, like, experiencing everything.

STEVEN

Yeah... I know.

BETH

My neck hurts.

She moves to the ladder.

BETH (CONT'D)

Move over. I'm climbing up.

CUT TO:

INT. BUILDING - NIGHT

Rachel and Marshall sit in a dark classroom.

RACHEL

I am imagining a boring teacher and still I am at peace.

MARSHALL

I am imagining myself asleep at class and still I am at peace.

They laugh.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMPUS - NIGHT

Marshall and Rachel walk along--

MARSHALL

So you're a artist? That's awesome.

RACHEL

I wouldn't use that word at this point.
It just sounds pretty lame to say I want to be an artist.

MARSHALL

Yeah, it's lame if "lame" means "cool".

She laughs.

MARSHALL (CONT'D)

I mean, what better profession is there than someone who looks at the world and makes paintings and stuff about what's going on when they were alive and how people did stuff, over the eons... you know?

RACHEL

You have no idea what you are talking about, do you?

MARSHALL

No. But I haven't gone to college yet.

She laughs.

MARSHALL (CONT'D)

I mean, that's why I'm here. To learn how to say stuff that's smart and... makes sense. I mean, that's like... why people come here.

Rachel smiles. For the first time she notices how sweet he is. He immediately tries to kiss her. She stops him.

RACHEL
Didn't I specifically tell you not to do that?

MARSHALL
Sorry.

They start walking again. After a moment they both look happy again.

CUT TO:

INT. DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Hal is mid-rant, getting drunker--

HAL
You blink and you're fifty years old and your wife hates your guts. Hey... I'm sorry that I've worked and supported you for twenty years. Please forgive me for having a job and paying for everything. I should have been learning to salsa dance so you wouldn't feel dead inside.

RON
You didn't want to learn how to Salsa dance?

HAL
No. Of course not.

RON
Why? What do you have against Salsa dancing?

HAL
It's not that I have anything against...
(catches himself)
I'm a busy man! I work for a living!

RON
I know. It's just... it seems like you could go, maybe once or twice...

LLOYD
Ron, this is a private matter. What happens behind closed doors is of no concern...

RON
I'm just saying, you could maybe take her salsa dancing, once in a while. Just to show her that you're open to new things. Probably, she'd just get sick of it anyway.

HAL
She doesn't even know what Salsa dancing is. She just read this article about Sandra Bullock and got a bug up her ass.

RON
Yeah, it's Sandra Bullocks fault.

Hal realizes he is wrong. He looks shaken.

CUT TO:

INT. STEVEN'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Steven and Beth sit cross-legged on the top bunk, connecting.

BETH

...I mean, I've never been away from my parents for more than a week.

STEVEN

Really?

BETH

You know what we should do?

STEVEN

What?

BETH

We should have sex.

STEVEN

Excuse me?

BETH

We should inaugurate this momentous day by screwing each other's brains out. For fun.

STEVEN

Yeah, for fun. Uh...okay.

BETH

Do you have a condom?

STEVEN

I have eight condoms.

MUSIC UP-- Tom Petty's "Room on Top of the World".

She kisses him.

CUT TO:

INT. DORM ROOM - LATER

Lloyd and Ron are debating Hal's marriage.

LLOYD

...the man has been working his ass off for twenty years, so that she and Steven could live comfortably and have everything they needed.

RON

Look, Lloyd, the woman felt dead inside. It's not about the Salsa dancing or the roller blading. The woman just needs to feel loved.

They look over and discover that Hal is passed out.

CUT TO:

INT. STEVEN'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Steven and Beth are making out furiously. It's not pretty; it's an all-American horny college make-out. They grope at each other in sloppy, lame ways and seem to be having a blast.

INSERTS-- The faces on Ron's posters. The Rolling Rock Girls, Spinal Tap and Beck.
PAN DOWN to the light switch. After a moment, Beth's red skirt flies into frame, trying to whip the switch off. It takes a couple tries-- then it hits. Black.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

Hal is being propped up by Lloyd and Ron, who are leading him down the hallway.

RON
Where the hell is Steven?

LLOYD
Maybe I should take him home.

HAL
My wife would love that. To meet a hot young British guy with plenty of energy... you know, she loves PBS.

LLOYD
I'm beginning to tire of this man.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Outside the closed door to Steven's room, stand Ron and Lloyd holding up the barely conscious Hal. They stare in disbelief at-- a blue scrunchie on the door knob.

LLOYD
Good lord...

RON
Does that mean we have to go in there?

SLOW DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CAMPUS - MORNING

Students are walking to their first classes.

CUT

INT. STEVEN'S ROOM - NEXT MORNING

Steven opens his eyes. He has a look of contentment on his face. He turns to see Beth.

STEVEN'S P.O.V. - A LARGE HAIRY FOOT

Steven sits up and sees that he is lying next to his dad. He looks at his dad's face, which lays next to Steven's feet.

CLOSE UP - HAL'S FACE

Some one has drawn EYEBALLS on his eyelids with a magic marker. On his cheek it says in block letters "PLEASE SHUT THIS." An arrow points to his mouth. And on his forehead, someone has drawn the Union Jack.

Steven looks across the room at Ron, who stares at him.

RON
Is this what your family is like? I mean, is this what you
guys do...all the time? 'Cause if it is...

STEVEN
How could you let Lloyd do this to him?

RON
(clearly responsible)
I tried to stop him.

Hal wakes up.

HAL
(groggy)
Hey kiddo. Good morning.

STEVEN
Morning, dad.

Hal is oblivious to the markings on his face.

CUT TO:

INT. STEVEN'S LIVING ROOM - MORNING

MUSIC UP: SCORE

Steven is now dressed up for class. His father is dressed in yesterday's wrinkled clothes.
He still has the markings on his face.

SEVERAL CUTS

In silence Steven puts together the coffee maker and makes his dad some coffee.

Steven pours the coffee.

Still in silence, they drink the coffee together.

Marshall walks through toward the bathroom. He sees the markings, but does not say
anything.

HAL
(to Steven)
Come, walk your old man out.

They walk toward the door that takes you to the hallway. On the way, Lloyd walks past.

LLOYD
(looking guilty)
God-bye, Hal.

HAL
See ya', Lloyd.

They walk down the hallway and pass Beth on the way.

BETH
Off to your first class?

STEVEN

Yeah.

BETH

Good luck.

STEVEN

Thanks.

He looks back at her as she walks away wondering what it all meant. They get on the elevator.

CUT TO:

EXT. DORM - DAY

Steven and Hal walk into the sunlight toward a parking lot. As they walk, students stare at the markings on Hal's face and smile.

HAL

I'm sorry about last night.

STEVEN

There's no reason to be sorry.

HAL

Yes there is. I ruined your first night.

STEVEN

It was fine.

HAL

You know Steven, I've made some mistakes in my life. I let your mother down. She feels like she's missed out on a lot and it's because of me. Maybe she's right. I don't know. I just hope you'll take this time to really explore. Figure out who you are. What you want. And you don't have to know right now. You don't have to know for a while. You know what I mean?

STEVEN

Yeah, dad.

They hug.

HAL

I promise I won't do this again. I just needed to know somebody still loved me.

STEVEN

I love you, dad.

Hal gets in his car and drives off.

MUSIC SWELLS

Steven watches the car, then puts his bag of books over his shoulder and walks back into the bustling campus and to his first class.

THE END