

ACT ONE

FADE IN.

EXT. CAMPUS - DAY

SHOT: A banner being raised that says "Welcome Parents."

SHOT: A CAMPUS PHOTOGRAPHER taking a photograph of TINA and HER PARENTS.

INT. MARSHALL AND RON'S ROOM - DAY

MARSHALL vacuums under RON's bed for the first time that year. Ron is reading a "Maxim" and not helping out.

RON

That little kid from "Growing Pains" is all jugged out, man. She's hot.

(beat)

Stop that. Your parents don't care what's under my bed.

MARSHALL

Sorry, man. I gotta get this done so I can rehearse my song. I won't have time once they get here.

Marshall picks a half eaten slice of toaster pizza out of the nozzle.

RON

Hey, I was saving that.

STEVEN walks in on a cordless phone. We follow him as he paces around the entire suite.

HAL

(on phone)

Well, how come mom gets the first half of the weekend, and I get sloppy Steven seconds?

STEVEN

Because I haven't seen her for two months since she went to Europe.

HAL

Get in line, Mister, neither have I.

STEVEN

Well... she kinda asked me to split the weekend up.

HAL

Man, how immature is that?

STEVEN

Look, I want us all to be together too, but there's that awkward thing where you two got divorced.

HAL

Separated.

STEVEN

Separated, whatever.

HAL

I just thought that maybe we could talk things out. I'm a good listener now, Steven. You should tell her that. The old man's changed. She could do a lot worse.

Steven reaches into the couch and pulls out some crushed ice cream cartons.

STEVEN

Yeah. But let's do it her way for now. I don't want anything to ruin this.

HAL

Fine. But you know why she doesn't want to see me? She's afraid of the old Hal love voodoo.

STEVEN

(grossed out)  
Ew, dad.

HAL

Part of being a man, son. Part of  
being a man.

CUT TO:

INT. LIZZIE AND RACHEL'S ROOM - DAY

Lizzie is looking in a mini-refrigerator stuffed with  
produce and miscellaneous groceries.

LIZZIE

Radishes? When have you ever  
eaten radishes?

RACHEL

You don't understand. If my mom  
doesn't see healthy vegetables and  
fresh milk in the fridge, she will  
make my life a living hell.

Rachel is holding up one of Lizzie's stuffed kangaroos and  
sewing it's head back on.

LIZZIE

Well you didn't have to rip open  
my favorite stuffed animal. I  
mean, there's no way your mom is  
that paranoid.

RACHEL

When I was sixteen my mom found a  
joint in my jeans pocket, which by  
the way I was too afraid to even  
try, and sent me to rehab for six  
weeks.

LIZZIE

Oh my god.

RACHEL

I had to sleep next to a woman who  
used to inject heroin between her  
toes. So, I am not going to just  
leave our fake ID's and condoms  
anywhere she can see them.

LIZZIE

My mom and dad would never even look in my drawers. They totally trust me.

RACHEL

I don't even know what that means. I'm, like, her full time job, so she's been going nuts since I left.

LIZZIE

Well, that's one good thing about my parents having to go to that conference this weekend. I'll be here to make you look really good. So, relax.

RACHEL

How glad am I that you're my roommate? Now hand me the monkey.

Lizzie reluctantly throws her a stuffed monkey, and Rachel starts taking it's head off.

CUT TO:

INT. RON AND MARSHALL'S ROOM - DAY

Marshall rips a sheet of fabric softener out smells it, and starts to rub it on his sheets.

RON

I can't imagine anything worse then having my parents here. They'd just embarrass me with stupid stories about how I couldn't pronounce "L's" when I was six.

LLOYD

You couldn't pronounce "L's?" Oh my God. That's adorable.

RON

That's right, Woyd. See? They're not even here and I'm humiliated.

LLOYD

Well, I'm off to pick up my little sister. If she calls, tell her to stay put.

Lloyd exits.

RON

Have you seen the picture of Lloyd's sister? She is hot. Smoking hot.

MARSHALL

Yeah, but she's his sister.

RON

So? Like if I had a hot sister, you don't think he'd sleep with her? Grow up. And besides, there's nothing wrong with sleeping with a friend's sister if you're going to marry her.

Marshal grimaces and tugs Ron firmly off the bed.

MARSHALL

Get up for a second.

Marshall runs a sheet of fabric softener over Ron's sheets while pushing the bed against his own bed.

RON

What are you doing?

MARSHALL

I have to make my parents' bed.

Marshal continues pushing. Ron lets the words sink in.

RON

Your parents are sleeping here?  
No. No way. Tell them to get a motel room.

MARSHALL

My Dad says he already pays \$8,000 for this motel room.  
(in English accent)

What do you care? You'll be  
having a bit of a slap and tickle  
with Lloyd's sister anyway.

A beat. Then Ron wipes the soles of his shoes on the bed.

CUT TO:

INT. GUY'S COMMON ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Steven, still on the phone, is pacing around the common room brushing his hair. There's knocking on the suite front door, and we follow Steven out as he goes to answer it.

HAL

(on the phone)

Just call me and tell me if she  
looks good. No, call me and tell  
me if she looks bad, even if she  
looks good.

Steven opens the door. Standing there is DEBRA, his mom. She looks tan and healthy, and is dressed in flattering clothes she clearly bought overseas. They're happy to see each other.

STEVEN

I gotta go. See you tomorrow.

HAL

Is mom there? Does she look  
depressed? Tell me she looks  
depressed.

Steven hangs up. The two stand smiling at each other.

STEVEN

Mom!

DEBRA

Hey, beanpole. I really missed  
you. You look like you've grown a  
foot.

Steven and his mom hug joyously and walk into Steven's room. Marshall and Ron exit their room. Marshall is strumming a guitar.

RON

So, when are you going to tell your dad you dropped your business classes and became a music major?

MARSHALL

Right after my performance at the talent show. He'll see how much my music means to me and we won't even have to talk. He'll just know. It'll be like in Billy Elliot.

RON

(a beat)

If you start prancing around here I'm getting a new roommate.

CUT TO:

INT. STEVEN AND LLOYD'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Steven's mom is checking the place out. She and Steven have a much more natural rapport than Steven has with his dad.

STEVEN

So you seem like, really great, mom.

DEBRA

Well, I'm finally happy. I've tried so many new things. I went snowshoeing. I toured Dracula's castle. Did you know there really was a Dracula?

STEVEN

You know, I've been having kind of a hard time with you and dad's spl--

DEBRA

Nope! No talking about anything depressing. We're going to forget all that this weekend and just have fun.

Lizzie rushes in.

LIZZIE

Steven! Do you have anything to drink in here for Rachel's mom?

STEVEN

I have some root beer...

Lizzie scrunches her face a bit.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

Lizzie... this is my mom.

Steven hands her the root beer.

LIZZIE

Oh! Hi! I should have guessed, you look so much like Steven! Well, we'll talk later. I'm supposed to take care of Rachel's mom... ahhh. Crazy weekend.

Lizzie runs out. Debra looks at Steven mischievously.

DEBRA

So... what happened between you two?

STEVEN

What? Nothing! Why would you even ask that?

DEBRA

You're blushing, Sweetie.

CUT TO:

INT. RACHEL AND LIZZIE'S ROOM - DAY

Rachel's mom is taking the root beer from Lizzie while looking in the fridge.

LIZZIE

Here you go. This is all I could find. I can't believe how much you guys look alike.

MRS. LINDQUIST

Actually, she looks more like her father. Rach honey, you should really keep juice around.

RACHEL

We do. We must have just run out.

LIZZIE

She drinks O.J. like a fish. I  
can barely get a glass.

MRS. LINDQUIST

Well at least you're keeping up on  
your fruits and vegetables. And  
this room!

Nervous beat as they wait to hear what she says.

MRS. LINDQUIST (CONT'D)

I wish you were this neat at home.

CUT TO:

INT. GUY'S COMMON ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lloyd's sister, AMANDA, is checking out the room while Ron  
checks her out.

AMANDA

I can't believe how big your room  
is. At University they're like  
teeny, tiny boxes.

RON

You're in college? I mean  
University.

LLOYD

No. She's still in high school.

AMANDA

I graduate this spring. And I  
date older boys... Poppit.

RON

(laughing)  
Poppit?

LLOYD

Don't you have to study for a test  
or something?

RON

No.

AMANDA  
(teasing)  
Poppit is our family's little  
nickname for Lloyd.

RON  
That's so sweet. Over here we  
like to call him Goldilocks.

Ron tussles Lloyd's hair. Amanda laughs. She and Ron are  
starting to connect.

AMANDA  
You're funny.

LLOYD  
No, he's not.

AMANDA  
So, tell me. Are there any  
parties this weekend?

RON  
Yes.

LLOYD  
No. There aren't any.

A beat.

RON  
(nervous)  
There might be a few.

AMANDA  
Great.

Lloyd punches Ron in the arm.

RON  
Stop it, Poppit.

Ron and Amanda share another laugh.

LLOYD  
Let's go get something to eat.

RON  
Jolly good idea.

LLOYD

You're not invited.

Lloyd exits with Amanda. At the door she turns and smiles at Ron.

CUT TO:

INT. LIZZIE AND RACHEL'S ROOM - DAY

Rachel's mom is sitting next to Lizzie on her bed.

MRS. LINDQUIST

I'm so glad Rachel is sharing a room with you. You seem like such a nice girl.

LIZZIE

Oh, I am. Very nice. And so is your little Rachie.

MRS. LINDQUIST

So what do you girls do for fun?

LIZZIE

Mostly study. A lot of studying. That's why we're here. To study.

MRS. LINDQUIST

And what about boyfriends?

RACHEL

Please. I wish I had time for boyfriends.

MRS. LINDQUIST

Wow. I never thought I'd hear those words from my daughter. But don't worry, there'll be time for that after graduation.

LIZZIE

Unless we all go to graduate school.

MRS. LINDQUIST

Oh, Rachel. A Masters degree? That would be marvelous.

Mrs. Lindquist smiles at her daughter. Rachel, happy things are going so well, smiles right back.

CUT TO:

INT. RON AND MARSHALL'S ROOM - DAY

Marshall's parents, MR. NESBITT and MRS. NESBITT are checking out the room with Marshall and Ron.

MR. NESBITT

(cheerful)

Look at this dump!

(Laughs, then to wife)

Let me help you with that,  
sweetie.

MR. NESBITT takes a cooler out of his wife's hands and sets it down on Ron's desk. He is a large, avuncular man with four days of driving grime on him. MRS. NESBITT carries gear into the room from outside: Luggage, coolers, shopping bags.

Ron helplessly watches as his room is invaded. Marshall hugs his mom and dad.

MARSHALL

I can't believe you're here!

MR. NESBITT

In the flesh.

RON

So you guys must have a lot of activities planned for the weekend. So, get out... See the sites.

MR. NESBITT

Hell no. I work fourteen hours a day, six days a week, fifty weeks a year. The only reason I left my own couch was to come see our boy.

MARSHALL

I'm their baby.

RON

I can see that.

MRS. NESBITT

Oh. We brought an air mattress  
for you boys

Mrs. Nesbitt takes the air mattress out of a satchel.

RON

(under breath to  
Marshall)

We're not sharing a bed.

Mr. Nesbitt pulls a plug and the air mattress immediately  
starts to inflate.

MR. NESBITT

All right. Time to hit the hay.  
Lights out in five minutes.

RON

(whispering)

You so owe me...

CUT TO:

INT. RACHEL AND LIZZIE'S ROOM - MORNING

MUSIC UP: A string quartet

MRS. LINDQUIST is searching through Rachel and Lizzie's  
room. She looks through drawers, then spots the stuffed  
kangaroo. She feels it, then rips it open and finds the  
fake ID and tosses it on a bed with condoms and mini liquor  
bottles.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - MORNING

There's a string quartet in the common area. Pan to find  
Steven and his mom heading out for the day. They're  
kidding each other and having a great time.

DEBRA

You've never been to the college  
museum. That's shameful. That's  
the first place we're going.

STEVEN

Not a chance.

The elevator doors open. Standing there is Hal. Debra's smile falls instantly. Steven looks angry.

HAL  
Hey, family!

FADE OUT.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

STEVEN  
Dad. You're here a little early.

HAL  
(joking)  
Well, I wanted to beat the  
traffic.  
(laughs, beat)  
Hi, Debra.

Hal seems to make and unmake ten decisions in one second, then finally kisses his ex-wife on the cheek. She grimaces. Steven tries to take control.

STEVEN  
Okay. Dad, why don't you go see  
if Lloyd and Ron want to hang out.  
I'll see you tomorrow morning like  
we planned.

DEBRA  
(hiding anxiousness)  
No no, it's okay, honey. Dad came  
a little early, we can roll with  
it.

Debra enters the elevator with a smile. Steven gives his dad a chastising look. Hal returns the gaze sheepishly. Steven steps in, and Hal follows. As the elevator doors close:

HAL

Going down!

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMPUS - DAY

Ron and Amanda are sitting under a tree getting to know each other.

RON

Come on, say it again.

AMANDA

You're so silly.

RON

Come on.

AMANDA

Alright. (Beat) Ils faut cultiver notre jardin.

RON

God, I love the way that sounds.

AMANDA

It means we should cultivate our own gardens. It's from Candide.

RON

Okay.

AMANDA

You try and say it.

RON

Uh... El foe cul-something some guy.

LLOYD (O.S.)

Amanda! Amanda!

Lloyd is crossing the campus looking for his sister. He doesn't see them.

AMANDA

Oh, crap. He's going to be so mad I ditched him after breakfast. I don't feel like dealing with him now.

RON  
Neither do I.

AMANDA  
He's just so smothering. He  
thinks he's my dad.

RON  
Yeah, how do you stand it. Quick,  
let's hide behind the bushes.

They get up and quickly jump behind the bushes. Lloyd  
walks past without seeing them.

LLOYD  
Amanda!

AMANDA  
This is fun. I feel like a wanted  
criminal.

RON  
(under his breath)  
You're wanted all right.

CUT TO:

INT. LIZZIE AND RACHEL'S ROOM - DAY

Rachel and Lizzie enter. We reveal Mrs. Lindquist standing  
gravely with variously confiscated items arranged on the  
bed: condoms, cigarettes, the fake ID, some Bacardi Mixers.

RACHEL  
Oh my God. You opened up our  
stuffed animals? You're psycho.

MRS. LINDQUIST  
Rachel, I wouldn't have to spy on  
you if you didn't try to deceive  
me time and time again.

LIZZIE  
Mrs. Lindquist --

MRS. LINDQUIST  
How bad a place are you in now?  
If you just tell me it will be  
easier when you go to the clinic.

Lizzie watches helplessly. She feels for her friend.

LIZZIE

Mrs. Lindquist. It's mine. All  
this stuff is mine.

Rachel is blown away. She can't believe Lizzie is doing  
this.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)

Rachel didn't want the fake ID, so  
I use it instead. The bouncers  
never look at them if you wear a  
tight shirt.

Mrs. Lindquist looks at her disbelievingly.

MRS. LINDQUIST

(to Rachel)

Is this true?

Rachel and Lizzie exchange looks.

RACHEL

Yeah.

LIZZIE

And the liquor is all mine, too.  
And the condoms. I use them when  
I have sex.

RACHEL

(getting into it)

Yeah. She has an older boyfriend,  
and she slept with the guy across  
the hall, and Adam Sandler. She's  
a slut.

Lizzie's eyes go big at Rachel to cool it. A Beat.

LIZZIE

Yeah... I guess I have what they  
call an addictive personality.

MRS. LINDQUIST

I'm sorry I doubted you,  
Sweetheart.

Rachel and her mother hug, over her mother's shoulder  
Rachel to Lizzie...

RACHEL  
(mouthing)  
Thank you.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMPUS - DAY

Steven gives Hal and Debra a tour of campus. THIS SCENE  
COULD BE CUT.

STEVEN  
That's the old AV center. Its  
supposed to be haunted.

HAL  
(cheerful)  
So how's the big Europe trip so  
far? Meet any hot Italian studs?

DEBRA  
The trip is just wonderful. You  
should really think about travel,  
it opens your mind up to the  
world.

STEVEN  
She went snowshoeing in Norway.

HAL  
Norway? Oh, you really are  
getting around. Well, we're  
having a great time back here too.  
Right Steven?

STEVEN  
Yeah, sure. I mean, we miss you--

HAL  
Sure, of course we miss you, but  
we're having a great time. Steven  
and his buddies come over, we  
watch the "Jackass" show.

DEBRA  
(sarcastic)  
Sounds fun.

HAL

It is fun. You should join us  
sometime.

Sensing the tension, Steven tries to ease it.

STEVEN  
(laughing)  
We better hurry, wouldn't want to  
be late for the museum and miss  
the first pitch.

Hal and Debra stare awkwardly at each other.

They are approached by a COLLEGE PHOTOGRAPHER (David Bertman) who is taking complimentary photographs of families in front of a college landmark.

COLLEGE PHOTOGRAPHER  
Would you folks like your photo  
taken? Compliments of UNEC?

Hal looks at Debra and Steven. He clearly wants to do it.

DEBRA  
How nice. Why don't you and  
Steven do it. Father and son.

HAL  
Oh, come on, it's just a picture.  
Uh oh, proof we were together as a  
family! Destroy it, quick!

DEBRA  
I'd prefer not to.

This is too much for Steven.

STEVEN  
Stop it! First you want to avoid  
each other, then you want to  
pretend to be a family, now you're  
fighting in public. Why can't it  
be like the old days - you know,  
when you hated each other quietly  
enough that I couldn't tell?!

He turns and takes off down the path. Hal and Debra look at each other, not sure what to do.

COLLEGE PHOTOGRAPHER

How about just you two then?

CUT TO:

INT. LIZZIE AND RACHEL'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

MRS. LINDQUIST is chastising Lizzie with Rachel next to her.

MRS. LINDQUIST  
You must control your impulses,  
Lizzie, it can only lead to  
trouble.

LIZZIE  
Yes, ma'am.

MRS. LINDQUIST  
I just wish I was your mother,  
because its quite clear that your  
own parents aren't looking after  
you.

RACHEL  
Mom!

MRS. LINDQUIST  
Now if you girls will excuse me,  
I'm going to go to the ladies  
room.

MRS. LINDQUIST exits. Lizzie makes sure she's gone,  
then...

LIZZIE  
My parents are the best parents  
ever.

RACHEL  
I know.

LIZZIE  
They would never do this. And  
everybody has a fake ID, and  
everybody drinks a little and...  
I'm not a slut.

RACHEL

Of course you're not. And neither  
am I. Welcome to the first  
eighteen years of my life.

LIZZIE

Seriously. You don't think I'm a  
slut, do you?

CUT TO:

INT. STEVEN'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

Hal and Debra are fighting in the bedroom. The fight  
builds, louder and louder.

DEBRA

You know, it's incredible. I've  
been happy for the last two months  
straight, but I see you, and I'm  
miserable within seconds.

HAL

Well, I'd be happy too if I could  
run off to Europe and spend money  
that isn't mine snowshoeing with  
god knows who.

DEBRA

Oh, I think I earned that money,  
Hal. I think eighteen years of  
carpools, and making sure Steven  
poops in the potty...

HAL

He still does, congratulations...

DEBRA

...and sitting home watching  
television alone, and feeling dead  
inside...

HAL

Dead inside, here we go...

CUT TO:

INT. GUY'S COMMON ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Everyone is standing in the room, listening. Steven has  
his head in his hands, and Marshall is next to him.

MRS. NESBITT  
We should go outside.

MR. NESBITT  
Yes. That's what we should do.

Mr. Nesbitt rips open another bag of chips and sinks into the couch ready to listen.

CUT TO:

INT. STEVEN'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

DEBRA  
Meanwhile, you're "working late,"  
but you somehow find time to screw  
several women whose names I still  
don't know...

Hal is silenced by that. He's gotten so angry he'd forgotten.

DEBRA (CONT'D)  
...Have you told your new buddy  
Steven about that? Or were you  
too busy helping him through this  
difficult time?!

A beat or two passes. Hal knows he's down for the count.

CUT TO:

INT. GUY'S COMMON ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Steven, hearing this, gets up and leaves.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMPUS - AFTERNOON

Lloyd and Ron are walking together on campus.

LLOYD  
You better not be trying to sleep  
with her Ron or I'll punch you in  
the eye.

RON

What are you talking about? I haven't even seen her. I've had classes all morning.

LLOYD

She's still in high school. She may look older but she's my baby sister and you know I would never ever try to do anything with your little sister.

RON

Firstly, you know I don't have a sister. And secondly, you know you would nail her if I did. Not that I'm trying, I just don't want you getting away with flawed logic.

LLOYD

Just keep your stupid jokes and horny hands away from her.

RON

Fine. But I'm telling you, I haven't even seen her.

Amanda approaches.

AMANDA

Lloyd!

LLOYD

(to Ron)

Go away.

RON

She's not even that cute, you know.

Ron walks away, then turns and waves at Amanda behind Lloyd's back. He taps his watch and holds up four fingers while mouthing "four o'clock" and points to the dorm building.

CUT TO:

INT. STEVEN'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

Things have transitioned from yelling to resignation between Hal and Debra.

HAL

You know, you never even let me make things better. You just left, boom.

(hard for him to ask)

Why did you do that to me?

DEBRA

(fighting tears)

Why? Because I thought you were a monster.

HAL

Well, you were in Europe so you missed the part where I got defanged.

Hal smiles a tiny bit, and Debra returns it a tiny bit.

DEBRA

It's funny. Both of us sitting here, feeling angry and miserable, and scared. Its the first time we've had anything in common in years.

HAL

(lightly joking)

Yeah. Love is in the air.

They sit there for a beat. Then, simultaneously, they kiss each other.

CUT TO:

INT. DORM STAIRWELL - AFTERNOON

Ron and Amanda are talking in a stairwell.

RON

I told him I hadn't even seen you and, get this... I didn't even think you were that cute.

Amanda playfully punches him.

AMANDA

You didn't have to go that far.

RON

It was a good move. It worked.

AMANDA

Well... Do you have any other good moves?

Ron suddenly gets very shy.

RON

Uh...

AMANDA

You are such a boy.

Amanda leans in and kisses Ron.

CUT TO:

INT. GUY'S COMMON ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Everyone in the common room is trying to ignore some very clear lovemaking sounds coming from Steven's room. Marshall, horrified, is peeking through the door. Then shuts it.

MARSHALL

Oh, God, I just made eye contact with him.

MR. NESBITT (O.S.)

Listening's one thing son,  
looking's another.

Steven enters.

STEVEN

Are they still fighting?

The sounds of the headboard rhythmically hitting the wall.

MARSHALL

Uh... they're... they're banging heads.

The headboard starts to hit the wall faster and faster. It begins to dawn on Steven.

STEVEN

Oh my god. Oh my god.

Marshall begins to laugh.

MARSHALL

Funny, that's exactly what your  
mom was saying.

STEVEN

Shut up.

Tina stops by and sticks her head in the room.

TINA

Ooooh. I smell sex. Is Lloyd in  
there?

Steven runs out of the room.

FADE OUT.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. DORM HALLWAY - EVENING

Ron and Amanda emerge from the stairwell as Lloyd rounds the corner and catches them.

RON

Lloyd... Uh... Hey buddy. Look who I found.

LLOYD

You bastard. I knew it. I told you to stay away from her.

AMANDA

Oh sod off, Lloyd. I'm a big girl and you can't tell me what to do.

RON

Yeah. That's right.

LLOYD

Shut up, Ron.

RON

No. I will not shut up. I'm not afraid of you.

Ron steels himself and puts his arm around Amanda.

RON (CONT'D)

We're a couple now and you'll just have to get used to it. And if you don't, well, then we don't care.

LLOYD

You are not a couple.

AMANDA

We are definitely not a couple.

Amanda takes Ron's arm off of her.

RON

What?

AMANDA

You're very sweet and funny. But... you're more like a... brother.

RON

You kissed me.

LLOYD  
You kissed him?

AMANDA  
Just to see. That's all it was.  
I'd never spent that much time  
with a boy without kissing him.  
So I did, but there wasn't any  
sparks.

RON  
Why don't you yell that a little  
louder.

AMANDA  
Don't be sad. We had fun  
together. Like I would with one of  
my little brothers. Come on,  
hiding from Lloyd was a blast.

She playfully punches Ron in the arm.

LLOYD  
You are such a dead man.

AMANDA  
So Poppit, I guess you should be  
taking me to the airport. My  
flight to Seattle leaves in a  
couple of hours.

RON  
Seattle?

AMANDA  
My boyfriend lives there. He's an  
actor at the Seattle Rep. He used  
to be one of Lloyd's best friends.  
Give us a kiss.

Amanda gives Ron a peck on his cheek.

AMANDA (CONT'D)  
I'll e-mail you.

RON  
Can't wait.

Amanda walks down the hall. An awkward silence between Ron and Lloyd. Ron looks like he's about to cry.

RON (CONT'D)  
A brother? Why am I always the  
brother?

A beat.

LLOYD  
(laughing sweetly)  
Little brother.

RON  
Thanks.

LLOYD  
Well, if you were her brother,  
doesn't that kind of make you my  
brother too?

RON  
If you try and hug me I'm going to  
deck you.

LLOYD  
When I get back we'll go out and  
get drunk. How's that?

RON  
Okay. But for the record, I'd  
rather make out with your sister.

CUT TO:

INT. TALENT SHOW DINNER - NIGHT

We start on a close-up shot of a college Acapella group singing an old standard with smarmy enthusiasm. Reveal a COLLEGE DINNER in a college reception area. It's really done up - candlelight, vest and bow-tie clad student waiters, great food, etc. All of our main characters and their parents sit around a large table. A STUDENT WAITER sets prime rib down in front of Mr. Nesbitt.

MR. NESBITT  
Is this what my 8,000 dollars  
buys? Prime rib for teenagers?

MARSHALL

Dad, we don't eat like this all the time. It's all a show for the parents.

MRS. NESBITT

Marshall, it has your name listed in the program as one of the performers.

MARSHALL

Yeah... How 'bout that.  
(whispers to Ron)  
Billy Elliott.

RON

Yeah.

Ron suddenly gets up and walks out of the room.

ANGLE ON STEVEN, HAL AND DEBRA

STEVEN

So, Mom, I guess you're not going back to Europe now.

HAL

Yeah, I think she's going to stay right here.

Hal looks at Debra for confirmation.

DEBRA

(whispering)  
Let's go outside.

Debra stands up and walks out. Hal follows behind her.

CUT TO:

INT. LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Ron is on the phone.

RON

So I was thinking if you wanted to come up next weekend... you don't have... Great, great. I miss you too... Mommy.

CUT TO:

INT. LOBBY - NIGHT

Outside the reception area, Hal and Debra are in a corner of the lobby.

DEBRA

Hal. I am going back to Europe.

Hal's face falls. He realizes he's about to get dumped again.

HAL

You can't do this to me again.  
(trying to joke)  
Boy, do I feel used.

DEBRA

Look, what happened back there was fun...

HAL

(disbelief)  
Fun.

DEBRA

...we got caught up in the moment.  
It was nice...

HAL

Nice.

DEBRA

...but we've both moved on. Yes, you have changed since I last saw you.

HAL

I don't want to change. I want you.

DEBRA

I'm sorry. I don't mean to hurt you, but it's just not going to happen.

Steven walks up to them.

STEVEN

Hey. There you guys are. I was just seeing if everything's cool...

Steven reads the situation. It doesn't look cool.

HAL

Take a seat, Steven. We need to talk.

CUT TO:

INT. LIZZIE AND RACHEL'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lizzie and Rachel are huddled in their room. Mrs. Lindquist is in the common area preparing some tea.

MRS. LINDQUIST (O.S.)

All I'm saying is that if you don't straighten out your life, Lizzie, you're going to ruin it. Now, if you'll just give me your mother's number I can help you.

LIZZIE

Did you hear that? She wants to call my mother.

RACHEL

She's not going to call your mother.

LIZZIE

How do you know?

RACHEL

Because I'm going to put an end to this. I'm eighteen. I get good grades. I work at Color Me Mine during the summer. I'm very responsible. And if she can't see me as an adult then she'll just have to stop seeing me.

A determined Rachel gets up and walks into the common room to face her mother.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Mother. Stop harassing Lizzie. She did nothing wrong.

MRS. LINDQUIST  
You call condoms, fake ID's and  
alcohol nothing wrong?

Lizzie peeks from her room to watch the confrontation.

RACHEL  
Yes.

MRS. LINDQUIST  
Then I guess college has skewed  
your sense of perspective.

RACHEL  
No, it's opened it up. You know  
what? John Lennon was a heroin  
addict. Sigmund Freud was a coke  
head. Half the kids on this  
campus swallow Ecstasy like it's  
candy. That's how life works.  
People take journeys.

MRS. LINDQUIST  
And are you back on one of your  
journeys?

A beat. Rachel turns and looks at Lizzie. Lizzie walks up  
to Rachel and places a supportive hand on her shoulder.

RACHEL  
Me? No. No. I'm just saying  
that people... like Lizzie... make  
mistakes and we should embrace  
them, not judge them. I've been  
working with her and I promise I  
can get her back to the girl she  
used to be, but if you call her  
parents, it'll just send her right  
to the hard junk. I learned about  
this in rehab.

A long beat.

MRS. LINDQUIST  
Lizzie. You're very lucky to have  
a friend like my Rachel.

RACHEL  
I won't let you fail.

Rachel turns and hugs Lizzie.

RACHEL (CONT'D)  
(whispering)  
I'll do your laundry for a month.

LIZZIE  
(whispering back)  
Two months.

CUT TO:

INT. TALENT SHOW DINNER - NIGHT

Marshall is now on-stage. He is greeted by polite applause.

MARSHALL  
I'd like to dedicate this song to  
all of the moms and dads who make  
up the UNEC family. I hope it  
means as much to you as it does to  
me.

The room breaks out into applause. Marshall begins to sing

MARSHALL (CONT'D)  
(singing)  
SONG LYRICS

CUT TO:

INT. LOBBY - NIGHT

Hal and Debra have finished explaining what's going to happen to Steven. Steven is trying to take it in.

STEVEN  
I was always the only kid I knew  
who's parents were together, you  
know? When did we become so normal?

Hal and Debra laugh tearfully. This isn't easy for any of them - the talk they never had as a family.

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
I never thought I'd see you guys  
together again. I thought you  
hated each other too much.

DEBRA

It looked that way for a while,  
but I think we're past that.

Debra looks at Hal. Hal nods. Steven starts to say something, then breaks down a bit and hugs them.

CUT TO:

INT. TALENT SHOW DINNER - LATER

Marshall approaches his parents at their table.

MARSHALL

So what'd you think of the song?

MRS. NESBITT

It was very loud. Nice. But  
loud.

MARSHALL

Dad?

MR. NESBITT

I think I'm glad you're getting a  
degree in business so you can get  
a real job someday.

A beat. Marshall considers, then...

MARSHALL

Yeah. So am I. Good business  
school here.

(beat)

So I better go put this back in  
the case. Because...

Marshall's dad is focused again on his dinner. Marshall walks away depressed. He's approached by Tina and her parents.

TINA

Can I have your autograph? That  
was really cool.

MARSHALL

Really?

TINA'S FATHER

Yeah. You keep on practicing, you could be famous someday.

TINA

And I can say I have your autograph.

MARSHALL

Yes, you can.

Marshall signs and then walks away on air.

TINA'S FATHER

He's not very good.

TINA

I know. But I like to be encouraging.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

TAG

FADE IN:

INT. STEVEN AND LLOYD'S ROOM - MORNING

Steven are sleeping in their respective beds. They wake up to the alarm.

LLOYD

Tell me you washed your sheets before you went to bed last night.

STEVEN

No.

LLOYD

Eww. That's disgusting. You slept in a bed where your parents did the nasty deed.

STEVEN

Uh actually, according to  
Marshall... They did it on your  
bed.

Lloyd leaps from his bed in terror and goes running out of  
the room.

LLOYD  
Marshall!

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END