

SLACKERS

written by

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FIRST REVISION
January 20, 2000

FADE IN:

EXT. YALE UNIVERSITY - DAY

The Harkness Tower looms over the gothic campus on this late October day. It's getting chilly and the leaves are almost gone. At the Branford Gate, a wrought iron lattice is etched with the motto, "For God, for Country, and for Yale".

INT. LECTURE HALL - DAY

The Midterm exam. The huge lecture hall is filled with about 200 COLLEGE STUDENTS and a few TEACHING ASSISTANTS. The T. A.'s are working their way up the center aisle passing out the exams and blue books row by row. The smug HEAD T. A. stands at the front of the room.

HEAD T. A.

The midterm is worth forty percent
of your grade, but those of you
with a working knowledge of the
Franco-Prussian War shouldn't be
too concerned.

In the aisle seat in the

VERY LAST ROW,

DAVE GUTTENMACHER is flirting across the aisle with a CUTE GIRL who seems to be enjoying Dave's attention. Then, interrupting the magic, a SNOTTY T. A. arrives at his row and hands Dave a stack of exams and blue books.

SNOTTY T. A.

Good luck.

Dave gives him a fake smile and nod. He slowly takes a few blue books and an exam off the stack and passes the rest to the ANXIOUS WOMAN with granny glasses to his left.

Dave writes on the bottom right corner of his exam, "What's your number?" and passes it across the aisle. The Cute Girl looks up from her exam, then around to see if anyone is watching. She grabs Dave's exam, reads the note, smiles, and writes back. Dave takes the exam back and reads her response under his: "Alana, 6-0749".

Dave smiles, then casually takes a hard candy out of his pants pocket, unwraps it, and puts it into his mouth. He looks around at the ridiculously frantic test-takers, shakes his head in disbelief, and starts working.

Dave looks over the exam thoroughly. He flips through the three pages, then flips back. A SIGH, then he starts writing in his blue book.

Way down in the

FRONT ROW,

sits ANGELA, beautiful, but a little intense. She is writing into her blue book a mnemonic device: Pretty Boys Eat Fuzzy Penne. As she writes, her tongue peeks out of the side of her mouth.

HEAD T.A. (O.S.)
This is a closed book exam. Please
keep your study materials under
your desk.

Directly behind her sits weasly ETHAN. He stares at the back of Angel a's head intensely. He looks around the room to see if anyone is watching him, then "accidentally" knocks his pen onto the floor in front of himself.

He looks around again, then leans forward into Angel a's hair. He inhales deeply and takes great pleasure in the smell, smiling broadly to reveal his horribly crooked teeth. Angel a TURNS AROUND suddenly and Ethan PULLS BACK and LOOKS AWAY at the last second.

ETHAN' S POV

Amid the jumble of test-takers, Ethan focuses in on Alana, surreptitiously passing some papers across the aisle to Dave.

END POV

Ethan watches wistfully as Dave flirts with Alana. He shakes his head slightly in quiet resignation.

BACK ROW

Dave looks at the exam. The handwritten exchange now reads: "What's your number?" "Alana, 6-0749." "Dave. 6-1510. You free this weekend?" "Maybe. Call me. [smiley face]."

Dave smiles then resumes casually filling his blue book. He carefully studies the exam and continues writing at a speedy pace, causing the Anxious Woman to make dagger eyes at him. He's writing: "(10) Explain the competing political philosophies of Bismarck and Metternich, their empirical success, and their cultural significance." In fact, Dave has filled the blue book with the test questions, but no answers. He closes the blue book and slips it into his jacket. He opens a fresh blue book.

The Snotty T.A. walks up the aisle monitoring the exam. Dave motions him over.

DAVE
(whispers)
I've got to use the rest room.

SNOTTY T. A.
(whispers)
Can't it wait?

Dave looks at him incredulously. Then, a little too loudly:

DAVE
I've got a case of explosive
diarrhea that's a time bomb
waiting to go off. Have you ever
danced with the devil in the pale
moonlight?

A few students look over at Dave. The Anxious Woman sidles away from him.

SNOTTY T. A.
(whispers)
Leave your test here.

Dave looks down at the test (and Alana's phone number) for a second, then up at the T.A. He leaves his new (and blank) blue book on top of his exam and walks out.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE LECTURE HALL - DAY

Dave casually walks past the sign that says "Restrooms -->" and walks out of the building.

INT. SLACKERS' ROOM - DAY

SAM SCHECTER and JEFF SARNO are playing a video game in the common room of this three bedroom dorm suite. Sam is an overweight schlub with a beard, Jeff a more athletic type. The game is "StarCraft" and several computer space marines are shooting the crap out of some insectoid aliens. Green blood splatters everywhere on the screen.

SAM
Feels good. Like a cigarette
should.

JEFF
Fuck you.

They continue playing.

JEFF (cont'd)
You think we should try out for a
porno movie?

SAM
I told you, my dick's too small.

JEFF
Come on, man. We'd get at least
one free lay.

SAM

You don't start out with the women, dumbass. First you gotta work your way through the gay porno ranks, then and only then do they let you do hetero.

JEFF

How the fuck do you know?

SAM

I've got a cousin who's in the business.

JEFF

Yeah, right.

The alien spits some sort of venom on one marine and he SCREAMS before exploding into a pool of blood. The door opens and Dave walks in and grabs some hard candies out of a dish on the table.

SAM

Dave. True or false. A guy in the porno business's gotta start out doing gay porn.

DAVE

True.

SAM

See.

DAVE

(to Jeff)

You gotta pay your dues.

Dave pulls the blue book out of his jacket and drops it on Sam's lap.

SAM

Any problems?

DAVE

Nope.

SAM

Take over for me.

Dave takes Sam's seat.

DAVE

(to Sam)

You Terrans?

JEFF

Just sit the fuck down.

Sam opens his history text book and starts looking up the answers to the test. He wipes his nose with his sleeve.

FREEZE FRAME on SAM mid-wipe. SUPER: "SAM".

DAVE (V.O.)
 That's Sam. Capricorn. Slacker.
 We're all slackers really. But
 Sam's inspiration takes the form
 of some really devious plans.

INT. SMALL EXAM ROOM - DAY

Sam, three years earlier, less heavy and no beard, is taking a standardized test in a small room with some other STUDENTS and a JAPANESE PROCTOR.

DAVE (V.O.)
 Before you start school freshman year, you have to prove your proficiency in a foreign language. If you didn't take an A.P. course in high school, you have to pass a written proficiency exam the first week of school, or spend the next two years taking foreign language courses at eight a.m. on the other side of campus.

The test-takers are filling in their bubble sheets with number two pencils. Sam, however, is just relaxing. His answer sheet is blank, and he doodles a skull and cross bones onto the test booklet, written, incidentally, ENTIRELY IN JAPANESE.

DAVE (cont'd; V.O.)
 So Sam, whose only foreign language experience is Pig Latin, tells them he's fluent in Japanese and sits for the exam.

Sam looks around, then looks at his watch. The second hand is approaching the twelve, to bring the time to an even 9:50. As it ticks twelve, the FIRE ALARM sounds. The Proctor jumps up.

JAPANESE PROCTOR
 (Japanese; subtitled)
 Remain calm. Leave your test booklets and exit the room in a single file line.

The students proceed out of the room, but Sam lags behind. The Proctor sees Sam still in his seat and runs up to him.

JAPANESE PROCTOR (cont'd)
(Japanese; subtitled)
Did you not understand my
instructions?!? Leave your test
here and exit the room!

Sam just smiles at him and nods, but remains in his seat. The Proctor is frantic.

JAPANESE PROCTOR (cont'd)
(Japanese; subtitled)
Is it your wish to be burned alive
in a horrible manner?

Sam clearly doesn't understand. He offers the Proctor a stick of gum. The Proctor yells into his face:

JAPANESE PROCTOR (cont'd)
(Japanese; subtitled)
Your sacrifice both puzzles and
honors me! I must flee now!

He bows, then runs out of the room. Finally, Sam pulls out a HAND-HELD COPIER (battery operated, three inch scan width, on sale at Office Depot for \$129.95) and quickly scans his neighbor's bubble sheet.

FREEZE FRAME on SAM mid-scan.

DAVE (V.O.)
Now Sam's not lazy, and he's
certainly not dumb. In fact, his
schemes take a hell of a lot more
effort and brains than studying,
but Sam likes to figure things
out. To beat the system.

UNFREEZE SAM.

As he passes the copier over the sheet, a three inch-wide copy pops out of the top. Sam tucks it into his test book for later, and walks out of the classroom.

HALLWAY

On the other side of the door, Sam smiles wickedly.

INT. SLACKERS' ROOM - DAY

STILL FROZEN on SAM mid-wipe.

DAVE (V.O.)
I pulled the fire alarm. Hey, what
are friends for?

UNFREEZE SAM, as he finishes wiping and continues studying. More computer terrans SCREAM as they're reduced to bloody red pixels.

JEFF

Dude. Are you going to even try?
Three marines aren't gonna do jack
against twenty hydralisks.

DAVE

Oh, gee, really? Maybe you need to
meet my friend the Defiler.

A different alien creature pops up on the screen and spits red acid on the group of twenty hydralisks. They begin to explode, one by one. Jeff throws down the controller.

JEFF

You fucker! Where the fuck did you
get a fucking Defiler? Fucking
fuck!

FREEZE on JEFF with spittle on his lips. SUPER: "JEFF".

DAVE (V.O.)

Jeff's formative experience didn't
happen till sophomore year.

INT. DAVE AND SAM'S SOPHOMORE DORM ROOM - DAY

The three guys (two years younger) are playing monopoly.

DAVE (V.O.)

Jeff had his final paper due in
his economics seminar, but he
never got around to doing it.

Jeff rolls the dice, moves his Shoe to the hotel on Ventnor Ave., and seethingly starts shelling out \$1150 to a pleased Sam.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE PROFESSOR NATHANSON'S OFFICE - DAY

Jeff walks down the econ department hallway, looking for his Professor's office. Jeff locates the right door and walks up to it.

DAVE (V.O.)

He figured he'd ask Professor
Nathanson for an extension, but
when he gets there, he notices
something magical.

Just as he's about to knock, he sees a few papers sticking out of a lucite bin attached to the door.

DAVE (cont'd; V. O.)
 Nathanson had his students just drop off the papers outside his office. Of course, some losers always turn theirs in early.

Jeff looks up and down the hallway, then quickly pulls out a paper from the bin. He starts looking it over. He smiles, then pulls out the rest of the stack and begins shuffling through them.

Suddenly, the DOOR OPENS and an ECON T.A. walks out.

ECON T.A.
 What are you doing?

FREEZE on JEFF, panicked.

DAVE (V. O.)
 Think, MacGyver, think!

UNFREEZE JEFF.

JEFF
 Turning in my paper.

ECON T.A.
 Why do you have more than one?

JEFF
 I'm checking my margins against these other papers. You think Nathanson will mind that mine's only got quarter inch margins?

He shows him one of the papers with text running almost edge to edge.

ECON T.A.
 No, I think Nathanson will fail you. He specifically said one and a half inch margins.
 (beat)
 The space is for his comments.

JEFF
 Look. I better redo this.

ECON T.A.
 Yeah. You'd better.

Jeff starts to walk away, then stops himself.

JEFF
 Oh, almost forgot.

He hands the T.A. back all the papers but the one with the margin problem, then walks away with a big smile.

INT. SLACKERS' ROOM - DAY

STILL FROZEN on JEFF with spittle on his lips.

DAVE (V.O.)
The funny thing is that Nathanson
really did fail that guy with the
quarter inch margins.
(beat)
Jeff's version got an A.

UNFREEZE JEFF.

JEFF
--motherfucker.

Dave starts LAUGHING. Sam looks over and starts LAUGHING.

JEFF (cont'd)
Fuck you both.

Dave's LAUGHING intensifies.

FREEZE on DAVE laughing. SUPER "DAVE".

DAVE (V.O.)
Then, there's me. I guess I'm the
"lie" to Sam's cheat and Jeff's
steal. I've always been kind of
deceitful. People say I've got an
honest face, but you tell someone
that and you're just asking for
trouble.

INT. MALL - DAY

Dave (a little younger) is walking through the mall with his arm around a CUTE GIRL.

DAVE (V.O.)
I never knew just how good I was
at lying till I discovered the
"Seed of Doubt Principle."

Suddenly, a different girl, MOLLINE, exits the Gap with her two FRIENDS. From about twenty feet away, Molline sees Dave with the Cute Girl. Dave turns his head, and for a split second makes EYE CONTACT with Molline. He turns white, quickly turns his head back, and continues on with the Cute Girl.

INT. MOLLINE'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Dave walks into Molline's dorm room. She's on the verge of tears.

MOLLIE

I saw you with that girl. I saw
you with your arm around her.

Mollie's ROOMMATES excuse themselves from the room.

FREEZE on DAVE looking guilty as hell.

DAVE (V.O.)

I guess I didn't know what to say.
And I know it sounds kind of
stupid at first. But you never
know what people are willing to
believe until you look them
straight in the eye and tell them
a bald-faced lie.

UNFREEZE DAVE.

DAVE

It wasn't me.

Mollie is shaken by this. She can't believe he just said that.

MOLLIE

What?

DAVE

It wasn't me.

MOLLIE

What do you mean it wasn't you? I
saw you. I saw you with her.

DAVE

It wasn't me.

Mollie truly doesn't know how to argue with this. She's exasperated.

MOLLIE

You're trying to tell me, that I
didn't see you yesterday, at the
mall, with some ugly slut girl?

DAVE

It wasn't me. I don't know who or
what you saw, but it wasn't me.
You know I'd never cheat on you.

She tries to shake off this incongruence, but it's too late:
the seed of doubt has taken hold.

She looks at Dave...

For a really long time...

But Dave shows absolute confidence...

Dave takes her hands in his, and looks straight into her eyes. With the purest, most sincere face imaginable:

DAVE (cont'd)
It wasn't me.

INT. SLACKERS' ROOM - DAY

STILL FROZEN on DAVE laughing.

DAVE (V.O.)
A lie repeated often enough creates a seed of doubt in people's minds. It helps if they want to believe you, but either way, people are afraid of confrontation. They'd rather ignore what's right in front of their own eyes and accept some bizarre, warped reality than call you a liar.

UNFREEZE DAVE still laughing. Sam leaves his book and comes back to the game. He pushes Dave out of the way.

SAM
Why don't you go get us some Buldog?

DAVE
Fuck you, asshole.

JEFF
Hey. Don't you have to study?

Sam looks at his watch.

SAM
Nah. I've still got twenty minutes.

INT. LECTURE HALL - DAY

The exam is over and the last of the students are filling out of the room. The T.A.'s have gathered the blue books at the front of the room. Ethan is chasing after Angela who is walking with a plain-looking girl, REANNA.

ETHAN
Angela! Wait up.

As Ethan passes the last row, something catches his eye: Dave's exam and blue book still lying on the arm tablet with the handwritten exchange in the bottom right corner. He stops, looks around for a second, then walks over to it.

He picks up the exam and looks at Alana's phone number. He smiles, tucks the test into his bookbag and continues on.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE LECTURE HALL - DAY

Now outside the exam room, Angela walks with Reanna down the hallway.

ANGELA

Did you talk about the 1891
renewal of the Triple Alliance?

Reanna goes a little white.

REANNA

No.

ANGELA

...because I didn't know if he was
looking for that much information.
Do you think he wanted us to
mention it? I know it's only
tangentially related, but I
figured--

REANNA

No. It's good. I should have put
that in.

She's crestfallen.

ETHAN (O.S.)

Angela!

Angela turns around. Ethan is running up to her.

ANGELA

Ethan! Where have you been?

He saunters up to her and she embraces him with a passionate KISS. From out of nowhere, PORN MUSIC begins playing. The two begin MAKING OUT, tongues visibly lapping in a disgusting display. Reanna looks on, but instead of inducing nausea, the exhibition seems to titillate her. She moves in.

REANNA

Give me some of that.

Angela turns to Reanna and begins a graphic LESBIAN KISS inches away from Ethan's face. He watches with glee, then joins in, turning it into a three way slobber-fest.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE LECTURE HALL - DAY

BACK TO REALITY. END PORNO MUSIC. Angela is talking to Reanna, as before.

ETHAN (O.S.)
Angela!

Angela turns around. Ethan is running up to her.

ANGELA
Yes?

She has absolutely no idea who he is.

ETHAN
Ethan.

ANGELA
Right. Ethan.

REANNA
Hey, we've got another class.

Sam hobbl es in on a FAKE CRUTCH.

SAM
(to Reanna)
Do you know where Professor Markoe's office is?

REANNA
(points)
That way.

SAM
(points same way)
Over there.

REANNA
Over there.

SAM
Thanks.

And he hobbl es off.

ANGELA
(to Ethan)
Listen, we've gotta run...

ETHAN
Ethan.

ANGELA
Right. Ethan.

Sullen, Ethan watches the girls walk away. He looks for a second in Sam's direction, then walks off himself.

INT. PROFESSOR MARKOE'S OFFICE - DAY

The T.A.'s from the exam have gathered the blue books and are dividing up the stacks. An ancient PROFESSOR MARKOE is behind his desk typing on his computer. Sam enters, on his crutch.

PROFESSOR MARKOE
Can I help you?

SAM
Professor Markoe. I'm Sam Schecter. I'm in your class. I've been studying all night, sir, and I guess I just overslept.

PROFESSOR MARKOE
Well, I'm sorry. That's really too bad, Mr. Schecter.

SAM
Like I said sir, I'm really sorry. And I would have gotten here sooner, but I pulled my hamstring and I got this crutch and all. Is there any way I could take a make-up exam?

HEAD T.A.
Professor Markoe is not going to make a whole new test just for you.

SAM
I know. And I'm sorry, sir. I really just overslept.

PROFESSOR MARKOE
Mr. Schecter, you know the rules.

SAM
I know.

Sam just stands there and starts getting teary-eyed. The Professor looks at him. Sam starts SNIFFLING. The Professor is getting disgusted at this pathetic display. The T.A.'s can't believe their eyes. Sam is really CRYING now.

PROFESSOR MARKOE
My God, man! Get a hold of yourself! All right. All right. You can take the test. But you have to take it right now, here in my office. You have three hours.

Sam takes an open seat and starts wiping his eyes with his sleeve.

SAM
Thank you, sir. I won't let it happen again.

PROFESSOR
Sanjay, give Mr. Schecter here the test and if you would be kind enough to monitor him for the next three hours, I am going to play squash.

INDIAN T. A.
Sure, Professor Markoe. No problem.

The Professor leaves and the Indian T. A. hands Sam the test. With the sour expression of someone whose plans for the day just got ruined,

INDIAN T. A. (cont'd)
Good luck.

Sam's still a little teary-eyed.

SAM
Thanks.

INT. SLACKERS' ROOM - NIGHT

The three guys are drinking beers. Jeff is examining a fake i.d., holding it up to the light and looking at it with a jeweler's eye piece.

DAVE
To another successful operation.

They raise their beers, somewhat indifferently, and drink.

DAVE (cont'd)
Just think. This time next year, we'll have all gone our separate ways.

SAM
God willing.

DAVE
Come on, you're not actually looking forward to law school, are you?

SAM
I'm looking forward to making some serious scratch.

JEFF
(to Sam)

And I'm looking forward to seeing
you leaving this fucking room.

SAM

Good one, Mr. Trust Fund.

DAVE

Are you trying to tell me this
hasn't been the greatest four
years of your life?

SAM

Whatever.

DAVE

Hey, I'm not afraid to admit it.
You guys are my best friends and
if I could, I'd stay in college
forever.

JEFF

Yeah, speaking of which, where the
fuck are you going next year?

A pause.

DAVE

Beats the shit out of me.

Another pause. Then, the three guys start LAUGHING.

SAM

Come on. Let's celebrate.

JEFF

Celebrate how?

DAVE

In the usual way.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE (under Schoolhouse Rock's "Three's a Magic Number"):

- The three guys are riding a special triple bicycle through the park.
- The three guys DEMOLISH a hotel room. Dave swings a guitar, SMASHING a table lamp. Sam KICKS IN the TV set. Jeff WHIPS a whiskey bottle at the wall mirror.
- A baseball diamond, man on first. The ground ball is fielded by second baseman Jeff who backhands it to shortstop Dave who relays it to first baseman Sam. 4-6-3 Double Play.

- The three cigar-smoking guys are receiving three lap dances at this upscale gentlemen's club.
- Wearing Jedi robes, the three guys walk across the sands of Tatooine with light sabers drawn.
- It's a gangsta rap pool party with girls in bikinis shaking their asses. Flannel-clad Sam mans the scratchmaster booth, Dave wears a backwards baseball cap and lip synchs the song, and Jeff just sits there, loading bullets into his Glock.
- Three farm sheep lined in a row, facing the other way.
- The three guys are wearing astronaut suits and slowly walk out of mission control.
- A New Orleans jazz trio: Sam on bass, Jeff on drums, and Dave on piano.
- The three guys are the three Wise Men in the Jerusalem barn with Baby Jesus in the manger.
- In a sleazy hotel room, Dave is tied to a bed wearing only his underwear. Jeff, dressed as a hooker, is going through Dave's wallet when suddenly Sam, dressed in a Batman costume, jumps out of the closet.
- The three guys are standing on the winners' platform at the Olympics. Simultaneously, they bow their heads and raise their fists in a black power salute.
- Back to the triple bicycle ride. The three take their hands and feet off the handle bars and peddles and sail merrily through the wildflowers.

END MONTAGE.

CUT TO:

INT. SLACKERS' ROOM - NIGHT

Back to the scene. The three guys are in exactly the same position as before, but stare out into space for a moment.

SAM

Bulldog?

DAVE

Bulldog.

JEFF

Bulldog.

They get up and on the way out the door, Sam pulls out three small cards from the desk. They're blank "frequent sandwich buyers club" cards. He pulls out an ink stamp with a distinctive bulldog icon and stamps each card eight times.

EXT. CAMPUS STREET - NIGHT

The three guys walk across the beautiful gothic campus.

DAVE

You ever have that dream where we all get caught and we get expelled and our parents are there saying how much we disappointed them?

JEFF

Yeah, but in my dream, the CIA comes in and recruits me to be an operative and I'm like doing some hot spy chick in Chechnya, so like, you know, it's got a happy ending.

After a beat,

SAM

You know, McKenzie's in the CIA now.

DAVE

Really?

JEFF

He says he's in the State Department, but you know what that means.

INT. BULLDOG PIZZA - NIGHT

The three guys walk up to the counter of this college pizza/sub shop. The COUNTER GUY is slightly deranged and talks with a lisp. It's not an effeminate lisp; it's the kind you get from doing weird shit to your tongue.

COUNTER GUY

Yeth?

SAM

Footlong Italian combo with all the fixins, but hold the cheese.

Behind the Counter Guy's head is a sign with three columns: breads, cheeses, and fixins (lettuce, tomatoes, etc.). Cheeses are not in the "fixins" column, but instead have been deemed worthy of their own column.

COUNTER GUY

No cheeth?

SAM

No, hold the cheese.

The Counter Guy smiles broadly. He savors the moment. Then, with the pride that a college education just can't buy you:

COUNTER GUY
If there's no cheeth, then how can
it be all the fixins?

Sam looks at him. Then he looks at the sign. Then back at him. He's about to say something, when Dave interrupts.

DAVE
And two cheesesteaks with
everything.

The three leave the counter and walk over to the CASHIER. Sam pulls out the stamped cards and hands them to the cashier.

CASHIER
How you kids get so many stamps?

DAVE
We eat a lot of subs.

Dave smiles. The Cashier pauses, looks at Dave's innocent face, then finally accepts the cards. The three move off to a table near the self-serve soda fountain. The machine is emblazoned with a sign: "FREE REFILLS".

Sam pulls out of his pocket and unstacks three plastic cups with the Bulldog logo. He passes them out and the guys begin filling their cups with soda.

JEFF
Goddamn fuckers are out of Slice!

COUNTER

Ethan walks into the store with his turban-capped roommate, VIKRAM. They walk up to the counter and wait behind another CUSTOMER ordering his sub. Ethan looks up at the menu board, then around the restaurant. He sees Sam, Dave, and Jeff talking. He pauses.

ETHAN
Hey, who is that guy?

VI KRAM
The fat guy?

ETHAN
Yeah.

VI KRAM
Beats the hell out of me.

TABLE

At the table, Sam and Dave are having an important discussion, while Jeff tries to ignore them. Out of the corner of his eye, Jeff notices a CUTE GIRL over at the register, and turns to look at her.

SAM
Three words: Bend Your Knees.

DAVE
That's supposed to make me last longer?

SAM
It's like golf, or baseball.

The Cute Girl notices Jeff looking at her and turns her head slightly towards him. Jeff quickly looks away.

SAM (cont'd)
Look, I've seen a lot of pornos.
Didn't you ever notice the guy's
always bending his knees, no
matter whether he's on top,
underneath, whatever.

DAVE
I guess it never occurred to me.

Jeff slowly looks back at the girl and smiles.

SAM
It's like a trade secret. Tell you
what. Try this. Next time you're
spanking it, sit Indian Style.

DAVE
I'm not gonna sit Indian Style.

The girl doesn't smile back. Instead, she takes her sandwich, turns away, and walks out the door. Jeff's smile fades.

SAM
Try it. You'll never come. In a
million years.

DAVE
Bend Your Knees...

SAM
Bend Your Knees.

JEFF
Fucking losers.

COUNTER

The Customer has gone to wait for his sub, and the Counter Guy is ready to take Ethan's order.

COUNTER GUY

Yeth?

ETHAN

Yeah. A turkey on whole wheat.
Swiss, lettuce, and tomatoes.

COUNTER GUY

Lettuth?

ETHAN

Huh?

COUNTER GUY

Lettuth?

He looks over again, then it hits him:

ETHAN

Wait a second.

He's piecing it together.

COUNTER GUY

Hello, Mr. Turkey Sandwich Man. I
am asking if you want lettuth.

Ethan turns to him.

ETHAN

Huh? Yeah. Lettuce. I said
lettuce, you goddamn moron!
(to Vikram)
Wait here for a sec.

Ethan walks over to the guys.

COUNTER GUY

Ath-hole.

TABLE

ETHAN

Hey.

DAVE

S' up.

ETHAN

(to Dave)
How'd you think you did on the
exam today?

DAVE

Probably a B. I think I fucked up
the one on the Sino-Russian War.

ETHAN

He said he wasn't going to cover
that on the exam. What's your name
again?

DAVE

Tom Weaver.

ETHAN

Yeah. I saw you talking to that
fabulous babe. What's her name?
Alana?

Dave doesn't like where this conversation is going.

DAVE

That's right.

ETHAN

(to Sam)

You're in that class too, right?

SAM

Yeah. So?

ETHAN

So how's your leg?

JEFF

It's fucking better, obviously.
Look, dude, we're straight. So if
you're done trying to hide the
sausage, we've got some fucking
subs to eat.

And they walk back to the counter to pick up their order. The gears starts turning in Ethan's head.

INT. STUDENT UNION - NIGHT

The guys are shooting pool and eating their subs in the rec room of the Student Union. Nearby, other STUDENTS are sitting around studying and watching "Wheel of Fortune." Only a few letters are showing on the "Before and After" puzzle.

DAVE

(to TV)

"Wiggle Room with a View".

Some students look back at Dave, annoyed, but he goes ahead and makes his shot. Then, Ethan enters the area, carrying his bookbag (he rarely is seen without it).

JEFF
Dude. I told you, this is a no-smoking zone.

ETHAN
What's that supposed to mean?

SAM
What do you want?

ETHAN
I know about the test.

Sam and Dave share a glance.

SAM
What test?

ETHAN
This morning's history midterm. In "Great Powers."

DAVE
I don't know what you're talking about.

ETHAN
I think you do, Tom. You guys are busted. I've got you red-handed.

DAVE
It's Dave, not Tom, asshole.

ETHAN
But you said--

SAM
Wait a second. What is it you think you have on us?

ETHAN
Hmmm, let's see... You know, at first I didn't get it. Then it hit me: I've got Tom here at an exam for a class he's not enrolled in. I've got you taking the test after it's over, and on a fake crutch to boot. And what a coincidence-- you two are roommates.

SAM
I have no idea what you're talking about.

ETHAN
(re: Dave)
He does.

Dave is slightly agitated.

DAVE

Look. You can't prove any of this.
So why don't you just pat yourself
on the back, Sherlock, and go on
your way.

Ethan grins ear to ear.

ETHAN

Really?

And he pulls out of his bookbag the MIDTERM EXAM on which Dave and the Cute Girl (Alana) exchanged phone numbers.

SAM

What the fuck is that?

ETHAN

This my friends is what we in the
blackmail business call "the
smoking gun."

Sam looks at it, then turns to Dave who has turned a little red. Sam quickly looks around to see if anyone is watching. Ethan sees the desired reaction and returns the test to his bookbag. The guys put down their pool cues on the table.

SAM

O.K. What do you want?

ETHAN

You know, that's a good question.
And one I've put a lot of thought
into. Do I want money? I mean,
this information ought to be worth
a few grand...

JEFF

No fucking way.

ETHAN

You're right. Too easy. That's why
I've come up with a proposition.

JEFF

I knew it! I knew this guy was
cruising for some ass.

ETHAN

No. It's about a girl. Listen.
I've got a problem that needs a
very creative solution.

DAVE
What the hell are you talking about?

ETHAN
I'm talking about you "delivering" a certain woman to me.

DAVE
You want us to help you get laid?

ETHAN
Very good. You catch on fast.

SAM
That's the fucking proposition? Some chick?

JEFF
This isn't a dating service, dude. Bag your own bitches.

Ethan turns bright red and LUNGEs at Jeff.

ETHAN
Angela is not a bitch! She's a very sweet girl! Not a dirty whore like your mother!

The guys are startled by his sudden fury. Some of the other Students turn to see what's going on.

DAVE
Dude, relax.

SAM
Jesus, man. Chill out.

JEFF
Wow. Good one.

Ethan starts to regain his composure.

DAVE
Honestly, Ethan. What do you expect us to do?

ETHAN
I don't know. All I know is that I want her and you're going to help me get her.

He turns to leave.

ETHAN (cont'd)
Pleasure doing business with you.

Ethan exits.

The guys look at each other for a while in silent disbelief.

Finally, Dave breaks the silence.

DAVE
Dawson's Creek is on.

Jeff and Sam roll their eyes at the unhelpful comment.

INT. SLACKERS' ROOM - DAY

The next morning. Jeff and Sam are drinking beers and watching a Spanish channel featuring some fabulous Blonde singer with impossibly high shorts dancing around a dozen children and a fat sweaty man.

Dave walks into the room from the shower, wearing only a towel.

DAVE
You know, I wish I were gay. I mean, if you think about it, gay guys get laid as much as they want and I mean, we're already such good friends. We like hanging out together, we've got the same interests. Wouldn't it be great if we were all gay too so we could have sex with each other?

(beat)

Yeah, I know, being gay's no picnic. You got your parents and the gay bashers to deal with. But think about it. As much sex as you want any time you want it. And we wouldn't even have to leave the room. And no chicks to deal with.

(beat)

I'm not saying I am gay. I'm just saying I wish I were gay. I wish we all were.

Sam and Jeff completely ignore Dave.

DAVE (cont'd)
Well, anyway.

And he continues on into his bedroom. Sam and Jeff continue staring at the TV, emotionless. Sam swigs his beer.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. SLACKERS' ROOM - DAY

Later that day. Jeff is reading a recruitment brochure for a New York investment bank and Sam is writing longhand on a pad of paper. Dave enters from his bedroom.

DAVE
What are you doing?

Sam doesn't look at Dave and speaks in an icy tone.

SAM
Writing an essay.

DAVE
Oh, Penthouse is taking unsolicited submissions now?

SAM
Good one. It's my Harvard essay.

DAVE
Why do you want to go to that shithole? Those morons have no personali ty.

SAM
True. But the law firms seem to think they're number one.

DAVE
And what are you up to, Mr. Personal i ty?

JEFF
Research. I've got my screening interview tomorrow.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. SLACKERS' ROOM - DAY

Still later. Jeff and Sam are in different positions in the room, but still working. Dave enters again.

DAVE
Come on, guys. Let's do something.
Let's watch a movie. Or play a game. Who's up for Axis and Allies?

Sam is still not making eye contact with Dave.

SAM
Sorry, dude.

JEFF
Why don't you go spank it in the corner?

DAVE
Losers.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. SLACKERS' ROOM - NIGHT

That evening. Jeff and Sam have changed positions again, but are still working. Dave enters yet again.

DAVE
Look. I'm sorry I wrote on the test. All right? But you should have seen this girl.

Sam finally stands to confront Dave.

SAM
Nice fucking job.

DAVE
I said I was sorry.

SAM
Sorry isn't going to get us out of this goddamn nightmare.

DAVE
So we'll help this guy and we'll be done with it.

JEFF
We're not helping Erkel get a girl friend. Just say the word and I'll ice this guy.

SAM
Shut up, Puff Daddy. You're not the one on the line here. I'm the one who is completely fucked. I need to graduate. I'm not some spoiled rich kid or aimless loser who doesn't care about anything.

Dave and Jeff take a moment to let Sam cool down. Dave starts pacing.

DAVE
Look. Why not just do what he says?

SAM

That's not going to work. You do what this guy says and we'll be kissing his ass forever.

JEFF

You guys are afraid of that weasel? Let's just get the damn test back.

DAVE

Or we could just come up with a four-star plan to hook up a complete loser with this Angel a chick.

JEFF

Why the hell should we?

DAVE

It'll be fun. Come on. We've got nothing better to do.

JEFF

There's no way this guy's getting any tail. You've seen him. He looks like fucking Jeffrey Dahmer.

Sam sits back down, defeated.

SAM

It'll never work.

Dave stands to confront the other two.

DAVE

You know what? We've become soft. Complacent. I fear our greatness is behind us. Remember when we used to fax in our final papers from Vegas?

Dave waits for an answer from Sam.

SAM

I remember, Dave.

DAVE

That was living. And Jeff, what about the time you stole Dean Ryan's Christmas tree? That was living!

JEFF

Oh, God. You're right. We've lost our way. What have we become? What have we become?

Dave acknowledges Jeff's sarcasm with a fake smile.

DAVE

Look. Never before have we attempted to solve the most complex equation known to man. The human heart.

JEFF

You are a true homo.

DAVE

Consider this the ultimate challenge. This will be like the culmination of our college careers. The three of us will be the first men in history to solve the conundrum femina.

The other two guys contemplate the significance of such a discovery.

JEFF

Whatever.

Dave sits back down.

DAVE

I say we do this.

JEFF

I say fuck off.

DAVE

Sam? You're the deciding vote.

Sam turns to Jeff, apologetically.

SAM

I don't have a choice.

JEFF

You're going to fucking fuck things up for all of us. This shit is not fucking kosher.

But Sam's already scheming.

SAM

All right. Let's do this. I'm in.

DAVE

Two to one. Jeff?

Jeff acquiesces.

JEFF
All right. Fuck you. I'm in.

DAVE
Then we're agreed. We help the weasel.

JEFF
I hope you guys know what the fuck you're doing.

INT. ETHAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ethan stands in his dark bedroom talking on the phone.

ETHAN
Excellent.

He hangs up. He smiles smugly, then turns on a small desk lamp, revealing a shrine to Angela: dozens of photos, dried flowers, and candles. He takes a cellophane bag out of the desk and opens it. He removes a lock of hair and slowly brings it to his nose. He inhales deeply and the pleasure overwhelms him. His grotesque smile is an orthodontist's nightmare.

INT. SLACKERS' ROOM - NIGHT

A key duplicating machine GRINDS a metal key copy.

Oblivious to the noise, the three guys are playing Axis & Allies: a large board game with a map of the world and hundreds of plastic combat pieces placed all over it (essentially a highly complex version of Risk). They continue to roll dice and move pieces throughout the conversation.

DAVE
I say we give him a little "When Harry Met Sally" action.

JEFF
What the fuck are you talking about?

DAVE
He gets in with her. Becomes friends. Totally innocuous. Then, after a month or so, he tells her he loves her. He's "in" love with her.

SAM
Good plan. That'll work.
(re: game)
Three panzer divisions attacking the Ukraine.

Jeff rolls the dice.

DAVE

No, I listen. Sure, she'll be freaked out at first. But they're already friends at this point. And he keeps working on her. After a while, she's thinking to herself, "What am I fighting for? It's not so bad having a guy tell me he loves me all the time."

Sam looks disgusted.

SAM

Dude, that is the lamest plan I've ever heard.

DAVE

Hey, at least I've gotten laid in the last two years.

SAM

Who can be bothered?

JEFF

Dudes, everyone knows you've got to treat women like shit. Period. "Treat 'em like dirt and they'll stick to you like mud."

CUT TO:

INT. NIGHT CLUB - NIGHT

Jeff is wearing a silk shirt and approaches a HOT WOMAN at the bar.

JEFF (V.O.)

Women confuse their emotions. You get them excited and they don't remember how much they hated you, only how hot you got them.

Jeff turns to the woman and "accidentally" dumps his drink down her back. She SCREAMS and turns around.

JEFF

Hey, watch where you're going, you skanky ass be-otch.

She can't believe her ears.

HOT WOMAN

Are you fucking insane?

He looks into her eyes. A connection.

JEFF
Bi tch.

HOT WOMAN
Maggot.

JEFF
Sl ut.

HOT WOMAN
Scum.

A beat, then they embrace in a passionate kiss. When they come up for air, the Hot Woman JUMPS into Jeff's arms, and he carries her out of the bar.

INT. SLACKERS' ROOM - DAY

Jeff smiles broadly, looking for approval.

DAVE
Have you ever even been with a woman before?

SAM
Well, he does have one point. I think you have to be clear about your intentions up front with a chick. Your plan is too obviously based on a lie. "Oh, let's just be friends. I don't want to bone you." You've got to go up to her and right off the bat establish it as a sexual relationship.

DAVE
How's he supposed to do that?

JEFF
I'm telling you. Treat her like shit.

SAM
Shut the fuck up. All I'm saying is he goes up to her and compliments her on her body.

EXT. STREET - DAY

HOT WOMAN #2 is crossing the street the opposite way that Sam's going. Midway across, Sam gawks at her body. Then, right to her face:

SAM
Oh my God, you've got a fabulous body. I could just ...

He GRUNTS incredibly loudly. She stops in the middle of the street and turns to him.

HOT WOMAN #2
You're direct. I like that.

And she drops her dress to the ground revealing her perfect naked body. Sam grabs the woman and KISSES her passionately. Cars SCREECH to a halt in the intersection.

INT. SLACKERS' ROOM - DAY

Dave considers.

DAVE
Maybe.

JEFF
That's pretty good.

DAVE
Look. What we really need to do is a little research. I'm going to pay a visit on this Angel a. Sam, find out where her parents live.

(to Jeff)
And you. You up for a little recon?

Jeff shrugs a "why not?" and rolls the dice.

JEFF
Karelia takes Eastern Europe.

EXT. STAR (SPACE)

A red giant star contracts and begins to glow yellow. As its diameter shrinks, it glows whiter and whiter. Its gravity is taking over, accelerating the contraction and increasing the thermal output. Then, the star reaches critical mass and EXPLODES in a fury of light and radiation.

INT. ASTRONOMY CLASS - DAY

A large darkened room with about 60 STUDENTS. PROFESSOR MACINTYRE is standing in front of the supernova video.

PROFESSOR MACINTYRE
Lights!

The lights come back on.

PROFESSOR MACINTYRE (cont'd)
Not all stars will go supernova, of course. Only a narrow range of solar masses will allow the delicate balance of gravity and energy to cause the phenomenon.

Angel a sits near the aisle, taking notes. Dave enters the class late and takes a seat next to her.

DAVE
Hey.

ANGELA
Shhh.

DAVE
What I miss?

ANGELA
Shhh.

PROFESSOR MACINTYRE
The mathematical equation for
determining a star's critical mass
is actually quite straight
forward. Anyone?

A few dozen hands go up. Dave raises his hand, but Angel a does not. She eyes him.

PROFESSOR MACINTYRE (cont'd)
You. Right there.

The hands go down and Dave looks disappointed at not being called on. Angel a rolls her eyes at him. Dave looks over at her and smiles.

STUDENT (O.S.)
Using the gravitational constant
times M sub 1, M sub 2, over R
squared . . .

Dave points to her notebook and makes a beginning look. She gives in and passes her notebook to him. He begins reviewing the missed notes, then looks over at her and smiles again.

EXT. SCIENCE HILL - DAY

Dave is walking out of the astronomy department building with Angel a.

DAVE
But if J32 is a pulsar galaxy,
then--

ANGELA
A quasar galaxy. Pulsars are
rotating neutron stars.

DAVE
O.K., then tell me what a quasar
is?

Angel a sighs.

ANGELA
 Quasars are rare superbright galaxies with massive black hole nuclei. They emit radiation equivalent to a hundred normal galaxies but are only as big as our solar system.

Dave is strangely intrigued by her attitude.

DAVE
 O. K., Brainiac, what's the fastest land mammal?

ANGELA
 The cheetah.

DAVE
 What's the eastern-most U. S. state?

ANGELA
 Alaska. The Aleutian Islands cross the International Date Line.

DAVE
 What was the name of the doctor on "I Dream of Jeannie"?

ANGELA
 Doctor Bellows.

DAVE
 How many roads must a man walk down before you can call him a man?

ANGELA
 You're not very bright, are you?

Angel a starts laughing. Dave joins in, then looks into her eyes.

DAVE
 You know, you're very pretty.

Angel a blushes. She's completely off guard.

ANGELA
 Thanks...

DAVE
 Dave.

ANGELA
 Dave. You know, I haven't seen you in class before.

DAVE
Yeah, I usually wear a hat.

ANGELA
Listen, why don't you join our study group? We meet on Wednesdays.

DAVE
That'd be great...

ANGELA
Angel a.

DAVE
Angel a.

They look into each other's eyes as they shake hands. She is the first to look away and Dave smiles at the minor victory.

INSERT - THREE-WAY SPLIT SCREEN SILHOUETTE of the three guys against fiery background, a la "Charlie's Angels".

INT. OUTSIDE ANGELA'S ROOM - DAY

Jeff KNOCKS on the door. Reanna answers. Jeff uses a fake nerdy voice.

JEFF
Is Angel a here?

REANNA
No. She's in class.

JEFF
I'm Greg Pasternak.
(no reaction)
From Non-Ferrous Inorganic.

REANNA
Hey. What's up.

JEFF
Can I leave her a message?

Reanna points to the message board on the outside of the door that Jeff's standing in front of.

JEFF (cont'd)
Right. Listen, I also need to take back my lab procedures book she borrowed. So if you could just...

Reanna reluctantly lets Jeff in.

ANGELA and REANNA'S DORM ROOM

Jeff walks in and surreptitiously looks around. Reanna sits back down in her bean bag chair and picks up her copy of "Beyond Good and Evil."

JEFF (cont'd)
Nice room. I love what you've done
with it.

REANNA
Yeah.

JEFF
So, have you seen a really big
chemistry book lying around?

REANNA
No. Check in Angela's room.

Jeff turns to one of the two bedrooms.

JEFF
This one?

REANNA
That one.

Jeff walks into the other room.

ANGELA'S BEDROOM

Suddenly, his demeanor changes to that of a cool professional. He COUGHS as he flips on her computer to cover the BOOT NOISES. He turns the speaker volume off. He walks back out into the

COMMON AREA

JEFF
What'cha reading?

REANNA
Nietzsche.

JEFF
"Was bekannt ist, ist erkannt."

REANNA
What?

JEFF
Never mind. I can't find the book.
I'm just going to leave a note on
her computer.

ANGELA'S BEDROOM

He pulls out his Zip disk from his pocket and quietly inserts it. On the desktop is the icon "My Documents." He drags the icon to the Zip disk icon and the copying begins. He COUGHS again to cover the DRIVE NOISE.

COMMON ROOM

Reanna looks up from her book. She reluctantly gets out of the bean bag chair.

ANGELA'S BEDROOM

In one fluid motion, Jeff ejects the Zip disk, puts it in his jacket, and flips off the computer. Reanna enters.

REANNA

What are you doing?

JEFF

Just finishing the note.

He pulls out a pre-written post-it note from the inside of the back of his jacket.

JEFF (cont'd)

See.

He sticks it to the computer.

REANNA

O.K. Look, I've got some reading to do. So if you don't mind...

JEFF

Oh sure. No problem.

She starts out the door. He pulls the note off the computer, crumples it into a ball, and follows her out of the room.

INT. SLACKERS' ROOM - NIGHT

Jeff and Sam are looking over the computer. Dave enters.

JEFF

How goes the hunt?

DAVE

She's got a lot of charm. And she's pretty.

Jeff and Sam look at each other. Dave saddles up to the computer.

DAVE (cont'd)

What did you find?

JEFF
Her e-mail cache.

DAVE
Perfect. Let's find out everything we can about this girl.

SAM
You know what else you've got here?

JEFF
Four years worth of papers. I know. Don't get too fucking excited. She's a biology major.

They look up from the screen.

DAVE
You get that address?

SAM
Yeah.

He hands him a slip of paper.

DAVE
Branford? A local. Well maybe I'll make a personal appearance.

Dave grabs a jacket and tie out of the closet.

SAM
What the hell are you going to do at her parents' house?

DAVE
Just ask a few questions.

JEFF
Why?

DAVE
Come on, guys. It's so obvious.

They're clueless.

DAVE (cont'd)
Every girl wants to marry her father. Didn't you ever read Antigone?

He smiles and walks out the door. Sam and Jeff look at each other, unimpressed.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A middle-aged man (CHARLES), dressed in what appears to be a bowling shirt, sits in the lazy-boy with his glass of scotch and watches a movie on TV. On the couch sits his middle-aged wife VALERIE, reading "Lottery Player Magazine".

CHIEF OF STAFF (O.S.)
(on TV)

I can accept the fact that the people have elected a cyborg President of the United States, but that doesn't mean I have to like it.

WOMAN (O.S.)
(on TV)

Don't judge the President until you've met him.

The doorbell RINGS. Mr. Patton walks over to the door and opens it, revealing Dave, dressed in the cheap jacket and tie.

CHARLES
Can I help you?

DAVE
Mr. Charles Patton?

CHARLES
The same.

DAVE
Ron Matties from the U.S. Census Bureau. Do you mind if I ask you a few questions?

CHARLES
Aren't you a little young to be a census worker, son?

DAVE
Oh, Mr. Patton, I'm not a GS-11, sir. No, sir. I'm a student intern from Adirondack Junior College. I'm doing this for work study credit, sir.

Mr. Patton looks him over.

DAVE (cont'd)
Adirondack.... The Flying Pandas....

Dave smiles broadly. Finally,

CHARLES
O.K. Come on in.

They enter and walk to the living room. Random CYBORG NOISES emanate from the TV set until Mr. Patton clicks it off.

CHARLES (cont'd)
My wife, Valerie. This is Ron
something from the Census Bureau.

Dave shakes her hand. She looks up at him with unusual interest.

DAVE
Ron Matties. How do you do?

VALERIE
Have a seat.

Dave sits on the couch.

VALERIE (cont'd)
We already filled out our census
data and sent it in.

DAVE
Yes, ma'am, you did. And we thank
you for that, ma'am. But we
sometimes do a little follow up.
Get a little more "information",
a little more "detail" for our
records. The kind of stuff that
really just doesn't come through
adequately on "paper".

Mr. Patton downs the last of his scotch.

CHARLES
Can I get you a drink?

INT. SLACKERS' ROOM - NIGHT

Jeff and Sam are reading Angela's e-mails printed out from the computer.

JEFF
Here's something.

SAM
What?

JEFF
A letter to her friend at Brown.
They're talking about the
"defining characteristics of our
generation." Deep.

SAM
Let me see that.
(reading)
"I'm just trying to find my place
in the world."
(beat)
Save this one.

Jeff pauses and looks up from his papers.

JEFF
You know, he's got a point about
how much easier it'd be if we were
all gay.

Sam slowly looks up from his papers, wary.

INT. PATTON LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Dave is talking to the Pattons. He's got a drink now, and Mrs. Patton has joined him on the couch.

DAVE
Would you say Angelia was
rebellious as a child?

CHARLES
No. Angelia was a good girl.

VALERIE
What's this got to do with the
census?

JEFF
It's for Health and Human
Services, ma'am. I'm sorry if it's
a little personal, but I have to
ask. Regulations. You understand.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. PATTON LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The interview continues. Documents are spread across the table and Dave writes in his note pad. Mr. Patton gets up from his chair.

CHARLES
Let me get my tax return and I'll
have those figures for you.

He exits. Dave sits uncomfortably with Mrs. Patton on the couch. Dave takes out of piece of candy from his pocket, unwraps it, and puts it in his mouth. He sees Mrs. Patton looking at him.

DAVE
Candy?

VALERIE
Don't mind if I do.

She reaches over and in one smooth motion, unzips his pants and starts GIVING DAVE HEAD.

DAVE

sits expressionless, paralyzed for a moment while the message that he's getting a blow job moves up his spinal column to his brain. Then, without moving his head, his eyes slowly scan left and right. Then down.

DAVE
Mrs. Patton?

INT. SLACKERS' ROOM - NIGHT

Sam is alone at the computer, typing. He's a little nervous. He types a bit, then a CREAKING NOISE.

Sam quickly turns the monitor off.

He looks around. He turns the monitor back on and continues typing.

The monitor reveals: a chat session in progress with "Flwrgrl". Sam types: "I don't care about looks. It's what's on the inside that counts." He hits send. In a second, he receives a reply: "I can't wait to meet you. How about Wednesday?"

Suddenly, the FRONT DOOR OPENS and Jeff enters wearing a HOT DOG ON A STICK UNIFORM and carrying a big bag of food from Hot Dog on a Stick.

Sam quickly flips the monitor off.

JEFF
What are you doing?

SAM
Nothing. Just surfing the web.

Jeff throws his keys on the counter and starts over towards him.

JEFF
Let me check it out.

SAM
No. It was nothing. Boring shit.

He flips off the power strip and the whole computer shuts down.

JEFF
Asswipe, don't fucking shut it down that way. It's not good for the computer.

SAM
Sorry.

JEFF
Dude, I don't care if you surf the monkey love site all night long. Just don't fuck up my computer.

SAM
Got it.

Jeff takes off his hat and throws it on the couch. He takes out of the bag a hot dog on a stick, hands the bag to Sam, then takes a bite of the hot dog.

JEFF
Dinner is served.

INT. PATTON LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The blow job continues. Mrs. Patton's head is buried in Dave's lap.

DAVE
Mrs. Patton?

CHARLES (O.S.)
Valerie! Where the hell's my goddamn tax returns?

Dave turns his head to see behind him, but no one's there. Yet.

CHARLES (cont'd; O.S.)
Ron?

Dave turns his head again. This time, Mr. Patton is standing there with a scowl. From the front of the room, we can see Mrs. Patton with her head in Dave's lap, Dave's head turned to look behind the couch, and Mr. Patton glaring at him over his shoulder.

CHARLES
What the hell do you think you're doing?

FREEZE FRAME.

DAVE (V.O.)
 I'll have to admit. I've never
 encountered this particular
 problem before. But sometimes
 things just work themselves out.

UNFREEZE FRAME.

DAVE
 Ummmm...

Mr. Patton smiles.

CHARLES
 You need to tell me when you're
 done with your drink so I can go
 get you another one.

From Mr. Patton's POV, Dave appears to be sitting quietly on the couch, his head turned behind him to look behind the couch. His empty glass rests on the end table. Mrs. Patton's head in Dave's lap, however, is completely out of view.

Mr. Patton takes a step towards the empty glass, but Dave quickly grabs it (without moving his lower body) and hands it behind the couch. Mr. Patton takes the glass, turns to leave, then stops for a second.

CHARLES (cont'd)
 Where's Valerie?

Dave shrugs. Mr. Patton leaves the room.

DAVE
 (hushed)
 Mrs. Patton!

With some difficulty, he stands up and struggles to break free of her. But she's locked onto him, her head planted firmly in his crotch, and her hands gripping his ass. As he hobbles backwards, she follows on her knees. He slowly drags her around the room, until he backs up into an end table. She stops and looks up at him.

VALERIE
 Come for me, sugar. I want to
 taste your love.

DAVE
 (hushed)
 Mrs. Patton!

She goes back at it. Dave's eyes go into the back of his head. He's whimpering. He's moaning.

CHARLES (O.S.)
 Ron, are you O.K.?

HALLWAY

Mr. Patton is returning with the fresh drink. As he rounds the corner into the

LIVING ROOM,

he looks up to see . . .

Dave back on the couch, with Mrs. Patton safely obscured in his lap.

CHARLES

You sound like you're in some pain.

DAVE

Uh. . .

(suddenly
uncontrolled)

Yes!

CHARLES

O. K. then. I'm going to get you
some tylenol.

DAVE

Oh God, yes!

CHARLES

All right. Hold your horses.

He exits to the

BATHROOM

Mr. Patton fishes around for some pain reliever.

DAVE (O. S.)

Aaaaahhhh!

CUT TO:

INT. PATTON FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

Mr. and Mrs. Patton walk Dave to the door.

CHARLES

If you need to come again, my wife
will be here tomorrow.

DAVE

Excuse me?

CHARLES

If you need to come here again.
For more information.

DAVE
Oh, right. Thank you, Mr. Patton.

He averts his eyes from Mrs. Patton.

DAVE (cont'd)
Mrs. Patton.

He opens the door and exits.

EXT. PATTON FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

Dave takes a deep breath.

INT. PATTON FOYER - NIGHT

Mr. Patton turns to Mrs. Patton.

CHARLES
Where have you been hiding this
whole time?

And he kisses her full on the lips.

INT. SLACKERS' ROOM - NIGHT

Sam and Jeff are watching the end of the TV movie.

ON TV

A CYBORG sits in the oval office and speaks with a metallic voice:

CYBORG PRESIDENT
With my cybernetic implants, I
hacked into the Belorus mainframe
and averted the nuclear crisis.
(beat)
Now, about that staffing report
you've been promising me...

Across from him, the now teary-eyed Chief of Staff full of admiration salutes the Cyborg.

CHIEF OF STAFF
Yes, Mr. President.

BACK TO SCENE

Dave enters, still in a state of shock.

SAM
How'd it go?

Dave takes a deep breath.

DAVE
I think pretty well.

Jeff offers the bowl of candy to Dave.

JEFF
Candy?

Still in a daze,

DAVE
Don't mind if I do.

INT. DINING HALL - DAY

Sam and Dave are eating lunch in the college cafeteria. Sam is devouring a plate of corned beef hash when Ethan arrives.

ETHAN
(re: Sam)
He likes the people food.

Ethan chortles with delight. With his mouth full,

SAM
Fuck you.

Ethan sits down.

DAVE
Phase one is complete.

ETHAN
What's phase one?

DAVE
Research. Now you're going to become her best friend.

ETHAN
I better be getting more than "get to know her".

DAVE
We're giving you step by step instructions, a complete psychological profile, and a list of hobbies, interests. If you don't think it's worth it, go turn us in.

Ethan eyes the two carefully.

ETHAN
O.K. How am I going to get close to her?

DAVE

She's taking . . .
(checks his notes)
chem 420, biology 455, "Great
Powers", and "Astrogut". So I say
you approach her in class.

ETHAN

So, what, am I supposed to just
walk up to her?

DAVE

Yes. Listen, fifty percent of
heterosexual men are afraid of
talking to women and have never
even had a girl friend. That means
if you can get over your fear, and
play the game, you've got a strong
chance of making things happen.

SAM

Even supermodels get the blues,
man. You always hear about some
hot chick who couldn't get a date
for the Oscars or some shit.
Because the men are afraid of them.

ETHAN

O.K. but what am I supposed to say?

DAVE

First, tell her you have a
girlfriend.

SAM

It's less threatening.

DAVE

Then, --

Just then, two cute FRESHMAN WOMEN walk by and Ethan does a
full head turn gawk. Sam and Dave marvel at this lack of cool.

DAVE (cont'd)

Dude, could you be more obvious?

ETHAN

What?

SAM

This isn't going to work. This
guy's a psycho!

Ethan freaks out. Seething and red-faced, he stands up to
confront Sam.

ETHAN

Don't call me that! I'm not a psycho! Don't ever call me that you goddamn son of a bitch!

Dave puts a reassuring hand on Ethan's shoulder.

DAVE

All right. Calm down.

Dave looks over at Sam with a furled brow, like "what have we gotten ourselves into?". Sam shrugs as Ethan sits back down.

SAM

My mistake. Obviously you're a cool-headed individual.

DAVE

Look. Let's go with plan B. Angel volunteers at the hospital --

ETHAN

I don't like hospitals.

DAVE

Do you want this girl or not?

ETHAN

Yes.

SAM

Then just sit down and keep your fucking mouth shut.

Ethan reluctantly agrees.

INT. HOSPITAL - CHILDREN'S WARD - DAY

Ethan walks briskly down the hallway. Out of the corner of his eye, he spots a full food tray waiting outside a patient's room. He stops and walks over to it. He grabs the paper cup full of jello, sucks it down in one disgusting gulp, and continues on.

As he makes his way around the corner, he passes a sleeping OLD MAN in a wheelchair. Without breaking stride, he crumples the paper cup and tosses it onto the man's lap.

INT. HOSPITAL - GERIATRIC WARD - DAY

The geriatric ward. A few student VOLUNTEERS including Angel are being led around by a NURSE.

NURSE

Mostly, they just need someone to talk to. So comfort them. O.K. Let's get going.

The group breaks up and start heading into patients' rooms. Suddenly, Ethan races up to the Nurse.

ETHAN
I'm here to help.

NURSE
Why don't you just help out the orderly changing sheets?

Ethan spots Angela.

ETHAN
No, that's O.K. I'm all set.

He races over to Angela as she's about to enter a patient's room. At the last second, he slows down and tries to approach her smoothly. He leans in to sniff her hair, then stops himself.

ETHAN (cont'd)
Hey!

She turns around.

ANGELA
Hey. I know you.

ETHAN
Ethan.

ANGELA
Right. From "Great Powers".

ETHAN
Right.

A full, then

ETHAN (cont'd)
How'd you do on the midterm?

ANGELA
Good. You?

ETHAN
I messed up that question on the Si no-Russian War.

ANGELA
Yeah, he said he wasn't going to cover that.

ETHAN
Yeah.

Another full.

ANGELA

So, you volunteer at the hospital?
I've never seen you here before.

Ethan fidgets and avoids eye contact.

ETHAN

Yeah. Well, I used to volunteer in
high school all the time. In fact,
my girl friend is the coordinator
of the Habitat for Humanity up in
Boston.

ANGELA

Wow, that's great. So, shall we?

They enter the

PATIENT'S ROOM.

An OLD LADY lies in bed watching "The Price Is Right". Angel a
picks up her chart.

ANGELA (cont'd)

Hello, Mrs. Van Graaf, I'm Angel a
Patton. I'm a student volunteer.

ETHAN

And I'm Ethan. Ethan Dulles.

She clicks off the TV.

VAN GRAAF

What do you want?

ANGELA

We're here to spend some time with
you.

VAN GRAAF

Well I don't want to spend any
time with you.

ANGELA

Come on now, Mrs. Van Graaf. I'm
sure you've got some great stories
to tell. I bet you've got some
great stories about World War Two.

VAN GRAAF

I worked the docks during the war.

ANGELA

You worked in a shipyard?

VAN GRAAF

No, I was a whore.

ANGELA

Hmm. Well, that must have been interesting.

Mrs. Van Graaf is getting bored. She looks over at Ethan, sitting there like a lump, and gets an idea. Suddenly, she starts going into CONVULSIONS. Ethan and Angela are freaking out.

VAN GRAAF

Get Dr. Danvers!

ETHAN

I'll get the nurse.

VAN GRAAF

Not you! You! Get Dr. Danvers.
He's the only one! Dr. Danvers!

ANGELA

O.K. I'll be right back!

Angela rushes out of the room. Ethan scrambles around frantically.

ETHAN

Are you all right?

She's still short of breath.

VAN GRAAF

Overheating. Need to . . . cool down.

ETHAN

What can I do?

VAN GRAAF

Sponge bath. Over there.

ETHAN

Excuse me?

VAN GRAAF

Sponge bath.

And she slips off her gown, revealing the NAKEDNESS of an 80-year-old lady. Ethan looks at her for a second, in shock, then averts his eyes.

ETHAN

Mrs. Van Graaf!

VAN GRAAF

So very hot. Need spongin'.

ETHAN

I should get some help.

VAN GRAAF
No! Need spongin'. Now.

Ethan reluctantly takes the sponge out of the portable tub next to the bed. With his eyes averted, he starts sponging her.

VAN GRAAF (cont'd)
Lower. Lower.

ETHAN
Uhhhh!

VAN GRAAF
That's it. Right there.

Ethan is still averting his eyes, but as Mrs. Van Graaf begins to purr, Ethan slowly turns to her. Slowly, his shock and disgust subside, and his creepy smile begins to appear. Mrs. Van Graaf opens her eyes and sees Ethan looking back at her. She smiles. He smiles. A connection...

Ethan goes to sit on the edge of the bed, accidentally sitting on the TV remote. The TV snaps back on and the "Prince Is Right" announcer shouts, "Shelia O'Banion, COME ON DOWN!"

Just then, Angela bursts in with the Nurse and a full COMPANY of DOCTORS.

ANGELA
Ethan!

FREEZE ON ETHAN giving Mrs. Van Graaf a sponge bath.

DAVE (V.O.)
Now I only heard the story second hand, so I don't know for sure what really happened, but I have it on good authority that Ethan was actually kind of enjoying himself until the entire wing of the hospital burst into the room. I told you Ethan was a freak.

UNFREEZE ETHAN.

ANGELA
What are you doing?!?

VAN GRAAF
Sponge bath.

ETHAN
Sponge bath.

Ethan leaps back.

NURSE
Mrs. Van Graaf. Put your gown back on. Shame on you.

Mrs. Van Graaf stops convulsing and puts on her gown.

ETHAN

What? What's going on?

NURSE

Mrs. Van Graaf sometimes tricks
the male volunteers with fake
convulsions.

ETHAN

You crazy old bitch!

VAN GRAAF

He wanted it more than I did.

Angela drags Ethan out of the room.

HALLWAY

ANGELA

What's wrong with you?

ETHAN

She made me sponge her off. She
said she was overheating.

ANGELA

She's an old woman.

ETHAN

She's an old whore.

ANGELA

Are you insane?

Ethan is flustered.

ETHAN

I didn't-- I mean, she said--
Look. I --

She marvels at him, then walks off into the next room. Still embarrassed, Ethan reluctantly follows.

INT. UNIVERSITY GYMNASIUM - DAY

Dozens of STUDENTS work out in this high-tech university gym. Over on the stair climber, Angela is in the middle of her workout. She's wearing headphones and reading a magazine.

From out of the locker room, Ethan enters, wearing his dated 1980's sweatbands and "Let's Get Physical" workout clothes. He spots Angela and saddles up to the machine next to her. She doesn't notice him, so he turns on the machine.

Obviously not very familiar with the stair climber, Ethan has some difficulty working the controls. He looks over at her machine to match the settings.

Finally settled in, he turns to her, trying to get her attention. He becomes momentarily dazed when he accidentally eyes her oscillating ass. He almost FALLS OFF the machine, but quickly regains his balance. He turns to her again.

Sensing a disturbance in The Force, Angela turns to Ethan. She smiles hello.

ETHAN

Hey.

She makes the "I can't hear you" motion, but it doesn't deter Ethan.

ETHAN (cont'd)

What's up?

She reluctantly takes her headphones off.

ANGELA

I'm sorry. I couldn't hear you.

ETHAN

Oh. Sorry. I was just going to say, funny seeing you here.

ANGELA

Yeah.

(beat)

Look. Can I ask you something?

ETHAN

Sure.

ANGELA

Are you following me?

Ethan turns bright red, and SLIPS OFF the machine. He scrambles to regain his composure amid the flying stairs. Angela is astonished by the acrobatics. Ethan stands up.

ETHAN

No.

Angela raises an eyebrow, then puts her headphones back on.

INT. SLACKERS' ROOM - NIGHT

Dave is shooting nerf hoops when Jeff enters the room out of breath and wearing a priest's clothes. He takes off his collar and jacket.

DAVE
S' up.

Sam is over on the phone, drinking a Diet Coke and periodically holding up the can to read the labeling.

SAM
Yes. That's right. I'm very "unsatisfied" with my recent purchase of your Diet Coke product.

A KNOCK at the door. They all look at each other. Without saying a word, they instinctively shoot up (like one or two fingers -- not heroin). Jeff's odd man out.

JEFF
You guys fucking collaborated on that one. I saw your eyes.

Sam and Dave start laughing. Jeff reluctantly gets up to answer the door. It's Ethan.

DAVE
Yo, Easy E.

JEFF
Hey, man. I was just thinking about you.

Ethan smiles.

ETHAN
Really?

JEFF
No.

Ethan's smile disappears and he enters the room.

DAVE
How's it been going? Are you in?

ETHAN
If I were in I wouldn't be here.

Sam hangs up the phone and sits down to play StarCraft with Jeff.

DAVE
Well, keep at it.

ETHAN
I want you to talk to her for me.

DAVE
What?

ETHAN

Just tell her what a great guy I
am. You know, put in a good word.

From across the room,

JEFF (O. S.)

That wasn't part of the deal,
assface.

Ethan looks over at Jeff, then back to Dave.

ETHAN

The deal was for you to hook me
up. Now I'm telling you I need you
to talk to her for me. Once or
twice and that's it.

DAVE

All right. I'll take care of it.

ETHAN

See? Now was that so hard?

Ethan leaves. Sam leaves Jeff alone with the game and walks
over to Dave.

SAM

You really think this asshole is
going to become friends with her?

DAVE

It shouldn't be that hard if
"assface" stops acting like a
retard.

SAM

You know, this plan is pretty
good. You've used it before?

DAVE

No.

Dave turns to leave, but Sam puts his hand on Dave's
shoulder. Sam looks back to Jeff for a second, then lowers
his voice.

SAM

So you've never told a girl that
you loved her before?

Dave keeps the conversation quiet.

DAVE

Hey, I've lied about a lot of things in my day, but I'm not going to tell some girl I love her unless I really mean it. You don't lie about shit like that.

Dave turns to leave, but Sam stops him again. Sam is slightly embarrassed about confiding in Dave.

SAM

So, you wouldn't recommend this plan for someone you were really interested in.

DAVE

I don't know. Why all the sudden interest in the plan? You find a mail order bride on the internet?

Dave starts laughing and Sam retreats into his shell.

SAM

No. It's just...

DAVE

Look. I've got to go to a study group now and put in a good word for Ethan. Let's discuss this later.

Dave grabs a new shirt from a shopping bag and walks out, past Jeff, who eyes him suspiciously. Jeff clicks his controller and a Protoss Carrier EXPLODES, killing five SCREAMING Protoss High Templars.

INT. ANGELA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Angela is studying in the common room. Reanna walks out of her bedroom in a nice dress.

ANGELA

Hey! You look great. I love that dress on you.

REANNA

Thanks.

ANGELA

So where are you going?

REANNA

I don't know. He didn't say.

Reanna lets out a small scream of anxiety.

REANNA (cont' d)

God, I hope this goes well. I am so sick of dating "bad boys".

ANGELA

Hey, it could be worse. You could always go out with the nice guy. The safe choice. The one your mom loves. I want to date a bad boy and live on the edge.

REANNA

Just because you've managed to skip the asshole stage doesn't mean you have to go back and catch up.

ANGELA

I guess.

Reanna starts back to her bedroom.

ANGELA (cont' d)

O.K. There's this guy.

Reanna quickly turns back to Angel a.

REANNA

You met a guy! Who?

ANGELA

Well, he's in my astronomy class. At least, I think. I've never seen him there before. But anyway, he's kind of the "I Don't Play by the Rules" type, but he's funny.

REANNA

So, go for it. When are you going to see him again?

A KNOCK on the door. Reanna looks at Angel a, who smiles smugly. Reanna rolls her eyes and goes to answer the door. It's Dave wearing the exact same shirt as Angel a's father: a loud bowling shirt.

DAVE

Hey. I'm Dave.

REANNA

Reanna.

They shake hands as Angel a arrives at the door with her bookbag.

DAVE

Ready?

Angel a nods.

DAVE (cont'd)
Let's roll.

As they leave, Reanna checks Dave out.

INT. MEGAN'S ROOM - NIGHT

The study group consists of granola BARRY, chain-smoking MEGAN, and intellectual nerd PHILLIP. A KNOCK on the door and Megan answers it. It's Dave and Angel a.

ANGELA
Hey. This is Dave.

MEGAN
Megan.

They shake hands.

MEGAN (cont'd)
This is Barry and Phillip.

DAVE
Who's ready for some quasars?

INT. SLACKERS' ROOM - NIGHT

Sam is wearing a nice shirt and slacks and grabs his keys from the bookshelf. Jeff enters from his bedroom.

JEFF
Where's Dave?

SAM
At some study group.

JEFF
Loser. Where are you going all dressed up?

SAM
The Hillel's having a free all-you-can eat buffet.

JEFF
Knock yourself out.

SAM
Later.

He exits. Jeff looks around for something to do.

Finding nothing, he grabs a porno magazine from the bookshelf and drops his pants. He sits on the couch thumbing through the magazine.

He's playing with himself when suddenly he stops. He pauses for a moment, considering something.

Then, with some difficulty, he pulls his legs up under himself into a familiar position: He's sitting Indian Style.

INT. MEGAN'S ROOM - NIGHT

The group studies. Dave is deathly bored.

BARRY

But why does the mass square have to be connected to an integral in relation to the pressure of the gravitating matter?

ANGELA

It's the only formulation that holds for Newtonian gravity and GRT.

PHILLIP

Forget all that. He's not going to ask that. It's all redshift formulae.

DAVE

Which is, of course, the strongest argument for blowing this all off and getting some pizza.

BARRY

Well maybe you're an expert in astrophysics, but we could use the study time.

DAVE

O.K., you're right. But didn't you think this class was going to be more about looking at the stars and appreciating their beauty than mathematical formulas and crap?

Barry and Phillip start CHORTLING like complete dorks.

PHILLIP

No.

ANGELA

I think what Dave's saying is that we can't lose sight of the big picture here. We've got a final in less than a month.

DAVE

No, what I'm saying is who cares about any of this?

PHILLIP
About a billion Alpha Centaurians.

He chortles again, and Barry high-fives him.

DAVE
Hey, guys. I heard the manager training program is really top notch over at Radio Shack.

MEGAN
Hey, let's take a break. I need a smoke.

She grinds out her cigarette and takes out another one. Phillip and Barry continue the discussion in the corner. Dave and Angela step outside, into the

HALLWAY

ANGELA
What was that all about?

DAVE
Oh, sorry. I just think some people need to question authority a little more.

ANGELA
I forgot. You're a rebel.

DAVE
Hey, everybody is just trying to find their place in the world.

Angela flinches ever so slightly and looks into his eyes.

ANGELA
I couldn't agree more.

Dave laughs and looks at Angela warmly. She puts her hand on his shoulder. He enjoys the moment, then slowly returns to business.

DAVE
Hey, I've got this friend Ethan and he's been trying to get me to volunteer at the soup kitchen--

ANGELA
I know Ethan. He was volunteering at the hospital.

DAVE
Cool. Well, he's always telling me to give back to the community.

ANGELA

Yeah, Ethan's really dedicated.

DAVE

So, you and Ethan are like what,
dating or something?

ANGELA

No!

DAVE

Sorry. I just thought. You know,
he's a good looking guy, right?

ANGELA

I guess someone out there might
think so.

Dave can see she's holding back.

DAVE

What?

ANGELA

Look. I know he's your friend,
but...

DAVE

What? I won't say anything.

ANGELA

He just... I don't know. He creeps
me out a little. I feel like he's
staring at me all the time, but
when I turn to look at him, he
looks away. And not to mention the
fact that he "accidentally"
molested an old lady at the
hospital.

Dave becomes indignant.

DAVE

Yeah, well, Ethan spent four years
in a mental institution, so maybe
you could cut him a little slack.

ANGELA

Oh my God! I'm so sorry.

DAVE

No, I'm just kidding.

ANGELA

You jerk!

She playfully punches him.

DAVE
Just trying to keep you on your toes.

ANGELA
What's the big deal with Ethan anyway?

She looks deep into his eyes.

DAVE
Hey, what can I say, I think the guy likes you.

ANGELA
Oh, well tell him to pass me a note in study hall.

DAVE
All right. I'm sorry I brought it up. I--

She KISSES him on the lips. He's caught completely off guard, but it's a pleasant surprise. She pulls away and Dave opens his eyes.

DAVE (cont'd)
What was that for?

ANGELA
Just trying to keep you on your toes.

Dave is still a little rattled.

DAVE
I think we better get back to the discussion.

ANGELA
Dave, can I ask you a question?

DAVE
Sure.

ANGELA
What's with the shirt? You look like my dad.

Angela laughs and walks back to the group. Dave laughs to himself then catches up.

INT. JAPANESE RESTAURANT ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Sam enters with Reanna. The MAITRE D' greets them.

MAITRE D'
Table for two? Do you have a
reservation?

Sam looks over the reservation book and reads the upside down names.

SAM
Fujitsu. Right here.

He points to the name. The Maître D' looks him over, but Sam keeps a straight face.

INT. JAPANESE RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Sam and Reanna are enjoying an awkward silence when Reanna breaks it.

REANNA
So . . . Am I what you expected?

Sam looks up at her briefly.

SAM
I guess so.

More silence. Then, the waiter arrives with their bottle of sake.

SAM (cont'd)
Sake?

REANNA
O.K.

Sam pours her cup full and they down it. Reanna cringes.

REANNA (cont'd)
It's warm!

SAM
But it's good, right?

REANNA
It's disgusting.

SAM
I'm sorry. I guess it's sort of an
acquired taste.

Reanna looks at Sam's dispirited face and fills up her cup again. She downs the shot. She shudders. For the first time, Sam smiles.

REANNA
I'm trying to acquire it.

She starts laughing, then Sam joins in.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

Plates of food being delivered to their table: Skewers of eel, another bottle of sake, sushi, sardine smelts, some beer, more sake, more sushi, sukiyaki, more sake.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. JAPANESE RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Later. Reanna is stinking drunk and Sam's pleasantly toasted himself. Sam still has a big plate of beef sukiyaki in front of him but has devoured most of it.

SAM

Two words: Independent Study. I'm getting eight credits this semester alone just for surfing the web and telling some Cultural Anthropology grad student about it.

Reanna laughs. She's having a great time. Sam digs in for another large spoonful and Reanna is mesmerized.

REANNA

Are you going to finish the whole thing?

SAM

Can't ... let it ... beat me.
Bonzai!

She happily raises her sake glass and they down another pair of shots.

INT. PARTY ROOM - NIGHT

A party is raging. Various STUDENTS are dancing and drinking. Sam and Reanna are dancing closely. Reanna yells to Sam:

REANNA

I don't feel so good. Let's go lie down in the bedroom.

Sam smiles.

SAM

Uh, O.K.

They walk into the

BEDROOM

The two sit on the edge of the bed. Sam smiles smugly and puts his arm around Reanna.

SAM (cont'd)
So, you're not feeling well, huh?

REANNA
No, I'm starting to feel better.
I just need to lie down.

He looks at her. She looks at him. Sam leans in and kisses her. She looks into his eyes. Then she kisses him back. A long passionate kiss. Suddenly, a GURGLE from Reanna stomach. She pulls back for a moment.

SAM
Are you all right?

REANNA
Yeah.

He leans in to kiss her again. She smiles. A BURP. He pauses. She smiles again, a little embarrassed.

He kisses her. Then, Reanna BLOWS CHUNKS. Sam pulls back quickly, but the PROJECTILE VOMIT splashes his face and mouth.

FREEZE on SAM, REANNA, and the MID-AIR VOMIT.

DAVE (V.O.)
I've never had someone throw up in my mouth before, but I'm guessing it's a romance killer. Kind of reminds me of the time Jeff was doing whippets all night long and put his dick in the Jiffy Pop Popcorn. Man that shit is hot. But that's some good corn. And there's nothing more trippy than watching that foil expanding on the stove. I remember sophomore year, we wouldn't even eat the popcorn. We'd just put batch after batch on our little hot plate, watching it go.

(beat)
Oh, right. So anyway...

UNFREEZE.

The vomit continues its voyage onto Sam with a loud SQUISH. After the initial shock, Sam looks down on Reanna, doubled over on the ground. Sam can't seem to find the right words for a situation like this. After a beat,

SAM
Are you all right?

She looks up at him. Those weren't the words.

INT. OUTSIDE ANGELA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Sam drops off Reanna. She's humiliated and looks at the ground as she leans against the door. Sam opens his mouth to say something, but no words come out. He shrugs an apology and walks away.

REANNA
(calling after him)
Call me!

She opens the door and FALLS into the room.

INT. SLACKERS' ROOM - NIGHT

Jeff is sitting on the couch Indian Style, reading "Inside the CIA." Sam enters.

JEFF
How was the food? You get enough to eat?

INT. SLACKERS' ROOM - DAY

The next day. Jeff is at the computer. Onscreen, he's creating a sheet of Dominos pizza coupons: "Two Large pizzas, \$10.99". Sam passes by and sees his handiwork.

SAM
Make it nine ninety-nine.

JEFF
Don't get greedy, fuckhead.

SAM
Whatever.

Dave enters the common room from his bedroom. He grabs his coat.

SAM (cont'd)
S' up.

DAVE
S' up.

SAM
Where you headed?

DAVE
Meeting the weasel.

SAM
Cool. I'm going that way.

He grabs his coat and exits with Dave who raises an eyebrow at his unusual decision to leave the room.

EXT. CAMPUS - DAY

The two walk across the courtyard of their dorm building, past busy STUDENTS in between classes.

SAM
How'd the study group go?

DAVE
That Angela. She's very . . .

SAM
Hot?

DAVE
I was going to say "interesting".
But she's hot too.

Sam lowers his voice.

SAM
Let me ask you something.

DAVE
O. K.

SAM
Have you ever had a serious
relationship before?

DAVE
I don't know. I guess not. I mean,
it's mostly hook-ups and short-
term stuff.

SAM
So you've never been in love
before?

DAVE
How the hell should I know? What
am I, Mr. Men Are From Fucking
Mars? What's with the twenty
questions?

Sam confides in Dave.

SAM
I went out with this girl last
night. She's Angela's roommate.
Reanna.

DAVE
No shit. You went out with Reanna?
That's great! Why didn't you say
something?

SAM

I don't think I'm going to see her again. The date didn't go too well.

DAVE

Dude, let me give you a little advice. There's two kinds of regret in this world, for things you did but wish you hadn't done, and for things you wish you'd had the nerve to try. The second kind of regret is far more painful.

SAM

O.K. Lao Tzu. What's the relevance?

DAVE

You should see this girl again. Give it another shot. Remember the motto of the Connecticut State Lottery: "You can't win if you don't play".

SAM

I don't think so.

DAVE

Why not?

SAM

It's just not that important to me.

DAVE

Right.

SAM

Seriously.

DAVE

O.K. Whatever.

An awkward silence.

DAVE (cont'd)

Is there something else you want to talk about?

SAM

Yeah, I guess so.

DAVE

Well . . .

SAM

I don't think you should keep seeing Angela.

DAVE
I'm not "seeing" Angel a.

Dave is a little embarrassed. He's avoiding eye contact.

DAVE (cont'd)
I mean, she's really sharp. I like that. And she's got the greatest laugh. But going out with Angel a would be too . . . what'd you say? Serious.

SAM
Good. Because if you start liking this girl, then this Ethan plan is going to seriously fuck things up. He's going to turn us in.

DAVE
No he's not. It's under control.

Sam stops walking.

SAM
It's not under control. This guy saw you in the classroom. He saw me after the test. And he's got your name and phone number on the goddamn the test to prove it.

DAVE
I'm sorry.

SAM
Ethan can get us kicked out of school at any time. He is a serious threat. Maybe you don't have anything to lose. But I do. I need to graduate and I need to get into law school. I can't afford to stay in college forever, Dave. And I don't want to either.

DAVE
So what do you want me to do?

SAM
I want you to stick to the fucking plan.

Sam storms off in the other direction. Dave is puzzled by the exchange.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Amid the university stacks, Ethan and Dave talk in a study carrel.

DAVE

I talked to her. She thinks you're
a fucking loon. She said you
molested some old lady.

ETHAN

That lady was a professional whore!

DAVE

Easy there, partner. Look. All I's
I'm saying is you've got to do a
better job at this volunteer crap
if you want to get in with her.
And try to be a little more
sensitive.

Dave pulls a Snickers bar out of his pocket and starts to eat it. Ethan stares at him.

ETHAN

I know you guys think I'm some
kind of nut case for trying to get
Angela to like me.

Dave puts down the Snickers bar.

DAVE

No, we think you're a nut job
because you're blackmailing us to
get Angela to like you.

ETHAN

Noted.

DAVE

How do you even know if this girl
is right for you?

ETHAN

I just do.

DAVE

Let me ask you a question. Are you
just trying to sleep with Angela,
or do you want to make her fall in
love with you?

ETHAN

Well, I really want her to fall in
love with me, but I'd definitely
settle for sleeping with her.

DAVE

Well you know what? That's not
going to work. You have to choose.

ETHAN

Fine. I want her to fall in love
with me.

DAVE

So, you're ready to commit
yourself to this girl for the rest
of your life?

ETHAN

Sure.

DAVE

Remember the bus scene in "The
Graduate"?

ETHAN

Yeah, he's swinging the cross and
they get on the bus.

DAVE

Yeah, right. They're sitting there
in the back of the bus all pumped
up and excited because they just
ran off together. So Nichols is
letting the film run out on the
camera or something and he tells
Dustin Hoffman and Catherine Ross
to cut. So they stop acting. They
just sit there. They're not
smiling any more. They're just
tired I guess from acting all day.
Turns out, Nichols keeps it in the
film. He loves their ironic
expressions like, "what the hell
did we just do?"

ETHAN

O.K. So?

DAVE

So? So just make sure that when
this girl falls in love with you,
you're not sitting on the bus
wondering "what the hell did I
just do?"

Ethan contemplates the suggestion.

EXT. SCIENCE HILL - DAY

Dave and Angela walk down science hill towards the campus bus stop.

DAVE

I think it's great you know what
you want to be.

ANGELA

I've always wanted to be a doctor.
I know it's sounds stupid, but I
guess I just like helping people.

DAVE

It doesn't sound stupid.

ANGELA

My mom was a doctor. She died when
I was eleven.

DAVE

I'm sorry.

ANGELA

It's O.K. My dad married my step-
mom freshman year in college.

DAVE

Your step-mom...

ANGELA

She's a little strange, but even
she volunteers at the YMCA, so you
could say helping people runs in
the family.

DAVE

Wait. Your step-mom volunteers at
the YMCA?

ANGELA

Yeah, she helps out with the boys
swim team. Why?

DAVE

Oh, nothing.

They arrive at the bus stop.

ANGELA

What about you? "What do you want
to be when you grow up"?

DAVE

I don't know. I always tell people
I wish I could just stay in
college forever.

ANGELA

Well, if you don't start studying
for the Astro Final, you might get
your chance.

The bus arrives. Angela steps on, followed by Dave.

INT. CAMPUS BUS - DAY

They take a seat and the bus starts heading across campus. As the sun begins to set over the campus, Dave and Angela enjoy the view out the window. Then,

ANGELA
Ching Ped.

DAVE
Excuse me?

ANGELA
Ching Ped.

DAVE
Who's Ching Ped?

ANGELA
When I was a little girl, I used to think that the Chinese built the roads in America -- someone must have told me the Chinese built the railroads and I guess I got confused. When the Chinese workers finished paving the road, they'd write "Ching Ped" on it in big white letters, in honor of who I assumed was their emperor or something: "Ching Ped."

Dave looks out the window and sees the road marking "XING PED".

DAVE
Pedestrian Crossing. Ching Ped. I get it.

She laughs.

ANGELA
I must have been about sixteen when I realized it wasn't in Chinese.

Dave looks into her eyes. He's mesmerized.

DAVE
You're a very unusual girl.

He can't take his eyes off of her.

EXT. MAIN QUAD - NIGHT

Dave and Angela are walking across the main campus.

DAVE
I want you to meet my roommates.
Do you mind stopping by my room?

ANGELA
No problem.

INT. SLACKERS' ROOM - NIGHT

Dave enters with Angel a.

DAVE
This is Sam and that over there is
Jeff. Angel a.

Sam is reading an Archie comic book and downing a jar of Bacos. Jeff is at the computer.

SAM
Hey.

JEFF
S' up.

ANGELA
Nice to meet you.

SAM
Dave, you mind if I talk to you
for a second in private?

DAVE
Hang out a sec.

Dave walks into his bedroom. Sam follows.

DAVE'S ROOM

Sam grabs Dave's arm.

SAM
What are you doing?

DAVE
What?

SAM
Dude, you're like fucking Alfred
inviting Vicki Vale back to the
Bat Cave.

DAVE
Chill out. She's cool.

SAM
I think you're taking this a
little too far.

DAVE
I wanted you to meet her. You'll
see it's under control.

SAM
My Spidey-Sense is telling me this
is going to backfire.

DAVE
O.K., Mr. Negative Man.

COMMON ROOM

Angela walks over to Jeff, who is feeding some pages through a scanner. Next to him is a stack of assorted fake coupons.

ANGELA
What are you doing?

JEFF
Scanning.

ANGELA
O.K., what are you scanning?

DAVE (O.S.)
Jeff tends to be somewhat of a
borrower.

Dave and Sam have returned. Jeff turns to them, looking for a signal.

DAVE
Angela's cool. She's not going to
rat you out.

Angela lowers her voice.

ANGELA
No. No, of course not.

She's suddenly very interested in the conspiracy.

ANGELA (cont'd)
What's going on?

DAVE
He borrows other people's papers
and copies them.

Angela takes a step back in surprise. Sam is very uncomfortable with this revelation.

ANGELA
You're kidding me. Doesn't the
professor see the similarity?

Jeff looks at Dave who subtly nods. Jeff acquiesces.

JEFF

Look, you think a T.A. would notice if he read two identical papers out of a hundred?

ANGELA

Yes.

JEFF

What are the odds?

ANGELA

I don't know. Ninety percent?

JEFF

So you're admitting that ten percent of the time the T.A.'s not going to notice. And you also have to factor in the possibility of different T.A.'s reading the papers, or maybe nobody reads the papers at all and they just throw 'em down the staircase to grade 'em.

ANGELA

O.K.

JEFF

And now, what if you take four different papers and cut and paste paragraphs from them to make a new original paper? What are the odds then?

ANGELA

I don't know.

DAVE

Exactly.

ANGELA

When's it due?

JEFF

Half hour.

Angela shows a little moral indignation.

ANGELA

So you guys are a bunch of cheaters?

DAVE
Let's just say rules were made to
be circumvented.

Dave chuckles to himself.

DAVE (cont'd)
Remember the time you got an
extension on your term paper
because of Ramadan?

Sam's still uneasy.

SAM
Yeah. I remember.

DAVE
But the fasting wasn't really
worth it.

ANGELA
And you guys never go to class?

JEFF
I went to an African American
Studies class once.

Angela walks over to the blinds and opens them. She looks out the window.

ANGELA
You don't go outside much, do you?

SAM
If outside's so great, why'd they
invent inside?

ANGELA
Explain something to me. If you
never go to class, how can you
possibly do well?

SAM
I've got a 3.8 GPA.

JEFF
Three seven five.

Angela looks to Dave, but he shrugs.

DAVE
Don't look at me.

ANGELA
Isn't there something wrong about
all this?

JEFF

You think five years from now your boss at "Global Com Corp" is gonna care whether you give him your report or you give him a report? Fuck no. All he cares about is that the fucking report is right so he can take his damn wife to the Hamptons for the weekend to get the bitch off his back.

SAM

I've got some reading to get back to.

DAVE

We're heading out to dinner anyway. You guys want to join?

JEFF

No. Paper. Remember?

SAM

Get me a cheesesteak at Bulldog.

He holds out a twenty dollar bill and returns to his comic book. Dave rolls his eyes, snatches it, then leaves with Angela.

INT. DINING HALL - NIGHT

Angela and Dave are eating their dinners. Angela is still a little shocked.

ANGELA

It's like a whole underground culture.

DAVE

I guess you could say that.

ANGELA

I never knew those kind of people existed. I mean, it never even occurred to me to cheat. Well, actually, once, in junior high, the teacher left the room during a science test. I remember Tommy Meldeau took out a cheat sheet and passed it to me. As soon as I realized what it was I turned bright red and passed it on.

DAVE

You're not exactly cut out for that lifestyle. You have to have a high level of confidence.

ANGELA
I'm confident.

DAVE
I know. You are. I guess what I'm saying is you have to look at the way things are done in life and say, "my way's better". Not many people are willing to go out on that limb.

ANGELA
So you're a cheater too?

DAVE
No. Well, I'm not going to lie to you. I've skirted the rules once or twice. It's hard not to with those two guys as your roommates.

ANGELA
And you really want to stay in college forever?

DAVE
Sam is going to law school next year and Jeff's interviewing to be an investment banker. I know what's waiting for me out there. Working fourteen hour days and being too tired to go out when you get home.

(beat)
Dating. Bars. Complaining that it's so hard to meet people.

ANGELA
It doesn't have to be like that.

DAVE
Maybe not. But at least I have the foresight to enjoy college while I'm still in it. Look at my life. I wake up when I want to. I hardly even know what day of the week it is. I've got friends everywhere, fun around the corner, and all in an intellectual environment. Fun, smart people as far as the eye can see.

ANGELA
Hey, if you think sitting around all day drinking beer is paradise, then maybe we should just agree to disagree.

DAVE
That's not it. It's not about
drinking or partying. It's about
being surrounded by your friends.
It's about camaraderie.

ANGELA
But what about learning and
committing to something and seeing
it through to the end?

No answer.

ANGELA (cont'd)
Don't you ever want to accomplish
anything?

Dave puts down his fork.

DAVE
Yes. I do. Some day.

ANGELA
Good. I don't know if I could ever
fall for a slacker.

She blushes slightly as she looks into Dave's eyes. Dave is entranced. He can't take his eyes off of her. After a moment, he breaks free.

DAVE
Listen, Angel a. About the other
night.

ANGELA
Which night?

DAVE
When you kissed me.

ANGELA
Yeah? What about it?

Dave is torn. He hesitates. Finally,

DAVE
I'm just not ready for anything
serious. O.K.?

She pulls back slightly before she can begin feigning indifference.

ANGELA
Hey. That's fine. Whatever.

EXT. MAIN QUAD - DAY

It's getting colder on this late November day. STUDENTS fight the wind bundled in their heavy coats and scarves.

INT. HOSPITAL - GERIATRIC WARD - DAY

Ethan walks through the hallway with Angelia. Noticeably friendlier, she points out some of the medical equipment to Ethan.

EXT. POST OFFICE - DAY

Jeff is leaning against the wall of mail boxes waiting for Sam to get his mail. Sam closes his box and turns around quickly, bumping into Reanna heading towards her box. It's an awkward moment as the two try to avoid eye contact.

SAM

Hey. What's up?

REANNA

Not much.

SAM

So. I've been really busy.

REANNA

Yeah. Me too.

SAM

I should call you.

REANNA

Great. Great.

SAM

Yeah. Well . . .

REANNA

Good seeing you.

SAM

Yeah.

Sam squeezes by her and continues down the hallway with Jeff.

JEFF

Chicks.

But Sam is still embarrassed by the awkwardness of the situation.

INT. MEGAN'S ROOM - NIGHT

The study group. While Barry and Phillip debate some esoteric point, Angela looks over and catches Dave glancing at her. Dave breaks eye contact and turns a little red. Angela smiles.

INT. SOUP KITCHEN - DAY

Ethan and Angela are behind the counter ladling out soup to the hungry HOMELESS.

ETHAN

Hey, Angela. I was wondering if I could ask for some advice.

ANGELA

All right.

ETHAN

It's about my girl friend. Stephanie.

ANGELA

Yeah?

ETHAN

We've been together for a long time, but she's up in Boston. She goes to school there.

ANGELA

So what's the problem?

ETHAN

Well, I just feel like we're drifting apart. Do you think it's normal for a couple to drift apart like that just because they're long-distance?

ANGELA

Well, no. I mean, if you guys are committed to each other, you're going to make it. Distance makes it harder, but you can overcome that obstacle. When you drift apart, I'm afraid it's because there's not enough there keeping you together.

ETHAN

Yeah, that's what I thought.

HOMELESS GUY

Dump the bitch.

ANGELA

All right. Thank you for your unsolicited opinion.

ETHAN

I'm "keeping it real", man.

The homeless guy moves on.

ANGELA

I'm sorry.

She puts her hand on his.

ANGELA (cont'd)

I have something I want to ask you.

ETHAN

Sure. Anything.

ANGELA

It's about this guy I've become friends with. He's a friend of yours.

Ethan smiles smugly.

ETHAN

Really?

ANGELA

He's a little strange, but I really like him.

ETHAN

Go on.

ANGELA

We're so different. But he's confident and spontaneous. I can tell he likes me, no matter what he says. So what do you think? Should I keep pressing him? Find out what's holding him back?

ETHAN

Definitely.

ANGELA

Really?

ETHAN

He's probably just a little shy.

He smiles coyly, revealing his gruesome features. She looks into his eyes.

ANGELA
Thanks, Ethan.

ETHAN
So, do you want to get together
tonight for dinner?

ANGELA
No, I'm going out with Dave. I
think I'm going to tell him how I
feel.

ETHAN
Dave?

ANGELA
Yeah. Your friend. The guy I've
been talking about.

Ethan tries to control his rage, but he's turning bright red.

ETHAN
Oh, right. Dave. Nice guy. Good
luck.

He scoops some mashed potatoes onto another HOMELESS GUY's tray. But Ethan's in a trance.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ETHAN'S FANTASY CHAMBER - NIGHT

Dave is shackled to the dungeon wall. He's been beaten. Ethan walks over to him.

ETHAN
"Ethan's not cool." "He's not one
of us." "Hey, I was thinking about
you." "Really?" "No!" Now you can
watch me make love to your
girlfriend.

Dave tries to speak, but he doesn't have the strength. Ethan walks across the room, where Angela is tied to a bed, wearing only her bra and panties. Ethan glides over to her. He grabs a sponge from the small tub next to the bed.

ETHAN (cont'd)
Now it's time for your sponge bath.

ANGELA
That's right. I'm so dirty.

He begins sponging her stomach, while inhaling her hair.

ETHAN
You like this?

ANGELA

Oh, yes.

ETHAN

Lower?

ANGELA

Lower. Oh, yes. Right there.

As Ethan's hand moves below the equator, Ethan's face reflects pure ecstasy.

ANGELA (cont'd)

Does it feel good?

Ethan is in heaven.

ANGELA (cont'd)

Does it feel good?

Ethan is still in complete joy.

MAN'S VOICE

Does it feel good?

Ethan looks up at her, confused.

CUT TO:

INT. SOUP KITCHEN - DAY

A BURLY HOMELESS MAN is staring at Ethan.

BURLY HOMELESS MAN

Does it feel good?

Ethan looks down at his hands. They're wrist-deep in the creamed spinach.

ANGELA

What are you doing?

Embarrassed, Ethan pulls his hands out of the spinach and scoops some onto the Burlly Man's plate.

BURLY HOMELESS MAN

I'm not eating that, you fucking retard!

Ethan EXPLODES.

ETHAN

Don't call me that!

He TIPS THE PLATE OVER onto the man, CLIMBS OVER the food counter, and LUNGES at him.

The cadre of HOMELESS PEOPLE respond in force. The Burly Man throws Ethan off of him and the other homeless start beating Ethan senseless. One OLD LADY keeps yelling, "Kick him in the nads! Kick him in the NADS!" Angel a tries to break it up, but it's no use.

INT. SEMI NAR ROOM - DAY

Dave's rarely attended philosophy seminar. About twenty STUDENTS sit around a conference table headed by a young PROFESSOR SCHMIDTZ. Dave is zoning out.

PHILOSOPHY STUDENT
But I think what Hegel was saying
was that man creates art to
achieve permanence in an otherwise
ephemeral world.

PROFESSOR SCHMIDTZ
Good, Josh. So then, would art,
like procreation itself, be an
effort to touch the divine? Dave,
good to see you this evening. What
do you think?

Dave snaps out of his trance.

DAVE
Huh?

PROFESSOR SCHMIDTZ
Oh, I'm sorry if we're boring you.
We were comparing art to
procreation. Do you have anything
to add to the discussion?

Dave struggles to think of something. Finally,

DAVE
No. I guess not.

PROFESSOR SCHMIDTZ
Anyone else?

A bunch of hands go up.

INT. SLACKERS' ROOM - NIGHT

Dave rushes into the room where Sam is waiting for him. Dave starts looking around for something.

SAM
Where have you been?

DAVE
Around. Why? What's up?

SAM
I need to talk to you.

DAVE
Not now. I'm late.

SAM
Where are you going?

DAVE
Out. With Angel a.

Dave avoids eye contact with Sam and picks up a blanket off the couch.

SAM
I thought you weren't seeing her.

DAVE
I'm not. I don't know. I like her, all right. Is there anything wrong with that?

Dave grabs a bottle of wine and two glasses.

SAM
But we talked about this...

Dave turns to Sam.

DAVE
Look, man. What's your problem? Maybe I am ready for something more substantial. I mean why am I turning this girl away? She's sharp, funny, beautiful. This could be something really... important. I'm sorry, but I can't just let that pass me by.

SAM
Don't you get it? Do I have to spell this out for you? It's us or it's her. You have to choose. You can't have it both ways.

DAVE
Whatever.

Dave turns to leave. Sam grabs his shoulder.

SAM
Just don't do something you'll live to regret.

Dave looks Sam in the eye for a moment. Was that a threat? Dave exits.

Sam walks into his
BEDROOM,
where Ethan is waiting in the shadow for him.

ETHAN
So it looks like we have a mutual
problem we'd both like to solve.

INT. RICKETY STAIRCASE - NIGHT

The two are climbing a cobweb-filled staircase that looks like it hasn't been used in years.

DAVE
We're almost there. Here, take my
hand.

Dave pushes open the ancient door to reveal a rooftop.

EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT

They step up onto the roof. Angela looks around. It's a beautiful panoramic view of the small city. But more importantly, the gothic rooftop is crowned by an amazing starry night. Dave carries a blanket. Angela looks up at the stars.

ANGELA
It's amazing.

Dave spreads out the blanket.

DAVE
Come over here and sit down.

Angela looks at Dave with a twinkle in her eye.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT

The two are drinking wine and sitting on the blanket.

DAVE
You were a pretty good kid growing up.

ANGELA
How do you know that?

DAVE
I can tell. You're not the rebellious type.

ANGELA

I guess that's true. I never
really had a fundamental distrust
of authority like you.

DAVE

The revolution will not be
televised.

ANGELA

You see? You can't even have a
serious conversation.

Dave laughs, then Angela joins in.

DAVE

I'm sorry. You're right. I just
feel really comfortable around you.

Angela is pleasantly surprised. She looks at him and he
smiles. She leans in and KISSES him. A soft romantic kiss.
Dave pulls back for a second and looks into Angela's eyes.

DAVE (cont'd)

Angela . . .

ANGELA

I know. You're not ready for this.
Well, you know what? I think
you're lying to me.

He considers one last time, then succumbs to the moment and
kisses her. While kissing, Dave gently lowers her down onto
the blanket.

INT. DINING HALL - DAY

Dave is eating his lunch when Ethan shows up and sits down.

DAVE

You're late.

ETHAN

I was at an interview.

DAVE

For what?

ETHAN

An investment bank in New York.
Stockton Upright.

DAVE

You're kidding? My roommate Jeff
is interviewing there.

ETHAN

Well I hope he gets hit by a bus,
because I really need that job.

DAVE

Real nice.

ETHAN

I've been on twenty interviews and
they're my last shot.

DAVE

Whatever. Let's get down to
business.

ETHAN

O.K. I'm ready for step 12-A. I'm
going to tell her I broke up with
my girl friend and I'm in love with
her.

Dave is unnerved.

DAVE

Don't you think it's too soon?

ETHAN

We've become friends. It's been
like four weeks.

DAVE

Good. That's good.

ETHAN

I told you, I'm ready.

DAVE

Are you sure you want to go
through with this?

Ethan stares at Dave coldly.

ETHAN

I'm sure. Are you?

Dave stands up and circles the table. He weighs his choices.

DAVE

O.K. Look. When you tell her,
she's gonna freak out. That's a
good sign. You've got to tell her
then get out of there. Just walk
away. This is not the end game.
This is just the beginning. Let
her simmer.

(more)

DAVE (cont'd)
You're going to have to work on
her day and night afterwards. So
after you tell her, just get the
hell away from her for a while.

ETHAN
Can do.

Dave is torn.

DAVE
Great.

Ethan gets up to leave. On the way out,

ETHAN
Wish me luck.

DAVE
Yeah, right.

INT. CAMPUS PUB - DAY

Dave is reading an astronomy text book and drinking a beer in this dark campus tavern. Sam enters with a sheet of paper.

SAM
Dude, I've been looking for you.

DAVE
What's up?

SAM
Take a look at my essay.

Dave looks it over quickly.

DAVE
You never fucking worked at the
soup kitchen... Or read Latino
poetry to disabled children.

SAM
And?

DAVE
You can't fucking write this shit.

SAM
You think Harvard's gonna run a
background check?

DAVE
No. It's just. I don't know.

SAM

Look. I'm asking you one simple question. Is this essay going to get me into the Harvard fucking Law School. I don't want to know the legal or ethical implications of bending the truth. And I don't care what happens when a fucking butterfly flaps his wings in Mexico. Just tell me is the essay any good.

DAVE

Yeah. It's good.

SAM

Thank you.

Sam snatches the paper back. Dave stands up, downs the last of his beer, then exits the bar. Sam is irritated.

INT. ANGELA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Angela is studying, when there's a KNOCK at the door. She opens it to reveal Ethan.

ETHAN

Angela, there's something I wanted to discuss with you.

ANGELA

Come on in.

They sit down on the couch.

ANGELA (cont'd)

Is it about your girl friend? You two broke up.

ETHAN

Well, yes. Sort of.

(beat)

Look. There never was a girl friend in Boston.

ANGELA

What?

ETHAN

I made it up because it made it easier to become friends with you.

ANGELA

You did what?

ETHAN

Stephanie never existed. I just thought it would be easier to get close to you if I seemed less... threatening.

ANGELA

Why would you lie to me? What possible reason would you have to make up something like that?

ETHAN

I don't know. I'm sorry. But there's something else I have to tell you.

ANGELA

Let me guess, your name's not really Ethan. You're with the CIA and you're on a dangerous mission.

ETHAN

No. I'm falling in love with you.

Angela is visibly shaken.

ANGELA

What?

Ethan turns to her and takes her hand.

ETHAN

I love you.

Angela walks away and starts pacing.

ANGELA

But we hardly even know each other. I mean, it's crazy.

ETHAN

I know. I didn't expect this to happen, but it did. I want to be with you. I want you to love me.

He pulls out of his pocket a small doll. On closer inspection, the doll appears to be made entirely out of human hair.

ETHAN (cont'd)

Here. I made this for you. I made it from the pieces of hair you shed in history class.

She reluctantly takes the doll and looks it over. Slightly revolted, she puts it down on the table.

ANGELA

Ethan. I -- This is crazy. I -- I
don't know what to say.

ETHAN

Say that you love me too.

ANGELA

But I don't even know you. I don't
even know your favorite color.

ETHAN

Burnt sienna.

ANGELA

O. K. Well . . .

ETHAN

Angela, I know we can be a great
couple together. I know that one
day you'll feel the same way about
me as I do about you.

ANGELA

Ethan . . .

ETHAN

I don't expect you to understand.
But I want you to think about it.
I didn't want this to happen. It
just did. I'm sorry.

He gets up to leave. Angela is frustrated and embarrassed,
but she's trying to be compassionate.

ANGELA

Ethan, wait.

Ethan looks back for a second, then leaves. Angela sits there
a moment, freaked out by what just happened. She lets out a
small SCREAM and grabs her coat.

INT. DAVE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Angela enters Dave's bedroom. Dave is half asleep and throws
on a t-shirt before sitting with Angela on the edge of the
bed.

ANGELA

Ethan told me he loves me.

DAVE

What?

ANGELA

He told me he loves me.

DAVE
What did you say?

ANGELA
Nothing.

Dave rubs his eyes.

DAVE
Well, what do you want to do?

She looks down.

ANGELA
What do you want me to do?

Dave fights his urge to tell her the truth. Finally,

DAVE
It's not my call.

ANGELA
Yeah, that's what I thought.

DAVE
What do you want me to say?

She starts tearing up.

ANGELA
Tell me that you love me and that
you can't live without me. Tell me
that the other night meant
something to you.

He looks into her eyes.

DAVE
I... I...

But he can't say it.

DAVE (cont'd)
I don't know what to tell you,
Angela.

ANGELA
I guess you aren't very bright
after all.

She gets up to leave.

DAVE
Where are you going?

ANGELA

I'm going home. You know what?
You're right. This is my decision
and I don't know why I thought you
might want to be a part of it.

DAVE

Angel a.

ANGELA

I came here because I thought you
were special and Ethan was just a
loser with a crush on me. But now
I see that you're the loser.

INT. SEMINAR ROOM - DAY

Another seminar, another group of STUDENTS. PROFESSOR TAFT
moderates the discussion.

STUDENT #2

But Cyrano wouldn't fight for the
woman he loved. That's why it's a
tragedy.

PROFESSOR TAFT

Good. But what was Cyrano's tragic
flaw?

STUDENT #3

He was afraid. He was a coward.

DAVE

What the hell was he supposed to
do? Risk everything for a woman?
And there's no guarantee that when
they ride off into the sunset
there's not a big fucking cliff on
the other side.

Shocked, everyone stares at Dave.

PROFESSOR TAFT

Nice to see you in class, Dave.
But I think what Rostand was
saying is that the potential
reward was worth the risk and only
by recognizing that fact could
Cyrano truly become the man he
always wanted to be.

These words strike a chord with Dave. He reels back as the
discussion continues. He just sits there, thinking it over,
then he springs to life. Professor Taft watches silently as
Dave picks up his bookbag and exits.

INT. STUDENT UNION - NIGHT

Sam and Jeff are playing foosball. Dave enters.

SAM
Where the hell have you been all day?

DAVE
Class.

JEFF
Your classes?

DAVE
Yeah.

SAM
It's a strange way to deal with the fucking situation.

DAVE
I know.

He lets out a small SCREAM of frustration.

DAVE (cont'd)
I fucked this whole thing up.

SAM
That's an understatement.

JEFF
Dude, you shouldn't have slept with her. You made it personal.

DAVE
That's not what I'm talking about, you idiot. I fucked up because I let her get away.

SAM
So I let her go.

DAVE
To him? Let her go to that psychopath?

JEFF
I guess your plan worked after all.

DAVE
No. I've got to get her back before it's too late.

SAM
It's already too late.

DAVE
But I shi t. I did this and I can
undo this.

SAM
Dave, wait.

DAVE
Sam, I have to do this.

And he's gone. Jeff looks at Sam disapprovingly.

JEFF
You should have told him.

Sam forcefully slams the foosball into Jeff's goal.

INT. OUTSIDE ANGELA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Dave KNOCKS on the door. Reanna opens the door and walks away.

REANNA
This'll be interesting.

Dave enters.

INT. ANGELA'S ROOM - NIGHT

REANNA
Angel a. Someone here to see you.

After a beat, Angela comes out of her bedroom.

ANGELA
Dave. What are you doing here?

DAVE
I wanted to talk to you. About
Ethan.

ANGELA
I don't have anything to say to
you.

DAVE
What's going on? What did he tell
you?

She picks up some papers from the coffee table. Angela starts crying.

ANGELA
How could you?

DAVE
How could I what?

He takes the papers. They're her E-MAIL FILES that he and Sam had been going through.

ANGELA
I trusted you. I thought you really liked me.

DAVE
I do. Honest.

ANGELA
Get out.

DAVE
Who gave you those documents?

ANGELA
It doesn't matter.

Then, Ethan comes out of Angela's bedroom.

ETHAN
Angela?

Dave goes crazy.

DAVE
You're with him?!?

Angela pauses ever so slightly as the implication sets in and her response is formulated.

ANGELA
Yes. He loves me. He's been honest with me. He's not afraid of being honest about his feelings. Of being vulnerable.

Dave laughs.

DAVE
I told him what to do. Everything he said, everything he did, it was because of me.

ANGELA
He told me about your little plan. At least he had the guts to tell me the truth.

DAVE
Are you kidding me? This guy's a psychopath. The only reason you even give him the time of day is because of me.

ETHAN
I think you'd better leave.

DAVE
You fucking dick!

Dave TAKES A SWING at him. Ethan goes down. Angela rushes over to Ethan.

ANGELA
Get out! Now!

Angela starts pushing him out the door.

DAVE
What about the fun we had? What about finding our place in the world? Astronomy class.

ANGELA
YOU'RE NOT EVEN IN THAT CLASS!

She slams the door in his face.

OUTSIDE ANGELA'S ROOM

Dave just stands there. He doesn't know what just happened. He stares at the door for a moment longer, then turns to leave. The door OPENS and Dave turns back. It's Ethan.

ETHAN
Nicely done. I don't know about the black eye, but she seems to like it. Well, gotta go.

He starts to close the door when Dave grabs his arm firmly.

DAVE
Do you love her?

ETHAN
What?

Dave shakes him.

DAVE
Do you love her?

Ethan looks at Dave's grip on him, then at Dave. He smiles wickedly.

ETHAN
I do tonight.

Dave releases Ethan and he disappears behind the door. Dave sinks his head low and walks out of the dorm building.

EXT. OUTSIDE ANGELA'S DORM - NIGHT

Outside, Dave stops for a moment and looks up at Angela's window. There, he sees a silhouette of Angela and Ethan embracing.

He turns back and heads home, his anger overtaking him.

INT. ANGELA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Ethan is embracing Angela. Annoyed, she shoves him away.

ANGELA
Get off of me.

ETHAN
Sorry. I was just trying to help you get through this. To be there for you.

Angela softens and takes his hand.

ANGELA
I'm sorry. I'm just-- I don't know. This whole thing...

ETHAN
Do you want me to stay with you?

ANGELA
No, I think I'd better just be alone tonight. But thanks.

She hugs him. Behind her back, Ethan smiles devilishly.

INT. SAM'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dave enters Sam's bedroom and flips on the light. Dave's been drinking and looks disheveled. Sam awakens slowly.

SAM
What is it?

DAVE
How could you stab me in the back like that?

Sam gets up out of bed.

SAM
I was protecting us, Dave. This guy was going to turn us in. Us. All of us.

DAVE
That's bullshit. You fucked me over.

SAM

And you fucked us both over for
for some cheap lay. You're the one
who put a girl above our
friendship. You couldn't even
follow your own plan.

DAVE

Is that what this is about? I
strayed from the almighty plan so
you had to teach me a lesson.
Well, you know what, your
philosophy for life sucks.

SAM

This isn't about you betraying our
principles, Dave. It's about you
selling us out for a girl.

DAVE

O.K. I get it. Now I see what this
is really about.

SAM

What's that?

DAVE

You're jealous. You sit in this
room every day. You don't go
outside, you fucking pay Jeff and
me to bring you your lunch, and
you're fucking jealous that I met
a girl and fell in love.

SAM

Fell in love. What a joke.

Dave SHOVES Sam and he falls backward into his bookshelf. Sam PUSHES Dave back and he falls to the ground. Dave gets up.

SAM (cont'd)

You're such a good liar, you're
starting to believe your own
bullshit.

DAVE

I don't know what's more pathetic,
you being jealous of me getting a
girl, or you being jealous of
Angelica for taking me away from you.

And he storms out, past Jeff, now standing in Sam's doorway.

SAM
What are you looking at?
(beat)
What was I supposed to do? I had
no fucking choice.

Jeff looks at him, disbelieving, then walks away.

INT. LECTURE HALL - DAY

Dave is spying on Angela and Ethan in their history class, sitting several rows behind and to the side of them. Angela is taking notes and her tongue slowly starts to peek out of the corner of her mouth. Dave is filled with anguish.

INT. POST OFFICE - DAY

Dave is picking up his mail from his box. On the way out of the building, he stops at the March of Dimes gumball machine and puts in a quarter. He turns the handle. Nothing.

Dave fiddles with the handle. Still nothing. He becomes increasingly agitated, SHAKING THE MACHINE violently. Still no gumball.

He controls himself. He begins to walk away. He's calm now.

Dave LOSES IT. He runs back to the gumball machine with a sudden rage, and SMACKS the machine with his fist, tipping the whole thing over. The glass SMASHES to the ground, SPILLING GUMBALLS all over the floor. Fully pacified, Dave reaches down and picks up a gumball. He calmly wipes it off on his shirt, then puts it into his mouth. Satisfied, he turns around to see

A CROWD of ONLOOKERS staring at him. They're aghast.

Dave is the proverbial deer in the headlights.

DAVE
Uh...

Before he can fashion any sort of explanation, the crowd parts down the middle to reveal

A MARCH of DIMES NURSE wheeling a HANDICAPPED CHILD. She holds a key to the machine, gumball refills, and a plastic cup filled with quarters. The Child looks at Dave with a tear in his eye.

INT. PLANETARIUM - NIGHT

Dave sits in the back row of the mostly empty university planetarium. The constellations are depicted on the ceiling.

NARRATOR (O.S.)
Sirius, in the Great Dog
constellation, is the brightest
star in the night sky...

Dave stares up at the faux stars.

EXT. MAIN QUAD - NIGHT

Dave walks across the campus. It's starting to snow.

EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT

The rooftop is covered with a fresh blanket of snow, marred only by one set of footprints. At the end of the trail, Dave sits on the ledge, drinking a beer and looking up at the stars. Jeff enters from the staircase and walks over to him.

DAVE
What do you want?

JEFF
Just looking for a free beer.

Jeff grabs a beer from Dave's stash and opens it. He takes a drink.

JEFF (cont'd)
Six more months.

DAVE
And?

JEFF
Graduation.

DAVE
Yeah.

JEFF
I never thought it would end.

DAVE
Well at least you know what you're
doing next year.

JEFF
You think I'm looking forward to
being an investment banker?
Working a hundred hours a week?

DAVE
What about your six figure salary?

JEFF

Yeah.

(drinks again)

What time is it?

DAVE

Uh, four twenty.

JEFF

Think we're ever going to drink beers in the snow at four twenty in the morning again?

DAVE

I don't know.

Jeff finishes the beer and grabs another one. He opens it and takes a drink.

JEFF

Maybe you were right about Sam.

DAVE

Maybe?

JEFF

How was he supposed to know you were serious about this girl?

DAVE

He could have asked.

JEFF

I think he did.

Dave mulls it over, then concedes the point.

DAVE

Now I lost her. To that weasel.

JEFF

You can get her back.

DAVE

How?

Jeff looks at Dave knowingly.

INT. ANGELA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Angela is pacing the room.

ANGELA

You lied to me. Don't you ever consider the people you hurt? All the lying, cheating, and stealing.

DAVE

But we have so much in common.

ANGELA

Like how we both got lost in the shopping mall when we were little?

DAVE

O.K. That was a small fabrication on my part.

ANGELA

This is all a game to you. I'm like some cracker jack prize that you're trying to win. It's all about you and your little friends figuring out some new way to beat the system.

DAVE

Angela, no. I mean, it was about that. At first. But I fell for you.

ANGELA

You can't even say the word. You think this is some sort of logical puzzle, something to be figured out. You've never opened up to me. Been really honest about your feelings.

DAVE

I'm being honest now.

ANGELA

How can I believe anything you say to me? Real relationships are based on trust. When you violate that trust, there's nothing I left to say.

DAVE

Angela.

ANGELA

Good bye.

Dave looks at her again, then leaves.

INT. BULLDOG PIZZA - NIGHT

The Counter Guy is taking a STUDENT's order as Dave enters the restaurant.

COUNTER GUY

Lettuth?

Dave crosses to the table where Sam is eating a sub.

SAM
Di dn' t go well?

DAVE
She says she doesn't trust me any more.

SAM
Well, you are a known liar.

Jeff enters with a bookbag. Sam nods hello to him.

DAVE
Thanks.

SAM
Look, man. It's obvious. The reason you like to lie to people is because being honest means being vulnerable.

DAVE
What? Well, what about you? Did you ever consider that all these little schemes are really just a substitute for human interaction because you're afraid of rejection?

SAM
Wow. Have you been working on that?

Jeff is getting off on this.

JEFF
What about me? Why do I like to go into these dangerous situations and steal stuff?

SAM
Because you're fucking crazy.

JEFF
Oh, yeah. Right.

The three guys laugh and share the moment.

SAM
Look.

He searches for the words.

SAM (cont'd)
I'm sorry.

DAVE
Yeah. Me too.

They look at each other again, then shake hands.

JEFF
All right, you two. Get a room.

SAM
How much do you like this girl?

DAVE
A lot.

(beat)
Ahhh, this is never going to work.

SAM
Consider this the ultimate challenge. The culmination of our college careers. Win back Angel and fuck over Ethan at the same time, without getting us kicked out of school and ruining our lives.

(to Jeff)
You bring Ethan's files?

JEFF
Of course.

Jeff opens his bookbag and pulls out several file folders filled with papers. Dave looks surprised, then pieces it together and smiles.

FREEZE on the three guys.

DAVE (V.O.)
But wait, you say. How'd we get Ethan's documents? Allow me to refresh your memory.

INT. DINING HALL - DAY

The scene where Sam and Dave meet Ethan over corned beef hash.

ETHAN
He likes the people food.

SAM
Fuck you.

FREEZE on table. PAN OVER to the empty seat next to Sam.

DAVE (V.O.)
Where's Jeff?

SUPER a NFL playbook-style white line circles the empty seat.

INT. ETHAN'S ROOM - DAY

Jeff is burgling Ethan's room, copying computer files and snooping around the drawers.

DAVE (V.O.)
Jeff had it right. Sometimes it is easier to just ice the guy.

He spots a piece of gum, unwraps it and pops it into his mouth. He checks the computer's progress. He picks up a framed picture of Ethan's ugly mother (with the genetically grotesque smile) and looks it over. He winces and puts it down.

INT. BULLDOG PIZZA - NIGHT

STILL FROZEN on the three guys.

DAVE (V.O.)
It was time to put our god-given gifts to use.

UNFREEZE the guys.

DAVE
O.K. Let's do it. So, any suggestions?

JEFF
Here's what we do.

A-TEAM MONTAGE (under "A-Team Theme"):

- Dave flips down a welding mask, then takes a welding torch to his car, removing the roof.
- Jeff duct tapes extra clips to an M60 machine gun.
- Sam stands in front of an architectural scale model of the University, complete with little plastic people, trees, etc. With a pointer, he explains the plan to Jeff and Dave.
- Jeff fastens grenades, knives, throwing stars, and other weaponry to his camouflage fatigues.
- Dave welds the machine guns onto the car.
- The A-Team Theme stops suddenly.

END MONTAGE.

INT. BULLDOG PIZZA - NIGHT

Back to the scene. Jeff smiles, waiting for approval. Dave and Sam stare at him like he's crazy.

SAM
Will you stop wasting our fucking time with that shit.

Sam walks off. Dave pats Jeff on the back.

DAVE
I thought it was a good idea.

INT. STOCKTON UPRIGHT - MAIN RECEPTION - DAY

Jeff enters this stuffy New York brokerage house wearing a UPS jumpsuit and carrying a flat box.

RECEPTIONIST
Can I help you?

JEFF
Mail room.

RECEPTIONIST
You're supposed to use the service entrance.

JEFF
Sorry, I have to use the john.

RECEPTIONIST
Around the corner.

Jeff proceeds around the corner and enters the men's room.

INT. STOCKTON UPRIGHT - MEN'S ROOM - DAY

Jeff enters a stall and takes off his jumpsuit, revealing a business suit and tie underneath. He opens the box and takes out a briefcase. He tucks the jumpsuit into the briefcase and walks out of the stall.

INT. STOCKTON UPRIGHT - HALLWAY - DAY

Jeff walks down the hallway by unsuspecting SECRETARIES and INVESTMENT BANKERS. He arrives at the

MAIL ROOM

It's bustling with dozens of MAIL ROOM GUYS sorting mail, sending and receiving faxes, and answering phone calls. The SUPERVISOR sees Jeff.

SUPERVISOR
Can I help you?

JEFF
(English accent)
Bl okemore. Nigel Bl okemore from the London office.

SUPERVISOR
Yes, sir. What can I do for you?

JEFF
We're expecting a fax for Mr.
Stockton from a ...
(checks his palm
pilot)
Mr. Ethan Dulles. I need that fax
immediately.

SUPERVISOR
Yes, sir. Let's check the log.

He walks over to the fax log and scans the page.

SUPERVISOR (cont'd)
Right. Here it is. Came in twenty
minutes ago.

JEFF
Is it still here in the mail room?

SUPERVISOR
No, should have been delivered
already.

JEFF
I need that fax. If Mr. Stockton
receives that fax -- which I may
add, contains erroneous earnings
estimates -- we're all in deep do-
do.

SUPERVISOR
Billy. Go to Stockton's office and
bring back that fax.

BILLY
No, I've got it right here.

He starts to flip the cover page open, when Jeff snatches it
from him.

JEFF
Can't have you see that now.

He walks over to the shredder and runs Ethan's resume through
it. He picks up the mail room phone and dials some numbers.

JEFF (cont'd)
Yes, this is a message for Mr.
Dulles. This is Mr. Stockton's
office. I'm afraid we have to re-
shez-ule your interview.

INT. ETHAN'S ROOM - DAY

Ethan returns home and checks his messages. The caller id. reads "Stockton, Upright."

INT. OUTSIDE ANGELA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Sam knocks on the door. Angela answers.

SAM
Is Reanna here?

ANGELA
Come on in.

INT. ANGELA'S ROOM - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS)

Sam enters and sees Reanna, studying her Nietzsche. Ethan is also over.

ANGELA
Come on, let's go study in the other room.

They move into Angela's bedroom.

REANNA
What do you want?

SAM
I want to apologize.

REANNA
For what? I'm the one who threw up on you.

SAM
For not calling. I'm sorry.

REANNA
O.K. Now what?

SAM
I thought we could grab a bite to eat. Feel like sushi?

REANNA
Ha ha.

SAM
Come on, I need some help.

REANNA
Why should I help you?

SAM

Three reasons. One, because I like you. Two, because cosmic justice demands we sets things right in the universe. And three, if you don't help me, I'll start crying.

REANNA

I don't believe you.

SAM

I'll do it.

He starts getting teary-eyed.

REANNA

I'm not going anywhere with you.

SAM

I'm serious. I'm feeling a little sad.

He's really concentrating.

REANNA

You're really going to cry?

SAM

I get ... a little ... emotional.

Now he's crying. Reanna starts laughing and gets up to join him.

REANNA

That was amazing.

SAM

Let's roll.

INT. PROFESSOR MARKOE'S OUTSIDE OFFICE - DAY

Jeff enters Professor's Markoe's office wearing glasses and a tool belt and carrying a clipboard. A SECRETARY greets him.

SECRETARY

Can I help you?

JEFF

(checks his clipboard)
I'm from University Computer Services. I have a report that Professor Markoe's mouse isn't working.

SECRETARY

I wasn't aware of any problem.

JEFF
Is the professor in?

SECRETARY
No.

JEFF
I'll just take a look.

SECRETARY
O.K. Go right in.

INT. PROFESSOR MARKOE'S OFFICE - DAY

Jeff sets up at the desk and turns on the computer. He shakes his head.

JEFF
Hackers.

INT. STOCKTON UPRIGHT - MR. STOCKTON'S OFFICE - DAY

STOCKTON is a stuffy man. Across from him sits Dave, wearing a suit and tie.

STOCKTON
Mr. Dulles--

DAVE
Call me Jack.

STOCKTON
It says on your resume your first name is Ethan.

DAVE
Call me Jack.

STOCKTON
All right, Jack. What one word would you say best describes you?

DAVE
I'd have to say, "gets the job done."

STOCKTON
That's not one word.

DAVE
I know, but I'm the kind of guy who doesn't play by the rules. I'm not a team player, but I get the job done.
(more)

DAVE (cont'd)

I may not be the fastest or the
smartest worker, and I may not do
the job right the first time, but
I will work day and night to get
the job done right. You know what
I'm saying?

STOCKTON

I see. I'm looking at your resume
and I'm a little confused. Can you
tell me about the period from 1998
through July 1999?

DAVE

Legally I'm not obligated to
answer questions about that period
of time. Next.

STOCKTON

O.K. Well, maybe you can tell me
what you think you'd bring to
Stockton Upright.

DAVE

I like to throw you a curve ball
now and again. I guess I'd say I'd
bring an element of surprise to
the job. Of danger. You don't know
what I'm going to do next because
I don't even know what I'm going
to do next.

STOCKTON

One more question and I think
we're done here. Your resume lists
under "activities" "smokin' blunts
with the homies" and "busting caps
in whi tey". Could you explain what
that means for me?

INT. SLACKERS' ROOM - DAY

Jeff and Sam are going over the plan. In the background, a DIET COKE DELIVERY MAN is unloading several cases of Diet Coke in the room. Dave enters. He sees the delivery man and nods a "who's he?" to Sam.

SAM

Compliments of the Coca Cola
company. They want us back as
customers.

JEFF

How'd it go?

DAVE
Well, I don't think he'll be
working at Stockton Upright next
year.

JEFF
Good. So Ethan's got his interview
in the city tomorrow at nine.

SAM
I'll have the essays by noon.

DAVE
And the exam is at three.

SAM
By the way, what's the final exam
question?

Jeff pulls out the test.

JEFF
Oh, you'll love this.
(reading)
"Explain the evolution and
significance of the Twentieth
Century principle of 'Total War'".

The three enjoy the irony of the question.

INT. STOCKTON UPRIGHT - MAIN RECEPTION - DAY

Ethan arrives at the receptionist's desk.

ETHAN
I'm Ethan Dulles here for Mr.
Stockton.

The receptionist becomes nervous.

RECEPTIONIST
Ethan Dulles?

ETHAN
Yeah, that's right.

RECEPTIONIST
Just a minute. He'll be right with
you.

A beat, then four large armed SECURITY GUARDS arrive and surround Ethan.

INT. ETHAN'S BEDROOM - DAY

Vikram talks to Jeff.

VI KRAM
He's at an interview in New York.

JEFF
Do you mind if I just take a look
for a notebook he borrowed?

Jeff smiles broadly.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE LECTURE HALL - DAY

The three guys walk down the hallway with purpose and determination. They're ready. They're peaking. It's the culmination of the college careers.

INT. LECTURE HALL - DAY

The Head T.A. is at the front.

HEAD T. A.
The final exam will count sixty
percent of your grade.

Sam sits on the aisle next to Jeff. In the row in front of them sits Reanna on the aisle, then Angela.

The T.A.'s pass out the blue books and exams. Sam takes his and starts writing his essay. Jeff takes his and passes the rest down the row.

Then, down the center aisle, walks Dave. He walks up to the Head T.A. at the lectern.

HEAD T. A. (cont'd)
Can I help you?

DAVE
Professor Markoe needs you in his
office. Right now.

HEAD T. A.
What?

DAVE
He needs to speak to you.

HEAD T. A.
We're in the middle of an exam.

DAVE
It's about your dissertation.
(confiding)
They want to publish you.

Some test-takers in the front look up, distracted by the conversation.

HEAD T. A.
Are you serious?

DAVE
I'm serious.

The seed has taken hold.

DAVE (cont'd)
I'm serious.

HEAD T. A.
O. K.

The Head T. A. rushes out of the room, excited. Dave takes the microphone.

DAVE
I have an announcement to make.

Angela looks up from her test.

ANGELA
Dave.

DAVE
I have a message for Angela
Patton.

MURMURS.

ANGELA
Oh my God. What do I do?

REANNA
Relax. Just listen to him.

ANGELA
Why should I?

REANNA
Because he really cares about you.
And he's cute, and nice, and
romantic. So shut up and listen.

Angela is speechless, so she turns to Dave.

DAVE
Angela. I have something I need to
tell you. It's something I wanted
to say to you for a long time, but
I was too stupid to own up to my
feelings.

(beat)
I love you and I can't live
without you.

Some SNICKERING. But mostly, the classmates are touched. Angela can't fight the emotions swelling inside her.

The Snotty T.A. approaches the lectern to take back the microphone.

SNOTTY T.A.
O.K. You've had your fun. Let's go.

DAVE
Come on, man. Have a heart. I need to do this. It's important.

He considers for a moment, then backs away and lets Dave continue.

SNOTTY T.A.
All right. But get to the point already.

INT. ETHAN'S ROOM - DAY

Ethan runs into the room, roughed up a bit.

VI KRAM
How'd your interview go?

ETHAN
Don't even ask.

He throws off his jacket and tie and pulls on a sweater. He grabs his bookbag from the bedroom. He pulls Dave's midterm exam out of the bag slightly to check it.

CLOSE ON: the header of the exam:

HISTORY 454A
THE GREAT POWERS FROM 1868 TO 1945
PROFESSOR MARKOE
FALL SEMESTER, 2000

Ethan runs out of the room.

INT. LECTURE HALL - DAY

Dave continues his plea to Angela. The classroom is hanging on every word.

DAVE
Angela, I never knew what love was before you. And I want to say I'm sorry for not telling you how I feel sooner, but I guess I was afraid. Afraid of being vulnerable. Of losing my friends. Of growing up. But better late than never, right?

All eyes turn to Angela. Dave leaves the lectern and walks up to her.

ANGELA
Dave.

DAVE
I love you.

Angela looks into his eyes. She turns away. There's pure silence as the classroom holds its collective breath.

Finally,

ANGELA
turns back.

ANGELA
I love you.

They KISS. The crowd ERUPTS in APPLAUSE.

ETHAN (O.S.)
How could you?!?

It's Ethan, bright red and full of fury at the entrance to the exam room. He walks down the aisle towards Angela and Dave.

ETHAN
I said I love you first. I was first.

ANGELA
I'm sorry, Ethan.

ETHAN
This is bullshit. This whole thing was my idea. Mine!

The Snotty T.A. comes over to them.

SNOTTY T.A.
All right. Simmer down. The excitement's over.

ETHAN
These guys cheated on the midterm!
They're cheaters! Expel them!

SNOTTY T.A.
What are you talking about?

DAVE
Beats me. I'm not even in this class.

Ethan reaches into his bookbag and pulls out
THE EXAM.

As it comes out of the bag, the words are a blur, but for a split second we can focus in on the bottom right corner: No handwriting.

SNOTTY T. A.
Let me see that.

He looks it over.

SNOTTY T. A. (cont'd)
Where did you get this?

REANNA
Excuse me. This guy's been
bragging about stealing a copy of
the final all week.

ETHAN
What?

SNOTTY T. A.
You're in a lot of trouble.

Ethan grabs the test back and looks at
THE FINAL EXAM,

the top of which is identical to the midterm, but with the word FINAL instead of MIDTERM on the fifth line of the header.

ETHAN
That's not mine! They planted that
on me!

SNOTTY T. A.
Come with me.

Ethan resists. The other T. A.'s come over the help drag him out of the room.

ETHAN
That's not mine! You fuckers
framed me! Angela! What about the
hair doll?

And then he's gone. Dave whispers to Angela.

DAVE
Come on, let's get out of here.

ANGELA
I'm in the middle of a final exam!

DAVE
Be a rebel. Let's find out where
we belong in the world. Together.

ANGELA
What about the exam?

DAVE
It's taken care of.

Dave grabs her bluebook and tucks it into his jacket. He looks to Jeff in the row behind Angela and she follows Dave's glance. Jeff closes his blue book to reveal the name "Angela Patton."

ANGELA
You're not very bright, are you?

DAVE
Nope.

And he KISSES her. The classroom ERUPTS again. Dave and Angela run out of the building amid the CHEERS of their classmates.

Reanna turns around and faces Sam.

REANNA
How'd I do?

SAM
You were aces, baby.

He pauses, looks into her eyes, then KISSES her.

EXT. MAIN QUAD - DAY

Angela and Dave run out of the building and run up to a campus bus. It closes its doors, but Dave puts his hand in between the doors at the last second. The doors open again. Dave and Angela get in.

INT. CAMPUS BUS - DAY

The bus is filled except for the very last bench seat at the rear. They walk to the back and sit down, holding hands and laughing.

INT. STOCKTON UPRIGHT - MR. STOCKTON'S OFFICE - DAY

Jeff is interviewing with Mr. Stockton.

DAVE (V.O.)
Jeff didn't get the job at
Stockton Upright.

The mail room supervisor enters and drops off a fax in Mr. Stockton's "In Box". He sees Jeff.

SUPERVISOR
Hey, Mr. Blakemore!

Stockton looks at Jeff. Jeff tries to smile.

DAVE (V.O.)
In fact, Jeff didn't get to be an investment banker at all. But he did to find a place that could appreciate his unique talents.

EXT. CAMPUS BUILDING - DAY

Jeff walks through a group of PROTESTERS with anti-CIA signs, like "CIA Out of El Salvador" and "No Spying in East Asia".

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

Jeff walks into the room and two incredibly SHADY MEN greet him. He sits down and smiles. As the conversation progresses, the three seem to be long lost soulmates.

DAVE (V.O.)
He says he works for the State Department, but you know what that means.

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

Sam stands in front of a JURY and points back to a LATINO CHILD in a wheelchair.

DAVE (V.O.)
As for Sam, he went to Harvard Law School and now he's a personal injury attorney.

Sam starts CRYING and the jury eats it up.

EXT. MAIN QUAD - DAY

Graduation. In turn, Dave, Jeff, and Sam walk across the stage in cap and gown to receive their diplomas from the DEAN.

DAVE (V.O.)
They say there's no such thing as a free lunch, but I gotta tell you, I never really understood that saying. I mean, we used to get free lunches all the time. But I guess the point is, the free stuff doesn't matter.
(more)

DAVE (cont'd; V.O.)
 Only the things you really work
 for seem important. Like Angel a.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MAIN QUAD - DAY

Now after the ceremony, Dave sees Angel a in her cap and gown and runs up to her, giving her a giant hug and kiss. Sam talks to Reanna.

DAVE
 Meeting her parents was a little
 weird though.

ANGELA
 Daddy, Val, this is Dave.

Angel a's parents enter from offscreen and Dave tries in vain to shield his face.

CHARLES
 From the Census Bureau!

Mr. Patton shakes his hand. Angel a is confused. Mrs. Patton eyes Dave with a come-hither look.

VALERIE
 Did you bring any candy?

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

The three guys, Angel a and Reanna, and Mr. and Mrs. Patton enjoy a nice celebration dinner at this expensive restaurant. Mrs. Patton plays footsie with Dave under the table.

DAVE (V.O.)
 Did we ever solve the conundrum
femina? No.

Dave tries to avoid eye contact with Mrs. Patton as he talks to Angel a.

INT. CAMPUS BUS BACK SEAT - DAY

Back to Dave and Angel a sitting in the back of the bus, holding hands and laughing.

DAVE (V.O.)
 Do I know what I want to be when
 I grow up? Not yet.

As the campus bus pulls away, Dave looks back over his shoulder out the rear window. The fresh snow highlights the beauty of the gothic campus slowly shrinking in the distance.

DAVE (cont'd; V.O.)
Am I ready to leave behind the greatest four years of my life and enter the real world? A world of work, responsibility, and commitment? I think so.

Dave turns back to Angela and smiles.

DAVE (cont'd; V.O.)
There is one thing I do know for sure, though. At least I've got someone who will find out with me.

Then he pulls out some candy from his pocket. Angela takes it and starts laughing. The two KISS again and the bus disappears down the road.

FADE OUT:

THE END