

I Love You, Beth Cooper

by
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Based on his Novel

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DENIS COOVERMAN'S BIG FACE

sweating profusely under his graduation cap.

SULLEN GIRL (O.C.)
(wispy, quavering soprano)
TATTOOS OF MEMORIES AND DEAD SKIN ON
TRIAL/ FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH IT WAS WORTH
ALL THE WHILE/ IT'S SOMETHING
UNPREDICTABLE, BUT IN THE END IT'S RIGHT

INT. BUFFALO GROVE HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM

The SULLEN GIRL finishes with a shy sneer.

SULLEN GIRL
I HOPE YOU HAD THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE.

She sits. A hot, jaded DR. HENNEMAN steps to the podium.

DR. HENNEMAN
Thank you, Angelica-

SULLEN GIRL
Angel-LEEK-a.

DR. HENNEMAN
Angel-LEEK-a, for that, uh, rendition of
(reads card, perturbed)
"Good Riddance."
(signals to back of room)
Could we open those back doors, let some
air in? And now, next, and finally, this
year's valedictorian, Denis Cooverman.

Denis approaches the podium to WEAK APPLAUSE, nearly tripping on his gown. He tips the mike down.

DENIS
Today we look forward. Look forward to
getting out of here.
(pauses longer than the laugh)
But today I also would like to look back,
back on our four years at Buffalo Grove
High School, looking back not with anger,
but with no regrets. No regrets for what
we wanted to do but did not, for what we
wanted to say but could not. And so I say
here today the one thing I wish I had
said, the one thing I know I will regret
if I never say.
(blinks sweat off eyelashes)
I love you, Beth Cooper.

A CONFUSED MURMUR is punctuated with SWALLOWED GUFFAWS. All eyes turn to BETH COOPER, who seems most surprised of all. She's quite pretty and clearly out of Denis's league.

Denis continues, eyes never leaving his notes.

DENIS (CONT'D)

I have loved you, Beth Cooper, since I first sat behind you in Ms. Rosa's math class in seventh grade. I loved you when I sat behind you in Sr. Weidner's Spanish and Ms. Calumet-Hobey's Literature of the Oppressed. I have loved you from behind--

The graduates SNICKER but Denis presses on, oblivious. As he does, Dr. Henneman stands and approaches the podium.

DENIS (CONT'D)

--in Biology, History, and, yes, Practical Science. I loved you but I never told you, because we never spoke. But now I say it, with no regrets. And so, let us all say the things we have longed to say but our tongues would not.

Deciding the danger has passed, Dr. Henneman sits down.

DENIS (CONT'D)

Let us be unafraid to admit, "I have an eating disorder and I need help."

Many FEMALE GRADS and a few MALES appear nervous.

DENIS (CONT'D)

Let us confess, "I am so stuck-up because deep down, I believe I am worthless."

Heads turn toward VALLI WOOLLY. Her eyes narrow.

DENIS (CONT'D)

(working into a rhythm)
Let us declare, "I beat up other kids because I was unloved as a baby, or I was sexually abused or something."

GREG SALOGA, a huge, meaty kid, reddens.

DENIS (O.S.) (CONT'D)

I am sorry for all the cruel swirlies, the pink bellies, the purple nurples...

Greg leaps from his seat, fists clenched, and starts up the aisle. A tiny white hand grabs his wrist.

Greg whirls and snarls into the alabaster face of BECKY REESE, the wheelchair girl with all the fatal diseases.

BECKY REESE
(sweet whisper)
Not now. Get him later.

All the anger drains from Greg. He is smitten.

At the podium, Denis is on a roll.

DENIS
Scurrilous, unfounded rumors...
(exhales for big moment)
And let us not regret that we never told
even our best friend, "I'm gay, dude."

Denis smiles at RICH MUNSCH, his best friend. Rich theatrically mouths, "I'm not gay."

DENIS (CONT'D)
Indeed, let us--

Dr. Henneman leans across Denis into the microphone.

DR. HENNEMAN
Thank you, Denis. A lot to think about.

The principal leads UNCERTAIN APPLAUSE as she sidles Denis away from the podium with her hip.

INT. BUFFALO GROVE HIGH SCHOOL - CAFETERIA

On a table of low-rent refreshments, a mini-stereo blasts A NEW GRADUATION CLASSIC. Above the table is a long orange-and-blue "BGHS CLASS OF '08" banner painted on butcher paper. Standing next to the banner, trying to look cool, is Denis. He "casually" scans the room.

Fresh alumni, in cap and gowns, street clothes or some combination, are scattered in happy clusters.

Denis looks disappointed. A hand lands on his shoulder, startling him.

DR. HENNEMAN
Mr. Cooverman. I've never known you to do anything so reckless. At all reckless. What were you thinking?

DENIS'S FLASHBACK

CLOSE ON Rich Munsch, in full dramatic flower.

RICH

You will never see her again! *Nunca!*
After graduation she will be gone! Until
like the 10th reunion, if you both even
live that long. And she'll be so very
pregnant -- baking someone else's DNA!
She'll have this big cow grin and she
won't even remember who you are!

DENIS

I sat behind her in almost every class.

RICH

Behind her. Be-hind her. She never saw
you. You didn't give your big speech at
graduation. You don't exist.

Rich pauses, then adds gravely:

RICH (CONT'D)

If you don't do this,
(some sort of impression)
"You will regret it, maybe not today,
maybe not tomorrow, but soon and for the
rest of your life."

DENIS

What?

RICH

Casablanca? 1942, Michael Curtiz,
director? Bogart, dude!

BACK TO SCENE

Denis displays the sheepish but supercilious grin of an
adolescent male in trouble. Dr. Henneman retaliates.

DR. HENNEMAN

Not the behavior I expect from someone
going to Northwestern University. You
know, one call from me and you're going
to Harper Community College...

Denis's smirk is wiped clean off.

DR. HENNEMAN (CONT'D)

You could major in Heating, Ventilation
and Air Conditioning. Or maybe you're
more the Hospitality Management type...

DENIS

You can't... I, I don't know what I was thinking. I... was under an influence.

DR. HENNEMAN

(shocked, peers in his eyes)

Drugs?

DENIS

Rich Munsch.

DR. HENNEMAN

(softening)

I wouldn't take romantic advice from Rich Munsch.

DENIS

But he's right. I'm not there.

(points to his head)

She has no memory of me. No dendritic spines in her cortex that whisper: Denis. So I had to. To stimulate dendrite growth. I mean, God, Dr. Henneman, haven't you ever been in love?

Dr. Henneman smiles sadly.

DR. HENNEMAN

There's another Beth Cooper out there. One just for you, Denis. The world is full of Beth Coopers.

She pats him on the shoulder and start to leave.

DENIS

You're not going to call Northwestern...

DR. HENNEMAN

(rueful chuckle)

As if I have any actual power. Mr. Cooverman, with your SAT scores, you'd have to practically kill someone to not get in.

She exits. Standing alone, Denis re-assumes a "cool" pose against the wall. He scans the room again, not expecting anything this time. He is surprised.

Beth chats with CAMMY and TREECE, her best friends. Cammy is a tall, gamine blonde. Treece is shorter, plumply voluptuous with red curly hair. Beth is tiny by comparison, but clearly in charge here. (In the b.g., the stereo is playing "BETH'S THEME")

Denis gazes at Beth with hangdog longing.

Cammy notices they are being stared at.

Denis quickly pivots his face away, awkwardly.

Cammy points. Beth and Treece turn to look.

Denis tries to maintain his cool indifference but the strange angle of his head detracts from the effect.

Cammy makes a dry remark that causes Treece to WHINNY like a horse. Beth raises her hand. The girls go quiet.

Out of the corner of Denis's darting eye:

Beth Cooper is coming his way.

Denis averts his gaze more extremely, suddenly fascinated by something on the cafeteria wall. As Beth enters frame, Denis swivels his head "casually" in her direction. His neck makes a loud POP.

Beth is about Denis's height. Her voice is surprisingly flat and Midwestern.

BETH

You embarrassed me.

Denis's mouth hangs open a bit. He says nothing.

BETH (CONT'D)

(smiles)

But it was so sweet, I'll have to let you live.

DENIS

(a little squeaky)

Thank you.

A pause. Denis panics. Beth doesn't notice.

BETH

So, Henneman must've given you major shit.

DENIS

Some shit. A little shit. A modicum of excreta.

Denis winces. Beth doesn't notice.

BETH

Was it like 800 degrees in there? Like boiling?

DENIS

Actually, the boiling point - of water - is 212 degrees. Fahrenheit.
(adds, casual-like)
One-hundred Celcius.

Even Denis can't believe he is such a geek. Fortunately, Beth isn't really listening.

BETH

I am so hot.

Beth bends over and lifts her gown over her head. Underneath, she wears tight cut-off jeans and a sweat-soaked belly shirt. The shirt lifts up with the gown, revealing the underside of her pretty pink bra.

DENIS

Yes. I, too, am hot.

Rich, a foot taller than either Denis and Beth, lopes in.

RICH

I am not gay, dude.

Denis nods urgently in Beth's direction.

RICH (CONT'D)

Didn't realize there was a line.

BETH

That's okay. I have to get back--

DENIS

Wait--

Beth and Rich wait. Finally:

DENIS (CONT'D)

(suave, he thinks)

I'm having a little soiree at my house tonight. Of course, that's redundant. Soirée means 'evening.' In French.

RICH

A party. More of a party than a soiree. Music. Drinks. Prizes. Drinks.

BETH

Sounds fun.

DENIS
 (blurts)
 You're invited.

BETH
 Oh. Thanks.

DENIS
 706 Hackberry Drive. Zip's 60004 if
 you're Mapquesting...

BETH
 I Google Map.

DENIS
 Who doesn't? Mapquest blows.

BETH
 (wrapping up)
 Well. We do have this other thing, but
 maybe we can stop by...

Denis nods nonchalantly in a simulacrum of cool, but too quickly, giving off more of a bobble-head vibe.

DENIS
 Coo--

A mammoth human paw engulf's Denis's face and slams his head against the cinderblock. Through a web of thick fingers Denis glimpses slabs of angry red meat that may constitute a face.

ANGRY RED MEAT
 You wooed my girl.

The meat is KEVIN, a young homunculus and, judging from his dress blues, a proud member of the U.S. Army. He speaks in the Southern patois particular to the species.

KEVIN
 Are you prepared to die?

DENIS
 (through smooshed lips)
 Not really.

BETH
 Kevin!

Kevin turns to Beth, leaning casually on Denis's face.

KEVIN
 Return to your friends, Lisbee.

Beth makes a DEFIANT SOUND.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
 (with courtly menace)
 I hate to repeat myself.

Beth stalks off as if it were her idea.

DENIS
 (calling after, smooshed)
 Eightish-

Kevin squeezes Denis head, silencing him. He then turns to Rich. Rich considers his options.

RICH
 I have to go to the bathroom.

Rich exits. Kevin leans in close to Denis.

KEVIN
 You demean her and insult me.

DENIS
 (smooshed)
 She said it was "sweet."

Kevin bears down on Denis's head.

KEVIN
 You move in on my girl even as I am fighting for your freedom and safety with my very life.

DENIS
 (very smooshed)
 Appreciate your sacrifice.

KEVIN
 Now over there, a moral transgression of this order would dictate the severing of your head. Or some other relevant part.

Denis quickly ascertains the relevant part.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
 But we're a civilized people, so I am going to give you ten seconds to convince me I should let you live.

DENIS
 You mean persuade, not convince.

Kevin SNARLS and squeezes Denis's head in earnest.

DR. HENNEMAN (O.C.)
Is there a problem here?

Rich has returned with Henneman. Kevin releases Denis.

KEVIN
No, ma'am. My hand slipped.

DENIS
We were just discussing my speech. This gentleman felt--

DR. HENNEMAN
(to Kevin)
I can't allow you to kill him on school grounds.

Kevin nods and exits. Dr. Henneman looks to Denis, whose face sports a dark red impression of a huge hand.

DR. HENNEMAN (CONT'D)
Good luck in all your future endeavors,
Mr. Cooverman. You too, Rich.

She walks off. Denis rubs his throat.

RICH
Bright side: Beth Cooper talked to you.

Denis, woebegone, looks over at Beth. Kevin has his arm around her and is introducing TWO OF HIS ARMY BUDDIES to Cammy and Treece. Beth turns in Denis's direction. She mouths "sorry." This draws Kevin's attention. He stares at Denis and makes a slicing motion across his crotch.

Denis blanches. Puzzled, Rich imitates the chopping gesture.

RICH (CONT'D)
What is that, an Army thing?

EXT. DENIS'S HOUSE - DUSK

A two-story traditional on a tree-lined street.

INT. DENIS'S HOUSE - KITCHEN

Rich sits at the kitchen table, dressed in slightly odd party attire, as Denis, in pressed cargo pants and brand new rugby shirt, nervously flits about filling unmatched bowls with snacks. Rich examines a bag.

RICH
Wasabi Lime Soy-tato Chips?

DENIS
My mom says if you're going to eat crap,
it doesn't have to be crap.

RICH
(reaching into bag)
She's trying to kill you, dude.

Denis takes the bag from Rich.

DENIS
Let's save the snacks.

RICH
She's not going to come.

DENIS
She said she might.

RICH
I'm still mad at you.

DENIS
I know.

RICH
I should punch you.

DENIS
Every time you punch me, you're the one
who cries.

RICH
Only reason I'm not punching you right
now. Hey, what if she comes and brings
her Army Man and he kills you? Not a very
good party.

DENIS
He wasn't really going to kill me.

Denis touches his throat. Rich reaches across the table
and picks up an iPod nestled in a cool new iBcx.

RICH
New?

DENIS
Graduation.

Rich starts snaking the iPod down his pants.

RICH

I hear this one vibrates for her
pleasure.

Denis snatches the iPod from Rich's waistband, quickly sniffs it, then puts it very precisely back where it was.

RICH (CONT'D)

You know what I got for graduation? A bill. My dad says I owe him 233 thousand 850 bucks.

DENIS

A quarter of a million dollars? They don't even buy you shoes.

RICH

That includes fifty grand for "wear and tear" on my Mom. She is pretty worn and torn.

Denis puts his hand on Rich's shoulder.

DENIS

I'm sorry your Dad's a dick.

RICH

(bittersweet)

It was completely itemized. Very detailed.

(looks up at Denis)

Who knew he was paying attention?

The two are quiet for a moment. Then Denis can't help but fidget with the placement of chips in a bowl.

RICH (CONT'D)

You shouldn't be so nervous, Dude.

DENIS

I'm not nervous. I'm particular.

RICH

They can smell fear.

DENIS

(fearful, then)

No, they can't.

RICH

I can smell it.

Denis sniffs his armpit.

DENIS

Fear.

Denis heads to the sink, removing his shirt. He soaks a sponge and squeezes it into his pits, angrily.

DENIS (CONT'D)

Puberty has done nothing but screw me.

RICH

We get zits, they get tits.

Denis sniffs his shirt. He frowns. He FLAPS it in the air, keeping his elbows up and out to dry his armpits.

DENIS'S PARENTS enter, dressed for a casual evening out. They seem normal and cool, not all like teen movie parents. They seem unsurprised to find Denis clutching a shirt to his naked chest.

MR. C

Hey, this party is really taking off!

RICH

Hola, Mrs. C!

MRS. C

Don't call me Mrs. C. Really.

(to Denis)

Look at you!

She crosses to Denis, who has pulled his rugby shirt back on. She straightens his collar.

MRS. C (CONT'D)

You look so cute. Supercute.

Denis is crestfallen.

MR. C

She doesn't mean that. You look fine. You might want to pull the waist of those pants down a bit.

Mrs. C kneels in front of Denis, and tugs his cargo pants down to his hips. She frowns.

MRS. C

You're not wearing those awful underpants?

She starts to fiddle with Denis's fly. He staggers back.

DENIS

Mom!

MR. C

Gotta side with your mom on the lucky underpants. What if you do get lucky? Once she reaches the underpants... they're a dealbreaker.

RICH

They are not nice underpants.

MRS. C

He is not wearing those ratty things, and he is not getting lucky. Not on my watch.

Denis looks to his father, pleadingly.

MR. C

So. How many guests you expecting at this dig-shin?

DENIS

Not too many.

RICH

None.

MRS. C

We'll be home at eleven.

Mr. C opens the refrigerator.

MR. C

And not one minute before. Of course it wouldn't be a celebration without...

Mr. C withdraws a festive "Congrats" gift bag.

MR. C (CONT'D)

...Champagne!

RICH

Whoa!

DENIS

(looks to his mother)

You sure?

Mrs. C purses her lips. This is an argument she lost.

MRS. C

One glass per guest. And nobody who drinks, drives.

MR. C

And I know exactly how many bottles are
in my wine rack. Twenty-three.

Mrs. C points to a sheet on the wall next to the phone.

MRS. C

Here's all our numbers, if...

MR. C

If someone's dead or on fire, call 911
first.

(off Mrs. C's glare)

Bad advice?

Mrs. C kisses Denis on the cheek.

MRS. C

Have fun. But not too much fun.

RICH

Not much danger of that, Mrs. C.

Mrs. C rolls her eyes. She plucks a strange looking snack
chip from a bowl and pops it in her mouth.

MRS. C

Sea salt! Yum.

Mrs. C exits. Mr. C puts his arm around his son and sits
him at table. He's suddenly very earnest.

MR. C

Son, this is your last summer before
college. That accelerated medical program
isn't going to leave much time for toga
parties... or whatever. So I want you to
enjoy this summer...

DENIS

I'll do my best.

Mr. C stares at his son, SIGHS.

MR. C

You know, it is okay to just have fun
sometimes. Sometimes, you just have to
say, "What the F-"

RICH

Curtis Armstrong in "Risky Business,"
1983, Paul Brickman. Except he didn't say
"F."

MR. C

Right.

Mr. C gives his son a one-arm squeeze and stands.

MR. C (CONT'D)

There's condoms in my bedside table.

RICH

Do you know exactly how many there are?

MR. C

(sternly)

They're not toys.

EXT. DENIS'S HOUSE - EVENING

The street lights come on.

INT. DENIS'S HOUSE - KITCHEN

Denis is behind the kitchen island, perfecting the feng shui of two liter bottles of soda. A plastic bowl filled with ice and Dixie Crazy Kritter cups complete the tableau. At the table, Rich fiddles with the iPod.

RICH

Hey, so: I'm not gay, dude.

The stereo blasts "GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN" covered by the Scissor Sisters. Rich shimmies to it momentarily before feeling self-conscious and turning it off. Denis appears next to him. He notices a spot on his pants.

DENIS

It's okay if you are. Really.

RICH

Well, really, I'm not. *No so homo.*

(then)

What makes you think I'm gay?

Denis scratches the spot on his pants.

DENIS

Everybody thinks you're gay.

RICH

They don't know me. You know me. What makes you think I'm gay?

Denis ponders this as he tastes his pants scratchings.

DENIS

Everything.

RICH

Is it because of drama club? Because you know, a lot of professional actors aren't gay. More than half!

DENIS

Rich, all during high school, and before, you've never once had a girlfriend.

RICH

Neither did you.

DENIS

I tried, at least. And I did... have one.

RICH

Patty Keck! Your secret shame!

DENIS

Yeah, well. My point is. I had one.

RICH

Making out with a girl like that, I'm not sure that's not gay.

(beat, then)

She's not going to come.

DENIS

You don't know her.

RICH

Yeah, I don't have four years experience smelling her hair.

Rich grabs the wrapped bottle from the table.

RICH (CONT'D)

Maybe she'll hear we have a whole bottle of champagne.

Denis wrestles the bottle from him.

DENIS

One possible scenario. One of nine.

RICH

Stop constructing scenarios, dude. School's out. And nobody's coming. They're all going to Valli Woolly's. Maybe we could go there.

(MORE)

RICH (CONT'D)

Oh, no, wait -- you called her a stuck-up bitch in front of the whole school.

DENIS

That was your idea!

RICH

It wasn't my idea to gay me!

DENIS

It was in keeping with the theme.

RICH

Theme! Even when you're breaking the rules, it's through assmosis.

Rich defiantly grabs a bowl and shovels a bunch of chips in his mouth. They clearly taste terrible.

EXT. DENIS'S HOUSE - NIGHT

INT. DENIS'S HOUSE - KITCHEN

The boys sit at the table, glumly eating bad snacks.

RICH

You know, when we go to college we won't have to be this way.

DENIS

What way?

Rich makes an "L" sign on his forehead.

DENIS (CONT'D)

We're not--

He concedes the point.

RICH

We can utterly reinvent ourselves. First, we gotta change your name. Denis is... unfortunate.

DENIS

Not as unfortunate as Dick Munsch.

RICH

D-E-N-I-S? You're a vertical stroke from penis, dude.

Rich quickly draws a D in the air and appends the stroke.

DENIS
I'm well aware of that.

RICH
And my name is not Dick. It's not gonna be Rich either. I'm gonna go by Munsch. Or maybe "The Munsch."

Rich balances a pretzel on his lip, like he's smoking.

RICH (CONT'D)
You: Denny, El Denno, Deño, Den-Den...
What's your middle name? James, right?
DJ. Eh. Cooverman... Coove!

DENIS
Sounds... vagina-ish.

RICH
The Coove... master!

DENIS
(looks at his watch)
What time do parties start?

RICH
Now. Let's open the champagne.

Rich grabs the gift bag near the bottom. Denis places his hand directly above it. Rich places his other hand above Denis's. Denis cups the top of the bottle. Rich concedes and releases.

RICH (CONT'D)
Hey, so your parents use con-domes.

DENIS
Not a topic for discussion.

RICH
Do you think they're lubed or--

Denis throws a chip at Rich. Rich catches it in his mouth. He grins, chewing with relish.

RICH (CONT'D)
You ever jerk off with a condom on?

DENIS
No.

RICH
 Just asking.
 (pops another chip)
 Probably not that great.

The DOORBELL rings. Denis hops up so fast he BANGS his knees on the table. He hobbles excitedly to the front door. Rich follows.

DENIS
 I told you.

RICH
 It's probably just the police telling us to keep it down in here.

At the front door, the boys peek THROUGH THE SIDELIGHTS. The waterglass produces an ethereal image of Beth, flanked by Cammy and Treece.

RICH (CONT'D)
 It's the Trinity!

DENIS
 Holy crap! Holy Mother of Crap!

RICH
 (amused)
 Holy Mother of Crap?

DENIS
 What are we gonna do?

RICH
 (in Denis's face)
 RUN AWAY!

Denis pivots, looking for a place to run. Rich LAUGHS and flings open the door.

RICH (CONT'D)
Chicas!

Beth enters wearing a trendy but inexpensive party dress.

BETH
 Hey.

Cammy, in prep attire, catwalks in behind her. She's the smart, mean one. She's dry ice.

CAMMY
 Nice place.

And finally Treece bounces in, wearing a tiny, pricy outfit bursting with tits and ass. Whatever intelligence she possesses is well-disguised by her babydoll voice.

TREECE

I've never been in this house before.

Denis is in shock. Rich steps in, addressing Beth.

RICH

Where's our boy in uniform?

Denis eyes flash with pure terror.

BETH

We're hating him right now. One of his army buds was getting all date-rapey with Treece.

TREECE

It wasn't like he wasn't going to get a blow job at the end. If he was nice.

CAMMY

And so thanks to Miss Manners here, graduation night's crapped.

TREECE

(hanging gasp)
You're blaming the victim!

BETH

Guys, it's okay. They'll go looking for us at Valli Woolly's and when they don't find us they'll go to that strip club they tried to drag us to, and then we'll go to Valli Woolly's, just later.

RICH

(whispers, to Denis)
Which scenario was that?

DENIS

Variation on Four.

Cammy looks around, not pleased.

CAMMY

So? Until just later? We sit around sucking each other's Suzie Qs?

If Denis's eyes could fall out, they would.

BETH

Thanks, Cammy. Like I'm going to get that image out of my head.

Beth turns to camera and smiles brightly.

BETH (CONT'D)

Where's the party?

Denis is plastered against the wall.

DENIS

Here. This is... it. It's here.

RICH

Of course you're a little early. We weren't expecting anyone until... eleven. Right, "Coove"?

DENIS

Oh, right. That's when my parents--

RICH

La fiesta es this way, mi bonitas..

Rich grabs Denis and pulls him o.c. Cammy glares at Beth.

BETH

Be nice. He's the val-victorian.

CAMMY

(geek voice)
And he loves you.

TREECE

From behind!

Treece WHINNIES. Beth reasserts control.

BETH

It's nice to be loved. You two should try it sometime.

Beth exits. Cammy smirks. Treece looks hurt.

TREECE

I try it all the time.

INT. KITCHEN

The girls enter, increasingly less impressed. Denis stands stiffly. Rich makes a sweeping waiter's gesture.

RICH
 Por favor: sweet 'n' salty comidas for
 your comesting...

DENIS
 The pretzels are fat-free...

BETH
 (scowls)
 Are you saying I'm fat?

Perspiration drips into Denis's eye. He blinks.

RICH
 (forced laugh)
 Why would he say that? He's not a retard.

BETH
 My brother is retarded.

Now Rich is frozen, too. After a moment, Cammy smirks, Treece WHINNIES and Beth cracks a smile. Rich laughs, and little too hard.

RICH
 Oh, you cold. So what is your brother,
 just stupid?

BETH
 He's dead.

Rich GUFFAWS. Denis senses something, however.

DENIS
 I'm so sorry.

BETH
 It was a long time ago. But thank you.

The passing of a genuine moment is unbearable.

TREECE
I'm fat. But it's good fat.

Treece shimmies. Her good fat shakes like bowls full of jelly.

Several notes from BETH'S THEME plays. Beth pulls out her cell, frowns at the Caller ID, and answers it.

BETH
 What do you want, Kevin?

Beth walks out of the room, scowling into the phone.

TREECE

I need beer.

RICH

Yes, you do. ¿Dónde está la beer,
Coovemaster?

DENIS

Um. My dad doesn't drink beer...

Rich rolls his eyes, then remembers:

RICH

We have champagne!

He grabs the gift bag and shoves it at Denis's chest.

RICH (CONT'D)

¡Tienes le champag-nah!

CAMMY

Could you please mangle one language at a
time?

Rich pulls his jaw down, fluttering his fingers.

RICH

(bad impression)

Well, shut my mouth...

(then, annotating)

Stan Laurel in Way Out West, 1937,
directed by James W. Horne.

CAMMY

What was that?

DENIS

Something he does.

TREECE

(unhappy)

Champagne?

RICH

Same alcohol as beer.

DENIS

More. Two-point-

(calculating)

-two times as much.

Rich shakes his head. It's hopeless. He paws at the
champagne gift bag Denis is clutching.

RICH
Let's pop this pupito, shall we?

Denis takes the bottle out of the bag. It's Freixenet.

RICH (CONT'D)
Cristal. Black label.

CAMMY
Cristal seems to have changed its logo.
And spelling.

TREECE
(biting finger)
Champagne makes me do... things.

CAMMY
Water makes you do things.

TREECE
Not regular water.

RICH
(suddenly inspired)
Uno momento.

He tears out the room and runs up the stairs.

CAMMY
(under breath)
Un momento.

Denis jams the champagne between his legs and peels back the foil as Beth wanders back in, still on the phone.

BETH
Yeah, well, Kevin, maybe, Kevin, I'm busy
right now...

Beth glances up and points at the Denis's crotch.

BETH (CONT'D)
I want some of that.

Denis almost drops the bottle. Beth walks out.

BETH (CONT'D)
I'm not going to tell you where I am! Or
who I'm with! But I will tell you this,
Kevin: I'm having champagne!

Denis struggles to untwist the wire.

DENIS

Champagne coming right... Yi.

Denis's fingertip is bleeding. He presses on. Cammy and Treece watch with morbid fascination.

Denis pushes the cork with both thumbs, suavely for about a second, then pathetically. He leans back, clasping the sweaty, slippery bottle between his forearms and pushes with all his might. Blood drips over his knuckles.

DENIS (CONT'D)

Huh. The internal pressure is 90 psi. It should just--

Beth re-enters, yelling into the phone.

BETH

Don't you dare GPS me!

Rich appears behind her. He raises his arm and unleashes a ribbon of condoms, mouthing the word, "ribbed."

Denis eyes go wide just in time for the cork to POP and RICOCHET off his cornea. He opens his mouth to scream, and, of course, a seemingly endless gusher of warm champagne shoots into the back of his throat. He GASPS and GULPS and champagne shoots out of his nose.

Cammy laughs darkly; Treece just stares. Beth snaps her phone shut and rushes to Denis's side.

BETH (CONT'D)

You all right?

DENIS

Yeah, I'm great.

Denis clasps his bloody hand over his eye, and slumps to the ground with a WHIMPER. Beth yells at Rich, who is shoving the condoms in his shirt pocket.

BETH

Ice?!

Rich hurries to the plastic bowl of ice on the kitchen island and sticks his hand in. It comes out wet.

BETH (CONT'D)

(frustrated)

Freezer! Frozen peas!

Rich opens the freezer, rummaging.

RICH
Frozen Peas... Fro-oh-zen Pa-peas--

BETH (O.C.)
Anything cold!

Rich pulls a box out of the freezer and throws it.

RICH
Stat!

Beth catches the box.

BETH
Frozen waffles?

RICH
(looking in freezer)
Either that or Lean Cuisine.

Rich spies something. He takes out a pint of ice cream.

With paramedic speed, Beth rips open the box and extracts two frozen waffles. She squats down in front of Denis, straddling his legs. Denis's uninjured eye widens. Beth gently pulls Denis's hand from his eye and presses the waffles against it. He SQUEAKS.

BETH
It's okay. This will help.

DENIS
I'm sorry I'm so pathetic.

BETH
(warmly)
Can I tell you a secret?
(leans in, whispers)
All boys are pathetic.

DENIS
On behalf of all boys, then: I apologize.
And sorry for all those wars and stuff.

BETH
You're funny.

Beth takes Denis's hand and leads it to his eye. Denis holds the waffles to his eye and smiles weakly.

DENIS
Thanks.... Lisbee.

BETH
 (moment broken)
 Don't call me that. I hate that.

DENIS
 But Kevin--

BETH
 That's a privilege that Kevin enjoys.

CAMMY
 Kevin has many privileges.

TREECE
 Front door privileges...

Beth cuts them off with a hand gesture. Rich enters, eating ice cream.

RICH
 You think your Army man has triangulated your signal and is on his way over? Because we'll need more waffles.

BETH
 Never mind him. He thinks just because he's killed some guys, he can kill anybody he wants.
 (to Denis)
 Let's see under there...

Denis KEENS quietly as Beth removes the waffle. The area is already purple en route to black and beyond. Denis winces and opens his eye.

TREECE
 Pee-yuke.

Denis's eyeball is filled with blood.

RICH
 Dude, that's NC-17.

Denis's POV -- Beth's blurry face in a swirling red sea.

DENIS
 (suddenly panicked)
 My contact!

Beth snaps her fingers.

BETH
 Contact down!

Treece and Cammy initiate contact retrieval maneuvers, instinctively dividing the search area. Rich gazes at the floor. Beth presses the waffle to Denis's eye.

BETH (CONT'D)

Don't worry. We'll find it. We always do.

DENIS

You wear contacts? What's your prescription?

Beth LAUGHS gently.

TREECE (O.C.)

Found it!

Treece holds the champagne cork aloft. She PEELS the contact off the top. She rubs it off into Beth's palm.

TREECE (CONT'D)

What do I win?

RICH

The thanks of a grateful nation.

He hands her the container of ice cream. She accepts it.

TREECE

(re: ice cream)

Chubby Monkey!

Beth rolls the sticky contact around on her fingertip.

BETH

Gucky.

She sticks the contact in her mouth.

DENIS'S POV -- His contact lolls around on Beth's wet tongue, and is deposited on her luscious lips.

Beth plucks the contact from her mouth, tilts Denis's head and pulls his swollen eyelid open gently. Denis MOANS ambiguously. He blinks. His contact is back in.

DENIS'S POV -- Beth comes into focus, framed by a velvety crimson swirl. She leans in.

BETH (CONT'D)

How's that feel?

Something comes to Beth's attention. She glances down. Denis smiles sheepishly.

BETH (CONT'D)
 Pretty good, I guess.

Beth bounces from her knees to standing in a single motion. Denis clumsily climbs to his feet, wedging his forearm between his legs. He leans against the kitchen island, pelvis turned in.

TREECE
 You hurt your back?

Cammy points at the ice cream.

CAMMY
 Chubby Monkey.

TREECE
 (dawning)
 Oh. The monkey is chubby.

Denis scoots around the kitchen island. Rich slides him the box of frozen waffles. Denis lowers it out of sight.

BETH
 You maybe scratched your cornea. You should go to the hospital.

DENIS
 Oh. No. Let's not spoil the party.

CAMMY
 What party?

Denis realizes he's still gripping the bottle of...

DENIS
 Champagne!

RICH
 ¡La bebida de los gods!

Rich grabs the Dixie cups and struggles to set up five.

DENIS
 Delicious champagne...

RICH
 Delicioso.

Rich backs away from the cups with a magician's flourish. Denis fills the first cup. The second starts strong but quickly fades to a dribble. The bottle is empty.

DENIS
Even things up a little...

Denis takes the first cup and quickly drains it into the other three. He hands cups to Beth, Cammy and Treece.

TREECE
(suspicious, re: her cup)
Why'd I get the hippo?

CAMMY
(dryly)
It's good fat.

TREECE
That's racist!

CAMMY
It's not race-ist.

TREECE
It's fattist!

CAMMY
You said you were fat. Two minutes ago.
And every two minutes before that.

TREECE
I was owning it!

DENIS
A toast!

He raises his cup. He has no toast. He improvises.

DENIS (CONT'D)
To the future!

CAMMY
(mocking)
Go, future!

TREECE
(completely sincere)
Future, yea!

BETH
(unenthusiastically)
The future.

Beth slugs back her one gulp of champagne. Cammy and Treece follow in tandem. Rich sips urbanely.

Treece crushes her paper cup, and looks to toss it. She notices something sticking out of Rich's shirt pocket. She extracts the unfolding ribbon of condoms.

TREECE
Party balloons!

RICH
Those aren't--

TREECE
(ripping open foil pouch)
I know what they are.

Treece starts blowing up the condom. Beth turns to Denis. She's amused but also a little disturbed.

BETH
What did you have in mind for this evening?

DENIS
Oh, uh... Those are my dad's....

CAMMY
Your dad's not hiding in a closet or something?

TREECE
(tying inflated condom)
I hate that.

BETH
(nice, but with finality)
Well, this was fun.

Treece flicks the condom balloon away. Rich catches it.

DENIS
No, not yet... we haven't... drunk the wine! We have 23 bottles!

TREECE
I don't like wine. Unless it's in a cooler-type situation.

Denis hoists a two-liter bottle of Orange-Ginger soda.

DENIS
We got coolers!

The bottle slips out of Denis's hands. It falls out of frame and apparently BURSTS and FOAMS all over the place. Denis SIGHS existentially, defeated.

RICH
And music! Wine, women and iSongs!

Momentarily revived, Denis commandeers his iPod stereo.

DENIS
We have music. Indeed. I put together a special playlist for tonight... a "Commencement Mix."

RICH
(quick save)
"DJ C's Slammin' Graduation."

DENIS
Or that.

Denis pushes play.

SEALS AND CROFT
LIFE, SO THEY SAY, IS BUT A GAME/ AND WE
LET IT SLIP AWAY...

CAMMY
Slammin'.

RICH
That's more for chilling... Ironic
chilling.

Denis presses advance.

BEACH BOYS
A TIME FOR JOY/ A TIME FOR TEARS...

DENIS
My mom helped me put this together.

BEACH BOYS
A TIME WE'LL TREASURE THROUGH--

Denis undocks the iPod and flips through it desperately.

DENIS
There's real music on here... That
[SOUNDTRACK BAND] song...

BETH
(nicely)
We do kind of have to go, Denis...
Thanks. It was a great party.

Beth moves in to kiss Denis. He can't believe it. But then she pulls back. His disappointment is transparent.

But then she gently turns his head and kisses his uninjured cheek. He flushes.

BETH (CONT'D)

Bye.

The moment is shattered by a HUGE ROAR. Denis turns.

Blinding light engulfs the front door. The roar stops abruptly and the door goes dark.

BETH (CONT'D)

Shit. Kevin.

Rich, Treece and Cammy rush to the front. Beth SIGHS and follows. Denis, terrified, drops his iPod into a pocket.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

The girls and Rich look out the bay window at the mammoth older Hummer gouged into the front lawn. Denis slinks up behind them, peeks around Treece.

Kevin and his TWO ARMY BUDDIES disembark their vehicle, precision dressed for a party (black khakis and polos). Treece waves happily at her would-be date-rapist.

TREECE

Sean! Shaw-on!

Denis puts his hand over Treece's mouth and pulls her to the ground, landing on top of her. Treece's eyes dilate and her lips part autonomically.

Beth, Cammy and Rich stare down at this.

DENIS

(urgent whisper)

Everybody down!

BETH

Why?

DENIS

(urgent whisper)

He's going to kill me!

CAMMY

So?

BETH

He's not going to... He's just trying to be scary.

DENIS

He's scary!

BETH

The most he's gonna do is beat on you a little.

DENIS

The door! Secure the door!

Denis commando crawls away as the others watch.

CAMMY

Is he always like this?

RICH

This is new. But not surprising.

BETH

I think it's kinda cute.
(off Cammy's look)
It is. Kinda.

Treece stands and rearranges herself.

TREECE

Yeah. Like when a puppy gets so excited he pees all over everything. It's cute and funny, but then there's pee over everything.

INT. FOYER

Denis makes it to the door, GRUNTING and HUFFING. He lunges up and turns the deadbolt. He leans back against the door, relieved. This gives him a perfect view of:

INT. BACK PATIO ENTRANCE

Kevin, Sean, and third party commando DUSTIN enter through the sliding glass door. They look unhappy.

INT. FOYER

Hair falls in Denis's face. A hand reaches down.

BETH

I can handle this. Don't be afraid.

DENIS

I wasn't afraid. I was... being prudent.

BETH
 (grabbing his hand)
 Well, come along, Prudence.

INT. KITCHEN

Beth enters, holding Denis's hand. Kevin SNARLS. Denis tries to pull his hand from Beth's, but she won't let go.

BETH
 Congratulations, you found me. Now let's just--

KEVIN
 Shut up, Lisbee.

BETH
Kevin. Have you been doing coke?

KEVIN
 Shut your goddamn mouth!

DENIS
 He's coked up!

TREECE
 That is not one of the good drugs.

Kevin picks up the empty champagne bottle. He's mad. He notices the balloon Rich is holding. He's much madder.

KEVIN
 Prepare to die!

RICH
 (delighted)
 Mandy Patinkin in "The Princess Bride,"
 Rob Reiner, 1987. Also Emperor Zurg in
 "Toy Story 2"--

The champagne bottle embeds in the drywall next to Rich's head. Beth releases Denis's hand and approaches Kevin.

BETH
Kevin Patrick. Just stop.

DENIS
 This is completely inappropriate. We just had this kitchen painted.

Three brightly colored two liter bottles of soda EXPLODE around Denis's head against the wall.

DENIS (CONT'D)

Now this... is willful damage to property. That's a legal term.

Denis's eyes suddenly widen.

Kevin picks up a microwave oven in the palm of his hand.

Denis is frozen. A hand slips around his neck and pulls him down out of frame as the microwave hurtles through where his head was and crashes through the drywall.

Beth SCREAMS, while Cammy smirks. Treece eats ice cream.

Denis is on the floor, held there by Rich. As gypsum dust rains down, the microwave drops into frame and bounces off Rich's head.

RICH

(from under microwave)

This time, really: run away.

Denis gets up and runs. Rich stands up, brushes himself off. Seeing Kevin coming at him, Rich tosses the condom balloon in Kevin's face.

Kevin snatches the balloon and smiles as he slowly squeezes it. It doesn't pop, though. Frustrated, Kevin squeezes it with both hands.

He stalks off, batting the balloon away as he crosses the girls. Cammy catches the balloon and examines it.

CAMMY

(impressed)

Durex.

INT. FOYER

Denis reaches the front door. It's locked. In a panic, he runs up the stairs. Rich calls up after him.

RICH

You don't run upstairs! Have you seen any of the Friday the 13ths?

Rich turns to see Kevin smash an overhead light fixture with his bare fist as he approaches. Rich runs upstairs.

RICH (CONT'D)

Andale!

INT. DENIS'S BEDROOM

Rich rushes in and gets tangled in a squadron of X-Wing Starfighters hanging from the ceiling. Denis desperately rifles through his closet, tossing out clothes, board games, etc. He pulls out a snorkel and swim fins.

DENIS

Why didn't I play baseball?

Kevin appears in the doorway. His pals fall in behind.

Denis reaches deep into the closet and pulls out... a light saber.

Kevin LAUGHS. He scans the room: a human skeleton wearing a "BGHS Debate Team" T-shirt, a CPR poster, charts of human muscular and circulatory systems, poster of Einstein sticking out his tongue, Futurama figurines...

KEVIN

(chortles)

What a Eugene.

He freezes. Above the bed: a huge poster of Beth kneeling in her cheerleading costume, apparently cropped from a squad photo and blown up about 7,000 percent.

Somewhat more perturbed than ever, Kevin grabs the pelvis of the skeleton and TEARS it off the spine.

DENIS

Dr. McCoy!

Kevin RIPS the skeleton's legs from the pelvis.

DENIS (CONT'D)

(admonishing)

Hey, that used to be a person...

A gleeful Kevin comes at Denis, wielding the leg bones like nunchucks, spinning them around the knee joints. Denis tries to fend off the bone assault with his light saber, but is pummelled about the head and shoulders.

DENIS (CONT'D)

Very-iy!... disrespect-ow-ful.

RICH (O.C.)

Dude!

Rich has climbed out an open window and is beckoning Denis to follow. Before Denis can respond, he's hit in the head with a bone foot.

Denis staggers against the wall, pinned. Kevin SNORTS happily. A human skull shatters on the back of his head, distracting him. Beth is holding the jawbone.

BETH

Calm down! Remember what the chaplain said!

KEVIN

(raising femur)
You want some of this?

BETH

Kevin, let's just--

KEVIN

(very calmly)
Do you?

BETH

(quietly)
No.

Beth glances past Kevin. Noticing this, Kevin spins furiously to see the last of Denis climbing out the window. He stares at Beth incredulously.

KEVIN

You like this dork?

Beth doesn't answer quickly enough. Kevin's eyes twitch.

EXT. HOUSE - SECOND FLOOR

Denis crawls on the eaves, slipping frequently.

RICH (O.S.)

Hey!

Rich hangs off the roof, legs wrapped around the drainpipe. He gives Denis a thumbs up. As he lets go of the roof, the drainpipe SEPARATES from the gutter and Rich disappears into the dark.

Denis scrambles to the corner of the roof. He leans over.

DENIS

Rich!?

The gutter CA-CHUNKS. Denis stiffens. The gutter COLLAPSES. Denis topples off the roof head first.

HUGE, EXTRA PRICKLY THORN BUSH

Denis emerges, clothes torn and face scratched. He runs over to Rich, lying flat on his back, clutching the drainpipe between his legs. He is remarkably calm.

RICH

I'm paralyzed. I'm a paralyzed virgin.

A GUTTER RATTLE. Denis turns, watches in awe and terror:

Three dark figures leap from the roof in unison, roll, and seamlessly rise in commando formation.

Denis turns back to Rich on the ground, but he's gone. Denis pivots to see Rich is standing in the next yard.

RICH (CONT'D)

Run, you dumb monkey!

A monster dog appears out of nowhere and TACKLES Rich.

EXT. BACKYARD

Rich STRUGGLES with the huge dog on top of him. Denis grabs the dog by the collar and pulls it off. The dog PANTS HAPPILY, licking Denis's hand. Rich SIGHS.

RICH

And now I'm partially eaten.

DENIS

Kimberly? She's just a pup--

Kimberly GROWLS. Denis looks up to see the reason: Kevin, flanked by Sean and Dustin, slightly mussed, highly pissed. Kevin makes a move toward Denis. Kimberly explodes, SNARLING and SNAPPING. Kevin recoils.

DENIS (CONT'D)

Good dog!

As Kimberly keeps the men at bay, Rich scrambles to his feet and runs off again. Denis, annoyed, follows him.

EXT. BACKYARDS OF HACKBERRY DRIVE

Rich and Denis stagger-run across several backyards, taking fences in a less than graceful way. Denis stops, bending over to catch his breath.

DENIS

Coach Raupp was right. We are pussies.

Rich taps Denis on the back. He looks up.

Kevin and troops advance toward them methodically, in a military trot. They hurdle a fence easily and in unison.

RICH

We may be dealing with cyborgs.

Denis grabs Rich and pulls him toward the front yard.

EXT. HACKBERRY

Denis and Rich race under a street lamp and into:

EXT. RAIN-FOREST PLAYGROUND

Denis scrambles up a tongue-shaped slide and into the the mouth of a giant crazed monkey head.

RICH

Have you learned nothing?

Nevertheless, Rich follows.

Denis runs across a wooden bridge, setting off plastic macaw SQUAWKING. He is followed shortly by Rich.

RICH (CONT'D)

Do you have a plan? Is this a plan?

Denis dives into a bright yellow plastic tunnel.

Rich joins Denis inside the tunnel. They are illuminated by dim shafts of light coming through the portholes. They BREATHE HEAVILY for a few moments.

RICH (CONT'D)

Oh, the hiding plan.

(grins lasciviously)

Beth Cooper was straddling you.

Rich CHORTLES. Denis raises his hand to signal silence--

An arm lunges through a porthole next to Denis's head.

Milliseconds later another arm shoots through an opposing porthole. It grabs Rich's collar and jerks him back and forth violently, SLAMMING HIM into the tunnel walls.

The arm on Denis's side gropes around. Denis scoots away... and a third arm grabs him, putting him in a chokehold.

Rich is thrown about as Denis CHOKES. About to pass out, Denis turns toward the end of the tunnel. It fills with brilliant light, accompanied by a ROARING CELESTIAL HORN.

DENIS
(weakly)
White light. Not good.

The arm suddenly releases Denis. As the blood returns to his brain, the celestial horn resolves into a REVVING ENGINE and a CAR HORN. The light veers away from the tunnel and toward the side the choking arm came from.

Denis is confused, then flabbergasted, when Treece's face suddenly appears in one of the portholes.

TREECE
Hi!

Outside the tunnel, Beth has Kevin pinned against a happy hippo with her white Cabriolet convertible (with the top down).

KEVIN
(conciliatory)
Lisbee?
(then furious)
Lisbee!

Kevin brings both of his fists down on the hood. Beth responds by lurching the car forward.

Inside the tunnel, Denis scurries over to an addled Rich.

RICH
I'm a shaken baby.

Denis tries to pry away the hand gripping Rich's collar. No luck. So he bites down on it, hard.

Outside the tunnel, Sean yanks his hand back, YELPING.

Denis crawls out of the tunnel dragging a woozy Rich. Denis dumps Rich into the back. As he does, Beth starts backing out quickly. Denis dives into the front seat.

Beth fishtails 180 and PEELS OUT. Dustin grabs the back of the Cabriolet and manages to hang on for several seconds before being bucked off as the car careers onto the street.

EXT. ARLINGTON HEIGHTS ROAD

The Cabriolet weaves through the light traffic.

INT. CABRIOLET

Denis is sprawled across Cammy. Cammy impatiently shoves him off her, down unto the floorboards. A tangled ball, Denis rolls side to side as Beth swerves through traffic.

DENIS

We got away. We can stop escaping.

CAMMY

She always drives like this.

Rich sits up in the backseat, stunned. Treece sticks her finger in his ear, and checks it.

TREECE

No blood.

A SCREECHING left causes Rich to topple sideways, then a hard right causes him to pop right back up.

RICH

(horrific realization)

I was in driver's ed with her.

PULL BACK from Rich's stunned face to reveal he is:

INT. DRIVER'S ED CAR - THE PREVIOUS YEAR

Next to him in the back is VICTORIA SMELTZER, an anorexic girl (one of the nervous grads) who keeps sneaking peeks at Rich. He doesn't notice because he is focused on:

Beth, smiling serenely in her cheerleading outfit, at the wheel. The Driver's Ed teacher, COACH RAUPP, clutches the door with one hand and the dashboard with the other.

COACH RAUPP

You missed the turn, Cooper.

BETH

Shit.

Beth SLAMS on the brakes. Rich pitches forward, face bouncing off the seatback. He's BACK IN--

INT. CABRIOLET

Treece straps a shell-shocked Rich into a seatbelt.

RICH

I'm the least notable person in this car.
When we all die, I'll be "fifth student."

TREECE

They always spell my name wrong.

EXT. STOP LIGHT

The Cabriolet is mostly in the intersection. A car honks. Beth backs up as if nothing has happened, almost colliding with the car behind.

INT. CABRIOLET

Denis pokes his head up from the floor and starts crawling between Cammy and Beth into the back seat.

DENIS

So, um, thanks for... saving...

BETH

That wasn't for you. Kevin can't have another incident. One more, and it's court martial for sure.

DENIS

One more what?

The light turns green. Beth PEELS OUT and Denis is thrown into the back. A beat later, his head pops back in.

DENIS (CONT'D)

Can I borrow your cell phone?

BETH

Good catch.

Beth throws her cell phone out of the car. (In the same shot, the phone hits an approaching driver in the face and we hear that car SWERVE AND SKID o.c.)

BETH (CONT'D)

GPS that, asshole.

Denis sinks back between Rich and Treece.

RICH

Her driving's gotten much better.

Denis feels around for the middle seatbelt. He retrieves a frayed strap. The buckle falls off.

Treece roots in her purse, pulling out various objects.

TREECE

You can use my phone. Not this one. My mom has it tapped. Here.

She hands Denis a bejeweled pink phone. He dials.

EXT. DESERTED ROAD

A Prius sits on the road. No one is in this front seat. In the back, Mr. C dry-humps Mrs. C. We hear a BUZZING.

MRS. C

You're vibrating, sweetie.

MR. C

That's because I'm about to explode.

MRS. C

It might be Denis.

Mr. C SIGHS, pulls a cellphone out of his shirt pocket. The screen reads, CALLER ID BLOCKED.

MR. C

Telemarketer.

Mr. C slips the BUZZING phone down Mrs. C's panties.

MRS. C

(throaty)

Mister Cooverman.

INT. CABRIOLET

Denis listens to the leave-a-message BEEP.

DENIS

It's me. Rich and I, uh... went out. But we're okay. I can explain the kitchen. You can call me at...

He looks to Treece. She grabs the cell and snaps it shut.

TREECE
That's my stealth phone.

In the front seat, Beth turns on the radio.

JANIS IAN (FROM RADIO)
I LEARNED THE TRUTH AT SEVENTEEN...

Beth frowns, scans to the next station.

OINGO BOINGO (FROM RADIO)
MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE/ LIVING TISSUE,
WARM FLESH

She turns the music off.

BETH
Radio sucks.

Denis remembers his iPod. He pulls it out.

DENIS
Tune to 87-point-one.

Amid EYE-ROLLING GROANS, Denis leans forward between the front seats and turns the radio back on.

DENIS (CONT'D)
No, seriously, you'll like this.

Suddenly, ALICE COOPER'S "SCHOOL'S OUT" blares out the speakers. Beth bobs her head approvingly. Denis smiles.

ALICE COOPER
SCHOOL'S OUT FOR SUMMER!

Beth joins on "Summer."

ALICE COOPER (CONT'D)
SCHOOL'S OUT FOR-EVER!

Beth really hits "forever." Denis frowns.

ALICE COOPER (CONT'D)
SCHOOL'S BEEN BLOWN TO PIECES!

In the back, Treece yells to Rich.

TREECE
I love this song! Who wouldn't want to
blow up their school?

In the front, Denis leans over to correct Beth.

DENIS

You know, school's only out un-

Beth casually executes a sharp right at full speed. Denis tumbles as the car barrels into:

EXT. WHITE HEN PANTRY - PARKING LOT

The car skids into a parking spot, bouncing off the concrete wheel stop.

INT. CABRIOLET

Denis's head is planted

BETWEEN BETH'S LEGS

Denis's face is upside down. His eyes snap open. He sees

BETH COOPER'S PANTIES

White, with hot pink lettering: *Hello.*

BACK IN THE CAR

Beth is looking down at Denis's head, amused.

CAMMY

Crack him like a walnut.

Beth grabs Denis's hair and pulls him out of there.

DENIS

Uh.

BETH

Let's get some beer.

Beth signals "back in five" to Cammy, opens her door, gets out. Denis stumble crawls after her.

INT. WHITE HEN PANTRY

Beth holds the door for Denis as they enter.

BETH

Listen--

DENIS

I lost consciousness briefly, back there.
I wasn't looking or smelling or--

BETH

(not listening)

So I was protecting Kevin, okay? But
also, I didn't want you to get hurt,
because of me. Okay?

DENIS

Okay.

They reach the beer display. Beth turns to Denis, smiles.

BETH

Just don't think I'm a superbitch.

Denis stares at her, amazed.

DENIS

Your eyes aren't blue.

(looking closer)

There's green in there. And around the
pupil, there's a hazel... starburst.

BETH

Yeah. My grandmother said they were a
real "dog's breakfast".

DENIS

Lucky dog.

Denis blushes at his own flirtation. Beth turns her face
away, shyly, but quickly recovers with a public smile.

BETH

What kind of beer do you like?

EXT. WHITE HEN PANTRY - PARKING LOT

Treece texts on her phone next to Rich.

TREECE

How do you spell "fiasco"? I'll just put
a frowny.

CAMMY

To think, Treece: we could be getting
expertly manhandled by trained military
personnel, but instead...

RICH
I'll go check on the cervesas.

He attempts to coolly vault out of the car, but a foot catches and he almost goes down.

CAMMY
...we're spending our graduation night
with Dick Munch and the Penis.

RICH
(flipping bird over head)
You have nicknames too!

Cammy frowns, perplexed.

TREECE
(not looking up)
Yours is Cunty. And mine's really rude.

INT. WHITE HEN PANTRY - SNACK AISLE

Denis's arms are full with a 12-pack of PBR Tall Boys and a sixer of Molson Dark, but Beth is nevertheless piling on various boxes and bags of snacks. She spies.

BETH
Suzy Qs!
(slightly suggestive)
Yum.

DENIS
My mom says "Yum." Not like that.

BETH
(very suggestive)
Yum.

Denis's eyes bug slightly. A couple more boxes are added to his burden, covering his face.

Rich comes around the corner.

RICH
Whoa. *Muchas snackaballes!*

BETH
(shooing him away)
Back to the car.

RICH
Why?

Beth glares at him. It's a good glare.

RICH (CONT'D)
I guess you are the boss of me.

He about-faces and exits. Beth turns to Denis.

BETH
How much money you got?

DENIS
(from behind snacks)
Oh. My wallet...

Denis twists to get his wallet, causing snacks to tumble off him. Beth reaches into his back pocket, slips out his wallet. Denis cringes as she removes a crisp \$100 bill.

BETH
Thank you, Denis Cooverman!

Beth notices something, smiles. She flips the bill around to reveal, written on purple glitter pen, HAPPY G-DAY!
XXX AUNT BRENDA.

BETH (CONT'D)
And thank you, Auntie Brenda!

INT. WHITE HEN PANTRY - FRONT OF STORE

As Rich is leaving, a magazine catches his eye. It's American Man, and the cover features a buff male torso with a brightly feathered fishing lure used as a nipple ring. The headline is CUT BAIT!

VOICE (O.C.)
(Castillian Spanish)
Hola, Ricardo.

Next to Rich, perusing a Details, is a slightly pudgy middle-aged man in a WHAM! T-shirt and terrycloth shorts.

RICH
Oh, hi, Mr. Weidner. I mean, Hola, Señor Weidner.

SR. WEIDNER
You can me Cal, now.

RICH
Okay. Muy bien.

SR. WEIDNER
You're keeping up your Spanish.

RICH
Todo las veces.

SR. WEIDNER
"Todo el tiempo."

RICH
Right. *Soy retardo.*

SR. WEIDNER
(pained smile)
So, listen, *cenemos alguna vez. Si te gusta. ¿Comeremos tapas y hablaremos español?*

Rich clearly has no idea what he is saying.

RICH
Yeah. *Sí.*

SR. WEIDNER
(little too happy)
¡Maravilloso!

RICH
Excelente. But I should probably *vamoose.* I've got two *chicas calientes* waiting for me in the *autobus.*

Rich starts to leave.

SR. WEIDNER
(calling)
¡Llámeme! I'm in the book.

INT. WHITE HEN PANTRY - COUNTER

Beth unloads Denis onto the counter, play-acting bored. The LOSER CLERK scans the items, staring at Denis.

LOSER CLERK
What's with your boyfriend?

In the fluorescent glare, Denis's accumulated injuries are exceedingly gruesome.

BETH
(correcting)
My little brother.

Denis winces.

LOSER CLERK
What happened to his face?

BETH
Dad beats him.

The clerk swings the Molson toward the scanner, stops at the last second, and places it back on the counter.

LOSER CLERK
I need to see some ID.

Beth overplays surprise. She pulls out a coin purse, which Denis notices is stuffed with bills, and hands a driver's license to the clerk.

LOSER CLERK (CONT'D)
(sarcastically pleasant)
You've lost weight, Patricia. And you certainly don't look 37.

BETH
Thank you.

The clerk tosses the ID on the counter, and slides the beer away from the rest of the purchase.

LOSER CLERK
46-72. Without the beer.

Beth drops the act and goes into a teenage pleading.

BETH
Oh, c'mon. It's graduation night.

LOSER CLERK
Con-grad-ulations.

BETH
You're a cool guy. Be cool.

LOSER CLERK
I could lose my shitty job.

Plan B: Beth smiles shyly.

BETH
I'll touch your dick.

The clerk is intrigued.

ON DENIS'S GRIEF-STRICKEN FACE

DENIS
And then she touched his dick.

INT. CABRIOLET - BACK SEAT

Denis sits between Treece and Rich, a huge bag of snacks on his lap.

TREECE
Ew. Even I wouldn't do that. Unless the beer was free.

In the front, Beth drinks a Tall Boy as she drives, tapping her fingers to the END OF INNOCENCE GRADUATION CLASSIC playing on the radio via the iPod.

In the back, Denis is still in shock.

DENIS
He was a greasy misshapen worm. And she touched his dick.

RICH
So there's hope for you.

TREECE
If you have beer.

RICH
Inside or outside?

DENIS
What?

RICH
The pants. Inside or outside?

TREECE
(cheerleading clap)
Good question!

DENIS
I don't want to talk about it.

Taking him at his word, Treece talks across him to Rich.

TREECE
I saw you chatting with Señor Weidner. I always thought he was a handbag.

RICH
So why are you telling me?

TREECE
'Cuz you're right there.

RICH
And anyway, why would you think Weidner's gay? He dresses terribly.

TREECE
He's always lisping.
(demonstrates)
¿Dónde está la coquina?

RICH
That's just the way they talk in... some Spanish place.

DENIS
(on automatic)
Castile.

TREECE
I guess that's why you don't see many Cathstillicans.

Treece WHINNIES HARD at her own joke.

RICH
You know, it's not right to assume someone's gay just because of the way they talk, or look. Or act.

Treece SNORTS to a stop. She regarded Rich fondly.

TREECE
Nobody cares if you're gay.

RICH
I'm not.

TREECE
(big smile)
No one cares. So be gay already!

This shuts Rich up. After a long beat:

DENIS
She's not Beth Cooper.

TREECE
I'm pretty sure she is.

The radio plays a FLEETING MEMORIES GRADUATION CLASSIC.

HIGH SCHOOL HAUNTS - MONTAGE

As they pass the commercial strip that has been their universe the past four years...

CAMMY stares out the window at a JEWEL SUPERMARKET.

CAMMY'S MEMORY -- Cammy, in ugly smock, scans items, her eyes dead. An item doesn't scan. She scans it again. Nothing. She simply tosses it behind her and continues scanning.

RICH looks fondly upon a BLOCKBUSTER.

RICH'S MEMORY -- A ELDERLY COUPLE picks a DVD. Rich grabs the disc, admonishing them. As he leads them toward another movie, he performs an apparently indecipherable impression.

TREECE lights up as they pass an AMC MULTIPLEX.

TREECE'S MEMORY -- She's in the theatre, straddling a guy in his seat, making out. An usher flashes a light on them. Treece seems pissed, but when she turns around we see that she, too, is an usher. She pulls her flashlight from between his legs and exits.

BETH glances at a PAY-LESS SHOES.

BETH'S MEMORY -- Beth is hunched over, trying to put shoes on a small screaming child as her mother looks on disapprovingly, surrounded by dozens of opened boxes.

DENIS is gazing at Beth, wondering about her.

DENIS'S MEMORY -- Beth is gracefully, sensuously bent over, slipping a shoe on the same child, who seems delighted. Denis watches this from a distance. His mother arrives with a hideous pair of brown shoes she expects him to try on.

EXT. DUNDEE ROAD

The car drives out of the strip and into the dark.

EXT. OLD TOBACCO ROAD - NIGHT

The Cabriolet is parked on a spooky, foggy rural road, the kind urban legends are made of. SIMPLE MINDS' "DON'T YOU (FORGET ABOUT ME)" plays through the radio.

Cammy, Treece and Rich are out of the car, sitting on or near the trunk. Denis, in the front passenger seat, sips a Molson Dark. Beth has a Pabst.

BETH

How's that illegal beer treating you?

DENIS

You do know, open liquor in the car, you could lose your license?

BETH

Too late!

She toasts Denis with her beer can and chugs.

Outside, Rich finishes his beer with a dramatic flourish.

RICH

Nik-nik-nik-f-f-f-Indians!

Cammy and Treece stare at him.

RICH (CONT'D)

Jack Nicholson in "Easy Rider," 1969,
Dennis Hopper.

CAMMY

Something is wrong with you.

In the car, Beth crushes her beer can and tosses it. She immediately POPS another and SUCKS the foam off the top. She smiles at Denis with a big beer 'stache.

BETH

So, ever come up here with Patty Keck?

(off his panicked look)

Girls talk. So, Patty Keck, huh? She has such a pretty face.

Eager to change the subject, Denis points to the radio.

DENIS

This song.

JIM KERR (ON RADIO)
WILL YOU CALL MY NAME...

DENIS
What if our parents, on their graduation night, they could have been sitting right here, listening to this exact same song. Which means we were here... in cell form.

CAMMY
I don't remember getting high.

TREECE
We're high?

DENIS
I just thought it was interesting, how we all go through this. We all... graduate.

TREECE
My parent's didn't graduate to this song. They didn't have cool music back then.

RICH
Simple Minds, from the soundtrack of "Breakfast Club," John Hughes, 1984.

CAMMY
Are you going to do that all night?

RICH
Yes.

The song ends, segueing into a DELICATE PIANO OPENING that causes Denis's face to go ashen. Beth seems to recognize the song as well. She smiles.

DENIS
I don't know how that got in there. Into that mix. I don't even know how I got it. Bonus track. Must be.

Cammy opens her mouth. Beth cuts her off, and shoos her away with walking fingers. Cammy reluctantly grabs Treece, who grabs Rich. They walk into the dark.

Denis cringes as:

PETER CRISS (ON RADIO)
BETH, I HEAR YOU CALLING...

EXT. OLD TOBACCO ROAD

Cammy, Rich and Treece walk along the dark, foggy road.

TREECE

Why are we walking? When I get my own car
I'm never walking anywhere again. My Dad
was going to give me his old car but then
Bitchtricia crashed hers.

(noticing)

Look!

RICH

(spooked)

What?

CAMMY

(pointing, flatly)

Cow.

Out in a field, a cow silhouette is visible in the mist.

TREECE

Let's tip it!

Rich doesn't look so inclined. Treece elbows him.

RICH

Me? It was your idea.

TREECE

You're the guy.

CAMMY

More or less.

Rich HUFFS and marches toward the cow.

RICH

These challenges to my sexuality are just
wrong.

INT. CABRIOLET

Denis squirms. Beth seems to be enjoying the music.

PETER CRISS (ON RADIO)

OH, BETH WHAT CAN I DO?/ BETH, WHAT CAN I
DO?

DENIS

Here, let me me...

Denis reaches for his iPod. A hand covers his.

BETH
I was named after this song.

DENIS
You were named after a Kiss song?

BETH
My parents were, you know, headbangers.

Beth leans back in her seat, staring forward.

BETH (CONT'D)
Still are, kinda.

DENIS
I'm sorry.

Beth takes a long drink, crushes the can.

BETH
Why?

EXT. FIELD

Cammy and Treece watch from the road as Rich creeps toward the cow as if it were a ferocious lion.

TREECE
Go, go. Go!

Rich turns to shush, walking slowly backwards

RICH
Don't... wake... the--

SPLURP. Followed by a WET SUCKING SOUND. Rich looks down.

His foot is sinking into a massive cow pie.

Rich jerks his leg up and inspects his shoe. It's gone. In horror, he looks down.

The shoe is being swallowed by the poop.

Hopping on one foot he reaches down and SQUITT.

INT. CABRIOLET

Beth listens to the music, arms wrapped around her knees.

PETER CRISS (ON RADIO)
 BETH, I KNOW YOU'RE LONELY/ AND I HOPE
 YOU'LL BE ALRIGHT...

DENIS
 Beth, I lied. About this song. I wasn't
 expecting to be listening to it with
 anyone, you especially...

BETH
 Life's full of surprises.

DENIS
 Not mine. Usually.

Beth turns off the radio. She swivels toward Denis,
 balancing the PBR on her knee.

BETH
 So... why me?

DENIS
 You?

BETH
 Why not Claudia Confer? She's prettier
 than me, and nicer. The bitch.

DENIS
 I don't think she's... I didn't sit
 behind Claudia Confer.

BETH
 You never even talked to me.

DENIS
 You didn't seem too interested. I'm
 surprised you even know who I am.

BETH
 I know who you are!

BETH'S MEMORIES OF DENIS COOVERMAN

Denis finishes writing an equation on a blackboard. As he
 turns around, we see his fly is wide open. There are
 stars on his underwear.

UP ANGLE on Denis's face, at the graduation podium, as he
 mouths the words, "I love you, Beth Cooper."

BACK TO SCENE

BETH

How could I not know Denis Cooverman?

EXT. FIELD

Rich stands next to the cow. He scrapes the sides of his shoes in the grass. He places his hands on the cow's side and pushes. Nothing.

TREECE

Use your physics!

Rich pushes harder, his legs spinning in the shit-slick grass. He falls back against the motionless cow.

RICH

Little help, por favor?

INT. CABRIOLET

It's very quiet in the car.

DENIS

What are you thinking?

BETH

Nothing.

She finishes her beer, opens another. Denis struggles for conversation fodder. He sips his beer and:

DENIS

We did talk. You borrowed a pencil once.
You signed my yearbook.

BETH

(amused, incredulous)
When did I sign your yearbook?

DENIS

Seventh grade.

BETH

What'd I write?

DENIS

I don't--

BETH

You remember.

DENIS
 (chagrined)
 "To a smart kid. Don't wear out your
 brains over the summer."

Beth puts her hand on Denis's shoulder, dead serious.

BETH
 Sorry I led you on.

A beat. He gets the joke. He LAUGHS. So does she.

DENIS
 Hey, we can talk now. Like, what are you
 doing after graduation? I'm going to,
 it's this six-year combined pre-med/med-
 school thing. After that I'm not sure if
 I want to practice or do research...

BETH
 (getting quiet)
 Good luck with that.

DENIS
 So, where are you going?

BETH
 I dunno. Maybe Harpers.

DENIS
 (thrown)
 Oh. Harpers. They've got some good...
 credit courses.

BETH
 Maybe. If I can afford it.

Beth crushes her beer.

BETH (CONT'D)
 I have to pee.

Beth gets out of the car. Denis sits in the car, eating
 his heart out, listening to her PEE.

EXT. FIELD

Cammy, Treece and Rich line up on the cow, tail to head.

RICH
 Uno, dos, tres, catorce!

On catorce, they push with all their might, STRAINING.

CAMMY

How did you ever gradua--

The cow suddenly turns, its face an inch from Rich's.

COW

(quite angry)

MOO!

INT. CABRIOLET

Beth and Denis drink beer separately. The uncomfortable silence in the car is broken by a SHRIEK.

BETH

What the hell was that?

DENIS

I think it was Rich.

Rich runs SHRIEKING out of dark, grabbing his neck, and tumbles into the car. Cammy and Treece, falling over each other with LAUGHTER, stagger up and get in.

DENIS (CONT'D)

What happened? What's funny?

RICH

Cow bit me!

DENIS

Cows can't bite. They lack upper incisors.

Rich points at a large hickey on his neck.

RICH

This one sure as shit could!

(panicking)

What if it was a mad cow?

TREECE

She was pretty mad.

CAMMY

(gasps theatrically)

You're going to turn into a werecow.

(glances up, gasps again)

And it's a full moooooooon.

Rich turns to Denis, desperate.

DENIS

In the highly unlikely event this cow had bovine spongiform encephalopathy, the disease can't be transmitted by biting, which cows can't do.

TREECE

You're useful.

BETH

What's that smell?

CAMMY

(re: Rich)

He pooped his shoes.

BETH

Lose the shoes.

RICH

These are my best shoes!

BETH

Well, now they're shit.

RICH

I paid for these shoes!

BETH

They go, with you in them or not.

A MOMENT LATER

The shoes are lined up by the side of the road.

Rich sits unhappily between Cammy and Treece.

CAMMY

Well, that's what we did. What have the head cheerleader and Tiny Einstein been up to?

DENIS

We were just--

BETH

Storytime!

Treece CLAPS her hands in delight. Cammy smirks. Beth turns around in her seat, facing the others.

BETH (CONT'D)

It was 33 years ago tonight--

BETH'S STORY

The scene matches the previous Old Tobacco Road establishing shot, only the Cabriolet has been replaced with a VW Bus bearing a remarkable resemblance to Scooby's Mystery Machine. We hear the opening of AEROSMITH'S "SWEET EMOTION."

BETH (V.O.)
 --on this very road. This hippie and his
 two chicks...

The HIPPIE and his TWO CHICKS are played by Rich, Cammy and Treece. They are apparently naked under a Smiley Face blanket, sharing a ridiculously large Smiley Face bong.

BETH (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 ...were totally wasted. One of the chicks
 starts to tell this story...

Treece the Hippie Chick begins to "talk."

BETH (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 (doing hippie chick)
 So, it was, like, the 50s, man.

HIPPIE CHICK'S STORY

Same location. Now it's a '57 T-Bird and in BLACK AND WHITE. The music is "Rock around the Clock."

BETH (V.O.)
 (hippie chick)
 And this dude, like, tells his lady he's
 out of gas...

A Greaser (Denis) puts the moves on a Bobby-soxer (Beth).

BETH (CONT'D)
 (hippie chick)
 ...and then he tries to get groovy. She's
 not copacetic with that--

The greaser stalks off with a gas can.

BETH (CONT'D)
 (hippie chick)
 --so she, like, bags him.

BACK TO SCENE

Denis interjects.

DENIS

Wait, is this Hook Man or Trippin'
Hippies? You're mixing up your urban
legends.

Beth's look shuts Denis up. In the back, Rich notices
Cammy and Treece are quietly securing their seatbelts.

BETH

(normal voice)

And so the girl turns on the radio to
keep her company...

As she acts this out, MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

INT. T-BIRD

Beth the Bobbysoxer listens in horror. For some reason,
the news announcer sounds just like Wolfman Jack.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Hey all you cats and kitties, news flash:
a deranged killer with a hook for a hand
has escaped from the local mental
hospital! Now here's the Surfari, y'all!

As the INSANE LAUGH that opens "Wipeout" plays, Beth the
Bobbysoxer looks panicked.

BETH (V.O.)

Just then, there's a scratching at the
door!

CLOSE ON THE DOOR.

SFX: HORROR-MOVIE STYLE SCRATCHING

BETH (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Well, that girl was so scared she steps
on the gas and--

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CABRIOLET

Beth, hands on the wheel, steps on the gas.

BETH

--peels out!

The car PEELS OUT and disappears into the fog.

EXT. OLD TOBACCO ROAD

The car hurtles down an incline that seems more suited to a roller coaster than a backroad.

INT. CABRIOLET/EXT. OLD TOBACCO ROAD

From the radio, PINK FLOYD'S "ANOTHER BRICK IN THE WALL" starts with a scream.

ROGER WATERS (V.O.)
WE DON'T NEED NO EDUCATION

Beth turns off the headlights.

The road ahead of them disappears.

ROGER WATERS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
WE DON'T NEED NO THOUGHT CONTROL

Everyone SCREAMS, the girls with delight, the boys in earnest. Rich hangs on to the broken seat belt strap. Beth turns to Denis, LAUGHING.

BETH
To the future!

The car dips and dives through the murky black.

ROGER WATERS (V.O.)
NO DARK SARCASM IN THE CLASSROOM

Denis, terrified, turns to Beth.

Her long hair is flying about. She smiles grimly, like she wouldn't mind dying all that much.

ROGER WATERS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
TEACHER, LEAVE THOSE KIDS ALONE

The Cabriolet speeds up a hill.

Beth turns the headlights back on.

THROUGH THE WINDSHIELD, as the cars crests the hill: there is a car parked directly ahead.

ROGER WATERS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
TEACHER! LEAVE THOSE KIDS ALONE!

Beth SWERVES, causing the car to FISHTAIL. It SIDESWIPES the parked car, whipsaws around in the opposite direction and comes to stop facing the other car.

Beth turns off the radio. She hears a TINY, HIGH PITCHED SOUND. Denis's mouth hangs open. He closes it.

DENIS

Sorry. I was unaware I was emitting that.

BETH

Denis Cooverman, please stop apologizing for being you.

(to back seat)

Anyone dead?

Cammy and Treece straighten themselves.

CAMMY

Not yet.

Rich clings to the loose belt with a death grip.

RICH

Never been more alive.

In the front, Denis is checking his pulse. He realizes:

DENIS

The airbags didn't go off.

BETH

I sold those years ago.

DENIS

Isn't that illegal?

BETH

If it isn't, I got ripped off.

A METALLIC GROAN draws Denis's attention

THROUGH THE WINDSHIELD

The crumpled rear door of a black Prius opens and Mr. C backs out awkwardly. His pants are around his ankles.

DENIS

I am so very dead.

Mrs. C climbs out, yanking her panties into her skirt.

Denis EXHALES DEEPLY, turns to Beth.

DENIS (CONT'D)

I had a lovely time this evening...

Beth grabs Denis's arm as he turns to get out of the car.

BETH

You do not want to talk to your dad when he's not wearing pants.

She shifts into reverse and PEELS OUT. The car's headlights quickly disappear into the mist. Mr. C pulls up his pants.

MR. C

Kids. Goddamn kids!

MRS. C

(re: the goddamn kids)
Still wish our son were more "normal"?

EXT. VALLI WOOLLY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

It's a three-story brick monstrosity on the *nouveau riche* side of town with a valet parking stand out front. TWO VALETS leap off the curb as the white Cabriolet (with it's top now up) SKIDS to a stop.

Beth hands her car key and an empty beer can to the valet. She gawks at the two-story bay window, currently crammed with hard-partying kids.

BETH

Shit my panties.

Denis stares at the house worriedly. Cammy leans in.

CAMMY

If she attacks, go for her throat. She'll be protecting the nose.

TREECE

It's a graduation present.

Beth lays her hands on Denis's shoulders. She gets in close to his face. He can smell her breath.

BETH

Valli Woolly's probably pulling a train by now. She won't even know you're there.

Denis remains conflicted. Beth peels her hand off him with a "whatever" flip.

Beth, Cammy and Treece stride up the walk. Beth stumbles and is reflexively caught by her compatriots.

BETH (CONT'D)

Bricks!

Rich watches along with Denis.

DENIS
Valli Woolly pulls trains.

RICH
Dude, we went to the wrong high school.

INT. VALLI WOOLLY'S HOUSE

Denis and Rich enter, astonished.

Valli's parents have gone to great expense. An ice Bison decorates a champagne fountain; another table offers a lavish spread of orange-and-blue antipasto, crudités and dip. The GRADUATION-THEMED MUSIC is slavishly up-to-date.

RICH
Your party was better.

Rich disappears into the crowd. Denis looks down into vast sunken living room.

Across the room, Beth is being courted by several athletes. She drains a red plastic cup and is immediately handed another one. She glances in Denis' direction but doesn't seem to see him. The jocks close up around her.

Denis realizes the true order of the universe has been restored. He SIGHS. He glances down a long hallway and sees a phone in the kitchen. He heads toward it.

INT. HALLWAY

Denis passes Treece, who is being chatted up by an AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDENT.

AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDENT
Once you go black, you never go back.

TREECE
(some authority)
That's not true.

Denis passes an open doorway. A hand reaches out and yanks him inside.

The door SLAMS. It's dark. Then the lights come on.

GREG SALOGA'S HUGE RED FACE

twitches.

INT. POWDER ROOM

Denis is resigned.

DENIS

If somebody's going to kill me tonight,
it should be you. You've earned it.

Greg Saloga's lip quivers with rage. No, not rage. He bursts into tears, and SOBS on Denis's shoulder.

GREG SALOGA

How did you know?

Greg CRIES for some time. Denis occupies himself by looking around the powder room, which doubles as a shrine to Valli Woolly: Avedonish glamour shot, Pre-teen Valli in jodhpurs and riding helmet, Infant Valli as an Angel Baby, a crystal bowl containing three tiny teeth...

Greg SNUFFLES, steps back, and looks stricken.

GREG SALOGA (CONT'D)

Did I do that?

He reaches for Denis's face, and pulls away, repulsed.

DENIS

It's not one of yours.

GREG SALOGA

Sometimes I don't remember doing it. It's like I black out.

DENIS

I'd have that looked at.

GREG SALOGA

Yeah. Can I call you? To talk about it?

DENIS

Maybe a trained person would be better.

GREG SALOGA

Hug.

(bear hugs Denis)

Hugging's good.

He BLOWS HIS NOSE on Denis's shoulder.

INT. ENTRANCE TO POWDER ROOM

The two step out. Saloga looks self-conscious.

DENIS
I'm gonna go call my par--

Saloga viciously twists Denis's nipple. Denis WHELPS.

GREG SALOGA
(walking away, loudly)
You're lucky it's just a titty!

Denis rubs his breast as he continues toward

INT. KITCHEN

Denis reaches for the phone when he hits something with his foot. The Sullen Girl is down there with her guitar.

SULLEN GIRL
(mournful quaver)
WELL WE GOT NO CHOICE/ ALL THE GIRLS AND
BOYS...

DENIS
Sorry.

SULLEN GIRL
No you, aren't.
(continues warbling)
MAKING ALL THE NOISE...

RICH (O.C.)
Le Coove!

Denis looks up. Rich is standing there, holding two plates filled with party food. He hands one to Denis.

RICH (CONT'D)
Check it out! Pedofilia!

Rich points to the pantry, where Coach Raupp, in pink polo shirt and black warm-up pants, has cornered a sophomore. He tosses a bag of sugar from hand to hand.

DENIS
It's always the gym teachers.

RICH
Did you know they call us "Dick Munch and
the Penis?"

Denis makes a "duh" face.

RICH (CONT'D)

No, I mean together, like we're the gaynamic duo or something.

Denis looks down at the plate Rich prepared for him. He smiles. They nosh quietly side by side.

RICH (CONT'D)

So, hey, *¿Dónde está Elizabeta?*

DENIS

Wherever.

RICH

(stuffing mouth)

Told you that speech was a good idea.

DENIS

What that's happened tonight could possibly be construed as "good"?

RICH

Closure, dude. If you didn't give that speech, you'd've never found out what a scary whackjob Beth Cooper was, so no other girl'd ever measure up to her mythic proportions, and the one you ended up marrying because she got pregnant or your mom was dying, she'd be haunted and tormented until she had such low self esteem she'd be willing to put on a cheerleading outfit and a Beth Cooper mask just to get some conjugal pipe.

Denis swallows some blue hummus.

DENIS

She's not a scary whackjob.

(beat)

She's not a whackjob.

RICH

Don't backpedal, dude. Onward. *¡Vamanos!* Your new hopeless obsession might be at this very party. Speaking of, isn't that your debate partner?

Rich points to DIVYA GUPTA, wearing make-up and a very daring party sari. She is surrounded by boys.

DENIS

(surprised)

Divya's got lady parts, evidently.

RICH
Hot and spicy curry coconuts!

DENIS
Coconut curry is Thai, Rich, not Indian.

RICH
I'll remember that next time I have to write a term paper about international boobs.

Denis smiles in Divya's direction.

She sees him.

Denis raises his hand in a flirty wave.

Divya flips him off and returns to her suitors.

RICH (CONT'D)
Coulda had her when she was still in the wool pants. Well, maybe in her next life--

DENIS
(noticing)
Oh, no.

RICH
(dramatic whisper)
The Secret Shame!

PATTY KECK, Denis's secret shame, and Victoria Smeltzer, Rich's skeletal crush, approach.

PATTY KECK
I didn't expect to see you here.

DENIS
Patty.

VICTORIA SMELTZER
I loved your speech. You said some very perceptive things.

PATTY KECK
Richard, do you know Victoria?

RICH
Certainamente. You've lost weight, Tori.

Tori grins ghoulishly. Her teeth are transparent. She bows her head shyly and notices:

VICTORIA SMELTZER
You're not wearing shoes.

RICH
Nobody wears shoes anymore.

Tori swoons. Patty notices:

PATTY KECK
Your poor cutey face, Denny. Greg Saloga beat you up, I'll bet. Or Valli? Did she pay someone to beat you up?

RICH
No, no. The Coove had a little dust-up with Beth Cooper's boyfriend.

PATTY KECK
(eyes narrow)
Beth Cooper.

RICH
Yeah, her ex-boyfriend, Army, dark ops, couldn't stand the idea of Beth and the Coove together. So it came to blows. You should see him. He's at the hospital.

DENIS
(getting into it)
I hope he makes it.

VICTORIA SMELTZER
Actually, he's upstairs.

Denis freezes. Rich looks at his bare wrist.

RICH
Whoa, the time! My female fiancée is getting off her shift, at Hooters, and we promised to meet her. Pleasure, ladies.

Rich grabs Denis by the elbow and pulls him away.

PATTY KECK
(calling after)
Nice seeing you!

INT. VALLI WOOLLY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Rich and Denis weave, with some difficulty, through the party crowd. The door is tantalizing within sight.

Two huge hands clamp on Denis's shoulders from behind. He turns, tremulously. It's a BIG DRUNK GIRL.

BIG DRUNK GIRL
 Will you remember me?
 (sings)
 I WILL REMEMBER YOU...
 (looks closer)
 You're that dork who gave that creepy
 speech!

The big drunk girl cups the back of Denis's neck and forcefully French kisses him. He can't pry himself loose. Rich wedges in, dislodging the big drunk girl, but then she lip locks on him. He grabs her by the ears, detaches her, and latches her onto a unsuspecting SHY GIRL next to them. The shy girl protests only momentarily.

INT. VALLI WOOLLY'S HOUSE - FOYER

Denis and Rich reach the door.

SHRIEKING FEMALE (O.C.)
ASSHOLE!

The DJ pushes pause on her MacBook. All eyes turn to:

Valli Woolly, halfway down the stairs. Directly behind her, lined up, are a grinning Kevin, Sean and Dustin.

Across the room, Beth is stunned. Cammy sadly smirks.

CAMMY
 Choo choo.

Sean and Dustin grab Denis and Rich. Kevin saunters down the stairs, taking his time.

Treece joins Beth and Cammy, wiping her mouth.

TREECE
 He's in a much better mood.

Kevin smiles at Denis.

KEVIN
 So... we meet again.

RICH
 Ernst Blofeld in just about every Bond movie! Lon Chaney Jr. to Bela Lugosi in Abbott and Costello meet Fr-

Sean's chokehold tightens, silencing Rich.

Beth half-stumbles out of the crowd.

BETH

Kevin. Stop this now. Let's just get you out of here.

(eying Valli)

and get you tested for gonorrhoea--

Kevin takes Beth's face in his hand.

KEVIN

Lisbee. This isn't about you anymore.

DENIS

Do you speak in nothing but clichés?

Kevin CHUCKLES. He round-houses Denis in abdomen.

BETH

Oh, Denis.

DENIS

(winded)

Promise. If he kills me. You'll break up with him.

Kevin presses a valet ticket in Beth's palm and squeezes her fingers around it. He speaks very, very calmly.

KEVIN

Why don't you get that pretty little drunk butt of yours in my vehicle. Now.

Kevin exits. Valli follows him, haughtily.

VALLI

Gonorrhoea? You wish.

INT. VALLI WOOLLY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

As Kevin enters, the partiers obligingly pull back to give him a sizable killing floor. Kevin gestures graciously to the frog-marched Denis.

KEVIN

Shall we dance?

RICH

Jack Nichols--

Sean chokes Rich so hard he passes out. Annoyed, Sean shakes Rich back to consciousness.

RICH (CONT'D)
 (hoarse mumble)
Joker

Dustin shoves Denis into the center of the room. Denis turns to the crowd.

DENIS
 Are you just gonna let this guy murder me?

Apparently, they are.

VALLI
 Wait.

Valli approaches Denis. She's an inch from his face.

VALLI (CONT'D)
 (voice quavering)
 I am not worthless. Look at this party.
 Look at all my friends.

She steps back and turns calmly to Kevin.

VALLI (CONT'D)
 Now kill him.

Denis scans the room. Beth is gone. Cammy smirks. Treece mouths "good luck." Rich is semi-conscious. Patty eats chips while Victoria worries a fingernail. The big drunk girl holds hands with the shy girl.

Wait, who's that, pushing his way through--

DENIS
 (relieved)
 Coach Raupp!

The coach steps between the two, arms outstretched.

COACH SMELTZER
 Okay, ladies, some ground rules...

DENIS
 You're not going to stop it?

COACH SMELTZER
 All I want is a fair fight.

DENIS

Fair? He's a trained killer!

COACH SMELTZER

You should've thought of that before you raided his cabbage patch. Just remember what I taught you in boxing.

DENIS

I opted out of that unit! I had a note!

COACH SMELTZER

(to the crowd)

Let that be a lesson to you Juniors.

(to Denis and Kevin)

No biting, scratching, hair-pulling, any other sissy business.

KEVIN

Head butting?

COACH SMELTZER

Go crazy. But once your opponent loses consciousness, the beating is over.
Aaaannnd... fight!

Kevin playfully "puts up his dukes." The crowd LAUGHS. Kevin does goofy boxing moves. The DJ starts to play TOMOYASU HOTEI'S "BATTLE WITHOUT HONOR OR HUMANITY."

Denis keeps his arms down.

DENIS

I'm not going to fight.

COACH RAUPP

(nipples enflamed)

What the fuck?

DENIS

Violence isn't going to solve this.
Perhaps a heartfelt apology on my part...

COACH RAUPP

That's pussy talk, Cooverman.
(makes wet sucking sounds)
The call of the pussy!

With one hand, Kevin moves Coach Raupp aside.

KEVIN

Let's finish this.

Denis rolls his eyes. Kevin grabs the neck of Denis's rugby shirt and lifts him off the ground. The DJ plays TOMOYASU HOTEI'S "BATTLE WITHOUT HONOR OR HUMANITY." Kevin begins bouncing Denis around to the beat.

The crowd loves it. Denis, not so much.

DENIS

This is unsporting. Just hit me or put me down.

Kevin grins broadly and cocks his fist.

SOMETHING HUGE jumps on Kevin.

GREG SALOGA

Leave my friend alone!

Kevin drops Denis and struggles to shake loose the crazy mixed-up giant kid on his back. Sean peels Saloga off, pinning his arms. Saloga heaves his head back, BUTTING Sean in the face. Sean goes down.

Dustin releases Rich and pulls a crystal ladle out of the punch bowl. He swings it at Saloga. The boy throws up a forearm and the ladle SHATTERS against it. Saloga kicks Dustin in the testicles. Dustin goes down.

Coach Raupp approaches Saloga.

COACH SMELTZER

Yo, time out, Saloga--

Saloga punches Coach Raupp in the throat. He goes down. Kevin backs away, but no need. Greg drops to his knees and emits the most soulful PRIMAL WAIL anyone has ever heard. He covers his face.

GREG SALOGA

(sobbing quietly)

Why must I... hurt?

A ELECTRIC WHIRR precedes Becky Reese as she maneuvers her wheelchair into the open space. Greg grasps both wheels and drops his head into her withered lap. He sobs as she strokes his hair.

Kevin shakes his head and turns his attention to... Denis? He SCANS the crowd, past Cammie and Treece, past Valli, smiling coquettishly...

TREECE (O.C.)

Ugh! Stop breathing up my skirt!

Kevin RACHETS back to Treece. She pulls away from Denis, who was crouched behind her, breathing up her skirt. Denis stands and goes into a classic debate gesture.

DENIS

Let's look at this logically.

Kevin smiles, shaking his head "no." He advances.

Another huge figure jumps on his back.

BIG DRUNK GIRL

(as if riding a bronco)

Woo! Wooooooo!

Denis looks around desperately for an escape. He sees Rich, rubbing the ice bison on his neck. Rich points.

RICH

The door!

Denis pivots toward the door. He sees:

Kevin, lumbering under the Big Girl, lurching toward him, lunging with arms outstretched.

Kevin is inches from Denis when the bay window behind them EXPLODES. Four-tons of repurposed military vehicle CRASHES into the living room, SPLINTERING the buffet table and disbursing the buffet. There is SCREAMING.

BETH

(yelling)

Go go go go!

Cammy, for the first time looking visibly distressed, joins Treece and Rich in the back of the Hummer.

Denis stands, dazed. Much of the buffet table seems to have landed on him. Various antipasti hang off his face. He reaches for his eyes, covered with roasted red pepper.

DENIS

I've been de-oculated!

The pepper falls off into his hands. He looks down at it sheepishly.

BETH (O.C.)

Denis Cooverman!

Beth is calling for him from the Hummer. He looks at her like she's crazy, there's no way.... PRIMAL ROAR.

Kevin is coming at him. At the last moment, the Big Drunk Girl grabs his eyebrows and reigns him back hard.

BIG DRUNK GIRL

Whoa, boy!

Kevin staggers backward. Denis starts toward the Hummer. His leg gets stuck.

Coach Raupp is on the ground, grabbing his ankle.

COACH RAUPP

(holding throat)

Don't get in the car with her.

Beth is already backing out. Her wheels spin in two bowls, spitting orange and blue hummus everywhere.

Denis yanks his leg away and scrambles to the Hummer. He is barely inside when the vehicle lurches backward out the gaping hole in the front of the house.

EXT. VALLI WOOLLY'S FRONT YARD

The Hummer tears backwards across the lawn, scattering valets and SHATTERING their podium. It fishtails, shifts into drive and speeds into the darkness.

INT. VALLI WOOLLY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Several party-goers have cell phones out.

JADED YOUTH

Can you come get me? Party ended early.

Kevin stands amid the rubble, staring out the gaping hole in the front of the house. He is seething.

BIG DRUNK GIRL

I wanna get down now.

She vomits on his head, and climbs off. Valli appears and starts hitting him on the chest.

VALLI

You ruined it! You ruined everything! I can't believe I gave you a blumpkin!

A TEEN BOY standing next to her seems confused.

VALLI (CONT'D)
 (to teen boy, viciously)
 Oh, go Google it!

EXT./INT. HUMMER - ARLINGTON HEIGHTS ROAD

The Hummer zooms down the empty road. Inside, Beth is manically pumped up. Everybody else is scared shitless.

DENIS
 Do you know how many laws you just broke?
 Seven, at least!

BETH
 A new record!

TREECE
 I don't think that's a record.

Denis stares at Beth. Her eyes are red, glassy.

DENIS
 Are you intoxicated?

BETH
 Eight!
 (takes her hands off the wheel
 and crosses her arms.)
 I'm too drunk to drive.

Beth presses on the gas.

DENIS
 Then don't accelerate!

The Hummer goes through a red light.

BETH
 Nine!

CAMMY
 (not smirking)
 Beth, stop being a dick.

Beth puts her hands back on the wheel.

DENIS
 We should pull over.

BETH
 "Thank you, Beth. For saving my life...
again."

Denis has finally had enough. He unloads.

DENIS

Saving my--? You almost ran me over with a military vehicle, owned by that homicidal rage ape you call a boyfriend who has been killing me all night! You know what, this is not fun anymore!

Beth turns to him with cold dead eyes.

BETH

Who said it was supposed to be fun?

The Hummer passes Buffalo Grove High School. Inside, Beth begins to clap and cheer.

BETH (CONT'D)

WE ARE THE BISON! MIGHTY, MIGHTY BISON!

Treece quietly, and frightened, joins in.

BETH/TREECE

SAY HEY-HEY, HEY-HEY...

Beth suddenly spins the steering wheel. The Hummer goes up on two wheels and careens into the BGHS parking lot.

DENIS (O.C.)

What are you doing!?

BETH (O.C.)

Having some fun!

EXT. BUFFALO GROVE HIGH SCHOOL - REAR ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Beth pulls a large brass key from her purse.

DENIS

You have a key to the school?

TREECE

Head cheerleader is a position of trust and responsibility.

CAMMY

Fools.

INT. BGHS - GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

Night lighting in the gym is enough to see, but dusky. The chairs from graduation are stacked on rolling carts, but the podium is still up.

DENIS

At the risk of further aggravating you, which is not my intention, I must advise you that this is also pretty illegal.

BETH

(sighs)

Denis Cooverman. This is the least illegal thing we've done all night. Relax. You're going to enjoy it.

She winks at him and trots to center court. Cammy and Treece line up beside her.

BETH (CONT'D)

Hit it.

Beth CLAPS TWICE, starting the cheer.

BETH/CAMMY/TREECE

ARE YOU READY?/ READY FOR THE BEST?/ B-G
NUMBER ONE!/ OH YEAH NOTHING LESS!

Rich runs up and joins the cheer. His moves are perfect.

BETH/CAMMY/TREECE/RICH

GOING TO THE TOP/ WE CAN'T BE STOPPED/
LET'S GO GIRLS/ YELL ORANGE...

They all look to Denis. He complies.

DENIS

Orange.

BETH/CAMMY/TREECE/RICH

YELL BLUE!

DENIS

Blue!

BETH/CAMMY/TREECE/RICH

MIGHTY BISONS (OH YEAH)/ LET'S FIGHT!

BETH

And nice and slow...

Cammy and Treece decelerate dramatically, grinding and gyrating in a not-for-general-audiences version of the cheer. Rich is thrown at first, but quickly gets it.

BETH/CAMMY/TREECE
 (throaty whisper)
 Can you feel it? (What?)/ Feel the heat./
 Orange and Blue/ How sweet.

Denis grins. But then he notices something. Although Beth is playing her part, her eyes are rimmed with tears.

BETH/CAMMY/TREECE/RICH
 With spirit and spark/ We steal the show/
 We're Mighty Bisons (Kiss Kiss)/ Gotta
 go.

Treece, Cammy and Rich clap enthusiastically. Beth just stops. Denis applauds, but seems concerned about Beth.

RICH
 (imitating Coach Raupp)
 Good job, ladies! Let's hit the showers!

To Rich's surprise and Denis's astonishment:

BETH
 Showers!

Beth trots toward the girl's locker room. Treece claps and follows. Cammy decides what the hell, and joins them. Rich turns to Denis.

RICH
 They're hitting the showers!

INT. BGHS - GIRL'S LOCKER ROOM STAIRWELL

Beth, Treece and Cammy run GIGGLING down a wide stairwell into the girl's locker room.

A moment later, Rich drags Denis down the same stairs.

DENIS
 Rich, Rich, we can't--

RICH
 We can.

DENIS
 We weren't invited!

RICH
I'm pretty sure we were!

DENIS
Rich, you don't have to prove anything.

Rich stops, hurt. He releases Denis's wrist. He runs into the girl's locker room.

RICH (O.C.)
Muy chiquitas!

Denis hears the girls GIGGLE and SQUEAL.

INT. BGHS - GIRL'S LOCKER ROOM

Denis pokes his head in the door. He creeps down the rows of lockers, approaching the GIGGLING. He peeks around:

BETH COOPER'S PERFECT BUTT

bounces as it rounds the far corner and disappears.

Denis is beatific.

TREECE (O.C.)
Hey, space boy.

Denis only then notices that Treece is standing right in front of him, completely naked. She touches his nose.

TREECE (CONT'D)
Come get wet.

She turns and runs into the showers.

RICH (O.C.)
That invitation good enough for you?

Rich is on the ground, squirming out of his pants.

DENIS
I don't think this is right.

Rich pops up, tearing at the buttons on his shirt.

RICH
Stop thinking with your brain, dude!

From the showers come the SOUNDS OF WET GIRLS.

DENIS
They're drunk.

RICH

I know! We are so lucky! Chances like this don't come along every day! In fact, they never come along! This does not happen.

TREECE (O.C.)

(calling, sing-song)

You guys coming?

Rich, down to leopard spot bikini briefs, points emphatically in the direction of the showers.

RICH

"Carpe diem!" -- Robin Williams, "The Dead Poet Society." "Eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we may die." -- William Powell, "The Thin Man." "You only go around once in life." -- Some beer commercial!

DENIS

Tonight I'd be happy just to stay alive.

Rich bends down as he slips off his briefs.

RICH

You're not alive unless you're living.

DENIS

Who said that?

Rich looks up, surprised.

RICH

I think I did.

He turns and runs toward the showers.

RICH (O.C.) (CONT'D)

Heeere's Johnny!

The girls WHOOP with glee.

Denis looks down the aisle, strewn with shoes, blouses, skirts, bras and... on the end of the bench a pair of panties. Panties that say: *Hello*.

Denis decides: he's going to go for the gusto! He sits down and removes his shoes, then socks, then carefully stuffs his socks into his shoes. He removes his belt.

RICH (O.C.) (CONT'D)
 (giggling)
 Hey, hey, I can do that myself!

Denis quickly removes his pants. He opens a locker, looking for a hanger. A hand reaches in and takes the trousers.

Denis closes the locker door and sees Kevin, holding his pants with one hand, and PUNCHING him with the other.

Denis falls, landing on his back on the bench. Blood pours out of both nostrils. Kevin is looming over him.

DENIS
 How did you find us?

KEVIN
 LoJack, dipshit.

DENIS
 (truly aggrieved)
 But I'm the geek. I'm supposed to use technology against you!

Kevin reels back to deliver another blow.

Denis scoots on his back in a modified crab walk, rapidly sliding down twenty feet of bench before launching off the end onto the floor.

Kevin, with Sean and Dustin in formation behind him, straddle walks the length of the bench. He reaches down for Denis and THWACK! He's hit in the face!

KEVIN
 JAH!

Rich, wearing just a towel in the PG-13 version, stands arms akimbo, wielding two twisted wet towel "rat-tails".

RICH
 Taste my wet blade!

Rich SNAPS the towel a couple more times, hitting Kevin on the neck and arm and driving him back into Sean and Dustin.

Beth, Cammy and Treece (in PG-13 towels) gather up their clothing and run for it. Denis is on his feet. Rich tosses his comrade a wet towel.

The Army men advance. Rich casually rebuffs them with quick SURGICAL STRIKES. Denis snaps his rat-tail but HITS HIMSELF in the face.

RICH (CONT'D)

Go. I can handle these three. I've been preparing for this for ever.

Without even looking, Rich SNAPS Sean in the eye.

INT. BGHS - GIRL'S LOCKER ROOM STAIRWELL

Beth, Treece and Cammy scamper up the stairs, followed moments later by Denis (sans pants and shoes). After a beat, Rich appears, expertly holding his attackers at bay. He sings the RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK THEME.

RICH

DAH DAH DAH-DAH, DAH DAH-DAH/DAH DAH DAH-DAH, DAH DAH DAH-DAH-DAH!

As Rich ascends the stairs in reverse and his shadow plays against the wall, the elderly may be reminded of Errol Flynn.

RICH (CONT'D)

DAH DAH-DAH!/ DAH DAH-DAH!/ DAH DAH-DAH!/ DAH DAH-DAH DAH DAH!

Rich tags Kevin in the face again, and he tumbles down the stairs onto his compatriots.

RICH (CONT'D)

Classic!

INT. BGHS - REAR ENTRANCE

The girls run to the door.

BETH

Shit!

A police car is parked next to the Hummer, lights flashing. A FEMALE COP is poking around the car.

Denis arrives, pinching his bloody nose.

DENIS

Crab.

Beth points. Her Cabriolet is parked several feet from the Hummer, on the curb and close to some bushes.

BETH

Come on.

DENIS

Come whub on?

Too late. The girls slip out the door and are scurry through the foliage. Denis, exasperated, follows.

EXT. BGHS - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

The four run crouching through the bushes. Beth dashes across the sidewalk and to the passenger side door, facing away from the police. She opens the door and crawls in. Cammy, Treece and Denis pile in after her.

INT. CABRIOLET

Cammy and Treece tumble over each other, spilling into the back. No key in the ignition, Beth reaches for the sun visor. Everybody keeps their heads down.

BETH

Shitty shit shit.

DENIS

Listen. Maybe we should just--

BETH

Shut up, Denis!

Beth reaches under the steering column and pops a panel out from under the dashboard. She fiddles with some wires.

DENIS

You also hot wire cars?

BETH

I'm a talented girl.

The car starts. Beth goes to put the car in gear.

DENIS

Wait: Rich!

CAMMY

Forget him. He's already dead.

DENIS

I can't leave without my friend.

Beth turns to Denis, gritting her teeth.

BETH

Denis.

The passenger door opens and Rich crawls across Denis and into the backseat.

RICH

We should probably go.

EXT./INT. PARKING LOT/CABRIOLET

The car (with no apparent driver) and starts to roll slowly away. Beth keeps an eye on the oblivious cops through the rearview mirror.

KEVIN (O.C.)

Hey!

Denis pokes his head up, high enough to see the blood still streaming from his nostrils.

Kevin and his troops are on the sidewalk, pointing at the Cabriolet.

Beth FLOORS it. The car fishtails onto the road. The female cop SIGHS and writes something on her clipboard.

EXT./INT. ROAD/CABRIOLET

Beth drives, swerving as she dresses under the towel. On the radio, via iPod, plays an incongruous graduation ballad such as "WE SHALL NEVER PASS THIS WAY AGAIN."

In the back, Cammy, Treece and Rich dress in a frenzy.

CAMMY

That's my top.

TREECE

I'm borrowing it.

CAMMY

You're going to boob it all out.

Treece throws the top in Cammy's face.

Beth glances over to Denis, who is pinching his nose and leaning his head back.

BETH
Where's your pants?

DENIS
Your boyfriend has them.

Beth takes a sharp right. The car cuts in front of truck and veers onto the on-ramp for I-53 North.

DENIS (CONT'D)
Where are we going?

BETH
We broke ten laws. We got to get out of town.

TREECE
Let's go to my dad's cabin! He let's me go there any time I want, as long as I don't tell Mom where it is.

DENIS
I can't "get out of town"!

BETH
(mildly annoyed)
You're spitting blood on me.

TREECE
You're supposed to keep your bodily fluids to yourself!

Denis covers his mouth. Beth stews.

BETH
You know, Denis, you started this.

DENIS
Me?

BETH
You're the geek who stood up in front of our entire school, and all our family and friends, and declared your "love" for someone who you don't know a thing about!

RICH
He knows a lot about you. Quiz him!

CAMMY
He didn't know about Kevin.

RICH

There were lapses in the intelligence. He knows her locker combo.

DENIS

(pinching his nose)
You said it was sweet.

Beth SNORTS with exasperation. Now Denis is mad, too.

DENIS (CONT'D)

And you came to my house! If you didn't think it was sweet, why'd you come to my house?!

CAMMY

What do you think, super genius? We thought it would be funny.

Denis feels like he has been kicked in the heart.

DENIS

Oh.

Denis sits back, letting go of his nose. He stares ahead, the blood dripping off his chin.

Beth glances over, concerned, but still mad.

BETH

Are you going to keep bleeding?

DENIS

For about three days, on average.

Treece's hand reaches into frame, holding two tiny cylindrical white objects.

TREECE

Here, stick these up there. They're super absorbent.

DENIS

Gah!

TREECE

They'll fit. They're comfort minis.

Treece drops the tampons in Denis's lap. Denis puts up his hands to shield them from view.

TREECE (CONT'D)

Fine. Bleed to death.

Denis wipes his nose. He looks down at the tampons. He starts to laugh, and coughs blood all over his lap.

EXT. I-53

The Cabriolet speeds down the nearly empty highway.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

It's dark, illuminated only by fireflies. The Cabriolet races past, much too fast for conditions.

INT. CABRIOLET

AN EMO GRADUATION CLASSIC plays on the iPod/radio. In the backseat, Treece has fallen asleep on Rich's shoulder, with her mouth wide open. Rich, in turn, leans into Cammy and closes his eyes. Cammy looks like she might say something, but then does not. She closes her eyes.

As Beth drives with the window open, her hair flies about. She's seriously troubled about something.

Denis watches her, tampons dangling from his nostrils.

Beth turns down the radio.

BETH

Hey. I wanted to say. About what Cammy said. She thought it would be funny. I mean, we all thought it would be like a fun thing, and... I guess I did think it would be kind of funny. I'm sorry.

Denis listens, but doesn't say anything.

BETH (CONT'D)

But I--

(long silence)

Guys tell me they love me all the time. But that's usually when... they want something. So I just... I don't know.

DENIS

It was kind of funny.

Denis strings the ends of the tampons out like a handlebar mustache. Beth is amused and grossed out.

BETH
Please take those out now.

DENIS
Your wish...

Denis comically yanks on the strings. It hurts so much.

DENIS (CONT'D)
(grinning through tears)
Voilà!

Denis doesn't get the laugh he paid so dearly for.

BETH
Goddamn Kevin!

DENIS
(rolling with it)
Yeah. God damn that Kevin.

BETH
Have you ever been in love?
(before he can respond)
I mean, truly in love. In true love.
(as he starts to respond)
You know, where you love someone, with
your whole heart, you just love them, and
they can be mean to you, and hurt you,
not physically, but hurt you, you know,
make you feel like shit or worthless, but
you still love him? You know what I mean?

Beth turns to him. He smiles helplessly back.

BETH (CONT'D)
It can really suck, huh?

DENIS
(gamely)
So, uh, you been... going out long?

BETH
You don't want to talk about him. Let's
talk about something else.

DENIS
Can I ask you a personal question?

BETH
Is it about my boobs?

DENIS

I do have several queries in the arena, which I'll get to. But actually, I wanted to, I was wondering about your brother.

BETH

What about him?

DENIS

I don't know. Like, what was he like?

BETH

I have no idea. He was already sick when I was born. He died when I was two. He was twelve. I don't remember him at all. There's this picture of me visiting him in the hospital, but it's like he's just some sick kid. It's kind of stupid. My big sad story. It's like the dramatic tragedy of my life, and I wasn't even there. And it's not even an interesting story. Excuse me.

Beth stops the car, opens her door, and VOMITS. She closes the door, and continues driving.

DENIS

You okay?

BETH

That was shitty champagne.

She turns and smiles at him with water eyes and through watery eyes and lips glazed with vomitus.

BETH (CONT'D)

Yours was much nicer.

Beth turns the music up a little.

BETH (CONT'D)

Um, Can I say something personal?

DENIS

Uh. Yeah. Sure.

BETH

You kind of.... reek.

DENIS

(matter-of-fact)
It's the fear.

BETH
I think it's your shirt.

DENIS
(looking down)
I guess I spilled some dip on it.

In fact, the shirts is covered with orange and blue dip, tapenades, meats and cheeses.

BETH
Take it off.
(off his panic)
I'm not going to molest you.

Denis pulls off the shirt, covering his hairless chest.

BETH (CONT'D)
Personally, I hate hairy chests...

Beth puts her hand out and snaps her fingers. Denis hands her the shirt.

BETH (CONT'D)
Let's give it a little air...

Beth sticks the shirt out of the window and shakes off the embedded food. It flies out of her hand.

BETH (CONT'D)
(laughing)
Oh shit!

Beth slams on the BRAKES.

In the back, Rich and Cammy wake up. Cammy is cradling Rich's head like a baby. She pushes him away. Treece, whose head is in Rich's lap, is jostled half awake.

TREECE
Okay, o-kay...

She starts to undo Rich's pants. He gently stops her. She goes happily back to sleep.

Up front, Beth throws the vehicle into reverse and spins the wheel to begin a three-point turn.

EXT./INT. CABRIOLET

The Cabriolet backs off the country road into a gully. It spins back up onto the road in the opposite direction.

Denis, one arm across his chest, points THROUGH THE WINDSHIELD at his shirt by the side of the road.

DENIS

There it is.

The car stops. Denis gets out and approaches the shirt. As he crosses in front of the headlights, he realizes he is wearing

HIS LUCKY UNDERPANTS

the threadbare ones, with the Spider-Man design, and the huge hole right in the crack of--

Denis squats, covering his rear. He sidles toward the shirt. He reaches for it and sees:

FOUR GLOWING RED ORBS

making a HIGH CHITTERING SOUND. The TWO RACCOONS amble into the light, sniffing at the shirt.

Everyone inside the car thinks this is cute.

From DENIS'S POV, the raccoons look quite feral. They begin gnawing at his shirt.

DENIS (CONT'D)

No. That's not food. That's clothing.

The raccoons hunch and SNARL, fairly ferociously.

Denis high-tails it back to the car.

INT. CABRIOLET

Denis SLAMS the door behind him.

They all watch as the raccoons clutch the shirt and scamper with their catch into the woods.

Cammy and Rich find this HILARIOUS. Beth LAUGHS, too, only more tenderly.

BETH

Oh, Denis. Look at you. Cam, throw me my poncho.

A bright purple knit poncho flies into the front seat.

DENIS

I'm not wearing a purple poncho!

BETH
It's fuchsia.

She spreads the poncho out in front of her, grinning.

BETH (CONT'D)
And it's my favorite.

EXT. TREECE'S FATHER'S CABIN

Appropriately rustic, on a moonlit lake. The car pulls up blaring an IT'S ALL OVER GRADUATION CLASSIC.

Denis gets out, wearing a fuchsia poncho.

INT. TREECE'S FATHER'S CABIN

Treece enters first, and turns on the light. She yawns. The other four gape.

The cabin is a shrine to blood sport: stuffed fowl and fauna lunge from the walls and coffee tables; animal skins drape all the woodsy furniture; a grizzly bear lies on the floor.

Rich drops the bag of snacks he is carrying.

CAMMY
Feel the death.

TREECE
My dad just bought all this stuff.
(dismissive)
He's never killed anything.

Treece crosses the room, pointing to the fireplace, above which a hunting rifle is mounted between the heads of a mother deer and its fawn.

TREECE (CONT'D)
If anybody wants to make a fire...

Treece opens the fridge, pulls out a bottle and frowns.

TREECE (CONT'D)
Weird beer.

She opens the freezer and smiles. She pulls out:

TREECE (CONT'D)
(hearty Russian accent)
Yodka!

DISSOLVE TO:

ON THE MANTLE a old boombox is playing a FUCK-ME-IT'S-GRADUATION CLASSIC (via the iPod leaning against it). The fire is CRACKLING.

A hand pours very generous shots of vodka into five vessels lined up on the mantle: a Playboy tumbler, a ceramic pineapple, Booby Mug, a monkey head carved out of a coconut, and a World's Greatest Dad trophy.

Treece finishes pouring and hands out the cups. She raises the World's Greatest Dad trophy.

TREECE (CONT'D)
A toast!
(re: Dad trophy)
You know what's weird? I didn't give him this.
(continuing toast)
To... right now!

Beth chugs her pineapple. Denis downs his tit.

BETH
I'm going out for a smoke.

With a tilt of her head, she bids Denis to follow.

DENIS
(to himself as he follows)
She smokes.

EXT. DOCK

Beth dangles her legs off the end of small dock next to the cabin. She lights a cigarette. Denis sits down next to her. He slaps a mosquito on his arm.

BETH
No cancer statistics, please.

DENIS
Oh, I don't really know... okay.

Beth takes a long drag on her cigarette.

BETH
The full moon is so pretty. It's so huge.

The huge moon hangs over the lake.

DENIS

That's an optical illusion. It only looks larger when it's close to the horizon. The prevailing theory, used to be, was that it's a Ponzo illusion, that we see it as bigger in context to the objects around it, but that's been discredited. There's a couple intriguing alternatives, but nothing proven.

BETH

Here's something you don't know, Denis Cooverman. If a girl tells you the moon is pretty, or big, you know what you say?

DENIS

Not what I said, presumably.

Beth blows out smoke rings.

BETH

You don't say anything. You put your arm around her.

Denis considers this, and starts to put his arm--

BETH (CONT'D)

Just something for future reference.

Denis pulls his arm back, slaps a mosquito on his leg.

DENIS

Thanks. I'll remember that.

ON RICH

doing some sort of impression.

RICH

"Say allo to my leetle fren"

INT. TREECE'S FATHER'S CABIN

Rich is in front of the fireplace, using the hunting rifle as a prop for a series of bad tough guy impressions. His hurried annotations are but one clue that he's tipsy.

RICH
 Pacino, Scarface, '82, DePalma...
 (switching gun position along
 with accent)
 "Hasta la vista, baby" -- Schwarzenegger,
 T2, '91, Cameron...

Treece and Cammy sit on the couch, passing the vodka bottle back and forth. Treece GIGGLES; Cammy also finds herself GENUINELY AMUSED.

RICH (CONT'D)
 "Fill your hands, you son of a bitch!" --
 John Wayne, True Grit, '69, directed by
 some guy.

Treece falls off the couch, hysterical.

TREECE
 Uh oh. I'm peeing.

RICH
 (vaguely insulted)
 It's not that funny.

TREECE
 It's funny because you--

RICH
 What? Because I'm homo-ly sexual, or so
 you think? You think incorrectly.

CAMMY
 The lady doth protest too much, methinks.

RICH
 Oh, like you know Shakespeare.

CAMMY
 Queen Gertrude to Hamlet, Act Three,
 Scene 2. 1602, William Shakespeare, or
 possibly Edward de Vere."

Rich swoons a little.

CAMMY (CONT'D)
 Just because we're beautiful, it doesn't
 mean we're stupid.

TREECE
Yeah!

EXT. DOCK

The moon hangs over the lake like in some kind of movie.

BETH
Careful what you wish for, huh?

DENIS
Huh?

Denis slaps his neck. Beth takes a long pull.

BETH
So... still love me?

DENIS
What?

BETH
Now that you know me. Am I everything you
ever masturbated to?

DENIS
I never... not to you.
(more honestly)
You're different than I expected. I mean,
you're not--

BETH
Perfect.

DENIS
But better. You're not...
(slaps a mosquito)
but you're still great, and it's... real.
You're real. A real kind of real.

BETH
Really?

DENIS
Okay, example, you're pretty, but not
like a picture. And you have a...
personality.

BETH
There's a compliment.

DENIS
You're sweet.

BETH
I don't get accused of that very often.

DENIS

You are. And you're interesting, and you're smart--

BETH

(coughs)

I am not smart, Denis. I'm kind of an idiot.

Denis scratches his leg.

DENIS

You're a lot of fun.

BETH

I thought you said this wasn't fun.

Denis looks at her, more serious than he's ever been.

DENIS

All my memories from high school are from tonight.

Beth looks back at Denis, sadly but fondly.

BETH

You need to get out more.

INT. TREECE'S FATHER'S CABIN

Cammy sashays up to Rich, takes a swig of vodka directly from the bottle, and then hands it to him.

CAMMY

So, hetero-boy, if you so not gay, why so unchubby in the shower?

RICH

I was just being cool. And it was uncool of you to notice.

CAMMY

And you pushed Treece away when she tried to service you in the car...

TREECE

I did? That sounds like me.

(suddenly insulted)

Yeah, what is wrong with you? I'm really good at that! I'm known for that.

RICH
 You were asleep. So that was me being cool, once again.

CAMMY
 No 17-year-old boy is that cool.

RICH
I am that cool.

Rich takes a swig of vodka and then "notices":

RICH (CONT'D)
¿Quien quieres las snaquitas?

CAMMY
 You know, Rich. The movie quotes, the bad Spanish. Not working. Too much.

TAMMY
 It is kind of not ideal, from a branding point of view.

Rich unwraps a Suzy-Q, considering the criticism. He sits down between the girls on the couch.

RICH
 Which one should I keep?

CAMMY
 Ooh, that's tough.

Rich shoves the Suzy-Q in his mouth and bites it in half.

CAMMY (CONT'D)
 You, Richard Munsch, have never been with a woman.

RICH
 (creme-filled mouth)
 Whuh?

EXT. DOCK

Denis makes his case, slapping mosquitos.

DENIS
 I never bought beer before, I never went on a joyride, never broke in anywhere; never skinny dipped, and I almost did, I was going to; never eluded the authorities before...

BETH
(lighting cigarette)
I really popped your cherry tonight.

DENIS
(changing subject)
You know, even if your grades and SATs aren't amazing, you could still go to a good college. You could get a cheerleading scholarship.

BETH
A cheerleading scholarship?

DENIS
They have cheerleading scholarships.

BETH
(exhales, tired)
Denis, it's nice you're watching out for me, but look: I'm not even that good of a cheerleader. You, you're going go on and become a doctor and cure cancer or whatever new diseases there are, but this, this is about it for me. I know high school wasn't that great for you.

DENIS
No, some of it ... okay.

BETH
Here's the thing. High school was really great for me. I had a great, great time. But now that's over. Everything from here on out is going to be... ordinary.

DENIS
(not fully convinced)
You're not ordinary. You're... beautiful.

BETH
I'm going to get fat.

DENIS
You're not fat.

BETH
I'll have to introduce you to my mom.

Denis takes this in. Beth tosses her butt in the lake.

BETH (CONT'D)
You wanna mess around?

DENIS
You and me?

BETH
I'm not gonna ask twice.

He's no fool. He kisses her. She kisses him.

DENIS
Ow.

BETH
Oo. Sorry.

DENIS
No, no. It's a good ow.

A SWEET LOVE GRADUATION CLASSIC begins...

CLOSE ON THE BOOMBOX

A hand turns up the volume.

INT. TREECE'S FATHER'S CABIN

Rich sits in the middle of the couch with his vodka and snack cake. Treece is curled up next to him. Cammy sits on the opposite side with her feet on Rich's knees.

Cammy and Treece hold up Suzy-Qs like spokesmodels. They proceed to slowly lick the cream filling, PG-13 style. Rich sits between them, profoundly discomfited.

Cammy smirks saucily. She pushes her foot into Rich's crotch.

CAMMY
You cool?

RICH
Long as everyone else is cool.

Treece runs a cream-filled tongue up his cheek.

RICH (CONT'D)
See? I'm liking that. I'm
(indicating his crotch)
reacting to that.

They both start kissing him. Cammy unbuttons his shirt.

RICH (CONT'D)

Hey, this is great and all, but, unfortunately, I left my ah latex sheaths back at the house...

CAMMY

Don't worry. Treece has got some. Don't you, Treece?

TREECE

Gobs.

They push him down. The MUSIC continues over...

EXT. DOCK

Denis and Beth are making out on the dock. He's trying to be gentle and loving but she's being really aggressive. To make matters worse, he is being eaten alive by mosquitos.

She roughly bucks against him and shoves her hand into his crotch. Denis pulls her hand away and sits up.

DENIS

Listen... I'm sorry. But... Why me?

Beth looks at him. She has tears in her eyes.

BETH

Because it's graduation night. And to not be with someone would just be too sad.

Denis thinks about this.

DENIS

Okay.

He climbs back on her.

INT. TREECE'S FATHER'S CABIN

Rich huddles under the bearskin with Cammy and Treece. Everyone looks a little embarrassed and disappointed.

CAMMY

That was... expedient.

TREECE

(silver lining)

But now we know you're not gay.

RICH

And you two... even though after I.. you two... continued... for a while... that doesn't mean anything, because a male appendage was in the mix.

CAMMY

Right.

An uncomfortable beat. Treece suddenly frowns.

TREECE

I just realized. My dad's juices are probably all over this couch.

(even worse)

And Bitchtricia's.

(matter-of-fact, to Rich)

This is why I'm so screwed up.

EXT. DOCK

Beth is all over Denis, her MOANS sounding almost SORROWFUL. Her hand snakes down his back and over his barely covered behind. She CHUCKLES.

DENIS

What?

She sticks her finger in the hole in the crack of--

DENIS (CONT'D)

Woo.

Denis leaps off her, gasping for breath.

DENIS (CONT'D)

That was... ha, I was taken by surprise there. It wasn't you. I'm sure you did it perfectly. I'm just... unaccustomed... Let's try that again, shall we?

Beth is already lighting a cigarette.

BETH

Maybe later.

Denis silently curses himself. He decides to dive back in, and moves in to kiss her again.

BETH (CONT'D)

(repulsed)

Jesus Christ!

Seen in the moonlight, Denis's face is swollen with a swarm of mosquito bites. Beth touches his cheek tenderly.

BETH (CONT'D)

That must itch.

DENIS

I was kinda distracted before, but now it does, yeah.

Denis scratches, leaving four red streaks down his cheek.

BETH

Don't do that.

DENIS

(resigned)

So, am I the most hideous creature you ever kissed?

BETH

God, no.

Beth stands. It's time to go. Denis turns to see two headlights, very far apart, coming very fast.

The Hummer RUMBLES into the dock. Denis falls back into the lake. Beth stands there, and the vehicle comes to a stop, touching her knees.

INT. TREECE'S FATHER'S CABIN

Still under a bearskin rug with Cammy and Treece, Rich has happily changed the subject.

RICH

(to Cammy)

Really, you're going to study acting at U of I? Me, too! And directing. But wait, if you want to be an actress, why weren't you in drama club?

CAMMY

Social survival.

RICH

Good call.

They hear some SCREAMING and run to the window (in unison, covered by the bearskin).

THROUGH THE WINDOW they see Sean dragging Denis across the dock and Dustin struggling to maintain control of Beth, who's kicking and YELLING. Kevin backs the Hummer off the dock.

CAMMY

How'd they find us?

TREECE

Oopsie.

(off their looks)

I kinda invited Sean up here before.

(defensive)

Well, he should've known he wasn't invited anymore!

RICH

(a little freaked)

Don't you get it? We're stupid teenagers who just had sex in a cabin by a lake! We're dead! We are so very dead.

CAMMY

I'd hardly call that sex.

TREECE

I have an idea!

(off their looks)

I have ideas!

EXT. TREECE'S FATHER'S CABIN

Denis and Beth are restrained by Sean and Dustin while Kevin points out the damage to the Hummer.

KEVIN

(no Southern accent)

See that? My dad is gonna shit.

DENIS

That's your dad's car? I thought you were from Texas, or a swamp.

BETH

He's from Glenview. He went to Maine North. He only talks that way to be cool.

DENIS

Talking like a hillbilly is cool?

KEVIN
 (full Southern accent)
 We'll see how cool you talk when I'm
 through with y'all.

DENIS
 I'm pretty sure that's a misuse of
 "y'all."

Kevin just smiles. He approaches the jeep.

KEVIN
 (to Sean and Dustin)
 Gentlemen, remember all those excellent
 techniques the CIA taught us, which we
 were subsequently forbidden to use?

Kevin produces jumper cables. Sean and Dustin CHUCKLE
 KNOWINGLY.

Suddenly, A FEROCIOUS WILDCAT leaps out the bushes!

DUSTIN
 Ya!

Dustin throws Beth at the wildcat.

A HUGE OWL flies at Sean, talons out! He releases Denis.

Cammy holds the stuffed wildcat, Treece the owl.

TREECE
 Run!

Denis and Beth bolt past Kevin, who seems more amused
 than upset by their escape.

KEVIN
 (turning)
 Now what did you hope to accompli--

Kevin finds himself on the wrong end of a gun barrel.

Rich wields the hunting rifle. He wears the bearskin as a
 cape, and the leopard briefs enhances the tribal quality.

RICH
 Create a temporary distraction, so they
 could escape and I could get the drop on
 you. Treece's idea.

Treece curtseys with her owl.

KEVIN

You don't know how to shoot that thing.

Kevin takes a step toward Rich. Rich COCKS the rifle. Kevin steps back.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

It isn't even loaded.

RICH

(pretty good impression)

You gotta ask yourself one question: Do I feel lucky? Well, do ya, punk?

TREECE

Oh, I know that one!

KEVIN

(straight Midwestern)

Cool it, okay, guy? We were just goofing on you. Maybe we went a little too far. But if you shoot us, what's that going to look like?

CAMMY

Self-defense.

Denis shakes his head.

DENIS

Enough. Kevin, just get in your giant car. Drive away. Don't come back. Never bother Beth again...

BETH

Denis.

DENIS

Whatever. Never bother me again.

Rich gestures toward the Hummer with the rifle. Kevin, Sean and Dustin walk toward the car with Rich at their backs. Rich slings the rifle in the crook of his arm, pointing down. The barrel falls off.

RICH

(tiny)

Yee.

Rich drops to the ground, scrambling to stick the barrel back into the stock. He is surrounded by three sets of black chinos.

CLOSE ON RICH

He is on his stomach, hogtied by jumper cables, the ends of which are clipped to his ears. He sits

EXT. DOCK

Sean and Dustin keep an eye on Beth, Treece and Cammy.

RICH
Could someone turn me around?

Sean kicks Rich's head, spinning him toward the lake.

RICH (CONT'D)
Thanks, dude.

SEAN
Any time.

Beth, Cammy and a watched forlornly as the canoe paddles further into the lake.

DUSTIN
Cheer up, ladies. Once Sgt. Michaels teaches mini-Romeo a lesson, we're going to party.

TREECE
I'm kind of partied out.

SEAN
No, you're not.

EXT. LAKE

Denis paddles with Kevin at the helm.

KEVIN
Your error was not striking when you had tactical advantage back there.

Denis keeps his head lowered and continues paddling.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
How long can you swim, Denis?

DENIS
I don't know.

KEVIN
Let's you and me find out.

Denis paddles silently.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
I hope you did her.

Denis says nothing.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
It would be a shame for you to die
without the privilege of banging Beth
Cooper. No, privilege isn't right. More
like, without getting your turn.

Kevin looks into the water.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
This is deep enough.

As Kevin turns back he is clobbered with the business end
of the paddle.

BACK ON THE DOCK

LONG SHOT as Kevin topples into the water. Denis stands
in the canoe, legs apart. He raises the paddle in the
air, narrow end up. The poncho silhouetted against the
moon, he evokes the Luke Skywalker light saber pose.

RICH
Star Wars one sheet. 1977!

ON THE CANOE

His moment of glory savored, Denis turns his attention to
his victim. He scans the lake around him.

DENIS
Kevin?

Kevin's face floats a few inches below the surface. The
eyes are closed and a thin red ribbon wafts off the
temple. The face grows darker as it sinks.

DENIS
I've practically killed someone!

Denis throws off the poncho and dives out of the canoe.

THE DOCK

Everybody watches tensely at the still waters. Treece smacks Sean in the side.

TREECE
Go! Get in there!

SEAN
Do I look like a goddamn Marine?

RICH
(not worried)
He scuba-dives with his parents. He's got certificates up the wazoo.

Dustin kicks him in the head.

ON THE LAKE

Denis bursts to the surface, carrying Kevin.

EXT. SHORE - MOMENTS LATER

As Denis reaches chest-high water, he shifts Kevin's body into a fireman's carry. As he emerges from the lake, we see he has a swimmer's physique, previously hidden by his huddled, weak posture. His hair is wildly tossed and his body glistens in the moonlight.

Treece and Cammy are somewhat impressed.

TREECE
It's like when Clark Kent turns into Batman.

CAMMY
Check out the underpants.

BETH
I have.

Denis dumps Kevin's body onto the grass.

DENIS
I'm going to need some help.

He looks to Sean and Dustin for assistance. They just stand there.

DENIS (CONT'D)
Don't they teach you CPR?

DUSTIN
(shrugs)
I wasn't really paying attention.

SEAN
The job's not really about saving people.

BETH
I know CPR.

Beth crouches down.

DENIS
Okay, you do breathes and I'll do
compressions.

BETH
I'm not putting my mouth on him. We're
broken up.

DENIS
You are?

BETH
(annoyed)
Why would I mess around with you if I was
still with him? What kind of person do
you think I am?

Kevin COUGHS. He rolls to the side and VOMITS water. He
shakes himself and opens his eyes. Realizing what has
just happened, he smiles.

KEVIN
There you go, Cooverman, giving up your
tactical advantage again.

Kevin shoves Denis to the ground as he staggers to his
feet. He clasps his hands together with relish.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
Okay!

DUSTIN
It's getting real late. Can't we just
beat the shit out of them and go?

KEVIN
(resigned)
Fine.

Kevin turns to kick Denis in the kidneys. He is suddenly
illuminated by a blinding spotlight.

The spotlight is on a police car, which flashes its cherries and gives a SHORT BURST of its SIREN.

LOUDSPEAKER
Step away from the boy.

SEAN
What the--

RICH
("Duh")
We called the police.

TREECE
We're not like stupid teenagers.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - DAWN

A squad car pulls up at Beth Cooper's house. It's not a big or nice house, and none of the lights are on.

Beth gets out of the back seat, and turns to say good-bye to Denis through the window.

BETH
Thank you for a very memorable evening.

DENIS
We'll have to do it again sometime.

BETH
Sure.

DENIS
Sure.

BETH
Good luck. With Northwestern, and everything.

DENIS
You too. With everything.

Beth extends her hand. Denis reaches out to take it. Beth grins and bends down to kiss him. On the forehead.

Beth walks toward her house.

Denis gets out of the car.

DENIS (CONT'D)
Wait.

Beth turns around.

DENIS (CONT'D)
See you at the reunion.

BETH
Yeah.

DENIS
If you're not too fat, I'll marry you.

BETH
I'll hold you to that.

She waves goodbye. She takes out her keys, and lets herself in.

INT. SQUAD CAR

Denis settles in next to Rich. The car pulls away. They are quiet for a very long time.

RICH
You'll see her again. She's had a taste of the Coove.

DENIS
Please stop calling me that.

RICH
I think we might have more traction with 'The Penis' anyway. We just need to spin it, give it a legendary angle...

DENIS
You said it would be better if I got over her.

Rich doesn't answer right away.

RICH
I just want what you want.

Denis gazes out the window.

RICH (CONT'D)
Guess what? I think I'm gay.

Denis is genuinely shocked.

RICH (CONT'D)
Dude, I'm not gay for you.

DENIS
That's great. I mean, the first part.

RICH
I may be bi. Cary Grant was bi.

A long beat.

DENIS
What're you doing later?

RICH
I gotta go get my shoes.

DENIS
After that, want to come over?

RICH
What for?

DENIS
I don't know.

RICH
Sure.

EXT. 706 HACKBERRY DRIVE

Denis's parents are waiting on the front lawn. As Denis gets out of the squad car, Mrs. C runs up and hugs him. She starts to CRY, and runs into the house.

Denis and his father walk up to the house.

MR. C
I hope you had fun.

DENIS
I did. I had fun.

They step over the apple tree.

MR. C
You know we're going to have to punish you... somehow.

DENIS
I know.

MR. C
What do they do these days? Do they still ground you? I don't even know.

DENIS

Whatever it is, it was worth it.

Mr. C. put his arm around his son.

MR. C

Let's not tell your mother that.

THE END