

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 (CONT'D)
I HOPE YOU HAD THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE.

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

DR. GLEASON
Thank you, Angelica-

SULLEN GIRL
Angel-LEEK-a.

DR. GLEASON
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 way 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. Gleason 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. Gleason 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 (CONT'D)

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

Greg Saloga clenches his teeth and fists.

DENIS (CONT'D)
(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. Gleason leans across Denis into the microphone.

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

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

2

EXT. BUFFALO GLENN HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

2

A long orange-and-blue "BGHS CLASS OF '08" banner painted on butcher paper hangs over the school entrance. Standing under the banner is Denis, trying to look cool. He is a little panicked to see:

HIS PARENTS

As they approach, MRS. C squeezes MR. C's hand to remind him of how they've chosen to deal with this.

DENIS
Hey, Mom, Dad.
(mops brow)
Phew, huh?

MR. C
Interesting choice.

MRS. C
We are still so very proud of you.

Mr. C softens. He hands Denis a gift bag.

MR. C
Congratulations, son. We'll see you at home.

Mrs. C kisses Denis, and they exit. Denis looks around.

Fresh alumni, in cap and gowns, street clothes or some combination, are scattered in happy clusters. Denis SIGHS. A hand lands on his shoulder, startling him.

DR. GLEASON

Mr. Cooverman. I've never known you to do anything so reckless. At all reckless.

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

DR. GLEASON (CONT'D)

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

Denis's smirk is wiped clean off.

DENIS

That would be... unimaginable. I, I don't know why I... it wasn't... I was acting under an influence...

DR. GLEASON

(bows, whispers)

You're drunk?

DENIS

Oh, no. By influence, I meant my thinking process... became compromised, by which I mean... Well, Rich said...

DR. GLEASON

You listened to Rich Munsch? What were you thinking?

3

DENIS'S FLASHBACK

3

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.

(pauses, then adds gravely)

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!

4

BACK TO SCENE

4

DR. GLEASON

I wouldn't be taking romantic advice from
Rich Munsch.

DENIS

But he was right. I had to do something.
I'm not there.

(points to his head)

(MORE)

DENIS (CONT'D)

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. Gleason, haven't you ever been in love?

5 DR. GLEASON'S FLASHBACK

5

She is 17, and pushed up against some locker by PAUL BERGIE, age 18. It's dark in the hallway, and in the background we can see into the gymnasium, and the dance they skipped out on.

CLOSE ON her face as Bergie moves down her neck and disappears O.S. A moment later, her sweater is pushed up into her face. A moment after that, so is her brassiere. Miss Gleason prepares for ecstasy.

PAUL BERGIE (O.C.)

Your nipples are weird.

6 BACK TO SCENE

6

Dr. Gleason has her arms crossed tightly over her chest. Realizing she's doing it, she pulls her arms away quickly. She smiles sadly at Dennis.

DR. GLEASON

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 starts to leave.

DENIS

You're not going to call Stanford...

DR. GLEASON

(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 assumes a "cool" pose. It doesn't help that he keeps holding on to the gift bag. He scans the area again, not expecting anything this time. He is surprised.

Beth chats with CAMMY and TREECE, her best friends. Cammy is a tall, gamine beauty. Treece is shorter, plumply voluptuous with red curly hair. Beth is tiny by comparison, but clearly in charge.

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 pose.

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 the school wall. As Beth enters frame, Denis swivels his head "casually" in her direction. His neck makes a loud POP.

BETH

You embarrassed me.

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

BETH (CONT'D)

(still stern)

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

Denis flinches. Then Beth smiles. His whole body relaxes.

DENIS

That's good because... I'd like to live.

BETH

So Gleason 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

(gesturing with gift bag)

Actually, the boiling point - of water - is 212 degrees. Fahrenheit.

(adds, casual-like)

One-hundred Celcius.

Denis hates himself. Fortunately, Beth isn't 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

I can imagine. That you're hot.

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

RICH

I'm 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

Halt! I mean, wait.

(suave, he thinks)

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

RICH

A party. More of a party than a French thing. Music. Drinks. Prizes. Drinks.

Denis lamely holds up the gift bag for illustration.

DENIS

Party.

BETH

Sounds fun.

DENIS

It is fun. Will be, in the future. And you're invited. Officially.

BETH

Wow. Thanks.

DENIS

3706 Hackberry Drive. Zip's 60004 if you're Mapquesting...

BETH

I Google Map.

DENIS

Who doesn't? Mapquest blows.

BETH

I don't know if we can make it, we have this other thing--

DENIS

What time?

BETH

Whatever time parties start. Nine?

DENIS

Great! Because ours starts at six-thirty.

Beth raises an eyebrow. Rich jumps in.

RICH

It's a pre-party. For getting pre-trashed.

BETH

Ummm... Okay... Maybe we can drop by...

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

DENIS

Coo--

Denis's head is slammed against the cinderblock. Through a web of thick fingers Denis glimpses a terrifying grin.

TERRIFYING GRIN

You wooed my girl.

The grin is KEVIN, a young homunculus in Army dress blues. He speaks in an embroidered Southern patois.

KEVIN

Are you prepared to die?

DENIS

(through smooched lips)
Not really.

BETH

Kevin! Stop.

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

KEVIN

(pleasantly)
Return to your friends, Lisbee. I will rejoin you shortly.

Beth makes an EXASPERATED SOUND, and exits. Denis attempts to call after her, but Kevin casually squeezes his head, silencing him. Kevin then turns to Rich. Rich extends his hand, says brightly.

RICH
You must be Beth's boyfriend.

Kevin just stares at Rich.

RICH (CONT'D)
I have to go to the bathroom.

Rich exits. We notice that, for some reason, Denis has not let go of the gift bag, which dangles impotently from his fingers.

Kevin leans in to Denis, still squeezing his skull.

KEVIN
You demean her. And insult me.

DENIS
(smooshed)
Actually... she said it was "sweet."

Kevin presses harder.

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 smiles and squeezes Denis's head in earnest.

DR. GLEASON (O.C.)

Is there a problem here?

Rich has returned with Gleason. Kevin releases Denis.

KEVIN

No, ma'am. My hand slipped.

DENIS

We were debating my speech. In the negative, this gentleman argued--

DR. GLEASON

(to Kevin)

I can't allow you to kill him on school grounds.

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

DR. GLEASON (CONT'D)

Good luck in all your future endeavors, Mr. Cooverman. You too, Rich.

She walks off. Denis rubs his throat.

RICH

On the bright side, Beth Cooper talked to you.

Denis watches Beth. Kevin's arm is around her and is introducing TWO OF HIS ARMY BUDDIES to Cammy and Treece. Beth turns in Denis's direction. She mouths "sorry." This alerts Kevin. He smiles at Denis and makes a slicing motion across his crotch.

Denis blanches, pulls the gift bag over his pelvic area. Rich imitates the chopping gesture.

RICH (CONT'D)

That can't be good.

7

EXT. DENIS' NEIGHBORHOOD - LATER - DAY

7

Denis and Rich walk home, along the street, into the suburbs, toward Denis' house.

RICH

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

DENIS

It's okay if you are. Really.

RICH

Well, really, I'm not. *No soy homo.*
(then)

What makes you think I'm gay?

Denis shrugs.

DENIS
Everybody thinks you're gay.

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

8 DENIS' FLASHBACK: INT. DENIS BEDROOM - NIGHT

8

Denis and Rich, both 11, are on his bed watching "The Adventures of Robin Hood (1938)" on TV. It's the famous swordfight between Errol Flynn and Basil Rathbone.

Denis has glasses and clear braces (no headgear). Rich hasn't sprouted and is a little chubby. Rich suddenly bounces up to his knees on the bed.

LITTLE RICH
(excited rush)
Okay, I'm Robin Hood and you're Friar Tuck, and we get your Dad's camcorder and we do a shot for shot recreation of their climactic swordfight...
("and here's the great part")
...using our boners.

9 BACK TO SCENE

9

DENIS
I dunno... Nothing I guess.

Denis checks his cell phone.

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.

DENIS

(realizing)

We gotta get snacks for the party.

(slightly panicked)

And beverages.

RICH

There's no party, dude.

DENIS

No. She said, maybe. She might drop by.

RICH

Hey, what if she comes and brings her Army Man and he cuts your nuts off? That's gonna be messy.

DENIS

He was being.... metaphorical.

Denis checks his "package." Rich peeks into Denis' giftbag.

RICH

Yo.

Rich reaches into the bag and pulls out a brand new iTouch. He is impressed.

RICH (CONT'D)

iTouch, sweet. 32 Giga.

Rich tosses the box back in the bag.

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 won't even buy you shoes.

RICH

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

DENIS

I'm sorry your Dad's a dick.

RICH

(bittersweet)

It was completely itemized. Very detailed. Who knew he was paying attention?

10 EXT. DENIS'S HOUSE - LATER - DAY 10

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

11 INT. DENIS'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY 11

Denis, in pressed cargo pants and brand new rugby shirt, nervously flits about filling unmatched bowls with snacks. A pair of shoes land on the table, disturbing the feng shui.

RICH

Check out the new zapatos. Two paychecks. Very Gene Kelly, circa 1945, don't you think?

Denis picks Rich's feet up, moves them off the table, and drops them.

DENIS

You're going to step on the snacks.

Denis turns a bowl of pretzels 23 degrees clockwise.

RICH

She's not going to come.

Denis ignores Rich adjusting two liter bottles of soda. (A stack of Dixie Krazy Kritter cups complete the tableau.)

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 turns 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.

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 don't seem surprised to find Denis clutching a shirt to his naked chest.

MR. C

Looks like this party is well under way!

RICH

Hola, Mrs. C!

MRS. C

Don't call me Mrs. C. I mean it.

(to Denis)

Denis Petey Cooverman, 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 deal-breaker.

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 shin-dizzle?

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

(approvingly)

That is negligent! I mean, my Dad used to give me the occasional beer, but that was just to get me to take a nap.

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

It's 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

You know what I mean: *Carpe diem*.

RICH

Robin Williams in--

MR. C

We know, Rich.

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.

12	OMIT	12
13-14	EXT. DENIS'S HOUSE - LATER - DAY	13-14

CLOSE-UP: #3706. The address on Denis' house. A
paintbrush comes into frame, putting the final touches on
the number "7". The paint is a dark brown. The last two
numbers are faded, rusted, almost blending in with the
house color. CAMERA PULLS BACK, reveals Denis, sitting
on Rich's shoulders, so he can reach the numbers.

RICH

She's not going to come.

DENIS

You don't know her.

RICH

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

Finished with the number "0", Denis starts painting the last number.

RICH (CONT'D)

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

Denis finishes, and climbs down.

DENIS

What way?

Rich makes an "L" sign on his forehead.

DENIS (CONT'D)

We're not-- Yeah, so?

RICH

Nobody else from our school is going to Stanford, and Wazoo is huge... We can reinvent ourselves.

(MORE)

RICH (CONT'D)

(sings)

I can be whoever I want to be.

Denis doesn't recognize the reference.

RICH (CONT'D)

Leslie Ann Warren in *Rogers and Hammerstein's Cinderella*, 1965, Charles S. Dubin, director.

DENIS

That is somewhat gay.

Denis starts down the driveway. Rich follows.

RICH

(dismissive)

It's Leslie Ann Warren, not Audrey Hepburn...

(changing subject)

Okay, first, we gotta change your name. Denis, with one "n" is... subprime.

DENIS

So says Dick Munsch.

RICH

Denis with one 'n'? You're a vertical stroke from penis, dude.

DENIS

Thank you for bringing that to my attention.

Denis looks both ways to see if any cars are coming. He begins pacing down the sidewalk. Rich keeps up.

RICH

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

Denis pivots in the opposite direction. Rich follows.

RICH (CONT'D)

You: Denny, Deño, Den-Den... What's your middle name? Peter... DP. Ew. D-Pete.... Okay: Cooverman... Coove!

DENIS

Sounds... vagina-ish.

RICH

The Coove... master!

Denis glances at his watch. He looks stricken. But he continues to pace. After a few moments....

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 places his hand over Rich's mouth. They walk for a beat like that. When Denis removes his hand:

RICH (CONT'D)

Ever jerk off with a condom on?

DENIS

No.

RICH

Just asking.

(a beat, then)

Probably not that great.

DENIS

Incoming!

They look to the corner. Beth's Cabriolet squeals around the corner at a speed way too fast for this neighborhood. Denis leaps toward the house. He jumps back and grabs Rich and drags him across the lawn.

Beth's car SCREECHES to a stop.

Denis and Rich freeze at the front porch, with Denis holding the screen door partially open. Rich spins to face the girls; Denis releases the door and turns more slowly. Beth, Cammy and Treece exit a white chariot.

DENIS (CONT'D)

It's the Trinity.

RICH

(flashes grin)

Chicas!

Beth is wearing a trendy but inexpensive party dress.

Cammy, in prep attire, catwalks up behind her. She's the quick, clever and not entirely nice one.

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

Denis is in shock. Rich looks at Beth.

RICH (CONT'D)

Where's our boy in uniform?

Denis eyes flash with pure terror.

BETH

He's on our shit list. 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 is crapped.

TREECE

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.

Cammy looks around, not pleased.

CAMMY

So? Until just later? We're stuck with them?

TREECE

Yeah. We're so much cuter than they are.

BETH

What do you want me to do? I told them I'd stop by the party.

CAMMY

Do you see a party?

Beth turns, looks around, doesn't see any other cars in the driveway.

BETH
Where's this party?

DENIS
Here. This is... it. This location.

Denis leads the girls inside.

15

INT. HOUSE - FOYER - DAY

15

Denis and Rich enter, followed by the girls, who are looking around.

BETH
Are we the first ones here?

CAMMY
We are never first.

TREECE
This doesn't smell like a party.

DENIS
Can I take anyone's... well, you're not wearing coats, so...

RICH
(interrupting)
La fiesta es this way, mi bonitas..

Rich grabs Denis, pulls him into the kitchen. The girls follow slowly, lagging behind. Cammy glares at Beth.

BETH
Be nice. He's our valedictorian.

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, follows. Treece looks hurt.

TREECE

I try it all the time.

16

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

16

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

Everything's organic... the pretzels are fat-free...

BETH

(scowls)

Are you saying I'm fat?

Perspiration drips into Denis's eye. He blinks.

DENIS

No. Not, no. Not not no...

RICH

You, fat? Why would he say that? Come on. He's not *retarded*.

BETH

(frowns)

My brother is retarded.

Silence. Rich and Denis freeze, standing at attention, condemned dorks, without blindfolds. Cammy snickers, followed by Treece. Beth smiles. Denis exhales.

RICH

That's cold. You probably don't even have a brother.

BETH

No. He died.

Rich guffaws too loudly. But no one else laughs. This time, Beth is serious.

DENIS

I'm so sorry.

BETH

It was a long time ago.
(looks directly at Denis)
But thank you.

A warm smile passes between them.

TREECE

I'm fat.
(pops a potato chip)
But it's good fat.

Treece shimmies, her fat shakes like bowls full of jelly. 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. 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

(dryly)
Water makes you do things.

TREECE

Not regular water.

Rich lights up. He runs out the room and up the stairs.

CAMMY

You frightened off the gay one, Treece.

16A INT. DENIS PARENTS' BEDROOM - DAY 16A

Rich RUNS inside, opens the bedside table drawer. Rich searches through the drawer, madly looking for something. He finds what he wants. A BOX OF RIBBED CONDOMS.

16B INT. KITCHEN - DAY 16B

Denis, the champagne between his legs, is peeling 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, Keh-vin: 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 pounds per square inch. 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, an 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
We need ice!

Rich hurries to the refrigerator. He pulls out the ice drawer, grabs at the ice but it's stuck. He tips the drawer, and a huge slab of ice crashes to the floor.

BETH (CONT'D)
(frustrated)
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. Frozen waffles. He shrugs and throws it.

RICH
Stat!

Beth catches the box. 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

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

DENIS

Well, then I apologize on behalf of all boys. And sorry for all the wars and stuff.

BETH

You're funny.

Beth repositions the waffle, simultaneously wiggling up Denis's lap a little.

BETH (CONT'D)

How's that feel?

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

BETH (CONT'D)

Pretty good.

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 makes a pinkie gesture.

TREECE (CONT'D)
(dawning)

Oh.

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
(dryly)
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. 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
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
This what you had in mind for tonight?

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

Well, this was fun.

Treece flicks the condom balloon away. Rich catches it.

DENIS

No, you can't go... not yet... we haven't... drunk the wine! Twenty-three bottles!

TREECE

(frowns)

Wine reminds me of Jesus.

BETH

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. Then she pulls back. His disappointment is transparent. But then she gently turns his head, not wanting to hurt him and kisses his uninjured cheek. He flushes.

BETH (CONT'D)

Bye.

The moment is shattered by a HUGE ENGINE ROAR. Denis turns. We hear an extremely loud, distorted "RIDE OF THE VALKRIES."

BETH (CONT'D)

Kevin. Shit.

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

17-18 INT. HOUSE - FOYER - DAY

17-18

The girls and Rich squint out the front door at the mammoth older Hummer gouged into the front lawn, Wagner blasting out loudspeakers mounted on the outside of the cab. Denis slinks up behind them, peeks around Treece.

DENIS

He triangulated your cellphone!

She pulls the spoon out of Rich's mouth. He's unfazed.

RICH

We're gonna need more waffles.

The Hummer is turned off and the music dies. Kevin and his TWO ARMY BUDDIES disembark their vehicle, precision dressed for a party (black khakis and polos).

Treece opens the door, waves happily at her would-be date-rapist.

TREECE

Sean! You naughty boy!

Denis shoves Treece out of the way, closes the door, 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.

DENIS

Everybody down!

BETH

Why?

DENIS

He's going to kill me!

CAMMY

I should certainly hope so.

BETH

He's not... He just likes to be scary.

DENIS

He's scary!

BETH

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

DENIS

The windows! Secure the windows!

Denis jumps up, runs from the foyer, into the dining room, excitedly closing and latching the windows.

CAMMY

Is he always like this?

RICH

This is new behavior. But not surprising.

Denis runs past them, into the living room, closing and latching the front windows. Beth watches, smiles.

BETH

I think it's kinda cute.

(off Cammy's look)

It is. He 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.

Denis runs back into the foyer, sees through to the kitchen sliding glass doors, which are WIDE OPEN.

DENIS

Jesus!

Denis dashes into the kitchen, the others behind him.

19

OMITTED

19

20

OMITTED

20

21

OMITTED

21

22

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

22

Denis runs to the sliding glass doors, about to close them, when... KEVIN, SEAN and the third party commando DUSTIN enter. Denis leaps back. Beth is right beside him. Together, they back away into the kitchen, as Kevin and his pals enter. Beth whispers to Denis.

BETH

I can handle this. Don't be afraid.

DENIS

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

BETH

(to Kevin)

Congratulations. You found me.

KEVIN

(sniffs audibly, quickly)

Interesting. Very interesting the situation here is interesting. Fascinating.

BETH

Kevin. Have you been doing coke?

KEVIN

Not now Lisbee.

DENIS

He's coked up?!

Kevin knocks over a vase.

TREECE

That is *not* one of the good drugs.

Kevin picks up the empty champagne bottle, notices the balloon Rich is holding. Kevin points a muscular finger at Denis.

KEVIN

Prepare to die.

RICH

(delighted)

Mandy Patinkin in "The Princess Bride," Rob Reiner, 1987. Also, the same line was used by Emperor Zurg in "Toy Story 2"--

The champagne bottle grazes Rich's skull and embeds into the drywall next to Rich's head. Beth 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.

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 into the drywall. The microwave is embedded in the wall, teetering.

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. A pause. Rich turns to Denis.

RICH

I'd run away.

Denis gets up and runs. Rich stands, brushes himself off. Seeing Kevin coming, Rich tosses the balloon in his face.

Kevin grins as he slowly squeezes the inflated condom. It doesn't pop. Frustrated, he squeezes it with both hands. He stalks off, batting the balloon away. Treece catches it.

TREECE

(spokesmodel)

Durex.

23

INT. FOYER - DAY

23

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 never seen *any* of the Friday the 13ths? You run upstairs, you *die!*

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

RICH (CONT'D)

Arribame!

24

INT. DENIS'S BEDROOM - DAY

24

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 scans the room: a 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 laughs.

KEVIN

What a Eugene.

He glances up, sees a large poster of Beth in her cheerleading outfit, on the ceiling above Denis' bed. He is no longer amused. Something pokes Kevin. He glances down. Denis has the tip of the lightsaber to Kevin's throat.

DENIS

That's a polycarbonate blade.

Kevin smiles, calmly reaches over to the pelvis of the skeleton and firmly YANKS it off the spine.

DENIS (CONT'D)

Dr. McCoy!

Kevin RIPS the skeleton's legs from the pelvis.

DENIS (CONT'D)

Now, that used to be a person...

Kevin comes at Denis, wielding the leg bones like nunchucks, spinning them around the knee joints.

DENIS (CONT'D)

That is very disrespectful--

Denis tries to fend off the bone assault with his light saber, but is pummelled about the head and shoulders.

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 Kevin's head, distracting him. Beth is holding the jawbone.

BETH

Calm down!

KEVIN

(quiet menace)

Let's not get violent.

Beth glances past Kevin. Noticing this, Kevin turns to see the last of Denis climbing out the window. Beth looks up, sees her poster hanging above Denis's bed. Beth smiles, touched.

Cammy stands next to her, looks up at the ceiling and then down at the bed.

CAMMY

Impressive.

25

EXT. HOUSE - SECOND FLOOR - DAY

25

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

DENIS

Rich!?

Denis hears a sound, behind him. It's Kevin. Grinning. Holding the light saber like a spear. Kevin hurls it. Denis catches the saber in the chest, and topples off the roof, taking a section of the gutter with him.

26

HUGE, EXTRA PRICKLY THORN BUSH

26

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 CLIMB OUT onto the roof.

Denis helps Rich to his feet. They run to the fence at the side of the yard, stumbling over it. They poke their heads above the fence, looking back to the rooftop.

Kevin and his army buddies leap from the roof in unison, onto another, lower section of roof. Denis turns to Rich.

DENIS

Coach Raupp was right. We are pussies.

From the lower section of roof, Kevin and his friends leap again, roll on the ground, and seamlessly rise in commando formation.

This last action causes Denis to RUN AWAY. Rich pauses, horrified and slightly fascinated.

RICH

We may be dealing with cyborgs.

Rich turns to see Denis running toward the front yard.

RICH (CONT'D)

(betrayed)

Dude!

27 OMITTED

27

27A-28 EXT. FRONT YARD - DUSK

27A-28

Denis calls back to Rich just as he runs into the street.

DENIS

Rich! C'mon! Faster--

BAMN! Denis is hit by a car, and lands on the ground in front of the car.

Beth leaps out of the car, walks up to Denis, stands over him. Beth frowns.

BETH
Why'd you do that?

Beth helps Denis to his feet.

BETH (CONT'D)
You're supposed to be smart...

DENIS
(dazed)
I was smart...

Treece's SQUEALS excitedly and points. Beth and Denis turn and sees Rich hauling ass toward them with Kevin and corps in trot pursuit. Beth pushes Denis face first into back of the car and hops back into the driver's seat.

Beth hits the gas. The car PEELS OUT. Kevin and his pals are getting closer to Rich. Denis turns, pops open the hatch back. Denis reaches out, Treece and Cammy beside him. Denis reaches out, for Rich to take his hand. Rich dives forward. Denis pulls him inside.

Kevin JUST MISSES catching Rich.

Denis CLOSES the car's hatch back. Beth LEANS her head out of the passenger side window, CALLS OUT to Kevin.

BETH
Call me when you're sober!

Denis CRAWLS into the passenger seat, next to Beth. She SPEEDS AWAY, watches in the rear view mirror as Kevin gets to his feet and brushes himself off. DISSOLVE TO:

29 EXT. ARLINGTON HEIGHTS ROAD - LATER - NIGHT 29

The Cabriolet weaves through the light traffic.

30 INT. CABRIOLET - NIGHT 30

Denis sits in the front seat, beside Beth. Denis is still half stunned. Beth looks to Denis.

BETH

Are you okay?

Treece sticks her finger in Denis' ear, and checks it.

TREECE

No blood.

Beth makes a SCREECHING left turn. Denis turns to her.

DENIS

We got away. You can stop escaping.

CAMMY

She always drives like this.

A hard right causes Treece and Cammy to topple into Rich, who stares forward with a horrified expression.

RICH

I was in driver's ed with her.

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

31 INT. DRIVER'S ED CAR - THE PREVIOUS YEAR - DAY 31

Next to Rich 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. Beth drives madly, swerving through the drivers' ed course, set up in the school parking lot. The car slams into an orange construction cone. Coach Raupp turns to Beth.

COACH RAUPP

If that cone had been a BABY GIRL you would have KILLED it!

BETH
That would have been sad.

COACH RAUPP
Pull over! Now!

Beth STEERS OUT of the driving course, into the street, nearly T-boned by TWO CARS. She SLAMS on the brakes. Rich pitches forward, face bouncing off the seatback. Coach Raupp turns to Beth.

COACH RAUPP (CONT'D)
You just killed everybody in this car!

BETH
Sorry.

CUT BACK TO:

32 INT. CABRIOLET - NIGHT 32

Rich furiously buckles himself into a seatbelt.

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

TREECE
(mildly irked)
They always spell my name wrong.

33 EXT. INTERSECTION - NIGHT 33

The Cabriolet RACES through the intersection, nearly mowing down a PEDESTRIAN.

34 INT. CABRIOLET - NIGHT 34

Denis turns to Beth.

DENIS
So, um, thanks for... rescuing me... I mean, after you hit me with the car...

BETH
(flustered, a little pissy)
You ran into the car. And I wasn't rescuing you. Kevin is overmedicated right now and... he can't have another incident. He'll get court martialled for sure.

DENIS

I see. You wouldn't happen to recall the specifics of his last incident...

Beth MAKES A HARD RIGHT TURN, Denis is thrown sideways. He sits back up, turns to Beth.

DENIS (CONT'D)

Could I borrow your phone? I left mine-

BETH

Shit! My phone! He's probably tracking us!

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.

35

EXT. DESERTED ROAD - NIGHT

35

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.

MR. C
You bet I am!

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.

36

INT. CABRIOLET - NIGHT

36

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, flips through the stations.

BETH

Radio sucks.

Denis pulls out his iTouch.

DENIS

Tune to 87-point-one.

(suavely)

I put together a little "Commencement
Mix" for tonight.

RICH

"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'.

DENIS

My mom helped me put this together.
Okay, no, here's one...

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

ALICE COOPER (ON RADIO)	BETH
(sings)	(joining in)
SCHOOL'S OUT FOR SUMMER!	...SUMMER!
(also sings)	(really hitting)
SCHOOL'S OUT FOR-EVER!	... <u>EVER</u> !

ALICE COOPER
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?

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

37 EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE - PARKING LOT - NIGHT 37

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

38 INT. CABRIOLET - NIGHT 38

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*.

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

CAMMY

Crack him like a walnut.

DENIS

(whispers)

I love you.

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

DENIS (CONT'D)

Sorry.

BETH

Let's get some beer.

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

39 INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - NIGHT 39

Beth and Denis enter.

DENIS

I think I was knocked unconscious back there, for a minute. I wasn't looking or smelling or anything--

They reach the beer display. Beth turns to Denis. The convenience store fluorescence brings out the colors of everything that has befallen Denis' face this evening. A puffy, swollen right eye. Plummy bruises and scrapes on his ears, forehead, cheeks and chin.

BETH

Yuck. Maybe you should go to the hospital.

Denis stares at her, amazed.

DENIS

Your eyes aren't blue.

BETH

My eyes?

DENIS

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?

40

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE - PARKING LOT

40

Rich, Cammy and Treece stand outside of the car. Treece texts on her phone. Cammy turns to Treece and very deliberately away from Rich.

CAMMY

To think, Treece: we could be getting expertly manhandled by trained military personnel, but instead we're spending our graduation night with Dick Munch and the Penis.

RICH

You could do me the courtesy of insulting me to my face.

Cammy turns back to Rich and stares at him dead-eyed. He blanches.

RICH (CONT'D)

Thank you.

Treece continues texting without looking up.

TREECE

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

41

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - SNACK AISLE - NIGHT

41

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.

BETH (CONT'D)
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, flips through his high school ID (taken during an acne storm), a photobooth picture of him and Rich, his official identification for the Starfleet Academy... Beth smiles.

BETH
Wow. I never met a certified member of the Starfleet Academy before.

DENIS
(smile-cringes)
That's expired.

Beth removes a crisp \$100 bill.

BETH
Thank you, Denis Cooverman!

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

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

42

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - COUNTER - NIGHT

42

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?

Denis's accumulated injuries are a bit 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
\$56.72. 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.

SFX: DING-DONG!

ANGLE ON DOOR (WHERE SOUND CAME FROM)

Two goofy boys enter store.

LOSER CLERK

We're closed.

CUT TO:

43

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE - NIGHT

43

Beth, looking conflicted, exits the convenience store carrying her beer, followed by Denis, looking like his world had collapsed.

Treese CLAPS as they approach.

DENIS

That was...

(choosing words carefully)

...unusual. What you did. In there.
To him.

CAMMY

Care to elaborate?

DENIS

(odd, icky gestures)

She. The clerk.

Beth tosses the beer in the car and HUFFS with frustration.

BETH

I walked his dog. For like two seconds.
(presents right hand)

Purel me.

Cammy pulls some Purel from her waistband and squirts a copious amount into Beth's palm.

BETH (CONT'D)

He wanted ten seconds. I negotiated him
down.

CAMMY

You're a regular Ivanka Trump.

BETH

(rubbing in the Purel)

And we got the beer.

DENIS
(blurts out)
And that makes it all... ethical?!!

BETH
Grow up, Denis!

Beth gets in the car and starts it. (Everybody else takes the signal and starts to get in. Denis climbs in while Treece, Rich and Cammy go to their respective doors.)

TREECE

Wow. That was a big sacrifice. I don't think I could do it. I mean, *before* drinking the beer.

RICH

(shrugs)

I'd do two seconds.

Treece looks at Rich and rolls her eyes.

RICH (CONT'D)

It's not gay. It's within the three-second rule.

CAMMY

That's for food dropped on the floor.

RICH

(getting in car, with gay hand flourish)

...and whatever.

43A INT. CAR - NIGHT

43A

Denis sits quietly in the back seat, sulking. Treece and Rich join him on either side. The car starts to pull out.

DENIS

She's not Beth Cooper.

Treece considers this, glances up at the driver's seat. She leans in to Denis.

TREECE

I'm pretty sure she is.

Denis catches Beth's eye in the rearview mirror. She looks away.

44 EXT. DUNDEE ROAD - NIGHT

44

The car drives out of the strip and into the dark with a FLEETING MEMORIES GRADUATION CLASSIC playing on the radio.

45 EXT. OLD TOBACCO ROAD - NIGHT

45

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. The kids are out of the car, sitting on or near the trunk, drinking beer. Denis takes a sip, smiles at Beth with a big beer 'stache. She reaches over and wipes it off.

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.

Beth grabs another beer, pops the bottle into her mouth and opens it with her teeth. Not to be outdone, Denis grabs a bottle. He coolly tries to open it with his teeth, but he's having trouble. He struggles, tries both sides of his mouth. Finally, he pops the bottle cap along with one of his teeth. The tooth flies forward, strikes Beth in the forehead.

BETH/DENIS
Ouch!

Beth looks at Denis incredulously.

BETH
Was that your tooth?

DENIS
(attempted nonchalance)
It was deciduous.

CAMMY
You still have baby teeth?

DENIS
Only three. Well, now two.

Beth picks up Denis' tooth and tucks it in the pocket of his shirt.

BETH
For your pillow.

Denis smiles, embarrassed.

Eager to change the subject, Denis refers to the radio. The Simple Minds song continues.

DENIS

This song.

BETH

What about it?

DENIS

What if our parents, on their graduation night, what if... they could have been sitting right here, on Old Tobacco Road, in their vehicles, cars available at the time, and they could have been parked in this exact same spot, listening to this exact same song. Which means... we were here too... *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. The same songs. The same rituals. 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 have that song.

Cammy opens her mouth. Beth cuts her off, and shoos her away with walking fingers.

CAMMY

I have to pee.

TREECE

Me too.

RICH

Me tres.

They walk off into the dark. Denis cringes as:

PETER CRISS (ON RADIO)

BETH, I HEAR YOU CALLING...

46

EXT. OLD TOBACCO ROAD - NIGHT

46

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 my stepmom Bitchtricia crashed hers.

CAMMY

That's what you get for splitting up your parents.

TREECE

Mean, *mean*.

(to Rich)

Never admit your innermost fears to Cammy.

(noticing)

Oh my God!

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

You know, these challenges to my
sexuality are just *wrong!*

47

EXT. CABRIOLET - NIGHT

47

Denis squirms. Beth seems to be enjoying the music.

PETER CRISS (ON RADIO)

OH, BETH WHAT CAN I DO?...

DENIS

Here, let me change it...

Denis moves to inside of the car, reaching for his iPod.
Beth pulls him back outside.

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

Why?

48

EXT. FIELD - NIGHT

48

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 them, 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... SQUIT!

49

EXT. CABRIOLET - NIGHT

49

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.

BETH

So... why me?

DENIS

You?

BETH

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

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! How could I not know Denis Cooverman?

50 BETH'S MEMORIES OF DENIS COOVERMAN 50

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.

51 UP ANGLE on Denis's face, at the graduation podium, as he 51
 mouths the words, "I love you, Beth Cooper."

51A BACK TO SCENE 51A

BETH

Lots of memories...

52 EXT. FIELD - NIGHT 52

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?

53 EXT. CABRIOLET - NIGHT 53

It's very quiet.

DENIS

What are you thinking?

BETH

Nothing.

Denis curses himself. He tries again.

DENIS

Hey, so what are you doing after graduation? I'm going to, they've got this combined pre-med/med-school thing at Stanford. After that I'm not sure if I want to practice or do research...

BETH

(getting quiet)
Good luck with that.

DENIS

So, what are your... plans?

BETH

I dunno. Maybe Harpers Community College.

DENIS

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

BETH

Maybe. If I can afford it.

Beth finishes her beer, pauses.

BETH (CONT'D)

So I'm not Beth Cooper.

DENIS

Oh. You heard that? I only meant, you don't seem like, uh...

BETH

The Beth Cooper over your bed.

DENIS

(cringes)
Right. Her.

BETH

She would never fondle some loser for a twelve-pack.

DENIS

Well, no, she wouldn't. And you don't have to. You're better than that.

BETH
(defensive, dismissive)
You don't know that. How could you possibly know that?

Denis looks her straight in the eye.

DENIS
(totally heartfelt)
Because I'm a very smart guy.

Beth is extremely touched by Denis' sincerity. This is the sweetest thing that anyone's ever said to her. Beth looks as if she might kiss him...

54

EXT. FIELD - NIGHT

54

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

TREECE
Don't these things ever take a shower?

RICH
Okay. Ready? On four... 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!

55

EXT. CABRIOLET - NIGHT

55

Denis and Beth are startled by the bloodcurdling moo.

DENIS
What the hell was that?

BETH
Cow. Sounded like.

DENIS
That was no... standard cow.

BETH
(teasing)
Denis Cooverman, are you afraid of cows?

DENIS

Vaccaphobic? Of course not.

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 to the car.

DENIS (CONT'D)

What happened?

BETH

What's so funny?

RICH

A 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 moooooooooon.

Rich turns to Denis, desperate.

DENIS

There hasn't been a confirmed case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy in the United States for three years. And even if this one did have mad cow disease, it can't be transmitted by biting, which cows can't do.

TREECE

You're useful.

BETH

(sniffing)

What is that?

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
You're not getting into my car with those shoes. They go, with you in them or not.

56 A MOMENT LATER 56

The shoes are lined up by the side of the road. The car PEELS OUT and disappears into the fog. On the soundtrack, blasts the NEXT TEEN ANTHEM, a propulsive roaring scream in the tradition of "My Generation," "Born to Run" and "Another Brick in the Wall."

56A INT. CABRIOLET - NIGHT 56A

Rich sits unhappily between Cammy and Treece. Rich turns, sees Beth turn off the headlights.

57 EXT. OLD TOBACCO ROAD - NIGHT 57

The road ahead of them disappears. The car hurtles down an incline that seems more suited to a roller coaster than a back road.

58 INT. CABRIOLET/EXT. OLD TOBACCO ROAD - NIGHT 58

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

BETH
To the future!

The car dips and dives through the murky black.

DENIS
(back of his throat, scared)
Turns the headlights on. Please.

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

The Cabriolet speeds up a hill. Denis freaks.

DENIS (CONT'D)

Turn the headlights on now!

Beth dramatically turns the headlights back on, giving Denis a "there, happy?" expression. She shakes her head.

BETH

Coach Raupp was right. You are a pussy.

Denis stares ahead in horror, speechless. He POINTS. Beth turns back to the road. THROUGH THE WINDSHIELD, as the cars crest the hill: there is a car parked directly ahead.

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

Please stop apologizing for being you.
(to back seat)
Anyone dead?

Cammy straightens her clothes. Treece reapplies lipstick.

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

DENIS

(shocked)

Dad!

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

DENIS (CONT'D)

(cringing)

Mom.

TREECE

Could be worse. Could not be your mom.

Denis EXHALES DEEPLY, turns to Beth.

DENIS

I had a lovely time this evening... But now I must die.

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.

The car PEELS OUT in reverse The car's headlights vanish into the mist. Mr. C pulls up his pants.

MR. C

Kids. Goddamn kids!

MRS. C

Still wish our son were more "normal"?

59 EXT. VALLI WOOLLY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

59

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 to the valet. She gawks at the two-story bay window, currently crammed with hard-partying kids.

BETH

Shit my panties.

Denis does a take at what she said, then stares at the house worriedly.

DENIS

This is Valli Woolly's house.

59A CUT BACK EARLIER, TO GRADUATION CEREMONY, DENIS' SPEECH...

59A

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.

59B BACK TO THE PRESENT

59B

Cammy leans in to Denis.

CAMMY

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

TREECE

It was a graduation present.

Beth lays her hands on Denis's shoulders.

BETH

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

Denis and Rich watch the girls stride up the walk.

DENIS

So. Valli Woolly pulls trains.

RICH

(shrugs)

If you believe her blog.

60

INT./EXT. VALLI WOOLLY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

60

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. They walk out onto a terrace, overlooking a swimming pool, where kids are gathered, some swimming.

RICH

Your party was better.

Rich turns, disappears into the crowd. Denis looks down at the pool.

Here, Beth is courted by several athletes. She glances in Denis' direction but the jocks close up around her. She's gone.

Denis realizes the true order of the universe has been restored. He SIGHS. Denis turns, walks back inside the party, into a hallway. He moves toward the bathroom, but there's a long line. One of the kids points upstairs.

KID AT PARTY

There's three more upstairs.

Denis nods, exits.

61

EXT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

61

Denis walks through the crowded hallway, toward an open bathroom. Suddenly, a hand reaches out and yanks him into another room.

62 INT. VALLI'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 62

The door SLAMS. It's dark. Then the lights come on. GREG SALOGA'S HUGE RED FACE twitches. He's drunk staring into Denis' face.

62A CUT BACK TO GRADUATION CEREMONY, DENIS' SPEECH... 62A

DENIS

Let us declare, "I beat up other kids because I was unloved as a baby, or I was sexually abused or something. I am sorry for all the cruel swirlies, the pink bellies, the purple nurples."

Greg Saloga clenches his teeth and fists.

62B BACK TO THE PRESENT... 62B

Denis SIGHS, resigned.

DENIS (CONT'D)

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 room, a shrine to Valli Woolly: Avedonish glamour shot, Pre-teen Valli in jodhpurs and riding helmet, Infant Valli as an Angel Baby, bronze baby shoes (from every year until age ten)... Greg BLOWS HIS NOSE on Denis's shoulder and steps back, points to Denis' bruised face.

GREG SALOGA (CONT'D)

Did I do that?

DENIS

It's not one of yours. It was an accident. Series of.

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

Sure. Or maybe a trained professional would be better.

GREG SALOGA

Hug. Hugging's good.

Greg pulls Denis to him, hugging him tightly.

GREG SALOGA (CONT'D)

(sings softly)

I WILL REMEMBER YOU...

63

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

63

The two step out. Saloga looks self-conscious.

DENIS

I have to 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...

64

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

64

Denis reaches for the phone when...

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! Pedophilia!

Rich points to the far corner of the room, 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 Muncher
and the Penis?"

(off Denis's unsurprise)

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

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

RICH (CONT'D)

So, hey, *¿Dónde está Elizabeta?*

DENIS

Whereever.

RICH

Told you that speech was a good idea.

DENIS

What are you talking about? What about
what'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.

Denis swallows some blue hummus.

DENIS

She's not a scary whackjob.

(beat)

She's not a whackjob.

RICH

Don't backpedal, dude. Onward. *¡Vamos!*
Your new hopeless obsession might be at
this very party. Speaking of...

Rich points. Denis GASPS.

RICH (CONT'D)

(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

Denny, what happened to your poor face?
Greg Saloga beat you up, I'll bet. Or
Valli Woolly. She paid 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. Think this is bad, you should see him.

DENIS

(getting into it)
I feel terrible about it. He's at the hospital. 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

Nice seeing you!

65

INT. VALLI WOOLLY'S HOUSE - FOYER - NIGHT

65

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

SHRIEKING FEMALE (O.C.)

ASSHOLE!

Valli Woolly, on the stairs, her dress oddly askew. Directly behind her, lined up, are Kevin, Sean and Dustin, their shirts untucked and hair mussed (Sean is fastening his belt). Kevin has his arm around Valli from behind, his hand cupping her belly. He sees the source of Valli's outburst, grins, and kisses her on the top of the head.

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

CAMMY

Choo choo.

Fury, heartbreak and humiliation play across Beth's face.

Sean and Dustin grab Denis and Rich. Kevin approaches.

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 arrives, attempting to restore order.

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, grinning maniacally.

KEVIN

Lisbee. *This isn't about you anymore.*

DENIS

Do you speak in *nothing* but cliches?

Kevin chuckles and roundhouses Denis in the abdomen.

BETH

(concerned, affectionate)

Denis... Are you all right?

DENIS

(nods)

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

Before Beth can answer, Kevin places a valet ticket in her palm and squeezes her fingers around it.

KEVIN

Now why don't you get that pretty, tight-little butt of yours in my vehicle?

Beth, hurt, glares at Kevin. He turns, moves into the living room, signaling his soldiers to follow. They frog march Denis and Rich out of the room. Valli follows, turns to Beth, haughtily.

VALLI

Gonorrhoea? *You wish.*

66

INT. VALLI WOOLLY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

66

As Kevin enters, the partygoers obligingly pull back, to open up a sizable killing floor. Dustin shoves Denis into the center of the room. Denis turns to the crowd.

DENIS

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)

I am not worthless. Look at this party.
Look at all my friends.

She steps back and turns calmly to Kevin.

VALLI (CONT'D)

Cause brain damage.

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

DENIS

(relieved)

Coach Raupp!

The coach steps between the two, arms outstretched.

COACH RAUPP

Okay, ladies, some ground rules...

DENIS

Wait... You're not going to stop it?

COACH RAUPP

All I want is a fair fight.

DENIS

Fair? He's a trained killer!

COACH RAUPP

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 RAUPP

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 RAUPP

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

(steps back, raises a hand)

Aaaannnd... *fight!*

Kevin playfully "puts up his dukes." The crowd LAUGHS. Kevin does goofy boxing moves. Denis keeps his arms down.

COACH RAUPP (CONT'D)

Yo! Duke's up, Cooverman!

Denis keeps his dukes down.

DENIS

I'm not going to fight.

COACH RAUPP

Aw, Cooverman! Don't be a pussy, you pussy!

DENIS

(trying to reason)

Look, Kevin... You've won. You got the girl. I've been humiliated before all of my peers. I apologize and I surrender unconditionally. Is that satisfactory?

Kevin punches Denis in the mouth. Denis hits the ground. Nearly unconscious. Blood streams from his mouth. His lips start to swell. Kevin leans over Denis.

KEVIN

Any final requests?

DENIS

Some kind of sedation?

The DJ obliges. The Ramones "I Wanna be Sedated" blare from the speakers. Kevin grabs the neck of Denis's rugby shirt and lifts him off the ground. Kevin begins bouncing Denis around to the dance beat. The crowd loves it. Denis, not so much.

DENIS (CONT'D)

I am not your plaything! 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 the giant kid loose. Sean tries to peel Saloga off. 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. Still on Kevin's back, he kicks Dustin in the testicles. Dustin goes down. Coach Raupp approaches Saloga.

COACH RAUPP

Yo, time out, Saloga--

Saloga elbows Coach Raupp in the throat. He goes down.

Denis looks around desperately for an escape. He pivots toward the door. He sees Kevin, lumbering under Greg, lunging toward him 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 (VIA HUMMER'S SPEAKERS)

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.

BETH (THROUGH LOUD SPEAKERS)
(CONT'D)

Denis Cooverman!

Beth waves from the Hummer. Denis looks at her like she's crazy, there's no way.... PRIMAL ROAR.

Kevin charges him. At the last moment, Greg grabs his eyebrows and reigns him back hard. Denis starts toward the Hummer. His leg is stuck. On the floor, Coach Raupp clutches his own throat while grabbing Denis's ankle.

COACH RAUPP

Don't get in the car with her.

DENIS (CONT'D)

And just now, Failure to Signal! That's seven, at least!

BETH

A new record!

TREECE

I don't think that's a record.

DENIS

I think maybe you shouldn't be driving.

She pauses... takes her hands off the steering wheel.

DENIS (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

BETH

You're right. I shouldn't be driving.

Beth crosses her arms and presses on the gas.

DENIS

Then don't accelerate!

70 EXT. STREET - NIGHT

70

The Hummer goes through a red light, swerving into the opposite lane, toward oncoming traffic.

71 INT. HUMMER - NIGHT

71

Denis takes the wheel, steers back into the right lane, just missing a head-on-collision. Beth takes the wheel from Denis.

BETH

Where did you learn to drive?

DENIS

You were on the wrong side of the road!

BETH

How do you know we're not in Europe?

Beth swerves the Hummer back onto the curb, where it baWHUMPS over something large. Treece glances out the rear window.

TREECE

It wasn't wearing clothing.

DENIS

(to Beth)

Beth. I think it would be best if you pulled over.

BETH

Hey... How about, "*Beth, Thank you. Thank you for saving my life... again.*"

DENIS

Saving my life?!? Saving my--?!? You almost ran me over with a military vehicle, owned by that homicidal rage ape you call a boyfriend who has been trying to kill me all night!

BETH

You're spitting blood on me.

TREECE

You're supposed to keep your bodily fluids to yourself.

DENIS

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?

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

72

EXT. BUFFALO GROVE HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

72

DENIS (THROUGH LOUDSPEAKERS)

What are you doing!?

BETH (THROUGH LOUDSPEAKERS)

Having some fun!

73

EXT. BUFFALO GROVE HIGH SCHOOL - REAR ENTRANCE - NIGHT

73

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.

74

INT. BGHS - GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

74

The gym is half lit, dusky and cool. The chairs from graduation are stacked on rolling carts; the podium is still up. Denis looks nervous. Beth SIGHS.

BETH

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
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 Bison (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!

75

INT. BGHS - GIRL'S LOCKER ROOM STAIRWELL - NIGHT

75

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.

RICH
COME ON!

DENIS
We weren't invited!

RICH
I'm pretty sure we were!

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

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

RICH (O.C.)
Muy chiquitas!

Denis hears the girls GIGGLE and SQUEAL.

76

INT. BGHS - GIRL'S LOCKER ROOM

76

Denis enters, creeps down the rows of lockers, approaching the GIGGLING. He peeks around:

BETH COOPER'S PERFECT BUTT

rounds the far corner and disappears. Denis is beatific.

TREECE (O.C.)

Hey, space boy.

Denis only then notices that Treece and Cammy are standing right in front of him, wearing towels. They drop the towels. Now completely naked. Treece touches his nose.

TREECE (CONT'D)

Come get wet.

The girls turn and run into the showers.

RICH (O.C.)

That invitation good enough for you?

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

DENIS

I just don't think...

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

RICH

Stop thinking with your brain, dude!

DENIS

I just don't want to ruin anything.

RICH

There's nothing left to ruin, I regret to inform you. Except *this*. And this, my friend, is a rare occasion. Chances like this don't come along every day! In fact, they never come along! *This does not happen.*

From the showers, we hear...

TREECE (O.S.)

You guys coming?

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

RICH
"Carpe diem! Seize the day, boys!" --
Robin Williams and your Dad!

DENIS
Tonight I'd be happy just to stay alive.

RICH
You're not alive unless you're living!

DENIS
Who said that?

RICH
(realizing, smiles)
I think I did.

Rich turns and runs toward the showers.

RICH (O.C.) (CONT'D)
(Doing Nicholson)
Heeeere's Johnny!

From OFFSCREEN, 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 grins, broadly.

DENIS
Carpe fucking diem!

Denis sits and removes his shoes, then socks, then folds his socks into his shoes. He removes his belt.

RICH (O.C.)
(giggling)
Hey... I can do that myself!

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

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 looms over him.

DENIS
How did you find us?

KEVIN

LoJack, dipshit.

DENIS

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, rapidly sliding down the 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, completely naked (groin area always covered by a carefully placed prop or foreground character), stands arms akimbo, wielding two twisted wet towel "rat-tails".

RICH

Taste my wet blade!

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

Beth, Cammy and Treece, in 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 all my life.

RICH'S FLASHBACK

77

INT. LOCKER ROOM SHOWERS - DAY

77

CAMERA MOVES through the steam, we hear SNAPPING, LAUGHING and YELPING.

A crowd of 11 YEAR OLD BOYS have an 11 year old RICH cornered in the shower, and are attacking him with rat-tails. Rich is curled in a ball.

CLOSE ON LITTLE RICH

LITTLE RICH

Never again.

78

QUICK CUT TRAINING MONTAGE, with heroic music:

78

Little Rich stands before a white towel laid on the bed. He begins to roll it grimly.

Little Rich runs the finished rat tail under the bath tub faucet.

Little Rich stands on one leg, Karate Kid style, holding both ends of the rat tail. He whips the rat tail, and hits himself in the thigh. He falls over.

Little Rich whips the tail, hitting himself half the time.

Little Rich is now Big Rich. He flicks the rat tail around the room effortlessly, knocking various objects off the desk, shelves, etc. Rich smiles.

79

BACK TO SCENE

79

Denis accepts Rich's decision.

DENIS

I'd hug you but you're naked.

RICH

Understood.

Denis and the girls DASH AWAY. Without even looking, Rich SNAPS Sean in the eye.

80

INT. BGHS - GIRL'S LOCKER ROOM STAIRWELL - NIGHT

80

Beth, Treece and Cammy scamper up the stairs, carrying their clothes (and Rich's) They are followed moments later by Denis (sans pants and shoes). CAMERA PANS to the wall. GIANT SHADOWS of Rich fighting Kevin and the boys stretches up the wall. The elderly may be reminded of Errol Flynn. 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, he tags Kevin in the face again. Kevin tumbles down the stairs onto his pals.

RICH (CONT'D)

Classic!

81

INT. BGHS - REAR ENTRANCE - NIGHT

81

The girls run to the door, look outside. A police car is parked next to the Hummer, lights flashing. A FEMALE COP is standing with her back to the Hummer, on a cell phone.

BETH

Shit.

The girls are dressing quickly under their towels.

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. Denis arrives, pinching his bloody nose.

DENIS

What's up?

BETH

Cop. We're screwed.

(to Denis)

Where's your pants?

DENIS

Your boyfriend has them.

Beth rolls her eyes, then looks back outside. Her Cabriolet is parked several feet from the Hummer, on the curb and close to some bushes.

BETH

Come on.

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

82

EXT. BGHS - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

82

The four run crouching through the bushes.

Beth dashes across the sidewalk and to the passenger side door, facing away from the police officer, who is preoccupied on her cell phone, arguing with her husband.

POLICE OFFICER

Well, then change her diaper... No, it can't wait until I get home!

Beth carefully opens the door and crawls in. Cammy, Treece and Denis pile in after her.

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.

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

DENIS

And you 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

Denis. I need to go.

DENIS

I know. I'm sorry.

Denis opens his car door and starts to exit. Suddenly, the door is yanked open, dragging Denis out of the car. Rich crawls over Denis and into the backseat.

RICH

We should go.

The policewoman continues to argue with her husband on the phone, as behind her the Cabriolet quietly drives off.

POLICE OFFICER

Here's an idea... you get a job that pays for more than your *goddamn beer* and then I'd be *goddamn delighted* to stay home and take care of *our child!*

82A OMITTED

82A

83 INT. CABRIOLET - NIGHT

83

Beth drives, swerving as she finishes dressing.

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

DENIS

Where are we going?

BETH

We broke eight, nine laws. We gotta get out of town.

TREECE

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

DENIS

I want to go home.

BETH

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

Oh.

Denis feels like he has been kicked in the heart. He sits back, letting go of his nose.

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

Well. 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! Do you have one of those, um... bags?

Beth reaches under her seat, pulls out a McDonalds bag and gives it to Denis. He drops the wads inside. Beth sniffs at the air, pauses, turns to Denis.

BETH

Um, could I say something personal?

DENIS

Uh. Sure.

BETH

You smell like a dead homeless guy.

DENIS
(looking down)
That would be the shirt. 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 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)
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.

87

EXT./INT. CABRIOLET - NIGHT

87

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.

DENIS
It was about here.

The car stops. Denis gets out. 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 several holes in it. Denis squats, covering his rear.

87A INT. CABRIOLET - NIGHT

87A

Cammy and Rich LAUGH HYSTERICALLY. Beth frowns. She reaches back for something in the back of the car.

88 EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

88

Denis stands alone, in the headlights, in the middle of the road, feeling foolish and quite exposed. He might as well die here.

Something falls over his head.

Beth stands beside him, having just draped him in a large, garish knit poncho.

DENIS

(re: poncho)

Purple's not really my color.

BETH

It's fuchsia. And it's my favorite.

She gives him an affectionate squeeze. Denis puts on the poncho. Beth turns on a flashlight, points it to both sides of the road, searching for Denis' shirt. They walk, searching for the shirt. Beth is lost in thought.

BETH (CONT'D)
Goddamn Kevin!

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

BETH
Have you ever been in love?
(before he can respond)
I mean, really, truly in love. In true love.

Beth turns to him. He smiles helplessly back.

BETH (CONT'D)
Sucks, huh?

DENIS
It's a good kind of suck.

Beth is quiet for a moment.

BETH
Wish I knew what that felt like.

DENIS
But... What about... Kevin...

BETH
(dismissive)
We hooked up at Christmas, and then he went back down to South Carolina...
(off Denis's look)
He hasn't been deployed. I dated this guy once who had. He was a lot quieter. Anyway, so Kevin and me did e-mail... He's really sweet on e-mail. But in person, I don't know if you noticed, but he's kind of a jerk...

DENIS
On the other hand, he is dreamy.

BETH
If that's your type.

They smile. Denis enjoys the moment. They turn back to the road. Up ahead, Beth spots the shirt.

BETH (CONT'D)

There it is.

Denis sidles toward the shirt. He reaches for it and sees FOUR GLOWING RED ORBS making a HIGH CHITTERING SOUND. TWO RACCOONS amble into the light, sniffing at the shirt.

Beth COOS at how sweet they are.

The raccoons suddenly look quite feral. They begin gnawing, fighting furiously over the shirt.

DENIS

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

The raccoons turn toward Denis and Beth, rising on their haunches. They make a VERY SCARY SOUND. Denis and Beth slowly back away for a few steps... then turn and SPRINT back to the car. They get inside and DRIVE OFF.

89 EXT. TREECE'S FATHER'S CABIN - LATER - NIGHT 89

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

90 INT. TREECE'S FATHER'S CABIN - NIGHT 90

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)

Aren't they cute...

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:

91

ON THE MANTLE a old boombox is playing a FUCK-ME-IT'S-GRADUATION CLASSIC (via the iPod). 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.

91

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.

(thinks of toast, then)

To... Yodka! (ALT: Pravda!)

*

Rich clinks with Treece. Beth chugs her pineapple. Denis downs his tit.

BETH

I'm gonna go watch the sun come up.

*

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

92

EXT. CABIN/DOCK - SUNRISE

92 *

Beth and Denis exit the cabin, walk along the dock, to the edge. Denis occasionally slaps a mosquito on his arm, neck...

DENIS

Can I ask you something personal?

BETH

Is it about my boobs?

DENIS

No. Though I do have several queries in that area, which I'll get to.

BETH

They're Cs. C-minus during basketball season. Ms. Levin doesn't like us flopping all over the place. Except Treece. She can't help it. I'm sorry. What was your question?

DENIS

Oh. I was just wondering about your brother.

BETH

What about him?

DENIS

I dunno. Like, what was his name?

BETH

(pause)

David.

DENIS

What was he like?

BETH

(shakes head)

He was already sick when I was born.
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.

(sighs)

My big sad story. It's like the dramatic
tragedy of my life and I wasn't even
there.

They are quiet for a moment.

DENIS

I'll bet he woulda' been a great guy.

Beth looks at him, touched.

They both sit at the end of the dock. Beth dangles her
legs off the end of small dock next to the cabin. Denis
sits down next to her. He slaps a mosquito on his arm.

BETH

So pretty. It's huge.

Beth gestures to the sun peeking out of the lake. *

DENIS

That's an optical illusion. The sun 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. *

BETH

You know everything, Denis Cooverman.

DENIS

Not everything. No, no. There are
things I don't know. Multiple things.

BETH

Here's one thing you don't know. If
a girl tells you the sunrise is pretty,
or big, you know what you say? *

DENIS

Not what I said, presumably.

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. For future reference.

93

INT. TREECE'S FATHER'S CABIN

93

Rich uses 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

"Say allo to my leetle fren" -- 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. Treece GIGGLES. Cammy 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

It's not that funny.

TREECE

It's funny because you... you--

RICH

What? Because I'm gay, 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.

94

EXT. DOCK - SUNRISE

94 *

The sun sure does look pretty, and big.

*

BETH

Careful what you wish for, huh?

DENIS

Huh?

Denis slaps his neck.

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

Not perfect, but better. You're not...

(slaps a mosquito)

You're still great, and it's... real.
You're real. A real kind of real.

BETH

(teasing)

Really?

DENIS

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

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 of my memories from high school are from tonight.

Beth looks back at Denis, sadly but fondly.

BETH

You need to get out more.

95

INT. TREECE'S FATHER'S CABIN - SUNRISE

95 *

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're so not gay, why utterly unchubby in the shower?

He gulps the vodka.

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 is unwrapping a Suzy-Q.

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.

TREECE

Nobody cares if you're gay.

RICH

I'm not.

TREECE

(big smile)

No one cares. So be gay already!

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

CAMMY

You, Richard Munsch, have never been with a woman.

RICH

(creme-filled mouth)

Whuh?

96

EXT. DOCK - SUNRISE

96 *

Denis slaps mosquitos.

DENIS

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 to go on and become a doctor and cure cancer or whatever new diseases there are, but this, *this* is about it for me.

A beat. Beth turns to him.

BETH (CONT'D)

I know high school wasn't that great for you.

DENIS

No. It was, some of it was... The last eight hours: pretty fantastic.

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 may be pretty, but not enough to make a living at it. Except maybe in porn.

The mere thought gives Denis the creeps.

BETH (CONT'D)

I'm not doing porn, Denis.

DENIS

Oh. Good. It's a limited field.

BETH

Besides, I'm going to get fat.

DENIS

You won't get fat.

BETH

I'll have to introduce you to my mom.

Denis takes this in. Beth pauses, looks into his eyes.

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. Please continue.

97

INT. TREECE'S FATHER'S CABIN - SUNRISE

97 *

A SWEET LOVE GRADUATION CLASSIC begins...

CLOSE ON THE BOOMBOX

A hand turns up the volume.

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 freshly peeled Suzy-Qs, like spokesmodels.

CAMMY

Watch.

TREECE

And learn.

The two girls orient their pastries vertically, and proceed to slowly lick the cream filling from their crevices. 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...

98

EXT. DOCK - SUNRISE

98 *

Denis and Beth are making out on the dock. Denis is trying to be gentle and loving but Beth is 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

Good answer.

DENIS

Beth. What I said at graduation. I-
(laughs, realizing)
I was wrong. I didn't really love you.
Before tonight.

*
*
*

She smiles, tearing up. The moment is interrupted by a
LOUD GROWLING NOISE. The Hummer RUMBLES into the dock.
Beth and Denis stand up, and the vehicle comes to a stop,
touching their knees.

101

INT. TREECE'S FATHER'S CABIN - DAY

101

Still under a bearskin rug between Cammy and Treece, Rich
is happily chatting with Cammy, facing away from Treece.

RICH

You're majoring in acting at Washington
State? Me, too! And directing. But
wait, wait -- if you want to be an
actress, why weren't you in drama club?

CAMMY

Social survival.

RICH

Good call.

TREECE

(put out)
Hello? It was a threesome.

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 with 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 kind of invited Sean up here before.

(defensive)

Well, he should've known he wasn't invited anymore!

RICH

(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!

102

EXT. TREECE'S FATHER'S CABIN - DAY

102

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 some swamp.

BETH

He's from Wenatchee. He went to Eagle Creek. 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 backhands Denis across the face.

BETH

Stop hurting him!

Kevin pushes Beth onto the dock. He approaches the
Hummer.

KEVIN

(to Sean and Dustin)

Gentlemen, remember all those excellent
techniques the CIA taught us, which we
were subsequently forbidden to employ?

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 just what did y'all hope to
accomplish with that?--

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

Enough. Kevin, just get in your Dad's
giant car. Drive away. Don't come back.
Never bother Beth again...

BETH

Denis...

DENIS

And... Never bother me again.

Rich gestures toward the Hummer with the rifle.

RICH

You heard the Coove.

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 (CONT'D)

(tiny voice)

Yee.

Rich drops to the ground, scrambling to stick the barrel
back into the stock. He is surrounded by three sets of
black chinos. Kevin turns to Denis.

KEVIN

How long can you swim, Cooverman?

Denis almost smiles but then looks worried.

DENIS

I don't know.

KEVIN

Let's you and me find out.

103

EXT. DOCK - LATER - DAY

103

Rich is on his stomach, hogtied by jumper cables, the ends of which are clipped to his ears. He sits up. 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 Treece 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.

104

EXT. LAKE - DAY

104

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)

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.

105 Kevin topples into the water. Denis stands in the canoe, 105
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.

From the dock, Rich sees this, smiles.

RICH

Star Wars one sheet. 1977!

Sean kicks him in the head again.

106 Back on the lake, on the boat, his moment of glory 106
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 stares in horror.

106A DENIS' FLASHBACK 106A

Dr. Gleason's face.

DR. GLEASON

Mr. Cooverman, with your SAT scores, you'd have to practically kill someone to not get into Stanford.

106B BACK TO PRESENT 106B

DENIS

I've practically killed someone!

Denis throws off the poncho and dives out of the canoe.

107 From the dock, everybody watches tensely at the still waters. Treece smacks Sean in the side. 107

TREECE

Go! Rescue! Swim out there!

SEAN

Do I look like a goddamn Marine?

RICH

The Coove can handle it. He's got swim certificates up the wazoo. Life-saving, cave diving...

Dustin kicks him in the head.

108 Back on the lake, Denis bursts to the surface, carrying Kevin. 108

109 EXT. SHORE - MOMENTS LATER - DAY 109

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 early sun.

Treece and Cammy are somewhat impressed.

TREECE

It's like when Clark Kent turns into Batman.

Denis dumps Kevin's body onto the grass. The wound on his head looks serious.

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 guys CPR in the army?

DUSTIN

Yeah. 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 breaths and I'll do compressions.

BETH

I'm not putting my mouth on his. We're broken up.

DENIS

Really?

BETH

(shrugs)

He doesn't know it yet--

(realizing, mad)

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.

Before Kevin can attack, Beth does three swift cheerleading moves, KICKS Kevin in the head, gut and groin. This sends Kevin back to the dock. He looks up at her, eyes weak, pained.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Lis-bee?

BETH

I never liked that name.

They are suddenly illuminated by a blinding spotlight, attached to a POLICE CAR, which flashes its cherries and gives a SHORT BURST of its SIREN.

SEAN

What--

RICH

("Duh")

We called the police.

TREECE

We're not like stupid teenagers.

109A EXT. CABIN - LATER - DAY

109A

Beth, Cammy, Treece, Rich and Denis are getting into the Cabriolet.

KEVIN (O.C.)

Cooverman!

Kevin calls to Denis from the back of the police car. Denis nods to the others and approaches...

109B EXT. POLICE CAR - DAY

109B

Kevin is cuffed next to Dustin and Sean. He holds a bloodied gauze pad to his forehead and is developing a bilateral shiner from where Beth kicked him. His nose may be broken. He seems smaller somehow, and kind of frightened.

KEVIN

(dropped accent)

Do you know what you've done?

DENIS

Triumphed?

KEVIN

Thanks to you and your little crush, I'm gonna get discharged, dishonorably discharged, and my dad's gonna make me go back to college and become a lawyer or some shit.

DENIS

Well. Hey. College can be... fun.

KEVIN

You don't have to go your dad's precious "alma mater."

(practically spits)

Suckass Stanford.

The window rolls up and the police car drives away, leaving Denis standing there. Stunned.

110-112 EXT. 3706 HACKBERRY DRIVE - DAY

110-112

Denis's parents are waiting on the front lawn. The Cabriolet pulls up. Denis gets out. Mrs. C runs up and hugs Denis, sees his bruised face, shocked.

MRS. C

Oh. Denis. What happened to you?

DENIS

I'm okay.

(grins)

You should see the other guy.

RICH

No. Really. This time you *really* should see the other guy.

Mr. C. puts his arm around Denis, proudly. Mrs. C is overwhelmed by what she knows and suspects has happened.

MRS. C

I can't talk about this. I'm going to go make a frittata.

(to her little boy)

Or did she already make you breakfast?

Mrs. C hurries back into the house to collect herself. Mr. C turns to Rich.

MR. C.

I talked to your dad, Rich. You may want to hang out here today. And tomorrow.

Mr. C turns back to his son.

MR. C

I hope you had fun.

DENIS

I did. I had fun.

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

Let's not tell your mother that.

Mr. C notices: Beth is standing outside the car, waiting for Denis.

MR. C (CONT'D)

(to Denis)

We'll discuss it inside.

Mr. C turns and goes inside the house.

Denis walks toward Beth, they meet in the middle of the lawn. Away from the others.

BETH

Good luck. With Stanford, and everything.

DENIS

You too. With everything.

BETH

We'll have to do this again sometime.

DENIS

(knows better)

Sure.

BETH

(acknowledging)

Sure.

Denis turns to leave.

BETH (CONT'D)

(offended)

Excuse me.

He turns back.

BETH (CONT'D)

No good night kiss?

Denis grins sheepishly. He leans in for a polite kiss. Beth takes his face in her hand and kisses him deeply, not passionately but with all of her heart. He returns in kind.

BETH (CONT'D)

You're getting better at that.

DENIS
(reverting a little)
I was bad before?

Beth pulls him into a hug, her cheek against his.

BETH
Thank you. For loving me.

DENIS
Hey, what's not to love?

They break.

DENIS (CONT'D)
(playful admonishment)
Remember that.

Beth nods. Denis starts to back away, choosing to get out while he's ahead.

DENIS (CONT'D)
See you at the reunion.

BETH
Yeah.

DENIS
If you're not too fat, I'll marry you.

BETH
That's a promise.

She waves goodbye. She gets into the car and drives off.
Denis watches. Rich walks up beside him.

RICH
She's had a taste of *the Coove*. She'll be
back.

Denis watches Beth's car turn the corner.

DENIS
You think so?

RICH
No.

DENIS
Yeah.

They walk back inside his house.

DENIS (CONT'D)
You still think it would be better if I
got over her?

RICH
I just want what you want.

They walk in silence for a beat.

RICH (CONT'D)
Guess what? I think I'm gay.

DENIS
Oh. Hey. That's wonderful.
Congratulations.

RICH
Dude, I'm not gay for you.

DENIS
I know that.

RICH

It's not stalking if you love the person.
You gotta grab her, throw her in the car,
and take her someplace where it can be
just the two of you.

DENIS

Now, that's kidnapping.

RICH

It's romantic. Okay, we're gonna need a
laundry bag, and some, what's that
called, the silver tape....

ALTS

RICH (CONT'D)

(ignoring him)

It's romantic. Okay, we're gonna need
some, what's that called, the silver
tape....

RICH (CONT'D)

It's romantic. Okay, we're gonna need
cotton balls and, what's that stuff
called, ether...

RICH (CONT'D)

Perfect. We write you a killer speech for
the trial! She drops all charges.

RICH (CONT'D)

It's romantic! Now we're gonna need
disguises. Your mom is like a size 2, am
I right?

RICH (CONT'D)

It's romantic! Now we're gonna need
disguises. What's your mom's dress size?

RICH (CONT'D)

It's romantic! Now we're gonna need
disguises. Facial hair! They'll never
know it's you.

RICH (CONT'D)

It's romantic! Now where do you think we
could get a tranquilizer gun?

RICH (CONT'D)

It's romantic! Like in Natural Born
Killers.

