

BIG TIME ADOLESCENCE

Written by

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OAK PARK, ILLINOIS - PRESENT

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

A public school geometry class in a well-to-do school district a few miles west of Chicago.

MONROE "MO" KAUFMAN (16) - Sits somewhere near the back of the room not really paying attention to anything.

The door opens and a uniformed police officer walks inside with the Principal. They whisper something in the teacher's ear then turn to the class.

PRINCIPAL

Monroe.

Mo looks up.

MO

Yeah?

SCHOOL HALLWAY - SECONDS LATER

A sea of students split in half as the officer leads Mo, handcuffed, down the hallway. He is a foot shorter than any of the other students.

MO (V.O.)

I know it seems bad, and for anybody else it probably would be, it would be very bad. But Zeke said this might happen, and while this is the biggest jam he has ever gotten me into, it's definitely not the first.

INT. KAUFMAN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK 6 YEARS

KATE KAUFMAN (16) watches TV on the couch, she is holding a bowl of popcorn.

Our narrator is her younger brother, Monroe.

MO (V.O.)

I was ten when I met Zeke and immediately I knew, I didn't care where he was going. I wanted to be along for the ride.

INT - KAUFMAN HOUSE - KITCHEN - SAME TIME

MUSIC FADES UP: FLEETWOOD MAC - YOU MAKE LOVING FUN

We see a pair of hands go into the freezer and pull out a bottle of vodka. These hands belong to ISAAC "ZEKE" PRESANTI. As soon as the glasses of Vodka are poured he puts the bottle under the water faucet and carefully refills the exact amount of liquid that he took out.

He is singing along with the music the whole time.

INT. KAUFMAN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Zeke walks into the room holding the two drinks. He is seventeen with shaggy red hair. He sits down on the couch next to Kate. She takes the drink and studies it for a second then takes a sip, he smiles.

MO (V.O.)

Zeke was my sister's boyfriend. I don't know if they called themselves that though. I only ever saw him on Tuesday nights. That was my parents date night. For all I knew he had other girlfriends who baby-sat their brothers on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. But what was I gonna do? Kate was a big girl. And I was not a big guy.

Zeke and Kate start making out and we slowly pan up to the top of the stairs where a 10-year-old MO is watching them through the gaps in the railing.

EXT. THEME PARK - ANOTHER TUESDAY NIGHT

Mo, Kate and Isaac are walking through the carnival. Mo has a giant cotton candy in his hand. Zeke rips off a chunk from the top.

MO(V.O.)

The doctor told my parents I was in the eighth percentile for my age group.

The three of them sit in a row playing that game where you shoot a water gun at a balloon and try to pop it.

MO (V.O.)

That means if you lined up a hundred random ten-year-olds, ninety two of them would be taller than me.

Zeke lifts a hammer high in the air and brings it down hard on the high striker, the bell rings and the lights flash. The ride operator hands Monroe a stuffed turtle.

MO(V.O.)

Those other seven kids must live in Hawaii or something because I had yet to meet a ten year old smaller than me.

A group of girls come up and flirt with Zeke, feeling his muscles and squeezing Monroe's cheeks. Isaac picks up Monroe and throws him over his shoulder spinning him around. The girls love it. Kate comes back with two hot dogs and pulls Isaac away from the girls.

MO(V.O.)

I knew he used me to hit on girls. Which should have made me mad...

We see the three of them in line to ride a roller coaster. Mo is too short to get on. Zeke pulls the ride operator aside and speaks to him for a minute.

We see Zeke and Mo sitting next to each other on the roller coaster, screaming with excitement.

INT. MOVIE THEATRE - NIGHT

The three of them sit in the dark, the lights of the action movie splashed across their faces. Isaac pulls two beers out of his jacket. He gives one to Kate and cracks the other for himself. Monroe looks at Isaac holding his drink. Isaac checks to see that Kate isn't looking and let's Mo take a sip of the beer. He grimaces at the taste and Zeke laughs.

MO (V.O.)

...But I didn't really care because in my head I kept coming back to that row of a hundred 10-year-olds. And I'd think if you lined them all up in order from tallest to shortest-

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

Kate, Mo and their parents watch Zeke play in a big football game. He has the ball and charges down the field, plowing through every player on his path to the end zone.

MO

-Zeke could beat the crap out of every one of them.

The Kaufman family cheers for Zeke along with everybody else.

We watch from Kate's POV as a cheerleader jumps into Zeke's arms.

INT. KAUFMAN HOUSE - ANOTHER NIGHT

Kate and Zeke are having an intense argument. Mo watches from the top of the stairs.

MO (V.O.)

I couldn't really blame her when she broke up with him. But he didn't cheat on me so...

EXT. KAUFMAN HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Zeke storms out of the house.

MONROE

Where are you going?

Mo is barefoot in his pajamas. Zeke doesn't even turn around when he speaks, he just keeps moving towards the car. Mo chases after him.

ZEKE

Go back inside Mo.

MO

Can I come with you?

ZEKE

No man. Your sister wouldn't like that.

MO

Now you care what she would like?

Zeke laughs at the quick wit of such a squeaky little voice.

ZEKE

I have things I have to do.

MO

I won't get in the way, I swear.  
Just for tonight.

Zeke looks at him for a second.

ZEKE

Alright fine, but I'm bringing you  
home in an hour.

Mo walks around to the passenger side of the car.

MO

What are we going to do for an  
hour?

DISSOLVE TO:

AN EMPTY PARKING LOT - A FEW MINUTES LATER

MUSIC: Toots and the Maytals - Take me Home, Country Roads

SLOW MOTION: Zeke's dark green 1978 Mercedes SLC 170 comes  
spinning into view.

The boys scream at the top of their lungs as the car does  
donuts all around the lot.

MAIN TITLES - **BIG TIME ADOLESCENCE**

MONROE (V.O.)

That hour lasted six years.

The green mercedes spins to a stop.

Monroe sits in the front seat he is 16 years old and scrawny  
as ever. In the driver's seat Zeke is 23, he's tall, handsome  
and well built with dark hair and a goofy smile.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXTREME CLOSE UP - A SYRINGE FILLING UP WITH LIQUID

EXTREME CLOSE UP - ALCOHOL SWAB RUBBING SKIN

EXTREME CLOSE UP - NEEDLE GOING IN TO ABDOMEN

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Mo is sitting on an examination table, giving himself a shot. His parents and a doctor look on.

DOCTOR  
You are getting good at that.

Mo shrugs.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)  
What's wrong.

SHERRI  
I think he is upset he isn't as tall as he thought he would be.

MO  
I thought I would get like...really tall.

DOCTOR  
(finding this amusing)  
No no, It won't make you any taller than you were always meant to be, the shots just help to keep you growing at the same pace with your peers.

MO  
But I'm not.

REUBEN  
I'm with Mo on this, I'm spending a fortune for these shots and he's still... (he indicates Mo's height with his hands)

DOCTOR  
You really don't need to worry. Most patients with growth hormone deficiency's like this don't start reaching potential until they are at least eighteen.

SHERRI  
(looking at her watch)  
We need to get him back to school.

DOCTOR  
Okay let's do this. When do you turn sixteen?

MO

Next week.

DOCTOR

You get your license?

Mo nods.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Let's meet again in six months, if you aren't starting to make improvements, we can talk about other strategies.

EXT. SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

Mo's parents pull up in front of the school, he get's out.

SHERRI

Don't forget your lunch.

He takes the lunch bag from her. We see Mo start to walk into school as soon as his parents pull away he runs back out to the parking lot. To a car parked on the other side.

Zeke's POV - Mo running towards his car.

INT. ZEKE'S CAR - SECONDS LATER

Zeke somehow manages to smoke a cigarette, drive the car, surf the radio, lecture about nothing, and stuff his face with half of Mo's peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Mo quietly watches.

ZEKE

...It's like in King Kong when the monkey has got the chick in his hand and he is throwing her around. Yea, she is scared but she is also super turned on, because- this is what I am saying - girls like to be thrown around when you are having sex. They like somebody that's going to pick them up and throw them up against a wall or on the bed. Because it makes them feel small, it makes them feel like you are a real man, but more importantly like they are this fragile little girl.

(realizing his audience)

(MORE)



ZEKE (CONT'D)

With you it will be different though. I don't think there are many girls you can pick up. We'll have to figure out your own thing. Shit where am I going again?

INT. SPORTS BAR - AFTERNOON

Mo and Zeke are with Zeke's two friends, NICK AND TONY, watching a football game. Across from them, three pretty girls are at a different table watching the game, minding their own business.

Zeke yells to the girls at the next table.

ZEKE

What is this? Junior High?

GIRL

Excuse me?

ZEKE

Boys over here, girls over there, I feel like we are at an eighth grade dance or something.

The girls laugh.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

(pointing at his friends)

I'll trade you him and him.

(pointing at the girls)

For her and her.

GIRL

That one looks a little young.

Mo blushes.

NICK

He thinks you look a little old.

CUT TO:

BAR - MOMENTS LATER

The guys and girls are all squeezed at one table screaming at the game on TV. The older one is sitting on Mo's lap. The two friends share a look.

INT. CAR - MORNING

Mo drives his car, alone for the first time. He looks around the empty car feeling incredibly old. He turns on to a nearby street and stops.

He is double parked, listening to Bruce Springsteen and singing along with the music at the top of his lungs. Cars pull up behind him and honk, he waves them to go around.

Across the street Zeke comes out of his apartment building and jay walks across the street, pissing off the same driver's that are trying to get around Mo's car. He hops in and Mo pulls out.

ZEKE

I can't believe it.

MONROE

I'm a real person now.

ZEKE

I didn't think they gave driver's licenses to kids who couldn't reach the pedals.

MONROE

I have to wear special shoes.

ZEKE

No fucking way.

He tries to bend over and see.

MONROE

I'm kidding you idiot. I can reach the pedals.

ZEKE

Let me see the thing.

Mo pulls out his wallet and shows him his license.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

(reading)

Monroe Ernest Kaufman. God that's unfortunate.

(then)

It is going to be so nice having a personal chauffeur.

MO

Get that idea out of your head  
right now. I am not driving you  
around.

ZEKE

Are you kidding me? Do you know how  
many years of me driving your sorry  
ass around you have to make up for?

MO

I've got an hour and a half until I  
have to be at school. Where do you  
want to go?

ZEKE

I thought your school started at  
8:30?

MO

Yeah but the first class is  
bullshit.

ZEKE

I'm hungry.

Zeke pulls out a joint from his shirt pocket and lights it.

MO

Not in my new car man.

ZEKE

It's weed, it smells good. It will  
compliment the new car smell.

(He takes a puff)

You should really smoke this, you  
might relax a little bit.

(then)

Don't you have that research paper  
for your art class?

MO

Yeah, so?

ZEKE

Well let's go look at some shit.

(british)

To the museum driver, show me the  
meaning of haste.

INT - CHICAGO INSTITUTE OF ART - DAY

Zeke and Mo walk through the museum.

ZEKE

So what's the assignment?

MO

I'm supposed to pick a painting I think is important and write about it.

ZEKE

What about this one?

Zeke points to a painting by Cy Twombly entitled "Leda and the Swan."

MO

Looks like a bunch of scribbles and dicks on a blank canvas to me.

ZEKE

If you boiled life down to it's essentials that's probably all it would look like too. It's just a bunch of disruptive gestures and violence and explosions...and dicks and liquids flying around in a void. Everything else is superfluous window dressing.

MO

There's more to life than "liquids flying around" and dicks and violence.

ZEKE

Not really, you just think there is. But if you really want to represent what's important, what's constant, there it is in front of you in one immediate experience. If I asked you to make a picture of what's important in life you'd probably show me an iPhone photo of your fucking Xbox.

MO

I could make this painting in like 5 minutes dude.

ZEKE

Yeah, yeah, you and everyone's kid right? First of all, no you can't and the proof of that is that you didn't.

(MORE)

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Second of all the world doesn't care about what you MIGHT be able to do if you really put your mind to it, the world only cares about what you actually did.

Mo is left staring at the painting, Zeke continues on through the exhibit.

MO (V.O.)

A dick in space. That's Zeke. He shouldn't be here, he should be in college.

EXT. ZEKE'S DAD'S HOUSE - FLASHBACK THREE YEARS

A group of kids gathered around Zeke as he throws the last of his luggage in the car. There is a University of Michigan flag in his back window. Some girls are crying. Mo is in the back not saying much, but clearly sad to see his friend go.

Zeke waves one last goodbye and drives off. The crowd disperses, Mo is the last one staring down the empty street.

MO (V.O.)

He went to the University of Michigan and was persuaded by some friends to pledge the fraternity Sigma Nu.

INT. FRAT HOUSE - NIGHT

Zeke is stripped down to his underwear and blindfolded. A group of college seniors circle around him, taunting him. One even pours his beer out on Zeke's head.

MO (V.O.)

I don't know a lot about pledging fraternities, but apparently it is a very rigorous process, and Zeke soon realized it wasn't for him.

Zeke punches the senior standing in front of him, he nails him square in the face. Backing up, Zeke stumbles into another boy and finds the beer bottle in his hand. He grabs it and smashes it over another boy's head, blood starts pouring. At this point the surrounding boys descend on him viciously.

MO (V.O.)

The frat boys were really upset he didn't want to keep pledging.

EXT. ZEKE'S DAD'S HOUSE - 2 WEEKS LATER

Zeke's car comes back down the same road it left only a few weeks earlier. This time there is no crowd of people in his driveway. Just Mo standing alone. Zeke get's out of the car, his face is black and blue.

MO (V.O.)

One of their dads was the dean and he got Zeke kicked out. It was all very political.

INT. ZEKE'S DAD'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Mo helps Zeke carry his bags back into the house. In the living room Zeke's Dad is drunk and passed out in front of the television.

MO (V.O.)

Zeke's Dad seemed pretty cool about the whole thing.

INT. MUSEUM - PRESENT

Mo gives the painting one last look and goes to catch up with his friend.

INT. SCHOOL - AN HOUR LATER

Mo walks into the school as the first period is ending. The hallway is completely empty. The bell rings and students pour in from everywhere around him. He is in a forest of kids and he barely comes up their chests. He pushes through, miserable and unnoticed.

INT. KAUFMAN HOUSE - KITCHEN TABLE - EVENING

Mo eats with his parents.

REUBEN

How was the first day with the car?

MO

Really good.

REUBEN

How was school?

MO

Good.  
(clearing his plate)  
I gotta go though.

REUBEN

Where?

MO

I was going to go over to Zeke's.

REUBEN

It's a school night.

MO

He is helping me with my homework.

SHERRI

That is so nice of him.

MO

Yeah, he had a lot of these classes  
before so...

REUBEN

(not convinced)  
Doesn't he have work tomorrow?

MO

He quit his job.

SHERRI

Why?

MO

They were hiring people above him.  
He had to leave...It was all very  
political.

SHERRI

So what's he going to do now?

MO

He's still trying to figure that  
out. He said he wants to break into  
the art world.

DAD

Why doesn't he come here and help  
you with your homework? We haven't  
seen him in ages.

MO

(halfway out of the room)  
Come on, he's doing me a favor. I  
can't ask him to drive all the way  
over.

DAD

Alright.

SHERRI

Well, tell him to come over and see  
us every once in a while. We miss  
him.

MO

I will.

DAD

And be careful in that car.

MO

I will.

DAD

All it takes is ten seconds of  
stupid to ruin your whole life.

MO (O.S.)

(gone)

I know.

INT. ZEKE'S APARTMENT - LATER

CLOSE UP - A quarter landing in a glass of brown liquid.

Rack focus to the boys on the other side of the room.

ZEKE

HOMERUN!!!!

TONY

NO!

ZEKE

That's never happened to me before.

MO

Who has to drink that?

ZEKE

You do.



MO  
(devastated)  
What's in it.

ZEKE  
(blissful)  
Whiskey, vodka, Beer, red wine,  
Robitussin, Milk duds, Xanax, orange  
juice.

NICK  
(still holding his eye)  
No, he's going to die. I'll drink  
it for him.

MO  
Like hell you will.

ZEKE  
He can do it.

He holds the glass up to his face.

ZEKE (CONT'D)  
Wait I need music for this.

Zeke goes over to the speakers and turns up the music.

Mo closes his eyes and chugs the drink.

ZEKE (CONT'D)  
(As Mo chugs)  
Okay, this is for Nick. What would  
you rather, every time somebody  
says your name you jiz in your  
pants OR every time you wake up in  
the morning Mo punches you as hard  
as he can in the face.

Mo finishes the drink.

MO  
But I would never do that.

ZEKE  
It's a fictional world. In this  
universe you would have no control  
over your body.

NICK  
Can I change my name?

ZEKE  
No.

NICK

Momo punch me as hard you can in  
the arm right now.

The boys laugh.

MO

It would be much more painful in  
your face- Woah I feel weird.

NICK

I know I just want to get a sense  
of what I'm working with.

MO

It would hurt, I promise.

They look at him skeptically.

NICK

I'll take getting punched by the  
kid.

MO

Fuck you, let me punch you, let me  
show you what you're in for.

ZEKE

Okay enough of this it's my turn.

Mo punches Nick right in the face. Everybody is stunned  
silent. Then Nick starts cracking up.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

What the hell are you doing?

MO

I don't know I'm sorry. I wanted  
you to see I could punch.

ZEKE

Nick can he punch?

NICK

I'll live.

MO

Yeah but it hurt right.

Mo collapses on the ground.

FADE OUT.

INT. CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

All around him kids are socializing, gathered in little clumps around the room. He sits alone at his desk with a terrible hangover.

MO'S POV - SOPHIE WILLITS sitting on her desk, talking to a group of her girlfriends. She looks over to Monroe, he smiles and then looks away quickly.

A boy, JON EPSTEIN, comes up to Mo's desk.

EPSTEIN  
Monroe, what's up man?

MO  
Hey Epstein.

EPSTEIN  
How do you always get away with skipping first period? It's incredible.

MO  
I don't know.

Mo just wants to look at Sophie in peace.

EPSTEIN  
I'm serious, every time I skip a class I have so many people crawling up my ass.

MO  
I don't know- My friend told me once, if they don't notice you when you're there, they won't notice when you aren't.

EPSTEIN  
You're a legend.

Mo shrugs at the compliment.

EPSTEIN (CONT'D)  
Are you okay?

MO  
I'm a little hungover.

EPSTEIN  
But it's Wednesday.

Mo shrugs again.

EPSTEIN (CONT'D)  
(under his breath)  
Incredible.

Mo goes back to staring at Sophie.

Epstein follows Mo's eyeline across the room.

EPSTEIN (CONT'D)  
Sophie Willits?

MO  
What? No?

EPSTEIN  
Hey hey, don't get defensive. She  
is hot. Ya know what...  
(moving in closer and  
whispering)  
Paul's parents are going out of  
town this weekend and we are  
throwing a rager at his house.  
Guarantee Sophie will be there.

MO  
Really?

EPSTEIN  
What you think I'm lying?

MO  
Did Paul say I could come?

EPSTEIN  
Don't worry about Paul. I can  
invite anybody I want. I have carte  
blanche.

MO  
Okay cool, yeah I'll come.

Sophie looks back over at Mo and smiles. Epstein sees this  
exchange.

EPSTEIN  
Oh my god it's so fucking on.

Epstein goes back to his desk but remembers something.

EPSTEIN (CONT'D)  
It's a pimps and ho's party.

MO  
What does that mean?

EPSTEIN

Guys dress like pimps girls dress like Hos.

MO

What does a pimp wear?

EPSTEIN

I don't know, robes and chains and shit.

MO

Alright cool.

EXT. BASEBALL DIAMOND - AFTERNOON

Mo is at Baseball practice. He is standing at the plate. He swings hard but misses every time, striking out. He walks away from the plate defeated.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - AFTERNOON

Mo is in the back changing out of his baseball gear. A few of the bigger, more senior players are gathered around nearby. The ringleaders seem to be DANNY AND JOSH. Mo can't help but overhear they are talking about Paul's party.

MO

Hey are you guys talking about Paul's party?

DANNY

(caught off guard)

What? No- It's just, it's like a birthday thing.

JOSH

It's going to be super low key. Just like some close friends and stuff.

MO

No, it's cool, Epstein invited me.

JOSH

Oh really?

MO

Yeah, Pimps and Ho's party right?

DANNY

Yeah. Epstein invited you?

Mo packs his stuff up and heads out.

MO  
Yup. See you there.

The boys shrug at each other, confused at what just happened.

DANNY  
Epstein is going rogue.

JOSH  
Seriously.

INT. ZEKE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

CLOSE UP - fighter jets flying through the air.

Widen to reveal the boys are watching Top Gun.

ZEKE  
What do you mean? Your parents love me.

MO  
I know they do. You just have to go over there and re-up the charm. Just a little face time every few months to keep them happy. You put on a nice shirt. Maybe watch a little football with my Dad. And they're off my case.

ZEKE  
Holly, what do you think of this?

We see on the other side of the room Zeke's girlfriend HOLLY MCCARTNEY is doing work on a laptop.

HOLLY  
I think if I had a kid that spent this much time with you, I would be much more concerned than Mo's parents are.

Zeke sparks a bong and takes a big hit.

ZEKE  
Hey what the hell. I didn't ask Mo to come over he just kept showing up.

MO  
Fuck you man, I'll leave right now.

ZEKE

Sit down I'm kidding.

He shakes his head at Holly like he isn't kidding. Then he passes her the bong. Mo watches as Holly smokes it.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Stop giving Holly the creepy eyes.

MO

(mortified)

I was not- what? Creepy eyes?

ZEKE

She's not a piece of a meat Momo.

MO

(changing the subject)

I wasn't- I- I got invited to a party.

ZEKE

Atta boy. Way to pull your weight around here. Where are we going?

MO

You aren't invited.

ZEKE

What are you talking about?

MO

It's a high school party, you don't want to come.

ZEKE

Like hell I don't.

HOLLY

Let him make some friends his own age.

She passes the bong to Mo but he shakes his head.

ZEKE

(intercepting the bong)

He doesn't smoke.

HOLLY

Really? How old are you?

MO

It's not that-

ZEKE

Momo gets a little scared when he's high.

MO

-I just don't like it.

HOLLY

Do your friends smoke?

Mo looks at Zeke sitting next to him, ripping the bong.

MO

Hmmm.

HOLLY

I meant your high school friends.

MO

I don't need High School friends, I've got these guys.

ZEKE

(seeing through this)  
That's a terrible attitude. What if something happens to me? Or even more likely, what if I get bored of you?

HOLLY

Zeke.

ZEKE

He knows I'm kidding.

He shakes his head at Mo like he isn't kidding.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

So what are you going to do when you go to this party and everybody is getting high and you are sitting in the corner with your dick in your hand.

MO

I'm not going to have my-

ZEKE

I mean they already think you are a pussy.

MO

They don't think-



ZEKE

I've got it! You are going to bring weed to the party.

MO

What? No.

ZEKE

Yes. You show up at that house and you have all the party favors. You are the coolest motherfucker in the room.

MO

No thanks.

ZEKE

I'm serious. Holly tell him this is a good idea. I have a ton of weed, I'll give you a bunch to take to the party. You sell it to your friends. A) You are the man B) We make money.

Mo looks to Holly.

HOLLY

I'm not touching this.

MO

I don't know-

ZEKE

Just hold on.

Zeke runs into his room and comes out with six pill bottles filled with weed.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Look, I've got six of these things. You sell each one for a hundred bucks. Your done. We'll split it down the middle.

MO

I don't want to be that guy showing up at the party with six bottles full of weed.

ZEKE

That's like saying, I don't want to be that guy everybody thinks is awesome. That's like I don't want to be that guy girls want to fuck.

(MORE)

ZEKE (CONT'D)

I mean let's be honest you already have a bit of a noticeablity problem. It's hard to miss the guy with the drugs.

MO

You think I am going to walk into a party and everybody is going to just want to buy pot from me?

Zeke looks at Holly for a response.

HOLLY

He's an asshole but he's right about that.

Mo's cell phone rings.

MO

Shut up it's my Mom.

(he answers the phone)

Hi. Oh sorry, I forgot, I'm coming home right now.

(he hangs up)

I forgot to take my shot.

ZEKE

Bad boy.

HOLLY

Are you diabetic or something?

MO

No it's not like that.

ZEKE

He's juicing. Getting ready for the big leagues.

MO

I am growth hormone deficient.

HOLLY

You aren't that short. Like you aren't a midgit.

ZEKE

He's my mini me.

HOLLY

There was a guy I used to go to summer camp with, he had to do that shot thing too- he was way shorter than you.

(MORE)

HOLLY (CONT'D)

But it like had a weird reaction,  
he never grew any taller, but his  
you-know-what got huge. Like really  
big.

Her eyes move down his body, he turns bright red.

ZEKE

Mo

MO

(snapping out of it)  
Yeah?

ZEKE

Take the weed.

MO

Fine give it to me.

Monroe takes the bottles. And leaves.

ZEKE

You seemed to know mister summer  
camp pretty well...

INT. KAUFMAN HOUSE - FRONT DOOR

Mo walks in to find his Mom waiting up for him.

MO

You didn't need to wait up.

SHERRI

My baby boy can drive a car, I  
don't think I am ever going to  
sleep again.

He laughs.

MO

Did you make it?

SHERRI

Yeah it's in the kitchen.

MO

Goodnight.

INT. KAUFMAN HOUSE - KITCHEN TABLE - CONTINUOUS

The kitchen table which has been completely cleaned off since dinner has a small syringe and an alcohol swab resting at the head of the table.

Mo stands in front of his shot, he looks down at his dick.

EXT - PAUL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

We follow Mo into the house. He is wearing a long white shower robe over his regular clothes and some cheap holloween jewelry.

As he walks into the house there is a giant handmade sign that reads "Pimps and Hos" in big happy bubble letters as if it actually said Happy Birthday Grandma.

The guys are all wearing robes or long jackets. The girls are all in basically nothing.

CUT TO Mo getting a beer, unsure of himself.

CUT TO Mo staring at Sophie, she is the only girl who isn't dressed like a playboy bunny.

Mo narrates over shots of kids socializing, he tries to seem like he belongs there.

MO (V.O.)

The theme party has been around since before Zeke was in high school and its actually a pretty ingenious idea. Most kids can't get into bars yet, so we have to do all our serious drinking in basements. Normally it's the same basement, drinking the same cheap vodka with the same kids night after night can get a bit repetitive. So you give each party a theme. Everybody puts on a costume, and boom, new party every night. It also has a very important added bonus. Girls love a good reason not to wear anything. So you give the party a theme with the word ho in it, the girls show up half naked and half your job is done for you.

Back to Mo's POV of Sophie.

MO (V.O.)  
Though I had no idea how to  
complete that job.

He starts to walk over to her until Epstein, wasted,  
intercepts him. Epstein is really going for it, big floppy  
hat, a cane, a long multicolored coat, a fake moustache.

EPSTEIN  
You made it dude.

Watching Sophie walk away.

MO  
Yep, I'm here.

EPSTEIN  
You got a drink?

Mo holds up his drink.

EPSTEIN (CONT'D)  
Isn't this shit the best man.

MO  
Yeah it's pretty good.

EPSTEIN  
Have you seen Sophie yet?

Playing dumb

MO  
What? No, I don't know-no. Is she  
here?

EPSTEIN  
Dude that girl is a ten. A ten.

MO  
Cool ya-sure.

EPSTEIN  
See that girl over there.

POV - some random wasted girl falling on her ass.

MO  
Ya.

EPSTEIN  
She's so fucking hot right?

MO  
She's okay.

EPSTEIN  
Yeah she's okay, whatever. I could probably do better. I'll see you man.

Epstein starts to walk away then Mo remembers something.

MO  
Eppy wait.

He turns around.

MO (CONT'D)  
I brought some drugs for you and the guys. It's cool if you don't want- I just thought- it's stupid. Nevermind-

EPSTEIN  
(the music is too loud)  
What?

MO  
(Louder)  
I brought Marijuana.

CUT TO:

A BATHROOM IN THE HOUSE

A group of sixteen year old "pimps" huddle around Mo as he lays the bottles of weed on the sink.

EPSTEIN  
Mo, you are a god damn legend.

MO  
Do you want it all?

DANNY  
Yeah we fucking want it all.

EPSTEIN  
Dude. How much you want for it.

MO  
(unsure of himself)  
What about six hundred dollars. I understand if that's too much I guess-

JOSH

You are the fucking man.

Instantly the guys start pulling out wads of cash and throwing them at a shocked Mo.

EPSTEIN

Did I not tell you this kid is one of us, this kid is a ten.

The boys cough up a large wad of cash and he stuff it in his giant robe pocket.

DANNY

You gonna hang and smoke with us?

MO

(these are not his people)  
Nah I'm already pretty baked, this stuff is real strong.

RANDOM PIMP

Legend.

BACK IN THE PARTY

Monroe stands with a group of guys. He still feels out of place. Across the room Sophie stands with a group of girls.

Mo summons some courage and yells to the group of girls.

MO

What is this junior high?

GIRL

What?

The guys stop their conversation and look at him.

MO

I'm just saying. All you girls over there and we're over here, it kind of feels like an eighth grade dance.

Sophie laughs, nobody else does.

MO (CONT'D)

(pointing at the two guys  
he's with)

I'll trade you him and him for her.

He points at Sophie.

GUY  
Hey fuck you man.

OTHER GUY  
Is this kid for real right now?

Sophie laughs and walks over to him. He leaves his group.

SOPHIE  
I don't think they got your joke.

MO  
That's alright.

SOPHIE  
I didn't know you were friends with them.

MO  
Who?

SOPHIE  
Anybody.

MO  
I have friends.

SOPHIE  
Okay.

MO  
Most of them are older.

SOPHIE  
Like your parents?

MO  
You are hilarious.

She looks at the name sewn into his robe.

SOPHIE  
Who is Reuben?

MO  
Just some pimp I know, let me borrow his robe, no biggie.

SOPHIE  
Reuben is your Dad.

MO  
Reuben is my Dad.



SOPHIE

Does he know you stole his robe?

MO

He has twenty, it's the only thing  
he'll wear to work.

She laughs.

The music changes - LCD SOUNDSYSTEM - SOMEONE GREAT

A girl grabs Sophie and pulls her away.

SOPHIE

Does you being here mean I am going  
to be seeing more of you?

MO

I really hope so.

She smiles and walks away.

We follow our hero through the sea of pimps and ho's out the door of the house, past the kids smoking cigarettes on the front stoop. Past Paul freaking out that his parents are going to kill him. Past a kid throwing up in the bushes. He get's into his car and drives away.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GROCERY STORE - LATER

Zeke and Mo walk down the aisles of a grocery store. Mo pushes the cart, Zeke reads from a list and tosses stuff in the cart as they walk.

ZEKE

(reading)

Pea Shoots? What the fuck are pea  
shoots?

MO

It ended up being way easier than I  
thought it would be.

ZEKE

Breaking News: kids like drugs.

(To another customer in  
the aisle)

Excuse me do you know what Pea  
Shoots are?

She shakes her head.

ZEKE (CONT'D)  
 (sotto to himself)  
 God dammit Holly.

MO  
 I know. I just didn't think they  
 would want to pay that much.

ZEKE  
 Seventeen-year-olds don't know how  
 much shit costs. And the rich ones  
 that go to your school don't really  
 care. Do you think it's in the  
 produce section?

MO  
 Just ask somebody.

ZEKE  
 I just did.

MO  
 That was a civilian. Ask somebody  
 who works here.

They spot a clerk.

ZEKE  
 Excuse me sir. I'm looking for Pea  
 Shoots, do you know what those, or  
 that, or whatever it is might be?

CLERK  
 Pea Shoots? Is that a vegetable?

ZEKE  
 I don't know man. My girlfriend is  
 cooking dinner and she just gave me  
 this list of stuff.

CLERK  
 I'm guessing that would be in  
 produce.

MO  
 Sophie was there too.

The clerk yells to another employee.

CLERK  
 Hey Mike, you know what Pea Shoots  
 are?

MIKE

Pea Shoots?

ZEKE

(mostly to himself)

This girl I swear to god, it can never be like, go get milk, or go get salt. It has to be I need Harrissa Paste. Like that's even a fucking thing.

MO

Did you hear what I said? Sophie was there.

ZEKE

One thing at a time buddy.

MO

She looked hot too.

ZEKE

Which one is that?

MO

I told you about Sophie.

MIKE

I don't think we have any Pea Shoots boss.

ZEKE

Alright, I don't know is there an equivalent? Should I just get regular peas?

MO

Don't look at me. What's next on the list?

ZEKE

(reading)

Fish Sauce?

CLERK

You mean like cocktail sauce.

ZEKE

I'm going to kill her.

MO

We also need wine she said.

## ZEKE'S APARTMENT

Mo, Zeke and Holly sit at the table eating dinner. There is a wad of cash off to the side. They are seated the same way he sits with his parents, Zeke and Holly on either end, Mo in the middle. It looks like a bizzaro family dinner. Holly reads the wine label.

HOLLY  
Chateau Diana?

ZEKE  
It was only three dollars, we got six bottles!

HOLLY  
You just made like six hundered dollars.

ZEKE  
That's all being invested.

MO  
This is really good Holly.

HOLLY  
Thanks.

ZEKE  
She's the best cook in the god damn world. What'd you expect?

HOLLY  
Thank you boys for doing the shopping.

ZEKE  
Mo's got a crush on a girl.

HOLLY  
Who?

MO  
Her name's Sophie. She's incredible.

HOLLY  
Uch that is so sweet. Does she like you?

ZEKE  
Of course she likes him. What's not to like?

MO

You think?

ZEKE

You're a sixteen year old high school drug dealer with a growth deficiency. I can't think of anything more likable.

MO

You forgot virgin.

ZEKE

(to Holly)

See what I'm saying, he's self deprecating too! I'm thinking about fucking him.

MO

I don't know.

ZEKE

Alright this is what you do. Give her a lot of attention. Call her just to say hi and bullshit. Just lay it on real thick.

MO

Won't she get annoyed?

ZEKE

Just listen to me. Do that for like three or four weeks. A lot of attention, she loves it, you are funny. Maybe she just thinks of you as a friend and doesn't plan on hooking up with you. But if this girl is as hot as you say she is than she knows you want to fuck her, and she loves the attention. Then after a few days, freeze her out.

MO

What do you mean?

ZEKE

Give her nothing. Radio silence.

HOLLY

This is disgusting.

ZEKE

Hol I'm sorry baby, but if you don't like seeing how the sausage is made then don't eat it.

She is mortified.

MO

Finish.

ZEKE

Where was I?

MO

Freeze her out.

ZEKE

That's right, give her nothing. She will go nuts wondering what she did wrong. Why you aren't interested in her anymore. This girl who is so used to getting attention from every guy suddenly has no idea why she just lost her biggest customer. She will think about you night and day and not know why. After a week or two of silence. That's when you make your move. She will be so confused and desperate, she'll fuck you the first night.

HOLLY

I can't listen to this.

She takes her plate to the kitchen.

ZEKE

Did I give him bad advice?

HOLLY

(yelling from the other room)

No, it's great advice, and it will definitely work. But I am just saying you use these tricks because you are a dick. Maybe Mo can just be himself and girls will like him because he's such a great guy.

ZEKE

(calling to Holly)

No you're probably right, Holly.

Zeke shoots Mo a look that says, "fuck that freeze her out."

Holly comes back and rejoins this fucked up family portrait.

INT. MONROE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

He is on the phone, waiting for somebody to pick up on the other end.

                        SOPHIE (V.O.)  
Hello?

                        MO  
Sophie?

                        SOPHIE  
Yeah.

                        MO  
It's Mo.

                        SOPHIE  
Hi.

                        MO  
From school.

                        SOPHIE  
I know.

                        MO  
Okay cool.

                        SOPHIE  
What's up?

                        MO  
Not a lot. What's up with you?

                        SOPHIE  
Did you just call to say hi?

                        MO  
I did.

                        SOPHIE  
Oh, cool. Hi.

                        MO  
What are you doing?

                        SOPHIE  
Watching TV.

MO  
Nice.

SOPHIE  
Yep.

More silence.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)  
You are like the first person to  
call me just to say hi since I was  
in the eighth grade.

MO  
(teasing)  
Now who's the one with no friends.

SOPHIE  
I have friends, most of them just  
text me.

MO  
Oh, sure. Texting would have been a  
good idea.

SOPHIE  
Yeah, there are fewer awkward  
silences.

Long silence.

SHERRI  
Mo.

MO  
Mom??

Reveal Mom in the kitchen on the other line.

SHERRI  
Your shot is ready.

MO  
Okay.

SHERRI  
Who are you talking to?

MO  
I get what you were saying about  
texting.

SOPHIE  
Yeah.



SHERRI  
Is that a girl?

MO  
Mom.

SHERRI  
Sorry, I'm going.

She hangs up.

SOPHIE  
Your shot?

MO  
Me and my parents do tequila shots  
after dinner. It's a tradition.

SOPHIE  
Woah.

MO  
Yeah, we get pretty turned up. I'll  
talk to you later.

SOPHIE  
Maybe you-

MO  
I will text you later.

SOPHIE  
There ya go.

INT. KAUFMAN HOUSE - KITCHEN TABLE

CLOSE UP - The needle going in, he pushes the syringe,  
injecting himself with growth hormone.

CLOSE UP - He drops the used syringe in a transparent orange  
medical container with hundreds of his other used shots.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Mo walks down the hall. Instead of pushing his way through  
the usual sea of bodies, some people see him and nod their  
head in silent recognition. He sees Sophie and waves. She  
smiles back but he is quickly flanked by Epstein.

EPSTEIN  
Mo. My man.

MO

Hey Eppy.

EPSTEIN

You have a good time at that party?

MO

Yeah it was fun.

EPSTEIN

It was fucking epic. That party was a ten.

MO

Okay.

EPSTEIN

We're gonna do it again. Leo McNally's Mom and Dad are taking his sister to look at colleges next weekend.

MO

And he is dumb enough to let you throw a party in his house?

EPSTEIN

He's a team player. It's for the good of the homies. We're all out there trying to have fun, trying to get our dicks a little wet. If there were more people like Leo and Paul out there, this world would be a better place.

MO

You should run for President.

EPSTEIN

Listen man. We really want you to come.

MO

I want to-

EPSTEIN

And it would be really cool if you could bring supplies like you did last time.

MO

Yeah, that shouldn't be a-

EPSTEIN

But we were talking, and weed is cool if its a few guys hanging in the backyard on a Wednesday jerking off-

MO

That's a thing?-

EPSTEIN

-but we are trying to blow the walls off you know?

MO

No.

EPSTEIN

So we were thinking maybe instead of weed, is there any way you could score some coke?

MO

Coke? Like cocaine?

EPSTEIN

Yeah man. It's cool if you can't. I just thought I would ask since you obviously have some kind of hook up.

MO

(trying to keep his  
composure)  
Let me look into it.

EPSTEIN

I mean, you know these dudes have cash. I am sure you would be well taken care of.

MO

(afraid to ask)  
If I can't get that stuff. Can I still come to the party?

EPSTEIN

Yeah man, of course. How could you even ask a question like that?

MO

Okay okay. I'll see what I can do.

EPSTEIN

Yes, you are the man.

Epstein walks away.

Mo is left alone, a few guys walking by wave hi to him.

EXT. BATTING CAGES - AFTERNOON

CLOSE UP - A baseball bat crushing an incoming pitch.

Zeke stands at the plate hitting balls and eating a popsicle. Monroe is next to him against the cage, he doesn't hit but he is wearing a helmet. Nick and Tony are there as well.

ZEKE

How much do they want?

MO

I guess as much as we can get 'em.

ZEKE

Nick what do you think?

NICK

I mean we can get it. That's not the problem.

TONY

Can I bat?

ZEKE

Do these kids have the money?

MO

Yes.

ZEKE

I don't want us buying all this shit and you coming back with a bunch of seventeen year old IOUs.

MO

What do I look like to you?

NICK

Maybe you should go with him to the party.

TONY

It's my turn you've already had like nine extra swings.

ZEKE

Nah...I'm not going to the party.

NICK

Why not.

TONY

Zeke.

Zeke starts chucking balls at Tony.

ZEKE

Would you shut the fuck up for five seconds while we figure this out.

(then to Nick)

I'm not going to the party because Mo is a minor. If the cops come bust this thing up he's just like everybody else. They call his parents and give him detention.

He takes another swing.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

I'm twenty three, I can't be seen at this party and I can't be the face of this whole thing.

MO

Well I don't want to be the face of this whole thing.

Zeke hands him the bat.

TONY

Bullshit it's my turn.

ZEKE

Monroe.

MO

Yeah?

ZEKE

Hit the ball.

Mo swings and misses it.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

No no no, you are doing it all wrong. You have to use your height to your advantage. If you bend down lower you will have no strike zone, they will walk you every time.

Mo squats down, his elbows and knees are practically touching.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Perfect.

NICK

He's in a cage for fuck's sake, he can't strike out.

INT. MO'S CAR - NIGHT

Mo and Zeke drive home from the batting cages.

The car turns.

ZEKE

Where are you going?

MO

My sister's.

ZEKE

What. No. No. Why? No.

MO

I told her since we were going to be on the west side I'd come say hi.

ZEKE

This is an ambush.

MO

No it isn't, I told you I had to do this.

ZEKE

Does she know I'm with you?

MO

She must assume, I said I was going to the cages with you.

ZEKE

Did she sound like she wanted to see me?

MO

I can't even express the joy it gives me to see you flustered like this.

The car pulls up in front of a chic mid-century modern one level house. The front wall is one massive glass window and you can see right inside.

ZEKE

I am not going to wait in the car like an asshole.

MO

Okay then come say hi.

ZEKE

I don't want to talk to her prick boyfriend. I don't need to hear how awesome he is doing and how cool his art collection is.

MO

He's not like that at all. He's nice.

ZEKE

He's a dick.

Mo get's out of the car.

MO

Fine then stay here I don't give a shit.

Zeke thinks about it for a second then ultimately decides it's much weirder to wait in the car.

INT/EXT. KATE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Kate's boyfriend Doug answers the door. He is extremely handsome and seems genuinely excited to see both of them.

DOUG

Hey guys!

Zeke walks in behind Mo.

DOUG (CONT'D)

(super nice)

Zeke, man. How's it going?

ZEKE

(like an asshole)

Fine.

DOUG

Dude I have been telling everybody at work about you.

(MORE)

DOUG (CONT'D)

They always give me shit that my girlfriend's ex knows more about art than I do, but I love it. I think you have to come work with us as a consultant.

ZEKE

I'm pretty busy right now ya know. Lot of irons in the fire and such. Lot of balls in the air.

DOUG

No worries, I won't twist your arm.

Kate comes out of the bedroom.

KATE

Mo Mo. This is so sweet.

As she goes to hug Mo she notices Zeke standing behind him and her expression changes. Zeke smiles. She get's flustered. He was her first love, and that doesn't go away.

MO

You think I'd come all the way across town and not say hi?

KATE

You didn't say you were bringing your babysitter.

ZEKE

Ouch, well the kid needed a good role model and I didn't see anybody else stepping up to the plate.

She fake punches him in the arm.

DOUG

(oblivious)

Look at you two with that same old banter. I love it!

MO

We are just coming from the batting cages over on Division.

DOUG

You should have told me, I love that spot.

Zeke seethes with rage.



DOUG (CONT'D)  
You guys want something to drink?

MO  
Sure.

ZEKE  
Don't you have homework Mo?

MO  
Yeah- but.

DOUG  
He's right. You should do that.

KATE  
(She can't help it)  
Oh relax, one beer.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. KATE'S HOUSE - LATER

The four of them have been drinking and joking around for a while, Zeke looks uncomfortable.

DOUG  
(to Zeke and Mo)  
I think it's really awesome that you two have managed to stay so close even after Katie and you broke up.

ZEKE  
I needed the intern. He wasn't my first choice, but the climate out there is rough.

MO  
Fuck you.

ZEKE  
Alright, I think we should hit it.

KATE  
No stay. You just got here.

DOUG  
You guys should come over for dinner next week. A real visit, none of this pop-in stuff.

ZEKE  
Alright, well bye.

DOUG  
See ya later.

The boys walk out.

DOUG (CONT'D)  
I really like that guy.

INT. MO'S CAR - SAME TIME

ZEKE  
He is the biggest piece of shit  
I've ever met in my life.

Mo turns the car on and tries to back out of the driveway.

ZEKE (CONT'D)  
(to himself)  
God your sister is so hot.  
(to Mo)  
Let me tell you something. Once you  
sleep with somebody once, it  
doesn't matter who they are. You  
can go fifty years without seeing  
them- It's like having a key or a-

MO  
I'm sorry, I wasn't paying  
attention Did you sleep with a  
fifty year old?

ZEKE  
I have, but that's not what I'm-  
What's wrong?

MO  
The drug stuff. It just seems like  
a lot ya know. Weed was one thing.  
Coke just feels like a darker  
territory.

ZEKE  
It's not like that at all man. It's  
just another thing. It's not worse.  
It's a lateral move.

INT. MONROE'S BEDROOM - A FEW NIGHTS LATER

Monroe's POV - He watches out of his front window as a car drives up and stops in front of the mailbox, Nick rolls down the window puts a package inside and drives off with Tony in the passenger seat. They wave at Mo in his window.

EXT. KAUFMAN HOUSE

Mo walks down the driveway to the mailbox.

INT. REUBEN'S STUDY

He finds his Father's briefcase, opens it, and empties the stack of papers onto the desk. He leaves with the empty briefcase.

CLOSE UP - Tightening the knot of his tie

CLOSE UP - Putting on a black suit jacket.

INSERT - Putting several bags of coke into the empty briefcase, and closing it to reveal his father's monogram embossed across the top.

EXT - LEO'S HOUSE

We track behind our hero in his suit and tie while he carries his briefcase full of cocaine into the party. He looks like a real badass and feels like one too.

We follow him into the house where he passes under a banner that says "CEO's and CORPORATE HOs". It soon becomes clear that everybody else is wearing a suit and carrying a briefcase. Except for the girls who are wearing large white dress shirts and little else.

INT. BATHROOM

We pan across the small bathroom as eight or ten kids in black suits snort coke off of every available surface. At the end of our pan we land on our boy, who is sitting on the sink counting the money.

MATCH CUT TO:

ZEKE'S APARTMENT - DINNER TABLE

Zeke is counting the money at the table while Holly brings out the food for another delicious meal she cooked.

Monroe pops the cork on a very expensive bottle of champagne and almost falls over from the force.

KAUFMAN HOUSE - DINNER TABLE - ANOTHER NIGHT

Zeke sits next to Mo, he is wearing a nice shirt and has cleaned himself up. Sherri brings a delicious meal to the table.

FAMILY ROOM - LATER

Zeke and Reuben are watching football together. Mo is thrilled.

MO'S MAILBOX

He pulls out another package

PARTY

We follow him under a sign that reads "GOLF PROS AND TENNIS HO's" he is dressed accordingly.

A bunch of young golf pros snorting coke and smoking pot. And having the best time. One kid is throwing up, another two are making out..Mo is standing behind Sophie with his arms wrapped around her, pretending to show her how to swing a tennis racket. The top 40 music swells.

OFFICE DEPOT

Zeke is in uniform at his job, working late. He is in a red vest and a name tag that says "ISAAC" which he couldn't hate more. He speaks to an older woman.

CUSTOMER

I'm looking for a printer.

Without looking at her he points to a giant xerox machine.

ZEKE

How about that one?

CUSTOMER

That seems like a lot, it's for my home.

He points to a small printer.

ZEKE

How about that one?

CUSTOMER

Does this do color or just black and white.

ZEKE

Ma'am this ain't the fifties, all printers are color.

He reads the label.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Fuck me, it's black and white. You'd think they'd have that figured out by now.

He get's a text.

CLOSE UP - TEXT FROM MO: \$\$\$\$

ZEKE (CONT'D)

You know what Ma'am, you are going to have to speak to somebody who works here. Because that sure as shit aint me anymore.

He takes off his nametag and sticks it in a display shredder on his way out the door but the shredder makes a loud jamming sound and smokes up. He also grabs a box of pens because fuck them.

INT. HOUSE PARTY - NIGHT

Mo sits in front of three guys. His Father's briefcase is open and filled with little bags of weed, coke, and other pills. He talks fast and does math in his head.

MO

Alright that's two grams of the diesel. Plus how many bags of coke was that one or two? Just give me 180 for the whole thing.

GUY

180?

MO

You are getting a great deal! Trust me. This is my best shit. Fine, how about this. I'll throw in a bar of xanax, but now you are literally robbing me.

OTHER GUY

What is your best weed?

MO

I mean that really depends on what kind of high you want. For a relaxed body high I would take this. For more of a head slash mind high, this is your best bet.

OTHER GUY

Can I do a mix?

MO

Yeah, I can do that. One bag of each is gonna be 80.

ANOTHER GUY

Is this plus the coke going to get me fucked up?

MO

(is this guy an idiot?)  
Big time.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. J CREW STORE - DAY

The boys walk thru the store together. Mo comes out holding up a black leather jacket.

MO

What about this?

ZEKE

You can afford it.

MO

It's like a ninja coat.

ZEKE

(to salesgirl)

Do you have the ninja coat in child sizes?

INT. SCHOOL - DAY

Mo walks through the halls. New clothes, new haircut, new attitude. He is cool as shit. The kids seem to get out of his way. Some say hi, some don't, but everybody knows he's there. At the other end of the hall Sophie is waiting for him.

INT. PARTY - NIGHT

Danny, Josh and Mo are talking while Epstein breaks up lines of coke.

JOSH

God look at this, we have absolutely no hot girls at our school.

DANNY

What are you talking about? Jessica, Ramona, Sophie, Tess-

JOSH

No I'm talking about the girls like when we were Freshman. The seniors then, those girls were out of control.

DANNY

True.

JOSH

Like remember Holly McCartney?

DANNY

Oh my god I fucking loved her.

Mo perks up.

MO

Ya know I'm good friends with her.

DANNY

What are you talking about?

MO

She dates my best friend.

JOSH

That makes me so sad.

DANNY

Is she still incredible?

MO

Yeah, she's pretty great.

He sees Sophie on the other side of the room.

MO (CONT'D)

I'm gonna go do a lap.

Mo walks towards Sophie.

DANNY  
Yeah we are too.

Danny and Josh leave Epstein alone with his pile of coke.

EPSTEIN  
(to nobody)  
Hey is nobody going to do this? I  
don't like to leave food on the  
table, guys.

Angle back on Mo, catching up with Sophie.

SOPHIE  
(teasing)  
I thought your only friends were  
older and more sophisticated.

INT. ZEKE'S APARTMENT - LATER

Nick, Tony, Zeke and Holly are playing Beer Baseball.

NICK  
Alright Zeke. Would you rather have  
all of the hair on your body be  
silly string, or denim?

ZEKE  
Denim? What would that even look  
like? It doesn't matter you are  
asking the wrong guy, Tony's the  
one with the hairy chest.

TONY  
What kind of denim is it?

NICK  
Like some Diesel faded design shit.

TONY  
Silly string.

HOLLY  
Would you rather get raped by 10  
guys at once and nobody ever finds  
out, or the whole world thinks you  
got gang banged by the entire New  
York Jets. But you didn't actually  
do it.

NICK  
That just got so real.



At that moment Mo appears in the doorway of the apartment with Sophie.

MO  
I'm sorry. Are we interrupting something?

The group seems totally caught of guard. And shocked at how pretty Sophie is.

NICK  
Fresh blood.

ZEKE  
Don't be weird Nick.

SOPHIE  
(To Mo)  
So this is your secret clubhouse.

ZEKE  
I hope you blindfolded her on the way here. We can't have the location getting out.

DISSOLVE TO:

ZEKE'S APARTMENT - LATER

Everybody is much drunker. The music is much louder. They all have forty ounce bottles of beer duct taped to their hands. Zeke and Nick are wrestling. Tony is in the bathroom trying to figure out how to pee. Sophie is picking out music on the ipod. Mo and Holly sit on the couch observing everything.

HOLLY  
Sophie is adorable.

MO  
Yeah, thanks. So is Zeke. I mean-  
You know what I mean.

Holly laughs. Sophie finally picks a song she likes and pulls Mo to his feet. The dance, awkwardly, since they have no use of their hands it's just a lot of rubbing hips. Holly watches the way Mo looks at Sophie. This is the most confident he's ever looked.

Sophie throws her hands up in the air, her bottles are empty.

SOPHIE  
Finished!

ZEKE

Wow.

Tony runs out of the bathroom, he appears to have pissed his pants.

TONY

How is that possible?

NICK

(privately)

Where did you find this girl, Momo?

MO

High school, Nick. I found her in high school.

ZEKE

Alright I've got to put a tent on this circus. It's bed time.

MO

We can't drive.

ZEKE

Holly will you call the children a cab? Mo I'm sure you have plenty of cash to pay for it.

TONY

Can I sleep here?

ZEKE

Where are you going to sleep? Nick is already on the couch.

TONY

I'll crash on the floor. Just give me a pillow.

ZEKE

Here take this.

He pulls out his old football helmet and gives it to Tony.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

It's got extra padding. Way better than a pillow.

Tony puts the helmet on and falls to the floor.

TONY (O.C.)  
This'll work.

CUT TO:

INT. TAXI - LATER

Mo and Sophie sit in the back of the cab.

SOPHIE  
It's cute to see the way you look  
at those guys.

MO  
Who, them?

SOPHIE  
Yeah, you love them.

MO  
I don't love them. Zeke is like my  
older brother.

SOPHIE  
Well they love you. And I think  
it's sweet.

She scoots over to the middle seat so they are sitting right  
next to each other.

MO  
Well I'm glad you had fun.

Mo smiles. She smiles. They kiss.

FADE OUT:

INT. ART GALLERY - DAY

We pull out from the darkness and widen to reveal Zeke and Mo  
standing in front of a massive black canvas. They are looking  
at a Richard Serra piece, the canvas is so big that the boys  
seem miniature standing in front of it.

INT. ART GALLERY - AUCTION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

A large white room with black folding chairs. On the far side  
of the room there is a row of attractive "gallery girls", all  
of them placing bids for collectors over the phone.

Angle on Zeke and Mo sitting on the main auction floor.

Two art handlers bring out a piece.

AUCTIONEER

Our next item up for bid is a  
Lucean Cutler oil on canvas. We'll  
start the bidding at three thousand  
five hundred.

Zeke raises his paddle. The auctioneer takes note. Another man in the back raises his arm to bid.

ZEKE

Look at this asshole back here. He  
thinks he's so fucking smug. Look  
at him he's in work out clothes. Oh  
he just thought he'd swing by the  
gallery and pick up a Lucien Cutler  
on his way home from the gym.  
Monroe? Are you listening to me?

MONROE

Who are you talking about?

ZEKE

This guy back here.

Zeke raises his paddle again. The bidding is now at ten thousand. The gentleman raises his hand, Zeke is furious.

CUT TO:

INT. ZEKE'S CAR - LATER

The boys sit in the car in the parking lot of a fast food restaurant. The large painting on the back seat behind them. Mo digs through a brown paper bag and gives Zeke his burger.

MO

No pickles?

ZEKE

That's mine.

They eat, not saying anything until...

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Holly's pissed at me.

MO

Oh.

Neither boy is emotionally mature enough for this.

ZEKE

Yeah.

MO

Are you guys going to break up?

ZEKE

I don't know.

MO

Do you want to?

Zeke shrugs.

MO (CONT'D)

Is she mad because of all the-

He points at the painting.

ZEKE

No I don't think she cares about that. Girls are just weird man. They get pissed at you for shit you don't even know you are doing.

MO

What didn't you know you were doing?

ZEKE

Being an asshole.

MO

Oh. Did you apologize?

ZEKE

No I can't apologize. Because that means that I agree I'm being an asshole. And I don't.

MO

Hmm.

ZEKE

Girls are just crazy. They always get this way. But the good thing is, if you date enough of em you will realize that there are only like five different ways they can freak out on you. There is nothing that surprises me anymore.

MO

What could she do?

ZEKE

It's more of a general attitude. She could either ignore me completely. Girls think that works on guys because they know it works on them. But guys love being left alone.

MO

We do?

ZEKE

You bet your ass we do.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

She could go the other way and hit me up non stop. Just like a hysteric baby and you can't hide from them and you don't know how to make it stop. Holly isn't that kind of girl though. She could try to fuck Nick or Tony.

MO

What?

ZEKE

Probably Nick.

MO

(shocked)

What do you mean?

ZEKE

Girls are nuts man. They'll fuck your best friend if they think that will make you jealous.

MO

But Nick would never do it right?

Zeke shrugs.

MO (CONT'D)

He would?

ZEKE

How are things going with your girl?

MO

Sophie?

ZEKE

Yeah.

MO

Pretty great.

ZEKE

You can probably stop giving her attention now.

MO

What? But she likes me. We kissed.

ZEKE

Yeah, but start ignoring her and see how obsessed she gets.

MO

I don't think she'll-

ZEKE

Trust me bud.

ZEKE'S APARTMENT

Zeke hangs the painting on his wall.

MO

I think I am going to take off.

ZEKE

You should stay and smoke with me.

MO

Nah.

ZEKE

I promise you'll be fine.

MO

My Dad's birthday party is tonight.

ZEKE

Isn't that in like eight hours?

Zeke pulls a bong out of the closet.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Let's celebrate.

MUSIC: TOP GUN - DANGER ZONE

CLOSE UP - LIGHTING UP THE BONG

CLOSE UP - FIGHTER JETS TAKING OFF

CLOSE UP - THE SMOKE FILLING THE BONG

CLOSE UP - THE SMOKE COMING OUT OF THE JET

CLOSE UP - MO EATING A POT BROWNIE

CLOSE UP - ALIENS BLOW UP THE WHITE HOUSE

MEDIUM - SEVENTEEN YEAR OLD ZEKE HITS THE HIGH STRIKER

MEDIUM - TEN YEAR OLD MONROE WATCHES HIM IN AWE.

MO

Oh my god what time is it?

ZEKE

Like 5 something.

MO

Shit, I have to go.

INT. MONROE'S CAR - LATER

DANGER ZONE is still blasting in the background. Mo is at the wheel swerving through traffic like a madman. He can hear cars honking all around him.

EXT. MONROE'S CAR - SAME TIME

Mo is actually driving five miles an hour and several cars behind him are honking, trying to pass.

INT. MONROE'S SHOWER - LATER

Monroe is in the shower, somehow trying to wash his eyes. He sits down in the shower and takes a quick nap.

INT. BATHROOM - LATER

He psyches himself up the mirror.

MO

You are fine. You are totally natural. You aren't stoned. People smoke weed all the time and nobody ever notices. You are so fine.



INT. KITCHEN - LATER

His parents sit at the table talking.

MONROE

Standing outside the kitchen still trying to psyche himself up.

He listens to them talking. They start to laugh at a joke he can't hear. On that he walks in laughing as well, he thinks this will blend him in but he just looks like a crazy person.

REUBEN

What's wrong with you?

MO

What? I mean excuse me?

He sits down at the table, still trying to appear normal.

MO (CONT'D)

Are we going to this thing?

SHERRI

Oh no. Reuben what's wrong with him?

REUBEN

I think I know.

Monroe can hear them talking but can't bring his mouth to rebuttal. So he just continues to act as if nothing is happening.

MO

I totally forgot, Happy Birthday!

He gets up and give's his father a hug.

SHERRI

What are we going to do?

REUBEN

I don't know this is a nightmare.

(to Mo)

How could you do this on my birthday.

MO

Do what?

SHERRI

Do you have any idea how much trouble you are in?

MO

Hmm?

REUBEN

Let's just go we are going to be late.

SHERRI

Should we leave him at home?

REUBEN

I don't know how to explain to my parents that Mo got too stoned.

MO

Guys, you are wrong.

SHERRI

About what?

MO

Everything. All of it.

REUBEN

Jesus Christ.

INT. CAR - LATER

The parents sit up front. Reuben drives. Mo is in the backseat, trapped in his own mind.

REUBEN

This is exactly what I'm talking about. Ten seconds of stupid.

MO

I think it's been a misunderstanding.

SHERRI

Please stop talking Monroe.

REUBEN

Listen, when we go inside. You kiss your grandparents hello. You say nothing else. Are you listening to me?

MO'S POV - His parents are moving in slow motion and sound like the teacher from Charlie Brown.

The car pulls up to Mo's grandparents house. His parents give each other one last look.

SHERRI

Please don't eat too much.

REUBEN

Oh shit, you're right.

(to Mo)

Don't even go near the buffet. Just say hi and go sit down somewhere, I will give you food.

EXT - GRANDPARENTS HOUSE

The three of them walk to the door.

SHERRI

We good?

MO

We're great!

REUBEN

You are a real idiot.

The door opens. It's Mo's grandmother.

GRANDMOTHER

Hello! Come on in. Take off your coats.

The family takes off their jackets.

GRANDMOTHER (CONT'D)

Hi Monroe.

MO

What- Hi.

GRANDMOTHER

How's school going?

MO

(long pause)

A lot.

BUFFET

Mo walks past, eyeing the mini hot dogs.

REUBEN  
 (sotto)  
 Don't even think about it.

TABLE

Mo sits at the table not saying anything. Kate and Doug are on either side of him. The three of them whisper to each other.

KATE  
 How high are you right now?

MO  
 Quiet.

KATE  
 Nobody can hear me.

MO  
 How obvious is it?

DOUG  
 Nobody can tell, you are doing great.

KATE  
 Do Mom and Dad know?

MO  
 I'm not sure. I don't think so.

Across the table Reuben glares at his son.

CUT TO:

MONROE IN HIS ROOM ON THE PHONE WITH ZEKE

ZEKE (V.O.)  
 (on the phone)  
 Grounded?

MO  
 Big time.

ZEKE  
 You will never guess what I am doing right now.

MO  
 What?

ZEKE

I'm shaving.

Reveal Zeke is in his bathroom shaving, he has a bluetooth phone in his ear.

MO

What do you mean?

ZEKE

I got one of those bluetooth things. I am fucking shaving and talking to you at the same time.

MO

I'm in a lot of trouble man, will you just focus.

ZEKE

Are you allowed to go to school?

MO

Yes Isaac, my parents are not banning me from going to school.

ZEKE

That's good I guess. You are still going to that party tomorrow night right?

MO

Are you listening to me at all.

ZEKE

Mo, you gotta go. Nick already got everything.

MO

I can't.

ZEKE

Sneak out. You have to Momo. You'll be fine.

SHERRI

Monroe?

Reveal Sherri in the kitchen on the other phone line.

MO

I'm on the phone.

MOM

Who are you talking to?

MO

Zeke.

SHERRI

Hi Isaac. I am guessing Monroe told you he is in a bit of trouble.

ZEKE

Yes he mentioned that.

SHERRI

I just don't understand where these kids are getting the drugs.

ZEKE

Are you kidding me? The kids at his school, it's everywhere. I bet they are selling it right there on the playground at recess.

MO

I'm a junior in high school we don't have recess or a playground.

SHERRI

Was this going on when you were in high school?

ZEKE

I had heard about certain kids doing it. And I was at one or two parties where it was offered to me, but it just seems so gross ya know? It's like why do that to yourself? The human brain is a gift, we need to treat it like-

MO

Alright Rabbi, thank you for that I think she get's it.

SHERRI

I wish some of that would rub off on your friend.

ZEKE

I'm trying. Oh hey Mrs. K, guess what I am doing right now?

MO

She doesn't care.

ZEKE

I'm shaving.

SHERRI  
How?

ZEKE  
Bluetooth.

SHERRI  
Wow.

ZEKE  
I know.

SHERRI  
Alright, well good night Isaac. Mo,  
your shot is ready.

MO  
Okay I'm coming down.

She hangs up.

MO (CONT'D)  
I hate you.

ZEKE  
I think they are going to let me  
adopt you.

MO  
Goodbye.

ZEKE  
You are going to the party.

Mo hangs up.

INT. SCHOOL - DAY

Monroe walks down the hall. He sees Sophie, she sees him, he doesn't say anything. She is confused but shakes it off. Mo is very unsure of this plan.

Epstein approaches.

EPSTEIN  
Yo baby. You coming tonight?

MO  
I don't know, might have to sit  
this one out.

EPSTEIN  
No no no. You can't miss this.

MO  
I'm grounded, dude. My hands are tied.

EPSTEIN  
Sneak out. Come after your parents go to sleep.

MO  
Listen man, I said I can't.

EPSTEIN  
I am begging you.

Just then the two boys see Danny and Josh being escorted out of the principals office.

MO  
What were Josh and Danny doing in Mr. Wool's office.

EPSTEIN  
What?

MO  
Look, Danny and Josh were just talking to Mr. Wool.

EPSTEIN  
I don't know man. That could be anything.

MO  
Fuck this.

EPSTEIN  
You are being paranoid man.

MO  
The school is on to us. I've got to sneak out of my house. I'm the only one taking a risk.

EPSTEIN  
We're all taking risks baby.

MO  
Don't call me baby.

EPSTEIN  
You need to calm down Mo. Nobody knows anything.

Mo hates having this conversation in school.



MO  
Will you just keep it down.

EPSTEIN  
So we have a deal?

MO  
The price is going up.

EPSTEIN  
I love you. I fucking love you. Oh  
by the way you think you could  
bring some ecstasy.

MO  
What do I look like to you?

EPSTEIN  
Is this a trick question?

Mo just stares at him.

EPSTEIN (CONT'D)  
Ya know what. Forget about ecstasy.  
I have a huge exam tomorrow anyway.

INT. KAUFMAN KITCHEN - NIGHT

Mo's parents are in the kitchen drinking wine and talking.

UPSTAIRS

INSERT - TEXT FROM SOPHIE: "MO?"

It kills him but he ignores it. Zeke better be right.

Mo is in his room directly above them, moving around quietly.  
He puts on camouflage pants and a camouflage shirt. He goes  
to the bathroom where he has laid out green and black face  
paint. He paints his face.

Mo moves to the window of his bedroom.

FROM OUTSIDE THE WINDOW

We see Mo open the window and climb out onto the ledge of the  
house. The second floor isn't that high up, but Mo's height  
makes the drop seem much scarier. He grabs on to a nearby  
tree and tries his best to shimmy to the ground. Eventually  
he falls off and lands in some bushes. From the kitchen  
window his parents are oblivious to the whole thing.

Trying to stay under the view of the window, he crawls to the end of the driveway.

EXT. HOUSE PARTY - NIGHT

Mo walks into the house. The banner reads "GI JOES AND ARMY HOS". Our hero blends in nicely in a sea of military fatigues (and camo underwear.)

Eppy is on his knees drinking from a beer bong, but the crowd surrounding him rushes over to greet Mo, leaving him alone on his knees holding the giant funnel to his mouth.

Sophie sees Mo and waves. Ignoring her, he walks with a group of boys to the bathroom.

INT. ZEKE'S APARTMENT

Zeke is on his couch with a bowl of cereal. He is in his boxers and has the phone pinned between his shoulder and his ear.

ZEKE

You have a pretty voice.

INT. ART GALLERY - AUCTION - INTERCUT

One of the phone bank girls, ALLISON.

ALLISON

Mr. Presanti, the bidding is up to six thousand.

ZEKE

Would you like to have dinner with me?

ALLISON

Mr. Presanti, if you want to just tell me your maximum bid, I will just bid to your max and you don't need to sit on the phone.

ZEKE

You aren't enjoying talking to me as much as I am.

ALLISON

I am in the middle of an auction.

ZEKE

Can you go someplace quiet?

She laughs.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

I am making you laugh. Do you have a boyfriend?

ALLISON

This is really inappropriate.

ZEKE

Something tells me there aren't any rules about flirting with prospective buyers. Something tells me it is recommended or they wouldn't have such pretty girls like yourself working the phones.

ALLISON

I don't have a boyfriend.

ZEKE

Of course you don't. I was recently broken up with.

ALLISON

Why did she break up with you?

As Allison talks she makes silent handmotions to the auctioneer raising his bid at will.

ZEKE

I don't know.  
(he turns to the other  
room)  
Why did you break up with me?

Holly walks from the kitchen through the living room carrying a bag of her stuff. She gives him the middle finger on her way out.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

I think it's still a little raw.

The auctioneer bangs the podium.

ALLISON

Congratulations, you are now the proud owner of an 8,000 dollar Fujikawa painting.

ZEKE  
Is it any good?

ALLISON  
Meh.

INT. HOUSE PARTY - SAME TIME

Mo comes out of the bathroom first. He looks around the party and then we track behind him to the front door like we always do, except before he can make his escape somebody blocks the exit.

SOPHIE  
What is wrong with you?

MO  
Excuse me?

SOPHIE  
You have been a dick to me all week.

MO  
I know - I'm not, I--

SOPHIE  
You didn't seem like an asshole but maybe that's your secret. You're a secret asshole.

She starts to walk away.

MO  
I'm not. It wasn't my idea. I'm sorry. Zeke thought if I didn't give you attention you would like me more.

SOPHIE  
You are an idiot.

MO  
I know. A big idiot. Huge one. Please. Give me another chance. I won't mess it up.

She looks at him.

MO (CONT'D)  
Let's go on a real date. None of this dress up bullshit. Let's go out for real.

SOPHIE  
You gonna take anymore advice from  
your friend?

MO  
He's dead to me I swear!

INT. MO'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

With smeared face paint Mo drives home completely ecstatic.  
He sings DAVID BOWIE - YOUNG AMERICAN'S at the top of his  
lungs as he drives.

WIDE SHOT - KIDS AT THE PARTY DANCING AND MAKING OUT

EXT. MO'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Mo stands in front of his window trying to jump up and reach  
the tree branch. He can't do it. He gives it a running start  
but still no luck.

MO  
Oh fuck it.

He walks in the front door.

DISSOLVE TO:

CLOSE UP - A CAR WHEEL SPINNING

INT. CAR - SAME TIME

Three obscured boys in army fatigues drive in a cloud of weed  
smoke and sing along with the radio.

CLOSE UP - THE TIRE SKIDS OFF THE SIDE OF THE ROAD

SFX - CAR CRASH

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. PRINCIPALS OFFICE - DAY

The principal sits at his desk with a uniformed police  
officer standing behind him. They talk to a man and woman

OFFICER

I just don't want there to be any confusion between us. I don't want you to think that your son is off the hook, because he is not. The only reason you are sitting here talking to us is because I am a practical person. I am not trying to clog a leak with my finger I am trying to build a dam. I am trying to rid this community of all the underage drinking and drugs that go on almost every night. Jonathan was behind the wheel of a car, not only drunk, but stoned on marijuana and cocaine. And like I said the only reason you are sitting here today is because I want to know who is responsible for selling these drugs to him and his friends.

We pan from the distraught parents to reveal Epstein sitting in the corner of the office, holding back tears.

OFFICER (CONT'D)

Principal Wool has been very generous in allowing to keep Jonathan enrolled in school on the basis of his cooperation.

MONROE'S HOUSE - DAY

His parents are sitting at the table. Reuben is reading the paper.

SHERRI

Monroe wants to go out.

REUBEN

To a party? Not a chance-

SHERRI

On a date.

Reuben is impressed.

REUBEN

My Monroe? With who?

SHERRI

Sophie something.

REUBEN

What does she look like?

SHERRI  
Does it matter?

REUBEN  
No of course not, I was just- It's  
your call, I don't care.

SHERRI  
I don't like him driving after that  
car accident.

REUBEN  
So say no.

SHERRI  
Well I don't want to take this away  
from him-

REUBEN  
So say yes, for christ sake what do  
you want from me?

SHERRI  
Maybe we can send him with  
somebody, have somebody else drive?

INT./EXT. KAUFMAN HOUSE

Reuben answers the front door for Zeke.

REUBEN  
Hi Isaac.

ZEKE  
Mr. Kaufman.

REUBEN  
Come on in.

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

The four of them sit around the kitchen table.

SHERRI  
You understand Zeke this is a  
special privilege for Mo.

ZEKE  
Yes.

SHERRI

A group of boys in Monroe's class got in a car accident, there were drugs AND alcohol in their system.

ZEKE

Oh my goodness.

MO

Do we really have to do this?

REUBEN

Will you go wait for Isaac in his car.

Isaac throws him his car keys, Mo leaves the room.

REUBEN (CONT'D)

No drinking. No drugs.

ZEKE

Got it. But what about Mo?

REUBEN

What?

ZEKE

It was a joke.

REUBEN

Sherri is very worried about these kids drunk driving around.

ZEKE

I would never let anything happen to Mo.

REUBEN

Listen Isaac, I like you. And that Eddie Haskel shit works wonders on Sherri but not me. I work in advertising... so...

(off Zeke's unsure look)

Mo looks up to you, he never had an older brother, and that's how he's always seen you.

ZEKE

I understand.

REUBEN

I'm not your father. Just-just sometimes I think you and your friends forget he is sixteen.



ZEKE

Yes sir.

Reuben takes a twenty dollar bill out of his pocket and slips it into Zeke's hand.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Mr. Kaufman, I can't.

REUBEN

Please take it.

ZEKE

I like hanging out with Mo, it isn't a job.

REUBEN

That's why I am giving you this. Because it is a job. If he starts smoking dope and drinking, you aren't doing your job.

ZEKE

Well I think he's a pretty good kid.

REUBEN

I do too.

ZEKE

So can I have a raise?

REUBEN

Get out of my house.

INT. ZEKE'S CAR - LATER

The boys are driving to pick up Sophie.

MO

Listen, do me a favor.

ZEKE

What?

MO

Don't be you tonight.

ZEKE

(laughing)

Who would you like me to be?

MO

I'm serious. Your shitty advice almost cost me this date. I just don't want tonight to be the Zeke show.

ZEKE

The Zeke show!?

MO

You know what I mean. You don't always have to be the bride at every wedding and the corpse at every funeral.

ZEKE

How long have you been waiting to use that one?

MO

A while.

ZEKE

You need to relax.

MO

Don't tell me to relax, I am very relaxed. Why? Do I not seem relaxed, fuck it. Turn around.

ZEKE

Do you not trust me?

MO

I trust you.

ZEKE

Would you even be going on a date if it wasn't for me?

MO

I am going on this date in spite of you.

ZEKE

Would you have kissed her if it wasn't for me?

MO

What kind of credit are you looking for here?

The car pulls up in front of Sophie's house. Zeke honks the horn.

MO (CONT'D)  
Don't do that. I'll go get her.

ZEKE  
No you won't. Trust me, this is better.

ZEKE (CONT'D)  
Here, take this.

He pulls out a small pill from the pocket of his jean jacket.

MO  
What is it?

ZEKE  
It's a Valium. It will chill you out. Make you much more appealing.

MO  
Actually?

ZEKE  
Yeah.

MO  
Does it have any side effects?

ZEKE  
No, just don't drink too much.

MO  
I wasn't planning on drinking at all.

ZEKE  
Then you'll be great.

He takes the pill. Then looks to the house. POV - Sophie coming out. She looks great.

Zeke opens the middle compartment and then back in his pocket. Then around as if he is searching for something.

MO  
What's wrong?

ZEKE  
Don't freak out.

MO  
About what?

ZEKE  
I think I just gave you an Ambien.

MO  
What?

Sophie is almost at the car.

ZEKE  
(he takes a pill out of  
the bottom of the cup  
holder)  
Because here is the valium and I  
only had one.

MO  
What kind of an operation are you  
running here?

ZEKE  
It's going to be okay.

MO  
You gave me a sleeping pill, why  
would you even bring that?

ZEKE  
It was an accident.

He looks out the window. Frantic.

MO  
How long do I have?

ZEKE  
Minutes.

MO  
Minutes?

ZEKE  
Maybe twenty good ones.

Sophie reaches her hand to open the back door.

MO  
Abort. Abort. Drive the car.

Zeke starts to drive the car. Sophie is confused.

MO (CONT'D)  
No, stop. Fuck.

The car stops. Sophie gets in.

SOPHIE  
(half laughing, half  
serious)  
What was that?

MO  
I'm sorry, Zeke drives like a  
retard.

Zeke shoots him a look. Then looks at Sophie.

SOPHIE  
Is this your idea of not involving  
Zeke in our relationship?

MO  
I'm sorry, I didn't want this  
either.

ZEKE  
Hey, I've got feelings you two.

SOPHIE  
Where are we going?

ZEKE  
Yeah Romeo, where are we going.

MO  
(scared to death)  
Something fast I think. Right?

SOPHIE  
I have nowhere to be.

ZEKE  
(starting to enjoy this)  
Me either.

MO  
I thought you had that thing in  
twenty minutes Zeke? That  
appointment?

ZEKE  
No I am severely unemployed thanks  
for reminding me.

SOPHIE  
Is everything okay?

MO  
Yeah, it's fine.

ZEKE

He's just nervous I think. Would you relax? You guys have already kissed right?

ZEKE (CONT'D)

(to Sophie)

He kissed you right?

SOPHIE

Yes.

Mo is mortified.

ZEKE

(to Mo)

See dude you're fine, the hardest part is over.

(to Sophie)

How was he?

MO

Oh for the love of god would you-

SOPHIE

He was good.

MO

What?

ZEKE

Don't sound so surprised buddy I bet you were great.

Mo has a very pleased look on his face.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Okay youngins, where is this love bus going?

MO

I don't know.

(to Sophie)

Whatever you want to do.

ZEKE

Never tell a girl you'll do whatever she wants, pretty soon she is going to want to do your friends.

MO

(sotto)

Zeke show?

ZEKE  
Sorry, I'm just trying to help.

MO  
Ice cream?

ZEKE  
Are you asking her or-

MO  
Ice cream!

ZEKE  
There it is.

SOPHIE  
He really is your relationship  
coach.

MO  
He's more of a sociopath than a  
coach.

She laughs. Zeke looks to Mo and gives him a thumbs up.

ZEKE  
(mouths)  
You're doing great.

MO  
(mouths)  
Fuck you.

EXT. ICE CREAM SPOT - LATER

They sit outside at a picnic table eating. Mo is holding onto  
consciousness for dear life.

ZEKE  
Okay I've got one.

SOPHIE  
Alright go.

ZEKE  
Would you rather every time you  
take a shower Gatorade comes out of  
the faucet Or-

SOPHIE  
That's gross. Can I shower in the  
sink?

ZEKE

Hmm. No. You can drink water but any time it touches your body it is Gatorade. OR Everything you eat from now on will taste like pickles. No matter what the fuck it is, it tastes like pickles.

SOPHIE

I like pickles.

ZEKE

Every day for every meal for the rest of your life?

SOPHIE

It's better than pouring sticky colored water all over myself.

(to Mo)

What would you do?

MO

Which one is that bad guy?

SOPHIE

Excuse me?

Mo forces an out of place laugh.

MO

Sort of tastes like breakfast food even though you wouldn't right or no? No.

Zeke shakes him.

ZEKE

Hang in there buddy.

MO

You know what would go great with this ice cream? Pyramids.

SOPHIE

Is he having a stroke.

MO

It's not me fault. You're pretty I like you you're pretty.

ZEKE

(Sotto to Mo)

Stop fighting it, you're making it worse.



MO  
(shutting his eyes)  
I'm just closing for one minutes.  
Not even.

Mo falls asleep, collapsing into his cup of Mint Chocolate Chip.

SOPHIE  
Oh my god.

INT. ZEKE'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Zeke and Sophie sit in the front. Monroe is asleep but propped up in the back seat.

ZEKE  
Well this is a strange situation

SOPHIE  
Yeah.

ZEKE  
Listen, don't let this whole, Mo passing out thing turn you off. He really is a great guy. And this is probably like 10 percent my fault.

SOPHIE  
You guys are really running a great operation over here.

ZEKE  
That's what he said! See you two are perfect for each other.  
(then)  
Okay, let's get you home.

INT/EXT KATE KAUFMAN HOUSE - LATER

Monroe's older sister answers the door. Zeke is holding Mo like a baby in his arms.

ZEKE  
(as if nothing was wrong)  
Hey Kate.

KATE  
Oh my god what's wrong with him.

ZEKE

(annoyed at her lack of  
manners)

How about: Hi Zeke. Nice to see  
you. How are you? It's been a long  
time. This is a nice surprise. You  
look great. Did you lose some  
weight? I can't stop thinking about  
you.

KATE

Does he need to go to the hospital?

ZEKE

(Stepping into the house)

No, he took an Ambien.  
Accidentally. I let him out of my  
sight for one second and you know-  
(then)  
You've done a little redecorating  
since the last time we were here.

KATE

You drugged him? Is he going to be  
okay?

ZEKE

You know I recently came into a  
small collection of art myself. A  
few Cutlers, a Fujikawa print.  
Mostly up and comers. You should  
come over some time and check it  
out.

KATE

I'm calling my parents.

ZEKE

Please don't. He's fine I promise.  
He just needs to sleep this off.  
Can I put him down somewhere?

KATE

Put him on the couch.

Zeke walks over to the couch and lays him down. He waits  
until Kate is looking in his direction and then kisses Mo on  
the forehead.

ZEKE

(for her benefit)

It's going to be okay buddy.

KATE

So what I just wait until he wakes up and then take him home?

ZEKE

I would really feel more comfortable waiting with him. Your parents aren't expecting him home for a few hours, he'll be up by then.

She looks at him, knowing full well what he's doing.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Your Dad gave me a big speech, there may have been a cash bribe. I don't want him to think he can't trust me with Mo's safety.

KATE

(indicating her passed out brother)

Yeah I don't know why he would ever think that. Mo looks up to you. You have to take better care of him.

ZEKE

(defensive)

I reuse those pill bottles over and over. It's very hard to keep track.

(He looks to Mo then turns back to Kate)

Do you have any water or something?

KATE

That's a good idea, do you think he'll drink it.

ZEKE

I meant more for me.

She rolls her eyes and walks into the other room. Zeke looks around at the house.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

So where's what-his-face?

KATE (O.S.)

(from the other room)

You know his name.

ZEKE

Where is Doug?

KATE (V.O.)  
Doug is at an opening.

ZEKE  
That sounds about right, what a  
prick. Why didn't you go?

KATE (V.O.)  
I didn't feel like getting dressed  
up.

Zeke looks at his sleeping friend on the couch and then gets up and goes to the kitchen. He comes up from behind and puts his arms around her.

ZEKE  
You know if you were my girlfriend,  
you would never have to get dressed  
up for anything.

She pretends not to like what's going on.

KATE  
Of course not, we would just smoke  
pot and watch Top Gun every night  
until we starved to death.

She turns around so they are face to face.

KATE (CONT'D)  
You aren't a kid anymore. But he  
is. And you aren't doing him any  
favors. Getting him stoned before  
my Dad's birthday. Drugging him  
like this, and god knows what else.

ZEKE  
(thinking about everything  
else)  
That's pretty much it.

KATE  
It's obvious that he hangs out with  
you so he can feel cool. But one  
day he is going to wake up and  
realize you are just hanging out  
with him because you need to feel  
cool too, and he is the last person  
on earth who thinks you are. And  
then he won't.

This lands hard with Zeke. He drops his head, this is the most vulnerable we've seen him.

KATE (CONT'D)  
I'm sorry. That was maybe too far.

He lifts his head and kisses her.

KATE (CONT'D)  
(pulling away)  
What are you doing?

ZEKE  
I just thought-

KATE  
THAT is what you took away from  
what I just said?

Long silence.

ZEKE  
I love you.

KATE  
Don't say that. Even if it's true  
don't say it.

He kisses her hard, this time she doesn't pull away.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ZEKE'S CAR - LATER

Mo slowly wakes up and tries to get his bearings. He is sitting in the passenger seat. They are parked in front of Mo's house.

MO  
What happened?

ZEKE  
You did great tonight buddy.

MO  
I fell asleep.  
(waking up)  
You drugged me.  
(very awake)  
Oh god you son of a bitch what did  
you do?

ZEKE  
It's fine. Everything is fine.  
Relax.

MO

Don't tell me to relax. The last time you told me to relax I passed out in my Ice Cream. Oh fuck, I need to call her.

ZEKE

No no man, it was cool. Like you didn't give a shit. Like you couldn't be bothered to stay awake.

MO

You really are a psycho.

Mo get's out of the car.

Zeke sits in the car. Thinking about what Kate said. Thinking about this boy who's life he continues to mess up. He turns up the music and drives away.

EXT. MO'S HOUSE - SAME TIME

Before Mo can make it to the front door he get's a phone call.

MO

Hello? - Right now? - Is everything okay? - I'm sort of - Nothing - Can it wait until tomorrow? Okay I'm on my way.

Mo walks to his car and get's in.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING

He rings the buzzer.

MO

It's me.

The front door buzzes and he rushes in.

INT. APARTMENT

Holly opens the front door, she is in a towel, fresh out of the shower. She holds an empty drink in her hand and Mo can smell the whiskey coming out of her pores.

MO

What's wrong?

HOLLY

Come in.

MO

You made it seem like you were in trouble.

HOLLY

Oh stop being dramatic.

MO

(still panting a little)  
Me? You literally said "come quick I'm in trouble."

HOLLY

You are hilarious.

(Then)

I'm going to go get dressed. Make us a refill.

MO

Um-

He walks over to the bar she has set up in the corner of the studio apartment.

MO (CONT'D)

I have to be up really early tomorrow, I should probably-

HOLLY

So just because me and Zeke broke up you don't want to be my friend anymore? That's pretty lame.

MO

No it's not that.

HOLLY

One drink. I just want to catch up.

He gives up. She puts on a record, something sexy.

MO

Your apartment is very adult.

He fumbles his way around the bar trying to remember how Zeke makes whiskey sours.

When he finally finishes he brings the drinks into the room where Holly is sitting at a white vanity next to her bed. She is completely naked combing her hair. He can see her body reflected in the mirror. She smiles at him.

MO (CONT'D)  
 (gulping)  
 I thought you just wanted to catch  
 up?

She puts on a turquoise silk robe and stands up to face him.

MO (CONT'D)  
 You don't want to-

HOLLY  
 You are a really good guy.

His voice cracks.

MO  
 Thanks.

HOLLY  
 You are a lot better than your  
 friend.

MO  
 Well I- I don't think it's a  
 competition. We both have our  
 strengths-

She opens her robe.

MO (CONT'D)  
 -and weaknesses.

HOLLY  
 Have you ever thought about doing  
 this with me?

MO  
 Yes.

She pushes him onto the bed.

SFX - A crowd cheering

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - DAY

Mo walks up to the plate. Everybody in the stands are  
 cheering for him, including Zeke, Tony and Nick. Mo clearly  
 has a pit in his stomach.

The first ball flies by.

UMP  
 Strike.



He looks at Zeke who motions for him to get lower. Mo crouches down. The pitch...

UMP (CONT'D)

Ball 1

PITCHER

He's too short, I have nowhere to put the ball.

NICK

(yelling from the stands)  
Hey asshole I'll show you where you can put the ball.

The pitch...

UMP

Ball 2.

Angle on the boys clapping.

Angle on Mo looking at Zeke, feeling terrible.

ZEKE

I'm worried about Mo.

NICK

What about him?

ZEKE

I think we are getting him in over his head.

The pitch...

UMP

Ball 3.

NICK

He's loving it.

ZEKE

He's loving it because he thinks he's impressing us.

NICK

So what do you want to do?

ZEKE

I don't know, I think he is just losing it a little. Those kids crashed the car, and the roofie date. I'm just worried-

TONY  
 (Godfather impression)  
 This is not the life I wanted for  
 my boy.

The pitch....

UMP  
 Ball 4. Take your base.

Mo walks to first base.

ZEKE  
 (yelling from the stands)  
 There you go baby. Just like that.  
 Every time, every fucking time.  
 (sitting down)  
 Love that little shrimp.

INT. MO'S ROOM - NIGHT

It's snowing outside. Mo is on the phone as he looks out his window and sees Nick and Tony pull up outside the mailbox.

MO  
 They just got here.

ZEKE'S APARTMENT

Zeke is talking on his bluetooth while doing crunches.

ZEKE  
 Alright. You okay?

MO  
 Yeah, I'm good. Do I not seem good?  
 I'm good. I swear.

ZEKE  
 Are you just nervous about seeing  
 Sophie?

MO  
 No, no. I mean, yeah sort of.

ZEKE  
 Well don't worry, it's going to be  
 great. I know she likes you. You  
 already have it on lock.

MO  
 You think?

ZEKE

You're going to do great.

MO

Alright, I'll talk to you after.

Mo hangs up feeling like a big asshole.

EXT./INT. HOUSE PARTY NIGHT

We track behind Mo as he walks into the party. This is easily the biggest house we've seen yet. Snow covers the front yard.

The banner in front reads "Christmas Bros and Ho Ho Hos"

Unlike everybody else, Mo didn't really feel like dressing like Santa.

BASEMENT

He sees a girl he recognizes.

MO

Hey do you know if Sophie is here?

GIRL

No.

MO

No she's not here or no you don't know?

The girl is gone before he can finish his sentence.

INT. ZEKE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Zeke is playing video games and eating cereal in his underwear. There is a knock at the door.

He get's up to answer it. It's Holly, she has been crying.

ZEKE

Hey you okay? Come in.

Without saying anything she moves to the couch and tries to catch her breath.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

What's wrong?

HOLLY

I miss you.

ZEKE

Hol.

HOLLY

I know I screwed up with the whole  
Mo thing.

ZEKE

What whole Mo thing?

INT. HOUSE PARTY - BASEMENT

Mo walks out of the bathroom, shoving a wad of cash in his pocket. On the other side of the party we see Epstein wearing an elaborate Santa costume. He watches Mo.

Mo tries one more time...

MO

Hey have you seen Sophie?

RANDOM DUDE

Who's Sophie?

MO

Never mind.

EXTREME CLOSE UP - PHONE CALL

Eppy, stands in front of the house on the phone.

EPPY

Yes, Officer Peters? It's Jonathan  
Epstein. The kid you are looking  
for is at 2253 Ridgeland.

(hating what he is doing)

Yes, I saw the drugs.

We are tight on Epstein but can still make out the booming party behind him.

EPPY (CONT'D)

Yes. His name is Monroe Kaufman.

He hangs up the phone feeling embarrassed and pathetic.

INT. HOUSE PARTY - SAME TIME

Mo is about to leave the party when Sophie walks in.

SOPHIE

Mo.

MO  
There you are.

SOPHIE  
You looking for me?

MO  
Yes.

SOPHIE  
Well I'm here. Are you leaving?

MO  
No. Not anymore.

He turns around and walks back in with her.

INT. ZEKE'S CAR - SAME TIME

Zeke is driving his car and stuffing his face with a cheeseburger and smoking a joint and singing along with Ashanti's Foolish on the radio.

ZEKE  
(to himself)  
My Mo?

INT - PARTY

Mo and Sophie are off in the corner watching drunk kids acting drunk and stupid. Mo is nervous, he keeps opening his mouth to talk and then decides not to until...

MO  
I'm sorry about the other night.

SOPHIE  
It's okay. Zeke told me what happened.

MO  
I think I am realizing that Zeke may have no idea what he is talking about.

It's hard to hear him over the music.

SOPHIE  
You want to go upstairs?

MO  
Um, yeah, sure.

They leave the kitchen and walk up stairs into a bedroom.

We see Epstein dressed as Santa looking angry at the world. He watches them go upstairs, then chugs his beer.

INT. PARTY - UPSTAIRS BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mo closes the door.

MO

Hi.

SOPHIE

What were you saying?

Sophie sits down on the bed.

ZEKE'S CAR - SAME TIME

Still driving, eating and singing. He slows down when he sees three police cars turn down a nearby subdivision. He looks at the street sign and instantly knows where they are going. He throws the joint out the window, eats a breathmint, sprays some freshener and makes a U-turn.

As he turns onto the street he is stopped by one of the police cars. Their lights are off and they are forming a quiet barricade. An officer walks to his window.

OFFICER

Sorry, this street is closed off.

ZEKE

What's going on?

OFFICER

Some house party got out of hand.  
Kids selling drugs.

ZEKE

(now very worried)  
Do you know who?

OFFICER

We are going to need you to take  
another way home.

ZEKE

It could just be somebody watching  
TV too loudly. You shouldn't jump  
to conclusions.

OFFICER

Either way sir you need to keep moving.

ZEKE

This seems like a real waste of manpower for a little house party. People are getting shot up in the street for god sake.

OFFICER

Sir are you saying you are aware of a shooting going on right now?

ZEKE

What? No? What? I'm just- this is my tax dollars at work man.

OFFICER

Sir if you don't-

ZEKE

I'm going I'm going.

Zeke pulls his car around the corner and parks it. He gets out and starts running through backyards towards the big house at the end of the street.

INT. BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Mo is pacing back and forth in front of the bed.

MO

Can we start over and have a first date so that we can have a first date where I didn't pass out in front of you and my sister's ex-boyfriend--

SOPHIE

Sure...

MO

--but also not totally start over to before we kissed, because that was stressful enough and this time I'll just tell you how much I like you instead of taking Zeke's advice to play it cool because let's face it Zeke's advice can only really get me as far as Zeke and is that how far I want to go, you know? I don't know. I'm--

SOPHIE  
 (interrupting his rant)  
 How much do you like me?

Mo snaps to attention.

MO  
 I really like you.

SOPHIE  
 I like you too. You know I liked  
 you before I met Zeke. I liked that  
 you never tried to fit in.

MO  
 Ya?

He sits down on the bed next to her.

SOPHIE  
 Yeah I thought you were like some  
 cool mysterious bad boy that played  
 by his own rules.

MO  
 (sarcastic)  
 Oh yeah, that's totally me. Mister  
 bad ass.

They kiss.

INT./EXT. PARTY - FRONT DOOR - SAME TIME

Three cops burst through the front door. Forty Santas and  
 slutty elves scream and run in every direction.

OFFICER  
 Nobody move. Where the hell is  
 Monroe Kaufman.

They look at a nearby coffee table where a bag of cocaine has  
 been left out.

OFFICER 2  
 Don't let anybody out.

OFFICER  
 Where is Monroe Kaufman?

EPPY  
 (pointing upstairs)  
 He's upstairs in that bedroom.



BEDROOM

They stop kissing.

MO  
Did you hear my name?

SOPHIE  
Of course I heard your name the  
cops are screaming it.

Mo jumps up.

MO  
I was really hoping that was in my  
head.

OUTSIDE

Zeke is almost there. He is trudging through the deep snow.

ZEKE  
Fuck fuck fuck fuck fuck.

BEDROOM

A loud knock on the door.

OFFICER (O.C.)  
Monroe Kaufman are you in there?  
Open this door. This is the police.

MO  
Oh my god.

SOPHIE  
How do they know your name?

Mo starts pacing around the room, not sure what to do.

MO  
Shit shit shit shit shit.

OUTSIDE

ZEKE  
Fuck fuck fuck fuck fuck.

BEDROOM

MO  
Shit shit shit shit shit.

SOPHIE  
What is going on?

Mo moves to the window at the opposite end of the room. It faces the backyard. He opens the window and looks down. There is a large patch of soft powdery snow, enough to cushion his fall. He climbs out onto the ledge.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)  
What are you doing?

Mo looks out the window.

MO  
They'll never take me alive.

SOPHIE  
What?

MO  
No, I'm kidding. They'll totally take me alive.

He kisses her then jumps out of the window.

He falls through the soft powder...

CRACK

...into the frozen over swimming pool.

UNDER WATER

Mo is struggling. Trying to find a way out of the frozen pool.

Everything goes silent.

OUTSIDE OF THE POOL

Zeke gets to the backyard of the house and looks around frantically. He sees Sophie in the second floor window. She points to the pool.

UNDER WATER

Terrified, Mo closes his eyes and curls up in the fetal position.

Zeke appears under the water swimming towards Mo.

As Zeke pulls Mo to the surface, several twenty dollar bills fall out of his pockets and float around them.

## OUTSIDE OF THE POOL

Zeke emerges, soaking wet with Mo, who is unconscious, thrown over his shoulder. The music swells.

Zeke turns away from the house and runs with his friend into the woods.

Zeke carries Mo deep into the snowy woods as fast as he can.

## INT. EPSTEIN'S PARENTS MINIVAN - SAME TIME

Epstein sits in the backseat looking out in the window as kids run in every direction from the house. He destroyed the only thing he ever loved. A tear falls down his face as the busted up party fades into the white snowy darkness.

## INT. ZEKE'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM

We push in on Zeke's shower. He is fully dressed holding his friend, trying to warm him up under the hot water.

## INT. ZEKE'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

Mo comes out of the room, he is wearing new clothes that are way too big on him and drying his hair with a towel.

Zeke is sitting on the couch.

MO

I'm so screwed. They know my name.  
They can find me. I can't live here  
forever. It's not big enough.

ZEKE

Did you sleep with Holly?

MO

Oh fuck. No.

ZEKE

Mo.

MO

I am so sorry. Zeke, you have to  
understand. It happened so fast and  
I had never- and she- and the towel-  
Wait why are we even talking about  
this? My life is over.

(MORE)

MO (CONT'D)

So can we just figure that out and then get back to whatever else is going on here.

ZEKE

Oh relax. You will be fine.

MO

Easy for you to fucking say. You have literally never cared how this was going to end for me.

(it sinks in)

I need to run away, change my name or something. Oh shit...my parents.

Mo collapses against the wall and starts to cry. Zeke is unsure what to do. He tries to remember if he has ever seen Mo cry before and if he equipped to handle this.

ZEKE

Well I mean you don't need to go kill yourself.

Mo doesn't answer. He just hyperventilates into his hands.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Okay ya know what, I thought about, and I forgive you for the Holly thing. Our friendship is stronger than that.

MO

(through tears)

I'm going to go to jail and end up like you.

ZEKE

Come on, man. You're not going to end up like me.

MO

Of course I am. Look at me, It's already happened. I'm you.

ZEKE

(genuinely curious)

And that's a bad thing?

MO

(sobbing)

It's a nightmare.

ZEKE

Sure.

He stares at his little distraught friend.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Look, when the cops come, just tell them I did it, say I was bringing you the drugs and maybe you can make a deal or something, I dunno.

Mo stops crying and looks up.

MO

Really?

ZEKE

Fuck it. sure. Yeah, I mean.  
(pointing out his shitty  
apartment/life)  
What's the worst they can do to me?

Mo stands up.

MO

Are you sure?

ZEKE

Go home before I change my mind.

Mo moves to the door.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

They would rather arrest a big fish like me anyway.

Mo freezes, and turns on a dime, wiping away the last of his tears. He opens the door.

MO

I'm the biggest fuckin' fish there is.

Mo leaves, slamming the door behind him so hard that Zeke's new painting falls off the wall and crashes to the floor. Mo comes back in to survey the damage.

MO (CONT'D)

Oh shit, I'm sorry.

ZEKE

I'm glad you could stop crying long enough to make such a dramatic exit. That was a first edition Fujikawa print. Ass.

MO  
Should I stay and help clean up or-

ZEKE  
Goodbye.

INT. CLASSROOM - THE NEXT DAY

We are back where we started at the beginning. Mo is sitting in the back of the room spaced out. When the principal and Officer Peters walk into the room he knows exactly what is going on.

PRINCIPAL  
Monroe.

MO  
Yeah.

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Mo is led down the hall in handcuffs, the sea of bodies that he was pushing his way through a few months earlier completely splits.

FADE OUT.

ONE MONTH LATER

FADE IN:

EXT. PARK - DAY

Mo is wearing a neon orange vest over a winter coat. He is shoveling snow in a local park. Digging out the path as part of his court ordered community service.

INT. CAR - SAME TIME

Zeke sits in his car watching Mo and drinking hot coffee. After a while he honks the horn. Through the window we can see Mo realize who it is. Zeke holds up the hot coffee. Mo drops the shovel and walks over.

MO  
I'm freezing my balls off.

ZEKE  
You'll get used to it.

MO

What did you bring me?

Zeke pulls out a PB and J sandwich and splits off half for his friend.

ZEKE

Are you done over there?

MO

Yeah but now I gotta go do the thing.

ZEKE

Again?

MO

They called my number.  
(off Zeke's annoyed look)  
What do you want from me? I lost my license. I can't drive myself. I'm sure they would give it back to me if I turned you in. It might not even be too late for that. Who knows, I could be wearing a wire right now.

Zeke grumbles something under his breath and turns the car on.

MO (CONT'D)

(british accent)

Let's go driver. Show me the meaning of haste.

ZEKE

This is some bullshit.

INT. DRUG TESTING FACILITY - CONTINUOUS

A woman sitting at the receptionist desk greets Mo with a smile. The waiting room is filled with some real grimey looking halfway-house type dudes. Zeke follows behind.

MO

Just go sit over there. I'll be a minute.

RECEPTIONIST

Hi Monroe.

MO

Hey Rhonda.

He goes up to her desk and signs in on a little clipboard then sits down next to Zeke.

MO (CONT'D)

We gotta go by the grocery store after this. Soph needs some stuff.

ZEKE

Are you sure I'm not third wheeling with you guys tonight?

MO

Are you kidding? Sophie loves you. She personally asked me to bring you.

ZEKE

Did you ever tell her about you and Holly?

MO

Ya know it hasn't come up.

ZEKE

So she thinks that-

MO

She was my first, yeah.

ZEKE

Wow good for Holly. Not only did she take your virginity. She is also the first girl you and I have ever both shared.

MO

First and last.

RECEPTIONIST

Monroe.

ZEKE

I don't know man, you should see the way Sophie looks at me.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mo pees into the cup.

INT. DRUG TESTING FACILITY - CONTINUOUS

He puts the cup of urine in the cabinet.



MO  
I'm feeling really good about this  
batch.

RECEPTIONIST  
See you on Thursday.

MO  
(To a passed out addict)  
Hang in there José.

Zeke follows him out.

ZEKE  
Is he dead?

MO  
Probably.

INT. GROCERY STORE - LATER

The boys walk down an aisle. Mo pushes the cart and reads  
from the list.

MO  
(reading)  
Raw Catfish nuggets.

ZEKE  
Shut up, it doesn't say that.

MO  
Yes it does.

ZEKE  
I'm not figuring out what that is,  
just bring her fish sticks.

Zeke opens the fridge and grabs a box of fish sticks.

MO  
(ignoring that)  
Well, I'll tell you, I did not  
think it was going to end like  
this.

ZEKE  
Like what?

MO  
I don't know. Everything is sort of  
fine.

ZEKE

Yeah man. What did you think, you were going to end up dead in a ditch somewhere? You sold some pot. Nobody got hurt.

MO

Well...some people got hurt.

ZEKE

Yeah but that would have happened with or without you. The sun doesn't rise and set just for you.

MO

No. I just- I don't know. I just feel the same. Like I am the same person I was last year. I just go to a different school.

ZEKE

You have a girlfriend. You are getting laid regularly.

MO

I do like that.

ZEKE

What's next? Let's get out of here.

MO

(reading)  
Pickled Ginger.

ZEKE

Go fuck yourself.

MO

Oh look there's Doug.

On the other end of the aisle Doug walks towards them.

ZEKE

Oh yeah. Ya know. That guy's not so bad.

MO

Look at you all grown up and mature.

ZEKE

I think I'm going to talk to him about giving me a job.

Doug socks Zeke in the face. Bringing him quickly to the ground. He starts punching him over and over. Mo is too stunned to intervene, he just watches as this guy savagely beats the shit out of Zeke.

MO

That's how I thought this would end.

CUT TO BLACK.

THE END