

DEAD MAN ON CAMPUS

the Mike White version

Revised-March 20, 1997 (Yellow)

Revised-March 19, 1997 (Pink)

Revised-March 13, 1997 (Blue)

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FADE IN:

1A	EXT. COUNTRY SIDE - DAY	1A
	Camera looks up at INDIANA STATE SIGN in front of a row of corn fields.	
	JOSH (V.O.)	
	Indiana's okay. You know, it's got pretty good corn and everything.	* *
1B	EXT. MISC. BEAUTY SHOTS OF INDIANA	1B
	JOSH (V.O.)	
	I've just always wanted more...and I'm hoping college will, you know, broaden my horizons.	* * *
1C	OMIT	1C *
1D	EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY	1D
	JOSH (V.O.)	
	I did a lot in high school. Student body president. Valedictorian.	* *
1E	EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY	1E
	JOSH (V.O.)	
	Played football.	* *
1F	EXT. CAR REPAIR - DAY	1F
	A broken car sits alone on the blocks.	
	JOSH (V.O.)	
	I worked part-time.	*
1G	OMIT	1G *

1G OMIT - Continued

1G *

1H EXT. HOUSE - DAY

1H

JOSH (V.O.)

Helped my mom around the house. But mostly I've studied. I've just been really focused on getting into a great college like Daleman so I could study medicine.

*
*
*
*
*

1J OMIT

1J *

1K INT. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

1K *

JOSH MILLER, dressed in coat and tie, is sweating bullets. He is in a college interview with a stern-faced DALEMAN REP.

*

JOSH

So, you know, to be accepted would be a dream come true for me.

Josh looks hopefully at the representative. The Rep is smiling gregariously

DALEMAN REP

I think you'd be a great addition to Daleman. With these grades, you may be eligible for an academic scholarship.

Josh is dumbfounded.

DALEMAN REP

It was a pleasure to meet you, Josh. Hope to see you in the Fall.

The Daleman Rep and Josh shake hands. Josh has a huge grin on his face.

CREDIT: PARAMOUNT PICTURES PRESENTS:

1 EXT. GREYHOUND BUS STATION - EARLY MORNING

1

A bus idles at the depot. TRAVELERS say good-bye to their loved ones. Josh and his Mother hug.

*

MOM

Go ahead, open it.

She hands him a rectangular box, which he opens. Inside, a sparkling new DOCTOR'S STETHOSCOPE.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

JOSH

Mom, I'm not gonna need this for six
years.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: (2)

1

MOM
 (placing it around his neck)
 Well, by that time, you'll know just
 how to use it.

Josh manages a smile.

P.A. VOICE
 ALL ABOARD!

*

The BUS DRIVER takes Josh's suitcase and hurls it into
 the bus's side compartment.

The compartment door slams.

CREDITS START - DEAD MAN ON CAMPUS

1L INT. PHOTOGRAPHY BOOTH - A BLINDING FLASH OF LIGHT

1L *

Josh rubs the spots from his eyes. He has just had his
 I.D. picture taken.

PHOTOGRAPHER (O.S.)
 Next.

*

There is a long line of students waiting for Josh to get
 up.

CLOSE SHOT of hands sealing a plastic coating on Josh's
 I.D. card. An irritated woman hands Josh his card and a
 set of room keys.

IRRITATED WOMAN
 Don't lose 'em.

2 EXT. DALEMAN COLLEGE - DAY

2

Establishing shot. A small, prestigious New England
 college. Josh stands, breathless, looking at the
 impressive ivy covered buildings.

As he walks, he takes in the first sights and sounds of
 college life: frisbees flying, STUDENTS congregating.

3 EXT. CAMPUS - DAY

3

Josh continues through the campus to his dorm.

4 EXT. WILLARD DORMITORY - DAY

4 *

Josh approaches his stately dorm and enters.

5 INT. WILLARD DORMITORY HALLWAY - DAY

5 *

There is a cacophony of MUSIC BLASTING from every room.

Josh walks down the dorm's hallway, getting glimpses into each room: ZEKE and his PARENTS bicker as they set up a computer; an overweight HANK, and tall, gangly JERRY drink beer and play video games; in another room quiet and bespectacled PICKLE is unpacking appliance boxes.

CREDITS END

6 INT. ROOM 212 - DAY

6 *

Josh enters the suite's common room, closing the door and shutting out all the noise. After a beat he hears the sound of hammering coming from one of the bedrooms.

He knocks on the door. KYLE, tall, beefy, surly, opens the door, holding a hammer. His room is a shrine to every super model who ever put out a poster.

KYLE

What do you want?

JOSH

Hi. You must be one of my roommates.
I'm Josh.

KYLE

(cutting him off)

The single's mine. I called it.

JOSH

That seems fair.

Kyle slams the door in Josh's confounded face.

7-10 OMIT

7-10*

10A INT. BEDROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

10A *

The room is filled with cardboard boxes Josh's Mother sent to him. Some of them are open. Clothes, books, childhood memorabilia are visible.

JOSH

(on phone)

They're all here, Mom. Don't worry.

(CONTINUED)

He fumbles with a small trophy that was packed in one of the boxes.

JOSH

I don't think you needed to send my math trophy here. No, no, I'm proud of it, too, but, you could've kept some stuff at the house.

Josh puts the trophy on his desk.

11 INT. CAFETERIA - NIGHT

11

Josh wanders the cafeteria with a tray of food, looking for an empty seat. He sees Kyle at a table eating, but decides to sit down by himself.

12 INT. DORM ROOM 212 - JOSH'S ROOM - NIGHT

12

Josh has unpacked his things. His books neatly line the shelves; his desk neatly arranged with supplies. He sits taking in his surroundings; the other half of the room is completely barren.

13 LATER - 12:30 AM

13

Josh is laying in bed in the dark, asleep. He wakes to the sound of water bubbling. Josh flips on the light.

TWO MOVERS in coveralls, bearing Cheshire cat grins, are across the room, getting stoned from a six-foot bong.

JOSH

(astonished)

Who are you?

MOVER #1

(exhaling puff of smoke)

Hola.

JOSH

What are you...?

Suddenly, COOPER FREDERICKSON, a charismatic, wealthy charmer enters carrying his suitcases.

COOPER

Oh, hey.

(to Movers)

Are you guys getting stoned again?

The Movers sheepishly rise and exit. Cooper shakes his head.

(CONTINUED)

COOPER

Sorry, we're late. It's 'cause Cheech and Chong here kept stopping off for snacks. We should have never gotten high in Boston. You are... Josh Miller.

*

JOSH

(simultaneously)

Josh Miller.

*

The movers start bringing in furnishings: a large television, an oversized stereo system...

COOPER

I'm Cooper Frederickson. Sorry we woke you.

JOSH

No problem.

COOPER

So, what have I missed, Josh? Any parties?

*

JOSH

Well, we had an orientation dinner.

Cooper wrinkles his nose, then intercepts one of the movers.

COOPER

Roberto. I want you to know, I'm not tipping Frank. He's on a power trip - he snaps at you and that bothers me. Here, take this forty dollars and get your own truck. Start your own company. Okay? Promise? Thanks, buddy.

The Mover exits. Cooper turns back to Josh.

COOPER

Josh, where do you think we should put the bong?

JOSH

Jeez, uh, in the closet.

COOPER

In the closet? This is a showcase bong. You wanna hit?

(CONTINUED)

JOSH

Nah, umm. I just brushed my teeth.

COOPER

You're not going back to bed are you?

JOSH

Actually, yeah. I gotta get up early tomorrow.

COOPER

Oh, shit. See I met a few people downstairs and I told 'em to come up for a drink. They're right outside. I'll get rid of them.

JOSH

No, no. That's okay.

COOPER

Really? Are you sure? 'Cause I could tell l'em all to get lost.

JOSH

No, it's cool. Let me just pull on some pants.

COOPER

Hey, you guys. Come on in!

13A Before Josh can get out of bed, the door swings open and 13A *
two dozen GUYS and GIRLS enter. Cooper, opening his mini- *
bar, turns to a pretty GIRL. *

COOPER

Hey, what'll it be? I got whiskey,
vodka, kahlua, Robitussin.

Josh, a bit shocked, watches from his bed as his room transforms into a chaotic party scene: the stereo is cranked up, students flirting, drinking and smoking pot.

Suddenly the door swings open. Kyle stands there, pissed off. He turns off the stereo.

KYLE

What the fuck?! Turn this shit off!

Everyone is silent. The party has come to a screeching halt.

(CONTINUED)

13A CONTINUED:

13A

COOPER
(extending hand)
Hey, buddy. You must be Kyle! I'm
Cooper.

KYLE
(annoyed)
I'm not your buddy, buddy.

COOPER
(spotting Kyle's posters)
Ohhh-kay. I see you like... girls.
Let me guess, the product of an all-
boys school. *

KYLE
Catholic all-boys school. *

COOPER
Holy Mary, Mother of God. No wonder.
You're so horny, you've turned mean.

KYLE
(threatening; in Cooper's
face)
Keep the music off, asshole or I'll
bash your fuckin' head in! *

COOPER
(whispering)
Hey, Kyle. This isn't Catholic boys'
school. It's college. You go around
bashing people's heads in, girls
aren't gonna think you're cool.
They're gonna think you're a steroid
freak with a pixie dick and an ass for
a brain. *

Kyle contemplates this for an extended moment.

KYLE
Really?

COOPER
(hand on Kyle's shoulder)
Yeah, man. Come join the party. You
need to meet some girls or you're
gonna explode.

Kyle relents. Cooper gives everyone a thumbs-up. The
party recommences.

(CONTINUED)

13A CONTINUED: (2)

13A

Pickle approaches Cooper with an armload of appliances, including a blender and an ice chipper.

PICKLE

Hey, I'm Pickle. I thought you could use these.

COOPER

Your name's Pickle? Well, thanks, Pickle. What'd you do - knock off an appliance store?

PICKLE

I had some stuff shipped here. Reminds me of home, you know?

COOPER

This blender reminds you of home?

PICKLE

(a little sad)

Yeah.

COOPER

How 'bout this ice chipper?

PICKLE

Yeah. Definitely.

14 Josh, still in bed, is flustered as he witnesses people going through all his stuff. Jerry inspects Josh's math trophy. 14

JERRY

What's this?

JOSH

Oh, it's a math award.

JERRY

Looks like a dildo.

15 Cooper plops down on the bed next to Josh, who seems a bit uncomfortable. 15

COOPER

So, Josh, tell me about yourself.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

JOSH

Oh, uh, I don't know. I'm from
Indiana. I'm in the six-year medical
program.

COOPER

(amazed)

You are? So I guess you like studied
in high school. That's cool. I had a
couple friends who did that.

*

Josh is distracted by the sight of a beautiful girl,
RACHEL entering the room. She is a sweet-faced
Manhattanite. Her roommates, KRISTIN - a prep school
girl and LUCY, demure and wide-eyed, are with her.
Cooper notices Josh staring at Rachel.

COOPER

Go talk to her.

JOSH

Nah. I don't think so.

COOPER

What? You just gonna sit in bed until
she goes home with somebody else?

JOSH

Umm. Look, I'm in my underwear here.
Could you hand me my pants?

COOPER

You don't need to get dressed, Josh.
I'll bring her over.

*

JOSH

No!

*

KYLE

(leaning in)

Her name's Rachel Gilmore. She's from
New York and she likes creative
writing.

*

Cooper and Josh give him a look. Kyle holds a freshman
faceook in his hand.

*

*

KYLE

Freshmen facebook. I've been jacking
off to this thing for three weeks.

*

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED: (2)

15

Kyle hands the facebook to Cooper, who grimaces and holds it by his fingertips. *

16 ON ZEKE, HANK AND JERRY

16

Zeke is showing the others his collection of prescription pills.

ZEKE

This is my brother's Ritalin.
Ritalin's good when you're studying
math or science. Just don't write
English papers on it 'cause they won't
make sense.

A beautiful GIRL, in a nightgown, passes by. The other
guys stare at her. Zeke is now talking only to himself.

ZEKE

These are my mom's diet pills - great
for pulling all-nighters and foreign
languages. This is my sister's
lithium. Probably should have left
this one at home.

17 ON COOPER - CONTINUOUS

17

Cooper yanks Josh out of bed. Josh scrambles to pull on
his pants, just as Kristin, Rachel and Lucy appear.

COOPER

Hey, ladies! Over here! We haven't
met. I'm Cooper and this is Josh. *

JOSH

(zipping pants, embarrassed) *

Hi.

LUCY

-Hi! I'm Lucy. I'm from Texas. And
these are my home girls. Right,
Kristin? *

Lucy laughs, putting her arm around Kristin. Kristin,
who is black, rolls her eyes. *

KRISTIN

Right, Lucy. *

COOPER

Y'all look like you could use a drink. *

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

LUCY

Oh. I'm easy. Pink lemonade?

*

COOPER

I might be a little low on pink
lemonade.

*

LUCY

What do they drink where you're from
Kristin?

*

KRISTIN

What do you mean, "where I'm from"?

*

LUCY

You know, the hood.

*

KRISTIN

Okay, Lucy. We need to have a talk.

*

Cooper pushes Josh toward Rachel.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: (2)

17

JOSH

Hey, uh, hi. You're name's Rachel,
right?

*
*

RACHEL

Yeah. How did you know?

*

JOSH

Well, it's in the facebook.

*

RACHEL

You memorized the facebook?

*

JOSH

No, no. I didn't. My roommate did.
He said he was, you know, jacking...
jack-a-lacking around to it.

*

RACHEL

He was what?

*

JOSH

I mean, I don't know. He, uh, never
mind.

*

KRISTIN

Rachel. I need you.

*

Rachel is being beckoned away.

RACHEL

Well, I'll see you around, maybe.

JOSH

Yeah, no, yeah. Yeah, yeah. No,
let's... Okay, I'll see ya.

RACHEL

Bye, Josh.

Rachel leaves. Josh stares after her.

COOPER

Smooth. You'll have to give me some
pointers.

The Two Movers pass by, flirting with TWO GIRLS. They
look like they've died and gone to Heaven.

18 ON KYLE AND GIRL

18

A blonde, KELLY, scantily clad, is approached by a drooling Kyle. She wears a cross around her neck.

KYLE
Nice cross.

KELLY
Thanks.

KYLE
You Catholic?

KELLY
Yeah. I went to Sacred Heart. School for girls.

They stand for a long moment, in awkward silence, then...

KYLE
I love you.

19 LATER - DORM HALLWAY

19

The party has spilled out into the hallway. Cooper has his arm around a beautiful Asian-American girl, PAM.

COOPER
It's hard to talk about, but sometimes when I get drunk, girls take advantage of me.

*
*
*

PAM
Girls can be such horn dogs.

*

COOPER
I know!

*

Kyle and Kelly are now making out in the middle of the hall, oblivious to everyone but each other.

Josh, looking sleepy, escapes into his bedroom.

20 OMIT

20

21 INT. JOSH AND COOPER'S ROOM - LATER

21

Josh is getting into bed. Cooper peers in.

COOPER
What are you doin' in here, Josh?

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

JOSH
Going to bed.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (2)

21

COOPER

But we're making friends out here.
You don't want me to have more friends
than you do, do ya?

JOSH

I gotta get up early.

COOPER

Okay, but when I walk out this door,
party's over for you.
(closing door)
I'm walking. I'm walking. Last
chance. Almost gone. Ah, ah, ah...

Cooper closes the door. Josh smiles, shutting his eyes.
We can still HEAR the PARTY RAGING OUTSIDE HIS ROOM.

22 INT. JOSH AND COOPER'S ROOM - NEXT MORNING

22

Josh's alarm clock starts BUZZING. Josh looks down,
notices one of the movers curled up at the foot of the
bed. Josh bolts up in bed. He looks across the room...
Cooper and Pam are in bed together, fast asleep, their
limbs entangled.

*
*
*

PAM

Cooper, my arm's asleep.

In a half-awake stupor, Cooper slugs her in the arm. She
shrieeks, then slugs him back.

23 EXT. CAMPUS COURTYARD - DAY

23

The first day of classes. Josh, looking well-scrubbed,
observes other students talking, tossing frisbees, etc.

RACHEL (O.S.)

Hey, Josh.

Josh turns to see a smiling Rachel, sandwiched between
Kristin and Lucy, passing by him. Before he can get a
word out, she's gone.

24 JOSH'S FIRST DAY - MONTAGE

24

A) Josh is having a meeting with his academic advisor.
ROBERTA, 40, African-American. She looks over his file.

ROBERTA

Your work study is in the Housing
Office. Six-year medical program.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

ROBERTA (cont'd)
Look at this course load. Biology.
Organic Chemistry. Calculus.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED: (2)

24

JOSH

Yeah, I'm trying to keep focused on my career track.

ROBERTA

Okay, but this is a lot of credits. Be sure you don't fall behind.

JOSH

I think I can handle it.

25 B) The short, stout BIOLOGY PROFESSOR paces the classroom. Josh looks at his thick Biology textbook. 25

BIOLOGY PROF.

This is not high school biology, okay people? You will not be bringing in ferns for show and tell.

26 C) Josh sits in Organic Chemistry class. The Rasputin-like CHEMISTRY PROFESSOR stands at the podium, holding a textbook. 26

CHEMISTRY PROF.

It is imperative that you buy my book Organic Chemistry: The Impossible Discipline or you will be so lost, you'll never be found again.

27 D) A sour-faced woman, ANATOMY PROFESSOR stands at the front of the room. The chalkboard behind her reads, "HUMAN ANATOMY LABORATORY". 27

ANATOMY PROF.

This is an advanced lab - we will be spending the majority of our time dissecting a human cadaver. Say hello to Bob.

*

The Anatomy Professor reveals a male corpse to the class.

*

ANATOMY PROF.

Let's open Bob up, shall we? Josh would you like to make the first incision?

*

*

*

*

E) Josh is in Calculus class. The CALCULUS PROFESSOR is already at the chalkboard, silently scribbling exotic equations. The student next to Josh whispers...

JOSH'S SEATMATE

This is the first class, isn't it?

*

29 F) Josh is being briefed by the head of the Housing Office, MERRILEE. She's been in this job way too long. 29

MERRILEE

Your job at the Housing Office is to process housing transfer requests. Don't answer the phone. Don't study during work. Don't annoy me. That's it.

30 INT. ROOM 212 - JOSH & COOPER'S ROOM - EVENING 30

Josh, his back-pack loaded with textbooks, comes home exhausted. He enters the bedroom. Cooper is still in bed. Hung-over, he moans out to Josh.

COOPER

(like a dying man)

Josh. Help. I need water.

Josh finds a bottle of water in the mini-bar. He tries handing it to Cooper. Cooper, feeble, just opens his mouth. Josh pours the bottle into Cooper's mouth, spilling it over Cooper's face. This seems to revive Cooper somewhat.

JOSH

Where's Pam?

COOPER

Pam? Sounds familiar. Oh, Pammy. I don't know. I thought I dreamt her. What time is it?

JOSH

It's seven-fifteen.

COOPER

It's so early.

JOSH

At night.

Josh opens the curtains.

31 INT. COMMON ROOM - MOMENTS LATER 31 *

Josh stares at a photo of Cooper and his family on Cooper's desk - the father's head has been defaced with a phony eye-patch and moustache. Cooper enters, wearing a bathrobe, a martini glass in his hand. Josh puts the photo down.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

COOPER

I can't believe this whole day is gone
and I had all these things I was gonna
do.

JOSH

Like go to your classes?

COOPER

Oh, shit, you know what, Josh? I
forgot to sign up for classes.

JOSH

You forgot to sign up for classes?

COOPER

Yeah. So they gave me these really
lame ones. American History.
English. I wanted to take a kung fu
fighting class.

Cooper does a few improvised karate kicks. In his
enthusiasm, he kicks a shelf off the wall.

Suddenly, the door opens. Kyle, still in his underwear,
and Kelly are huddled in a passionate grip. They've been
going at it non-stop since the night before.

KYLE

Hey, I just came by to pick up some of
my things. I'm gonna be staying over
in Kelly's room for a while. So while
I'm gone, don't fuck with my stuff.

COOPER

(indicating Kelly)

Easy killer. Remember what I told
you.

KYLE

Oh, yeah. Don't fuck with my stuff,
please.

Kyle and Kelly, in a clinch, adjourn into Kyle's bedroom.
Josh and Cooper smile at each other.

JOSH

How are you gonna graduate if you
don't go to your classes?

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED: (2)

31

COOPER

Josh, you don't need to go to your
classes to graduate. Didn't you learn
that lesson in high school?

JOSH

No, I actually learned the opposite.

COOPER

I don't want to blow your mind or
anything, but you don't need to go to
classes to graduate. I learned that
in high school.

(pointing to bong)

Josh. Look what I see.

*
*
*
*
*
*

JOSH

Thanks, but I have a study group.

COOPER

Study group? It's the first day.
What could you possibly have to study?

JOSH

(sorting his textbooks)

Calculus. Bio. Organic chemistry.

COOPER

Jeez. No roommate bonding?

31A Josh is already out the door. Cooper heads out to the
hallway and yells.

31A

*

COOPER

All right, don't make me wait up for
you.

*
*

32 INT. STUDENT LOUNGE - NIGHT

32

Josh has been in study group for hours with a crew of
bookish STUDENTS.

GIRL BOOKWORM

That can't be the answer. There's too
many variables in that equation.
Josh, do you have it?

JOSH

Uh, negative four?

They all snicker.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

BOY BOOKWORM

Well, that would be correct, Josh, if
we were still on binomials.

They all laugh again. Josh laughs feebly.

33 INT. JOSH AND COOPER'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

33

Josh is asleep in bed. The clock reads 4:15 AM. His door busts open. Cooper and a GIRL, both drunk, enter the room, giggling. Light from the common room shines on Josh.

They laugh, falling onto Cooper's bed with a CRASH. Josh's eyes open.

LATER

Josh tries to sleep as Cooper and the girl make love in the next bed.

COOPER

Pull on my lobes when you do that. Do you mind? Harder. Oh, yes. You have great instincts, Bethany. Don't worry about my roommate. He likes to watch.

*
*

Josh pulls his pillow over his head.

33A INT. HALLWAY - ANATOMY LAB - DAY

33A

Josh, exhausted, is running, late to class.

34 INT. ANATOMY LAB

34

The students are clustered around an examining table. His mouth drops when he sees what is on the table... a naked male corpse, bloated and blue. The Anatomy Prof. notices Josh's late arrival.

ANATOMY PROF.

Nice of you to join us, Josh. Why don't you point out Bob's tricuspid valve. Don't be afraid to touch it.

*
*
*

Josh points to a valve in the corpse.

*

ANATOMY PROF.

That's not it. Now you're gonna have to help me load Bob into my mini-van after class.

*
*
*

Josh cringes.

34AA EXT. DORM - NIGHT - ESTABLISHING

34AA*

We can HEAR Cooper counting...

COOPER (O.S.)
Sixteen, seventeen, eighteen..

34A INT. JOSH AND COOPER'S ROOM - NIGHT

34A

Josh is trying to study as Cooper mindlessly bounces a tennis ball up and down on the head of a racket.

COOPER
Nineteen, twenty... You think if I do this long enough, I can get into the Guinness?

JOSH
You know, it's hard for me to study while you're doing that...

Cooper inadvertantly knocks the ball against Josh's forehead.

COOPER
Oh. Sorry.

Cooper puts down the tennis racket. He sits for a moment, then starts opening can after can of tennis balls.

COOPER
(breathing in fumes)
Whoa. This is giving me a buzz.

JOSH
Could you please shut up! I'm trying to do some work!

Cooper rolls his eyes. He heads to the door, defiantly.

COOPER
(turning back)
I'm going to Pickle's room so if you want to take a break later...
(off Josh's look)
Forget it!

35 INT. PICKLE'S ROOM - LATER

35

GUYs wander the room, making use of Pickle's vast array of appliances. Cooper is on the couch, playing Sega. Josh enters and approaches Pickle.

(CONTINUED)

GUYS

Hey, Josh! How's it going?

JOSH

All right, I guess. I'm totally beat.
I got a long night ahead of me.

PICKLE

Want some coffee?

JOSH

Yeah. Thanks, Pickle.

PICKLE

Okay. What do you want? This one
makes espressos. This one's an ice
cream frappuccino deal.

JOSH

Triple espresso.

Pickle makes the drink. Josh sits down next to Cooper,
trying to make nice.

JOSH

Look, I know we're different. We just
gotta find the best way to share the
room so I can study and you can do...
whatever the hell it is you do...

COOPER

Hey, it's cool. So, uh, how's it
going?

JOSH

Okay. I think I'm okay in Biology and
Anatomy Lab. Pretty lost in Organic
Chemistry. But I'm dying in Calculus.
How you doin'?

COOPER

Well, I've killed seventeen snipers.
But I'm low on ammo and I just shot
one of my own guys. Big point
deduction. Wanna go grab a beer?

(Josh shakes his head,
smiling)

No. I didn't think so.

Pickle brings Josh his espresso.

*

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED: (2)

35

COOPER

Oh, shit! Game over. Pickle, there's too many people in here. I can't concentrate.

PICKLE

I'll see what I can do.

36 OMIT

36

36A EXT. COURTYARD - DAY

36A

Two weeks have passed. Students, bundled up in heavier coats, race to class. Rachel, Kristin and Lucy pass by Cooper who is laying out on the grass.

RACHEL

Cooper, the first few weeks were funny, but it's 45 degrees out.

KRISTIN

Yeah. What's your major, the Club Med vacation.

COOPER

No, my major is genitalogy.

LUCY

What's genitalogy?

KRISTIN

Oh God. Don't ask.

COOPER

It's like palm reading. You can tell people's futures by looking at their genitals.

LUCY

You can?!

KRISTIN

Cooper. You are so twisted.

COOPER

That's why you girls love me so much.

KRISTIN

Rachel doesn't love you. She loves your roommate.

RACHEL

Shut up, Kristin!

(CONTINUED)

36A CONTINUED:

36A

COOPER

(grinning)

Oh, really! Well, let's see what we
can do about that.

*

36B OMIT

36B *

37 INT. ROOM 212 - JOSH & COOPER'S ROOM - NIGHT

37

Josh, on edge, talks on the phone to his mother.

JOSH

(lying terribly)

No, Mom, the work is fine. I'm a
little nervous 'cause mid-terms are in
three weeks, but, yeah, it's going
great. Really... super. Can you hold
on a second?

*
*
*
*

(he clicks over)

Hello?

COOPER'S VOICE

Josh! It's me. I'm heading over to
the Lucky Peach. There's three girls
waiting for me and I can't think of
any girly things to say. I need back
up. Don't say no.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

37

JOSH
No, Cooper.

Suddenly, the door swings open and Cooper enters the room, holding a cell phone.

COOPER
If I was some boring, old professor,
then you wouldn't say no. You're a
pawn, Josh. Stick it to the man. *

Josh shakes his head.

COOPER
The revolution will not be televised!

Cooper storms out. Josh clicks back to his mother.

JOSH
Hi, Mom. That was, uh, Cooper. He
wants to meet me at the library. Why
don't I call you later, okay? I love
you, too.

Josh looks down at the opened anatomy textbook in front of him. He stares at it, contemplatively, then closes it shut.

He heads to the door and opens... Cooper is standing there, beaming with delight.

COOPER
I never doubted you for a second.

JOSH
One drink. Then I gotta get back.

Cooper puts his arm around Josh and they head out.

37A EXT. LUCKY PEACH - LATER

37A

Cooper and Josh approach the bar.

COOPER
Now be charming. And don't talk about
how you should be studying. Trust me -
it's a turn-off.

38 INT LUCKY PEACH

38

They enter the bar, scanning the crowd. It's a healthy mix of students and townies.

(CONTINUED)

JOSH

I think this is a bad idea, Cooper. I better get back.

Suddenly, Rachel appears behind them.

RACHEL

Hey, Josh. Where've you guys been? We're getting drunk without you.

Rachel heads off to a booth. Josh shakes his head at Cooper, who grins.

COOPER

What were you saying? You better get back?

JOSH

Never mind.

Josh and Cooper join Kristin, Lucy and Rachel at their booth in the corner. Lucy is drunk for the first time in her life and she's out of sorts.

KRISTIN

We finished the pitcher.

LUCY

More beer! More beer!

COOPER

A responsible guy would cut you off right now. I'll be back with two pitchers.

Josh sits down next to Rachel.

RACHEL

How's everything going?

JOSH

With me? Oh, awesome. Yeah, yeah. If I didn't have so much hellish work every friggin' second. I should probably be studying right now...

Josh stops short, realizing he's saying the wrong thing.

RACHEL

I know. I'm supposed to be working on a story for my writing class.

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED: (2)

38

LUCY
(a deep thought stirring
her)
God... college would be perfect if you
didn't have classes.

They pause for a second, then break up laughing.

39 AT THE BAR

39

The withered old bartender, SONNY, fills Cooper's
pitcher. He talks in a gravelly baritone.

SONNY
You one of them Daleman kids?

COOPER
Nah, I'm a townie - I work at the
refinery... factory... mill.

SONNY
What's that on yer shirt?

*

Cooper realizes he's wearing a DALEMAN COLLEGE
sweatshirt.

SONNY
Let's see an I.D.

Cooper casually takes out his wallet and shows his I.D.

SONNY
That's a bullshit I.D.

COOPER
What? No! I'm very very legal.
(off Sonny's look)
You know what? You're right. Here's
my real one.

*

SONNY
(reading the name)
Dr. Mohammed Rasheed?

COOPER
(displaying IDs)
How 'bout this one? This one?

SONNY
(amused)
Just take the goddamn beer.

40 LATER - BACK AT TABLE

40

Cooper has returned with the pitcher. He has one arm around Kristin and the other around Lucy.

They both throw his hands off, in unison. Rachel pours Josh a beer.

JOSH

So, what's your story about?

RACHEL

(coy)

Uh, well. It's about a girl at college. She's from New York, like me. And she has a crush on this guy at her school... He's really sweet. He's pre-med.

Rachel looks at Josh to see if he's catching her drift. He's not.

JOSH

(nodding)

Right.

RACHEL

He's from Indiana.

JOSH

Really? I'm from Indiana.

RACHEL

(slowly)

Yeah. I know. And this girl really likes him.

JOSH

(still oblivious)

Then what happens?

RACHEL

Forget it. Let me start over.

(pointing to herself)

There's a girl...

(pointing to him)

...who likes a guy. Do you have any idea what I'm talking about?

*
*

41 EXT. BRIDGE - LATER

41

Josh, Cooper, Rachel, Kristin and Lucy have wandered onto the Daleman Bridge. They all have had a few drinks.

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

41

Kristin, Lucy and Rachel are attempting drunken cart wheels. Josh and Cooper sit on the side of the bridge, looking down. Cooper is throwing rocks into the water.

COOPER

Shit. It's a long way down.

JOSH

How do you do it?

COOPER

Do what?

JOSH

You haven't been to any classes since you got here. Don't you feel guilty?

COOPER

Guilty? Uhh... no.

JOSH

God. You are such a slacker.

COOPER

Don't try to label me, Josh.

JOSH

I get it. You're like a millionaire - you probably have some family business to go into.

COOPER

You know what my dad does for a living? He cleans toilets. He's a toilet cleaner, Josh.

(off Josh's look)

Well, he owns this toilet cleaning company. It's pretty big. Actually, it's huge. He's an incredible asshole. I call him Flushles, the Toilet cleaning clown. He loves that. Do you think I'm gonna spend the rest of my life cleaning toilets?

JOSH

So what are you gonna do?

COOPER

I don't know. Everyone's so obsessed with the future. Who cares? We should be having fun.

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED: (2)

41

JOSH

Fun's a dead end, Cooper. The guys who had fun in my high school work at the bowling alley and drink paint thinner on the week-ends. I gotta stay on track.

COOPER

Okay, Josh, but you're missing out. College is our last chance to go crazy.

We HEAR the sounds of wretching. Cooper and Josh look over. Lucy is puking off the side of the bridge.

LUCY

Does anyone have a tic-tac?

42 Rachel approaches with Kristin.

42

RACHEL

(to Josh)

Hey, I think I'm gonna go home. Will you walk me?

JOSH

Yeah. Of course.

Everyone says their good-byes. Cooper gives Josh a wink. Rachel and Josh head off.

KRISTIN

Looks like Josh and Rachel hit it off.

COOPER

Oh, yeah. He's a tiger. An animal. He's slept with Madonna.

KRISTIN

I think Rachel likes her guys a little more tame than that.

COOPER

Oh, well, when I say he's an animal, I mean, more like a puppy. Like a little lovable puppy. The kind you wanna take home and... have nasty, dirty sex with. How 'bout you? You like to dominate your men? Hmm? You wanna dominate me? You wanna dominate little Cooper?

Kristin and Cooper kiss.

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED:

42

Lucy, the odd girl out, passes out against a lamp post. *

43 EXT. CLARK DORM - NIGHT

43

Rachel climbs the steps to her dorm. She realizes Josh has remained at the foot of the steps.

JOSH

Good night.

RACHEL

(as if he were a moron)

This way.

Josh gets the picture.

44 INT. CLARK HALLWAY

44

Rachel walks to her room. Josh follows. She unlocks her door, then smiles at Josh.

RACHEL

This way.

45 INT. RACHEL'S ROOM

45

Josh is uncomfortable as Rachel leads him into her bedroom. Once there, he takes a seat at her desk.

RACHEL

(points to her bed)

This way.

Josh goes to the bed and sits on it. Rachel undresses. She's wearing sexy black underwear. Josh stops breathing for a moment, then stands.

JOSH

I know the way from here.

They embrace, passionately kissing.

46 INT. JOSH AND COOPER'S ROOM - NOON

46

Cooper is taking a bong hit as Josh walks into the room, in a disheveled, blissful state.

COOPER

Young man, where have you been? I was up all night, worried sick.

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED:

46

JOSH

I love college. I love everything about it. The people. The freedom. The carpets. The walls.

COOPER

You had sex last night, didn't you?

JOSH

(nodding)

It was so easy, Cooper. I didn't do anything - I mean, to make it happen. I didn't have to beg or get gross or I don't know. It was just like "Time for sex". "We're gonna have sex now." "Prepare to have sex." You should have seen her underwear. Little black...

COOPER

I'd like to.

JOSH

What have I been thinking, spending all my time in the library?

Josh takes the bong and lights it.

*

COOPER

That's what I've been trying to tell you.

47 "FAILURE" MONTAGE - JOSH'S BEDROOM

47

Josh smiles, laying back on his bed. We REVEAL he is with Rachel on Josh's bed. They laugh and pull the covers over their heads.

48 INT. CALCULUS CLASS

48

As the Calculus Prof. lectures, using an overhead projector, the entire class takes copious notes. Josh, however, just stares at his pencil, rolling it back and forth in his fingers...

49 EXT. CAMPUS COURTYARD

49

Josh is now rolling a joint back and forth in his fingers. He is up on the rooftop with Cooper, Kristin, Lucy and Rachel. Josh hands the joint to Cooper who lights it. We cut out on the flame.

50 INT. CHEMISTRY LAB - DAY 50 *

A flame. Pulling back, we reveal Josh in lab, lighting a Bunsen burner.

51 OMIT 51

52 OMIT 52 *

53 INT. STUDENT LOUNGE - ON TEXTBOOK 53 *

Josh is studying a biology textbook. A color diagram of a naked woman, with veins and arteries exposed. Caption over diagram reads: "HUMAN BODY: FEMALE". Josh double-takes, the woman is now a Vargas girl, posing seductively, still showing her veins. *

54 INT. ALTERNATIVE HOUSE 54

A decadent party is going on, filled with the more alternative, grunge types on campus.

Cooper and Josh look mind-numbingly toasted. Cooper, holding a bag of weed, taps Josh on his shoulder.

COOPER

Josh, Josh. The papers. Where are the papers?

He looks totally confounded.

JOSH

What?

55 INT. ORGANIC CHEMISTRY CLASS ROOM 55

CHEMISTRY PROF.

Your papers. Pass in your papers.

Pulling back, we find Josh in his Organic Chemistry class. He looks down at his mid-term. He looks down at the test - the equations are a blur - like some foreign language. Josh rubs his eyes, in disbelief. He furiously fills out bubbles. *

The Chemistry Prof. walks the aisles, retrieving the tests. He tries to take Josh's test away, but Josh holds onto it for dear life. They have a tug of war over the test. Josh finally lets go. *

He looks over at the BOY BOOKWORM sitting next to him. The Boy Bookworm gives Josh a big gingerly grin. Josh glowers back, throwing his pen down in defeat.

56 OMIT

56

57 OMIT

57

57A OMIT

57A

58 EXT. CAMPUS COURTYARD

58

Josh walks the campus, looking dejected. Cooper approaches.

COOPER
Hey, why the funky face?

JOSH
Why? I'm sure I bombed my mid-terms.
That's why!

COOPER
(shrugging)
At least you showed up for 'em. I bet
they give you points for that.

Josh looks at Cooper with a menacing scowl.

JOSH
You... You... You need to stay away
from me. You've been distracting me
all semester and now I'm fucked.

COOPER
Josh, bad grades are... meaningless.
They're like parking tickets. They
mean nothing. Just laugh 'cause
they're silly. They're silly
nothings.

JOSH
I've never failed anything in my life!

COOPER
Give yourself a break. I think you're
turning into a really great guy. So
what if your astrology professor
doesn't like you? Big shit.

JOSH
I don't take astrology.

COOPER
Biology. Whatever.

(CONTINUED)

58 CONTINUED:

58

JOSH
Stay away from me. Okay? I got work
to do.

Josh walks off in a huff.

59 LATER - IN JOSH & COOPER'S ROOM - DAY

59

Josh, looking like a zombie, sits on his bed with all of his textbooks open, in a circle around him. Cooper turns on the stereo. Josh shakes his head, threateningly.

JOSH
Ah, ah, ah...

Cooper turns it off. Cooper picks up the remote for the TV. Again, Josh shakes his head. Cooper, sulking, sets it down and puts on Josh's stethoscope. He puts the end into his pants.

*
*

COOPER
I can hear my heart through my penis.

*

JOSH
Get that out of your pants.

*

COOPER
(takes off stethoscope)
Hey, uh, Josh. What do you say about
heading down to the Oktoberfest?

*

If looks could kill, Cooper would be annihilated. Suddenly, there is a knock at the door.

COOPER
At least someone wants to party.

Cooper swings the door open to reveal a stern, well-dressed man. He is Cooper's dad, MR. FREDERICKSON.

MR. FREDERICKSON
Excuse us.

He takes Josh by the arm, rather forcefully, and practically throws him out of the room, then shuts the door.

60 COMMON ROOM

60

Josh, bewildered, listens at the door.

61 JOSH & COOPER'S ROOM

61

Mr. Frederickson has Cooper in a chokehold and is acting
deranged.

(CONTINUED)

MR. FREDERICKSON

It's me, Flushles the toilet cleaning clown. You gettin' an education, Coop? You gettin' my money's worth? The Dean tells me that you haven't been to a single class in two months.

*
*

COOPER

I don't think this counts as bonding, Dad.

MR. FREDERICKSON

It's over, Cooper. I keep buying your way into these schools and then you keep screwing up! If you don't pass all your classes, I'm yanking your butt out of here and you're coming to work for me. Not in the office either. In the field.

*
*
*
*

COOPER

I'm not cleaning toilets, Dad.

*

MR. FREDERICKSON

No, you're not. I'm giving you the really disgusting jobs.

*

Mr. Frederickson lets go. Dad brushes himself off, walks to the door and opens it. Josh stands there, astonished. Mr. Frederickson, adopting a whole new polished air, extends a handshake.

MR. FREDERICKSON

You must be Cooper's roommate. Benjamin Fredrickson. Pleased to meet you.

(looking at bong)

Cooper, what the hell is this?

COOPER

(sullen)

Science project.

Mr. Frederickson shakes his head at Cooper and huffs out of the room.

JOSH

Your dad seems like a pretty cool guy.

Cooper glowers at Josh.

63 INT. LUCKY PEACH BAR

63

Josh and Cooper, both demoralized, sit at the bar.
Sonny, the bartender, is nearby cleaning glasses.

JOSH
Cooper, talk to me.

COOPER
You heard it - I've been given a death
sentence. He's gonna pull me out of
school! Now, I gotta pass all my
classes. I don't even know which ones
I'm taking. This is gonna drive me to
drink!

*
*

Cooper downs his drink. Josh grabs Cooper by the collar.

JOSH
Cooper. Listen to me now. No more
drinking. No more bong hits. Only
one thing can save you now.

COOPER
What, valium?

JOSH
No. Studying. You need to study.

COOPER
What? You're insane.

JOSH
It'll be fun. We'll read our books
together, we'll make sure we get to
all our classes, we'll quiz each
other. We'll be study buddies.

COOPER
(horrificed)
No, no, no. I don't do that. That's
not me, Josh.

JOSH
Well, it's time to change.

COOPER
I'm not gonna pretend to be someone
I'm not. There's this little thing
called integrity.

Sonny, the bartender, who's been eavesdropping, leans in,
a drinking straw poking out of each hand.

(CONTINUED)

SONNY
You roommates?
(they nod)
Then I got your answer right here.
Pick a straw.

Cooper and Josh obey. Cooper's straw is half the size of Josh's straw.

SONNY
(pointing to Cooper)
Okay. You kill yourself.
(pointing to Josh)
And you get straight A's. There.
Problem solved.

COOPER
What are you talking about?

The DRUNK at the barstool next to them joins the conversation.

DRUNK
Guess they didn't tell them about that
in their little brochures.

SONNY
Daleman's always had a problem with
suicide. Every few years a bunch of
you brainiacs go throwin' yourselves
in front of cars and hangin'
yourselves with dental floss and shit.

DRUNK
Three kids jumped off Daleman bridge
and they landed on their fuckin'
heads. Low tide.

SONNY
S'posedly, they got a rule. If your
roommate kills himself, they give you
straight A's. They're such big
humanitarians over there.

COOPER
(eyes lighting up)
Well, that makes sense. You can't be
expected to study if you're, you know,
grieving for your dead roommate.
(to Josh)
I couldn't study if you died.

(CONTINUED)

JOSH
You can't study now.

COOPER
So these rules - you think they got
them written down somewhere?

SONNY
Prob'ly the liberry.

COOPER
Where's the liberry?

SONNY
You're asking me? I'm a fuckin'
bartender. You're the student.

Cooper turns to Josh, a gleam in his eye.

COOPER
The library, Josh. You know where
that is, don't ya? Take me to the
library.

63A EXT. LIBRARY - ESTABLISHING

63A *

64 INT. LIBRARY ENTRANCE - NIGHT

64

Cooper and Josh walk into the library.

COOPER
This is the library, hunh? Gee. It's
huge.
(to LIBRARIAN)
We're looking for the college
rulebook? You got something like
that?

LIBRARIAN
The school charter. In the basement.
Sub-2.

Cooper smiles excitedly at Josh.

*

65 INT. LIBRARY ARCHIVES - MOMENTS LATER

65 *

In the bowels of the library, Josh and Cooper search the
stacks for the college charter. It is eerie and gloomy,
as if no one's been down here in years.

COOPER
Must be a great college to have all
these books. How are we gonna find
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

65 CONTINUED:

65

COOPER (cont'd)
that charter? How are we gonna find
our way out of here?

JOSH
Would you shut up? Here it is.

Cooper stands before a glass case; inside, a dusty,
leather-bound tome.

COOPER
Wow. The college charter.

Cooper flips the glass lid and starts reading.

JOSH
I'm going upstairs to study. Have
fun.

COOPER
(grabbing him)
Wait a minute. Aren't you even
curious?

JOSH
No. This is totally ridiculous.

COOPER
Don't leave me down here, Josh.
Libraries give me the creeps.

66 LATER

66

Josh sits on the floor, engrossed in a textbook, while
Cooper continues his search for the "suicide clause".
Suddenly, Cooper barks...

COOPER
Holy shit! Holy shit! Listen!
(reads)
"Notwithstanding anything to the
contrary..." blah, blah, blah "...a
student found to have died as result
of own willful act" yudda yudda "any
other student residing in housing unit
of said student shall be rewarded
grades of the highest order regardless
of academic standing." What the hell
does this mean? Is this it?

*
*
*
*
*
*
*

JOSH
That's it.

Cooper rips the page from the book. Josh is incredulous.

(CONTINUED)

66 CONTINUED:

66

JOSH
What are you doing?

COOPER
We gotta copy this. For proof.

67 LATER - IN READING ROOM

67

Cooper and Josh walk through the library, filled with diligent students.

COOPER
Who are all these people?!

A few STUDENTS shush Cooper, in unison.

COOPER
Shhh? Why are they telling me to shhh?

JOSH
'Cause it's a library. You're supposed to be quiet.

COOPER
Right, right.

Josh sits down to study. Cooper looks at Josh with a broad, infectious grin.

*

JOSH
(beat)
I'm not gonna kill myself, in case that's what you're getting at.

COOPER
Come on. Be a sport, Josh. You're fucked anyway. This way at least one of us comes out on top.

Again, Cooper gets shushed. He's offended.

COOPER
It's like martial law in here.

JOSH
Then you kill yourself.

COOPER
Me kill myself? Hmm. Then I'd be dead and... no, I can't see that working.

(CONTINUED)

67 CONTINUED:

67

Once again, Cooper is shushed.

(CONTINUED)

67 CONTINUED: (2)

67

COOPER

Quit shushing me. I'm trying to have
a conversation. Do you mind?

67A INT. MICROFILM ROOM

67A

Cooper and Josh sit reading a newspaper account off one
of the machines. The headline reads: "RASH OF CAMPUS
SUICIDES HAS DALEMAN IN AN UPROAR" - "ANOTHER STUDENT
JUMPS OFF DALEMAN BRIDGE," "PARENTS DEMAND HELP FOR
SURVIVING ROOMMATES."

COOPER

There it is, Josh. In black and
white.

*
*

JOSH

Great. Can I go now?

*

COOPER

Somebody kills himself. The school
doesn't want the roommates to suffer.
There's been enough suffering, Josh.

*

JOSH

You're wasting my time.

*

COOPER

Here's an idea. You don't kill
yourself, but we fake your death. I
don't know. Blow up your car.

JOSH

I don't have a car.

COOPER

We blow up something. We work it out.
I give you my credit card. I give you
some money to live on. Think of it.
You'll be out on the lam, living the
good life. You won't need much
'cause, you know, you grew up poor,
right?

JOSH

Cooper. Leave me alone.

*

67B EXT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

67B *

Cooper chases after an irritated Josh.

COOPER

Well - what about... Kyle?

(CONTINUED)

67B CONTINUED:

67B

JOSH
Who's Kyle?

COOPER
Kyle, our other roommate. Remember?
The one from the Catholic school. He
could kill himself. It's perfect.

JOSH
Are you talking about murder, Cooper?
'Cause if you are, conversation's
over.

COOPER
No, I'm not talking about murder. I'm
not Lyle Menendez.
(proudly)
I am not Lyle Menendez, Josh.

JOSH
Well, that's good to know.

COOPER
There's gotta be a way to make this
work!

JOSH
Cooper, I am not going to be a part of
your stupid scheme so just drop it.

COOPER
But...

JOSH
I mean it. Shut the shit up.

*

68 INT. JOSH AND COOPER'S BEDROOM - MORNING

68

Josh's alarm goes off. He sits up in bed. He's shocked
to see Cooper up and about. Cooper dumps a few envelopes
on Josh.

COOPER
Wake up, sleepy head. This mail came
for you a few days ago. My bad. I'm
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

68 CONTINUED:

68

COOPER (cont'd)
off to the mall - I'll catch up with
you later.

Cooper heads out the door, whistling. Josh rubs his eyes
and opens one of the envelopes. He looks concerned.

*
*

69-74 OMIT

69-74

75 INT. ROBERTA BANKS' OFFICE - DAY

75

Josh, anxious, enters.

*

ROBERTA
Hi, Josh. Come on in.

JOSH
I got a note you wanted to see me.

ROBERTA
I just wanted to check up on you.
Make sure your head's above water.

*
*

JOSH
Well, I don't know how well I did on
my mid-terms. I've been a little
distracted, but I'm not gonna do
anything but study from here on out.

*
*
*
*

ROBERTA
Just remember you've got to keep a B
plus average to keep your scholarship.

*

JOSH
(mortified)
What? You're kidding. No one ever
told me that.

ROBERTA
Well, it's plainly stated in the
material the school sent you. You
must keep a B plus average or they'll
revoke your scholarship.

JOSH
(hysterical)
Not my scholarship. I mean, no. No
way! They can't do that. Do you
understand? I need that scholarship!
I... I...

VOICE (O.S.)
Roberta! Line two.

Roberta picks up the phone.

(CONTINUED)

75 CONTINUED:

75

ROBERTA

Josh, there's no reason to get so worked up. It's not like you failed all your mid-terms.

(into phone)

Oh, hi honey. No, I don't think so...

*

*

75A INT. MAIL CENTER - LATER

75A

Josh takes his graded mid-terms out of his box. They are all D's and F's. He SCREAMS.

76 INT. JOSH & COOPER'S ROOM - DAY

76

A blackboard has been wheeled in, covered in Cooper's illegible chicken scrawl. All of Cooper's purchases are strewn around the room. Cooper is on the phone, his feet up on the desk. Josh, demented, enters the bedroom.

COOPER

You've been very helpful, Shirley.
I'll let you know if the doctor needs those files.

Josh walks straight to Cooper, yanks the phone from his hand, then slams it down.

COOPER

That was rude. You don't look so good.

JOSH

Why should I look good?

(holds up paper)

These are my mid-term scores. These are the scores I need on my finals to keep my scholarship. There is no mathematical way I can get these scores. I would have to get four A plus plus pluses. I'm doomed!

(shakes his head)

When I came here, Cooper, I was on a track. Do you know what a track is?

*

Josh draws a TRACK on the blackboard.

JOSH

Track. Yes. It's a beautiful, wonderful thing - it's a goal, it's a track, it's moving forward on a track.

(erasing the word)

Now, I have no track.

(banging the blackboard)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

76 CONTINUED:

76

JOSH (cont'd)
I have nothing! I'm dead. You're
looking at a dead man.

(CONTINUED)

COOPER

Then you're in. This is great! Great timing.

JOSH

Great?! What the...! Great?!

Josh, beat red, looks like he might strangle Cooper.

COOPER

Easy, pal. You're okay. We have a way out. This is the best loophole EVER. It's our only choice and it's gonna save both our asses so mellow.

*

JOSH

Cooper...

*

COOPER

It's all written out on the blackboard here. My whole vision right here!

JOSH

In what language?

COOPER

My penmanship's kind of gone to shit, but, basically...

(pointing to board)

Here's Mr. Z.

JOSH

Who's Mr. Z?

COOPER

Mr. Z is the most suicidal guy on campus. Mr. Z is the guy who's gonna kill himself whether he lives with us or not. I figure he might as well live with us so his death won't be in vain. He moves in. He kills himself. You keep your scholarship. And I say "Fuck off, Flushles."

*

*

*

JOSH

Cooper, you're nuts! I got enough to deal with, without you mindfucking me...

COOPER

I am not mindfucking you, Josh. I am so dead serious. I'm like in the zone, man. Follow me to the zone..

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

76 CONTINUED: (3)

76

COOPER (cont'd)

Josh, oh Josh, come to the zone,
Josh...

(off Josh's look)

Listen, the bottom line is... You work
in the housing office - I need you -
I can't do it without you. Might as
well give it a go. What do you have
to lose?

The phone rings. Neither of them answer it.

JOSH

Forget it. Cooper, your brain is
permanently fried. You need help. I
would never in a million years follow
you on some idiotic wild goose chase.
Never!

Josh is interrupted as the answering machine picks up.

MOM'S VOICE

Hi, Joshie. It's Mom, just calling to
say hi. I'm so proud of you, honey.
Who would have ever thought I'd have a
son in college? You're a genius,
sweetie. I love you. Call me.

*
*
*
*

She hangs up. Josh has a change of heart.

JOSH

So, uh, what's this plan again?

Cooper smiles excitedly.

77 EXT. OUTSIDE MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC - AFTERNOON

77

Josh and Cooper, both wearing sun-glasses, are hiding
behind a row of hedges. Cooper takes photos with his
telescopic camera of a MALE STUDENT entering the mental
health clinic.

COOPER

There's one.

(clicks camera; joyful)

There's another. We've hit the
jackpot. Wow, this guy looks
troubled. Josh, you're not saying
anything.

JOSH

(lackluster)

Yay. Yippee.

(CONTINUED)

77 CONTINUED:

77

COOPER

This is gonna be so easy. Once we find out who these guys are, we'll steal their files - that way we can figure out which one is the most suicidal of all.

*
*
*
*
*

Cooper takes another picture of a student.

COOPER

These guys look really depressed!

Zeke and Jerry walk by the hedge, spotting them.

ZEKE

Cooper?

Cooper attempts to hide, dropping to the ground and taking Josh with him. Zeke and Jerry peer down on them.

JERRY

What are you guys doing?

Cooper and Josh look like they're in some strange embrace.

COOPER

Could we have some privacy please?

Zeke and Jerry nod, confused, then keep walking.

COOPER

(relieved)

That was close. They almost had us.

JOSH

Cooper, they probably think we're making out back here.

COOPER

I know. They're totally in the dark.

Josh doesn't know whether to laugh or to cry.

78 OMIT

78 *

79 INT. JOSH AND COOPER'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

79

Cooper and Josh are both matching up the photos with the face-book portraits. Josh finds a match.

(CONTINUED)

79 CONTINUED:

79

JOSH

I got one. Todd McNiff. Bethesda,
Maryland. Poetry, loves animals.
That's a good one, hunh?

COOPER

(gives a thumbs-up)

How 'bout this guy? John Shear. He
looks completely mental.

Cooper tacks photo to the wall, covered with other
photos. There is also an intricate drawing of a pulley
system. Josh and Cooper stare at the walls, hypnotized.

JOSH

We're really doing this, Cooper.

COOPER

I know. We're so motivated.

80 OMIT

80

80A EXT. CAMPUS - NIGHT

80A

Two mysterious black clad figures race through the
campus.

80B EXT. FIRE ESCAPE

80B

The two figures mount the fire escape. They freeze under
the sweeping lights of a CAMPUS SECURITY CAR. It's Josh
and Cooper.

80C EXT. MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC ROOF TOP - NIGHT

80C

Josh and Cooper run across the roof, towards a skylight.

81 INT. MENTAL HEALTH OFFICE - NIGHT

81

Cooper and Josh look down, through the skylight at a
darkened office in the mental health clinic.

82 EXT. ROOF TOP OF MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC - NIGHT

82

Cooper attaches a long rope to a harness around his
waist.

JOSH

This is insanity. Cooper, we're gonna
get kicked out of school, before we
ever flunk out.

(CONTINUED)

82 CONTINUED:

82

COOPER

How else are we gonna figure out who's really nutso and who's just having a bad week? Now remember, your code name is Dinah.

JOSH

What's yours?

COOPER

Panther.

JOSH

Why do you get to be Panther?

COOPER

You shouldn't have missed the code name meeting.

Josh thinks about this for a moment, and shrugs it off.

COOPER

Take this rope. You're gonna lower me down. Curve it around this pipe for leverage. Okay? I'm risking my life for you. Remember that.

Cooper kneels over the skylight. He takes out a jimmy from his utility belt and tries to pry the skylight off. With one jerk, the skylight shatters loudly, sending a rain of glass into the office below. Cooper cringes. Josh clutches his head.

83 MOMENTS LATER

83

Cooper is being slowly lowered into the room a la MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE. He has a head-set on and is talking into the mouthpiece.

COOPER

Slow and steady, Dinah. Slow. Steady.

83A Josh, on the roof, is struggling to keep the rope from pulling away, using a large metal pipe as leverage.

83A

83B Cooper lowers down slowly into the room. Suddenly he loses balance and begins to wildly spin out of control.

83B *

83C Josh, no longer able to withstand Cooper's weight, loses the rope.

83C

83D INT. CLINIC LANDING ROOM - NIGHT

83D *

Cooper falls to the floor with a THUD, bonking his nose on the linoleum, the rope falling around him.

COOPER
(into mouthpiece)
I'm in.

He gets up and runs out the door.

*

84 INT. CLINIC LOBBY - MOMENTS LATER

84

Cooper, his face entirely covered by his stocking cap, peers into the clinic lobby and runs. No sign of anyone.

84A INT. HALLWAY

84A

Cooper creeps silently down the hall. He opens a doorway. Inside, a PATHETIC GIRL is sitting on a bed, crying her eyes out. She looks up to see Cooper standing in the doorway, looking like some kind of terrorist. This just makes her sob harder. Cooper closes the door. Cooper continues down the hall and tries another door.

84B INT. FILE ROOM

84B

Cooper stands before a bank of metal file cabinets.

COOPER
Dinah, I have reached the file room.

85 ON THE ROOF - INTERCUT CONVERSATION

85

JOSH
I'm not Dinah anymore. I'm Cobra.

*

86 Cooper tries one of the cabinets. It's locked.

86

COOPER
These cabinets are locked. I'll use my jimmy. Dinah, where's my jimmy?

87 Josh spots the jimmy by the broken skylight.

87

JOSH
Your jimmy's up here.

*

88

88

COOPER
I need my jimmy.

*

(CONTINUED)

88 CONTINUED:

88

Cooper tries to force open the cabinet, pulling with all his might. It won't budge. He starts kicking the handle with his foot. He's making a ton of noise. After a few kicks, he manages to break off the handle.

89 ON THE ROOF

89

Josh spots a COLLEGE SECURITY CAR pull up in front of the clinic. He cowers low to the roof. ONE GUARDS step out of the car and amble up to the health clinic. *

90 INT. FILE ROOM - ON COOPER

90

He's opened the cabinet. He has a list of names and is removing the files with those names on it.

JOSH'S VOICE

Abort! Abort!

COOPER

What the fuck's going on!

90A EXT. ROOF TOP OF MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC - NIGHT

90A

JOSH

The cops are here! Get out of there now!

90B Cooper, panicking, scrambles to grab a few more files.

90B

90C EXT. CLINIC ENTRANCE

90C

The Guard unlocks the front door and enters. *

90D EXT. ROOF TOP OF MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC - NIGHT

90D

Josh goes through his coat and pulls out a hand-drawn map of the Health Clinic.

JOSH

Go left man. Take the south hallway!

91 IN THE HALLWAY

91

Cooper, with a stack of files, runs down the hall. He spots the Guard heading his way. The guard spots him and starts chasing him. Cooper turns and runs into another hallway. *

91A INT. OUTER HALLWAY

91A *

The Guard grabs Cooper's trailing rope and is dragged down the hall by Cooper. Running full speed, Cooper pushes his way through DOUBLE DOORS. The guard SMASHES into the doors and stops Cooper's momentum. Cooper flies backwards and lands on the floor. He gets up again and tugs at the rope, dragging the guard through the double doors.

92 INT. CLINIC LOBBY

92 *

Cooper heads into the lobby, still dragging the guard behind him. He makes a sharp left causing the guard to careen off the curved, reception desk and land, THUDDING into the wall.

Cooper, thinking fast, runs to the lobby window and pushes it open. Just as the security guards enter, Cooper takes a running jump. The WINDOW CLOSES. Cooper crashes through it, somersaulting into a hedge.

92A EXT. MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC ALLEY

92A

Cooper tries to jump to his feet, but the rope is still attached to his harness. He yanks himself free just as Josh appears. They start running for dear life.

93 INT. JOSH AND COOPER'S BEDROOM - LATER

93

Cooper and Josh burst into their room. Cooper is beside himself with self-satisfaction.

COOPER

(raising arms in the air)

We were so Van Damme. Van Damme! Van
Damme! Say it with me, Josh.

JOSH

(joining in)

Van Damme! Van Damme!

After a moment, Josh stops.

JOSH

All right, now it's pathetic.

COOPER

(holding up files)

One of these guys is our lucky Mr. Z.
Let's get busy!

94 OMIT

94 *

95 OMIT

95 *

96 OMIT

96 *

96A INT. LIBRARY READING ROOM - NIGHT

96A *

Josh and Cooper are two of the handful of late-night library dwellers. They look like they've been here for hours. Both are reading books on suicide. Someone nearby is chatting.

COOPER/JOSH

Shhhh!

97 INT. CLASS ROOM - DAY

97

An orientation meeting is being led by a stern-faced MRS. BOISON. On the blackboard, the words: "SUICIDE HOTLINE."

MRS. BOISON

Suicidal impulses come from feeling powerless over one's problems. By no means... Young man, could you please take a seat?

*
*

Cooper noisily makes his way to a seat, taking a few pamphlets on suicide, then plopping down.

MRS. BOISON

The caller should be told that suicide is never the answer.

*

COOPER

Say there's someone really depressed...

Mrs. Boison is ruffled by Cooper's interruption.

MRS. BOISON

Could you please raise your hand?

COOPER

Oh. Oh, yeah.

(raises his hand, then talks)

Say there's someone really depressed. But he might not actually kill himself.

MRS. BOISON

The prank call...

*

(CONTINUED)

COOPER

(interrupting)

No. It's not a prank. The guy'll probably kill himself eventually... but he's kind of on the fence.

MRS. BOISON

Why don't I take questions at the end of the lecture. Now, the tone of voice...

COOPER

What would push him over the edge, you know - send him running for the razors? Anything come to mind?

Mrs. Boison is alarmed.

COOPER

What? You're supposed to be an expert?

98 INT. PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT - NEXT DAY

98

Josh taps on a door. The name-tag on the door reads "PROFESSOR DURKHEIM - PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT".

99 INT. PROFESSOR DURKHEIM'S OFFICE

99

Professor Durkheim looks up as Josh enters his office.

PROF. DURKHEIM

Hello. What can I do for you?

JOSH

Hi. I'm Josh Miller.

*

PROF. DURKHEIM

Are you one of my students?

Josh sits, bouncing his legs up and down, nervously.

JOSH

No, no. Ummm. I was just, uh, in the neighborhood. Thought I'd pop in.

PROF. DURKHEIM

You seem nervous, Mr. Miller.

*

JOSH

Nervous? Me? No. I just had a question. I don't know really how to
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

99 CONTINUED:

99

JOSH (cont'd)
put this. If someone was really
depressed and contemplating suicide...

A look of concern crosses Professor Durkheim's face.

PROF. DURKHEIM
Is this a personal question?

JOSH
Oh, no. No, no. Not at all. Just
kind of curious.

The Professor picks up a remote and presses a button.
His door closes automatically.

PROF. DURKHEIM
(analyst mode)
Hmm. Why don't you tell me about
yourself, Josh. Where are you from?

100 EXT. COURTYARD OUTSIDE DORMITORY - DAY

100 *

Josh looks dazed as he heads home from his impromptu
analysis session. Rachel approaches.

RACHEL
Hey, Josh. Where've you been,
stranger? I was beginning to wonder
if you'd died or something.

JOSH
(defensive)
What's that supposed to mean?

RACHEL
Nothing. Take it easy.
(handing him a manuscript)
Here you go.

JOSH
What is it?

RACHEL
It's my short story. You said you
wanted to read my writing.

JOSH
Oh, yeah. Great. You wouldn't have a
shorter short story?

RACHEL
I'm a little nervous. It's the first
thing I've written for school.

(CONTINUED)

100 CONTINUED:

100

COOPER
(calling from window)
Josh! Hey, Josh!

JOSH
What? I'm busy!

COOPER
We gotta make some decisions right
now! Hey, Rachel!

RACHEL
Hey, Cooper.

JOSH
In a minute!

COOPER
Right now! Don't make me come down
there!

JOSH
I gotta go. But I wanna see you. I
think about you... all the time.

RACHEL
Well, let's hang out tonight. Why
don't you come by my room after
dinner?

JOSH
Okay.

He leans in and they exchange an awkward kiss.

*

COOPER
HEY, JOSH!!!

101 MOMENTS LATER - ROOM 212

101

Josh enters. Cooper has a stack of books on suicide.

COOPER
Look, I borrowed these from the
library. They let you do that. So,
what did that professor say?

JOSH
Not much. He thinks I'm suicidal.

(CONTINUED)

COOPER

We have to choose our Mr. Z right now.
(spreading out photos)
Cliff O'Malley. This guy. He's it,
man. Look at these close-set eyes.
And that drool, that's definitely
drool.

*
*
*

JOSH

I don't know. I like these guys.

Josh holds out a handful of files.

COOPER

(reading file)

But listen to this. "Patient has an
intense death wish", "set bed on
fire", "reckless, alcoholic,
psychotic". He's perfect... he's...

*

JOSH

He's you.

COOPER

When we find his dead body in our
room, you're gonna thank me.

JOSH

He's kind of spooky, Cooper.

COOPER

I'll tell you what spooky is. No more
college, that's what's spooky.
Compared to that, this guy's Mr. Bunny
Foo Foo.

102 EXT. CAMPUS COURTYARD - DUSK

102

Cliff, looking stoned out of his mind, leans out of a
second-story window. He yells down to one of his FRAT
BROTHERS.

CLIFF

JEFF! JEFF! HEY, MAN!

The guy he's yelling to looks up, embarrassed. Cliff
pretends like he's lost his balance.

CLIFF

Whoa. Whoa! I'm gonna fall! Catch
me, Jeff!

(CONTINUED)

102 CONTINUED:

102

Jeff is horrified. Cliff fake-slips, just barely catching himself before he plummets. He laughs maniacally.

Across the courtyard, Cooper and Josh watch in amazement.

JOSH

Maybe this isn't such a good idea.

COOPER

Listen, Josh, we have three weeks 'til finals. He's our only hope. He wants to die. Why can't he die in our room with his new best friends?

*
*
*

103 INT. FRATERNITY - LATER

103

Cooper and Josh walk up the steps to Cliff's room. They can HEAR the Steve Miller Band blasting from within. Cooper knocks, then pounds, then simply opens the door.

104 OMIT

104 *

105 INSIDE CLIFF'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

105

Cooper and Josh yell out to Cliff on the window ledge. He's out there, tossing water balloons at the passers-by below.

*
*
*

COOPER

Hey, Cliff! Cliff O'Malley?

*

Cliff comes back in from the ledge, frowning.

*

CLIFF

What? Did you get hit? It's just water, man - chill out!

*

COOPER

No, no. We just want to talk to you.

*

CLIFF

Oh, good. I'm sick of all the goddamn whiners at this school.

*

Josh and Cooper sit in Cliff's nightmarish room. There's a sea of bizarre crap littering the floor.

*
*

CLIFF

This school has a big rock up its ass. You know what I'm sayin'?

*

(CONTINUED)

COOPER

Totally.

CLIFF

My god, I'm living in a frat and these fuckers want to kick me out for not "observing quiet hours." They can just suck my quiet cock, you know what I'm sayin'?! *

COOPER

Totally. You know, we like to party. We party all the time. Right, Josh? *

JOSH

Yeah, yeah. We're always partying hard.

CLIFF

Really? Well, grab a beer. *

Josh and Cooper reluctantly grab bottles of beer off the floor. Cliff shakes his head at Josh, as Josh sips. *

CLIFF

. That one's not beer. *

Josh spews out whatever's in his mouth. *

CLIFF

Hey, who are you guys? *

COOPER

I'm Cooper and this is Josh. *

JOSH

(frightened; standing)

You know what? I forgot I'm supposed to be somewhere. *

COOPER

Sit down, Josh. So, did you say they're trying to kick you out of here? 'Cause we actually have an open room where we live. *

CLIFF

They're just pissed 'cause I left the gas on downstairs. Couple people lost consciousness. Nobody died.

Josh and Cooper exchange looks.

(CONTINUED)

JOSH

Yeah, I gotta go meet Rachel. I said I'd stop by her room at seven and...

CLIFF

You guys ever get horny?

COOPER

Well, it kind of depends on where you're going with this.

CLIFF

I do. I wake up humping the bed. I get these urges - so bad. It hurts!

JOSH

That's... not good.

CLIFF

You guys know any chicks who like to party?

JOSH

No.

COOPER

Josh does. He's heading over to a chick's room right now. Why don't we all go?

Josh glares at Cooper. Cliff smiles.

106 INT. FRATERNITY HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

106

Cliff leads Josh and Cooper down the hall. As the FRAT BROTHERS see Cliff approaching, they all duck into their rooms, out of his way.

CLIFF

Parker, your ass is grass! Yo, Krauss, meet my new buddies! Where'd he go? Hey, anybody wanna go party?

Every door on the hall slams shut as they pass.

107 INT. KRISTIN AND RACHEL'S ROOM - NIGHT

107

Kristin, Rachel and Lucy are sitting on a couch, looking horrified.

Across the room, Cooper and Josh watch Cliff take a huge hit from a bong. Cliff whispers to them.

(CONTINUED)

CLIFF
Which one's for me?

JOSH
What?

CLIFF
Which one of those girls is for me?

JOSH
I don't know, Cliff. I think they're
all lesbians, actually.

CLIFF
(laughing spastically)
Lesbians. You guys are fuckin' cool.
(turning to the girls)
Hey, you girls, how's it hangin'? I
like your room. Which one of you
painted this picture? *

He points to a poster of Van Gogh's "Starry, Starry
Night."

RACHEL
I did.

CLIFF
Cool. It's so smooth. Doesn't
anybody want a bong hit?! *

He hands Lucy the bong.

CLIFF
Here, I'll light it for ya.

LUCY
It's okay. I can light it myself.

CLIFF
I SAID, LET ME DO IT.

She relents. He lights the bong for her, accidentally
lighting her long hair on FIRE. Lucy jumps to her feet,
screaming. The others are stunned, immobilized.

RACHEL
Oh my god. Her hair's on fire!

Rachel puts the fire out by hitting Lucy on the head with
a couch cushion.

(CONTINUED)

107 CONTINUED: (2)

107

CLIFF

Yikes.

108 MOMENTS LATER - RACHEL'S BEDROOM

108

Rachel, Kristin, Josh and Cooper are having a pow-wow.
Through the doorway, Cliff can be seen taking a bong hit.

*
*

RACHEL

Josh, when you said you wanted to hang
out, is this what you had in mind?
Where did you find this guy?

JOSH

What? You don't like him?

RACHEL

He set Lucy's hair on fire.

*

KRISTIN

He's psychotic.

*

COOPER

Well, you know, he's an acquired
taste.

*

RACHEL

Get him out of here.

Lucy is nearby, staring into a mirror, sobbing. Her hair
is singed and smoking.

109 EXT. CLARK HALL - LATER

109

Cooper, Josh and Cliff head out of the girls' dorm.

CLIFF

Whenever I catch on fire, I always
remember to "Stop, drop and roll."
You don't just stand there screaming
like a girl.

COOPER

Don't worry about it.

JOSH

I think I just screwed up in there
with Rachel.

CLIFF

Screw those chicks. You know what we
should do? Go into town and get some
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

109 CONTINUED:

109

CLIFF (cont'd)
hookers. I know just the hooker, too.
Her name's Carl and she's beautiful.

110 INT. CLIFF'S CAR - TRAVELING - NIGHT

110

Cliff is behind the wheel of the jalopy. Josh in the
passenger seat and Cooper in the back, frightened.

CLIFF
I really shouldn't be driving. My
license was revoked.

COOPER
For what?

CLIFF
Attempted vehicular manslaughter.
Whatever that means.

Cliff swerves. We HEAR honking and the screeching of
brakes.

111 OMIT

111

111A EXT. CLIFF'S CAR - TRAVELING

111A

112 LATER - IN THE CAR

112

Cliff's car appears in the distance and he barely slows
down as he approaches Main Street. *

Cliff screeches to a halt next to the GENERAL STORE. *

There are some locals milling about and a POLICE CAR *

parked by the curb. *

A couple of RENFIELD, NEW HAMPSHIRE POLICEMEN walk out of *

the store holding doughnuts and coffee. *

JOSH *

Why are we stopping? *

CLIFF *

Josh, would you be so kind as to ask *

the officer where I-95 is? *

Josh hesitates, then leans out of the car window. The *

policeman walks over to the car. *

JOSH *

Excuse me sir... *

The policeman leans in. *

(CONTINUED)

112 CONTINUED:

112

JOSH
 (continuing)
 I'm sorry. Could you please tell us
 how to get...

Suddenly Cliff PUSHES Josh back against the seat and
 yells to the policemen.

CLIFF
 Oh, look, I smell a pig.
 (snorts at OFFICERS)
 Hey, pigs! Hey, little piggies!

COOPER
 Dude. What are you doing?

The policeman GRABS Josh and tries to YANK him out of the
 car.

POLICEMAN #1
 Outta the car ASSHOLES!!

Instead, Cliff slams on the gas and peels out.

CLIFF
 Whooooooooa!

Frantically, the Policemen jump into their PATROL CAR.

113 INT. CLIFF'S CAR - TRAVELING

113

CLIFF
 Ever been in a high-speed chase
 before? It's intense!

We HEAR the sound of SIRENS behind them.

113A EXT. MAIN STREET

113A*

The cop car skids out onto the road.

114 INT. CLIFF'S CAR - TRAVELING

114 *

Cliff opens his glove box - a gun falls out onto Josh's
 lap. Cliff grabs it and waves it out the window.

(CONTINUED)

114 CONTINUED:

114

CLIFF

They hate it when you do this.

Cliff shoots into the air. Josh and Cooper SCREAM IN UNISON.

Cliff is out-running the cops.

CLIFF

(continuing)

I think we're losing them.

He turns to Cooper and Josh, their doors are open and they are NOWHERE IN SIGHT. THEY'VE DITCHED THE CAR.

CLIFF

(continuing)

Guys? Hey, guys?!

115 EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

115

Josh and Cooper roll onto the side of the road, as the cop car passes by. Josh, furious, is muttering to himself.

COOPER

You okay?

JOSH

I've listened to you for the last time. Where the hell are we?

COOPER

Look, we'll just hitch hike back to campus. It's no big deal.

Cooper sticks his thumb out. Not a car for miles.

COOPER

Stick out your thumb, Josh. Or they won't see you.

116 INT. WILLARD HALLWAY - NIGHT

116

Hank, Zeke and Jerry are playing hall hockey. Josh and Cooper, in angry silence, enter - a hockey puck narrowly misses their heads.

ZEKE

Hey, guys. What's happening?

Josh and Cooper say nothing, entering their room and slamming the door.

(CONTINUED)

116 CONTINUED:

116

JERRY

I think they're having a lovers'
quarrel.

HANK

What are you talking about?

ZEKE

We saw 'em making out in the bushes
the other day.

HANK

Bullshit.

Cooper and Josh can be heard arguing through the door.

JOSH'S VOICE

Look, neither of us have ever done
anything like this before. If we're
gonna go through with it, I want us to
be safe.

COOPER'S VOICE

I thought you and I were tight back
there. Just don't ever pull out on me
again half-way through.

*
*

JOSH'S VOICE

I don't think you know what you're
doing. I'm taking over from here.

COOPER'S VOICE

You know, Josh, you're so anal!

Zeke, Hank and Jerry wince.

117 INSIDE THE ROOM

117

Josh picks up a photo of their next candidate, BUCKLEY
SCHRANK, a slight, nervous-looking computer science
major. Cooper is making himself a drink, to calm his
nerves.

JOSH

Here's our man. Buckley Schrank.

(reading)

He's "paranoid", "delusional",
"suicidal urges", "attempted to give
himself a lobotomy".

COOPER

But...

(CONTINUED)

117 CONTINUED:

117

JOSH

Don't but me. He's my guy. He's great. We've got two weeks to move him in and push him over the edge.

COOPER

Let's at least check him out first.

118 INT. SCHOOL COMPUTER ROOM - DAY

118

Buckley is creating a program on one of the school's computers, dark circles around his eyes. Suddenly, he sees the reflection of Josh and Cooper in his monitor. He gasps.

JOSH

Hey, man. What are you working on?

BUCKLEY

Nothing. Stuff. Why?

Buckley speaks in a nervous clip.

COOPER

Looks interesting.

BUCKLEY

It's not.

JOSH

You like computers?

BUCKLEY

No. Maybe. Why?

COOPER

You a computer science major?

BUCKLEY

(fearful)

What do you want?

COOPER

We were just heading over to the dining hall for a bite to eat.

JOSH

You wanna come with?

BUCKLEY

I don't understand. Who are you?

(CONTINUED)

118 CONTINUED:

118

COOPER

(slowly)

Cooper. Josh. Going to lunch.

BUCKLEY

(distressed; bolting away)

I got a class. Excuse me.

Buckley jumps up from his chair and takes off. Cooper and Josh exchange looks, then spot Buckley through the window, scampering across the courtyard. He has the mannerisms of a hunted deer, his head jerking around, his eyes darting every which way, always keeping an eye out for imaginary predators.

119 INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

119

Buckley is eating by himself at a table. He looks up to see... Josh and Cooper.

JOSH

I thought you said you had a class.

COOPER

You lied to us.

BUCKLEY

I'm sorry. I... you don't understand.

COOPER

We're not good enough for you?

BUCKLEY

No, it's...

Buckley surveys the room, then speaks in a soft voice.

BUCKLEY

There are people on this campus who are trying to kill me.

COOPER

(instantly concerned)

What?

A CAFETERIA WORKER comes by to take Buckley's tray.

CAFETERIA WORKER

Are you finished with this?

BUCKLEY

(recoiling)

No!

(CONTINUED)

119 CONTINUED:

119

Buckley has a brief tug-of-war over the tray. After the Cafeteria Worker departs, Buckley turns back to Josh and Cooper.

BUCKLEY

See what I mean. My therapist thinks I'm paranoid, but I have proof that he's been co-opted. I'm sorry. I have to go. I'm sorry.

Buckley gets up from the table, knocking over his tray. He races from the cafeteria.

JOSH

My guy. Yes! We're moving him in today!

120 INT. KYLE'S BEDROOM - DAY

120

Cooper takes down all of Kyle's supermodel posters.

121 HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

121

Cooper dumps posters and other stuff into a utility closet.

122 INT. HOUSING OFFICE - DAY

122

Josh is typing out a room transfer request. He types the name "BUCKLEY SCHRANK". Merrilee is looking on.

123 BACK IN KYLE'S BEDROOM

123

Cooper has cleared out the entire room. He puts a bugging device in the telephone receiver.

124 BACK IN HOUSING OFFICE

124

Josh smiles innocently at Merrilee as he files Buckley's transfer request.

125 INT. OUTSIDE BUCKLEY'S ROOM - DAY

125

Cooper knocks on Buckley's door.

BUCKLEY'S VOICE

Who's there?

COOPER

It's Cooper. Remember me?

BUCKLEY'S VOICE

I'm busy. Go away.

(CONTINUED)

125 CONTINUED:

125

COOPER
(whispering)

Let me in. Before they see me.

Buckley opens the door, peering into the hallway. Cooper looks frightened.

BUCKLEY
Before who sees you?

COOPER
I think I'm being followed.

126 INT. BUCKLEY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

126

Buckley chains his door and double bolts it. The room is dark. The curtains are pulled.

BUCKLEY
You are being followed. They know where I am. Oh, god. Oh, god.

COOPER
What's going on? Are you in some kind of trouble?

BUCKLEY
I can't go into it. William Casey did not die of a brain tumor. Do you understand? He's not even dead. He and Vince Foster are living near Mt. St. Helens. They've been shooting cannisters of nuclear waste into a lava tube.

COOPER
You're kidding. Why?

BUCKLEY
It's not their idea. They've been blackmailed into it. But the man responsible is very rich and powerful and will stop at nothing to make sure this information is suppressed.

COOPER
Jesus Christ!

BUCKLEY
No, the anti-Christ and I mean that, literally. He's evil.

(CONTINUED)

COOPER
What's his name?

BUCKLEY
I can't tell you that. Bill Gates.

COOPER
Bill Gates is the anti-Christ?
(Buckley nods)
What does he want from you?

BUCKLEY
My brain! He's already got half-of
it, because I fell asleep at Newark
Airport. I'm this close to taking my
own life. Maybe that way I can stop
the apocalypse.

COOPER
Makes sense to me. Listen, I think
you should get out of here. There's
an empty room in our dorm. They'll
never find you there.

BUCKLEY
(on the verge of tears)
I can't keep running. Oh, god.

COOPER
I think they may be spraying this
building with chemicals.

BUCKLEY
(sniffs)
Neutrino beams. They're trying to
attract my brain cells magnetically.

*
*
*

Buckley goes to the window and opens the curtain. Just
outside, disguised in an anti-chemical astronaut-like
suit is Josh. He has a hose in his hand and is spraying
the window. Buckley SCREAMS.

127 INT. ROOM 212 - KYLE'S ROOM (BUCKLEY) - LATER

127

Buckley sits in his new room, surrounded by computer
boxes. Josh and Cooper watch from the door.

COOPER
Well, if you need anything, we're
right in here.

Buckley nods, quivering.

128 MOMENTS LATER - JOSH AND COOPER'S BEDROOM

128

Josh and Cooper high-five each other.

JOSH

I knew my guy was gonna work. Was I right or was I right?

COOPER

I have to hand it to you. He's good.

JOSH

Good? Of course, he's good. He's the best. He's my guy! I love my guy.

129 INT. BATHROOM - DAY

129

Buckley enters the bathroom. He walks straight to the shower curtain and yanks it back. No one there. He's relieved.

130 INT. SUICIDE HOTLINE - NIGHT

130

Mrs. Boison is counseling a distressed caller.

MRS. BOISON

Yes. Uh-hunh. I see. I understand. Have you tried telling your parents how you feel?

Cooper is here, making personal calls.

COOPER

Mezzanine - can I even see the band from there? Well, how much are they? A hundred and fifty bucks? ARE YOU INSANE?!

Mrs. Boison is flabbergasted.

131 OMIT

131

132 INT. BUCKLEY'S NEW ROOM - NIGHT

132

Buckley has hooked up his computer and is frantically typing away. Josh enters the room.

JOSH

Hey there.

BUCKLEY

What do you want?

(CONTINUED)

132 CONTINUED:

132

JOSH
(sitting down)
Listen, Cooper told me about this
whole conspiracy thing.

BUCKLEY
Oh, fart! Now, you're in danger.
This is getting out of control! *

JOSH
You know, when I get really stressed
out, I call the suicide hotline. *

Josh hands Buckley a brochure for the suicide hotline.
Buckley looks at it, skeptically.

133 INT. SUICIDE HOTLINE - LATER

133

Cooper scrambles to answer the phone before Mrs. Boison
can.

COOPER
(disguising his voice)
Suicide hotline.

134 INT. BUCKLEY'S ROOM - NIGHT

134

Buckley, his hand shaking, is on the other end.

BUCKLEY
Hi, uh, I think I'm having a panic
attack.

135 INTERCUT PHONE CALL

135

COOPER
What seems to be the problem?

Cooper gives a thumbs-up to a curious Mrs. Boison. She
turns her attention to another call.

BUCKLEY
I don't know. I think they're onto
me. It's hard to explain. I'm very
frightened.

COOPER
(suddenly menacing)
You should be.

BUCKLEY
Who is this?

(CONTINUED)

COOPER
Who do you think?

BUCKLEY
(terrified)
No. No, no.

COOPER
It's me, Buckley. Bill. Yeah. Bill
Gates.

BUCKLEY
(whimpering)
Oh, god. Oh, god.

COOPER
You can't hide anymore. I've tapped
your phones. I can see you right now.
You're wearing a green V-neck sweater
and khaki pants.

Buckley looks down at his outfit and shrieks.

BUCKLEY
What do you want from me?

COOPER
YOUR BRAIN, BUCKLEY. YOUR BRAIN.

Buckley slams down the phone, deranged. Buckley
instantly unscrews the mouthpiece on the telephone
receiver. Sure enough, a bugging device.

136 INT. ROOM 212 - COMMON ROOM - LATER

136

Cooper, carrying a shopping bag, returns. Josh is
waiting for him in the common room. They speak in
whispers.

COOPER
How is he?

JOSH
(exuberant)
Who? Oh, you mean, my guy. My guy's
freaking out. My guy won't come out
of his room. My guy's gonna kill
himself.

COOPER
Look, how many times are you gonna
remind me that he's your guy?

(CONTINUED)

JOSH

My guy. My guy. My guy. I guess
three times.

*
*

They both try to peer in Buckley's room, through the
keyhole. Suddenly, a hand reaches in and taps Josh on
the shoulder. They both spin around, startled. Rachel
stands above them.

RACHEL

What are you doing?

JOSH

Oh, hey, Rachel. We're, uh... I'm...

RACHEL

Listen, I just came by to see what you
thought of my story. I gotta turn it
in tomorrow.

JOSH

Oh, it was great! I was just telling
Cooper this morning... how did I put
it, Coop?

*
*

COOPER

You said it was fuckin' hilarious.

*

RACHEL

Hilarious? It's not supposed to be
funny. Were you laughing at it?

*

JOSH

No. Rachel, the truth is... I haven't
read it yet.

*

RACHEL

What, too busy partying? Josh, what's
your deal? We make plans to hang out,
you bring some psycho by my room who
sets Lucy's hair on fire and then I
never hear from you again.

*

JOSH

I'm sorry. I've just been really
busy. I'm actually kind of in the
middle of something right now.

*
*
*

RACHEL

You know what, Josh? You're acting
like a jerk. I'll see you later.

*
*

(CONTINUED)

136 CONTINUED: (2)

136

JOSH
Rachel. Wait.

Rachel exits. Josh shakes his head.

COOPER
Would it have been so hard to read
that story, Josh?

*

Josh shoots him a look.

137 INT. BATHROOM - DAY

137

Josh watches as Cooper unloads his bag: rope, razors,
sleeping pills. They still whisper.

JOSH
What is all this?

COOPER
The pamphlets say it's crucial to keep
all instruments of self-destruction
away from the suicidal person. So, I
ran out and bought all this stuff.

Cooper arranges the items around the sink.

COOPER
Tie this rope into a noose. Hurry.

JOSH
(fumbling with rope)
I don't know how to tie a noose.

COOPER
Shhh. Did you hear that?

OUTSIDE BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Buckley, a jumble of nerves, approaches the bathroom. He
enters. Cooper and Josh are nowhere in sight.

Buckley goes to the toilet and pees. He flushes.

BEHIND SHOWER CURTAIN

Cooper and Josh are wedged into the shower.

JOSH
(whispering)
We're like the Hardy Boys from Hell.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

COOPER

Shhh.

ON BUCKLEY

He is inspecting all of the suicide devices. He picks up a packet of razors. Suddenly, his head turns.

He walks over to the shower and grabs the curtain. He yanks the curtain back, revealing Josh and Cooper, huddling together. Josh has a noose in his hands.

COOPER

Hey, Buckley.

Buckley SCREAMS. He runs from the room.

137A Buckley runs through the common room and into Josh and Cooper's bedroom, locking the door behind him. 137A*

138 IN COMMON ROOM 138

Josh and Cooper stand outside their bedroom door.

COOPER

Buckley, look. We can explain.

BUCKLEY'S VOICE

You're in on it. You're with Bill Gates.

COOPER

No. No, we're not. We're your friends.

139 ON BUCKLEY 139

BUCKLEY

You're trying to kill me!

Buckley backs up into the corner of the room. Something on the desk catches his eye. It's his mental health file with attached photo. He picks it up, horrified.

He looks to the floor. The protective chemical astronaut suit Josh was wearing outside Buckley's window is bundled up in a ball by his feet.

BUCKLEY

(suddenly joyful)

This isn't in my head. This is really happening!

140 INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

140

Josh and Cooper's hall-mates all stand in their doorways, amazed at the spectacle of Buckley running exuberantly down the hall, screaming...

BUCKLEY
(looking so crazed)
I'M NOT CRAZY! I'M NOT CRAZY!

141 EXT. CAMPUS COURTYARD - DAY

141

Josh and Cooper sit outside the student center, looking unkempt, like they haven't slept in days.

COOPER
So much for your guy.

JOSH
(contemptuous)
Look at everyone studying. I hate them.

*
*

Panning the courtyard, we see STUDENTS preparing for finals, discussing schoolwork, silently reading their books.

JOSH
Finals are in a week. We're doomed!

Josh spots Roberta and Professor Durkheim conferring nearby. They seem to be pointing over at Josh.

JOSH
Oh, God. There's my advisor. She's probably trying to get me kicked out of here.
(turning on Cooper)
What was I thinking, listening to you?

Josh gives Roberta and Durkheim a half-wave.

COOPER
You know what we need to do? Get stoned. All my great ideas come to me when I'm baked out of my skull.

JOSH
Cooper. When have you ever had a great idea? It's over. I'm out. You're driving me crazy.

Josh gets up and starts walking.

(CONTINUED)

COOPER
Where ya goin'?

JOSH
Somewhere I know I won't run into you.
Class.

They are interrupted by the shouting of students. A crowd has gathered a few yards away. Josh and Cooper jostle their way into the throng.

On the pavement is CLIFF, his limbs splayed every which way, a beer in one hand and a water balloon in the other. He's dead. The crowd is a-buzz.

JOSH
What happened?

STUDENT #3
He was throwing water balloons out that window and then he just fell.

STUDENT #4
(checking Cliff's pulse)
He's dead!

A few of Cliff's FRAT BROTHERS hug each other, relieved. Cooper appears behind Josh, pulling at him.

COOPER
Come here. Come here.

Cooper pulls Josh away from the crowd.

JOSH
Oh my god! What a tragedy.

COOPER
I know. We were so close.

JOSH
Cooper! Jeez. Poor guy. He was such a... freak.

COOPER
Do you know what this means? This means we're on the right track, Josh. We can't give up now. We still have a week before finals. We find one more guy, get him to open a vein and we're golden!

There is murmuring from the crowd.

(CONTINUED)

141 CONTINUED: (2)

141

STUDENT #3

Wait! He's breathing! He's alive!

The crowd cheers, except for Cliff's frat brothers who seem disappointed.

142-145 OMIT

142-145

146 MOMENTS LATER

146

An AMBULANCE has arrived. Josh and Cooper watch as Cliff, disoriented, on a stretcher, is being loaded into the back.

CLIFF

(looking at his legs)

Hey! You can see my bones! Radical!

The ambulance door closes and Cliff is driven away.

147 INT. DINING HALL - NIGHT

147

Cooper and Josh are eating dinner and observing Matt at a neighboring table. Cooper hands Josh a file with attached photo of a brooding, good-looking MATT NOONAN.

COOPER

Matt Noonan. "Depressive, death fixation, constant threats of suicide." This is it.

Matt sits with a group of alternative-looking derelicts, all wearing black.

COOPER

Okay. No dick-smacking around. Let's just get him in the room and then send him on his way to the netherworld.

148 OMIT

148

149 INT. HOUSING OFFICE - DAY

149

After crumpling up BUCKLEY SCHRANK's transfer, Josh types up a new one. The name on the transfer: "MATTHEW NOONAN".

150 INT. STUDENT POST OFFICE - DAY

150

Matt visits his mailbox. Two of his bandmates, LUKE and SKY, watch as Matt opens the envelope Cooper delivered.

(CONTINUED)

150 CONTINUED:

150

SKY

What is it?

Matt, annoyed, hands the envelope over to Luke.

LUKE

(reading)

"Due to high levels of asbestos, you
are being transferred to Room 212 -
Willard dormitory..."

SKY

Bureaucracy. They love to fuck ya
over.

Matt clutches his head, like this is the worst fate
imaginable.

MATT

Goddammit.

151 INT. ROOM 212 - COMMON ROOM - DAY

151

Josh and Cooper peer into the hallway.

JOSH

Here he comes. Here he comes.

They try to act casual as Matt opens the door, holding an
electric guitar and an amp. Cooper and Josh are overly
enthused to see him.

COOPER

Hey! You must be our new roommate.

JOSH

Need any help moving in your stuff?

MATT

I'm wearing my stuff.

Matt, keeping aloof, rolls his eyes and passes them by.
Sky and Luke follow Matt into his room, carrying his
belongings.

152 MATT'S NEW ROOM - LATER - DAY

152

Matt is moved in. Posters of Nirvana, The Doors. He
hooks up his electric guitar. Josh and Cooper linger by
the door.

(CONTINUED)

MATT
(annoyed)
What the hell do you want?

JOSH
You a musician?

Matt rubs his face, suffering from some ineffable pain.

COOPER
You in a band?

MATT
Kiss My Ass.

COOPER/JOSH
What?

MATT
(suddenly screaming)
That's the name of the fucking band!

JOSH
Oh. Oh, yeah. You guys are playing
the big pre-finals party, right?

MATT
If I'm still around.

COOPER
What do you mean?

MATT
Who are you, fucking Kurt Loder?! Can
you shut my goddamn door?!

COOPER
Oh, sure, man.

Cooper and Josh shut the door behind him, smiling.

COOPER
I love this guy.

Cooper and Josh are in their bedroom. We can SEE Matt,
Luke and Sky practicing a song in the common room. A few
skanky GROUPIE GIRLS sit around, fawning.

(CONTINUED)

MATT (O.S.)

...My words are my sperm/ ever since
my tragic birth/ and even when I'm in
my grave/ I will pollinate the earth.

Matt lets out a horrific shriek, then tosses the
microphone on the floor - deafening FEEDBACK. Cooper and
Josh exchange looks. Matt looks like he's suffering from
the worst migraine headache ever experienced.

SKY

Wow. That was psychedelic.

LUKE

You sounded bitchin', Matt.

MATT

Practice is over. This music is crap!
It's fuckin' crap!

He kicks over an amplifier and flops down in the corner,
his back to the others.

SKY

Wanna go get some food?

MATT

Just... just get out of here.

Sky, Luke and the groupie girls dutifully depart.

GIRL GROUPIE

(to the other GROUPIES)

He's so tragic.

Cooper and Josh peek their heads into the common room.

COOPER

You guys really rock. Nice job.

MATT

(sarcastic)

Yeah, maybe someday we'll play for
millions of teeny boppers and make
music videos. Won't it be groovy?

(grimacing)

Fuck it all.

Matt stands and exits the room.

*

154 LATER - COOPER & JOSH'S BEDROOM

154

Josh is asleep.

*

154A JOSH'S DREAM

154A*

Josh is in anatomy class. The students surround the cadaver. Josh looks down - HE is the corpse on the slab. Peering down at his blue frozen body are all of his professors. They look ghoulish and wield large knives. Roberta holds up Josh's answering machine - we hear Josh's mother's voice.

MOM'S VOICE

Don't disappoint me, Joshie!

154B BACK IN BEDROOM

154B*

Josh moans in bed, waking Cooper. Cooper, eyes open, hears the sound of muffled laughter coming from the other room.

155 MOMENTS LATER

155

Cooper is peering through the keyhole into Matt's room.

He can see Matt, watching television, on his bed. Matt is giggling, watching an "America's Funniest Home Videos"-type show.

Suddenly, Matt hears something. He walks to the door and opens. Cooper jumps back, trying to act casual.

MATT

What the hell?

COOPER

You watchin' TV or something?

MATT

No.

COOPER

Oh, I heard laughing and...

MATT

Laughing? Yeah, I'm a real big
laugher. Fuck you!

Matt slams the door.

156 BACK IN THE BEDROOM

156

Cooper rouses Josh.

COOPER
Get up. Get up.

JOSH
What is it?

COOPER
Something's not right, Josh. I don't
think this guy is who we think he is.

Cooper goes over to the mini-bar and frantically mixes
himself a martini.

(CONTINUED)

JOSH

What? Didn't you hear what he said?
"If I'm still around." That means he
might not be around. Around meaning
alive. He might not be alive.

COOPER

Maybe he's not that depressed.

JOSH

This guy has what it takes, Cooper.
You know, I'm this close to letting
you get your own guy. What are you
doing?

COOPER

I'm worried, man. I need a drink.

JOSH

(getting up)

No! We only have three days. We need
to focus, Cooper. You need to focus.
No drinks!

Josh kicks the mini-bar, which rolls across the room and
SLAMS into the wall, all of its bottles shattering.
Cooper is mortified.

COOPER

Are you insane?!

JOSH

No more distractions. No more drinks.
No more bong hits.

Josh walks over to the bong.

COOPER

Josh. No, Josh. What are you doing?!

JOSH

This is for you, Cooper. I'm doing
this for you.

Josh sends the glass bong toppling over. Cooper lunges
to save it, but he's too late. The bong shatters into a
million pieces. Cooper picks up a few pieces, heart-
broken.

JOSH

It's the only way.

(CONTINUED)

156 CONTINUED: (2)

156

COOPER

I say we murder him.

Matt suddenly enters the room. They attempt to perk up.

COOPER

Hey, man. How ya feelin'?

MATT

Like crap.

JOSH

(whispering; thumbs-up)

He feels like crap.

MATT

(very slowly)

I had this creepy dream. Kiss My Ass
 played the pre-finals party and
 afterward I put a gun in my mouth and
 I pulled the trigger. Bam! Bam! It
 was so real.

COOPER

If it was real, I'm not sure you'd get
 that second shot off.

Matt exits. Cooper and Josh exchange looks of hope.

COOPER

I think I just heard a cry for help.
 Didn't you?

JOSH

(also excited)

I think I did.

COOPER

Oh, I'm so emotional! Yes! Yes!

They try to muster the strength to hug each other.

157 OMIT

157 *

158 OMIT

158 *

158A EXT. COURTYARD/MAIL CENTER - DAY

158A*

Cooper, looking ecstatic, exits the mail center and
 struts through campus. He waves to his friends, beaming.

(CONTINUED)

COOPER

Hey, guys! Long time, no see! Let's party tonight!

He spots a STUDENT tacking a poster onto a tree. "KISS MY ASS PLAYING TONIGHT AT PRE-FINALS PARTY". This makes Cooper even happier. He spots Kristin and embraces her from behind.

COOPER

Kristin! My true love!

KRISTIN

(pushing him off; amused)
Yeah, right. Where've you been?

COOPER

Working. I'm getting straight A's for the semester.

KRISTIN

You're getting straight A's? Please.

COOPER

Phi Beta Kappa. That's me. Hey, we've got twenty minutes before next period. Wanna head back to the room for a quick you know what?
(off her look)
Come on. Don't you miss me?

KRISTIN

In your dreams, Cooper.

COOPER

Jeez. You're hurting my feelings.

KRISTIN

Aww. Well, maybe I can make it up to you at the party tonight.

Cooper's eyes widen. Kristin smiles, walking away.

159 INT. DORM HALLWAY - DUSK

159 *

Josh waits in the hall as Cooper returns.

JOSH

He's been in his room all day. I've got a real good feeling about this.

COOPER

Maybe he's dead already.

(CONTINUED)

159 CONTINUED:

159

Pickle walks by.

PICKLE

What are you guys up to?

COOPER/JOSH

Nothing!

160 OUTSIDE MATT'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER - DUSK

160 *

Cooper and Josh are about to bust in.

COOPER

Now, if he's hanging from his noose,
try to act surprised.

They swing the door open. Matt is primping in front of
the mirror. Embarrassed, Matt glowers at them.

MATT

Jesus Christ!

JOSH

We're just checking up on ya.

MATT

I heard you guys were perverts.

Matt picks up his guitar and amp and heads out the door.

161 INT. FRATERNITY - NIGHT

161

Matt and his band are about to play to a packed house. A
huge sign behind them reads, "KISS MY ASS".

*

Josh and Cooper are in the audience. Kristin and Lucy
are here as well, swooning over Matt. Lucy wears a
conspicuous wig. Cooper is the only one dancing.

*

*

MATT

This last one's called "Sperm".

JOSH

I'll be back in a second. Keep your
eye on him.

*

Josh walks off.

*

KRISTIN

God, he is such a fox.

COOPER

Don't make me sick.

(CONTINUED)

161 CONTINUED:

161

LUCY
He's so intense.

COOPER
Well, enjoy him while you still can.

KRISTIN
What's that supposed to mean?

Cooper shrugs, blithely. The band starts playing; Matt screeches his heart out.

162 OMIT

162

163 LATER

163 *

The pre-finals party is in full-swing. The room is packed, wall to wall, with rowdy STUDENTS. Cooper is fixated on Matt's every move. Cooper is keeping his eye on Matt. Kristin and Lucy begin to gush as Matt passes.

KRISTIN
That was amazing!

LUCY
Fully! I loved it.

MATT
(moving on)
Whatever.

Cooper follows Matt into the crowd. Kristin turns to Lucy.

KRISTIN
God. He's so fierce!

164 LATER - IN THE BATHROOM

164

Matt enters. He looks around - he thinks he's alone. He smiles brightly in the mirror and sings...

MATT
Matchmaker, matchmaker/ Make me a
match/ Find me a find/ Catch me a
catch...

Suddenly, Cooper emerges from a stall.

COOPER
What were you just doing?

(CONTINUED)

MATT

What? Nothing.

COOPER

Don't tell me nothing. You were just singing a showtune.

MATT

You're crazy. I'd never do that.

COOPER

You can't be suicidal if you're singing showtunes!

MATT

What?

COOPER

You're not even depressed.

MATT

Of course, I'm depressed. Look at me.

COOPER

You fucking poser!

Cooper, infuriated, grabs Matt by his collar and starts shaking him.

165 EXT. FRAT HOUSE

165

Rachel is flirting with a guy, when Josh pulls her aside.

RACHEL

Josh, I was having a conversation.

JOSH

Rachel, I know I've been flaking on you lately and I'm really sorry.

RACHEL

I'm not interested in lame excuses.
What did you think? I was just gonna
wait around for you until you found
time for me. Forget it.

*
*
*
*

JOSH

But, Rachel...

*

RACHEL

I liked you, Josh. I really did. I
thought you were a really great guy,
but I guess I was wrong.

*
*
*

(CONTINUED)

165 CONTINUED:

165

JOSH

No. You weren't wrong. I really like
you and... and I am a great guy.

Suddenly, Buckley appears, looking demented. He points
an accusing finger at Josh.

BUCKLEY

This man is a murderer! He's got
files on all of us! He's creating a
one-world government!

(backing off; scared)

Stay away. Stay away.

Rachel, astonished, walks back into the fraternity. Josh
deflates.

166 Cooper approaches, holding Matt's yearbook.

166 *

COOPER

Here's Marilyn Manson in high school.

Josh shows Matt's high school photo. He's a preppy,
clean-cut, yell boy, holding a football banner and a
megaphone.

COOPER

I'm gonna kill him. I'm gonna fuckin'
kill him!

Cooper looks over at Matt, across the room. Horror of
horrors, he's kissing Kristin.

COOPER

(his face contorting)

OH MY GOD!

Everyone around them is in a state of camaraderie,
hugging and expressing affection, having bonded
throughout the semester. Josh and Cooper are in Hell.

JOSH

Let's get out of here.

COOPER

I'm right behind you.

As they turn to leave, they are intercepted by Zeke.

ZEKE

Hey, you guys. What's wrong?

(CONTINUED)

JOSH

Long story.

HANK

I know what's going on.

COOPER

You do?

HANK

You guys are having relationship problems.

JOSH

It's more complicated than that.

HANK

I got ya. I'm really tight with my uncle - he's gay like you guys. I just want you to know I'm cool with it. We all are.

Zeke points to Jerry and Hank nearby. They smile, meaningfully at Josh and Cooper.

COOPER/JOSH

What?!

167 EXT. OUTSIDE PARTY

167

Josh and Cooper walk glumly back to their dorm.

COOPER

Looks like I'm a gay toilet cleaner.

JOSH

Guess I'll go home and pack. Sorry about your mini-bar.

COOPER

That's okay.

JOSH

And your bong.

Cooper looks like he might cry.

JOSH

Hey, cheer up. Let's go down to Pickle's room. I'll use his blender to make you a drink. What sounds good? A Mai Tai? A Pina Colada?

(CONTINUED)

167 CONTINUED:

167

COOPER
(like a hurt little kid)
Margarita.

*

JOSH
Margarita it is.

*

Cooper manages a smile.

*

168 OMIT

168

169 INT. PICKLE'S ROOM - LATER

169

Josh and Cooper enter Pickle's room. Pickle, asleep on the couch, stirs.

JOSH
Hey, Pickle. Mind if we make
ourselves a drink?

PICKLE
(groggy)
No. Go ahead.

He lies back down. Josh and Cooper mix themselves drinks.

JOSH
I'm gonna miss college.

COOPER
Yeah. We had fun, didn't we?

JOSH
Yeah, we did.

COOPER
I was gonna end up being a toilet
cleaner anyway.

JOSH
You know what's funny? I don't think
I want to be a doctor. I don't think
I ever wanted to be a doctor. It was
just... something to be.

COOPER
You should come work for me and
Flushles. You could be third in the
shit-cleaning command.

(CONTINUED)

Josh laughs. He absently picks up a label-maker. Josh looks down at the label maker. Typed out are the words "GOOD-BYE. CAN'T TAKE IT. I'M SORRY."

JOSH

What is this?

(reading)

Good-bye. Can't take it. I'm sorry.

Cooper and Josh look over at the couch simultaneously. Pickle is dead to the world. They walk like a pair of synchronized swimmers over to the couch.

JOSH

Pickle?

There is an empty bottle of prescription pills in Pickle's hand.

COOPER

Oh my shit. Oh my shit. Oh my shit.

JOSH

What? What?

COOPER

He's committed suicide.

JOSH

I didn't even know he was depressed.

COOPER

I know. He had all this great stuff.

(grabbing Josh)

Josh, don't you see? This is the hand of God here. I prayed for this. This is a miracle sent from God. Pickle dead!

Pickle seems to stir, slightly.

COOPER

Come on. We gotta move fast. Look, you go to the housing office. File the paperwork.

JOSH

(flustered)

Wait. Is he...?

COOPER

No waiting. Get to the housing office! This is it, Josh. We're set!

(CONTINUED)

169 CONTINUED: (2)

169

Cooper pushes Josh into the hallway.

170 EXT. WILLARD DORMITORY - NIGHT

170

Josh runs out of his dorm, toward the housing office.

171 INT. PICKLE'S ROOM

171

Cooper picks up an armload of Pickle's stuff.

172 MOMENTS LATER - 2ND FLOOR HALLWAY

172

Cooper, carrying a blender and a few other appliances, hustles down the hallway.

173 INT. HOUSING OFFICE

173

Josh enters the darkened housing office and flips on a light.

174 PICKLE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

174

Cooper searches for more things to carry down the hall. He grabs the microwave and exits.

175 INT. ROOM 212 - COMMON ROOM - KYLE'S ROOM

175

Cooper surreptitiously walks down the hall with the microwave. He enters his room, nearly dropping it when he spots...

Kyle and Kelly, arm-in-arm, standing before him.

KYLE

What the hell's going on?

COOPER

Who are you?

KYLE

I live here.

COOPER

(leading him out)

No, they moved you out. Sorry, buddy.

They already moved someone else in
so... sayonara.

*
*
*

Cooper slams the door in Kyle's face. Kyle re-opens it.

(CONTINUED)

KYLE

(furious)

Where's my posters? And who are those
two people fucking in my room?

They walk to the bedroom and open the door. Inside, Matt
and Kristin, half-clothed, making out on the bed. *

COOPER

Oh, those guys. They threw your stuff
out. They said to tell you to go fuck
yourself.

KYLE

(red with rage)

Kelly. Would you go out into the
hallway for a second? Thanks, honey.

(she nods and exits; to

MATT)

Get the hell out of here!

Matt and Kristin sit up in bed. *

MATT

You can't kick me out of here. This
is my room! Cooper, tell him.

COOPER

I've never seen you before in my life.

Kyle picks up Matt's guitar and hurls it out the window.

MATT

That is so uncool.

KYLE

You're next.

Kyle lunges at Matt, threateningly. Matt and Kristin run
from the room. *

Josh, frazzled, types up a room transfer. He types the
name "PICKLE". He grimaces.

JOSH

Pickle? What the fuck's his name?

177 BACK IN JOSH & COOPER'S ROOM 177

Cooper has grabbed another armful of appliances and drops them in his room. He takes a deep breath, before he begins another long haul.

178 HOUSING OFFICE 178

Josh frantically flips through the face-book. He finds Pickle's picture. The name under the photo is "LOUIS PAISLEY". *

JOSH
Louis Paisley? Where'd he get the
name Pickle? *

Josh stares at Pickle's poignant picture, having second thoughts.

179 INT. HALLWAY 179

Cooper, carrying a TV set, runs down the hallway.

180 IN PICKLE'S ROOM - LATER 180

Cooper returns to Pickle's room. He looks up to see Josh, standing over Pickle's body. Josh has his stethoscope and is checking Pickle's vital signs. Josh sticks his finger down Pickle's throat, trying to make Pickle gag.

JOSH
Come on, Pickle. Throw up for me.
Puke, Pickle, puke.

COOPER
What are you doing?!

Suddenly, the sound of an ambulance outside.

181 EXT. OUTSIDE DORM - MOMENTS LATER 181

TWO EMTS load Pickle onto the back of the ambulance. Josh, Cooper and a few other STUDENTS look on. Cooper is enraged.

182 LATER 182

Cooper and Josh have walked away from the crowd.

COOPER
What the fuck?

(CONTINUED)

182 CONTINUED:

182

JOSH

Cooper, he was alive. I couldn't let him just die.

COOPER

Josh, this is what we've been working for. This was our loophole! Don't you have enough brains to recognize a good loophole?

JOSH

Cooper. The only loophole I've ever recognized is that you have a rich Daddy who buys your way through life.

Cooper is pissed, having been hoisted by his own petard.

COOPER

Well, congratulations, buddy. You can go back to Indiana and spend the rest of your life in a bowling alley. Josh, people who make it in this world have guts - obviously, you don't have any.

Cooper storms off. Josh stands there, totally defeated, his stethoscope still around his neck.

183 EXT. CAMPUS COURTYARD - LATER

183

Josh, at his lowest, walks through campus, lost in thought. His eyes are welling with tears. He sits down by a fountain, shaking his head. He puts the stethoscope in his ears. We can HEAR his heart beating.

184 EXT. BRIDGE - MOMENTS LATER

184

Josh wanders onto the Daleman Bridge. His eyes are glazed over, a look of desperation on his face.

Josh walks to the edge of the bridge - a look of resolve on his face. He tosses the stethoscope over the edge, watching it fall slowly down to the water below.

185 INT. FRAT PARTY - NIGHT

185

Cooper enters the party, angry and depressed. The party is still raging. Lucy, drunk, her wig crooked, approaches.

LUCY

Cooper. Hey! Where've you been?
Where's Kristin?

(CONTINUED)

185 CONTINUED:

185

Cooper shakes his head and passes her by. Others greet him, but he just keeps walking.

186 MOMENTS LATER

186

Cooper sits by the keg, alone, finishing off his beer. Suddenly, a guy runs into the party, yelling.

GUY

There's someone on the bridge. He's gonna jump!

The other PARTYGOERS start running out.

ANOTHER GUY

It's Josh Miller.

*

Cooper's eyes widen.

187 EXT. DALEMAN BRIDGE - MOMENTS LATER

187

Josh stands at the edge of the bridge. He looks wild-eyed, desperate.

A noisy crowd of students has gathered below the bridge, including Rachel, Hank, Zeke, Jerry, Kristin and Lucy. Cooper pushes his way to the front of the crowd.

COOPER

Josh! What the fuck are you doing?!

JOSH

What do you care? All you care about is yourself.

COOPER

Josh. Seriously. Come down from there.

JOSH

What's the point? My life's over!

COOPER

Why? Just because you're off your track? Josh, who gives a shit? That's so stupid. Don't be an idiot...

Cooper realizes his approach is all wrong.

COOPER

Look, I understand. It's scary not to know what's coming next. But, uh,

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

187 CONTINUED:

187

COOPER (cont'd)
 suicide is never the answer. Yeah.
 That's right. Suicide is never the
 answer, Josh. We'll figure out a way
 to make it work.

*
*
*
*

An ambulance, its lights flashing, pulls up to the bridge
 entrance. The ambulance is followed by another car -
 inside is Roberta.

*

JOSH
 I've fucked everything up.

COOPER
 No, Josh, I'm the fuck-up. I act like
 I have all the answers but I don't.
 All I know is - I'm sorry. Please
 step back from that fuckin' ledge!

*
*
*
*

Josh looks down at Cooper. He can see that Cooper really
 means it. Josh smiles. He steps back from the ledge.
 The crowd CHEERS.

188 MOMENTS LATER

188

Cooper has met Josh up on the bridge. They embrace.

COOPER
 You're gonna be okay, man.

JOSH
 (whispering in Cooper's ear)
 Do you think they bought it?

COOPER
 Bought what?

JOSH
 That I'm suicidal.

*

COOPER
 What?

JOSH
 I don't think they'll throw someone
 suicidal out of school, do you?

*
*

COOPER
 No, of course not.

*

Cooper realizes he's been part of a huge scam.

COOPER
 (eyes bugging)
 You little bastard.

(CONTINUED)

188 CONTINUED:

188

JOSH

Hey, Cooper. Think how proud your dad's gonna be when he finds out you're a hero.

COOPER

You are a fucking genius.

They pull out of their embrace to SEE the crowd clapping and waving. Hank, Jerry, Zeke and Rachel have tears in their eyes.

ZEKE

They make such a cute couple.

RACHEL

What?

189 MOMENTS LATER

189

Josh is seated in the back of the ambulance as EMTs rush around, looking official. Cooper nearby talks to Roberta.

*

JOSH (V.O.)

Well, I guess acting suicidal paid off and the school gave me another semester to raise my grades.

190 INT. PROFESSOR DURKHEIM'S OFFICE

190

Josh talks animatedly. Durkheim listens, like the good analyst that he is.

JOSH (V.O.)

I had to spend six months in intensive therapy with Professor Durkheim. It wasn't so bad. I learned that I like psychology more than medicine, so I changed my major.

191 INT. FANCY RESTAURANT - DAY

191

Josh, Cooper and Mr. Frederickson eat a lavish meal. Mr. Frederickson puts his arm over Cooper, proudly.

JOSH (V.O.)

The school called Cooper's Dad and told him what a hero Cooper was. He took us out to lunch and slipped us both some spending money.

192 INT. JOSH AND COOPER'S BEDROOM 192

Josh looks up from his psychology textbook to see Cooper excitedly dragging in an even bigger BONG.

JOSH (V.O.)

Cooper used his money to buy a new bong and mini-bar.

193 EXT. CAMPUS COURTYARD - NIGHT 193

Rachel and Josh walk along, arm-in-arm, looking happy and very much in love.

JOSH (V.O.)

Rachel and I made up and got back together. She likes the idea of having a boyfriend who's a little unstable - it gives her inspiration for her creative writing.

194 OMIT 194 *

195 OMIT 195 *

196 OMIT 196 *

196A EXT. POLICE STATION 196A

Buckley, in an orange jumpsuit, is being led away by authorities.

JOSH (V.O.)

Buckley left Daleman - we saw him on the news getting arrested for an attempted assassination of Bill Gates. For some unknown reason, Bill Gates dropped all charges and Buckley disappeared.

*
*
*

197 OMIT 197

197A INT. MTV STUDIO 197A

Matt is being interviewed by Kurt Loder.

198 OMIT 198

198A INT. MUSIC VIDEO 198A

Clip of Kiss My Ass's video.

*

(CONTINUED)

198A CONTINUED:

198A

JOSH (V.O.)

Matt also got famous. His album,
 "Tormented Guy in a Tormented World"
 went straight to the top of the
 charts.

199 OMIT

199

199A INT. ROOM 212 - COMMON ROOM - DAY

199A

Pickle enters Josh and Cooper's room, a book-bag over his
 shoulder, looking sad. Josh and Cooper greet him. He
 smiles, feebly.

JOSH (V.O.)

Pickle recovered and moved in with us.

*

200 INT. CAFETERIA

200

Josh, Cooper and Pickle are sharing a laugh over dinner.

JOSH (V.O.)

We felt sorry for him. Plus, we
 figured if he ever got really
 depressed again... well, we might as
 well cover our bases, if you know what
 I mean?

201 INT. ROOM 212 - COMMON ROOM - JOSH & COOPER'S ROOM- NIGHT 201

Pickle in bathrobe, says good-night to Josh and Cooper.
 Cooper looks up from a textbook he's reading and gives
 Josh a mischievous smile.

202 OMIT

202 *

203 OMIT

203 *

FADE TO BLACK.