

"Burning Annie"

art imitating life imitating art imitating life

by Zack Ordynans

Draft 1a

July 1998

(Formatting July 1999)

©1998/9 Zachary Ordynans

FADE IN

INT A LONE MALE IN HIS EARLY TWENTIES

MAX, stands in front of a grey backdrop, addressing the camera. Max is dressed casually, in jeans and a T-shirt, and is of average height and fairly average looking.

MAX

I never liked Woody Allen when I was a kid. My parents did. They were always watching his movies when I was younger, but I never liked them. It was the same problem I had with the Beatles, who were such a part of my background that I took them for granted until, I don't know, it must have been when I was about sixteen when I realized how silly it was to rebel against my parents by ignoring the Beatles or the other cultural inspirations of their generation, even if I did spend much of my youth and adolescence listening to my father go on and on about how none of the bands that I listened to mean anything because they weren't the Beatles and that there would never be another band like the Beatles, blah blah.

Thinking about that argument now, that's silly. Sure, The Beatles were a great band and they did change pop music forever, and there's no question that they were the defining musicians of my parents generation. But you could say the same thing about Nirvana and my generation, or the Sex Pistols and their generation. These bands also changed pop music... maybe they didn't have the same impact that the Beatles did, but they certainly did have a huge impact on the course of popular music.

[more]

MAX (cont'd)

But even considering what I think of Nirvana, I would never push them on my child the way my father pushed the Beatles on me, because who's to say that the premier icon of my parents generation is more important or better than the icon of mine? I don't know, this is all starting to starting to sound a little bit too Generation X, and you know, that's the last thing I'm going for with this movie. Shit, I got really off track there, didn't I?

INT THE FAMILY ROOM OF MAX'S OLD HOUSE DAY

The style of the furniture, decoration, and clothes on the characters indicate that it is roughly 1980, and that this is a middle class family.

YOUNG MAX is about five or six years old and watching the movie Bananas with his FATHER, who is at this point in his mid thirties. His father is a large man with a mustache, reclining on the couch and smoking a cigar. Young Max is sitting on the floor.

MAX (V.O.)

Much like the Beatles thing, and this is the whole point of that rather long-winded example, I was force fed Woody Allen movies at a young age. I remember this one time when I was probably about five years old, when I was watching Bananas with my father.

Camera pulls back to reveal adult Max standing and watching his young Max and his father watch the movie.

MAX

This was the family room of my old house, where I grew up. It looks just how I remember it, which I guess it would have to, considering that this scene is a flashback and the setting is constructed entirely from my memories. We lived in this house, in a dull suburb of New York City until I was about ten, when we moved to a different house in a different dull suburb of New York. Hey, there we are watching the movie.

[more]

MAX (cont'd)

My father looks so young, and look how blond my hair was. Look at that stupid haircut. Was that really in style in 1981?

The scene in Bananas when the woman is bit in the breast by a snake and is then chased by a group of soldiers is taking place on the TV that they are watching.

YOUNG MAX

Daddy, why are they all running after her?

FATHER

Someday, you'll understand.

INT 16-YEAR-OLD MAX DAY

In pajamas, he is sitting in front of a different TV in a different family room. 16-year-old Max looks similar to adult Max, but a little younger, clean-shaven, and with longer hair. This year is roughly 1992.

This time, Annie Hall is playing onscreen.

MAX (V.O.)

Oh yeah. This wasn't the first time I ever saw the movie Annie Hall...but it was the first time I saw it when I was mature enough to appreciate it. It was a Saturday afternoon and I was flipping channels when I stumbled onto this movie, and I loved it. I was surprised at myself, surprised to find that my parents were right all along. It's a slow painful part of becoming an adult, realizing that your parents might have been right about something all along, and this was the first time that thought ever struck me.

INT A HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY

Max is pictured walking alone to class.

MAX (V.O.)

Oh God, here I am in High School. I hated this place. I didn't fit in at all.

[more]

MAX (V.O.) (cont'd)

I was a junior in High School when I gave up trying to fit in with people that I couldn't relate to and began to accept my place as an outcast in my formative High School community. There was something in the movie Annie Hall that I identified with; maybe it was Woody's character, or maybe it was the style of humor or the defeatist attitude of the storyline, but there was something there that gave me hope that there was more to life than the depressing surroundings that I found myself trapped in at 7:25 every morning. Different people are inspired by different things, and strangely enough, my source of inspiration was this fifteen year old movie about a failed relationship.

EXT A COLLEGE CAMPUS DUSK

Four years later. It's late January/early February and the campus "green" is showing signs of the season. Some remnants of snow are visible, and all of the grass is dead and the trees are bare.

Max and CHARLES are walking toward the camera, across campus. Max appears here in his normal, adult form, as he appeared in the opening scene. Charles is taller than Max, but just as thin, with dark hair and a slightly goofy appearance. In this scene, as in the other outdoor scenes throughout the movie, the characters are wearing winter coats and possibly hats, gloves, and/or other signifiers of the season.

MAX

You're not Jewish, you don't understand what it's like to be discriminated against on a regular basis. It's ridiculous, that even at a liberal school like Westfield I have to put up with this shit.

CHARLES

So you got a C+ on the paper! Don't you think you're getting a little carried away? If he was out to get you, why wouldn't he fail you? Or give you a D!

MAX

He couldn't just fail me, think about it. That would be too obvious. He had to give me a grade that he knew would hurt my average...but he couldn't give me a terrible grade, because then I might complain. A C+ is right on the border of acceptability. You know, I bet he does this all the time. I'm going to appeal it...I'm not gonna let him get away with this. Who knows how many-?

CHARLES

You're insane. Your paranoia has always been out of control, but this... You need help.

MAX

How can you say that! The paper was a family history about my grandparents' experience during the Holocaust! He gave me a C+!

CHARLES

Was that the paper that you wrote a week after it was due?

MAX

Yeah, but...I bet he's one of those professors that doesn't believe that the Holocaust ever happened. And you know what else? I think he's German. He looks like he could be German.

CHARLES

Would you stop it!

MAX

You're an Irish Catholic, you don't understand what it's like to be persecuted for your religious beliefs.

CHARLES

Ha. Yeah, right. I take it you didn't make it to Belfast when you were trekking through Europe?

MAX

I was kidding.

CHARLES

I know. But you're still a prick.
What's going on tonight?

MAX

I'm not sure. Hey, we could watch
Annie Hall, continue the tradition
of watching it at the beginning of
every semester.

CHARLES

Annie Hall, shit. You know I love
that movie, but... it might be time
to break that tradition. Why should
we continue to do something that
has only brought us bad luck?

MAX

What are you talking about? We've
watched it every other semester,
since second semester freshman
year. If you're sick of it, that's
one thing, but it's a good movie,
I...

CHARLES

The movie is cursed. I'm telling
you, man. It has a power.

MAX

Oh, what are you talking about?

CHARLES

Max, ever since we've been watching
it, what has your love life been
like? What has mine been like?
Every semester, we watch this movie
and then end up spending the
semester alone. And it's not just
the two of us...look at our
friends. We've brought them in on
this with us.

MAX

(laughing)

That's, that's quite a theory, but
I don't think so. Your theory fails
to account for our collective
dorkiness and bad haircuts.

(brief pause)

And what about Sam?

CHARLES

When was the last time he watched it with us? Freshman year? Look at what that semester was like for him. He hasn't watched it since then and look at...

MAX

You know, any crazy theory can be "proven." I took a class last semester with a professor who wrote a book arguing that racism, sexism, environmentalism, socialism, and vegetarianism are all linked. She claimed to prove that the planet is being destroyed by white male, meat eating, capitalists. I brought a Big Mac to the first class, before I knew anything about the professor, and as she was lecturing I was sure that I was going to be a victim of some sort of bizarre vegetarian-socialist uprising or something.

CHARLES

I think I've seen their demonstrations. I always thought it was funny that 90% of them are like white girls from Connecticut who drive Daddy-the-insurance-agent's Volvo wagon...

MAX

Right, but they use the AC as little as possible because they don't want to hurt the environment during their drive down the block. But that's stereotyping. And besides, half of the people at this school fit that stereotype, so the stereotype is redundant.

CHARLES

Oooohh, we can do another Star Wars marathon instead. You know, they have the Ewok cartoon movie at Spaceship video. I haven't seen that since I was a kid.

MAX

There's a reason why you haven't seen it since you were a kid... it's a fucking cartoon about muppets.

[more]

MAX (cont'd)

I don't know, I still sort of want to watch Annie Hall. I love that movie, I might watch it by myself if nobody else wants to watch it. It just seems really dumb, to blame so much on a movie, but if you think it might help I'm willing to give it a shot. At this point, I'll try anything.

CHARLES

I bet all of our troubles with girls at Westfield were caused by that movie.

MAX

What does that mean? If we put enough thought into it, I bet we can pin the Kennedy assassination on that movie.

CHARLES

Let's go back to the first time we watched it. We were in your room, remember, and who was there?

MAX

It was, let's see..

CHARLES

It was the two of us, and Sam and Eve when they were still together, and Ann.

MAX

Huh. Are you sure she was there? I don't think she was there.

CHARLES

She was.

MAX

I'm pretty sure she wasn't there.

INT A FRESHMAN DORM ROOM NIGHT

Two years earlier. There are five people in the room, and all have silly haircuts. SAM is short and stocky, with Beatles-length brown hair. EVE is about Sam's height, with long black hair and glasses. Sam and Eve are laying on the floor, sharing a blanket and pillow. CHARLES looks the same as he does in the present, with the exception of his hairstyle, which is an unfortunate and unjustifiable (it's the mid-90s) afro.

Max's hair is long and unbecoming, even longer than 16-Year-Old-Max's hair. ANN is about average height, with medium length brownish/red hair. Max is sitting on one bed, and Charles is sitting on the bed along the opposite wall. Ann is sitting in a large recliner (chair) set up between the beds. As the scene begins, they are waiting for the video tape to rewind.

MAX

Ann, what do you think? Should Charles get a haircut?

ANN

No, I love Charles's hair. Charles, I won't let you cut your hair.

CHARLES

Don't worry! Besides, you know all of my power comes from my big 'fro. If I cut my hair I'd be open to attack from all of my enemies.

MAX

I don't know, I just think you might look better with a shorter haircut. Vulnerability to attack is a small price to pay for having a decent haircut.

SAM

Yeah. I can see that.

CHARLES

(to Max)

What about you! If any of us need a haircut, it's you.

Eve stands up and hits a button on the VCR.

EVE

All right! It's finally done rewinding.

ANN

Are we going to watch this movie, or what?

CHARLES

Why not! We have nothing better to lose.

INT THE SAME ROOM

Two hours later.

CHARLES

Wow, that was such a good movie!

EVE

Didn't you think it was a little depressing? It was so sad!

SAM

I liked it.

ANN

Oh, that was so sad! Relationships don't have to be like that!

(to Max)

I can see why you like this movie so much. It reminded me of you.

MAX

Uh, thanks, I guess. Does that mean you liked the movie or...?

The camera pulls back (once again), and Max and Ann both stand and face each other. The background lights dim, and the camera is at this point only focused on Max and Ann.

ANN

I didn't say I liked it, I said that it reminded me of you.

(pause)

It reminded me of what I didn't like about you, the cynicism, the neurotic insecurity, and all of the other reasons why we were never more than friends.

MAX

(sarcastically)

Thanks. At least you're being honest.

ANN

Of course I'm being honest. This is a fantasy extrapolated from a flashback. Would I lie to you?

MAX

I'm the only person I know who gets insulted in his own fantasies.

EXT CAMPUS

DAY

One year ago (which makes it a year later than the previous scene). BETH and Max are walking outside on the campus.

Beth is thin, pretty with long brown hair. Max looks just about the same as he does today.

MAX

Listen, now that we're alone there's something that I've been meaning to talk to you about.

BETH

Yeah? What is it?

MAX

It's just that, um, look this is a really hard thing for me to do and historically it hasn't always worked out all that well when I've tried to do this sort of thing, so um, bear with me and let me get through it.

BETH

Okay, go for it. Relax, you can ask me anything.

MAX

Okay, well it's just, you know Stacy right?

BETH

Yeah, sure.

MAX

Well, we were hanging out in her room the other night, and we had both been drinking a little, and we were flirting a little, and she asked me to stay over.

BETH

Ugh.

MAX

She asked me to stay over, and I didn't, and I couldn't figure out why. I had nothing to lose, I used to have a thing for her and I sort of still do, and there was no reason why I shouldn't have stayed. So there I was, laying awake, drunk, at 3 in the morning in my bed. The lights were out, Sam was asleep, and I'm awake, staring at the ceiling and trying to figure why I didn't stay with Stacy.

BETH

And?

MAX

And the only thing that I could come up with, even though I kept dismissing it, the only thing running through my mind was, "What about Beth?" I mean, I know we're just friends, and I'm happy with that arrangement, but you really mean a lot to me and we've been spending a lot of time together lately, and maybe... I guess what I'm saying is, is there any chance for the two of us? Can we try going out on a date or something?

BETH

Max...

MAX

I mean, I know it would be weird but it wouldn't...

BETH

I'd love to.

MAX

You ? what?

BETH

I'd love to. How's tomorrow night?

MAX

Um, yeah, that should work. It would have to be after-? yeah, tomorrow night's fine.

INT MAX'S AND BETH'S DORM ROOMS NIGHT

The next day. BETH and MAX are talking to each other on the phone, from their respective dorm rooms.

MAX

So what did you want to do? I was thinking that maybe we could go to that new...

BETH

Do you want to rent a movie?

MAX

I don't know, that's all we ever do. Don't you want to do something a little different?

BETH

Come on, you know you want to rent a movie.

MAX

Oh, well actually Sam's gonna be doing homework and going to bed by midnight. So we can't watch anything at my place.

BETH

I have an idea. Why don't we use one of the VCRs in the library?

MAX

Are you serious? The library? That would be so uncomfortable.

BETH

No it wouldn't.

MAX

Well, I have a serious problem with spending any time in a library when I don't have to be there. I'm there a couple of times a semester as it is, any more than that and I feel like I'm being tricked into something.

BETH

Come on, it'll be fun. Let's do it.

MAX

And won't the librarians complain about the volume?

BETH

What? We'll use headphones. Sometimes you can be such a putz.

MAX

What's the point of watching a movie with another person if you're both going to be wearing headphones? Why not just watch the movie alone while sitting next to a lifesized cardboard cutout?

[more]

MAX (cont'd)

That way you can watch the movie with someone famous like Michael Jordan, even a dead person. Wouldn't you rather be with James Dean?

INT A LARGE QUIET UNIVERSITY LIBRARY NIGHT

MAX is wandering around the lobby, holding a pillow. People in the library are giving him suspicious looks. Max looks lost. After a moment, a LIBRARIAN walks up to Max.

LIBRARIAN

Excuse me, is your name Max?

MAX

Yeah. Why?

LIBRARIAN

Oh, well there was a young lady named Beth who asked me to tell a young man named Max that she was waiting on the third floor. She didn't give me a description of you but she was carrying a blanket.

MAX

So?

LIBRARIAN

So when I saw you holding a pillow, I figured that you must be the boy that she was looking for. You'd be surprised how many of you "pillow people" we get in here.

She points at the pillow.

MAX

What? Oh, oh. No, you don't understand, we're just gonna go watch a movie. We just wanted to get comfortable, um, but not too comfortable.

LIBRARIAN

I have no problem with "comfort". Just remember that this is a library, so keep it quiet. Some people come here to study. If you do want a little more room to stretch out, you can try the basement.

[more]

LIBRARIAN (cont'd)

I find that it's usually quiet down there.

(winks at Max)

INT LIBRARY TV ROOM

The third floor tv room, some time later. Max and Beth are sitting on separate chairs, covered with blankets, both wearing headphones, and watching Annie Hall on a smallish tv. Around them, students are hard at work.

EXT OUTSIDE

After the movie, Max and Beth are walking outside.

MAX

I mean, I can't believe how many great lines there are in that movie. Even the little throw away lines... like when she parks on the street and he says, "that's okay, we can walk to the curb from here". That's just perfect.

BETH

Yeah. I loved that movie, I'm serious. I'm really glad we did this.

MAX

Yeah, me too.

BETH

But it is a little depressing, isn't it.

MAX

I don't know, I guess. I'm not sure that I agree with the film's argument, though.

BETH

Right.

MAX

There are plenty of people out there with good relationships...they're not always a bad thing.

BETH

That's true, but the movie makes it all seem so futile. It's so right on target, isn't it?

MAX

I... It doesn't have to be.

BETH

(stops walking)

Look Max, about all of that talk yesterday of us becoming more serious, it might not be such a good idea. We're get along so well now, maybe we should just stay friends.

MAX

But... what is this, because of a movie? What does that have to do with us?

BETH

No, we both know it wouldn't have worked out. Don't tell me you're first realizing that now.

MAX

First realizing that? It's not like this has been a long term thing. I must have been too busy watching the movie to think about it.

BETH

Shit, shit, I hope it's not too late, I hope we didn't screw up our friendship. We're still friends right?

MAX

Yeah, yeah, and I know, you're right, it wouldn't have worked out. You don't even know how much your friendship means to me.

MAX (cont'd)

I'm starting to get the idea.

INT COLLEGE APARTMENT

NIGHT

Present day, a party in a small, crowded apartment. The furniture is the type of antique furniture that can be bought in a thrift shop on a college student budget... wooden and dignified, but not quite old or nice enough to be antique, and in poor condition. A jazz record is quietly playing, and pretentiously-dressed up college students are sipping wine and eating cheese and crackers.

In one corner of the room, Max, Charles, and Sam are standing and talking. Max and Charles look the same as they do in scene 5, and Sam has shorter hair than he did in scene 6 but otherwise looks the same.

MAX

You know, this is great. Cheers to a new semester, full of potential that will surely go to waste.

Charles and Sam raise their glasses to meet Max's glass.

CHARLES

This is it, I'm telling you man. This is the semester that I get all "A"s and find the girl of my dreams.

MAX

Good luck.

SAM

Sometimes I envy you guys. Being in a long term relationship isn't always a blast.

CHARLES

Uh oh. Do I sense problems between you and Jen?

SAM

No, it's not exactly like that. It's just that, sometimes I miss the freedom. I haven't had the chance to go out to a party like this with you guys in a long time. I like spending time with her, but it gets to be a little...suffocating. Between Jen, my homework, and labs I hardly have much time for anything else.

CHARLES

Suffocating? You're not gonna dump her, are you? Because with you out of the picture, it might be my chance to step up to bat.

SAM

I don't know, it's just too much sometimes.

MAX

You could always change your major. If you weren't a chemistry major, you'd have a lot more free time.

SAM

I kind of feel the same way about science that I do about Jen. It's a lot of work, but it's worth it. I couldn't imagine any other way. But sometimes it's too much, it's a lot to balance.

MAX

It sounds like you can imagine Jen playing a smaller role in your life.

SAM

It's something I've been considering.

CHARLES

Max, would you ever change your major for a girl?

MAX

Why? I mean, why would that ever be an issue?

SAM

It's not like being a government major ever wakes him up before noon, or creates work or stress in his life that interferes with the other important things, like playing video games or wall-papering the bathroom with post-it notes.

MAX

Fuck you, you know that I only did that once. I might not have as much work as you do, but I care about my work, what I'm studying.

SAM

Every time I see you doing homework, you're taking a break.

MAX

In order to take a break I have to do work sometimes, right? So you admit that I do work.

SAM

You call that work? I saw that Etymology paper that you wrote... it was a five page reenactment of the lunch that you had that day! You wrote that paper in less than an hour!

MAX

Yeah, and I got an A! That kind of ingenuity is a skill that takes a lot of practice.

CHARLES

Okay so hypothetically..

SAM

You're the best I've ever seen when it comes to procrastinating.

MAX

I should be! Procrastination is my second favorite hobby. Isn't it funny that my two favorite hobbies rhyme?

CHARLES

You two are unbelievable. Max, you still haven't answered my question. Would you change your major for a girl? Hypothetically.

MAX

Um, I don't know, this is silly. Maybe, for the right girl.

CHARLES

I would, well, it would have to depend on what she wanted me to change it to. There are a lot of majors that I just couldn't imagine doing. If she wants me to change my major to Spanish, that's it, no way, I'm putting my foot down.

MAX

Good for you, Charles. Take a stand.

INT ELSEWHERE AT THE PARTY

Another corner of the party. SARA, a fairly attractive freshman who still dresses and acts like a high school student, is talking to two GIRLS, also freshman.

SARA

Aren't these parties just the best?

GIRL1

Great Brie.

GIRL2

There's nothing like a good Brie.
This wine is fabulous!

GIRL1

I hear that the bottle cost over
ten dollars, and they had to find
someone over 21 to buy it because
they had to go to a liquor store
that checks IDs to get it.

SARA

They went to great lengths.

GIRL1

Huh. It's really good. It's like,
exquisite and shit. If I drink
enough of this stuff, I might even
be able to save that 40 I bought
for tomorrow.

GIRL2

Cool! Hey, is that Charles over
there?

SARA

Where?

INT SAME CORNER AS BEFORE

Charles, Max, and Sam, still talking to each other in the
same corner of the room.

MAX

I don't know, it just all seems so
pretentious and phony to me. Who
are they trying to be, with all of
this wine and cheese.

CHARLES

I can get into this. It's better
than any of the frat parties.

SAM

That's not saying much.

MAX

This music is too much. And why don't they get some real snacks, like chips or something. Who are they trying to be with all of this shit? It's fuckin'... a bunch of 21 year olds who want everyone to know how mature and sophisticated they are. My parents are pretty grown up-- they're almost 50-- and they don't have parties like this.

CHARLES

You want to know who they're trying to be? They're not trying to be your parents, that's for sure. I bet in their time your parents did go to parties like this. The sixties, seventies... you don't think they partied like this all the time? The difference is that there was probably drugs at those parties.

SAM

I'd kill for a cheap beer right now.

Charles takes out a cigarette and lights up.

CHARLES

Max, want one?

MAX

Sure.

SAM

What are you thinking?

MAX

I need a new hobby. I thought about boxing or race car driving, but I wanted to do something a little dangerous, you know?

Max takes a cigarette from Charles, awkwardly lights it with Charles' lighter, takes a light puff, and finally coughs.

SAM

You're such a putz.

CHARLES

It's okay, he's not even inhaling.

MAX

Not only don't I inhale, but I've been doing it for years now, so it's not like I'm going to suddenly become addicted after all this time.

Max puffs, as Sam gives him a dirty look.

MAX (cont'd)

Hey, Charles, is that Sara?

CHARLES

Yeah.

MAX

Brace yourself, it looks like she's coming this way.

CHARLES

Brace yourself? Shit.

Sara joins the three.

SARA

Hey guys, what's going on?

SAM

We were just talking about, the mediocre resonations of sub-hybrid fields.

MAX

Those guys rock. I can't believe you think they're mediocre.

SARA

Oh. Well I just wanted to stop by and say hey to my three favorite guys. How was everyone's break?

SAM

Pretty good.

MAX

The usual. How about you?

SARA

It was all right. Partied with my best friend Melanie, who I hadn't seen in a long time. Hey, are you guys going to the frat party after this?

CHARLES

Nah.

SARA

Are you gonna be back at your suite then? Maybe I'll stop by.

(to Charles, tugging on his shirt)

I missed you when I was home.

CHARLES

Uh-huh. We should be back at the suite in a couple of hours, you should stop by.

SARA

All right, yeah cool. I'll catch up with you guys later. I'm gonna go check out that party first. There's a lot of people there.

CHARLIE

It's good to see you.

Sara waves and then walks away.

CHARLIE(cont'd)

Shit, I was hoping to avoid her for at least a few days.

SAM

I'm gonna see what I could do about getting a beer. Does anybody else want anything?

MAX

No, I'm fine.

CHARLES

Me too. I hope there isn't a line at the bathroom. I have to go help Mark move.

MAX

All right, I'll be here. I hope it all works out in the end.

Max stands alone for a moment, before smiling at JULIE, an attractive girl sitting alone nearby. She smiles back, and Max sits down in the chair next to her. At first he looks in the opposite direction, but then he turns to her and quietly speaks.

MAX (cont'd)

Hi.

JULIE

Hi.

MAX

Some party, huh? Really wild.

JULIE

I don't know, it's a good time, but it seems a little fake. My friends dragged me here. I don't usually go to these things.

MAX

Yeah, I know the feeling.

JULIE

Are you Max?

MAX

Yeah, why? What have you heard, and who's been talking?

JULIE

I was told that I would like you.

MAX

What? Well, um, I never believe any of the good things I hear about myself. That's because I'm the one usually saying them, and I'm lying at the time.

JULIE

(laughs)

No, it was from a good source.

Sam and Charles are walking toward Max and Julie.

JULIE (cont'd)

These are your friends, right?

SAM

No beer. What kind of college party has no beer?

JULIE

Listen, it looks like it's time for me to get out of here. I'm being flagged down by my over-protective friends. It was really nice to meet you.

Julie's friends are at this point standing by the door with their coats on, looking at their watches and waiting for Julie to return so that they can all leave.

MAX

Yeah.

Julie quickly walks away, and Max continues, mostly to himself.

MAX (cont'd)

I'll see you around.

CHARLES

(walking over)

Who was that? She's cute.

MAX

I don't know, but she knows me.

SAM

Mysterious. You didn't even get her name?

MAX

No.

CHARLES

Anybody wanna get out of here?

SAM

Yeah I... shit, actually yeah,
(looks at his watch)
I... Jen gets off work at midnight
and I'm supposed to be home.

CHARLES

Max? You ready to bounce?

MAX

What? Oh yeah, sure. Let's go.

INT COMMON ROOM OF A DORM SUITE NIGHT

Two in the morning. A crowded, smallish COMMON ROOM in a dorm, with cheap, battered couches lining three walls and several small fridges and a television standing against the fourth wall. A medium-sized coffee table sits in the middle of the room. Large posters from movies and rock bands cover the walls, and the only light in the room is from blue Christmas lights lining the ceiling, and a neon Heineken sign in the window above one of the couches. Max, Sam, Charles, SCOTT, TOMMY, JEN and Sara are all there, drinking beers and watching an infomercial for a golf putter.

Scott is tall, wears glasses, and has a shaved head. Tommy is more preppy than anyone else in the group, wearing a nice button down shirt with a sweater vest, khaki pants, and nice shoes. Despite his clothes, his overall demeanor manages to match his friends' neurotic goofiness. Jen is wearing a Pearl Jam T-shirt under overalls, and is casually leaning on Sam in a manner that suggests intimacy.

SCOTT

How was the party?

SAM

It was all right.

TOMMY

That's why the beginning of the semester rules. Before I get too much work, I have a chance to party.

SCOTT

What do you mean "party"? You were studying all night.

TOMMY

It feels good to be taking a break now. I'm going to, I think I'm gonna finish this beer and then, then I'm just going to get like two or three more problems out of the way before I go to bed.

SCOTT

(mocking Tommy)

I think I'm gonna finish this one, and then I think I'll get three or four more beers out of the fridge before I pass out on the couch.

MAX

And you need to be up by 12:30 tomorrow, don't you? It must be tough, maintaining a tight schedule like that.

TOMMY

(overlapping with Sara)

You should talk! What time did you wake up today?

SARA

(overlapping with Tommy)

All you guys ever fuckin" do is argue, damn it!

JEN

(to Sara)

I know. It's so funny. This is what they do... sit in front of the TV, playing video games and arguing with each other...

SARA

And what the hell are we watching anyway?

JEN

--and then they complain that they don't have girlfriends.

TOMMY

It's about a putter. Leave it.

MAX

All of us except Sam, who's too busy complaining about the girlfriend he has.

CHARLES

(laughing)

Oooh! I can't believe you just said that.

JEN

It's okay, I know you guys are all just jealous.

TOMMY

(trying to watch TV)

Shhh.

SARA

You know, if the rest of you tried a little harder, there are plenty of girls around who would be interested.

SCOTT

You don't think we know that?

TOMMY

(sincere)

Who? Is someone interested in me?

SCOTT

The last time I was with your mother, she kept moaning your name in bed. I'm not sure if that helps, but it did help me.

TOMMY

You bitch.

(Gives Scott an amused
look.)

Now be quiet, I'm trying to watch
this.

MAX

This is the time of our lives. We
should be living it up. Is this all
there is? Golf infomercials and
cheap beer?

TOMMY

Sounds good to me.

SCOTT

You know what we need? A double
Barca lounge.

MAX

I'm just a little restless.

SARA

(to Max)

You don't have to be here. Aren't
there any girls that you could be
hanging out with? You guys are so
passive about these things.

MAX

It's depressing, but there aren't
any girls on my mind. And even if
there were, it sounds like such a
struggle. "Hanging out" has such
bad connotations.

SARA

It seems like that would be more
exciting than this.

The infomercial ends and Tommy leaves.

SAM

Who wants to play hockey?

SCOTT

(to Sara)

We're exciting enough to get you to
come over.

SARA

Exactly. That's what I'm talking
about.

MAX

(to Sam)

You want a game? Let's go.

CHARLES

(stands up and stretches)

I think I'm gonna hit the sack.

SARA

You're going to bed already? But it's only 1.

CHARLES

Well I've got a lot of work to do tomorrow and those beers are starting to pile up.

INT LATER, SAME PLACE

Two hours later (4 am) that night, in the same place. Max, Scott, Tommy, and Sara are still awake, and with the exception of Sara, they are all a little drunk. Sara is very drunk. They're all reclining on the couches, nearly asleep, speaking more slowly and slurred than before, and laughing at everything. The room is a little bit messier than in the last scene.

TOMMY

Who wants to watch the Transformers movie?

MAX

Again?! Shit, since you brought that up to school you must have watched that...

TOMMY

Four times! Four fuckin' times! Is that so wrong?

MAX

--four times. Four times! It's enough already. It's a fuckin' cartoon that I was too mature for when it was released, and that was like ten years ago.

TOMMY

Nine years ago.

MAX

No, check your watch. It's 1998, remember?

TOMMY

Yeah...

MAX

Don't you remember that little party a few weeks back, a lot of alcohol and shouting, what time were we shouting?

SCOTT

Around midnight.

TOMMY

Yeah, yeah, yeah. All right... fuck both of you.

SCOTT

Who cares what year it came out? Throw it on.

SARA

You guys are too much.

Tommy stands up, walks over to the VCR, and puts the tape on.

TOMMY

(to Max)

You really don't like this movie?

MAX

It's not my thing. I don't know. I was always more of a fan of G.I. Joe.

SCOTT

That cartoon was stupid... nobody ever died.

MAX

It was all about the comic book. The G.I. Joe comic book was where it was at when I was a kid.

TOMMY

Speak on, brother! I had every issue of every series.

MAX

Yeah. It was the best.

SCOTT

Anyone ever die in the comic?

TOMMY

Every once in a while.

SCOTT

That's respectable.

MAX

Did I ever tell you guys my theory about G.I. Joe and Transformers?

TOMMY

What? They went out on a double date with Barbie and Jem?

SARA

Jem! Ha! I remember that. What would, like, what the hell would the kids look like? A fuckin" robot, with a, with a-- (laughs)

TOMMY

Okay, someone cut her off! No more for Sara.

(laughs, then pauses)

So what's, wait, let me hear this idea.

MAX

It's like, shit, I don't know if I can... anyway, I think that like um, the toys that people, well boys, boys our age played with, can tell us something about what they ended up like.

TOMMY

What do you mean?

SARA

(nearly throws herself off the couch)

Come on Max! Spit it out already!

MAX

It's like, kids who played with Transformers all the time are science people in college, and people who liked G.I. Joe, they like the social sciences. Think about it, I think it holds up.

TOMMY

Yeah, I can see it. I liked both but I always did like Transformers a little better.

MAX

And you're also a little, you know, a little confused about...

TOMMY

I'm not gay! Would you guys stop spreading rumors!

MAX

Who's spreading rumors? The only rumors out there are the ones that you create with comments like that.

TOMMY

I know, I was kidding.

MAX

Your sexuality is your own business. We'll support you either way.

TOMMY

Fuck you.

MAX

You think I'm kidding but I mean it man.

SCOTT

We all do.

MAX

Yeah, but, where was I?

TOMMY

You were talking about G.I. Joe.

MAX

Oh yeah, well the theory is that like, kids who like science now liked science fiction then, and little boys who played war grow up to study history and politics and stuff.

SARA

That has to be one of the stupidest things I've ever heard.

SCOTT

What about computer science majors?

MAX

Video games, obviously. Or Transformers... computer science is closer to a hard science than it is to sociology or something.

SCOTT

Yeah, I sucked at G.I. Joe. And Transformers must have been built by a Comp-sci major.

TOMMY

You ever wonder what's up with the sky and moon on a sunny night, and why we park on park, sorry, driveways and drive on the, what, how does that go?

SARA

Someone get me another beer.

SCOTT

I'm going to bed. Goodnight.

DISSOLVE TO

INT SAME ROOM, THE NEXT MORNING DAY

About 11:30 the next morning, in the common room. Sara is sleeping on the same couch that she was laying on the night before. Around 20 empty and partially-empty beer bottles litter the medium sized coffee table. The room is a mess, the typical scene for the morning after a small party.

CHARLES, wearing only boxers, hung over and still at least half asleep, passes by the living room while walking toward the bathroom. Just as he is in the hall, closest to the living room, he stubs his toe on a fold-up chair that was resting in the hall, before loudly slamming into the wall.

CHARLES

(yelling)
Ow! Shit! Ow!

Charles continues to walk to the bathroom where he does his thing (off camera). Sara, meanwhile, is awakened by Charles' voice and sits upright on the couch. After a moment of silence, Charles walks out of the bathroom and is obviously surprised to see Sara.

CHARLES (cont'd)
Jeezzus! Shit, sorry you um--

Sara is also groggy and hung over.

SARA
It's all right, you're not the first guy that I've had that effect on. At least this time I'm not the one that's almost naked.

CHARLES
It's was just the, it's not the boxers, I don't give a shit about that. I'm just surprised to see you.

He sits down on the couch next to the one that Sara is on.

SARA
You have a way of making a girl feel welcome. I fell asleep on the couch at, um, I don't even remember what time it was. I was so drunk. I still feel it. Some aspirin would be great.

CHARLES
Yeah, definitely. I could really get into that right about now.

SARA
No... well I mean, um, do you have any? Do you have any aspirin, or Advil or anything? Advil's the best if you have that.

CHARLES
What? No, sorry. I don't have anything for you. I'd usually ask Sam and he's not awake yet.

SARA
Hmm, yeah I was sort of gonna go anyway. I think I've got some stuff at home, and I have a lot to do today anyway...

She pauses, until it is clear that Charles is not going to encourage her to stay.

SARA (cont'd)
All right so um, I'll see you later.

She stands up and walks to the doorway.

SARA, CONT'D

See you later.

Just as she leaves the suite, Max walks into the living room and sits down.

MAX

You all right?

CHARLES

It bothers me to have her around all the time. I chose to live with you guys, I never agreed to live with her. She's got to realize that we're not right for each other and get on with her life!

MAX

No, I mean, I thought I heard you fall or something.

CHARLES

Oh, it's nothing, I just stubbed my toe.

MAX

That sucks. Your day is off to a terrible start.

CHARLES

Huh?

MAX

Hung over with a freshly stubbed toe.

CHARLES

That's the least of it.

MAX

This is kind of funny, in a way. Only a couple of days ago, wait when was it... I think it was only yesterday, you were complaining about not having any girls, and now you're complaining because there's... a girl that's interested.

CHARLES

I know. It's a shame.

MAX

But it's all right. It would never work out between the two of you. You're just saving a lot of time and frustration this way. It's like a preemptive strike on a potentially bad relationship.

Scott enters.

CHARLES

No shit it wouldn't have worked out!

SCOTT

What are we doing for lunch?

CHARLES

Anywhere with coffee.

MAX

Actually Beth called before... she wanted to have lunch with me.

SCOTT

So? Are you gonna go with her instead of us?

MAX

No, no, I thought I'd bring her along. I'm gonna go give her a call.

Max exits, Tommy enters.

TOMMY

Morning. What are we gonna do for lunch? Anybody wanna go to Long Island Hot Dogs?

SCOTT

How about Fabulous Pizza?

CHARLES

Both of those places make me shit. Annie's?

TOMMY

I love that place!

SCOTT

You love that place? You always used to hate that place.

TOMMY

They make a great burger.

SCOTT

I don't want to go there again,
we're always there.

TOMMY

Because it's good.

SCOTT

It's expensive, and it's not that
good.

CHARLES

Where do you want to go, then?

Max enters.

MAX

So what's up with lunch? What'd you
guys decide?

SCOTT

Fabulous.

MAX

Again? We ate there like two days
ago. And Beth doesn't like that
place.

TOMMY

Beth's coming?

MAX

Yeah, and she wants to go to either
Annie's, Wendy's, or for chinese.

SCOTT

Why does she get to choose?

CHARLES

I'm gonna take a shower. You guys
figure it out.

TOMMY

When is Beth gonna be here? I might
just reheat some leftovers.

TITLE: "25 Minutes Later"

Max and Sam are finishing up a hockey game on the Genesis,
Beth, Jen and Charles are sitting on the couches. Scott
enters the room as the scene begins.

SCOTT
You guys figure it out yet?

MAX
Yeah. We're going to Annie's.

SCOTT
All right. Let me just get my shoes.

CHARLES
You guys almost done with that game?

Jessica and Amanda walk in, wearing winter coats.

JESSICA
We were gonna go get some breakfast. Did you guys have any plans?

BETH
Hi. Oh, come on, come with us.

SCOTT
(returning with shoes)
Who's here?

BETH
It's Jessica and Amanda.

SCOTT
Fuck it, the more the merrier.

He smiles at Jessica and Amanda, who are still standing in the hallway.

AMANDA
With an invitation like that, how could we refuse. Where are we going?

INT ANNIE'S

A small, not-too-brightly-lit, greasy spoon of a diner. Jessica, Amanda, Scott, and Charles are at one table, and Max, Beth, Sam and Jen are sitting at the adjoining table. Both tables are engaged in separate conversations.

MAX
I don't have a problem with working, don't try to turn that into the issue.
[more]

MAX (cont'd)

I'm not lazy, but I don't want to waste my time on something that's pointless, something that I don't believe in.

SAM

I'm just talking about going to the gym.

MAX

But it's like, why should I waste that energy running on a treadmill when I could use it for something productive?

SAM

Everything isn't a moral dilemma. It's not like the fate of the world is resting on whether or not you go to the gym with me some time. I don't care, and if you don't care either, then no one cares.

JEN

Calm down! For something that you don't care about, you're getting awfully worked up.

MAX

It's not his fault. We probably spend too much time together. These little things get really aggravating when you have to listen to it all the time... I've gotta respect anyone who puts up with as much of my crap as Sam does.

SAM

Thanks.

MAX

That's just about all I respect him for, but the respect is there.

JEN

Someday they're gonna kill each other.

BETH

Or get married.

JEN

They're practically a married couple now!

[more]

JEN (cont'd)
 This is their third year living together. That's longer than most marriages last today.

SAM
 The only difference is that we've never had sex.

BETH
 What makes you think married people have sex?

MAX
 Oh, like any of us would know.

INT THE ADJOINING TABLE

Amanda, Charles, Jessica and Scott are all looking at the menu.

AMANDA
 Why do you guys always come here?
 It's so dark and the menu is tiny.

CHARLES
 It's good shit, that's why we always come here.

JESSICA
 I don't think I want to eat in a restaurant that serves shit, even, you know, good shit.

AMANDA
 How big is the small orange juice?

SCOTT
 Small.

AMANDA
 What about the large?

SCOTT
 It's also small.

INT THE FIRST TABLE

Everyone here is also reading the menu. Jen is sitting next to Sam, who is sitting across from Beth and diagonal from Max.

SAM
 (to Jen)
 What are you gonna get?

JEN
Maybe an omelette.

MAX
You're gonna get eggs?

JEN
I was thinking about it.

SAM
(rolling his eyes)
Uh oh.

MAX
Do you have to get eggs? I really
have an allergic reaction to them.

JEN
So don't get the eggs.

MAX
(pauses)
It's just that... it's the smell,
it's the smell that bothers me.

JEN
(laughing)
Are you serious? The smell of my
eggs would bother you that much?

BETH
Don't worry about it, Jen. He's
just incredibly picky about food.

JEN
Max, what do you want me to get?
Everything here has eggs.

MAX
All right, if you're going to have
eggs then can you at least switch
seats with Sam, so I'll be further
away from it?

SAM
Max, we're not switching. As your
roommate I'm going to do what I can
to help you get over this.

MAX
Thanks... I didn't realize you cared
so much.

SAM

If it really bothers you, why don't you and Beth switch?

JEN

What if I got French toast?

MAX

French toast! How do you think they make French toast? It's rolled around in eggs.

SAM

What are you, crazy? How about pancakes, they're also made with eggs.

JEN

Or a bagel. Would it bother you if I had a bagel?

MAX

No. It's different.

SAM

How is it different?

MAX

Think about it. It just is.

SAM

But it doesn't bother you when people at other tables eat eggs? Even if they're just as close to you? Should we ask the people sitting behind you to not order any egg-products while you're here?

MAX

It's all right, we'll just switch. Come on, Beth, get up so we can switch seats.

BETH

What makes you so sure I'm gonna switch? (laughing)

I don't think I'm gonna move.

MAX

You owe me. Remember that time that you threw an egg at me in that chinese restaurant?

BETH
 (laughing)
 Yeah, I remember that. Okay, I'll
 get up, but I'm ordering an
 omelette.

INT THE UNIVERSITY CENTER

The concourse, crowded with the post-lunch rush. Max, Sam and Charles walk in, and stop walking near the stairwell.

SAM
 Mail?

MAX
 I'm gonna hit the ATM.

CHARLES
 Good. Don't think that I'm gonna
 forget about the five bucks that
 you owe me.

MAX
 Yeah, yeah, yeah.

SAM
 Want me to check your mailbox?

MAX
 Sure.

Charles and Sam walk upstairs toward the mail room, and Max walks over to the ATM, where several people are waiting in line ahead of him. After Max has been standing there for a moment, Julie drifts through the flock of people and joins the line, standing directly behind Max. They both recognize each other immediately, and after an awkward bit of silence Julie speaks.

JULIE
 Can you believe how crowded this
 place is?

MAX
 (feigning surprise)
 Oh, hey! Yeah, it's a mess. I hate
 coming here this time of day.

JULIE
 Me too.

MAX
 But I need money, debts and all.

JULIE

Me too, I mean, I'm not in debt,
but I need money. "Me too," for
money.

The person using the ATM is having a problem getting her card back from the machine, and is visibly frustrated and accepting advice from the person standing behind her in line. Max and Julie can't hear the following dialogue exchange.

ATM USER

I can't believe these machines!
What kind of machine makes you take
out \$10!

PERSON

(concerned)

It won't let you take out more than
\$10?

ATM USER

I need \$6 for lunch, and the
machine's broken again. Now what
the hell am I going to do?

Camera PANS back to Max and Julie.

MAX

ATMs are such a pain in the ass.

JULIE

I think they're great, they save so
much time. Think about what life
must have been like before ATMs.

MAX

That's true, but I mean, how can I
support something when I don't even
know what it stands for?

JULIE

I heard that it's access to money.

MAX

(with a disbelieving look)

Huh. Could be. So the other night
you said that someone told you to
meet me. Anyone I know? Well, I
guess it would have to be someone I
know.

JULIE

I could tell you, but that wouldn't
be any fun.

MAX

You're right, but... huh. I don't know. Now I'm going to have to go crazy asking around or try to figure it out. What year are you? I haven't seen you around much, are you a freshman?

JULIE

I'm listed as a sophomore, but I've taken some time off.

It is now Max's turn at the ATM.

MAX

So what are you studying?

JULIE

Why is that always the first question?

MAX

It was my second question.

JULIE

I'm leaning toward art. Maybe communications. And you?

MAX

Political Science. I'm majoring in political science.

JULIE

Cool. More power to you. I've never been interested in the sciences. Who cares that you can prove some silly theory? Subjectivity is all that matters.

Max is done with the ATM, and Julie steps up to take a turn. Just as Max is finishing, Charles and Sam are walking down the stairs and toward the ATM. Max is standing near Julie and the ATM as she begins to use the machine.

JULIE (cont'd)

Max, are you trying to watch me punch in my code?

MAX

What? No, I mean...um, I have to go anyway. It's just that I never got your name last night.

JULIE

It's Julie, no nickname. My friends used to call me Jewel, but I won't let them call me that anymore.

MAX

For obvious reasons, I guess.

JULIE

Obviously.

MAX

Well, Julie with no nickname, it was nice meeting you. I um, I'll see you around?

JULIE

Yeah. Sure.

Max walks away from the ATM, and toward Sam and Charles, who are standing and waiting for Max.

CHARLES

Max, you ready to go?

SAM

It took you long enough.

Sam, Charles, and Max exit the building and begin walking toward their dorm.

CHARLES

Who's the girl? She's kind of cute.

SAM

She's the same one from the party, right?

MAX

Yeah.

CHARLES

She's cute.

MAX

Yeah.

TITLE: "Tuesday"

INT PHOTOGRAPHY ROOMS DAY

A small PHOTO PROCESSING ROOM. There is a large sink along one wall, a long table against another wall, and a large, metal, stand up closet along a third wall.

The fourth wall is reserved for the door. They are processing their negatives. MAX is shaking up a tumbler as AMANDA watches and keeps time.

AMANDA
Tired yet?

MAX
A little. How much more time?

AMANDA
Less than 2 minutes. We're almost done.

MAX
Good.

Pauses for a moment, until the silence becomes awkward.

MAX (cont'd)
So what else is news?

AMANDA
Not much. How about you? Huh? Huh?

She starts poking Max. Max is disturbed, but tries not to show it.

MAX
Classes are all right so far. I'm not sure if I'll ever get the hang of this photography thing... it's way too technical for me. I prefer art forms that don't require complicated chemical reactions.

AMANDA
I like it.

MAX
It's all right.

Beat.

AMANDA
Does it bother Scott when I'm around?

MAX
What... why? Well, I mean, I don't, I know why you might think that, but like, um, I don't exactly know what to say...

AMANDA

It's all right, please, I can accept the truth.

MAX

The truth is that... it's not a topic! That's what I'm trying to say.

AMANDA

What?-

MAX

It doesn't bother him, or us, or, I mean at least he doesn't talk about it...

AMANDA

(quietly upset)

So he never talks about me?

MAX

No I mean...

AMANDA

I knew it.

Amanda is clearly upset, and Max is straining to make her feel better.

MAX

Wait, listen. What I'm trying to say is that you are not an issue... it's like, you're not a topic that comes up very often. Oh shit, no I mean...

AMANDA

Great, so what are you saying, that, like...

MAX

What?

AMANDA

You're saying that none of you have any opinion of me? You really know how to make a girl feel welcome.

Amanda storms out of the room.

MAX

No... what... oy.

Amanda returns, still upset.

AMANDA

It's time!

MAX

What?

AMANDA

(calmer)

It's time. It's time to unroll the film.

MAX

Oh. Listen, Amanda, Scott has nothing against you. He likes you. He might not like you as much as you wish he would, but he likes you.

AMANDA

Really?

MAX

He likes it when you're around. So do we. You're welcome to come over whenever you want, you know that.

AMANDA

Okay.

Max has by now opened the tumblers and is examining the finished negatives.

AMANDA (cont'd)

How do they look?

MAX

Pretty good. Here, I think this one's yours.

AMANDA

Let me see. Yeah.

She examines the negatives that Max has just handed her. She opens the door to a stand up closet in a corner of the room, hangs her negatives from a clothespin, and leaves the room as Max approaches the closet. Max examines the closet, noticing a shortage of clothespins and a condition of two to three rolls of negatives hanging from each pin. After a moment of consideration, Max selects a clothespin, and when he pinches it and tries to stick his negatives in, all three negatives fall off of the clothespin.

Max attempts to pick up the negatives, and manages to step on all of the negatives before picking them up. He holds the crumpled negatives up to examine them as Amanda shouts, from outside of the room.

AMANDA (O.S.) (cont'd)
Max? What's going on in there?

MAX
Nothing. I'll be right there.

Max hangs up the crumpled negatives and begins to walk toward the door when he realizes that a negative is stuck to the sole of his shoe.

MAX (cont'd)
Shit!

Max takes the negative off his shoe, throwing himself off balance and almost knocking himself over in the process.

AMANDA (O.S.)
Why does it always take you so long
in there?

Max quickly throws the negative in the closet and leaves the room.

TITLE: "Thursday"

INT THE COMMON ROOM NIGHT

In the suite, again. Sam walks in and Max is watching a special about underwear on The Learning Channel... on screen at the moment are attractive women posing in bras. It's around one in the morning. Sam looks upset.

MAX
Hey.

SAM
Hey. What are you doing?

MAX
Just watching a special about underwear. I can't believe the shit they show on The Learning Channel late at night. It's so weird... you'd think the learning channel would be the one respectable thing on cable TV, but I guess they've got a sell a product too.

SAM

Hmm.

MAX

It's funny... I've never thought learning was this much fun.

Sam sits down on a couch. Max notices that Sam is upset.

MAX (cont'd)

What's up?

SAM

Why don't we go for a walk. Come on, let's go down to the Blarney. I'll buy you a drink.

MAX

If we can get in. I... oh wow, you guys broke up, didn't you?

Beat.

SAM

Yeah. How'd you know?

MAX

You had the same look in your eyes two years ago when you told me that you broke up with Eve.

SAM

Hmm. Come on, let's get out of here.

INT LOCAL BAR

A half empty local dive bar. A classic rock song is playing from the jukebox. Sam is sitting alone at a small table. Max is at the bar. The bartender approaches Max.

BARTENDER

I'm gonna need to some I.D.

Max reaches into his pants pocket.

MAX

Sure. Oh shit, actually I think I left it at home. There's no...

BARTENDER

Nope. You gotta go.

INT COFFEE BAR

A dive of a coffee bar that looks a lot like the bar in the previous scene. Sam is sitting alone at a small table. Max is at the bar, ordering a couple of coffees. The bartender brings the drinks to Max, who pays the bartender and then walks over to a table and sits across from Sam. During this scene, Sam and Max fit the stereotype of a couple of guys sadly talking over their problems at a bar... except that it happens to be a coffee bar.

MAX

Cappucino, 2 sugars, cinnamon?

SAM

(accepting the coffee)

Thanks.

MAX

Don't worry about it. So what happened with Jen?

SAM

It's not exactly as sudden as it looks. It's been building up for a long time. It gets to the point where you've been with a person for a long time, and if you know you're not completely in love with that person, and you know that you're not going to marry that person, then you're sort of in limbo. It's like those old Road Runner cartoons. You can only float through the air until you look down, and I looked down.

MAX

So what made you finally decide to do it? I mean, you complained every so often but you basically seemed happy.

SAM

It wasn't planned. It was kind of an accident.

MAX

You broke up by accident?

SAM

No, I think it's for the best... I just didn't want it to happen like this.

MAX

How did it happen?

SAM

We were just hanging out, watching TV, and she told me that she loves me. It was completely out of the blue, you know? We weren't even sitting on the same couch at the time.

MAX

All right, and then what?

SAM

I wasn't sure what to say. She says things like that sometimes, but it's usually when I'm expecting it. Like when we're in bed or something. If you're prepared for something like that, it's easy to handle. But this time it was different. It meant something deeper because it was so unexpected. All we were doing was watching TV. It caught me by surprise.

MAX

Were you watching The Learning Channel?

INT SMALLISH LIVING ROOM, COLLEGE STUDENT'S APARTMENT NIGHT

Sam sits on a chair. JenÅfs on a couch. Both face the TV, and talk. Max is standing by the TV, as if observing the memory through Sam's retelling of the story. When Sam talks to Max in this flashback, Jen is oblivious. Jen cannot see Max either. When dialogue that she does not hear is taking place, Jen remains frozen in place.

SAM

No, look, it's just MTV. Anyway, I couldn't lie to her so I tried to explain how I felt as honestly as possible.

(to Jen)

We've been together a long time and I really care about you, but I don't know if I love you. I'm not sure what love is... but it feels like, this is a tough thing to say, but I think something might be missing from our relationship

JEN
Something's missing?

SAM
Let me see if I can explain this,
I'll try my best. I really care
about you but... okay. There are
three things I look for in a girl:
mind, heart, and body. You've got
the body.

Max starts laughing, he can't believe his ears. Jen is obviously upset, and after a moment of silence she storms out of the room.

MAX
You said that? To a girl that
you've been with for 2 years?! Wow,
you think you know someone pretty
well and then they do something
like this.

INT BACK IN THE COFFEE BAR

SAM
What? Why was that so bad? I was
being honest.

MAX
What are you, an asshole? Don't you
know that no matter how often girls
tell you that they want complete
honesty, they never actually mean
it? No one does. I can't believe
you haven't figured that out by
now. It was funny, I'll give you
that, but as far as personal
relations go, you are an idiot.

SAM
I don't see why it's bad, if it's
what I think. I wanted to be
honest. I still think that honesty
is always best.

MAX
Well how did she take it?

SAM
Not too good. Actually it was
pretty frightening.
[more]

SAM (cont'd)

First she slapped me in the face and asked me to leave, then she started crying and gave me a hug and told me to stay, and then she kicked me out and said she never wanted to see me again.

MAX

Fifty bucks says there's a message on the machine when you get back.

SAM

Hmm.

MAX

It's too bad. I'm not that surprised, but it's too bad it ended like this. I'm really sorry.

SAM

Me too.

Beat.

MAX

How do you feel about the whole thing?

SAM

I don't know, I'm upset. I'm going to be hard to get used to. But it probably would have only been harder if we had broken up later.

MAX

Yeah. I agree.

(beat)

I can't believe you said that to her. That's so cool.

SAM

You think?

MAX

I just hope I'm there the next time she tries to kick your ass. Listen, why don't we get out of here. There's a band playing in the pub. It might cheer you up.

SAM

I don't think I'm up for it. Sometimes it's best to spend a little time crying in your coffee.

MAX

All right. Well I um, nevermind.

SAM

You go. I think I'd rather be alone here for a little while.

MAX

You sure? Shit, I can't leave you here like this.

SAM

Yeah, I'm fine. Really. Have fun at the show.

MAX

You know, drinking alone is the first sign of trouble. You might want to keep your eye on that.

SAM

(not exactly amused)
Thanks for the warning.

INT CAMPUS CLUB

About fifteen minutes later, in The Pub... a small, sort of dark, loud club in the basement of the school's University Center. The place has character in a generic way, as if an attempt for style was made but quickly abandoned. There is a ska band playing on a small stage in front, about 75 people half-filling the room, and a snack bar in the rear. The kids in the club are wearing the attire associated with ska "rude boys": they are dressed in black suits and black dress shoes, with white shirts and black or checkered ties. Some of the boys are wearing pork pie hats, and some are wearing black sunglasses even though the club is fairly dark. They are also skanking, which isn't helping anyone retain their dignity.

Max walks in and nods to a couple of people as he makes his way through the dancing crowd. He recognizes Scott and Charles standing near the bar and approaches them. Charles is talking to Sara, and Scott is standing next to Charles, statically watching the band. In this scene, the characters are shouting but audible over the band.

MAX

Hey guys. What's up?

CHARLES

Max! Good to see you, buddy!

SCOTT

Hey.

CHARLES

How was the bar?

MAX

Oh, the bar. It was a little depressing actually.

CHARLES

What, no action?

SARA

(laughs)

Ha ha, that's funny. Ha.

MAX

Something like that.

CHARLES

That's too bad. But don't worry about it, you're here now and the band is rockin'.

SCOTT

I hate ska. It reminds me of the music that my Grandmother listens to.

MAX

My Grandmother never listened to ska. She was too busy listening to Wagner blast through the concentration camp PA system.

CHARLES

Hey! You stole that from Annie Hall.

MAX

What?

CHARLES

That line. There's a line like that in Annie Hall.

MAX

Wha... oh yeah. I guess you're right. Huh. I still think I'm gonna watch the movie soon.

CHARLES

I don't know, I still think it's a bad idea.

MAX
Come on, it's a movie.

SARA
(to Charles)
Can you believe they cast Jon as
the psychiatrist in Equus?

They are now returning to the conversation that they were having before Max walked in.

CHARLES
I think he can pull it off. That
could be a good cast if Nicole does
a good job preparing everybody.

A shot from Max's point of view panning through the crowd, followed by a shot of Max looking through the crowd. Scott notices Max's wandering eye.

SCOTT
Who are you looking for?

MAX
I don't know, I mean, no one.

SCOTT
You've been looking for no one
since you walked in.

MAX
All right, you win. I'm looking for
the girl from the party last week.

SCOTT
There's Beth. Looks like you'll
have to settle for her.

Beth is standing near the entrance, talking to a FRIEND, having apparently just entered the pub. Max and Scott stand silently watching the band for a moment, before Max approaches Beth and her friend.

MAX
Hey.

She gives Max a big hug.

BETH
Max! Max! It's so good to see you.

MAX
Yeah, it's good to see you. What's
up?

BETH

Not a lot. I've been studying all night and I thought I'd come down here and take a break.

(points to the band)

Are these guys any good?

MAX

They're all right. It's, you know, ska. It's good if you like it, and elevator music if you don't.

FRIEND

I'm going to say hi to someone. I'll be right back.

BETH

Mm hm. So how are you doing?

MAX

I'm okay, as okay as okay goes, which is reasonably okay.

BETH

You're so weird.

MAX

That's what they all tell me. How are you doing?

BETH

I try not to think about it.

MAX

That bad, huh?

Beth is looking across the room.

BETH

Oh shit, there's Steve. Who is he with? Is he with someone?

MAX

I don't know.

BETH

He never calls me anymore. He's such an asshole. I think he might be seeing someone. Have you heard anything?

MAX

About Steve seeing someone?

BETH

Yeah.

MAX

No. I haven't heard anything. I'm sure nothing's going on, and even if something were, why would I hear about it?

BETH

I just know that something's going on.

MAX

I... it's possible.

Beth is still looking at Steve.

BETH

You think it's possible...

MAX

Anything's possible.

BETH

What? You're right. I'm sorry. I'm so sorry.

MAX

Don't worry about it. I've been there.

BETH

It's just... why are we attracted to people that are so bad for us? Is it because they excite us?

MAX

I guess so. Maybe we should try to be more exciting, make people think I'm living on the edge, like "I was once driving a little bit too fast, and I got into a car accident. It was rough. I mean, no one was hurt or anything and insurance covered all the damage on the car, but it could have been a nasty scene. I saw my car flash before my eyes."

BETH

(laughing)

That's funny. I can be a rebel too.

[more]

BETH (cont'd)
Sometimes I let myself sleep until
10 on weekends, and every once in a
while I forget to floss.

MAX
(laughs)
God, our lives are so pathetic.

BETH
I don't think it's pathetic, I
think it's good. We're good people,
you know, but I feel like sometimes
I wish my life was more exciting.

MAX
Or you think that if your life was
more exciting, it would help
attract guys, right?

BETH
It's fucked up, I know.

MAX
All I know is that, when my video
game system is working, that's all
the rebellion that I need. It's
fucked up, I know.

TITLE: "Friday"

INT COMMON ROOM NIGHT

In the common room of the suite, Max and Sam are playing the
latest version of Genesis NHL hockey.

SAM
That was so cool in Swingers, when
they're playing this.

MAX
And also in Chasing Amy, was it,
yeah. There's a scene when the two
main characters play this game.

SAM
Yeah, that was neat. Those were
both good movies. But I hate it
when characters in movies are
constantly talking about other
movies. Like the little tributes to
Goodfellas and Reservoir Dogs in
Swingers, and all of the Star Wars
references in Chasing Amy.

MAX

No... the Star Wars shit was in Kevin Smith's other two movies, Clerks and Mallrats, but not Chasing Amy. Chasing Amy was full of comic book references.

SAM

It doesn't matter. Talking about movies in other movies bothers me. It's like, the writer can't come up with enough of their own ideas so they have to steal stuff from movies that they admire.

MAX

I think it's kind of cool. If I were writing a movie I'd stick in some kind of reference to movies that I like. Can you imagine if this was a movie?

SAM

Yeah. Huh. It would be a pretty awful movie.

MAX

What do you mean?

SAM

Our lives would be a dumb movie.

MAX

I don't know. And anyway, if our lives were a movie, you would never be able to say that.

SAM

Why not?

MAX

Because if this was a movie, and it really was bad, and a character in the movie said it was bad, you'd be giving the critics the perfect sound-bite quote for their reviews about how awful this movie is.

SAM

This movie, you mean the movie about our lives? You're saying I'd be opening the door for a bad review of our lives?

MAX

Yeah. That's like admitting in a commercial that the product sucks, you can't do that.

SAM

Suck it up. If this was a movie, and my character was realistic, I would say that this was a dumb movie. You know why? It's called characterization.

MAX

So you think that authenticity would help?

SAM

It might.

Max scores a goal.

MAX

Yes! Woo hoo!

SAM

Arrrgh. But on the other hand, if this was a movie, we would want to help the critics in every way that we can, and giving them a perfect little sound-bite to pull out would do that.

MAX

Maybe. All I know, is that if this was a movie, it would be the best movie released since Gone With the Wind, stylishly clever and full of great performances, and going to see it would be the best \$7.50 anyone could ever spend. But of course I'd say that, it would be a film about me and my friends.

SAM

You think we'd be biased?

MAX

I don't know. It's possible. But it would be impossible not to like our movie, I'll tell you that.

SAM

I think it would be a boring movie.
And what was that about "great
performances"?

Max inexplicably takes Sam's comment personally.

MAX

Shut the fuck up. You're still
pissed because you just broke up
with your girlfriend.

SAM

Oh. Good save. Thanks for bringing
that up.

MAX

Sorry.

SAM

She called last night, while I was
at the bar.

MAX

I knew she would.

SAM

Why do you think I stayed there
alone? Hold on, I have to call time
out and visit Peter.

MAX

Wuss. So did you call her back?

Sam gets up from the couch, walks into the bathroom and
closes the door.

SAM (O.S.)

Yeah. I went over there to talk
again after lunch.

MAX

Today?

SAM

Yeah.

Max stands near the bathroom door, as if to hear Sam better.
The camera cross-cuts between Max standing and relatively
innocent shots of Sam on the toilet.

MAX

Don't you ever have class?

SAM

Don't I have class? You're the one who sits around playing video games all day.

MAX

Yeah, well I have more class than to yell at someone while I'm trying to drop a deuce.

SAM

You're the one standing there listening.

MAX

That's only because I love gossip. So what happened?

SAM

Oh, right. Anyway, so um, hmm. She's taking it hard.

MAX

So you're definitely broken up? Because last night it seemed a little up in the air.

Charles walks into the bathroom and does a double take as he sees Max, who appears to be talking to himself.

CHARLES

Rough day?

MAX

It's not what you think. I'm talking to myself.

CHARLES

Well I'm sorry to interrupt.

The toilet flushes, and Sam exits the bathroom.

CHARLES (cont'd)

Hey Sam, you know I just walked out here and Max was standing here talking to himself. You hear anything funny while you were in there?

SAM

I did hear someone talking out of their ass, but I assumed it was me.

Max walks into the common room, and Charles and Sam slowly follow.

SAM (cont'd)
 (to Charles, suddenly sad)
 Jen and I broke up last night.

CHARLES
 Hmm. No shit? That's too bad. I'm
 sorry to hear it.

SAM
 Yeah. Thanks.

CHARLES
 Was it you or was it her?

SAM
 Um, I think it was me. It was just
 time. I think it's for the best but
 I'm not sure, she's taking it hard.

CHARLES
 Yeah, it's hard. You guys were
 together for a long time, what,
 over a year?

SAM
 Yeah. Closer to two. I have to send
 out a letter before the mail goes
 out. I'll see you guys later.

He stands up and puts his coat on.

INT THE PUB NIGHT

A DJ and his equipment are set up on the stage. There are maybe 40 people in the room, which doesn't look like much, but it's still kind of early. Most of the people are dressed in black. Roughly half of them are dancing. The rest are sitting at the few tables in the room, drinking coffee and talking. The camera drifts past the DJ, and through the dancers to reveal Max and Scott sitting at one of the tables.

After a moment, Charles approaches the table.

CHARLES
 What's up guys?

MAX
 Hey! Charles... where've you been?

CHARLES

Studying in the library. I've got a paper due Wednesday.

MAX

Oh really? On what?

CHARLES

It's for my video production class, something about lighting.

Max laughs.

SCOTT

So what did you do in the library, read about wattage?

MAX

No, he was comparing the lighting on each floor.

CHARLES

You laugh it up, but this is an important part of my grade. And if you want to talk about bullshit classes, how's your class about 80s movies going, huh? What'd you watch this week, Revenge of the Nerds 2?

MAX

No, come on... the class is tough. Do you know how many bad movies we have to sit through? I've come to realize that the best thing about 80s movies was the music. 80s music ruled, like this...

(raises hand to signify
that he is talking about
the song playing, an 80s
classic)

...there was a lot of good stuff.

CHARLES

Yeah, good shit.

SCOTT

This song always reminds me of my freshman year roommate.

CHARLES

So how has the dance been?

SCOTT

It kind of sucks.

MAX

We just got here. It's kind of quiet but it's early. Have a seat.

CHARLES

All right, gimme a minute.

Charles walks over to the coffee bar and orders a drink. In the same shot, the camera also captures a surprised and anxious look on Max's face as he looks OC. The camera closes in on Max, and then jumps to Julie, walking through the crowd and toward the back of the room and Max.

MAX

Shit, she's here.

SCOTT

Who?

MAX

Julie.

As Max and Scott talk, Julie stops at another table, talking to friends.

SCOTT

Oh. Who's Julie? Is she the one that was in your History class?

MAX

No. She's... she's just a girl. It's nothing exciting or anything. It's not even worth mentioning that I saw her.

SCOTT

But you did mention it.

MAX

Do you know the people she's talking to?

SCOTT

I've seen them around. The guy on the right is annoying. He lived in my dorm last year.

MAX

Hmm. I wonder if... I wonder if I should go say hi.

Scott shrugs in confusion.

SCOTT

Why not?

Charles returns to the table holding a cup of coffee, and sits down.

MAX

I don't know. I should. I will.

CHARLES

What's up?

SCOTT

Max is scared to talk to some girl.

CHARLES

What's new. Who... oh, the girl from that party, right? What's her name?

MAX

Julie.

CHARLES

You must really dig her.

MAX

Kind of, I mean, she seems really interesting and she's cute, but... I don't know if I would say that I "really dig her." I'm sure she has some flaws that I don't know about.

SCOTT

If you don't care than why are you worried about talking to her?

CHARLES

Shit, this is worse than I thought. I could tell this was serious when you said her name, like: "Julie"
 (he mimics the Max's tone)
 But man, now you think she's cute and interesting. That's the kiss of death, right there. A combination like that is trouble every time. You know this is never going to go anywhere unless you talk to her. Oh hey, is that Sara? I'll be back.

Charles gets up and walks away.

SCOTT

Max, we're three pages into this scene.

[more]

SCOTT (cont'd)

If something interesting doesn't happen soon I'm going to either fall asleep or go home.

MAX

Yeah, yeah I guess you're right. Fuck it, I'm gonna-- I'm gonna go say hi.

SCOTT

Good luck.

Just as Max gets up and turns to walk toward her table, he notices that she is walking toward him.

MAX

Shit, shit, shit, she's coming this way. Fuck. What am I...

SCOTT

You have no choice, if you back away now you'll show her your wuss self, and she'll never have the chance to see the rest of your annoying personality traits.

MAX

Yeah you're right. I couldn't deprive her of that.

He sips his coffee for effect, and defiantly walks toward Julie. He feigns surprise.

MAX (cont'd)

Oh, hey!

JULIE

Hey! What's going on. I hope you're not leaving yet, I was just walking over to say hello.

MAX

Oh no, I was just, actually to be honest I was... I was just about to start dancing.

JULIE

Oh really? Wow, huh. I wouldn't want to keep you...

MAX

Oh no, no, it's fine I um, I can probably use a break anyway.

JULIE

Oh. Good. I'm glad I could fit into your schedule.

MAX

Yeah, I can fit you in anytime. Oh, I'm... that's not... you know.

They sit at the table that they were standing in front of, between the tables that they were sitting at with their friends.

JULIE

It's okay. You know I was listening to your radio show the other day and I thought that was great, that thing with phone sex operator...

MAX

Oh my God, shit, I can't believe you heard that. I hope nobody else did. When I do radio shows I have to convince myself that nobody is listening, or I can't do it. And that's not much of a stretch. Thanks, you just ruined it for me, I'll never be able to do a show again.

JULIE

No, I thought it was very funny, you know? She had no idea what to say.

MAX

I guess it's not every day that someone calls a phone sex operator to talk about politics.

JULIE

(laughing)

Yeah, ...when she hung up on you, and told you that "this isn't the place for that kind of talk," that was great.

MAX

Yeah, it's like, for four bucks a minute we should be able to talk about whatever I want, even the intellectually obscene.

[more]

MAX (cont'd)

You know that our country is in trouble when someone who makes a living pretending to give blow jobs thinks talking about politics is beneath her.

JULIE

Well, you never know what her circumstances are. Maybe she regularly has politicians beneath her.

MAX

(laughs)

That's a good point. Or maybe she's been fucked by politicians in other ways. I know I've been. Phone sex is just pretend, but politics...I know my ass is still sore.

JULIE

(not knowing what to say)

Hmm, well.

MAX

(embarrassed by his comment)

Um, yeah. So where do you live?

JULIE

In Shelly.

MAX

Huh. Does it bother you to live in an all female dorm?

JULIE

No, well a little, sure. But it's quiet and I can always go visit whoever I want. Plus my parents sort of insisted. They're a little old fashioned.

MAX

Uh huh.

JULIE

There are boys around a lot anyway. You should see what happens when there are fire drills in the middle of the night, more guys than girls sometimes. It's funny. Overprotective parents seem to raise the most rebellious kids.

MAX

What are the girls like?

JULIE

They're all right.

MAX

And the guys?

JULIE

They come and go.

INT ELSEWHERE IN THE PUB

Charles and Sara dancing to a song by Duran Duran. Amanda walks past Charles and Sara, stopping briefly to say hello, and walks over to Scott, who had been sitting alone. Amanda sits down next to Scott, and they start talking. Their conversation is inaudible over the music.

INT A TABLE IN THE PUB

MARK and ANDY sitting at a different table. Andy is wearing a ridiculous green shag jacket, has long hair, round glasses, and a torn pro-marijuana T-shirt. Mark has short hair and is wearing a J Crew long sleeve shirt over a Dave Matthews Band T-shirt.

Julie approaches, with Max right behind her.

JULIE

Hey guys, do you know Max?

ANDY

Uh no, hey Max.

JULIE

Max, this is Mark, and Andy.

MARK

Hi Max, how are you doing tonight?

MAX

I'm doing okay. I uh really like your jacket. Is that real carpet?

ANDY

Oh yeah. Hey, you like this? I couldn't believe my luck when I saw it. This shade of green shag is rare. I bought it at that crazy thrift shop down on Highland Street. That place is a kick, man, you'd dig it.

MAX

It's rare huh...

ANDY

Totally. This place is way out there.

MAX

Well I have a car and a good map, so getting there shouldn't be much of a problem.

Julie laughs.

ANDY

Yeah, I like that.

MARK

Hey Andy, are we gonna burn this or what?

ANDY

Yeah, yeah man. I insist. Looks like we gots to go spark this one up. But hey man, you guys are all like invited and shit, if you can handle some kind herb, Maui Wovey you know.

JULIE

Yeah, that sounds pretty all right. Why not. Max, you gonna come with us?

MAX

Um, I-- yeah, okay.

INT ANDY'S KITCHEN

About 1 am. The kitchen is small and sparsely decorated. Everyone is in the kitchen because it's the only room in the apartment that will seat 4 people. Plus it is late, and a drunk guy is sleeping on the couch in the tiny living room. Mark, Julie, and Max are sitting around the wooden table, and Andy is looking for beer in the fridge.

ANDY

I'm sorry but all we've got is Sam Adams. I hope that's all right.

MAX

Well, I mean, it's not Schlitz but it'll do.

MARK

Schlitz... is that any good?

MAX

I don't know, I was kidding, I've never actually had it.

MARK

Oh. I have some buddies that like Schlitz.

ANDY

Mark, you want? Julie?

MARK

You know it.

JULIE

Yeah. Sure. Max, are you a big beer drinker?

Andy brings over three beers and gives them to everyone. He is also holding one for himself, which he uses his keychain to open before handing the keychain off to Mark.

MAX

I wouldn't say I'm a big beer drinker, but I don't drink much hard liquor and I do like beer.

JULIE

So what kind of beer do you usually drink?

MAX

I like Guinness, Bass.

ANDY

Cool.

MAX

That's what I like, but I also buy a lot of cheap beer too, you know, empty wallet and all. I drink a lot of Bud and Rolling Rock.

MARK

I wish I liked Guinness, but I can't stand it. My friends drink it, but it makes me nauseous, and I don't know about you, but I don't like being sick.

ANDY

Understandable. Vomiting sucks. Man, I still get shivers when I think about last Tuesday. That's why I've been smoking a lot of weed lately. It's just easier... you get high right off and there's no hangover.

Andy pulls out a little baggie full of marijuana, and begins looking through a closet in the room.

MAX

Yeah, I don't know. It never did it for me.

ANDY

I'll never get that. Julie, you don't smoke either, right?

JULIE

I used to, sometimes, but when it started to become my social life I knew I needed to stop.

MAX

That's kind of like why I stopped playing Dungeons and Dragons. It was uh, in eighth grade but it was kind of similar.

Andy finds what he was looking for in the closet... a gigantic bong made from what appears to be an old vacuum cleaner. He sets it up in the middle of the room and Andy and Mark smoke.

MAX (cont'd)

Wow.

ANDY

Yeah. It's great. I bought this at a yard sale-- it was a vacuum cleaner when I bought it, and now it cleans out my head.

Andy walks over to a CD player on the counter and begins sorting through a pile of CDs in the cupboard.

ANDY (cont'd)

Hey man, you like Zappa?

MAX

Which one, Frank or Dweezil?

ANDY

(laughing)

Damn, and I know you're just sayin"
that shit to piss me off.

MAX

I don't know. I haven't really
heard enough to make any judgment.

ANDY

Well check this out, this is gonna
blow your shit out of its water.

MAX

Metaphorically, I hope.

MARK

Zappa... Zappa changed my life.

Andy puts a CD in the player.

JULIE

Hey Andy, why don't we go into the
living room and smoke up?

ANDY

No, no, the living room's out
tonight. Ampersand's crashing on
the couch. He's going through rough
times, you know, with his girl and
shit. But he's real, he's a good
man. You can trust the guy with
your daughter.

MAX

What's his name?

ANDY

Ampersand.

MAX

Ampersand? Where's he from? What
kind of name is that?

ANDY

Oh, this is a funny story. You'll
get kicks out of this. So this
guy's like given the name Mike,
which is a fine name but he
couldn't cope with it. He thought
it was, who knows, too straight or
something. He wanted a name that
would tell people, here!

[more]

ANDY (cont'd)

Here is a person that only the brave will ever understand! Here is a person that is living beyond the walls! And when Prince went and changed his name to whatever the fuck that thing is, the artist, whatever, anyway when Prince did that Mike decided that the idea was great but it was a little impractical because no one could ever remember what the hell his name looked like, and forget about ever trying to type it or anything like that.

MARK

Fuck that.

ANDY

So Mike changed his name to Ampersand...

MAX

That's... you mean like the "and" symbol, right?

ANDY

Yeah, yeah, a fuckin' ampersand. Since then, he's Ampersand.

MAX

(laughing)
Really? That's great.

ANDY

It's on the keyboard, so it's easy. He paid to have his name changed and everything.

MARK

How much did that cost? Because a friend of a friend wanted to change his name to Not Bill.

MAX

(laughs)
Was his name Bill?

MARK

No, Not Bill.

JULIE

What about originally?

MARK

Originally I think he wanted to change it to something else.

ANDY

I think it only cost about \$20. It's cheap to get your name changed. I might go have it done myself. I've had my eye on "Guantanamo" for some time now.

MAX

I can see that, it would suit your coat.

Ampersand walks through the kitchen in a daze, on his way to the bathroom. He's wearing nothing but boxers.

MAX (cont'd)

Was that Ampersand?

ANDY

Yeah, man just try to keep it down a little, he's trying to sleep. I hope we didn't wake him up.

JULIE

Looks like we already did.

ANDY

Why? Because he's walking? My man sleepwalks, you can't base on that.

JULIE

I knew someone that once took a leak in a shoe in his closet while he was sleeping. He thought he was in the bathroom.

MAX

Huh.

MARK

I bet it was a surprise the next time he put those shoes on.

ANDY

I believe it.

Ampersand walks through the kitchen again, mumbling.

MAX

Is he a student here?

JULIE

Yeah, he's a grad student, right?

ANDY

Yup, environmental studies or something. He's way into it.

MARK

I think he said something about the ozone layer as he walked by.

ANDY

Yeah, man. For him, that's it. The environment and fat bowls are his two loves in life.

MAX

Isn't the Carbon Monoxide in marijuana bad for the environment?

ANDY

No, no man. Weed keeps him in touch with his mother... mother nature.

MAX

Oh, yeah, well there is that.

Mark

Does anyone know what time it is?

ANDY

It's what, 2:30?

JULIE

Closer to a quarter to.

ANDY

My watch is always a little slow.

MARK

Listen, I'm having a good time but I've got a lot of shit tomorrow and I should really get back.

(to Julie)

You gonna stay or you want me to walk you back?

JULIE

Yeah, I should get going too.

ANDY

Aww, it's still early. You mean I'll have to watch the sun come up by myself? Max, you up for it?

JULIE

We can walk you back if you want.

MAX

Yeah, sorry Andy, but we'll have to watch the sun some other morning.

ANDY

All right, all right. Thanks for coming over and hanging out with me tonight, it's been a blast.

MAX

Yeah, it has.

MARK

All right, well goodnight.

EXT STREET NIGHT

A run-down Worcester street, dark at night. Julie, Max, and Mark are walking home. It's February, and so there is snow on the ground and everyone is bundled up in winter coats.

JULIE

I can't believe I only had two beers. I feel so out of it. I had shots before the dance, but that was like four, five hours ago, I shouldn't still feel it.

MAX

I can never tell how drunk I am until I try to walk. I can't wait 'til I'm 21. Going to bars is gonna be great.

JULIE

Like you don't go to bars now.

MAX

I do, but it's tricky, my stupid I.D. doesn't always work and even when it does I just stress about it the whole time I'm there.

JULIE

That's your problem... you worry too much and you overanalyze everything.

MAX

I thought that was what you liked about me.

MARK

Since I turned 21 I've been going to bars all the time, like 2, 3 times a week. Bars rule. The Blarney rocks. They can make a Gibson there like nobody's business.

They get to the corner where they will have to part ways... Max lives to the left and Julie and Mark to the right.

MARK (cont'd)

You live in a dorm, right?

MAX

Yeah.

MARK

So you okay from here?

MAX

I can make it. Goodnight.

JULIE

Goodnight Max.

Max looks right at Julie, who is looking at him.

MAX

Goodnight.

Max quietly walks back toward his dorm.

TITLE: "Saturday"

INT MAX AND SAM'S DORM ROOM

The room is a nice dorm room, but a dorm room. It has generic furniture, including two desks, two beds, two dressers, a stand up light, a few posters, etc.

Max is in bed, stretched out and reading a book for a class. Charles enters the room.

CHARLES

What's up?

MAX

Not much, catching up on some reading. I'm already behind.

CHARLES

Me too. How does it happen? All I do is study but I'm always behind.

MAX

I think my problem is that I can only read out loud. It kind of slows things down.

CHARLES

So when did you leave the dance last night?

MAX

I'm not sure what time, maybe 1, 1:30. It was winding down.

CHARLES

What'd you do after that? Hang out with that girl you were talking to?

MAX

Yeah. It wasn't a big deal. We were hanging out with this guy named Andy and that Mark kid.

CHARLES

Andy? Does he do a lot of drugs?

MAX

Yeah.

CHARLES

I know that guy, he's a riot. Lived near him last year.

MAX

What about you? How was your night?

CHARLES

It was okay. I danced with Sara for a little while and then came back here and watched some TV.

(Beat)

How's Sam doing?

MAX

He's a little depressed.

CHARLES

It takes time. I can't believe they broke up. I saw her yesterday and she looked sad. I asked her how she was doing, and she said she was fine and asked me why I was asking.

MAX

Interesting, like some kind of non-denial denial or something.

BETH (O.S.)

Hello? Anyone here?

AMANDA (O.S.)

They can't all be gone.

CHARLES

We're in here.

Amanda and Beth enter.

AMANDA

Hey! What's new?

MAX

Not much.

BETH

We were just in the neighborhood and we thought we'd stop by.

AMANDA

Is Scott around?

CHARLES

I don't know, did you knock on the door?

Charles and Amanda exit.

BETH

Hey.

MAX

Hi. It's good to see you.

BETH

I know. We haven't hung out in so long. I was wondering if you wanted to get together later.

MAX

I don't know, I don't think I'm doing anything, but I bet I have something to do that I'm forgetting about.

BETH

I feel like you're just looking for an excuse...

MAX

No, I...

BETH

What about dinner then? It's not enough that you never call me anymore, but now you won't even have dinner with me?

MAX

I call you. You never call me either.

BETH

Every time I ask you to do anything you have an excuse, or you cancel or forget to show up.

MAX

You cancel plans too. So what do you want to do for dinner?

BETH

But now you're only going because I gave you a hard time about it.

MAX

Guilt is a powerful force. Just be glad it's on our side.

INT FAST FOOD RESTAURANT

Around 6:40 pm. Max and Beth are seated opposite from each other at a small table. Max is eating some kind of hamburger meal, and Beth is working on a salad.

BETH

How are you?

MAX

Um, pretty good. And you?

BETH

Whatever.

MAX

That good? When I ask you that, you usually either say shitty, or if you're really upset about something, you say that you're doing good.

BETH

So whatever is the best of the three, is that what you're saying?

MAX

Yeah. Isn't it?

BETH

Only sometimes. Other times it's, you know, whatever.

MAX

Hmm.

BETH

So how's life? Any girls on your mind?

MAX

Not really, I mean, it's nothing even worth mentioning..

BETH

But there's something? This is exciting!

MAX

It's nothing.

BETH

So who is it? Who's the girl? Do I know her?

MAX

I don't think so. You might. Her name is Julie. I don't even know her last name. I think she's a sophomore.

BETH

What's the story? Does she have a crush on you?

MAX

I don't know, maybe. All right, listen, here's the story.

[more]

MAX (cont'd)

All that happened is that we met at a party last week...

BETH

And you talked for a while.

MAX

Not for that long, just a couple of minutes. And then I saw her again last night and we hung out for a bit in the pub, and after that we went to her friend Andy's house and we all hung out.

BETH

Did anything exciting happen?

MAX

No, I told you, it was nothing. But she's really cool. I like her a lot.

BETH

No, but that's good though. It's exciting, it's something to think about, you know?

MAX

Yeah.

BETH

Is Scott interested in Amanda at all?

MAX

What, has she been talking to you about this a lot lately?

BETH

Just a little. You know, it's on her mind. She is so in love with him, and she's such a sweetheart. They should get together. Don't you think?

MAX

I... I don't know.

BETH

Does he talk about her when she's not around?

MAX

Scott never talks about anything personal like that. He opens up like a can of sardines: rarely, and whenever he does, something smells fishy.

Beth looks at her watch.

BETH

It can't be this late already! I have to go.

MAX

You have to go? We just got here.

BETH

I know, I'm sorry. I have rehearsal at 7. I'm sorry, I didn't realize we left so late. Are you annoyed with me?

MAX

No, it's... it's fine. I was finished anyway. Come on, I'll walk you over to the theater.

Max and Beth put on their coats and pick up their trays.

INT THE PUB

NIGHT

pm. A band is playing onstage to a medium sized crowd. Max is walking through the crowd, hoping to see Julie. He stops and watches the band play. Julie soon appears beside him. She strains to be heard over the crowd.

JULIE

Hi. What's up?

MAX

Oh. Hey. It's good to see you.

JULIE

(laughing)

Yeah, it's been a while.

MAX

Long enough.

Both watch the band, who are loud but not very good.

MAX (cont'd)

I...

Max is distracted in the middle of his thought by the singer in the band, who begins smashing the mike stand against a wall on one side of the stage. He next gestures the stand toward the crowd, who respond by stepping away from the stage.

SINGER

(shouting at the crowd in
an angry deadpan)

You're all a part of the
conspiracy. You're all human. Every
one of you wore diapers. Every time
you buy a stamp or pay a toll or
use the roads you support the man.
Don't look at ads. Don't listen to
them when they tell you to use your
imagination for good, because evil
is good too. God is nothing spelled
sideways. Drink your coffee and
listen to the music.

He storms off stage. The band finishes up the song and a moment later follows the singer off stage and OC, as the crowd cheers.

MAX

Wow. You don't see that every day.

JULIE

That was great, they're famous for
that. It's their trademark, they
insult the crowd at the end of
their set. Supposedly they end
their set every night when they
break the mic. Sometimes he breaks
it 2 songs into the show, and they
storm off stage. We were lucky
tonight. They played for over 40
minutes.

MAX

Luck had nothing to do with it.

JULIE

Look, the mic isn't even broken.
They were tired of playing, but the
broken mic thing is their gimmick.
It's their way of giving the
audience a good show.

MAX

I'm not sure about that. It was entertaining, but you have to wonder about any band whose highlight is their exit.

JULIE

It worked for The Who.

MAX

Who?

JULIE

The Who.

She gives Max a playful dirty look.

MAX

I know, I know, I was just playing.

INT THE PUB, LATER

Another band is on stage. This band is as bad as the first band, and less interesting. Camera pulls back to reveal Max and Julie sitting at a table, watching the band play. They both look a little bored with the band.

JULIE

Let's get out of here.

MAX

What? Really?

JULIE

Why not, these guys suck.

MAX

All right, sure. But what, I mean, what do you want to do?

JULIE

I don't know, I can barely hear you. Why don't we take a walk? Let's go get a drink upstairs.

They both grab their coats and get up

INT A QUIET, NEARLY EMPTY LOUNGE

Julie and Max sit down next to each other on a couch.

MAX

Oh, did you want to get a drink?

JULIE

No, I'm fine.

MAX

Okay. So, what, you said you're a sophomore, right?

JULIE

Yeah.

MAX

I'm a junior. So how did we never meet before last week?

JULIE

I've been hiding in all the right places.

MAX

It must have been luck. I mean, luck that we met, not uh, not luck that we didn't meet before.

JULIE

Luck? Come on, this school is too small. We were bound to meet eventually.

MAX

Okay, well that's one way of looking at it. But you know, even though this is a small school, there are certain people that I see around who I would like to get to know, but who I never get the chance to meet. You know what I'm talking about?

JULIE

Like, you want to meet someone but you don't know how? I don't... whenever I want to say anything, I say it. I don't spend my time trying to justify talking to people or whatever. That's fuckin' bullshit.

MAX

Well I guess.

JULIE

You limit yourself too much if you do that.

[more]

JULIE (cont'd)

If you spend too much time worrying
you don't spend enough time living,
right?

MAX

Huh.

JULIE

You didn't have much trouble
approaching me at that party.

MAX

I know, it was one of those weird,
drunk, uncharacteristic moments.
You know, you used to be one of
those people, one of the people I
noticed and wanted to meet.

(laughs)

I can't believe I just told you
that.

JULIE

It's all right. I've noticed you
too. You don't remember the real
first time we met, do you?

MAX

It wasn't last weekend?

JULIE

Nope. It was early last year, the
beginning of my freshman year. You
were with your friends in the
dining hall and I ended up sitting
with you guys somehow. I was with
this girl Rebecca who lived down
the hall last year, and she knew
one of your friends or something.
She turned out to be such a bitch.

MAX

I don't remember that.

JULIE

You know how it is when you first
get to school... excited to be on
your own and you meet all these
people who you think are your
friends, but after a couple of
months you figure out who your real
friends are.

MAX

Rebecca was like that?

JULIE

Yeah, but that's not why I brought it up. The point is that, you seemed like you would be a good person to get to know better. I thought you were cute.

MAX

Thanks. I have that effect on naive freshmen.

JULIE

So why don't you have a girlfriend? There are a lot of girls around that go for guys like you.

MAX

You know any?

JULIE

You know what this is like? This is like one of those moments in a movie, when a character has a chance to say something, and of course they do, and it becomes a movie moment, the kind of thing that would never work out as well in real life?

MAX

What?

Just as Julie is trying to figure out what to say, the University Center manager on duty walks through the lounge.

MANAGER

The building closes in 5 minutes. I hate to kick you guys out but I need to get home too.

MAX

Oh, sure, yeah.

MANAGER

Thanks.

Manager walks away, and Max and Julie put on their coats and start walking toward the door. When they are about to exit the building, Max speaks.

MAX

Listen do you-- shit. I was about to invite back to hang out in my suite but all my suite mates'll be there, loud and watching a movie or something. Do you... are you hungry at all? I know this great little place across town that's open late..

JULIE

Sure, all right. Let's go.

They are now outside, in the quiet winter streets.

MAX

Damn.

JULIE

What?

MAX

It's 25 degrees, and I can't remember where I parked my car. I think it's this way.

JULIE

Oh, you have a car?

Max is visibly confused by what Julie just said.

EXT AN UPSCALE CAFE

It's around 1:15 am.

INT THE CAFE

It's nearly filled with nicely dressed (and a few not as nicely dressed) couples. Max and Julie are sitting opposite from each other at a table in the corner.

JULIE

This is a nice place. Ritzy, ritzy. Interesting mix of people here, you've got the young businessmen and their dates..

MAX

That wasn't a very PC comment.

JULIE

Fuck PC. You think the chicks here that are with the money makin" men are pulling in as much as the guys they're with? If they were, what else would the men have to offer?

MAX

So you're saying that men are only good to have around on payday? That's offensive to both men and women.

JULIE

No, you're misunderstanding. I'm saying that these men, the ones with the fancy suits, taking their waitress or secretary girlfriends here to impress them into bed because they don't have enough imagination to get them into bed any other way, these are the men I'm talking about. As if a fast car can ever make up for a small dick.

MAX

If it did, do you think I'd be here right now? I'd be working, doing whatever I could, even if it was recycling bottles or something, to save up some money.

JULIE

To buy a big dick?

MAX

It's not just that. I mean, sure, there is the big dick thing, but it would also be nice to have a car with air conditioning.

Waiter shows up with two coffees and two pieces of cake.

MAX (cont'd)

Thanks.

Waiter leaves.

MAX (cont'd)

Do you ever just feel completely out of place in the world, I just...there are times when I think that my past doesn't make any sense, and my future is somewhere off the map. The adult world seems so foreign.

JULIE

I can see that. The world doesn't make sense if you try to think about it too hard. It has a certain logic that's consistent with itself, but it all falls apart if you try to look at it too closely or out of context.

MAX

Kind of like a Police Academy movie.

JULIE

There are holes in the plot. Normal people, they realize this at a certain point and then spend the rest of their time trying to ignore it by, I don't know, getting a fucking life. Why you think about these things so much, I don't know.

MAX

If I didn't think about it, wouldn't I just be one of the men in the fancy suits? Just another one to throw in the pile and add to the problem?

JULIE

Not necessarily. You understand the larger picture, but that doesn't mean that you have to obsess over it.

MAX

I'll have to change, you know, get a life I guess, soon enough. Being a rebel from the sideline is okay when you're a college student, but when I graduate it's either a suit and tie or... what? Live at home forever? Live a life of crime?

JULIE

You owe it to yourself to only do what you want. Or when that's impossible, to find an acceptable compromise. Life is in the acceptable middle ground.

MAX

What the fuck are you, a fortune cookie all of a sudden? No, you're right, that's good advice. Drink your coffee.

EXT SHELLY HALL NIGHT

Julie's dorm. Max and Julie approach the door.

MAX

I um, tonight was a really interesting night.

JULIE

Good coffee. Can't say much for the band. Will you call me tomorrow?

MAX

Yes.

There is a brief but awkward silence as they stand near the door, neither committing to a movement in any direction. Just as the pause is becoming too long, a student opens the door and holds it for Julie. She grabs the door.

JULIE

I'll see you tomorrow.

MAX

Yeah. Goodnight.

Max turns around and walks away.

TITLE: "Sunday"

INT SUITE'S COMMON ROOM

Max and Julie are in the Max's Common Room. Julie is sitting on one of the couches, watching Max flip through a bookshelf full of videotapes.

MAX

We don't have much, ugh-... Eraser. A lot of shitty movies. I think Scott joined a video club.

JULIE

So what does he like, keep the movies?

MAX

No, no. It's a video club, it's, you know, kind of like a CD club except they send you videos if you forget to return the card.

JULIE

Oh, oh all right. Anything good?

MAX

Silence of the Lambs, that's a great flick.

JULIE

It is. But I saw it a couple of weeks ago on TNT. I don't think I can sit through it again right now.

MAX

Okay, um...

JULIE

You mentioned something about Woody Allen the other night, didn't you? Do you have any of his movies lying around?

MAX

(hesitant)

I've got Annie Hall lying around here somewhere.

JULIE

Annie Hall? Yes! That's one of my favorite movies of all time.

MAX

Oh wow. Me too. I don't know if I want to watch it now though.

JULIE

I'm a really big Woody Allen fan and that's my favorite movie of his... come on, throw it in. Please?

MAX

I... I watched it a couple of weeks ago. I'll tell you what.

[more]

MAX (cont'd)
 What if we watch Airplane this time
 and Annie Hall next time.

JULIE
 Airplane? Good compromise. Throw it
 in.

Max takes the video off of the shelf and puts it in the VCR.
 The movie starts. Julie and Max are sitting next to each
 other on the same couch.

CUT TO:

Half an hour later. Airplane is still playing on the small
 TV. Julie is leaning on Max, and they are sharing a blanket.
 Max turns to say something to Julie just as her head is
 turning toward him, and their lips somehow end up in the same
 place (as so often happens). As they are about to kiss, Julie
 appears to back away.

JULIE (cont'd)
 (more confused than upset)
 What are you...

MAX
 What?

JULIE
 Why did you back away?

MAX
 I didn't, I thought you did.

JULIE
 It wasn't me. I wanted to kiss you.

MAX
 Oh. I'll, I'll have to remember
 that.

Pauses for a moment, watching the movie.

MAX (cont'd)
 You know, actually, my memory's not
 quite what it used to be, I better
 not risk forgetting something
 important.

Max leans in again, and kisses her. This time she kisses him
 back.

JULIE
 Right.

Julie then kisses him back, and Max pulls the blanket up over the two of them. The sound of kissing is audible from under the covers, followed by the following:

JULIE (cont'd)

Ow.

MAX

Sorry.

JULIE

No, it's okay.

More kissing SOUNDS.

MAX

Are you comfortable, I mean, is this okay?

JULIE

It's okay. Shut up already.

Tommy, Sam and Scott enter, oblivious to the quick recovery of innocence on the couch. By the time anyone notices that Max and Julie are in the room, all appearances indicate that they had been doing nothing more than watching a movie.

TOMMY

(to Scott)

You're crazy, do you know how important your sense of smell is?

SAM

(also to Scott)

Almost everything you taste comes from your sense of smell anyway.

SCOTT

Oh come on! What about the sense of touch? Missing out on the smell of rotting milk is a small price to pay for the ability to enjoy sex. Hey Max.

MAX

Oh, hey. Guys um, this is Julie... Julie, this is my roommate Sam, and that's Tommy, and Scott, who also live here.

TOMMY

It's nice to meet you.

SAM

What's up. What are you kids up to?

MAX

Watching a movie.

JULIE

Actually I was just leaving. I still have some work to do before class tomorrow.

MAX

Oh. You don't even want to finish the movie?

JULIE

No, I didn't realize what time it was. I have to write a paper.

MAX

Well, do you want me to walk you home?

JULIE

Sure, all right. Boys, it was nice to meet you, and I'm sure I will see you again.

TOMMY

Bye.

(to Scott)

Seriously, without a sense of smell, you would never know when your food is bad. And what about body odor?

SCOTT

Yeah, I'd miss that.

Max waves as he exits with Julie.

EXT OUTSIDE THE DORM

Max and Julie are outside, walking across campus and through the streets on the way to her apartment building.

MAX

Shit, is it cold.

JULIE

It's not that bad. I'm used to worse.

MAX

Why, where are you from, Maine?

JULIE

No.

MAX

Good, because I don't know if I'd be able to deal with something like that at this point. That's a hard thing to drop on a person. Where are you from?

JULIE

Vermont, northern Vermont. Near Maine, not too far from Canada.

MAX

Shit, I'm sorry.

JULIE

It sucked but I managed. I read a lot and spent a lot of time alone. I had a few very close friends and that was all I needed. It's really quiet up there, it's dull but it's also nice.

MAX

I bet you could throw some wild parties out there, neighbors never telling you to turn it down.

JULIE

(laughs)

So what about you?

MAX

I'm from a suburb of New York City. It's just a suburb. There's nothing else worth saying about it.

JULIE

Sounds exciting.

Max and Julie are approaching Julie's dorm.

JULIE (cont'd)

I still have to write 6 pages tonight.

MAX

Six pages? That's nothing. Tripled spaced, in 14 point type, that's only like 500 words. If a picture's worth a thousand words, that's like, what, half a photo? Sounds like the kind of assignment you can do during breakfast before class.

They reach the door and Julie takes out her entrycard for the building.

JULIE

I don't know what my Professor would think about that, but maybe some other time. Thanks for... you know, everything.

MAX

Any time.

Max kisses Julie, catching her off guard.

JULIE

I'd ask you to come up but, but I wasn't lying about that paper.

MAX

Hmm.

JULIE

Not that I'll be able to concentrate on it now... but if I don't finish it tonight I'll be in deep shit.

MAX

I understand. It's not a...

JULIE

Are you going to call me tomorrow?

MAX

Only if you want me to call you.

JULIE

I do. Goodnight.

She walks inside.

TITLE: "Monday"

INT MAX AND SAM'S DORM ROOM

Closeup on a sleeping figure. An alarm clock goes off and the figure slams the alarm clock off with an outstretched hand. The figure stirs. The camera pulls back to reveal Max still sleeping in his bed on the other side of the room, and then Sam sitting on the edge of his bed, silent as if in thought. A moment later, Max looks up from his pillow and speaks.

MAX

Is it 8:00 already?

SAM

The alarm clock seems to think so.

MAX

What's with you?

SAM

The usual. Every morning, before I get out of bed I spend 5 minutes trying to figure out whether the rest of my life ever really happened or was all just a bad dream.

Max sits up in bed.

MAX

Oh, it happened, all right. But is it really something to be so upset about? Life has its ups and downs, no question, but in the end the ups are all you'll remember. Think of it like that. When you're stuck in a series of downs, don't forget that you're just marking time until the ups come back around.

SAM

What the fuck is your problem?

MAX

What do you mean?

SAM

I mean, since when are you a cheerleader this early in the morning? I'm the one who has to go to class all morning while you sleep in. What do you have to suddenly be so happy about?

MAX

I really like this girl. We kissed last night.

SAM

Give her a chance. For all of my whining about Jen, I'll do it all over again when I get the chance. If you're not going to take risks, then what's the point of anything?

MAX

We've gotta stop talking about this shit so early in the morning.

SAM

When are you ever up this early in the morning?

MAX

That's a good point. I'm going back to bed. Have fun in your early class.

SAM

Bastard.

The Common Room of Max's suite. Max and Charles are sitting on the couch watching an infomercial for a sausage maker. It's close to 6 pm.

CHARLES

What I couldn't do with one of those and a bobsled.

MAX

Sometimes you scare the shit out of me,

(describing the TV show)

but you'll never scare me as much as this does.

CHARLES

(still watching tv)

So What do you want to do for dinner? You feel like German food? Or we could try that new pizza place. I heard they make a great sausage and pepper grinder.

MAX

Sounds good.

CHARLES

Go ask everyone else what they think.

MAX

Oh shit, that's right. It's Amanda's birthday and she wanted us to all go out to a nice restaurant to celebrate.

CHARLES

She asked us to go?

MAX

Yeah, and it would be rude if we didn't.

CHARLES

I have a test tomorrow, and I'm broke, but if it's her birthday, we've got to go.

MAX

Yeah. I wanted to hang out with Julie.

CHARLES

So, do it after.

MAX

I, I don't think I'll have time. I have to finish a book by tomorrow and we probably won't be back until 10 or so, and I've got an early class.

CHARLES

So bring her with us.

MAX

Well I... that's not a bad idea.

CHARLES

Cool, I'm glad you're coming. Can you spot me ten bucks?

Charles and Max are still watching the infomercial, which is showing sausage being squeezed into plastic casing.

INT A NICE RESTAURANT

Max, Sam, Charles, Tommy, Scott, Amanda, Stacy, Jen, Julie, Beth and Jessica are seated around a large table.

TOMMY

I still can't get over the fact that you're graduating. You must be so psyched!

JEN

It's stressful.

JESSICA

We'll miss you next year.

JEN

Thanks. I'll miss being here. Everyone's already asking me what I'm going to do and where I'm going when I graduate. I have no idea what I'm doing, but I can't tell them that, people start to look at you like you're a loser. So I started making up stories to tell people. Now when I see relatives or my old friends they ask me if I'm looking forward to going back to school, and I can't remember whether I told them I was going to grad school or that I'm going to teach. Yesterday I told my parents I was going to join the Navy just to get them off my back. Isn't that ridiculous? I haven't been caught lying yet, but it's just a matter of time.

CHARLES

I can't believe I'm graduating next year. I already have recurring nightmares about it.

JEN

You have plenty of time.

CHARLES

My whole life, I've known what I was doing next. But when I graduate college, all I have to do is something.

JEN

Hopefully something that will pay the bills.

CHARLES

Right, something that will pay the bills, and after 3 years of college, I'm working on a History major that probably won't take me anywhere, and I don't know how I'll ever be able to pay the bills doing any of the things that I like to do.

MAX

Like what, acting?

CHARLES

Exactly, like acting. I'd love to try to get into theater when I get out of here, but I have to be realistic about trying to pay the bills too.

MAX

There's a big conflict between happiness and money.

TOMMY

Grad school baby. That's why I'm going for my doctorate. Stay out of the real world for another six years.

BETH

You need to do what makes you happy. It was so random, but my grandfather once gave me great advice: he told me that if you love your job, you will never work a day in your life. He also told me that I should take care of my knees because they're the first to go. He's 98 years old.

MAX

(laughing)

That's awesome.

CHARLES

I just don't think I'll find a job I like.

JULIE

It's okay to worry about life after graduation, but doesn't it make you all feel guilty to whine about that when there are homeless people out there? When there are illiterate children graduating from high schools that can't afford to buy textbooks?

MAX

That's true.

JULIE

My parents worked very hard to give me the opportunity to be here. It's easy to sit around and feel bad for ourselves, but we're doing well. You know? I look at, even the people I knew in High School. I'm one of the lucky few who was able to get on with my life after that graduation. Whining about how life isn't perfect is self destructive and boring.

JESSICA

(to Amanda, speaking softly)

What are you going to get?

AMANDA

I'm not that hungry. I think I'll wait for the cake.

EXT PARKING LOT

An outdoor parking lot at the University, roughly 10:30. Everyone from the previous scene peels out of two cars. Scott was driving one of the cars and Tommy the other car, a beat up station wagon. Everyone from the previous scene starts walking back toward the dorm except Max and Julie, who lag behind the group.

JULIE

Your friends are okay.

MAX

Yeah, I think they liked you too. I'm glad it all worked out so well.

By now, everyone else is out of sight. Julie takes Max's hand and pulls him in closer.

JULIE

So now what?

They kiss.

MAX

I have an early class.

JULIE

Do you want to come over for a
little while?

MAX

Sure.

INT JULIE'S DORM ROOM

It's small, crowded, and messy. The room has a couple of posters of black and white photos, alongside posters of Elvis Costello, Neil Young, and a movie poster for The Jerk.

The camera quickly cuts between images of Max and Julie first sitting on her bed, then kissing, and finally Max laying on top of Julie under the covers. Max and Julie are next seen laying in bed next to each other, exhausted.

JULIE

I wish I had a cigarette.

MAX

I wish I smoked.

JULIE

So what the hell are you going to
do with yourself when you finish
here?

MAX

Oh come on, don't tell me you're
gonna bother me now about my lack
of ambition.

JULIE

That's not what I meant... I don't
even know you well enough to know
that you don't have any ambition.
That's why I asked, I'm trying to
get to know you better.

MAX

I don't know. I'm thinking about
journalism.

[more]

MAX (cont'd)

The media gets a lot of flack, but journalism still seems to be one of the least corrupt things I could do with myself, short of teaching or becoming a doctor, and the sight of blood or children makes my skin crawl. How about you?

JULIE

I can't stand this place anymore. I hate the way college students are babied by everyone. I want to go home and work for a couple of years or so, and then see if I still want a college degree. Everyone's in school for the wrong reason these days. Nobody's here because they want to learn anything, they just think that they need to get a degree and private schools like Westfield make money by showing students a good time for four years. It's all bullshit.

Max looks at the clock, which reads 2:24.

MAX

Oh, fuck. Shit. I can't believe it's 2:30 already! I have class in 6 and a half hours!

JULIE

Why don't you skip?

MAX

Because I missed a class last week, and the Professor is a real bitch about absences.

JULIE

hours of sleep is plenty.

MAX

Are you kidding? Maybe for you, but I can't function if I don't get at least 9, 10 hours of sleep. I'm gonna take off.

JULIE

Okay.

Max continues laying in bed, comfortably resting next to Julie.

JULIE (cont'd)
So, get up and get out of here.

MAX
Okay.

After a pause, Max gets up and puts his shoes on. Julie gets up and stands near the door.

MAX (cont'd)
What are you up to tomorrow?

JULIE
Not too much. I have homework to catch up on.

MAX
There's always going to be homework to catch up on. Oh, shit! I have my radio show tomorrow night. Fuck. You don't want to hang out with me in the station, do you?

JULIE
Give me a call tomorrow and I'll see what's going on. I have a lot of work to do.

MAX
All right. Well, see ya.

They kiss. The door closes behind Max as he leaves Julie standing alone in her room, deep in thought.

TITLE: "Tuesday"

INT COLLEGE RADIO STATION

Max is sitting alone in the radio station, DJing a show. He is sitting behind a desk/table with a mixing board, stacked CD and cassette players, a phone, a pile of CDs, and two record players. A couple of CD racks are visible in the background, and posters of rock bands on independent labels are hanging in the room.

As the scene begins, Max is looking through a stack of CDs and listening to the song playing over the monitors. This quickly becomes boring and he looks at the phone and reaches toward it before changing his mind and backing away. A moment later he grabs the phone and dials.

On the other end of the line, Beth picks up the phone in her pajamas.

BETH

Hello?

MAX

Hey Beth.

BETH

Oh. Max! How are you?

MAX

Good, good. And you?

BETH

All right.

MAX

Uh huh. I'm just down here at the radio station, kind of bored and I thought I'd give you a call.

BETH

You still do a radio show? I don't know why you bother. Nobody ever listens, do they?

MAX

It only bothers me that my friends don't listen. I mean, I know you were listening, but the rest of them don't care. They wouldn't notice if I dropped off the planet.

BETH

That's true. It must not have anything to do with the music you play.

MAX

The music is... oh shit. Hold on.

Max is interrupted by the end of his song and the sound of dead air. He plays with the mixing board and begins speaking into the microphone.

MAX (cont'd)

Okay, we're back. That was [song artist] with [song title]. We have a caller holding with a special request, caller, what's your request?

BETH

I'm not on the air, am I?

MAX

Yeah, you're on the air, you're on the air. Don't get too excited. More people would hear you if you yelled out the window.

BETH

I would like to hear "Everybody Hurts" by R.E.M.

MAX

What's that? I don't know, the connections getting a little fuzzy. It sounds like you just said that you want to hear the whole first side of Bruce Springsteen's Born to Run album.

BETH

What? No, you heard...

Max fades the volume down on the phone channel, and Beth's voice is no longer audible over the air.

MAX

What's that? Huh, it seems like we lost our caller. The phone down here is a piece of crap. It's funny that she requested Springsteen, because that's just what I had cued up and ready to go anyway. Huh. Enjoy.

The song kicks in and Max returns to the phone.

BETH

What was that all about?

MAX

I'm sorry, but do you know what would have happened if I would have played that song? My ratings would have plummeted. R.E.M...they're a good band but they did very badly in the latest focus group survey. The fans seem to want to hear more Bruce Springsteen. Go figure.

BETH

When did you get fans?

MAX

Prank callers, mostly. Some with stories about cucumbers. But every listener counts.

BETH

Uh huh. So what's new?

MAX

I don't know. Just when it seems like things are going well with this Julie girl, she doesn't call me back or stop by...

BETH

You guys looked real buddy-buddy after dinner last night. Did you go back to her place?

MAX

Yeah, and I was there till 2:30. It was great. But she said she'd stop by the station, and she hasn't, and she didn't even call me back or anything.

BETH

Maybe she'll still stop by.

MAX

Not likely. I'm getting out of here in 15 minutes.

BETH

Well, it's not a big deal. She must have had a lot of work to do.

MAX

So what, she doesn't have time to give me a call? How long does that take? Fuck fuck fuck, I can't believe I ever thought this might work out.

BETH

You really tend to blow things out of proportion, don't you?

MAX

I, yeah, all right, I do. But at least I'm secure enough to accept my insecurity and paranoia. That's better than I can say for some of my friends.

BETH
With something like that going for
you, it's amazing that you can
still be so insecure.

TITLE: "Wednesday"

INT MAX'S DORM ROOM

Mid-afternoon. Max is sitting at his desk staring at the phone. A moment later he picks it up and dials. Julie is in her dorm room, sitting on her bed.

JULIE
Hello?

MAX
Hey, Julie.

JULIE
What's up?

MAX
Uh, what's up? Not much. Actually,
I was wondering if you wanted to do
something tonight. Get a movie or
something?

JULIE
Um, all right. Why not. I have to
work for a few hours, but I should
be out by 10. I'll stop by after
work, okay?

MAX
Yeah. Great. See you later then.

JULIE
Right, bye.

They both hang up.

MAX
"Why not"?

INT THE COMMON ROOM.

Max is sitting alone on the couch. Scott walks into the room.

SCOTT
What's wrong?

MAX

Huh? Oh, nothing, I'm just waiting for Julie.

SCOTT

If she doesn't show up, are we still not allowed in this room all night? I'm missing a rerun of "The Simpsons" right now.

MAX

It's 11 already?

SCOTT

A little after.

MAX

She'll be...

Max is interrupted by a knock on the door.

MAX (cont'd)

That's her.

He gets up and opens it.

SCOTT

Have fun.

Scott exits, Julie enters.

MAX

Hi.

JULIE

Hey. I'm sorry I'm late, you wouldn't believe what the weather forecast was like.

MAX

I, um, I can imagine. Don't worry about it, I've been busy with school work anyway. So you wanna hit the video store?

JULIE

Oh, you wanted to go rent something. I was all psyched up to see Annie Hall. Last time, when we watched Airplane, you said that we could watch Annie Hall the next time, and...

MAX

And since that was the last time,
this is the next time, right? Yeah,
that's cool.

JULIE

No, well, we can go rent something
else, if you want. I don't want to
force you--

MAX

No, no it's all right, that's
silly. I'll put it on.

JULIE

Cool.

Max puts the movie in the VCR and sits on the couch next to Julie. There is no blanket this time and she seems a little more distant than the last time.

CUT TO:

hours later. The movie is over and Julie and Max are still in the same places.

MAX

I can't get over how depressing the
ending is. You hardly ever see a
movie that ends like that.

JULIE

It's sad, but it's not horrible.
Life goes on, you know? If they
were meant to be together, they
would have stayed together.

MAX

Really, you think so? Huh. I don't
know, I thought they had something
special, I mean, it wasn't perfect,
but what is? What is.

JULIE

Relationships are very difficult to
maintain. I can't think of any
really successful couples.

MAX

What's successful? I mean, I
usually think about my parents, and
they seem happy enough, but...

JULIE

My parents are divorced.

MAX

I can think of plenty of relationships that are successful. I just mentioned my parents because that was an easy example. But there are plenty, I don't know.

JULIE

It could happen, but it's very rare. Forced relationships that make people miserable are a lot more common.

MAX

That's interesting. I guess that's your opinion, but I don't know.

JULIE

I should get going.

MAX

Really? It's still early. What, do you have a lot of work to do?

JULIE

No, no. I haven't seen my friends in a while and they've been bugging me to go out and do something with them. Thanks for showing me the movie. I liked it a lot.

MAX

Sure.

Julie gets up and starts walking toward the door. Max follows. Julie opens the door and turns to Max, who tries to kiss her. She backs away. Max tries again, and again she backs away.

MAX (cont'd)

What?

JULIE

I don't think this is a good idea right now.

MAX

What...

JULIE

Listen, since the other night, I've been doing some thinking.

MAX

That's your mistake. Mindless happiness is always better than thoughtful indecision. Unless you're talking about bungee jumping.

Julie returns to the couch and sits down. Max sits facing her on the other couch.

JULIE

I don't think that this would be a good time for us to bungee jump, or any other kind of jumping, or leaping either, into a relationship when we might not know what we're getting ourselves into.

MAX

Well, we don't have to jump... or leap, we don't have to leap either... into anything if that's not what we want. But what if we glided, you know?

JULIE

Look, the word isn't important. We both know what we're talking about. There are some things that you don't know about me. I really like you, I do, but I can't do this right now. Until two months ago I was in a serious relationship. We were together since high school, and we suddenly broke up. I went to visit him at Christmas and when I got to his house in Philadelphia he introduced me to his new girlfriend. He didn't say anything before that, didn't even bother to tell me not to visit when I called and planned the trip. He was such an asshole that he actually expected me to stick around and hang out with the two of them and his family, who knew more about our relationship than I did. I'm sorry, I didn't want to put all of this on you, but I'm not over him yet and I'm not ready to move on.

MAX

What if we gave it a shot?

JULIE

I don't think so.

MAX

And you wait till now to tell me?
Than what the hell was all this,
this last week or so? I mean, was
any of this... I don't know...

JULIE

I'm sorry, I don't know what I was
doing. I never said I was perfect...

MAX

You never said that you just broke
up with someone either.

JULIE

It's... I was having a good time
with you, and you were the one
calling me, wouldn't it have been
worse if I didn't call you back or
ignored you...

MAX

Well, you didn't have to act like
you cared about me. You didn't have
to kiss me.

Max stands up, visibly upset.

JULIE

You kissed me! I wasn't acting like
I cared about you.

MAX

You didn't have to kiss me back.

JULIE

Say something. Are you okay?

MAX

Yeah, what do you want me to say?
I'll be okay. It'll be all right.
That's life, you know? That's life.

JULIE

Are we still friends? It's
important to me that we can still
spend time together.

MAX

I don't know. What do you want me to say, let's hang out tomorrow? I don't think that would be a good idea. I have enough friends.

(sits)

I don't want to be rude but I think you should go.

JULIE

I'm sorry.

MAX

I'm fine.

JULIE

Okay. I want you to know that I do still want to spend time with you. I can tell that you don't want me to call you but if you ever want to call me I hope you will. Goodbye, Max.

She gets up and leaves, quietly waving on the way out. Max remains seated, clearly upset. A moment later there is a quiet knock on the door and Julie cautiously enters.

JULIE (cont'd)

I, um, can I use your phone? I need to call escort.

MAX

Go ahead.

Julie picks up the phone and dials.

JULIE

Hi. I need a ride from Bernstein Hall to Shelly Hall. Uh huh. Yeah, sure. Um, it's extension number 8668.

Max gives a disbelieving look, as if to say, "you're not gonna wait here, are you?"

JULIE (cont'd)

Actually never mind the phone number, I'll be waiting by the dorm. Okay, thanks. Bye.

(To Max, as she's leaving)

I'll see you around.

INT The COFFEE BAR

Later that night. Max and Charles are sitting opposite each other at a small table, drinking a couple of coffees. The bar is dimly lit and not very crowded, and the jukebox is playing rock and roll songs in the background.

MAX

You know, the thing I don't get is that it was all going so well. There was a moment a couple of days ago when we kissed, and it was more than just a kiss. There was something behind it. We broke through all of our outer layers, you know, all of the manners and defense mechanisms and daily crap that we use to protect ourselves, and I saw a flash of something, a glimmer of hope or happiness or whatever drawn across her face. I don't know if you know what I'm talking about. But now it's over and we're strangers again, I'll never see that part of her again.

CHARLES

I think you're just upset about some other parts of her that you'll never see again. Just kidding. I shouldn't have said that.

MAX

(amused)

It's okay. I'll have to get over it.

CHARLES

I'm sorry. It's hard, I know man, I've been there.

MAX

You're just saying that because that's what you're supposed to say.

CHARLES

That's what friends do, right?

MAX

Yeah. Thanks. And not just for now, I mean, thanks for being a good friend. Thanks for being there.

CHARLES

Anytime. I really am sorry it didn't work out with Julie and everything. It seemed like it was going so smoothly with the two of you.

MAX

I thought it was going well too, until the bottom fell out from under me like one of those fuckin' amusement park rides that spin you around in circles till you throw up.

CHARLES

What do you mean? Like a roller coaster or something?

MAX

No, no. You ever see that ride where, it's you know, you're standing in this small circular thing and it starts spinning like crazy and the next thing you know the ground you were standing on is moving lower and lower but you're in the same place, stuck to the wall because of centrifugal force or something?

CHARLES

That's a ride? You sure some punk didn't slip some LSD in your cotton candy?

MAX

That's always a possibility. You know what those carnival people are like.

CHARLES

I know the ride you're talking about. I hate that thing.

MAX

I threw up on one of those things once.

CHARLES

Oh, that's gross. They must have been mad when they stopped the ride, huh?

MAX

Oh, no well I did it after the ride ended. I couldn't even imagine throwing up while the thing was spinning. Now that is gross.

CHARLES

What's grosser than gross?

MAX

I don't know, what?

CHARLES

Shit, I can't remember. I can't remember the punch line. Fuck! I'm bad with jokes. Sorry.

MAX

It's all right. I wouldn't have laughed anyway. You know, when it comes down to it I think all of my troubles with girls are caused by insecurity based in the fact that I have a small penis.

CHARLES

That could be. But how does that explain my troubles with girls?

MAX

It must have something to do with your haircut. Shit, you know what the saddest thing about all of this is, I'm going to be bald by the time I'm 30. If I can't get girls with hair, then what the hell am I going to do in 10 years? I've got to get out there and start meeting people while I still can. This school is too small.

CHARLES

I know how you feel. Sometimes I think about getting with Sara, but the girl pisses me off! She can be great to talk to, but then she'll say the dumbest thing, like today she was saying that The Breeders are better than The Beatles.

MAX

Happiness is a warm gun.

CHARLES

I wouldn't go that far, but yeah. I like working with her, but that's as far as it goes. I think Stacy's kind of cute, but she would never go for me.

MAX

I wouldn't say that, I think you'd definitely have a shot.

CHARLES

Come on, let's go home. I saw Annie Hall sitting on the table. We have time to watch it before bed and still get to sleep early enough to wake up by lunch time tomorrow.

(Max gives him a dirty look.)

What?

MAX

I'm ready to burn that damn video tape.

EXT WORCESTER STREET

Max and Charles are outside, walking back from the bar at night. The streets are quiet, with the exception of a drunk, over-friendly man and woman walking about half a block ahead of Max and Charles.

MAX

All these couples that I see walking down the street... I want to hack them to pieces with a rusty saw. Not really, but you know what I mean.

CHARLES

Yeah. I do.

MAX

There are some nights that I can handle it but tonight I just can't.

TITLE: "Friday"

INT COMMON ROOM OF MAX'S SUITE

Max, Sam, Charles, Tommy, Scott and Amanda are sitting around on the couches, looking fairly bored. It's around midnight and they have just finished watching a video.

A bottle of vodka and several beers are sitting on the coffee table along with a few cups containing mixed drinks. Mellow music is softly playing in the background.

Sam is reading a magazine. Max looks depressed. Amanda is sitting next to Scott. Charles is laying across one of the couches. Tommy is looking in the fridge. The general mood in the room is a bored anxiety.

SAM

Why are humans so much smarter than chimpanzees when we have 90% of the same genetic material?

MAX

What?

SAM

Never mind.

SCOTT

Look who you're asking. Max is the only person I know who thinks that a red blood cell is a prison for a gang member.

MAX

Very funny, Mr. Wizard. You know, if I learned anything useful in any of my classes, I'd be rubbing it in your faces right about now.

AMANDA

(to Scott)

How was your day?

SCOTT

It was okay.

Tommy takes a beer from the fridge and sits down next to Charles, who is half asleep.

TOMMY

Today sucked. I have so much work to do. I spend 6 hours a day in the lab after 4 hours in class, and then I come home and have to study for one of two fucking tests that I have next week.

MAX

Shit. That sucks.

TOMMY

It'll be worth it when I get into a good grad school program. So how was your day?

AMANDA

Okay, the usual. I was up at 6:30 to work from 7 to 11. I had my print making class at 11:15 and my English class after that. Then I just sat around all afternoon and watched all of the talk shows. Did a little reading.

TOMMY

That's cool.

AMANDA

Scott, how's the program coming?

SCOTT

Slowly. There's a couple of problems.

AMANDA

Huh.

Scott gets up and leaves the room.

TOMMY

Listen, I have an extra ticket to the golf team charity dinner tomorrow night, does anyone want to go?

(after it's clear that no one is going to respond, he continues)

Amanda, do you want to go with me?

AMANDA

I don't know. Why don't you call me tomorrow during the day.

TOMMY

Okay, cool.

CHARLES

I might be interested.

AMANDA

Well, it's been a long day, and I don't want to fall asleep on your couch so I'd better go. I'll see you guys later.

CHARLES

Bye.

TOMMY

See you tomorrow.

(Amanda exits.)

I hope she ends up coming with me.

CHARLES

She'll never be able to think about you as long as Scott's around

TOMMY

It's not like I'm expecting anything, I just think she's really cute and I like to talk to her. She's a cool girl.

(Scott returns)

Scott, you don't mind if I take Amanda to the award dinner tomorrow night?

SCOTT

Why would I mind?

TOMMY

I didn't think you would, but it's the guy code, I've got to ask. I would never do anything with anyone that any of my friends was involved with, that's just wrong.

SCOTT

She's not my girlfriend.

TOMMY

I know, but...

SCOTT

And you two aren't going on a date.

TOMMY

Well, it's nothing serious, but it is a date.

MAX

Yeah, but you're going as friends right?

TOMMY

We are friends. She didn't even say she was going, she just said she'd see what was going on.

SCOTT

So then how is it a date, if you're not sure if she's going and if she does you'd just be going as friends?

TOMMY

A date doesn't always have to be sexual. Can't it be a guy and a girl hanging out and getting to know each other better? It's doesn't have to be that formal or anything.

SCOTT

You're the one who's making it into a formal thing. You brought it up and asked for my permission.

TOMMY

I'm sorry, I didn't think it was such a big deal. I was just trying to be polite. I wanted to make sure it didn't bother you.

MAX

This conversation is starting to bother me.

TOMMY

(Joking)

Oh, sorry. I didn't mean to disturb you.

MAX

Don't let it happen again and we'll call it even.

TOMMY

Deal. Oh, what ever happened with you and that girl you were seeing?

MAX

I don't think we were ever really seeing each other. By your definition we might have been dating, but she definitely wasn't my girlfriend. Officially we were just hanging out, and depending on who you ask, we may not have even been doing that much. It gets complicated.

TOMMY

So what's going on with that?

MAX

She told me that she just ended a long relationship and she doesn't want anything serious.

TOMMY

It doesn't have to be serious. You don't want to get serious too quickly anyway. Take it slow and give it a little time.

MAX

No, you don't understand. It's dead. It's over. She said that she just wants to be friends and I doubt she even wants that.

TOMMY

Ouch. It's too bad that it didn't work out.

CHARLES

She's a girl. They'll always be a mystery. You'll never know why they love you and you'll never know why they don't. I wish I knew what Sara sees in me. Then I'd know what to stop doing.

(to Sam)

Is Jen still giving you a hard time?

SAM

She's been miserable since we broke up. I feel bad about it, but the only thing that's going to help her feel better is time away from me. It's going to be rough for a while, but she'll be okay. It sucks about Julie. Tough week for us, huh?

MAX

Yeah. You know what's funny, Charles? Two nights ago, you know, the last time I saw Julie, we watched Annie Hall together, and then it all fell apart. A few days before that we watched Airplane, and that night I went back to her place after the movie.

[more]

MAX (cont'd)

We didn't watch Annie Hall this semester and it looked like my luck was beginning to turn around, and then I made the double mistake of watching the movie with a girl I liked. Your theory may be dumb, but it is holding up.

CHARLES

That's funny. You watched it with Beth too, didn't you? I'm telling you, that movie is bad news.

SAM

Come on, putting the blame on a movie is a cop out. The truth is that relationships are incredibly complicated. Everybody has a different idea of what they want, and everyone has their own problems to work around. The trick is to find someone whose problems are compatible with yours.

TOMMY

Max just has a few more of those problems than anyone.

MAX

Thanks.

Tommy exits, and after a brief pause, returns.

TOMMY

Hey Charles, can I borrow your red tie for tomorrow night?

CHARLES

If you think it'll help.

SCOTT

Hey Tommy, if you wear that blue shirt you were wearing the other day I have the perfect tie. I'll go get it for you.

TOMMY

Cool. Let me see it.

Scott and Tommy exit.

CHARLES

(to Max)

You want to see if Sports Center is still on?

EXT THE CAMPUS DAY

Some time later. Max and Beth are alone outside on the campus green, in the middle of the afternoon, having apparently just bumped into each other.

MAX

So how was your Valentine's Day?

BETH

Whatever.

MAX

Yeah. Mine too.

BETH

I hate Valentine's Day. It fuckin' sucks. It's a reminder that there are people in love. Why does anyone need to be reminded about that? If you're in love, you're in love, right? And if you're not in love, who wants to be reminded about that? I want to be in love so badly. Don't you?

MAX

I don't know. I'm not sure what I think about love, what it is, if it exists. From what I can tell it seems like it's more trouble than it's worth.

BETH

I can't believe you just said that. Love is worth the price. It's scary, it is a risk. It's a willing suspension of disbelief. It takes a lot of trust to make it work.

MAX

Well Beth, that's a nice statement but I'm not sure how well it holds up.

BETH

Look at Julie. She was very honest, and real. I liked her.

MAX

The only difference between honest people and the rest of us is that you can tell when they're lying.

BETH

Oh, you don't think she was lying. I know you don't think she was lying.

MAX

No, you're right. But I'm not sure. It's not so much that I think that she might be lying as I think it's a part of some larger conspiracy. It's like some kind of X-Files thing. Some day, I hope to peel back all the layers of deception and find the truth.

BETH

I can't believe you. You talk like there's no hope, and I don't get that. You have a lot going for you. You're way too pessimistic for your own good. If you stay confident and keep an open mind, you never know what could happen. I don't mean to say that if anything did happen it would be a surprise. I...

MAX

I don't worry about it, I know what you mean. Sometimes I think you're right. And thanks, you know, thanks for being the one to say it. But as time goes on, it seems more and more like there's no one for me here.

BETH

That's not true, there's always...

MAX

Maybe you're right. I'm sorry, I don't want to talk about this now. It's been a long day. I'm gonna, I don't know, go play video hockey or something like that.

BETH

That's the...

Max starts to walk away.

MAX

I'll talk to you later.

BETH

Will you call me later if you want
to watch a movie or something?

MAX

Yeah.

Max walks away, leaving Beth standing alone. The camera closes in on Beth, who is watching Max walk away. As Max is walking away, he delivers the following dialogue as a voice over. The camera alternates between a long shot of Max walking and a medium shot of Beth, concerned and watching Max for a moment and then turning around and walking away.

MAX (V.O.)

Over the rest of that semester I must have bumped into Julie 3 or 4 times. We don't talk unless we have to. Unless it's awkward not to, I guess. When we do talk it's just small talk. She tries to ignore me, I guess she feels guilty about the whole thing, and I try to ignore her back, out of embarrassment as much as anything.

The last time I watched Annie Hall was with her. Every time I walk past the shelf of videos, Annie and I both try to ignore each other. So far so good.

It's funny, but I think I miss Annie more than Julie.

FADE TO BLACK

CREDITS