

"AND THE BOYS GO"

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**Final Draft July 28th, 2016
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IN BLACK... *THEN*

EXT - CREEK - AFTERNOON

FOUR YOUNG BOYS. RICH, STEVE, DANNY and NICK. They're fresh off being high school graduates, ending on seventeen and going on eighteen, soon enough. Steve's holding a cheap, but reliable drugstore pipe, while placing some weed from a prescribed pill bottle into it. The other boys wait patiently, in mid conversation.

STEVE

Don't worry about it, man --

NICK

Oh no, don't do that.

STEVE

Do what?

Steve still applying weed into the pipe, Nick looks at both Rich and Danny, explains:

NICK

See, he's not gonna tell us
anything because he feels too cool
he's got a shot.

Steve passes the pipe across to Rich.

STEVE

Yeah, I DO have a shot. But none of
you would know that 'cause I'm
fuckin' low key, that's why.

Rich lights the pipe, he seems to struggle with it.

RICH

(mocks)

'Low key' -- So what, you're both a
thing now?

STEVE

(exhales smoke)

No, we're not a thing. We're just
messaging around.

With the help of Danny hovering his hand over the pipe, Rich has successfully lit the pipe.

NICK

Yeah, and Danny over here's got a
shot with Julie.

Danny shoves Nick.

DANNY
Hey, what the fuck --

Nick isn't moved by his push, so Danny shoves him again.

STEVE
Say what you want 'cause all I know
is I'm not spreading any bullshit
that ain't true.

Nick looks over to Steve, he can't help but chuckle.

STEVE (CONT'D)
What you laughing at?

NICK
You.

STEVE
Oh yeah?

NICK
Yeah.

Steve shows off the screen of his phone to Nick. And to Nick's surprise, he ain't lying.

NICK (CONT'D)
Oh damn.

Rich coughs heavily, and passes the pipe to Danny. From this short span of time we've seen the boys in their natural state, it's safe to assume neither of them know how to properly smoke.

STEVE
(to Nick)
Who's the last girl you were
talking to?

Now Danny struggles to light the pipe.

NICK
I've been messing around.

RICH
(just now containing
himself)
Really, with who?

NICK
I mean, recently?

RICH

Yeah.

Danny's got the pipe lit, he inhales.

NICK

Casey Gerwig.

Just hearing that makes Danny blow all the weed out of the pipe. He begins coughing non-stop, the others call him out.

STEVE

Ah shit --

NICK (CONT'D)

Dude --

RICH

Are you fuckin' kidding me?

Danny looks to the ground, coughing some more. Steve grabs the pipe from him

STEVE

Get that fuckin' shit outta here --

RICH (CONT'D)

Not cool --

*

DANNY

(up, red faced, skeptical,
looking at Nick)

Wait, did you just say you were
hooking up with Casey Gerwig?

NICK

Yeah and that's *that*.

They move to a cobble stoned flooring, where just behind is a massive sewage pipe. They settle. This is their hangout spot.

STEVE

Don't act all fuckin' coy.

NICK

You don't wanna share anything
about Erin, I don't wanna share
anything about Casey.

RICH

I'm not that impressed, Casey
Gerwig's like seven years old.

NICK

No she's not.

STEVE

(laughs)
'Seven years old', you're a
savage.

*

RICH
Fine a freshman, whatever --

NICK
-- sophomore.

DANNY
So do you teach her the ways Nicky,
or does she?

NICK
(shoves Danny)
Fuck you, man --
(can't help but smile, and
to the all of them)
-- you know what? You wanna act as
if hooking up with Casey is some
kind of joke, fine by me. But
you're not gonna fuckin' tell me
that her and her group of friends
aren't hotter than the girls we
graduated with.

RICH
Huh, kinda true?

NICK
(looks at Danny
specifically)
Sophomore or not. You know they're
hotter, don't try to tell me
otherwise.

DANNY
We graduated, that's fucked up.

STEVE
(smoking)
Huge fuckin' schlong move.

This shuts down Nick for a moment.

NICK
Whatever, she's cute and I've got
proof that we talk, too.

RICH
Okay. Relax, I don't want to see
Casey Gerwig's weird nudes.

NICK
Fuck you, Rich.
(to Steve)
(MORE)

NICK (CONT'D)
What are you two even talking
about, anyway?

STEVE
(smoking from the pipe)
Don't worry about it.

RICH
(to Nick and Danny)
'Don't worry about it', he says --

DANNY
(strongly)
-- come on... you fuck!

It catches all of them off guard, Danny's a bit overzealous,
Rich bursts out laughing.

DANNY (CONT'D)
(to Steve)
Come on!

STEVE
Its just like small talk about the
Yankees, relax. I wanna find out if
she's a real fan or just a poser.

RICH
Ask her about the team roster. And
she's gotta know all of them.

Steve inhales and exhales quick.

STEVE
Fuck it, imma' leave her hanging.

DANNY
Why would you do that? If you're
texting her, don't you want to keep
it going?

RICH
Nah, he's right. It keeps thing's
spicy, yanno?

DANNY
Spicy?

RICH
Spicy, *cumid*.

STEVE
(to Danny)
You gotta do what I'm doing with
Erin... But with *Julie*.

DANNY
(... huh?)
You just told me to leave her
hanging.

STEVE
Just give me your phone, so I can
text her. You wanna fuck her,
right? C'mon dude, just text--give
me the phone.

Danny rises.

DANNY
No way, you wanna help me? You
wanna text her?

Steve rises, face to face.

STEVE
Do you want change in your life?

DANNY
Yeah?

STEVE
Do you want a big change in your
life? Are you unhappy with
yourself?

DANNY
I'm not unhappy with myself, what
the fuck?

STEVE
Say something with me. Say YOU'RE
THE CHANGE.

DANNY
I'm the change?

STEVE
Say it again...

DANNY
(chuckles)
... I'm the change?

STEVE

You know what you are? You're gonna
make your life better, you wanna
know why?

DANNY

Why?

STEVE

Say IT.

DANNY

Because I'm the change?

STEVE

BINGO.

Steve snatches Danny's phone right off the palm of his hands
without Danny even noticing. The moment he sees Steve holding
his phone, Danny releases.

DANNY

Ooooooh what the fuck? Give me it
back!

NICK

You're a fuckin' idiot, that's what
you are.

Rich and Nick follow Danny and Steve.

STEVE

(leading)

Hey dude, what's your passcode?

DANNY

5675 --

NICK

-- now you're a *big* fuckin' idiot.

CUT TO

4

EXT - HIGH SCHOOL TRACK FIELD - LATER

4

REVEAL, the boys walking on their high school track, each of
them holding their own bikes.

STEVE

(mid conversation)

I'm not gonna say that, why would I
say that?

DANNY
You're worrying me.

TIME CUT

MOMENTS LATER as the boys have left their bikes on the track ground, and walking onto the football field. Nick hovers behind Steve, looking over at what he's been texting.

NICK
(to Danny)
Holy shit! He said '*I love you*'.

Nick walks to Steve, joining him in on the exchange.

Danny turns instantly and runs to Steve.

DANNY
What the fuck?!? Come here you
fuckin' asshole!

Steve begins to run, as Danny chases him. Rich and Nick follow.

RICH
Give me the phone, Steve!

Steve stops and offers the phone to Danny.

As Danny reaches for the phone, Steve instantly backs away and runs with it.

NICK
(to Steve)
Throw it here!

DANNY
You guys are fuckin' rough!

Steve and Rich run to the bleachers, Danny chases them and behind them, just walking and watching, is Nick.

TIME CUT

5 **EXT - BLEACHERS - CONTINUOUS**

5

They all join up on the bleachers. Once they've reached the top, Danny grapples Steve for his phone, as Steve raises his hand, stopping him.

STEVE
Relax, I'm not gonna text her that.

Danny tries to grab the phone.

STEVE (CONT'D)
(avoiding his hands)
Stop.

DANNY
Quit being a dick, Steve. Give me
my phone.

STEVE
(standing to avoid Danny's
swinging hands)
She texted back, calm down.

This eases Danny.

RICH
What did she say?

STEVE
(reading)
She said she's hanging with the
girls, tonight.

DANNY
(not at all satisfied)
That's it?

STEVE
You know what? Here, take your
phone.
(gives Danny his phone)
I was trying to help you. You're
over here, freaking out, I didn't
even text her anything bad.

Danny thumbs through his messages.

DANNY
(reading the text)
*'Wanna race? I'm the fastest kid at
North High'.*

Nick bursts out laughing. Rich shakes his head.

DANNY (CONT'D)
Why would you say that?

NICK
(just inducing Danny's
frustration)
Steve, you're a savage.

DANNY
(looking at the phone)
Rich, look at this --

Rich squints to read the message.

RICH
(reading, laughs)
*'You smell like my mother's nail
polish'*

DANNY
What the fuck?

RICH
(laughing, still)
Why would you say that?

STEVE
Girls like guys who love their
mothers.

DANNY
I'll just text her when I'm not
near you guys. I think better when
I'm alone.

RICH
Why don't you just sprint a lap and
text her.

DANNY
(beat)
No.

RICH
(shakes his head)
Okay, whatever.

NICK
If that doesn't work out, at least
there'll be a lot of girls in
college.

DANNY
Yeah.
(sighs)
It won't be so complicated.

STEVE
I don't know what to tell you man.
Girls like drinking, partying, and
being complicated. We only like two
of those things.

Everyone but Rich, stare blankly at the field.

RICH
(to Steve)
What the fuck are you talking
about?
(abruptly realizing)
All I know is I'm really excited
for this trip.

NICK
I'm hyped. I can't wait to get the
hell out of here.

RICH
Yeah, no more hanging around--
(waves his hand)
This fucking school.

DANNY
Always hanging around the one place
we can't stand.

STEVE
You know what? FUCK this place.

DANNY
Yeah, FUCK this place.

All of them get up and look at their school. Six in a half
years of utter bullshit has now taken a toll on them.

RICH
FUCK YOU!!!

NICK
FUCK YOU!!!

They continue to shout '*fuck you's*' to North High and we --

CUT TO

BOXING GLOVES
Quickly punching against a beaten and aged boxing bag. We
REVEAL:

Both DANNY and RICH
One's holding the boxing bag (Rich), while the other punches
it (Danny). They're in --

6

EXT - DANNY'S BACKYARD - AFTERNOON

6

Standing just outside of the garage. Danny's punches are fast but weak and unexperienced. He's sort of a cartoon when it comes to the physical swifts. Rich watches, amused.

RICH

Okay, you're doing it all wrong.
You gotta --

(poses for him)

Shoulder length apart. You gotta
use your left hand to block your
face --

(jabs with his right)

-- and then straight jabs.

Danny takes a moment to register that, then he slowly punches with his right, each breath goes with each punch. Five punches in and he still hasn't gotten it.

RICH (CONT'D)

You gotta breathe.

DANNY

I am breathing.

RICH

You gotta breathe out your mouth.

Danny does it again, breathing out of his mouth. He just isn't very good.

RICH (CONT'D)

Okay, c'mon. Give me the gloves.

Danny gives him the gloves.

RICH (CONT'D)

You don't know how to throw a
punch?

DANNY

I've never had to.

RICH

You gotta learn to fight for
yourself. I mean, what would you do
if you went out on a date and you
had to sock --

DANNY

-- I would have to fight my date?

Rich ignores that, he switches sides with Danny and punches the bag. He's a Primo Carnera compared to Danny.

RICH
Tomorrow morning we gotta get gear.

DANNY
I thought we were doing that tonight?

RICH
Nah, can't.
(shoots)
Seeing Lauren tonight.

DANNY
Oh, how's that going?

RICH
(while playing offense)
We're just gonna go for it --Yanno,
she's not gonna be in some country,
she'll just be in another state.
We'll see if it works.

Rich throws massive blows to the bag, he doesn't stop.

DANNY
Alright, okay, you're an animal --

Rich stops.

DANNY (CONT'D)
(meaning the gloves)
Let me see those.

DANNY (CONT'D)
You're not worried, Rich?

RICH
(going for the ball)
About Lauren?

DANNY
Yeah.

RICH
Not gonna bust a nut for a few months, that's a bummer.

Danny chuckles.

RICH (CONT'D)
 Should be fine. It'll be fine.
 Don't worry about the whole thing
 with Julie. You're fine, I figure
 you're still worried about that.

DANNY
 (dribbles)
 I don't know why I trusted Steve--

Danny throws massive blows, Rich laughs.

DANNY (CONT'D)
 -- he totally ruined my chance.

RICH
 He was trying to help you. You
 should be the one talking to her.

DANNY
 I know, I know, but what am I gonna
 say to her, yanno? You guys make it
 sound too easy, really.

RICH
 You ready for this answer?
 (beat)
 She likes you. Alright? Just be
 yourself.

Danny shakes his head.

RICH (CONT'D)
 (chuckles)
 You'll hear it a million times.
 (indicating the hoop)
 Wanna hit it right? C'mon, show me
 what you've got.

Danny PUNCHES the bag as many times as he can.

CUT TO

7 **EXT - NICK'S HOUSE, LAWN - DAWN**

7

Steve and Nick sit on the sidewalk, both completely worn out
 and gazing the land of suburbia ahead, with their bags lying
 next to them. An ugly Chrysler rounds the corner and parks up
 the driveway of Nick's house.

RICH
 (from the car)
 Morning ladies.

NICK
(sigh, half awake)
It's too early for this shit.

DANNY
Its good that we leave early, we'll
have more to do.

Car's parked. Danny exits from the back of the car, holding a bag from the deli. Rich opens the door, seated, still.

STEVE
Whatever... You guys went to A&S?

RICH
Yeah, one of you guys are buying me
lunch today.

NICK
I'm starving.

DANNY
Here, eat this --

Danny grabs one wrapped up bagel and roughly tosses it to Nick, who catches it. Steve holds his hands up.

NICK
Bacon, egg 'n cheese?

Danny tosses one to Steve.

DANNY
(jokingly)
No, BLT.

Both Steve and Nick shout at Danny.

NICK
Fucking A' --

STEVE
We said bacon, egg 'n cheese.

DANNY
I'm kidding.

Danny grabs out another bacon, egg 'n cheese and hands it to Rich. He then grabs the last remaining one for himself.

NICK
(mouth full)
You bring ketchup?

RICH
Forgot.

NICK
Damn Rich.
(to Danny)
Why are you sitting in the back?

DANNY
He doesn't want me sitting in the
front.

While they stuff their mouths of delicious bacon, egg 'n
cheese, Steve eyes the ugly Chrysler.

STEVE
(smiling)
I call shotgun.

RICH
Nah ah, that's not happening.

NICK
I call shotgun.

RICH
Did you hear me? I said that's not
happening. No shottie.

NICK
(chewing)
Bullshit, I call shottie.

DANNY
(chewing)
Who cares?

NICK
(still chewing, waiting
till he's finished)
I do, I always sit in the back.

Steve walks to the car and hops on the hood.

RICH
Hey! Careful, alright?

STEVE
Relax, I'm just sitting.

Nick walks to the car with his duffle bag and backpack. He
continues eating his bacon, egg 'n cheese with one hand.

NICK

Rich, put your stuff in the trunk
with our stuff.

DANNY

He doesn't want anyone sitting
shotgun 'cause he feels like
someone's gonna mess with his
stuff.

RICH

All my stuff's gonna stay on the
passenger side.

(to them)

All your stuff's gonna stay with
you guys in the back. Alright?
Cool.

NICK

No one's gonna mess with your
stuff.

RICH

No, I'm not taking any chances with
you guys.

DANNY

Okay, now I'm confused, what did we
do?

RICH

Last Sunday, you guys came over for
the game --

CUT TO

INT - RICH'S BEDROOM - LAST SUNDAY

Steve and Nick enter his room, both ghoulishly giggling. We
hear the Jets vs Miami Dolphins game playing in the
background.

RICH (O/S)

Yo, don't mess with my shit.

STEVE

Just using the bathroom, man.

They laugh, and moments in they go ape shit in his room. Steve grabs the blanket and comforter set of Rich's bed, wiping it off to the floor. Nick opens every drawer from Rich's shelf and throws his clothes.

BACK TO

They bursts out laughing.

RICH
-- yeah, and all shotgun privileges
are lost. That's just an example,
there been other occasions when you
guys messed with my stuff.

NICK
(sighs)
Whatever man.

Nick walks his way to the car.

STEVE
Okay, but I'm sitting shotgun.

RICH
What is it, am I talking to myself?
What did I just fucking say?

STEVE
(waves his hand)
We can either argue about this, or
you can let me sit.

The big man looks down at the lesser big man.

RICH
(sighs)
Fine, whatever.

Steve grabs Rich's stuff from the passenger side, making his way to the golden seat.

NICK
No fucking way.

Danny laughs, standing in between Nick and Rich.

DANNY
(to Rich)
Letting him get what he wants?
(shakes his head)
Thought you had him, Rich?

RICH

Whatever.

Nick marches his way to the back of the car. Danny and Rich join Steve, as he sits on the passenger side.

DANNY

You pissed off Nick.

STEVE

Yeah well sometimes you don't
always get what you want.

(looking to the back)

You hear that Nick?

Both Danny and Rich chuckle, no response from Nick.

Nick emerges, hopping out of the trunk. He sips a beer while clutching Steve's bag.

NICK

Steve-O, where you going, huh?

(raising Steve's bag)

Mmhmm, keep running your mouth.

Steve hops off the passenger seat, clenching his fist.

STEVE

Go ahead, what you gonna do, Nick?

Put my stuff back.

With a grin on his face, and swaying his body, ready to make the run for it.

NICK

Suck my balls.

Nick RUNS. But neither Steve or Rich and Danny move. They watch Nick run far. Then the three boys get into the car.

STEVE

I'm so fuckin' done.

As they get in, Rich reverses out of the driveway, and the car speeds. Nick chases them.

CUT TO

9

EXT - MOUNT GREYLOCK ROAD - MORNING

9

As time passes in the early morning, there's a reveal of pure green summer leaves hanging from the end of the road, slowly passing over to reveal the car on the road.

11 **EXT - ADAM'S OVERLOOK - MORNING**

11

The car drives along a narrow, winding road. Coming to a full stop at a drive in. The boys get out of the car, dumbstruck by the vista of the forest ahead and the streaming river.

Steve, carrying out a six pack, holding out a beer to Rich.

STEVE

Yo Rich, want a beer?

RICH

Yeah, gimme.

Steve chuckles and shakes the beer can, tossing it to Rich. Rich snaps open the beer can, pointing it at Steve as beer hoses at him.

While they drink their beer, Danny and Nick scatter around the small drive in. Bikers speeding past them on the road.

Nick eats chips from a bag, Danny takes a picture from his phone.

NICK

Wait, you took a pic?

DANNY

Yeah.

NICK

Get one of me, hold on.

Nick climbs over the rocky edge, pretending he's falling. Danny gets the shot.

STEVE

(to Nick)

Why you gotta pose like that?

NICK

Don't start with me.

DANNY

Let me get another one. Just stand still.

RICH

This is the type of shit you guys do. Can never just enjoy the moment.

DANNY

(to Rich)

Do you want to get in the picture?
Is that it?

RICH

Just do me a favor, and take the
picture, alright --

DANNY

Okay, I am?

NICK

(to Danny)

Here, Danny, let's take a picture
together, get the full landscape.

Danny joins him, both taking a picture of themselves.

DANNY

It'll be nice for our relationship
status.

STEVE

Why are you always tryna be so
artsy?

NICK

I take dope pics.

RICH

(to Steve)

Says the one who's always taking
selfie's.

Danny and Nick laugh at Steve.

STEVE

I get mad likes.

DANNY

Nick, I'm Steve --

Danny makes a selfie face, as if he's Steve.

NICK

Yo Steve --

Nick jumps onto the rocky edge, facing down on them, and
raises the bottom of his shirt, posing. Danny and Steve
laugh.

Rich flexes what muscles he's got.

RICH
 Steve, wanna flex?
 (laughs at him)
 Nah?

STEVE
 At least I don't always take pics
 of my dog.

DANNY
 (to Rich)
 Yeah, you either do pics of your
 dog or your *girllllllfrieeeend*.

RICH
 Okay, why's that bad?

STEVE
 We know what she looks like.

RICH
 We also know what you look like.

STEVE
 Yeah handsome.

NICK
 (to Danny)
 You know what? Don't talk, 'cause
 you delete pictures if you don't
 get enough likes on them.

DANNY
 First of all, you're awfully
 aggressive. And second of all, I've
 only done that three times.

RICH	NICK
Nick, you've done that, too --	(to Danny)
	-- you did that yesterday --

*

RICH
 Nick, you've done it so many times.

NICK
 Not as many times, as --
 (points to Danny)
 -- he has. I did that back in the
 olden days, when Instagram wasn't
 that crazy.

DANNY
 (laughs, repeating Nick)
'Back in the olden days.'

RICH
(nods, repeating Nick)
'Back in the olden days.'

NICK
(while eating)
I was a veteran of Instagram. I
think I got all of you guys on it.

DANNY
For sure.

RICH
Whatever.

Nick thumbs down the screen of his phone.

STEVE
You know who gets a lot of likes?
Emma Leone.

This gets Danny started, and the others have seen him get
this way before, shaking their heads. He takes Nick's phone
and looks at it.

DANNY
Every time I go on Instagram, I
swear... Emma Leone, man...
Everyone likes her pics. Could be
anything she posts... A sock, a
half ass quality pic of the sun...
Anything, and she gets all the
likes.

STEVE
Who cares? She's hot.

Danny continues scrolling on the phone.

NICK
Yeah, can I have my phone back?

DANNY
(not hearing Nick,
continues)
Man, you know what she posted a pic
of? Her grandmother's wake. Guess
how many likes? You wanna guess how
many likes?

RICH
(eyes on the road)
I dunno, sixty?

STEVE
I'd say the same.

DANNY
A hundred and eight.

NICK
A hundred and eight? Let me see.

STEVE
Its tragic.

RICH
I don't want to see it.

Nick sees, then shows Rich.

NICK
Oh my god, its her dead
grandmother.

RICH
(blocking with his hand)
I don't want to see that.

DANNY
Straight up saw a corpse, today.

They're all quiet, looking at the mountains.

The BOYS' POV
The mountains, cloudy day so far hovering above the land.

NICK (O/S)
Look how the clouds cover the land
like that.

BACK to the BOYS

STEVE
Its called a shadow.

NICK
Fuck you.

Rich and Danny laugh at both of them. A car passes --

CUT TO

A CU OF NICK
He's laying on a couch, looking up the ceiling, talking.

NICK (CONT'D)

It was Shawn and I... Louis, Bobby, Cassidy, and Claudia.

(beat)

Claudia... She was a heavy girl, wore glasses all the time. Round nose, had a sinus problem. She didn't talk to anyone in that class, she didn't really talk to anyone in general. She just had her brother, who at the time was already in high school. My parents became good friends with her parents. Claudia's dad owned a pizzeria, '*Luggio Slices*', named after his grandpa. It was a family business, the pizza was always good. It was the go to pizzeria for my dad, so that's how they became friends. My mom and Claudia's mom would go shopping together. Them being friends, it obviously meant at some point I was going to have to hang out with her.

(chuckles)

My parents forced me into being friends with her.

(beat)

She ended up coming over a lot, I got use to her being around. What was I gonna do? Ignore her? I figured if she was gonna be over, I'd at least try to have fun with her. We played games, mostly just that. We both liked battleship.

(beat)

One day, it was during recess, everyone went to the swing set. I was sitting on the monkey bars with Shawn and three other friends. I was eyeing Melissa Alvarez, she was cute, yanno, I had the biggest crush on her. Then Claudia just shows up in front of me. I didn't want anyone to know we were friends outside of school, I cannot let anyone find out. Now she's standing in front of me, looking at me, blocking my view of Melissa.. She tells me '*let's go to the swings, Nick*'. I was like '*nah, like no*' then she was like '*come on, Nick, let's go*'.

(MORE)

NICK (CONT'D)

And I was like, giving her this look, like *'what are you doing?'* And... I think she had this thought that I was acting a certain way around her because deep down I liked her, that kind of thing. She says it again, and goes for my hand, and I just, snap. I smack her hand away and get up. Now I'm looking at her. I say to her in front of everyone *'get away from me fatass, you're gross and I'm not your friend so get out of my face.'*

He stops, he doesn't look at whoever he's talking to anymore. He thinks.

NICK (CONT'D)

(sighs)

I see her and she sees me. Melissa was still swinging and Claudia just walks away. I didn't even think about what I just said to her... She stopped coming over after that. I didn't see her after that.

(beat)

By the time I got into the sixth grade, we both went to different schools. Seventh grade I found out her mom died from brain damage.

(beat)

Yanno, then over the summer I moved to Valley Stream. I didn't see her for like six years, that was the first time I thought about her.

(beat)

Last month, I go to a Yankee game with my dad, they're playing the Orioles. Third inning I decide I gotta use the bathroom, on my way there I hear someone call out my name. I look over and see Claudia with her brother. She knew it was me. And I knew it was her. She had the glasses, her nose still round. She looked beautiful. We say hi to each other, ask how we're both doing, and spoke for about five minutes... I didn't think she'd want to talk to me, but she did.

(beat)

She was happy to see me. So was I.

He lets out a heavy breath, eyes up the ceiling and now lost in thought.

CUT TO

20

EXT - JONES NOSE - MID DAY

20

The sky shades of mellow yellow at this time of day. A field of hills, high grass and daisies, glorious. Rich and Danny suddenly run into frame and continue running farther down, both tossing a football to each other. Suddenly, Nick and Steve enter frame, watching them and then taking in the scenery.

Nick embraces.

NICK
Woooooooooooo!!!

Rich, from far in the background turns and raises his arms.

NICK (CONT'D)
Wooooo!

Rich goes back to tossing the ball.

BEAT.

STEVE
I'm gonna be honest man, I feel
good, I feel really good.
(thinking)
I just don't understand why we
weren't out here, sooner.

NICK
Yeah.

BEAT.

STEVE
Never have to think 'bout shit,
yanno?

NICK
Yeah.

BEAT.

STEVE
Erin is cool and all... She's been
hitting me up.

BEAT. Nick doesn't know where he's going with this.

STEVE (CONT'D)

(beat)

I realized, I don't really know
her. Like *know her... know her.*
Yanno? It's... It's whatever.

ON DANNY and RICH

DANNY

I'm Aaron Rodgers.

Throws the ball, Rich misses the catch.

NICK (O/S)

At least you're having fun, does it
really matter?

Rich grabs the ball, he poses like a crab.

RICH

What if I just threw it like this?

STEVE (O/S)

Nah, not really.

DANNY

You a crab? You look like a crab.

BACK to STEVE and NICK

STEVE

(beat)

You know what, Nick?... *Fuck* girls.

NICK

Yeah, fuck girls.

They both embrace the scenery, again. Suddenly Steve looks at
his phone, shocked and grinning.

STEVE

Holy shit.

NICK

What?

STEVE

I got a fuckin' nude.

NICK

A nude?

STEVE

Yeah.

NICK

A nude--let me see?

STEVE

Nah.

NICK

What happened to 'fuck girls'?

STEVE

It's a nude, dude.

NICK

Alright, let me see then.

Nick pursues, Steve places his hand gently against his chest.

STEVE

No, get away --

NICK

-- come on --

Steve shoves him.

STEVE

Nah, back off. C'mon.

Nick stands back.

NICK

(shouts at the boys)

Yo! Yo guys! Hey, Steve's got a
nude!

The boys stop what they're doing, look at each other and then
back at Nick.

DANNY

He's got a nude?

NICK

Yeah, he's got a nude!

(then to Steve)

How the hell do you even get
reception over here?

STEVE

Really dude?...

The boys run and emerge, now standing with Nick and Steve.

DANNY
Who is it?

STEVE
Don't worry about it.

DANNY
Who is it? Who is it?

NICK
It's Erin.

RICH
He's full of shit.

DANNY
Who is it?

STEVE
Okay, I'll tell you...

He leans towards them, quietly...

STEVE (CONT'D)
Kara Pattison.

They tackle Steve for the phone.

CUT TO

INT - HOUSE - NIGHT

CU Danny, party lights strike on him as music blasts from the house speakers. There's a crowd, people are talking, making noise, as a party would have. Another boy, Sebastian, sits next to him, drinking.

DANNY
Isn't he still trying to get with Julie?

SEBASTIAN
(drinks)
Why? You tryna fuck?

DANNY
I'm just asking.

SEBASTIAN
Well, I mean, she's here. Just ask her. Aren't you both friends, anyway?

DANNY

What am I gonna do? Go over and be like 'hey, did you fuck Wilson? Did you do that?'

Sebastian laughs and it makes Danny kind of laugh, too.

SEBASTIAN

Exactly you should do that--no, I'm kidding, just casually ask her.

DANNY

I'm not asking her.

SEBASTIAN

You wanna know though, that's why you asked me, right? But you won't ask. You know what? Fuck it, I'll ask her, we're friends.

(calls her out)

Hey Julie!

Danny grabs his arm and shoves it down, Sebastian's profile slightly enters frame.

DANNY

Sebastian no, what the fuck man? Don't do that, don't do that, Sebastian --

SEBASTIAN

-- Its no big deal, man, relax.

(calls her out)

Just ask her--Julie! Julie!

Danny looks past, apprehensive. WILSON, off screen, approaches them.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

(noticing Wilson)

Oh yo, what's good man.

WILSON

Yo, what's good, bring it in.

His hand comes in, dabbing Sebastian, holding a blunt for himself. All we see is Wilson's hands coming in frame.

SEBASTIAN

(implying the blunt)

Thanks for sharing, bro.

WILSON

No problem bro.

Wilson rubs Danny's hair and then sits across from them.

SEBASTIAN

So... you fuck Julie?

Danny just watches Wilson and listens. Waiting, anxiously.

WILSON

Nah dude, she's a bitch. I'm over it.

This takes Danny aback.

DANNY

What?

WILSON

What?

DANNY

Why'd you--What'd she do?

WILSON

Nah dude, she was like, so we started like talking all the time and then she like, started texting me a lot, and then she started calling me like honey and sweetie and then she wanted me to like, go on a fuckin' picnic with her parents. And I was like... that was the last staw, I was like--I saw where that was going, I was like *'nah dude, that's fuckin' weird'*, yanno. Not trying to do that. She sucks.

SEBASTIAN

But that ass though man.

WILSON

I know, right?

They laugh, Danny just stares at Wilson, now lost in thought.

WILSON (CONT'D)

Nah, she sucks.

Danny says nothing.

CUT TO

EXT - MOUNT GREYLOCK - DAY

The overview of trees go long distances ahead, cast over by moving clouds. Rich and Danny walk upward toward the rocky edge, so they can get the best view they've hiked long enough to get to. Steve takes his bag off his back and settles on a rock a couple of feet behind. Nick aggressively enters, thrusting his bag onto one rock, turning his back from everyone, drinking from his canteen.

DANNY and RICH

Both quiet, looking out the horizon, they're flabbergasted.

Rich then looks over to his friend, in low confidence.

RICH

You think you're gonna make friends
like us in school?

DANNY

I dunno, why?

RICH

I dunno, just wondering.

DANNY

I'd be pretty bumed if I didn't
make any friends. But I'm sure I'll
meet some idiots like us I can be
friends with.

RICH

Idiots like us?

DANNY

We're idiots.

RICH

Good point.

DANNY

(chuckles)

We'll see.

DANNY and RICH'S POV

The horizon, its day and glorious.

DANNY (O/S) (CONT'D)

I get this weird feeling, there's
too much happening. There's too
much that's already happened.

BACK to DANNY and RICH

DANNY (CONT'D)
And there's gonna be too much
ahead. I just feel like I'm stuck
in the middle of it all.

RICH
(thinks)
Yeah, I think we all feel that way.

DANNY
Yeah, maybe...

STEVE and NICK
Steve, in his own world, quiet. Nick turns himself towards
the view now, quietly amazed. He pulls his phone out for a
picture, Steve notices;

STEVE
C'mon man, pics? How come its
always pics with you?

NICK
Its looking pretty good.

He takes the picture. Shows Steve.

STEVE
Man, this is a nice pic.

Quiet. Nick now raises his voice.

NICK
We're the kings of the world!

It echoes. They're all amazed.

STEVE
You gotta say something like--I'll
show you, c'mon.

He joins Danny and Rich, and so does Nick. All four stand on
the rocky edge. Steve shouts:

STEVE (CONT'D)
(shouting)
I LOVE BIG TITTIES!!!

His voice echoes.

DANNY
Damn.

CUT TO

EXT - LIRR TRAIN STATION - NIGHT

Steve, alone, standing near the platform. A noticeable bruise swells around his eye socket. A voice from afar back calls.

MILOS (O/S)
Steve! Is that you?

Steve notices him. MILOS head enters, they dab.

MILOS (CONT'D)
Oh shit, it is you. What's up.

STEVE
What's going on man?

MILOS
Just got out of work, it was a bust... Yo, its a coincidence, I heard you and Ellis got into a fight yesterday at the lot, he fucked you up.

STEVE
Nah man, that didn't happen.

MILOS
Nah? You didn't fight him? That didn't happen?

STEVE
Nah, it was nothing.

MILOS
I dunno, Dylan told me that you guys fought on the lot and he fucked you up. He upper cut you 'n some shit. I dunno, I think that's fuckin' nuts 'cause was thinking 'wait? Fuckin' Steve? Steve got fucked up by Ellis? Like Ellis is half my size'. I don't believe that shit.

STEVE
Yeah right dude? Kid's a pussy.

MILOS
Yeah, well everyone says he fucked you up. Not even just Dylan, a lot of people were telling me, Carrucci told me, too. I wasn't there --

STEVE
Its like I told you, it was
nothing.

MILOS
But he got you? Right? I mean I see
you got a fuckin' bruise right
there --

Milos approaching him, Steve backs away.

STEVE
C'mon man.

Awkward silence.

MILOS
Why'd he fight you?

Another awkward silence... where's this train...

MILOS (CONT'D)
(realizes)
Oh fuck... I know why... you been
talking to Abby, haven't you?...
Heyyyyyy... I fuckin' knew it... you
guys weren't low key 'bout that, we
all knew that... That's so fucked
man, I dunno, Ellis is a small guy,
but I guess he's protective. You
learn something new everyday,
right?

A train from the background emerges slowly.

MILOS (CONT'D)
You gonna get him back, or what?

STEVE
What?

MILOS
Are you gonna get him back or what?
I mean everyone knows... you can't
fuckin' leave it, so are you just
gonna leave it like that?

Train gets louder....

STEVE
Nah, man.

Louder.... and louder.... and....

CUT TO

EXT - FOREST - AFTERNOON

Standing a distance from them, and covered by forest trees is an ABANDONED HOUSE. Its creepy, and the boys stand, all braving the image. Except for Danny, small, kind of innocently alarmed... he physically shows this and the others aren't exactly surprised.

STEVE

(jokingly)

Yo I heard about this place. My brother said it was built on Ancient Indian burial ground.

Danny turns. Rich grabs him.

RICH

Hey, listen -- let's just raise our hands and see who wants to go in...

All of them raise their hands, except Danny. Then Danny lifts one arm, just as Nick raises his other arm for him.

DANNY

Great, now I have both hands up in the air like an idiot.

They pursue further to the house.

CUT TO

The ENTRANCE OF THE HOUSE

Wooden door that's wide open, with a broken glass window hovered above. The steps to the patio have been destroyed.

CUT TO

Various shots of the inside of the house. Bedrooms that have nothing but an iron bed frame and a soiled up mattress. Another room, a window beams light onto a display of aged books, scrubby clothes, and a pair of shoes. Another room of broken glass, a drawer of forgotten wears and a forgotten life. And up above the house, a big hole of sunset, with a hangman's noose above...

CUT TO

INT - ABANDONED HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

The boys enter slowly and quietly. Steve pulling a light bulb sting... no light... they continue.

Each of them walk their own separate ways, but we only follow Rich. Who's entered a room that's not even a room anymore... its half and half a room and just outdoors, like an explosion took half of it out. He just studies the room, in lose of thought. From the other room, Nick and Danny can be heard...

NICK (O/S)
Oh shit...

DANNY (O/S)
... what?

NICK (O/S)
Two Gun Kid!

DANNY (O/S)
Wait, seriously?...

Their voices trail off, and ON RICH.

He turns the opposite direction of the room --

CUT TO

INT - RICH'S BEDROOM - SOMETIME

A blood plastered wall room, with a high school diploma, and some trophies. Elementary basketball trophy, varsity baseball and track medals.

BACK TO

RICH
Walking around the abandoned house, noticing a TROOPS 118 flag on the ground. He gets on his knees and studies it.

CUT TO

RICH'S ROOM
A painting made from probably Lauren, with a letter written probably by Lauren... a cute young couple's kinda thing... And various photographs of Rich... Young, and full of smiles.

BACK TO

RICH
Looking at the flag, and up. He gets up and joins the boys in the other room.

Leaving the main hall of the abandoned house, abandoned.

LAUREN (V/O)
Are you okay?

CUT TO

INT - LAUREN'S BEDROOM - SOMETIME

Rich, lying on a bed. He looks up, with a frown and says:

RICH
Yeah I'm good. I'm just tired.

LAUREN
Okay, what's wrong?

She joins next to him. Never seeing her face.

RICH
Uhhh, work is stressful. My dad's just... he's always kinda nagging me, and it's over the dumbest shit... Today I was in a rush to work, and I parked across the street, and I didn't read the parking sign that said 'ten to four'. He runs in and he goes '*do you know how to read*' blah, blah, blah, and I was like '*yeah, I do*'. And... I dunno, I was like, '*okay I'll move the car*', and then he says '*its past four now, so its fine*'. Its just -- what kinda shit is that? You don't have to be so disrespectful, especially in front of the other guys at work. Just makes me feel shitty.

LAUREN
Well, you should smile now. Because you're with me.

She leans in close, Rich knows what she's about to do.

RICH
Lauren... I know what you're gonna do...

She tickles him.

LAUREN
C'mon... c'mon... smile... I want
to see you smile...

RICH
You want to see me smile?

LAUREN
SMILE. I wanna see you smile,
you're so cute when you smile.

She tickles him, he laughs.

RICH
Lauren please, I'm so tickilish,
I'm gonna fart.

LAUREN
No!

RICH
Okay, I'm gonna smile, alright? You
ready?

LAUREN
Okay, smile.

He quickly smirks.

LAUREN (CONT'D)
Are you kidding?

He does it again.

LAUREN (CONT'D)
That was not --

She tickles him.

RICH
That was smile, I did it twice --

LAUREN
You smile so much cuter when I
tickle you because its real!

She doesn't stop, he smiles and gives in.

LAUREN (CONT'D)
(beat)
Oh, did I tell you what my brother
got me?

Rich, looking at his ceiling.

RICH
I don't know, what did he get you?

LAUREN
(smiles)
He got me this amazing vinyl, the American Football vinyl. The NEW one.

RICH
You've played them for me before, right?

LAUREN
They're awesome. Yes I have, I played them for you so many times. They're having a concert in the spring. In the city. I think we should go.

RICH
Yeah.

LAUREN
In Terminal 5, its gonna be awesome.

Rich pulls out his phone, looking at it as Lauren continues.

LAUREN (CONT'D)
I only teased myself and listened to the first song, but what I heard was *awesome*. They're so good live. I saw their live reunion performance three years ago.
(beat)
I don't want to say it was a spiritual experience but I was just so... *connected*, watching something? It wasn't ordinary.

Rich's phone buzzes, he texts.

LAUREN (CONT'D)
(notices he's on his phone)
Are you listening?

Rich looks at her, phone on hand.

RICH
Yes.

LAUREN
So what did I say?

RICH
You said, uhm, you wanted to go to
the concert at Terminal 5.

LAUREN
After that?

RICH
Uhhh.
(he's got nothing, and she
realizes that)
I'm sorry.

LAUREN
Wow.

She backs away, now she pulls her phone out.

RICH
Lauren, I know where this is going,
don't do this.

LAUREN
Who are you texting that's more
important than me?

RICH
Its not that its important, it was
Steve, he just sent me a text and I
wanted to answer him.

LAUREN
Wow, ok.

RICH
What?

LAUREN
I was talking to you, we were
having a conversation.

RICH
I was just answering a text. I was
listening to you.

She's on her phone now.

LAUREN
Whatever.

RICH
So?... You don't think you're being
really fuckin' petty, right now?

LAUREN
I'm being petty? I'm not
being petty.

RICH (CONT'D)
But you are, you're texting
right now --

*

LAUREN
Yeah, I'm not listening to
you now. Can you stop talking
--

RICH (CONT'D)
You're being petty --

*

LAUREN
Can you just not? I'm texting right
now.

RICH
EXACTLY. You're texting right
now.

LAUREN (CONT'D)
Yeah so can you just stop
talkin' --

*

RICH
You're being a hypocrite --

LAUREN
Just shut the fuck up.

RICH
(beat)
Yo, why do you have to be such a
fuckin' bitch?

LAUREN
(.... No he didn't)
Whoa.

RICH
Seriously. Every time I pick up my
phone. Every time. EVERY TIME I
pick up my phone. You give me so
much shit.

LAUREN
Whatever, I don't want to fight for
your attention. Its fuckin' stupid.

RICH
I told you I had a bad day and
you're gonna do this, now?

She rises, stunned.

LAUREN

What does you having a bad day have anything to do with that? I listened to your story about your dad --

RICH

Alright and I just responded to a text message --

LAUREN

I'm so over this.

She leaves.

RICH

Yeah fuckin' walk away, that's pretty mature...

Nothing.

RICH (CONT'D)

Yo!

CUT TO

22

EXT - CAMP SITE - AFTERNOON

22

The sun, now lower in the sky, can be seen through endless rows of trees and leaves.

Rich drinks a beer, while Nick gathers a set of small twigs and branches. Steve is sitting on the trunk, spreading out pine straw, with Danny near him, grabbing a box of fire starters from his bag.

DANNY

How do you do it, Steve? With the girls? Especially with Kara Pattison sending you nudes and all. How do you do it?

NICK

She's so hot, you're lucky.

STEVE

There's nothing to it. Honestly, you just ask 'em 'you got some nudes?' She says 'I got nudes' and you ask her 'send me some nudes' and she sends them.

DANNY

Too easy, I don't believe that.

NICK

I call, bullshit.

STEVE

Well, that's the general idea of our conversation. There's more to it. You just -- don't be a pussy, you gotta go for what you want.

DANNY

Pretty damn vague.

RICH

You know what he does? Let me tell you what he does. He waits all night and he slides into all these girl's DMs and he's fishing for them. Till after a couple of girls, one responds --

STEVE

(defensively)

Bullshit... I don't hit up a lot of girls. Whenever an opportunity presents itself, go for it.

RICH

That's exactly what you do. I've slept over and have seen you do that.

STEVE

Nah, you're all just over thinking it. Just drop some lines on them --

RICH

You're the one over thinking.

Rich scoffs. Danny grabs a rock, toying with it in his hand.

STEVE

Nah, that's you, alright?

(to Danny and Nick)

You just talk nice to them, and when they respond, you gotta keep up with that charm. Just be cool, don't be too aggressive. You go that route, it gets weird. For you and her.

RICH
(to Danny and Nick)
Don't take advice from this guy.

STEVE
Hey, who gets laid more?
(points at Rich)
This guy who's had a girlfriend for
three years, or me? Who's been
doing his own thing. I've been
slaying poon since the 7th grade.

RICH
Well, actually, since I have a
girlfriend, I'm ACTUALLY the one
getting laid.

DANNY
(laughs)
That's true Steve.

STEVE
It's all a numbers game.

RICH
(to himself)
Shut the fuck up.

Nick snaps a twig with his hand.

NICK
I'm not really sure. I'd wanna have
some relationship with a girl, see
what the fuss is all about.

STEVE
It ain't special.

NICK
I don't know. Just to have
somebody, that's all I'm saying.

DANNY
It feels good when you're actually
talking to a girl that you know
shares the same feelings.

Danny passes him the fire starter box.

RICH

(to Nick)

You're going to meet a girl who's going to think every weird thing you do is actually really cute, believe it or not.

NICK

I'm not weird.

RICH

That's not what I meant.

Steve opens a fresh beer from the container.

STEVE

Dude you're weird as hell, besides, in college you're gonna find a lot of girls who'd give it away for nothing. That's a matter of fact.

NICK

Yeah, I guess. Hopefully I'll meet someone in my major.

RICH

You're doing economics, right?

NICK

Nope. I changed my major a while back.

DANNY

To what?

NICK

I didn't tell you guys?

RICH

No, what are you doing now?

NICK

Bakery science.

STEVE

Excuse me?

DANNY

Bakery science?

(nothing from Nick)

That's legit? I've never heard that before...

NICK
Commercial baking. It's like, how
to run a good bakery.

STEVE
This is news to me. You're not
joking? You're serious?

NICK
Yes, yes, commercial baking.

DANNY
(laughs)
Well, you're gonna be a great baker
man, I'll tell you that.

STEVE
You're kidding, right? You're not
serious?

Nick, not fully understanding why this is making them laugh,
very innocently says:

NICK
You'd be surprised how popular it
is.

RICH
That's what's up man.

STEVE
So you're doing like easy bake?

This gets everyone quiet. The boys not entirely sure if
Steve's just pulling Nick's leg or really coming at him.

RICH
Don't be an asshole --

STEVE
I'm just asking --

RICH
Let the kid talk --

STEVE
(to Nick)
Alright, tell me you're not
diddling with an easy bake oven.

NICK
What?

RICH
(to Steve)
Hey, shut the fuck up.
(to Nick)
Don't listen to him.

This raises some tension. But the boys continue.

DANNY
Nick, so you're gonna bake me some
treats man?

NICK
Hell yeah, I can cook for you guys.

Though they continue, Rich can't help but lock eyes at Steve,
who's gotten to his nerves at this point.

RICH
And what the hell are you doing?
Marketing?

STEVE
Yeah, and while I'm a big marketing
executive, Muffin Man over here can
bring cupcakes to my meetings.

DANNY
(to Steve)
Really?

RICH
Wow, okay, we got a hot shot here.
You're a real fucking hot shot.

STEVE
I'm not saying I'm a hot shot, I'm
just implying what would happen.

NICK
Why does it matter what were going
to school for, anyway?

STEVE
Nick, you're going to bake.

NICK
So what? I can do whatever I want!

STEVE
Go make some Bette fucking Crocker,
then!

NICK
It's bakery science, asshole!

RICH
Don't take his shit Nick! Stand up
for yourself for once.

NICK
I don't want to alright . I don't
care! Unlike you guys I don't have
problems I gotta announce!

STEVE
See? He gets it. Unlike you guys
acting like little bitches, Nick
knows how to take a joke.

Steve turns to Rich.

STEVE (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
And you're just calling me out
because shit's actually working out
for me.

DANNY
Guys, relax --

Rich and Steve ignore the other two.

RICH
Why don't you fucking chill out for
a second? What's the matter with
you?

STEVE
Listen, listen --

RICH
Don't tell me to fucking listen --

STEVE
Fucking relax, okay? You're just
pissed because you can't even
afford to go to school --

DANNY
Dude, you're being such a dick
right now, shut up.

STEVE
(to Danny)
You wanna get in this? Because I
can say some shit to you right now.

DANNY

Go ahead, what? What are you gonna say? You don't even know what you're gonna do in school, you picked off the typical major, so congratulations.

STEVE

You think I care? I'm going to a fuckin' party school. You think you're gonna be hooking up with girls at some art school? You can't even get over Julie. No matter how many times you get one of us to fix you up with a girl, and Julie, you never cease to drop out. So don't come at me, right now --

RICH

Watch your fucking mouth.

Rich says those last words with resilience that hasn't been explored before with his friends.

STEVE

Shut the fuck up --

RICH

You shut the fuck up.

STEVE

Tell me to '*shut the fuck up*' again, I fucking dare you.

RICH

Shut the fuck up--

Rich ends his tirade with a *punch*. Steve quickly reacts, and grabs him by his shirt.

DANNY

Ah, shit --
(to both of them)
Guys, stop!

Both boys push each other roughly. Danny and Nick quickly run to them. Nick tries to get a good grip on Steve, while Danny tries to pull Rich away.

RICH

(shouting at Steve)
Fucking asshole!

DANNY
(grabbing Rich)
Stop, stop!
(avoiding a hit)
Shit!

STEVE
(at Rich)
I don't give a shit what you think!

NICK
Stop!

RICH
That's right, come at me, c'mon!
You're all talk!

STEVE
Come at me, you fuck.

Rich shoves Danny away from him.

RICH
For a second there, I thought you
were my fuckin' boy.

STEVE
Yeah, FUCK YOU too, bitch!

He marches away.

RICH
Fuck you guys.

Nick lets Steve go.

NICK
What the fuck did I do?

Danny runs the same way Rich stormed off.

Steve stomps on a log and continues off. Leaving Nick, alone,
in the campsite.

CUT TO

23

EXT - OUTSKIRTS - AFTERNOON

23

Danny continues to follow Rich, who walks towards a tree. As
Danny reaches him, he grabs Rich.

DANNY
Rich, can you talk to me?

RICH

Man, just... Fuck Steve! He's such a fucking asshole sometimes!

He walks back and forth.

RICH (CONT'D)

And fucking Nick too. Kid can never stand up for himself... Nah, but fuck Steve... Always gotta bring up personal shit. I can't go to college? So what? Marketing major? He's so full of himself, fuck that.

Danny sees the rage from his face.

DANNY

(softly)

Rich, they're our best friends.

Rich stops, looking at him. He places his hands on his hips, and looks to the forest.

RICH

(sighs)

I know...

Rich thrusts himself against the tree, and slides himself down. Danny joins him.

DANNY

His opinion doesn't matter though, it means nothing. So forget about that. He doesn't know what he's talking about.

They both go quiet.

DANNY (CONT'D)

You hear that shit he said about Julie, you think that's true?

Rich just snaps. Fuck this.

RICH

Ah man, again with Julie... Danny you see me right now? You see what I'm fuckin' going through? DANNY YOU SEE WHAT I'M GOING THROUGH?

Danny, the little dweeb he can be sometimes, snaps back but his voice is so high it plays off kind of comical.

DANNY
I fuckin' like her!

RICH
Okay, so then do something about it. Because you're always going on and on about Julie. '*Julie this, Julie that*'. Just shut up and text her. That's all you have to do.

DANNY
Its not as easy as that --

RICH
But IT IS as easy as that. Because this is what you do...
(impersonating Danny)
'*Oh I have to text Julie*' and then you don't text her, and then you talk about her all day. I wanna talk about other things besides Julie. I'm tired of hearing her name.

DANNY
Well, I'm sorry I'm coming to you for fucking advice --

RICH
No man, it's fine and I'm giving you my advice. But take it. Take my advice. Text Julie, just do that and that's that. What are you so scared of?

DANNY
(snaps again, he's very hammy about it)
I'm not fuckin' scared...
(eases)
I just don't know what to say. You can go and say '*hi*', '*hello*', '*what's up*' or whatever, you have a girlfriend, you don't fuckin' know... Its not as easy for me.

RICH
How could you know if things would ever work out with her if you don't talk to her? If she doesn't answer you, she doesn't answer you. That's it. There's so many girls out there.
(sighs)
(MORE)

RICH (CONT'D)
 Just talk to her, and let's stop
 talking about her. Because I am
 over this conversation. I just
 wanna sit here, alright?

Rich sighs and looks away. Danny looks to Rich, then back to the forest. The scene remains soundless, and both boys are still.

24

EXT - WACONAH FALLS - MOMENTS LATER

24

The last of the sun's rays dip behind the horizon. Danny walks on a bumpy trail, next to a streaming river. He sits alone on a fallen tree trunk, hovering over the waterfall. He takes in the scenic view of the river passage.

He pulls out his phone and for a while, looks at it, and thinks.

He places the phone to his ear, after a few rings, it's answered. A genuine voice sparks on the line.

JULIE (O/S)
 Hello?

DANNY
 Hey. It's Danny.

JULIE (O/S)
 Yeah, I know...
 (beat)
 Hey.

DANNY
 Hey.

JULIE (O/S)
 Uh... what's up?

DANNY
 Uh, nothing. Nothing, I'm, I'm
 actually Upstate.

JULIE (O/S)
 (gentle laugh)
 Alone?

DANNY
 No, no. I'm with Rich, Steve, and
 Nick.

JULIE (O/S)
 Oh, sounds fun.

DANNY
(slight laugh)
Yeah.
(beat)
So I was just thinking about... the
party bus --
(beat, awkwardly says)
When we hooked up?

Julie laughs.

JULIE (O/S)
Is that why you're calling me,
Danny?

DANNY
No, no, it's just that we never
talked about it.
(beat)
That was pretty fun, right?

JULIE (O/S)
Um, yes, that was really
embarrassing.

DANNY
Did I embarrass you? Was that
weird?

JULIE (O/S)
No, it was just that everyone was
watching. It was fun though, it was
a good time. I think, you kissed me
first?

DANNY
Ha, yeah, I think I did. So it was
fun?

JULIE (O/S)
Yeah, it was.

DANNY
Cool. I thought so too.
(beat)
Okay, yeah, good. But that's kind
of why I wanted to talk to you.

JULIE (O/S)
About?

DANNY
About us.

CUT TO

Separate frames of the other three boys, starting with Nick, who lays inside his tent, staring above.

JULIE (V/O)
Okay, what about us?

DANNY (V/O)
(beat)
I, I really like you.

JULIE (V/O)
(beat)
You really like me?

CUT TO

The vista view of the glorious mountains of Greylock.

DANNY (V/O)
I'm not sure how to go about this,
talk to a girl the way a guy is
suppose to talk to her... Look, I
just don't want you to think I
don't have feelings for you because
I do -- I think about you a lot,
okay? And... Maybe now isn't the
best time to say this, with us
going to school and all...

CUT TO

The river streaming from Waconah Falls.

JULIE
(beat)
Yeah.

CUT TO

NIGHT. Rich and Danny return to the campsite, where they find a fire, and Steve and Nick sitting together. They both raise, and with inaudible dialogue, both Steve and Rich make amends.

DANNY (V/O)
Actually no, this is a good time
because if I don't say this now,
then I probably never will--

JULIE (V/O)
 --no, I mean, its actually not the
 best time for something like
 this...

DANNY (V/O)
 Well--

JULIE (V/O)
 --I don't know, how I feel right
 now. So... I guess we both don't
 know?

DANNY (V/O)
 How you feel about me?

CUT TO

The dipping sun as it slowly comes to an end and we see
 nothing but the pink and orange colored sky, and the
 mountains at far distance.

JULIE (V/O)
 Yeah. No, no, no, I don't know. Its
 just -- when we talk to each other,
 its like... one of us is trying to
 say the right words. And I know its
 you, and I'm just waiting to hear
 it. And... you took too long.

The sun is gone.

CUT TO

26 EXT - CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

26

The boys are a bit intoxicated at this point, drinking from
 their cans. Steve smokes a joint.

DANNY
 You know what would be kinda funny?
 Seeing everyone at our high school
 reunion.

NICK
 I hope I see everyone I fucking
 hate, fat. Like Bart Riker.

Steve passes the joint to Rich.

RICH
 (in response to Nick)
 Geez, that's fucking nuts.
 (MORE)

RICH (CONT'D)
(laughs)
You okay Nick? Wanna talk about it?

STEVE
I mean, I never cared for Bart
Riker, but damn Nick.

NICK
(says in his Jon Lovitz
impression)
He was a dick.

They laugh.

DANNY
You think either of us would be
married by then?

STEVE
I can see you getting married,
first.

RICH
Hundred percent, hundred percent.

DANNY
Really? What makes you say that?

STEVE
I could see it. Danny's wife has a
nice ass and everyone's thinking to
themselves '*how did he do it?*'

Danny appreciates this.

DANNY
(wide grin)
That'd be nice.
(extending his hand)
Lemme get a hit.

Rich passes him the joint.

STEVE
I wanna marry a French girl. My
cousin Val went to France and he
told me they fucking do it all.

NICK
Steve with a Frenchy?
(beat)
I can see that. A brunette Frenchy.

Steve's baked, glancing at his friend, with a warm and soothing voice.

STEVE

You really see me with a Frenchy?

NICK

Yeah man.

STEVE

Thanks.

RICH

(beat)

British girls. I'd go for a British girl.

DANNY

British girls, oh my God, yes.

RICH

They're sexy. Like, I've seen some ugly British girls and they're still hot. Imagine me with a British wife?

(bad British accent)

'Hello Richie, how's about a blehhh job for the morning?'

STEVE

You marry a British chick, I'm definitely gonna marry a Frenchy.

They share a comical laugh, all of them are completely dazed and are loving it.

DANNY

Steve has a great chance with French girls cause they won't understand a word he's saying. So they can't decide whether he's an idiot or just a cute American.

STEVE

I take that as a compliment. Don't have to charm a woman to get her to marry me? And she's French?

(to Danny, chuckles)

Thanks man.

Danny passes the joint to Nick.

NICK
You ever had the ideal girl of your
dreams? That kinda thing?

RICH
One you just make up?

NICK
Yeah. If I ever get married, want
her to look like Madonna.

RICH
(chuckles)
Excuse me?

NICK
She's a dime.

STEVE
(laughs)
Dime? What is that -- dime.

NICK
Rich is definitely gonna marry
Lauren.

STEVE
That's a fact, man. I'll be
surprised if they didn't.

RICH
(chuckles)
I dunno --

DANNY
You guys have been together all
through high school. That's like
twenty years, right there. Get
married, and there's another fifty
years of marital bliss.

He doesn't say anything to that.

NICK
Calling it. But I think that's
kinda nuts if you did marry Lauren.

RICH
You wanna marry Madonna, and I'm
nuts?

NICK
Like during her prime, not now,
relax.

Steve looks around, taking in this image that will inspire to hold for a long time.

STEVE

Man.

(points, laughs again)
All you guys. Best men at my wedding. We'll have a crazy bachelor party, get reckless with some bitches... Wait, pardon me... French bitches, Italian bitches, British bitches, and Madonna for Nick, if she's still alive.

They all consent to this and laugh.

STEVE (CONT'D)

It'll be so nuts we'll forget it even happened.

RICH

That sounds --

(chuckles)

That sounds really good. Best men at mine.

DANNY

Me too.

NICK

Word, me too.

Steve looks to Nick.

STEVE

Fuck you, Nick. You can be the flower girl.

27

INT - TENT - NIGHT

27

A small lantern illuminates the inside of the tent. Rich sips one last beer in his sleeping bag, as Danny zips the tent shut.

RICH

Are they sleeping?

DANNY

They're knocked.

Danny sits next to him.

DANNY (CONT'D)
You're still drinking that? It's
probably warm dude.

Rich chugs it.

RICH
At this point, it doesn't taste
like anything.

Rich finishes and puts the can in a plastic bag. Both boys
settle themselves. Danny looks at Rich.

DANNY
Rich, man, I've been thinking...
(beat)
It didn't go the way I hoped with
Julie on the phone. But, she didn't
sound like she didn't want anything
to do with me either. So maybe, I
have somewhat of a chance, yanno? I
almost feel certain that when we
get back, I can see her and sell it
to her that we might work.

Rich doesn't say a word. Danny looks at him and continues.

DANNY (CONT'D)
What do you think? I'm not sure but
something tells me it can work--

RICH
Danny, stop...

DANNY
What? I could probably drive to her
school on weekends, and --

RICH
(quickly)
When --
(sighs)
When are you going to give it a
break man?

Danny stops, then looks down.

RICH (CONT'D)
You're not even dating her man.
(beat)
You wanna know something? I don't
know what's going to happen with me
and Lauren. I just got a feeling we
might call it quits.
(MORE)

RICH (CONT'D)

Since she's going to school and I'm staying home.

DANNY

How do you know that? You both can't just try to be together?

RICH

(beat)

I can just tell, she was acting weird when I last saw her, and we're gonna meet tomorrow and I just know it. It's long distance man, you think that's gonna work? It's not gonna work. Whatever, it was just high school anyway, but it just sucks, yanno?

(beat)

I do care that I'm not going anywhere.

DANNY

Come on Rich, you can't think like that.

Rich, looking above, shakes his head.

RICH

I tried so hard man, fucking trig was a bitch and chemistry too. College is just expensive, and I couldn't even get a scholarship.

(sighs)

I talked to my parents about it too, they just don't think it makes sense to pay so much, when I could just go to a community college in town. And I've taken some thought to it too. Do I pay like eighty thousand dollars for the next twenty years of my life to go to a college? Or do I go to a community college and take classes that I hate? Fuck that, that's why I'm staying home.

Danny stays quiet, his head down. Rich looks away. A long beat.

RICH (CONT'D)

Random, but when I was younger I kinda always wanted to be a dirt bike racer.

Danny looks at him, confused.

DANNY
(slight chuckle)
That is random.

RICH
I know.
(beat)
Some summers, my dad and I would visit my uncle and cousins at Wisconsin and we'd get tickets for races on the AMA District Sixteen. Every race I saw -- was just really cool to be there and to watch these racers do some crazy hill jumps and flips. The crowd was always really loud and fun and my cousins would lose their shit most of the time, which was funny to witness. I remember seeing this one guy -- I think I was eleven or twelve, around that. But uh, yeah, I remember seeing this guy, who started in fifth, and the race itself was intense. Then he does this sick move, just leaning close enough to the ground and passing everyone to get in first, and he does get in first. Then he gets off his bike and drops himself on the mud.

(beat, realizing)
That was the last race I went to. There was something about being there, that I didn't think about anything other than how much fun I was having.

(beat)
Yeah.

DANNY
Damn, that's cool.

Danny plays with the zipper of his sleeping bag, then looks at Rich.

DANNY (CONT'D)
Do you wanna race?

RICH
No. I just... I don't know. I miss those summers.
(beat)
(MORE)

RICH (CONT'D)
Just really sucks Danny, I don't
think I'm gonna go anywhere.

An awkward silence, until Danny finds the words.

DANNY
I wish I could say something to let
you know things will work out. You
don't need to go to school, or
anywhere now to have everything
work out. I know you're going to be
alright.
(beat)
Rich?

Rich, looking on above, responds back.

RICH
Yeah?

DANNY
I'm glad I'm here with you man.

RICH
Me too.
(beat)
I'm tired.

DANNY
Same.

Both boys get into their separate sleeping bags. They face
each other.

DANNY (CONT'D)
I'm not going to sleep till you go
to sleep.

They both continue to stare blankly at one another.

RICH
(laughs)
I don't know how the hell I'm gonna
sleep with you staring at me like
that.

DANNY
Just close your eyes.

RICH
You close yours, what the hell?

DANNY
 Okay, okay, I'm gonna close my eyes
 now, alright.

For a moment, neither of them close their eyes.

RICH
 (laughing)
 What the hell man, go to sleep.

DANNY
 Alright, alright.
 (beat)
 Now.

They still look at each other. Both burst out laughing.

29 **EXT - CAMPSITE - MOMENTS LATER**

29

Steve stands over the campfire's ashes, urinating. Rich and Danny exit their tent, squinting from the sun.

DANNY
 Lets pack up fast, damn we slept
 for that long?

RICH
 We'll get food at some diner on our
 way back.

DANNY
 I really want to shower.

Nick comes out of his tent. He walks awkwardly, stretching his back.

NICK
 (half awake)
 I can't do this guys, my back, I
 didn't sleep right.

He sits on a log.

NICK (CONT'D)
 Never again.

RICH
 Well we're heading out Nick, so we
 gotta start packing.

NICK
 (slowly, tired)
 We're walking all the way back?

DANNY
Yeah, c'mon.

NICK
Through the whole trail?

RICH
Yes.

NICK
To the car? Right now?

DANNY
Yeah, let's go.

NICK
(beat)
No. Effed up.

Nick sits, his eyes closing. Steve, Rich and Danny look at him and they each walk to their tents. As they walk, Steve turns to Nick and claps his hands.

STEVE
Let's go.

30 **EXT - WOODS TRAILS - DAY**

30

The boys walk back the way they came, backpacks on their backs, this time with Danny and Steve leading, and Rich and Nick trailing. They joke and holler as they walk, each laughing and shoving.

CUT TO

INT - DINER - AFTERNOON

Steve reaches over for Danny's fries.

DANNY
Back off, don't touch my food.

STEVE
C'mon, let me just get one.

Persistent, Steve reaches again, Danny blocks his hand away, its rough and catches the others off guard.

DANNY
Please just don't touch my fuckin' fries, Steve.

Rich and Nick let out an 'oooooh', as Steve just glares at Danny with a '*is he for real?*' look.

RICH

Someone's pissed.

DANNY

Well, its annoying --

(to Steve)

-- you see me eating, so just back off. I don't have to say it twice.

STEVE

You're taking an awfully long time eating fries.

DANNY

I didn't know there was a rule saying I needed to eat fast --

Just as Danny is finishing that sentence, Steve has already reached over and grabbed a handful of fries.

He smacks them on his plate and puts two fries in his mouth. Danny cannot believe the degree of douche that is Steve.

STEVE

(chewing)

Thank you. Very good.

Rich and Nick cannot believe it either.

RICH

(laughs)

You're a savage. No respect.

Danny gives Steve a long stare. Steve eating another fry.

STEVE

Don't make a thing of it.

Rich's eyes go from Steve to Danny. Just to provoke him more.

RICH

(extending his hand to the plate of fries)

I'm just gonna take one, okay?

NICK

(reaching for the plate of fries)

Yeah, me too.

Danny blocks off both their hands, he's reached midway to a snapping point.

DANNY

Stop fuckin' with me. I paid for my food, just let me be, shit --

NICK

Relax, we're just kidding.

STEVE

Yeah man --

(eats a fry)

-- you're being petty, all fun here.

DANNY

Then, here --

(grabs some fries and thrusts them onto Steve's plate)

-- take some extra fries, Steve, here.

RICH

(to Danny)

Alright, alright, now you're really being petty.

STEVE

(to Danny)

You sure?

DANNY

I'm so tired of you guys targeting me, alright?

(to Rich)

And I'm not petty, I'm just trying to actually eat a decent meal since all we've eaten is just beans.

NICK

You should've packed yourself some food, then.

RICH

Fuckin' baked beans, man.

DANNY

Fuckin' *camping*, man.

RICH

Fuckin' camping is right.

(to Danny)

(MORE)

RICH (CONT'D)

Dude, your feet smell SO bad.

(to Nick and Steve)

Last night I watched him place his sweaty ass socks, one by one, perfectly. I don't know what for, if they were soaking wet, it wasn't gonna make the tent smell any better --

DANNY

-- shut up.

RICH

The whole tent smelled like *absolute* shit.

(to Danny)

For real, I think you've got a serious foot condition.

DANNY

I do have a serious food condition, asshole. I can't help the odor no matter how much spray I put.

RICH

(to Danny)

Yeah, fuck your feet.

BEAT.

NICK

(chuckles)

I just thought about the time Danny got suspended for telling Miss Nevin to shake her ass.

The others recall that memory, they laugh, Danny almost has a shameful look to him hearing that.

DANNY

I didn't tell her to shaker her ass.

NICK

You said something similar.

DANNY

I don't remember.

RICH

You don't forget some shit like that.

DANNY

(tired, shaking his head)
I said '*shake it for daddy*'.

They laugh.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Pretty stupid on my part, I don't know why I said that.

STEVE

Because you didn't give a shit.

NICK

During yoga session, too.

RICH

Nooooo, for real?

STEVE

He didn't think she'd hear him.
Miss Nevin's a dime, man.

(to Danny)

I could probably hit her up, now that school's out.

DANNY

(sarcastically)
I'm sure you will.

NICK

She'd help me during those sessions.

STEVE

Yeah 'cause you sucked.

NICK

I purposely didn't do them right, in fact, I became one of her favorite students.

Rich, Nick and Steve go for Danny's fries. They eat. He's given up.

DANNY

(small chuckle)
Remember we were snow fighting in front of Chiba's Thai, and the owner came out to tell us to get lost, and --
(to Steve)
-- you accidentally threw a snowball at her face?

RICH

(laughs)

Poor lady, she got KNOCKED. I felt so terrible, I felt even worse running after that. Just real bad.

NICK

(to Steve)

You made it impossible for us to get lunch there.

STEVE

Word, I actually still feel bad about it.

He thinks about it for a second, but can't hold the laughter.

NICK

You know what was crazy? Senior sunrise.

Rich doesn't even have to entertain this one, he just shakes his head, drinks his water.

NICK (CONT'D)

(to Rich)

I can't believe you puked on the final.

DANNY

I know you went home... but you had to take it a week after?

RICH

Yeah. I had an extra week to study, at least.

STEVE

(laughs)

Even Miss Rosa was like '*what the fuuuck*'.

RICH

Yeah, no, I'm a light weight -- I know I didn't drink as much as I thought I did.

NICK

Dude, I had my play the same day, and I was kinda sobering up, but I still felt tipsy. I just thought I was gonna puke...

STEVE

You played the clock, right?
Cocksworth?

RICH

Cogsworth, idiot.

DANNY

(to Nick)

You were really good, man. You
looked really funny with the
mustache, though.

NICK

Thanks, I liked being in costume.

STEVE

I'm sure you did --

Rich going for another fry, interjects.

RICH

Let's not pretend there wasn't a
time Steve asked Abby Russo out,
and she said no.

DANNY

She fuckin' went out with Hanky
Lipsen a week after!

NICK

Wow, yeah, she did.

RICH

(he pulls out his phone)

I still have a pic of Hanky saved.

Rich glances at his phone and scrolls.

STEVE

Okay, that was sophomore year.

DANNY

Sucked seeing you cry about it.

STEVE

I didn't cry, shut the fuck up.

DANNY

Its okay, it happens.

(to Rich and Nick)

He told me not to tell anyone, but
hey, what are you gonna do?

STEVE

If anyone cries over girls, its
you.

DANNY

No, just you.

Rich shows them the picture from his phone.

RICH

(laughs)

She went out with *him* over Steve,
you cannot make this shit up.

Steve takes the phone, looks at it.

STEVE

Why's he holding a samurai sword?

DANNY

(chuckles)

Because he's Hanky Lipsen. You had
to be jealous of him, at least.

STEVE

(giving the phone back to
Rich)

I didn't care, I got with two of
Abby's friends, anyway.

NICK

Wait, really? With who?

STEVE

Don't worry about it.

Their laughter simmers. They finish Danny's fries, and
without them even realizing, it's quiet.

STEVE

Picking his tooth with a tooth-pick.

DANNY

Dozing off, finishing his glass.

NICK

Leaned back, dozing off, too.

RICH

Staring out the window.

RICH

(sighs)

Hanky *fuckin'* Lipsen.

CUT TO BLACK

END CREDITS