

BOOK OF DAYS

Written by

Garin Pirnia

Copyright Registration #: PAu002590903

TITLE CARD: FALL QUARTER

FADE IN:

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

SKIP SCHOOLNIK, 18, innocent and naive, sits on his bed and throws CDs and clothes into boxes. He hovers over the boxes with a quizzical look on his face.

A beat later his impish, younger teenage sister, JILL, ambles into the room. She sits next to Skip as they exchange wicked sibling rivalry glares. To annoy Skip, she picks up one of his CDs.

SKIP
(grabbing her wrist)
Don't mess with my shit, Jill.

Skip lightly flicks her on the cheek and she mouths an "OWW."
Jill pulls away and pouts.

Skip's mother walks into the room carrying a bag.

MRS. SCHOOLNIK
Brought you some socks.

SKIP
(sarcastic)
Just what I wanted.

Skip's mother lovingly wraps her arms around her lanky son.

MRS. SCHOOLNIK
(tearing up)
I can't believe my baby is off to college. It seems like yesterday I was bringing you into this world.

JILL
And now thankfully he's leaving this world.

SKIP
At least I won't have to look at your mangled face anymore.

MRS. SCHOOLNIK
Can't we have one moment of peace between you guys?

No response.

MRS. SCHOOLNIK (CONT'D)
Guess not. Jill, give us a moment.

Jill stammers out of the room. Mrs. Schoolnik begins weeping; he puts his arm around his mother in comfort.

SKIP
Don't worry, I'll come back for the holidays.

Skip's DAD, a gray-haired, chubby and lovable teddy bear of a man walks into the room to join his emotional family.

DAD
What's going on in here? Marge, are you crying again?

Mom exits leaving father and son alone to share a moment.

DAD (CONT'D)
Almost packed?

SKIP
Yeah. Are you sure you and Mom can't come with me?

DAD
I wish we could, but Jill has soccer practice and I need to get to the office. We'll come visit in a couple of weeks.

SKIP
I'm not ready to go.

DAD
You'll be all right, son.
(pause)
I, um, got you something.

Reluctantly, Mr. Schoolnik pulls out a box of condoms and hands it to Skip.

SKIP
(embarrassed)
Dad!

DAD
I just thought you should be prepared.

SKIP
Thanks. I think.

Skip loosely throws the prophylactics into a box.

DAD
Let's go.

Skip grabs a box and begins to carry it out of the room. Mr. Schoolnik yanks a box too hard and almost pulls out his back.

SKIP
Easy there, Dad. We haven't made it
to the car yet.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS

The family help Skip pack his compact car full of boxes. The last items are carefully placed in the backseat. The family awkwardly stand there not wanting to say good-bye yet.

MRS. SCHOOLNIK
(lunging for Skip)
I love you, Skippy. I'm going to
miss you.

SKIP
(hugging Mom)
Me too.

MRS. SCHOOLNIK
We'll visit soon to bring the rest
of your stuff.

Skip's dad grabs his weeping wife off Skip. Now it's his turn.

DAD
Take care, son.

Mr. Schoolnik hugs his son tightly and almost crushes Skip's skinny frame. All eyes are on Jill, who just stands there. Her parents nudge her. She holds out her hand and offers it to Skip.

JILL
Have a safe trip, brother.

The siblings cordially shake hands.

INT. SKIP'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Skip gets into his vehicle and pulls out of the driveway.

SKIP'S POV

His family follow from behind waving good-bye. Through the rearview mirror, Skip glimpses the remnants of his old life.

Jill takes out her middle finger and flips Skip off. Her parents scold her for her rudeness.

A moment later, Skip's car disappears down the neighborhood road.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

A car pulls up to a two story house. RYAN SEARCY, 22, handsome in a better than average way, tentatively gets out of his car and walks toward the dilapidated house.

He pauses as he spies TWO GUYS lounging on the porch. A smile creeps across his face, knowing his buddies have arrived. The guys, TED and PAUL, stand up to greet their friend. Ted looks like a hippie, and Paul is as clean cut as you can get. All-American.

PAUL

Well if it isn't Ryan "I-drunk too-much-last-night" Searcy.

RYAN

What's up, Paul.

Ryan hugs both of them. It's good to be back.

TED

Now the festivities can begin.
Wanna beer?

Ted points to a cooler filled with the drink of choice.

RYAN

(grabbing a beer)
Of course. What are we celebrating?

TED

Who needs a reason to celebrate?
This is college, dammit.

PAUL

How did the summer treat you?

RYAN

It was cool. Spent a lot of time with Rebecca.

(opens bottle, flips cap)

TED

We know. Is that why you couldn't go rafting in Colorado with us?

RYAN

Sorry, dude. Her parents invited me to Myrtle Beach. Her parents never invite me anywhere, so that was a first.

PAUL

The boy is whipped.

RYAN

Am not...although I already miss her.

(changing the subject)

When did you guys get into town?

TED

Last night. There wasn't anyone to party with so we drank by ourselves.

RYAN

That's a sign of alcoholism, yunno.

PAUL

How do you like the pad?

RYAN

It's nice. A few strands of Christmas lights and we're set.

TED

This is gonna be party central.

(burps)

We're hoping that tons of sorority chicks will come. They'll fall for anything.

Paul high fives Ted in accord.

RYAN

You guys graduating this year?

PAUL

Ted is on the seven-year plan.

TED

I figure, why rush? Who wants to deal with the real world when my parents and the government are basically paying for me to party and smoke lots of weed?

PAUL

You graduating, Ryan?

RYAN

Hopefully.

TED

Congrats. I'll drink to that.

The guys clink bottles. These guys would take a bullet for each other.

PAUL

What do you say, gentlemen, shall we plan a little welcome back soiree for tonight?

TED

Right on.

RYAN

I'm beginning to remember why I missed you jerks.

The roommates share a smile and walk into their new home together.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

NATALIE, a fair-faced and earnest 20-year-old, stands amid a pile of boxes. Her free-spirited roommate, JEN, tries to make sense of the chaos strewn across the room.

NATALIE

I don't know where to put anything.

JEN

Like I said on the way down here, we're gonna have to compromise. Some of my shit with some of yours.

NATALIE

But Jen, I don't want to have to look at your Dead Head or Phish posters. Or your Anne Geddes pictures. They are disturbing.

JEN

What's so disturbing about a baby
stuffed in a flower pot? It's cute.

Natalie gives her a knowing look.

JEN (CONT'D)

Fine. I'll put it in my room.

NATALIE

(pointing at a vase)
Is this yours or mine?

JEN

It's ours.

NATALIE

Maybe we should do an inventory in
case.

JEN

In case of what?

NATALIE

In case this doesn't work out.

Jen stops rummaging through a box.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

I just mean I don't want to be
40 and still living with you.

JEN

Well, the way things are going for
us that may happen.

NATALIE

(falling onto the couch)
I don't want to do this anymore.
Wanna go buy our books?

JEN

Even better, Nat. From one
hellacious task to another.

NATALIE

"Hellacious": good word. Hooked On
Phonics seems to be working for
you.

JEN

Very funny. I can be smart like you
sometimes. Come on.

(MORE)

JEN (CONT'D)

Let's go spend all our hard-earned money on books we'll never read or get our money back from.

EXT. SIGN - DAY

Skip's car drives by a sign that reads: "WELCOME TO BEAUTIFUL UNIVERSITY OF OHIO IN STEEPLECHASE, OHIO."

PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Skip pulls up to his dorm building. He parks the car and tentatively gets out to observe the overwhelming size of his new home. There is no escape now.

INT. BOOKSTORE - DAY

Natalie and Jen peruse an aisle filled with textbooks. The store overflows with STUDENTS purchasing books and University of Ohio merchandise for the school year. Natalie has her hands full with heavy and thick books.

NATALIE

I can't believe my anatomy book is \$88.

JEN

That's why I'm not pre-med.

Paul and Ryan walk into the store and check out the scene. Paul sees a familiar face in Jen and walks over to her. He taps her on the shoulder.

PAUL

Hey Jen, what's up?

JEN

(turning around)
Paul! How was your summer?

PAUL

Good. Glad I never have to take another class from Señora Cruz.

JEN

Me too. I got a C.

PAUL

Better than me. Having fun buying books?

JEN
 Always. This is my roommate
 Natalie. Natalie, this is Paul.

Nat and Paul exchange hellos.

PAUL
 This is Ryan, one of my roomies.

RYAN
 (warm smile)
 Nice to meet you ladies.

PAUL
 We're having a little welcome back
 party at our house tonight if you'd
 like to come.

JEN
 Cool. We'll try to be there.

PAUL
 It's 1235 Mill Street. See ya
 later.

Paul and Ryan walk away.

JEN
 Guess what we're doing tonight?

NATALIE
 No way. Tomorrow is the first day
 of classes.

JEN
 What do you have to do tonight--
 study? We'll go for an hour.

NATALIE
 Well, Ryan is cute.

JEN
 I thought you had to focus on your
 studies?

NATALIE
 A little distraction never hurt
 anyone.

JEN
 (nudging Natalie)
 That's the spirit! We'll make a
 slut out of you yet.

INT. SKIP'S ROOM - DAY

Skip walks into his dorm room. The room is as big as a bread box with a bunk bed, two desks, two closets and a window. A window fan tries to circulate the air. Sardines couldn't live in this place. His roommate, CHAD, talks on the phone. They both acknowledge each other.

CHAD
(hangs up phone)
Hi there. I'm Chad.

SKIP
(shakes his hand)
Skip Schoolnik.

CHAD
Glad to meet you. Have a nice trip
down here?

SKIP
It was pretty easy.

CHAD
If you don't mind, I went ahead and
picked my side of the room. I have
the top bunk.

SKIP
That's fine.

CHAD
We have a floor section meeting
tonight at ten.

SKIP
All right.

There's an awkward silence.

CHAD
Where are you from?

SKIP
Dayton.

CHAD
I'm from Springfield. That's not
too far.

SKIP
Maybe we could carpool home
sometime.

CHAD

Maybe.

(more silence)

I'm suppose to meet some friends.

I'll see you at the meeting.

Chad leaves. Skip stands there completely aloof.

INT. RYAN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Ryan sweetly talks on the phone to REBECCA, his girlfriend. Pictures of them adorn the walls and his desk. There is an obvious history between the two of them.

RYAN

(on phone)

We're having a party tonight.

Wish you could come.

REBECCA (V.O.)

Me too. But it's a long drive to you.

RYAN

When do you think you can visit?

REBECCA (V.O.)

I don't know. In a couple of weeks. I need to get settled with school...and so do you.

RYAN

Right, school, studying. I forgot.

REBECCA (V.O.)

(giggling)

You have to graduate so we can be together.

RYAN

I can't wait for that moment. Listen, babe, I gotta go. I'll call you in the morning.

REBECCA (V.O.)

Okay. Have fun. Tell the boys I say hi.

RYAN

Will do. Love ya, my smoochie head.

REBECCA (V.O.)

Love you, too, Pooh Bear.

Ryan hangs up the phone and looks as if he were a million miles away. A KNOCK at the door breaks his trance.

TED
(opening door)
Hey man, care to join us
downstairs?

RYAN
Yeah. I was just talking to Becca.
She says hi.

TED
Right on. You okay?

RYAN
I'm fine. The distance thing, it's
hard.

TED
No more moping. Let's party! I'm
gonna drink you under the table.

Ted grabs Ryan around the neck and pulls him away from his melancholy.

INT. RYAN'S ROOM - DAY

Ryan sleeps in his bed until the ALARM CLOCK goes off. He slams down on it. With sleep still in his eyes, he looks at the time: 7:00. It's too early.

KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Ryan sits quietly next to Ted at the kitchen table, eating a bowl of cereal.

Paul, wearing only boxer shorts, walks a random GIRL to the front door. She casually buttons up her shirt.

Ted and Ryan curiously eye the strange female. Paul opens the door and lets her out, then joins his inquisitive roommates in the kitchen.

PAUL
Morning.

Paul goes to the fridge and pops open a can of Coke.

RYAN
How can you drink pop so early in
the morning?

PAUL
Tastes good.

RYAN
Speaking of tasting good...

TED
Who's the broad?

PAUL
(thinking hard)
Amy...no...Angela? I think.

RYAN
C'mon, dude! Maybe it's time to
settle down with a nice girl--a
girl whose name you actually
remember a few hours later.

PAUL
Nah. I have the rest of my life to
be with someone's name I remember.
This is college, dammit.

Ted and Ryan laugh at Paul's player antics.

EXT. BUILDING - DAY

Skip walks slowly, his shoulders slumped over. He's uncertain where he should be. STUDENTS walk past him and pile inside the building, one of which is Ryan.

HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Skip briskly walks down a hallway and looks at the classroom numbers until he finds the right one.

INT. CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

He walks into the room to see over a hundred STUDENTS flooding a lecture hall.

Overwhelmed, Skip hurriedly finds a seat. The PROFESSOR begins to speak and a hush falls over the crowd.

PROFESSOR
Good morning everyone, and welcome
to fall quarter. This is Sociology
101. I'm Professor Johnson. We will
go over the syllabus and take some
notes.

Skip takes out his notebook and timidly looks at all his classmates, none of whom he recognizes. The crowd swallows him up.

Ryan sits a couple of rows behind Skip and begins to doze.

INT. APT. - NIGHT

Jen and Natalie relax on the couch and watch TV.

JEN

How is it possible for "The Bachelor" to be a rerun?

NATALIE

I'm so tired. I already have homework.

JEN

Wanna go to a frat party this weekend?

NATALIE

Not really.

JEN

A DELT I met today is going to be there. I want to jump him.

NATALIE

Who *don't* you want to jump?

JEN

Steve Buscemi? Anyway, you should go.

NATALIE

I'm staying in.

JEN

Or we could pre-game here and then go to the hockey game.

NATALIE

Pass.

JEN

You're no fun. I mean, you bailed on Paul and Ryan's party. Live a little.

NATALIE

I'm applying to med-school at the end of the year. I have to do well.

JEN

You have your whole life to be a rich doctor. Come party!

Natalie doesn't budge in her stubbornness. She knows what is good for her, but Jen knows better.

JEN (CONT'D)

Sometime this year you will go out with me.

NATALIE

We'll see.

DORM HALLWAY - NIGHT

Skip carries his shower gear consisting of shampoo, soap and flip flops. He walks by an open dorm room.

For a beat, he looks in and sees GUYS playing video games and being rowdy. Skip watches with a yearning to be a part of something.

One guy, FROSTY, sees Skip and waves to him. Skip continues on his trek to the bathroom.

EXT. CAMPUS - DAY

Skip ambles around the campus, familiarizing himself with the town. He walks Uptown and passes various mom-and-pop shops, fast food joints, a bookstore, an art wall and a bank.

INT. SKIP'S ROOM - NIGHT

Skip sits in the bleakness of his room and scribbles in his journal. He picks up the phone and dials a number.

INTERCUT

INT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Mrs. Schoolnik picks up the ringing phone.

MRS. SCHOOLNIK
 (on phone)
 Hello?

SKIP (V.O.)
 Mom?

MRS. SCHOOLNIK
 Skippy!

SKIP (V.O.)
 Hi. How are you?

MRS. SCHOOLNIK
 Fine. The question is, how are you?

With that comment and the sound of his mother's voice, Skip comes clean.

SKIP
 No one wants to hang out with me.

MRS. SCHOOLNIK (V.O.)
 (concerned)
 Oh, Skip. It's okay. It takes time to adapt.

SKIP
 I want to come home.

MRS. SCHOOLNIK
 Oh honey, I wish I could be there for you. I know it's tough. I miss you!

SKIP (V.O.)
 And Chad is never around. He's always off with his own life.

MRS. SCHOOLNIK
 Try to meet people. There must be someone you can hang out with.

SKIP
 Can I come home soon?

MRS. SCHOOLNIK (V.O.)
 If you can find a ride. Your dad nor I can come and get you.

SKIP
 I'll see what I can find.

Skip begins to calm down.

MRS. SCHOOLNIK (V.O.)
You'll be fine.

SKIP
How is Dad? Jill?

MRS. SCHOOLNIK (V.O.)
They're good. Jill had a soccer
game last night. They lost.

SKIP
Tell them I say hi.

MRS. SCHOOLNIK
I will. There's someone here who
would like to say hello.

Skip hears a faint MEOW on the other line.

SKIP
Mr. Squiggles!

MRS. SCHOOLNIK (V.O.)
He's missed you! He keeps sleeping
with your father and me.

SKIP
(purring can be heard over
the phone)
I love you, Mr. Squiggles. Be good.

MRS. SCHOOLNIK (V.O.)
Okay, Skippy. I'm gonna let you go.
I'll call you tomorrow. Love you.

Skip hangs up the phone, crawls under the covers in his bed.

INT. RYAN'S ROOM - DAY

Ryan nervously paces his room. He picks up a framed picture of Becca and him and smiles at the memory. The doorbell RINGS, and Ryan jumps in anticipation.

LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ryan races down the stairs and opens the door to see Becca standing there, beautiful and welcoming.

RYAN
Hello there, stranger.

REBECCA

Hi.

They step toward each other and embrace. He is home. All is right with the world in her arms.

RYAN

Come in and check out the place.

They stand for a moment in the foyer not knowing what to do or say. Should they kiss? Talk? A decision is made when Ted walks into the room.

TED

Hey, Becca.

Rebecca and Ted hug.

REBECCA

How are things in TedLand?

TED

Oh, the same. Nothing ever changes.
I get high, go to class sometimes,
I watch my Spanish soap operas.
It's all good.

Ryan and Rebecca laugh at Ted's frankness.

RYAN

Wanna see my room?

TED

I've seen your room. And it's a mess.

RYAN

I was talking to my girlfriend.

TED

Sorry.

Ryan gently takes Rebecca's hand, pulls her up the stairs.

RYAN'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ryan pulls Rebecca in, shuts the door and begins to wildly and passionately kiss her. They fall onto his bed. Rebecca tries to catch her breath.

REBECCA

I missed you, too.

RYAN
(brushing her hair)
Let me look at you. How did I get
so lucky?

REBECCA
You were born lucky.

RYAN
What do you want to do now?

REBECCA
I don't know. What do you want to
do?

Ryan sits up slightly.

RYAN
I think you can figure out what
I want.

REBECCA
Go out and get wasted?

RYAN
Sounds good. Then I can take
advantage of you.

REBECCA
(flirty)
We'll see about that.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Ryan and Rebecca stumble in drunk. Paul sits on the couch
with a GIRL.

PAUL
Hey.

REBECCA
(peppy)
Paul! How are ya? I'm drunk. Is it
me or is it hot as balls in here?

Rebecca falls all over Ryan. He struggles to hold her up.

PAUL
It may be a little ballish in here.
Have a good time?

RYAN
Always. We're off to bed.

PAUL
Oh, this is Ellie, everyone.

GIRL
Um, my name is Alyssa, not Ellie.

PAUL
My bad.

Ryan shakes his head at Paul. At least he tried to remember.
Ryan disappears up the stairs with his inebriated girlfriend.

PAUL (CONT'D)
(to himself)
They're gonna fuck.

RYAN'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ryan places Becca on his bed. He takes off her shoes.

REBECCA
Is the room spinning, Ryan?

RYAN
Just for you.

REBECCA
I shouldn't have had that shot of
tequila.

RYAN
Or those three beers with that shot
of tequila.

Ryan gets into bed with her and puts his arms tenderly around
her.

REBECCA
I love you. I don't like being
away from you.

RYAN
I know. You could always transfer
here.

REBECCA
Or you could move back home and be
with me.

RYAN
When I graduate I will.

REBECCA

What will you do then? For a job?

RYAN

I have no idea. Sometimes I think Ted has the right idea to stay in college forever. Maybe I'll go to grad school.

REBECCA

My dad says you can come work for him.

RYAN

For his software company? And be a cubicle monkey for the rest of my life? I don't know.

REBECCA

Well, you have a year to decide. No more talking.

Rebecca leans over and kisses Ryan, and they melt into each other.

RYAN

Can I take advantage of you now?

REBECCA

Just as long as you're rough.

The kissing heats up and Ryan pulls off Rebecca's shirt. She slips off his shirt and they bury themselves under the covers.

INT. RYAN'S ROOM - DAY

Sunshine pours through the window onto a snoozing Rebecca and Ryan. The couple spoon each other and are both wrapped in sheets. Ryan wakes Becca with a kiss on the cheek. She lightly stirs and turns to face him.

REBECCA

Hey there.

RYAN

Hey. How about another round before you take off?

REBECCA

Okay.

Ryan positions himself on top of her as the games begin again.

EXT. BUILDING - DAY

Skip walks out of a building. Unaware of each other, Skip follows Ryan down the street.

Ryan walks into a store with Skip closely falling in behind him.

EXT. WALGREENS - CONTINUOUS

Ryan walks out the door carrying a bag and holds the door open for Skip.

SKIP

Thanks.

RYAN

Didn't I see you in the toothpaste aisle?

SKIP

Guilty.

RYAN

(recognition)

You're in my Soc class. 8 a.m?
Professor Johnson?

SKIP

Yeah, I've seen you there. Who holds a class at 8 a.m.? Insane.

Ryan and Skip begin to cross the street together.

RYAN

Tell me about it. I'm Ryan.

SKIP

Skip Schoolnik.

RYAN

What nice alliteration! You a freshman?

SKIP

Am I that obvious?

RYAN

Well, you did just look both ways
before crossing this one-way
street.

SKIP

(laughs)

Oops, I gave myself away.

RYAN

How do you like it here?

SKIP

It's all right. Still getting
adjusted, I guess.

RYAN

It gets better. I was in your
position almost four years ago.

SKIP

I just don't know anybody.

RYAN

Join a club or something. That
helps. What dorm you in?

SKIP

Cate Hall.

RYAN

On East? I lived there my sophomore
year. Sucks, huh?

SKIP

Yeah, especially the food. Did you
know the grilled cheese sandwiches
they serve have 3,000 calories?

RYAN

That's one thing I don't miss. Been
out partying at all?

SKIP

Not really.

RYAN

You should go The Greenery. I spent
many a night there as a frosh. We
call it The Cheese.

SKIP

I'll check it out. Say, if you're a senior what are you doing in a freshman-level class?

RYAN

I need some extra credits and bowling was all filled up.

Ryan and Skip come to an intersection.

RYAN (CONT'D)

I got to go the other way, but give me your number and we'll hang out or study together sometime.

SKIP

(eyes light up)
That would be so great.

Skip and Ryan type the phone numbers into their phones.

RYAN

Good luck! And go drinking! Just stay away from The Cheese's bathrooms. You can get hepatitis from the urinals.

Skip smiles at the thought of his new found friend. Things are looking up.

INT. SKIP'S ROOM - DAY

Skip sits at his desk and hi-lights a text book.

Not being able to concentrate, he closes the book and turns on the TV. Nothing on. There's a KNOCK at the door.

Skip gets up and opens the door to see FROSTY on the other side.

FROSTY

Hey there. I'm Frosty. I live in 404. Do you have a screwdriver I can borrow?

SKIP

I do. Phillips head?

FROSTY

That'll work.

Skip goes under his bed and pulls out a box. Frosty walks halfway into the room and checks out the pad.

FROSTY (CONT'D)
Your place is so clean. Where's
your roommate?

SKIP
Work I guess. He's never around.

FROSTY
The best kind of roommate.

Skip hands him the tool.

FROSTY (CONT'D)
Thanks. I'll bring it back.

SKIP
No rush.

FROSTY
Some friends and I are going to
Ladies Night at The Cheese Thursday
night if you want to go.

SKIP
Ladies Night?

FROSTY
Girls get in for free, so I figure
there's guaranteed to be a lot of
chicks.

SKIP
Good plan. Thanks for the invite
but I need to work on a paper.

FROSTY
College would be so much better
without that studying thing.

SKIP
Totally.

FROSTY
Cool. Stop by our room sometime.
We have an old Atari system.

SKIP
Neat.

FROSTY
(holds up tool, winks)
Thanks for the screw.

SKIP
Anytime!

DORM HALLWAY - LATER

Skip walks into the hallway carrying a water bottle. No activity.

He fills up the bottle at the water fountain, then casually walks by Frosty's door. This could be Skip's chance to make some friends. He hesitates and then KNOCKS. A beat later the door swings open revealing a blacklight illuminating an otherwise darkened room.

GUY
(steps into view)
Hey.

SKIP
Is Frosty here?

The guy, shirtless, yells to Frosty.

GUY
Frost, you have a visitor.

FROSTY
(appearing in doorway,
speaks in fake English
accent)
'Allo! Did you come back for your
screw?

SKIP
(befuddled)
Well, no...

FROSTY
(drops accent)
I'm just joshing you. Glad you
could join us. We're watching "Fast
Times at Ridgemont High". Wanna
come in?

Skip relaxes and joins in.

INT. FROSTY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Skip scans the room that's filled with two twin beds and a couple of bean bags situated in front of a 40-inch television set, a stereo, and an Atari system. Empty pizza boxes and video game cartridges mess up the floor, as do clothes and books. Frosty and the chubby shirtless guy watch the movie.

FROSTY
(pointing to shirtless
guy)
That's my roommate Brian.

Skip smiles and makes a place for himself on the trashy floor.

BRIAN
Anyone want to order pizza?

FROSTY
Breadsticks sound good.

BRIAN
I got Papa John's on speed dial.

FROSTY
All that dining hall food makes
me ill.

SKIP
It cleans out the system.

BRIAN
You too?

FROSTY
Did you know their grilled cheeses
have over 3,000 calories?

SKIP
The salad bar is pretty safe. Or
The pasta.

BRIAN
But they put too much sauce and
shit on it.

The guys laugh.

FROSTY
Shut up and watch the movie.

BRIAN

We've seen it a million times. I have all of Spicoli's line memorized.

FROSTY

Maybe our guest hasn't seen it.

SKIP

(quoting the film)

"All I need are some tasty waves, a cool buzz, and I'm fine."

FROSTY

Or maybe he has.

BRIAN

There's this girl who lives on the third floor who looks like Phoebe Cates. She's hot.

SKIP

Ask her out.

BRIAN

Eh. I have bigger tits than she does.

FROSTY

You're never gonna get laid with that attitude. Or get a rim job.

SKIP

College isn't all about sex. What's a rim job?

Brian shrugs without a clue.

FROSTY

College is about drinking...and sex.

BRIAN

And pizza at 3 a.m. Or all of the above.

SKIP

Is The Greenery a cool place?

FROSTY

(interested)

It's the shit. Literally and figuratively.

(MORE)

FROSTY (CONT'D)

It's hot, sweaty, sticky for reasons I don't want to know, but they serve to minors unless the Feds are in town.

BRIAN

And there are a lot of hot women willing to turn down free drinks.

FROSTY

It's one of U.O.'s finer qualities. This weekend, Skippy, you're going with us.

SKIP

(uneasy, confessional)

I don't know. The truth is I've never been drunk before.

The room falls into a deafening silence.

FROSTY

You straight-edged?

SKIP

No. My friends in high school never drank.

FROSTY

I guess I'm one to talk. The first time I ever got drunk was on a sole bottle of Zima. It goes down smooth but not so much coming up.

BRIAN

We're definitely popping your cherry this weekend.

Brian and Frosty high five each other. Skip skeptically smiles.

FROSTY

Corruption is my specialty.

BRIAN

He doesn't really know what he is talking about.

FROSTY

Yes I do. I will prove it to all of you. I hope the pizza gets here soon. I'm starving!

Skip makes himself more comfortable among the grubby floor, finally feeling like he belongs. Maybe college isn't so bad after all.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Ryan walks outside and exhales to see his breath. All around him the leaves begin to change into vibrant colors of bright reds, dusty browns, fiery oranges and yellows.

EXT. BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Ryan walks up the steps to class and spots Skip.

RYAN
(shouting)
Hey, Skip!

Skip turns around to see Ryan's beaming face.

SKIP
Hey, man. Morning.

RYAN
A cold one that's for sure. Follow me.

Skip and Ryan follow a herd of STUDENTS inside.

INT. CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

Skip devotedly follows Ryan into the classroom. They survey the room filled with a multitude of people.

Skip follows Ryan to the center of the classroom, tripping over a couple of PEOPLE. They settle in for a long and tedious lecture.

RYAN
Just nudge me if I fall asleep.

SKIP
What if I fall asleep, too?

RYAN
Then we're both screwed.

Skip laughs and turns his attention to the Professor.

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

Natalie sits at a study cubicle and looks over papers and notes. A GROUP quietly studies in the corner; A GUY IN SWEATS sits at a table with his feet propped up; TWO GIRLS sit diagonal from Natalie and talk.

As the night goes on, the place empties out until Natalie is the only one left except for a GUY with his head down on the table sleeping.

Natalie gathers her things and walks out of the library.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Natalie slumps over her desk to concentrate on a test. The class of 20 all ponder and struggle through the exam.

Natalie puts her pencil down and SIGHS in frustration, exhaustion and relief.

She assembles her book bag and jacket, and walks out.

INT. APT - NIGHT

Natalie goes inside her apartment to see Jen camped out on the couch watching TV and eating a bag of chips.

JEN

Hello. How was your test?

Natalie doesn't say anything and walks to the fridge to grab a soda.

JEN (CONT'D)

That well, huh?

Natalie throws down her bag and stares at Jen with mild aggravation.

NATALIE

(solemn)

Could've done better.

JEN

Don't sweat it. I'm sure you aced it.

NATALIE

(firing up)

I don't get it, Jen. I study so hard and can't get a decent grade.

(MORE)

NATALIE (CONT'D)

Then I look at you--you go out and party and rarely go to class but somehow manage to get by. Why is that?

JEN

It just comes easier for me. Everyone is different. Don't get upset, Nat.

NATALIE

(bursts)
I'm not upset!

JEN

You put way too much pressure on yourself! Learn to relax. That's why I keep encouraging you to go out with me.

NATALIE

If I do, I will fall behind. I'm not like you. I don't want to get smashed out of my mind or fuck every guy on campus.

Jen stands up and confronts Natalie at her eye level.

JEN

I don't want to fuck every guy. In fact, I have yet to fuck anyone this quarter. Sure, there's been some under the shirt action and some rubbing, but I digress. I'm having fun! I'm gaining experience! We only have another year and a half of this. I'm trying to help you get the most out of your time here, but you are too stubborn to listen.

NATALIE

What do you want from me?

JEN

I want you to hang out with me and do crazy things. Don't be so serious all the time.

Defeated, Natalie slowly sits in a chair and absorbs the information.

NATALIE

(calmly)

You're right. I don't know where all of this pressure comes from.

JEN

Well, just don't take it out on me. I may be a slut but at least I'm a slut who gets good grades.

NATALIE

I'm sorry. I didn't mean to take things out on you. You're not a slut. I'm the one who's a prude.

JEN

Whatever. It's your turn to take out the trash.

Jen storms out of the living room. A door is SLAMMED.

A beat later Jen comes back out and grabs the bag of potato chips she was munching on. She retreats and a door off screen is once again SLAMMED shut.

INT. SKIP'S ROOM - NIGHT

Skip walks into his room and looks exhausted. It's time for bed. He looks up to see a GIRL contentedly sitting on Chad's lap. They flirt and watch TV.

CHAD

Hey there.

SKIP

Hi.

CHAD

This is my lady friend, Vanessa.
(to Vanessa)
My roommate Skip.

She waves hello. Chad lightly kisses Vanessa on the cheek and begins to nibble on her ear.

Skip hurriedly puts some of his belongings in drawers and walks out feeling a little unnerved.

INT. FROSTY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The guys sit around snacking on chips and joke around.

FROSTY

Maybe they're just really good friends. Maybe they're Bible Study friends.

SKIP

He introduced her as his "lady friend."

BRIAN

So? I have lots of lady friends, if you know what I mean.

FROSTY

Naming your hands after women doesn't count.

The guys laugh and enjoy the escalating topic.

BRIAN

(to Skip)

Okay, farm boy, how much pussy have you gotten?

Skip becomes flushed with embarrassment and anxiety.

SKIP

Well, yunno...A girl.

FROSTY

Your momma doesn't count.

SKIP

(hitting Frosty's shoulder)

That's gross!

(hesitant)

I kinda..well...I've never technically been with a woman. I've kissed girls, but never done it.

Skip's honesty silences the guys for a beat. It seems he is off the hook until the room explodes in derision aimed at Skip.

FROSTY

You're a virgin? Oh my god! An 18-year-old virgin!

BRIAN

(mocking)

Are you waiting for marriage?

SKIP

(defensive)

No! I just haven't met the right woman yet. I think about it; I don't know if I'm ready.

FROSTY

That's cool, man. I'm just floored. We'll have to take care of that, too.

SKIP

(snapping at Frosty)

I suppose you've been with many girls.

FROSTY

Well, sure. I'm not inexperienced like you, Skip.

BRIAN

Then how come the other night at the bar when you had a chance to go home with that blonde you told me you didn't want your first time to be that way?

Frosty's face turns into a bright reddish hue.

SKIP

(surprised)

So you're just like me, Frost!
I can't believe you! Motherfucker.

FROSTY

I'm not proud of it, all right. My high school girlfriend didn't want to put out. I tried.

The guys' laughter is now more of comfort, of relief and disbelief, instead of ridicule.

SKIP

This is great! A room full of virgins!

BRIAN

Hey now, I'm not a virgin. I did sleep with Mary Williams during prom.

FROSTY

That's only one up on us, man.
Skip is stuck in the dugout with
his bat in his hand.

BRIAN

I feel better getting that off my
chest. But if anyone else asks,
I've been with five girls,
including that cutie on the third
floor.

SKIP

This is going to be a long year.

INT. SKIP'S ROOM - NIGHT

Skip lies in his bed directly under Chad. Skip reads in bed
using light illuminating from a clip-on light. Above, Skip
hears Chad talking to Vanessa.

Every time one of them moves the entire bed SQUEAKS. Skip
rolls his eyes at the annoying occurrence.

Skip turns off the light. The room is completely dark and
quiet. Skip rolls over and tries to fall asleep.

A noise is heard from above. The bed SQUEAKS, a SNAPPING
sound is heard along with a MOAN and a KISSING sound. The
squeaking and snapping become louder and more consistent.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ted slouches on the couch and watches one of his Spanish soap
operas on television and ravishes a bowl of cereal.

Ryan walks downstairs to see his roommate.

RYAN

Yo. What are you watching?

TED

"Mi Corazon". It's a good one
today.

Ryan sits down next to Ted.

TED (CONT'D)

So, Conchita just found out her
brother is having a baby with her
boss' niece.

RYAN
I didn't see that one coming.

TED
Well, actually it was foreshadowed
a couple of weeks ago, so it's not
really a surprise.

RYAN
Going to class today?

TED
Thinking about making an
appearance.

RYAN
What time is class?

TED
Eleven.

RYAN
(looking at watch)
It's eleven thirty, dude.

TED
What? I got tangled up in this baby
plotline.

Ryan turns around to stare at Ted, then smiles and leaves the house.

EXT. COLLEGE GREEN - DAY

Ryan sits by the monument on the College Green and reads through his notebook. He picks up his phone and sees no one has called.

Natalie walks by him and realizes she knows him.

NATALIE
(to Ryan)
Hi there.

Ryan looks up.

NATALIE (CONT'D)
I think we met at the bookstore a
few weeks ago.

No recognition from Ryan.

NATALIE (CONT'D)
I'm Jen's roommate...she knows Paul.

RYAN
(getting it)
Oh yeah, how are you?

NATALIE
Good. Just trying to get through a long day of classes. Today is my shit day.

RYAN
I hear that. Thank God this is my last year.

NATALIE
Lucky. I have four years of med-school to look forward to.
(nervously lingers)

RYAN
That sounds tough. Well, I'll have Paul alert Jen if we know of any cool parties.

NATALIE
Great! See ya.

Natalie walks away proud of herself for making a connection.

INT. SKIP'S ROOM - NIGHT

Skip lies on his bed and channel surfs. Chad sits at his desk and reads a magazine. The phone RINGS and Chad picks up the phone.

CHAD
(on phone)
Why hello Mrs. Schoolnik. I'm great. Oh, trying to study hard. Yes he is. Here's Skippy.

Skip contorts his face in disgust as Chad feigns niceness.

SKIP
(on phone)
Hi Mom.

MRS. SCHOOLNIK (V.O.)
Hi, honey! How are you?

SKIP

I'm good.

MRS. SCHOOLNIK (V.O.)

When is your last final, again?

SKIP

November 20th. I'll drive home
after it's over.

MRS. SCHOOLNIK (V.O.)

Good. Mr. Squiggles is sitting on
my lap. Say hi to him.

Skip self-consciously looks at Chad making sure he's not listening.

SKIP

(to cat in baby voice)

Hello baby, how's my little kitty?

Skip meets Chad's strange gaze and immediately stops the cooing.

SKIP (CONT'D)

Gotta go, Mom. The other line is
beeping.

(clicking over)

Yello?

FROSTY (V.O.)

Hey buddy, guess what time it is?

SKIP

What?

FROSTY (V.O.)

(blaring into phone)

Time to get shit-faced.

Frosty is so loud Skip has to hold the phone away from his ear.

FROSTY (V.O.)

Get ready. We're going to make this
a night to remember.

Skip hangs up the phone.

CHAD

Going out?

SKIP
Apparently so.
(beat)
You wanna come?

CHAD
No thanks. Vanessa is bringing me
cookies.

Skip turns toward his closet and makes a face.

EXT. STREET - UPTOWN - NIGHT

Skip, Frosty and Brian, who are dressed in button-down shirts and have their hair slicked, back walk down the lit-up cobblestone streets of Steeplechase, talking wildly about the evening ahead.

FROSTY
You're going to love The Cheese!

The guys laugh and pal around.

BRIAN
We won't let you shack with any
chicks or dudes, unless they are
cute of course.

SKIP
(dubious)
I'm not going home with anyone.
Make sure I don't do anything dumb.

FROSTY
Of course not, buddy.

EXT. GREENERY - CONTINUOUS

The hormonally-challenged place looks like any other college bar on the outside with its darkened windows and a CROWD lining up.

INT. GREENERY - CONTINUOUS

The guys walk into the semi-crowded bar full of STUDENTS and TOWNIES getting sloppy drunk.

Skip browses the place and takes in all the activity in the dimly lit bar area. This is the quintessential college hang out.

FROSTY
Let's get started.

Skip and the guys march up to the bar.

BAR - CONTINUOUS

BARTENDER
What do you need?

FROSTY
Two beers and a Brain Stomper.

SKIP
What's in a Brain Stomper?

FROSTY
Not sure, but enough shit to get
you fucked up real good.

Skip takes a sip of his drink and makes a bitter face.

SKIP
This is nasty.

BRIAN
Drink it. Soon you'll feel nothing.

The guys search the bar for any available girls. Brian's wandering eye falls onto a GIRL grinding to the song "Brass Monkey".

BRIAN (CONT'D)
I'm going to get my mack on.

Brian walks over and starts getting down with the GIRL. The guys are amused at his skills, or lack of them.

SKIP
(re: Girl)
She's kinda cute.

FROSTY
Maybe if you like the kicked in the
face look.

DISSOLVE TO:

Skip, slightly hammered, sits at a the bar alone. More people have arrived and the place is really jamming. Skip breaks into laughter for no reason. He can barely keep his head up. He downs his drink and gets up. He unbuttons the top button of his shirt and wipes away sweat from his brow.

SKIP
(to himself)
Gotta take a piss.

Skip walks towards the bathroom and steps in something sticky. He makes a disgusted face. A WOMAN intercepts him.

WOMAN
(grabbing him)
Dance with me.

The woman pulls Skip close to her. They slowly begin to grind and he begins to enjoy himself, despite the fact he's lost his equilibrium.

The woman gives Skip a big smooch on the cheek. Skip is both surprised and thrilled by the invite.

SKIP
I just want you to know I like you
for you, not just for your body.
I'm a gentleman.

Frosty and Brian spot Skip and smile. That's their boy, their Frankenstein.

BRIAN
He's lit up like a Christmas tree.

FROSTY
And what a beautiful, hot mess of a
tree it is.

EXT. BAR - LATER

Frosty and Brian try to hold Skip upright as he stumbles out of the place.

The guys light cigarettes. Skip laughs and whistles to himself.

FROSTY
You okay, buddy?

SKIP
(slurred)
Fine, good. Since when do you
smoke?

BRIAN
Everyone smokes in college.

FROSTY

Tastes good when you're drunk.

Frosty gives Skip a cigarette. He takes a puff but doesn't inhale. He lets the cigarette dangle out of his mouth.

SKIP'S POV

The town and his friends appear blurry and out of focus.

DORM HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

The guys quietly slip Skip into his room.

BRIAN

I think the R.A. is sleeping. Be quiet.

INT. SKIP'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The guys fall into Skip's room. The room is only illuminated from light streaming in from the ajar door.

Brian and Frosty try to slip Skip into his bed, but Skip keeps MUMBLING and wakes up Chad.

CHAD

What's going on?

Frosty takes off Skip's shoes and carefully places him into bed. He puts a trash can and a water bottle next to his bed.

BRIAN

Now remember, Skippy: keep one foot on the ground. It'll stop the room from spinning.

FROSTY

Drink some water. If you need to puke, here's the trash can.

CHAD

Nobody better puke! I got my lady friend tucked in here.

BRIAN

Oh yeah? What's she wearing?

SKIP
(feeling the love)
Thanks guys. You're the best
friends. I'm going to pass out.

BRIAN
You were so money tonight.

FROSTY
Especially with the pretty babies.

The guys shut the door, which makes the room completely dark.
The room is suddenly a little too quiet.

CHAD (O.S.)
Hello? Skip? Skip's weird friends?

A beat later the silence is broken with Skip SNORING and some
SMACKING sounds from the top bunk.

INT. SKIP'S ROOM - DAY

Skip awakens and rubs his eyes. He steadies himself and
stares at his haggard face in the mirror. He notices a
smudged stamp on his face and tries to remove the permanence.

INT. CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

Skip dozes during the lecture. Ryan gently nudges Skip. He
awakens for a beat, then goes back to his zombie state. Class
concludes and the rustle of papers and chatter wake him up.

RYAN
(refers to stamp)
Rough night?

SKIP
Yeah. Went to The Cheese.

RYAN
Ah, The Cheese. Eventually you'll
graduate to much cleaner bars.

SKIP
From what I can remember it was
pretty cool.

RYAN
It's completely disgusting, but you
gotta love it.

SKIP

I think I'm going to skip the rest of my classes today. I don't feel well.

RYAN

You? Miss class?

SKIP

You know it must be bad.

RYAN

Just don't do what I did my freshman year. I started going out on school nights, then my grades began to slip. I almost failed out of school. I've been trying to build my G.P.A ever since.

SKIP

That won't happen to me.

RYAN

Going out this weekend?

SKIP

Probably not. What are you up to?

RYAN

Rebecca's coming. Can't wait to see her.

INT. APT. - NIGHT

Natalie sits alone on the couch watching a nature show. Jen walks in carrying a couple of plastic bags filled with food.

JEN

What's up?

NATALIE

A lion just ate a gazelle.

JEN

Do you watch that for fun? Or for a class? Say, isn't "The Bachelor" on?

Natalie gives Jen a dirty look.

JEN (CONT'D)

Oh, I forgot you're still mad at me.

NATALIE

I'm not mad anymore. What's in the bags?

KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Natalie saunters over to Jen, who's taking out boxes of food and setting them on their bar area.

JEN

Well, I felt bad about our disagreement the other day, so I brought home Chinese from Mr. Wok's. I was gonna cook us pasta or something, then I realized I don't even know how to boil water.

NATALIE

I could be compelled to forgive you, if you remembered the duck sauce.

Jen holds up a tiny plastic container of brown sauce. The girls wryly smile at each other, then dig into the MSG-ridden food.

JEN

Ugh, I hate fighting with you. We've been friends since high school! In fact, you're one of the only folks from high school I still care to talk to.

NATALIE

Yes, somehow I can't stay mad at you either. You just get me.

JEN

So, today I got a job! Gonna be working at The Burrito Buggy. I get to shovel late-night burritos into drunk faces.

NATALIE

Huh. Somehow I think you'll be good at that.

Jen throws a wrapped fortune cookie at Natalie.

JEN

And what about you? How's the studying coming along?

NATALIE

I'm desperately trying not to think about finals. Let's talk about something else.

The two fall silent without much to say.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

I ran into Ryan--Paul's roomie--the other day.

JEN

(perking up)

Oh, he's cute! Actually, they're both cute. Did you talk to him or just run away?

NATALIE

Yes, I talked to him! I'm capable of talking to cute boys. He said he'll let us know about some parties.

JEN

Cool beans. I think he has a girlfriend, though.

NATALIE

Oh yeah? I just want to be friends with him. Who has time for a boyfriend anyway?

Jen raises her hand.

JEN

There will always be time for boyfriends. You'll see.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Ryan walks into his house and stops dead in his tracks.

RYAN

Becca!

On the couch sits the love of his life. She and Ted are in the middle of serious conversation about "Mi Corazon". Ted takes a hit from a honey bear converted into a bong--think Floyd from "True Romance".

REBECCA

I skipped some classes to get here early. Luckily Ted was home to let me in.

TED

Becca's theory is that Conchita's brother isn't the father but the Generalissimo is.

Ryan goes over and kisses Rebecca.

REBECCA

Hi there.

RYAN

(happily)

Hi.

TED

Where's my kiss, Ryan?

RYAN

Bend over.

TED

I'll take that as my cue to leave the room.

Ted exits and leaves the lovers alone.

RYAN

You ready for a wild weekend?

REBECCA

Promise?

RYAN

That's my girl.

REBECCA

I guess the real reason I came early is because I probably won't be available to talk to you much in the next few weeks.

RYAN

Finals. I know.

REBECCA

I don't want you to think I'll be blowing you off or anything.

RYAN

We'll see each other every day over winter break.

REBECCA

Well, that's another thing. I'm going to be spending part of it in Florida with my family. I asked them if I could invite you but they said family only. Sorry.

RYAN

Hmm...they let me come to Myrtle last summer. That's okay. But don't worry. We'll figure it out.

Ryan leans in for a kiss.

Ted walks in carrying a bowl, a box of Fruit Loops and a carton of milk.

TED

Who wants lunch and more "Mi Corazon"?

RYAN

(to Becca)

Let's move this to my room.

INT. SKIP'S ROOM - DAY

Skip walks into his room to see Chad standing in the center of the room waiting for him.

SKIP

What's up?

CHAD

We need to chat.

Skip attentively listens.

CHAD (CONT'D)

I don't think you're doing your fair share of cleaning around here. You haven't vacuumed once, your pot of ramen noodles is still out, as is your Papa John's box.

SKIP

(incredulous)

What?

(MORE)

SKIP (CONT'D)

For one thing, that pizza box is yours. I do vacuum, and that pot is left over from a few hours ago.

CHAD

I just think you need to take better care of your stuff.

SKIP

What about you and that girl? Do you think I like hearing the bed squeak all night?

CHAD

Like I've said before, Vanessa is a special lady friend. It's a very noisy bed. Your friends wake me up all the time!

SKIP

Yunno, my parents may buy your faux niceness, but...you're such a dick!

Skip angrily storms out the door.

INT. RYAN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Skip sits on Ryan's bed with their sociology books and notebooks open, but they don't appear to be studying much.

RYAN

He said that to you? Some roommate.

SKIP

He's usually cool. I don't know what's up his ass.

RYAN

Probably just the stress of finals.

A KNOCK at the door. Ted enters.

TED

You guys in need of a study break? Come downstairs.

Ryan and Skip exchange curious looks.

LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Paul sits on the couch with Ted. He holds a bowl filled with pot wafting.

RYAN
Smells like fun in here.

Skip uncomfortably and hesitantly sits in a chair, his naïveness surfacing.

RYAN (CONT'D)
(to Skip)
You don't have to if you don't want to.

TED
It's great stuff. Make you feel real mellow.

SKIP
I'll try it.

RYAN
Cool.

PAUL
You have tried it before, right?

SKIP
(lying)
Sure, a couple of times.
(off Ryan's look)
Well, not really.

Ted takes a hit and passes it to Paul who lights the bowl and smokes it. Ryan smokes, then gives it to Skip, who carefully takes the pipe and lighter.

TED
Just light it and inhale quickly.
But don't inhale too much or you'll choke.

With Ted's advice, Skip successfully inhales then exhales with a whooping cough.

RYAN
(patting Skip's back)
You all right?

SKIP
(choking)
Yep.

TED
Dude, your eyes are all red and
glazed. Congrats.

The guys pass the pipe around and become stoned and mellowed out. Ted eats from a bag of Doritos. Paul zones out as does Skip, who blankly watches television.

PAUL
Ryan, I think your boy is stoned.

RYAN
So much for studying.

PAUL
You ever wonder what life will be
like post-graduation?

RYAN
(searches for answer)
Sometimes. I suppose nothing like
this.

PAUL
You'd have a job, be living in the
real world. How strange.

RYAN
No partying, no smoking. I'll
probably be too worn out to stay
out all night.

PAUL
You and Becca could get a nice
little house with a couple of
little Rebeccas running around.

RYAN
Who knows. I don't think about that
yet.

PAUL
That's why I don't want to leave
college. It's safe here, yunno?
A place to chill and hang. Aren't
you scared to leave here?

RYAN
A little...okay, a lot. What
happens will happen.
(MORE)

RYAN (CONT'D)

We have no control. I don't want to be fifty years old and look back thinking these were my best moments.

PAUL

But these are the good times.

RYAN

Our book of days. Maybe I'll let you sign my yearbook.

PAUL

Nice talking to you, but I need to sleep.

Ryan helps Paul off the couch.

RYAN

Hey, Skippy, how you doing?

SKIP

Good.

RYAN

You can sleep here tonight. I'll get you a blanket.

SKIP

Thanks.

Ted is passed out and begins to SNORE loudly and obnoxiously.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Ryan and Skip take their final exam. They are spaced apart, as is the rest of the class.

The Professor monitors the STUDENTS' progress.

Ryan and Skip look at each other, both clueless as they drown themselves in failure.

INT. LOBBY - DAY

Skip walks out with several bags in his hands. Frosty walks through the door and greets him.

FROSTY

Have a good break! See ya in January.

SKIP
It's been fun. Thanks for
everything, Frosty.

FROSTY
(impish grin)
Just think what'll be in store when
you get back.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Skip walks into his childhood home and is greeted by
MR.SQUIGGLES; he happily rubs up against his owner.

Skip walks farther into the house and sees his sister.

JILL
(unhappily)
What are you doing here?

SKIP
I live here, dummy.

JILL
Not anymore, you don't. We sold all
of your stuff.

MRS. SCHOOLNIK
I will not tolerate these exchanges
for six weeks. Be nice in front of
me.

Skip makes a face at Jill and walks into his bedroom.

INT. SKIP'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

He stands in the doorway and surveys the pictures on his
wall. The room seems different, sophomoric, or maybe it's
Skip that is different.

Mr. Schoolnik walks up behind Skip and startles him.

MR. SCHOOLNIK
Hey Skippy.

Skip hugs his dad.

SKIP
Hey, Dad. I made it home.

MR. SCHOOLNIK

Your mom wanted to turn this into a guest room and Jill wanted to turn it into a billiards room, but I told them not to.

SKIP

Thanks for that.

MR. SCHOOLNIK

How does it feel to be back?

SKIP

Good, but different. Feels like I never left, but at the same time I feel disorientated.

MR. SCHOOLNIK

At least you'll have a clean, private shower, your own room and nice home-cooked meals for a few weeks.

SKIP

Things I've taken for granted.

MR. SCHOOLNIK

Good to have you home, son.

SKIP

Good to be here.

Skip's dad leaves Skip alone to figure out his feelings.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Skip, dressed in winter gear, hurries around the house.

MRS. SCHOOLNIK

Where you off to?

SKIP

Going out with Dave.

MRS. SCHOOLNIK

Where?

SKIP

Dunno.

MRS. SCHOOLNIK

What time will you be home?

SKIP

Dunno.

MRS. SCHOOLNIK

(crosses arms)

Skip, you're not going out unless you tell me where you're going.

SKIP

I don't know, Mom.

MRS. SCHOOLNIK

Call me when you get there. Be home by eleven.

SKIP

Eleven? That's so early.

MRS. SCHOOLNIK

Maybe for school time, not for home time.

SKIP

This sucks.

Skip storms out the door, ignoring his mother's wishes.

MRS. SCHOOLNIK

(yelling after him)

You better listen to me, young man!

TITLE CARD: WINTER QUARTER

EXT. CAMPUS - DAY

Snow blankets the university. STUDENTS sled down a steep hill.

STUDENTS bundled up in jackets and gloves wander the streets.

A LONE STUDENT scraps snow off his icy car.

INT. RYAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Ryan sits alone in his room and looks at a picture of Rebecca and him together. He picks up the phone and dials. No answer. Frustrated, he hangs up and paces the room.

LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ted and Paul do what they do best: lounge on the couch and watch TV. Paul and Ted play a round of Quarters.

Paul dunks a coin into Ted's beer glass and Ted is forced to chug it down.

PAUL
Dude, wanna watch a porno my
brother got me for Christmas?

RYAN
(pacing)
No.

PAUL
(sensing despondence)
What's wrong?

RYAN
I've called Becca like five times
tonight and there's no answer.

PAUL
Ever thought maybe she's busy? I'm
sure she has a life outside of you.

RYAN
I'm going up there.

Paul and Ted look at Ryan like he has flipped out.

PAUL
Whoa, you're going to drive all the
way to Cleveland tonight?

RYAN
Can't hurt matters.

PAUL
That's so stalkerish. Even I
haven't done anything like
that...Okay, maybe once. Or twice.
Definitely not more than three
times.

TED
But it's Karaoke Night at The Pub!
You promised to sing "Total Eclipse
of the Heart" with me!

RYAN
Duty calls. I'll be back in the
morning.

Ryan hurries out the door.

PAUL
He must be real desperate for a
little something, something.

TED
And to think all I need to get some
action is right here.
(holds out left hand)

PAUL
I didn't need to know you use your
left hand.

TED
Sometimes I use both.

EXT. BUILDING - NIGHT

Ryan parks his car on the street and scrambles out to avoid
getting inundated by the rain.

HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Ryan, drenched from head to toe, walks down a hallway and
stops at a door. Hesitantly, he KNOCKS.

A beat later Rebecca opens the door. She is both ecstatic and
horrified to see him.

REBECCA
Baby! What are doing here?

RYAN
I needed to talk to you. Are you
alone?

REBECCA
Yes, Come in.

INT. STUDIO APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Ryan stands near the door, but Rebecca settles down on her
bed. Water drips off his clothes. There is uncertainty and
distance between them.

REBECCA
What do you want to talk about?

RYAN

I called you a bunch of times tonight. Did you hear the phone ring?

REBECCA

Yeah, I did. I was going to call you but I got caught up in other things. Is that why you came up here? A serial killer didn't chop me up to bits, if that's what you were thinking.

RYAN

I did consider that. But I also just wanted to talk to you in-person. Lately, it seems like you've been distant, more involved than usual.

REBECCA

I am involved. With school. I need to make the Dean's List.

RYAN

But there's more to it than that.

REBECCA

(sighs)

I think over winter break I had some time to think about things. I started to think about our long-term future, and our future together got a little hazy.

(gesturing at Ryan)

I don't think this is working for me.

RYAN

I'll get a towel.

He walks off screen and a beat later returns with a towel.

REBECCA

(nervous laughter)

No, silly. Our relationship isn't working.

Ryan slowly wipes the excess water off himself and gingerly sits down on the floor to brace himself for the fall.

RYAN

What do you mean?

REBECCA

You're graduating soon and will be starting a new life. Where does that leave me? Somehow I don't think you want to move back here and work for my dad. You should be exploring other options...maybe other people.

RYAN

That's supposed to be my line. I'm the one who is suppose to want time off.

REBECCA

I'm not ready to settle down yet.

RYAN

I wasn't planning on proposing marriage or anything. Did I give you that impression or something?

REBECCA

No, but I figured that's what you wanted. I'm just telling you I want to see what else is out there...I want to see other people.

Ryan GULPS not wanting to hear those forbidden words.

RYAN

Are you seeing someone else?

REBECCA

No. But I'm interested.

RYAN

Interested?

REBECCA

Don't you see other girls and wonder what if? Have thoughts?

RYAN

I don't act upon those thoughts because *I love you*.

REBECCA

If you really love me you'll understand why I need this.

RYAN

Did you ever really love me? Or was that bullshit?

REBECCA

Of course I love you! I always will. Look, we've been together for two years and it's always been a long distance thing. Don't you ever get tired of it? It's like I love you so much that I need to let you go.

RYAN

Are you quoting a Sting song?

REBECCA

Be serious. I think we need to separate for a while to figure out our futures. I feel like I'm holding you back.

RYAN

You mean I'm holding you back.

REBECCA

Yes and no. God, I sound so awful. Maybe there will be another chance for us down the road but not now.

RYAN

Let me get this straight: you're breaking up with me so you can fuck other guys?

REBECCA

(tearing up)

No! Don't say that! I still want us to be friends.

Ryan winces at those unfavorable words. He stands up and turns away from her tear-stained face.

RYAN

I have enough friends. I want a girlfriend.

REBECCA

I'm sorry, Ryan. Please forgive me.

RYAN

I gotta go. I can't stay here.

REBECCA

It's cold and dark out there. Just stay.

Ryan throws the towel down and walks toward the door.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
Don't leave like this.

RYAN
(listlessly)
I promised the guys a game of
Asshole, but I guess I'm the
asshole.

Ryan stands there and considers his options. This isn't what he wanted.

Rebecca places her hand on his shoulder. Her eyes plead with desperation and sorrow. He can't breathe. He can't move his gaze off the floor.

RYAN (CONT'D)
(gathering himself)
I'll be seeing ya, Becca. Take care
of yourself. It's been real.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

It's late at night or early in the morning--depends how you look at it. Paul and Ted are still awake and sit in the living room talking and munching on snacks. Ted strums an acoustic guitar, and Jen sits close to Paul on the couch.

Ryan walks in still wet, and stops when he spots his roomies.

PAUL
Shit, what are you doing back so soon? Now that's what I call a quickie.

RYAN
Well, if you must know, I'm a bachelor again. So, I got that going for me.

TED
What? No! Sit next to me and tell Ted all about it.

Ryan joins the guys on the couch. He notices Jen.

JEN
(uncomfortable)
Um, hi. I'm Jen, Natalie's roommate. I can leave if you need bro time.

RYAN
No, it's cool.

Paul has his hand placed on her knee and she doesn't seem to mind it.

RYAN (CONT'D)
It was brutal, brosephs and lady. She basically said she didn't see a future for us, that she wanted to bone other dudes. Blah, blah, blah.

TED
Dude, I can't believe you guys broke up. You were like Brad Pitt and Jennifer Aniston.

PAUL
Yunno, they divorced, like, forever ago.

TED
Oh, my bad. Then you were like my parents. Still married after 40 years! It's like they always say, "Love is a battlefield."

Paul
Ted, not now. Ryan, I know you must be crestfallen. Talk to me.

JEN
That's one of my Hooked On Phonics words I taught him.

RYAN
It perfectly describes my state of mind, Jen. Thank you.

TED
I know I'm suppose to be quiet but how about a song?

Ted starts strumming some chords. He's out-of-his-mind high but he can surely play well. Once he finds a rhythm, he starts singing.

TED (CONT'D)
"That bitch broke my best friend's heart/ that bitch broke it into shards."

At first Ryan is a little offended by Ted calling his ex a negative word, but then he joins in and finds the groove.

RYAN
 (singing)
 Yeah. "That bitch broke my heart/
 that bitch broke my heart/ I don't
 even know where to start."

PAUL
 (rapping)
 "Yo! That bitch broke his heart/
 Carried it out of the Kwik-E-Mart."

The guys and Jen start laughing at the ridiculousness of their impromptu singer-songwriter session.

TED
 (singing with feeling)
 "Once upon a time I was falling in
 love/ now I'm only falling apart/
 there's nothing I can do"...

TED/PAUL/RYAN
 (singing in unison)
 "A total eclipse of the heart!"

RYAN
 What else you got?

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ryan sits on the couch as daybreak streams through the windows. Gauging from his dark circles and bloodshot eyes, he's been awake all night. He smokes a cigarette and holds a glass of what looks like amber elixir: whiskey.

Paul walks into the room and joins Ryan's pity party.

PAUL
 Bro, have you been sitting here all
 night?

RYAN
 Yeppers.

He sits next to Ryan on the couch.

PAUL
 Okay, here's what you're going to
 do. You're gonna get shit-faced but
 then you're going to move on.
 There's other fillies in the
 pasture.

RYAN
Bitches, man.

PAUL
Bitches.

RYAN
(grabs Paul's shoulder)
Paul, you are a good man. I cherish
you.

PAUL
That's what friends are for! And
I'll be here to help pour the
whiskey.

Paul pours a little into Ryan's half empty glass.

RYAN
Join in?

PAUL
I would but it's 9 a.m. on a
Saturday and even I have standards.

Jen walks into the room wearing one of Paul's T-shirts. She
grabs Paul from behind and looks at Ryan sympathetically.

JEN
Rough night?

RYAN
(joking)
Hey, it's what's-her-name.

PAUL
Yeah, it's Gloria? Beth? I forget.

RYAN
Jen. Yes. Your name is Jen and your
roomie is Natalie. You should
invite her over sometime. We'll do
a double date. She's a fine looking
filly.

JEN
I'm sure she'd like that but
warning: she sometimes has a stick
lodged way up her ass.

RYAN
I'm not sober enough to comment on
that.

PAUL
Get some sleep, man.

RYAN
I will. I just need to finish this
glass. And maybe watch some "Mi
Corazon", then cry myself to sleep.
Don't mind me.
(singing softly)
"That bitch broke my heart..."

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Skip walks into his class already in session. He takes his seat and opens up his book. The TEACHER writes on the board.

TEACHER
In Faulkner's "A Rose for Emily"
what is the significance of the
gray hair on the pillow?

No one answers.

TEACHER (CONT'D)
Skip, do you know?

SKIP
I don't know. She was old?

The class laughs at his wrong response.

TEACHER
No. I suggest you take a closer
look at the story. I will now pass
out your tests from last week.

Skip waits to be handed his test. The teacher gives it to him. It reads: "D" circled with a message to "See me."

INT. OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Skip sits listening to his teacher lecture him about his work.

TEACHER
You're falling way behind. How are
you doing in your other classes?

SKIP
Fine.

TEACHER

You won't be able to keep your scholarship if your grades slip. I just want you to be aware of this.

SKIP

It's been a tough transition for me. I'm not used to the heavy workload. I'll do better on the midterm.

TEACHER

(takes off professorial glasses)

Yunno, there is a way to balance both social and academic. You just have to want it. It's okay to party one night but then study the next. Believe it or not, I was young once. Eons ago.

SKIP

I get it. I'll try harder.

INT. NATALIE'S BEDROOM. - DAY

Natalie sits at her desk and writes a paper. Jen approaches her.

JEN

Get ready.

NATALIE

For what?

JEN

Hairy Buff party tonight. No buts. You're coming with me.

NATALIE

Oh, joy. Does that mean I get to watch you and Paul make out all night?

JEN

No...yes. Whatever. We'll keep the PDA to a minimum.

NATALIE

All right.

JEN

Really?

NATALIE

It's Friday night. I should be out doing things. Right?

JEN

Exactly! I'm glad you've come to your senses. Wear something hot. You never know who may be there.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Ryan sits on the couch and flips through the channels. Paul and Ted walk into the room and stare at him.

PAUL

Ryan, it's your turn to take out the trash.

RYAN

I'll get to it.

PAUL

You've been moping around the house for the past couple of weeks. Don't you think you should get out?

RYAN

(snapping)

Don't tell me what's good for me. I'm in mourning.

PAUL

We're going to a Hairy Buff party. Come with us.

RYAN

Like going to a party will magically make all my pain disappear.

PAUL

You haven't been calling her or cyberstalking her, have you?

Ryan doesn't respond. Paul grabs the remote and turns off the TV.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Dammit, Ryan, quit fucking feeling sorry for yourself!

RYAN
 (flipping out)
 Fine! I'll find some chick that
 looks just like her to bang, get
 really smashed and feel better
 about myself! Is that what you
 usually do?

PAUL
 Um, actually, yeah.

Ryan jumps on the couch, a la Tom Cruise style. Ted and Paul
 look at each other in disbelief.

TED
 (to Ryan)
 Bro, you need to chill!

Much calmer, Ryan sits down on the sofa for a beat and wipes
 his hair back.

RYAN
 Sorry about that. I lost it for a
 sec. Vamos.

DORM HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Skip, Frosty and Brian walk down the hallway wearing heavy
 winter coats over their light-weight party clothes.

SKIP
 Where are we going?

FROSTY
 To some party at someone's house.

SKIP
 Thanks for the details.

BRIAN
 As I understand it, it's an
 upperclassmen party. We're talking
 graduate chicks. They can do
 incredible things with their
 tongues.

Skip and Frosty give him a dumbfounded glare.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
 What? I saw it in a movie once.

FROSTY
 And what was that movie called?

BRIAN

Something with "tongue" and "alien clitoris babes" in the title. I don't recall.

INT. HOUSE PARTY - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The party is in full throttle as young and energetic STUDENTS mingle, drink and talk. In a corner, a GROUP are in a heated conversation.

GIRL

"The Wire" is hands down the greatest cop show ever.

GUY

What's your favorite season?

GIRL

The one about the...cops?

GUY

Um, have you ever seen an episode of "The Wire"?

GIRL

No, but it's universally understood to be the best show.

GUY

You're an idiot.

PAN TO A COUPLE MAKING OUT AND A DUDE DOING A KEG STAND, WHO FALLS DOWN WITH A THUD.

Skip and his buddies drink out of red Solo cups.

SKIP

What's in this?

FROSTY

Fruit soaked in Everclear and Kool-Aid. The fruit is the best part.

Skip bites an apple piece, makes a bitter face, then continues to eat it.

Ryan walks with Paul and Ted into the party YELLING.

RYAN

Who's ready to rumble?!

Ryan eyes a GIRL and starts to grind with her.

PAUL
(to Ted)
Just pretend you don't know him.

DISSOLVE TO
LATER

Natalie and Jen sit on a couch and talk.

JEN
(buzzed)
I gotta go to the ladies room.

She gets up and leaves Natalie alone. Ryan, Skip and Frosty walk up to her.

RYAN
(drunk)
Nat, say hello to my little friends.

Natalie and Skip exchange hellos.

RYAN (CONT'D)
I'll be right back.

NATALIE
He's kinda crazy tonight.

SKIP
I know. Entertaining, nonetheless.

NATALIE
How do you know him?

SKIP
We had a class together. Sociology.
And yourself?

NATALIE
Through my roommate. She's the one
in the corner making out with Paul.

SKIP'S POV

Jen and Paul are involved in a drunken session of tonsil hockey. They think they're being discreet in hiding in the corner, but a few PARTIERS stop to point at them.

SKIP

I didn't know Paul hung out with a girl for more than a day. Good for him. Want something to drink?

NATALIE

(bored)

No thanks. I'm not much of a drinker. Or partier.

FROSTY

Wanna see me pull a rabbit out of my pants?

NATALIE

Not really. I think I'm going to head on home.

Natalie gets off the couch and walks away from the boys.

SKIP

(to Frosty)

Don't be so weird!

FROSTY

You were striking out, so I had to say something interesting.

A GIRL walks up to the guys.

GIRL

I'd like to see you pull a rabbit out of your pants.

Skip smirks at Frosty, who's floored at the female attention.

FROSTY

(loosens his belt)

Oh yeah?

GIRL

But only if your friend does it.

Skip practically chokes on his beverage.

EXT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Natalie walks outside and sees Ryan sitting alone on the stoop smoking a cigarette. His hair is mussed up and sweaty. He can barely hold his head up.

NATALIE

Ryan?

RYAN
(looking up)
Nat! You taking off?

NATALIE
Yeah, I'm tired. Not really my
scene.

RYAN
(starts to get up)
Let me walk you.

NATALIE
I don't think you're in any
condition to go anywhere.

RYAN
I'm just pretending to be smashed.

NATALIE
Sure you are. I actually rode my
bike, but thanks for the offer.

RYAN
Isn't it a little cold to be riding
a bike?

NATALIE
Not really. I enjoy the cool breeze
against my frozen face.
(beat)
So how are you really doing?

RYAN
Don't have a girlfriend anymore,
don't know what I'm going to do
with the rest of my life. I'm fine.

NATALIE
(smiling)
You'll be all right. Things will
work out.

Skip stumbles outside with the same GIRL he was talking to
earlier.

RYAN
Skippy, you leaving?

SKIP
I'm just gonna walk her home. I'll
be back.

RYAN

I'll see you on Tuesday for coffee.

Skip holds the girl's hand and stumbles down the street.

RYAN (CONT'D)

He's a good kid. Well, I guess I'll see ya later. Ride safe.

Natalie holds out her hand as Ryan grabs it to pull himself up. A connection is made when their eyes meet for a brief second.

INT. GIRL'S APT. - CONTINUOUS

Skip and the girl walk into her dimly lit apartment.

SKIP

You live in an apartment?

GIRL

I'm a senior.

SKIP

(surprised)
Older woman.

GIRL

My roommates are gone for the weekend. Hang out a little bit?

SKIP

(uncertain)
I don't know.

GIRL

Don't worry, I'll be gentle.

Skip tentatively takes her hand and proceeds to follow her into the bedroom.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Skip nervously sits next to the girl on her bed.

GIRL

Want something to drink?

SKIP

I'm fine, thanks.

The girl moves closer and places her hand on his knee.

GIRL
Then how about something else.

SKIP
Like a peanut butter and jelly sandwich?

GIRL
Kind of.

She grabs Skip and is all over him like bees to honey. She throws him on the bed and begins to unbutton his shirt.

SKIP
(freaked)
Aren't we moving a little fast? I don't even know your name.

GIRL
Kelly.

SKIP
It's nice to officially meet you, Kelly.

She grabs a condom from her night stand drawer.

KELLY
I've never done it with a freshman before!

SKIP
Neither have I.

Seconds later she's on top of him, now with her shirt off and bra still on. Skip's in for a real treat.

DORM HALLWAY - DAY

Skip, still wearing last night's ruffled clothes, gets to his door and takes out his keys, but the coast isn't clear-- Frosty and Brian ambush Skip at the door.

FROSTY
What happened last night?

BRIAN
(teasing, voice raised)
I heard you went home with a girl!

SKIP

I did.

FROSTY

And?

The guys hang on every word he says.

SKIP

We kind of well, yunno...

FROSTY

Your V-Card? Way to go, man!

BRIAN

How was it?

SKIP

(defensive)

I don't want to talk about it.

BRIAN

Was it that bad? Did you squirt your dead kids all over her?

FROSTY

Give her a rim job?

SKIP

Look, I'm trying to figure out how I feel about it, so leave me alone.

FROSTY

Sorry, buddy. It's a big deal and we want you to share it with us. We also want to know because we have sick minds.

BRIAN

Yeah, I have so many questions. Did you get her off? Did she get you off? Are you going to see her again? Do older women breathe heavier?

SKIP

I appreciate the concern but this time I'm not saying anything.

Skip walks into his room and shuts out his friends.

INT. SKIP'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Skip throws himself onto his bed. He grabs his phone and dials.

SKIP

(on phone)

Hi Kelly, this is Skip Schoolnik from last night. I, um, had a nice time. I wanted to call and apologize if I was weird or something. I had a little too much to drink, and I don't want you to think I'm the type of person who goes around taking advantage of cool chicks like yourself. But, if you'd like to hang out again, give me a ring. If not, I'm okay with it. As long as you are. Okay, have a good day.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Skip and Ryan converse over coffee. There are couches and tables for students to study and hang out. Several STUDENTS vacantly stare into their laptops.

RYAN

How are classes?

SKIP

If I went maybe I'd know.

Ryan gives him a "I told you so" look.

SKIP (CONT'D)

It's too cold to go to class.

RYAN

Wait till spring quarter. You'll want to play outside all day. Focus on studying, not becoming a drunk like me.

SKIP

(shifting in his seat)

Can I tell you something personal?

RYAN

Shoot.

SKIP

The other night at the party I went home with that girl. One thing led to another.

RYAN

Your first time?

SKIP

Yeah.

RYAN

How do you feel?

SKIP

Strange. I know I'll never see her again.

RYAN

First time is always weird.

SKIP

Was yours with Becca?

RYAN

No. Second time was Becca. I was her first. At least that's what she told me.

SKIP

Speaking of Becca...

RYAN

You had to ask. I've talked to her a couple of times. Briefly. I think she's good.

SKIP

And you?

RYAN

It takes time to get over your heart being shattered into a million pieces. I'm not bitter or anything.

SKIP

Sorry.

RYAN

Eh, it's better to get over it now than later.

(MORE)

RYAN (CONT'D)

She'll eventually realize I'm the best thing to ever happen to her, but by then I'll be on top of someone else.

SKIP

Relationships are overrated. People put too much pressure on them.

RYAN

Sometimes I think it's better to be alone. Or be like Paul and have no attachments to anyone. Just go from girl to girl.

SKIP

We're not like that, though.

RYAN

Aren't we a pair: you're failing out of school and I have no direction. At least I have my health.

(jokingly coughs)

In the immortal words of Nas:
"Life's a bitch and then you die."

SKIP

Poetry. Sheer poetry.

TITLE CARD: SPRING QUARTER

A palm tree swaying in the springtime breeze DISSOLVES into a maple tree in full bloom.

INT. LOBBY - DAY

Skip opens his mailbox and takes out a few envelopes. He looks at one and rips it open. His face falls as he reads it. Not good news.

INT. FROSTY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Skip and Frosty stand in front of a mirror and observe themselves dressed in khakis, button down shirts, preppy blazers and wing tip shoes. Either they are attending a cotillion or a polo match.

FROSTY

How's my bow tie?

SKIP

A little weird but fine.

FROSTY

Bugs Bunny has always brought me good luck. You ready for this?

SKIP

As ready as I'll ever be.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Skip and Frosty nervously walk uptown, not saying a word. They approach a house with Greek letters positioned on the exterior.

SKIP

I don't know why you talked me into rushing a fraternity. I'm not cut out for it.

FROSTY

Yes you are! Just think: you'll be earning brothers, free beer, lots of sorority chicks, study manuals, an unlimited supply of jorts to borrow.

SKIP

What if they don't like me?

FROSTY

(pinching Skip's cheek)
How can someone not like you? But don't talk about anything stupid.

SKIP

Like what?

FROSTY

Like your cat or your love of foreign films.

EXT. FRAT HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Skip and Frosty join other hopeful and anxious RUSHEES at the door to the house.

The door opens and a FRAT GUY ushers the men inside.

SKIP
(nervous sigh)
Here we go!

INT. SKIP'S ROOM - NIGHT

Skip and Frosty munch on slices of pizza and Cokes.

FROSTY
(gesticulating wildly)
They were so cool! I love the house, despite the asbestos thing. Their formal is going to be in Canada! How fun is that? The drinking age is 19 up there!

SKIP
(unamused)
It was okay. I don't think I impressed them very much.

FROSTY
You didn't talk about Mr. Squiggles, did you? I told you to just be yourself.

SKIP
That's the problem.

FROSTY
Then be feisty like me.

SKIP
That's another problem.

FROSTY
(shaking head)
You're fucked, buddy.

SKIP
How important are grades to these guys?

FROSTY
Just as long as you pass. Why?

SKIP
My G.P.A. is currently below a 3.0. I got a notice saying my scholarship may be revoked if I don't improve.

FROSTY
Welcome to the club. Want that last
slice of pizza?

SKIP
Go ahead.

INT. RYAN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Ryan paces his room and picks up the phone. Then, he puts it down. Without another thought, he quickly picks it up and dials.

RYAN
(on phone)
Hi, Natalie? It's Ryan. I'm good,
and yourself? So, I was wondering
if you wanted to maybe hang out
tomorrow night. Maybe grab a drink
and/or a bite at the Uptown Tavern?
(pauses)
Okay, great. Wanna meet there
around 6? Okay, see you then.

Ryan hangs up the phone. Relief washes over him.

RYAN (CONT'D)
(to himself)
Back in the saddle again.

INT. FRAT HOUSE - NIGHT

Frosty and Skip are back for round two. The living room is flooded with potential PLEDGES and FRAT BOYS engaged in light conversation. The room's also overloaded with khaki pants.

Skip sits on a worn couch and talks to a FRAT GUY.

FRAT GUY
What's your major, Skip?

SKIP
Right now it's English but I'm
thinking about changing it to film.
I want to make movies.

FRAT GUY
Really? Fascinating. You like
foreign films?

SKIP

Um, not really. They're a bit pretentious.

FRAT GUY

Huh. I actually think they're better than American films.

SKIP

So do I! I mean, I only lied because my friend told me not to talk about it. Geez, I'm messing this up, aren't I?

FRAT GUY

(laughing)

Don't worry! You're doing great. Actually, none of the brothers know how much I love Truffaut. They're all convinced Michael Bay is my favorite director. Figures.

SKIP

If you feel like you can't be who you are, then why be in this frat?

FRAT GUY

Interesting point, Skip. I guess the booze and the women trump French films!

Skip feigns a smile and shifts uneasily in his seat.

SKIP'S POV

Across the room he spots Frosty making a group of FRAT GUYS burst into laughter. At least someone belongs here.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Skip and Frosty walk along Frat Row in silence.

SKIP

(breaking silence)

You had those guys in stitches. What was so funny?

FROSTY

Oh, I told them that story how I made Ensure come out my grandma's nose. How did it go for you?

SKIP

Not so good. I don't think I'm going to join a frat.

Frosty stops dead in his tracks.

FROSTY

What? We were gonna be brothers together.

SKIP

Look, they just seem so phony to me. I don't want to be a part of that.

FROSTY

Bad news, brother--I accepted a bid tonight. I'm gonna be a Theta Beta Mu.

SKIP

Well, congrats. That's...great.

FROSTY

You'd think you could be a little happier for me.

SKIP

Yeah, sorry, man. I just had a disappointing night. Let's go back home and crack open a case of Natty Lite to celebrate.

INT. APT. - DAY

Jen sits on the couch mindlessly flipping through TV channels. Nat walks out wearing makeup and a casual dress.

Jen turns and does a double take. She's never seen Nat so formal before.

JEN

Whoa, hot date with your biology book tonight?

NATALIE

Ha, very funny.

(awkward pause)

Actually, if you must know, I'm meeting Ryan for cocktails.

Jen jumps to her feet in excitement and runs over to Nat, grabs her and jumps up and down.

JEN
YOU'RE GOING ON YOUR FIRST DATE?!

NATALIE
(pushing Jen off her)
Yeah, it's not a big deal. He called last night and said we should hang out.

JEN
Why didn't you tell me? I could've done your hair and makeup for you. And given you something to wear.

NATALIE
(defensive)
Hey, what's wrong with how I look?

JEN
Oh, nothing. I didn't mean it that way. It's a bit churchy, but you clean up nicely. I just wanted to be a part of your special night.

NATALIE
It's probably not a big deal. I'm not expecting anything.

JEN
Just be careful. He's still reeling from his breakup--and you're the rebound.

NATALIE
Don't worry, it'll be innocuous.

It's crickets for Jen.

NATALIE (CONT'D)
Innocuous? It means harmless.

JEN
Yeah, I knew that.

Jen calms down and sits back on the couch.

NATALIE
You seeing Paul tonight?

JEN
Nah, we stopped doing what we were doing a couple of days ago.

NATALIE

Sorry to hear that.

JEN

Eh, if you've seen one penis,
you've seen them all.

NATALIE

What are you doing tonight?

JEN

You're looking at it. Probably the
first Friday night since I was 8
years old that I have nothing to
do.

NATALIE

Well, have fun watching reality TV.

JEN

Oh, I will. If you get a chance,
maybe get some dirt on Paul from
Ryan? I'm curious to find out what
whore he's into now.

NATALIE

You got it. Don't wait up.

INT. UPTOWN TAVERN - CONTINUOUS

Ryan, who's equally dressed up, sits next to Natalie at the crowded bar. They sip on draft beers and pick at a plate of mozzarella sticks.

RYAN

Even though I'm graduating in a few weeks, I've been crazy busy. I'm taking 15 hours and then I have my broomball league and Ted's making me watch "Mi Corazon" every day so we can have a weekly discussion on it.

NATALIE

My life right now consists of studying, more studying, applying to med-schools and listening to Jen rant and rave about the "Real Housewives". So, not too different.

RYAN

Jen's a nice girl. It's too bad she and Paul couldn't make it work.

JEN

The longest relationship Jen's ever had was for two weeks during freshman year in high school with her science partner. That ended with a frog in his locker.

RYAN

So, you don't date much?

NATALIE

Not really. I've always lived vicariously through her.

RYAN

There is a lot of freedom to being single. I think I'm enjoying this period.

NATALIE

There are some merits to being in a relationship, I suppose. Everyone eventually settles down.

RYAN

I'm not ready for that. I want a career first.

NATALIE

Your degree is in business?

RYAN

Something like that.

NATALIE

So what are you going to do come June?

RYAN

Get really drunk, wake up the next day and do whatever pops into my mind.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ryan walks Natalie into his humble abode. For once all is quiet and no one is around. They plop down on his tattered couch.

RYAN

You want a drink?

NATALIE

Sure.

RYAN

Beer okay?

NATALIE

Yeah.

Ryan walks into the kitchen and a few beats later emerges with two cold ones.

He sits next to her on the couch, but not too close.

RYAN

What do you think of the place?

NATALIE

It's...interesting. Especially that poster of the Confederate flag bikini woman holding rifles.

RYAN

That's one of my faves. A real work of art. We named her Pamela.

(awkward pause)

Wanna watch a movie or something?

NATALIE

Sure.

While holding a beer, Ryan flips on the TV and scrolls through the channels. Five-hundred channels and nothing's on.

RYAN

What do you usually watch?

NATALIE

Jen's constantly watching reality TV. If I have my druthers, a nice documentary will do.

RYAN

Ah, here's one on the collapse of civilization.

NATALIE

That'll work.

They stare at the TV, neither really interested on what's happening on the screen. Slowly, still watching the tube, Ryan places his non-beer hand on her knee. She doesn't remove it. A beat later they look at each other and lean in for a kiss.

RYAN
That was nice.

NATALIE
Yeah, that was.

They go back for more. Now they're hot and heavy, bundled into one. He pulls Natalie on top of him and he unzips the back of her dress.

NATALIE (CONT'D)
(stopping him)
Um, I don't think we should take this any further.

RYAN
(embarrassed)
Fuck, I'm sorry. I shouldn't have--

NATALIE
No, it's okay. That was nice.
(pauses)
Maybe I should go. It's late.

RYAN
Are you sure?

NATALIE
God, sorry. I ruined the night.

RYAN
No, you're great to hang out with.
If you want, we can just hang out and not do anything.

NATALIE
Is that all right? I thought I'd be okay with it, but I'm just not there yet. You're a great guy, Ryan, really. I just don't want to be some rebound. And you're graduating and med-school...

RYAN
No, it's totally cool. No worries. But thank God this documentary was boring or else we wouldn't have done anything.

The two share a laugh.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Skip attentively listens to his TEACHER lecture in a small-sized classroom. The lecture ends, and she passes out the papers they wrote. She hands him his with a smile: a B+. Skip pockets the paper and walks out of class.

DORM HALLWAY - DAY

Skip runs into Frosty, who's dressed in a navy blazer and khakis--his Rush attire.

SKIP

Howdy stranger, where have you been?

FROSTY

Ugh, it's Pledge Week, aka hazing. Last night I stayed at the house so my so-called brothers could douse me with hot candle wax. It actually felt good.

SKIP

You aren't mad that I didn't join?

FROSTY

Don't sweat it. Frats aren't for everyone. Really, they're nice once you get over the hot wax thing and the rape thing and get to know them.

SKIP

Just making sure. We gonna hang sometime soon? Lately it's just been me listening to Brian fart the "National Anthem" and hearing him talk endlessly about "Doctor Who".

FROSTY

Sorry, man. I think in a couple of weeks things will be less stressful.

(pauses)

I have something to tell you.

(inhales)

I'm gay.

Skip is nonplused.

FROSTY (CONT'D)

Just kidding. Or am I? So I know we talked about the three of living together next year, but a room just opened up in the house and I'm gonna take it. Is that okay?

SKIP

(hiding disappointment)

Yeah, that's cool. You'll be so far away, though.

FROSTY

Not really. Just a few blocks away. You can come to all our parties and come over whenever you want.

SKIP

Just as long as we can continue the tradition of Not Taco Tuesday.

FROSTY

You betcha! What are you up to tonight?

SKIP

Studying. Gotta ace my finals.

FROSTY

I need to get around to that. What's in store for the summer?

SKIP

Hanging out at home. Nothing exciting. I'm just afraid my family won't recognize me anymore. I feel like I can't relate to anyone back home. And there's that stupid curfew my mom enacted. I have to be home at eleven every night! Assholes.

FROSTY

Those assholes love you. Even though you've changed, you're still the same little Skippy in their eyes.

SKIP

Maybe you're right. It's been such a great year and I hate to see it end.

FROSTY
The best year ever.

Skip sentimentally hugs Frosty, knowing it will never be the same between them again.

EXT. BONG HILL - DAY

Ted and Ryan run up a steep incline that overlooks a river and the rest of the campus. At the top, the guys SCREAM and jump up and down triumphantly.

Ted heaves out of breath; Ryan feels energized.

TED
(heaving)
Shit man, I ain't no athlete.

RYAN
Sorry about that, but look at the view from here!

RYAN'S POV

The town looks smaller from above but still has a vastness to it.

TED
I can see our house from here. Ever wonder why they call it the Hocking River? Does that mean someone "hocked" a loogie in it?

RYAN
I'm afraid to find out what is in that river.
(reflective)
Been a good year, huh?

TED
I smoked the best pot this year.
Now what?

RYAN
I wish I knew.

TED
I want to be like the river:
meandering in and out of places
with no direction or meaning. Wait,
I already do that.

RYAN
How philosophical.

TED
If you like that, you'll love this:
"The future is uncertain, but the
only thing that is certain is
anything can happen."

RYAN
That's really good, Ted! You make
it up?

TED
Yep, on the spot. And I was only a
little stoned!

RYAN
Fuck, I'm gonna miss this decrepit,
isolating hell hole.

TED
You could always stay.

RYAN
Gotta face the real world at some
point. Might as well be now.

TED
What's another year?

RYAN
It'd be another year of boring
classes and fucking nothing to do
all night. I'm ready to move on.
It's time.

TED
Wherever you go you have to promise
me you'll watch "Mi Corazon". I'll
be calling every week for
discussion time.

RYAN
I promise. Yunno, since you watch
so much Spanish TV, ever consider
doing that for a job? Maybe being a
translator?

TED
Maybe, but the only things I know
how to say in Spanish are "Dónde
están mis pantalones?" and "Lo que
es una puta."

RYAN

I think that's good enough.

INT./EXT. BURRITO BUGGY - NIGHT

Jen stands inside the Burrito Buggy, aka a food trailer parked on the street. It's emblazed in festive Mexican colors and has a big sombrero on top of the truck.

She converses with a CUSTOMER standing at the truck's window and jots down his order on a pad of paper. That person moves and the next person in line steps up to the counter: Paul

JEN

Hi drunk. What are you doing here?
Run out of bimbos?

PAUL

I'd like a burrito. And you.

JEN

Sorry, hon, I'm not on the menu.

PAUL

That's too bad. I'm really hungry.
And horny.

JEN

I can give you a burrito but
nothing else.

PAUL

(reading from a piece of
paper)

Jen, I just want you to know
besides loving your tits and your
fine fine ass and enjoying sticking
my cock inside you over and over
again, I also think you're fun.
You're a cool chick. I want to be
around you again.

JEN

(choked up)

You really mean that part about my
ass?

Paul nods in agreement.

JEN (CONT'D)

That's the nicest thing any guy has
ever said to me, including my dad.
Thank you.

PAUL

Cool. So, can I still get that burrito? And maybe some nookie tonight?

JEN

Sure thing, amigo.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Natalie, dressed in pajamas, walks into the kitchen and opens the fridge. She hears VOICES in the hallway and goes to inspect.

HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

She spies Jen kissing Paul good-bye, as he walks through the hallway to their front door.

Jen lets Paul out and stands there glowing.

NATALIE

So, you guys are back together?

JEN

Apparently he really likes me. And burritos.

The pair walk to the kitchen.

KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Jen opens a bag of bagels and puts one on her plate and another on Natalie's. Natalie sits on a bar stool.

NATALIE

Are you guys officially a couple?

JEN

Remember, we don't do that sort of thing. We're together, but not together together. But, he did ask me to move in with him.

NATALIE

What? That's pretty serious for people who aren't serious about each other.

JEN

He wants me as a roommate, because Ryan's moving out. Ted wants his pot dealer to move in but Paul thinks it's a bad idea.

NATALIE

What are you going to do? You really want to leave this nice apartment for their dirty place?

JEN

I always wanted to live with messy, beer guzzling men. I don't know. What do you think? I don't want to ditch you.

NATALIE

Yunno, I think I'll be okay with living alone. Next year will be my toughest year. Alone time will do me good. Plus I can bring all the guys home I want without judgement.

JEN

Ha. If you did that I'd disown you! You're not dating anyone without my approval.

NATALIE

The Ryan debacle taught me I'm not ready for romance.

JEN

We're late bloomers. I'm just beginning to realize I might actually want a real boyfriend.

Jen takes a bite out of the bagel then throws it down in disgust.

JEN (CONT'D)

I feel so gross. You wanna work out?

NATALIE

Not really.

INT. RYAN'S ROOM - DAY

Ryan comfortably lies on his bed and reads a textbook. The phone RINGS and he picks up the phone.

RYAN
(on phone)
Hello?

REBECCA (V.O.)
Hi, Ryan.

RYAN
Becca. Hi, how are you?

REBECCA (V.O.)
Good. Studying for finals.

RYAN
Me, too.

REBECCA (V.O.)
Then you'll be done with school.
What are you doing this summer?

RYAN
Going home for a bit and then
rafting in Colorado with the guys.
I applied for some jobs out of
state. We'll see what happens.

REBECCA (V.O.)
You dating anyone?

RYAN
No...you?

REBECCA (V.O.)
I was.
(Ryan winces)
It didn't work out. So maybe since
we'll both be around for the
summer...

RYAN
You want to get back together?

REBECCA (V.O.)
No, I mean, I don't know. Maybe try
hanging out as friends. Catch an
Indians game or something.
I've...missed you.

RYAN
Thanks for thinking of me. That
sounds nice but I don't think
that's a good idea.

The other line is filled with silence. That isn't what Becca wants to hear.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Sorry if that sounded harsh but I'm finally in a good place. It took me a long time to get here and I don't want to get messed up all over again.

REBECCA (V.O.)

Right. Well, I just wanted to check in with you. I gotta get back to the books.

RYAN

I appreciate the call. Maybe I'll see ya around.

REBECCA (V.O.)

Totally. Take care. Congrats with graduating. Good luck with everything.

RYAN

Thanks.

Becca's line clicks. Ryan sits there with mixed emotions of confusion and bittersweetness, but also realizes he is over her. He smiles to himself at his smooth handling with the ex.

SPLIT SCREEN

INT. CLASSROOMS - DAY

Natalie, Ryan and Skip simultaneously take final exams in their respective classrooms.

Natalie nervously chews on the end of a pencil.

Skip struggles through his test searching the room for an answer he knows he won't find.

Ryan furiously scribbles sentences on his paper. He finishes the test, turns it in and leaves.

EXT. BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Ryan runs out of the building and rejoices by throwing his arms in the air.

RYAN
 (hollering)
 I'm fucking done with school
 forever!

A PASSERBY slow claps his actions.

DORM HALLWAY - DAY

Skip, wearing his book bag, walks down the hallway and KNOCKS on Frosty's door. He turns the unlocked knob and goes inside.

INT. FROSTY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

SKIP
 Hey guys, I--

Skip suspends himself mid-sentence and stares in awe at the walls.

FROSTY
 You like it? Brian and I stayed up
 all night doing it.

Skip's eyes stare in amazement of sheets of poster board covering the walls. The posters have words and sentences written on them. Have they gone mad or is this art?

SKIP
 What is this?

FROSTY
 We made a list of the 100 most
 interesting things that happened
 to our group this year.

Skip walks closer and reads from the lists.

SKIP
 "Number One: Skip getting drunk and
 laid."
 (smiles)
 Aren't those really two things?
 "Number 5: A rim job is..."

Skip turns and gives Frosty a knowing look. Skip and the guys chuckle and grimace.

BRIAN
 "Number 65: Grilled cheeses. Number
 26: The girl on the third floor."

SKIP

This is so great.

FROSTY

When are you leaving?

SKIP

Tomorrow morning. My parents are meeting me to help pack my car and then taking me to see the world's largest washboard an hour from here. Tonight I'm going to Ryan's grad party. You guys wanna come?

FROSTY

I gotta stop by the frat house.

BRIAN

And I'm leaving tonight.

FROSTY

So, I guess this is good-bye for now.

SKIP

Yeah. We'll e-mail or something.

FROSTY

Of course!

The three exchange a heartfelt embrace but don't let it linger. They are men, after all. What a year it's been.

BRIAN

Skippy will be stuck with myself and my flatulence next year. Jefferson Hall doesn't know what it is in for.

SKIP

I don't even want to think about that right now.

FROSTY

Be good, Skippy. Stay out of trouble. Tell Mr. Squiggles I say, "meow."

SKIP

Will do.

FROSTY/BRIAN

(unison)

See ya, shithead!

Skip turns away and leaves his memories behind.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Ryan, Paul and Ted host a loud and raucous party. Over twenty PARTYGOERS mill around their living room drinking an assortment of spirits.

Ryan's dons a fake Olympic medal around his neck, a tiara with his graduation tassel dangling from it, and holds a stein of beer. He's obviously had a few celebratory refreshments. Sporadically someone walks up to him and gives him a shot of something.

Skip, without a beverage, approaches Ryan.

RYAN

Skippy! Glad you could make it. How were your finals?

SKIP

I think I did well enough to pass and keep my scholarship.

RYAN

Fuck, yeah! Get this man a beverage. We have a keg, wine, peach schnapps, Goldschläger, Mad Dog, tequila. Everything but Boone's Farm--Ted drank all of it.

SKIP

I'll probably just get a beer from the keg.

Skip walks toward the kitchen and waves hello to Paul, Jen and Natalie, who are huddled away from the fray.

JEN

(to Natalie)

You better go over there and at least congratulate him.

Natalie finds her courage and saunters over to Ryan. She taps him on his shoulder, and he swings around.

At first he goes for putting his hand on her shoulder but then he ends up awkwardly giving her a half hug.

RYAN

Nat, good to see you.

NATALIE

Nice tiara.

RYAN

Thanks! It makes me feel like Miss America.

NATALIE

Congrats on graduating, too.

RYAN

It's a nice feeling. There were times I didn't think it would happen. How have you been?

NATALIE

Okay. I'm just glad it's all over.

RYAN

Wanna do a shot with me?

NATALIE

Oh, no. That's okay.

RYAN

C'mon!

(chanting)

Shots, shots, shots.

Natalie acquiesces and the two take their red Solo cups filled with an unknown substance and shoot it down their throats.

Natalie makes a face and coughs.

RYAN (CONT'D)

See, that wasn't so bad.

NATALIE

I'm going to get a chaser.

RYAN

Okay. Thanks for doing that with me.

This time Ryan finds his footing, leans in and kisses her on the cheek. Natalie blushes but then a smile creeps across her face.

RYAN (CONT'D)

(to no one in particular)

I need a cig.

EXT. PORCH - CONTINUOUS

Ryan stands on the porch with a beer in hand and clumsily lights a cigarette. Muffled noise from the party trickles outside, where a few PARTY REVELERS drink and smoke with Ryan.

Ryan plants himself on the stairs and looks up into the nighttime sky, lost in thought.

PAUL

What are you doing out here? The party's inside.

RYAN

Just thinking, being nostalgic. I can't believe four years have gone by like that.

(snaps fingers)

PAUL

Seems like yesterday we were two lost freshmen trying to find a class together.

RYAN

I remember that day. What dorks we were.

PAUL

How did we meet Ted?

RYAN

He was on our floor and I think we just felt sorry for him.

They nod in recognition.

PAUL

Won't be the same without you, Searcy. You better come visit.

RYAN

I'll do my best. I'm young and unemployed and won't have anything else to do.

PAUL

You scared?

For the first time all night Ryan looks grave.

RYAN

Yes. I'm scared that I'll never have another perfect moment like tonight. Sure, we'll keep in touch. We'll say we'll visit each other, maybe e-mail...but eventually we'll all get so caught up in life that we won't have time to hang out or be able to call one another. That's what frightens me because it will happen.

PAUL

I know buddy, I know. That's why I'm not ready to leave. You're so brave.

RYAN

What a long strange trip it's been.
(empowered)
The world is mine! I can do anything.

PAUL

You're gonna crush life. I know it.

RYAN

Guess you'll have a new resident next year.

PAUL

Yep. She's already moved some stuff in. She's my Jenny McCarthy, without the weird vaccine issues.
(pauses)
I've never boned a roommate before.

RYAN

Thank God for that.

PAUL

(looking in the distance)
Excuse me for a minute. I'm gonna douse these nice rose bushes with my urine.

Paul walks off screen. A beat later, Skip appears outside.

SKIP

Hey, man, I'm taking off.

RYAN

What? The party's just getting started.

SKIP

I wish I could stay but my folks
will be here at the crack of dawn.

RYAN

Well, good luck this summer and
next year. Stay in touch. Let's
Skype or e-mail or some shit. I'll
try to visit here sometime.

SKIP

Sounds good. Listen man, not to get
all gooey, but thanks for making me
feel a part of something this year.
I mean it. You helped me so much
and I'll never forget it.

RYAN

Fuck me. You're a great kid,
Skippy! We're friends for life. I
love ya, bro.

Ryan attempts to stand up and wobbles for a beat, then gives
Skip a giant bear hug.

SKIP

See ya, Searcy.

Just as Skip walks away, Paul reenters the picture.

PAUL

Are you crying, Searcy?

RYAN

(misty-eyed)

Yeah, I'm crying like a little
bitch.

PAUL

No time for bitch crying. Let's go
drink some Flaming Dr. Peppers.

INT. SKIP'S ROOM - DAY

Skip grabs a couple of books and does a quick sweep of the
now empty residence.

Chad looks up from his packing and nods at Skip.

CHAD

(extending hand)

Thanks for being a good roomie.

Skip quizzically looks at Chad but shakes his hand anyway.

CHAD (CONT'D)

I know we didn't always agree, but
you're all right, Schoolnik.

SKIP

(smiles)

Yeah, you too. I'll see ya around
next year. Have a great summer.

EXT. DORM BUILDING - DAY

Skip walks out of the building toward his car. He reflectively looks at the building as voices from the past year echo in his head.

His parents help load boxes into the car, and Mrs. Schoolnik hugs him tight and messes up his hair. Time to go home.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Nat and Jen carry boxes into the boys' shared bathroom. Hanging above the toilet is a glossy 8 x 10 framed photo of Ryan passed out on a toilet, with the inscription "In Memoriam" etched into the frame.

The girls laugh at the shrine.

INT. FROSTY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Frosty and Brian play Atari in an otherwise empty room.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Ryan places his final belongings into his car. It's loaded to the brim and he can barely see out.

Paul and Ted, who along with Ryan, are hungover and sit on the porch and nurse mugs of coffee.

PAUL

That was a rager to end all ragers.

TED

I think I blacked out. I don't
remember anything from 10 p.m. and
on.

PAUL
So you don't remember showing
everyone your peen?

TED
What? No, you're lying. Or are you?

RYAN
(handing the guys a box)
This is it, men. I bequeath you my
porn collection, my recipe for pot
brownies and my Bill Murray golf
shorts.

The guys grab the box and look through it.

PAUL
You're really leaving us, huh?

RYAN
Yep. You gotta go sometime.

TED
Unless you don't.

Jen walks outside, winces at the sunlight and sits next to
her paramour.

JEN
I don't feel well.

RYAN
Jen, take care of Paul for me.

JEN
(seductive winking)
Oh, you know I will.

TED
(near tears)
I can't stand good-byes. I'll be
seeing you.

Ted gives Ryan a quick hug and sits back down.

PAUL
(to Ted)
What are you so upset about? You'll
see him in two weeks for the
rafting trip.

TED
Yeah, but it's still sad.

PAUL
(stands up)
Mr. Searcy: It's been real.

Paul gives his now ex-roommate a fast but forceful good-bye hug.

RYAN
Thanks for everything, boys. Take care.

Ryan gets into his car, drives off and doesn't look back.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Ryan drives through town and observes STUDENTS walking down the street and PEOPLE playing a baseball game in a nearby field.

He looks in his rearview mirror and watches the campus where he triumphed and failed, loved and lost, fade into oblivion.

He drives past the same sign Skip passed on the way into town, but in this direction it reads: "THANKS FOR VISITING UNIVERSITY OF OHIO! COME BACK SOON."

Ryan merges onto the highway and feels a combination of sadness and incertitude, but also knows this was the place where he made friends for life.

AERIAL SHOT OF RYAN'S CAR

Ryan's car drives along the highway, speeds past arbor landscapes and goes toward an unknown destination.

FADE TO BLACK.