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Publication Date 2015

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA RIVERSIDE

Live Forever!

A Thesis submitted in partial satisfaction of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Fine Arts

in

Creative Writing and Writing for the Performing Arts

by

Thomas Brendan Dever

June 2015

Thesis Committee: Professor Joshua Malkin, Co-Chairperson Professor Stu Krieger, Co-Chairperson Professor Bill Rabkin The Thesis of Thomas Brendan Dever is approved:

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University of California, Riverside

TITLE SEQUENCE:

A series of stylized shots in montage

(1) Freshman DAVID, in a high school tennis shirt, unlocks the door to his dorm and sets his stuff on his bunk bed. He meets BEAU, his dorm mate in a Chicago Bears shirt. Beau wants to go uptown and has to physically drag David out of the room to go with him.

(2) Faces of tons of new people flash before Beau and David. Friendly introductions are exchanged. Men and women from all over, all eager to meet you and start over. David is terrified and awkward as Beau introduces him to people, including his girlfriend, Katie.

(3) David stays at home reading as Beau comes back and collapses face down night after night after night. Beau sleeps soundly but David stares at the ceiling.

(4) David holds a stack of Business papers marked with "Cs," which becomes a major change form, which becomes a stack of novels, which becomes a stack of papers marked with "As."

(5) David meets TITUS, a hipster black guy, in his class and they hang out with Beau. David tries on the hipster look. Beau stays in the Bears t-shirt. The three of them start drinking around the dorm and David loosens up a little.

(6) The three of them hang around the dorm with PAUL, an overweight accounting major, and his stack of vinyls. Other people come and go but the four of them sit by the record player, drinking and bonding. Endless nights of them sitting on the floor listening to album after album flows by.

(7) David tries the Gordon Gecko look for a while, bites the bullet and goes out with Beau, where he becomes affixed with ELLE, an angelic blonde from across the room. He sees her regularly at parties but never makes a move until finally, he walks through the sea of dancing drunk people to say "Hey..."

(8) David and Elle study together, which leads to a coffee which leads to a walk which leads to a dinner which leads to a movie which leads to a kiss at the door and then more in her bunk bed. David wears argyle sweaters and khakis.

(7) David, Beau, Titus, and Paul get an apartment. The barren walls fill up with posters. The tables stack up with vinyl records. Beau still has the same damn Bears shirt. David reads long Victorian novels and enjoys a beer at dinner.

(8) They have a get together with three friends, which turns into ten, which turns into twenty, which turns into fifty which turns into a Fiesta, Luau, Halloween and Ho Down.

David wears a loose Hawaiian shirt for a Van Wilder-like look, ending every night with his arm around Elle.

(9) David, Beau and Titus sip beer and puke, chug beer and puke, do mixed drinks and puke, throw back shots and puke, drink a fifth from the bottle... and puke. Beau always eggs David to do more and David obliges.

(10) Elle and David pose for picture after picture on Facebook: at a football game, at a basketball game, at a frat party, during exams. They laugh and make out.

(11) David walks by a frat house with a countdown to graduation poster: it drops from 600 to 400 to 200 days.

(12) Elle starts studying more. She reads and take notes while David listens to music. He laughs in a movie theater while she seems bored. He tells her off when he's drunk and walks away into a crowd of people.

(13) David and the other three sit listening to music until 1:00 AM, until 2:00 AM, until 4:00 AM, until the sun rises. Pizza, Doritos, solo cups, Pizza, Doritos, solo cups. Beau goes through a phase of returning home shirtless with bruises.

(14) David checks his phone: lots of unreturned texts and calls to Elle. He puts the phone away and jams to music with the other three. Stacks of classic literature form on his bedside table and he tries out the brooding stocking cap type.

(15) Elle calls David over. She says something we cannot hear. He reaches for her face but she turns away. He storms out. Beau makes up with Katie and promises to quit his fighting ways.

(16) Beau gets in to law school. David lifts up a glass of alcohol and sees it spilled on his application to graduate. He ignores "end of the year" signs on campus, friends packing up their cars, belongings being placed into boxes, and the posters coming down.

(17) David walks through all of the freshmen moving out of their dorms. He passes the frat house and sees the poster dropping to the ground. The football stadium is set up for graduation and...

END TITLE SEQUENCE

INT. DAVID'S BEDROOM DAY

All of the photos from the title sequence, along with wristbands from bars and mementos have been placed inside a shoebox. David stares down at them.

David flips through a few photos of Elle, dropping all but one in the box. He holds the last one in his hand.

PHOTO: David with his arm around Elle, drinks in hand, laughing and looking genuinely happy.

David keeps this photo as he heads for the living room. His graduation cap and gown, still in plastic, hang from the back of his door.

INT. LIVING ROOM DAY

David enters: the chamber that was once a sanctum of classic music and parties is now barren. The walls are blank and everything is packed up in boxes.

PAUL sits on the floor in front of a huge stack of vinyl records while BEAU and TITUS play X-Box on the couch.

BEAU

David get in here. We're splitting up our record collection and Paul's trying to steal shit.

PAUL

He's lying.

TITUS

Watching you three divide your music is like watching you decide which limb to cut off.

David grabs a drink from the fridge and reaches for the records. Paul slaps his hand.

PAUL I have a system. Don't ruin it.

DAVID I'm not doing that shit. You two can have them all.

Beau presses pause.

BEAU

You don't even want the vintage copy of Free Your Mind and Your Ass Will Follow that we drove ninety minutes to find?

David shrugs.

BEAU (CONT'D)

Dibs then.

Paul pulls up a stack of CDs.

PAUL

Muse. Green Day. The Killers. Tacky shit. Tacky shit. Tacky shit. We'll call this the "Titus Pile."

TITUS

Fuck you.

David steps away from the proceedings into the kitchen.

PAUL

This Can is mine.

BEAU No way, dude. I introduced you to Can.

Paul angrily raises the vinyl cover.

PAUL

I bought this copy of Tago Mago Memorial Day Weekend 2008 at Bogart's in Cincinnati after reading their online catalog. It's my fucking Can.

Paul sets the cover down in his pile.

PAUL (CONT'D) You introduced me to Captain Beefhart.

David looks over the photo as he grabs a drink.

TITUS

You alright, David?

DAVID

Yeah sorry I got my last class in like ten minutes.

PAUL Sweet merciful God whose copy of Neil Diamond's The Jazz Singer is this?

David grabs the record from him and sets the photo on the table.

DAVID Oh shit. I bought this for Elle for her birthday and never gave it to her.

PAUL

Lucky her.

Beau notices the picture on the table and pulls it towards him. David pulls the picture back and folds it into his back pocket.

The other three look at each other.

TITUS Is she going back to New York?

DAVID Yeah. I mean I think. I don't know.

A beat.

BEAU Are you really gonna pick that scab, David?

David sees what time it is.

DAVID

Damn, I'm gonna be late. Can you guys be done with your depressing shit by the time I get back?

David heads for the door.

INT. LECTURE HALL DAY

The hall is full of STUDENTS itching to start their summer vacation. David enters, sets his paper on the desk at the front of the room and looks for a seat.

He approaches a desk where two POETRY GIRLS are talking.

POETRY GIRL

It's crazy it's like we might never see each other again.

David swerves and heads towards two UNDERCLASSMEN.

UNDERCLASSMAN Feels like we just moved in yesterday. We'll probably be graduating before we know it.

David swerves again, scanning the room. He sees a cluster of JOCKS and sits in a desk near them.

JOCK Azar Nafisi has a quote: "You get a strange feeling when you leave a place..."

David throws his head back, exasperated. He grabs his things and grabs the most remote desk in the corner of the room. He buries his face in his book.

The classroom simmers as PROFESSOR TEAGUE (70s), a dusty academic, walks into the room. He grabs the stack of papers.

TEAGUE

I won't keep you any longer than I need to. I know you're all counting down the seconds to summer.

David closes his book. Thank God.

TEAGUE (CONT'D)

But first I wanted to read a passage that I have read on the last day of class every year for the past fiftyseven years.

David slouches down and pulls his book back out.

Teague clears his throat and begins reading Lincoln's Lyceum Address.

David tries to ignore Teague, reading his book, but he can't focus. He looks down at the Poetry Girls, who are dabbing tears away from their eyes.

TEAGUE (CONT'D)

And all the armies of Europe could not by force take a drink from the Ohio River or set a trap on the blue ridge!

David looks out the windows and sees CLUSTERS OF STUDENTS posing for pictures with their PARENTS and having tearful goodbyes.

TEAGUE (CONT'D)

If destruction be our lot, we ourselves must be its author and finisher. As a nation of free men, we will live forever, or die by suicide.

David sees a row of cars drive by, all loaded up with boxes as campus empties out.

TEAGUE (CONT'D)

I've read that exact passage to your brothers and sisters, your mothers and fathers, and some of you, dare I say, your grandmothers and grandfathers.

David looks up at the clock, which seems to be ticking faster than normal.

TEAGUE (CONT'D) And that is the last time I will read it since I will be retiring in (checks his watch) just a couple of minutes.

A POLITE LAUGH from the classroom.

TEAGUE (CONT'D)

So let me teach you a final lesson: Cherish this night. It is the last time in your life that you will feel completely, totally and relentlessly young. And I know anyone who was ever once in your shoes who doesn't miss that feeling very much.

A pregnant pause. David is grinding this out.

TEAGUE (CONT'D)

You... are dismissed.

The Students throw their papers into the air and head for the exits. David grabs his things and tries to slip out with them, but Teague stops him and pulls him back in.

TEAGUE (CONT'D)

I wanted a chance to say farewell and wish you good, luck.

Teague extends a hearty handshake, which David returns. David tries to leave but Teague still has his hand.

TEAGUE (CONT'D)

I've been doing this for almost six decades, David, and I can honestly say that few students have shown the growth and potential and commitment to the academic process you have for the past four years.

DAVID

Thanks, I...

TEAGUE

I haven't had a chance to ask what you're doing for work.

DAVID Yeah I'm not, I haven't really thought that far ahead yet.

David tugs his arm but Teague continues to shake.

TEAGUE

Oh I see. Traveling at all?

DAVID

Just hanging around for a little. Maybe stay in school.

TEAGUE

Ah a graduate program?

DAVID

Yeah, sure.

TEAGUE Which schools have you...?

David frees his hand.

DAVID

Hey thanks for everything. I'll see you around, okay?

Teague goes to speak but David quickly exits.

EXT. BUS STOP DAY

David sits on the bench reading his book, distracted by two FRESHMEN GIRLS nearby.

VALLEY GIRL They're doing this like pub crawl thing but I kind wanna just go to Stadium.

DEBBIE DOWNER

I don't want to pay a cover. What if we just go to Brick Street like always?

David finally closes his book and pops in.

DAVID

Look, you two seem like nice girls so I'm going to help you out: you know who goes to Stadium and Brick Street?

The girls stare back.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Freshmen. And you're not freshmen anymore. Go to CJ's or Di Palo's or a grown up bar. You've graduated.

VALLEY GIRL

Thanks?

DAVID

Or you could...

A FRATERNITY BROTHER (21), blue blazer and khakis, steps between the girls and hands them a flier.

FRAT BRO

Looking for something to do, ladies? Bring this with you to Phi Ep House. And tell your friends.

The Frat Bro looks at David.

FRAT BRO (CONT'D)

Invitation only.

DAVID

...join the Church of Satan.

The Girls look at the flier. Davis is about to interject when Beau yanks his book out of his hands.

BEAU

Jesus Christ are you still reading this? College is over man. Did you get that memo?

David reaches for the book but Beau shouts to the girls.

BEAU (CONT'D)

Ladies, can you please help my friend? He's reading a book on his summer vacation. I don't know what to do with him.

The Girls giggle as David grabs the book.

BEAU (CONT'D) You can show him a good time tonight, right?

DAVID Katie know you still heckle freshmen girls?

BEAU

To be fair, I think they were hitting on me.

David laughs. Beau jokingly puts an arm around him.

BEAU (CONT'D) CJ's tonight? For the last time, right?

David rolls his eyes.

INT. LIVING ROOM NIGHT

They sit around dishing on music. Everyone drinks except for Paul. Titus wears a Green Day t-shirt.

BEAU

Are you out of your mind? Why would there be an Atoms for Peace album AND a Thom Yorke solo album?

PAUL Because they're two different fucking projects you fucking idiot.

TITUS You do hear yourselves correct?

BEAU Oh sorry, man, when is the new Styx album coming out?

TITUS

Fuck you.

David notices Paul is not drinking.

DAVID

You find God, Paul?

PAUL

Not tonight, boys. Loading the car first thing tomorrow and driving straight to Chicago. Starting with PWC Monday morning.

DAVID

Not any night.

BEAU How you listen to that kraut rock psychadelic shit stone cold sober is amazing.

TITUS How you listen to it at all is amazing. PAUL That shirt is amazing. Were they sold out of Huey Lewis?

Paul waves his glass.

PAUL (CONT'D) Just water tonight.

David pours a double of vodka into the glass with the water.

DAVID

Oops.

Paul dumps the water out, annoyed.

DAVID (CONT'D) When do you and Katie leave for Greenland?

BEAU Iceland and I still got two weeks.

TITUS And fucking law school in September.

BEAU Yeah but it's really nice. Katie and I found a...

DAVID Yeah what about you Titus? You gonna hang around?

Titus chuckles.

TITUS

My brother's picking me up tomorrow. Hope I never step foot here again.

PAUL Not gonna crash the Phi Ep party?

BEAU

Drink pledge!

TITUS

With any luck their house will burn to the ground and we can piss on the ashes.

PAUL

Amen.

BEAU

What about you, man? Gonna suprise Elle in New York?

David ignores their question and throws back an entire glass of bourbon.

DAVID

It ain't over yet.

SHOWN IN MONTAGE OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF HOURS

(1) Beau irons his shirt on the kitchen counter while Titus and David drink behind him.

(2) Paul buttons his shirt and puts an argyle sweater on over it, checking himself in the mirror.

(3) Beau, Titus and David all do a shot and gag/cough/laugh afterward from the strength of the alcohol. They are starting to get loose.

(4) Beau grabs a flash drive from Paul and tosses it over to David.

DAVID

What the hell is this?

PAUL

I like to carry a playlist. Mostly early 70s funk with some Monks and Kate Push.

BEAU "I like to carry a playlist?"

PAUL

Just in case.

David slips it in his pocket.

DAVID

I'll hang onto it. (mockingly) Just in case.

(5) Beau smokes a cigarette while sitting between an arguing David and Paul.

PAUL

Side two of *Low* is the reason I listen to music. Are you an idiot?

DAVID

I shut it off after "Sound and Vision."

(6) They all sit around the couch with a drink in their hands (except for Paul), music BLARING in the background.

DAVID (CONT'D) Okay okay okay. Best album of the 90s.

TITUS

Dookie!

Paul smacks his forehead.

(7) Beau and David stumble around the living room singing hip hop music terribly.

DAVID AND BEAU

Earl god damn it! I'm still in my damn pajamas, waitin' for mom to bring me the asthma from my trampoline jump.

(8) The four of them now sit on a BUS, unaware of their loudness.

PAUL

Okay okay okay. Rank the members of Odd Future from best to worst.

PAUL, DAVID AND BEAU

Earl.

DAVID

Tyler.

BEAU

Paul looks at Beau, offended.

Hodgy.

INT. CJ'S BAR

CJ's is your typical college bar: blaring pop music and overflowing with people. The dance floor is at full capacity with DRUNK HORNY KIDS practically fornicating on the slippery floor.

DAVID

Remember when we came up here at 4:00 AM on Saint Patrick's Day?

PAUL

Is this another fucking Lady Gaga song?

TITUS

Dude you've said the last five songs were Lady Gaga.

David gets annoyed with their banter and walks to the bar, where Beau is joking with a GROUP OF GIRLS.

BEAU

I said that's Archeology, dumbass.

The Girls ROAR with LAUGHTER as David signals for FROG MAN, greasy haired but friendly bar keep.

DAVID

Another round, Frog Man.

Frog Man puts four shots of tequila in front of David, who drops cash next to it. Frog Man slides the cash back.

FROG MAN

You and Beau kept us in business the past four years, man. It's on the house. Happy graduation.

David throws down two of the shots in an instant and pushes his money back.

DAVID

Two more then.

Beau laughs at a joke he has made and clanks his beer with one of the girls drinks and turns around to see KATIE (21), his happy-faced but profusely-sweating girlfriend.

KATIE

Hey! We found you!

BEAU

Heyyyyyy!

Beau puts an arm around Katie and guides her away from the girls at the bar.

KATIE

Who was that?

BEAU

Just some friends from my poly sci class.

Beau kisses her on the forehead. Her TWO FRIENDS are equally as giddy and drunk.

KATIE

David! Can you believe it's over?

David pulls Katie into a hug to shut her up.

DAVID

These guys are being lame. Tell them to have some damn fun.

KATIE

We're stopping here and then we're heading over to 90s Night.

DAVID

Sound like a plan?

Titus and Paul grimly shake their heads no.

KATIE

Did you guys wanna dance?

Paul SNORTS. Beau takes Katie's hand as Titus wraps an arm around one of Katie's friends' shoulders.

DAVID

I'll meet you out there.

They shrug him off and disappear onto the floor. Paul slips by David and screams into his ear.

PAUL

I'm gonna take a piss!

Suddenly David is all alone. He looks to his right and sees THREE YOUNG GIRLS imploring an OLDER GUY to buy them drinks. To his left, a COUPLE making out. A smile cracks on his site: fucking college, man.

He throws down to more of those shots and steps forward. He has had more to drink than he realized and takes uneven steps past the maze of people, all LOUD and DISTORTED in his face. He disappears into the void that is the dance floor.

INT. CJ'S BAR BATHROOM

Paul anxiously waits in line at the rest room behind half a dozen people, all of whom are either drinking and talking in casual conversation or, like the others, making out.

Paul notices a "Wall of Fame" where hundreds of polaroid photos of years past have been hung up. All of them are of college kids acting stupid, some as far back as the 60s and 50s. Paul is taken by it and doesn't notice the line move.

ON THE DANCEFLOOR ...

David finds his way to Beau, Katie, Titus and the rest, who acknowledge him but don't exactly include him.

Titus, dancing back to front with one of Katie's friends, keeps getting elbowed from behind by a GROUP OF FRAT BROS who are all screaming together and doing the fist pump.

Titus mouths the words "So cool" to Beau, who laughs.

BACK AT THE BATHROOM

Paul finally enters into the room and tries to pee in the urinal, however, a DRUGGED OUT GUY pushes his way through the door towards the toilet, where he HURLS UPA LUNG. Paul's jaw hangs in front of his mouth in disgust.

BACK ON THE DANCEFLOOR

Titus is now thrust into the middle of the FRAT BROS, but keeps trying to dance with Katie's Friend. The Frat Guys are intentionally throwing elbows back at Titus.

TITUS

Gimme a break, man.

The FRAT BROS respond like a wolfpack and shove Titus back so hard that he falls to the floor. The ALFA WOLF takes off his polo t-shirt and flexes his roided out body.

ALFA WOLF

You wanna go, faggot?

The other Fraternity Brothers form a line behind him and outnumber Titus ten to one as he nervously looks for his friends. Titus has no choice but to crawl away and flee the fight, sending the Brothers into mocking laughter.

ALFA WOLF (CONT'D)

Pussy.

ELSEWHERE ...

A CREEPER GUY (20s) weaves through the crowd of dancers. Katie snaps alert.

KATIE

I think that guy just grabbed me.

BEAU

Who?

They look around and see the Creeper hovering in the corner, tugging on the hands of drunk girls. Beau steps towards him, but Katie has to pull him back.

KATIE

No, Beau. No!

Katie falls down trying to restrain him, gets angry and leaves. Beau is torn between Creeper and Katie and runs after Katie.

ON THE DANCE FLOOR ...

David dances along with the crowd, taking in his surroundings, happier than hell when...

The crowds part, the music slows and everything ceases to exist: ELLE, as beautiful as ever, is dancing directly in front of him.

David steps forward to say something when Elle reaches out and puts her arm around a guy. The two are dancing together.

David has been punched in the gut. He stares for a beat. The image sinks in, he finishes the last of his drink and walks off.

EXT. CJ'S BAR NIGHT

David comes stumbling through the sea of people and looks around, the world has ceased to make sense.

DAVID

FUCK!

Everyone notices his outburst and backs away from him in the street but Beau approaches.

BEAU There you are. Sorry, Titus got in a fight with some frat bros and Paul's bummed out as usual.

David paces angrily and ignores Beau.

BEAU (CONT'D) Whoa, what's the matter with the you?

Beau sees how drunk David is.

BEAU (CONT'D)

And holy shit how much have you had to drink? You look obliterated.

DAVID

Not even that much. Okay, that's a lie, but I saw her in there.

BEAU

Who?

DAVID

Elle.

BEAU Oh really? What'd she say?

DAVID

I don't know! She was with some guy. I don't think she even saw me.

Beau understands the situation. David raps his forehead.

DAVID (CONT'D) That could be the last time I see her.

BEAU You don't know that, man, you could...

DAVID

I could what? She's moving to New York with a finance degree. And I'll what? Get a job at the English factory next door?

BEAU

I'm sorry...

DAVID I don't even remember the last thing I said to her.

BEAU Do you want to go back in there?

David stops pacing.

DAVID

God man do you remember what it felt like as freshmen? We had everything in front us. Just everything was like...

David buries his face in his hands and Beau watches him.

Passersby look at David, confused as Beau steps forward and gives him an awkward bro hug.

BEAU David, I have no idea what you're saying. But tell me about it at Jimmy John's.

David lifts his head.

BEAU (CONT'D) Turkey sub on Uncle Beau.

NT. JIMMY JOHN'S NIGHT

Beau has to guide a stumbling David into a booth where Titus and Paul are already sitting, munching on subs. Beau sets David down and makes his way to the order line. David takes deep labored breaths as Titus and Paul watch him with amusement.

PAUL Jesus Christ you look like Bruce Jenner. What the hell happened to you?

DAVID What the hell happened to you?

TITUS Phi Ep assholes; that's what happened. Tired of that fraternity meathead wolfpack bullshit.

DAVID

I have no idea what you're saying.

TITUS

Forget about it. I've watched their cliquey crap for four years. I'm not gonna miss it.

PAUL Not going over to their farewell gala?

DAVID Invitation only. Uninvited shot on sight.

TITUS

I don't think a black guy has ever step foot in there anyway.

PAUL

Drag.

Titus finishes his sub and shoots the wrapper into the trash from across the room.

DAVID

Nice.

TITUS Four years of this shit. I could do it in my sleep. Want to do Skippers for old time sake?

PAUL 90s night? I'd rather get elbowed in the spleen at The Woods.

TITUS Fuck that. I'm done with dancefloors.

DAVID

She was right there.

Paul and Titus look at David, confused but Beau returns with their subs, plopping one in David's hands. David has no reaction.

PAUL What are you saying?

BEAU

He saw Elle.

TITUS Oh cool, how's she doing?

Beau makes a slashing moment as David glares up at Titus.

TITUS (CONT'D) What? I thought... are we not?

Beau gives Titus the finger but pulls it away when David looks over in his direction.

DAVID

Where's Katie?

BEAU

Katie insulted me... so I killed her. Should I not have done that?

Beau takes a massive bite of his sub.

David feels woozy and puts his head down on the table.

DAVID Where are we going next?

BEAU

Skippers?

TITUS Paul don't do 90s Night.

BEAU

Woods?

PAUL Titus refuses to dance.

BEAU

Di Palo's?

TITUS Are we dressed for cigars and martinis?

Beau tugs at Paul's suspenders, he slaps his hand away.

BEAU

Some of us are.

TITUS Isn't the cover there like twenty bucks tonight?

BEAU Paul can get us in. Offer to do their taxes.

PAUL

Bite me.

DAVID

(muffled) Isn't your friend Jarvis throwing a party tonight? TITUS Yeah but I mean they're pretty hardcore. Are you guys up for that?

David raises his forehead with a napkin stuck to it.

DAVID Why wouldn't we be?

They all stare. Beau pulls the napkin off.

TITUS We just seem kind of done, man.

David checks his watch.

DAVID Done? It's only 1:00.

Beau flips the watch around for him.

BEAU

It's 10:00, buddy.

David throws his head back. They wait for him to speak but he doesn't move.

BEAU (CONT'D) We could just go back and smoke the rest of that ounce. No sense in saving it.

TITUS Fine with me. Maybe not all of it. Brother's supposed to be here early. Gotta pack.

BEAU All good. I can help you if you want.

TITUS That'd be great actually.

DAVID Jesus fucking Christ.

David gets up to go to the bathroom and nearly knocks their table over. They scramble to stop everything from spilling as David stumbles to the bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM

David locks the door behind him and pulls out his phone.

He flips through Facebook pictures of him and Elle until he reaches the present.

NEW NOTIFICATION: a picture of Elle with her girlfriends at CJ's pops up.

David finds her name in the contacts and hovers over the "call" button before putting the phone away.

David pulls the photo out of his pocket and stares at his smiling face. He looks like a different person.

He turns to leave but grows angry, pulls the phone back out and calls Elle, giving himself a fist pump of confidence as he does so.

ELLE'S VOICE

Hey there...

DAVID

Elle!

ELLE'S VOICE ...you've reached Elle. I'm unavailable to take your call right now, but please...

David puts the phone away and steps out.

INT. JIMMY JOHN'S NIGHT

The other three are ready to go and sit around arguing, Titus pushing a weed pipe towards Paul, who is uncomfortable.

BEAU What is it that you think is going to happen, Paul?

PAUL I don't need that shit in my brain. The auditors of tomorrow are depending on this brain.

TITUS Engineers and lawyers aren't? BEAU

It's your last night with us. Will you ever get this chance again?

David returns and they make room for him.

BEAU (CONT'D) You alright, man?

DAVID Yeah, got some air in my lungs.

They sit down and, for once, have nothing to say.

BEAU Closing time then?

DAVID What did we decide to do?

TITUS Calling it a night. We had a good run.

PAUL On to bigger and better things, Davey Boy.

BEAU

Oh, did we ever finish that Scott Walker documentary?

TITUS Dude no, you left off at the part where he was using the slab of meat as percussion.

David starts to tune them out, looking at his watch. The second hand picks up. TICK TICK TICK TICK TICK

BEAU (O.S.) Great movie to watch stoned, Paul. Seriously you love Scott Walker.

David looks up at the clock on the wall. The second hand flies by. TICK TICK TICK TICK

PAUL(O.S.)

I enjoy him sober.

TITUS (O.S.) You know alcohol is even worse for you.

David looks at his phone. It turns to 10:08. Like five seconds later it turns to 10:09.

PAUL (O.S.) That is a total myth spread by left wing lobbyist groups.

David rises, nearly knocking the table over.

DAVID Like seriously what the fuck are we doing?

Blank stares.

PAUL

We're sitting here talking?

DAVID

No, you're sitting there filling what could be the best night of your life with packing and shitty music documentaries.

Paul GASPS.

DAVID (CONT'D)

How many more nights do you think we'll have like this as (looks at Paul) accountants, (Titus) engineers, (Beau) or lawyers? I mean fucking LAW SCHOOL, man!

PAUL

What are you saying, David?

They all look up at him, confused, but he searches for the words. David gets close to Paul's face.

DAVID

I'll tell you what I'm saying, Paul. You're gonna spend the rest of your life wearing khakis and ugly sweaters and crunching numbers for nine hours a day, every day until you're too old to even be excited that you're retired. And you know what you're going to say?

Paul looks up at David, frightened.

DAVID (CONT'D) "Why didn't I just smoke one fucking joint in college?"

This gets some laughs from Beau and Titus, but David turns on them.

DAVID (CONT'D)

And Titus! Good God. You've been complaining about those fraternity assholes for four years. And what's gonna be the first thing out of your mouth when you're talking about your days as Joe College? How much you hated them! This is your last night here and you're gonna let them win!

Titus is actually receptive to this and nods along.

DAVID (CONT'D)

And Beau, for Christ's sake. You and Katie have been fighting since sophomore year. Can you not kill each other for one night? The last night any of us will ever be together again? Is this all too much to ask?

BEAU

What's your plan?

DAVID

I'll tell you my plan: we pack every great fucking memory of the past four years into the next...

David checks his watch.

DAVID (CONT'D)

...three hours and forty-nine minutes.

The other three are totally hooked.

The scene switches to montage as we see what David is describing in voiceover.

DAVID (V.O.) (CONT'D) We go back to CJ's, you make up with Katie, I win back Elle, more shots for Titus and Paul, out of there by 10:45.

INT. THE WOODS

A jam packed dancing bar filled to the fire code with sweaty dancers.

DAVID (V.O.)

Hit up The Woods for old times sake, grind our dicks off on old friends and new, bid farewell to the upperclassmen of tomorrow and our descendants. Out of there by 11:15.

INT. DI PALO'S

A swanky piano bar filled with well-dressed young men and women.

DAVID (V.O.)

Gonna need a little come down at this point. Pay the two hundred dollar cover or whatever at Di Palo's, sip cocktails that look like water from glasses that look like snow, stop sweating, piss off the rich fucks, recharge our batteries, out by midnight.

INT. JARVIS'S HOUSE

Camera zooms through smoky hallways of PARTIERS blitzed out of their minds and still hitting bongs.

DAVID (V.O.)

Split with the ladies, tell them we'll meet them back at 90s night, and you're off to hydroponic heaven, Paul. Your first hash brownie. Bong hit optional. But our baby boy becomes a man. We stop on JARVIS (20s), a chill student with a Rastafarian look. He nods to the camera.

DAVID (V.O.) And say goodbye to Jarvis, obviously.

INT. FRAT HOUSE NIGHT

The elitist affair is already underway with the Alfa Wolf, now sporting a blue blazer with a crest and spotless white tennies with his khakis and baseball cap.

All of the women are in ballgowns and a BOUNCER harasses people at the door, sending away anyone without a pass.

DAVID (V.O.) And the piece de resistance, we crash Phi Eps Triumph of the Will bullshit and ruin their last night while making ours.

INT. JIMMY JOHN'S NIGHT

We find that David is standing on a chair above the restaurant with a small crowd gathered. Paul, Titus and Beau look up at him like a messiah.

> DAVID Back at 90s Night by 1:30 and we wrap up the greatest night of our lives.

They are revved and ready to go.

DAVID (CONT'D)

For if destruction be our lot, we ourselves must be its author and finisher. As a nation of free men, we will live forever... or die by suicide.

The restaurant breaks into a CHEER as the four of them rise and head for the door.

David puts his hand on Paul's shoulder.

DAVID (CONT'D)

And first thing's first.

INT. BATHROOM NIGHT

Titus pushing the last of the dope into his pipe and handing it to Beau, who holds the lighter. Paul has his face buried in his hands as David and Titus stand by him, patting him on the back.

DAVID

Don't worry. You won't miss breakfast.

Beau hands Paul the pipe and he holds it awkwardly.

PAUL This never leaves the room.

DAVID

I'll never tell a soul.

BEAU

I'll be your sponsor for rehab.

Paul inspects the pipe before finally putting it to his mouth and breathing in. He pulls it away and exhales nervously.

PAUL There I did it! Was that okay?

Beau holds up the lighter.

BEAU

Try lighting it, Paul.

David and Titus hold back laughter as Beau has to instruct Paul on what to do. Paul readies himself.

DAVID

Paul! Paul! Paul! Paul!

TITUS, BEAU AND DAVID Paul! PAUL! PAUL! PAUL!

Paul closes his eyes and takes a massive hit of the pipe. He immediately coughs out a cloud of smoke and gasps for air as the other three erupt in APPLAUSE. Through his coughs, Paul tries to hand the pipe to someone else, but they refuse to take it and end up forcing him to subsequent hits!

And we're off...

EXT. STREETS OF UPTOWN NIGHT

Beau checks his phone.

BEAU 90's Night doesn't start until 11, so they're still at CJ's.

Paul takes uneven wobbly steps. David reaches out and steadies him.

DAVID How you doing there, buddy?

PAUL My stomach itches on the inside.

David pats Paul's gut.

DAVID That just means it's working.

INT. CJ'S BAR NIGHT

The four of them make their way past the CARDER and back inside the bar, which is more popular than it was just an hour earlier.

Beau spots Katie and her friends at a table in the corner drinking. Katie sees Beau approaching and looks mortified.

BEAU Alright, man, give me a second to just...

David charges ahead and greets the girls.

DAVID Hello, ladies. Sorry we had to step out for a second. How's everybody doing?

The girls greet David with smiles but glance awkwardly between Katie and Beau.

DAVID (CONT'D) Mind if we pull up a chair? Everyone is reluctant to speak. David notices.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Come on, now. This is our last night; no regrets and all that shit. Are we going to let petty differences divide us?

David pulls up empty chairs and signals for Titus, Beau and Paul to sit down. Paul gets queezy and turns to Titus.

PAUL

I gotta find a bathroom!

Paul runs away as they adjust the chairs for everyone to fit.

David sits between Beau and Katie. Katie glares at Beau and he sheepishly smiles.

DAVID

That's better. Now let's all kiss and make up. Who wants a pitcher? Bury the ole hatchet.

No one declines free alcohol.

DAVID (CONT'D) Great. We'll be right back.

David tugs Beau away as they make their way to the bar.

BEAU God damn it, man. I asked you to let me handle it. Katie's not going to let this go over one pitcher of beer.

They reach the bar and David makes a signal with his hand. Frog Man smiles and fills up a pitcher.

DAVID

Relax. She doesn't even seem mad any more.

Katie pops between the two of them.

KATIE You stupid, asshole. What do you think you're doing?

BEAU

(to David) Thanks, man.

David grabs the pitcher and heads back to the table.

DAVID

I'll see you over there.

IN THE RESTROOM...

Paul sits on the toilet with his head in his hands when a JITTERY HIPSTER steps in and notices him.

HIPSTER You alright, brother? You don't look so hot.

Paul has to swallow vomit before answering.

PAUL I don't feel so hot... brother.

HIPSTER

Here, take one of these. You'll wanna run a marathon.

The Hipster drops a tiny white pill in Paul's hand before giving him a wink and stepping out.

BACK AT THE TABLE ...

Titus sits awkwardly with Katie's friend, ERIN, the one he was dancing with earlier.

ERIN Just so you know I feel really bad about what happened.

TITUS

Oh no it was nothing. Who doesn't like getting degraded in front of a crowd in public? Besides, it wasn't your fault.

ERIN Actually, I think it was. Erin pulls out a pass to the Phi Ep Gala.

ERIN (CONT'D)

After you left he gave me this...

David returns and sets the pitchers down. Beau and Katie continue arguing at the bar before it appears that Beau makes some sort of peace.

DAVID

Come on. Come on. Drink up while it's hot.

David checks his watch as Beau and Katie return.

DAVID (CONT'D) There, everything better? Let's just enjoy each other's company.

Beau and Katie look sheepishly at each other while David downs a cup of beer.

DAVID (CONT'D)

I'll be back in a bit.

David leaves the table in an awkward silence.

OUT ON THE FLOOR ...

David sifts through the people on the floor, which is more crowded but still somewhat syncopated.

People shoot him looks as he goes against the current of movement, the music PULSING behind him.

He glances in every direction: Elle is nowhere to be seen.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

David?

David spins around to see... NIKKI (22), a chic hipster girl.

DAVID

Nikki. Hey.

Nikki gives David a hug, spilling a little of her drink on him in the process.

NIKKI

God how have you been? I haven't seen you since...

She catches herself and trails off.

DAVID

Yeah since Elle and I broke up.

NIKKI

I'm sorry I started that sentence and really just...

Nikki makes a shooting herself in the head motion.

DAVID Don't worry about it. Is she here with you?

NIKKI

No I came up with Bri and Ryan.

Nikki gestures to BRI and RYAN, two similarly dressed friends of hers, posted up at the bar. They wave happily to David. He waves back.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

I saw her here earlier.

DAVID

Yeah me too. I was hoping to catch up.

NIKKI

I haven't seen her as much. I stopped going over there after you broke up.

DAVID

Didn't want to deal with Karen?

DAVID (CONT'D) NIKKI The worst. Literally the most Fu huh huh huh king hate that awful human being I have ever bey-atch like seriously. Wow. met.

They share a laugh but the silence resumes.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

So you going to graduation?

Haven't decided yet.

NIKKI

I know. My parents are making me. My dad got me a job at his company so I guess I have to. Are you working?

DAVID

I haven't really-- I don't know.

Nikki nods. Awkward.

NIKKI

Did you wanna come hang with us? It's been a while.

DAVID Nah thanks I'm here with my friends.

NIKKI Oh my God is Beau here?

DAVID Yeah him and Titus both.

NIKKI How is that gorgeous son of a bitch?

DAVID Um great. Look, I was really hoping to talk to Elle, so if you see her, tell her I'm looking for her.

Nikki nods as she sips her drink again.

NIKKI

You should talk to that guy.

Nikki points in the other direction at a PREPPY GUY (20s), the one Elle was dancing with earlier.

NIKKI (CONT'D) I think she came up here with him. He would probably know where she is.

David's eyes narrow on the Prep and he walks towards him, leaving Nikki in the dust.

NIKKI (CONT'D) Hey tell Beau I said hi!

David ignores her and closes in on the Prep. Just as he gets close, the Prep steps into the bathroom.

David cuts in front of twenty people and goes in after him.

BACK AT THE TABLE ...

Katie still won't look at Beau, who leans in and grabs her hand.

BEAU Are we really going to do this on our last night?

KATIE

Stop it.

BEAU Come on. I'm sorry, okay? I just want us to spend this last night together. It's our last...

Paul slams four full shot glasses on the table, startling everyone.

BEAU (CONT'D)

(mocking) What's this, Paul?

PAUL

Whiskey, pickle juice and vinegar! They were two for four!

Everyone looks queasy as Paul spreads the glasses around.

TITUS They're two for four because they don't think anyone is stupid enough to buy them.

PAUL Oh well I got one for each of us. Sorry, ladies.

The girls are grossed out but Paul shrugs it off and downs the first shot, causing the rest of the table to GASP.

PAUL (CONT'D) Fuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuk. Beau?

Beau looks at Paul for a few seconds before shrugging it off and downing his shot as well.

INT. BATHROOM NIGHT

The PREP urinates but, as we pull back, we see David staring him from the next urinal over.

The Prep keeps shifting but David locks his gaze.

PREP

You mind, bra?

DAVID

Oh sorry. Sorry.

David adjusts his stance so that they are both looking ahead.

A beat.

DAVID (CONT'D)

So how's my dick taste?

The Prep looks at David, stunned.

PREP

What...?

David looks at him as both continue to PISS.

DAVID

You messing around with Elle? Do you even know her last name or did you just stop at the blue eyes? Do you notice the little dimple next to her eyes that she gets when she laughs?

PREP

The fuck are you talking about?

DAVID

Look at you, you don't even know her. That she loves Agatha Christie novels, Joni Mitchell and Tarantino films. That she went into Marketing to make her dad happy and secretly mocks Tom Ford wannabe douchebags like you.

David flushes his urinal as the Prep tries to speed up his own. David exits the bathroom.

PREP I'm gonna kick your fucking ass.

DAVID

She's too good to be your farewell fuck. Next time you try to kiss her, just know where it's been.

INT. CJ'S BAR NIGHT

Back at the table, David arrives just in time to stop the spectacle and happily greets everybody, grabbing a seat.

PAUL Hey, man. Whiskey, pickle juice and vinegar?

DAVID

No thank you?

Paul throws down the final shot and develops a rather inhuman look in his eyes. David turns to Beau.

DAVID (CONT'D)

You guys ready to get going?

The Prep grabs David from behind and Beau instinctively pushes the Prep back.

PREP

You gonna hide behind your boyfriend?

David looks to Beau, standing between them.

Yep.

The Prep laughs before pulling back his blazer, revealing a Phi Ep crest on his shirt.

PREP You fucked with the wrong guy, pal. You're dead.

The Prep slips back into the crowd. David and Beau look at each other and start laughing.

Katie is not amused.

BEAU You can't be mad about that one. He attacked my friend.

TITUS What the hell was that about?

DAVID His ancestors stole the family farm.

Katie checks her phone and sees what time it is.

KATIE

Shit! We gotta go! It's starting.

With that, the girls rise from the table and get ready to leave. Katie notices the boys not moving.

KATIE (CONT'D) Aren't you coming with us?

DAVID

To what?

KATIE

90's Night.

PAUL

Oh fuck that!

Easy, Paul. You didn't tell her we'd meet there later?

KATIE Hold on, is there a problem with 90's Night?

PAUL

(hiccuping) The music is retarded.

DAVID

Classy answer, Paul.

KATIE Specifically, what is "retarded" about the music?

PAUL

You know... it's just... radio shit... Sugar Ray... Cher...um.... Right Said Fred.

TITUS

What is he saying?

KATIE

They have to play music people can dance to, Paul. If they play Radiohead and Pavement all night, everyone is going to sit around and stare at their shoes.

PAUL

Well a song is only as great as how easy it is to dance to.

Titus turns and smiles at Beau mockingly to signify how awkward this is getting.

KATIE

Not everything needs to have some deep introverted message. A song can be fun and catchy without being an abomination.

PAUL I wholeheartedly disagree.

KATIE

I wholeheartedly felt that the second half of OK Computer was Radiohead's failed attempt at being a pop rock band.

Paul, Beau and David GASP. Titus laughs.

PAUL

Take it back.

KATIE

Come on. "Electioneering," "Karma Police," and "The Tourist?" Those are late 90s Oasis B-Sides.

PAUL

You bite your tongue. Oasis are charlatans and wannabes. Radiohead are innovators and pioneers.

KATIE

I am not above listening to a song simply because it is fun to dance to. Apparently you guys are and for that I applaud you.

TITUS

What did I do?

KATIE

But trust me when I say that the above it all cynical thing isn't very attractive.

Katie gets ready to leave.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Beau, are you coming?

Beau grimaces an "oh no" face. He is staying.

KATIE (CONT'D)

I thought you wanted to spend the last night together, Beau.

Everyone turns and looks at Beau.

TITUS

Yeah, Beau.

BEAU Yeah, I know. We... we're hitting all the spots one last time and we'll be at Skippers by 1:00.

DAVID

1:30 at the latest.

BEAU

At the latest.

Katie shakes her head in disappointment.

KATIE And for the record, the best album of the 90s was 'Dookie.'

Titus raises his arms in triumph as the girls leave them.

TITUS

Thank you!

BEAU

Put your damn hands down.

Paul lets out a vile hiccup and sounds like he is going to puke. The other three back away from him and wait for it. After a minute, he snaps up.

PAUL

Alright I'm good.

David watches the girls exit and sees Elle stepping out the door.

DAVID

Shit there she is!

David climbs up over the table and runs through the crowd after her. A few block the exit but David blows past them.

EXT. STREETS OF UPTOWN NIGHT

David makes it out onto the street, looking both ways and seeing Elle up ahead walking with a group of girls

David runs through the sea of college kids, side -stepping those in his way and bumping into a pizza guy. David manages to keep to keep the group in his line of vision and sprints across an intersection, nearly being hit by a car.

David finally steps in front of them.

DAVID

Elle!

The group of girls SCREAM and recoil in fear of the sweating lunatic before them. David catches his breath and looks the girls up and down, realizing it is DEBBIE DOWNER, VALLEY GIRL and their TWO FRIENDS.

The girls contemplate calling for help but David holds his hands up to apologize. He looks for the words but only continues to speak with his hands, making non-sensible gestures with a huge smile on his face.

David eventually walks away, leaving the girls terrified.

David walks back towards the bar, catching his breath, and sees Paul, Titus and Beau waiting for him.

As he approaches, Beau mockingly starts a SLOW CLAP. The other two join in until it is a full fledged applause for David as he returns.

BEAU That was beautiful.

DAVID

I thought I saw ...

TITUS Yeah Elle we got it.

BEAU And was your plan to mount her?

DAVID

(laughing) Shut up. Titus turns his phone to David, showing a picture of Elle dancing.

TITUS Posted eleven minutes ago.

DAVID Looks like The Woods to me.

BEAU

The Woods?

DAVID

The Woods.

TITUS Yeah. Let's RAGE!

Paul nearly vomits again, but manages to keep it down.

INT. THE WOODS

The Woods is an acid trip of a freshmen bar. There is no one checking IDs at the door. It is so packed with PEOPLE DANCING on a floor slippery from spilled drinks. Above all, it is very very LOUD.

Titus is hunched over the bar and keeps getting hit in the face by a DRUNK GIRL whipping her hair. He turns to David and smiles.

David examines the Facebook photo and looks up at the room.

DAVID How the fuck am I supposed to find her in here?

TITUS Have you tried calling her?

David can't hear him, so he leans in and Titus shouts:

TITUS (CONT'D) Have you tried calling her!

Oh calling her? Hey that's a great idea. It wasn't like the first thing I tried. I figured wandering around town would be more effective.

TITUS

Alright take it easy, asshole.

The two turn and watch Beau out on the floor, mockingly dancing with two FRESHMEN. He sees Titus and David watching him and cha cha chas over to them.

> BEAU Sorry I didn't see her out there.

David squints at the picture.

DAVID Are we sure she's here?

BEAU

How you doing there, Paul?

We pull back to see Paul hunched over the bar, sweating profusely. He gives a weak thumbs up.

TITUS

How did we come here every weekend? This place sucks.

BEAU

Booze is cheap and the girls are horny. Hannah Montana there offered to suck my dick if I bought her beer.

DAVID

Good times.

BEAU David, man, we should really get back to 90s Night. I'm down to my last straw with Katie.

TITUS You guys go on ahead. I think I've got bigger plans. David and Beau look at Titus, who licks his lips before revealing and unfolding the Gala Invitation.

David and Beau grab it in awe.

DAVID

No fucking way.

BEAU

Did you take Dave Matthews hostage or something?

Titus takes the invitation back and beams.

DAVID What are you going to do with that?

TITUS

No idea.

BEAU No idea? This is unbelievable! You can ruin the Gala.

TITUS

I don't know how, though. I just ...

A DRUNK GIRL bumps into Titus, causing his arm to lurch forward and throw his cocktail in Beau's face.

BEAU

So you ready to get going then?

DAVID

Let me check the floor one more time.

David slips away into the carnage of the floor.

BEAU

You've gotta like plant cocaine in there or something.

ON THE FLOOR ...

David is getting his ass kicked-- elbows, asses, drinks spilling from above, the floor is slick and gross.

Every direction he looks is a strobe light of limbs and faces. How is he ever going to find her in here?

David looks up at the ceiling and notices the tile pattern. He checks the photo of Elle: the ceiling above her is a plain wood.

DAVID

Fuck.

An errant elbow knocks David's phone out of his hands and onto the floor.

David gets down on his knees and reaches for it. It keeps getting kicked out of his reach. He has to crawl across the sticky disgusting floor past high heels, spilled beer, loose change and lost jewelry.

A giant hand picks up his phone. David stands, covered in filth, to retrieve it from JUDE (23) a lumbering bro in a V neck.

DAVID (CONT'D) Thanks, ma... Jude??

JUDE Oh my God. David??

David extends his hand for a handshake but Jude scoops him off the floor for a bear hug.

JUDE (CONT'D) Wow, bro. No homo you became a good looking dude.

DAVID Thanks, Jude. That... that means a lot.

Jude is drunk and sweating but seems genuinely happy.

JUDE

So you graduating?

DAVID I guess? What about you?

JUDE

Pffft. Another year. If I'm lucky. My parents finally got off my back so whatever.

DAVID

I hear ya.

JUDE You got like a job or something?

DAVID Nah just planning on hanging out for a while.

JUDE

Fuck yeah, dude.

Jude tilts his beer to toast David, who doesn't have a glass and makes a toasting motion with his hand.

JUDE (CONT'D)

Dude these freshman chicks are so easy it's disgusting. I swear to God it wasn't like this when we were their age.

David smiles uneasily.

JUDE (CONT'D)

Remember that time we told those girls we were marines on shore leave?

David does remember this and breaks into genuine laughter.

JUDE (CONT'D)

Tried that with this high school senior last week, fucked it all up.

DAVID

High School?

Jude throws back his beer and finishes it.

JUDE

Have to be fucking stupid to walk away from this.

Yeah, well I'm here with my friends and ...

JUDE Hey, I'm going to this party at a dorm later. Fuckin' sluts. You should come.

DAVID Yeah, definitely. Text me and let me know.

David inches away from Jude to get back to the bar.

JUDE

Will do!

Jude slaps David on the back so hard it almost knocks him over, but David uses his momentum to hop back onto the floor.

David bumps into Paul, who is watching two girls makeout. David rolls his eyes and drags Paul back to the bar with him.

Titus and Beau are ready to leave when David returns.

DAVID

You'll never believe who I ran into. Fucking Jude!

BEAU Oh my dear Lord. Lean mean gumba machine himself. How is he?

DAVID

The EXACT same.

BEAU

Well that's a shock.

PAUL

You know this actually samples an Aphex Twin song? I care because you do!

BEAU Can we just go meet them at...

Beau sets his drink down on the bar and his face hardens.

BEAU (CONT'D)

No way.

Beau's eyes lock in on the man at the exit. It is the Creeper who grabbed Katie from earlier.

The Creeper leaves and Beau heads for the doors while Titus and David scramble to close out their tabs.

EXT. STREETS OF UPTOWN NIGHT

Beau marches about thirty paces behind the Creeper, his head not moving.

Titus, Paul and David come running up to his side.

DAVID Beau, why are you acting like Anton Chigurh?

BEAU

It's the guy.

DAVID

Who's the guy?

TITUS He groped Katie at the bar.

DAVID No shit? What are you gonna do?

BEAU

I. Have. No. Idea.

EXT. TACO BELL NIGHT

Beau, Titus, Paul and David stand outside, looking through the glass, watching the Creeper. Beau glares.

DAVID You're sure it's the same guy?

BEAU It's fucking him, okay? What am I supposed to do?

What do you mean? Do you what you always do. Knock him into next week.

PAUL "Knock him into next week?"

TITUS Dude, Katie's gonna be pissed.

DAVID

Look at this guy, man. He's like a Keebler elf. You wrestled in high school. You like the Blackhawks. You were born for this!

DAVID (CONT'D) What would Stan Mikita do?

BEAU If anything it'd be Mike Peluso.

DAVID

Even better.

Beau glares back inside.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Look, man, we understand you don't want to get beaten up by Bilbo.

Beau turns to David and a thin smile breaks across his face. The smiles spread as they realize he is going to do this.

DAVID (CONT'D)

I've seen that look in his eye before.

Beau lets out a deep sigh as he zeroes in on the Creep.

Paul, Titus and David step back to clear the path into the Taco Bell, holding back laughter.

David jokingly gives him a military salute.

Beau marches in.

The Creep only looks up at the last second. Without breaking stride, Beau makes his way across the restaurant and calmly launches into a SPEAR!!, taking the Creeper to the ground.

Outside, everyone watching GASPS.

Beau grabs the Creep by the collar and launches bone-crushing punches into his face! It is an epic ass kicking.

The other CUSTOMERS move in on Beau to break up the fight.

David rushes in to help, exhilarated.

Beau is pulled off the Creeper, who cups his face.

David grabs Beau to keep him away from the crowd.

David drags Beau to the door where a laughing Beau triumphantly blows a kiss into the air.

Beau turns to leave and freezes; his smile fades.

Through the window, Katie and Erin watch with mouths open in horror. Paul and Titus hold back laughter.

A beat.

BEAU

(shouting through the window) Hey, babe, you uh just get here or have you been there the whole time?

TITUS

(from the other side) I tried to get your attention but you were kind of in the zone.

David escorts Beau out and he tentatively approaches Katie.

BEAU

Okay, I have to imagine that this looks pretty bad out of context...

Tears well in Katie's eyes. She grabs Erin and walks away.

Beau let's out a sigh of disappointment. He turns to Titus.

BEAU (CONT'D)

Thanks, man.

Beau runs after Katie.

TITUS

What the fuck did I do?

Beau reaches for Katie's arm but she yanks it away.

KATIE

Just don't, Beau. I've got nothing to say to you.

BEAU

Katie, come on. I just saw him and was so angry thinking about what happened. Are you really going to be mad at me for defending you?

KATIE

Ugh! Oh my God. I'm mad at you because you're more concerned with impressing your stupid friends than actually being with your girlfriend.

Back at Titus, Paul and David, who watch from a distance...

DAVID You hear that? She called us stupid.

TITUS

She's got a point.

DAVID

I know.

BEAU and KATIE fight in the background. David checks his watch.

DAVID (CONT'D) What the hell? Is it really 12?

TITUS Yeah The Woods is kind of a blackhole.

Fuck we've only got two hours.

Erin and Katie walk away as Beau walks back.

BEAU (O.S.)

Yeah? See if I care.

Beau stomps back to his friends. No one really wants to say anything so they communicate in expressive exhales.

Beau notices that his shirt has been torn at the collar.

BEAU (CONT'D) That asshole ripped my shirt. Think they'll let me into Di Palo's like this?

DAVID

Not a chance.

TITUS Wait, are we still going to Di Palo's?

David gets flustered.

DAVID

I don't know. I was supposed to be with her by now.

Paul moseys between the two of them, still lit.

PAUL Anybody kinda feel like going to 90s Night?

The other three stare. A beat.

PAUL (CONT'D) Just thought I'd, you know... see what's up.

Paul moseys away.

BEAU Look, just stick to the plan. Elle might be at Di Palo's. I'll be back in twenty minutes and we'll figure it out. Okay?

DAVID

Alright, man.

Beau turns running up the street towards the bus.

DAVID (CONT'D) I don't think I even have enough cash for their cover.

TITUS

Me neither.

They turn and look at Paul, who holds his billfold of hundreds of dollars.

INT. DI PALO'S NIGHT

David and Titus stand at the bar with Paul, who stares off. The bar plays swanky old jazz music and is filled with GIRLS in dresses with pearls and guys in suits.

The Bartender sets down two martinis for David and Titus and a Long Island Iced Tea for Paul.

David slides the tea over to Paul.

DAVID

There you go, Paul.

PAUL

What's this now?

DAVID It's a Long Island Iced Tea. You like tea. Just make sure you sip it...

Paul starts sucking it down.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Ah there you go.

David turns back to Titus.

TITUS

I never liked this place.

A few of the SNOBBY GUESTS look their way.

DAVID Killer soundtrack though.

TITUS

Is this Ella Fitzgerald?

PAUL It's Sarah Vaughn with Clifford Brown.

They turn and see Paul sucking on the straw until he SLURPS the glass empty.

TITUS

Thanks, Paul.

DAVID Decide what you're gonna do to the Phi Eps?

TITUS I've got an invite to their Gala. Big deal. What am I

supposed to do?

David sets down his drink.

DAVID You remember Joel, right?

TITUS

How could I forget?

DAVID

So Sophomore year, he's like twenty-two and still living at the dorms where they have a no alcohol policy, even if you're 21.

TITUS

Makes sense.

And the RA discovers that Joel has basically been running a gin joint out of his dorm room and confiscates all of the booze. Like hundreds of dollars worth.

Titus sips his martini, intrigued.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Now the RA has a private toilet. Joel sneaks in there, takes out the part that sends the you know what into the plumbing, reverses it, pumps all of the shit back into his dorm room.

TITUS

That's...

DAVID

Genius.

TITUS And you're saying...

DAVID

Do it to every bathroom in a frat house. One shitty gala if you ask me.

David glugs his martini.

TITUS There's no way that works.

DAVID

All I know is that RA come home to a room ankle deep in human shit.

Titus mulls this over as David looks around the room.

TITUS

I don't think she's here.

David slams his drink down.

I know. She hated this place. I don't know what I'm doing.

TITUS

Relax. It's okay.

DAVID

We're gonna lose another half hour here and I'm almost out of time.

TITUS

We need to get serious about it, right? Where did she like to go?

David thinks.

DAVID

I don't really know. We always went where I picked.

TITUS Alright. Where did her friends like to go?

DAVID

We usually hung out with my friends.

TITUS

That's okay. Did she ever do coffee at Kofenya? Late night sushi? Would she do 90's Night?

David stares off before coming to a realization:

DAVID

I have no idea. It's no wonder...

TITUS

Oh I got it! She only lived like three blocks from Jarvis, right?

DAVID

More or less.

TITUS

We go say goodbye to Jarvis, you swing by her place, see if she's home. If not, ask her roommate where she is.

DAVID

Fucking Karen?

TITUS

Fucking Karen.

DAVID

What do we do about these?

They hold up their martini glasses before realizing what they must do: and slam them down in one gulp.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Ready, Paul?

They turn to see Paul leaned back in his stool, mouth open. David slaps Paul awake and escorts him out.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Tell Beau.

INT. DAVID'S APARTMENT

Beau immerges from his bedroom in a new outfit and calls Katie. It RINGS a few times and goes to voicemail.

He immediately calls back but the call goes straight to voicemail. She is ignoring him.

Beau tosses his phone across the room to the couch. He grabs a pack of cigarette, leaves and slams the door shut.

After he leaves, a text from Titus arrives on his phone telling him the plans.

EXT. JARVIS'S HOUSE NIGHT

David, Titus and Paul stand outside out of the house that is literally SHAKING from the music inside. Smoke bellows out from every window.

David checks his watch.

DAVID This literally has to be in and out.

The door opens and Jarvis immerges from the smoke.

JARVIS David, man. Titus. Who is this?

DAVID

This is Paul.

PAUL I can't feel my arms.

TITUS He's had a long night.

JARVIS I got just the thing.

INT. JARVIS'S HOUSE

Through the haze, there is a very intense party going on. In one room, HOARDS OF PEOPLE make out to R & B music. In another, PEOPLE DANCE to a strobe light.

It is so crowded, they have to line up against the wall to just to get through to the kitchen where an OBESE STUDENT sits next to a keg and fills up people's solo cups as they wait in line. David happily greets him.

DAVID

Bones.

Jarvis walks through the kitchen to a screened in porch.

JARVIS Did you hear? Bones, man, got a job with DeLoit. Starts in three weeks.

Jarvis grabs a roach clip from a SPACED OUT GIRL sitting on the couch and hands it to David.

JARVIS (CONT'D)

He'll be able to feel everything.

Jarvis winks as David holds the clip up to Paul's face.

DAVID

Open your mouth, Paul. It's medicine.

Titus has to plug Paul's nose so that he opens his mouth and inhales. He huffs and puffs but is able to keep it in.

PAUL I just wanna lay down for a while.

Titus and David set Paul on the couch next to the girl who doesn't notice him.

Titus raises the clip to his mouth but Jarvis takes it from him.

JARVIS Don't smoke that shit, man. It's garbage. Come with me.

Jarvis leads them back in the house. David and Titus follow.

DAVID

Is he alright out here?

JARVIS

Sure.

Jarvis weaves back through the house and up the stairs to the second floor. The bedrooms are all full of people drinking heavily, experimenting with drugs or playing guitar.

Jarvis pushes into his bedroom, basically a shrine for getting stoned. He pulls out a small cannister with a note attached to it.

Titus reads aloud.

TITUS Break. In. Case. Of. Emergency.

DAVID What's the emergency?

JARVIS

Got into med school, man. Gotta go clean until I can write my own prescriptions.

TITUS

Say it ain't so. But congratulations where'd...

Jarvis breaks the cannister and pulls out an ounce of marijuana.

JARVIS

Blue Cookies. Strongest strain in North America. This shit is fire.

TITUS

Holy shit.

JARVIS

What do you say David, man?

DAVID

Maybe on my way back. I've got business to take care of.

TITUS

Fucking Karen?

DAVID

Fucking Karen.

He and Titus give each other a bro hug before David takes off.

JARVIS

He's fucking Karen?

TITUS

Who cares?

Titus pulls out his pipe.

INT. DI PALO'S NIGHT

Beau, severely underdressed, looks around Di Palo's, getting strange looks in return. His friends obviously aren't there.

Beau grabs a spot at the bar, flicking his credit card at a Bartender.

BEAU

Scotch. No ice.

Beau lights a cigarette and inhales. Nikki happens to be sitting next to him at the bar and leans over.

NIKKI Hey, aren't you Beau?

The bartender sets down the scotch, and Beau puffs out.

BEAU

Go fuck yourself.

Nikki gasps as Beau takes a swig of the Scotch.

INT. JARVIS'S HOUSE

Paul looks over at STONER GIRL on the couch as she bobs her head to the music, sweat trickling down her face.

Paul follows a single bead of sweat from her forehead down her cheek and chin until it drops into her cleavage. And then he just stays staring at her cleavage.

STONER GIRL

You good?

PAUL

I love this song.

STONER GIRL

Cool.

PAUL

It's Cymande. They were a British funk band. Completely unappreciated in their own time, didn't make a cent until De La Soul sampled them in the mid 90s.

The Stoner Girl gives Paul a look and turns away. Paul turns to his left and sees a HUSTLER sitting next to him.

HUSTLER You look like you're itching to buy.

PAUL

What's that now?

HUSTLER

Got a little end of the year special. Shrooms, bro. Gotta sell them by tomorrow. Make ya the life of the party.

Paul holds up two crumbled twenties.

PAUL

I've got forty bucks.

HUSTLER

Sold.

The money is out of Paul's hands and replaced with a baggy of shrooms in a second. The Hustler is gone. Paul looks from the bag to the Hustler to the bag to the Hustler to the bag.

PAUL

Неуууууу.

STONER GIRL Nice. Wanna go get weird?

PAUL

Yes I do.

The Stoner Girl leads Paul from the couch.

EXT. ELLE'S APARTMENT NIGHT

David takes a deep breath before knocking on the door.

KAREN (22) a cold blonde in glasses who is clearly in for the night opens the door, unamused.

DAVID

Ka-he-he-he-aren. What's happening?

KAREN What the hell do you want, David?

DAVID Is that how we greet old friends?

KAREN

Goodbye.

Karen tries to close the door but David puts his foot forward.

DAVID

All packed up for med school in, where was it? Dominican Republic? Haiti?

KAREN

Costa Rica.

DAVID

Ah that's right. I hear they have the best ones anyway. You must be excited.

KAREN

Yes I'm looking forward to making a difference. And do you know what Starbucks you'll be working at yet?

DAVID

What a barb! In that situation it'd actually be which Starbucks seeing as there's a finite number of Starbucks in the world but I'm sure you were just being ironic. That's why I think you'll be a great doctor: your attention to detail.

KAREN

I'll be a great doctor because I care about helping people not getting stoned and sipping coffee with my friends while making fun of pop music.

DAVID

Hey since you love helping people, I've got a quick question for you.

KAREN

She's not here.

Karen tries to close the door again, but David pushes it back with his hands, rather loudly.

DAVID

Would you mind if I come in and waited for her?

KAREN

Yes I would.

They stare down.

DAVID

Do you know where she is? I was really hoping to speak with her.

KAREN

Go away you creep.

Karen tries to close the door once more but David punches it back, drawing lots of attention from the neighbors.

DAVID

God damn it don't do this to me.

David catches his breath as Karen glares.

KAREN

Are you mental? Why would she want to spend her last night of college with someone she just dumped what like a month ago?

David starts to speak but...

KAREN (CONT'D)

And now you're going to make her deal with this the night before graduation because you can't find a job?

David starts to speak again but...

KAREN (CONT'D)

Or is this your big plan to win her back? Wow over a month later you finally worked up the balls to fight for her? That'll work.

DAVID

Karen...

KAREN

Or is this just some typical male what does it all mean closure bullshit? It means she doesn't like you and wants to date someone else. Get over it.

David notices people opening the doors to their apartment and watching this.

KAREN (CONT'D)

And even if I do know where she is, did you think coming over here and threatening me was going to work? Fuck you.

Karen goes to close the door once more but David stops it.

DAVID

You said "even if I do." Was that hypothetical or do you really not know where she is?

KAREN

Don't ruin her last night because you're a scared little boy.

Karen rolls her eyes and slams the door in his face.

David turns around and sees a dozen other people down the hall watching him. He nods to them.

DAVID

Ladies.

The LADIES in the doorways of the apartments laugh as he walks away

INT. DI PALO'S NIGHT

A PACK OF GIRLS at the end of the bar giggles and catches Beau's attention. He raises his glass as a toast and MISSY (20s) their leader returns the favor.

BEAU

Not at 90's Night?

MISSY

Oh God, kill me.

Beau chuckles and gets the Bartender's attention.

BEAU

Another round for both of us. Put them both on my tab.

BARTENDER You're hitting those pretty hard, buddy.

BEAU

Just keep 'em coming, Lloyd.

MISSY

So what? You got like a Don Draper thing going on?

Beau puffs out a cloud of smoke and lowers his voice.

BEAU

Is it working?

Missy laughs. They receive their cocktails. She bites her lip, intrigued.

INT. JARVIS BATHROOM

The Stoner Girl bites her lip as she unravels and pulls out the shrooms.

STONER GIRL

It's crazy that we both went here for so long and never saw or knew each other until tonight and now here we are together. It's like the past four years have been building to this exact moment. Do you believe in that sort of thing?

PAUL

Yeah.

STONER GIRL

How do you usually do this? Do you just like eat 'em straight up, wash 'em down with water or try and put 'em in your food or something?

PAUL

I mean... yeah.

Stoner Girl pulls out one of the shrooms and throws it down her gullet, grimacing.

She hands one to Paul but he stands there idly. She has to force it into his mouth for him until he swallows.

STONER GIRL

How do you feel?

PAUL'S POV: This beautiful young girl is standing face to face with him all alone. He wobbles a little.

PAUL

Have you ever just wanted to fuck like every single person you see?

Even in his psychedelic stupor, Paul can see the amusement on her face shift to disgust.

HEAD GIRL

You think I'm gonna blow you or something just 'cause we split a bag of shrooms?

PAUL

No I just meant...

The Girl SMACKS Paul hard across the face and sends him stumbling to the floor. He finds himself wedged between the toilet and the wall. The Girl keeps the bag and leaves.

Paul settles into the wedge between the toilet and the wall, dejected.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET NIGHT

Dejected David walks down the street. He pulls the photo out of his back pocket. He crumbles it up and throws it onto the nearest lawn.

David gets distracted by BOOMING MUSIC and raises his head: he is standing at the edge of the Phi Ep House.

David takes it in: the red brick, the letters, the flags, the BOUNCER, the whole pomp and circumstance, but something strikes him.

David flips his phone back to the image of Elle dancing and he examines the walls...

DAVID'S POV: it all flashes before him. Elle was wearing an expensive dress with pearls, the Preppy Guy with the Phi Ep patch, the ceiling is of the Phi Ep house. ELLE IS AT THE GALA!

DAVID

Fuck.

David grabs the photo and runs away.

INT. JARVIS BEDROOM

The booming bass lines switch to mellow reverbs as Jarvis takes the most massive bong hit ever and blows the smoke out through his nose.

Titus lays on the floor staring up at the ceiling with a faint smile on his face.

JARVIS

Feel that shit, man?

Titus takes in a deep breath before sitting up.

TITUS

No. Not really.

JARVIS

Me neither.

Jarvis picks up the cannister and examines the seeds.

JARVIS (CONT'D)

I was always afraid to smoke it. Never felt the occasion was worthy.

TITUS

This is literally the weakest shit I've ever smoked. Are you sure you're supposed to store it that long?

Jarvis looks at the broken cannister.

JARVIS I thought that would cultivate the potency.

Titus shrugs.

JARVIS (CONT'D) I've been building this up for years.

TITUS

Bummer.

David bursts into the room, scaring both of them.

DAVID Spit it out. We have work to do.

TITUS

No, man, it's...

David stomps out the weed and their burning incense.

JARVIS Hey, man, that was expensive shit.

TITUS

It was garbage.

DAVID Focus. I found her.

TITUS

Karen told you?

Psh yeah right. It's been right under our noses this whole time: she's at the fucking gala!

TITUS

No fucking way.

DAVID

Do you still have that invite?

Titus pulls ou the invite. David snatches it from him. They're excited. David checks his watch.

DAVID (CONT'D)

We're down to one hour. Let's grab Paul and get over there.

David and Titus run out of the room as Jarvis tries to salvage his weed.

TITUS Sorry about your weed, man. Good luck in med school!

They run through the house and out to the screen porch to find the couch is empty.

TITUS (CONT'D) Oh shit, where did he go?

DAVID We don't have time. He'll turn up.

TITUS He'll turn up? It's Paul!

DAVID

He's the smartest one in the group. He probably went home and went to bed.

TITUS

Really?

DAVID He's okay. I promise. Titus feels wrong but nods his head. He and David take off.

EXT. STREETS OF UPTOWN NIGHT

Paul staggers blindly around town, bobbing his head, singing and frightening Strangers in the process.

PAUL Do do do do do. I will sit right here waiting for the gift of sound and vision!

Paul sees his shadow cast in bright lights up above. He stops and looks up at the marquee: "SKIPPER'S-- 90'S NIGHT."

Paul's eyes light up and he marches in.

INT. DI PALO'S

Beau is sitting with Missy and her TWO FRIENDS now. They're all laughing it up.

MISSY'S FRIEND What are you getting your degree in?

BEAU

History. Chased the money, right?

The Girls laugh.

BEAU (CONT'D)

Nah, I got into Chicago's Law School. Check back on me in a few years and... I will be buried in debt.

MISSY

Wow, that's a really good school.

BEAU

I know, I never thought I'd get in but...

Beau trails off and finishes another cocktail.

MISSY'S FRIEND

Isn't that Andre from the hockey team? He's such a babe!

Everyone leaves the table and heads to the bar except for Missy and Beau, who steal a glance at one another.

EXT. PHI EP HOUSE NIGHT

David and Titus stand at the edge of the lawn staring up at the house. David straightens his shirt and fixes his hair.

TITUS David, man, I don't think this is going to work.

DAVID

Don't be ridiculous. We have their stupid voucher. They have to let us in.

TITUS

We're not dressed up. We don't have dates. They'll sniff us out in two seconds. Can't you just wait for her out here?

DAVID

I don't have time!

David looks deranged and Titus goes along with him.

They tentatively approach the house where a BOUNCER, complete with sunglasses and earpiece, waits for them.

DAVID (CONT'D) H-hi. We'd like to go into the Gala. Please.

BOUNCER

Passes?

DAVID

Give him the thing.

Titus hands over the flyer and the Bouncer examines it.

BOUNCER One of the Brothers gave this to *you*?

David nudges Titus to say something.

TITUS

I'm his dealer.

The Bouncer mulls it over before stepping aside and opening the door.

BOUNCER

Come on in.

They breathe a sigh of relief and step forward. Titus gets to the door when the Bouncer places a hand on David's stomach and moves him back.

BOUNCER (CONT'D) And where's your pass?

DAVID

I'm with him.

BOUNCER Passes are only plus one for ladies.

DAVID

They didn't mention that.

TITUS

Look, he's...

DAVID Just go inside, man. I got this.

TITUS

David...

DAVID

Just go inside.

Titus hesitates but steps into the house. The Bouncer smirks with his authority.

BOUNCER Are we gonna have trouble?

Look, I'm supposed to meet my girlfriend in there.

BOUNCER Why didn't you come as her date?

DAVID

It's complicated. The party's going for another, what, forty five minutes. Can I please just go talk to her?

The Bouncer stares at him for a beat.

BOUNCER Let me check with the organizer.

DAVID

Alright you do that.

David steps away from the Bouncer and paces in front of the house. The Bouncer speaks into his sleeve.

BOUNCER

Tyler, can you come outside? We got a guy says he's meeting up with his girl.

Tyler responds and David waits, checking his watch. Finally, the DOOR OPENS and David turns around.

DAVID

Hey, man, I...

David finds himself face to face with The Prep from earlier.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Ah fuck.

The Prep punches David in the eye, knocking him to the grass.

David crawls away but The Prep kicks him in the side and knocks him onto his back.

The Prep picks David up by the collar.

PREP

I think I'll fuck her again just for that.

The Prep punches him in the mouth before stepping back to the door.

PREP (CONT'D) Get off our lawn before we call the cops.

David has a gash on his forehead and bleeds from the lip.

DAVID

I have only begun to fight.

David crawls away, the swanky affair continuing behind him.

INT. DI PAOLO'S NIGHT

Meanwhile, Beau sits comfortably in the middle of his own swanky affair.

BEAU

Titus is sound asleep, David is pounding on the door. Our Asian neighbors have called the police and I'm too drunk to drive.

Missy sucks on ice cubes.

BEAU (CONT'D)

So David has to walk all the way to the police station and spend the night there.

Missy laughs really hard at the story and playfully touches Beau's arm.

BEAU (CONT'D)

I'm gonna miss those guys.

Missy pushes her drink away and moves in closer to Beau.

MISSY

Look, I don't know what your plans are tomorrow but... do you wanna go back to my place?

Beau feels himself inching toward her. Their lips nearly meet but he stops.

BEAU I can't. I have a girlfriend. I'm sorry. Missy SCOFFS.

MISSY

You're all the same.

Beau rises from the table, dropping a twenty as he leaves.

BEAU

Last round's on me.

Beau runs through the CROWD OF PEOPLE towards the exit.

INT. PHI EP HOUSE NIGHT

Titus walks through the crowd of PREP GUYS in blue blazers, khakis and white caps. He gets a lot of odd looks from people as he passes. He is noticeably the only black guy there.

By the time he has crossed the living room, the PREP GUYS are whispering to each other about who he is and rallying the troops.

TITUS

Thanks, David.

EXT. PHI EP HOUSE NIGHT

David hops the fence into the next door neighbor's yard and sizes up his options: there is a second story porch on the neighbor's house that is reasonably close to a ledge on the Phi Ep house.

David nimbly scales the neighbors' house. He climbs past a window. Inside, a BEARDED MAN plays guitar for two STONED GIRLS.

They see David. He smiles and waves. They smile back.

David reaches the second story porch and sees the ledge across the way. He wipes his hands on the back of his pants and takes the leap...

He misjudged it! He clings to the railing of the balcony with the tip of his fingers.

He finds the strength to pull himself onto the ledge. The nearest window is unlocked and the room dark. He opens the window and steps inside towards the BLARING MUSIC.

INT. SKIPPER'S BAR

NINETIES MUSIC BLARES. Paul takes a few wobbly steps towards the bar. Suddenly, it all washes over him; his pupils dilate, new air fills his lungs, a cold sweat trickles down his neck, and everything around him SLOOOOOOWWWWS DOOOOOOWWWWWN.

Paul moves in slow motion now. He sees the club clearly for the first time. It is beautiful. The colors, the music, the lights, the people dancing without reservation.

Wide-eyed Paul moves through the crowd to the floor.

Everywhere he looks, he sees the face of a beautiful girl, her eyes closed, her hair wild, and her body moving majestically to the beat of the song.

Paul starts to pump his arms from side to side and bobbing his head harder than before. As the song picks up, Paul starts moving his feet. Paul dances like there is no tomorrow, a huge smile on his face.

INT. PHI EP HOUSE SECOND FLOOR NIGHT

David slips down the hall. He hears VOICES coming up the stairs and dives into the closest bedroom and stays quiet.

The VOICES turn out to be a DRUNKEN COUPLE stumbling into an adjacent bedroom to have sex.

DAVID stays completely still but his head rests against the wall that they are now apparently going at it against. Titus hears a series of MUFFLED MOANS and OH GOD'S.

He looks around at the room he is in: all of the walls are covered in Greek letters and customized paddles. It looks like a sex dungeon.

David mouths "what the fuck?" but is cut off by the couple on the other side SLAMMING AGAINST THE WALL so hard that he is knocked off of it.

David crawls out into the hallway. As he inches past the room with the COUPLE inside, he sees through a crack in the door.

DAVID POV: What sounded like a young man and a young woman is actually two FRATERNITY BROTHERS going at it like rabbits.

David assesses the sight with a "what do you know?" look.

INT. PHI EP HOUSE FIRST FLOOR NIGHT

Titus weaves through the crowd but notices a pack of FRAT BROS lead by the ALFA WOLF following him from a distance.

Titus makes a quick move down a hallway and into a bathroom, where he locks the door. They didn't seem to notice.

At a nearby staircase, David slips down and hides in the shadows.

From his vantage, he peers out over the party, moving from face to face. Finally, he sees the side of Elle's face, talking and laughing with a group of people.

Elation comes over him. His phone buzzes. He looks down and reads a message from Titus.

Titus: "You're an asshole."

David puts the phone away and disappears into the shadows.

INT. SKIPPER'S BAR

Beau emerges from the shadows into the crowd of DANCING STUDENTS. He reaches the edge of the dance floor and looks for Katie.

He finds her, but she is dancing with a group of her friends, laughing. She looks so happy without him.

Beau heads for the bar.

INT. PHI EP BATHROOM NIGHT

Titus looks to the window to climb out but it is a single hang window and he would never fit. He is definitely trapped.

TITUS

Shit.

Titus pounds the wall before noticing the toilet. He raises an eyebrow and lifts the lid off the top.

INT. PHI EP HOUSE NIGHT

David, now sporting a black eye and a fat lip, looks straight ahead with an earnest look.

DAVID

Azar Nafisi has a famous quote that goes, "You get a strange feeling when you're about to leave a place. You'll not only miss the people you love but you'll miss the person you are now at this time and this place, because you'll never be this way ever again."

David leans forward.

DAVID (CONT'D)

And who I am, here, now, is because of you. We've grown so much I feel like we're the same person sometimes. And that to be myself without you, I wouldn't be myself at all.

David raises his hand and lowers his voice.

DAVID (CONT'D) And if I stay with the one person I love, I'll always feel like myself.

David leans forward to kiss but we realize he is speaking into a mirror.

DAVID (CONT'D) That's the ole English degree working for ya.

David steps out back into the party, which has died down a little bit. He can't find Elle at first but the a group of people part and he can finally see her...

...sitting on The Prep's lap and making out with him.

David absorbs what is happening and freezes. Everything is silent for a few seconds.

He comes too, nods, turns and walks out the door.

INT. SKIPPER'S BAR NIGHT

Beau finishes yet another scotch when the BARMAN walks over to him.

BARMAN

Last one?

Beau looks up at the Barman and shakes his head.

INT. PHI EP BATHROOM NIGHT

The ALFA WOLF gathers the troops and they start assembling outside of the bathroom with Titus inside.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET NIGHT

David leans against a tree playing with the grass. He looks down at the sidewalk and sees a scribbling: "James Was Here?"

David tilts his head and looks beneath it: "5/12/68."

David smiles but the scribbling is blocked out by an approaching shadow from the streetlight.

David looks up: silhouetted by the streetlight is a female figure.

ELLE

David?

DAVID

Elle?

David pulls himself to his feet and looks at her in the proper light. God she looks gorgeous.

ELLE

Why are you sitting in the street and what happened to your face?

Elle hiccups and covers her mouth.

You know it's crazy, I was looking for um my friend, and then we got separated and I...

An bemused smile forms on Elle's face.

DAVID (CONT'D)

...I was hoping to run into you.

ELLE

That's a little creepy.

DAVID Believe me I've felt like a creep this whole night.

David raps his forehead again, replaying everything.

ELLE Are you alright, David?

DAVID

Yeah, I just...

He looks at her and can't do it.

DAVID (CONT'D) ...just happy I got to see you.

Elle rocks on her heels and gives him an odd look.

ELLE O-kay. See you at graduation?

David nods as Elle walks past him. He shakes himself out of the funk and grabs her wrist, turning her to face him.

DAVID

I needed you to hear something while I still have the chance to say it.

ELLE What are you doing?

David takes both of her hands.

Azar Nafisi has quote that, um, it uh, it goes, "Leaving a place is a strange feeling, you miss the people you love... you not only miss the people you love, but..."

Elle is struggling to follow.

DAVID (CONT'D)

You miss the person that you were. When you leave a place is what I'm trying to say. And I miss the person I was when I was with you.

Elle tilts her head, touched.

DAVID (CONT'D)

It was the best person I'm capable of being and I miss being that guy.

ELLE

David...

DAVID

It hit me earlier tonight that I might never see you again and that I might never have a chance to be that person, to be this person again.

ELLE

That's very sweet but...

DAVID

I'm not going to let that happen.

David moves in, everything slows down and all is right with the world as he plants a kiss on her.

Elle returns it briefly before gently pushing David off. They are still in each other's clutches as she looks up at him.

ELLE

What are you doing?

David looks back at her and his look of ecstacy fades.

I have no idea.

David loosens his grip. Elle steps back and straightens her hair and dress.

They look at each other for a very long awkward beat before David starts laughing.

Elle is not amused at first but David is laughing so hard and so sincerely that she joins in.

They laugh until they can't breathe and catch their breath.

DAVID (CONT'D) I am truly sorry. I've been running around all night thinking that would solve everything.

ELLE

Well, you are an idiot.

DAVID

Yes. Yes I am.

They give each other a look for a beat. Elle leans too hard on one heel and nearly falls in the street, but David catches her.

DAVID (CONT'D) That explains why you taste like gin.

ELLE And you taste like Jimmy John's.

DAVID Can I walk you home one last time?

ELLE

You never walked me home.

DAVID Alright can I walk you home for the first time? Please?

Elle crosses her arms, waddling a little from the alcohol.

ELLE

Fine.

INT. SKIPPER'S BAR NIGHT

90's Night is in its final glorious moments. "Tricky" by Run DMC blares on the speakers and in the middle of the dance floor, Paul is dancing like a wild man.

His shirt is unbuttoned and sweat drips from him but he is alive. He hits the ground to do his own kind of breakdancing thing.

A DRUNK GIRL dances with him. He leans over to kiss her and just licks the side of her face.

Suddenly, everything catches up with him and he has to make a b-line for the bathroom.

INT. PHI EP BATHROOM NIGHT

Titus hears the FRAT BROS talking outside of the door and types a long text for David into his phone.

We don't see exactly what it says but we catch "fucking asshole" and "biggest piece of shit."

EXT. ELLE'S STREET NIGHT

The two walk side by side back towards her place. Elle has an extra pep her step, bobbing her head as she sings.

ELLE Farmer farmer. Put away your DDT now. Give me brown spots

David looks at her and smirks.

ELLE (CONT'D) Aren't you enjoying my singing?

DAVID Joni would be proud.

ELLE

You're jealous.

DAVID No I'm happy seeing as I bought you that album.

ELLE

Oh ho. Of course, David, the great gate keeper of artistic quality.

Elle throws her arms out to her side and David has to steady her.

DAVID I don't think I've ever seen you like this.

Elle wipes her mouth.

ELLE Are you making fun of me?

DAVID No you're just having so much fun. Good for you.

ELLE

What is there to be sad about? Four fucking years and we did it. We did it, David.

David shrugs.

ELLE (CONT'D)

How are you gonna find something to be mad about?

DAVID

The best four years of my life are over. I'm never going to see my friends again and I get to spend the rest of my life at a job I hate and getting old and fat. Woohoo.

Elle hits David in the chest harder than she means to.

ELLE

That's bullshit. You get to move on. You get to move to a city and make new friends and have new experiences.

And work in a cubicle.

ELLE Okay. Yeah. Isn't that what this is for? Training for the real world.

DAVID It's a little different for you.

ELLE What is that supposed to mean?

DAVID

Forget it.

Elle pokes him in the chest and nearly loses her balance.

ELLE

How's it different for me?

DAVID

No it's just, you always knew you wanted to work in finance, your dad helped you get the job. The path was kind of laid out for you.

Elle stares at David, her head bobbing on her shoulders.

DAVID (CONT'D)

What? You asked.

ELLE

You think all I had to do was show up for the past four years?

DAVID

I didn't say that.

ELLE

Don't back off it. You said it was easier for me than it was for you.

I said it was different. I didn't say it was easy.

ELLE

But you think it was easy.

DAVID

I think it was different.

Elle cuts in front of him.

ELLE

Answer the question. Do you think it was easier for me than it was for you?

DAVID

I think if I had a job waiting for me at the end of all this I'd be out celebrating tonight too.

ELLE

Suddenly you need a reason to celebrate.

David pffts and looks away.

ELLE (CONT'D)

Wait wait, is it midnight yet? David must be on his fifth cocktail and talking about how mainstream music ruined hip hop.

DAVID

Alright that's...

ELLE

And Beau's getting in a fist fight while Paul's talking down to everyone even though he's been staring at my boobs for the past three hours. Is that the big difficult struggle you're talking about?

DAVID

Leave my friends out of this.

ELLE You're sad and it's everybody else's fault, right?

DAVID Yeah? And you're a loud drunk who thinks she's being articulate.

David immediately regrets this and Elle builds up a head of steam.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Look, I...

ELLE

While you were listening to your records and getting drunk with your boys, I was studying for the GMAT and working at the library until they kicked me out. And those summers you spent sitting in your parents' basement binge watching TV shows, I was volunteering in Nicaragua and interning in Hong Kong. And you're going to look down on me and make me deal with this shit because I'm enjoying myself between college and work? You got four years of this and I don't get one night?

David just got his ass handed to him. They stand in the street with Elle in his face waiting for a response.

DAVID

I'm sorry.

Elle steps back and catches herself. David looks down.

ELLE

David, I...

DAVID

No, no. Don't apologize. You're right. I needed to hear that.

ELLE

I was frustrated...

DAVID

You are pretty drunk.

ELLE

I'm not that drunk.

DAVID You just started frustrated with an "s."

Elle laughs as she pulls her hair back.

ELLE You haven't changed.

DAVID It's only been a month.

ELLE

Feels like longer.

David extends his hand to keep walking her and she eventually takes it.

DAVID Can I ask you a question?

ELLE I'm not having sex with you.

David laughs.

DAVID

Thank you but seriously: why were you ever with me?

ELLE

Oh my God.

DAVID

No, I'm serious, why'd you waste your time with a guy like me?

ELLE

Poor me. Poor David. I'm such a loser. Why doesn't Elle like me?

DAVID

I think I've been a pretty good sport about this all things considered.

ELLE So what is your question?

DAVID Why did you date me?

ELLE I don't know. Why did you date me?

DAVID Easy. Because I loved you. And I loved who I was when I was with you.

Elle looks into David's eyes. He means it.

ELLE Shit. How do I top that answer?

DAVID Don't mess with an English major.

Elle clicks her heels as she mulls it over.

ELLE

You were just so passionate about everything. So sure. You loved what you loved.

DAVID

Including you.

ELLE

Including me. You were so confident about who you were and what you believed in. That's why I knew it had to end.

DAVID

What do you mean?

ELLE

You were too comfortable to change and we weren't going to work.

DAVID

You didn't even give me a chance.

ELLE

You're not the same person coming out of something you are coming in. You just have to appreciate it while your paths cross.

David lets this sink in.

ELLE (CONT'D)

Can I ask you a question?

DAVID

I'll have sex if you want.

Elle slaps his arm.

ELLE What do you see yourself doing ten years from now?

They reach the edge of her parking lot.

DAVID

Jesus you're like the fifth person to ask me some form of this question.

ELLE

Answer it.

DAVID I have absolutely no idea.

ELLE Alright what about five years from now?

DAVID

Celebrating the fifth anniversary of you asking me this question.

Elle rolls her eyes.

ELLE

One year from now?

David genuinely thinks.

No clue.

ELLE And isn't there something kind of exciting about that?

They reach her door. Elle lets herself in and stands at the threshold.

DAVID But what do I have to show for all of this?

ELLE Besides the eighty thousand dollar education?

DAVID

Come on.

ELLE You have to be kidding. We never went ten minutes without running into a friend of yours.

DAVID What's the point if it's all over?

Elle rocks back on her heels and thinks.

ELLE The friendships that last I guess.

David lets this sink in. Elle leans forward and kisses him on the cheek.

ELLE (CONT'D)

Goodbye, David.

DAVID

I'll see you around.

They smile at each other and she closes the door.

David steps back out into the parking lot. He pulls the picture out of his pocket and sees him and Elle.

He unfolds it at the crease to see Beau, Titus and Paul in the picture as well. A smile forms.

He checks his phone: 1:45 AM. He swipes his screen and finds a massive text message from Titus laden with the curse words.

David types a fast response before taking a few steps forward. He finally breaks into a sprint.

INT. SKIPPER'S BAR BATHROOM

Paul looks in the mirror. He looks terrible: pale, dehydrated, drunk, stoned, spaced out.

PAUL Come on, man. You got this.

Paul slaps himself in the face from both sides.

He splashes water into his eyes and in his hair.

He looks at himself in the mirror and winks.

PAUL (CONT'D)

You're good.

Paul takes one step towards the club before collapsing to the ground and SPEWING all over the floor, repeatedly, completely losing control.

INT. PHI EP HOUSE NIGHT

The Alfa Dog and the Brothers start POUNDING ON THE DOOR.

INT. PHI EP BATHROOM NIGHT

Titus places his body against the door to try and keep them out.

ALFA DOG (O.S.) We know you're in there. Come out and take it like a man.

TITUS David I fucking hate you.

Titus hears a RAPPING on the window.

Titus pushes the hang drop open to see David's smiling face staring up at him.

DAVID

Having some trouble?

TITUS

You motherfucker. Where have you been?

DAVID

No, man, it was great. I found Elle and she was making out with this other guy, but then she let me walk her home and it really kind of put things in perspective, you know? I said to her...

The Alfa Dog kicks the door and it splinters.

TITUS That's fucking great. Can you get me out of here now??

David examines the window and tugs at it: very sturdy.

DAVID You can't squeeze through there?

TITUS

Do I look like an acrobat?

David strokes his chin and examines the situation.

The Alfa Dog kicks again and the door is about to give way.

TITUS (CONT'D)

Do you mind?

DAVID I got a plan. Did you do the toilet thing?

TITUS Are you kidding me right now!

DAVID Did you do the toilet thing?

TITUS

Yes. Yes. I did it.

DAVID

Perfect. Flush the toilet. I'll be right back.

David takes off and the door is kicked in again. One more kick ought to do it.

TITUS

Are you...

Titus turns and looks at the toilet. He tentatively reaches out and pushes down the flushing lever.

A rock comes CRASHING through the window, shattering it.

David appears in the now open void.

DAVID

Come on.

TITUS

That was your plan?

The door is kicked open so Titus makes a dive through the window to the outside.

The Alfa Dog leads the charge into the bathroom but Titus is gone. He stops in his tracks and looks in horror.

ALFA DOG

What the f...

EXT. PHI EP HOUSE NIGHT

David and Titus huddle in the bushes outside of the house. The night is silent.

TITUS

What are we still doing ...

Shhhh.

A beat. David looks down at his watch for a few seconds before pointing at the door.

On cue, the FRAT BROS and the DRESSED UP LADY GUESTS come running out of the house SCREAMING, most of them have fecal stains up to their ankles.

THE PREP (O.S.) Oh my God it smells like an asshole in there.

FEMALE GUEST (O.S.) My night is ruined.

OTHER GUEST (O.S.) This is the worst gala ever.

The Alfa Dog is the last one marching out of the house, himself covered in shit from the knees down.

Titus and David look at each other.

TITUS

You son of a bitch.

They give each other an emphatic hug and laugh.

Mid-hug, David looks at his watch.

DAVID Come on. We can still catch 90's Night.

David breaks the hug and takes off running.

TITUS

Seriously?

Titus runs after him.

INT. SKIPPER'S BAR NIGHT

Beau rests his face on the bar, practically dozing off.

DJ (O.S.)

Alright, folks, we've got a few more songs for you, but this is the last call from the bar. Last call everybody.

Beau nods his head to the Bar Man and heads for the door when Titus and David burst through the entrance, sweaty and catching their breaths.

BEAU Where the hell have you guys been?

TITUS Where the fuck is your phone?

BEAU

Why are you sweating? And, David, what the hell happened to your face?

DAVID

It's a long story.

BEAU Did you find, Elle?

DAVID

Yeah but it doesn't matter. Where's Katie?

BEAU

She's having a blast without me. I'm not gonna ruin her night.

DAVID

No, damn it. You are not going to do this.

BEAU

Just let this one go.

DAVID

Where is she?

BEAU

Out on the floor.

DAVID

Let's go.

David pushes past Beau and drags him by the arm out onto the dance floor.

David pushes his way through people until he finds Katie dancing with her friends.

KATIE

David?

Katie notices Beau.

KATIE (CONT'D)

What do you want?

Beau starts to speak but David cuts him off.

DAVID

Beau is sorry and would like to patch things up.

KATIE

Well, Beau should have thought of that before his boxing match at the Taco Bell.

BEAU

(to Katie) Excellent point. (to David) Can we go now?

Katie turns the other way but Beau and David move back in front of her.

DAVID

Katie, Beau may not be able to articulate it but he has been in love with you since the second you met. I remember the night he came home and wouldn't shut up about you. He's been the same ever since.

Katie is taken aback.

DAVID (CONT'D)

And you're right, he makes horrible decisions and has really bad judgment. We don't know how good a lawyer that'll make him but bless him for trying.

BEAU

Thanks, man.

Maybe he is oblivious to how flirty he is with other girls but he can't help the fact that he's incredibly charming and ridiculously attractive.

BEAU Dude what are you doing?

Katie laughs slightly. Is this for real?

DAVID

But I assure you that you will never have more chances to sleep with more people than you do when you are in college and for four years, all this man has wanted to do is spend time with you.

Katie looks at Beau, who smirks.

DAVID (CONT'D)

So he jokes with other girls, and he gets defensive when you're mad at him and he gets in fights at a Taco Bell. But that's just his way of saying "I love you."

Katie covers her mouth, trying not to laugh harder.

DAVID (CONT'D) I mean seriously. He's at 90's Night waiting for you. He hates this shit!

Katie can't keep it back any more and laughs.

DAVID (CONT'D)

And take it from someone who knows: if you can get through these fours and still feel that way about each other, that's something special.

Katie looks over to Beau, who has a sheepish look on his face. David turns to Beau as well.

DAVID (CONT'D) Got anything you want to add?

KATIE

Don't spoil it.

Katie grabs Beau by the collar and pulls him in for a kiss.

David watches them happily but a bittersweet feeling comes over him. He walks back to the bar.

Titus is waiting him with three shots in his hands.

DAVID I thought it was last call?

TITUS I told him we were graduating.

David takes his shot and toasts Titus. The two of them look out and see Beau and Katie dancing happily together.

TITUS (CONT'D) How the hell'd you pull that one off?

DAVID I'm on the biggest roll of my life.

TITUS

Going out in style.

BACK ON THE FLOOR

Beau and Katie are continuing to makeout on the floor. It's getting a little gross.

A new song starts and Katie's eyes bulge.

She looks over at her girlfriends, who are going nuts as well.

KATIE Is it okay if I go dance with them for this one? It's kind of a tradition.

BEAU

Knock yourself out.

Katie gives Beau a farewell kiss before rejoining the gaggle and singing along while swaying.

Titus and David are waiting for Beau with his shot. He takes it from him and they look at one another, appreciating the moment.

BEAU (CONT'D) You know I always hated this song.

TITUS

You would.

DAVID

It's not so bad.

They all raise their glasses.

DAVID (CONT'D) What else is there to say? We had a good run.

They are on the verge of tears when Beau is distracted.

BEAU

And... sweet mother of God.

The other two turn and look to see what Beau sees:

Paul, crazy hair going in every direction, dried vomit running down his mouth and his shirt unbuttoned to reveal a sweaty beater, comes stumbling back onto the dance floor.

Paul tries to sing.

Titus, Beau and David watch with their mouths hanging open.

Paul runs out onto the dance floor and starts thrashing his head as the song reaches its refrain. Everyone that sees him backs away in horror.

PAUL You know it's actually about the birth of his son!

The dance floor retreats from him.

TITUS Do you think he...?

BEAU Shh shh shhh. There's nothing to be said. Paul starts hopping around for his dance move and slowly sees that everyone has backed away from him.

Every eye in the house is on him as his dancing slows and slows until he is standing there all alone.

He stares at the huddle of people and they back at him. The music cuts out and we wait in silence.

David throws down his shot and marches onto the floor.

He retrieves the flash drive from his pocket that he took from Paul earlier and walks up to the DJ's laptop.

DAVID

May I?

David plugs the flash drive in the side and quickly scrolls through the playlist until he finds the song he wants.

A 70s deep cut starts to play as David walks back out onto the floor and nods at Paul.

The song kicks into its guitar riff and David starts playing air guitar and thrashing his head to the beat of the music.

Paul watches at first but is overcome by David's enthusiasm and joins in.

The two of them bob their head and couldn't care less who is watching.

Beau throws down his shot and races out to the floor too.

The song reaches its first guitar solo and the three of them have completely lost it.

They're gyrating, faking guitar solos, slamming their heads and going nuts to the song.

TITUS

Fuck it.

Titus tosses his shot over his shoulder and races out onto the floor just in time for the final bridge.

The four of them nod their heads along to the beat.

The rest of the bar watches in disbelief.

Some people start to pull out their phones and take pictures and video of the four of them.

Katie laughs as she holds up her phone and snaps a pic of the four of them.

THE PICTURE FREEZES. A moment in time, the four of them, going nuts, relentlessly young for the last time. Happy.

We slowly pan back to see that the picture has been printed out and pinned front and center on the "Wall of Fame" at CJ's.

It continues to pan back farther and farther until we eventually lose the picture in the collage of the others and it is indistinguishable from the rest.

THE END