

Underage

By

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&

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First Draft

To love is to suffer.

To avoid suffering, one must not love. But then, one suffers from not loving.

Therefore, to love is to suffer; not to love is to suffer; to suffer is to suffer.

To be happy is to love.

To be happy, then, is to suffer, but suffering makes one unhappy.

Therefore, to be happy, one must love or love to suffer or suffer from too much happiness."

- Woody Allen, *Love and Death*, 1975

"The heart wants what it wants. You meet someone and you fall in love and that's that."

- Woody Allen as himself, Time Magazine, August 1992

INT SOME RANDOM WOMAN'S APARTMENT - EARLY MORNING

ANDY MASON opens his eyes. He rubs them, orients himself, and gets out of bed. This is not Andy's bedroom. It belongs to the sleeping WOMAN by his side. Andy is careful not to wake her as he gets out of bed and puts on his pants.

Instead of just, you know, leaving, Andy finds a pen and paper and writes the girl a note.

INSERT: "Dear..."

Andy stops writing. He realizes he doesn't know the girl's name. Shit.

Andy looks around the room for some clues, seeing none. Finally his eyes fall on a small blue Tiffany box on her night stand. Tiffany...

Maybe that's it? Andy writes "Dear Tiffany, great meeting you. Take it easy, Andy." He leaves that on her desk, grabs the rest of his clothes, and walks out the door.

EXT RANDOM WOMAN'S BUILDING - SAME

Andy emerges half-dressed from the building and walks to his car. In the light we get a good look at him. He's approaching 30. Attractive. Charming. Guys like him. Girls like him a lot.

Andy checks himself in the rearview mirror. Likes what he sees. Outside, a GUY IN A SUIT passes, talking on a cell phone. Guy seems real agitated. Andy smiles, shakes his head. Turns up the radio. Drives off.

INT TOTAL BODY FITNESS - EMPLOYEE LOCKER ROOM - SAME

Unlike the Suit Guy, Andy is a personal trainer. His close friend/ co-worker BRUCE (6'5", 80 pounds) is there as well.

ANDY
Hey Bruce. What was that girl's name last night?

BRUCE
The one you went home with?
(beat)
You don't remember her name?

ANDY
What? These things happen.

BRUCE
Tracy.

ANDY
(damn)
So close.

BRUCE
You're unbelievable.

ANDY
How did you do with the friend?

BRUCE
How do you think I did?

ANDY
Aw man, I'm sorry.

BRUCE
(holds up a napkin)
No, dude, I got the digits!

ANDY
Way to go, Bruce! I'm proud of you.
So when you gonna call?

BRUCE
What do you mean? I've called twice
already.

This deflates Andy. He just shakes his head at his friend.

BRUCE
Was that wrong?

INT TOTAL BODY FITNESS - DAY

SERIES OF SHOTS:

- Andy is helping a very sexy FEMALE CLIENT (30s) do squats. She sticks her shapely ass right smack in his face. Andy smiles. He has the best job in the world.

- Andy says goodbye to a MALE CLIENT, (50s).

ANDY
Ice that knee when you get home,
Steve.

MALE CLIENT
Will do. And hey, stop by the
restaurant anytime. On the house.

ANDY
I'm gonna take you up on that.

- Andy stretches a SOCCER MOM early 40s but thinks she's younger.

ANDY
Where does it hurt?

Soccer Mom moves his hand from her calf to her upper thigh.

SOCCKER MOM
Here.

Andy massages her thigh. She moans a little.

ANDY
You need to stretch more, Mrs.
Green.

SOCCKER MOM
Please... call me Amanda.

Bruce is watching this, not paying attention to his 70-year old CLIENT, who is nearly crushed by the barbell.

INT MCSORLEY'S - SAME

A hip local bar. Bruce follows Andy as they walk inside.

BRUCE
Should I call her again?

ANDY
No.

BRUCE
Maybe she lost her phone. Maybe she
didn't get the message.

ANDY
I think you didn't get the message.
(to the Bartender)
Two shots, bourbon.
(to Bruce)
What are you having?

BRUCE
Chardonnay?
(off Andy's look)
Beer.
(beat)
So what do you think I should do?

ANDY
First of all, you should stop
complaining.

BRUCE
Easy for you to say.

ANDY

You know how good you have it? We both do. We make our own hours. Dress how we want. Work's not exactly stressful, know what I mean? Then at night, we go out, we meet girls, we hook up...

BRUCE

Well you do.

ANDY

...we got it made, my friend. What more could you possibly want?

BRUCE

I just want a nice girl, Andy. That's what I want.

The drinks come.

ANDY

Hate to break it to you buddy, but this is a bar...

(beat)

...there's no nice girls here.

Andy downs both shots, grabs Bruce, they go into the crowd.

LATER. Andy talking to one GIRL. She's totally interested. Bruce is next to them, his arms crossed, trying to look busy.

LATER. Andy pushes Bruce over to a SECOND GIRL. We don't hear what's said but Bruce very clearly strikes out. Andy shakes his head.

LATER. Andy and Bruce back at the bar. More drinks come.

BRUCE

See? I'm out there, working it, throwing pitches... women won't give me the time of day.

ANDY

It's not that bad.

BRUCE

(to Girl at Bar)
Excuse me, can you tell me what time it is?

GIRL AT BAR

(looks at Bruce; beat)

No.

BRUCE

(point proven, right back
to Andy)

And you... you just stand there,
with your smile and your... stupid
dimples... you get whatever you
want. I got a nice smile. I'm
taller than you. What the fuck?

ANDY

It's the smell.

BRUCE

What smell?

ANDY

You have a smell.

BRUCE

What do I smell like?

ANDY

Desperation.

BRUCE

It's Drakkar Noir!

ANDY

Well that's also a problem.

(to Bartender)

Two more.

(back to Bruce)

See, women have a keen sense of
smell, Bruce. It's in their DNA.

You know, like... science and shit.

The drinks come. Andy downs them both. Signals for more.

ANDY

Let me see your game.

BRUCE

Huh?

ANDY

Pretend I'm a girl. Pick me up.

BRUCE

Um... ok.

(gets into "character")

"Hi, I'm Bruce --"

ANDY

There. Already you lost me.

BRUCE

But --

ANDY

You're being yourself! That's not what girls want.

BRUCE

What do they want?

ANDY

I don't know. They're crazy. They all want something different. The trick is to figure out what it is... and be that.

Andy sees a WOMAN across the bar.

ANDY

(head nod)

2 o'clock. Vinyl skirt, tank top, maybe a tattoo or six...yup, there we go. So what's that tell you?

Bruce has no idea)

She likes the bad boy, Bruce. You go in there all broody and tough, you're golden.

(pointing to a 2nd WOMAN)

How bout her? Pantsuit. Mojito.

Not one but two Blackberrys. This girl needs to relax. And you're a massage therapist. Bam. Guaranteed sex.

Bruce isn't convinced.

ANDY

Ok. Over here we've got --

At which point, a GIRL has arrived to interrupt.

GIRL

Sorry. Is anyone (sitting here)?

Short 1960s haircut, smooth skin, bright eyes. Hot. Her name as we'll soon discover is BRADEN MATTHEWS.

ANDY

Uh... no. Please.

She sits. Andy winks at Bruce. Watch and learn.

ANDY

I'm Andy.

BRADEN
Braden.

ANDY
You don't belong here, do you
Braden?

BRADEN
(beat)
Sorry?

ANDY
You just seem... out of place. Like
you belong somewhere else.

BRADEN
And where is it I belong?

ANDY
I'm thinking... Paris. 1964.

Braden smiles. He's got her.

ANDY
You know the French New Wave?
Truffaut, Godard... You look
straight out of one of those
movies.

Braden starts to laugh.

ANDY
What?

BRADEN
Does that line ever work?

Bruce gets a kick out of Andy being taken to task.

ANDY
It's not a line.

BRADEN
Uh-huh. Like you've seen any of
those movies.

ANDY
Braden, do I look like someone who
lies to impress women?

BRADEN
You're a guy, aren't you?

Bruce loves this girl! She's taking Andy down. Andy, however, is undeterred.

ANDY
How bout a drink...?

BRADEN
And now you're trying to get me
drunk.

ANDY
I'm just trying to get me drunk.

BRADEN
I'll have a water.

ANDY
Whatever your heart desires. Why
don't you sit over there on the
couch? I'll bring it right over.

BRADEN
Ok.

Braden gets up and walks over to a couch. Andy turns to
Bruce, smiles. Bruce can't believe it!

SOME TIME LATER. Andy and Braden on the couch. They laugh at
something. Andy is totally lit.

ANDY
I've been meaning to ask... how
come you're all alone?

BRADEN
(shrugs)
Don't most of those French New Wave
girls end up killing their
boyfriends?

ANDY
If you say so.

BRADEN
Maybe that's why.

ANDY
Well, you don't scare me. I like a
challenge.

BRADEN
Good. You found one.

ANDY
You know, it's loud in here. You
wanna --?

BRADEN
Sure.

Now Andy is surprised. Just like that?

ANDY

Really?

BRADEN

Andy...

(smiles)

...you had me at Truffaut.

Braden stands up and heads towards the exit. Andy follows, psyched. On his way out the door, he throws his car keys to Bruce and winks.

EXT/INT BRADEN'S HOUSE - LATER

Andy and Braden enter her place. They move through the living room, climb up the stairs, and make their way into her bedroom, lip-locked the whole way. The door shuts in our face and we:

CUT TO:

INT BRADEN'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Andy wakes up in bed. Tries to orient himself. Sees the sleeping lump next to him. Remembers.

Careful not to disturb her, he gets out of bed. He looks around the room -- frilly bedspread, pink wallpaper, stuffed bear on the bed -- a real girly girl lives here. Andy puts on his clothes as quietly as possible and heads out the door.

On the way down the stairs, he passes several hanging photos of the girl as a child, including one with her father HAROLD, late 50s, (even in pictures an intense son of a bitch).

Andy smiles -- cute kid. Then, for a second, merely having these pictures up seems kinda strange. Andy blinks. Whatever, he's out of there.

INT TOTAL BODY FITNESS - DAY

SERIES OF SHOTS:

- Andy is training a MALE CLIENT (40s).

ANDY

Thanks again for the tickets
George. Courtside is amazing.

MALE CLIENT

Anytime I'm not using them, they're
yours.

Andy is psyched. The loudspeaker interrupts with an announcement:

RECEPTIONIST (O.S.)
Andy, call on line two.

Andy finds this odd.

ANDY
Let me see who that is.

He heads over to reception and picks up the phone.

ANDY
Andy, here.

FEMALE VOICE
Hello, tiger!

SPLITSCREEN WITH BRADEN, in her bedroom.

ANDY
(confused)
Hello?

BRADEN
It's me!

Andy can't even imagine who this is.

BRADEN
It's Braden.

ANDY
(no idea)
Um, I think you have the wrong --

BRADEN
From last night. Braden.

ANDY
(beat)
Oh, Braden. Right... of course.
Braden. Hi. How can I help you?

BRADEN
Just calling to say what's up.

Andy looks at the phone like it's diseased.

ANDY
Um... how you did get this number?

BRADEN

Oh, right. Duh. That's what I called to tell you. Your phone... you left it at my place.

Andy feels his pockets. Realizes she's right, he doesn't have his phone. Mouths "shit."

ANDY

So I did.

BRADEN

I'll be home all day. How bout you swing by later on, pick it up?

Andy mouths "shit, shit, shit." Weighs his options -- buy a new phone, go back and get this one.

BRADEN

You remember where I live, don't you?

EXT/INT BRADEN'S HOUSE

Andy rings the bell. Braden answers and gives him a big hug.

BRADEN

It is soooo good to see you!

Braden is already halfway up the stairs to her room. Andy has no choice but to follow. Which he does very hesitantly.

ANDY

I can't really stay actually...

Braden is now in her bedroom. Andy is making sure to remain outside of it. She plops down on the bed like a teenager.

BRADEN

Come here.

ANDY

Um... No.

BRADEN

Why not? What's the matter?

Andy sighs. He's gonna have to lay the smackdown. He enters the room and sits on her bed.

ANDY

(deep breath)

How do I put this?

Before he continues, Andy sees the stuffed animal on the bed. What's weird is that it isn't just the one. There's like ten of these things. He continues.

ANDY

I think maybe you've got the wrong idea. About us.

BRADEN

What do you mean?

ANDY

Yeah, see, the whole boyfriend/girlfriend thing. That's really not what I do.

(off her look)

I'm just... I'm not a one-woman man, you know? Relationships, that sort of thing... not for me.

BRADEN

But... we had sex last night.

ANDY

Uh-huh.

BRADEN

You wouldn't have sex with someone if you weren't gonna see them again, would you?

Andy is speechless. He stands up.

ANDY

You know, I think I'll just grab my phone and be --

BRADEN

Andy...

ANDY

Hmm?

BRADEN

Sit down.

ANDY

Nah, I think I'm gonna --.

BRADEN

Sit. Down.

Andy rolls his eyes. Very reluctantly sits.

BRADEN

So it's like this. I have good news and I have bad news. Which you want first?

ANDY

The... bad news?

BRADEN

Well, the bad news is... I'm not 18.

A brief moment of silence.

ANDY

Please tell me you're 19.

BRADEN

No.

At which point, Andy's world comes crashing down.

ANDY

(beat)

Oh fuck me.

BRADEN

Already did that!

Andy starts to freak out.

BRADEN

Now don't freak out. There's good news too!

ANDY

Is it that I'm dreaming?

BRADEN

No.

ANDY

Then there's no good news. Holy shit...

Braden moves over to Andy to comfort him. He runs from her like she's diseased.

ANDY

No, get that away from me!

BRADEN

It's not contagious.

ANDY
It's illegal! I've committed a
crime! I'm gonna go to jail...!

BRADEN
Only if I say something.

ANDY
...And I was hammered! I don't
remember...
(beat)
Wait, what did you say?

BRADEN
You're only in trouble if the cops
find out. And I'm real good at
keeping secrets.

ANDY
(relieved)
Oh. That is... you would do that?!
You are just... Thank you! Thank
you so much...

BRADEN
Braden.

ANDY
Right, Braden, yes. This is... I
don't know what to say.

Andy goes over to hug her. Thinks better of it on the way and
politely (though quite awkwardly) pats her on the head.

ANDY
You belong to a gym? Let me hook
you up with some guest passes.

BRADEN
I'm good.

ANDY
Ok. Well, anything you want, it's
yours.

BRADEN
I want you to be my boyfriend.

ANDY
(beat)
Say again?

BRADEN
That's the good news! We're
boyfriend/girlfriend now!

ANDY

Uh. Are you completely insane?

BRADEN

I don't think so.

ANDY

Cause, when I leave here, which is happening momentarily, you and I will never see each other again. You get that, right?

BRADEN

Well that's up to you. You can walk out now, take your chances... I'm sure that "Oz" show exaggerates...

ANDY

(beat)

And the other option?

BRADEN

We go on some dates! See a movie, hit the pier... hey, you like hiking?

ANDY

You've gotta be kidding me.

BRADEN

It's not permanent. Just till graduation...

ANDY

And when, may I ask, is that?

BRADEN

On the 10th... Of June.

ANDY

Oh for fuck's sake --

BRADEN

Andy, you committed a crime. You don't wanna go to jail, do you?

(beat))

Great. So think of it this way. Either you're my bitch... or someone else's.

Andy looks like he's gonna throw up.

BRADEN

Come watch my volleyball game tomorrow.

ANDY
(beat)
I can't deal with this.

BRADEN
You'll love it. Girls in knee high
socks. Totally your thing.

ANDY
It's not my --

BRADEN
3:15, St. Bonnie's. Don't be late.

Andy wants to say something to Braden but there are no words.
So he just turns and walks out.

ANDY
to himself)
Oh my god, oh my god, oh my god.

We follow Andy as he walks down the stairs, passing the
photos on the wall he saw before. He notices now, the one of
Braden and her Dad where she looks like a child -- it's
labeled "Christmas 2006." Andy is freaked the fuck out!

ANDY
Motherf---

INT CATHOLIC SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Andy's curse is drowned out by the bell of the fire drill.

We see a bevy of students in their Catholic School uniforms
file out of classrooms and into the hallway. We favor the
uber-fashionable HILLARY, LUCY, and JANE.

SUPER: SIX DAYS EARLIER

HILLARY
She has to know about it by now.

LUCY
What if she doesn't?

Braden joins them as they walk outside.

BRADEN
Hey girls.

The girls stop in their tracks. No idea what to say.

BRADEN
What is it? What's wrong?

JANE
It's nothing.

HILLARY
(bad liar)
Nothing at all. Totally.

Hillary is a terrible liar. Braden doesn't like this one bit.

EXT HIGH SCHOOL - SAME

The girls make their way outside. Braden notices they can hardly look at her.

BRADEN
(to Friends)
You guys...

She also begins to notice all sorts of classmates sneaking glances. Whispering. Looking away.

BRADEN
Hey!
(they look at her)
What the hell's going on?!

Hillary cracks first.

HILLARY
Ask Tim.

BRADEN
Tim?

Braden's eyes fall on handsome, chiseled, athletic, homecoming King TIM COOLEY in a crowd of people. He seems to be showing them something from his iPhone. A steely resolve comes over Braden as she heads towards Tim to find out what's up. Tim doesn't see her until the last second.

TIM
Oh shit.

Braden grabs the phone to see what everyone's looking at. It's a video file of Tim in bed. He's not alone. And the girl he's with -- it isn't Braden.

TIM
Can I explain?

BRADEN
I don't know, can you?

TIM
Baby...

BRADEN
Don't baby me. I will punch you in
the cock!

Tim pulls Braden away from the pack.

TIM
It was nothing. Some little
freshman --

BRADEN
Did you sleep with her?

TIM
She came on to me.

BRADEN
And you filmed it?

TIM
Her idea. What was I supposed to
say, no?

BRADEN
(duh!)
Yes!

Braden's tough facade begins to crumble as she notices everyone watching them. She's never been this embarrassed before.

TIM
Come on, it meant nothing. You're
my girl.

BRADEN
Three years we've been together,
Tim. How could you do this?

TIM
It's no big deal.

BRADEN
"No big deal!" Oh you know what...

Braden's had enough. She turns to leave, aware of the looks she's getting from the entire student body. Braden is completely devastated.

TIM
(calling after her)
So, what, that's it? Just like
that?
(beat)
Braden!

Braden gives him the finger without looking back.

INT SCHOOL CAFETERIA - ANOTHER DAY

Tim is sitting with his friends GARRETT, KEITH, DONNIE, a few others, as well as the girls, Hillary, Lucy, and Jane.

Braden comes in, sees them, sees Tim, sits somewhere else. Hillary and Jane walk over.

HILLARY
You're still mad?

BRADEN
It's been a day.

LUCY
Look, we understand what you're doing...

BRADEN
I'm not doing anything. He slept with another girl.

HILLARY
But the prom's in six weeks and everything's set. The limo, the hotel room...

LUCY
You're making this very awkward.

BRADEN
I am?

JANE
He made a mistake. He feels terrible.

Braden looks over. Tim is laughing, flirting, not feeling bad at all.

JANE
Can't you forgive him?

BRADEN
I'm sorry. No. I can't.

HILLARY
Don't do this, Braden. Don't make us choose.

BRADEN
(disbelief)
You've gotta be kidding me.

EXT SUBURBAN STREET - LATER

Braden walks home with her less fashionable friend BECCA. Whereas Braden could pass for 21, Becca barely looks 17.

BECCA
It's only high school, Braden.
It'll be over soon.

BRADEN
I loved high school.

BECCA
That makes one of us.

BRADEN
I lost my boyfriend, my friends
hate me, the prom is ruined, and
everyone thinks I'm a joke. What am
I gonna do, Bec?

Braden falls apart in Becca's arms. They hug.

BECCA
You know what, fuck those whores.
Fuck everybody. You're way more
sophisticated than all of them.

BRADEN
No I'm not.

BECCA
Of course you are. Look at you.
You're wasting your time with these
high school boys. You know what you
need? You need a man.

They arrive at their neighboring homes.

BECCA
Don't worry Bray. Six months from
now you're gonna be smothered in
frat boys.

BRADEN
(beat)
What do I do until then?

INT BRADEN'S HOUSE - SAME

Braden enters her house to find her father, HAROLD, on the sofa engrossed in the "World Series of Poker."

HAROLD
Hey kid, how was school?

BRADEN
K.

Harold senses something is wrong. Hits pause on the TIVO and freezes his show. Looks at Braden and just raises his eyebrows, "talk to me." Braden loses it again.

INT GYM CLASS - DAY

Hillary, Jane, and Lucy are having an animated conversation off to one side. Braden can sense the exclusion.

Braden doesn't want them to see her getting emotional so she quickly walks past and rounds the corner. In a narrow hallway, she tries to keep from sobbing.

Biting her lip, something catches her eye. She stops. Stares. It's a picture on the wall of the school's soccer team from long ago -- 1997 Regional Champs.

ZOOM IN on the team captain, #9, handsomely posed in the front of the row. We will recognize him as teenage Andy Mason (with a pretty ridiculous haircut). The wheels spin in Braden's head.

INT BRADEN'S HOUSE - LATER

Harold has his bags packed by the front door.

HAROLD
... emergency numbers on the
fridge. I made a casserole but...
there's also money for pizza, just
in case.

BRADEN
Thanks. You ready?

HAROLD
Big time.

BRADEN
Let me see your poker face.

Harold's face doesn't change. (It rarely does.)

BRADEN
Perfect.

HAROLD
(hugs her)
I'll be back on Monday. Sure you're
ok?

BRADEN
Yup. Win us some dough.

HAROLD
You know it.

INT BRADEN'S BEDROOM - LATER

We've been here before. Braden is wearing the dress from the first night we saw her. She puts on her make-up. Fixes her hair. And then, the coup de grace, gets out her fake ID. Like Dirk Diggler, she looks in the mirror and psychs herself up for what she's about to do.

INT VOLLEYBALL COURT - DAY

Present Day. Braden and Becca warm up on the sidelines.

BECCKA
You did WHAT!?

BRADEN
Shhh.

Braden pulls her to the side.

BECCKA
Braden, that's the craziest thing
I've ever heard in my life.

Braden grins, sheepishly.

BECCKA
You are fucking awesome!

BRADEN
Shh!!

BECCKA
No, I'm serious. You are my hero.
Is he cute?

BRADEN
Uh-huh.

BECCKA
Smart? Sophisticated?

BRADEN
I think so.

BECCKA
Yes, I knew it! So when's the big
unveiling?

BRADEN
(looks around)
Should be... any minute.

EXT HIGH SCHOOL - ESTABLISHING

We're looking at the front of the high school. REVERSE ANGLE to reveal Andy's car, parked conspicuously in a shadowy spot across the street.

ANDY
(to himself)
Nothing to see here. I'm just a regular guy. That's all. Just a regular guy. Hiding in his car. Watching the high school kids from across the street. Nothing weird about that.

Eventually, students in uniform begin to file out. Andy sits low in the car, trying not to be seen. He doesn't realize that this makes him look even more pervy. Andy doesn't see Braden but he does see all sorts of very young-looking kids. Andy can't handle it. He drives off.

INT TOTAL BODY FITNESS - LATER

Andy comes in looking worse for wear. On the way to the locker room, he's stopped by a CO-WORKER (30s).

CO-WORKER
Andy, you like kids, don't you?

ANDY
THAT IS A LIE!

Co-Worker puts away the fliers for Big Brothers/ Big Sisters.

CO-WORKER
Fine. Sorry. I'll ask someone else.

Over the PA, we hear:

PA ANNOUNCEMENT
Trainers to Studio A. All trainers.
Studio A.

Andy knows this can't be good.

INT STUDIO - LATER

The trainers have been called to the Boss, BILL ROBERTS's private office -- Andy, Bruce, and three or four others.

ROBERTS
There's been some talk on the floor about a member of our staff.

Bruce holds Andy's leg to keep it from tapping. Andy is a nervous, fidgety wreck.

ROBERTS
Allegations of improper conduct.

Andy looks around the room, paranoid. Do they know already?

ROBERTS
After some careful consideration, I
had no choice but to let Colin go.

ALL
What?/ No! / Why?

ANDY
(psyched)
Fuckin' A!

Everyone looks at Andy.

ANDY
(bummed)
Fuckin' A.

ROBERTS
I know some of you liked Colin, but
our policy is pretty straight-
forward on this. We will not
tolerate any salacious behavior,
inside or outside this gym. Any --

The intercom buzzes.

VOICE ON INTERCOM
I'm sorry, Bill.

ROBERTS
What is it?

VOICE ON INTERCOM
There's someone here to ---

ROBERTS
I can't see anyone. I'm in a --

VOICE ON INTERCOM
She's not here for you. She's here
for... Andy.

All eyes on Andy who is white as a sheet.

ROBERTS
You need to get that?

ANDY
(to Intercom)
Can it wait until we're fin--

BRADEN'S VOICE ON INTERCOM
We need to talk right now!

ANDY
Oh, it's my... sister. She uh --

BRADEN'S VOICE ON INTERCOM
I'm not his sister. I'm his girlfr--

Andy clicks off the intercom as fast as he can. Bruce is intrigued.

ANDY
Little (crazy) -- sorry, I'll be
right back.

Andy runs out of the room and goes downstairs to reception. Braden is there, still in her volleyball uniform. She's twirling her gum and acting very immature, practically putting on a show.

ANDY
Hey Sis.

BRADEN
(to Receptionist)
We're not --

Andy grabs and drags her into the elevator. Before the doors shut, she tries to plant a big wet kiss on Andy who pushes her off. The Receptionist is very confused.

INT ELEVATOR - SAME

Braden busts out laughing. She's loving this. Andy is furious.

ANDY
What is wrong with you?!

BRADEN
You missed my game today.

ANDY
I have to work. What do you want
from me?

BRADEN
I want you to take me seriously.

ANDY
Braden, this is my office. You
cannot be here. You can never be
here.

BRADEN

Why not?

ANDY

Because I like my job and I want to keep it.

BRADEN

This gym is publicly traded, isn't it?

ANDY

Yeah. So.

BRADEN

That's interesting. I imagine the last thing the shareholders of a publicly traded company would want is an employee whose name appears on the national sex offenders list. Don't you agree?

(Andy is speechless)
So what should we do?

ANDY

We should take you seriously.

BRADEN

Good. This is your last chance. Tomorrow night. A date.

ANDY

Fine. Yes. Whatever you want. Just, please...

The elevator doors open. Braden gets off. As the doors close:

BRADEN

Hey Andy...

He holds the door.

BRADEN

(re: uniform)
Case you're wondering... we won today.

She smiles. Andy's face is stone as the doors close.

INT LAW FIRM - DAY

Andy in the office of his father, MILT, 60s.

MILT

17?!

ANDY
I had no idea, I swear.

MILT
Aw Christ Andy. I knew this would happen. It was just a matter of time.

ANDY
You knew this would happen?

MILT
Not exactly this but something like it. It's your mother's fault.

ANDY
Dad!

MILT
She coddled you. Made you lazy, irresponsible. Look how you live your life? A different girl every night. No job...

ANDY
I have a job.

MILT
You wear sweatpants to work. That's not a job.

Andy rolls his eyes. Familiar with this argument.

ANDY
So, what, am I totally screwed?

MILT
What's the evidence against you?
(off Andy's look)
Pictures? Video? A witness?

ANDY
No! Nothing like that. Her word against mine.

MILT
Uh-huh. Well she's a 17 year old schoolgirl and you're a CRAZY POON HOUND! Her word is gonna win, Andy!

ANDY
Help me. Dad. What do I do?

MILT
Whatever the hell she says.

EXT. BRADEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Andy pulls up in front of the house. He honks. Eventually Braden comes out and gets in the car. She smiles, waits for him to say something.

SUPER: MARCH

Not acknowledging her, Andy drives off.

EXT MOVIE THEATRE - NIGHT

Andy and Braden in line to buy tickets.

ANDY
One, please.

Andy gets his ticket.

ANDY
I'll go get us some seats.

She looks at him like did he just do that?

INT MOVIE THEATRE - LATER

Mostly teens with nothing else to do. Andy has a large popcorn and soda. He finds an empty row and sits in it. He sinks in his seat, paranoid he's being observed.

Braden comes in and sits next to him. Andy moves a seat over.

BRADEN
What are you doing?

ANDY
Let's spread out.

BRADEN
No!

ANDY
We need a buffer seat.

BRADEN
No we don't.

She moves next to him again. Again he moves away. This continues until Andy is up against the wall, trapped.

FEMALE VOICE
Braden?

It's Lucy and Jane, along with several other high schoolers.

BRADEN
(nonchalant)
Hey.

Andy is doing all he can to hide in his chair. Luckily the movie starts. The high schoolers are clearly intrigued as they go to sit down. Braden knows it. She reaches for a handful of popcorn. Andy slaps it away.

ANDY
Get your own.

Braden can't believe it.

BRADEN
Are you retarded?

ANDY
What?

BRADEN
Haven't you ever been on a date before?

ANDY
(matter of fact)
No.

BRADEN
What do you mean "no?"

ANDY
I mean... I've never been on a date before.

Now Braden is the one who is dumbfounded.

ANDY
What? I meet a girl. We hit it off. I leave in the morning. There's no date.

BRADEN
That's how you treat women?

ANDY
Sure.

BRADEN
But... why? Why would you do that?

ANDY
(shrugs)
Because I can.

Braden is shocked.

ANDY
(popcorn in his mouth)
What?

EXT BRADEN'S HOME - LATER

Andy pulls up in front of the house.

BRADEN
I need you to pick me up from
school tomorrow.

ANDY
Why am I picking you up all the
time?

BRADEN
I like when you do it.
(beat)
And, cause... I don't have my
license.

ANDY
How old are you?

BRADEN
I'm old enough. I just didn't pass.
(beat)
The first three times.

Andy rubs his temples. Braden moves to kiss him goodnight.

ANDY
Hey, whoa...

BRADEN
Why not?

ANDY
Gross.

BRADEN
I've been kissing boys since grade
school.

ANDY
What was that, last year?

Braden pushes her hair behind her ears.

BRADEN
I'm not a little girl, Andy.

ANDY
You most certainly are.

Braden slowly hikes up her skirt.

BRADEN
Look at my legs.

ANDY
No!

BRADEN
Are these the legs of a little
girl?

ANDY
Put those away.

Braden grabs Andy's hand and puts it on her knee.

BRADEN
How does this feel --

ANDY
(snatching it back)
Ok stop. Halt. We are not doing
this. Uh-uh. There'll be no
kissing, no touching, and don't
even think we're having sex again.

BRADEN
Ok.

ANDY
Not tonight. Not ever.

BRADEN
Works for me.

ANDY
Good.

BRADEN
Fine.

Silence for a beat.

BRADEN
Can you go five months without sex?

ANDY
Can I... How do you mean?

BRADEN
Well you can't cheat on me.

Slowly it dawns on Andy what she means.

ANDY
Oh come on!

BRADEN
Fuck that. We're in a relationship now. I'll call the police in a second if you cheat on me! And while we're at it, there's a couple more rules...

ANDY
How can there possibly be more --?

BRADEN
You need to call me. A lot. Maybe every day. And not just texts.

Andy wants to die.

BRADEN
Oh and I noticed you don't have a Facebook page. It's 2009. I think you should make one.

ANDY
That's necessary why?

BRADEN
Dude it's so fun. We can write on each other's walls, send pokes...

She pecks him on the cheek before he can push her away. Once out of the car:

BRADEN
Bring flowers next time. Girls love flowers.

And with that she's off.

INT. TOTAL BODY FITNESS - DAY

And now Andy is at the reception desk computer. We see him building his Facebook page. He looks around to make sure no one is watching. He wants to kill himself.

INT SCHOOL HALLWAY - MORNING

Braden walking down the hall alone. The girls come up to her.

HILLARY
So who's the guy?

BRADEN
What guy?

JANE
You know what guy.

BRADEN
He's... no one.

LUCY
Didn't look like no one to me.

JANE
He doesn't go here does he.
(Braden is silent)
Does he go to Winchester?

LUCY
I told you he was in college!

Braden just shrugs. Whatever. Walks into the classroom. Class begins. Conversation over.

INT ANOTHER HALLWAY - LATER

Braden walks towards the gym on her way to practice.

TIM
Hey.

Tim stands in her way. Tries to get past him.

TIM
What's with these rumors bout you
and some college kid?

BRADEN
He's not in college.

TIM
Who is he?

BRADEN
He's none of your business.

TIM
You may as well just tell me. I'll
find out soon enough.

Meanwhile, Braden and Tim are framing Andy's 1997 Soccer Picture while having this conversation. Braden knows it too. She taps him on the arm, smiles, and says:

BRADEN
I'm counting on it.

EXT SCHOOL - LATER

Braden walks home with Becca who is complaining about bad grades on her homework.

BECCA
(re: exam)
What are they even talking about here?

BRADEN
A to B of F of X. With respect to X. But that only works if the function is linear.

BECCA
I have no idea what you just said.

BRADEN
I'll come by in the morning and show you.

BECCA
What are you doing tonight?

BRADEN
I might... go over to Andy's.

BECCA
Really?
(beat)
Why? No one can see you there.

BRADEN
I know.

BECCA
But... I thought that was the point.

BRADEN
(shrugs)
I'd kinda like to see where he lives. Never been to a guy's place before.

BECCA
(beat)
I'm so excited for you.

INT ANDY'S PLACE - NIGHT

Andy is playing Halo on the couch by himself. His beagle, Thurston, watches. The phone rings.

ANDY

Hello?

WOMAN'S VOICE

Is it true?

ANDY

Is what true?

WOMAN'S VOICE

Don't play dumb with me.

ANDY

I'm not --

WOMAN'S VOICE

You make me sick! Talking to you, right now, makes me sick. Knowing you, makes me sick.

ANDY

Mom!

MOM'S VOICE

You're father agrees with me, don't you?

MILT'S VOICE

We're on three way...

Andy rolls his eyes at being bombarded.

ANDY

Attorney client privilege!

MILT'S VOICE

She's your mother.

MOM'S VOICE

How could you be such an idiot!?

ANDY

Mom, you think I want this? The girl's crazy. She's forcing me --

MOM'S VOICE

You just can't keep it in your pants.

ANDY

No, Mom. It is in my pants. It's not even physical.

MOM'S VOICE

Oh please.

MILT'S VOICE
Don't lie to your mother.

Andy's doorbell rings.

ANDY
I have to call you back. Someone's at the door.

MOM'S VOICE
Is it the cops? Oh god.

MILT
You call me right away if it's the cops!

Andy open the door to find Braden.

ANDY
It's not the cops.

On that note, Braden, still in her school uniform, smiles and kisses Andy on the cheek. She walks right past him, carrying pizza boxes and a grocery bag.

Andy hangs up the phone. Looks at Braden.

ANDY
What are you doing here?

BRADEN
I brought food!

Braden plops the bags on the kitchen counter and makes herself at home.

ANDY
That was my mom, by the way. Called to say I'm a pervert so, uh, you know, thank you for that.

BRADEN
I'm sorry. I got pizza. Sausage and mushrooms. And french fries if you want 'em. Ooh and for dessert... Haagen Dazs.

ANDY
You can't stay.

BRADEN
Who's the coolest girlfriend ever?

ANDY
I'm tired. Work in the morning. Tired. You need to leave.

She doesn't move.

ANDY
What flavor is that?

BRADEN
Coffee.

Andy's weakness. Fuck.

LATER. Andy is in a chair, eating ice cream and playing XBOX. Braden walks around the place, looking for signs of sophistication. They are few and far between.

BRADEN
You live here?

Braden is surprised. The place is messy as hell and there's more video game systems than furniture. She touches a lava lamp. She examines the wall hangings (Belushi with the "College" sweatshirt, a Reservoir Dogs poster).

At his DVD rack:

BRADEN
Not a lot of French New Wave.

Andy just shrugs, busted. Braden picks up a guitar for ROCKBAND.

BRADEN
Aren't you a little old to play
video games?

ANDY
I'm a little old for a lot of
things right now.

BRADEN
Let's play something.

ANDY
I'm in the middle of this.

BRADEN
Would you rather watch "The Hills?"

LATER. Andy has the guitar. He's a pro. Braden is on the drums. Trying to get the hang of it. Andy has to "save" her once or twice. Finally they're "booed" off the stage.

ANDY
I think it's past your bedtime.

BRADEN
One more and I'll go.

Andy has no choice. Starts the song up again. We see Braden get real into it. Andy watches her. Trying to figure out how he got himself into this mess.

INT SCHOOL LUNCHROOM - LATER

Hillary, Jane, and Lucy are at a table eating lunch. Braden sits with Becca, a few tables away. They can hear the conversation.

LUCY
Cancelled?!

JANE
Now Garrett's parents are staying home this weekend.

LUCY
So no party?

HILLARY
Not unless we find somewhere else.

LUCY
That sucks!

JANE
Sucks hard.

LUCY
What are we gonna do?

Braden has been listening to this with interest.

BRADEN
Hey, you guys...

The girls turn to her.

BRADEN
I got an idea.

EXT. SUBURBAN ROAD - NIGHT

Andy pulls up to Braden's house, dressed in all black like a ninja. He parks a few houses down and gets out of the car. Andy tiptoes to the door, rings the doorbell...

and runs.

Andy hides behind the bushes, waiting for Braden to come out. Finally she does...

ANDY
Psst. Over here.

BRADEN
(rolls her eyes)
What are you doing?

Andy whips out flowers from inside his coat.

ANDY
Here.
(making sure coast is
clear)
I'll go first.

Braden can't help but just shake her head and laugh.

INT ANDY'S CAR - LATER

Andy drives in silence, listening to "Cut Your Hair" by Pavement. Braden goes through Andy's Ipod.

BRADEN
What is this crap?

ANDY
Pavement.

BRADEN
Classic rock? Ugh. What else you
got?

ANDY
Classic rock? This came out in 94!

BRADEN
Yeah, I was 3.

ANDY
(beat)
That is disgusting.

The car pulls into a gas station. Andy gets out to pump the gas. Braden continues to fiddle with the Ipod.

Meanwhile, a car pulls in at the next pump. The WOMAN driving is late 20s, dark hair, hot. She gets out to pump gas. Andy and this girl have a little staring thing going on.

Finally Braden notices.

BRADEN
Hey! Get back in the car.

Andy rolls his eyes. Obliges.

BRADEN
(to Woman, from window)
He's with me.

The Woman looks at the young girl in the car. Then at Andy. She's grossed out.

ANDY
It's not what it looks like!

BRADEN
Yes it is!

INT PIZZA JOINT - NIGHT

Andy and Braden eat pizza at a popular teen hangout. Andy seems very out of place.

ANDY
What about your parents? They don't they have a problem with this?

BRADEN
It's just my Dad. And I haven't told him.

ANDY
Where's your mom?

BRADEN
Gone.

No more is being said on this subject.

BRADEN
You want the last slice?

ANDY
Hell yeah.

Andy realizes from Braden's expression that eating the last slice is probably not chivalrous. He rolls his eyes.

ANDY
We'll split it.

INT ANDY'S CAR - LATER

BRADEN
Left up here.

ANDY
Where are we going, anyway?

Braden says nothing. She doesn't need to. Andy sees kids standing against cars smoking cigarettes. He sees more kids walking down the street in packs, carrying concealed alcohol under their coats. It quickly becomes clear where they're going.

ANDY

Whoa. Hold on. Braden. No way. I am not going to a high school party.

BRADEN

Make the next left.

ANDY

Uh-uh. Veto! You can't -- I'm putting my foot down. Seriously. My foot is down.

(beat)

Wait. That's my street.

They round the corner. More kids are heading in the same direction. The truth hits Andy and he jumps out of the car. He's instantly gone from resisting the party to running into it.

INT ANDY'S PLACE - CONTINUOUS

Andy bursts in. His apartment is crammed with very real 16 and 17 year olds. Drinking. Hooking up. Partying.

ANDY

Oh no no no. This is not acceptable.

Braden enters behind Andy. Takes it all in.

BRADEN

It'll be fine, don't worry.

A pair of DRUNK KIDS "joust" by them, 300-style, using Andy's plates as shields and his lamps as swords.

ANDY

I'm calling the cops.

BRADEN

Really?

ANDY

Yes.

Braden hands Andy her phone. Which makes him realize something -- he can't call the cops. He's totally screwed.

ANDY

(defeated)

Why are you doing this to me?

BRADEN

(beat; smiles)

Because I can.

And with that she throws off her coat and joins the party. Someone hands her a beer. Andy just stands in the doorway.

ANDY
 (yelling after her)
 You're too young to drink!
 (and the other guy)
 Dude so are you!

A PARTYGOER passes by.

PARTYGOER #1
 Well done Braden. This place is bad-ass.

He takes a picture of Braden and Andy on their phone.

ANDY
 (serious)
 Kid, I'm gonna need that.
 Seriously. Give me the camera. Hey!

Andy chases after the kid. We follow Braden into the crowd. She walks over to Becca. They clink their cans of shitty beer.

Meanwhile Andy finds his dog sitting happily on his sofa, looking out the window.

ANDY
 Good job, Thurston. Way to be on guard.

Andy takes the dog to his bedroom. He opens the door to find TWO KIDS HARD-CORE MAKING OUT on his bed. He is nauseated.

ANDY
 Aw, Jesus. Get out of here!

They ignore Andy and start peeling off each others clothes. Andy counters this by pulling their clothes back on them, trying to touch them as little as possible.

ANDY
 (re: sheets)
 Come on man, I just washed these.
 (beat)
 No! Bra stays on!

The girl starts touching Andy and he slaps her hand away.

- LATER. Braden and Becca on the back patio. Hillary, Jane, and Lucy come over.

HILLARY
 Who lives here anyway?

BRADEN
My boyfriend.

LUCY
Wait, he has his own place?

BRADEN
Yup. He's... older.

ANGLE ON Andy making his way into the kitchen where a group of GUYS are pounding on the icebox. It takes a second for Andy to realize there's someone inside, screaming to get out. It's some kind of hazing ritual. Andy covers his eyes and hurries out of the room.

ANDY
If I can't see it it's not happening!

He enters the living room where he finds Garrett smoking a cigarette.

ANDY
Hey dude, you mind not smoking inside?

GARRETT
Who the fuck are you?

ANDY
Who the --? I'm the guy that lives here. And I don't appreciate your tone, buddy.

Garrett walks right up to Andy and gets in his face.

TIM (O.S.)
Dude!

Andy turns to see Tim, with Donnie and some other kids.

TIM
That's my cousin. Back the fuck up.

Garrett backs the fuck up. And yes, Tim means Andy when he says "cousin."

ANDY
Timmy?

TIM
What's up playa!?

Andy is happy to see Tim but also slightly embarrassed at being seen in this context. They hug.

It should be said: Tim towers over Andy. He's got six inches and at least 85 pounds on him.

TIM
I haven't seen you in ages, man,
what have you been up to?

ANDY
Oh... this and that --

TIM
(to Friends)
This guy is such a pimp! You know
you're like my hero, right?

ANDY
What do you mean? I thought you had
that girlfriend. The little pixie
chick I saw at your Confirmation.

TIM
Nah dude. Ancient history. Now I'm
playing the field. Andy-style. Know
what I mean?

ANDY
Yeah, sure. Andy-style.

TIM
So what are you doing here?

ANDY
I live here.

TIM
You live here? Then... what are we
doing here?

At which point Braden enters the room with Becca. The rest of the girls are close behind.

BRADEN
Hi guys.

She walks right up to Andy and grabs his hand. Andy instinctively tries to pull away but she holds it tight.

BRADEN
(to Tim)
I hope this isn't awkward.

Andy doesn't know what she means. Tim doesn't either. He sees the hand-holding and is bewildered.

TIM
You guys know each other?

JANE
That's Braden's boyfriend.

TIM
That's not her boyfriend. That's my cousin.

HILLARY
I think it's both actually.

BECCA
(almost to herself)
It's on now.

Tim looks at Braden. Looks at Andy.

TIM
(beat)
Get the fuck out of here.

BRADEN
Nope. We're a couple now. Aren't we... handsome?

ANDY
(swallows)
We sure are... sweet...cakes.

TIM
Dude. You know who that is, right?
That's the pixie chick.

ANDY
(beat)
What?

TIM
Yeah. That's my girl.

ANDY
That can't be. She was... you were...

He means young, basically. Real young.

ANDY
Oh Jesus Christ. Excuse us.

Andy grabs Braden and pulls her away. Tim watches them angrily. On the outside patio:

ANDY
You planned this?
(off her shrug)
Oh my god, you're insane!

BRADEN
Of course I am. I'm a teenager.

ANDY
This is so unfair.

BRADEN
Don't get all high and mighty with
me, you rapist.

ANDY
I'm not a rape --! You hit on me
that night.

BRADEN
And you loved every minute.

She holds out her hand for him to grab. He reluctantly does.

ANDY
This ends...

BRADEN
Graduation. I got it.

They walk back inside.

INT ANDY'S PLACE - SAME

Braden's friends have surrounded Andy. Andy looks for Tim but he's nowhere to be found.

HILLARY
What was it like... writing letters
and stuff?

ANDY
Um... sorta like email. Just took
longer.

JANE
That must have sucked.

Andy doesn't know what else to say.

HILLARY
So, like, where were you when
Kennedy was shot?

Andy shoots the girl a look. Shakes his head. It's at this moment that someone comes in and says:

PARTYGOER #1
Keg's tapped.

On a dime, pretty much everybody takes off. Andy is relieved.

- LATER. We see Andy carrying one of the passed out kids to the backyard. He looks both ways to make sure the coast is clear and then dumps the kid over his fence into the neighbor's bushes.

Andy returns a moment later and drops a bottled water next to him.

He then walks back into the house. He enters his bedroom, ready for sleep. Braden is sitting up on the bed.

ANDY

Yes?

BRADEN

Just want to say good night.

Andy rolls his eyes.

BRADEN

So I'll see you tomorrow then?

ANDY

I have a choice?

BRADEN

Not one bit.

Andy collapses on the bed, exhausted.

INT SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

Braden eats with Becca. Tim is with his friends, giving her a dirty look. The girls come in, see Tim, see Braden, and decide to sit with Braden.

LUCY

That was so fun on Friday!

HILLARY

Your boyfriend's really cute.

Braden chews her food, unimpressed. The girls look at one another and urge Hillary to speak.

HILLARY

Bray, we just wanted to... we're sorry, about before, the Tim stuff.

BRADEN

Ok.

JANE

And if you --

LUCY
And Andy.

JANE
You and Andy wanna still ride with us to the prom, that would be awesome.

HILLARY
Totally.

BRADEN
I, uh, I'll let you know. I might have made other plans.

The girls are disappointed. Braden and Becca share a look. Her plan is totally working.

INT TOTAL BODY FITNESS - DAY

Andy is having lunch in the relaxation area when Bruce enters, excited.

BRUCE
So our suite's confirmed. We've got club reservations. A cabana for Saturday...

ANDY
What the hell are you talking about?

BRUCE
Vegas! This weekend!
(Andy doesn't remember)
Our annual trip.

Andy realizes two things. That the annual trip is coming up. And that there's no way in hell he can go. Shit.

BRUCE (CONT'D)
Don't tell me you forgot.

ANDY
No, of course not. It's just... well, it's Thurston. He's... having an operation.

BRUCE
Oh no.

ANDY
Yeah. No, I mean, he'll be alright. But I should be there for the little guy.

BRUCE
I understand. What kind of
operation?

ANDY
(grasping)
Wisdom teeth?

Before Andy has to dig himself deeper his cell phone rings. The ringtone is "I'm not that innocent."

ANDY (CONT'D)
You're phone's ringing.

BRUCE
Not mine.

It isn't. It's Andy's. Andy picks up like it's covered in shit.

ANDY
Hello?

INTERCUT w/ Braden in the school hallway.

BRADEN
Like my ringtone?

ANDY
Hilarious. What can I do for you?

BRADEN
Nothing. What's up?

ANDY
Nothing. What's up with you?

BRADEN
Not much. What's up with you!?

Bruce can hear a bit of this conversation and finds it rather odd for Andy.

ANDY
(beat)
Is there a point to this call?

BRADEN
I'm bored.

ANDY
Can I call you back? I'm sorta in
the middle of something.

BRADEN
Ok, but don't forget you're picking
me up --

Andy quickly hangs up. Bruce looks at him for an explanation.

ANDY
Wrong number.

EXT SCHOOL - DAY

Andy sits real low in his car, waiting for the kids to come out. He's startled by a knock on the window. It's Tim.

ANDY
Hey cuz.

TIM
The fuck's going on, Andy?

ANDY
It's not what you think, alright.
It's... complicated.

TIM
I don't give a shit what it is.
Just stay away from her.

The bell is heard in the distance. Students start filing out.

ANDY
You don't understand, ok. I can't.

TIM
Dude, you gotta. This is my scene.
How's it make me look, you swooping
in here all older and shit?

ANDY
It's the last thing I wanna do,
believe me.

TIM
Good. Then we won't have a problem.

Now Tim is threatening Andy. Braden emerges from the school. Tim sees her, taps on the car, heads off.

TIM
Say hi to Aunt Ro for me.

Andy has all of this weighing on him as Braden jumps in the car, excited.

BRADEN
Hi handsome!

EXT BOARDWALK - MINI GOLF COURSE - NIGHT

Andy and Braden playing mini-golf.

SUPER: APRIL

BRADEN

So I'm confident I'll get off the
wait list but you never know.

ANDY

Stanford?! Don't you need like 1500
SATs to get into Stanford?

BRADEN

I got a 2310.

Braden hits a long putt. Lands about 8 feet from the hole.

ANDY

Wait a minute. I thought 1600's the
highest?

BRADEN

They changed that like a million
years ago. It's 2400 now.

ANDY

And you got 23... wow. Yet somehow
you can't pass your driver's
test...

BRADEN

I aced the written. I just get
nervous behind the wheel. Shut up.
Anyway... what about you. Where'd
you go to school?

Andy lines up his putt. Hits it about 5 feet from the hole.

ANDY

I didn't.

BRADEN

No college? Nothing?
(off his shrug)
How'd you get your job?

ANDY

I work at a gym. They asked me to
count to 12 and I nailed it.

BRADEN

Oh.

ANDY

And I promised to bring in ten new clients my first week on the job.

BRADEN

Which you did.

ANDY

Of course I did.

BRADEN

Were any of them... male clients?

Andy's look at Braden says "don't be ridiculous." She lines up to putt.

ANDY

I don't know about that line.

BRADEN

Silence.

ANDY

This is for all the marbles, Braden. Will you crack under pressure?

BRADEN

I can handle it.

And with that she lines up, takes the putter back gently, and hits it -- dead center in the hole.

ANDY

Damn.

BRADEN

Woo hoo! In your face loverboy. In your face!

Braden does a big celebratory dance. She grabs Andy's hat and musses his hair. She plays keep away with him and he tries to get it back from her. To everyone watching, this looks very much like a couple on a date.

ANDY

Shhh!

Andy tries to subdue her but it's tough. We notice Tim's friends, Garrett and Donnie, off to the side, watching. Ominous.

INT ICE CREAM PARLOR - LATER

Andy and Braden at another popular teen hangout. At the back of the place we recognize waitresses Lucy and Jane, watching Braden and Andy with interest. Braden knows it too.

She goes to take Andy's hand. Andy pulls away quickly.

BRADEN
(quietly)
Hold my hand.

ANDY
No.

BRADEN
Do it.

ANDY
Stop it.

BRADEN
Take it.

ANDY
No.

BRADEN
(takes out her cell phone)
You have 3 seconds to hold my hand.

ANDY
Who are you calling?

BRADEN
3...2...

Andy grabs her hand with the phone in it. Holds it as limply as he can. Jane comes over with sundaes.

JANE
Here you go.

BRADEN
Thanks.

Jane walks away, oggling Andy the whole time. Braden dives into the sundae like an excited teenager.

ANDY
Good?

BRADEN
Mmm. Tastes like... victory.

EXT ICE CREAM PARLOR - PROMENADE - LATER

On the way out...

BRADEN
I'm gonna run to the ladies.

Andy hangs outside by himself. He leans on a railing, looking out at the sea. It's kinda nice. Peacful. And then:

GARRETT (O.S.)
Hey Grandpa.

It's Garrett, Keith, Donnie and some other super intimidating jocks from the school.

ANDY
You talking to me?

GARRETT
Yeah you. The old guy likes to hit on high school girls.

ANDY
Oh, no, I'm not...

KEITH
What, old? Yeah you are.

DONNIE
This aint "Cocoon," motherfucker.

GARRETT
First you take Tim's girl. Who's next? You gonna take my girl? His?

ANDY
I don't want anyone's --. Guys, you've got the wrong idea.

GARRETT
You wanna die, bitch?

ANDY
What? No. Why would I wanna die?

The guys are all up in Andy's face now.

BRADEN (O.S.)
Andy?

The jocks see her, back off.

BRADEN
Everything alright?

ANDY
Everything's fantastic!

The guys walk off, leaving Andy and Braden alone. Andy gets in the car, pissed.

BRADEN
What?
(beat)
Those guys are harmless.

Braden gets in after Andy, surprised he's unhappy.

BRADEN
That was fun, wasn't it?

ANDY
Fun? Hmm let's see...
(beat)
No. I wouldn't say fun. Scary, check. Exhausting, check. Wrong in so many ways, check. You wanna know what's fun? Not committing a crime. That's fun. Not being called "pervert" by my mother is fun. Not getting my ass kicked is fun. Not hosting high school parties. Not not having sex --

BRADEN
(realization)
You're right.

ANDY
(beat)
I am?

BRADEN
We shouldn't be doing this. I should respect your feelings.

ANDY
Um... exactly.

BRADEN
It's gotta be so uncomfortable for you... at school, at parties, being seen with a bunch of high school kids. That can't be good right?

ANDY
Right..

BRADEN
So forget high school. From now on,
we'll just do adult-type dates. No
one would bat an eye at us then.

ANDY
But... you're not an adult.

BRADEN
I can look like one.
(beat)
Remember?

Andy is exasperated. He bangs his head repeatedly on the steering wheel.

EXT. BRADEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Andy pulls up in front of the house, honks. Braden comes out.
And she looks HOT!

Andy watches her get in the car and can only shake his head.

ANDY
That should be illegal.

BRADEN
It is.

INT. RESTAURANT - LATER

Braden is seated across from Andy in a restaurant.

WAITER
Anything to drink?

BRADEN
Vodka soda on the rocks.

WAITER
Ok. And how bout for you?

ANDY
I'll have a Coke. We both will.

Braden makes a face at Andy like "come on!" Waiter leaves.
Braden seems to be waiting for something.

ANDY
How great is this menu? It's
enormous.

BRADEN
This is your idea of an adult date?

PULL BACK to reveal they're at TGIFriday's.

ANDY
This is some gourmet shit. You've tried the potato skins?

BRADEN
You're unbelievable.

ANDY
What?

BRADEN
Guess how many mistakes you've made so far?
(no idea)
You've done twelve things wrong in the last 20 minutes.

CUT TO:

- QUICK SHOT OF Andy parked in front of Braden's house, honking the horn.

BRADEN (V.O.)
Number one, you don't honk the horn on a date.

CUT TO:

- QUICK SHOT OF Braden walking to the car.

BRADEN (V.O.)
Number two, open the door for me.

CUT TO:

- QUICK SHOT OF them in the car. Andy's eyes on the road.

BRADEN (V.O.)
A compliment would have been nice.

CUT TO:

- QUICK SHOT OF the valet. Braden waits for Andy to help her out of the car. He walks right past her and into the restaurant.

BRADEN (V.O.)
Again with the door.

BACK TO:

INT RESTAURANT

BRADEN
Should I keep going?

ANDY
Where do you get this crap?

BRADEN
It's not crap. It's dating. It's
romance.

ANDY
No one does that stuff.

BRADEN
They do in the movies.

ANDY
Remind me the scene in "Die Hard"
where he opens the door for
someone?

BRADEN
Romance. :"Pretty in Pink?" "Roman
Holiday?" That's how you behave.

ANDY
Those are movies?

BRADEN
They're classics!

ANDY
Chick flicks, right? I don't watch
chick flicks.

BRADEN
Never? Some of them are amazing.
"Pretty Woman?" "Sixteen Candles?"
(he hasn't seen any)
You've never seen "Sixteen
Candles?" Get out of here!

ANDY
You get out of here!

BRADEN
"My Best Friend's Wedding?"
(nothing)
"Notting Hill?" "Grease?" Oh my
God. No wonder you're clueless.
(beat)
Tell me you've seen "Clueless?"

INT TOTAL BODY FITNESS - DAY

Andy is in the reception area with Bruce. A MALE CLIENT (50s) enters.

ANDY
My man Geoff, ready for your workout?

MALE CLIENT
You know it.
(beat)
Hey, was that you I saw at Friday's last night?

Oh shit. Bruce perks up at this.

ANDY
Um... last night?

MALE CLIENT
I'm sure it was you. You were with some girl. A real looker.

ANDY
Girl? Hmm. I don't think so.

MALE CLIENT
Huh. Coulda sworn. Oh well.
(beat)
Be out in a sec.

He enters the locker room. Andy thinks he's dodged a bullet.

BRUCE
Weren't you doing laundry last night?

ANDY
Hmm?

BRUCE
That's what you told me.

ANDY
Oh. Uh...

BRUCE
You were with someone, weren't you?

ANDY
No.

Andy is a terrible liar. Bruce is disappointed.

ANDY
It's not what you think.

BRUCE
Least you could do is be honest
with me.

ANDY
It's a long story.

Bruce waits.

ANDY
(sighs)
I've been... seeing someone.

BRUCE
A shrink?

ANDY
No. A woman.

BRUCE
How do you mean?

ANDY
I'm in a relationship.

BRUCE
What?!

ANDY
Shh. Let's keep it quiet.

BRUCE
The girl from the bar?
(off Andy's nod)
Wow I'm speechless. I knew
something was wrong but this is
just... this is great, Andy. This
is just great.
(beat)
Now I'll never get laid again.

ANDY
(sincere)
I know, Bruce. I'm sorry.

INT ANDY'S APARTMENT - DAY

The blinds are drawn. The room is dark. We see two
silhouettes on the couch. We hear:

ANDY
Such a bad idea.

BRADEN
I promise. You'll love it.

What are they doing? Are they about to have sex?

NO. REVEAL a stack of romantic comedy DVDs on the table.

BRADEN
Your choice. "The Wedding Date." Or
"How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days?"

ANDY
This is so dumb!

BRADEN
And just for that... we're watching
both.

ANDY
I'm missing the playoffs, Braden. I
promised Bruce we'd meet at
McSorley's and --

BRADEN
Andy...

ANDY
What?

BRADEN
Which one are we watching first?

SERIES OF SHOTS: ANDY WATCHING CHICK FLICKS

JUMPCUTS of Andy and Braden watching TV in various positions. Braden always seems delighted. Sometimes she wipes tears. Andy, on the other hand, is less enthralled.

In the first few cuts, Andy just looks bored. He's falling asleep. Braden nudges him to pay attention. In others, he literally watches with the XBOX controller in hand, pressing buttons like he's playing a game, just to make himself feel better.

ANDY
So painful.

BRADEN
Shhh.

As it goes along, Andy watches the movies and just gets more aggravated by what he sees. For example:

ANDY
Are you kidding me?!

And...

ANDY
Oh right. Like he's really gonna go
for the ugly girl now.

And...

ANDY
What, he's not gonna want his car
tomorrow? People don't just leave
their cars in the middle of the
street!

And...

ANDY
She's a prostitute! Hello!

And finally...

ANDY
Ok stop. Please. I can't take any
more.

BRADEN
It's beautiful.

ANDY
It's bullshit!

BRADEN
It is not!

ANDY
It's nuts! Look at this guy
running. Tell me... what is his
rush? Whatever he has to say, can't
he say it tomorrow? Why is he
running?!

BRADEN
I don't know.

ANDY
And where did that rain come from?
It doesn't just start raining like
that out of nowhere. You need
clouds! At least.

BRADEN
Well... it...

ANDY
I'll tell you something else too.
I've been in a lot of airports.
(MORE)

ANDY (cont'd)
And never, not once, have I seen
some guy sprint to the gate to stop
some chick from getting on a plane.
You know why they don't do that,
Braden? Cause they'll get tasered.
Cause homeland Security doesn't
fuck around! You can't run in
airports. You can't even jog. It
doesn't happen. None of this does.
It's all just phony, cliched fairy
tale nonsense that makes girls like
you think guys like me are
unromantic. When really we're just
honest, practical, down-to-earth
realists. I know you're just a kid
and I'm sorry to burst your bubble
but if this is the kinda thing
you're looking for, sweetheart...
your whole life is going to be
one... big... disappointment.

Silence.

BRADEN
You finished?

Andy thinks maybe he's gone too far.

ANDY
Sure.

BRADEN
(holds up DVD)
Cause we are so "Dirty Dancing"
right now!

EXT HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

It's gym class and Tim is outside running the track with his
boys.

GARRETT
She never left, dude, she was there
all weekend.

TIM
I don't believe it.

GARRETT
The mousy girl who lives next door,
that's what she said.

DONNIE
Who cares anyway? I thought you
were over her.

TIM
I am but... that's not the point.
(beat)
I'm gonna curbstomp that tool.

INT. STARBUCKS - LATER

Bruce waits in a line that doesn't seem to be moving.

SUPER: MAY

In front of him is a gaggle of teenage girls in school uniforms. Bruce tries not to look. The girls finally get their lattes and leave. One passes Bruce and makes eye contact.

It's Braden. Bruce tries to process how he knows her. And then it hits him. This is the hottie from the bar. This is Andy's girlfriend?! Holy shit she's a kid!

INT. TOTAL BODY FITNESS - THE NEXT DAY

And now here's Bruce, walking briskly down a corridor, a man on a mission. He gets to Andy's who is in the middle of a training session.

ANDY
...keep your back straight and bend
your knees --

BRUCE
(grabbing him)
Gym emergency. Back in a second.

ANDY
What the --?

BRUCE
Come with me.

Bruce walks down the hall. Andy follows. They duck into the Men's Room. Bruce scours the room to make sure it's empty, looking under the stalls etc. Then he turns to Andy and says:

BRUCE
Your girlfriend is in high school!

ANDY
Shhh!

BRUCE
What do you mean "shhh?!" Are you
nuts?

ANDY
It's not that simple.

BRUCE
Is she even 18?

ANDY
Almost.

BRUCE
Dude, this is seriously fucked up!

ANDY
Look, I know what you're gonna say,
and I swear, I had no idea --

BRUCE
Hook a brother up!

ANDY
...I thought she was older when I--
(beat)
What?

BRUCE
I want in. Those girls are smoking!

ANDY
(beat)
Dude, what is wrong with you?!

BRUCE
Think about it. Women are repulsed
by me, are they not?
(Andy can't argue)
So no more women for Bruce. Only
girls! You're a genius!

ANDY
You think this is easy? Dating a 17
year old is work. Hard work. You
have to go on all these dates and
do shit all the time, opening
doors, watching McConaughey movies.
McConaughey, Bruce. You know how
painful that is?

BRUCE
I love McConaughey.

ANDY
I'm not having this conversation.

Andy pushes him towards the door.

BRUCE
Please. I know she has friends, I
saw them!

ANDY
Not happening!

BRUCE
Your Facebook page is adorable.

Andy pushes Bruce out of the men's room. A beat before he realizes he too is still in the men's room. Leaves.

INT/EXT ANDY'S CAR - OUTSIDE ANDY'S PLACE - DUSK

Braden is behind the wheel in Andy's car. Andy rides shotgun, trying to show her how to parallel park. He has set up cones with hockey sticks inside to serve as other cars.

ANDY
Now just... bring the car almost parallel to that cone. That's it...
Ok. Once you've lined it up, turn the wheel.

BRADEN
This way?

ANDY
No! The other way. Slowly... there you go. The key is to not be nervous.

BRADEN
Right.

ANDY
Just relax. Think about something else.

BRADEN
Like what?

ANDY
I don't know. What happened with you and my cousin?

BRADEN
That's gonna help me relax?
(beat)
He cheated on me. With some freshman ho-bag.

ANDY
So you decided to get back at him.

BRADEN
Something like that.

ANDY
Kind of a nutty thing to do, isn't
it?

BRADEN
I loved him.

ANDY
You loved him. My little cousin.

BRADEN
Yes.

ANDY
Oh please...

BRADEN
What?

The car hasn't moved an inch since this conversation started.

ANDY
You're 17. What do you know about
"love?"

BRADEN
I know enough.

ANDY
(not buying)
Uh-huh

BRADEN
I do.

ANDY
(making fun of her)
Let me guess. It's just like in the
movies.

BRADEN
Actually, yeah, it's exactly like
that.

ANDY
Oh, come, on!

BRADEN
You're telling me you've never been
in love?

ANDY
Um... No.

BRADEN

You're such a liar. I can tell.
Someone did a number on you my
friend.

ANDY

What are you talking about?

BRADEN

She hurt you real bad, didn't she.
What was her name?

ANDY

Who?

BRADEN

The girl. The one who hurt your
feelings so bad you're afraid to
fall in love again.

ANDY

I'm a guy. I don't have "feelings."

BRADEN

You poor, sad, man.

ANDY

Will you drop it already?

BRADEN

You know what they say Andy. "Tis
better to have loved and lost."

ANDY

Tis better to have loved and left.

BRADEN

Gross.

ANDY

You gonna park this thing or
what...

Right. Back to the car. Braden cranes her neck to see behind
her. Then cranes the other way. This could take forever.

Suddenly, a grimace comes over Andy's face like something's
reeking.

ANDY

You smell that?

BRADEN

Uh-huh.

ANDY
What is that?

BRADEN
(shrugs)
I farted.

ANDY
(beat)
You what?!

BRADEN
I get nervous.

ANDY
What the... How can you just fart
like that?!

BRADEN
It wasn't that hard...?

ANDY
No, but, I mean...

BRADEN
What, you didn't think girls
farted?

ANDY
Jesus. What did you eat?

BRADEN
We fart. We poo. We do all sorts of
things. If you stuck around long
enough...

At which point Andy lets one fly.

ANDY
I've been holding that in for
weeks.

BRADEN
Oh my god, sick!

At which point they both can't help themselves and burst out
in hysterics.

EXT APPLE ORCHARD - DAY

Row after row of apple trees in every direction. Andy carries
a basket a few paces behind Braden, in disbelief that this
counts as a date.

ANDY
Is it time to go home yet?

BRADEN
This is what adults do.

ANDY
This is what the Amish do.

As Andy and Braden walk through the trees, suddenly Braden runs off in the distance.

ANDY
Where are you going?

Andy's lost her in the maze of trees.

ANDY
Braden?

He looks around. There's no Braden. There's no one anywhere.

ANDY
Hide and seek? That's mature.

Suddenly an apple goes whizzing by his head. And then another. And then one hits him.

ANDY
What the --?

He ducks for cover. Not sure where the attack is coming from. He spots Braden in a tree.

ANDY
Get down from there!

BRADEN
Surrender or die!

She hits him again. He takes cover and returns fire.

ANDY
Oh it's on now.

Super-mature apple throwing fight.

INT ANDY'S CAR - LATER

Andy is dropping Braden off outside her house. They've been talking all day but they're still in mid-conversation.

ANDY
You know, you're not unattractive.

BRADEN
Why Andy, that's the nicest thing you've ever said.

ANDY

I mean, you could get yourself a
real boyfriend... if you wanted.

BRADEN

I'm leaving in August. A real
boyfriend is the last thing I want.
(chirpy)
All I want is you, handsome!

Braden sticks her tongue out at him. She's too cute. He
smiles, can't help himself.

BRADEN

Goodnight Andy.

ANDY

Yeah, yeah, get out of here.

Braden gets out of the car and walks off. Andy watches her
go. Realizes he's smiling. This disturbs him very much.

ANDY

The fuck am I doing?

INT BRADEN'S KITCHEN - SAME

Meanwhile, Harold has been watching from the window. He
pretends not to be as Braden walks in.

BRADEN

Hi Daddy.

She sits next to him.

HAROLD

Did you have fun?

BRADEN

Yeah. It was nice.

HAROLD

Uh-huh.

Braden is well-aware her father knows more than he's saying.

BRADEN

Dad, it's no big deal, I swear.
It's... an experiment.

HAROLD

An experiment? You're
experimenting.

BRADEN

Yeah.

HAROLD

(beat)

Words every father longs to hear.

BRADEN

You trust me, don't you?

HAROLD

I'd still like to meet him. He
should come for dinner.

BRADEN

Whenever you want.

HAROLD

I'm free tomorrow night.

BRADEN

You're free every night.

HAROLD

So how's tomorrow?

INT ANDY'S PLACE - LATER

Andy and Bruce playing Halo.

BRUCE

It won't matter so much when she's
like.... 50.

(Andy shrugs)

So... you like her?

ANDY

Please. Who likes their girlfriend?

(beat)

She's kinda funny, though. She
listens...

BRUCE

Wait, you have conversations with
this girl. Like, with words?

ANDY

Sometimes.

BRUCE

Wow. This is serious.

ANDY

No, no. That's ridiculous.

BRUCE

You have feelings for her.

ANDY

It's not that. It's... what's it called when you, like, wake up in the morning... and immediately you're thinking of someone, but not in a sex way, in, like a, hear her voice and wanna be around her kind of way. Is that like a palsy or something?

BRUCE

(beat)

Dude...

Andy says nothing. They continue to play for a beat.

EXT HIGH SCHOOL - END OF DAY

Andy picks Braden up from school again. He's in the same parking spot as before but not hiding so much this time. Braden comes out and gets in the car.

ANDY

(by rote)

Hi honey. How was your day?

BRADEN

I need you to do something for me.

ANDY

How unusual.

Andy pulls out, passing Tim and his boys on the sidewalk. Andy waves to Tim as he drives by. Tim doesn't like it one bit.

BRADEN

My Dad wants to meet you.

Andy slams on the brakes. He shoots her the look of death. Braden sheepishly smiles. "Sorry."

EXT BRADEN'S HOME - NIGHT

CLOSE UP on the front door. An arm with a colorful wristband extends into the frame and rings the doorbell.

BRADEN (O.S.)

I'll get it!

The door opens. Braden looks out. Her jaw drops.

ANGLE ON ANDY: he's wearing a sideways baseball cap, a camo hoody, skinny jeans, and snowboard goggles around his neck.

BRADEN
What the hell is this?

ANDY
I'm trying to look younger.

BRADEN
I said "just be yourself."

ANDY
I'm meeting your father. The last
thing I'm gonna be is myself.

Braden quickly steps outside, pulling the door shut behind her.

ANDY
I've been watching MTV all morning.
Trust me, I got this.

BRADEN
You look retarded. Take that off --

She starts peeling away layers of his outfit and throwing them in the bushes. Andy tries fighting her off which turns into a sort of wrestling scenario. At which point the door opens.

It's Harold, who thinks he's seeing his daughter undressing her new boyfriend on the lawn. Braden and Andy are frozen.

Without a word, Harold shuts the door and goes back inside. Andy is mortified.

INT BRADEN'S HOME - LATER

Andy has taken off his hat and has terrible hat hair. He's seated around the dining room table with Braden and her Dad. For a while, the only sound is that of silverware on plates and it's making Andy nervous.

ANDY
I must say, sir, great place you
got here.

HAROLD
Well thank you Andy.

ANDY
One might even say it's... "the
shizzle."

Andy looks confidently at Braden, who visibly winces.

HAROLD
The what?

ANDY
(no longer sure he used
that right)
The... shnizzle? The shlizz... it's
nice.

There's no response from either of them. Not knowing what else to say:

ANDY
Holla!

Braden and her Dad share a look. His says "who is this clown?" Hers says "I love you Daddy."

HAROLD
Tell me, Andy, how do you know my
daughter?

BRADEN
We met at --

ANDY
School.

Braden shoots daggers at Andy.

HAROLD
Oh. Do you go to Brighton as well?

ANDY
Yeop. Sure do. We're the same age,
she and I.

HAROLD
Really? You know you look older
than 17, right?

ANDY
Genetics. You should see my Mom.
Woman's 48, looks like she's 90!
It's hilarious.

Braden looks at Andy: "what's wrong with you?"

ANDY
Actually, it's really sad.

They all continue to eat. The silence is deafening and Andy wants to break it.

ANDY
So, uh, what is it you do for a
living, sir?

HAROLD
You can call me Harold.

ANDY
Ok. Harold.

HAROLD
I'm a police detective.

Andy chokes on his veal.

EXT BRADEN'S HOME - SAME

Andy and Braden exit the house. Andy sees Harold, threateningly watching from the window. Fears the worst.

BRADEN
Don't worry. He won't call the cops.

ANDY
He is the cops!

BRADEN
Nah. He just said that to fuck with you.

ANDY
Oh, phew. What is he really?

BRADEN
A retired police detective.
(off his panic)
It's fine. He trusts me.

ANDY
I'm leaving now.

BRADEN
Fine. But first let's talk about the prom.

ANDY
The what?

BRADEN
It's Saturday night so I'd say, be here, dressed and ready for pictures, 5-ish?

ANDY
Oh no no no. We agreed no more high school stuff.

BRADEN
It's my senior prom!

ANDY
 Ok wait, better idea... You ready?
 How bout... we skip the prom and we
 do... anything else instead.
 Literally, anything else you can
 think of. How bout that?
 (off her look)
 No?

Andy sees Harold, still watching him from the window. Same intense look on his face.

ANDY
 5 it is.

BRADEN
 One other thing.
 (beat)
 My friend's date cancelled. Know
 anyone who'd go with her?

On Andy's face, we:

CUT TO:

BRUCE. In a tux. A big, fat smile on his face. He is...

EXT BRADEN'S HOUSE - DAY

Bruce stands next to Andy, also in a tux. They're both carrying flowers. Bruce elbows Andy, excited. The door opens to reveal Braden. And Becca. Bruce's smile comes right off. So does Becca's.

INT LIMO - LATER

As the couples get inside Andy looks out the rear window. He sees Harold, giving Andy the stare of death. The limo pulls away.

BRADEN
 This is so exciting! We're going to have so much fun! Are you guys excited?

ANDY/BECCA/BRUCE
 Yeah./ Sure. /Whatever.

BRADEN
 That's the spirit!

EXT HISTORIC OLD MANSION - NIGHT

The limo pulls up to the prom, which is taking place in a stately manor house. On the way to the door Braden elbows Andy. He can't help but to smile.

INT HISTORIC OLD MANSION - SAME

All eyes are on our gang as they walk across the ballroom in SLO-MO, making a glorious dramatic entrance.

Whereas Becca, Bruce and Andy are a little self-conscious, Braden is reveling in the moment.

INSERT B&W PROM PICS:

Everyone's formal photo...

- Some of the kids we've seen so far with their dates. CLICK. CLICK. Then:

- Andy and Braden. She's beaming. He's paranoid. CLICK.

- Bruce and Becca. Not at the prom 15 minutes and they already look like they're over it. CLICK.

- Tim and his DATE. Late 30s, bad make-up, a garish sequined dress, sloppy -- she is a COUGAR. Even in the pic Tim is looking around for Braden. CLICK.

INT HISTORIC OLD MANSION - LATER

Fashions change, hairstyles change, but Prom will always be Prom. Kids are dancing. Girls are hugging, gossiping, comparing dresses.

We MOVE to Andy and Braden at the bar. Braden has taken a small airplane bottle of booze from her purse which Andy quickly grabs.

BRADEN
What's one drink? Look around,
we're the only sober people here.

ANDY
No chance.

Their sodas come. Andy raises his glass to toast. Resigned, she clinks it.

ANGLE ON a dinner table where Bruce and Becca sit, alone, in silence. Finally:

BRUCE
So... you wanna (dance)?

BECCA
No.

BRUCE
Yeah. Me neither. I hate dancing.

Awkward silence.

BRUCE
You're just a ball of sunshine,
aren't you?

BECCA
Blow me.

ANGLE on Andy and Braden, standing by the dance floor.
Braden's friends see her and excitedly race over. The girls
hug and yell and talk about how pretty they all look.

Meanwhile, one of the chaperones, a NUN, walks right up to
Andy. She's his age, attractive, and, in fact:

SISTER LILLIAN
Andrew?

A look of recognition comes over Andy's face.

ANDY
Lilly!?

SISTER LILLIAN
It's Sister Lillian now.

Andy goes to hug her and then stops. He's not sure what the
etiquette is.

ANDY
Jesus Christ. I mean, sorry, it's
been... junior year...?

SISTER LILLIAN
Rob Bensen's house...

ANDY
Yeah, I remember that party. I
drove you home, right? And then
we... oh.
(all coming back to him)
Oh!

SISTER LILLIAN
A lot's changed since then.

ANDY
I can see that.

SISTER LILLIAN
Are you a chaperone?

ANDY
Um... sort of.

More awkward silence. She looks at him. In a way that Nuns are NOT supposed to look at dudes.

SISTER LILLIAN
(beat)
You still look really good.

She starts massaging his arm. Andy's clearly uncomfortable.

ANDY
I should probably... you know,
yeah.

Andy grabs Braden and whisk her away.

BRADEN
How do you know the Headmaster?

ANDY
They still call her the headmaster?

BRADEN
Yeah. She's super strict.

ANDY
Huh. We called her that too.
Different reason.
(beat)
Let's dance.

ANGLE on Becca and Bruce, still at the table, still having the worst time.

BRUCE
How bout some bread?

Becca reluctantly looks at the bread. It kinda looks good.

BECCA
Fine.

Bruce is pleased. He tears off a piece for her.

BRUCE
Can I get you anything else?
Cheese? Butter?

BECCA
I'm lactose intolerant.

BRUCE
Huh. Me too.

Silence.

BRUCE
I have a terrible stomach.

BECCA
(beat)
I got a tapeworm once.

BRUCE
No way, me too!

BACK TO Andy and Braden on the dance floor. They are being watched very closely by Tim, who disinterestedly dances with the Cougar.

Soon the music stops and the PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENT BODY gets on stage to make an announcement.

STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT
Ladies and gentlemen, the votes are in and it's time to announce this year's Prom King and Queen. Drum roll please...

It's a DJ so there's no drum roll.

STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT
Ok. And the winners are... Tim Cooley and Braden Matthews!

Braden looks at Andy with surprise. He claps her for. She makes her way to the front of the room. Tim meets her there. He tries to hold her hand as they're crowned but she won't let him.

STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT
And now, as is custom, the King and Queen will take the floor for a dance. Maestro...

The music starts up again. With everyone watching, Braden reluctantly lets Tim take hold of her.

BRADEN
I like your date.

ANGLE ON Tim's table. The Cougar is doing her nails, yawning.

TIM
It was supposed to be you. Everyone knows we're meant to be together.

BRADEN
Uh-huh.

TIM
Let's go out again.

BRADEN
No.

TIM
Come on!

BRADEN
Not gonna happen, Tim.

TIM
Why? Cause of my douchebag cousin?

BRADEN
(beat)
Sure. Let's go with that.

ANGLE ON Bruce and Becca, laughing hysterically at the table.

BRUCE
You think that's bad? Please. I got
rejected by EHarmony. Not some girl
on the site. The site rejected me.
I got rejected by a website.

BECCHA
Oh my god, stop.

BRUCE
That's not the worst one either.
One time, this girl rejected me
from across the room. I wasn't even
halfway over there yet. She sees me
get up and shouts "Just... no." My
friends called me "Just No" for
months.

Becca is practically choking from laughing so hard.

BECCHA
(once she stops laughing)
You're really funny, you know that?

BRUCE
I am?

BECCHA
Yeah.
(beat)
I'm still not hooking up with you.

A beat before they both bust out again laughing.

ANGLE ON the dancefloor. Braden and Andy dancing. Tim
watches, furious. Decides to march over there and grab Andy.

TIM

You and me. Family talk. Right now.

Tim grabs Andy's arm and yanks him out of the ballroom.

EXT HISTORIC OLD MANSION - PRIVATE CORRIDOR - SAME

TIM

What I tell you, man?

ANDY

Did you cheat on her?

TIM

One time. So what?

ANDY

Dude... you don't treat girls that way.

TIM

You're giving me relationship advice?! That's hilarious! You treat women like garbage.

ANDY

Least I'm honest with them. I've never cheated on anyone.

TIM

I'm not gonna tell you again, Andy. Back the fuck off of my girl.

ANDY

It's not that simple, Tim.

TIM

I warned you...

ANDY

Oh what are you gonna do, hit me?

Some of the kids sneaking a smoke outside think a fight is about to take place. They excitedly run in and shout "Fight! Fight!" It reverberates through the room and reaches Braden, Bruce, and Becca.

BACK OUTSIDE: Tim is in Andy's face.

ANDY

You wouldn't. We're family.

TIM

You stole my girlfriend.

ANDY
You cheated on her!

TIM
One time!

And now practically everyone spills outside to watch.

BRADEN
Andy?

TIM
Just leave her be and you won't get
hurt.

ANDY
I'm sorry, Tim. I can't do that.

TIM
Then I'm gonna have to kill you.

ANDY
Stop acting like a little bitch -

And with that, Tim punches Andy. Hard.

Andy stumbles back. The crowd starts cheering them on. The much bigger, stronger Tim basically kicks Andy's ass.

ANDY
Not the face! Not the face!
(more punches)
Not the body! Not the body!

Bruce jumps in to help. He is not a fighter. He tries to pull Tim off but isn't strong enough and then proceeds to just slap Tim on the head like he's swatting a fly. Finally...

BRADEN
Stop it!

Per her request, Tim stops throttling Andy. Bruce tries to get Andy back on his feet but he's a bloody mess. Braden goes to help. Tim steps towards her.

TIM
Braden, I just want to--

BRADEN
(furious)
Don't. Ever. Talk to me again!

She pushes Tim away. Andy leans on her and she helps him get into the limo.

ANDY
(delirious)
What happened?

INT ANDY'S PLACE - LATER

Braden and Andy on the couch. She holds an ice pack to his forehead.

ANDY
Ow!

BRADEN
Sorry.

ANDY
He kicked my ass, didn't he? Shit.
That is one strong kid.

BRADEN
He's a big boy.

ANDY
I mean, Christ, he is massive.

BRADEN
Not everywhere.

She removes the ice to inspect his wounds.

BRADEN
This is all my fault.

ANDY
No it's not.

BRADEN
It is. I'm sorry, Andy.

ANDY
For what?

BRADEN
For putting you through this. Not
just tonight, I mean everything. I
know it probably wasn't... the most
mature thing to do.

ANDY
Don't be sorry.

BRADEN
I am. I shouldn't have --

ANDY
Braden... I said don't be.

The two of them look at each other. In other movies, this is the moment where something would happen. But here, they both look away. Neither one knows what to do.

ANDY

Hey, what time is it? You should go to your after party. You don't have to stay here.

BRADEN

I know I don't have to, douchebag. I want to.

And so they sit there. Together. And it's nice... in a weird, quasi-romantic but totally unacceptable way. She reapplies the ice.

ANDY

Ow! Gently!

INT SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

Braden sits at a table, surrounded by the girls. Hillary, Jane, Lucy, are all chatting away but Braden is lost in her own universe. With the biggest smile we've seen from her yet.

Eventually Braden notices Becca staring at her, comes back down to Earth. Becca's look says "you like him, don't you?"

INT TOTAL BODY FITNESS - LOCKER ROOM - END OF THE DAY

Andy is picking up used towels off the benches. Finally he opens the steam room door to see if anything's been left inside.

And someone's there. It's Harold, in a terry-cloth robe, man-tits hanging out and everything.

HAROLD

Hello Andy.

ANDY

Aah!

HAROLD

You lied to me.

ANDY

I... uh... well...

HAROLD

Sit. Let's have us a chat.

Andy isn't dressed for the steam room (i.e. he's fully dressed). But he has no choice. Comes in, sits down next to Harold.

HAROLD

It's a crazy world, isn't it Andy?

ANDY

You said it.

HAROLD

Do you have any idea how difficult it is to raise a kid in this day and age?

ANDY

I guess... no. I don't.

HAROLD

No one does. That's the problem.

(beat)

But you know what...? Somehow I did it. I raised a great kid. All by myself too. My wife, she... well, long story short, Braden had every reason to go dark. Dye her hair some wacky color, pierce all up and down her face, listen to "They Might Be Retarded" or whatever they're called. She could have been a whole lotta trouble, you know? But she isn't. She's the sweetest kid.

ANDY

(sincere)

She is.

Silence for a beat.

HAROLD

Andy, I can't say I support this... thing... you're doing with my daughter. But I'm willing to tolerate it, long as I come home and see that smile on her face. You hear what I'm saying?

ANDY

Yes sir.

HAROLD

I'm saying this girl doesn't need another disappointment in her life. Whatever happens between you two... you bring her back how you found her. Ok?

ANDY

Yes sir. I promise.

HAROLD

Let me ask you something. Why'd you lie in the first place?

ANDY

I just... I'm older. Much older. I wasn't sure you'd approve.

HAROLD

(beat)

I'll tell you a story. My wife Helene... She and I were born two days apart. Bitch left me for the landscaper. Think I care what your age difference is? Be a good guy, we'll have no problems here.

Andy nods. He likes this guy.

HAROLD

(getting up to leave)
Ok then.

Andy gets up after him.

HAROLD

No, you stay. It's good for you.

Andy's clothes are totally drenched in sweat by this point.

ANDY

I'm... kind of suffocating here.

HAROLD

Only at first. Once you get used to it... starts to feel pretty good.

EXT SHOPPING MALL - LATER

Andy, still with a black eye, carries Braden's bags to the car.

BRADEN

There's nothing else?

ANDY

That's not the point.

SUPER: JUNE

BRADEN

Sure it is. You should love what you do.

ANDY

I have no job experience, no
marketable skills, I never went to
college, what else can I do?

They get in the car. Andy turns the ignition.

BRADEN

Whatever you want!

ANDY

Ha, spoken like a 17 year old kid.

BRADEN

No. Spoken like someone who knows
you. And believes in you. Who
thinks you're amazing... even if
you don't.

Andy can't help but be moved by this. No one's ever spoken to
him this way. Andy isn't even sure how to respond. He just
turns his attention to the road. They drive, listening to
more 90s indie rock. Braden tries to deal for a few beats.
Can't.

BRADEN

(grabbing Ipod)

Oh my god, give me this.

ANDY

Hey!

Braden hooks her own Ipod up to the connector.

ANDY

Don't even think about putting on
some of that teenybopper crap. Not
in this car.

BRADEN

Teenybopper? Bitch please.

ANDY

I'm serious.

BRADEN

Shut up and listen.

The song selected is called "She's Got You High" by Mumm-Ra.
It is definitely not what Andy was expecting. Braden shoots
him a look that says "try not to like this."

Andy doesn't say a word. He drives. As the song picks up
speed, Andy finds himself kinda digging it.

Still we stay with them. Driving in silence. Listening to the song. The windows are down and it's beautiful out.

Andy's right hand taps along with the beat on the gear shift. It's very close to Braden's on the armrest. They may even be touching.

The song builds. They don't look at each other. But they're both smiling.

At which point, we COMMENCE MONTAGE. The song continues over:

- Andy and Braden stay in and cook dinner together. The kitchen looks like a disaster area seeing as how neither of them knows what they're doing.

- Andy changes his "Relationship Status" on Facebook from "Single" to "In a Relationship." He then changes "In a Relationship" to "It's Complicated."

- Andy and Braden playing Rockband. Guess what -- they're awesome now.

- Braden nervously parallel parks. The DMV TESTER nods in approval. Braden's passed the test. She runs out of the car to celebrate. Andy's there waiting for her.

- Back in the car. Only it's sometime later. The song ends with both Braden and Andy harmonizing the last bit, singing as loud as they possibly can. After which, they burst out laughing. One might even think they were a real couple.

They arrive at Braden's place and she gets out.

BRADEN
Call you later.

ANDY
Sounds good.

Andy drives off. Braden goes to her mailbox. There's a stack of mail. Sorts through it on her way to the house. Stops in her tracks. A letter from Stanford.

INT ANDY'S CAR - SAME

Andy is driving. His phone rings ("I'm not that Innocent...")

ANDY
(answers)
That was quick.

All he hears is giddy screams.

INT TGI FRIDAY'S - NIGHT

Andy and Braden at their favorite restaurant. They raise their Milkshake mugs.

BRADEN
To Stanford.

ANDY
No. To you.

Braden seems more subdued than one might think.

ANDY (CONT'D)
What's wrong? You should be jumping up and down.

BRADEN
I am. I was. It's just... everything's happening so fast, you know. First Prom, then graduation's in a few weeks... before you know it, it's August and I have to leave.

It dawns on Andy what she's saying.

ANDY
I'm sorry... graduation is when?

BRADEN
Right. Like you haven't been counting the days.

ANDY
Oh. Yeah, no, totally.

Andy is bewildered by this. He sorta forgot the end date. As he's processing this, he hears a voice.

MALE VOICE (O.S.)
Well look who it is.

It's his boss, Roberts.

ANDY
Mr. Roberts!
(to Braden, pointed)
How bout that. It's my boss.

ROBERTS
Fancy running into you here. And who is this lovely --

ANDY
Oh, uh, this... is...

BRADEN

Braden. Pleasure to meet you.

ROBERTS

Pleasure's all mine. Watch out for this one. A real ladykiller.

BRADEN

I think I got it under control.

ROBERTS

What is it you do, Braden?

BRADEN

Me? Uh, I'm a...

Braden looks at Andy for help. Andy's got nothing. At which point, Robert's family joins him. WIFE (late 30s), TWO DAUGHTERS 10 and 14.

DAUGHTER

She's a senior Dad.

ROBERTS

A senior...

ANDY

The proper term is "Senora," little girl. But good try.

DAUGHTER

What's up, Braden?

They know each other? Shit. Fuck. Shit.

BRADEN

(awkward)

Hiya... Steph.

Roberts is very confused.

ROBERTS

Honey, how do you know Andy's... date?

DAUGHTER

We were both in the play.

ROBERTS

What play?

DAUGHTER

The school play. Duh. How do you know the boyfriend?

ANDY
 Boyfriend? Did you say
 "boyfriend?!" Please. Me and her?
 We're not... No.

Roberts looks at Braden. Then at Andy. Knows Andy well enough to size up the situation quick. Plus:

DAUGHTER
 They've been hooking up all
 semester. Everyone knows about it.

ANDY
 What? That's crazy. This is...
 babysitting.

Daughter makes a "yeah right" face at her Dad. Andy is starting to hate this kid. Makes a menacing face at her to shut her mouth. Doesn't work.

ROBERTS
 We're gonna go now. But I'll see
 you tomorrow, yeah?
 (off his nod)
 Good.

Once they're gone, Andy turns to Braden. She winces.

BRADEN
 How bad was that?

ANDY
 Um... should be fine.

CUT TO:

EXT TOTAL BODY FITNESS - NEXT DAY

Andy carries his stuff in a box out the door. Roberts, Bruce, and the rest of the gym watch him leave.

ROBERTS
 (to Bruce)
 You know about this?

Playing dumb, Bruce just shrugs. No way.

EXT HIGH SCHOOL - LATER

Andy in the car, picking Braden up from school. She comes out and this time is surprised to see him.

BRADEN
 You weren't supposed to pick me up
 today.

EXT PARK - DAY

Andy and Braden are having a heart-to-heart while sitting on swings. He seems really down.

BRADEN
...are you ok?

ANDY
Besides the fact that I've lost the
only job I've ever had. I'd say...
not really, no.

Braden looks particularly distraught.

BRADEN
Andy, I can get you your job back.

ANDY
How so?

BRADEN
What if I go in there and tell him
it was all platonic. That we never
had sex. That would do it, right?

ANDY
I don't want you to lie for me.

BRADEN
Ok. But... what if it's not a lie?

ANDY
Hmmm?

BRADEN
What if it's the truth? That we
never had sex.

ANDY
We did. That first night. That's
why I'm in this mess to begin with.

BRADEN
(swallows)
Do you remember that night?
(he doesn't)
Minute we got to my bedroom... you
fell right asleep.

Andy lets this sink in for a second.

ANDY
You said --

BRADEN
I know. I...
(beat)
I lied.

Andy gets up off the swings.

ANDY
You're kidding right? It's a joke.

The tears are already starting to well in Braden's eyes.

ANDY
(realizing)
Oh my god.

BRADEN
I swear, I never meant for any of
this to --

ANDY
What? You never meant what?

BRADEN
...

ANDY
Do you even know what you did?!

BRADEN
Don't yell at me.

ANDY
You made me think I was a criminal,
Braden. You took five months of my
life.

BRADEN
(goes to touch him)
Andy...

ANDY
Don't touch me. Don't even think
about touching me. Are you nuts?! I
was fine before you. I had a good
life. A good job. I was happy.

BRADEN
I didn't mean to --

ANDY
Well you did. You ruined
everything.

BRADEN
I'm so sorry.

ANDY

And for what, revenge, popularity?
To look cool to your friends?

BRADEN

It was more than --

ANDY

What?! Tell me. What reason could
you possibly have to do such a
thing?

BRADEN

I just...
(beat)
I liked you, ok!??!

Silence.

ANDY

(in disbelief)
Wow.

Andy shakes his head in disbelief.

ANDY

You had me fooled. You really did.

BRADEN

Andy --

ANDY

You may act older, and you may look
older, but inside... you're a
child.

Andy turns to walk away.

BRADEN

Can I fix it?

ANDY

No. You stay away from me.

BRADEN

But --

ANDY

I'm serious. I don't need you. I
don't want you. This ends now.

And with that he walks off, leaving a tearful Braden behind.

INT BRADEN'S HOUSE - LATER

Braden storms in, passing Harold at the table.

HAROLD
Hey hun, how was --

But she's already climbing the stairs. Harold hears her slam the door to her bedroom. Knows she's upset and doesn't like it one bit.

We stay with him. He sums up all the angst of being a father to a teenage girl in one simple phrase:

HAROLD
Oy.

INT ANDY'S PLACE - SAME

Andy's equally distraught. He paces, not sure what to do with himself. He starts playing Rockband alone. Plays like a man possessed. At the climax he starts smashing the guitar. Doesn't stop until it's in pieces. Andy's panting. The game is ruined.

INT ANDY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Andy watches TV in bed, eating ice cream, a copy of "The Secret" by his side.

SUPER: JULY

The opening credits for some Cinemax soft core porn movie comes on. Andy's not interested. He flips the channels, landing on "Garden State." The climactic scene where Braff runs through the airport to Portman.

ANDY
Ridiculous.

Andy changes the channel. "Bridget Jones's Diary." It's the scene where Bridget is heartbroken. She's in the exact same position as Andy, same look on her face, doing the exact same thing that he's doing. Andy sees this. Takes a moment to register. Then Andy freaks out!

ANDY
Oh, hell no!

MUSIC UP: "Boogie Woogie Rock and Roll" by Komeda

CUT TO:

SERIES OF SHOTS:

- Andy's on the dance floor in a club, surrounded by girls. He drinks straight from a bottle of champagne. Living it up.
- Andy talking to some women at the bar. The women are attractive, interested, and super old.

ANDY
I'm gonna need to see your IDs.

The ladies chuckle, flattered.

ANDY
No, seriously, I need to see your
IDs.

Andy is not taking any chances this time.

- Andy drinking like a fish.
- CU on A COMPUTER SCREEN reads "Are you sure you wish to delete your Facebook Account?" Andy deactivates the shit out of his Facebook Account!
- Andy, dancing, out of his mind, with the group of women.
- Andy in bed with like four of those girls.

ANDY
(yelling, for absolutely
no reason)
I'm having a great fucking time!
(then, sadly)
So much fun!

- In the morning, the girls are sneaking off.

ANDY
Hey, can I call you sometime?

The girls look at each other, confused.

GIRL #3
Why?

EXT HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL FIELD

A graduation ceremony in progress. Braden's name is called. She gets her diploma. Shakes the hand of the Prefect. Smiles and waves to her Dad. Involuntarily, Braden looks for Andy (as she did at the volleyball game). Pretends it's ok she doesn't see him. Tim, off to the side, sees all this as well.

EXT APPLE ORCHARD - DAY

Andy is apple picking with SOME GIRL. There's no mistaking that she is around Andy's age. He smiles. And for a moment it looks like Andy may have recaptured what he was looking for.

SOME GIRL
(beat)
You know they sell perfectly good
apples at the grocery store.

ANDY
This is much more fun, trust me.

Girl's certainly not finding this any fun. Suddenly an apple flies by her head. The next one hits her.

SOME GIRL
Ow! The hell is wrong with you?!

ANDY
Nothing, I just thought...

SOME GIRL
Jesus Christ that hurt.

Pissed, she walks away from Andy. Andy just sighs.

INT ANDY'S PLACE - NIGHT

Andy and Thurston on the couch. Andy has his cell phone and is scrolling through, looking for someone, anyone, to call. There's no one but Bruce. Andy dials.

SUPER: JULY

SPLITSCREEN w/ Bruce, combing his hair in the bathroom.

BRUCE
Hello?

ANDY
Hey Bruce, it's me.

BRUCE
What's up dude?

ANDY
Not much. What's going on?

BRUCE
Nothing.

ANDY
Cool, cool.

Silence.

ANDY
So what's up?

Bruce looks at the phone, confused.

BRUCE
Andy... is there something...

ANDY

No. Just wanted to say hi. See how you're doing.

BRUCE

I'm... doing good.

ANDY

Good. Me too. I'm doing real good.

Silence.

ANDY

You wanna come over later? Watch Project Runway, have a guy's night, you and me?

BRUCE

Um... That sounds... weird, Andy, but I, uh, I can't actually.

ANDY

No, why not?

BRUCE

Believe it or not... I have a date.

ANDY

Oh. Good for you. Another time then.

BRUCE

(beat)

Andy... you sure you're ok?

ANDY

Me? I'm fantastic.

BRUCE

Ok. Talk to you later, alright?

ANDY

Sounds good.

(beat)

Wait a sec, you have a date?!

EXT BECCA'S HOME - LATER

Becca answers the door.

BRUCE

Hello.

BECCA

Hello yourself.

Bruce is dressed up for a night on the town. He looks alright, actually.

BRUCE
(re: his outfit)
What do you think?

BECCA
I like.

At which point, behind Becca, emerges a woman, early 40s, drop dead gorgeous. This is BECCA'S MOM. Bruce can't believe it.

BRUCE
Uh... Hi. I'm, uh...

BECCA'S MOM
Bruce. I know. My daughter's told me all about you. She says you're hilarious.

She extends a hand to Bruce. Bruce shakes it. In awe.

BECCA'S MOM
Shall we...?

Speechless, Bruce hands her the flowers.

BECCA'S MOM
Violets, my favorite.

Bruce and the Mom walk off. Bruce turns and mouths "thank you!" to Becca. She roots him on.

INT BRADEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Braden sits on the couch alone, looking forlorn. Harold dims the lights and comes out with a birthday cake. He sings to her. We see her smile but it's not as bright as it used to be.

HAROLD
Happy birthday kiddo.

BRADEN
Thanks Daddy.

HAROLD
You sure you don't want to go out
with your friends?
(she doesn't)
Rather stay here with your old man?
(she does)
Don't blame you. This is way more
exciting.

The doorbell rings. At the sound, Braden's face lights up.
Could it be?

HAROLD
I'll get that.

Braden is clearly excited by the possibility that it's...

TIM
Happy birthday Braden.

Tim has buttoned his shirt, tucked it in, the swagger and arrogance nowhere to be found. He hands her a gift.

TIM
This is for you.

BRADEN
That's so sweet. Thanks. For
remembering.

TIM
(beat)
You think we can (talk)?

HAROLD
(gets the message)
Do I hear a phone?

Harold goes upstairs. Behind Tim's back, he signals to Braden that he doesn't much care for this kid.

TIM
I... um... I also came to tell
you... I'm not going to OSU. I got
offered to start at another
school... so I'm gonna do that.

BRADEN
That's great Tim. What school?

TIM
Stanford.

BRADEN
Oh.

TIM
So I thought... since we're both
going, maybe you and me could, you
know, get past whatever happened
and... be together again.

BRADEN
Tim...

TIM

Hear me out, ok? I miss you. I want to be with you.

BRADEN

Tim, please...

TIM

I'm sorry I slept with that chick. And I'm sorry I beat up my cousin. I won't do that shit again, I promise. And I won't pressure you to have sex anymore, either. If you're a prude, that's cool. I'm cool with it. I just... we love each other, don't we?

BRADEN

(beat)

No.

TIM

What?

BRADEN

I don't think we do, Tim.

TIM

Of course we do. You said you loved me, like, a million times. Were you lying to me?

BRADEN

I wasn't lying. I just...

(beat)

I had absolutely no idea what I was talking about.

Tim deflates.

BRADEN

I'm sorry.

(beat)

But, hey, see you on campus, right?
Go Cardinal!

Tim doesn't know what to do. He just storms out.

INT MILT'S LAW FIRM - DAY

And so it's come to this: Andy, dressed in Khakis and a clip-on tie, is pushing a mail cart around his father's office.

SUPER: AUGUST

He delivers a package to an assistant and see his Dad watching down the hall. Andy waves. The assistant hands Andy back some letters he sorted wrong. The whole thing is a far cry from how it used to be.

INT ANDY'S PLACE - EVENING

Andy walks in the door and sees more mail. He sighs. Most of it is bills, which he ignores. But one letter in particular catches his interest. It's from Elmhurst State University. Andy looks at it oddly. Opens it. Is bewildered.

EXT ELMHURST STATE UNIVERSITY - ESTABLISHING

A quaint suburban college campus.

INT COLLEGE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING - SAME

Andy speaks with an ADMINISTRATOR.

ANDY

Yes, hello, my name is Andy Mason.
I got a letter in the mail about an
interview today.

ADMINISTRATOR

What did you say your name was?

ANDY

Mason, Andy. But I think there
might be some mistake.

ADMINISTRATOR

Mason. Mason. Yes. Andrew. I have
your application right here.

ANDY

Right, see, the thing is, I
didn't... send an application.

ADMINISTRATOR

Well somebody did.

Andy is still very confused.

ADMINISTRATOR

Why don't you have a seat? Should
be just a few minutes.

Andy sits. He knows there's only one person who could have done this.

While he waits, Andy looks around the room. There's all sorts of posters and things advertising the school -- "Make a New Start," and "Seize the Future." Things that have been on Andy's mind. As he's thinking about these things:

WOMAN
Mr. Mason?

ANDY
Uh, yes ma'am, that's me.

WOMAN (MS. DEWALT)
I'm Alice DeWalt. Would you follow
me please?

Ms. DeWalt is an ultra-serious woman in her 50s. Andy follows.

INT OFFICE - LATER

MS. DEWALT
So... tell me why you want to got
to ESU.

ANDY
Where?

MS. DEWALT
Elmhurst State University.
(off his look)
This place.

ANDY
Oh. Right. Yeah. Well, um, it...
looks nice. You seem very nice.

MS. DEWALT
And what is it you plan to study?

ANDY
You know... Stuff. Classes.... That
sort of thing.

Ms. Dewalt cocks her head at Andy. Is this guy for real?

ANDY
I'm blowing it, aren't I? Look,
ma'am, can I be totally honest with
you? Truth is, I don't know what
I'm doing.

MS. DEWALT
(consults application)
Your application says...

ANDY
Yeah, see... Hi. Can I stop you
there? I didn't actually send that.
I have no idea what it says.

MS. DEWALT
Do you want to go to school here?

ANDY
Honestly, it never crossed my mind
before today. But now... shit yeah.
I really would.

MS. DEWALT
(beat)
Ok. Well... here's what we'll do.
I'm gonna ask you some questions.
You answer them the best you can.
And we'll take it from there? Ok?
How bout we start with an easy one?

ANDY
Sure.

MS. DEWALT
Name a person in your life that you
particularly admire.

ANDY
(quickly)
Martin Luther King.

MS. DEWALT
Interesting. Why Dr. King?

ANDY
(grasping)
Well, you know, racism... Whatnot.

MS. DEWALT
(sighs)
Andy, I have a ton of appointments
today...

ANDY
Wait, there's someone else too. A
girl...
(beat)
She's... no, nevermind.

MS. DEWALT
Please, continue. Who is she?

ANDY
She's just this really interesting
girl. She's an athlete, a genius,
she likes good music, not to
mention, she's smoking hot. But
then, on the other hand, she did
some terrible things to me.

(MORE)

ANDY (cont'd)

She made me, like, her love slave, which was not cool, and I had to go with her wherever she wanted, no matter how weird or physically threatening the situation, and believe me, there were some situations. Then I lost my job. And of course all of that was cause she made me think I raped her, which I totally didn't, by the way...

MS. DEWALT

(shocked)

...

ANDY

I'm not a rapist.

MS. DEWALT

(so confused)

How is this someone you admire?

ANDY

Well... Cause... she opened my eyes. I thought she ruined my life -- I didn't have a life. Six months ago, I was going nowhere. Today, I'm sitting here with you. Six months ago I was banging chicks in the bathroom at Shoney's...look at me now! I'm like half a gay. I started Tivo-ing Ellen. I asked some girl last week to brunch. Brunch! I've basically gone from being Samantha to Carrie overnight. And the weird thing is, I like me this way. Granted, I'm not having half as much fun but it's better. I'm better. And it's thanks to her.

MS. DEWALT

Can I ask... what happened to this girl?

ANDY

I don't know. We don't really talk. It was... our timing was off. That's what it was. If I was born later, maybe, or she was born earlier... if we met, say, five years in the future.... then maybe... But we didn't.

(beat)

And that's life. Just gotta move on. It's better this way. Yeah. Definitely better.

Andy is deep in thought about Braden. Something isn't sitting right at all.

MS. DEWALT
(back to the interview)
Andy, are you ok?

ANDY
(standing up)
I should tell her that, shouldn't I?

MS. DEWALT
You mean... now? We're not quite finished --

ANDY
I was mad and I said some things.
She's gonna leave thinking I...
she's gonna leave.
(beat)
I should go.

MS. DEWALT
But... what about your future?

ANDY
Exactly.

Andy is halfway out the door when he hears:

MS. DEWALT
Andy...
(he turns)
Let me know how it goes.

EXT BRADEN'S HOUSE - DAY

Andy rushes up to the door and rings the bell. Harold answers.

HAROLD
You've got a lot of nerve coming here.

ANDY
Please sir, just... two minutes...

HAROLD
What I tell you about hurting that girl?

ANDY
You're right. And I'm sorry. But I got hurt too, you know.
(MORE)

ANDY (cont'd)
She took advantage of me, she lied,
she toyed with my emotions...

HAROLD
So you did nothing wrong, is that
it?

ANDY
No, actually... I did everything
wrong. And then I met your
daughter.

Harold softens.

HAROLD
I'm sorry kid, she's gone.

ANDY
What do you mean, "gone?"

HAROLD
She left for school today.
California.
(getting emotional)
My little girl.

ANDY
She left... today!?

HAROLD
Dropped her off just now.

ANDY
You've gotta be...! What time is
her flight?

HAROLD
3:45.

Andy looks at his watch. It's 1pm.

ANDY
Oh.

Andy was expecting to have to rush to the airport like in the movies. He's got loads of time.

ANDY
No problem.

INT ANDY'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Andy drives. Whistling. Not in a rush.

EXT HIGHWAY - SAME

We see the car drive onto the highway.

ANDY
Long as there's no traffic...

There's no traffic.

ANDY
Yes! Plenty of time.

INT ANDY'S CAR - LATER

ANDY
Making tracks. Uh-huh. This is
me... definitely not rushing to the
airport.

"In Your Eyes" comes on the radio. It takes Andy a second to notice, but when he does:

ANDY
(changing stations)
You shut your mouth, Peter Gabriel.

EXT AIRPORT - SAME

Now Andy has to deal with typical airport terminal traffic. Cars stopping in the middle of the street to let people off etc.

ANDY
That's fine, that's to be expected.
Shouldn't take an hour from here to
Terminal 6.

He's not yet at Terminal 1. Andy looks at the clock.

ANDY
Not worried.

CUT TO:

MINUTES LATER.

He hasn't moved an inch.

ANDY
Whatever. It's ok.

Same. Andy sighs. Starts drumming on the steering wheel. At which point there's a crack of thunder.

ANDY
(looks up; that's weird)
Huh.

CUT TO:

MINUTES LATER.

Still the same. Andy looks at his watch. Starting to get a little antsy.

ANDY
I am parking this car. No way I'm just leaving it. Don't even pull that shit.

Andy cranes his neck. Sees a short-term parking structure to the side. It's far from where he needs to be but it'll do. Andy cuts off some cars to the left as he pulls into the structure.

EXT TERMINAL 1 PARKING STRUCTURE - LATER

Andy on foot. He comes out of the structure -- into the pouring rain.

ANDY
(disbelief)
Come on... seriously?

Andy starts to walk towards Terminal 6. Andy is getting soaked.

ANDY
Dammit!

INT TERMINAL 6 - CONTINUOUS

A soaked Andy dashes up to the Departures Monitor. Looks for Braden's flight. Finds it. Not yet boarding. No problem.

ANDY
(looks at watch)
45 minutes. Easy.

Andy approaches the ticket counter. The TICKET AGENT smiles at him.

ANDY
I need to get to Gate 41.

TICKET AGENT
I'm sorry sir, no one's allowed past --

ANDY
Yeah yeah, I know, I just... there's a... this is so nuts. I need to see a girl whose plane's about to leave. Is there any way...?

TICKET AGENT
Not without a ticket.

ANDY
Fine. I'll buy a ticket then. What leaves from Gate 42?

TICKET AGENT
That's... Flight 87 to Atlanta.

ANDY
Awesome. Wait, let me guess... sold out, right?

TICKET AGENT
Oh no. There's plenty of seats.

Good. Back to reality. Andy is pleased.

TICKET AGENT
That'll be 844 dollars.

Basically Andy's life savings. He hesitates but then realizes, shit, what choice does he have?

INT AIRPORT - MOMENTS LATER

Ticket in hand, Andy rides up the escalator to the security checkpoint. He looks at his watch and decides to walk a little faster up the escalator (but he's certainly not gonna run.)

There's no line at all for the security checkpoint. Andy relaxes. He'll make it for sure now.

ANDY
Phew.

Andy gives his ticket to the SECURITY AGENT.

SECURITY
I'm sorry Sir you'll have to go to Terminal 3.

ANDY
What? Why?

SECURITY
The departure gate for your flight has changed. You're leaving from Terminal 3 now.

ANDY
No! I can't! I gotta go through there.

SECURITY
Not without a ticket.

Fuck! Andy looks at his watch. There's still 20 minutes.

INT TERMINAL - MOMENTS LATER

Andy dashes to the same ticket counter as before, sees the same female Ticket Agent. He's gonna have to buy another ticket, spend more money. And the clock is ticking.

INT AIRPORT - MOMENTS LATER

Now Andy bounds up the escalator at a much faster clip (but he's still not running!) He gets to the same security checkpoint which is now of course completely packed.

ANDY
Oh for fuck's sake!

If the traffic outside was bad, this is a nightmare. Andy tries to push through, cutting everyone ahead of him.

ANDY
Excuse me... I'm so sorry...

The CROWD is not happy.

CROWD
Back of the line! / We want to get home too!

ANDY
Please, I really gotta get through.

Crowd still refuses to budge for him.

ANDY
I'm going after a girl! Don't you people go to the movies?!

CROWD
(beat)
Fuck off! / Wait your turn!

VOICE
Andy?

Andy looks to the front of the line and sees: THE GIRL HE SLEPT WITH ON PAGE ONE! Andy runs up to her.

ANDY
Tiff... No. That is not your name.
I know your name. I know it...
(beat)
It's Tracy!
(MORE)

ANDY (cont'd)
Tracy, it's so good to see you!
Please, you've gotta help me. I'll
do anything.

TRACY
(thinks)
You really going after a girl?

ANDY
I really am.

She sees that he's sincere. Lets him in. The Crowd boos but he doesn't care. He's through.

At the checkpoint Andy tries to pass but he's told to take off his shoes. He throws them on the belt and sprints to the other side. And then he waits.

ANDY
C'mon, c'mon!

Andy extends his arms to grab his shoes as soon as they appear from the rubber flaps. His shoes poke out for a second but then the belt goes back the other way.

ANDY
Really? That's how it's gonna be?

Back and forth they go on the belt a few more times. Andy's frustration mounts. He looks at the GERIATRIC HOMELAND SECURITY AGENT who is studying the monitor.

ANDY
They're just shoes!

The Agent continues to look at the X-Ray. Andy just sighs, shakes his head, turns towards the gates...

ANDY
Fuck it.

...and SPRINTS!

INT AIRPORT GATES - MOMENTS LATER

And so it's come to this: Andy is RUNNING through the airport!

ANDY
Please don't taser me!

INT GATE 41 - MOMENTS LATER

Andy arrives just in time to see the remaining passengers boarding.

ANDY
No!

Out of breath, soaking wet, shoeless, Andy confronts the people in line to see if any of them are Braden. They are clearly scared of Andy.

ANDY
(yelling)
Braden!

VOICE (O.S.)
Andy?

He turns. Yup. There she is. In line to board.

ANDY
I made it!

BRADEN
What are you doing here?

ANDY
I've come to see you.

BRADEN
Wait a second. Were you just
running through the airport?

ANDY
It's been... a very weird day.

The final boarding call is announced on the speaker.

BRADEN
That's me.

ANDY
Yeah.

BRADEN
I think I gotta go.

ANDY
You do, Braden. You have to go. And
I'm not here to stop you. I just...
I want you to know some things
before you do. Ok? I want you to
know...

Andy is not good with the articulating. He takes a breath and just lets it fly.

ANDY
You're amazing. You're an amazing
person.
(MORE)

ANDY (cont'd)
 The rest of your life is gonna be
 so awesome and, whether I'm in it
 or not, I am psyched for you. I
 want you to know that.

Braden is touched.

ANDY
 I want you to know... you changed
 me. Obviously I'm not there yet but
 I'm getting there. And one day, if
 I don't mess it up, I'm gonna be
 someone who deserves someone like
 you. That's my goal.

(beat)

I also want you to know that I...
 I've been doing some thinking and
 I...

(deep breath)

OK, yeah, maybe, probably, I think
 most likely... I love you... I do.
 But whatever. That's not important.
 What's important is that... this
 love shit is complicated. It's not
 enough to just meet the right
 person. You gotta meet them at the
 right time as well. And we didn't.
 And that's not gonna change.

(now Andy starts to tear)
 But the thing is, Braden, meeting
 the right person at the wrong time,
 well, that's still better than
 never meeting them at all. So I've
 come here... more than anything
 else... just to say thank you.
 That's it. Thank you for
 everything.

(beat)

You're the best mistake I ever
 made.

Braden laughs as she wipes away the tears. They hug. Andy
 holds it an extra beat.

BRADEN
 Thank you, Andy.

MUSIC UP: "BRUISED" by Ben Folds

ANDY
 (letting go)
 Now... go... conquer, do all those
 things you were born to do. And
 then, in the future, who knows, you
 know, anything can happen, we --

Before he can finish Braden steps forward and kisses him on
 the cheek. It's the most passionate cheek kiss ever.

Andy stops talking. Closes his eyes. And then it's over. Time to move on. She picks up her bag.

BRADEN
Call me sometime?

ANDY
I will.

BRADEN
I'll be back at Christmas. Maybe we could --

ANDY
May be.

They look at each other one more time. And then Braden turns to board the plane. Andy watches her walk down the jetway. She doesn't turn around. He was probably hoping she would but it's cool. He smiles to himself. Looks down. Looks around.

INT JETWAY - SAME

On Braden as she walks towards the future.

EXT AIRPORT - LATER

Andy comes out. He feels pretty good about the whole thing. And about what's next, whatever it may be.

INT AIRPLANE - MOMENTS LATER

At the same time, Braden makes her way to her seat, wiping the tears from her eyes. She sits. A ball of emotions.

VOICE
Excuse me, Miss?

She looks up. The Voice belongs to a GUY across the aisle. A really cute guy around Braden's age.

CUTE GUY
You ok?

Braden's face brightens. And it's on this beat that we:

FADE TO BLACK.