

"ANDREI KOLOSOV"

by

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Adapted from a story by Ivan Turgenev

DRAFT 14 – October 4, 2010

1 INTERIOR — PROFESSOR LEVINE'S OFFICE - DAY

Cut in on a young man's feet, in sneakers. They're bouncing nervously.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

The first time I was ever, like,  
away from home, I was, I was a  
little kid, y'know, like I was at  
camp.

Cut to his hands, smoothing his pants. His other hand is twitching in his lap.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

And there was this one kid there,  
he got so homesick he threw up  
every night.

Cut to the rear of his head---short blonde hair, in a jock's tight cut. The environment is out of focus, but we can see that it's an earth-toned office. The camera slowly dollies around to reveal ROB, looking out of place in light-colored workout clothes. Behind him is a large man, out of focus. The large man, PROFESSOR LEVINE, is gesticulating broadly, clearly talking, but we can't hear him.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

And I was the only one who heard  
him. So I tried to get him some  
paper towels, like, without anyone  
else finding out. Y'know, to  
clean it up. But... But everyone  
found out. And they called him  
"Puke" for like... shit, they still  
call him that.

Professor Levine comes up behind Rob, and claps him on the shoulder, snapping Rob out of his reverie.

ROB

Sorry, what?

PROFESSOR LEVINE

Are you excited? About starting  
college?

ROB

Oh! Uh, yes, sir.

The Professor continues talking, his voice again fading out as Rob's voice-over fades in.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

Which was, like, I mean, it wasn't a total lie, but... I dunno... It was cool, it was gonna be great!

PROFESSOR LEVINE

Rob, your dad told me that you're quite an athlete. Are you going to be wrestling in college?

ROB

No, um, Dad says I shouldn't get distracted.

PROFESSOR LEVINE

Oh. Well... How is he doing anyway?

ROB

Oh, uh, he's great. The store's doing, um, doing great, he just opened a couple more in Wheeling...

Rob continues listing towns where his dad has stores. On the soundtrack, Rob's voice fades down as the voice-over fades up.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

That's the thing, you know--- people remember. They judge you, y'know, they do. Like, this guy-- -he's just, like, my dad's friend, y'know, so he wants to hear about Dad's store, but I gotta show him that, like, that I've really got my shit together too...

PROFESSOR LEVINE

Well that's all terrific, Rob. But tell me something--- what do you want to do once you graduate?

ROB  
Oh, um... I dunno, sir.

Pause.

PROFESSOR LEVINE  
Well, welcome to New York, Rob!  
Hey---how about we have a little  
drink?

ROB  
Uh, yes sir!

PROFESSOR LEVINE  
Sir---Rob, I'm not an officer!

Professor Levine goes to the bar to get Rob a drink. Rob stays  
in his chair.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER  
'Cause this is, like, a connection  
right here, y'know. You gotta  
make connections, 'cause that how  
you get, like, the job and the  
house and the family and the life  
and, y'know, all that shit.

Professor Levine hands a drink to Rob. Rob, nervous,  
immediately spills it all over himself. He drops to the floor  
to dab at the spill with his shirt.

ROB  
Oh jesus, I'm sorry, sir.

PROFESSOR LEVINE  
Don't worry about it Rob, it's no  
trouble.

ROB  
I'm, I'm sorry. I should get  
outta here, sir.

PROFESSOR LEVINE  
No, Rob, it's fine.

ROB  
Yeah, I gotta look at my apartment  
anyway.

Professor Levine kneels down to engage with Rob, who turns away.

PROFESSOR LEVINE

Don't you mean your room? Hey---  
is living in the dorms gonna be  
your first time having a roommate?

ROB

Um, my dad got me an apartment.  
'Cause I'll get, like, distracted  
if I'm in a dorm.

PROFESSOR LEVINE

They let freshmen live off-campus  
now?

ROB

Um, yeah, I think Dad worked out  
something with the dean. I mean,  
it'll be fine.

Professor Levine hands Rob more napkins, as he continues  
frantically trying to clean up the rug.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

I mean, I said it would be fine,  
but actually I was kinda freaked  
out, y'know, about... But it turned  
out to be, like, pretty cool. I  
mean, I actually got kinda fucked  
up for a while. I mean, not bad,  
but like... Shit, I dunno. I mean,  
it's stupid to talk about.

## 2 INTERIOR/EXTERIOR — VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Montage of ANDREI. Andrei is a young Russian man. His features  
are each individually a little strangely defined, but taken  
together, he's terribly beautiful, but somehow cold.

ROB

Like, when I try to talk about  
this shit, I just fuck it up.  
But, like, when you look at how  
Andrei lived, he was... I mean,  
everything he did was exactly the  
right thing, y'know?

3 INTERIOR — PROFESSOR LEVINE'S OFFICE — NIGHT

Cut back to Professor Levine's office, where Rob has finished mopping the floor and is now holding a dripping wad of napkins. He's looking for a trashcan, dripping on the floor, and Professor Levine is ushering him towards the door.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

I mean, he woulda said some shit that'd blow Professor Levine's mind, but I just... Sorry, that's not, like... This was before I met Andrei, even. Sorry, um...

4 INTERIOR — PROFESSOR LEVINE'S FOYER — NIGHT

Professor Levine is seeing Rob out. MRS. LEVINE, the professor's 40-ish wife, comes to the door.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

Sorry, I fucked that up. No, I didn't actually meet him until a little while after I started college.

MRS. LEVINE

My gosh, you look just like---

ROB'S VOICE OVER

But this story's not even about me, really.

5 INTERIOR — ROB'S UNFURNISHED APARTMENT — DAY

Rob, standing alone in his new place. He drops his huge backpack to the floor. The apartment is empty, but full of sun, and Rob's happy to be in his very own apartment.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

Like, when I got my place I felt just, like, just awesome, y'know. Like, I didn't even know about Andrei yet, I just thought, y'know, this place rocks.

Rob steps over to the sink to get some water. He cups his hands under the faucet and slurps several gulps, and wipes his face on his shirt. Satiated, he steps over to the window.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

Like, I was fuckin' psyched,  
y'know. Like, I was living in the  
city and I was gonna do all kindsa  
shit and meet all kinds of crazy  
people and, like...

Rob goes back to his backpack. He lies down in a patch of sunlight, using his backpack for a pillow, then unbuttons his pants and starts to masturbate.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

So yeah, I was totally psyched for  
college.

6 EXTERIOR — CAMPUS GATE - DAY

Rob is stepping up to the rear gate of campus. It's orientation week, and there's a whole gang of students wearing message t-shirts, bearing clipboards. As Rob steps through the gate, gawping at the campus, a gaggle of student activists race to meet him.

STUDENT ACTIVISTS

Hey, do you support justice in  
Palestine?  
Hi, would you like to learn more  
about Latin America?  
Hey, do you wanna show your  
support for Africa?

ROB

Hey, uh, I'm sorry, I'm just  
trying to figure out where I'm  
supposed to be---

Rob is looking around desperately for an escape route, and notices a girl off to the side, looking at a campus map.

STUDENT ACTIVIST

Listen guy, now's the time to get  
involved---

ROB

Yeah, no doubt, sorry, I gotta,  
uh, I gotta go meet someone..

Rob rushes over to the girl by the map: SANDY, a freshman girl  
in flannel, her hair in a ponytail, no makeup.

ROB

Hey, um, listen, could you act  
like you know me?

SANDY

Sure, I'll make-believe.

ROB

Thank you, so much. Listen, do  
you know where the bursar' office  
is?

SANDY

Mmmm. Yup.

She goes back to looking at the map.

ROB

Um... Are you gonna tell me?

SANDY

Uh-hunh. But you have to pass the  
test first.

ROB

What?

SANDY

I need you mother's maiden name.  
And your sexual history. Have you  
had multiple partners?

ROB

Um...

SANDY

At the same time, I mean.

ROB

What?

SANDY  
Oh, and I need a stool sample.

ROB  
Are you messing with me?

SANDY  
No! This is a serious institution  
of learning, mister, we need to be  
sure you're bursar's-office  
material.

ROB  
You're messing with me.

SANDY  
Mister, this is for your own  
safety.

ROB  
What's your name?

SANDY  
I'm Sandy.

ROB  
I'm Rob.

ROB  
Hey, Sandy. So, are you gonna  
tell me...

Rob and Sandy continue bantering as their voices fade down, and they eventually walk out of frame.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER  
Like, it was crazy, you could just  
talk to anyone. Like, I ended up  
hanging out with this, like,  
theater chick, right? But she was  
actually pretty cool...

7     EXTERIOR — BENCH ON CAMPUS — DAY

Rob and Sandy walk towards a bench, and sit so Sandy can have a cigarette.

SANDY

You never did any kind of acting  
in high school?

ROB

No, I just... I mean, I was just  
wrestling and that was it, y'know.  
I didn't even, like, know any  
theater people.

They sit, and Sandy gets out her cigarettes.

SANDY

Beware---we're sneaky.

ROB

So, is a stage manager, like... Are  
you like a director?

SANDY

More like tech supreme. God.  
Bitch-Queen.

ROB

Okay...? So, like, while the play's  
going on, where are you?

Sandy uses Rob's lap to demonstrate the layout.

SANDY

Okay, so, here's the theater. I'm  
making sure all of this works  
right. So before the show, I  
check the stage left wing---  
audience right is stage left.

ROB

Okay...

SANDY

So I check all the props stage  
left, and then I run run run over  
to stage right, and make sure  
everything's set her. And then I  
go right back here, so all the  
actors can get to their places---

Rob jumps up, pushing Sandy's hands away.

ROB

Oh actors comin' through, we're actors, gonna do some acting..

SANDY

Yeah right, exactly.

ROB

Yeah... Um, hey, so I've gotta go get this mattress---

SANDY

What, there's no bed in your dorm?

ROB

No, I've got a place off campus.

SANDY

Really? That's pretty awesome.

ROB

Yeah, yeah, it's gonna be a totally cool place once I, y'know, get this mattress, so I better---

Sandy jumps up and joins him as he's stepping away.

SANDY

Yeah, let's check it out! Testing out mattresses is one of my specialties as tech supreme.

ROB

Oh... cool...

SANDY

You don't want a defective model.

ROB

No...

SANDY

That's like the leading cause of leprosy in men over sixty.

ROB

Wait, really?

SANDY

No.

ROB

Oh... Well, I better go get it.

SANDY

Yeah, you really need to stop slacking, Rob. C'mon, I'll help.

8 EXTERIOR — STREET — DAY

Rob is bent double, trying to carry the mattress on his back. Sandy is behind him, smoking a cigarette and kicking the corners of the mattress to indicate which way he should go.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

I mean, she wasn't hot or anything, she was actually kind of a fuckin' dog, y'know, but, like, she was still a really cool person, and like, she knew a bunch of people already---

9 INTERIOR — ROB'S UNFURNISHED APARTMENT — DAY

Rob is alone in his apartment, the mattress now in place, stuffing clothes back into his backpack.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

---so like she tells them that I've got an apartment and, like, all of a sudden there's totally a party at my place.

10 INTERIOR — ROB'S UNFURNISHED APARTMENT — NIGHT

Rob's apartment is full of theater people. Most are under 21, so there's not much booze in evidence, but everyone's smoking. On the right, a group of drably-dressed theater techs, including Sandy, are chatting. On the other side of the room, attractive actors are chatting.

TECH #1

I can't believe there's no backstage!

TECH #2

Maybe they think actors should  
just carry their props.

SANDY

I would absolutely support making  
actors be show mules.

Rob is standing between both groups, drinking from a cup, trying  
to follow both groups' conversations.

ACTRESS #1

This is so nice, I have got to get  
a place off-campus.

ACTRESS #2

Oh sure, it's soooo important to  
have a space tht you can really,  
like, make expressive.

ACTRESS #1

Who lives here?

ACTOR #3

Well look at Andrei!

ACTRESS #2

Oh, I know!

ACTOR #3

I mean can you imagine Andrei  
living in a dorm?

TECH #3

Can you imagine Andrei being your  
roommate?

ACTRESS #2

Oh god! I would love to see his  
place.

TECH #1

Uh, you know he lives downstairs,  
right?

ACTRESS #2

What?

ACTOR #4

Mm-hm. Have you seen his place?  
It's so great.

SANDY

Who's Andrei?

TECH #2

You've been to Andrei's place?

ACTOR #4

Oh yeah. I'm there, like, all the  
time. He's really cool.

ACTRESS #1

Oh I know!

ROB

Uh, is Andrei, like, some kinda  
actor?

ACTRESS #2

Ugh, no, he is way too cool to be  
an actor. [to the actors] Sorry,  
guys.

ACTOR #3

Is he even a student here?

ACTOR #4

Uh... Yeah! Yeah, I think so.

ROB

My dad actually, uh, he built the  
new theater. It's pretty great,  
right?

TECH #2

Woah, he paid for that whole  
thing? Is he, like, a producer or  
something?

ROB

Oh, no, he sells sporting goods  
back home, y'know, golf clubs 'n'  
shit.

ACTRESS #1

Oh... Are you a theater major?

ROB

No, no, I'm, uh, um...

ACTRESS #2

What's your favorite show?

ROB

I don't, I don't act, really, I don't do theater...

ACTRESS #2

Oh.

There's a conversation-killing pause, and finally, the theater people resume talking among themselves, ignoring Rob.

ACTRESS #2

So what is the mainstage show this year?

TECH #2

It's Tempest, of course, we're already building fountains.

ACTRESS #2

Omigod, I would kill to play Miranda. Or, do you think I'm more of an Ariel?

The theater people continue talking as Rob falls silent, and his voice-over fades in.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

Ah, shit. Shit.

11 INTERIOR — ROB'S APARTMENT — MORNING

Rob is in the middle of the empty room the next day, cleaning up the wreckage of the party. Sandy is also there, washing the floor with a sponge. Rob's cell phone rings---he answers it, stepping over to a corner of the room so he can hear better.

ROB

Hello?

UNCLE REED [V-O]  
Bobby? Is that you?

ROB  
Uh, yeah.

UNCLE REED [V-O]  
Bobby! It's your Uncle Reed! You remember---"the bear went over the mountain, the bear went over---"

ROB  
Uh, sure, sure, hey Uncle Reed.

UNCLE REED [V-O]  
Bobby, I was thinking, now that you're in the city, we should get caught up, that sound like fun?

ROB  
Sure, yeah, uh, I'm pretty busy with classes and stuff.

UNCLE REED [V-O]  
Oh I'll bet you are. Say, Bobby, did your dad give you enough money for the semester?

ROB  
Oh yeah, I'm set, thanks Uncle Reed.

UNCLE REED [V-O]  
That's great. Tom's always taken care of you kids, you know. I hope you appreciate how hard he works for you.

ROB  
Oh yes sir, definitely.

UNCLE REED [V-O]  
Well I was thinking, if you've got  
enough for the whole semester, how  
about I just borrow a little and  
pay you back before your midterms.  
I'll come by tonight and we can  
get caught up, okay, Bobby?

Rob's turning away, afraid Sandy will hear the conversation.

ROB  
Um, tonight's probably no good  
Uncle Reed.

UNCLE REED [V-O]  
I could come over right now.  
How'd that be, Bobby?

ROB  
I'm just supposed to use this for  
school stuff, Uncle Reed.

UNCLE REED [V-O]  
You know Bobby, I don't think you  
appreciate how easy you have it.  
Tom and I both had to work full  
time when we were in school. I  
don't think you know what hard  
work is.

ROB  
Yes, yes sir, I know, I just---

12 EXTERIOR — HANDBALL COURT — DAY

Rob is playing handball, alone, on an outdoor court. He's  
running himself hard, diving for balls, sweating profusely. The  
conversation continues as voice-over.

UNCLE REED [V-O]  
Now don't get upset, Bobby. I'll  
take you out to dinner tonight,  
okay?

ROB [V-O]  
Okay, sure. Sure, Uncle Reed.

Rob's voice-over fades in, as though continuing from a previous monologue.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

I'm so fuckin' stupid. I'm supposed to be fuckin' working and making connections and shit, not hanging out with a bunch of theater fags.

13 INTERIOR — THEATER — DAY

Rob is walking through a theater lobby, heading to the main house doors.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

Y'know, I gotta study and plus Dad wanted me to look at this theater he fuckin' paid for and make sure they aren't just sitting around suckin' each others dicks, so I gotta do that and then I'm gonna get back to my room and start seriously fuckin' working---

Rob steps into the theater, and stops.

In the middle of the stage is a piano, illuminated by a single overhead light. A young blonde boy, ANDREI, is playing it. An OLDER MAN is standing next to the piano, looking annoyed.

Rob has never seen anyone play music like this. He stops dead, the voice-over falls quiet, and he watches.

OLDER MAN

Andrei... [Andrei doesn't respond]  
Andrei... Andrei!

The older man bangs on the keys. Andrei brushes his hand off, and continues playing.

OLDER MAN

Andrei, if you are not taking classes, they can cut you off. They can send you back, do you understand that?

ANDREI

You're very dull, professor.  
You're always like *[stabs the  
keys, making open-mouth gestures]*  
when I want you to be like this.  
*[his playing slows down, and he  
moves his head more slowly]*

The older man starts to back away.

OLDER MAN

There are cheaper ways to drop me,  
Andrei.

ANDREI

Jeffrey, I am never cheap.

The older man storms out of the theater. Reaching the exit, he registers Rob's presence, snorts, and walks off.

Rob steps forward, into the light.

ANDREI

Are you lost?

ROB

Um, no, no I gotta, I'm supposed  
to look at the theater.

ANDREI

Mmm. Do you work here?

ROB

No, I, uh... My Dad paid for this.

Andrei stops playing.

ANDREI

Really?

His playing resumes.

ANDREI

Well, you must be quite a music  
lover.

ROB  
Uh, yeah! Yeah, man, I, fuckin'  
love music, uh, that shit you're  
playing, it's... You're amazing.

Andrei stops playing. He stands up.

ANDREI  
That's nice.

Andrei walks out of the light, leaving Rob alone on stage as the camera pulls back.

14 INTERIOR — THEATER — DAY

Camera pushes in to Rob, sitting in the audience, staring at the stage with fixed intensity. Sandy is next to him, looking at the stage, but not with much focus. On stage, a couple of the ACTORS are hammily doing a scene, scripts in hand.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER  
So y'know, after that, I figured I  
should, like, keep hanging out  
there, y'know, just make sure they  
were using it right. But he was  
never there when anyone else was.

15 EXTERIOR — GAZEBO ON CAMPUS

Rob and Sandy are walking through campus, Sandy chattering. Rob sees Andrei sitting a little ways away, and immediately indicates to Sandy that they should sit down. She pulls out a cigarette and leans against Rob, while he looks over her, to where Andrei and his friend GAVRILOV are sitting with a group of friends. Andrei is entertaining the group, but Gavrilov sits in the shadows.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER  
I mean, that was the thing about  
college, right, like, you can meet  
these amazing people. Like,  
you're not gonna meet a guy like  
Andrei in Beaver Creek, y'know,  
he's not gonna spend his weekends  
selling fucking baseball gloves.  
A guy like Andrei, he's... He's  
different. And you knew that as  
soon as you met him. I'd never  
known anyone like him, ever.

Rob is coming up the stairs, backpack on. He passes Andrei's room---from inside, we can hear a party, with people laughing and talking in different languages. Rob stands close to the door, touching it lightly, wishing desperately to be invited in.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

I mean, everyone knew it. And he was right there. Like, he was right under my room, but, y'know, for me, he coulda been on another planet, y'know? Like, I was never gonna be where he was.

Rob turns away and starts walking up the next flight of stairs towards his apartment.

ANDREI [OFFSCREEN]

Hi, Rob.

Andrei has appeared in the hallway behind Rob. He's standing in front of his closed door, ignoring the sounds of the party behind him, staring at Rob.

ANDREI

It's Rob, right? The music lover.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

I mean, we'd just, like, met one time.

ROB

[surprised that Andrei recognizes him] Yeah!

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

But he knew me. I mean, he totally, like, just instantly treated me like a real person...

Andrei steps closer, up the steps, and lights a cigarette.

ANDREI

Poor Rob. You were just standing out here, weren't you?

ROB

Oh, no man, I was, I was just...  
Hey, you can't smoke that out  
here, right?

ANDREI

Rob, who would stop me? [beat]

A pause, as Andrei looks Rob up and down slowly.

ANDREI

You know what it's like, Rob. For  
people like us. All those idiots  
standing around us, laughing like  
animals, and they have no idea.  
People like you and me, Rob...  
We're always alone.

ROB

Yeah, man, god... Y'know, back in  
West Virginia, Dad used to make me  
talk to Future Farmers.

ANDREI

Future farmers?

ROB

Yeah, and they'd make me put on a  
suit and shit, and it was these  
fuckin', fuckin' fat old guys,  
man. And I'd learned all this  
shit and they didn't even listen,  
they just slapped their fuckin'  
legs every time I said something  
wrong and I... Y'know, I was just  
thinkin' the whole time, like,  
"You fuckin' dipshits"...

ANDREI

Old men are pathetic. They're  
just jealous of a cock that still  
gets hard.

ROB

Yeah, dude. God, you're right,  
I'll bet half of them wanted to go  
all fuckin' knob-gobblin' on my  
shit, right?

GAVRILOV [OFF-SCREEN]

You have car?

GAVRILOV has come into the hallway while Rob and Andrei were talking. Gavrilov is sweaty, coughing and a little hunched— he doesn't look well.

Rob stops talking when Gavrilov interrupts, and looks to Andrei. Andrei smiles, and continues starting at Rob through all of the following, watching to see what he'll do.

ROB

Oh, hey, uh, I'm---

GAVRILOV

You eat hamburgers in car? Is big car? Hunh? You have big car?

ANDREI

Do you have a car, Rob?

ROB

Uh, yeah, I mean not here---

GAVRILOV

What type car?

ANDREI

[still looking only at Rob]  
What kind of car, Sasha.

GAVRILOV

Mercedes-Benz? Cadillac?

Gavrilov is getting all up in Rob's face now. He's coughing, too, a lot, and keeps jumping up and shoving Rob, who's getting increasingly fed up. Andrei hangs a step back, and watches it like a play.

ROB

Hey, man, look...

GAVRILOV

You get fucking girls with car,  
right, Hamburger? Fucking pussy  
in car, hunh. You got fucking  
American girl in your fucking  
hamburger car. You get fucking  
seat all wet, hunh, a girl like a  
big fucking car, you fucking girl-  
--

Gavrilov suddenly vomits all over Rob.

ROB

Jesus Christ, man!

Andrei gently takes Gavrilov back into the apartment.

ANDREI

Come on Sasha, let's back go to  
the party. So sorry about your  
shirt, Rob. We'll talk more,  
okay? You're very interesting.

ROB

Yeah, uh, sure, man.

Andrei steps away from Gavrilov, and approaches Rob.

ANDREI

That was the wrong shirt for you,  
Rob. You'll be better off without  
it.

Andrei goes back to Gavrilov, and takes him inside, leaving Rob  
on the stairwell.

17 INTERIOR — ROB'S LOBBY — DAY

Rob and Sandy walk into the lobby of Rob's building.

SANDY

So now he's got all the lights  
gelled pink and it makes everyone  
look like a deranged kewpie doll,  
like, we should throw baseballs at  
the set and whoever knocks it down

SANDY [CON'T]  
gets an actor to bring home, not  
like that's difficult---

Rob goes to the ledge where mail arrives and looks to see if there's something for him. There's a letter, in a square card envelope. He picks it up---Sandy's still talking---and tears it open to read. Inside is a letter, on nice stationary, and a check. Sandy continues her story, as the ROB'S MOM VOICE-OVER fades in.

ROB'S MOM VOICE-OVER  
Hi Rob! Dad and I went to see  
your brother at practice.

18 EXTERIOR - STREET NEAR CAMPUS - DUSK

Rob is walking down the street, alone, past clusters of students talking and flirting. He's wearing a backpack.

ROB'S MOM VOICE-OVER  
They've just had tryouts for  
freshmen, and he's already on the  
team. I'm glad you aren't  
wrestling this year---you should  
take your classes seriously,  
instead of getting distracted. We  
don't want you to waste college!

Down the street, Rob sees the back of a blonde young man. He rushes forward, but when the guy turns, it's someone else.

ROB'S MOM VOICE-OVER  
But I hope you're making lots of  
friends, and we'll see you this  
Christmas.

19 EXTERIOR/INTERIOR - BANK ATM - DUSK

Through the window of a bank, we see Rob depositing his check.

ROB'S MOM VOICE-OVER  
I'm already picking your presents!  
Can't wait to see you! Love, Mom.

20 INTERIOR — ROB'S HALLWAY — DUSK

Rob is outside his door, pulling out his keys, when his cell phone rings. He brings it out of his pocket, and doesn't recognize the number, so he answers.

ROB

Hello?

RICK [V-O]

Hey, Rob! How's college, man?

Pause. Rob, visibly upsets, tries to get his keys in the lock, but he's fumbling.

RICK [V-O]

Rob? Hey, it's Rick, man.

ROB

I know. You're not supposed to call me.

RICK [V-O]

Hey, c'mon, Rob, we don't have to, y'know, we don't gotta---

Rob drops his keys, and goes scrambling for them.

ROB

Fuck! I gotta go, Rick, don't, don't fuckin' call me, okay?

RICK [V-O]

Rob, c'mon, everyone was just talkin' shit about us, man, you know that. C'mon, it's me, man!

Rob gets his keys, and huddles in the corner next to his own door.

ROB

Rick, don't, don't fuckin' call me, okay, it's, it's really, it's really distracting! Like, I've got friends here and shit, okay. Don't, don't fuckin' call me.

Rob drops the phone and sits in the hall, trying to collect himself.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

I mean, Andrei was the kind of person I'd never met. I'm just an ordinary guy, right, there's nothing special about me.

21 EXTERIOR - STREET - DUSK

Andrei and Gavrilov are walking down the street. About twenty feet behind them, Rob is quietly following, walking in step.

Andrei is flitting around Gavrilov, trying to engage him in conversation. But Gavrilov isn't talking; he just barrels forward.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

Like, I'm not special the way he was. But he, y'know, he didn't even judge people like that. Like, he was always hanging out with this guy, Gavrilov---

Suddenly, Gavrilov stops short. Andrei stops too, and behind them, Rob also freezes.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

---who I guess he knew from back in Russia, and that guy was a complete asswipe, but him and Andrei were always hanging out.

Gavrilov looks deeply at Andrei. He takes Andrei's hand in his--we now see that Gavrilov is wearing black gloves. Andrei and Gavrilov stare at each other, as Rob watches from a distance.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

I mean, Andrei was just hanging out with him 'cause, like, he felt sorry for the guy, y'know, was the only reason.

22 INTERIOR — ROB'S APARTMENT — NIGHT

Large textbooks are spread out on Rob's desk, but he's in bed, wearing only boxers and socks, reading Men's Health.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER  
'Cause sometimes Andrei would come  
by my place, just to hang out.

There's a knock on the door.

ROB  
Come in!

Andrei opens the door. His eyes widen when he sees Rob's undressed state.

ANDREI  
Hey man, are you making a porno?

ROB  
What? Oh, no, no I was just about  
to...

ANDREI  
Oh yeah, just about to...

Andrei comes in, making a jerk-off motion as he steps towards the bed, mime-spurting all over Rob in the bed, and then stepping back to lean on the desk.

ROB  
Oh, no, man...

ANDREI  
Rob, such heavy books! You got  
them for building muscle, right?

ROB  
Oh yeah, dude, I can fuckin' curl  
that shit.

Andrei tosses the books, one by one, at Rob.

ANDREI  
Oh I'll bet. Pump, pump, pump.  
You're such a stud.

Beat.

ANDREI

Rob, you are an inspiration to me.  
I want to join a gym right now, so  
I can get ripped like you.

ROB

Yeah? Hey, hey we should work out  
together, man! I know a lotta  
routines.

ANDREI

Good Oklahoma workout, hunh?

ROB

No, I'm from West Virginia, man.

Andrei pushes off from the desk, and starts walking towards the  
bed.

ANDREI

What kind of routines do you have,  
Rob?

ROB

I mix it up, man. I mean, a lotta  
guys just do free weights, but  
that's bullshit, right, you gotta  
build up the core, y'know---

ANDREI

[patting Rob's stomach] Oh yeah,  
strong core.

Rob jumps back as if from an electric shock, but even huddled  
against the wall, he's still staring deeply at Andrei.

ROB

Uh, uh... Yeah! Yeah, man. Hey, do  
you, um, do, do you wanna go with  
me to the campus gym tomorrow,  
like, y'know, if you---

ANDREI

No. The campus gym is full of  
wannabes, Rob. Just showing off

ANDREI [CON'T]  
their butts. I know a place  
downtown. They've got Nautilus.  
Free weights. A pool. Steam  
room. It's a place where we could  
really focus, Rob. You and me.

ROB  
Yeah, man. Totally. That's what  
it's all about, y'know, when  
you're just pushing and all the  
thoughts just stop, y'know?

Andrei touches Rob's chest.

ANDREI  
Man's essence is kinetic, Rob, not  
cerebral. You live in your body,  
not your head.

ROB  
Yeah, man. Yeah.

ANDREI  
They have a deal now, two people  
for a hundred bucks.

ROB  
Yeah?

ANDREI  
Mm-hm. Just give me the hundred  
dollars now, and I'll sign us both  
up.

ROB  
Sure, man. Yeah.

Andrei takes his hand away, so Rob can crawl out of bed to get  
his wallet.

ROB  
Yeah, we can, like, work your  
delts and pecs one day, then core,  
then do back and quads after that,  
'cause you gotta split that up,  
and you gotta change the intensity  
too, you can't do the same number

ROB [CON'T]  
of reps every time---a hundred,  
right?

Andrei hops out of bed to take the cash.

ANDREI  
Mm-hm. Give me another sixty for  
the week, I'll pay you back next  
month.

ROB  
Sure, man. And hey, you gotta  
stretch too, or you'll pull a  
hamstring, that hurts like shit.

ANDREI  
Cool, cool.

Andrei heads for the door.

ANDREI  
So, I'll see you around.

ROB  
Sure.

We hear Andrei close the door offscreen, but hold on Rob,  
watching Andrei leave, then staring at the door.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER  
Like, y'know Andrei knew that I  
wasn't like Gavrilov, y'know,  
like, we were really friends,  
y'know?

23 EXTERIOR — CAMPUS DAY

Dissolve to Rob, walking across campus. He's thinking about his  
new friend, not paying attention to what's around him. But  
Sandy sees him.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER  
I mean, he knew all this shit  
about, like, philosophy, and I  
would show him, like, how to  
really work out, and we'd be,

ROB [CON'T]  
like, we'd be perfect together, we  
would---

SANDY  
Hey! Hey!

Sandy catches up.

SANDY  
Hey, you! Where've you been?

ROB  
Oh, uh, y'know, I've had a lotta  
stuff---

SANDY  
God, yeah, me too!

ROB  
Yeah, yeah...

SANDY  
Hey, whatcha doing tonight?

ROB  
Um, I'm hanging out with Andrei.

SANDY  
Oh yeah?

ROB  
Yeah, me and Andrei have totally  
been hanging out.

SANDY  
That's cool.

ROB  
Um, hey, I gotta take off, but...

SANDY  
Hey, you hear, there's a free  
concert in the quad this weekend?

ROB

Oh yeah, that's cool... [stepping away]

SANDY

Hey, did you hear about Professor Thurman? He got busted for doing coke with a student.

ROB

Woah, crazy. Um, hey, IM me some time...

SANDY

Yeah. Yeah, sure. Hey, you heard about Andrei's friend, right? That other Russian kid? He's dead. Did you hear that? He died.

Rob stops, stunned.

24 INTERIOR — ROB'S APARTMENT — NIGHT

Rob is lying in bed, staring at the ceiling. He hears the doorknob rattle, and jumps up as furious knocking begins. Before Rob can get to the door, Andrei enters. Andrei is twitchy, tense, talking a mile a minute, laughing erratically, waving his hands as though trying to keep insects away from his face.

ANDREI

Rob, good, you're here, well, that's good, listen, we have to go, it's important, you, why are you dressed like that, Rob, you have to dress better, you need Versace, not that Abecrombie shit, Rob, god, is it, is it warm in here, I can't, I can't tell, why, why do you make it so hot---

ROB

Andrei. Hey. Hey, Andrei...

ANDREI

It's, god, it's already frozen at home, you couldn't take it, Rob,

ANDREI [CON'T]  
they stack the bodies, you know,  
the ground is so cold, the ground  
freezes and they just stack them,  
like wood, oh god, they just, and  
no one ever left, it was just us,  
always just us and now, now, god,  
Rob, Rob what's wrong with you,  
why are you standing there, we  
have to, we have to go, come on---

ROB  
Andrei. Hey, man, listen, I heard  
about Gavrulof---

ANDREI  
You stupid fucking hick, it's  
Gavrilov! Gav-ri-lov! Alexander  
Timofeyivich Gavrilov and he was--  
- he was--- he--- *Tvoya mat!*

Andrei collapses to the floor, still swearing softly in Russian.  
Rob kneels down beside him.

ANDREI  
There you fucking have it.  
Motherfuckers who can't even  
pronounce his name.

ROB  
Hey, hey, no, I'm sorry, man, hey..  
Hey, Andrei, are you okay?

Andrei clutches at Rob.

ANDREI  
Fuck. Oh fuck. There's no one  
now. I'm alone here.

ROB  
Hey, hey...

ANDREI  
Ahhhhh, *chyort*...

ROB  
Hey, hey...

ANDREI

I'm not here just to fucking die,  
*panimaish?* No matter what, I live,  
right?

ROB

Yeah, man, you gotta.

ANDREI

That's right. That's right.

A pause. Unseen by Rob, Andrei opens his eyes.

ANDREI

Rob, I came to you, because  
you're... You're not like all these  
other slobs.

ROB

Yeah, man.

ANDREI

I know so many people, Rob. But  
you know me, don't you?

ROB

Yeah, yeah, man.

ANDREI

Rob, I need a friend so much.  
Will you be my friend?

ROB

Yeah, man. Totally. Of course.

Andrei stands.

ANDREI

Come on. Let's go.

ROB

Sure, man. Where are we going?

ANDREI

That is so American, Rob, to ask  
questions all the time.

ROB

Okay.

Rob is silent as they walk to the door.

25 EXTERIOR – STREETS – NIGHT

Andrei is smoking and talking, while Rob listens, rapt. Note that Andrei is wearing a prominent scarf.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

It was amazing, like, he's just, like, let's go, and I just... did it! I'd never felt like, so, so real. Ever.

26 EXTERIOR – VERA'S BUILDING – NIGHT

They've arrived at a fancy-looking building on the Upper West side, with a buzzer panel in front.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

So, we walked, like, a ways off-campus.

Rob and Andrei walk up to the door. Andrei buzzes and talks into the mic, while Rob steps back to look at the building.

Several flights up, he sees a woman, silhouetted in the window. She's smoking, slowly.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

And I guess that was probably the first time I saw her. But I didn't even know who she was.

The woman steps away from the window, and then the door buzzes, snapping Rob out of it. The boys walk in.

27 INTERIOR – VERA'S LOBBY – NIGHT

The boys walk through the lobby to the elevator.

ANDREI

Rob, I'm going to tell them you're my cousin from New Jersey, you understand.

ROB  
Okay... Hey, if I'm your cousin,  
should I try to, like [doing a bad  
Russian accent] talk like you?

ANDREI  
No.

28 INTERIOR — VERA'S HALLWAY — NIGHT

The boys make their way down the hallway. As they reach the Denison's door, PROFESSOR PAUL DENISON opens it before they can knock.

PROF. DENISON  
Ah, Andrei. Do you have a key  
now?

ANDREI  
I think your wife buzzed me in,  
Professor.

PROF. DENISON  
Mm.

Professor Denison heads inside, with no gesture to the boys.

29 INTERIOR — VERA'S APARTMENT — NIGHT

Andrei follows Prof. Denison into the middle of the apartment, while Rob lingers, nervous, by the door.

ROB  
Uh, hello sir, I'm---

ANDREI  
Professor Denison, this is my  
cousin Vladimir, from New Jersey.

PROF. DENISON  
Vladimir. Really. And what  
happened to your other cousin?

ANDREI  
Sasha is dead.

PROF. DENISON  
Dead. I'm sure you were very sad.

ANDREI  
He was my friend.

PROF. DENISON  
And now you have a new friend.  
You must be very friendly, Andrei.

ROB  
Uh, hey...

PROF. DENISON  
Vladimir. Hm.

ANDREI  
I thought you boys might enjoy  
playing bridge together.

A pause, as Andrei and Denison look at each other with  
undisguised loathing. Denison turns away first.

PROF. DENISON  
[to Rob] Do you play bridge?

ROB  
No, sir.

VERA  
You'll learn.

Into the middle of the boys walks VERA, a slim, attractive woman  
in her forties, smoking a cigarette.

ROB  
Uh, hi.

PROF. DENISON  
Dear, you know I don't like it  
when you smoke in here.

VERA  
I'll go right to the kitchen. I  
just wanted to say hello to the  
boys.

ANDREI

I'll have a smoke too.

PROF. DENISON

Vera...

VERA

I know, Paul. It's bad for me. I know.

Andrei and Vera head off together.

PROF. DENISON

Hm. Well, Vladimir---bridge?

30 INTERIOR — DENISON'S CARD ROOM — NIGHT

Dissolve to a table in a small side room off the Denison's main living room. On one end is a handful of cards, face down. Seated around the table are Rob, Prof. Denison, and LEAH, a vivacious blonde in her early fifties. Rob is miserably trying to manage his hand and the hand face down on the table, while Denison and Leah are talking with each other, laughing sometimes at Rob, sometimes at their own private jokes.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

So it turns out for bridge you need four people, and the professor called up this chick who I guess he plays cards with? I dunno, she was weird. But I never even played fucking bridge, and I guess when you don't have four people you have an empty hand that you, like, pretend is your partner, and y'know, that's me, the fuckin' empty hand.

Andrei appears, and tells Rob it's time to go. Denison doesn't acknowledge their departure, he just continues chatting with Leah.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

So thank god Andrei finally saved me from that shit.

31 INTERIOR — VERA'S APARTMENT — NIGHT

At the door, Vera is waiting for Rob and Andrei.

VERA

[to Rob] My husband likes you. [to Andrei] You should bring him back.

ANDREI

I think I will. Now, Vera, I need something for the week.

Beat.

VERA

Of course.

Vera steps out to the other room, leaving Rob and Andrei at the door. Andrei looks towards the card room, where Prof. Denison can be heard talking to Leah.

ANDREI

Is he still yapping at that unspeakable woman?

ROB

Yeah, I guess so.

Vera reappears, and gives Andrei a wad of cash. Andrei takes the money, and gives Vera a long, deep kiss. After a moment, Andrei pulls back, and walks out the door. Rob is stunned, his mouth hanging open. Vera smirks, closes his mouth, and pushes him into the hallway, then closes the door behind them.

32 INTERIOR — LIQUOR STORE — NIGHT

Rob and Andrei are in a liquor store. Andrei is grabbing several bottles of cheap booze.

ANDREI

You were good, Rob. She liked you.

ROB

That's great, dude, that's really cool.

ANDREI

Her husband is such a prick.

Andrei hands the clerk his Russian passport. While the clerk is eyeing is suspiciously, Andrei pulls out the wad of cash from Vera.

ANDREI

Can you believe I used to be that cretin's T.A.?

ROB

No shit---god, and now you're totally banging his wife, right?

ANDREI

"You're totally banging his wife." God, Rob, you are so Oklahoma when you talk like that.

ROB

Hey, you don't have to buy all that cheap stuff. Here, let me get you something nice.

Rob pulls out his wallet, and gets some cash.

ROB

Let's have us a party, right?

ANDREI

Sure, Rob. Let's "have us a party."

33 EXTERIOR — STREET — NIGHT

Rob and Andrei are heading back up the hill to campus. Rob is carrying the bag of booze; Andrei is talking on his cell phone. Andrei hangs up the phone, and inspects Rob. Andrei takes off his scarf, and puts it around Rob's neck. Deciding Rob now looks party-acceptable, they continue up the hill.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

So after that, he called a bunch of just, like, crazy people he knew, and just, told 'em to come over. I mean, it was awesome,

ROB'S VOICE-OVER [CON'T]

I was, like, part of his whole world now.

34 INTERIOR — ANDREI'S APARTMENT — NIGHT

Andrei's apartment is full of Andrei's stylish friends, all smoking and drinking and talking at maximum volume, many in foreign languages.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

And like, there I was, I was in, y'know, I was at his place, and it was fucking great.

Andrei is sitting on the bed with a group of Russians. They're telling stories in Russian, cracking each other up. Rob is standing at the edge of the group, trying to follow, laughing when everyone else does. His bland clothes, in contrast to the colorful styles on everyone else, make it obvious that he doesn't belong here.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

Like, he'd never invited me to his place before, so it was really cool, like, getting to really talk to him.

Sandy is also at the party, over in the corner talking to some French guys. She's gamely holding her own with her adorable high-school French.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

And I actually invited Sandy, 'yknow, but I ended up feeling kinda bad about that, 'cause she didn't know anyone there and, like, I think it was kinda weird for her, not fitting in like that.

Rob walks away from the party. No one notices.

35 INTERIOR — ROB'S APARTMENT — NIGHT

Dissolve to Rob, sitting on his bed, in the clothes he was wearing in the last scene, including Andrei's scarf, staring into space. The door opens.

ANDREI

Hey, it's the disappearing man.

ROB

Oh, hey, dude.

ANDREI

Rob, the party's downstairs, why are you up here?

ROB

Uh, I just... I'm pretty tired, man. I gotta study.

ANDREI

No. Rob. You are not tired, you are underdressed. I brought you something.

Andrei extends a shirt to Rob---it's flashy and stylish, with glittery bits in the fabric.

ANDREI

Put it on.

In silence, Rob takes off his shirt, and puts the other one on. Andrei approaches him, still in silence, and buttons it from the bottom up. After the shirt is on, Andrei smiles in approval.

ANDREI

Better. Tomorrow, Rob, we will take you shopping.

Andrei touches Rob's face.

ANDREI

You could look very good, Rob.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

I mean, there's a lotta people who just can't, like, understand someone like Andrei, 'cause they're too wrapped up in their own bullshit.

36 EXTERIOR — GAZEBO ON CAMPUS — DAY

Rob is carrying a cup of coffee, walking by the gazebo where he saw Andrei and Gavrilov earlier. He's dressed very differently

now, much more in the kind of hipster-wear favored by Andrei's crew.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

Like, there was this one fucking guy, this fucking jerk-off, and he was always sitting around with his lame-ass little fan club just, like, being a dick.

Rob sees JEAN-MICHEL, a French grad student, sitting on a bench with two beautiful, chic girls, AUDREY and HELENE. Jean-Michel is smirking as he berates a SCRUFFY GRAD STUDENT at another bench, who is grumpily getting up to escape Jean-Michel and his giggling sidekicks.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

Like, he was always talking bullshit, y'know, and no one even listened to him.

JEAN-MICHEL

Oh, hi, Rob, we have not seen Andrei today, so sorry.

Rob sits under the gazebo and ostentatiously ignores Jean-Michel.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

Like, he had no fucking clue.

JEAN-MICHEL

Are you thinking about your Russian lessons? Is Andrei teaching you new things?

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

'Cause me and Andrei were hanging out all the time now, and we sure as shit weren't going to fuckin' class.

37 INTERIOR — ROB'S APARTMENT — EVENING

Rob is studying, when there's a knock on the door. It's Andrei, and he snaps his fingers, telling Rob to hurry up. They leave, closing the door behind them.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER  
Andrei'd come to my place, like, a  
few times a week, and we'd,  
y'know, we'd hang out.

38 EXTERIOR — STREETS — EVENING

Andrei and Rob are walking, in jackets---Fall is getting cool.  
Rob occasionally says something, and Andrei responds tersely.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER  
And then we'd go over to Vera's  
place---

39 INTERIOR — DENISON'S CARD ROOM — EVENING

Denison, Rob, and Leah are sitting around the table, playing  
bridge.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER  
---and I'd have to play bullshit  
cards for a while---

40 INTERIOR — VERA'S APARTMENT — NIGHT

The boys are leaving, walking past Vera.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER  
---but whatever, it was fine,  
'cause then Andrei would come out,  
and we'd, like---

41 INTERIOR — LIQUOR STORE — NIGHT

Rob and Andrei are at the liquor store counter, with an array of  
very high-end booze in front of them. Rob is pulling money out  
of his wallet to pay.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER  
---like, he'd totally wanna party.  
So we'd get some booze and then---

42 INTERIOR — ANDREI'S APARTMENT — NIGHT

Another party at Andrei's. Andrei and a friend are lounging on  
the bed, talking. Rob is sitting on the floor, next to the bed,  
watching their conversation and eating chips. Though not part

of the conversation, he's at least dressed so he now fits in more.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER  
---we'd just, like, hang out at  
his place all night, just shootin'  
the shit.

43 EXTERIOR - OUTSIDE CLUB - NIGHT

Andrei and Rob are coming around a corner, approaching a club. Andrei stops Rob, looks over his clothes, and smiles in approval. Andrei and Rob approach the bouncer, as Rob pulls out some cash.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER  
I mean, me and Andrei, we were  
like brothers, man. Like, we did  
everything together.

44 INTERIOR - ANDREI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

A party is in full swing. Lots of attractive people are talking, laughing, someone's playing guitar, and in the middle of it is Andrei and his buddy Rob, sitting on the bed beside each other, Rob looking stylish in his new clothes.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER  
Most of the time, we'd just chill,  
y'know, just me 'n' Andrei. Just  
us.

Close-up of Rob, delighted with the situation.

45 EXTERIOR - HANDBALL COURT - DAY

Rob is playing handball, alone. It's late autumn by now, and the court looks much colder than when we were last here.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER  
That's probably why, like... I  
mean, people knew me and Andrei  
were, like, friends, y'know?

Behind Rob, a fit young guy, BEN walks up to him.

BEN  
Hey man, mind if I join you?

ROB  
Uh, yeah, sure, man

Rob tosses him the ball.

BEN  
So, let me ask you something. Do  
your pants fit okay?

ROB  
What?

BEN  
'Cause I'm about to hand you your  
ass.

ROB  
Hit the fuckin' ball.

Ben hurls the ball into the wall, and the game's on. Ben turns out to be very good, and they have a great game, with plenty of good-natured trash talking.

46 EXTERIOR — HANDBALL COURT EDGE — DAY

Rob and Ben, after the game, are wiping off and sitting down.

BEN  
Dude, good game.

ROB  
Yeah, great fuckin' game, man, we  
should play again some time. Hey,  
I'm Rob.

BEN  
Yeah, I know, I've seen you  
around.

ROB  
Oh yeah? We have a class  
together?

BEN  
No, no, I'm... I'm Ben, by the way.  
I, uh... Yeah, I used to... I used  
to know Andrei.

ROB

Oh yeah, that's awesome, man?  
Hey, have I seen you over at his  
place? I'm over there, like, all  
the time..

BEN

No. No, I don't... I don't go to  
Andrei's any more.

ROB

Yeah? Well, you should totally  
come by, man, it's really cool.  
I'm always over there.

BEN

Actually, that's... Look, Rob, I  
know what it's like, okay? I've  
been there. But I run a group  
now. For guys. We meet every  
Wednesday at the student center  
and, I think it'd be really great  
if you came by---

Ben takes Rob's hand, and Rob jumps away.

ROB

Hey, what the fuck, man?!?!?

BEN

Rob, I'm sorry.

ROB

[backing away] You just stay right  
fuckin' there, alright?

BEN

Rob, listen, you need a friend  
right now---

ROB

[laughing] You know what, I got  
friends man. [turning away]  
Fuckin' freak..

ROB'S VOICE-OVER  
I mean, it was fuckin' hilarious,  
right, 'cause Andrei's---

47 EXTERIOR — VERA'S BUILDING — NIGHT

Andrei is ringing the buzzer to the building, with Rob in tow.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER  
---sure as shit not fuckin' gay,  
right?

48 INTERIOR — DENISON'S CARD ROOM — NIGHT

Rob, Denison, and Leah playing cards.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER  
But, y'know what, I was kinda  
wondering about Professor Denison,  
right? I mean, I know he was  
fuckin' married and all, but that  
dude was weird.

49 INTERIOR — DENISON'S APARTMENT — NIGHT

Late at night. Leah isn't there, so Rob and Prof. Denison are just sitting in the living room, staring at each other, as Rob tries to make conversation over the sex sounds from the kitchen.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER  
Like, there was this one time when  
that chick couldn't come over, so  
he'd just, like, sit there and  
stare at me. I mean, if he  
figured out what me 'n' Andrei  
were doing, it'd be fuckin' kill  
or be killed, y'know. But, like,  
I had Andrei's back, man.

The night goes on. Dissolve between shots of Rob in various other places in the room, after Denison has gone to bed.

50 INTERIOR — VERA'S APARTMENT — NIGHT

It's very late the same night. Rob is alone in the apartment, sitting in an armchair in the corner, waiting for Andrei.

Andrei and Vera emerge from the kitchen; Andrei's sullen and glaring.

ANDREI  
I have to piss.

Andrei takes off for the bathroom, leaving Rob and Vera alone. Vera watches Andrei go, then goes to the bar to make a drink. She lights a cigarette, and finally gets fed up with Rob staring at her.

VERA  
Vladimir, right? Do you want a  
cigarette?

ROB  
Uh, no ma'am, I don't...

Vera turns and stares, noticing for the first time "Vladimir's" all-American accent. Her face starts to twitch.

VERA  
Jesus, who... Who are you?

ROB  
Uh, I'm, uh, I'm sorry, I'm Rob---

VERA  
Rob.

Vera starts to laugh, and Rob joins in. Then her laughs transform, and she starts sobbing uncontrollably. She's hysterical, and Rob has no idea what to do.

Andrei comes back in, he glances at Vera, but doesn't react.

ANDREI  
[to Rob] Let's go.

The two of them head towards the door. Vera stays where she is. Just as they're leaving, Rob looks back, and sees Vera, watching them. He turns away without speaking, and leaves.

51 INTERIOR — VERA'S LOBBY — NIGHT

Rob and Andrei are leaving. Andrei clearly does not want to talk about what just happened.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

So, like, that was kinda weird,  
but me and Andrei weren't gonna  
get hung up on some chick shit,  
right. After that, we just,  
y'know, we just hung out. Like,  
it was fine.

52 EXTERIOR — BENCH ON CAMPUS — NIGHT

Autumn leaves are piled up by a park bench. Andrei is pacing frantically, smoking. Rob is sitting on the bench, watching him.

ANDREI

God dammit. You know, Rob, this  
city is full of fucking assholes.

ROB

Oh fuck yeah, man.

Andrei flicks some ash off. He realizes he's ashing into a pile of dry leaves, and flicks more enthusiastically. He drops his cigarette into the leaves, and kicks them around furiously.

ANDREI

Fuck yeah. I should burn this  
fucking college down. And  
everyone who fucking go here.

ROB

Who go?

ANDREI

Went. Weeeent. Weeeeeent.

Rob's attempt to relax Andrei is working a little---he's sitting down.

ANDREI

Everyone who went here, they're...  
useless fucking people, you know?

ROB

Yeah, man, no doubt. Hey, listen,  
Andrei. I been thinking... I think  
we should pledge. Y'know, to a  
fraternity.

ANDREI

What?

ROB

Yeah, I mean, look, man, these are connections, y'know, this is what's gonna get us jobs and shit, like, forever.

ANDREI

Shit on that. I'm leaving.

ROB

You... What?

ANDREI

I need to get out of here, man, I'm moving to, to, to Berlin, I'm done with this shit.

ROB

Dude, what're you talking about? That's crazy!

Andrei turns back to Rob, with an abrupt smile.

ANDREI

Come on, Rob. Let's just go. Buy me a plane ticket, hunh? You can get us an apartment, you can set us up. Come on, Rob, it'll be just us.

ROB

Andrei, I... I can't just take off.

ANDREI

Come on, Rob, just do it. Just get your phone, c'mon, just call, give them your credit card, come on, give it to me, and we'll get out of here, we'll just go, c'mon, let's go, Rob...

Andrei is clawing at Rob's pocket by now; Rob pushes him away.

ROB

Man, I can't just leave school, my Dad paid for this!

ANDREI

You know what your problem is, Rob? You're a fucking pussy! That's why you don't have any friends, Rob, because you're a rich fucking pussy!

ROB

Dude... C'mon, man, don't be a fucking idiot!

ANDREI

Excuse me?

ROB

Andrei, if you leave, then New York fuckin' beat you, okay? You lost!

Beat.

ROB

C'mon, man... You gotta kick the shit outta this town, right? And then we can, we can move! We can go to fuckin' Vietnam or wherever.

ANDREI

Why in god's name would I want to move to Vietnam?

ROB

No, dude, my cousin's job sent him to Vietnam, 'cause they're all capitalist and shit over there now. And they fuckin' set him up, man. He's got a fuckin' mansion, like, with servants and shit.

ANDREI

Yeah? They hire a bodyguard too?

ROB

Whatever, man, it's not like fuckin' Moscow, y'know? You don't just get whacked. He's rich, man, they fuckin' hooked him up. And they'll hook us up too, man, if we just---

Andrei turned away from Rob on "Moscow", and now he gets up, and leans in close.

ANDREI

Rob. No one will ever help you. Do you understand?

ROB

Yeah, I know, man. It's just us.

Andrei straightens up, and walks away. He turns and stares at Rob, but doesn't say anything.

ROB

Hey, so, I'll see you tomorrow, right?

Andrei doesn't react. He just keeps staring.

ROB

I mean, you're gonna let that chick stew for a while, right, but... Hey, we should do some shit.

ANDREI

Yeah. Sure, Rob.

Andrei walks away, leaving Rob on the bench as the sun is coming up.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

After that, I didn't see Andrei much, like, during the daytime. But, y'know, I'd still sometimes, like, see him on campus and we'd hang out, y'know, like in public.

53    EXTERIOR — CAMPUS — DAY

Rob, in his cool clothes, is walking through campus alone.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

But, y'know, I was hanging out  
with all kinds of people by then  
anyway.

54 INTERIOR — ROB'S APARTMENT — NIGHT

Rob and Sandy are making out on Rob's bed. Rob has his hands at his sides. Sandy takes one hand, and puts it on her boob. His hand drops back down, and she starts feeling up his lap.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

I mean, I was fuckin' wiped, man.  
Like, Sandy came over this once,  
and I had to tell her, like, I was  
just too fuckin' tired, man, like  
I did not have time. I mean, I  
didn't really see her much after  
that.

55 INTERIOR — ROB'S APARTMENT — NIGHT

Rob is alone, looking at his books, eating from a bag of cookies. Bored, he decides to go down to Andrei's room.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

And by then, Andrei had just sorta  
stopped going over to Vera's. I  
mean, he didn't... I dunno what  
happened.

56 INTERIOR — ANDREI'S APARTMENT — NIGHT

Andrei is on his bed, tearing pictures down from the collage on his wall and ignoring Rob, who's looking around the room for distraction.

ROB

Hey, d'you wanna, like... I dunno,  
do something?

ANDREI

Do what?

ROB

Well, y'know, do you wanna go  
somewhere?

ANDREI

Do you want to see a movie, Rob?  
Do you want to share a milkshake?

ROB

Yeah, right, no, I mean, we could--  
--

ANDREI

You wanna jerk each other off?

ROB

[laughs]

ANDREI

Tell me, do you like having your  
balls sucked on, Rob? Or just  
played with?

ROB

Um... [laughs]

ANDREI

Do you have any cash? Let's get  
some food.

Andrei hoists himself out of bed to put on his shoes.

ROB

Sure, yeah. Hey, do you wanna go  
see Vera some time? Like, I think  
I'm figuring out how to play  
fuckin' bridge---

ANDREI

It's such an idiotic game---that  
must be why you're so good at it.  
"Do you wanna... do you wanna..." Just  
like how you talk, right?

ROB

Yeah, right. It's a stupid  
fuckin' game...

57 EXTERIOR — ROB'S BUILDING — EVENING

Rob and Andrei are stepping out of the building, into the street.

ROB  
Vera's really cool though, right?  
Like, she's so not a typical  
chick, y'know?

ANDREI  
Vera? She is a completely typical  
rich cunt. [*lighting a cigarette*]  
Why? Does she look like your  
mommy?

ROB  
No, hey, I just thought, like,  
you'd wanna go over there, y'know,  
if you, like, y'know, if you need  
some cash...

ANDREI  
No. What I want is quiet. I'm  
going to the library.

ROB  
Oh, actually, I need some books  
too---

ANDREI  
No. You go eat. Have big, fat,  
cowboy breakfast.

ROB  
Hey, do you wanna hang out later?

ANDREI  
Rob, don't be tedious.

And Andrei's gone.

58 INTERIOR — DINER — NIGHT

Rob is eating alone in a diner off-campus.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

I didn't know what was wrong with me. I mean, I was totally in love with Vera, but I just felt like a piece of shit.

JEAN-MICHEL comes in, with AUDREY and HELENE in tow, and sees Rob immediately. They crowd around Rob's table, talking to each other.

JEAN-MICHEL

What is so sad as a lost puppy? Imagine, its little whimper, its poor fur all wet. Please sir, where is my leash?

AUDREY

Oh, Jean-Michel, no. Some terrible girl has made him sad. [to Rob] It is sad to be in love, no?

JEAN-MICHEL

Audrey, no girl could so break this boy's heart.

HELENE

Of course she would, girls are awful.

JEAN-MICHEL

His heart would not even beat if it disturbed Andrei. He would hold it tight, make it stop, before some terrible girl could take away Andrei's toy.

Rob grabs Jean-Michel and leaps up, slamming him against the wall.

ROB

Hey, you're fuckin' tedious!

Jean-Michel laughs.

JEAN-MICHEL

Oh, poor pup.

Rob shoves him away, and heads for the door.

JEAN-MICHEL

The puppy is sick, it does not mean to bite. You should stay, puppy. Look at you---you could not even kiss without Andrei holding your cheeks.

ROB

Pay for my burger yourself, you fuckin' cheesedick.

AUDREY & HELENE

Au revoir.

ROB

Yeah fuck you, too.

59 EXTERIOR - STREETS - NIGHT

Rob is storming down the street, determined.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

I couldn't do this anymore. You know what? That goddamn French fag was right---it was time for me to take what I oughta have.

60 EXTERIOR - VERA'S LOBBY - NIGHT

Rob storms through the lobby, pacing as he waits for the elevator.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

It's like there's something, like, missing in Andrei, he doesn't know what to fuckin' do with someone who, like, loves him, he doesn't owe them---he, he thinks he doesn't owe them---

61 INTERIOR - VERA'S HALLWAY - NIGHT

Rob strides down the hallway towards Vera's.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER  
---but you know what, you fuckin'  
do, you do, when someone loves  
you, you fuckin' owe them  
something!

Rob bangs on the door. Professor Denison opens it.

PROFESSOR DENISON  
It's just you? Hm. It's like  
looking at one of those scientific  
dogs with their left half missing  
so you can see their insides.  
Well, come in, don't drop your  
kidneys on anything.

62 INTERIOR — VERA'S APARTMENT — NIGHT

Professor Denison waves vaguely to the side as he goes to the  
bar for another drink.

PROFESSOR DENISON  
She's in her room, I think. That  
is, I assume you're not here to  
play cards. I've never understood  
why he makes you do that---you're  
so bad at bridge! It's like  
paying catch with a pigeon.

Vera has entered to see who's there.

PROFESSOR DENISON  
Ah, Vera. Look after the company,  
would you? I have to be at this  
faculty thing, so... At least  
you'll have a better evening than  
I will.

Prof. Denison leaves. For a moment, Rob and Vera look at each  
other, at a loss.

VERA  
It's just you.

ROB  
Vera, I...

Rob circles around her, tongue-tied. He's can feel himself losing momentum. He scrunches up his face and rallies as Vera looks at him, bemused. He works himself into a fury and then throws himself at her, biting her lips, tearing her clothes, plunging his face into her neck like an ax.

Vera is shocked at first. But then she reaches up, puts her hands around his back, and a smile creeps slowly across her face.

VERA

You can't leave marks, baby.  
That's the rule.

63 INTERIOR — ROB'S APARTMENT — NIGHT

Back in his room, a little later, Rob is lying on his bed, still in the same clothes, masturbating furiously, his face triumphant.

64 INTERIOR — ROB'S APARTMENT — NIGHT

A few minutes later, Rob is sitting on the bed with his pants still unbuttoned, twitchy.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

I mean, it was fuckin' crazy!  
Like, all of a sudden I was  
fuckin' The Guy, y'know. I needed  
a fuckin' cigarette after that  
shit, and hey, I know a dude who's  
got smokes, right?

Rob leaps off the bed, buttoning his pants as he goes.

65 INTERIOR — ANDREI'S APARTMENT — NIGHT

Andrei is sitting on the futon, putting in his contacts. He's dressed a little differently than we've seen him before, a bit toned down. Rob bursts in.

ROB

Hey man, gimme a cigarette.  
C'mon, man, gimme a fuckin'  
cigarette.

ANDREI

Sure, "man".

ROB

C'mon, dude, toss it over here.  
[snapping his fingers]

Andrei throws the pack, with a lighter inside, to Rob, who lights one up and coughs.

ROB

Ah, yeah, yeah I fuckin' needed that. Listen, Andrei, I gotta tell you something, okay? And if you wanna deck me or whatever, that's cool, like, that's your right.

ANDREI

Really?

ROB

Look--- [making eye contact; this is serious] Look, Andrei... I hooked up with Vera.

Andrei grins, and gets comfortable on the futon.

ANDREI

Oh yeah?

ROB

Yeah, look, if you wanna get pissed, get pissed at me, 'cause this is not her fault, and if you wanna fuckin' deck me...

Andrei laughs. Rob's glad Andrei's going to be cool about it, and joins in the laughter.

ROB

'Cause man... I fucked the shit outta her, right?

ANDREI

Oh yeah, I'll bet you fucked her right in half.

ROB  
Dude, I fuckin' bruised my dick,  
man, I'm gonna have a fuckin'  
raspberry in the shape of her ass.

As Rob's gesturing to indicate where that shape is, there's a knock on the door. Andrei jumps up to answer.

ANDREI  
It's open.

In comes DAVID, a marketing guy in a very nice suit. He's in his mid-20s, making him significantly older than either of the boys.

ANDREI  
[to David] Hey, you look great.

DAVID  
Mm, are you ready to go?

ANDREI  
Yeah, yeah.

David looks critically at Andrei's flashy belt buckle.

DAVID  
Andrei, you're actually wearing that? We're not going to a Cowboys game, honey.

ROB  
What're you talking about, that belt's fuckin' awesome.

Andrei glares hard at Rob, shutting him up.

ANDREI  
[to David] Yeah, yeah, you're right, I'll change, I'll change right now---

DAVID  
No, you look fine, let's just go.

ANDREI

Okay, yeah, sure. Um, hey, do you  
wanna go right away, or do you  
have some...?

David looks at Rob

ANDREI

Oh no, David, this is Rob, he's,  
uh, he's a guy who lives in my  
building, he's cool.

David and Rob shake hands.

DAVID

Mmm, I hadn't planned on meeting  
your little friends, Andrei.  
[*shaking hands with Rob*] Hi, I'm  
David. [to Andrei] No, I don't  
have anything on me, but I'm sure  
Toby will. One of my clients gave  
me some weed, but I don't really  
like pot, do you?

ANDREI

No, no, makes you fat, right?  
Rob, why don't you have it?

ROB

Yeah? [to David] Here, lemme get  
my wallet, I can give you some  
cash.

ANDREI

Don't worry about it, man. [to  
David] That's okay, right?

DAVID

Oh sure, it's no problem. Enjoy.

ROB

Cool, thanks man.

ANDREI

Okay, so, I'm ready.

Rob lights up, and takes a hit.

ROB

Hey, I'm totally wired, where're  
you guys going?

David opens the door to leave and Rob, slightly paranoid already  
and holding the joint, pulls back from the open door.

ANDREI

Nowhere, it's fine. Hey, you can  
finish that in here.

ROB

That's cool? Thanks, Andrei.

ANDREI

No problem.

Andrei and David leave, and Rob sits on Andrei's bed to finish  
smoking.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

And, like, that was it, y'know.  
Like, Andrei was totally cool  
about it, man. He wasn't gonna  
let some chick, like, be a big  
fuckin' deal for us.

Rob lies down, still smoking. After a while, he dozes off.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

So, like, I was thinking about how  
I was gonna, like, now everyone  
was gonna want to hang out at my  
place, so I should get, like, a  
keg and some music and shit and,  
like, y'know I probably shouldn't  
talk about it to Vera 'cause,  
like, it'd make her feel weird  
that I'm gonna be meeting all  
these chicks, but, like, it'll be,  
it's gonna be really cool, like,  
now that I'm---

Rob wakes up when the joint has burned down to his fingers. He  
yelps, and drops the joint on the bed. He pulls it off  
frantically, and pats the singed area, swearing. Once it's out,  
he guiltily gets up, checks himself in the mirror to make sure

he's respectable-looking, and stumbles out, as the camera holds on the empty mirror.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER  
But after that, I didn't really  
see Andrei again.

66 INTERIOR — ANDREI'S HALLWAY — DAY

Rob is in the hallway with a MATRESS MOVER. Rob knocks on the door, but there's no answer, so he tells the mover to just leave it in the hall.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER  
Like, I felt bad about burning his  
shit, so I, like, bought him a  
whole new futon, but he never  
answered the door. So I just left  
it there. But he took it later, I  
guess. I mean, it wasn't there  
the next day.

67 INTERIOR — ROB'S LOBBY — DAY

Rob is looking through the mail in the lobby.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER  
I mean, I knew he was okay, he was  
getting his mail 'n' shit, he  
just, like, wasn't hanging out  
much.

68 INTERIOR — THEATER — DAY

Rob sneaks into the theater, where a theater tech lecture is happening. ACTORS 1-4, and TECHS 1-3, as well as SANDY, are sitting in the audience at various levels of interest. The LIGHTING PROFESSOR is onstage, giving his lecture under work lights.

LIGHTING PROFESSOR  
What color is my shirt?

ACTRESS #1  
It's green?

The Lighting Professor waves his hand towards the light booth, and the lights on stage change to a saturated green.

LIGHTING PROFESSOR  
But what color is my shirt now?

ACTOR #3  
It looks black, but that's just  
because you changed the light.

LIGHTING PROFESSOR  
No! You just called it green  
because the sun is yellow. If the  
sun were red, you'd call it a  
black shirt. That's all color is.

The Lighting Professor continues talking, but his voice fades down on the soundtrack. Rob has made his way to the techs, and is asking them if they've seen Andrei; they shake their heads.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER  
Like, no one had really seen him.  
I mean, I guess he just wasn't  
around.

69 EXTERIOR — STREETS TO VERA'S — DAY

Rob is on his way to Vera's, with a spring in his step.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER  
But that was fine, like, I didn't  
really need him for when I was  
going to Vera's. Like, that was  
always stupid---

70 INTERIOR — VERA'S LOBBY — DAY

Rob crosses the lobby cheerfully, and waits for the elevator.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER  
I just checked Professor Denison's  
class schedule and went over there  
when he was teaching. Like, I  
don't know why Andrei didn't just  
do that in the first place. He  
just, like, didn't think about  
stuff like that.

71 INTERIOR — VERA'S HALLWAY — DAY

Rob comes down the hallway, and knocks. Vera opens the door with a smile, and he steps inside.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

But whatever, man. I mean, the way I saw it, I'd fuckin' graduated. He could have the night shift, and I'd take the day.

72 INTERIOR — VERA'S APARTMENT — DAY

A montage of Rob and Vera in the living room, fucking in various places and positions. They're fucking vigorously---Rob is a healthy young man, and Vera's enjoying herself---but they never look at each other. Both look off into space, their eyes closed.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

I mean, like, I definitely didn't want Vera to go getting all, like, emotional about stuff. But I figured that wasn't gonna happen 'cause, like, y'know...

73 INTERIOR — VERA'S APARTMENT — DAY

Rob and Vera, on the couch, post-coital. Rob sits up to smoke a cigarette.

ROB

Hey, do you ever, like, end up doin' me and Andrei on the same day? Like, do you get sore?

VERA

You can't smoke in here.

74 INTERIOR — ANDREI'S HALLWAY — EVENING

Rob is going up the stairs towards his apartment. He stops in front of Andrei's door for a moment, debating whether to knock before continuing upstairs. He decides not to, and walks off.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

But even though we weren't, like,  
hanging out anymore, I thought we  
were still, like, friends.

75 INTERIOR — ROB'S APARTMENT — EVENING

Rob is making a desultory effort to study, flipping aimlessly through his textbooks.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

I mean, shit, I didn't have time  
to see him anyway. Like, I had  
classes and all---

Rob gives up on studying. Instead he lies on the floor and masturbates, his ass banging on the floor over Andrei's room.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

And plus I was fuckin' exhausted,  
y'know? I'll bet he was too,  
right, I mean, y'know, Vera was a  
fuckin' wildcat, right, she's  
wearin' us both out.

In close on Rob's face---he's finished. He stares at the ceiling.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

Only then I saw him... Well, I ran  
into him, right.

76 EXTERIOR — DINER — DAY

It's getting into winter now---students are walking around in coats. Rob is heading down the block when he sees Andrei, having a smoke with some glamorous-looking people.

ROB

Hey, Andrei!

Andrei's friends get quiet when Rob approaches. They, and Andrei, are dressed much more continental-chic than Andrei's previous friends; their low-key, tasteful clothes make Rob, who's still dressed in the hipster style of Andrei's previous crowd, look like a clown.

ROB

Hey man, how are you buddy? [*to  
Andrei's friends*] Hey, I'm Rob.

They return his handshake, but look at Andrei.

ANDREI

Oh, hi, Rob, great to see you...

Andrei starts to head into the diner, but Rob pulls him aside.

ROB

Hey, man, c'mere. So, hey, you diggin' having me rock Vera for you? Bet she's all warmed up when you come over now, right?

ANDREI

What?

ROB

Yeah, right! Hey man, next time you're going over there, let me know and we can, y'know, how about we both go over there and---

ANDREI

Pfft! Rob, I don't even... God, I don't even remember the last time I saw that cow.

ROB

Are you... Are you kidding?

ANDREI

Rob, I have to go. Are you still seeing her?

ROB

Yeah, man, fuckin' all the time.

Andrei laughs, and starts back to the diner, then stops.

ANDREI

You know what, Rob? You should keep seeing her. She's perfect for you.

ROB  
Hey, man, c'mon.

ANDREI  
She's perfect for you.

Andrei goes back to his friends, and says something to them Italian as they go inside. Whatever he said was apparently very funny.

77 INTERIOR — DINER — DAY

Rob stares through the window as Andrei and his friends head in.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER  
I just... I couldn't believe it.  
He, he just... He... How can you  
treat someone like that, how could  
he... How could he talk about Vera  
that way? Like, that's fucked up!

Rob storms away from the diner, and heads to Vera's.

78 EXTERIOR — STREETS TO VERA'S — DAY

ROB'S VOICE-OVER  
I mean, Vera's not, like, a saint  
or nothin', but she's cool, like,  
she's... She's not a fucking cow!

79 INTERIOR — VERA'S HALLWAY — DAY

ROB'S VOICE-OVER  
Like, who the fuck does he think  
he is to just walk away fro her?

Vera answers the door. She's surprised to see Rob, but not displeased.

VERA  
Oh, hi Rob!

ROB  
Hey, Vera.

VERA

God, look at you! Do you want a drink?

ROB

Um, yes please. Hey, Vera, look, um, I gotta talk to you...

Vera comes back from the bar with a drink, and as she hands it to him, she starts unbuttoning Rob's shirt.

VERA

How do you always know just when to come over, hm? Are you spying on me? Are you peeping in my window? Watching me get undressed?

She starts to play with his chest. Rob isn't here for this, but he can't help but get into what she's doing.

ROB

Uh, yeah, yeah... Vera---

She kisses him deeply, which keeps him quiet for a moment. But once she moves to chew on his neck---

ROB

Ah, geez. Hey, Vera, you're terrific, you know that?

VERA

Mmm, so are you.

She gets a hand down his pants, and starts to masturbate him.

ROB

Ahhhh, god...

Vera curls up close to him as she continues to tug.

VERA

Rob, Paul's not home now, but... He really wants to be here the next time. You know? It'll be so hot, baby. I want to suck on your cock while he's fucking me. I'm gonna come so hard with you in my mouth.

Vera kneels down in front of Rob.

ROB

Mmm, yeah, anything you wanna do, Vera. [*reaching down to stop her*] Hey, Vera, seriously--- anything you want.

Vera smiles, and goes to the bookshelf, where there's a discreet wooden box full of condoms.

ROB

Yeah, like---hey, I think you're really cool, Vera. You know? I... I think you're great, like, I don't care what anyone thinks, you're just, like, you're one of the coolest chicks I know.

By now Vera's returned, rolled on his condom, and turned to face away from him. She pulls up her dress, and slides down onto him. She leans back against him, reaching back to pull at his head.

ROB

I mean, coming over here is really, like, it's really great for me, like, I really appreciate--

VERA

Mmm, bite my neck.

He takes a nip, but soon resumes talking.

ROB

Yeah, I still think you're awesome, no matter what anyone says. Like, I just ran into Andrei, and he was being a total dick!

VERA

Mmmm.

ROB

Like he was saying---has he really not been here?

Vera leans forwards, and pulls herself and the attached Rob towards a large armchair. She leans over the chair, making it easier to ignore his talking even as he continues thrusting into her.

ROB

'Cause he was talking like he's never over here anymore and, like, like he was talking about you too, like, just being a dick, like... "Oh, Vera, she is such a fucking American cow, oh I am so funny, I am so cool, and Vera is so stupid cunt..."

Vera disengages.

VERA

You know what, Rob? This is not interesting for me.

ROB

Aw, hey, Vera, I'm sorry.

Rob pulls her close and pets her in a consoling fashion, much to her irritation.

ROB

Y'know, he's a fucking idiot, if he's gonna dump a great woman like you. He just... He never cares about anyone, y'know, or about you. God, I think there's gotta

ROB [CON'T]  
be something wrong with him,  
y'know? To not care about people  
he's, he's with, how can someone  
do that? Like, what kinda person-  
--

VERA  
Rob... Rob, do you know what I  
majored in? Or if I even went to  
college? Or if I have kids, or if  
I have a job or if, if my mom is  
still alive?

ROB  
Um, I never saw any kid stuff  
around, so I just figured---

VERA  
Rob, it's fine, I just... I would  
rather not talk about Andrei,  
okay?

ROB  
Sure, Vera. That's cool

She leans back onto him. After a beat, she stands, and arranges  
herself, smoothing her dress and her hair.

ROB  
Um, so do you wanna finish?

VERA  
No... No, I was just getting ready  
to leave when you got here.

ROB  
Oh. Okay. Well, I'll see you  
around, alright?

VERA  
Sure.

ROB  
Um---is it cool if I, like, if I  
finish myself off?

VERA

Sure, Rob. Just don't take too long.

Vera leans on Rob's shoulder and nibbles his ear without passion as he masturbates.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

But it was weird, like... I mean, I couldn't blame Vera for getting all emotional about stuff, but, like, right then... I just wanted not to be there. Like, I just wanted to go home.

81 INTERIOR - VERA'S LOBBY - DAY

Rob is coming out of the elevator just as Professor Denison is coming into the building. Denison sees Rob, and immediately comes over to talk. In the background, the building janitor is running the loud floor cleaner.

PROFESSOR DENISON

Rob, hi!

ROB

Um, hello, sir.

Denison throws a friendly arm around Rob.

PROF. DENISON

Hey Rob, it's great to see you. How's it going?

ROB

I'm fine, sir.

PROF. DENISON

Great, Rob, that's just great. So, how're your classes? Are they good?

ROB

Yes, sir. They're, they're good.

PROF. DENISON  
That's great, Rob. Well, so...  
Rob, I just wanted to say---  
you're a good kid.

ROB  
Thank you, sir.

Pause.

PROF. DENISON  
Well, I'll see you real soon, right?

ROB  
Yessir.

82 INTERIOR — ROB'S APARTMENT — DAY

Hard cut to Rob, alone in his apartment, compulsively eating the cookies his mom sent.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER  
Like, everything was just so  
fucked-up, y'know, like, I didn't  
even know what was wrong except,  
like, except everything. Only  
then, there was a knock---

Rob jumps up to answer the door.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER  
---and I thought, like... I dunno...

He opens the door, and it's Sandy, with a male friend.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER  
But it was just Sandy.

Sandy and her friend are dressed up to go to a screening of The Rocky Horror Picture Show---her as Magenta, him as Frank, meaning she's looking gothy, he's in lingerie and makeup. She invites Rob to come, and he refuses, though we don't hear their conversation.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

And seeing her, I just, like, I just felt so bad. Like, she looked like a total freak now, and she was hanging out with some, like, some gay guy.

Sandy throws an arm around her guy's waist as they leave. Rob closes the door, and goes back to the bed. He starts eating again, and then begins weeping uncontrollably.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

Like, it was just all really sad, y'know, and, like... And that's when I really got it. Like, all of this, it was all my fault. I was the one who fucked everything up. I mean, I'm, like, I'm having sex with a, with a married woman, like, of course she's gonna freak out, that's a sin, y'know, especially for her! And even before that, I blew off Sandy just like Andrei blew off, y'know, Vera, and now I'd made Sandy all fucked up too...

Sobbing, Rob slowly falls onto his side in bed, and we pan with him, but continue to pan past him, to his trophies and ribbons arranged by the bed.

83 INTERIOR - GYM - DAY

Rob is lying on his back, grimly, repetitively lifting weights.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

Like, that's what I really learned that year. For Andrei, it's right, you know, to just, like, go---like, that's what a real life is. But I was just fucking up. So after that, I stopped smoking and even, like, quit drinking beer, and I just started working out and going to class and just, like, getting my shit together.

A man in shorts walks into frame, his face offscreen.

GYM SPOTTER

Hey, do you wanna spot each other?

ROB

No.

The man walks off, leaving Rob alone in the gym, lifting and lowering repetitively.

ROB

'Cause I shouldn't waste college, right? Like, by the time I graduate, I gotta get married and get a job, and make money and buy a house and just, like... Just be normal, y'know? 'Cause for most of us, that's a lot of work.

Rob sits up on the bench, and towels off. A few guys walk out of the gym, talking to each other. Rob stays sitting on the weight bench, the towel around his neck. One by one, the lights in the gym go out around Rob, leaving him in darkness.

THE END.