FADE IN:

EXT. APARTMENT SWIMMING POOL - DUSK

Water gleams in the clouded lights of an old apartment complex. Chairs and tables are chained to the cement. The pool is empty except for a beach ball floating in the water. ETHAN shoots out from under the water, breathing heavily. He is in his early twenties, wearing only his boxers. His medium long hair is flung back revealing his deep blue eyes and juvenile attempt at a beard. He catches his breath. He takes a deep breath and dunks himself into the water again. He waits under water about 15 seconds. He begins to shake. He shoots himself back up.

ETHAN

Shit.

Ethan paddles to the side of the pool. He puts his hands on the under part of the edge of the pool and dunks himself again. He holds himself underwater with his hands pushing against the edge of the pool. He stays under for about 15 seconds and then he begins to shake. He presses harder against the edge of the pool. He can't hold himself under. He shoots himself out of the water breathing heavily. Ethan gets a determined look on his face and dunks himself again. He starts kicking wildly under the water. He tries to stay under. He shoots up again out of the water. JORDAN stands at the edge of the pool glaring at Ethan with dark brown eyes. Her short hair is styled with cheap products so their is a little frizz. She is younger than Ethan but looks older.

JORDAN

What are you doing?

ETHAN

Swimming.

JORDAN

Why didn't you tell me.

ETHAN

You were in the shower.

JORDAN

So you decided to swim.

Ethan nods.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

I have to go.

Ethan and Jordan stand next to Jordan's car, an old beat-up junker, in the parking lot. Ethan stands in his boxers, obviously cold.

ETHAN

Okay, bye.

Jordan kisses Ethan.

JORDAN

I'll call you when I get home. Love you.

ETHAN

Love you too.

Jordan gets in her car. She waves to Ethan then pulls the car out and drives off. Ethan watches her drive away. Ethan holds up his middle finger as the car pulls out of sight.

INT. ETHAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The apartment is obviously small. A poster of Orson Wells as Kane hangs on the wall. Philosophy books are stacked on the table. A cat walks across the kitchen floor and jumps on a table. Ethan runs up to the cat erratically, scaring the cat.

ETHAN

(yelling)

Doom!

The cat runs away and Ethan calmly walks back into the kitchen. Ethan stirs Kraft Macaroni and Cheese. The macaroni makes that weird squish sound.

ETHAN (V.O) (CONT'D)

My cat's named Doom. Jordan wanted it. I got to pick the name. I seem to be the only one who appreciates the irony of a female cat named Doom. The cat's okay. More of a dog person really. My girlfriend lives 54.6 miles away. We're both doing the right thing and going to college.

Ethan walks to the living area carrying the bowl of macaroni and sits down on the couch and starts eating. A TV is on.

ETHAN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

She's just far enough away to make me depressed once in awhile. When I get depressed I sometimes do weird things. Like yell at the cat. I can't believe I bought that cat for Jordan. I'm training the cat to use the toilet. I read online you can

train cats to go in the toilet by just putting a litter bowl in there and then just taking out a little bit of litter everyday. I'd be saving like forty bucks a month on cat litter and anyone that comes over would be like, "that is the coolest thing I've ever seen." I mean, it doesn't get any cooler than...

Ethan walks to the living area carrying the bowl of macaroni and sits down on the couch and starts eating. A TV is on. ALEX enters the apartment. Alex is older than Ethan with a full beard. He is tan with long curly hair. He wears a wife beater and trendy necklace.

ALEX

Any left?

ETHAN

Some on the stove.

ALEX

That's what I'm talking about.

Alex walks into the kitchen and gets his own bowl of macaroni. Ethan rolls his eyes. Alex walks back into the living room and sits down next to Ethan.

ALEX (CONT'D)

What's going on.

ETHAN

Think I failed my exam today.

ALEX

Ya. I'm sure it's not that bad.

ETHAN

I wrote down that a Supreme Court Representative has three legs of earmark vetoes.

ALEX

Ouch

ETHAN

Ya.

ALEX

I'm doing all-right. Ya, I think I'm going to quit.

ETHAN

What, why?

ALEX

I think I'm being stalked by a

cougar.

ETHAN

What?

ALEX

This old chick has showed up every day asking me to help her find her damn pant size, but she never buys anything.

ETHAN

How old is she?

ALEX

Like 40 something.

ETHAN

Huh.

ALEX

It's freaking me out, man. Who does that shit?

ETHAN

How you going to make rent?

ALEX

I don't know. Could start whoring myself. You want to go out? Help me find some customers.

ETHAN

Why are you such a pervert?

ALEX

Speaking of wanting to do me, how's the old lady?

ETHAN

Good.

ALEX

Ya'll getting along better?

ETHAN

Yep.

ALEX

You should break up with her.

ETHAN

What?

ALEX

If someone describes their relationship as good, it's code for in the shitter.

ETHAN

We really are doing better.

ALEX

You know you can always send her my way if you want to get some respect put in her.

Alex makes a humping motion.

ETHAN

I'll do that.

ALEX

I'm thinking bout working at that ranch.

ETHAN

Uh huh

ALEX

They've got a sign up on the highway.

ETHAN

Yah.

ALEX

Could be fun.

ETHAN

I wish I was John Lennon

ALEX

I wish I was me.

ETHAN

I don't.

An awkward pause in the conversation.

ALEX

What the fuck does that mean?

ETHAN

What?

ALEX

No seriously, explain. You don't want to be me, or you wish I wasn't me?

ETHAN

I don't know.

ALEX

Should I be offended

ETHAN

Are you?

ALEX

I don't know.

Another awkward pause.

ETHAN

You done?

ALEX

Ya.

Alex hands Ethan his bowl of macaroni and Ethan takes both bowls it into the kitchen puts them in the sink. Ethan looks at camera and nods his head. Alex sets up a video game. Ethan walks back into the living area. Alex hands him a controller and they start playing the game.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Lennon was an ass. You know that right?

ETHAN

Lennon was the reason we got out of Vietnam.

ALEX

Lennon also abandoned his wife and son.

ETHAN

Things were different. You weren't in the 60's.

ALEX

You were?

ETHAN

You don't get it.

ALEX

No, I get it. You don't wanna admit I'm right.

ETHAN

That's it.

ALEX

You're dead.

Ethan throws controller in defeat.

I/E. HUNTSVILLE - MORNING

Ethan rides his bike to the university. It's a shiny red bike without hand brakes, so he has to back peddle to stop. Ethan

locks up his bike. Ethan goes to class. The university is plain with small classrooms. He takes notes and pays attention. Ethan goes to a different class. The professor walks around hanging people their exams. Ethan get's his political science exam back and it says "100" in red ink. Ethan eats lunch alone. Ethan goes to another class. He writes his name in all capital letters on a test and then finishes the test. Ethan unlocks his bike and rides to the apartment. Ethan opens the door to his apartment. Jordan jumps out to surprise him.

JORDAN

Snoodleberry!

Ethan falls backwards.

INT. ETHAN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Jordan soaks a rag under the kitchen sink. Ethan holds his head in grimace.

JORDAN

I'm sorry, sweetie.

ETHAN

How many times?

JORDAN

I know. I just wanted to surprise you.

ETHAN

Uh huh. You're going to kill me one of these days.

Jordan puts the rag up against Ethan's forehead.

JORDAN

I'm so sorry.

Jordan kisses Ethan's head multiple times.

ETHAN

I got, I got it.

Ethan holds the rag up to his head.

JORDAN

Hold that while I get you aspirin.

Jordan leaves the kitchen. Ethan takes the rag off his forehead but hangs on to it. He holds the rag at his side.

JORDAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Babe, Where's...

ETHAN

Top Shelf.

He slaps the rag back on to his forehead. Jordan enters the kitchen area and sets the pills on the counter. She gets water out of jug in the refrigerator and pours a glass.

JORDAN

Keep that rag on. It'll help. Now I want you to take two of these and they're not going to make you drowsy so don't worry.

Jordan gives Ethan the pills and water. Ethan takes the water first and then takes the pills and swallows. Jordan snuggles up close to Ethan. She looks upward at his face and gives the cutest "I'm sorry" puppy face. Jordan touches her nose to Ethan's nose.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry.

Jordan hugs Ethan. Behind Jordan's back Ethan raises his hand in a gun shape and "shoots" Jordan in the back of the head.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

If you were going to die, and you only had a week to live, would you want to know?

ETHAN

No, I don't think so.

JORDAN

Me either.

She kisses Ethan on the cheek. Jordan breaks the hug.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

I picked up the groceries on the way over.

ETHAN

Uh huh.

JORDAN

Where's the kitty-meow? Kitty-meow?

Jordan searches for the cat. Ethan sits on the couch and turns on his laptop.

ETHAN

You wanna read some of that thing I'm writing.

Jordan finds the cat and returns into the living area holding the cat like a baby.

JORDAN

Oh, I'd love to.

Jordan sits on the couch with Ethan. Ethan pulls up his story on the computer. Jordan cradles the cat like a baby.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

You're just the meowiest meow in the whole meow world. Yes you are. The ride was horrible today. I got stuck behind this trucker...

ETHAN

Here it is.

Jordan lets the cat go. Ethan puts the laptop on Jordan's lap

JORDAN

Is this your new play?

Jordan kisses Ethan on the cheek.

ETHAN

Ya. I've only got 15 pages but I like it. It's like that "Glass Menagerie" play. That play is probably the best thing I've ever read.

Jordan reads the play. Ethan pretends to watch the television while he sneaks peeks at Jordan's expressions while she reads. The play is called Grown Flowers.

JORDAN

I liked it a lot.

ETHAN

Really?

JORDAN

Ya, you really like that philosophy stuff don't you.

ETHAN

Ya, do you like the themes? I mean, I'm talking about free will, the soul, our entire reality. It's in there.

JORDAN

You should show this to some of you're friends. Get them talking about this stuff. The symbolism is really good.

ETHAN

Oh, you picked up on that.

JORDAN

It's pretty obvious.

ETHAN

Too obvious?

JORDAN

A little, ya.

ETHAN

Huh.

JORDAN

But it's really good though.

ETHAN

I was really inspired by Williams.

JORDAN

I can tell. Come here cat.

Jordan gets up to look for the cat.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

(looking for the cat)

I know you hate me, but I love you.

Jordan peeks around the doorway to the bedroom.

ETHAN

You don't like it.

JORDAN

It's a little high school-ish

ETHAN

You think a high-schooler can write like Williams?

JORDAN

Your not Tennessee Williams, Ethan.

Ethan looks shocked she could insult him so badly. Jordan hurries to the couch and sits next to Ethan grabbing his hand.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

No, don't look at me like that. That's not what I mean. Stop being a snoodle. I just think you should just write something in your own way.

Ethan pulls his hand away and walks into the kitchen and cleans the dishes.

INT. APARTMENT - MORNING

Ethan is sleeping in his bed. Alex walks into the apartment and pours himself a glass of milk. He wears a uniform from

the Wilson Ranch.

Alex walks into the bathroom and starts peeing without looking at the toilet. The cats using the litter bowl in the toilet. Alex pees on the cat. He looks down.

ALEX

Oh shit.

Alex tries to avoid peeing on the cat. Alex shoves the cat out of the toilet and takes the litter bowl out of the toilet. Alex pees in the toilet. He walks out of the bathroom, without flushing or washing his hands. Alex stands at the foot of Ethan's bed. Ethan sleeps soundly. Alex picks up a cat toy and throws it at Ethan's face. Ethan rolls over and looks at Alex.

ALEX (CONT'D)

You wanna work at the ranch?

ETHAN

No.

ALEX

I peed on your cat.

ETHAN

What?

ALEX

I R.Kell-ied your cat, man.

ETHAN

No.

ALEX

You got an interview at 11.

ETHAN

No.

ALEX

They said I'll get a bonus if I bring in more help.

ETHAN

No.

ALEX

Come on.

Alex pulls at the comforters.

ETHAN

No.

Ethan pulls the covers over his head.

INT. THE WILSON RANCH OFFICE - AFTERNOON

ETHAN sleeps in a chair in front of a desk. The room is a small bedroom that's been converted into an office. MR. OJAN enters the office. He is a middle aged Indian man wearing a large cowboy hat and matching attire. He seems strangely comfortable in this attire. He slams the door. Ethan wakes up.

MR. OJAN

Howdy.

He sits in the chair behind the desk.

MR. OJAN (CONT'D)

Don't worry about anything. Just you and me here.

ETHAN

What?

He turns on the computer. A "Wilson Ranch" logo appears on the screen.

MR. OJAN

We don't ask questions, you don't ask questions.

ETHAN

I think you're confused.

MR. OJAN

You just want to work, I understand.

ETHAN

No, you...

MR. OJAN

It's okay. Just sit back and trust

Mr. Ojan opens an application form on the computer.

MR. OJAN (CONT'D)

These forms are all just a formality.

Mr. Ojan starts filling out the rest of the form. He puts John Smith as the name.

ETHAN

My name's not Smith.

MR. OJAN

I told you, it's all just a formality. It's better if you let me handle it.

ETHAN

Sir?

MR. OJAN

Look, I don't want to know what you're running from. I don't care. If you work hard and do what I tell you, I will take care of you. Certain organizations don't need to know.

Mr. Ojan fills out the rest of the form with random numbers and choices.

MR. OJAN (CONT'D)

Now you do understand that your salary will be paid in cash.

ETHAN

Cash is good.

MR. OJAN

Great. Mr. Smith, lets get your uniform.

EXT. THE WILSON RANCH - AFTERNOON

MR. OJAN and ETHAN exit the house. Ethan wears a Wilson Ranch uniform. They walk to the stable. Mr. Ojan walks with his hand on Ethan's shoulder.

MR. OJAN

The Wilson Ranch prides itself on providing beef raised to a higher standard. We employ unique techniques exclusive to this ranch. You will be joining our bovine quality technician team.

ETHAN

Okay

MR. OJAN

Your friend says you're a good worker.

ETHAN

If he says so.

MR. OJAN

Your friend is not a good worker.

Ethan laughs.

MR. OJAN (CONT'D)

You will be better.

ETHAN

If you say so.

MR. OJAN

You will call me Mr. O-jan.

Mr. Ojan pronounces the "jan" with a slight southern twang.

ETHAN

Sure.

Mr. Ojan and Ethan arrive at the stable. Inside the stable, the WORKERS massage cows with sponges dipped in large buckets of saki. The workers are all Mexican except for Alex, who massages a cow in the back of the stable. Alex waves to Ethan.

MR. OJAN

The work is simple. Wash. If you get confused ask Mr. Smith.

ETHAN

Excuse me?

MR. OJAN

You'll be fine.

Mr. Ojan tips his hat and walks back toward the house. Ethan watches Mr. Ojan walk back. He looks out over the ranch. A sponge hits Ethan in the back of the head.

ALEX

Hola, mi amigo.

Alex walks toward Ethan.

ETHAN

You got to stop throwing things at my head.

ALEX

All right then. Your nuts next. Easier shot.

Alex and Ethan walk toward the back of the stable.

ETHAN

This is what you left the mall job for?

ALEX

Hell yes.

ETHAN

Why'd you drag me into it?

ALEX

I need the bonus, and I can't speak Spanish. You're going to need a

sponge. Go talk to Mr. Smith.

ETHAN

I'm Smith.

ALEX

Do you have a sponge.

ETHAN

No.

ALEX

Go talk to Mr. Smith.

Alex shoves Ethan toward a group of workers washing a large cow. Ethan approaches them hesitantly.

ETHAN

Smith?

All of the workers answer.

WORKERS

Si.

ETHAN

Uh. Lavar?

Ethan points toward the cow. The workers point toward a row of buckets and sponges on a close-by wall.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Gracias.

Ethan starts walking toward the sponges and buckets. Ethan picks up the sponge and then a bucket. He notices a strange smell. He smells the bucket.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Saki?

Ethan reaches the back of the stable. Alex holds a sponge over his own head and squeezes a sponge full of saki into his mouth.

ALEX

Good shit, right.

Ethan glares at Alex.

INT. THE WILSON RANCH OFFICE - AFTERNOON

MR. OJAN sits down in the chair in his office. He picks up the phone and presses a button and it speed-dials the number.

MR. OJAN

What are you doing over there? Do

you know how much this is costing me. Well, saki ain't cheap my friend. I know. We're doing it exactly the way you said. I don't know. I just don't know about that. Where did you hear that from. Uh huh. Well, I just feel like I'm shooting in the dark here, you know what I mean. I know. I'm not blaming you. Just talk to more people. You know what you're doing. Just keep trying, that's all I can say. All right. Hey, what you're doing is not illegal, you know that. All right. All right.

Mr. Ojan hangs up the phone.

EXT. THE WILSON RANCH - AFTERNOON

Ethan and Alex massage the cow with the sponge. Alex starts dancing to music in head. He starts humming and singing the beat.

ALEX

I thought Muslim's thought cows were like, god or something.

ETHAN

What?

ALEX

Mr. O-jan. He kills cows for a living.

Alex over-pronounces the "jan".

ETHAN

Hindus, Alex. Cows are a symbol for them.

ALEX

Isn't Ojan going to like Hindu hell
now or something?

Ethan stares at Alex, shocked.

ALEX (CONT'D)

No, seriously.

ETHAN

Number one. Just cause Mr. Ojan is middle-eastern does not mean he's Hindu. And number two, there is no Hindu hell.

Just asking, man.

They return to washing the cow.

ALEX (CONT'D)

How do you think he got this place?

ETHAN

Don't know.

ALEX

The Mr. Smiths think Ojan is the son of some King or something. Like a Eddie Murphy "Coming to America" type of thing, ya know.

ETHAN

Possible.

ALEX

I think he's hiding something. It's just weird. He's probably got a stash full of guns or bombs. He's going take us all out one day. If Ojan comes out here shooting one day, I'm using your body as a shield.

ETHAN

I don't think I'd make a good shield.

ALEX

You're dead, what do you care?

ETHAN

I don't.

ALEX

Don't worry. I'll take care of Jordan.

ETHAN

Go for it.

ALEX

You're not going to stand up for your woman.

ETHAN

Nope.

ALEX

Come on, man.

ETHAN

Don't tell me to come on. You come off it.

Alex stares at Ethan.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Just wash the damn cow.

ALEX

All right. Just saying, you'd make a great shield. Light-weight. Blinding white skin. I mean we all know you'd be the first to die.

Ethan looks down as if he wants to kill Alex.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Me being faster and stronger, it's only right that you would die to protect me. I think dieing for me would be a noble cause. You'd go down in history. Kids would read about you in high-school.

Ethan forces a smile.

ETHAN

Yep, Ch. 6 Alex saves America from Terrorism.

ALEX

That's right. The book would sell millions. I'd dedicate it to death of my best friend Ethan, and my wife Jordan.

ETHAN

Yep.

I/E. ETHAN'S CAR - LATE MORNING

Ethan drives his car. He passes a sign that says "Highway 6". Then a sign that says "College Station 50". Tall trees line the road, with a large hill every couple miles. The same song Alex was singing and dancing to earlier plays on the radio. Ethan taps his hands on the steering wheel. Ethan sings loudly and drums harder on the steering wheel. Ethan notices loggers in the woods. The men have cleared the area and now gather scraps of wood into large piles.

I/E. ETHAN'S CAR - AFTERNOON

Ethan parks the car in the street. JORDAN walks from her dorm to the car. She waves at him. He waves back. She opens the car door and sits down. She kisses him on the cheek, and shuts the door.

Hey sweetie.

ETHAN

Hey.

Ethan's starts driving the car down the street.

JORDAN

Guess what the financial office has decided? They're taking money out of my Pell Grant cause of that scholarship I got.

ETHAN

What?

JORDAN

Yah.

ETHAN

You're kidding me.

JORDAN

No. Since I'm working harder, they're taking my money away.

ETHAN

Why?

JORDAN

Apparently this is state policy. They never tell you about this in high school. They say "ya, go get those scholarships." Turns out they don't even matter cause you're still going to get the same amount of money, just now the government doesn't have to give you as much. Even though I've done better than the average kid raised in my mom's tax bracket, it doesn't matter.

ETHAN

Slow down, babe. It's going to be okay.

JORDAN

Don't tell me it's going to be okay. You don't fucking know that.

ETHAN

I'm just trying to be nice. I don't really understand what you're saying.

JORDAN

The government gives every kid that applies for financial aid a thing called a Pell Grant.

The amount of money is dependent of how much money your parents make. I got scholarships, I worked hard to get that money. Turns out that all the money I got in those scholarships are worthless. The government is going to take the same amount of money out of my Pell Grant. They are taking away any incentive to do better than what's required. They're classifying kids by how much they're parents make and not by what they've done. Our government is enforcing a class system, Ethan.

ETHAN

Okay.

JORDAN

Maybe you don't understand because you're parents are paying for your college, but my mom can't. I'm out here on my own.

ETHAN

Did I say I don't understand.

JORDAN

Just drop me off here.

ETHAN

No. I drove 54.6 miles to see you.

JORDAN

Fine. Please just let me out here, I'll walk back.

ETHAN

Jordan, you're not walking around alone.

JORDAN

I'll be fine.

Ethan pulls the car over to the side of the road. Ethan glares at her.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

I'm just upset. Can we please go to the movie.

Ethan pulls back on the road.

INT. MOVIE THEATRE IN COLLEGE STATION - AFTERNOON

Ethan sits in a chair in the movie theatre by himself. The

lights are still on. JORDAN walks up the aisle holding a bag of popcorn behind her back. She sits next to Ethan.

JORDAN

Surprise!

She shows him the bag of popcorn.

ETHAN

Thanks.

JORDAN

I'm sorry sweetie.

Jordan kisses Ethan on the cheek.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

So what's this one about?

ETHAN

It's supposed to be an experimental piece about a boy coming of age, while a making social commentary on the soviet revolution of Russia.

JORDAN

Hmm. Hey, so what do you think about going to the beach. Galveston isn't that far and we could...

ETHAN

It's starting.

The lights \dim and Jordan snuggles up next to Ethan. The movie starts.

I/E. OUTSIDE THE MOVIE THEATRE - LATE AFTERNOON

Ethan and Jordan are walking out of the theatre.

ETHAN

So what did you think?

JORDAN

It was interesting.

ETHAN

Did you catch the communism metaphors.

JORDAN

Ya.

ETHAN

I liked the colors, that was really clever.

JORDAN

Ya. I don't think I really got it.

ETHAN

The communist red and then the American red color pallet. It was a symbol of America's attack on communism in the 50's.

JORDAN

Okay. But why did they kill the guy. He was the only character I liked and they just killed him for almost no reason. It's hard to care about a movie when the characters die for no reason.

ETHAN

It was a symbol, Jordan.

JORDAN

Ya, but I don't care.

ETHAN

Then what's the point the movie if you don't care.

JORDAN

I just like caring about characters. Isn't that the point of stories?

ETHAN

If you analyze the movie...

JORDAN

I don't watch a movie to analyze it, I like experiencing a film. Having the emotion the story makes me feel. But if the movie doesn't have any story it's hard to really care about it.

ETHAN

There was a story

JORDAN

Not one I care about.

ETHAN

All right.

JORDAN

It just wasn't my cup of tea. Did you like it?

ETHAN

It was all right.

Ethan unlocks the car and they get in. Ethan starts the car and pulls out of the parking spot.

JORDAN

I'm glad you liked it.

ETHAN

Yep.

Ethan drives the car out of the parking lot and heads toward her dorm.

JORDAN

You hungry sweetie?

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

ETHAN and JORDAN eat at a franchise diner. Ethan looks uninterested in his meal. They finish eating and pay the bill.

JORDAN

You ready?

I/E. OUTSIDE JORDAN'S DORM - LATE NIGHT

 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{ETHAN}}$ parks the car and gets out. Jordan gets out of the car too.

JORDAN

You be safe on the ride home. Call, when you get to Shiro.

ETHAN

All right.

They hug in front of the car and kiss. Ethan looks into her eyes.

JORDAN

I really don't like you leaving so late. I always think you're going hit a deer or something.

ETHAN

I'll be fine.

JORDAN

You're going to kill yourself one of these days. Please be careful.

They kiss once more, and Ethan starts walking to the car.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

Don't forget to call.

ETHAN

I wont.

He shuts the car door and backs the car out. She waves and goes into her dorm.

I/E. ETHAN'S CAR - LATE NIGHT

ETHAN drives his car down Highway 6 toward Huntsville. Music lightly plays in the background. Ethan looks exhausted. The high-beams are on but the road is very dark and the tall trees look domineering. Ethan notices headlights in the distance. A car passes over a hill in front of Ethan. Ethan sees a bridge in the road ahead. The two cars are going to pass the narrow bridge at the exact same time. Ethan starts leaning the car towards the oncoming car. Ethan smiles and closes his eyes. The two cars pass without contact. Ethan breath's out. Ethan pulls the car over and puts his head on the steering wheel.

ETHAN

I can't keep doing this.

Ethan tries to calm himself.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

All right.

Ethan pulls the car back on the road. He sees weird light on the right side of the road. He get's closer. The weird lights are fires. Ethan speeds up. He pulls over the car and get's out.

The fire is in the same clearing as the men were gathering wood earlier. The fire is actually about 50 separate fires. They are evenly spaced and each have about a 10 foot radius. The loggers are monitoring the fires from a safe distance. Ethan stands watching the fire. One of the loggers notices Ethan. Ethan waves. The logger waves back. Ethan get's back in his car and get's back on the road.

INT. ETHAN'S APARTMENT - LATE NIGHT

Ethan sleeps in his bed. His cell phone rest on the night stand. It vibrates. The screen reads "Bitch". Ethan turns over.

INT. ETHAN'S APARTMENT - MORNING

ETHAN sleeps on his bed. An alarm goes off. Ethan wakes up turns the alarm off and turns over to go back to bed. He slowly opens his eyes. The cat sits 2 inches in front of his face staring at him. Ethan shoves the cat off the bed.

I/E. APARTMENT PARKING LOT - EARLY AFTERNOON

Ethan sits in his car.

ETHAN

Finally.

Ethan turns the car on. Alex opens the passenger door and gets in.

ALEX

Thanks for waiting.

ETHAN

Not a problem.

Ethan pulls the car out.

EXT. THE WILSON RANCH - EARLY AFTERNOON

ETHAN and ALEX park at the parking area of the ranch. Alex gets out of the car and stretches.

ALEX

Feels good out.

ETHAN

Yep.

They walk toward the barn. Ethan's uniform shirt is tucked in and Alex's uniform shirt is not. They reach the barn and grab a bucket and sponge each.

INT. THE WILSON RANCH OFFICE - EARLY AFTERNOON

 ${\tt MR.}$ OJAN sits at his desk on the phone. Mr. Ojan is looking at data sheets of their sales.

MR. OJAN

It's not working. No, I know. I'm not blaming you. Who? Now, why should we believe this guy. How long ago did he work for them.
Well, they could be doing something entirely different now couldn't they? We'll try it. I mean I'm, I'm desperate here. Uh huh. I know you you're on my side. Look, this isn't going very well. I'm saying we need to do something drastic. I don't care if they won't let you on the property. Find a way. No, no more

money. I want evidence. I want to make sure this will work. I don't care what he said, I want to know for a fact what they're doing. Be resourceful. Every secret has leaks. Find them. No, find them. All right. Ya, I understand. No don't give me that. Ya. All right. And then call me right away. Don't worry about that. We'll deal with that if it happens. Right now, all I need you to worry about, all I want you think about, is Kobe.

EXT. THE WILSON RANCH - EARLY AFTERNOON

Ethan and Alex wash cows in the barn.

ALEX

All I'm saying is that I've had worse jobs.

ETHAN

And I've had better.

ALEX

You've had two jobs.

ETHAN

And they were both better.

ALEX

Take it from my experience, we have a pretty good set up here. The money's great. The work isn't bad. And we have international coworkers. This is a cultural land mine. Could be a lot worse.

ETHAN

The smell. You like the smell?

ALEX

I don't mind it. I don't care, man.
I'm outside, I'm with good
company...

Alex pats the cow on the back.

ALEX (CONT'D)

This is it man. This is where I'm at, and I'm going to make the best of it.

ETHAN

That's great for you buddy.

Alex sees Mr. Ojan walking from the house to the barn.

ALEX

Oh shit.

Alex hides behind the cow.

ETHAN

What?

ALEX

Ojan, he's coming.

ETHAN

So?

ALEX

He's packing man. I'm telling you.

ETHAN

Uh huh.

Ethan laughs a little.

ALEX

You won't be laughing when I'm using your body as a shield.

ETHAN

All right.

Mr. Ojan enters the barn and walks toward Ethan and Alex.

ALEX

He's coming right for us. Run man, go, run, go, run.

ETHAN

What?

MR. OJAN

Mr. Smith.

The workers peek out from behind their cows to see if Mr. Ojan is calling for them. Ethan turns around. Ethan points to himself.

MR. OJAN (CONT'D)

Come with me for a second.

Ethan walk toward Mr. Ojan. Mr. Ojan grabs Ethan's shoulder and turns Ethan away to walk out of the barn. Ethan looks over his shoulder back at Alex. Alex makes a gun with his hand and "shoots" Ethan. Mr. Ojan leads Ethan out of the barn.

MR. OJAN (CONT'D)

Can I ask you a question?

Uhh.

MR. OJAN

What do you think of the statement, "Life is what you make it."

ETHAN

Sounds good to me.

MR. OJAN

Well, what does it mean to you.

ETHAN

Uh. I guess. I don't know. Man is responsible for himself.

MR. OJAN

I like that. You have a good head on your shoulders. You work hard. I like to think I'm good at judging people.

ETHAN

I'd prefer to not judge people at all.

MR. OJAN

Well said. I like you. A man like you needs to participate in a more intellectual side of cattle raising.

ETHAN

There's an intellectual side of cattle raising?

MR. OJAN

Ha. I understand what you're saying. Trust me, I wasn't born into this and I don't plan dieing in this business either.

ETHAN

Why are you in this business?

MR. OJAN

I thought we had understanding about personal questions.

ETHAN

Okay.

MR. OJAN

Ha!

Mr. Ojan slaps Ethan's shoulder.

MR. OJAN (CONT'D)

You're fine.

Mr. Ojan leads Ethan to the other side of the ranch where there is another smaller barn.

MR. OJAN (CONT'D)

Do you think every ranch in Texas massages their livestock with alcohol?

ETHAN

Umm.

MR. OJAN

They don't. We here, at the Wilson Ranch, are at the forefront of innovative techniques in ranching. We are experimenting every day on how to raise the quality of our beef.

ETHAN

Sounds intellectual.

MR. OJAN

Exactly, and that's where you are going to fit in.

EXT. SMALL BARN AT WILSON RANCH - AFTERNOON

Mr. Ojan and Ethan enter the smaller barn. Four cows line one side of the barn with stools in front of them. A Mexican WORKER sits on a stool in front of a cow on the far side of the barn. The worker has his hands on the cows head. Mr. Ojan leads Ethan closer to the worker. The worker is speaking in Spanish to the cow. They get closer.

WORKER

(sexually)

Te amo. No diremos, amado, una sola palabra, hablaran nuestros ojos su lenguaje de magia. Te amo...

MR. OJAN

It's called Reiki Universal Energy Transfer. In 1922 a Japanese man developed a way of transferring healing energy through good energy waves. Spiritualist have been using the technique on humans for decades with great success. The thinking is that if it works for humans, could work for cows too.

Ethan stares at the worker, then at Mr. Ojan.

MR. OJAN (CONT'D)

I know. Fascinating isn't it. Now, we're still in the experimental phase of the project so we don't want to waste a lot of time or

That's why we're using this smaller barn, keeps the process controlled, ya know.

Ethan gives a very confused look at Mr. Ojan.

MR. OJAN (CONT'D)

It's not all that. Here just sit down real quick.

Mr. Ojan sit Ethan down in front of one of the cows.

MR. OJAN (CONT'D)

(to the worker)

If you could excuse us a second Mr . Smith .

The worker stares blankly at Mr. Ojan.

MR. OJAN (CONT'D)

Salgas!

The worker hurries out of the barn.

MR. OJAN (CONT'D)

Now. It's simple. It's all about the good energy flowing out of you and into this cow. It doesn't really matter what you're saying, it's more about how you say it. Understand?

ETHAN

No.

MR. OJAN

You don't have to, that's the beauty. All I want you to do is just sit here and talk the cow.

ETHAN

I still get paid the same right.

MR. OJAN

Course. Although there is one more requirement. I need you to keep this secret. This is very cutting edge stuff here and if anyone else found out what we were doing in here we might lose our edge. Right?

ETHAN

Okay.

MR. OJAN

One more thing, that friend of yours. How close are you?

ETHAN

Close enough.

MR. OJAN

I knew I liked you.

Mr. Ojan pats Ethan on the back and walks out of the barn.

MR. OJAN (CONT'D)

Now you're going be just fine, Remember the energy flows from you, you need to connect with the cow spiritually or else you're just some idiot talking to a cow. All right.

Ethan nods hesitantly. Mr. Ojan leaves. Ethan turns to face the cow. He takes a deep breath. He stares at the cow. The cow licks it's teeth. Ethan smiles facetiously.

ETHAN

You smell like shit.

The cow licks it's teeth again.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

I bet you wish I was a vegetarian, huh? I eat meat. I like it. I like it a lot. I might even be eating you in a couple months. How do you feel about that? Hmm, interesting.

Ethan puts his hand on the cows cheek.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Now tell me about your childhood.

Ethan drops his hand.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Have you ever thought of killing yourself. How do you think you'd do it? How would you do it? I've been trying to kill myself for almost 5 years now. Seriously you'd think I'd grow out of the suicide phase. You know what you could do. Kick at this old wood...

Ethan pats one of the wood pillars holding up the barn.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Until it breaks then just fall on the stump. I've got a million of em. You might as well kill yourself. Were going to kill you in a couple months anywise. And you know what. I don't care. That doesn't bother me. You've got to die because we're hungry. That's the way it is. I bet you're pretty pissed off about that huh? You get it? Huh?

Ethan grabs the cows ears and gets 2 inches in front of the cows face.

ETHAN (CONT'D) We're better than you!

Ethan stares intensely at the cow, he looks into the cows eyes and Ethan's expression changes. Ethan sits back down on the stool.

INT. THE WILSON RANCH OFFICE - AFTERNOON

MR. OJAN.

Okay, so I got a guy. Ya, he can do it. I think he bought it. It looked like he already believed in all this spirituality crap, anywise. He's one of those idiot college kid, crazy liberals, ya know, change the world and all that. I know. We'll see if it works. Are you sure that's what they're doing over there? I know, all you can do is talk. But, this place is going down fast. I need to know how they do it. We bought the Waygu cattle, we massaged the damn things, but there has to be another part of the process. We need to get inside and see what they're doing. It's a island. What are they going to do? Deport you back here. You're a white American, they're not going to anything. So, tonight then. Promise me you're going to do it. Okay. All right. Call me afterwords. Okay. I said okay. Bye.

Mr. Ojan hangs up the phone.

MR. OJAN

I can't keep doing this.

Mr. Ojan calms himself.

MR. OJAN (CONT'D)

All right.

INT. ETHAN'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Ethan sits at the end of his bed. He has just woken up. He takes a shower. He sits on his couch. The cat jumps up onto the couch and sits next to Ethan. Ethan pets the cat. Ethan goes into the kitchen. He opens his pantry. He tips a pop tart box over, to see there are none left.

ETHAN

Damnit Jordan.

INT. GROCERY STORE - MORNING

Ethan stands in line holding only a box of pop-tarts. He looks at the other customers in line. All the customers look dead. They move in a slow drudge.

ETHAN

Moo.

It's now Ethan's turn in line. The check-out lady moves the pop tarts over the scanner. The check-out lady looks dead also. She doesn't say anything but just stares at her check out screen. Ethan uses a credit card to pay. He stares at the check-out lady. She presses a button on the screen. She hands Ethan a receipt without looking at him. Ethan takes the receipt and takes his pop-tarts and walks away.

EXT. HUNTSVILLE - MORNING

Ethan locks up his bike. He turns around and sees Alex walking toward him. Alex waves to Ethan. Alex smokes a small cigar.

ALEX

Hey. Guess what?

ETHAN

Why are you smoking that here?

ALEX

When are you going to get rid of your vagina and start enjoying these with me?

ETHAN

I got to get to class.

ALEX

I told you Ojan was a terrorist.

ETHAN

What?

ALEX

He fired me.

ETHAN

That doesn't make him a... Why did you get fired?

They walk down the walkway.

ALEX

It's the system trying to bring me down man.

ETHAN

Hmm.

ALEX

No, economy. It's just a bitch right now.

ETHAN

Yep.

ALEX

I'm not worried about it.

A girl walks by wearing a low-cut blouse. Ethan looks at her cleavage, inconspicuously. Alex looks at her cleavage, blatantly.

ALEX (CONT'D)

You see those man?

ETHAN

Yep.

Ethan rolls his eyes in disapproval.

ALEX

So I'm thinking I might report Ojan.

ETHAN

What?

ALEX

All those Mexicans. The Mr. Smith shit. Come on.

ETHAN

Hey, he's just trying to help people out. He gives em work.

ALEX

Illegal work.

ETHAN

You didn't seem to have a problem

with it last week.

ALEX

I was employed last week. There might be a reward or something.

ETHAN

Uh huh.

ALEX

Can I use your school computer account to check the homeland security website...

ETHAN

I got to go to class.

ALEX

All right. Hey man, I'm coming over soon.

Ethan does not answer. Ethan enters a building.

INT. ETHAN'S CLASS - MORNING

Ethan sits a desk. The teacher is lecturing about religions of the middle east. Ethan checks his watch.

INT. ACADEMIC ADVISOR'S OFFICE

Ethan opens the door to the academic advisor's office. The door has the words "Academic Advisor" printed on it. The advisor sits behind a desk typing on a computer.

ETHAN

I'm here for advising.

ADVISOR

Take a seat.

The advisor continues to type on his computer, without even glancing at Ethan. The advisor is an older woman wearing a floral dress. Ethan looks around the room. The advisor closes the document he was working on and opens up a new document, still not having looked at Ethan.

ADVISOR (CONT'D)

Major?

ETHAN

Undeclared.

ADVISOR

You're a senior.

Ethan shrugs his shoulders. The advisor opens up a different document on the computer.

ADVISOR (CONT'D)

Your grades are excellent. You have zero drops. You need a major to graduate.

ETHAN

I know.

The advisor turns and looks at Ethan.

ADVISOR

What are you doing here then?

ETHAN

Getting advised.

ADVISOR

I can't help you if you don't know what you want.

ETHAN

Isn't that why I'm here?

ADVISOR

Look, you want to graduate right?

Ethan stares blankly at the advisor.

ADVISOR (CONT'D)

Then you need to decide what you want to do for the rest of your life.

EXT. SMALL BARN AT THE WILSON RANCH - AFTERNOON

Ethan sits on a stool in front of the same cow he talked to last time.

ETHAN

Did you know Orson Wells was 23 years old when he broadcasted War of the Worlds. He was 26 when he did Citizen Kane. I'm 22, I could do shit like that. There's stuff going on up here.

Ethan points to his brain.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

You know what I mean? Let me ask you something. It's just been something running through my head. Saw this movie. Can't remember, anyway, a man cheats on his wife.

He grows old. On his death bed he tells this newlywed male nurse that his only regret was his infidelity. This male nurse newlywed goes home, kisses his wife and never once cheats her. Ever. Was the old man's life worth it? I mean, is that supposed to be the ultimate good we assume is in this world. Is it assumed the newlywed would have cheated on his wife if the man had not confessed to him. That doesn't make sense, you know.

He looks at the cow as if the cow is going to answer.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Does this bother you? Me talking.

He looks at the cow for a sign of agreement.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Good.

Ethan takes a second to look around the barn.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

So you got a partner? Or whatever you cows call it. My girlfriend lives 54.6 miles away. It's really just not worth it. I go and see her almost every weekend. So we hang out and it's all right and then I leave. Every time, as I'm driving away I get this urge to roll down the window, and just call her a bitch. Then speed off. I'd never see her again. I'd never have to drive that 54.6 miles again, and life would be that much better.

The cow licks it's teeth. Ethan gets up and walks around the barn.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

This place stinks. Do you guys smell it? I smell it. So how would you rate life as a cow?

The cows stare at Ethan.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Don't worry. Human's life isn't much different. Just riding that production line. We all know the butcher's knife is at the end. You can't help it. It's what we're here for. None of it matters. Well, it does matter. But not in the

astrological sense. You know? I'm talking out my ass. But you, I'm making some sense here aren't I. I'm not. And that's okay. You know. It's okay. I should read you one of my philosophy books, I think you'd like it. Jordan doesn't like philosophy. She says none of it really matters.

Ethan's cell phone rings. The phone says "Bitch". He answers it.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Hey. Just talking to a friend. No, you don't know em.

Ethan sits down back in front of the cow.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Nothing really.

Ethan obviously is not listening intently. He looks at the cow.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

With who? Okay. No, go out with you're friends. It's fine. Okay, well I got to go. All right. Ya, it's fine.

Ethan hangs up the phone. He looks at the cow.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Sorry about that. These things are ruining manners.

Ethan holds up his cell phone.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

I can't end it. I wish I could break-up with her. Every time I try and end it I remember I have no friends, no ambitions, nothing.

The cow licks it's lips. Ethan pulls out his cell phone and calls "Bitch".

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Hey, just wanted to tell you I love you.

Mr. Ojan knocks on the door of the barn. Ethan hangs up his phone quickly and slips it into the pocket opposite of Mr. Ojan.

MR. OJAN

Howdy. You keeping busy?

ETHAN

Yep.

MR. OJAN

You talk to your friend today?

ETHAN

Yep.

MR. OJAN

He doing okay?

ETHAN

Ya, he'll bounce back.

MR. OJAN

So he's not upset?

ETHAN

I don't remember him being angry or nothing.

MR. OJAN

Huh. All right. Well, how you feeling?

Ethan looks shocked, as if no one has ever asked him this.

ETHAN

I'm good. I have a good life.

MR. OJAN

Good. Well if you need anything I'll be inside.

ETHAN

Okay.

MR. OJAN

Okay.

Mr. Ojan exits the barn.

MR. OJAN (CONT'D)

(whispering)

Damn hippies.

Ethan turns back to the cow.

ETHAN

What do you think of him? Ya, I think we probably feel the same way.

Ethan looks around. He sees one of the cows eating hay off of the ground.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

I bet that tastes great. You want

some?

Ethan bends over and picks up some hay off of the ground. He feeds the hay to the cow.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

You seem to like it. I bet you've never had anything else. Jordan does the grocery shopping for me. I hate shopping.

INT. ETHAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Ethan opens the door to his apartment. He gets orange juice from the fridge and pours himself a glass. He drinks and begins looking around his apartment. He looks in his living room. He then looks in his bathroom. The cat sits on the seat of the toilet and poops in the toilet. Ethan cheers.

ETHAN

Yes!

I/E. ETHAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Ethan sits on his couch eating Macaroni and cheese. A door slams outside the apartment. Loud voices are heard outside. Ethan listens. A woman and man are yelling outside. A car door slams and a car is heard speeding off. Ethan opens the door and peeks his head outside. He sees Alex leaning over the railing, smoking a cigar.

ETHAN

You alright?

ALEX

Ya.

Ethan starts closing the door.

ALEX (CONT'D)

You want one?

ETHAN

Uh, no I'm fine.

ALEX

My parents are getting divorced.

Ethan looks at Alex.

EXT. OUTSIDE ETHAN'S APARTMENT

Ethan and Alex sit outside on lawn chairs on the balcony.

They are smoking small cigars. Alex blows out a hefty cloud of smoke. Ethan takes a puff and coughs.

ALEX

There you go.

ETHAN

This tastes disgusting.

ALEX

Of course it does.

ETHAN

I will never understand this crap.

ALEX

It's cause you're a woman.

ETHAN

So what was the uh...

ALEX

Nothing. Nothing important.

Ethan nods.

ALEX (CONT'D)

She's a bitch.

ETHAN

Well that explains you're attraction to her.

ALEX

What can I say?

ETHAN

You alright.

ALEX

I will be.

ETHAN

Don't worry about her, you're stressed, she'll come back.

ALEX

I don't care about her man.

Alex takes a big puff on the cigar.

ALEX (CONT'D)

This is the third time $my \mod s$ done this to me.

ETHAN

You'll be alright.

ALEX

Ya, but she's just ditching Chelsea. She's twelve. Fucking twelve.

ETHAN

She'll be okay.

ALEX

No man. Her dads a bum. She needs someone better.

ETHAN

You hungry?

I/E. ETHAN'S CAR - NIGHT

Ethan and Alex sit in Ethan's car in a drive-thru for a fast food restaurant. A server hands Ethan food through the window. Ethan hands the food to Alex.

ETHAN

Thank you. You have a good night.

The server closes the windows giving Ethan a strange look. Ethan pulls the car forward. Alex digs through the bags of food. Looking for something.

ALEX

Damnit.

ETHAN

What?

ALEX

Bitch forgot my damn cinnamon sticks.

I/E. ETHAN'S CAR - NIGHT

Ethan pulls the car up to the speaker box for the fast food restaurant. $\ensuremath{\,^{\circ}}$

SERVER

(unenthusiastically) Hi, how can I serve you.

ETHAN

Hey, we didn't get the cinnamon things we ordered.

I/E. ETHAN'S CAR - NIGHT

Ethan sits in the car at the drive-thru window. Alex sits in

the back-seat. The server hands Ethan the cinnamon sticks and then closes the window.

ETHAN

Thanks.

Ethan pulls the car up. Alex moons the server out the back seat window.

EXT. OUTSIDE ETHAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Ethan and Alex walk up the steps to the apartments. They both hold bags of food.

ALEX

Thanks man.

ETHAN

Anytime you want to talk I'm here.

ALEX

I was talking bout the food. But thanks. See you later man.

Ethan opens the door to his apartment.

INT. ETHAN'S APARTMENT - LATE NIGHT

Ethan sleeps in his bed. The phone rings on the night stand. Ethan picks up the phone. Jordan voice is heard on the other end of the line.

ETHAN

Hey. I'm sorry. I was really tired after work. No, I'm not sleeping. That's good. Glad to hear you had a good time. I miss you too. We'll see each other this weekend. It'll be okay.
We'll go see a movie or something. I promise. All right? Okay, I got to go to sleep now. Okay. Love you

INT. JORDAN'S DORMROOM - LATE NIGHT

Jordan hangs up the phone. She's in her underwear. A person moves under the covers of the bed in her room.

JORDAN

Sorry.

too.

The person under the covers moves the blanket over their

head. Jordan walks over to the light switch and turns off the lights.

INT. ETHAN'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Ethan sleeps in his bedroom. His alarm goes off and he wakes up and turns over. He opens his eyes. The cat sits 2 inches in front of his face. He pets the cat.

INT. ETHAN'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Ethan holds a pop tart in his hand as he sits on the couch. The TV is on. Alex opens the door and enters the apartment. He waves to Ethan. Ethan holds up his pop tart in recognition. Alex goes into the kitchen and puts a pop tart in the toaster. He walks back into the living room. He sees Ethan's laptop. He grabs it and sits down. He opens the laptop. Alex waits while the computer loads. He taps his fingers.

ALEX

So, uh, how's the ranch?

ETHAN

Good. I'm starting to believe you about Ojan.

ALEX

What'd he do?

ETHAN

I don't know. He's weird. He asked about you.

ALEX

What'd you tell him?

ETHAN

I said you were fine.

ALEX

Good.

ETHAN

You're not going to...

ALEX

I might. Depends on the money.

ETHAN

I think you're right though. Something's going on.

Alex looks a bit shocked that Ethan said he was right. The pop tarts ejected from the toaster. Alex puts the laptop down

and goes into the kitchen.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

So what's next?

ALEX

What?

ETHAN

What you going to do now?

ALEX

I don't know. Have a good time.

Ethan laughs a little. Alex looks out from the kitchen. He smiles at Ethan.

I/E. ETHAN'S CAR - AFTERNOON

Ethan drives and Alex is in the passenger street. They are driving down the main street of Huntsville.

ALEX

All right. You still hungry. I'm still hungry. How's donuts sound?

ETHAN

I like donuts.

INT. GROCERY STORE - AFTERNOON

Alex and Ethan enter the grocery store. Alex points to the bakery section. They walk to the bakery section. Alex and Ethan reach the bakery section. Alex opens the clear cabinet where the donuts are.

ALEX

What would you like? Chocolate, filled, plain. Oh they got these little hole things too.

Alex gets a bag and starts putting in donuts.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Chocolate?

Alex holds up a chocolate donut. Ethan nods. Alex gets his donuts and puts them in the bag. Alex leads Ethan away from the bakery. They pass all the check-out aisles and enter the whine section.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Here's your's. Here's mine.

Alex hands Ethan the chocolate donut. Alex gets his own donut

out and starts eating. Ethan looks at the donut. Then Alex. He takes a bite out of the donut.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Free donuts taste better don't they?

Ethan smiles.

I/E. ETHAN'S CAR - AFTERNOON

Ethan and Alex are driving through Huntsville.

ETHAN

I want to know. What's the typical day of Alex?

ALEX

You're in it.

ETHAN

How often do you eat there?

ALEX

When I'm hungry.

ETHAN

Huh.

ALEX

So what's the typical Ethan day?

ETHAN

Typical Ethan day is shit.

ALEX

Until I'm in it, right?

ETHAN

Right.

ALEX

Come on.

ETHAN

What?

ALEX

You have a killer girlfriend, parents are paying for college, steady job. Man, you're Americana extraordinaire.

ETHAN

You're just jealous.

ALEX

Damn straight.

Alex looks intensely at Ethan.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Damn straight.

They stop at a red light.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Look, I'd walk the same line if I was in your shoes. Sorry.

Ethan nods. The light changes to green.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Pull over, this her place.

Ethan pulls the car over at a house. Alex gets out. He goes to the front door and knocks. He turns around and shoots Ethan with his hand. The front door opens and a girl stands in the doorway, GIRL #1. Girl #1 is the hippy sort with a sense of desperation. Alex chats with her. Ethan waits in the car. Another girl, SAMANTHA, comes to the doorway. Samantha leans against the doorway in confidence. She has long brunette hair and wears a indie-band t-shirt. A truck pulls up behind Ethan's car. Ethan looks at the truck in his overhead mirror. Alex waves to the people in the truck. Three BOYS get out of the truck and walk toward Alex. Ethan breaths out. The boys go inside the house and the girls go inside too. Alex waves Ethan to the front door. Ethan takes a moment to prepare himself.

ETHAN

Okay.

Ethan walks to the doorway.

ALEX

Hey.

ETHAN

Hey, so what's the plan.

ALEX

What plan?

The two go inside.

INT. SAMANTHA'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

The house is cluttered and small. Marijuana butts are on the living room table. Smoke is in the air. The two girls are on one couch together. One of the boys is in the kitchen making food while two of the boys sit on the floor playing a video game. Ethan and Alex sit on another couch. Alex sits on the side of the couch closest to the girls.

ALEX

All I'm saying is life is what you make it. Don't hesitate.

SAMANTHA

But what about responsibility.

ALEX

I'm not a saint. Well to you I am.

Alex points to Girl #1. She smiles.

ALEX (CONT'D)

But I say let God figure it out. I'm not going to judge.

SAMANTHA

Responsibility is right here. Fuck God. I will take responsibility for myself.

BOY #1

Going to hell, bitch.

ETHAN

I have to agree with her more than...

BOY #1

You're going to hell too my friend.

SAMANTHA

We've decided to join the conversation now?

ETHAN

We have.

ALEX

All right then, you're socialized, my jobs done.

Alex sits on the floor with the two other boys as starts playing the video game.

SAMANTHA

So, you think I'm right?

Samantha moves to sit on the same couch as Ethan.

ETHAN

Well I don't know about the cursing god thing but ya. I think you're more right than not.

SAMANTHA

Why?

ETHAN

What?

SAMANTHA

Why am I right?

ETHAN

Um, Well, Sartre says...

SAMANTHA

I don't care what Jean-Paul Sartre
says...

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

I want to hear what you say.

The boy that was in the kitchen, Boy #3, walks into the living room carrying food. The food is oven-baked taquitos, bagel bites, and potato skins.

BOY #3

Munchies.

Boy #3 sits down in between Ethan and Samantha. The boys stop the game to eat. They all eat except Ethan. Ethan looks at Samantha. Samantha gets food then sits back. She notices Ethan looking at her. Ethan grabs a bagel bite.

ETHAN

So, what do ya'll do?

INT. SAMANTHA'S HOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON

The group plays a board game. They're playing with real money. Ethan sits next to Samantha. They pass a joint around. Ethan passes the joint without smoking.

ALEX

Come on, daddy needs a new pair of shoes.

Alex rolls dice.

BOY #1

No shoes for you.

ETHAN

So, back to what we were talking about earlier, it's not about being angry or pissed off that life has no meaning but it's about making up you're own meaning. Doesn't mean the value is any less, just that...

SAMANTHA

But the only way to make meaning is to get pissed off.

Samantha picks up the dice and rolls them.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

When's the last time somebody made a difference by philosophizing about themselves.

ETHAN

That's the point, you don't have to make a difference, unless you care about making a difference.

SAMANTHA

That's bullshit.

ETHAN

All right.

SAMANTHA

You're turn.

ETHAN

What?

SAMANTHA

Roll.

Ethan takes the dice and rolls them.

INT. SAMANTHA'S HOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON

The group plays the board game.

ALEX

Okay, you're in fourth...

He points to Girl #1.

ALEX (CONT'D)

I'm in third, ya'll two are tied.

Alex points to Ethan and Samantha.

ALEX (CONT'D)

And the rest of you don't matter.

Ethan looks at Samantha.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Now, how we have two ways to settle a tie. Thumb war or the traditional way.

ETHAN

What's the traditional way?

SAMANTHA

We'll do that.

ALEX

All right.

INT. SAMANTHA'S HOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON

A line of five soda cans line the back of the couch. The group is huddled in a corner with Samantha holding a beebee gun. She aims it at the cans. She fires. One of the cans falls off the back of the couch. She fires again. Another one drops off the back of the back of the couch. She fires again and misses. She hands Alex the gun.

ALEX

All right, she got two. Now all you have to do is knock over three and you get the money.

Alex reloads the gun.

ETHAN

Just three.

SAMANTHA

Screw you.

Ethan takes the gun from Alex and set's himself up to aim. Ethan puts his finger on the trigger.

ALEX

Don't kill yourself.

BOY #1

You're going to poke you're eye

Ethan takes aim. He shoots. One can falls. He shoots again. Another can falls. He shoots again. The third can falls and a can of CO2 which was behind the couch on a table explodes making a large bang and a small flame. A silence falls on the group.

SAMANTHA

That was freaking incredible!

The group breaks down in amazement.

I/E. ETHAN'S CAR - NIGHT

Ethan drives with Alex in the passenger seat and the two girls in the back seat. The other boys are in the truck following Ethan's car. They are driving down a dirt road with abandoned houses and no street lights.

ETHAN

I don't know about this man.

ALEX

Grow some man. We're fine.

SAMANTHA

Ya, I've got bigger balls than you.

ALEX

It's true, I've seen em.

SAMANTHA

You might get too see em to before tonight's up.

She puts her hand on Ethan's shoulder.

ALEX

Hey, lay off my man, bitch.

Alex hits her hand away.

SAMANTHA

Oh, okay. So do you pitch or receive there Ethan?

ETHAN

Neither actually.

ALEX

How dare you deny our relationship. You're sleeping on the couch tonight. Am I right?

Alex turns to Girl #1 and raises his hand for a high five. She stares at him. Alex continues to try and get her to laugh. Samantha leans up close to Ethan's seat.

SAMANTHA

(whispering)

I'll keep you company on that lonely couch.

ALEX

Hey stop.

ETHAN

What?

ALEX

Stop the car.

Ethan slows the car to a stop.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Did you hear that?

SAMANTHA

What?

ALEX

Shhh. I heard something.

The group peers out through the windows.

ALEX (CONT'D)

I swear I heard something.

ETHAN

What did you hear?

ALEX

I don't know.

ETHAN

What do you mean?

ALEX

I don't know. But you're still obligated to be my human shield.

ETHAN

All right.

Ethan looks intently out the window. He sees something move in the brush out his window. The brush movies again. He turns to ${\tt Alex}$ to get his attention.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Hey, look over...

Ethan turns back to his window. One of the boys slaps his face against Ethan's window. Ethan screams. Alex laughs.

GIRL #1

You ass hole.

Girl #1 slaps Alex playfully.

SAMANTHA

That was good.

ETHAN

Ya, real good.

EXT. SCARY ROAD - LATE NIGHT

The cars are parked on the side of the road. Ethan and Alex sit on the hood of Ethan's car while the group stands talking. The truck has the windows down and is playing music, the same song Ethan danced to in the car. The group laughs and talks. One of the boys gets the idea to go streaking. He #1 run down the road in their underwear. Ethan and Samantha lean against the car watching a laughing. Ethan puts his

hands behind him against the car. Samantha moves closer to Ethan. Ethan's phone rings. He pulls phone out of the pocket on the opposite side of Samantha. He looks at the name. It reads Jordan. Ethan bits his lip.

INT. JORDAN'S DORMROOM - LATE NIGHT

Jordan hangs up the phone. She's in her underwear. A person moves under the covers of the bed in her room.

JORDAN

I'm sorry.

The person under the covers pulls the covers over their head. Jordan walks over to the bed. She pokes the person.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

Hey, I'm sorry.

The person pulls back the sheets revealing a girl.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

I know you have a test tomorrow, so I just wanted to apologize now.

Jordan walks over to the light switch and turns it off. She walks over to her own bed and climbs into it. Jordan's ROOMMATE turns over to look at Jordan.

ROOMMATE

Don't worry about it. I know he's important to you. My boyfriend always forgets to call, I wouldn't worry about it.

JORDAN

I know. I just feel like I'm in the dark. I mean, I have no idea what he's doing over there. He could be sleeping with his neighbor and I'd never know.

 ${\tt ROOMMATE}$

He's probably sitting on his butt playing video games.

JORDAN

I know. I just... It gets to me some times.

ROOMMATE

Try not to think about.

JORDAN

Trying not to think is like asking someone to stop breathing.

ROOMMATE

All I'm saying is your going to drive yourself crazy.

JORDAN

I'm pretty crazy to think I could do this.

ROOMMATE

Well if it sucks so much just end it.

JORDAN

No. It's not the right time. There might still be a chance. I don't know.

ROOMMATE

Whatever.

I/E. ETHAN'S CAR - LATE NIGHT

Ethan drives the car with Alex slouched in the passenger seat and the two girls asleep in the back of the car.

ALEX

You have fun tonight?

ETHAN

I did. I could of done without the naked Alex time though.

ALEX

I think it was necessary.

ETHAN

Oh ya.

ALEX

It just had to happen. I don't make the rules, I just follow them. I'm glad you came out though man.

Ethan nods.

ALEX (CONT'D)

You know she digs you, right.

ETHAN

Who?

ALEX

Don't play like that.

ETHAN

I'm serious.

ALEX

Dude. Come on.

ETHAN

She's cool. She knows a lot about philosophy and stuff.

ALEX

I'm never going to tell anyone what to do, but I will say this.

ETHAN

Shut up man.

ALEX

Just make sure you're aware of yourself. That's it.

ETHAN

Thanks Confucius.

They drive further down the road. Ethan makes a turn. They turn onto the same street that Ethan travels to see Jordan. They see a sign that says Highway 6. They drive further down the road. Ethan sees the same lights in the distance as before.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Hey man. You got to see this.

Ethan speeds up the car. They reach the fields. Ethan slows the car to a crawl.

The fire is in a different section now, but it is set up the exact same as the previous fire that Ethan saw. 50, or so, separate fires. The loggers are monitoring it from a distance.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

That just looks amazing to me.

ALEX

Seen it.

ETHAN

What?

ALEX

I used to be one of those guys.

Alex points to the loggers.

ETHAN

You're kidding me.

ALEX

Nope. Best job I ever had.

ETHAN

I thought the Victoria Secret was

the best job you ever had.

ALEX

Ya, but I had to pretend I was gay the whole time.

ETHAN

Huh.

ALEX

Did you know Walker County is the only counties in Texas that will let you do outdoor burning thing like that. That's why there is a logging business out here. It's a lot cheaper to burn all the scraps than it is to transport them.

ETHAN

Burn the scraps.

ALEX

Yep, as long as you do it by the books you can burn as much as you want out here.

Ethan nods.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Best job ever.

INT. ETHAN'S APARTMENT - LATE NIGHT

Ethan, Alex, and the two girls are looking at Ethan's movie collection.

ETHAN

How about a Luis Bunuel?

ALEX

No, I hate that guy.

SAMANTHA

Just cause you're not smart enough to get his movies doesn't mean they're bad films.

Ethan smiles.

INT. ETHAN'S APARTMENT

Ethan and Samantha sit on one side of the couch with popcorn. They are intently watching the movie, Luis Bunuel's "El Ángel Exterminador". Alex and Girl #1 are on the other side of the couch. Alex watches Girl #1 and not the movie. Ethan watches

as Alex strokes Girl #1's arm. Girl #1 looks at Alex and then nuzzles up next to him. Ethan situates himself. He looks at Samantha's arm. He raises his hand to touch her arm.

ALEX

Well, not that this movie isn't exhilarating but I think I'm going to turn in.

Alex gets up and stretches. He walks over to the door. He opens the door. He moves his head signalling $Girl\ \#1$ to join him as they walk outside.

GIRL #1

Bye guys.

ALEX

Sleep tight everybody.

Alex leaves and shuts the door.

SAMANTHA

We know he's going to sleep tight.

ETHAN

Yep.

They turn back to watching the movie. Ethan situates himself. He raises his hand again to touch her arm. While still looking at the screen, Samantha turns over and nuzzles up next to Ethan. Ethan sits back and relaxes.

INT. ETHAN'S APARTMENT - LATE NIGHT

Samantha has fallen asleep on Ethan's lap. She has a blanket wrapped around her. The movie ends. Ethan picks up the remote and turns off the television. He looks at Samantha. He hold her head as he tries to get up from the couch.

SAMANTHA

No, stay here.

ETHAN

I'll be right back.

Ethan goes to the bathroom. He turns on the bathroom light. Samantha turns over to avoid the light. He unbuttons his pants and starts peeing. He finishes and buttons his pants. He turns off the bathroom light and walks back into the living room. He looks at Samantha, sleeping. He turns around and goes into his own bedroom.

INT. ETHAN'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Ethan wakes up in his bed. He gets out of bed and goes into

the living room. The blanket Samantha was using lies on the couch spread out. A piece of paper sits folded on the couch with her phone number on it. She spelled her name with the "a" shaped like a heart.

INT. GROCERY STORE - MORNING

Ethan walks through the store grabbing the normal food items. He rides on the cart through the aisles, smiling. A lady tries to reach something on the top shelf. Ethan rides by on his cart. He stops the cart and grabs the item for her. He gets in the check-out line. He looks at the other customers. They all look dead. Ethan looks at the gossip magazines. He grabs one of the magazines.

ETHAN

Oh, that Lindsey is at it again.

The other customers stare at Ethan, some laugh. It is Ethan's turn in line. The check-out lady runs the items over the scanner. She seems in a trance and doesn't even look at Ethan.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

How you doing today? Busy in here.

The check-out lady hits a button on the check-out screen. She hands Ethan a receipt.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

You have a great day. Hang in there.

Ethan quickly walks away. The check-out lady blushes.

I/E. ETHAN'S CAR - MORNING

Ethan drives with the music at a low volume. He holds his cell phone to his ear. A ringing is heard.

INT. JORDAN'S DORMROOM - MORNING

Jordan sits in her dorm room. She sees the phone ringing. The phone says "Snoodleberry".

I/E. ETHAN'S CAR - MORNING

Jordan's voice message plays over the phone. It end with a beep.

Hey sweetheart. I'm just leaving for work. Saw that you called last night, I was out with Alex. Umm, ya, so I'm on my way to work. Just give me a call when you can. Love you, bye.

Ethan turns the music up louder. He starts dancing and banging his hands on the steering wheel.

EXT. SMALL BARN AT THE WILSON RANCH - EARLY AFTERNOON

Ethan sits in front of the same cow he's been sitting in front of.

ETHAN

Last night. I'm falling asleep and I started thinking. We've been talking awhile now and I don't think I ever introduced myself. I'm Ethan. What should I call you? How about Fred. You like Fred? Fred it is. I bet you you're happy Fred. You look like the type that would be pretty happy. How do you do it? What's the secret to peace of mind for a cow? I'm sure foods part of it. Promise me you'll speak up if you think of anything.

INT. THE WILSON RANCH OFFICE - EARLY AFTERNOON

Mr. Ojan stands leaning against his desk with the phone to his ear.

MR. OJAN

Hold on, I can't understand you. Slower. Talk slower. What? Where? Where are you? No, I don't know where that is. Oh. I don't know any lawyers. Where do they have you? What are the charges? And they can lock you up for that? Oh, shit. No, I didn't know this would happen. Well, did you find out what they were doing to the cattle? Please tell me you found out something, anything. You mean you know nothing? We don't know anything? We're fucked. The ranch is done. It's over. I said I don't know any lawyers. I don't know what to tell you. What money am I going to fly out there with. I'm sorry. I'm going to have to say goodbye now.

Not my problem. I'm not the one who got caught.

Mr. Ojan hangs up the phone.

EXT. SMALL BARN AT THE WILSON RANCH - AFTERNOON

Ethan sits in front of the cow.

ETHAN

Oh, I got something for you.

Ethan pulls two apples out of his pocket. He feeds the cow one of the apples.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

You like it? Pretty good, huh? Jordan bought em. I think you'd like her. She's nice. Treats me pretty good.

Ethan takes a bite out of one of the apples.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

You're a good friend Fred.

INT. THE WILSON RANCH OFFICE

Mr. Ojan sits at his desk hunched over looking at papers. Ethan knocks on the door.

MR. OJAN

Ya.

Ethan opens the door and walks in.

ETHAN

Everything okay.

MR. OJAN

Ya. What do you want?

ETHAN

I'm taking off.

MR. OJAN

Your shift's not done.

ETHAN

I know.

MR. OJAN

You sick?

ETHAN

Nope.

MR. OJAN

Uh huh. Well, okay. You understand if you leave now you won't get paid for the time you've already been here.

ETHAN

Okay.

MR. OJAN

Okay.

ETHAN

Bye, now. Good luck to ya.

MR. OJAN

Ya. Thanks.

Ethan walks out of the office, smiling.

I/E. ETHAN'S CAR - AFTERNOON

Ethan pulls out of the Wilson Ranch parking area. He heads down the road back to his apartment. He sees weird lights in the distance. The sound of a siren echoes. Ethan slows down a bit. The lights get closer. 4 police cars pass Ethan's car. The last car says "Immigration" on the side of it. Ethan looks through his over-head mirror and sees the police cars pull into the Wilson Ranch.

ETHAN

Goodbye Fred.

INT. ETHAN'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Ethan sits on the edge of his couch with his laptop on his lap. He types in Galveston into a map finding website. Directions appear on the computer screen. Ethan turns around looking for a pen and paper. He finds a pen and grabs the piece of paper with Samantha's phone number on it. He turns the piece of paper over and writes the directions to Galveston on it. Alex opens the door and walks into the apartment.

ALEX

Did you see em?

ETHAN

Yep.

ALEX

They said they would go check it out today. I tried to call you. Did

you get out?

ETHAN

Ya.

ALEX

You could of been in some shit man.

ETHAN

I know.

Ethan closes the laptop. He stands up and puts the directions in his back pocket. Ethan grabs his wallet and cell phone and starts heading out the door.

ALEX

Hey.

Alex holds his arms out for a hug.

ETHAN

I got to go man.

ALEX

You got time.

Ethan walks over to Alex and puts his arm around him. Alex hugs him tight $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) +\left(1\right) +$

ALEX (CONT'D)

I'm out man.

Ethan looks confused.

ALEX (CONT'D)

I'm going to go take care of my sister.

Alex lets go of Ethan.

ETHAN

All right.

ALEX

Why don't you give Samantha a call. She said she gave you her number.

ETHAN

Ya.

ALEX

All right then. Don't hold yourself up in here man. Get out there and enjoy yourself. All right?

ETHAN

Ya.

ALEX

Okay. I know you got stuff to do so...

ETHAN

It's fine. You need help packing or anything?

ALEX

It's all ready to go.

ETHAN

Okay.

ALEX

Hey, I'll be back, we'll do something.

ETHAN

Ya.

ALEX

All right man.

Alex leaves the apartment. Ethan pulls out the directions in his back pocket and looks at them. He turns the paper around and sees Samantha's number. He takes a moment. He flips the paper back around and looks at the directions. He turns the paper back over to look at Samantha's number. He flips the paper over again. He takes a moment. He breaths out. He flips the piece of paper into the air. It spins. It lands on the ground. The side with Samantha's number on it faces upwards. Ethan bends down and picks up the piece of paper. He pulls out his cell phone and types in the number. He presses the call button. It rings.

SAMANTHA

Hello.

Ethan hangs up the phone

I/E. ETHAN'S CAR

Ethan drives with the windows down. He passes a sign that reads "College Station 50". He passes a clearing where loggers are gathering wood. He waves to the loggers. One of them waves back.

EXT. OUTSIDE JORDAN'S DORM - AFTERNOON

Ethan stands outside the door to Ethan's dormitory. Jordan comes down the stairs and opens the door and steps outside.

JORDAN

What are you doing here?

ETHAN

You want to go to the beach?

JORDAN

Why didn't you call last night?

ETHAN

I'm sorry sweetheart. I was tired. But I'm here now.

JORDAN

I know.

ETHAN

So if you want to go to Galveston, we have to leave now. Right now or else we won't have enough time to spend out there.

Ethan smiles at Jordan.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Please.

Jordan sighs.

I/E. ETHAN'S CAR - AFTERNOON

Ethan drives with Jordan in the passenger seat. Ethan holds the piece of paper with directions in one hand while he drives with the other.

JORDAN

What time are we going to get there?

ETHAN

When we get there.

Ethan puts the directions in his back pocket. Ethan smiles at Jordan.

JORDAN

No seriously, I have homework and stuff.

ETHAN

You can do it tomorrow, I'll get you back by midnight I promise.

JORDAN

So where is this coming from?

ETHAN

What?

JORDAN

This trip thing.

ETHAN

Well I knew you wanted to go. That good enough?

JORDAN

I just don't know what's going on in that silly little head of yours.

ETHAN

You don't want to know.

Jordan glares at Ethan. Ethan stares back at Jordan.

JORDAN

Hey!

Jordan points toward an oncoming car. Ethan has drifted slightly into the oncoming lane. Ethan quickly jerks the car back into the original lane.

ETHAN

I'm so sorry. Are you okay?

JORDAN

Ya, just be more careful.

ETHAN

I'm really sorry.

JORDAN

It's okay. We're fine. Everything's fine.

Jordan puts her hand on Kevin's shoulder. She rubs his shoulder and then grabs his hand. Ethan sits back and smiles at Jordan.

I/E. ETHAN'S CAR AT GALVESTON BEACH - AFTERNOON

Ethan and Jordan drive up to the edge of the beach and Ethan parks the car. Ethan looks out onto the beach.

ETHAN

This is great. You know I've only been here once, when I was like nine.

JORDAN

I love it here.

ETHAN

You ready?

JORDAN

Ya, just let me get the sunscreen.

Ethan opens his door and gets out. A slip of paper falls out of his back pocket and lands on the driver seat. Jordan notices the piece of paper. She grabs it and bring it to her face. The piece of paper has Samantha's phone number on it. Jordan watches from the car as Ethan runs toward the water, taking off his shirt as he runs.

EXT. GALVESTON BEACH - AFTERNOON

Jordan sits on a towel. Ethan is swimming in the ocean. He swims over toward the beach. He gets out and walks toward Jordan. Ethan tilts his head and shakes it as he tries to get water out of his ear.

ETHAN

I think I got a fish in there or something.

JORDAN

I doubt that.

ETHAN

Oh ya. Well why don't you check?

Ethan jumps on top of Jordan and wrestlers her. At first she doesn't laugh. She looks angry at Ethan.

JORDAN

No, stop!

ETHAN

Come on. Why don't you check, huh? Right in there, look.

Ethan shoves his ear into Jordan's face. Jordan starts to laugh a little.

JORDAN

No, no, no! I'm going to bite you.

ETHAN

Okay, okay. Don't bite the Ethan.

Ethan gets off of Jordan and sits next to her.

JORDAN

You having fun, my little snoodleberry.

ETHAN

Yes I am. The bank drops off about 30 feet out. It goes from five feet deep to 50 in about a second. Why aren't you getting in the water?

JORDAN

Oh, I'm not in the mood.

ETHAN

Well get in the mood. We're at the beach. We don't come here a lot.

JORDAN

We don't come here ever.

ETHAN

Well, we're busy.

JORDAN

We do things you like to do.

ETHAN

We do stuff you want to do.

JORDAN

When? When have we ever done something I suggested.

ETHAN

We're at the beach.

JORDAN

Before this.

ETHAN

I don't know. I'm sorry.

JORDAN

It's okay. I...

ETHAN

What?

JORDAN

It's not okay.

ETHAN

All right.

JORDAN

You can't just put a band aid over all this and expect me to be okay with everything.

ETHAN

What do you mean by everything?

JORDAN

I mean everything. The distance, you being a dick, our families.

ETHAN

What's wrong with my family.

JORDAN

Nothing. They're just different.

ETHAN

Different how?

JORDAN

Well, they have money.

ETHAN

So?

JORDAN

You don't understand.

ETHAN

I don't.

JORDAN

Cause you're not trying. You never try.

ETHAN

I brought you here.

JORDAN

Look, Ethan. I know.

ETHAN

Know what?

JORDAN

It's all right. You don't have to treat me nice so you can break up with me.

ETHAN

No, that's not it.

JORDAN

I know what you've been doing.

ETHAN

I haven't done anything!

JORDAN

Forget it. I understand what's going on so why don't you just take me home.

ETHAN

No.

JORDAN

I can't keep doing this, all right?

ETHAN

Okay.

Ethan lays down on the towel. Jordan stands up and starts

walking toward the car. Ethan sits up and looks at her. He looks at the ocean. The breeze hits his face. He gets up and walks toward the ocean. He jumps into the ocean and starts swimming. He turns around to his back and starts backstroking. Ethan takes one big breath and dives backward into the water. He violently swims down at a fast pace. He starts to slow his swimming and finally stops. He suspends himself in the water. He opens his eyes. He looks around. The sun lights up some of the area surrounding him. He closes his eyes. He opens them again and looks toward the floor of the ocean about 20 feet away. A cow swims softly through the water. The sun highlights the cows figure as the cow swims off into the ocean. The cow disappears from sight. Ethan looks up toward the surface. He starts swimming upwards as fast as he can.

He breaks the surface and shoots halfway out of the water. He breaths heavily. Jordan had already jumped in swimming after Ethan. She is about halfway to Ethan when he shoots out from the water. The waves are pushing her back.

JORDAN

Ethan! Ethan!

Jordan gets closer to Ethan. She reaches $\mathop{\text{\rm him}}\nolimits$ and grabs onto $\mathop{\text{\rm him}}\nolimits$.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I'm so sorry. It's okay. We're fine. Nothing's going to happen. I'm not going anywhere. It's okay.

Ethan looks up to the sky as Jordan holds onto him.

I/E. ETHAN'S CAR - LATE AFTERNOON

Ethan drives. Jordan sleeps in the passenger seat of the car with a towel around her. Ethan looks at her and caresses her face.

I/E. ETHAN'S CAR - NIGHT

Ethan drives past a sign that reads "Highway 6". He sees the same weird lights in the distance. He reaches the fires and pulls over the car. It's the same set-up of fires as before. Ethan turns to Jordan and grabs her hand. He squeezes it.

ETHAN

Hey. I want you to see something.

JORDAN

Where are we?

ETHAN

We're almost there, just get out

with me for a second.

Jordan and Ethan get out of the car. Ethan turns around and leans up against the driver side of the car. Jordan looks at the fire and smiles. She walks over to Ethan's side and put's his arm around her.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

I got to tell you something.

I/E. ETHAN'S CAR - NIGHT

Ethan drives. Jordan is in the passenger seat. Jordan's eye make-up runs down her face and her eyes are red. Ethan looks at Jordan. She stares straight ahead.

JORDAN

Just tell me one thing. Was all of this a waste?

ETHAN

No. I don't think so.

EXT. OUTSIDE JORDAN'S DORM - LATE NIGHT

Jordan and Ethan stand outside Jordan's dorm. Ethan stands in front of her.

ETHAN

Are you going to be okay?

JORDAN

Ya, I'll just rebound and sleep with a couple hundred guys.

ETHAN

Glad you have a plan.

JORDAN

So are we really done?

ETHAN

I don't know.

JORDAN

I think we are.

Ethan nods.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

Maybe in another life.

ETHAN

Reincarnation is always an option.

Jordan laughs a little.

JORDAN

Okay.

ETHAN

Okay.

Jordan turns around and opens the door to her dormitory. She hurries inside without looking back. Ethan stands staring at the door.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Okay.

Ethan turns around and walks toward his car.

I/E. ETHAN'S CAR - LATE NIGHT

Ethan drives on the road to Huntsville. Ethan passes by the fires. One small log lies separate from the fire. The light from the fire gleams on the bark, but the log is just out of reach of the fire.

EXT. THE WOODS - LATE MORNING

5 years later. A small log stand upright on a stump. An axe crashes down breaking the log in two. Ethan pulls the axe out of the stump and slumps it over his shoulder. Ethan has a slight beard. Ethan puts another log on the stump. He swings the axe down again.

EXT. THE WOODS - AFTERNOON

Ethan sits with a group of LOGGERS eating lunch.

ETHAN

But what about responsibility. I don't think you're taking that in to account.

LOGGER #1

I'm talking about free will here.

ETHAN

But even if the big man was up there. Shouldn't we still have responsibility right here on earth.

LOGGER #1

Why can't we have both.

LOGGER #2

Ya.

ETHAN

I don't see anything wrong with that.

LOGGER #3

All right. We'll continue this later. Everybody up.

The men get up.

EXT. THE WOODS - AFTERNOON

Ethan walks through the trees with his axe on his shoulder. Logger #2 runs up to catch up with Ethan. LOGGER #2 is a bit younger than Ethan.

LOGGER #2

Hey, can I ask you something.

Ethan nods.

LOGGER #2 (CONT'D)

Where in the hell did you come from?

ETHAN

College.

LOGGER #2

What are you doing out here then.

ETHAN

What are you doing out here?

LOGGER #2

Working.

Ethan nods.

LOGGER #2 (CONT'D)

Why aren't you working at a regular job or something.

ETHAN

This is something.

LOGGER #2

Come on, man.

ETHAN

I know what I like, and I like this.

LOGGER #2

Really?

ETHAN

Yep.

LOGGER #2

You know, we never talked about anything except for girls and beer, before you got here.

ETHAN

Nothing wrong with a little women and beer.

LOGGER #2

Ya, but why do you talk about all that stuff with us?

ETHAN

Why not.

LOGGER #2

Cause none of us have any of that college stuff.

ETHAN

Education has almost nothing to do with wisdom.

LOGGER #2

Huh.

ETHAN

But it does help with money.

LOGGER #2

Yes it does.

ETHAN

You ever think about college?

LOGGER #2

I'm still thinking about going back to high school.

ETHAN

Oh ya.

LOGGER #2

Ya.

ETHAN

You know, I know someone who works up at the school. Maybe she could help you out with that.

Ethan drives home. Music plays as Ethan taps on the steering wheel.

INT. GROCERY STORE - NIGHT

Ethan looks at different flowers. He decides on a set of roses.

INT. ETHAN'S HOME - NIGHT

A woman stirs macaroni and cheese in the Kitchen.

INT. GROCERY STORE - NIGHT

Ethan checks out at the store buying only the roses.

INT. ETHAN'S HOME - NIGHT

Ethan parks his car in the driveway. He gets out of his car carrying the roses. Ethan opens the door to his home and steps inside. He carries some bits of firewood and the roses. He closes the door and puts the firewood down.

ETHAN

I brought home firewood.

JORDAN (O.S.)

Snoodleberry!

FADE OUT.

THE END