"ADDICTED"

an original screenplay by

Cristian Nicolae

FIRST DRAFT
04/02/2011
nicoalexandru@gmail.com
FADE IN:

EXT. CHISELET - DAY

It's a sunny day. The great weather is shown on children's faces. As we move around their playing field --

CHRISTIAN, 17, rides his bike. He comes across the street, keeping riding with his headset on his ears. He stops near a garden. He just looks inside, he sees a grey car, then he changes his song from his mobile. He continues the ride.

He goes around the corner. He stops at the gate, getting out from the bike. He enters the garden.

EXT. GARDEN - CONTINUOUS

CHRISTIAN walks inside very slowly, he puts his car near the house. His mother, SOFIA, is washing the dashes. She gives CHRISTIAN a look.

SOFIA
Where have you been?

CHRISTIAN hears only music from his headset. He tries to enter, his mother takes his headset off, almost killing them, she is willing for an answer.

CHRISTIAN
(chewing gum)
Does it matter?

SOFIA
Yes.

CHRISTIAN
I was at Billy. He gave some fireworks, for my birthday. Then we played some catch. Just that.

SOFIA
Your grandma waited for you all day long and you were at Billy? Playing with that punk? Because of you, now she had to pay a drunk to go with her to vintage.

CHRISTIAN
Why didn't you help her?

SOFIA
I'm not a man.

CHRISTIAN
Neither am I.
SOFIA
(nervous)
Cut the bullshit. Go inside and leave us alone, you don't know what responsibility is. Everybody has something to do, you are the only one who doesn't know that.

CHRISTIAN goes inside. SOFIA continues washing.

INT. HOME - BEDROOM 1 - CONTINUOUS

GABRIEL, 12, skinny and brunette, he is Christian's cousin. He is laid on the armchair, watching TV. CHRISTIAN comes in. He lays on the bed. GABRIEL continuous watching TV. No word.

GABRIEL
(breaking the silence)
Did you got 'em?

CHRISTIAN
Yes. Where is he?

GABRIEL
He is playing tennis with Andrew, in the garden.

CHRISTIAN is getting up, GABRIEL gets up too.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
How much did you got?

CHRISTIAN
Enough for today.

CHRISTIAN gets an envelope out of his pocket.

CHRISTIAN (CONT'D)
(looking at the clock)
Go and see if there's someone coming.

GABRIEL
Let's go to the front room. No one is coming there.

CHRISTIAN
(trying to undo the stuff out of the envelope)
OK.

CHRISTIAN and GABRIEL get out of the room. We can see them going through the hall.
EXT. GARDEN – SAME TIME

CECIL, 8, he is Gabriel's younger brother, also Christian's cousin, and his friend, ANDREW, around 11, are playing tennis. They both suck at playing, but they still continue practicing. CECIL stops, he is clearly fatigued.

ANDREW
Are you OK?

CECIL is talking a big breath...

CECIL
I cannot do it anymore...

ANDREW
OK. I got bored, anyway.

CECIL
Let's go inside.

INT. HOME - HALL - CONTINUOUS

CHRISTIAN and GABRIEL get out from the front room. Their noses are somehow red, they looked like they took something. They stop on the hall, and they look in a mirror --

CHRISTIAN
How do I look?

GABRIEL
Don't ask me.

They are both very tipsy.

CHRISTIAN
Maybe we used too much.

GABRIEL
I'm not feeling very well...

CHRISTIAN
Neither do I. Billy is a jerk.

The door is heard. Cecil and Andrew are coming in after some talking with Christian's mother.

CHRISTIAN and GABRIEL move quickly to the bedroom.

INT. HOME - BEDROOM 1 - CONTINUOUS

CHRISTIAN throws himself on the armchair. GABRIEL on the bed. Both try to act like nothing happened, but clearly they look changed.
CECIL and ANDREW come in. Both sit on the bed. They watch TV, a cartoon channel is on.

CHRISTIAN looks more serious, GABRIEL's eyes are like going backwards...

CECIL looks at GABRIEL...

GABRIEL
(to CECIL)
What?

CECIL
Are you OK?

GABRIEL
Sure I Am. Why do you ask me this, if I am ok. Why do you ask me this?

CECIL gives GABRIEL a weird look.

GABRIEL starts laughing. Just like CHRISTIAN.

CHRISTIAN
So how is tennis, guys? I mean, I know how it is, it's the best, but how do you manage it? How good are you?

CECIL
We are beginners. But we are playing ok, we haven't miss any balls today.

CHRISTIAN smiles. GABRIEL laughs. Both Cecil and Andrew are misunderstanding the situation.

CECIL (CONT'D)
Well, me and Andrew will go to play in the front room, will you join us?

CHRISTIAN
Maybe later. Have fun.

CECIL and ANDREW go out of the room.

CHRISTIAN (CONT'D)
Dude, I'm so high, this guy Billy is trying to kill me somehow and I think he will do it one day.

GABRIEL
I want more.

CHRISTIAN laughs.
CHRISTIAN
That's what I said too when I started.

GABRIEL
It's the best feeling I've ever had.

CHRISTIAN
I know that. Tomorrow we will get more. We just need money and my mother isn't going to give me more. There's no way I can lie her like this everyday. I don't even know what I'll say about the fireworks if she'll not forget.

GABRIEL
We will get some money. I have two grandmothers.

CHRISTIAN nods with a smile on his face.

GABRIEL gets up strangely...

CHRISTIAN
What's the matter?

GABRIEL
The envelope, tell me you have it...

CHRISTIAN
Shit.

INT. HOME - FRONT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

CHRISTIAN and GABRIEL open the door brutally. CECIL and ANDREW wince in the same time, scared. They get their hands of the envelope left on the table, some powder has fallen...

CHRISTIAN
What were you doing?

CECIL
(scared)
We are sorry.

CHRISTIAN
Do you know what this is, do you? Tell me!

CECIL and ANDREW remain static.

CHRISTIAN (CONT'D)
(yelling)
Tell me!
GABRIEL
Leave them alone, they know nothing.

CHRISTIAN
If you tell anyone anything about this, you know what's going to happen right? You both going to be food for the dogs, like in the old days, boys. Have fun.

CHRISTIAN and GABRIEL leave the room. CECIL and ANDREW try to breath normally, again. They are terrified.

EXT. GARDEN - MORNING

CHRISTIAN is sitting on a chair. He is peeling corn. Another chair is free in his right. There's when GABRIEL comes in. He sits and starts to peel, CHRISTIAN stops.

CHRISTIAN
So?

GABRIEL
They are not at home. But we are going. I know where they are holding the key.

CHRISTIAN
Okay.

GABRIEL
You must finish the corn, so we can go.

CHRISTIAN
Are you sure they have money in the house?

GABRIEL
Who cares money to the field?

CHRISTIAN
You are right.

CHRISTIAN (CONT'D)
(touching Gabriel's shoulder)
We will be getting the best stuff available.

CHRISTIAN gets off screen. GABRIEL continuous to peel the corn.
EXT. GATE - EVENING

We hear laughs. CHRISTIAN, GABRIEL and DANIEL, 16, neighbour and friend sits on the bench. They are eating nuts.

CHRISTIAN
It feels so great man. Are you kidding me?

DANIEL
You are a genius.

CHRISTIAN
I know, I'm the best there was, the best there is and the best that will ever be. Nobody can say it better.

GABRIEL
Bret Hart could.

CHRISTIAN gets up and he starts dancing to the music that DANIEL plays on his phone.

SOFIA is coming from the garden. She sees CHRISTIAN happier than ever.

CHRISTIAN
(singing)
I'm on fire, take me higher. The desire...

CHRISTIAN gets back on the bench. SOFIA points her view to the ground, looking like he thinks about something. She returns back to the house.

EXT. GATE - MORNING

CHRISTIAN sits on the bench, he looks serious, just thinking watching the cars on the street.

SOFIA, his mother comes in from the garden, she sits on the bench near CHRISTIAN.

SOFIA
Are you okay?

CHRISTIAN
(buffs)
Good moment to ask me this.

SOFIA
What do you mean?
CHRISTIAN
Oh come on mother, your talking like really carrying about me. Your acting is almost perfect.

SOFIA
I'm your mother, of course I care about my son.

CHRISTIAN
You are not showing this, not to me, I don't see it.

SOFIA
Because you don't want to see it. You are not a kid anymore, you are seventeen, you are becoming a man. You need to grow up and realize what life really is. It wasn't easy for me either when your father left us..

CHRISTIAN
Don't tell me about my father, okay? I just don't care about him.

SOFIA
Do you smoke?

CHRISTIAN
(looking in his mother's eyes)
No, mother. I don't smoke.

SOFIA
I wish at least you could call me "mom" or "mommy" like other kids, but you never did.

SOFIA goes in the garden, a little bit disappointed. GABRIEL gets on the bench, he was coming from the garden.

CHRISTIAN puts his hand on his forehead, feeling a headache.

GABRIEL
Are you okay?

CHRISTIAN
(getting a cigarette from his pocket)
I looked in my mom's eyes, right in front of her and guess what, I lied to her. Sometimes I wish I could start this life from the beginning, you know.

(MORE)
CHRISTIAN (CONT'D)
I wish I could just..restart my life.
If this was possible, I would've been far away from here.

GABRIEL
You didn't asked for money?

CHRISTIAN
(smoking)
No Gabe, I didn't.

GABRIEL
You don't want stuff anymore? You can't stop now.

CHRISTIAN
I know, I just have moments, moments which make me think better, think clear at what I am and what I do. I just have moments when I realize that some things I do are wrong, then I just remember that I started and there's no way I'm going back.

GABRIEL nods.

GABRIEL
Do you want to stop?

CHRISTIAN
Not now, get money if you can.

GABRIEL
Okay.

GABRIEL goes inside. CHRISTIAN remains static.

EXT. GARDEN - LATER

CECIL and ANDREW are playing tennis on the field. CHRISTIAN sits on a stone watching the two.

CHRISTIAN sees GABRIEL walking on the ledge.

EXT. GATE - CONTINUOUS

GABRIEL sits on the bench. He tries to unfold the envelope. CHRISTIAN opens the gate, exiting from the garden. GABRIEL jumps out, scared --

GABRIEL
Oh my god, you scared me...

CHRISTIAN sits near GABRIEL.
CHRISTIAN
Where did you got the money from?

GABRIEL
I found them under the table cloth.

CHRISTIAN
That's grandma's money.

GABRIEL
Yeah, I know.

CHRISTIAN
Gabe, we talked about not stealing from grandma.

GABRIEL
(still trying to unfold the envelope)
What did you wanted me to do?

CHRISTIAN
I don't know, something else.

GABRIEL
You weren't that mad when we stole from my grandmother.

CHRISTIAN
You know, I don't know what was in my head.

CHRISTIAN gets up.

GABRIEL
Are you serious about that? You learned me to get high and now you are just going away?

CHRISTIAN gets closer to GABRIEL...

CHRISTIAN
Keep your stupid mouth shut. I don't want the whole town to hear what we are doing, okay? Tell me if that's too hard for you.

GABRIEL
Okay. Calm down.

GABRIEL finally unfolds the envelope. He gets the powder on his finger, he touches it with his tongue.
GABRIEL (CONT'D)
So, I'm going to take it all by myself? This is the toughest stuff that you'll ever get.

CHRISTIAN sits back on the bench, thinking what to do.

CHRISTIAN
Don't be stupid, I won't let you getting it by yourself.

GABRIEL
Where do I put it?

CHRISTIAN
There are people on the street, try to keep that envelope more secretly. Let's go inside.

GABRIEL and CHRISTIAN go inside very quiet.

EXT./INT. VERANDA - CONTINUOUS
They get behind the house in the veranda.
They get down to prepare the stuff.

CHRISTIAN
This is the last time we are doing this?

GABRIEL
What? Why?

CHRISTIAN
If we aren't going to stop now, we will never end this. I know what I'm talking about so just listen to me.

GABRIEL
Oh come on, we are here for the whole holiday, what are we going to do?

CHRISTIAN
We will find something to do, that's not the problem.

CHRISTIAN prepared the powder.

CHRISTIAN (CONT'D)
Go and make sure nobody is coming. I'll be the first.
GABRIEL gets up and goes right to the corner. He gives a look, SOFIA IS COMING.

GABRIEL
STOP !

GABRIEL gets quickly back to his cousin.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
Your mother, is coming.

CHRISTIAN is in some panic. He doesn't know what to do with the powder.

SOFIA is there, no time for hiding. CHRISTIAN and GABRIEL sit on the powder, so nobody can see it.

SOFIA
(in doubt)
Is everything okay?

CHRISTIAN
Sure, why not?

SOFIA gets closer. She sees some powder scattered near to CHRISTIAN.

SOFIA
(changing her tone)
Get up! Both! Now!

CHRISTIAN's heart is pumping more and more, he gives GABRIEL a look, but there's no way out of this. They both get up. SOFIA remains static, she gets down and touches the powder, she looks at the envelope, but nothing is written.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
(trembling)
What's this?

CHRISTIAN and GABRIEL aren't going to answer. Their views are pointed to the ground.

SOFIA gets closer to them, she looks especially at his son.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
Are you going to tell me what's this? How could you do this?

SOFIA looks in CHRISTIAN's eyes.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
(yelling)
Do you have a brain? Do you ? Tell me!
SOFIA just looks at CHRISTIAN for a second. She slaps him. CHRISTIAN has no reaction.

SOFIA gets the envelope, she goes behind the corner.

CHRISTIAN is clearly sorry for what he did. GABRIEL looks like having no remorse. He is just static.

**INT. HOME - FRONT ROOM - NIGHT**

CHRISTIAN and GABRIEL are sleeping in the same bed. CHRISTIAN's eyes are opened, he seems sorrowful. Some tears are falling from his eyes...

Sad music in the background...

**EXT. HOUSE - MORNING**

GABRIEL is sitting on a chair right in front of the house. CECIL is riding the bike right in his face...

  **GABRIEL**
  (to CECIL)
  Stop it.

  **CECIL**
  Who says? I ride my bike where I want.

GABRIEL seems agitated.

SOFIA comes out from the house. She goes to GABRIEL.

  **SOFIA**
  Where is he?

  **GABRIEL**
  I don't know.

SOFIA gets back in the house.

**INT. HOME - HALL - CONTINUOUS**

She hurries. She goes to the front room.

**INT. HOME - FRONT ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

She looks at the empty bed. Her view is pointed on the table, an envelope is there -- she gets closer, it was already opened. SOFIA gets a paper out of it, where there is a message for her from CHRISTIAN, the letter says "Dear, mom!".

SOFIA starts reading...
CHRISTIAN (V.O.)
Dear Mom!  I'm sorry for everything I did to you.  You were right the entire time, I'm a useless son, I've never helped you when it was necessary, I never helped anyone, I was doing things just for my own good and I never think about others, about the family around me, I was just doing stuff to forget about time passing, believe me, my father destroyed my life.  I just want you to be happy, that's why I'm taking off the deadwood.  I want you to know that I'm sorry for the pain I caused, please forgive me.  Maybe we will see each other sometimes again, in another life.  Love you!

During the reading of the letter, SOFIA tears are falling. Now she sits down on a chair and she cries....

EXT. HOUSE - SAME TIME

Gabriel hears SOFIA's crying.  He is destroyed like her, but he seems understanding what's happening, some tears are falling down...

FADE TO BLACK

NARRATOR (V.O.)
SOFIA continued to search for her son all her life.  He was never found.  The word whispered by most villagers was that CHRISTIAN was somehow found, five years later, drowned in a lake and that GABRIEL knows about it, but they kept it secret to let SOFIA believe that her son started a new page in his life, from the very beginning.  But we will never know the truth, this is suppose to be a mystery.  So it is.  Forever.

INT. OFFICE - YEARS LATER

A hand is writing.  Is the hand of a teenager.  He lets down the pen on the notebook and he reaches his hand for a PHOTO.  It's CHRISTIAN and his mother, SOFIA.  He touches SOFIA face in the picture, then he lets the photo down and continues writing...

FADE OUT:

THE END