

NIKOLAI'S ASHTRAY

A short screenplay by
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1. INTRO

EXT. TOWN DAY

Establishing shot of a suburban town. NIKOLAI, talks in a voice-over as people in the town go through their daily hustling and bustling. People are walking in large crowds on sidewalks with sullen faces, large amounts of traffic on the road, people yelling from their cars at each other and honking their horns, a rich woman on their expensive cell phones walking out of an expensive clothing store and making one of the workers carry her items to her expensive car,

NIKOLAI (V.O.):

What is this world I live in?
The world was so beautiful when I
was a kid. Everything seemed so
innocent.

(small pause)

But now, where am I? What happened
to that world?

INT. FAST FOOD JOINT DAY

Nikolai, a neurotic with a negative outlook on the world in his mid-twenties talks in a voice-over while sipping on his milkshake. His tone is jaded and negative, but soft. He's wearing a dark-colored corduroy jacket.

NIKOLAI (V.O.):

There has to be something better.

He looks around the room and sees a very attractive YOUNG WOMAN. Is wearing the bare minimum of clothes and leaves nothing to the imagination.

NIKOLAI (V.O.):

Look at her....

The young woman seems very flirty and open.

NIKOLAI (V.O.):
She must have real low self-esteem...

The young woman glances over to another table across from Nikolai. She smiles and waves playfully at the other table.

NIKOLAI (V.O.):
How sad.
Do you really think anyone's gonna
respect her when she looks
and acts like gutter-trash?

On the opposite side of Nikolai, sit four arrogant assholes, JOEL, ZACK, RIGO, and MARK at another table. They are making obscene gestures and remarks to the young woman.

JOEL:
(very full of himself)
Hey, baby! Why don't you come over
here?

RIGO:
(laughing)
Yeah, sit on my lap, bitch!

Rigo points to his crotch as the young woman giggles to herself. Nikolai sighs in a depressed manner.

NIKOLAI (V.O.):
Disgusting.....

The arrogant/asshole guys keep hollering and making motions to her. Cut back to the Young Woman, where she is smiling and flirting with the boys; blowing kisses at them as the guys yell with glee.

NIKOLAI (V.O.)

Typical. Some asshole who
treats a girl like shit gets a girls attention.

Idiot. How fucking old are you

NIKOLA CONT. (V.O.)

anyway, girl? Fifteen!?

Cut back to the young woman. She is still flirting with the arrogant asshole guys. She playfully bends over and gives the guys a nice look.

Cut back to Nikolai. He casually stands up from his table as if he were going to leave. Instead, takes his milkshake and throws it as hard as he can towards the young woman. The milkshake splatters all over the young woman's back as she shrieks in horror. She is covered in vanilla milkshake.

YOUNG WOMAN:

(shocked and calmly disgusted)

Oh my God! You fucking asshole...

Nikolai is not fazed by her reaction. Instead, he stands in disbelief of his own action. The arrogant guys are kind of stunned. Nikolai says nothing to her.

NIKOLAI (V.O.):

(surprised at himself)

Holy shit! Did I actually do that?

2. EVERYDAY WORLD

EXT. DOWNTOWN DAY

Nikolai, while in a voice-over, is walking amongst a large crowd downtown.

NIKOLAI (V.O.):

Story of my life: I'm walking down
the street thinking today maybe everything
might be all right.....

Above Nikolai, bird shit drops from the sky onto his jacket shoulder. Nikolai stops in his tracks for a second.

NIKOLAI (V.O.):
(frustrated)
...then a big, fat bird takes a shit on my head....

(pause)

Fuck.

With some degree of disgust, Nikolai casually wipes the bird crap from off of his shoulder as he shakes his head a little bit. But, he keeps on walking as if nothing has happened. This sort of stuff is typical for Nikolai, it seems.

Cut in time. People are bumping into him and not caring, people talking loudly on their cell phones.

NIKOLAI (V.O.):
What's wrong with people?

A lady slams into him, doesn't care, and keeps walking without apologizing. Nikolai is stunned, but her reaction is typical to him.

NIKOLAI (V.O.)
Everywhere I look, there's another indifferent asshole.

Nikolai sees a HOMELESS MAN with a Styrofoam cup asking for change on the sidewalk. Many people ignore him. He asks one MAN IN A SUIT who approaches.

HOMELESS MAN:
Excuse me, sir. Could you....

MAN IN SUIT:
(interrupts)
Outta of my face..

The man in the suit rudely slams into and past the homeless man. Nikolai shakes his head.

NIKOLAI (V.O.):
I'm not like them. I'm a nice person.
I help people out when I can. I open doors for
people.

Just as Nikolai says this, when he goes to enter a store, someone who enters before him slams the door on his face and had not held it open for him.

EXT. TRAFFIC ON HIGHWAY DAY

Cut to a large amount of traffic on the roadway. All lanes are moving slowly and Nikolai is on the far right lane where somebody from an off ramp is trying to cut in front of him. Nikolai doesn't notice it yet.

INT. NIKOLAI'S CAR DAY

The car that wants to cut in front of Nikolai is on his left and Nikolai still doesn't notice him because of his blind spot. Nikolai finally notices the man when he beeps at him to let him cut in front. Nikolai waves the man to proceed in front of him and tries to apologize for not noticing him. Instead of thanking Nikolai, as the car cuts in front of Nikolai, the man in the other car rolls down his window, flips Nikolai off, and starts cursing at him.

MAN IN CAR:
(shouting)
Fuck you, asshole!

Nikolai is beside himself. He doesn't know what to think. He thought he was being kind in letting the man in front of him and he repays him like this!?

NIKOLAI:
(to himself)
What the fuck? Are you fucking kidding me?

Nikolai is very irritated by the man's reaction. Even after this incident, the man still feels like his first middle finger to Nikolai wasn't enough. He sticks his hand out of his car and flips Nikolai off again.

INT. NIKOLAI'S CAR DAY

Cut in time. Traffic is still moving very slowly. Nikolai seems to be exhausted. He glances around and observes the other cars. He hears loud music blaring, cars honking their horns. To his left, he sees a man with a total disregard for anything, throws a whole

bunch of trash outside of his window. A cop even sees this and does nothing about it.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD PARKING LOT DAY

Nikolai parks his car in the neighborhood parking lot. He lives in an apartment complex nearby.

3. TURNING THE OTHER CHEEK

EXT. SIDEWALK DAY

Cut to Nikolai walking on the sidewalk by the parking lot a bit later. The arrogant guys, Joel, Zack, Rigo, and Mark are hanging out by their Mustang in the parking lot with loud music playing. They are laughing loudly, smoking, and carrying on. Nikolai walks by them and the arrogant guys notice him.

JOEL:

Hey, take a look at this faggot!

Nikolai tries to pay no mind to them. The other asshole guys laugh and make fun of Nikolai.

JOEL:

Where you going, queer?

MARK:

Going home to fuck
your boyfriend, faggot?

Nikolai shakes his head in anger. He stops in front of them for a second, ready but reluctant to fight.

JOEL:

What's up? You want some of this?
Bring it....

There's no way Nikolai could take on four of them. He continues walking as they throw pieces of trash and Joel flicks a cigarette butt at him.

JOEL:

Yeah, keep walkin', pussy.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD DAY

Nikolai is in a voice-over again as he walks through his neighborhood. His neighborhood

looks like a wasteland. The trees are rotting, the grass is dying, the pavement is cracked, and the houses, for the most part, should be condemned.

NIKOLAI (V.O.):
Nice neighborhood, isn't it?
I'll move one day. I know it.
Trust me.

A Rottweiler chained up on one of the lawns barks viciously at Nikolai as he passes by. There's also a man sitting on the porch. He is disgusting, fat, and bald wearing a wife-beater shirt that has stains on it. He burps loudly as the Rottweiler barks loudly at Nikolai.

NIKOLAI (V.O.):
It's just not gonna be today....

4. MUST SEE T.V. PART 1

INT. NIKOLAI'S APARTMENT NIGHT

Cut in time. Nikolai is in his shitty apartment. Shots of all the areas of his apartment; his bathroom, his kitchen, and bedroom. The apartment is very small and dingy, but even so, Nikolai tries to keep it as clean as he possibly can.

INT. NIKOLAI'S LIVING ROOM NIGHT

Cut to Nikolai in his living room watching television. He is watching the news. There's a story about how a politician was cleared of murder charges, and a story about a brutal rape in the South East corner of the city. Nikolai quickly changes the channel and sifts through a lot of shitty programs; reality T.V. about how a man has to marry a woman with leprosy for one year for a chance to win one million dollars. Her appearance is hideous. On another channel, a program called: *Got Ya!* where they trick a man in a dating game and at the end, he has to guess which one of his dates he slept with has a venereal disease. Five girls are lined up.

T.V. SHOW HOST:
(from the television)
Okay, Bill! Now you have to guess which girl
you slept with has an S.T.D.!!

Bill, the shows contestant, is shocked.

BILL:
(shocked)
W-what!? You can't be..... serious?

T.V. SHOW HOST:
Haha! Very serious! Now choose!

BILL:
(still shocked)
Uh...V-Veronica?

One of the girls, Veronica, jumps with joy.

VERONICA:
(excited)
You got it!!

T.V. SHOW HOST:
You win!!

NIKOLAI: (V.O.):
What shit.....

Nikolai changes the channel again to another news station. On the television, there's a story about a pedophile with a history of sexual abuse on trial for molesting a child and the attorney's making the closing arguments. The camera focuses on the pedophile as his DEFENSE ATTORNEY makes horrible excuses for the man to the jury and it's as if the defense attorney doesn't believe the words out of his own mouth.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY:
(horribly fumbles his words)
This man.....is a.... is a victim! He is a victim!
And....andand should not be persecuted by anybody!
He is a good man with a good heart.....right!

Nikolai shakes his head and changes the channel again. This time, it is a show about celebrities called: *Celebrity!!* On this channel, celebrities are being exposed, their short-lived marriages, their self-indulgences, their arrogant attitudes, etc. One story focuses on a celebrity named Lindsay Holland and the story of her alleged anorexia. She is hideously skinny and she denies all allegations of anorexia or an eating disorder.

LINDSAY HOLLAND:
(on the Television)
I don't know what they're talking about...

LINDSAY HOLLAND (CON'T)
I think I look good.

NIKOLAI (V.O.):
Look at her.....

Nikolai starts to rub his head as if he has a severe headache.

NIKOLAI (V.O.):
Wow. She looks so natural.....just
like a starving child.

Nikolai turns off the television. End scene.

5. TRISHA

EXT. DOLLAR STORE DAY

Cut to next day. Nikolai happily enters the dollar convenience store through the self-opening doors.

INT. DOLLAR STORE DAY

TRISHA, Nikolai's lesbian friend is a cashier for the store. She is short with short, dark hair and has on heavy, dark colored eyeliner. Nikolai greets her.

NIKOLAI:
Hey, Trish! How's it going?

TRISHA:
(happy)
Nikolai! Nice to see you!

Nikolai walks up to her.

TRISHA:

Finally, someone I actually like.
I can't stand half the ass-wagons that
that come into this store.

Nikolai smiles.

NIKOLAI:

Tell me about it. But at least you have
a job. I've been unemployed for about
a month now.

TRISHA:

One month? Jesus, has it been a
month already?

NIKOLAI:

Yeah....

TRISHA:

Well, do you want a job here?
I can talk to my manager.....

NIKOLAI:

Nah. No thanks.

TRISHA:

Okay...

Small pause as Trisha rolls her eyes a little bit.

TRISHA (CON'T):

Well, what have you been up to
lately? I tried to call a few times.

Nikolai shrugs his shoulders.

NIKOLAI:

Ah, sorry. I've haven't been up to much.

Nikolai changes the subject.

NIKOLAI:
Hey, you got that CD for me?

Trisha pulls out a CD from behind the register booth and gives him the CD.

TRISHA:
You bet. Here you go.

NIKOLAI:
Sweet! How much do I owe you?

Trisha puts her hand up and winks at him.

TRISHA:
No charge.

NIKOLAI:
(shocked with glee)
Are you serious?

TRISHA:
(happily)
For you, Nick, anything.

NIKOLAI:
Oh, man! You're the best!
Will you marry me?

Trisha laughs as Nikolai chuckles.

TRISHA:
(ponders)
Well, if I was straight.....probably not.

Nikolai chuckles to himself.

TRISHA:
Too bad I don't swing that way!

NIKOLAI:
(jokingly)

That's my luck. You just had to be a
fucking muff-diver, didn't you?

They both laugh as Trish punches him playfully on the shoulder.
They share another short laugh.

NIKOLAI:

Listen, I gotta pick some stuff some stuff here.
I'll talk to you in a second, okay?

She waves at him.

TRISHA:

(sarcastically)

Enjoy your visit...

INT. DOLLAR STORE AISLE DAY

Small cut in time. Nikolai has a small basket of items. Suddenly, Nikolai hears a commotion of crying of a young child and a mother trying to quiet her in another aisle. Nikolai quietly creeps to the next aisle to see what all the commotion is. It is a WHITE TRASH WOMAN with a shopping cart trying to control her little daughter.

She suddenly punches the child with a closed fist as hard as she can twice on the little girls back and then one hard smack on the back of her head. The little girl screams in pain. She lifts her daughter up and puts her in the seat of the shopping cart.

WHITE TRASH WOMAN:

(angry and under her breath)

Will you shut the fuck up!? I'll fuckin'
beat yer ass when we git home!

Nikolai is overcome with rage. He is so angry that he is unable to say or do anything. Nikolai's eyes are burning with anger and are almost on the verge of tears. He begins to do something, but holds himself back. He just stands there breathing heavily and imagining what he would do to that woman if he had the balls.

6. MUST SEE T.V. PART 2

EXT. NIKOLAI'S NEIGHBORHOOD DAY

Nikolai walks home with his plastic bags from the dollar store. He is walking sluggishly and slowly with his head hanging as if he were very sad because of what he had just witnessed and is inability to do anything about it. Nikolai talks in a voice-over again.

NIKOLAI (V.O.):
I'm tired not being able to do anything.

Nikolai raises his head in anger.

NIKOLAI (V.O.):
(very, very angry tone)
I once read in the newspaper about this couple from another town. It was about how a husband fucked his daughter.....
... and the wife was fucking her *mother*.
It's the kind of thing that makes you want to just.....

(pauses and calms down)

I'm tired of this shit.

INT. NIKOLAI'S LIVING ROOM NIGHT

Cut in time. It is now nighttime and Nikolai is sitting on the couch in front of his television again as he silently watches. He has a mug of soda on a small table in front of him. One channel has a commercial about a new pill that cures depression. It is called *Happtiphil*. The commercial is very deranged in a way. Everyone has wide smiles that they almost look fake. One FEMALE ACTRESS talks about her depression. In fine print on the bottom of the screen says: Actor

FEMALE ACTRESS:
(sad tone)
I used to be filled with anxiety and feel very depressed after giving birth to my two children.....

Small pause for a sad moment.

FEMALE ACTRESS (CON'T):
that I used to have visions of
suffocating them both to death.....

Her sad tone turns into a happy one as she holds up the bottle of pills.

FEMALE ACTRESS:
(excitedly happy tone)
....But after taking *Happtiphil*, those
feelings disappeared!!

A shot of the bottle on the television. THREE ACTORS are now on the screen, including the female actress. They all raise their bottles to the air and at the same time, they chant.

THREE ACTORS:
(at the same time yell with glee)
Happy!!

Nikolai changes a channel. It is a deranged kid's show. On the show, there is a large, deformed, BROWN MUPPET talking in front of a beautiful garden background drop.

BROWN MUPPET:
(directly addressing the children)
Okay, kids!! Now we're gonna....

The Brown Muppet creature starts spewing large chunks of vomit and makes a horrible sound when it does. Its eyes start to bleed a tiny bit, too.

BROWN MUPPET:
(vomiting)
Blargghh!

Nikolai quickly changes the channel to a raunchy cartoon called *West End*. It is a cheaply made animation; kind of a *South Park* feel. An old man enters the scene.

OLD MAN CARTOON CHARACTER:
(yelling very loudly)
Thorbert!!! Get out here!

A little English boy comes out of the bathroom dressed in rags. He looks like a very small, animated version of The Artful Dodger from *Oliver Twist* and speaks in a squeaky English accent and is holding a ruler.

OLD MAN CARTOON CHARACTER:

(yelling)

What where you doing in that bathroom!?

The small little boy holds the ruler up.

ENGLISH BOY CARTOON CHARACTER:

(squeaky English accent)

Sorry, sir. Jus' measurin my cock is all!

Nikolai changes the channel again. This time to a news channel. The verdict came in from the jury for the pedophile on trial who had allegedly molested and raped a small child. The jury had found him innocent of all charges. The defense attorney and the pedophile jump with glee as he is free to rape another day. Nikolai is boiling with rage as he sees this. He quickly grabs his mug of soda, throws it, and smashes it against his living room wall. Glass and soda fly everywhere. A bit of soda flies into the television circuits and shorts out the T.V.. The wires start to smoke because of the short out.

INT. NIKOLAI'S BEDROOM NIGHT

Cut to Nikolai in his bedroom. He takes out a miniature, wooden baseball bat from his closet and puts it in the inside pocket of his coat. He talks in a voice-over again.

NIKOLAI (V.O.):

This is it.....

7. NO MORE

INT. DOLLAR STORE DAY

Cut to next day at the Dollar Store. Nikolai enters and greets Trisha.

NIKOLAI:

Hey, Trish. What's up?

He hurriedly walks past the counter.

TRISHA:

Hey, Nick! Not much.

He turns around for a second.

NIKOLAI:

Cool. I'll be right back. I need to get some paper towels and a dust buster for my living room.

Trisha is confused but directs him where to go.

TRISHA:

Okay...Aisle 7 is the cleaning supplies. I don't know about "dust busters", though.

Nikolai gives a half-smile and proceeds to the aisles.

Cut in time. It seems Nikolai has found a dust buster. When he approaches the cashier counter, he sees a SNOTTY, RICH MAN arguing with Trisha. He's a real smug and condescending asshole.

SNOTTY MAN:

What the hell is this!? Some sort of scam?

Trisha is trying to remain calm, but it's apparent that she's really upset.

TRISHA:

(calmly)

Sir, I'm sorry. I can't give your money back. You need your receipt. It's the store's policy.

The snotty man becomes more angry.

SNOTTY MAN:

Do you understand English?
Are you a fucking moron?
I fucking told you, idiot, that my receipt was thrown away. Your store refunded money for me before without a receipt!

Trisha tries to remedy the situation. She is still remaining calm but getting some tears in her eyes.

TRISHA:

Sir, can you please calm down?
I can call my manager over....

Snotty man becomes more and more belligerent.

SNOTTY MAN:

I don't want to speak to your fucking manager,
dumbass! Just give me my god damned refund!
Do you have a brain, bitch? Or are you too stupid?

TRISHA:

I can't, sir. I could lose my job....

SNOTTY MAN:

Fuck your shitty job, you ugly bitch!
You're lucky to even have a job.

Trisha has tears streaming.

SNOTTY MAN:

(extremely sarcastic and unsympathetic)
Oh, you're gonna fucking cry now?
Aw, poor dyke. Maybe if you weren't
a stupid, dyke bitch you would know how
to do your job!

Nikolai's anger is growing as he witnesses all of this.

SNOTTY MAN:

You know what? Keep your stupid bullshit
and your refund.

Snotty man throws his merchandise into her face.

SNOTTY MAN:

I'm not coming back here.

Snotty man leaves the store. Nikolai rushes up to a crying Trisha. He puts a hand on her to comfort her for a second and then rushes out the door to follow the snotty man to his car.

EXT. DOLLAR STORE PARKING LOT DAY

Nikolai follows quickly behind the Snotty Man who is walking to his Mercedes. Nikolai pulls out his miniature bat, runs at him from behind and violently pushes the Snotty Man against his car. The Snotty Man falls to the ground shocked and hurt by the impact from against the car and the pavement. Nikolai is stunned himself at what he had just done. The Snotty Man pleads for him to stop.

SNOTTY MAN:
(fearful)
What are you doing?

Nikolai says nothing. He just stands over the man and is panting hard. Almost hyper-ventilating. He takes his bat and smashes the man's driver side-view mirror to bits. The snotty man is horrified. Nikolai hurriedly runs away from the scene and can't believe what he had just done. He had finally stuck up for a friend.

EXT. SIDEWALK OF DOWNTOWN DAY

Nikolai keeps running in a voice-over.

NIKOLAI (V.O.):
What am I doing?

Nikolai slows down and tries to catch his breath.

NIKOLAI (V.O.):
I think I'm in way over my head.
And I don't want to get Trisha in trouble.
I probably did, too.

(pause)

NIKOLAI CONT. (V.O.)
But what an asshole.....

Nikolai catches his breath and continues walking down the street.

8. NIKOLAI'S DECISION

Cut in time, Nikolai walks calmly along the sidewalk. Up ahead he hears a commotion in front of a convenience store.

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE

Cut to arrogant guys Joel, Mark, Rigo, and Zack. They are with another girl. Zack has his arm around her as they are pushing around a NERDY KID. The nerdy kid looks like the type of person that wouldn't hurt a fly. The kid doesn't know what's happening and is very scared and confused to why he's being pushed around.

JOEL:

Didn't you hear me, retard?
You were looking at Zack's girl!
Weren't you, faggot?

NERDY KID:

(confused and scared)
N-n-no.

They all laugh as Joel pushes the disabled kids face.

JOEL:

Yeah, you better not be!
I'll smash your skull in!

Joel pushes him against the wall as the others laugh. Nikolai sees this from across the street. His eyes are burning with anger.

NIKOLAI:

(to himself)
Fucking pieces of

Nikolai takes out his bat and starts to go after them, but the STORE CLERK, an older gentleman, comes out of the convenience store to break up the commotion.

STORE CLERK:

Hey! You leave that kid alone!
Get the hell outta here or I'll call
STORE CLERK CONT..
the cops!

The arrogant guys and girl cuss at him as they start to scatter away and away from the nerdy kid.

JOEL:
Whatever....

They start to leave. The Store Clerk checks if the nerdy kid is all right.

JOEL:
(to the disabled kid)
You gut lucky, retard.

Joel and others leave. Rigo, Zack, and the girl go one way and Joel and Mark go the other.

MARK:
(to Rigo and Zack)
We'll meet up with you guys later....

They part ways. Nikolai decides to follow Joel and Mark. He follows closely but quietly behind them, being careful not to be scene as he hears tries to listen to their conversation. They stop at the end of the sidewalk, still close to the convenience store, as Nikolai keeps out of sight in an alleyway. Nikolai listens in on them and talks in a voice-over.

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE SIDEWALK DAY

NIKOLAI'S IMAGINATION / DREAM SEQUENCE (What he wanted to do)

JOEL:
We going out tonight?

MARK:
Hell yeah, man! I'll pick you up at 8.

JOEL:
Sweet, man. I'm gonna get myself some pussy tonight!

NIKOLAI (V.O.):
No. No you won't.....
Not this time, you fuck.

MARK:
Fuckin' right, dogg! You know it.

Mark and Joel slap hands as they part ways.

JOEL:
Later, bro!

NIKOLAI (V.O.):
Tonight, you'll be at home alone in front of your
T.V. set, you piece of shit.....

MARK:
See ya then, bro!

NIKOLAI (V.O.)
With your dick in your right hand.....

Joel turns around towards the alley where Nikolai is hiding. He readies his bat.

NIKOLAI (V.O.):
...and you'll be cumming all over your own
fuckin'...

Nikolai jumps out of the alley and surprises Joel. Nikolai swings the bat as hard as he can to Joel's face.

NIKOLAI (V.O.)
(in a very rageful, loud tone)
....face!!

The bat makes impact with Joel's face and makes a sickening sound of hard oak smacking against flesh and bone. Joel immediately falls to the ground and is knocked out. Blood is pouring all over his face as he twitches on the ground. Nikolai is shocked. He can't believe what he had just done. He pants heavily as a WITNESS steps out of a parked car along the street. He sees Joel on the ground and yells at Nikolai.

WITNESS:
Hey! What just.....

The Witness sees Joel on the ground.

WITNESS:
(shocked)
Oh my God! What happened? What
did you do?

Nikolai makes a run for it and escapes the scene.

WITNESS:
Hey! Stop! I'm gonna call the police!

INT. NIKOLAI'S HOUSE DAY

Nikolai enters his house panting with beads of sweat on his forehead. He runs to the bathroom.

INT. NIKOLAI'S BATHROOM DAY

He starts to vomit in the toilet because he is so overcome of what he had just done.

NIKOLAI (V.O.)
(remorseful)
What have I done?

He hangs his head very low.

NIKOLAI (V.O.):
I've become like them.

INT. NIKOLAI'S KITCHEN DAY

Cut to Nikolai in a medium shot in the kitchen.

NIKOLAI (V.O.):
I've become like everyone else.....
an angry, violent sack of shit...

Cut to a close up.

NIKOLAI (V.O.):
This is it.....I'm finished

I'm nothing. The world has gotten
the best of me. My own world is the only
place I can go.

Cut back to a medium and then a tracking shot as Nikolai moves from the kitchen into the living room.

9. MY PERFECT WORLD.

DAY DREAM SEQUENCE (CONT....)

INT. NIKOLAI'S LIVING ROOM DAY

Nikolai picks up a small tank of gasoline that is mysteriously placed on the table. He picks it up and pours it all over himself until he is completely soaked in gasoline. He moves to the front door and exits his house.

EXT. NIKOLAI'S NEIGHBORHOOD DAY

Nikolai exits his apartment and to the sidewalk to start Nikolai's day dream sequence. When he gets to the sidewalk, the camera tracks/dollies follows him from the side as he walks down his neighborhood's sidewalk. He suddenly, from out of nowhere, bursts into flames. He is totally engulfed in fire but it somehow doesn't bother him as he starts to walk casually down the sidewalk. Beautiful and sad classical music plays in the non-diegetic background.

The once shitty looking neighborhood is now a beautiful one. The grass is so green it makes your eyes hurt, and litter free. The houses are beautiful and the trees, flowers, and bushes are in full bloom, and the sidewalk is perfectly paved. The entire neighborhood has been transformed into a paradise as Nikolai walks down the sidewalk on fire and as the camera tracks him from the side and is in semi-slow motion.

Everyone is happy, too. Neighbors are waving at him. Nikolai waves back at them and smiles, but the fire is starting to burn his flesh away. But it doesn't bother him. He keeps smiling even though his whole body is on fire.

Nikolai passes some bushes. He accidentally brushes up against them and they start to catch fire. Suddenly, the whole bush is on fire. Everything beautiful Nikolai passes on his left becomes engulfed in flames. More neighbors are waving hello to Nikolai, not caring that he has set their whole lawn on fire. An older couple passes Nikolai by, they wave and smile at him and Nikolai waves back, but as soon as Nikolai passes them, the old couple are set on fire. They fall to the ground screaming from the pain.

Joel is also up ahead. He, now, is very clean cut, shaven, and in a suit and tie. He is now also very friendly. Joel waves and smiles, puts up his hand for Nikolai to give a “high five”.

JOEL:
High-Five!!

NIKOLAI:
Yeah!

Joel and Nikolai give each other a high-five. However, Joel’s arm sets on fire and then his whole body. Nikolai passes by casually and keeps on walking down the sidewalk. Joel screams as he falls dead as he is burned alive.

Nikolai keeps on walking as the camera keeps tracking him from his right side. His appearance is degrading more and more from the fire. He sees that the white trash, bald, fat neighbor is no longer grotesque. He is thinner and better looking and is watering his plants. He waves to Nikolai and Nikolai waves back. When Nikolai waves this time, his right arm burns off and falls to the ground. It is black and splatters into ashes as it hits the ground. The neighbor’s dog is no longer a Rottweiler, either. It is now a friendly little poodle that runs towards Nikolai and wants to play. It runs around Nikolai as he walks a couple times, jumps up on his leg and the dog sets on fire as well. The poodle yelps in pain and burns to death. We also see that a large tree Nikolai accidentally touched and passed by is now also on fire.

Trisha is also approaching Nikolai from the opposite side. She is now happy, colorful, and more beautiful than she was as she prances merrily towards Nikolai. Her hair is long and golden, her smile is bright and her eyes are bluer than the sea. And she no longer is a neurotic who is afraid the world. She is waving around colorful ribbons as she dances towards Nikolai. She passes him and she also sets on fire and burns to death.

Up ahead, Nikolai, still on fire, approaches his car. Nikolai’s face and body are now turning very black from the fire. Behind him, the whole neighborhood has been set ablaze because of Nikolai’s flaming body. He gets in his car, and the whole car starts to set fire. He starts it up and he and the flaming car pull out into the street.

EXT. HIGHWAY DAY

Nikolai and his flaming car pull out into the highway. There is a ton of traffic but they all stop and leave a clear space for Nikolai to enter. Everyone on the road is happy and nice. They all wave from out of their windows to him to pull ahead of all the traffic to ride on the open road. Nikolai, still burning, with a charred and flaming left arm, waves thank you to them. Nikolai pulls in front of the traffic with the flaming car now completely destroying the vehicles ability to go any further. The fire finally kills Nikolai as well. As

soon as he pulls in front, he falls out of his car and dies from too much fire. People pass him by with their cars and don't care about his charred/flaming corpse. One person actually runs over his head and the ashes explode all over the street.

END OF DAY DREAM SEQUENCE / NIKOLAI'S IMAGINATION SEQUENCE

10. NIKOLAI'S REAL DECISION

BACK IN TIME

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE SIDEWALK DAY

We are taken back to the time where Nikolai was about to hit Joel with the bat. This time Nikolai's real decision was to not hit him. He had decided not to go through with it after all. Joel passes by the alleyway with no incident and unnoticing of Nikolai waiting for him. Nikolai talks in a voice-over.

NIKOLAI (V.O.)

(sad tone)

I can't do it....

Nikolai drops the bat and slumps up against the alleyway wall in depression.

NIKOLAI (V.O.):

I won't become one of them....

Nikolai sheds a tear as he puts his head down in shame.

NIKOLAI (V.O.):

Doing this won't solve anything.
You did the right thing, Nikolai.
I'm proud of you. Don't become
one of them.

NIKOLAI (CONT. V.O.):

It'll only ruin my life, too. Fuck, I
wouldn't last two minutes in prison.

Nikolai peeks out and sees Joel walking away. He wipes some tears away from his face and recuperates.

NIKOLAI (V.O.):

(hopeful)

Maybe he'll get hit by a truck someday....

A long beat of silence. Then, Nikolai walks the other direction and away from the scene.

NIKOLAI (V.O.):

I won't let the world get the
best of me. Fucking one asshole
up in the world won't set any kind of
example. People will keep acting
in the same exact way.

Small pause.

NIKOLAI (V.O.):

I'll keep living
this ashtray life. Who knows.
maybe someday I'll snap.
But it won't be today. Gotta
keep my head up and ignore
all the bullshit. Just like everyone
else.

Nikolai keeps walking further and further away from the scene. A large amount of birds
soar above Nikolai.

NIKOLAI (V.O.):

Hell, it's not like everything in life is *all* bad.
I'll find something beautiful someday.
I just know it. But what?

(pause)

I don't know.....maybe I'll take some
fucking Happtiphil.

Nikolai disappears from the scene. Credits roll. The End.

