

(Printed with the demonstration version of Fade In)

Rooted

Written by

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1st Draft

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1 EXT. ST. JOHN'S HIGH SCHOOL - MIDDAY

1

St. John's High School is nestled in the leafy suburbs of Brisbane, Australia. Blue skies, white fluffy clouds, and a calm breeze alleviate the sweltering heat of the Australian sun.

Water trickles from a nearby stream down into a shallow creek at the back of the school. The muddy creek-bed is littered with rocks, fallen leaves and the occasional sprinkling of black and green moss. Small fish swim by and insects hover over head. The water is crystal clear and cool to the touch.

RACK FOCUS on the surface of the water. We see the face of a teenage boy in the reflection. The image of his face distorts as the water ripples.

Anxious and introspective by nature, ELIJAH (16) has black hair and soft features.

CLOSE on Eli as he gazes into the water.

CUT TO:

2 EXT. BEACH - 2 WEEKS EARLIER (FLASHBACK)

2

PENNY and Eli walk along the beach as the last streaks of gold fade from the sky. Water laps at their feet as the tide comes in. Their friends are gathered around a fire in the treeline.

Penny's blonde almost white hair complements her tanned brown skin.

Eli grabs her by the hand, pulls her close and leans in for a kiss.

She pushes him away.

PENNY
I'm breaking up with you.

ELI
What?

PENNY
I'm breaking up with you.

ELI
Why? Did I do something wrong?

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

PENNY

It's just... it's not working out,
that's all.

ELI

I don't understand, I thought
everything was great.

PENNY

Look, it's easier if you don't ask
questions. It's done, it's over,
we're finished.

ELI

Is there someone else?

PENNY

No, there's nobody else, that's not
it, it's just... it feels like you're
pretending to be someone you're not.
You're just a reflection of what you
think other people want to see in
you.

Looking at you is like looking in the
mirror.

I'm sorry.

She turns and leaves and doesn't look back.

CUT TO:

3 EXT. ST. JOHNS HIGH SCHOOL - BACK TO PRESENT

3

ELIJAH - THOUSAND-YARD STARE

LIAM approaches in the background. The sound of his
footsteps echos off the concrete buildings nearby. Eli
doesn't react.

LIAM

Hey Eli. Lunch is over, time to go.

Charming and handsome, LIAM prefers to live in the moment,
for better or worse.

He stands over Eli's shoulder looking down at him.

LIAM (cont'd)

What are you doing?

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

ELI

Nothing...
Just fantasizing about the day I get
to leave this place.

LIAM

Cool... Let's go.

Eli stands up but his thoughts are elsewhere. Liam puts his
hand on Eli's shoulder.

LIAM (cont'd)

You alright?

He snaps out of his trance, like waking from a dream.

ELI

Yeah, I'm great. Let's go.

The boys turn and leave. We follow them as they walk to
class.

LIAM

You excited for tonight?

ELI

Definitely. Wait... what's happening
tonight?

LIAM

Jess's party. You remember?

ELI

That's right. Is it just me, or did
she get really hot over the summer?

LIAM

It's not just you. I never really
noticed her before but lately I can't
stop thinking about her.

ELI

I mean she was always kinda cute...

LIAM

But now you actually want to fuck
her?

ELI

Pretty much.

(CONTINUED)

LIAM

Yeah, you and every other douchebag at this school, probably some of the teachers too. Have you noticed the way Mr. O'Brien looks at some of the girls?

ELI

It's not just the girls. Did you hear about him and the chicks from last year?

LIAM

He didn't... Did he?

ELI

No, at least I don't think so. I heard he was texting with some of the seniors from last year and tried to hookin as soon as they graduated.

LIAM

That's fucked!

They climb a long set of stairs and move through the courtyard. Small kids with backpacks half their size rush by in the opposite direction.

ELI

So you're into Jess then?

LIAM

Perhaps...

ELI

Why did she invite me to her party anyway? I barely know her.

LIAM

She didn't. She invited me cause I'm a friend of Clare's, and I'm the one who invited you.

ELI

But she knows I'm coming right? I don't want to show up uninvited and it be awkward.

LIAM

Nah its cool. You know what these parties are like anyway, after a few drinks, nobody gives a fuck.

ELI

True, but did you ask her or not?

LIAM

Look, I asked Clare to ask Jess if I could bring a friend and she was like 'yeah, sure, whatever'.

ELIJAH

I just don't want it to be weird is all.

LIAM

It won't be weird unless you make it weird. Just act cool and it'll be cool.

They come to a fork in the footpath and stop.

LIAM (cont'd)

I gotta go to chemistry.

(motions left)

You?

ELIJAH

English.

(motions right)

LIAM

Alright, I'll meet you in the car park after school.

Liam turns to leave, then doubles back.

LIAM (cont'd)

I almost forgot, we gotta go to Johnny's place after school, then Sam's, then we can chill at my place alright?

ELI

Didn't you see Johnny just the other week?

LIAM

That was more like a month ago.

ELI

And you smoked it all already?

LIAM

So what? Don't be so judgmental.

(CONTINUED)

ELI

You smoke a lot of weed, just saying.

LIAM

I didn't hear you complaining when you were smoking it with me.

Mr. O'Brien, the creepy teacher they mentioned earlier walks by. As he cuts across their path he looks them over suspiciously. The boys pretend as if they've been talking about football the whole time.

LIAM (cont'd)

I'm just saying, I don't think Croft has what it takes to be a five-eighth.

ELI

Neither do I, but I'd pick him over Milford at the moment.

Liam waits for Mr. O'Brien to get out of earshot before returning to their previous discussion.

LIAM

What's the big deal? You know I'm happy to share. Is that what this is about?

ELI

(waves him away)
Whatever man.
(walks off)

LIAM

(shouts after him)
So I'll see you in the car park?

We follow Eli as he continues on his way to class. He turns a corner and runs into Penny.

Awkward conversation ensues...

ELI

Hey.

PENNY

Hey, what's up?

ELI

Not much, you?

PENNY

Yeah, same.

She re-positions her tote bag over her shoulder and returns a blank expression.

ELI

How's your week been? Do you feel like people treat us differently now that we're seniors?

PENNY

Ugh, kind of. I think we're expected to be role models for the younger kids or something.

ELI

If only they knew what we got up to on the weekends. Speaking of which, are you going to Jess's thing tonight?

PENNY

Yeah, I think so. Are you? I didn't know you got invited.

ELI

Liam asked Jess if I could come and she said it was cool so... um I'll see you there?

PENNY

Maybe.

(beat)

We should probably go. I don't want to be late to biology first week back.

ELI

Yeah, of course, I'll see you tonight maybe.

Penny walks off.

ELI (cont'd)

(to himself)

What the fuck was that?

CUT TO:

4 INT. ST. JOHN'S HIGH SCHOOL. ENGLISH CLASSROOM - AFTERNOON

4

Posters of high school classics like *The Crucible* and *To Kill a Mocking Bird* line the classroom walls.

A bird circles outside the window near where Eli is seated.

He watches it enviously.

JOSH

(nudges Eli)

What are you looking at?

ELI

Nothing, why? What are we supposed to be doing?

JOSH

Reading Macbeth. I can't understand half the shit they're saying.

JOSH is another one of the stoner slacker types Eli surrounds himself with. He sits next to PAGE, the teacher's pet.

PAGE

(interjecting)

We're reading from Act 5, scene 5.

JOSH

(sarcasm)

Yes... Thank you Page.

ELI

(to Josh)

I can't do this, it's too late in the day. We leave in like 10 minutes anyway.

MR. STEVENS stands at the front of the class.

MR. STEVENS

Would anybody like to volunteer to read the next scene?

PAN TO REVEAL - Half the kids are falling asleep and the rest are watching the clock as it ticks towards 3pm.

MR. STEVENS (cont'd)

Really, nobody?

As he looks around the room, he sees Page's hand shoot up. Behind her, he notices Eli staring out the window.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

MR. STANFAST

Elijah, what are your thoughts on what we were reading just now?

ELI

Ummmmm...

He scans the page in front of him looking for something intelligent to say but can't think of anything.

He looks to Page but she turns away.

ELI (cont'd)

I'm not sure.

MR. STEVENS

(sighs)

Did you even read the scene or have you been daydreaming this entire time?

He goes to answer but Mr. Stevens waves him off.

MR. STEVENS (cont'd)

Here's what we're gonna do. Eli your going to play Macbeth and Josh you're Seyton.

ELI

Oh, come on, I don't --

MR. STEVENS

Too bad. Whenever you're ready.

ELI

(robotic)

To hear a night-shriek and my fell of hair. Would at a dismal treatise rouse and stir.

Mr. Stevens urges him on, hoping to drag some emotion out of him.

ELI (cont'd)

As life were in't. I have supped full with horrors. Direness familiar to my slaughterous thoughts. Cannot once start me.

JOSH

(playful)

The queen! My lord! Is dead!

(CONTINUED)

ELI

She should have died hereafter. There would have been a time for such a word. Tomorrow a --

MR. STEVENS

No, no, no! You're butchering it Eli, have you no passion?

ELI

(shrugs)

MR. STEVENS

Fine, fine, I guess I'll have to do it myself.

His delivery reminds one of Sir Ian McKellen.

MR. STEVENS (cont'd)

She should have died hereafter. There would have been a time for such a word. Tomorrow... and tomorrow... and tomorrow... Creeps in this petty pace from day to day. To the last syllable of recorded time. And all our yesterdays have lighted fools. The way to dusty death. Out! Out! Brief candle.

CLOSE on Eli - His indifference turns to intrigue.

MR. STEVENS (cont'd)

Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player. That struts and frets his hour upon the stage. And then is heard no more. It is a tale. Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing.

Fist clenched, he pauses for dramatic effect.

MR. STEVENS (cont'd)

(to Eli)

That's how it's done.

He paces around the classroom as he lectures.

MR. STEVENS (cont'd)

(to students)

Macbeth's soliloquy is a distillation of everything Shakespeare is trying to express.

4 CONTINUED: (3)

4

MR. STEVENS (cont'd)
We know Macbeth wants to be king, of
that we can be sure, but we don't
quite understand why.

CLOSE on Eli - Deep in thought.

MR. STEVENS (cont'd)
The problem was not that he wanted to
be king, but that he had to be talked
into it.

Mr. Stevens reaches the back corner near where Eli is seated
and speaks directly to him.

MR. STEVENS (cont'd)
The tragedy of Macbeth's life was not
that his ambition consumed him... but
that his ambition was empty. He was
pretending to be something he wasn't,
something he thought he wanted,
something he thought was supposed to
be.

Eli looks up at him, their eyes meet.

MR. STEVENS (cont'd)
His life was not inherently
meaningless, it was meaningless
because he chose to live his life as
others wanted him to live it...and
that is what he realizes in this
moment.

Just as Mr. Stevens finishes his monologue, the school bell
rings. He shouts after his students as they saunter out the
classroom.

MR. STEVENS
Have a good weekend. I'd recommend
starting your assignment now rather
than leaving it to the last second.
(to Eli)
Eli, can I have a word?

Eli approaches MR. Stevens, who is seated behind his desk at
the front of the class.

ELI
What's up?

(CONTINUED)

MR. STEVENS

What's been going on with you lately?
Seems like your brain is still on
vacation.

ELI

I don't know, I've just had a lot on
my mind.

MR. STEVENS

Like what?

ELI

I don't know, just stuff.

MR. STEVENS

Ok, well you need to get it together.
Normally you're much more focused
than this. If you apply yourself this
year, you'll have a lot more options
at university next year.

(beat)

You do want to go to university don't
you?

ELI

I haven't decided yet.

MR. STEVENS

Look, regardless of what you decide
to do, now is not the time to take
your eye off the ball. Now is the
time to think about your future and
where you want to be five, ten,
fifteen years from now.

ELI

Yep.

Mr. Stevens studies him for a second.

MR. STEVENS

You have so much potential Eli I'd
hate to see it go to waste like so
many of the other kids round here.
All they think about are parties and
whatever depraved things teenagers
get up to nowadays.

ELI

Not me.

4 CONTINUED: (5)

4

MR. STEVENS

Anyway, enjoy the weekend and get started on that assignment. You'll be surprised how quickly time passes.

ELI

Sure thing.

CUT TO..

5 EXT. ST. JOHN'S HIGH SCHOOL. CAR PARK - 5 MINUTES LATER

5

Students flock to the car park.

The younger kids wait for their parents to pick them up while the older kids hangout in their cars playing music and talking shit.

Eli drives a old Hyundai Excel, which is best described as 'sensible'. He see's Liam sitting on the bonnet and gestures for him to get off.

ELI

Hey. How was chemistry?

LIAM

Shit! Mrs. Harrison is such a bitch...

CUT TO..

6 INT. ST. JOHN'S HIGH SCHOOL. CHEMISTRY CLASSROOM - 30 MINUTES EARLIER

6

Mrs. Harrison, a stout middle aged woman with red hair and red cheeks walks around the classroom checking her students homework.

LIAM (V.O.)

She went round the entire class checking our homework one by one. I was sitting at the back shitting my pants cause there's nothing I can do except wait my turn and try to come up with a good excuse in the meantime. You should have seen the look on her face when she got round to me.

We see the guilty look on his face followed by her furious reaction.

6 CONTINUED:

6

CUT TO:

7 EXT. CAR PARK

7

Eli whips out his car keys and unlocks the doors.

LIAM

So she starts going on this rant about how I'm such a failure, like "you have to decide what kind of person you're going to be, or you'll end up a burnout".

(laughs)

Classic.

ELI

Maybe she's right.

LIAM

Yeah probably.

Eli and Liam open the car doors and throw their bags in the back seat.

ELI

I got a similar lecture from Mr. Stevens just now. He says I seem distracted and that I have "so much potential".

(with air quotes)

LIAM

He's right about the first bit. You have been pretty spacey, at least more than usual.

ELI

Whatever, I don't have the luxury of slacking off like you do.

LIAM

Ouch, no need to be a dick about it.

(beat)

Now let's go buy some drugs!

8 INT. ELI'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

8

They get into Eli's car and head towards Johnny's house.

Liam goes to plug the AUX cord into his phone but Eli swats it away.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

ELI
I'd rather just listen to the radio.

LIAM
Suit yourself.
(turns on radio)

Liam reaches for the dial to turn the music up. Eli immediately turns it back down.

ELI
I haven't seen Sam in a while, what's he up to nowadays?

LIAM
Training to be an electrician.

ELI
That's right, he was always good at that type of stuff.

LIAM
That's about the only thing he was good at, that and footy.

ELI
What's the money like?

LIAM
He's still an apprentice, so jack shit. But once he gets qualified it's like 60 to 80 thousand depending on what kind of work you do.

ELI
Not bad and you don't even have to go to uni.

LIAM
Yeah fuck that. Plus it's even better if you do commercial work or get one of those jobs out in the mines.

ELI
Yeah, but most of those guys just spend their money on bullshit anyway.

LIAM
I know but I reckon Sam has more sense than that.

He points toward the intersection.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: (2)

8

LIAM (cont'd)

Turn left at the next set of lights
up ahead.

ELI

What are you gonna do after school?

LIAM

No idea.

ELI

Surely, you've thought about it.

LIAM

Yeah, but I try not to.

ELI

What about chemistry?

LIAM

That stuff is interesting, but I
don't want to do that for a living.
You gotta go to uni and get a whole
bunch of degrees before anybody takes
you seriously.

ELI

So what are you going to do?

LIAM

I dunno, be a burnout, like Mrs.
Harrison said.

Eli goes to follow up but Liam cuts him off.

ELI

That's --

LIAM

It's left down this street, number
37.

The boys pull up in the driveway of a ramshackle
Queenslander.

9 EXT. JOHNNY'S HOUSE - DAY

9

ELI

I know I say it every time, but this
place is sketchy as fuck.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

LIAM

Come on, it's not that bad.

ELI

Mate, you take one look at the broken-down car in the front yard and the grass that hasn't been mowed in months and you think to yourself, 'it looks like a drug dealer lives here'.

LIAM

You're more than welcome to cut the grass if it bothers you that much.

They exit the car, climb the stairs and knock on the front door. They wait but get no response.

They knock again and again no one answers.

ELI

You sure he's home?

LIAM

He said he would be, but you know how unreliable he is.

Suddenly, JOHNNY (26) bursts through the door, almost Krameresque, wearing nothing but an old bathrobe and odd socks. It seems like he's always hopped up on something, but you can never tell what.

JOHNNY

Hey boys, what's going on? Was just getting dressed. Come in.

As he closes the door behind them, Johnny takes a look around to check if anybody saw them come in.

10 INT - JOHNNY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

10

The boys enter the house and walk into the living room. They see a young girl a couple of years older than themselves sprawled out on the couch watching TV. She is also dressed in a bathrobe and is wearing the matching pair of odd socks.

JOHNNY

(to Liam and Eli)

This is Sandy.

(to Sandy)

Say Hi Sandy.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

SANDY
(indifferent)
Hey.

JOHNNY
(to Eli and Liam)
Don't worry about her she's baked out
of her mind.

They walk through the living room and past the kitchen to the veranda at the back of the house and take seats around a wooden table. It's the kind of thing you'd see in an IKEA catalog, except without the bongos and beer cans.

11 EXT. JOHNNY'S HOUSE. VERANDA - CONTINUOUS

11

JOHNNY
You guys want something to drink,
water, coke, whatever?

LIAM
I'll take a water.

ELI
Me too thanks.

Johnny leaves to fetch the water.

Eli pushes away a massive ashtray overflowing with cigarette butts while Liam toys with a glass bong.

Johnny returns with two glasses of water.

LIAM
Who was that back there?

JOHNNY
You mean Sandy?

LIAM
Yeah, are you guys?...
("Fucking")

JOHNNY
Yeah bro. How's school?

ELI
It's only the first week back and I
can't wait to leave already.

(CONTINUED)

JOHNNY

You can't think like that mate, you gotta enjoy it while it lasts. You might not like it now but you'll miss those days when they're gone, trust me.

ELI

I don't know, seems like you're doing pretty well for yourself.

JOHNNY

I'm glad it looks that way to you. This business has its perks. You get to do whatever you want, whenever you want and... you get to keep the best stuff for yourself. Speaking of which, I just picked up some surprisingly good coke if you're interested?

LIAM

Nah I'll just stick with the usual.

JOHNNY

Come on that's boring. I got Dexies, MD, Oxy, Ambien, Adderall, Ritalin, whatever you want man I got it. Why don't you try something new? Who knows, you might like it.

LIAM

Yeah that's what I'm afraid of. That, plus I don't have any money.

JOHNNY

(to liam)

You're loss. Come on, it's in my bedroom.

Liam motions to Johnny as if to ask whether Eli should come with them.

JOHNNY (cont'd)

(to Eli)

Nah just chill bro.

Johnny and Liam leave while Eli hangs out by himself.

30 seconds later - Sandy wanders onto the veranda. She sits down opposite Eli, pulls out a pack of cigarettes from inside her robe and lights up.

11 CONTINUED: (2)

11

SANDY

Can you pass me the?...

She motions towards the ashtray Eli pushed away earlier. Eli reaches over and passes it to her.

SANDY (cont'd)

Thanks, wait, who are you?

ELI

Eli, we met earlier.

SANDY

Where's Johnny?

ELI

He and my friend went to his bedroom to umm... do business.

SANDY

You make it sound so professional.

She motions towards him with the pack of cigarettes, as if to offer him one. He politely declines.

ELI

How long have you guys been dating?

SANDY

We're not. He didn't say that did he?

ELI

No, no, I just assumed.

SANDY

We're just friends.

ELI

I didn't mean anything by it.

SANDY

Of course not. I just... don't want people thinking that, that's all.

ELI

Why not?

SANDY

Because he's a drug dealer.

ELI

Yeah, right.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: (3)

11

She points to his blue and green school uniform.

SANDY

You go to St. Johns?

ELI

Yeah.

SANDY

You guys suck at football.

CUT TO:

12 INT. JOHNNY'S HOUSE. JOHNNY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

12

Clothes clutter the floor. By the looks of it, an intimate moment was cut short.

Liam sits on the end of Johnny's unmade bed while he digs into his sock draw to find his stash of weed. Unlike everything else in his bedroom, his socks are neatly arranged.

He grabs a pair of green and gold socks, reaches in, pulls out a big bag of weed and starts weighting it out on a small set of scales.

JOHNNY

What's the deal with Eli?

LIAM

What do you mean?

JOHNNY

Just... he's kinda square.

LIAM

Yeah but he's a nice guy.

JOHNNY

I completely agree. I'm just saying... there are friends you hangout with when you're sober and friends you hangout with when you want to get fucked up and party. Which one is he?

LIAM

I don't know. I trust him, he's that kind of guy.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

JOHNNY

Fuck that man, that shit's overrated.
What you need is someone who can go
with you, nice ain't gonna cut it.

Johnny goes back to the sock draw, grabs a pair of blue and white socks and pulls out a small bag of white powder. He dangles it tantalizingly in front of Liam.

JOHNNY (cont'd)

What you need is someone who's on
your level. Cause I know you wanna
take it to the next level. You get
me?

LIAM

Yeah... I get you.

CUT TO:

13 EXT. JOHNNY'S HOUSE. VERANDA - MOMENTS LATER

13

Johnny and Liam walk back onto the veranda where Eli and Sandy sit in silence.

JOHNNY

Oh, hey guys.

He walks over to Sandy and gives her a kiss on the cheek.

JOHNNY (cont'd)

You boys are more than welcome to
smoke up here if you want.

LIAM

Fuck yeah.

SANDY

(to Johnny)

I thought you said we were going
shopping. We need to get stuff for
dinner tonight.

JOHNNY

Shit, I did say that.

ELI

Nah it's cool, we gotta go anyway.

Liam is noticeably disappointed.

(CONTINUED)

23. 13
- 13 CONTINUED:
- JOHNNY
Sorry guys, next time.
- Johnny shows them out.
- 14 EXT. JOHNNY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS 14
- He closes the door behind them as they walk down the stairs.
- LIAM
I was sooooo keen to get blazed right now. His bong is like something out of a rap video.
- They get in the car.
- 15 INT. ELI'S CAR - CONTINUOUS 15
- ELI
Better than the Gatorade bottle you have at home?
- LIAM
For sure.
- CUT TO:
- 16 EXT. SAM'S HOUSE - DUSK 16
- Sam's house is newer than Johnny's and built on flat ground but only slightly better maintained.
- Eli and Liam get out of the car and approach the front door. Liam knocks but gets no answer. He shrugs like 'fuck it' and tries turning the door knob.
- It's unlocked. They throw a glance at each other and enter the house.
- 17 INT. SAM'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS 17
- SAM is a few years older than Eli and Liam, although you wouldn't know it to look at him.
- They walk through the house, into the living room and find Sam asleep on the couch. Beer bottles clutter the coffee table next to him. Eli and Liam stand over him and share a glance, unimpressed.

17 CONTINUED:

17

LIAM

Sam!

No response.

LIAM (cont'd)

Sam!!!

He wakes up, disoriented.

SAM

What, what's going on?

LIAM

Chill out, its me, Liam.

He sits up on the couch.

SAM

You scared the shit out of me.

LIAM

You have a big night or something?

SAM

Just some beers with the guys after work.

ELI

How many did you have?

SAM

I don't know, like 2 or 3, maybe 4 but definitely not more than 5. What did you wake me for?

LIAM

You know the deal; I get you bud, you get us beers.

SAM

That's right, so do you have?...

LIAM

I do indeed.

Liam pulls out a baggy containing a 1/4 ounce of weed and throws it to Sam who opens the bag and takes a whiff.

SAM

That's fresh, who did you get that from?

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: (2)

ELI

Johnny.

SAM

I never liked that guy, he's always
fucked up on something.

LIAM

His girlfriend's pretty hot though.

ELI

(to Liam)

That's not his girlfriend.

SAM

Can you pass me my wallet? It's over
by the fridge.

Eli walks over and collects Sam's wallet.

SAM (O.S.)

What are you guys up to tonight?

ELI

Going to some house party. You
remember Jess from our year?

He throws Sam the wallet from across the room. It hits him
square in the chest and falls into his lap.

SAM

(to Liam)

Same price as usual?

Liam nods. Sam hands him the cash.

SAM (cont'd)

(re: Jess)

I think so. She seemed kinda innocent
though, like school captain material.

LIAM

She had a good summer.

ELI

Her parents are going away for the
weekend so she has the house to
herself.

SAM

I remember going to parties like
that, nowadays everyone just wants to
eat pills and get fucked up at clubs.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: (3)

17

LIAM
You wanna come?

SAM
(considers it)
Nah, I think those days are behind me. Issac invited me to his little sister's party a while ago. It was super weird. I felt old and creepy even though I'm only 20.
(beat)
Anyway, let me get dressed and we can go.

Sam gets to his feet, knocking beer bottles over in the process.

He returns wearing shorts, a shirt and thongs. They exit through the front door.

18 EXT. SAM'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

18

ELI
(to Sam)
Aren't you gonna lock the door?

SAM
Nah, she'll be right, there's nothing valuable in there anyway.

They walk towards Eli's car, Liam goes for the front seat.

SAM (cont'd)
(to Liam)
Whoa hang on a sec, you're not gonna let me sit up front?

LIAM
No, are you kidding me? Eli?

ELI
(shrugs)

Sam pushes past Liam and gets in the front seat. They drive off.

19 EXT. SMALL SHOPPING VILLAGE - CARPARK - CONTINUOUS

19

They pull up in the car park opposite the bottle store.

SAM

What do you guys want?

LIAM

Case of Great Northern's, maybe grab some goon while you're at it.

Sam gets out of the car and heads towards the bottle shop.

ELI

Does he seem a bit off to you?

LIAM

No, what do you mean?

ELI

He's different from how I remember him.

LIAM

He's probably just tired dude, give him a break it's Friday afternoon.

ELI

He just used to seem a lot more...
(searching)
Upbeat. Or is that just me?

LIAM

Let's see how you feel after a week of 4am starts.

ELI

Whatever. What's going on with you and Clare by the way?

LIAM

Nothing. Why? Did she say something?

ELI

I heard she's been hanging out with Jason recently. Does that mean you two are done then?

LIAM

(re: Jason)
Fuck that dickhead.

Look, it's complicated. She's just trying to make me jealous, that's all. The way I see it, two can play at that game.

19 CONTINUED: (2)

19

Sam leaves the bottle shop carrying a case of beer. He throws it in the back seat next to Liam and shuts the door. They drive off.

CUT TO..

20 INT. LIAM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

20

Liam and Eli enter the house in the dark as Liam gropes for the light switch. The interior has that sleek yet austere modern look to it. Clean, spacious and angular with cold blue and gray tones.

Eli throws his car keys on the kitchen counter. Liam starts unloading the beer into the fridge.

ELI

Are your parents' home?

LIAM

(shouts)

MUM, DAD, YOU HOME?

No response, just echoes.

LIAM (cont'd)

Nah I guess they're not here.

ELI

How come they're never home? I wish my parents were like that.

LIAM

Don't know, don't care. You want a beer?

ELI

Yeah, you got food?

Liam rifles through the freezer.

LIAM

How does frozen pizza sound? I got Pepperoni and Hawaiian.

ELI

Works for me.

Liam puts the pizza in oven and sets the timer. Meanwhile Eli lays down on an expensive looking couch in the living room.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

Just as he gets comfortable, Liam walks past him down a set of stairs to the basement.

LIAM

Come on. We can hang downstairs

21 INT. LIAM'S HOUSE. BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

21

In contrast to the space above, the basement is reminiscent of a college dorm room. The couches are comfortable enough to sleep on, which comes in handy when they drink/smoke too much and pass out.

Posters of Nirvana, Nick Cave and other 90's rock bands line the walls. There is a laundry room with a sink behind the stairs

Liam retrieves a makeshift bong from behind the TV. He puts it on the coffee table and sits down on the couch.

ELI

You were gonna wash that out right?

LIAM

(insulted)

Whatever bro, if you wanna chop up?

Liam goes to the sink to wash out the bong. He throws Eli the baggy of weed he got from Johnny.

LIAM (cont'd)

(re: coffee table)

There's spin and a bowl and a pair of scissors in the draw.

They shout from one end of the room to the other as Eli chops up the weed.

ELI

So what's the plan for tonight?

LIAM (O.S.)

Don't know bro, smoke some cones, have some drinks, get fucked up, you know the deal.

ELI

Cool. Did you want to catch the train?

LIAM (O.S.)

Sure, when did you want to leave?

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

ELI

I'd prefer to arrive when everybody's
already wasted. That way, if I do
something dumb nobody will remember.

Liam walks over with the bong.

LIAM

Dude you need to chill out.

He puts it down on the coffee table.

LIAM (cont'd)

You can have the first hit.

ELI

You're a good friend.

Eli packs a cone, takes a bong hit and falls back into the
couch.

ELI (cont'd)

Who's gonna be there tonight?

LIAM

Mostly just people from school I
assume, maybe some of Jess's
cheerleader friends.

(beat)

Penny will probably be there too...

Liam takes what will be the first of many bong hits.

ELI

Yeah, she did say that.

LIAM

Oh did she? I thought you guys
weren't talking.

ELI

We're not. We bumped into each other
today, it was super awkward. She
clearly didn't want anything to do
with me.

LIAM

You never told me what happened
between you guys.

ELI

And I never will.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (2)

LIAM

Come on, don't be like that.

ELI

Look, she didn't feel the same way about me that I felt about her.

LIAM

You didn't fall in love with her did you?

ELI

(blushes)

LIAM

That's adorable. I didn't know that, why didn't you tell me?

ELI

I don't know, I guess I was embarrassed.

LIAM

I did warn you. How did she breakup with you? What did she say?

ELI

(sighs)

She said that 'looking at me was like looking in the mirror.'

LIAM

The fuck does that mean?

ELI

Don't know, I'm still trying to figure it out.

LIAM

Dude, chicks are always trying to fuck with your head, I'd recommend ignoring at least 50% of what they say.

ELI

Nah, it wasn't like that.

(beat)

(to himself)

I think she may have had a point.

LIAM

I'm sorry bro, I wish you would have told me.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (3)

21

ELI
It's fine, I'm over it.

Liam hands him the bong. He packs a cone, smokes it, leans back and exhales. The smoke forms a cloud obscuring his face.

22 INT. TRAIN CARRIAGE - NIGHT

22

Torn seats, graffiti tags, dim flickering lights and the faint smell of piss.

Eli and Liam sit opposite one another.

LIAM
Adam's having drinks in the park
beforehand.

ELI
I heard he smokes meth.

LIAM
It was just crack and he only did it
once.
(beat)
At least that's what he told me.

ELI
Still.

LIAM
(exasperated)
He's good for a laugh that's all. Is
it cool if we swing by?

ELI
Yeah sure.

23 EXT. TRAIN STATION - CONTINUOUS

23

They exit the train station and walk to a nearby park.

24 EXT. PLAYGROUND - CONTINUOUS

24

Adam and SARAH are sitting on the swing set in the playground drinking and smoking cigarettes.

Liam and Eli walk over.

24 CONTINUED:

ADAM

Hey bro what's going on?

LIAM

Not much. Any chance I can scab a
dart?

ADAM

You always do this.
(to Eli)
You want one too?

ELI

If it's not an imposition.

ADAM is a live wire, great for a party but not much else.

He reaches into his hoodie, pulls out a pouch of tobacco and
hands it to Liam.

ADAM

Papers and shit should be in there.

Liam rolls a cigarette and hands the pouch to Eli who
proceeds to do the same.

LIAM

(to Adam)
You got a lighter?

ADAM

(checks pockets)
(to Sarah)
Do you have my lighter?

SARAH

I'm pretty sure I gave it back to
you.

ADAM

Don't think so. Did you check your
pockets?

Sarah checks her pocket and finds Adam's lighter.

SARAH

Oh, my bad.

ADAM

(rolls eyes)
Every time.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED: (2)

24

Sarah throws Liam the lighter. He lights up before handing the lighter to Eli who does the same and immediately starts coughing.

Sarah and Adam share a glance but don't say anything.

LIAM

Have you guys met Jess's friends?

ADAM

Nope.

LIAM

Most of them are pretty annoying but a few of them are kinda hot.

ELI

When did you meet her friends?

LIAM

I don't know, some party a while ago.

ELI

Where was I?

LIAM

I don't know, passed out in the gutter for all I know.

(to Adam)

Adam, you got a sec?

Liam and Adam walk behind the slippery slide. Eli walks over and sits down in the empty swing seat next to Sarah.

SARAH

What do you think they're talking about?

ELI

No idea, maybe Liam's slinging some weed.

SARAH

Nah, Adam got some just the other day. I know he was talking about getting on to some coke or something.

ELI

Liam's doesn't do the hard stuff.

SARAH

What else could it be? They don't have anything in common except drugs.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED: (3)

ELI
(changing the subject)
What's the deal with you and Adam?
Are you guys dating or what?

SARAH
We're just friends.

ELI
But don't you guys hookup every
weekend?

SARAH
Not every weekend...
What happened between you and Penny?

ELI
Nothing, it didn't work out, it was
mutual.

SARAH
That's not what I heard but whatever.

ELI
What did you --

Liam and Adam return.

LIAM
(to Eli)
You nearly done with that?

ELI
I am now.

Eli puts out his cigarette.

LIAM
Later guys.

CUT TO:

25 EXT. JESS'S HOUSE - NIGHT

25

Jess's house is a tasteful two story Queenslander perched
atop a hill in the inner suburbs of Brisbane.

Eli goes to walk up the front stairs but Liam motions him
round back.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

As they walk around the side of the house they pass people they recognize from school smoking cigarettes. They walk up the stairs and enter the back of the house.

26 INT. JESS'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

26

Jess is busy meeting and greeting her guests.

She catches Liam and Eli trying to sneak in.

JESS
(calling)
Liam!

LIAM
(to Eli)
Shit, just play it cool.

Jess walks over to Liam, they embrace.

LIAM (cont'd)
Hey, how are you?

JESS
I'm great, how are you? I didn't see you arrive.

LIAM
Yeah good, we got here like half an hour ago, maybe you were in the bathroom or something.

She turns her attention to Eli.

JESS
And who is this?

LIAM
This is Eli by the way, you don't mind that I brought him do you?

ELI
Hey.

She looks him over, unimpressed.

JESS
(passive aggressive)
No of course not, what a wonderful surprise.

LIAM

Clare said it was cool. She mentioned it yeah?

JESS

No. I guess she must have forgot.

LIAM

I'm sorry. I told her to ask to you.

Eli notices Penny flirting with some guy from the football team. Her short black dress shows off her long legs.

JESS

You could have just asked me yourself?

LIAM

Ummm, I just thought it'd be easier if Clare asked.

JESS

What's going on with you two by the way?

LIAM

I'm not sure. I think I did something wrong. She didn't say anything did she?

JESS

Just that she had fun hanging out with Jason last weekend.

LIAM

Where is she?

JESS

Not sure. I saw her hanging out in the living room but you know how she gets around..

LIAM

I'll catch up with her later. Where can we put our drinks?

JESS

The fridge is in the kitchen but do so at your own risk. There are some disreputable types here tonight.

LIAM

Aren't they your friends?

26 CONTINUED: (2)

26

JESS

You weren't the only one to bring a friend without asking Liam.

Jess walks off.

ELI

That's exactly what I was hoping to avoid.

LIAM

Don't worry about her, she's fucking wasted.

ELI

She didn't seem happy to see me.

LIAM

That's cause she doesn't know you, not cause you showed up uninvited.

ELI

What's the difference?

LIAM

Look bro, let's just get some beers and chill out.

On their way to the kitchen they hear Josh calling to them from inside Jess's little brothers bedroom.

JOSH

Hey Eli. Come in, have a seat.

ELI

I'll be back in a sec, I just gotta put my drinks away.

LIAM

(to ELI)

Nah, you go ahead, I'll take care of the drinks.

Liam continues on his way to the kitchen while we follow Eli.

27 INT. JESS'S HOUSE. LITTLE BROTHERS BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

27

Josh and his FRIENDS are gathered around a bong smoking weed. Eli sits in a deck chair next to Josh.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

JOSH
Pack yourself a cone bro but be
careful or you'll end up a zombie
like these guys.

He motions to his friends passed out on the couch.

Eli takes a hit, exhales and leans back.

CUT TO:

28 INT. JESS'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

28

As he enters the kitchen, Liam see's CLARE reaching into the
fridge.

LIAM
Hey.

CLARE
(dismissive)
Hey.

She pulls out a half empty bottle of vodka along with some
orange juice.

LIAM
What's up?

CLARE
Did you just get here?

She spills some juice as she fills up her cup.

LIAM
How many have you had?

CLARE
Just a couple.

LIAM
Maybe you should slow down a bit. You
usually get kinda messy after the
third or fourth drink.

CLARE
(offended)
I what?

(CONTINUED)

LIAM

I didn't mean it like that. It's just that when you get wasted, I'm normally the one who has to deal with it.

CLARE

You're such a gentleman.

LIAM

Did I do something wrong?

CLARE

No, why would you think that?

LIAM

You've just been kinda icy with me the past few days.

CLARE

No, I haven't... at least not intentionally.

LIAM

(sighs)

It seems like you got something to say, but you don't want to say it.

CLARE

What does that mean?

LIAM

You know what I'm talking about.

CLARE

Why don't you just come out and say it then?

She stares him down.

LIAM

Why didn't you tell Jess I invited Eli?

CLARE

(bewildered)

What?

LIAM

What did you think I was talking about?

28 CONTINUED: (2)

28

CLARE

You're unbelievable Liam, you know that? Fuck you and fuck off.

She gets her drink and storms out, slamming the door behind her.

CUT TO:

29 INT. JESS'S HOUSE. LITTLE BROTHERS BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

29

Eli, Josh and Page hang out in chairs and on the couch.

Page takes a bong hit.

JOSH

Can you believe Mr. Stevens this afternoon?

ELI

What do you mean?

JOSH

They way he was prancing round the classroom, what a fucking loser.

PAGE

Don't be mean, he's just passionate about his job. Unlike you and your "too cool to care about anything", act.

JOSH

Shakespeare is lame. Back me up Eli.

ELI

Yeah, it's kinda lame.

JOSH

What the fuck was he even talking about anyway?

(mocking)

"Tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow" what's that supposed to mean?

ELI

(realizing)

It means... fuck what anybody thinks. Don't waste your life doing something you don't want to do just because it's what's expected of you.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

JOSH
Maybe Shakespeare isn't so lame after
all.

CUT TO:

30 INT. JESS'S HOUSE. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

30

Liam is sitting on the couch flirting with some girl when
Adam and Sarah come stumbling through the front door.

Adam walks over with Sarah in tow.

ADAM
Hey bro, how's it going? Party looks
fun.

LIAM
Not great, I've only been here 15
minutes and I've already managed to
piss off Clare and Jess.

ADAM
Nice. That stuff you gave me is
really good. Can you look after Sarah
for me? I think she drank too much.

LIAM
I don't want to deal with her.

ADAM
Thanks bro.

Adam sits Sarah down next to Liam and walks off.

CUT TO:

31 INT. JESS'S HOUSE. LITTLE BROTHERS BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

31

After a series of successive bong hits, Eli is nodding off.
Some drunk guy falls onto the couch waking him up.

32 INT. JESS'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

32

In a stoned daze Eli wanders into the kitchen and takes 2
beers.

33 INT. JESS'S HOUSE. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS 33

He walks near where Sarah is passed out in the living room and out onto the balcony where Liam is having a cigarette.

34 EXT. JESS'S HOUSE. BALCONY - CONTINUOUS 34

ELI
Hey. What's the deal with Sarah?

LIAM
Who cares?

ELI
You want a beer?

LIAM
Yeah sure.

Eli hands him a beer.

LIAM (cont'd)
I'm like 70% sure Clare's cheating on me. I'm still trying to figure out whether it's cause she actually likes Jason or she's just trying to fuck with me. Also, she knows about me and Jess.

ELI
You and Jess?

LIAM
Just that I have a thing for her but you fucked that up for me.

ELI
Don't blame that on me, that was--

Liam points towards two figures making out near a tree in the backyard.

LIAM
Who's that?

They take a closer look and see a blonde girl in a black dress hooking up with some fit looking guy.

ELI
What the fuck!

34 CONTINUED:

34

LIAM
Wait, that's not... is it?

ELI
(nods)

LIAM
That's fucked up. Don't look at that.

Liam grabs Eli by the shoulders.

LIAM (cont'd)
Fuck that bitch. You've already
wasted too much time thinking about
her. She's not even that hot anyway,
no offense. You should be thinking
about the next girl.

ELI
I don't know, I think I need some
more time.

LIAM
Fuck that, I got just the thing to
make you feel better.

He reaches into his pants and pulls out the bag of coke he
got from Johnny.

ELI
What's that?

LIAM
Just a little bit of happiness in
powdered form.

ELI
I don't know if that's a good idea.

LIAM
Just trust me. It'll make everything
better and even if it doesn't, then
at least you won't care anymore.

Eli takes a final glance over his shoulder before snatching
the bag out of Liam's hand and walking off.

35 INT. JESS'S HOUSE. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

35

He walks down the hallway towards the spare bedroom.

36 INT. JESS'S HOUSE. SPARE BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS 36

He opens the door and walks in.

Two silhouetted figures are making out in the bed.

ELI

I'm sorry, I didn't mean to...

He turns on the lights.

The figures turn to face Eli - REVEAL Jess and Adam.

The three of them exchange shocked/confused looks.

Eli turns the lights off, backs out the door and decides to try the downstairs bathroom instead.

37 INT. JESS'S HOUSE. LAUNDRY ROOM - MOMENTS LATER 37

Eli walks downstairs to the laundry room and takes a furtive glance around before walking over to the bathroom and closing the door behind him.

38 INT. JESS'S HOUSE. DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS 38

He whips out the bag of white powder and looks at it for a second, unsure of what to do before emptying it out onto the ceramic surface of the sink.

He uses his ID card to cut a line, then takes a \$20 note, rolls it up and uses it as a funnel to snort the coke.

It feels weird in his nose, he rubs it for a second.

Then it hits him.

He looks up at the mirror and studies his reflection for a second.

CUT TO

39 INT. JESS'S HOUSE. SPARE BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS 39

Jess and Adam scramble to put their clothes back on.

He stumbles around trying to get his legs into his jeans.

She fixes her self up in the mirror.

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED:

39

JESS
You can't tell anyone about this.

ADAM
I wasn't going to.

JESS
It was just a one time thing and I'm
fucking wasted, lets just forget
about this.

ADAM
Fine by me.

She walks out, leaving him half dressed.

CUT TO:

40 INT. JESS'S HOUSE. LITTLE BROTHERS BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS 40

Page is nodding off on the couch next to Josh - her head falls on to his shoulder as she falls asleep. He doesn't mind.

CUT TO:

41 INT. JESS'S HOUSE. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS 41

Sarah is passed out on the couch where Adam left her.

PEOPLE have taken to drawing lurid things on her with a Sharpe.

CUT TO:

42 INT. JESS'S HOUSE. LAUNDRY ROOM - CONTINUOUS 42

Eli opens bathroom door and steps out into the laundry room.

Penny walks in from the backyard.

PENNY
Oh, hey, I didn't think anyone would
be down here.

ELI
I was just ummm... the upstairs
bathroom was occupied.

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED:

He pauses for a second, then walks towards her, shoulders back, chest forward, quiet confidence.

ELI (cont'd)
So you and Dylan huh?

PENNY
Oh, we were just making out, that's all.

ELI
So you guys aren't dating or anything?

PENNY
God no.

He looks deep into her eyes before saying in a gentle voice...

ELI
Why him?

PENNY
I don't know, why do you care?

ELI
I'm just curious.
(beat)
When you said 'looking at me was like looking in the mirror', what did you mean?

PENNY
I don't know, it was just something I said.

ELI
Come on, be real with me.

PENNY
Why are you bringing this up now?
What does this have to do with anything?

ELI
Because I've been replaying that moment over and over in my head for the past two weeks trying to figure it out.

She doesn't hold back.

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED: (2)

42

PENNY

Look, it's just... you're always looking for the easy way out. You're afraid of confrontation, you're afraid of saying no. It feels like you're playing a character sometimes, like you're putting on this act just to make everybody else happy.

ELI

You think I'm afraid of confrontation?

(beat)

You might have been right about me, or at least the way I was but I don't think you're being completely honest with me. I think that what you really meant was that I remind you of yourself.

She doesn't say anything, the look on her face says it all.

Eli knows he's hits a nerve.

He turns and leaves and doesn't look back.

CUT TO:

43 EXT. JESS'S HOUSE. BALCONY - CONTINUOUS

43

Liam is drinking and smoking with Adam. Eli returns from downstairs and walks over to them. Eli and Adam exchange an awkward glance.

LIAM

Hey buddy, how are you feeling?

ELI

Never felt better, we should do this more often.

LIAM

Hell yeah, that's what I'm talking about. I knew you'd like it, I knew Johnny was wrong about you.

ELI

What did Joh --

Josh walks over.

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED:

JOSH

Hey guys, me and Page are about to head out.

(to Liam)

You know Clare and Jason are making out in the living room right?

LIAM

What! I'm gonna kill that cunt!

He jumps up, ready to roll.

Eli pushes him back.

ELI

Let me handle this.

LIAM

What are you gonna do about it?

ELI

Just back me up.

LIAM

Back you up?

Eli walks over to the couch where Clare and Jason are making out.

44 INT. JESS'S HOUSE. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

44

She straddles him. Their lips locked, oblivious to the world around them.

Eli taps on Jason's shoulder.

Clare and Jason turn to face him.

JASON

What the fuck do you want?

Eli stares at Jason for a moment before punching him square in the face, his knuckles connect with Jason's nose.

Stunned, Jason pushes Clare to the side and lunges at Eli. He takes Eli to the ground and starts wrestling with him, throwing punches into Eli's rib cage when he gets the opportunity. Three of Jason's friends witness the altercation and come running in.

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED:

Josh, Liam and Adam run in from the balcony and see Jason and his friends beating up on Eli. They run in to defend him.

Drunk, stoned and a little bit coked up, the boys throw punches wildly but very few of them connect. Adam pushes one of Jason's friends, knocking over a vase which shatters all over the floor. The sound of which brings Jess running in.

JESS

What the fuck! Cut it out!

The fight breaks up momentarily until Adam slaps Jason across the face and the scuffle resumes.

JESS (cont'd)

That's enough! Stop fighting!

The fight stops for good this time.

JESS (cont'd)

What the fuck are you guys doing!

She is irate. Clare walks over to her and points accusingly at Eli.

CLARE

It was him, he started it.

JESS

(to Eli)

What the fuck is wrong with you?

ELI

I don't know. It kinda just happened.

JESS

Ok, Liam. Take you friends and fuck off.

CLARE

Yeah Liam, fuck off.

Jess and Adam share glance.

JESS

(re Sarah)

And take that drunk bitch with you.

LIAM

At least let me get my drinks first.

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED: (2)

44

JESS

Whatever.

CUT TO:

45 INT. JESS'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

45

Eli and Liam walk into the kitchen and open the fridge.

LIAM

Fuck, someone stole our beers.

Eli looks around to see if anyone is watching before reaching into the fridge, grabbing whatever he can get his hands on and throwing it in Liam's backpack.

ELI

Fuck 'em.

LIAM

Yeah, fuck 'em.

Liam joins in. Once they have stolen as many drinks as will fit in Liam's backpack they leave the house.

46 EXT. JESS'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

46

Adam, Josh, Sarah and Page are waiting for them outside on the street smoking cigarettes. Sarah is conscious, but can barely stand.

LIAM

You guys hungry? There's a McDonald's down the road.

They all nod in agreement.

CUT TO:

47 INT. MCDONALD'S - 30 MINUTES LATER.

47

Eli, Adam, Josh, Page, Sarah and Liam sit at a booth devouring their meals. Burger wrappers and french fries litter the table.

ELI

Thanks for having my back back there. I wasn't sure what you guys were gonna do.

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED:

47

LIAM

You're the last person I thought would get in a fight.

JOSH

Don't get me wrong, I know he had it coming to him but I thought he'd get it from Liam, not you. What were you thinking?

ADAM

(interjecting)

I know what he was thinking, it's simple. Somebody needed to give that guy a beat down and he wanted to be the one to do it.

ELI

Yeah... that's, that's it exactly.

LIAM

Next time tell us before hand, that way we can plan it out and it won't end with you getting you're ass beat.

PAGE

Also, next time could you wait till me and Josh leave before you start sucker punching people.

SARAH

It was the coke wasn't it?

48 INT. TRAIN CARRIAGE - 30 MINUTES LATER.

48

Eli and Liam sit opposite one another, same as before.

LIAM

At least Jess knows who you are now.

ELI

I think I preferred it when she didn't know who I was. I'm probably not getting invited back am I?

LIAM

You never got invited in the first place.

ELI

True. I forgot to tell you. I walked in on her and Adam.

(CONTINUED)

48 CONTINUED:

48

LIAM

Doing what?

ELI

What do you think?

Liam takes a moment to process this information. His phone rings as he receives a message, he looks down to read it.

LIAM

Jason's telling people he's gonna beat the shit out of you at school on Monday.

ELI

At least I'll have something to look forward to.

49 INT. LIAM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

49

Eli and Liam walk through the door. Liam puts his backpack on kitchen counter, pulls out a beer and starts unloading the rest of the stolen drinks into the fridge.

LIAM

You want one?

ELI

Nah I'm good. What did we get? I didn't look I just started grabbing stuff.

Liam looks in the bag.

LIAM

Mostly just that garbage girls drink, UDL's and a few Cruisers.

ELI

I was just gonna have a few more cones then hit it.

LIAM

Same. That coke wiggged me out.

(beat)

I wasn't sure how you were gonna react when I offered it to you that's why I didn't tell you about it.

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED:

49

ELI

You should have. What's the point of having friends if you can't trust them?

LIAM

I'm sorry.

ELI

Nah it's fine, I get it, I surprised myself back there.

(beat)

There was something about seeing Penny with another guy.

(beat)

I've been following the rules my entire life and where has it gotten me? So I thought 'fuck it' why not?

LIAM

Come on, let's go downstairs.

50 INT. LIAM'S HOUSE. BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

50

Liam gets some blankets and pillows and throws them lazily on the couches.

They sit down and start smoking.

ELI

How much was it?

LIAM

You don't want to know. Admit it though, you enjoyed hitting Jason in the face tonight.

Eli doesn't say anything but Liam can tell from the look on his face that he's right.

LIAM (cont'd)

You see. You over-think things way too much. I like this new Eli, where have you been hiding him?

(beat)

And don't worry about Penny, she'll come running back once she realizes the mistake she's made. Anyway I'm done, you ready for bed.

ELI

Yep, I'm rooted.

(CONTINUED)

50 CONTINUED:

50

Liam gets up and turns off the lights as the two of them fall asleep.

Eli closes his eyes and lets the darkness take him.

CUT TO:

51 INT. ELI'S BEDROOM - 1 MONTH AGO (FLASHBACK)

51

Early morning, sunlight fills the room. Eli lays awake while Penny sleeps next to him. We catch him admiring her for a moment. He caresses her cheek and toys with her hair before accidentally waking her.

PENNY

What, what, I'm awake.

ELI

Hey sexy.

PENNY

No, I'm tired.

ELI

Too bad it's time to wake up.

He starts kissing her playfully.

ELI (cont'd)

Your breath stinks but I don't care.

She rolls over trying to get away from him.

She eventually yields to him. He climbs on top of her and kisses her deeply.

He looks into her eyes.

ELIJAH

I really like you

PENNY

I really like you too.

She reaches up, kisses him and pulls him close.

CUT TO:

52 INT. LIAM'S HOUSE BASEMENT - BACK TO PRESENT

52

Eli opens his eyes, wide awake, darkness surrounds him as we pull back slowly.

END OF SHOW