

Grunge- a short film

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FADE IN:

The SOUND of steaming milk...

INT. CAFE - DAY

Jerry Shepherd, twenties, a moody looking barista, carefully scoops and pours some milky foam on top of two cappuccinos.

Jerry designs a SKULL and CROSSBONES on top of one. A TOMBSTONE on the other.

He rings a bell.

JERRY
TWO SOY CAPPUCINOS!

A HIPSTER COUPLE arrives and grabs them. They however stop for a moment and look at their coffees in absolute horror.

INT. OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

A MANAGER has Jerry sign a termination notice.

MANAGER
What is the matter with you?

JERRY
I was about to ask you the same thing.

MANAGER
Get the hell out.

Jerry gloomily grabs his bag and exits.

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jerry throws his bag on the couch, reclines, and takes an enormous pull from his BONG.

His roommate CALVIN, also twenties, a suave aspiring stockbroker, is spraying himself with some axe deodorant as he fixes up his dress shirt and slicks back his hair.

Jerry continues to look at the screen on his smartphone, debating whether or not to text his ex SARAH.

CALVIN
Dude, get dressed.

JERRY

What?

CALVIN

Come on, I need a wing man. It's a big party.

JERRY

I don't have wings. Which reminds me, do you still have the number for that pizza spot?

A beat.

CALVIN

Are you actually going to mope around the apartment? On fucking valentine's day?

JERRY

(clicking on the TV)

They just started the fellowship. The orcs will be arriving soon.

CALVIN

Come on man. There's going to be so many fucking chicks there. Great music, free booze, food. Move on.

JERRY

Stop. They're about to fight.

CALVIN

You have to get over her man. Move on.

JERRY

(monotone)

Have fun.

Calvin looks at Jerry in pity and exits.

Jerry takes another rip from the BONG.

After a few moments, the television suddenly craps out and goes out with a pfft. Slight smoke rises from the set.

JERRY

You've gotta be fucking kidding me.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Jerry slams down a shot of some cheap brandy. He stares at the reflection of his face in the glass bottle.

JERRY
 (to himself)
 Hey, whatever you do, do not contact her. Jerry, I'm begging you, don't do it.

JERRY'S drunken alter ego interferes.

JERRY 2.0
 Man, but she loved you, didn't she?

JERRY
 No way man. She played you like a fiddle. Just delete her. She's already a memory.

JERRY 2.0
 Come on, she might contact you again. You know? She might. Nice afternoon, next week, she's going to want to talk about realizing how much she misses you and admit that she made a mistake breaking up. You know? You're a good guy Jerry, just wait it out. She'll realize it soon enough.

JERRY
 DELETE THAT BITCH! DO IT!

JERRY 2.0
 I still love her! Damn it!

JERRY
 Unbelievable.

Jerry pours himself another shot and drains it. He continues to stare at his phone.

After a few moments, he slaps his forehead.

INT. FREEZER - CONTINUOUS

Jerry unravels a CHOCOLATE. Frozen inside some saran wrap.

He unwraps it, and chews the chocolate down all in one gulp.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - NYC - LATE AFTERNOON

Jerry rides through the street on his bike. He looks at all the bright lights that's shining all around him.

JERRY

Look Jerry, you're going to stock up on books, and you're just going to read. Read all day, and all night. You'll be fine. Just stay away from your phone. Stay away from your phone.

JERRY 2.0

Just call her.

JERRY

(yelling)

STOP! JUST READ! READ BOOKS! READ MORE BOOKS!

[Note: Jerry's tripping balls.]

Jerry stops in front of a used bookstore and locks up his bike.

CUT TO:

INT. STRAND BOOK STORE - NIGHT

Jerry stumbles in and makes his way through all the red balloons and images of hearts and cupids.

He makes his way towards the shelves of depressing authors.

Jerry picks out several works by Dostoyevsky, Nietzsche, and Kafka.

As he throws them all into a basket, he glances down the aisle of books and catches the sight of a young WOMAN, thirties, glasses, dressed in all black.

However, Jerry glances down and notices her sparkling RED slippers.

The WOMAN catches Jerry staring who immediately looks away. She can't help but give a slight smirk.

INT. SHELVES - CONTINUOUS

Jerry makes his way down another row of shelves trying to find his way out.

SANDY (OS)
Hey, excuse me?

Jerry turns and catches the woman, SANDY, pointing at a ladder.

SANDY
Do you mind helping me get a book from the top shelf? I don't think I could get up there.

JERRY
(lightly sweating)
Oh, uh, sure. Which book?

SANDY
It's a play. The Iceman Cometh by Eugene O'Neil.

JERRY
Yeah, sure no problem.

SANDY
Thanks a lot.

JERRY
(sweating more)
Yeah, sure no problem.

Jerry sets down his basket and attempts to climb the ladder.

[SHOT: Jerry is beyond his senses as the steps on the ladder begin to wave and morph. He carefully makes his way up to the top shelf and attempts to reach for the play. However, the shelf seems to drift away further and further away from his reach...]

Jerry finally grabs the play and slowly makes his way back down.

SANDY
Wow, thanks a lot, I really appreciate it.

JERRY
Yeah, sure no problem.

Sandy tries to refrain herself from chuckling.

SANDY
I'm sorry but do you need some water?

JERRY
Oh man, I think I do. Is it that obvious?

SANDY
Come on. You look like you're about to faint.

JERRY
I'll be honest miss, my mind's on Pluto at the moment.

SANDY
Right on. Here the fountain's downstairs...

Sandy guides Jerry through the maze of shelves.

EXT. WATER FOUNTAIN - CONTINUOUS

Jerry sips some water as Sandy holds the basket of books.

JERRY
I really have done this to myself.
Thank you.

SANDY
(whispering)
I have to ask, are you in another dimension too?

JERRY
Pardon?

Sandy chuckles again.

SANDY
You're not entirely here, are you?
Don't worry I'm on another level too.

JERRY
Um....

SANDY
I'm Sandy.

JERRY

Jerry.

SANDY

I thought I was going to have trouble with that ladder. Thanks again though.

JERRY

(whispering)

Are you on something too?

SANDY

I took a whole brownie.

Jerry and Sandy chuckle to themselves.

SANDY (CONT'D)

Do you find this holiday as cliched as I do?

JERRY

I would say cliched is a euphemism.

SANDY

(looking through the books)

Notes from the Underground.
Metamorphosis. Will to Power....let me guess, trying to get over the crazy ex?

JERRY

You could say that. Was yours the crazy iceman cometh?

SANDY

Crazy is a euphemism.

Sandy goes and drinks from the fountain as well.

Jerry can't help but smile for once.

EXT. STRAND BOOK STORE - CONTINUOUS

Jerry and Sandy both wander out of the bookstore with their books.

A VENDOR with a box full of ROSES walks by them.

VENDOR

Roses! Roses for sale! A dollar each!
Dollar each!

(to JERRY)
Hey young man, how about a rose for
your beautiful girlfriend?

JERRY
Yeah, sure I'll take one.

Jerry buys a rose and hands it to Sandy.

JERRY (CONT'D)
That's for saving me back there.

SANDY
No problem. Thanks...It was really
nice to meet you Jerry.

JERRY
Like wise.

SANDY
Take care.

Sandy and Jerry shake hands as they both walk off in their
separate directions.

A beat.

Jerry hops on his bike and is about to ride off. However he
stops for a moment and looks back. He shuts off his phone.

He turns around and bikes back towards Sandy.

JERRY
Hey Sandy?

Sandy turns around again.

SANDY
Yeah?

JERRY
Is there any chance you want to go to
a party?

Jerry and Sandy smile at each other as the screen cuts to
BLACK.

ENDING CREDITS ROLL.

FIN.