

"THURSDAY, JANUARY 2ND"

written by

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FADE IN:

ROLL CREDITS ON BLACK.

To: Eric Rohmer, John Cassavetes, Rainer Fassbinder, Richard Linklater, Howard Stern (aka Sternac the Improbable) and everyone who saw this film. Remaining Credits.

While credits roll, open from INT. Alex's apartment at dusk...

THE FOLLOWING 8 PAGES IS 4 MINUTES ON SCREEN TIME TO JANDEK'S "DOWN IN A MIRROR" (SONG # 1)

OPEN ON SHOT OF ALEX'S APARTMENT DOOR

Alex has a couch, a loveseat and a chair thing in living room. On wall is a TV. A very modern looking clean house.

ANGLE ON BALCONY AND KITCHEN WIDE SHOT FROM DOOR

ANGLE ON KITCHEN TABLE

ANGLE ON COUCHES FROM KITCHEN

Dirty. Lived in leather. On the armrest of the loveseat are several books.

CLOSE ON ARMREST OF LOVESEAT

Martin Amis' "Dead Babies," & "Money," as well as Neil Labute's play "Fat Pig."

ANGLE ON KITCHEN TABLE FROM POV OF LOVESEAT

A cluttered glass table surrounded by four imposing orange high back chairs. Despite the clutter on the table, there's nothing on the chairs or ground. The walls are white and a big poster board hangs in the middle and is framed by two smaller posters under glass.

CLOSE ON GLASS TABLE

Empty pot of coffee / cappuccino with caked up bottom. An unwashed white mug, empty canisters of pot, the typed up pages from typewriter (he writes without paragraph breaks, just all words on a page), pen, pieces of cardboard from torn up Marlboro boxes for crutches, an empty pipe, a pack of white zig zags, an empty doob-tube, pieces of weed on table, a yellow torn up note. Oh and a "naked woman in a hand" ashtray.

CLOSE ON NOTE ON GLASS TABLE

"The Ugly Duckling" notes writing on the yellow paper. Torn. Frayed.

WALL WITH CINEMA INDEX CARD BOARD AND 2 POSTERS

The cinema board is sectioned off into 4 horizontals: Act 1 (p. 1-35), Act 2 (p. 35-55), Act 2 (p. 55-85), Act 3 (p. 85-110). The board is intended for storyboarding a movie. There are only 4 index cards aggregated into one spot and a bunch of push-pins on the sides.

CLOSE ON OTTOMAN IN FRONT OF COUCH

A brown notebook journal with handwritten "Zabriskie Point" on cover, Richard Linklater's "Slacker", Bukowski's "Post Office", a folded up piece of paper, remnants / flakes of weed and ash all over as well as burn marks in the burgundy covers.

A SOUND of refrigerator kicking in as we...

CLOSE ON REFRIGERATOR & KITCHEN CORRIDOR

On top of the refrigerator are a variety of items including a bunch (8-10) empty weed bottles from various pharmacy stores.

SERIES OF SHOTS OF DIFFERENT STRAINS / STORE LABELS

CLOSE ON OLD BANANA ON TOP OF FRIDGE

CLOSE ON A BUNCH OF FORTUNE COOKIE FORTUNES IN A CUP.

CLOSE ON KITCHEN FAUCET

ANGLE ON WALL OF POSTERS

ANGLE ON DOORWAY TO BATHROOM

PUSH IN AND SHOW STUFF ON TOP OF CONSOLE NEAR BATHROOM

PAN LEFT AND PEEK THROUGH BEDROOM DOOR

PAN ACROSS GENERALLY

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - SAME

Sound of door pushing through and keys jingle jangle. Alex comes in with a suitcase, backpack and computer bag. Obviously just arrived from some trip.

He puts down bags really quickly. Rushes into bathroom...

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

... and takes a piss. Close on Stanford magazines on top of toilet as he pisses. Washes his hands. Dries them. Comes out to little hallway where console is.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - WALKWAY - CONTINUOUS

Alex pulls out all crap from pockets (close on keys and folded plane ticket - we can't see where) and places them on console near bathroom. Still wearing his jacket and the shoes he came in with, he walks to kitchen.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Alex fills up empty electric kettle with water. Presses button to start the kettle. Opens fridge. Nothing in fridge but condiments, sauces, a tomato. Opens bottom drawer of fridge: bag of onions, bag of lemons, 3 green apples. Takes an apple. Close up of Alex peeling label off. Bites into it. The apple juices roll down his hands and face. He wipes face. He walks to glass table and puts the apple down on the glass.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Alex washes hands in the sink. He goes to rips off the last Bounty piece (annoyed).

Wipes his hands with the tiny piece that came off. Takes the empty roll and the piece he wiped with. Opens garbage can with foot. Garbage is full. Alex recoils at the stench. Throws these in and lets it close. Walks over to the closet in living room.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - CLOSET - CONTINUOUS

There are many housekeeping items in there like boxes, pillows, vacuum cleaner, fishing rods, toilet paper, Bounty. He takes a roll of Bounty but as he does, the fishing rods start to fall. He kind of catches them and puts them away as he holds the Bounty but he gets visibly angry at this little thing. Before he closes the door he notices and looks at a brown Burberry leather box sitting on the shelf in the closet. He stares it down mercilessly for a beat before...

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

... he hears the sound of the tea kettle boiling.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - CLOSET - CONTINUOUS

Alex's gaze breaks and he snaps out. Takes the Bounty ONLY and closes closet door.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - DINING TABLE - CONTINUOUS

Picks up the apple and holds it in his mouth as he goes in the kitchen...

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

... and puts the Bounty in its holders above the sink. He sinks in and bites through the apple. Chews. Looks around as if lost for a second. Chews.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - DINING TABLE - CONTINUOUS

Alex puts the half bitten apple back on the glass table.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

He goes back in the kitchen, he takes a cup out of cupboard. Grabs a teabag and puts it in cup. Grabs 3 packets of equal. Tears off top. Pours out into cup with teabag. Foot on the garbage foot-pedal.

The top pops open and he throws out the equals. He pours boiling hot water into the cup and soaks the teabag. Then moves teabag into a different cup. Takes a spoon. Stirs. Opens fridge. Takes out a lemon. Closes door with elbow. Cuts piece and squeezes it into cup. Opens fridge. Puts lemon back. Closes with his leg. Stirs cup again. Leaves cup sitting there. Close on lemon swirling in cup. He walks over to the balcony door and slides it open but doesn't walk out. Instead, he goes back towards...

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

...his bedroom and turns on both lights. He takes off his jacket, finally. He opens both windows above his bed. Then opens the laptop on his desk and presses the power button. Sheds his pants and t-shirt. Sits down on bed and peels off his socks. Holding socks, he opens closet - closet is neat and mostly organized but not perfect. He stuffs the t-shirt and socks into a white laundry bag. He folds the jeans and hangs them in the closet over the cylindrical bar. He takes out neatly folded old sweatpants and puts them on. Looks through a selection of t-shirts and puts one on. Slides the closet door back and finds a fresh pair of socks in a basket beside his shoes. Puts on the socks. Takes out a pair of loafers and slides them on. Looks over at the computer as its still loading up. Now more comfortable, he walks back into...

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - LIVING / DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

... through the living room and to the dining table, picks up the apple, and finishes it off whole - core, seeds and all.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

He wipes his hands on a towel. Picks up the cup of tea and walks it through...

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

... the living room and into...

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

... the bedroom where he places the cup carefully on a notepad on his desk (turn on lights if haven't already). He walks back out to the living room...

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

... to grab the suitcase and pull it into the bedroom.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Alex dumps the contents of the suitcase all over his bed and puts it all away nice and neat into appropriate places in closet while Louie plays. Intermittently he takes sips of the hot tea and goes back to laundry. Alex finishes folding shit and proceeds to living room.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - LIVING / DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Looks at the dirty table. Moves "naked woman in a hand" ashtray to top of fridge.

Goes to living room closet.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - CLOSET - CONTINUOUS

He takes out the box without thinking about it and walks back over to the table.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - DINING TABLE - CONTINUOUS

He opens the box.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - BURBERRY BOX - CONTINUOUS

Inside the box are weed paraphernalia - a pipe, 2 rolling papers, 2 rolling machines, a green grinder that looks like a stack of poker chips, an unbent hair clip with resin on the tips, a lighter, a pack of smokes and a medical RX container with weed. Alex pops the top and smells it. Alex opens the grinder - empty, except for some resin.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - DINING TABLE - CONTINUOUS

He places the pieces of cardboard crutches, pipe, white zig-zags, and empty doob-tube into the box. And goes to place the box back...

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - CLOSET - CONTINUOUS

... into the closet. He turns on light, opens door, puts it in, closes door, walks back to glass table.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - DINING TABLE

He cleans the shit out of the table - washes mug and the capuccino pot. Puts away the empty pot canisters up above the refrigerator. Takes the papers off and puts them on one of the chairs. Takes the Windex and wipes that table down good. Then he dries it with more Bounty. Then he replaces the pages on the clean table.

He turns off the light in the kitchen and glass dining table areas.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

He walks through the living room and goes to the bathroom...

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

... and washes his hands with soap.

He then decides to also floss and brush his teeth. Alex finishes brushing his teeth and spits and washes and dries hands.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Alex drains the remainder of the tea. Then turns off all the lights except for bedroom.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM

Alex takes off the sweats, the t-shirt, the undies, the sox. Closes the computer screen. Turns off computer table light. Leaves bed light. Doesn't look at himself once in mirror when getting in bed.

Now in bed. Darkness. Immobile. On his back. Eyes open. Listening to the crickets. Listening to the night.

SOUND OF FRIDGE KICKING IN.

His eyes don't move.

Then slowly FADE IN sound of a girl moaning passionately in rhythm from somewhere behind the open window.

Intermittently we start hearing a deep male Arnold-Shwartzenegger type growl.

The cacophony comes to a giant climax of climaxes as Alex stares at the fucking ceiling and ARNOLD COMES.

ARNOLD-NEIGHBOR
 (gruff Batman-voice)
 Arr! Arrrrrr! Arrrrrrrrr!
 Arrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrggggg!

Alex jumps out of bed in a single movement.

He turns on the desk light. Looks around at the ground.

Puts on the shorts and the sweats and shoes without sox or shirt.

He loosens the rope knot of his sweats and pulls them down as he sits down at the computer.

He opens up Chrome. Types in backpage.com. Clicks "escorts" tab. Clicks "I agree" on the disclaimer page. Then starts clicking and perusing the escort personals.

After flipping through about 3 of them, he lands on one that he lingers on (The ad mentions the word "real" several times. Mentions being "100% independent"). Alex dials the number.

called: 424-653-6749

A very sweet young voice picks up on the other side.

(OVERLAY VOICEOVER OF THIS CONVO WITH ACTIONS THAT FOLLOW):

DANI
 Hello?

ALEX
 Hi. Is this Dani?

DANI
 Hi. Yeah?

ALEX
 Hi. I'm Alex.

BEAT.

DANI
 Hey Alex. How are you?

ALEX
 I'm good how are you?

DANI
 Good! Where are you?

ALEX
Uh I'm in Culver City.

BEAT.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Culver City?

DANI
OK cool!

ALEX
How... how uh... How are you
looking tonight in terms of uh...
availability?

DANI
I'm pretty open right now. Did you
wanna... hang out?

ALEX
Yeah! That'd be cool uh... do I...
uh... just curious how are your
uh... uh... so you'll just come by
and we'll just... just chat for a
little bit?

DANI
Yeah haha.

ALEX
Ha.

DANI
Ha. Do you have um... 200?

ALEX
200?

DANI
Uh huh.

ALEX
For an hour? Just to hang out

DANI
Yeah. Uh huh.

ALEX
OK.

ALEX (CONT'D)
OK cool. So should I give you my
address?

DANI
Yeah.

ALEX
So its 3648...

DANI
3648?

ALEX
3648 Motor Avenue.

DANI
OK. And is it a house or an
apartment?

ALEX
Its an apartment. I'll come down
and uh... open the door when...
you're here.

DANI
What's your... unit number? I'll
still call you...

ALEX
Umm 204.

DANI
OK... um... cool. I should be there
in about... half an hour or so.

ALEX
OK. Cool! Sounds good!

DANI
Cool. See you soon.

ALEX
See you soon. Bye.

DANI
Thanks. Bye.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Turns on LIGHTS in living room and goes to the closet. Lights
on. Opens door.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - CLOSET - CONTINUOUS

Grabs the box. Closes door.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lights off.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - DINING TABLE - CONTINUOUS

Opens box and lays out its contents on the table.

He opens the grinder which still has some and sprinkles it into the pipe.

He looks at the pipe for a few seconds before taking a rip. Then another. Then another. Smacks his lips tasting the weed.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Alex gets up and goes into the kitchen and presses the tea KETTLE ON.

He looks around for something... its not on the table...

He walks back into the living room...

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

... Its not on the console in front of couches...

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - WALKWAY - CONTINUOUS

Its not on the walkway console either.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Frantic now... goes into the closet and fishes the cigarette pack out of the jacket pocket. He brings the whole pack to the living room.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Tosses the pack onto the console and takes a cigarette and puts it in his mouth and goes to kitchen.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

He makes another cup of tea with the cigarette in his mouth. Super quickly. Then goes outside with the cup.

EXT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - BALCONY - CONTINUOUS

He lights the cigarette and inhales deeply with his eyes closed.

He opens his eyes. On the 6th balcony on the row of apartments to his right is a guy and a girl on their balcony. The girl is bear hugging the guy and laughing. The guy stands there not really doing much - she's the one instigating and playing around with him. The girl laughs as she does stupid shit (e.g., grinds her ass into his crotch, sticks her ass out, jumps on him). Then she disappears inside and the guy is left out on the balcony leaning on the wall kind of like Alex. The white light from inside their apartment beckons him. Alex watches as the guy slowly goes inside. Alex flicks his cigarette. It lands and smokes near a pile of butts. Alex's feet as he opens the door, goes back inside, the door slides shut after him.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

- + He opens trashcan and ties off the trashbag
- + Puts in new trashbag
- + Outside: Drops the trash into a trashcan
- + Opens fridge, checks it, closes it
- + Packs another bowl
- + Smokes the bowl on the loveseat slowly inhaling
- + Pacing... checking phone for time
- + Sits on couch and leg keeps shaking
- + Sitting on the toilet taking a shit... leg still shaking
- + Checks his cell phone again before wiping
- + Starts the shower... gets in naked...
- + Washing his asshole and armpits
- + Gets out of shower... dries himself
- + Smells old undies. Decides against it.
- + Puts on new underwear, same jeans he took off
- + Puts away the old underwear and socks into the closet

- + He adds the belt and tucks in his t-shirt just right
- + Brushes his hair back behind his ears in mirror. Doesn't like it so he puts on a HAT
- + He clears the books off the other side of his bed and places them to the side
- + Notices the GUN on the bed. Stops. Picks it up. Cocks it. Points at a couple of things like an idiot. He puts it in his mouth and pulls the trigger and jumps back onto the bed and pretend fall/lands on it as if he's dead.
- + Shot from above his "dead body" as he lays there for a second. Suddenly jumps up.
- + Adjusts his glasses and puts the gun in the drawer
- + Looks in mirror again and takes off glasses (but keeps hat)
- + Puts in contacts from contact lens case
- + Close up of the eye and the single tear that accompanies the process.

Suddenly phone rings.

CUT TO:

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Alex is slouched on the couch staring at nothing when he gets the call... He jumps and picks up the phone off the console.

Different number than the one he called earlier: 661-748-0240

ALEX

Hello?

DANI

Hi. Its Dani.

The voice sounds different than the one before. Not worse. Just different. Not high and sweet.

ALEX

Oh hey! Is this the same number...

DANI

Oh yeah no. Yeah this is my personal number.

ALEX

Oh ok.

DANI

Yeah so I think I'm here...

ALEX

Alright cool! I'll come downstairs.

DANI

OK cool.

Alex hangs up. Turns off the TV.

Looks at trash can, looks at door. Goes to...

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - WALKWAY - CONTINUOUS

... walkway near bedroom to grab the house keys. Walks back through the...

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

... living room to the...

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - DINING TABLE - CONTINUOUS

... trashcan by the kitchen. Foot on the pedal. Lid pops up. Alex pulls up the drawstrings and ties it off. Lifts the bag out of the can carefully. Goes in...

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

... the cupboard in the kitchen and pulls out a fresh trash bag and...

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - DINING TABLE - CONTINUOUS

... stuffs it into the off-white trash can. He grabs the bag of trash and heads for the door.

EXT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - AT DOOR - CONTINUOUS

Alex runs down the stairs with the trash bag (he lives on second floor).

EXT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - WALKWAY / PATH - CONTINUOUS

He takes a left on the walkway to the dumpsters in back. He opens up the door, the dumpster lid and disposes of the garbage.

He jogs a bit back down the pathway toward the gate. The sound of clearing his throat as we follow from the back.

He opens the gate door and peers out: she is standing at the bottom of the stairs texting on her iPhone.

ALEX

Hey!

She turns around confused and quickly puts on a smile.

DANI

There you are.

She walks up the stairs.

DANI (CONT'D)

Oh my goodness its so cold outside.

Now at the top of the stairs she faces him and smiles. Dani is not the girl in the picture. She is young, pretty but not unreal super hot. She has dirty blonde hair and looks like a regular California girl. She's not super skinny either - not fat at all but she eats.

DANI (CONT'D)

Hi!

Alex smiles.

ALEX

Hi.

DANI

Nice to meet you!

They hug like old friends.

ALEX

Nice to meet you too.

He walks through the door and she follows. She tries to fiddle with the gate door.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Oh it'll close by itself just...

DANI

Oh ok. Just making sure...

But the door doesn't close. She stops it from closing. So Alex goes back around her and slams it shut.

ALEX

Just to make sure. There you go.

They walk down the path to the staircase.

DANI

Its so cold.

ALEX

Yeah I know. I love it.

DANI

So how's your night goin'?

ALEX

Uh... its alright.

They begin to ascend the staircase to the apartment. Alex leads, Dani follows.

EXT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - STAIRCASE

DANI

Yeah? Just alright?

ALEX

Yeah. Well. I got back. Today.

DANI

From?

ALEX

From... I was in Philly.

DANI

Oh!

ALEX

I was visiting uh... my sister.

DANI

My dad lives in Mississippi!

ALEX

Yeah so...

They get to the top of the stairs.

EXT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - AT DOOR - CONTINUOUS

DANI
That's cool.

He fiddles with the keys and the lock.

ALEX
Yeah. The whole family met in
Philly.

DANI
Oh. Is that where you're from?

ALEX
No. Uh... Missouri.

DANI
Cool right on.

The door opens. She's the first one in.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - AT DOOR - CONTINUOUS

DANI
Oh its so much warmer in here.

Alex puts the keys down on the console by the bathroom. Takes out stuff from pockets.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

Dani looks around and spots...

DANI
Pipe!

Alex turns to see the pipe on the ottoman in front of the couch.

ALEX
Oh yeah.

DANI
I can spot that shit from a... I'm
a total pothead so that's my like
number 1 thing when I go anywhere
I'm like "bong!" "pipe!"

ALEX
Yeah.

DANI
Can I use the restroom please?

ALEX
Yeah of course. Its straight there.

DANI
Thank you!

ALEX
Yeah.

She goes into the bathroom and closes the door. Alex walks around the room. Goes and presses the tea kettle on. The kettle has only 2 cups' worth - low.

Dani goes back in the bathroom. Closes door.

Alex sits down on couch and notices that pipe is all ash (he's smoked the fresh bowl he packed while waiting for her). He gets up and bangs it against the trash can. Then sits back down and puts all remaining weed into the grinder.

He hears the sound of the kettle really on. He jumps up and turns it off before it boils. He pours out a cup of tea but there's only enough water in it for 1 cup. He fills up the kettle again. Presses button. Forgets about his cup of tea. Goes back to couch and tries to look natural. Zones out and notices the floor near the DVD player all cluttered with DVDs. So he jumps up and starts picking them up and moving to console near bathroom.

The toilet flushing. The water running. Dani comes out. Looks around.

DANI
I like your couches.

ALEX
Thanks.

BEAT. Alex moves around her as he looks around for things out of place that he can fix up in that area. They stand in frame close to each other but apart as she also looks around.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Yeah I've had this place for a while now.

DANI
Yeah?

ALEX
About 4 years now.

DANI

Wow.

ALEX

Yeah. This is all old stuff that I've had since the beginning.

DANI

Really?

ALEX

Well. These are kind of recent.

He points to the posters on the wall. Dani turns.

DANI

Oh wow! I didn't even...

ALEX

Yeah I finally put them up.

She spends a few seconds really looking at them.

DANI

I don't even know if I've ever seen any of these.

BEAT. Alex watches her but kind of rearranges something.

DANI (CONT'D)

I love all the little artsy shit you can find in LA...

ALEX

Well I didn't really get these here... uh... these are mostly Polish posters of certain films. So I had to go through some like... art dealers.

DANI

Have you seen any of these movies?

ALEX

What?

DANI

Have you... seen these...?

ALEX

Yeah.

DANI

Oh you have?

ALEX

Yeah. Of course. Well... these are just awesome films I like which have an awesome poster that was drawn by some artist in...

DANI

(pointing at Delicatessen)
What's that one about?

ALEX

Uh... Delicatessen? That one's really cool. Its about people who eat people...

DANI

Ew.

ALEX

Its like... French... like... but see its done as a comedy! Almost ho ho ho in a way...

Alex gets weird and animated here.

ALEX (CONT'D)

... they have these musical numbers and shit. But its like a society where people eat people.

DANI

Like! Um...

She snaps snaps snaps her fingers trying to remember...

DANI (CONT'D)

Uh... the Johnny Depp movie...

ALEX

Yeah?

DANI

Sweeney Todd!

ALEX

Oh yeah.

DANI

So the same thing!

ALEX

Well... similar nutty tone and setting maybe. Similar feel.

DANI

Oh ok.

BEAT / MOMENT. Alex watches Dani who's watching the wall. He lifts his hand a bit and almost tries to brush up against hers but she is unaware and changes positions and breaks moment.

ALEX

Then uh... over here you got...

DANI

Yeah! Tell me more! Cuz I'm... actually really interested!

ALEX

Well... so this one is Roman Polansky's...

DANI

Just the fact that you've seen all of these I mean...

ALEX

Ha you make it sound like its work.

DANI

Well... I mean... I love watching movies, you know what I mean? I mean whatever like... I think that I could probably get into it just... I dunno... its cool that you know all this like... what you're talkin' about. Some people are like "oh yeah I'll just buy this poster of a girl cuz she's naked" "oh this is so cool its from Pulp Fiction"

ALEX

Yeah.

DANI

I mean I like Pulp Fiction too its just...

Another poster catches her eye mid sentence.

DANI (CONT'D)

Oohh shit a book and the axe?! What is THAT? I know that has something to it right...

ALEX

Yeah I've been trying to find that one with English subtitles... I've seen pieces of it and it's... I dunno it's got this really amazing lonely feel to it... its this Polish film, Siekerzada...

DANI

Are you Polish?

ALEX

No no. I'm actually Russian. Or Ukrainian if you wanna be technical about it. But its weird cuz I don't speak Ukrainian I actually speak Russian. But uh... yeah no I got these Polish posters cuz... Poland has this really interesting history of film poster design that uh... evolved after the Stalin era... in the late 50s and 60s. Like... here...

Alex quickly walks to the bedroom...

ALEX (CONT'D)

... Check this out. This one's my favorite.

She follows him awkwardly / wearily to the bedroom.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM

ALEX

This is the one they did for "One Flew Over the Cuckoos Nest." You've seen that one right?

DANI

Oh yes.

She looks at it and takes it in.

DANI (CONT'D)

Oh wow!

ALEX

You see this shit?! Look at that fuckin' head!

DANI
That's the one with "Here's
Johnny!" That's that movie right?

Stares at her in disbelief for a second but covers it.

ALEX
No! Its the one where he's in a
mental institution cuz he wants to
get out of working in prison.

DANI
Yes! And he's like the... Robert
DeNiro or...

ALEX
Its Jack Nicholson.

DANI
There we go! That's his name! I get
them confused but I know what
you're talking about.

ALEX
Yeah.

DANI
That's cool! So who did it!

BEAT.

ALEX
Did what?

DANI
These... like...

ALEX
Oh well... its different artists
you know? Like at one point in
Polish history, like in the 50s and
60s, there was just a confluence of
factors... uh... a... coming
together of different circumstances
that...

DANI
Yeah you're gonna have to dumb up
some of your big words there.

ALEX
Haha you mean dumb down?

DANI
Ha yeah probably why what'd I say?

ALEX
No its... haha...

DANI
I'm sorry... no I WISH...
honestly... if I could just work at
that level I could...

ALEX
No no I'm sorry I talk like a
pretentious prick sometimes ha.

DANI
No! Not at all!

Alex smiles. Tries to move his face closer to hers. She smiles back but walks past him back out into the living room.

DANI (CONT'D)
(from living room)
So is this what you like... do?

BEAT. Alex stands then turns and follows her out to living room.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

ALEX
No. I mean... no. I dunno. I'm
just...

DANI
You're a pot smoker!

BEAT.

ALEX
Well... Yeah. I guess.

Alex finds his way to the loveseat and grinds the weed.

DANI
So you just get high and watch
films all day?

Alex smiles as he packs a new bowl.

ALEX
Ha I wish. I wish that's all I had
to do in a day.
(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)

I think that's what I'll do when I retire... 40 years from now or... whenever. Frankly I'm ready to retire right now if you know what I mean haha.

He passes her the fresh bowl.

DANI

Oh thank you!

BEAT.

ALEX

Yeah. No. But uh... I have seen a lot of films yeah...

DANI

I can see that!

ALEX

I'm actually doing my own little excursion through film history at the moment where...

Dani breathes out a big rip and then interrupts.

DANI

Oh really?

Then takes another rip.

ALEX

Yeah I'm goin' from like 1878 when they did the first movie of that horse galloping? Which, by the way, they did that to see if the horse's legs are at any point in its gallop like... totally off the ground... like all 4 of em at the same time... which apparently they are... Kinda like when you skip I guess... And then into the first fuckin films like all those Monkeyshines clips and that movie of the sneeze and then all those Lumiere Brothers clips and...

DANI

Oh my god! What...?

She passes him the pipe.

ALEX

Yeah dude its crazy how shit started and evolved and...

DANI

So obviously there was no sound on those right?

He stares at her for a second.

ALEX

No. No sound.

He lights it and rips.

DANI

Wow. How smart do you...! Wow I wish I had a brain like that that could think up like...!

ALEX

Psh... yeah who doesn't.

DANI

You almost do! It sounds like...

ALEX

No no no I just... read about stuff... I don't...

She takes a hit and passes it to him.

DANI

Yeah but that's good! See? So wait you go to college?

ALEX

I did. Graduated in '08.

DANI

Where?

ALEX

Stanford. Up north. Near San Francisco.

As he breathes out the smoke.

DANI

Ooh you're a lot older than me. I was still in high school in 2008. But I am 21 though so its ok!

Alex smiles.

ALEX
Did you grow up in LA?

DANI
Oh no.

ALEX
But like... in California?

DANI
Oh yeah. SoCal. Balflower. From age 1-10 I was in Santa Ana. Then we moved to Riverside. Where I had my actual adolescence years.

She takes a toke.

ALEX
Did you finish high school?

DANI
(exhaling smoke)
Yeah. Definitely.

Passes the pipe back to him.

DANI (CONT'D)
I would not be ok with myself if I hadn't finished High School. At least.

Alex takes a toke.

DANI (CONT'D)
I was in college for a little bit I just didn't... get a knack for it really...

She looks around, a bit antsy at everything.

Lighter goes click click breaks the silence.

ALEX
So is this... your main gig or...?

DANI
Um... Well... I do face make up during the day and then... sometimes... I do this at night... you know...

ALEX
Just for fun or...?

DANI
Yeah... well... make the cash while
I can kinda thing... Do the
whole... I mean yeah its fun...

ALEX
Yeah why not?

DANI
But yeah. Really that's what its
all about. My best friend since I
was like... 15... she just started
doing this and she told me about it
and I was like... well... And then
she'd come over and flash all the
money that she'd made and I'd be
like "Whoaaaa!" Hahahaha.

Alex smiles slowly.

DANI (CONT'D)
So I'm like... "so wait you do
what...?"

BEAT. Alex keeps smiling as Dani takes a pipe hit.

ALEX
Yeah why not if its fun...

DANI
Right? Its whatever.

ALEX
Yeah.

DANI
Get some cash while you still got
it.

BEAT. Alex keeps smiling and stares off for a second.

ALEX
Hey if I was a girl... I'd probably
be doing the same thing so...

DANI
Hahahaha!

ALEX
And not even for the money just...

DANI
Yeah! Exactly! I could be drunk at
a bar...

(MORE)

DANI (CONT'D)
going home with some dude... for
free... or I can get someone to buy
me whatever I want...

BEAT. Dani types on her cell phone as Alex stares off.

ALEX
A lot of suckers in this world
man...

BEAT.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Or... I guess we all are. Workin'
our ass off 40,50,60,80,100 hours a
week... all these people always
working you know whether they're at
work or not and... and the way we
interact with each other now and
the frantic pace of everything
and... I dunno. They're not happy.
No one's happy, you know? And
somewhere deep down they all know
it but... they just keep lying to
themselves... lying and buying you
know? They just... stay busy and
shit... try not to even think about
that kind of stuff... I mean...
Ah... I don't blame em I mean... I
AM them, right? Haha.

DANI
Hahaha.

ALEX
But uh... I dunno...

Click click goes the lighter as she takes another toke.

ALEX (CONT'D)
I was on the plane today.

DANI
Hmm hmm.

ALEX
And... there was this guy. With his
family. Wife. 2 kids. 2 daughters.
Like... our age, you know, maybe
younger. And he looks very
successful. And they... first of
all... they all ran into the plane
right as we were about to push off
from the gate. Like...

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)
huffing and puffing all out of
breath and sweating.

DANI
That sucks.

ALEX
And... they sit down. And every one
of em takes out their own iPad.

DANI
Oh wow.

ALEX
And they all just start... checking
their iPhones and emails and
messages and playing that angry
birds shit and... whatever other
unimportant thing they think they
need to check that very moment. And
like... they're sitting there
huffing and puffing like they just
had an encounter with a fuckin pack
of lions and they're all looking at
their iPads all distraught just...

Alex imitates huffing and puffing while playing with iPad.

DANI
Hahahaha.

She takes another puff. Alex starts rolling a joint now.
There's weed everywhere.

ALEX
... And the dad, he's sitting in
one aisle and the wife and their 2
daughters are in the aisle behind
him, the three of them. And I'm
sitting in the aisle seat of the
same row as the wife and daughters.
Across from them. So I can see
everything. And from the moment
they sit down in their seats, the
wife just starts poking him
literally every 2 minutes. Like...

Alex motions angry strong pokes in the air.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Like... nah nah nah! Angry pokes
you know?

DANI

Right.

She passes the pipe to Alex. He takes it and pulls.

ALEX

And like... I can't hear what she's saying cuz I have my headphones in but I don't need sound to hear what I'm seeing, you know what I mean?

DANI

Yeah! Yeah! Just by... like... clearly... the faces...

ALEX

Yeah! Its that bitch's fuckin face you know... And like... every time she poked him, he would get up and just... do it... no problem... calm as a fucking Hindu cow... like an obedient little bitch.

DANI

Hahahaha.

ALEX

I could read her lips, she'd be like "Give me this!" And he's like "ok! No problem honey!" click, unbuckle his seatbelt, take off the headphones, jump up, in the bin, boom boom boom, here you go, close the bin, sit down, click, headphones on. And then literally 2 minutes later... AGAIN! She's poking him! And her face like... I dunno its... there's this hatred there this... evil... that... and I mean he doesn't see it, he just jumps up and does it again! No problem! "here you go!"

DANI

Oh my god!

ALEX

She must've done this at least 5 times. Before takeoff. And he never even... not even a glance of like "Are you fucking serious right now?"

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)

Just tell me EVERYTHING you fucking need in one sentence because I am NOT getting out of this chair for your dumb ass again, you classless careless cold piece of cunt!

DANI

Hahahahahahaha! Oh my god.

Still talking to the imaginary woman in front of him.

ALEX

Are you out of your FUCKING mind woman?!

DANI

Oh wow. You have a lot of hatred.

ALEX

No! See... I can easily NOT care cuz its not me! But its... people! Its men! Its women! Especially the ones who are supposed to love each other and she... its HOW she did it you know? That's what's disturbing. She doesn't respect him.

He pokes the air and makes the angry hate face again.

ALEX (CONT'D)

I dunno.

DANI

Well she must be doing something right. In the bedroom...

ALEX

Oh yeah like that matters when you're treated like a lab rat... gettin poked every...

DANI

Yes it does! She has to be doing something right for him to stay I'm willing to bet...

ALEX

No. No fuckin' way. That's not how it works. No matter what goes on in that bedroom, it would never justify... that... face.

DANI

I have the feeling that...

ALEX

Look. Traits and behaviors are not isolated from each other. Neither are looks and character I mean... if you live with someone, its... the whole thing. Like you can't just put checkmarks or crosses next to categories they do or don't have like... does she clean, check. Is the sex good, check. Is she a bitch to me, mmm X, oh well that's ok cuz the sex and the cleaning are good. You can't just add them up...

DANI

Yes it does! You have to overlook...

ALEX

No no! See that's what they all SAY, that everyone has some trait or traits that you don't like and you have to overlook that, but I don't agree. I mean sure, SOME things you can overlook because they don't bother YOU, but not everything's weighted the same for everyone you know? But its not a zero sum game! I mean... you can't just... straight up add all the pluses and minuses about someone and if it comes out greater than zero then... No! That's... too logical. Emotions and love and how we feel about someone... that isn't logical. Its not tangible or intangible. It doesn't follow rules. Its fickle and crumbles more easily with every poke. Even the first. Its... an odd look here, the subtext in tone there, a lack of eye contact, and even though you want to overlook that little careless cadence in their vocal inflections... you can't... at least not in the long term... and maybe you think you can so you stick it out cuz its easier to stay than to leave but as time goes on you become more and more aware that you were wrong...

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)

or you keep lying to yourself
because you can't believe that all
it takes to ruin it all is that
one... tiny... little... nothing.

DANI

Really? Wow.

ALEX

Look. I'm just saying... its the
little things. And they just keep
adding up and adding up and you
can't really subtract from that
pile, even if you have money or
good sex or cleanliness or even
regular apologies.

DANI

Wait so you can't even apologize?

ALEX

No no you can, you should! But... I
dunno maybe sometimes maybe you
shouldn't. Sometimes apologizing
only makes it worse. And even the
apologies add up and then one day
you just... snap and...

(whistles crazy)

Boooooonkeeeeeers!

Dani starts a slow growing laugh which culminates in
hysterical laughter.

DANI

Hahahahahaha!

ALEX

Hahaha. That's what happens in
real life! That's people. We go
nuts if the coffee's not right or
the cell phone freezes in the
middle of an email.

DANI

Well... maybe she just found a man
that won't... crack.

She slowly leans into him... getting a tiny bit closer on
crack.

ALEX

Oh yeah. He'll never crack.

DANI

Never.

Closer...

ALEX

Ever.

DANI

Ever.

ALEX

Yeah a thousand bucks says that guy slaps on a permasmile and in 10 years he just... shoots up the whole office floor or one night he just... gets up and sleep walks out of that house and creates a new life. Alone. By himself. Forgetting all about her and the kids.

Alex makes impression of someone sneaking out.

DANI

Hahaha!

ALEX

Pff... Like a bad dream. In the dream. See what I mean? Hahaha!

DANI

Hahaha! Or he could just beat the shit out of her hahahaha!

ALEX

Hahahahaha!

DANI

Haha And then women are like "oh my gosh! I didn't deserve this!" Or like... "Oh my gosh..." ok... I know this sounds real BAD. I'm totally all for women... and their rights and whatever... but like... sometimes I dunno I feel like the guy has a point! Cuz if you woulda just gone over there and just shut the fuck up, no one woulda thrown any punches, you know?

ALEX

Hmm?!

DANI

Honestly like... I've seen... like my parents have gotten into physical altercations before and... I've always been like "mom. If you woulda just shut the fuck up..." cuz it will get to the point where the woman will be like "Hit me! Hit me bitch! See what happens. Hit me."

ALEX

Oh wow that's fucked up.

Dani is super worked up... her turn to get nuts.

DANI

... and they hit her! And they go "oh look how much my life sucks" and "I'm getting beat up" like... that's what my mom does! She plays that manipulation role where she screams out "hit me bitch! Hit me I dare you! You don't have the balls. You're not a real man." Like...

ALEX

Yeah... you're saying... she'll take a hit to get the ability to... cloak herself in guilt?

DANI

Exactly! Cry or... yeah!

ALEX

Like the guilt is what she's actually after... she likes using that as an excuse for...

DANI

Yeaaaaah! Exactly! She'll like...

ALEX

"You did this to me and now I'm gonna do shitty things... cuz I'm entitled cuz..."

DANI

Exactly! Yes! Hahaha! Yes! Thank you!

ALEX

Wow. That's really interesting.

DANI

Yeah... she just likes having a fat lip and being like "mmm its all YOUR fault."

ALEX

And then she has a reason for her unhappiness and anger and sadness and bitterness and...

Dani lets out a growl / howl of frustration.

DANI

Ughhhh!

ALEX

Yeah. That's how it works man. That's the problem its...

DANI

That's girls...

ALEX

No! Its not just girls! Its people man. People are...

DANI

Yeah people are...

BEAT. They both stare off in their own little worlds on the couch.

ALEX

Yeah. I'm coming to the conclusion that I just generally don't like people you know?

DANI

(coquetish)

Aww well what about me?

Alex looks her and smiles. She smiles back. It gets a bit awkward as he studies parts of her face closely.

E.C.U. Her eyes. Her lips. Teeth. Nose. Neck. Fingers.

Dani looks around as Alex stares and smiles relentlessly.

DANI (CONT'D)

Soooo... Do you have anythiiiiing to drink?

Alex snaps out of it and looks up at her eyes.

ALEX

Uh... yeah... you want some water
or tea? I can make us some tea...

Alex jumps up and goes to kitchen where he realizes he left a full cup of tea already made sitting there. He takes a long drink from the cup and leaves it on the counter. He checks the temperature of the kettle and decides to press the button on... again.

DANI

Or liquor?

ALEX

Liquor eh.

He turns to the fridge and opens the freezer. There's a big unopened bottle of Skyy. He takes it out.

ALEX (CONT'D)

I have some vodka. I just don't
have... mixers.

He opens the fridge. She gets up and comes over to him in the kitchen.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

DANI

(almost whispers)
That's ok.

ALEX

You just want vodka?

DANI

Yeah.

ALEX

Yeah?

He the Skyy bottle and opens it...

DANI

Oooh I love this one! Although I
drink Smirnoff more on a daily...

BEAT. Alex gets a clean cup.

DANI (CONT'D)

... well not daily but... you know
what I mean?

Alex pours and laughs.

DANI (CONT'D)

Ha! I sound like a drunk! That isn't true at all. Actually I started drinking only because of my best friend. She's... a fuckin mess.

ALEX

You want some ice?

DANI

Uhhh no thanks I'll just shoot it, thank you though.

DANI (CONT'D)

I know I'm weird...

She takes the contents of the cup and doesn't even wince. She keeps hanging around the kitchen...

ALEX

You're not weird...

She focusses on the **NUWAVE OVEN**.

DANI

Oh my god what is this?! A cooker! Oh like for chicken!

ALEX

Yeah exactly.

DANI

Do you do burgers?

She takes the bottle off the counter and unscrews it as she speaks and pours it casually into the cup.

ALEX

For sure. Yeah they're real juicy in that thing. That oven makes all meat juicy its crazy.

DANI

Can you do burgers with it? Yeah? What else can you do on it?

ALEX

Uh... I can do burgers... I can do...

DANI

Steak?

Alex watches how much she pours

E.C.U. She fills the entire cup's volume.

ALEX

No... uh... I don't do steaks in there although you can. I do pork chops and chicken and salmon is amazing in there it only takes 12 minutes. Crazy juicy. I do steak in the skillet... I do this thing where I heat up the skillet and while that's goin on I sprinkle sugar on the steak and then throw it on there and as it sears all that sugar melts into the steak and it creates this crunchy... crusty... sweet sugary-ish burn thing and...

As Alex talks, she stares at him pointedly trying to figure something out.

DANI

Are you from New York? Or New Jersey? Or...

Alex looks down. He furrows his eyebrows at the ground. She doesn't see it.

ALEX

No uhh... from... Russian... originally.

DANI

Oh Whaaaaat? Really?? I mean I can HEAR...

ALEX

Yeah yeah I hear ya I hear ya.

He shrugs faceciously.

DANI

Yeah I'm sorry.

She comes in a little closer. They both kind of plie towards each other.

ALEX

No! Its ok! Don't be sorry! Nothin
to be sorry about.

DANI

I didn't mean anything...

ALEX

Its ok. Really.

DANI

Yeah?

They're real close now... she looks like she could go for a
kiss maybe... but then at last minute she goes for the vodka
and takes a big sip while continuing to smile at him.

They are close now but... she holds that cup between their
 chests. He looks down: its almost empty.

ALEX

Yeah. I've heard that before
though.

BEAT. She drains the cup in one long sip and smiles.

DANI

You're just Russian.

She takes the vodka, fills her up again and walks past him
out of the kitchen.

He looks down and sees his tea cup. He drains the cup of tea.
He steps to open trash can. Tosses the used lemon from the
cup into the trash. Reuses the same mug, the same teabag,
pours another cup of tea. He replaces the tea kettle and
presses the on button again. Its medium full now. He looks at
the vodka bottle...

He opens the fridge and takes out a lemon.

DANI (CONT'D)

So say something in Russian! Come
on!

BEAT. He's been through this before. He smiles as he reaches
into cupboard and takes out the 2 packets of equal and tears
them open.

ALEX

Nu shto ti hochesh shtobi ya tebye
sechas skazal? Ya dazhe nesnayu
gde nachat.

He empties the packets and tosses them into the trash.

DANI
Oh pleaaaaaaase... See that totally
just sounds like mumbles and
shambala da jambala...

ALEX
That's because it is mumbles.

He walks past her into the living room with the cup. She follows with hers.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

She moves past him to the couch herself.

DANI
Maybe it is.

ALEX
Oh yeah. It totally is. I speak
fluent fake Russian.

He sits down next to her carefully holding the cup.

ALEX (CONT'D)
I can also speak fake Spanish
really well.

He places the cup on a notebook on the console.

DANI
Oh yeah?

ALEX
Que passo burrito cinco de maya
que.... quetero poreros.

DANI
Hahahahahahaha!

ALEX
Oh petaro paparos. Que tera
potaro.

DANI
Hahahahahahaha!

ALEX
Ne potaro?

DANI

Ha! Right...

ALEX

Or Chinese. Or Japanese. Whatever. Cuz hey there's nothing else to do in the shower while you're lathering your asshole... but say retarded shit to yourself... out loud... like a mental patient.

DANI

Hahaha. My mom says my grandma's a Russian Jew. I don't know if...

She takes another sip of vodka. They are getting physically closer again.

DANI (CONT'D)

... that's good or bad.

ALEX

Uhh... well... Its not Nazi Germany circa 1933 so I don't think it really matters.

DANI

I reckoned you were...

ALEX

Besides... I'm a Jew. So... I guess you're in good company tonight.

DANI

Yeah?

They are really close now.

ALEX

I think so.

Their lips get closer and closer and they smile.

Suddenly the tea kettle starts boiling. Alex looks at it. As he looks away she gets a text and jumps on her phone. Alex turns back as the water boils... watches her... bemused at first... then annoyed... She sees him.

DANI

Sorry I'm on my phone sometimes. Its just like... don't let it bother you.

ALEX
 (smiles)
 I'm trying.

She didn't notice that - completely engrossed in the phone.
 Finally she's back.

But he's up and at the tea kettle turning it off.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Alex pours himself a fresh cup of tea. With lemon and 2
 packets of equal and stirred.

DANI (O.S.)
 So you're just a pot smoker?
 Nothing else? I mean like... no
 other drugs. Which is good.

ALEX
 Oh. Yeah. No. Not anymore no. I
 used to... some... mostly adderall.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

DANI
 Oooh. I've only done that once and
 I snorted it and it was... so
 stupid I don't know why I did it...

ALEX (O.S.)
 Yeah I just ate em. I never snorted
 pills. Snorting's retarded I never
 snorted pills.

BEAT. Alex comes back into the living room with the cup. He
 sits back down on the couch. Apart now.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 No I snorted pills once. But that
 was it just...

DANI
 Ha!

ALEX
 No never mind I did it twice.
 Whatever.

DANI
 Hahahahahaha!

ALEX

I did shrooms...

DANI

Oh really? Was it amazing?!

ALEX

Uh... my first time was terrible.
The second time was fun. I guess.

DANI

I've done numerous things. I've
never done heroin and I've never
had a needle in my arm. That's
kinda...

ALEX

Right. Good rules.

DANI

I've done meth. I've done coke. I
tried meth when I was like... 14. I
went through a really bad stage
when I was like... a sophomore
like... me and my best friend...
she was like "we're gonna try
everything once. And never do it
again."

ALEX

Oh wow that's...

BEAT.

DANI

Mmm... yeah we'll see how that
works out.

BEAT.

DANI (CONT'D)

I mean like... like I never got
hooked on anything. The most... the
worst... besides pot...

ALEX

Yeah...

She stares into her cup...

DANI

I've... but... now I do things in
moderation. And that's good like...
I know that I like...

(MORE)

DANI (CONT'D)

some highs are definitely better than others. One time I did Oxycontin... Which is like a step below heroin right...

ALEX

Yeah. I know those guys. Oxies, Roxies, vics, percs yeah...

DANI

It was the WORST! I will never ever... I don't even wanna be in...

ALEX

Did you smoke it?

DANI

No. Um... No. I snorted it.

ALEX

Oh ok.

DANI

No I've never smoked a pill actually. Never. I've done meth... I've snorted... I did coke for like... a couple months straight... and then one day I woke up like... "uh... I don't really wanna do this anymore." And now I do it regularly... well I don't do it regularly but like... in moderation...

ALEX

Regularly irregularly.

DANI

Yeah like every now and then just on weekends but I just... pot is my number 1... and drinking... on the job right now... kinda helps me...

She downs the remainder in the cup. Alex watches.

ALEX

(smiling)

See there's 3 kinds of people. People who prefering drinking. People who prefer pot smoking. And people who love drugs. And then of course all the old Jews and my grandma who want anyone who's done drugs to be ashamed of themselves.

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)

Ashamed. Ha. I say whatever man. As long as it helps, I guess that's uh...

Dani walks over to the kitchen counter...

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

...and puts the cup down deliberately. C.U. Of her face turned away from Alex. She breathes in deep and out. Puts on a smile. Turns and walks back toward the couches...

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

... where she continues to stand.

DANI

So... shall we get that service fee out of the way and then we can get... all this... started?

BEAT.

ALEX

OK. Yeah. I mean... I feel like its already started but...

Alex walks into his bedroom while she stands in living room.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Alex opens the desk drawer and takes the money out of an envelope. He counts out 10 20s. Carefully. Twice. Closes the drawer. Comes back into living room.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

ALEX

For your... "service."

Alex smiles. Dani doesn't. In fact she doesn't look him in the eyes. She takes the money and opens her purse and starts fiddling, going through it, still holding the money.

DANI

I know. It sounds really bad.

ALEX

Its fine. It is what it is.

DANI

I mean... what else should I call it? I mean... what else? Give me some options.

Alex laughs. She stands close to him with the money still in her hand.

DANI (CONT'D)

I don't know. I really don't. I'm like... new! Like fairly new. I'm not like new new...

They are standing close together now. Their voices grow quieter and more tinged with a flirty quality no matter what they're talking about.

ALEX

Yeah I've never uh...

He stands there staring down at her legs. E.C.U. on her legs.

She stares at him, bemused. He looks up and sees her looking and smiles.

DANI

Well... I should probably put this in my jacket cuz...

ALEX

Ha yeah. Ha.

Dani stuffs the money in her jacket pocket and goes back to the kitchen for more vodka, with a smile on her face.

DANI

You know you're funny.

ALEX

You're funny too.

DANI

What school did you go to?

Alex breathes in deep and lets it out slowly. Maybe its because he's tired of questions... maybe its because she already asked him this and he hates repeating himself.

She hears the sigh and looks out at him from kitchen.

DANI (CONT'D)

Nothing you... don't think that I like... I ask questions like...

(MORE)

DANI (CONT'D)

I'm not gonna like stop you like...
I'm...

ALEX

No. No. Its ok.

DANI

I'm not gonna like... Judge...
anything.

ALEX

No you're right. I shouldn't
either.

DANI

OK good.

ALEX

If I wanna be a writer I can't
judge people you know? Haha. I
can't...

DANI

Oh shit you should write a novel
about ME holy shit! Maybe I'll make
you rich!

Dani claps her hands on the word "rich" and continues in the
same breath.

DANI (CONT'D)

Oh my god like...!

ALEX

I mean I've only written a few...
things... but...

She comes up close to him and ever so sweetly says:

DANI

I'd love to read some.

BEAT.

DANI (CONT'D)

If you don't mind I mean...

ALEX

I'll show you.

DANI

(even quieter / sexier)
Really cuz... I'm like... really
interested...

Suddenly she pulls away and walks away and then turns again.

DANI (CONT'D)
 (suddenly real loud)
 Which I know like... I don't wanna
 take up your time...

ALEX
 No no its...

DANI
 ... and blah blah blah but... I
 think you're pretty fuckin cool.

BEAT. Alex smiles.

DANI (CONT'D)
 (normal then screams)
 Yeah I'd like to read some of your
 shit. Not that I would even be a
 good critic!

ALEX
 No no its ok I don't...

DANI
 Oh! Like To Kill a Mockingbird? I
 know that's so cliché but I love
 that book.

BEAT.

DANI (CONT'D)
 And I think I read Catcher in the
 Rye... or I read some of it... and
 I was like I... I dunno maybe it
 was just... so what do you write?

BEAT.

ALEX
 Just... short stories. That aren't
 short at all.

DANI
 Cool! So what are you into are you
 into like... the Vampire thing
 or...

BEAT. Alex can't believe she just said that.

ALEX
 No. I'm into real life.

BEAT. She doesn't seem to get that.

DANI

OK...

ALEX

I'm into like... I dunno if you've ever seen...

STACY

OH MY GOD MY LIFE would CREATE a great STORY!! Hahaha

She giggles to herself, for herself, loving herself.

ALEX

Like have you ever seen a John Cassavetes film?

She continues to giggle and even spins around... a bit drunk and out of control. Then breaks into a really hard crazy laugh. Alex smiles. Her giggles die down as she laughs into her cup and drains it.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Have you ever seen a John Cassavetes film?

She thinks for a while then looks down into her cup and drains it.

DANI

No.

She looks toward the kitchen... the vodka in the kitchen.

ALEX

He was like this totally revolutionary... indie...

She tilts the cup upside down to emphasize that its empty.

ALEX (CONT'D)

... you want some more?

He's up before she can say yes, the face says it all.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

DANI

Sorry! Is that really bad?

ALEX

No why? You know what you can handle. You're a big girl.

He takes out the bottle and pours remainder into her outstretched cup.

DANI

It just really... just... lets me... open up.

BEAT.

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

I don't have anywhere to go so...

ALEX

Yeah. Me neither. Can't leave my own house ha.

Alex tosses something into the trash can. She walks into living room first.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Alex walks into the living room and sits down beside her on the couch.

Dani looks around for where to put down her mug. She tries the floor but is unsatisfied. Tries book but... quickly picks it up. Dani is trying to balance it on the soft part of the ottoman where it'll definitely spill. Alex watches her with interest.

DANI

I wanna have... I want you to have a flat table here because I don't wanna put it on this book...

ALEX

You can put it on the book that's exactly where I always put my cups.

He picks his cup up to make room for her and drains it in the process. She stares at the journal.

She picks it up and looks at it. He sips the tea watching her as she opens it to a random page. It makes him smile and sip.

DANI

Oh wow! Look at this!

Alex just smiles and watches her be amazed by nothing while holding his cup. Drinks down cup.

Gets up and goes to kitchen for another cup.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Alex makes another cup of tea (same process) as she continues to read in living room.

C.U. as she flips through the pages.

DANI (O.S.)
 Stuff! Its just stuff! That's
 what's so cool is that you have
 that... thing in you that you go
 from head to paper like I fuckin
 had that for a second and...

He finishes making tea and takes the cup back to the couch.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sitting down on couch holding tea.

ALEX
 Yeah its just notes from... life. I
 dunno.

She sees the Tom Rush quote on the inside of the cover:
 "I'll tell you what's wrong with America: The poor have too
 much money and the rich don't have enough"

She flips through a few more pages. He takes a few more sips.

DANI
 Wow.

Flips through a few more. He takes another sip of tea.

She keeps flipping through the pages. He's kinda antsy.

ALEX
 Yeah... I just... write. Its not
 that interesting yet its...

DANI
 You write what's in your head!
 Stuff! Exactly what I said!
 Stuff that matters!

ALEX

Well matters to me maybe but I
dunno if...

BEAT. She stares at him. Suddenly he grabs the notebook...
Its on the page marked: "LIFE." Alex reads:

ALEX (CONT'D)

This is just something my dad once
said... that the worst thing is
when... someone tells you you're an
idiot and then after that... you
spend the rest of your life trying
to prove to everyone that you're
not a fucking idiot...

DANI

Oh yeah that sucks.

ALEX

And then trying to prove that
you're not an idiot only makes you
look like an even bigger fuckin
idiot so like... you can't win.
Damned if you do damned if you
don't kinda thing.

DANI

Yeah but that's why... at some
point you just have to come to
yourself and say "Hey... I don't...
I'm not... put on this earth... to
please anybody."

ALEX

Right.

DANI

I'm put on this earth... to please
myself!

ALEX

Yes! Yes! But that's selfish you
know you can't uh... in their
mind...

DANI

... and whatever I choose... you
know... like who cares what your
parents...?

ALEX

Oh no no I'm cool with my parents.
I mean like in general...

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)

and this is my dad talking. He just... specifically he feels like this... sometimes... because... well because he's this big burly Russian guy... with a thick accent and a really deep voice and...

DANI

Ohhhh. So you're thinking... like... the thoughts of your dad... not like...

ALEX

Well... now I... don't really know where you're going with that but...

Dani reads below the line on the page where it says something about shitting in a urinal.

DANI

OK "shitting in a urinal?" Haha I'm sorry I totally...

ALEX

Oh. Yeah. That's just... a crude... thought...

DANI

I mean I know people... can do that but...

ALEX

No no its... I have this sketch I wrote where... a guy walks into a public bathroom... and he's got an ice cream cone in his hands and a few stains on his shirt... so he obviously needs to wash up... and he's looking for a place to put the cone... so... he sticks it into the drain of the sink next to him to hold it. And he starts washing his hands and some guy just... runs in, looks around desperately, tries to pull open the stall door which won't open, then looks at the urinal, looks at the guy washing his hands who's now looking at him, and then takes down his pants and just shits all over this urinal...

DANI

(matter of factly)

Ew.

ALEX

...and then he pulls his pants up and runs out. And the first guy, the one who was washing his hands, he turns off the faucet, picks up the ice cream cone, looks at the shit, licks the ice cream and there's a good like... 5, 10 seconds of him just staring... at the shit... while intermittently licking the ice cream... and... then some other dude walks in and sees all this... shit... and stops, the guy with the ice cream nods to him, he nods back, walks over to that stall and calmly just pushes it open without a problem.

BEAT. Alex laughs. She stares at him blankly.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Cuz the he pulled not pushed it hahaha.

She stares blankly?

ALEX (CONT'D)

(tears in eyes laughing)
Yeah alright I guess you have to see it I dunno but that's funny to me I...

Dani gets up and goes to get more vodka from the freezer.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

We follow her while Alex is off camera.

DANI

Its just slapstick!

She's in the freezer staring from bottle to bottle.

ALEX (V.O.)

Kind of...

She takes out the Skyy.

DANI

Like The Office!

Alex looks confused.

ALEX (O.S.)
Uhh... right.

She twists off the cap and pours half a cup of vodka.

DANI
Or like that... uh... what's
that... one with... Workaholics!

ALEX (O.S.)
Yup. That is another one yeah.

She pauses before adding another quarter. Cup is 3/4 full.

DANI
Just like that! Just funny...
just...

She is happy and proud and twists the cap back on and puts
bottle back in freezer.

ALEX
Yup. Its the "well THAT just
happened" kind of humor you know?

DANI
Funny shit.

Closes freezer.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

She comes back from making the drink, sits down and continues
to read the notebook.

She waves the notebook around in her hand.

DANI
... it seems like you don't even
have to have creativity... To do
this!

ALEX
Well I don't know...

DANI
You just have to DO IT! Get it OUT
OF YOUR HEAD and put it down
somewhere!

ALEX

Yeah I mean to me even the boring parts of life seem pretty interesting though. But I dunno. The fuck am I supposed to do with this shit I...

DANI

Everybody has this potential. People just don't... do it. This is... potential to me I mean I don't... To me! I mean this is like... actual creativity...

He picks up the notebook and opens to some page.

After flipping through a few pages, he tosses the book onto console in frustration.

ALEX

We'll see.

DANI

So you put your fuckin head into something.

She picks up the book and flips to another page.

DANI (CONT'D)

"The animals..." OK. That's interesting. So why'd you write "Animals in Russia?"

ALEX

Oh uh... well when I was a kid... and we went to the market... you know living in Russia, there's like everything being sold at the market you know?

DANI

I've been to Turkey.

ALEX

... very 2nd / 3rd world you know.

DANI

(almost offended, like Alex earlier with Jolie)
I've been to Turkey. So I know a little bit of foreign life.

ALEX

Right. So you've seen like animals being sold at the market.

DANI

Oh yeah... well... I was at the mosque when they were killing a fucking sheep.

LONG BEAT.

ALEX

Well... there you go. So basically... we buy a chicken... and I'm like 3 or 5 years old...

DANI

And they rip its head off.

ALEX

Well... we buy this chicken whole. And we take him home. And we have this little fucker running around in the house for like 4 days. So I'm like "Awesome! I love this little bird dude." So I start feeding him. "Here bird dude!" And my parents are like "oh good yeah keep feeding him keep feeding him" and I'm like "Yeah! Yeah! I will! I am!"

DANI

Oh no...

ALEX

Then one day my grandad comes out of the kitchen and they're all in there cooking all day and he's like "did you feed him?" And I'm like "well I fed him a few hours ago should I feed him now?" And grandad goes "no no that's perfect. We'll give him another 2 hours and he'll be ready." And I'm like "Yeah. Sounds good. Then what...? Is he gonna be a big boy or..." Cuz I'm thinkin they're gonna turn him into a little boy like Pinocchio or some shit hahahaha.

DANI

Ah! Oh my god then they killed him!!!

ALEX

So 2 hours later, my grandad comes back and...

DANI

No! No! NO!

ALEX

Let me tell you something.

DANI

That's just awful!

ALEX

Hahaha! Let me tell you something...

DANI

Its awful! I was THERE! I cried the whole time I couldn't even enter the church cuz I felt like... they... that... fuckin like... excuse my f-word...

ALEX

Oh. That's fine we've been...

DANI

Like I never cuss...

ALEX

Seriously? Really its ok.

DANI

They walked out of the mosque carrying the head of the sheep. And the ORGANS. I sat there. These poor Turkish women were hovering around me hugging me. I sat there and bawled my eyes out I was like "This is not normal! This is not ok! I can't be... part of this... in any... like... way! This is not normal!" And that was their religion they sacrificed this animal and I understand but...

Alex is grinding up more weed.

ALEX

And that's another reason why I don't like people. They need something to bow down to.

DANI
Yeah. So fucked up.

She picks up the notebook again and flips through it.

Alex looks down at her legs. She has big heavy boots on.

ALEX
You know you can take your shoes
off.

DANI
Oh really? Thanks! Yeah...

She starts taking them off. Alex watches her unlace the straps, stick out the leg, pull the boot off and wiggle her free toes in her socks.

DANI (CONT'D)
Yeah I dunno why... I guess its
just... wanting to be warm? I
dunno.

Alex smirks.

ALEX
We can always just get under the
covers.

DANI
Oh ho hooooo. We could huh?

Alex keeps smiling and staring. She gets up and goes into the kitchen and pours more vodka.

DANI (CONT'D)
You know... gin and vodka go really
well together... Although you're
Russian. You know vodka.

Alex gets up and follows her to the kitchen / dining table.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

DANI
Did you go to school in Russia?

ALEX
I did. For like a grade.

Alex goes and gets a cigarette.

EXT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - BALCONY - CONTINUOUS

Click of the lighter and Alex lights it and exhales. Dani is up and near the balcony but still on the carpet.

DANI

I think I'm gonna come out with you.

She deliberately steps over to the balcony.

He closes the door behind her.

Alex extends her the pack with one last cigarette.

DANI (CONT'D)

Oh my god without the shoes its freezing outside is that your last one?

She goes for it before he can really answer mid-sentence.

ALEX

Yeah. You want it? Cuz I smoked half of mine from before...

He looks down at all the cigarette butts on the ground. She doesn't notice them. Yet.

DANI

No! Not if you only have half...

ALEX

No I'm done...

DANI

I'll just take a couple hits I don't need a lot plus like... drinking? Honestly, smoking while drinking makes me nauseous. When I was in high school I used to... smoke all night long. When I drank. I always wanted cigarettes. But now... its completely different. I don't get it! I really don't... I dunno.... with age... they say it gets better but sometimes it gets worse.

ALEX

I love how you say with age when you're only 21.

DANI

Yeah but... so are you I mean... or not 21 exactly but...

ALEX

Yeah. That's true. I feel older. On the inside. I feel like I'm 64 or something. On the cusp of retiring and doing nothing for a while...

Dani notices the butt collections on the ground. Surprising happy about it.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Age is weird cuz... it doesn't just happen one morning... like a cold. It creeps up slowly... starting in your 20s. You start realizing how many accumulated memories and thoughts and lies and broken promises to yourself and... you try to forget it and keep going but... some nights the full gravity of it all just hits you and you just... feel it. All of it. At once. And something in you tenses up and your body knows it and you more of the pain coming like storm clouds in the distance... moving west... towards you... and even if your day started off gorgeous and sunny... its fucked now. Even though you still have a little bit of time with the sun its... somehow ruined cuz you know cuz... you can't unknow, you know? Hahaha.

DANI

Do you have a blog?

ALEX

No.

DANI

Cuz like... I'll be like your

(whispers)

Promoter.

(loud shrill)

Ha! I'll totally let people know

cuz...

ALEX

Look. Even if that were true, thanks but no thanks.

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)

I'd rather just... do it alone. On paper. Underground.

(beat)

Literally underground. Down in the sewers of Los Angeles. With a '36 Royal. I'll come up once in a while onto Hollywood Blvd with a bunch of sheets with words on em and run around like one of the maniacs handing em out to people like those dudes with the mixed CDs you know? Haha. My hubris is that I want life on my terms. Completely on my terms. And that's...

DANI

Well... I understand.

ALEX

Cuz its not about followers and fan clubs or titles and rankings and jobs and ladders and lobster dinners and VIP tables and chrome cunts and gold butts and... haha I dunno. I can't live in that world man I can't... I gotta get out I uhh... Those words on a page are kinda life and death for me right now... in a stupid selfish existential way, I know but...

DANI

Something genuine.

ALEX

I dunno. Some of em have it right. The famous ones. Louis CK's got it right. Howard Stern's got it right. Lefsetz has it right. Jandek's got it right. Shit maybe even the Kim Kardashians got it right. Maybe I'm not...

As he speaks, she raises her hand to rest it on the balcony ledge but his is already there. Her hand is on top of his before that moment of...

DANI

Oh sorry!

She quickly draws it away.

ALEX

Look when I was 21 I wasn't "doing" anything to figure out either...

DANI

But you went to college! See I shoulda started outta high school...

BEAT. She's visibly getting upset. Anxious.

ALEX

Look. You can't go back and...

DANI

I know! That's the problem I...!

ALEX

Ok so start now. Think about your experiences in high school. In between when you left high school and now. What's been interesting to you? Why was it interesting to you? Focus on those moments. Block out the drama and the big general vague pointless plot points. Plot isn't usually what's eye-opening - in movies or in life. I don't think. The moment IS the event. So just figure out what specific moments you want to experience and...

DANI

(exploding)

I wanna fucking... I wanna be in the peace corp!

BEAT.

ALEX

Like... for the excitement of living abroad or... for the good of mankind kind of thing or...

DANI

I worked in an orphanage for free like... In Mexico. In high school. Like I actually did volunteer work and I fucking loved it. Loved every second of it.

ALEX

Ok. Wow. Like Mother Theresa.

DANI
Who's that?

ALEX
Yeah she was a nun. Did volunteer
work all her life kinda thing.

DANI
Yeah! Like that... would be awesome
you know like...

Like a nun herself, she looks up and closes her eyes. She stays silent and smiling with pursed lips and scrunchy face imagining the glory of it in the moonlight.

She snaps out of it when he touches her.

DANI (CONT'D)
You know what I mean? Ha!

BEAT. Alex watches her with a smile the whole time.

ALEX
So what's holding you back?
Parents? Money?

DANI
No one's holding me back... Well I
guess yeah I mean I think like "oh
my god what if I can't get a drink
out there? What if I can't smoke
pot?"

ALEX
Yeah. You probably can't.

She re-energizes. Moves. ADD style.

DANI
But now the real life factor is
like... I did a selfless deed in my
life already I like I fucking went
to that orphanage... like I'll be
honest. I married somebody.
Somebody so they could get their
green card and like I didn't get
any money out of it, I was actually
in love with the person at the
time. I was 18. And i thought oh my
gosh. I thought I was in love with
you. And now I'm at this age
where...

(MORE)

DANI (CONT'D)

I backed out of the thing, I texted him as a friend, make sure you're doing ok, make sure you're cool, because I really care about you as a person but I'm not in love with you. I'm NOT in love with you! But I did a selfless act and I did that... out of like... I did that knowing - and this is the thing that keeps staying in my head like "You're ok. You're a good person." Like I did it knowing there wasn't a reward.

ALEX

Right.

Alex lights a cigarette butt he's found on the ground.

DANI

Knowing that there wasn't a...

ALEX

Right. Right.

DANI

... reward.

ALEX

Right. I definitely understand yeah. That's... ok... so what does that...

Alex can't seem to light it... click click got it.

DANI

And knowing that there wasn't gonna be something there to say... oh hey this is cool... I mean sure maybe I like hope to have a Hollywood husband or like...

ALEX

Ha. Well. Just put all your energy into something self satisfying and if that's...

DANI

Peace Corp! That would be so... That would be so... amazing! If I saved all... if I saved civilians that I worked for... I feel like if I join the Peace Corps... for 2 years... I can do 2-4 years. I'd...

(MORE)

DANI (CONT'D)

prefer 2 years you know. Just at the beginning. See how it goes.

ALEX

Yeah.

DANI

Meanwhile I would be doing... amazing things that are calling for me to do like... I'm not a church goer...

ALEX

Right so do you have to...

DANI

I'm not a church goer! And that's why I did the orphan thing and I was Christian and like... too... you know... that's like my... but I'm not... you know... I'm not... God-oriented? Like I'm actually right now I would call myself agnostic. Like I know there is a God you know. But I'm not... into the whole... organized... religion thing.

ALEX

Ha. Yeah you're just not that into him. Him. Haha.

DANI

Like I know he's there...

ALEX

Wait now he's there?

DANI

Well he's there but he doesn't...

ALEX

He doesn't really do anything. He just watches us. Like TV. Or porn.

DANI

Hahaha. My god exactly like... like an innate... like in narcotics anonymous you have your own god like you have your higher power.

ALEX

Yeah right. Everyone's prayin to Jesus and Motumbu!

DANI

Hahaha but I dunno... ooooh! Its like Peace Corps? Scary! I'm looking up places in like... Uganda. Then there's Buhvuhria? Bavuhria?

ALEX

Bavaria?

DANI

Bavaria?

ALEX

Yeah. That's in...
(presque vu)
Germany.

DANI

That's like a place that I've actually looked into...

ALEX

Yeaaaaah. You should definitely do Bavaria. That's the one!

BEAT.

DANI

Oh my gosh! I could like... be living in Germany for 2 years??! What? I would like... I would... slave my ass off just to be...

ALEX

There's beautiful castles and shit there... Neuschwanstein? Near Fussen. In Bavaria. Ludwig, The Mad King's castle. Well... he actually wasn't that crazy, he makes the whole country a ton of money with his castles and attractions. He invested so much in the arts and castles that tourists are like half of Bavaria's income... now his life would actually make a fantastic movie. Its already made a fantastic video game slash book by Jane Jensen. But get this: so they declared him insane and dethroned him. He went to the nuthouse and one day he takes a walk with the warden. The guy in charge of the prison. All gentleman and shit.

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)

The guy who committed him, declared him insane and unfit to rule. And the warden calls off the guards, who usually would go on their daily walk with them. And they go walking around this lake, Lake Starnberg. And when they don't come back, everyone goes looking and by like midnight they find both their bodies floating in the water.

DANI

Oh shit!

ALEX

Now... The warden guy definitely drowned. And he was also choked by Ludwig. There were imprints and bruises on the throat. And Ludwig they find dead floating in the water too face down. But he doesn't have any water in his lungs. They do the autopsy. No scars no wounds so it wasn't a shot. No poison found in the blood no vials on him or on the trail they walked on or back in his room. Yeah you should definitely go to Bavaria. Visit Neuschwanstein. I've never been but... uh...

BEAT.

DANI

Did I tell you I've been to Turkey! Right?

ALEX

Yeah. You mentioned it I uh...

DANI

Oh my god... well.. Yeah that was cuz... I was married to a Turkish guy but whatever... no... I like had the BEST time! I love it over there! That whole side of the world! Has so much more going for it.

(realizing something)

Oh here sorry!

She hands him the joint as he's looking at it.

ALEX

No its not... oh thanks... its not that this side doesn't have more going for it, its that the cost to live here... automatically off the bat... its so much money. I mean fuck. Everything just... And that's the problem. Over there... you... you can...

DANI

You can set up shop and you don't...

ALEX

You just don't have to work as much and as hard.

STACY

... have to work! Oh my God!

DANI (CONT'D)

Thank you!

Alex lights the joint.

DANI (CONT'D)

Fuck!

(beat)

I don't belong in this fucking countryyyyyyy!! I don't belong here! Cuz what's good here? Tell me... cuz... you've been...

ALEX

Well... health care.

DANI

That's it? I can go to fucking Canada and... f... pay half of my taxes and... get health care even if I'm fucking poor!

ALEX

Well. Yeah. You could. But you'd have to become a citizen there and its not that...

DANI

So what should I do, go to Canada?

ALEX

No. Thailand. You can live on \$400 a month. That's \$5K a year. Just to live and eat. Do nothing. Save \$50K. Take 10 years off.

DANI

Oh my god that would be... I dunno...

ALEX

Who knows? Maybe that's your shot at happiness.

She thinks for a few seconds.

DANI

Obviously if I like... get sick I have more of an option of dying... in another country... than here.

ALEX

Yeah. For sure. Risk is up.

DANI

But then what about fuckin fun and... life... in everything... its a 100 times better there the life in Turkey... like... oh my god.

ALEX

Yeah the life change is dramatic and fun at first, I'm sure.

DANI

I loved it! I loved it.

ALEX

I mean that's great... that's...

DANI

No matter what circumstance it was, no matter that I was with someone then... like nothing! Just my independent...

ALEX

Well yeah that's what freedom is.

DANI

I wanna like... Do the Peace Corps... and I wanna fuckin... do shit... and I wanna make a difference and... is that...?

ALEX

You will. You are. You're on your way. You're in a stage. The pre-production stage. Outlining still. You know what I mean?

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)

Next step is executing something...
taking some action... Take some
action. If you just keep thinking
about the end goal, then you might
only just be making the present
tougher on yourself cuz you're not
really getting anything done about
it. Or Or I dunno. I'm lost myself
haha.

She looks around for where to put out the remainder of the
joint.

DANI

Where do you put this?

ALEX

Here you can flick em... or put em
here...

She looks around and just drops it.

DANI

Lemme know cuz I have cigarettes in
the car I can bring em out...

Alex opens door, walks in, she follows, he slides door
closed.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

DANI

I think I'm ok being a cigarette
smoker. Because I'm a cigarette
smoker.

ALEX

That's good logic ha. Hey nothing
wrong with that.

DANI

Ha! Its bad. But... you're right.
Nothin' "wrong" with it. What kinda
music do you listen to...

She's walked almost to his bedroom then stops abruptly and
turns around.

DANI (CONT'D)

I don't wanna waste all your
time... I'm sorry... I... whatever
you wanna do...

Alex raises his hand motioning to the bedroom. Alex follows.

ALEX
Lets just hang out... for a
second...

She turns around as they go in.

DANI
OK cool bring your phone so we can
have some music...

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

ALEX
Yeah... I uh... have music on my
computer.

Alex clicks computer on from sleep. It opens on Spotify mid Mahler's Adagio for Strings, Op. 11a. She's rummaging through the books beside / on the bed.

DANI
I love the fucking... books...
Bukowski... Kafka... Anne Rice...
What's this...

She briefly picks up the collection of essays from John Cassavetes.

ALEX
That's a... collection of essays by
and about this... director...
who...

She starts to take her pants off but shirt still on as he looks up. Alex takes her in for a second. She is not fat but from her legs you can see she likes to eat and is not skinny and yet sexy.

ALEX (CONT'D)
You... you look good.

DANI
Thank you. I know I'm not the girl
in the picture.

ALEX
Oh I didn't really notice... but I
guess yeah...

She claps her hands to her mouth.

DANI

Ah! Oh my god! I didn't have to give myself away? Are you kidding!?

ALEX

No I guess...

DANI

I mean I knew a few pictures were like pornstars... and like I can't put my OWN picture up there... no like... my fuckin... father... probably goes on there...

ALEX

Oh for sure he does.

DANI

Which is gross.

ALEX

Is it?

DANI

Well...

ALEX

Hahaha.

DANI

Its human I guess.

ALEX

Oh man can you imagine that what if your dad called you up for a date? And gives you the address to your house hahaha can you imagine? Hahahahaha.

Alex pulls up the Google Chrome page of Backpage up and the ad he called.

DANI

Oh!! Ha! That's me?!

She leans over his shoulder and looks at the screen. Alex looks at the picture. Then at her.

ALEX

Yeah doesn't really look like you at all now that I really compare it...

DANI

God she looks nothing like me she looks so... sexy... see... this whole fuckin...

ALEX

Mmm.

DANI

No! This is all a fuckin lie like... some girls... you probably know this but some girls put their real pictures up...

She flips through a few to a FAT GIRL.

DANI (CONT'D)

Like these chunky ones? Those are always real. Cuz some guys like actually have like a fat girl fetish.

She gets into the chair and they both share it now.

ALEX

Yeah I have a friend... well I mean he'll just fuck anything. If it wants to fuck him I mean...

DANI

I wonder what number it was that... Does it say the number...? 424... mmm... grr... some girl is out there doing the same thing... right now...

ALEX

Maybe. Probably.

They are sitting together tight. Her skin touches his jeans. He focusses on the feel of a piece of her buttcheek touching his boxer shorts.

He calmly puts his hand there and lightly feels that area of skin with the back of his pinkie finger as he rests his hand on his thigh. She doesn't even realize it.

DANI

Blonde bombshell... well... I wonder if that's me.

ALEX

Must be you for sure...

She clicks into it...

DANI
No. She's real.

ALEX
Mmm. That's poignant.

DANI
She's... no no look at her.
She's... that's natural. She's
natural. People like that just...

She clicks clicks on another one - extremely beautiful.

DANI (CONT'D)
Now that's... probably fake.
That's... you really have to just
be...

He's rubbing her leg with his index finger up and down.

ALEX
Just be...

DANI
Careful.

BEAT.

DANI (CONT'D)
Be aware...

ALEX
K.

DANI
... is just all I'm tryin to say...

ALEX
I'm aware right now.

DANI
Haha "I'm aware right now" I'm sure
you're aware haha. Good. I'm glad.
We're both really aware right now.
Backpage.com That's insane... I
never woulda thought that my ass
would be...

ALEX
Ha! Well apparently its not your
ass.

DANI
Not MY ass! Apparently! Asian
hottie...

He moves down her leg with his palm now. Completely paying attention to her body. Her curves. Her skin. Her face remains completely glued to the screen.

DANI (CONT'D)
(repeats with more flair!)
Asian Hottie!!!

He moves his hand across her belly button and hits a ring.

DANI (CONT'D)
God I do have my belly pierced. Top
and bottom.

Alex zooms away to take a look at the big picture.

DANI (CONT'D)
You like it?

ALEX
Yeah. I like piercings.

DANI
Oh sweet! I really haven't had
anything in there for months... so
I figured... tonight was the
niiiiight
(sing song voice)

Alex moves in closer smiling.

ALEX
Very nice.

Close up, nose to nose smiling at each other hands barely touch legs in some places.

DANI
(softly)
Yeah?

ALEX
(equally soft)
Yeah.

DANI
You like it?

He goes in to make an obvious move and she turns her head away slightly still smiling.

He kind of tries a second kiss attempt then stops and looks down. He is getting a bit frustrated but smiling at it. She is engrossed.

Suddenly... she gets up.

DANI (CONT'D)

Good good good. Alright what do you wanna play? Or... I can hook up my radio if you want...

He twists to the screen and puts on Spotify...

ALEX

Just... here...

She looks at herself in the full length mirror. Makes faces a bit into the mirror and laughs at herself. He's into the Spotify.

DANI

Ugh.

(beat)

Sometimes I wish I could have my hair up. But I dunno how that'd work... I can't do that... ugh... Do you think I could pull off a pony tail? I mean obviously not for this job but like...

ALEX

Yeah you're right a pony tail's a little too informal for this job. Hahaha. No its actually really cute. I... why is that somehow unprofessional in escorting hahaha. (and he's back into computer) Have you ever heard of... nah... this is...

DANI

What is it?

ALEX

I dunno its this... Chillout Mix.

DANI

What kind of music is it?

ALEX

Chill.

She runs up and is over his shoulder looking at screen.

DANI
I like chill. What is this...

ALEX
Moby. You know he just put up a bunch of music out for indie filmmakers to use for free? Good guy...

DANI
Oh what about this? What about Nero?

ALEX
Dude I... can't do this shit to promises right now I... lets play Moby for a bit.

He gets away from the computer. Takes his shoes off as she flits around the bed. Observing stuff and talking.

She sees the Twilight book on the other side of his bed. She leans in over the bed from the other side and reaches it.

DANI
(full on surprise)
Twilight?!? You read...

ALEX
No! Well... Yeah. I've... been re-reading it because...

DANI
Oh you were RE-reading it?

ALEX
Yeah well... because I wanted to...

He trails off and looks down embarrassed. She flips around full in the bed now with her legs dangling and half sitting begins to pick through the books.

DANI
What else do you haaaaaaavaaaah?
I'm totally interested I really wanna read something.

ALEX
Well there's a bunch of authors that...

DANI

Do you have anything that you read
and you totally like that's worth
giving to someone who would
actually read it like I would
actually take into consideration
that...

ALEX

Uh sure.

DANI

Like I would actually appreciate
it. You know what I mean? Like I
just know like...

ALEX

Yeah totally have you ever read
Bukowski?

She thinks and doesn't answer. He reaches over her across the
bed and now he's kind of on top of her then gets the book and
settles in on his side next to her. (They each keep reaching
for stuff on the side of the bed opposite to them)

ALEX (CONT'D)

You gotta read Bukowski if you
haven't read in a while. He'll get
you back into the groove of it.

DANI

Yeah?

She leans in smiling.

ALEX

Yeah.

He comes in close and holds her face as he's has her now and
is about to kiss and she concedes when... she looks up and
sees the blinds up and open.

DANI

(a bit freaked)
Nobody can see us can they?

ALEX

(look up at blinds)
No. Not really. No.

BEAT.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Ha. There's a guy in one of those apartments over there that screams when he comes... like either he's fucking or jerking off... I'm not sure but its like... "aaaaaargh" but that's not anything... like... that's just funny...

He does the Arnold sound as he tries to take her socks off. She realizes that's what he's doing and shifts her foot in a bit of a panic.

DANI

Oh my god I don't wanna take off my socks cuz my toes aren't painted...

BEAT. He just looks at her.

ALEX

Um... that's ok.

He continues to pull the sock down.

DANI

Yeah but they're fucked up they're not...

ALEX

Oh stop it... its fine who cares...

DANI

("I'm" said on purpose)
OK. I'm haven't gotten my... I mean my NAILS are done but my toes... is different.

ALEX

Alright.

DANI

That's weird! Nobody's ever taken off my socks before.

ALEX

Alright so I'm weird. Who cares! I like bare feet in bed. I mean I like feet in general but not like...

She leans in rapidly and changes the convo to no words and just smiles again.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 ... specifically... with...
 paint... or something...

THIS IS IT - FIRST KISS. They kiss and they continue to kiss. Lightly. Very lightly. Pecks almost. Dani catches her own eye in the mirror smiling and starts to talk to it.

DANI
 I like the big ol' mirror.

ALEX
 Me too.

DANI
 Cuz I can see what I'm doing...

ALEX
 Yeah you keep lookin. I'll join you
 every now and then.

DANI
 (smiling at him now)
 OK bet.

They continue to kiss. He tries to take her shirt off... she does.

They kiss and she soon breaks with all this energy.

DANI (CONT'D)
 Uhhhh! I wanna go to a rave! Fuck!
 Its just that feeling.

He takes her face gently between his two hands and kisses her again. She's into it for a second but then looks up at the blinds as they are connected... He stops.

DANI (CONT'D)
 I'm kind of like... I kinda want
 the blinds closed. Is that ok?

He looks at her for a second but keeps face calm then...

ALEX
 (enthusiastic)
 Yeah!

DANI
 Only cuz like...

ALEX
 No worries here give me this...

He jumps up and goes to work against the rope. Sniffs once.

DANI
... if I had totally met you in a
bar... I would... totally ask you
the same thing.

ALEX
Haha ok.

He gets the blinds down finally with some effort. While he
does so, she peers over to the side and sees the Etgar Keret
book.

DANI
What's this?

He finishes straightening out the blinds.

ALEX
What?

He looks back and registers the book.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Oh. Etgar Keret. He's really great
he's...

DANI
Is he alive?

ALEX
Yeah. He's Israeli.

DANI
Israeli?

ALEX
Yeah. He's from the country of
Israel.

He stares at her as she examines the book. She realizes she's
examining it and he's watching. She puts it away. She gets on
top of Alex and smiles.

DANI
OK. Just... wanted to make sure
we're cool. OK. I don't wanna fuck
you over on time here.

BEAT. She looks up through the blinds... ensures that she can
see through the slits. Its down but not closed.

DANI (CONT'D)
 (sing songy)
 Time cruuuunch!
 (normal)
 OK. How do I close the blinds part?

She tries to turn the handle to actually close the blinds.

DANI (CONT'D)
 Oh got it.

She gets it and gets more comfortable on her side of the bed.

DANI (CONT'D)
 Do you know what Color Guard is?

ALEX
 Uh... What are you...?

DANI
 Haha! You know the half time show
 at football games in high school
 right?

ALEX
 Yeah...?

DANI
 So I was in that.

She's on her elbow now smiling and pushing with her hand
 against his chest.

ALEX
 Hahaha really? You're very proud of
 yourself?

CU/ECU: He rubs her arm up and down gently. Looking at it.

DANI
 Yeah! Totally! I'm pretty impressed
 with myself. Haha. I got all the
 moves.

ALEX
 Oh yeah?

She starts showing off how limber she is but it kind of looks
 terrible and unsexy for some reason. Very rushed maybe.

DANI
 Limber enough?

ALEX

Oh yeah. You're... cirque du soleil style.

He goes in smiling and they finally begin to really kiss as "MOBY SONG #1" goes. This part may be music video-ish and a bit surreal (similar to Mick Jagger's scene "Memo from Turner" in the 1970 film "Performance/" Focus on all imperfections of slightly flabby bodies. Alex goes for the bra... holds the face... lovely lost kissing... he is really seducing and allowing himself to be seduced by her... this isn't where he doesn't know what's going on... he wants her... actively... hands are flying... wrapping around her back... holding a cheek... an ass cheek.. running through hair he tries to guide her hand to his stomach. She stops just short and breaks away completely as she sits up on his semi coiled leg.

She sits on his leg facing him on the bed.

DANI

So... what are you looking to do tonight?

ALEX

(quiet. Weak. Trance.)
I dunno. Anything. What do you want to do I mean... lets just...

DANI

(playful, full of energy)
I dunno.
(beat)
But its gonna cost you. Although not that much more but a little bit more... and you know what I'm totally intrigued by you, right?

BEAT.

ALEX

Well. It sure seemed like it at times. But...

DANI

Well... see... I know my ad says "independent" but I'm really dependent.

ALEX

(a little scared / angry)
What does THAT mean?

DANI
Nothing it just means that I have
an agency...

ALEX
OK...

DANI
(business)
It doesn't mean anything bad.
Just... that I have to pay them
most of the hourly... but I do work
on tips and I do-do things... Don't
worry... I will leave you very
happy... cum out of your balls...
all that good shit... I just do
work off tips.

BEAT.

ALEX
OK seriously? Its an upsell?

DANI
So if you have anything... any...
cash? Do you have cash?

ALEX
Wait... what... what's your... what
do you...

DANI
Don't say rate.

ALEX
No but come on seriously? This is
retarded this fucking game
hahaha...

Looks a little perturbed.

DANI
Haha.

ALEX
Look I kinda thought 200 was...
more than...

DANI
A good amount!

ALEX
Yeah!

DANI
That's a good start. I would say
that I definitely only get 30%...

ALEX
OK that's... you're al... what more
do you NEED? Sorry... Uh... How
much more do you want for...

DANI
Um... like if you had... 50
bucks...

ALEX
OK...

DANI
I'd give you a hand job.

ALEX
OK...

DANI
If you have like... \$150 I'll give
you a blow job.

ALEX
OK...

LONG BEAT.

DANI
That's... pretty much... where I
go... with that... hahaha.

ALEX
You don't... uh... ok that's
just... haha.

DANI
Sorry.

He comes to terms with it.

ALEX
Well... can you maybe... knock that
down.

DANI
I could... do... 125?

Alex looks at her confused...

DANI (CONT'D)
Hahahaha! OK that confused face
totally get it... um...

ALEX
(smiling)
I mean seriously I don't even know
what to say and why I need to say
it here like... hahahaha

DANI
Alright \$100?

He stares at her mouth open.

DANI (CONT'D)
Naked blowjob. With a condom on. If
that's ok.
(long beat)
Have you ever had a blowjob with a
condom on before?

ALEX
I don't think so. No.

DANI
No?
(beat)
Well I'm a good blowjobber. If
you're really unsatisfied with the
condom on, we can work on it.

ALEX
OK.

DANI
But... condom's kinda my...
basic...

ALEX
OK.

DANI
Blowjob?

ALEX
Yeah.

DANI
For a \$100?

Alex closes his eyes and clenches his teeth once. Opens his eyes.

ALEX
Yeah.

DANI
OK.

They stare at each other for a long long beat.

DANI (CONT'D)
You... have cash? I'll get naked?
And I'll... give you that blowjob?

ALEX
OK.

DANI
OK?

ALEX
Yes.

DANI
Yes.

He climbs off the bed reluctantly and gets into his wallet in his pants **MOBY SONG #2** begins to play. He counts the money - 5X \$20s. Counts it out to her.

DANI (CONT'D)
Thank you.

She jumps up and stuffs it into her pants. He gets back on the bed. She gets back in too. A bit in silence. Not looking at each other.

DANI (CONT'D)
Do you have a condom?

ALEX
Uh really? You don't even have one?
Ok... yeah.

She keeps smiling and giggles. He flips around and grabs the box beside the bed. Opens it. Sees a chocolate flavored / black condom. He smiles to himself and picks it and starts opening it as she sidles up next to him and watches his body.

DANI
You don't have any tattoos!

ALEX
No. I don't.

DANI

Wow! You're different. I have two!

She shows them off.

ALEX

(mechanically)

That's hot.

He blinks a few times and rubs his eyes and face. She doesn't seem to notice.

He starts trying to open the condom wrapper but having trouble. Film frantic cuz he can't stand her voice anymore.

DANI

Is it? I got this one with my best friend... she is you know... imagine when we do doubles? See you should call us back! You save that number and call us back and you can get a double of me AND my best friend and we have the exact same tattoo! You know? Like you're a hot guy... you know? So tell your friends! Wanna have a REAL fun time?

As she's talking, he finally gets the condom wrapper open, and puts it on his dick. He looks at her for a second before he goes for her face hard, grabs her, kisses her with his eyes open and angry. Hers closed. Tongue and all. He pushes her head down and closes his eyes.

DANI (CONT'D)

Hahahaha! Whoa!

He opens his eyes.

DANI (CONT'D)

I've never seen a condom... haha black? Is it flavored.

ALEX

I think its supposed to be chocolate.

DANI

Ah! Oh wow! Well hopefully its good. Haha. Wow. Haha. Black.. Chocolate. That's... haha very racist?

She puts it in her mouth and licks it for taste. Her face twists weirdly. Then back to normal.

DANI (CONT'D)
Mmm. Tastes like chocolate I guess.

ALEX
Cool. Good to know.

Now she starts to really blow him. The up and down with her head. Film from back. Him watching her face. Holding her hair. She suddenly stops and looks up.

DANI
By the way you're amazing.

Alex's anger fades and he smiles sincerely.

ALEX
Thank you... uh...

DANI
Seriously. If you ever call another girl... fucking have flavored condoms. You'll get what you want.

ALEX
Oh. Uh... Haha Haha Haha.

He laughs slowly and sardonically.

DANI
Just telling you.

She goes back to sucking the dick. He closes his eyes.

ALEX
Yeah. I wish it was that easy.

DANI
Hmm mmm...

But he can't keep them closed. He squints and opens them. He tries to find something he can focus on with his eyes, something he likes. He stares at her face. Grabs her bare ass. Moves the panties aside and stares at her asshole in the mirror. Then looks back at her face. Wipes the hair from the side of her face so it doesn't get in the way. Breathing heavier. Slurp slurp sounds.

The song transitions to **MOBY SONG #3**.

Song breaks into main part. He grabs her and kisses her. His eyes are completely open and intense. Hers closed. He fingers her. She moans.

FADE OUT **MOBY** AND CUE **NUTCRACKER BALLET OP.71 (SONG #6)**.

He watches and pushes her head down and leans his head back and looks up. Crack on the ceiling. He looks back down at her. Slurp slurp slurp sounds as we see from the front and side. Not her. Keep it classy. Allusive. He keeps staring at her face the whole time. He fingers her harder. She moans louder. Back of head bobbing faster now... more sloppy.... she tries to say something and continues moaning.

DANI (CONT'D)
Armmmm mmrr... Ah. Ah. Ah. Ah. Ah.

CUE CLIMAX OF **NUTCRACKER BALLET OP.71 (SONG #6)**.

He inhales slowly and deeply with intensity and with increasing tempo. This goes until he holds his breath for a while eyes still open all of him tense... angry... scary... and... Relaxes.

FADE OUT **NUTCRACKER** AND CUE BACK TO **MOBY SONG #5**.

He stops fingering her. Pulls his fingers out from between her thighs. Pulls her panties back to cover her. She opens her eyes and looks up still holding the cock.

DANI (CONT'D)
You good?

He just stares at her expressionless.

DANI (CONT'D)
Yeah?

ALEX
Yeah. I'm good.

DANI
Whew!

She wipes her mouth and gets up and begins to put on her clothes while singing and mouthing the words to "Promises" by NERO. He watches her for a second. She still doesn't have her bra on when...

DANI (CONT'D)
By the way, high five.

She holds out her hand. Confused, he holds his up and she slaps it. Both still very much naked.

DANI (CONT'D)
 For the FUCKING... awesome...
 music.

BEAT.

ALEX
 No problem.

DANI
 I won't forget you... for this
 shit...

Alex puts on his socks. She continues humming it.

The song finishes as they finish dressing. Suddenly Dani
 BURPS.

DANI (CONT'D)
 Excuse me. Oh my god that's the
 second time I did that...

Alex feigns a smile.

DANI (CONT'D)
 Just... pardon me for burping. I
 know that's very very rude. But...

ALEX
 Ah who cares. At this point.

She catches her own reflection in the mirror. Sucks in her
 gut... then lets it out again.

While Alex looks around for something on the floor. She sees
 him in the mirror.

DANI
 Whatcha lookin for?

ALEX
 Nothin. Just... lookin around at
 what's on the floor. All my shit.

She sees the picture of the French Postcard on the bookcase.
 The postcard of a candid moment of a man and woman in a
 passionate kiss mid-1960s.

Song changes to **MOBY SONG #6**.

DANI
 (holding the postcard)
 Ahh! That picture! Its awesome!

He turns and stops and sees the FRAMED POSTCARD in her hands.

ALEX
Oh yeah.

BEAT.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Its a... vintage photo.
(coughs)

DANI
So its not anyone that you know...

ALEX
Well... I guess but not her...

DANI
Wait... I don't understand?

BEAT.

ALEX
Its just something I like.

She sighs. Looks at it. Shot of POSTCARD from the back to reveal the writing. She puts it down. Fumbles her car keys.

DANI
(beat)
I like you.

Alex smiles and looks down. Laughs to himself and shakes as he does so. She doesn't seem to notice.

DANI (CONT'D)
About the book... hehe... cuz I
totally...

ALEX
Well let me suggest some...

DANI
But you're not gonna give me one?

ALEX
What? No. What do you mean give you
one?

DANI
Bummer! Because I'm totally fucking
interested in your BRAIN like...

ALEX

Ok so I'll give you some suggestions and you can write em down in your phone its...

DANI

Everything that you're functioning with is like... totally intriguing to me and I want what you have because I know what you have isn't shit like the stuff I'm reading like Twilight... do you have anything else I'm so bummed out! You're not giving me the book! Because I...

Alex stares at her in a bit of disbelief. Then moves out to the living room.

ALEX

How bout this? I will text you the name of a few books and you can look them up and...

She follows.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

DANI

Oh please! You're not doing that! That's too much work!

ALEX

Too much wo... haha dude you gotta... Are you fuckin kidding me? That's work? This is pleasure! You want it, go seek it out don't ask for a freebie from someone who owes you nothing but courtesy. What the fuck? Are you fuckin' serious? You can't look up the name of a book that I tell you and go to the local library branch and get it for free or use some of that cash money money on Amazon? You can buy a used copy there too! Come on. Do you even know what books mean to me?

BEAT. She starts looking for her cup...

DANI

Come on! Hold on. Let me just... finish that shot real quick.

Alex stars to laugh.

ALEX

Dude. Don't take this the wrong way. You might have the beginnings of a drinking problem.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

She refills the cup with more vodka and takes it down very quick. He waits in living room.

ALEX (O.S.)

Just. Sayin. Be careful. Cuz you're responsible for you. You understand?

Its like she doesn't hear him as she downs it. She drinks desperately. She enjoys everything about the "hits" of vodka.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

She comes back out and stands there. Very drunk and kind of smiling like an ignorant bimbo. Stand apart, in opposition.

DANI

I'm so bummed out you're not giving me a book.

ALEX

Well I'm sorry you don't understand why its even very rude of you to ask that of me. Seriously. Don't you feel a little shame? A little?

DANI

So you don't have like... one book that you've read that is...

Alex stares at her. He goes and gets BUKOWSKI'S "SOUTH OF NO NORTH" and shows her the book. Flip through the amateur sketching of girls, the way he writes all over it with his thoughts.

ALEX

Look. I write in every book I read. My own shit. Random shit. I live in my books and you wanna be some tourist and get a fucking souvenir on your way out and have me pay for it too I mean... you must be joking hahaha this is...

DANI
 (even more excited)
 Oh no! Please! I would love to read
 your fuckin sidenotes are you
 kidding me?! Please!

He stares at her incredulously.

ALEX
 Cool. I'll send you a copy.

DANI
 Aww...

ALEX
 I'll even sign it.

DANI
 You're totally hurting my feelings!
 Ha. No!

ALEX
 (hahahaha)
 Well good! Ha! You need to grow the
 fuck up for a second and see
 yourself objectively here with your
 third eye. Do you not see how
 ridiculous this is? Do you... I
 will TEXT you the names of SPECIFIC
 books you should read if you DESIRE
 to and...

DANI
 No.

ALEX
 ... you're gonna read them. Or
 you're not. The fuck you want me to
 do? Read them for you too? Well I
 have! What the fu... hahahaha.

DANI
 I'm fucked.

Alex laughs real loud and hardy and crazy-ish. Cackle.

She stares and her chin goes weak for a second and she
 doesn't say anything but just walks toward the kitchen. He
 keeps kinda laughing with a tinge of evil in his face.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

She goes back for more vodka in the cup. She drinks the cup down and closes her eyes and has a moment with it.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

He's tired and doesn't care. Callous.

ALEX

You should be going "yay! He's gonna TELL me exactly what to read! Kinda knowing me a bit from this... thing."

She comes back into the living room. Stands opposing him.

DANI

I'm not going "yay" until I get a book! Because I know you're smart! You have to have something in your head.

ALEX

Dude! Come on! Stop it with the bullshit! You can't have my book! How dare you demand it like this? How dare you expect it? I don't even know you I mean... I don't trust you AT all.. And...

DANI

You think I'm gonna publish your work!?

(quiet voice)

I told you my life is about the peace corps.

ALEX

Ok..? So...

DANI

So why would I do anything... I mean, I didn't mention anything about being famous...

ALEX

What? Haha. No! No I'm not worried you'll steal my stuff. You're too lazy to do anything with it anyway. Its too much work to get anything done for you! So its completely on principal!

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)

You want me to GIVE you a book
that's got my blood in it and...
For sure you won't return it and
I... come on.

DANI

(thinks)

I understand. Yes. If your purpose
is to get it back then... no.
You're correct.

ALEX

Hahaha. Exactly!

DANI

So you don't have any give aways?

ALEX

What the hell is this...
hahahahahaha! Get outa here come
on!

He's almost going insane himself here. He's really weird.

DANI

Hahaha! Not even like a little
short story... something that I can
fuckin like... read in the car...

ALEX

Dude. I just got a blowjob with a
black condom on for \$300 bucks, I'm
giving out gifts now? Thanks for
coming by? Come on.

DANI

Cuz I completely understand if you
don't want to give anything away
that's understandable but just
like... give me something. Just
something that'll... make me think!

ALEX

(ultra composed)

Alright. I understand. You want
something in writing. For the road.

He looks at her in absolute disbelief. Then suddenly turns
and walks into the bedroom...

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Alex rummages through several print outs on his desk. Picks one.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

She is visibly drunk and tipsy. The spins begin.

Comes out and hands it to her and stares at her. She looks at it.

DANI

OK. Give me your number. I'll tell you how I like it. If you're ok with tha...

(BURPS)

ALEX

Hahaha no. Thanks. This is just hahaha. Thanks. I had a great time. We're done hanging out... I think.

DANI

Oh excuse me for burping... again... haha.

(beat)

Ok..

She claps her hands energetically and turns in place with her hands together and points Charlie's Angels style at the kitchen and goes.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

She does a sweep of the house and takes down remainder of the bottles in the freezer. All out. Takes it down.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

DANI

I didn't leave anything right?

ALEX

No. I...

She's super drunk now and smiling. Can't stand straight.

DANI

Thanks a lot I really appreciate it. Ok.

She goes to the door with all her shit and my story.

ALEX

Ok.

DANI

Yeah. You don't need to walk me or anything.

ALEX

Alright.

He begins to open the front door.

DANI

Yeah no I'm good. I know exactly where I'm going actually so I feel pretty comfortable in this area...

She's over the porch now. Stops. Turns. Steps back inside.

ALEX

Drive safe. If you get pulled over, just be mindful that you don't hurt anyone else.

DANI

Thank you... very much... and you... stay... hang out... keep warm... seriously...

ALEX

Yup. Thanks.

DANI

And I'll... keep in touch because I'm...

ALEX

Yeah you too.

He starts to close the door on her.

DANI

... I'm not lying to you! I'm really interested. OK? This is serious shit. This is life or death shit! Ok! Hahaha.

ALEX

I might blow my brains out right now! Hahaha.

DANI

So have a good night!

ALEX

See ya. Have a good night. Enjoy!

He closes the door. Locks and unlocks the door from the inside and out to make sure its locking right. Looks around. Turns of all the lights. Goes to the bedroom.

INTERCUT WITH:

Dani walking in 8s down Motor Ave in middle of the night. No one in the giant street. She holds that damn short story clutched in her hand. She eventually starts kind of crying. Then laughing. Then goes up to a tree and vomits. Vomits. Loud and awful. When she starts walking again she is more composed and relaxed. She smiles and clutches the story.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

He takes his clothes off completely again and climbs into bed. He tosses and turns until he opens his eyes and lays in bed. He sees the curtains closed. He gets up and opens the blinds and pulls them up to the original position and opens up the window. He lays there in the dark as he listens to the night outside. Crickets...

ALEX (V.O.)

When I was a kid, I used to puke a lot. Had a small stomach but a big hunger. I remember one time... when I was about 5 or 6... I puked after I ate a whole cantelope. It was summer and we were vacationing... somewhere. In Odessa I think. And at night, we'd sit around in our room - my mom, my dad, my sister and I - and we'd play cards. Or rather they'd play cards. My dad would try to teach them how to play poker. They would forget the rules every night and.. my dad... he'd make fun of them and crack jokes as he explained the rules. And I would just watch. Laugh. And my mom just kept cutting off pieces of that cantaloupe, her eyes never left my dad's face and he didn't have that ugly beard and that awkward gait that comes from age and fat. And I just kept eating and eating...

(MORE)

ALEX (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 watching, mesmerized by the youth
 and beauty and sweetness of that
 moment wanting it to last
 forever... And then all of a
 sudden... this illness... came over
 me... cuz I knew... it was all
 going to end some day for them and
 me and no one else and everything
 started to speed up and the world
 was spinning faster and faster...
 like I'd never catch up to it. And
 out of nowhere I just... vomited...
 bright orange... all over the
 floor. Right by my mom's left hand
 where she was leaning.

END OF INTERCUT:

Alex is laying on the bed listening to crickets... as
 "Arnold" from the other building starts to cum.

ARNOLD-NEIGHBOR
 Arr! Arrrrrr! Arrrrrrrrr!
 Arrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr!

Alex starts to smile and laugh slowly like a mental patient.

ALEX (V.O.)
 I haven't eaten canteloupe since.

**CUE EXCERPT CLIP FROM HOWARD STERN SHOW WITH RUSSELL BRAND AT
 52:40** (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4i67xCg2hgw>)

HOWARD STERN (V.O.)
 Look. Russell. You've said way too
 much.

RUSSELL BRAND (V.O.)
 No!

CUE "COMEDY" by JANDEK (SONG #8).

FADE OUT AS CREDITS ROLL OVER JANDEK.