

"ANDREI KOLOSOV"

by

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Adapted from a story by Ivan Turgenev

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1 INTERIOR — PROF. LEVINE'S OFFICE — NIGHT

Cut in on ROB. Rob is 18 years old, a solidly-built, jock-looking kid---he's a little large, but fit, though you can already see how it will turn to fat eventually. He's in a varsity jacket, wind pants, and a baseball cap. So he stands out oddly in PROFESSOR LEVINE'S office, an earth-toned, leather-bound academic study. Rob is sitting up straight, watching the movement of Professor Levine offscreen.

PROFESSOR LEVINE
[offscreen] So, how are you doing?

ROB
Um... Good.

Rob sits mute as ROB'S VOICE-OVER comes in.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER
...which was, I guess, like, a total
lie. I mean, it was weird, like--
-

PROFESSOR LEVINE
That's great, Rob.

Professor Levine claps Rob on the shoulder.

PROFESSOR LEVINE
I'm glad your Dad had you call me.

Professor Levine goes to sit behind his desk. We can now finally see him, an amiable, 60-ish academic, with a small beard, receding curly hair, and a tweed suit.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER
When I was a little kid, I went to
camp, and it was the first time I
ever, like, stayed away from home--
--

PROFESSOR LEVINE
You know, anything you need, you
can just call me. Have you been
to New York before?

ROB

No.

Rob sits inert after his answer. Professor Levine is a little unsure how to keep the conversation going.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

And there was this one kid there,
he got so homesick, he threw up
every night.

PROFESSOR LEVINE

Well that's terrific. Do you know
what you want to major in?

ROB

No.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

And I was the only one who heard
him. So I tried to get him some
paper towels, like, without anyone
else finding out---

PROFESSOR LEVINE

Well that's fine, Rob, you
probably want to try some classes
before you decide.

ROB

Yeah.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

But, y'know, everyone found out.
They called him "Puke" until,
like---shit, they still call him
that.

PROFESSOR LEVINE

So, Rob, are you wrestling this
year?

ROB

No, um, Dad says I shouldn't get,
like, distracted.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER
But, y'know, Professor Levine's
just, like, my dad's friend,
y'know, he doesn't even know me...

PROFESSOR LEVINE
So how's your Dad doing?

ROB
Good! Um, store's doing really
great. He opened up one in Helena
and there's still the one in
Missoula, plus he's probably gonna
have another in Great Falls, so,
yeah, it's awesome.

PROFESSOR LEVINE
That's terrific, Rob. So is that
what you want to do after you
graduate?

ROB
Um... I dunno.

Pause.

PROFESSOR LEVINE
Well, welcome to the big city,
Rob! Hey---how about you and me
have a drink?

ROB

Prof. Levine gets up and goes to the bar on one of the shelves.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER
Like, he just wants to hear that,
like, his buddy Tom's doing good,
but I'm gonna show him that, like,
Tom's kid's really, like, a guy
who's got his shit together---

Prof. Levine gives Rob a drink. Rob, nervous, immediately
spills it all over himself. The professor gets some napkins,
and they both dab at the spill.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER
--- 'cause this is, like, a
connection right here, y'know,
like this is how you get the job
and the house and the family and
the life and, y'know, all that
shit.

The professor hands Rob more napkins, as Rob goes down on his
hands and knees to mop at the carpet.

PROF. LEVINE
Don't worry about it, it's no
trouble.

ROB
Hey, I should take off anyway,
sir.

PROF. LEVINE
No, no...

ROB
Yeah, I gotta look at my
apartment.

PROF. LEVINE
You mean your dorm room! Is this
your first time having a roommate?

Rob looks up, still mopping at the floor.

ROB
Um, my dad got me an apartment---

Rob looks down and resumes mopping.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER
---'cause I'll get, like,
distracted if I'm in a dorm.

ROB
---'cause I'll get, like,
distracted if I'm in a dorm.

PROF. LEVINE
They let freshmen live off-campus
now?

ROB

Um, yeah, I think my dad worked something out with the dean. I mean, it'll be fine.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

I mean, I said it would be fine, but actually I was kinda freaked out, y'know, about... But it turned out to be, like, pretty cool. I mean, I actually got kinda fucked up for a while. I mean, not bad, but, like, it was like, I mean, like... Shit, I dunno. I mean, it's stupid to talk about it...

2 INTERIOR/EXTERIOR – ANDREI'S APARTMENT/OTHER – NIGHT/DAY

CUT TO shots of ANDREI. Andrei is a 19-year-old Russian boy. His features are all a little too long and sharp, but he's almost ethereally beautiful, with quick eyes and long fingers.

ROB

Like, when I try to talk about this shit, I just fuck it up. But, like, when you look at how Andrei lived, he was always, like, real.

3 INTERIOR – PROFESSOR LEVINE'S OFFICE – NIGHT

CUT BACK to Professor Levine's office, where Rob has finished mopping the floor, and is now holding a dripping wad of napkins. He's looking around for a trashcan, dripping on the floor, and Prof. Levine's ushers him to the trashcan, and then out the door.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

I mean, he woulda said some shit that'd blow Professor Levine's mind, but I just... Sorry, that's not, like... This was before I met Andrei, even. Sorry, um...

4 INTERIOR — PROFESSOR LEVINE'S FOYER — NIGHT

Prof. Levine is seeing Rob out. MRS. LEVINE, the Professor's 40-ish wife, comes to the door to see him out.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

Sorry, I fucked that up. No, I didn't actually meet him until a little while after I started college.

MRS. LEVINE

My gosh, you look just like---

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

But this story's not even about me, really.

Rob draws back a little from Mrs. Levine's hand, and we cut with his step back to...

5 INTERIOR — ROB'S APARTMENT — DAY

... Rob, standing alone in his new place. He's got a suitcase, and a big backpack, and there's nothing else in the room, but he's happy---it's a cool place.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

Like, when I got my place, I felt just, awesome, y'know. Like, I didn't even know about Andrei yet, I just thought, y'know, this place rocks.

Rob goes to kitchenette to get a glass of water. He reaches in the cupboard, but of course there's no glasses, so he cups his hands under the faucet and drinks a few gulps of water, and wipes his face on his shirt.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

Like, I was fuckin' psyched. Y'know I'd never had my own room or, like, lived in the city, or met all these people, I mean... shit...

Rob pulls some clothes out of his backpack for a pillow and lies down in a patch of sunlight on the floor. He gets comfortable, then unbuttons his pants and starts playing with himself.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

So yeah, I was totally psyched for college.

6 EXTERIOR — CAMPUS — DAY

Rob is stepping onto campus. It's orientation week, and there's a whole gang of students wearing message-y t-shirts, bearing clipboards. Student groups have sent out their most charming member to accost the next person through the gate, which happens to be Rob, who's looking at a printed map of campus.

STUDENTS 1-3

Do you support justice in Palestine?
Hi, would you like to learn more about Latin America?
Hey, do you wanna show your support for Africa?

Rob is taken aback, and looking around, sees SANDY. Sandy's a solidly-built freshman girl, hair in a ponytail, no makeup. She's also carrying a map, but seems to know where she's going.

ROB

Hey, um, hey!

Rob steps out from the scrum, and towards Sandy.

ROB

Hey, um, do you know where the, uh, bursar's office is?

SANDY

Mm-hm.

She goes back to looking at the map.

ROB

Um---are you gonna tell me?

SANDY

Oh sure. But you have to pass the test first.

ROB

What?

SANDY
I need your mother's maiden name.

ROB
Um...

SANDY
And a stool sample.

ROB
Wha... You're messing with me.

SANDY
Uh-hunh.

Rob and Sandy continue bantering as their voices fade down on the soundtrack.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER
Like, it was crazy, you could just talk to anybody. Like, I ended up hanging out with this, like, theater chick, right? But she was actually pretty cool.

7 SCENE DELETED

8 EXTERIOR — BENCH ON CAMPUS — DAY

Sandy is smoking a cigarette, sitting next to Rob. In the background, students are carrying boxes of their stuff to and fro.

ROB
So, is a stage manager like a director?

SANDY
More like tech supreme.

ROB
Okay...? Like, while the play's going on, where are you?

Sandy uses Rob's lap to demonstrate the layout of a stage.

SANDY

Okay, so, before the show, I checked the stage left wing--- audience right is stage left.

ROB

Okay.

SANDY

So I check all the props stage left, then I run over to stage right, and make sure everything's set here. And then I wait back here, so the actors can all get into places...

ROB

Oh, actors, comin' through, we're actors.

Rob's "actors coming through" pushes Sandy's hands away.

SANDY

Yeah, right, exactly.

ROB

Um, hey, I've gotta go get this mattress---

SANDY

What, there's no bed in your dorm?

ROB

No, I have a place off campus.

SANDY

Really? That's awesome.

ROB

Yeah, yeah, it's gonna be a really cool place, um, once I get a mattress and---

SANDY

Testing out mattresses is one of my specialties. As tech supreme.

They walk off, still talking.

9 EXTERIOR — STREET — DAY

Rob is bent over double, trying to carry the mattress. Sandy is smoking, and kicking the corners of the mattress to indicate which way he should go.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

I mean, she wasn't hot or anything, she was actually kind of a fuckin' dog, y'know, but, like, she was just a really cool person, and like, she knew a bunch of people already---

10 INTERIOR — ROB'S APARTMENT — DAY

Rob is alone in his apartment, the mattress now in place, stuffing his clothes back into his backpack.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

---so, like, she tells them that I've got an apartment and, like, all of a sudden there's a party at my place.

11 INTERIOR — ROB'S APARTMENT — NIGHT

Rob's apartment is full of theater people. Most are under 21, so there's not much booze in evidence, but everyone's smoking cigarettes, and the occasional six-pack or flask appears. In one area, a bunch of plump theater techs, including Sandy, are talking; in another area, some attractive actors are also chatting.

TECH #1

I can't believe there's no backstage!

TECH #2

Maybe they think actors should just carry the props.

SANDY

I would absolutely support making actors be show mules!

Rob is standing between both groups, drinking a beer, trying to follow both conversations.

ACTRESS #1

God, I have got to get a place off campus this semester.

ACTRESS #2

Oh sure, it's sooooo important to have a space where you can really be yourself.

ACTOR #3

You know Andrei, right? Doesn't he live near here?

TECH #2

He's in this building.

ACTRESS #2

What?

TECH #2

Yeah, he's right downstairs, I think.

ACTOR #4

Mm-hm. Have you seen his place? It's so great.

TECH #1

You've been over there?

ACTOR #4

Oh yeah, I go over there all the time.

ROB

Who's Andrei?

ACTRESS #1

Omigosh, he's so great, you have to meet him.

ACTRESS #2

He's just so smart and really, like, so perceptive.

TECH #1

Did you hear about what he said to Professor Spivak?

ACTRESS #1

Oh I know, he's just so...

ROB

Oh, what, just 'cause he's some fuckin' Russian, right, you all think he's a genius.

ACTRESS #2

No, he's really got this amazing presence.

TECH #3

Seriously, he's really got that Russian way of seeing things.

ROB

Yeah, in Montana, we call that not speaking English.

Both groups are now in a circle around Rob. Sandy's smiling at him, and he smiles back.

12 INTERIOR – ROB'S APARTMENT – MORNING

Rob is in the middle of the empty room the next morning, cleaning up the wreckage of the party. Sandy is also there, washing the floor with a sponge. Music is playing in the background. Rob's cell phone rings---he answers it, stepping away from Sandy so he can hear.

ROB

Hello?

UNCLE REED [V.O]

Bobby? Is that you?

ROB

Uh, yeah.

UNCLE REED [V.O]

Bobby! It's your Uncle Reed! You remember---"the bear went over the mountain, the bear---"

ROB

Uh, sure, sure, hey Uncle Reed.

UNCLE REED [V.O]

Bobby, I was thinking, now that you're in the city, we should get caught up, that sound like fun?

ROB

Sure, yeah, um, I'm pretty busy with classes and stuff.

UNCLE REED [V.O]

Oh I'll bet--wish I was back in school with you myself. Say, Bobby, did your dad give you enough money for the semester?

ROB

Oh yeah, I'm set, thanks Uncle Reed---

UNCLE REED [V.O]

That's great. Tom's always taken care of you kids, you know. I hope you appreciate how hard he works for you.

ROB

Oh yes sir, definitely.

UNCLE REED [V.O]

Well I was thinking, if you've got enough for the whole semester, how about I come by this evening, I'll just borrow a little, and pay you back before your midterms. I'll come by your place tonight, okay?

Rob's uncomfortable, afraid Sandy will hear this conversation.

ROB

Um, tonight's probably no good, Uncle Reed.

UNCLE REED [V.O.]
I could come over right now.
How'd that be, Bobby?

13 EXTERIOR — HANDBALL COURT — DAY

Rob is playing handball, alone, at an outdoor court. He's running himself hard, diving for balls, sweating profusely. The conversation continues as voice-over.

ROB [V.O.]
I'm just supposed to use this for school stuff, Uncle Reed.

UNCLE REED [V.O.]
You know, Bobby, I don't think you appreciate how easy you have it. Tom and I both had to work full time when we were in school.

ROB [V.O.]
Sure, I know, just---

UNCLE REED [V.O.]
Now don't be upset, Bobby. I'll take you out to dinner tonight, okay.

ROB [V.O.]
Sure, Uncle Reed.

14 EXTERIOR — COFFEE SHOP — DAY

Rob and Sandy step into a funky coffeehouse off-campus, chatting.

15 INTERIOR — COFFEE SHOP — DAY

Inside, the coffeehouse is dusty, with wood fixtures, pastries on the counter, and many students, including a number of older grad students, reading heavy tomes.

SANDY
Oh hey--- that's Andrei.

At the table, ANDREI is giving Russian lessons to a dewy-eyed frosh girl.

FROSH GIRL
[haltingly] Ya lyublu tebye, ti
lyubish menye, on lyubit yeye, mui
lyubim yevo...

SANDY
Hey, Andrei!

Andrei is visibly bored by his student, and welcomes the distraction when Sandy calls.

ANDREI
Ah, hey, Sandy, right?

SANDY
Yeah, hi.

ANDREI
You do theater, right? You must
have a cigarette.

SANDY
Oh yeah.

FROSH GIRL
Hi, I'm Amy---

ANDREI
Come on, let's have a smoke. [to
Frosh Girl, in Russian] Pasmatri
na vyeshi! [in English] Watch my
stuff.

FROSH GIRL
Um, okay, are we---

But Andrei is already heading for the door.

16 EXTERIOR – COFFEE SHOP – DAY

Andrei bums a cigarette from Sandy, and lights up.

ANDREI
You know, only in America can you
not smoke while you are drinking a
coffee. This is absurd. These
things are meant to be together.

ANDREI (CON'T)

But what can you expect from people who are cursed to speak English? It melts your brain--- [imitating broad American vowels] "where y'aaaaat?" "y' waaannaaa pizzaaaaa?"

SANDY

De gustibus non est disputandum..

Rob is confused by Sandy suddenly speaking a foreign tongue.

ANDREI

There's no need for Latin. Just something a little better than "I caaaaall, you caaaaall, I baaaall, you baaaaall..."

Rob laughs, finally getting a joke.

ANDREI

[to Rob] So what's your story, man?

ROB

[taken aback when suddenly spoken to] Um..

ANDREI

[relishing the consonants] How's tricks? What's the scoop? Do you speak Chinese?

Rob laughs; he feels like he's having fun.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

He was just... He was so, like... He was just so cool. Like, we'd just met and I already really felt like, like he was my friend, y'know, like we were, like he was just funny, and cool and, like, we just had this thing together right away.

17 EXTERIOR — GAZEBO ON CAMPUS

Rob and Sandy are sitting on a bench, talking. But Rob keeps looking over his shoulder to where Andrei and his friend Gavrilov are sitting, under a gazebo, chatting with a circle of friends.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

I mean, that was the thing about college, right, like, you can meet these amazing people. Like, Andrei was really, like, a special person. And you knew that as soon as you knew him. I'd never met anyone like him, ever.

18 INTERIOR — ROB'S APARTMENT — DAY

Rob is in his apartment, textbooks open on his desk. He's opening his mail, and finds a check, and a letter.

ROB'S MOM VOICE-OVER

Hi Rob! Dad and I went to see your brother at practice.

19 EXTERIOR — OFF-CAMPUS — DAY

Rob walks down the street, alone, past various clusters of students talking. He heads to an ATM, and deposits his check.

ROB'S MOM VOICE-OVER

They've just had tryouts for freshman, and he's already on the team. I'm still glad you aren't wrestling this year---you should take your classes seriously, instead of getting distracted. We don't want you to waste college! But I hope you're making plenty of friends, and we'll see you this Christmas. I'm already picking out your presents! Love, Mom.

20 INTERIOR — ROB'S APARTMENT — DUSK

Rob comes back in, and takes off his jacket, when his cell phone rings. He brings it out of his pocket, and doesn't recognize the number calling, so he answers.

ROB

Hello?

RICK [V.O.]

Hey, Rob! How's college, man?

Pause. Rob can't even start to respond.

RICK [V.O.]

Rob? Hey, it's Rick, man.

ROB

I know. You're not supposed to call me.

RICK [V.O.]

Hey, c'mon, Rob, we don't have to, y'know, we don't gotta... Y'know, I just wanted to see how shit's going.

ROB

I gotta go, Rick. Don't, don't call me, okay, it's, it's really distracting. Like, I've got friends and shit here, okay? Don't fuckin' call me.

Rob snaps the phone shut, and tosses it away. He stares out the window.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

I mean, Andrei was the kind of person I'd never met. You know, I'm just an ordinary guy, right, I'm not special.

21 EXTERIOR — STREET — DUSK

Andrei and Gavrilov are walking down the street. Andrei is flitting around Gavrilov, trying to engage him in conversation, but Gavrilov isn't talking, just barreling forward.

Rob is following, unnoticed, about twenty feet behind them, walking in step.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

Like, I'm not special the way he was. But he, y'know, he didn't judge people like that. Like, he was always hanging out with this guy, um, [sounding it out]
Gavrilov----

Suddenly, Gavrilov stops short. Andrei stops short too. Behind them, Rob also freezes.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

---who I guess he knew from back in Russia, and he was a complete asswipe, but him and Andrei were always hanging out.

Gavrilov looks deeply at Andrei. He takes Andrei's hand in his--we see now that Gavrilov is wearing black gloves. Andrei and Gavrilov stare at each other, as Rob watches from a distance.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

I mean, I'm sure Andrei was just hanging out with his 'cause, like, he felt sorry for the guy, was the only reason---

22 INTERIOR — ROB'S APARTMENT — NIGHT

Large books are on Rob's desk, but he's in bed, wearing only boxers and socks, reading Men's Health. There's a knock on his door.

ROB

Come in!

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

---'Cause sometimes Andrei would come by my place, just to hang out.

Andrei's opens the door. His eyes widen when he sees Rob's state.

ANDREI

Hey man, are you making a porno?

ROB

No, I was just about to...

ANDREI

Yeah, just about to.

Andrei comes in, closing the door behind him. He makes a jerk-off gesture as he steps towards the bed, then steps back to lean on the desk.

ANDREI

Rob, such heavy books! For building muscle.

ROB

Oh yeah, dude, I can fuckin' curl that shit.

Rob sits up.

ANDREI

Oh yeah, pump, pump, pump, you're such a stud.

Andrei tosses the books onto Rob's bed, hitting him in the abdomen with one. Rob grunts in faux-pain. Andrei leans on the desk, in a now-cleared space.

ANDREI

Rob, you are an inspiration to me. I want to join a gym right now so I can get ripped like you.

ROB

Oh yeah? Hey, totally, man. Hey, we should work out together---I know a lotta routines.

ANDREI

Oklahoma-style workout, yeah?

ROB

No, I'm from Montana, man.

ANDREI

Oh yeah?

Andrei pushes off from the desk, and starts walking towards the bed.

ANDREI

What kind of routines do you have, Rob?

ROB

I mix it up, man. I mean, a lotta guys just do free weights, but you gotta build up the core, man.

ANDREI

[patting Rob's stomach] Oh yeah, strong core.

Rob pulls back from Andrei's touch, so he's almost huddled against the wall.

ROB

Hey, so, you wanna go to the campus gym tomorrow?

ANDREI

No. The campus gym is full of wannabes, Rob. Just showing off their asses. I know a place downtown, they've got Nautilus, free weights, a pool---it's a place where we could really focus, Rob. You and me.

ROB

Yeah, that's what I love about working out, man. When you're just pushing and you're not thinking about anything, y'know?

ANDREI

Man's essence is kinetic, Rob, not cerebral. You are in your body, not your head.

ROB

Yeah, man. Yeah.

Rob is, by now, back on the edge of the bed.

ANDREI

They have deal now, two people for
a hundred bucks.

ROB

Yeah, man---you wanna meet up
there tomorrow?

ANDREI

No, I'll do it. Just give me a
hundred bucks now, I'll sign us
up.

ROB

Sure, man, yeah.

Rob crawls out of bed, and crosses to the middle of the room,
where his pants are lying on the floor. He picks up his pants
and gets out his wallet, talking all the while.

ROB

Yeah, we can, like, work your
delts and pecs one day, then core,
then do back and quads after that,
'cause you gotta split that up,
and you gotta change the intensity
too, you can't do the same number
of reps every time---a hundred,
right?

Andrei takes the cash.

ANDREI

Give me another sixty for the
week, I'll pay you back next
month.

ROB

Sure, man. And you gotta stretch
too, or you'll pull a hamstring,
hurts like shit.

ANDREI

Cool, cool.

Andrei heads for the door.

ANDREI

So---I'll see you around.

ROB

Sure.

Andrei leaves, closing the door behind him. Rob stands in the middle of the room, still holding his pants.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

Like, I think Andrei knew that I wasn't like Gavrilov. I really, like, knew him.

23 EXTERIOR — CAMPUS DAY

Rob is walking across campus. Sandy spots him.

SANDY

Hey! Hey!

Sandy catches up.

SANDY

Hey, how's the Chinese?

ROB

Uh, it's cool.

SANDY

Nice. Whatcha doing tonight?

ROB

Um, I think I'm hanging out with Andrei.

SANDY

Oh yeah?

ROB

Yeah, we've totally been hanging out.

SANDY

That's cool.

ROB

Um, look, I gotta take off, but...

SANDY

Hey, did you hear there's going to be a free concert on the quad this weekend?

ROB

Oh yeah? That's cool. [stepping away]

SANDY

Hey, did you hear about Professor Thurman? He was busted for doing coke with a student!

ROB

Woah, crazy. Um, hey, IM me some time...

SANDY

Yeah. Yeah, sure. [walking away]
Hey, you heard about Andrei's friend, right? That other Russian kid? He's dead. He died.

Rob stops, stunned.

24 INTERIOR — ROB'S APARTMENT — NIGHT

Rob is lying on his bed, staring at the ceiling. He hears the doorknob rattle, and jumps up as furious knocking begins. It's Andrei, looking haggard.

ROB

Andrei. Hey.

ANDREI

Is it warm here? I can't tell.

ROB

I guess---

ANDREI

It's already frozen there, I'm sure. Nobody ever left. There was nowhere to go. Just miles of waste.

ROB
You mean, like, back home?

ANDREI
The ground freezes in the winter.
Freezes solid. They have to stack
the dead, like wood.

Andrei comes in, and collapses in a corner of the room.

ROB
Um... Hey, man, I heard about
Gavrulof...

ANDREI
Gav-ril-ov!

ROB
Um, yeah, I'm sorry, um---how---

ANDREI
There you fucking have it.
Motherfuckers who can't even
pronounce his name---

Andrei tackles Rob, pulling him down to the floor.

ROB
Hey, no, I'm sorry, man, hey...
Hey, Andrei, are you okay?

ANDREI
Fuck. [Andrei clutches at Rob]
Oh fuck. There's no one now. I'm
so fucking alone here.

ROB
Hey, hey...

ANDREI
Ahhhhh god...

ROB
Hey, hey...

ANDREI
I'm not here just to fucking die!
No matter what, I live, right?

ROB

Oh yeah, man, you gotta.

ANDREI

That's right. [Pause] Rob, I came to you because you're not like all these other disappointing slobs.

ROB

Yeah, man.

ANDREI

I know so many people, Rob. But you know me, don't you?

ROB

Yeah.

ANDREI

Rob, I need a friend so much. Will you be my friend?

ROB

Yeah, man, totally. Yeah.

Andrei stands.

ANDREI

Come on. Let's go.

ROB

Sure, man. Where do you wanna go?

ANDREI

That is so American, Rob, to ask questions all the time.

Rob is silent as they go to the door.

25 EXTERIOR — CITY STREETS — NIGHT

Andrei is smoking and talking, while Rob listens, rapt. Note that Andrei is wearing a prominent scarf.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER
It was amazing, like, he's just,
like, let's go, and I just... did
it! I was just... totally real.

26 EXTERIOR — VERA'S APARTMENT — NIGHT

They've arrived at a nice apartment building, with a buzzer panel in front. Rob is looking up at the building.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER
So we ended up walking a ways off
campus.

Rob and Andrei walk up to the door, where Andrei buzzes and talks into the mic. Up several flights, Rob sees a woman silhouetted in the window, smoking.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER
And I guess that's probably the
first time I saw her. But I
didn't even know who she was. I
mean, that night, I didn't even
really talk to her.

The door buzzes, and they walk in.

27 INTERIOR — VERA'S DOWNSTAIRS LOBBY — NIGHT

The boys head towards the elevator.

ANDREI
Rob, I'm going to say you're my
cousin from New Jersey, you
understand?

ROB
Okay... Hey, if I'm your cousin,
should I try to, like [puts on a
Russian accent] talk like you?

ANDREI
No.

28 INTERIOR — HALLWAY OUTSIDE VERA'S — NIGHT

As they approach the apartment, the door is opened by PROFESSOR DENISON

PROF. DENISON

Ah, Andrei.

Prof. Denison heads into the apartment, with no gesture to Rob or Andrei.

29 INTERIOR — DENISON'S FOYER — NIGHT

PROF. DENISON

Do you have a key now?

ANDREI

I think your wife buzzed me in,
Professor Denison.

PROF. DENISON

Mm.

Andrei follows Prof. Denison in, but Rob lingers in the door, unsure.

ROB

Um, hello sir, I'm---

ANDREI

Professor, this is my cousin
Vladimir, from New Jersey.

PROF. DENISON

Vladimir. Really. And what
happened to your other cousin?

ANDREI

Sasha is dead.

PROF. DENISON

Dead. I'm sure you were very sad.

ANDREI

He was my friend.

PROF. DENISON
And now you have a new cousin.
You must have a very close family,
Andrei.

ROB
Uh, hey...

PROF. DENISON
Vladimir. Really.

ANDREI
I thought you boys would enjoy
playing bridge together.

A brief pause, as Denison and Andrei look at each other with
undisguised loathing. Denison turns away first.

PROF. DENISON
[to Rob] Do you play bridge?

ROB
No, sir.

VERA
You'll learn.

Rob turns to see VERA, a slim, attractive woman in her forties,
smoking a cigarette.

ROB
Oh, hi.

PROF. DENISON
Dear, you know I don't like it
when you smoke here.

VERA
I'll go right to the kitchen. I
just wanted to say hello to the
boys.

ANDREI
I'll have a smoke too.

PROF. DENISON
Vera...

VERA

I know, Paul---it's bad for me. I know.

Andrei and Vera head off together.

PROF. DENISON

Hm. [to Rob] Well, Vladimir---
bridge?

30 INTERIOR -DENISONS LIVING ROOM -NIGHT

Dissolve to a table in the living room. On one end is a handful of cards, face down. Seated around the table are Rob, Prof. Denison, and LEAH, an attractive blonde woman in her fifties. Rob is miserably trying to manage his own hand and the hand face down on the table, while Prof. Denison and Leah are talking with each other, laughing sometimes at Rob, sometimes at their own private jokes.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

So, turns out you need four people to play bridge, so the professor called up this chick Leah who I guess he plays cards with. I mean, I guess they knew each other pretty well, but so I never even played fucking bridge, and I guess when you don't have four people you have an empty hand that you, like, pretend is your partner, and that's me, the fuckin' empty hand.

Andrei appears, and tells Rob he's ready to go. Denison doesn't acknowledge their leaving, just continues chatting with Leah.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

So thank god Andrei finally saved me from that shit.

31 INTERIOR - DENISON'S FOYER - NIGHT

At the door, Vera is waiting for Rob and Andrei.

VERA

[to Rob] My husband likes you. [to Andrei] You should bring him back soon.

ANDREI
Of course. Vera, I need something
for the week.

VERA
Sure.

Vera steps out to the other room, leaving Rob and Andrei at the door. Andrei looks towards the living room, where Prof. Denison can be heard talking to Leah.

ANDREI
Is he still yapping at that
unspeakable woman?

ROB
Yeah, I guess so.

Vera reappears, and gives Andrei a wad of cash. Andrei takes the money, and gives Vera a long, deep kiss. After a moment, Andrei pulls back, and walks out the door. Rob is stunned, his mouth hanging open. Vera smiles, closes his mouth, pushes him into the hallway, and closes the door.

32 INTERIOR – LIQUOUR STORE – NIGHT

Rob and Andrei are in a liquor store. Andrei is grabbing several bottles of cheap booze.

ANDREI
You were good, Rob. She liked
you.

ROB
That's great, dude, that's really
cool.

ANDREI
Her husband is such an prick.

Andrei hands the suspicious clerk his Russian ID. While the clerk is eyeing it, Andrei also pulls out the money from Vera.

ANDREI
Do you believe I used to be that
imbecile's T.A.?

ROB
No shit---god, and now you're
totally banging his wife, right?

ANDREI
"You're totally banging his wife."
God, Rob, you are so Oklahoma when
you talk like that.

ROB
Hey, you don't have to buy all
that cheap stuff. Here, let me
get you something nice.

Rob pulls out his wallet, and some cash.

ROB
Let's have us a party, right.

ANDREI
[smiling broadly] Sure, Rob.
Let's have us a party.

33 EXTERIOR — STREET NEAR CAMPUS — NIGHT

Rob and Andrei are heading back up to campus. Rob is carrying the bag of booze; Andrei is talking on his cell phone. Andrei hangs up the phone, and inspects Rob. Andrei takes off his scarf, and puts it around Rob's neck. Deciding Rob now looks party-acceptable, they continue up the hill.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER
I mean, it was awesome to be,
like, part of his whole world like
that. So like right after we
left, he called a bunch of just,
like, crazy people he knew---

34 INTERIOR — ANDREI'S APARTMENT — NIGHT

Andrei's apartment is full of Andrei's stylish friends, all smoking and drinking and talking at maximum volume, many in foreign languages.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

---and everyone just, like, got together at his place and it was fucking awesome.

Andrei is with a group of guys. They're telling stories in Russian, cracking each other up. Rob is standing at the edge of the group, trying to follow, laughing when everyone else does.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

Like, he'd never invited me to his place before, so it was really cool, like, getting to really talk to him.

Sandy is also at the party, and is in another area talking to some French guys. She's gamely holding her own with her adorable high-school French.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

And I actually called up Sandy too, but I ended up feeling kinda bad about that, 'cause she didn't know anyone there and, like, I think it was kinda weird for her, not fitting in like that.

35 INTERIOR — CLOTHING STORE — DAY

Andrei and Rob are looking at clothes.

ROB

Hey, this is really cool, right?

ANDREI

Rob, that looks like a clown suit. Is that how they dress in Oklahoma?

ROB

I wouldn't know, man.

ANDREI

This will look good on you.

ROB

Oh yeah, man, that'll be awesome.

ANDREI

What do you do in Oklahoma, in
your clown suits?

ROB

Montana, man, it's awesome out
there. You should come up with me
this summer. There's this one
place I went when I was, like---

ANDREI

Hold on a sec, Rob. Hey, Lars,
how are you?

Andrei starts to walk towards a friend he sees in the store.
Rob starts to follow, but Andrei stops him. Andrei hands Rob a
few items of clothing.

ANDREI

Hey, Rob, why don't you buy these,
I'll come pick it up tonight,
okay?

ROB

You wanna come over tonight?

ANDREI

Sure, man, we'll hang out.

ROB

Cool, okay, man.

ANDREI

Alright, I'll catch you later.

Andrei walks off. Rob heads to the register and pulls out his
credit card.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

I mean, there's a lotta people who
just can't, like, understand
someone like Andrei because
they're too wrapped up in their
own bullshit.

36 INTERIOR —COFFEE SHOP — DAY

Rob has come into the coffee shop alone, and is looking around for a place to sit, and maybe Andrei.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

Like, there was this one place where Andrei'd get coffee, so I'd go there, y'know, to maybe hang out. But there was this one fucking jerk-off and he was always sitting there just being a dick.

Rob sees JEAN-MICHEL, a French grad student, sitting at a table with two beautiful, chicly dressed girls, AUDREY and HELENE. Jean-Michel is smirking as he berates a scruffy guy at another table, who is grumpily getting up to escape Jean-Michel and his giggling sidekicks.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

Like, he was always talking bullshit, y'know, and no one even listened to him.

JEAN-MICHEL

[at Rob] Oh, hi, Rob, we have not seen Andrei today, have you?

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

Like, he had no fucking clue.

JEAN-MICHELE

Are you thinking about your Russian lessons?

Rob doesn't deign to reply.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

'Cause Andrei and me were hanging out all the time now, and we sure as shit weren't going to class.

37 INTERIOR — ROB'S APARTMENT — EVENING

Rob is studying, when there's a knock on the door. It's Andrei; he snaps his fingers, telling Rob to hurry up. They leave, closing the door behind them.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER
Andrei'd come by my place, like, a
few times a week, and we'd,
y'know, we'd hang out.

38 EXTERIOR — STREETS TO VERA'S — EVENING

Andrei and Rob are walking, in jackets---Fall is getting cool.
Rob occasionally says something, and Andrei responds tersely.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER
And then we'd go over to Vera's
place---

39 INTERIOR — DENISONS APARTMENT — EVENING

Rob, Prof. Denison, and Leah are sitting around playing bridge.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER
---and I'd, like, play bullshit
cards for a while---

40 INTERIOR — DENISONS FOYER — NIGHT

The boys are leaving.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER
---but whatever, it was fine,
'cause then Andrei would come out,
and he'd, like---

41 INTERIOR — LIQUOR STORE — NIGHT

Rob is paying for booze with a was of cash as Andrei picks it
up.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER
---like, he'd totally wanna party.
So we'd get some booze, and then -
--

42 INTERIOR — ANDREI'S APARTMENT — NIGHT

A small party at Andrei's; people are sitting on the floor
chatting. Andrei and a friend are lounging on the bed, talking.
Rob is watching them from the floor trying to follow the

conversation and eating chips. Rob is now much better dressed--
-his clothes, at least, make him fit in with Andrei's crowd.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER
---we'd just, like, hang out at
his place all night, just shootin'
the shit.

43 INTERIOR — ROB'S APARTMENT — NIGHT

Rob and Sandy are making out on his bed, below an M.C. Escher print. Rob has his hands at his sides. Sandy takes one hand, and puts it on her boob. His hand drops back down. She starts feeling up his lap.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER
I mean, I was fucking' wiped, man,
'cause me and Andrei were hanging
out every night. Like, Sandy came
over one time and I had to tell
her, like, I was just too fuckin'
tired to hang out. I mean, I
didn't really see her much after
that.

44 EXTERIOR — CAMPUS — DAY

Rob is walking through campus, alone.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER
But, y'know, I was hanging out
with all kinds of people by then
anyway.

44-A EXTERIOR — ROB'S BUILDING — NIGHT

Rob and Andrei are coming back from Vera's. Andrei stops Rob, and looks over his clothes. He smiles his approval.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER
And that was cool and all, but me
and Andrei, we were like brothers,
man. Like, he knew everything
about me.

45 INTERIOR — ANDREI'S APARTMENT — NIGHT

A party is in full swing. Someone's playing guitar in the corner, attractive people are talking, and in the middle of it is Andrei and his buddy Rob. Rob's looking good in his new clothes.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

And sometimes we'd just, like,
hang out together. Especially
'cause it's not like he always
wanted to party after Vera's,
right?

46 INTERIOR — VERA'S APARTMENT — NIGHT

It's late at night. Denison's already gone to bed. Rob is alone in the apartment, waiting for Andrei. Andrei and Vera emerge from the kitchen; Andrei's sullen and glaring.

ANDREI

I have to piss.

Andrei takes off for the bathroom, leaving Rob and Vera alone. Vera takes in the empty room with a murderous glare, and lights a cigarette. Rob is looking at her, not sure if he should make conversation, and Vera gets fed up with his awkward staring.

VERA

Vladimir, right? Do you want a
cigarette?

ROB

Uh, no ma'am, I don't...

Vera stares at him, only now noticing "Vladimir's" all-American voice. Her face starts to twitch.

VERA

Jesus... Who... who are you?

ROB

I'm, uh, I'm sorry, I'm Rob---

VERA

Rob.

She starts to laugh, and starts sobbing uncontrollably. She's hysterical, and Rob has no idea what to do.

ANDREI comes back in. He glances at Vera, but doesn't react.

ANDREI
[to Rob] Let's go.

47 INTERIOR — VERA'S DOWNSTAIRS LOBBY — NIGHT

Rob and Andrei are leaving. Andrei clearly does not want to talk about what just happened.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER
So, like, that was kinda weird but me and Andrei weren't gonna get hung up on some chick shit, right. We actually hung out all night after that, it was really great.

48 EXTERIOR — BENCH ON CAMPUS — NIGHT

Andrei and Rob are sitting on a bench, after a long night. Autumn leaves are piled up by the bench. They've clearly been sitting a while, Andrei still not talking.

ANDREI
God dammit. [pulls out a cigarette] You know, Rob, this city is full of assholes.

ROB
Oh fuck yeah, man.

Andrei flicks some ash off. He realizes he's ashing into a pile of dry leaves, and flicks more enthusiastically.

ANDREI
I should burn this fucking college down. And everyone who fucking go here.

ROB
[trying to cheer him up] Who go?

ANDREI
Went. Weent. Weeeeeeeent.

Rob's attempt to cheer Andrei up is working a little---they boys are smiling now.

ANDREI

Everyone who went here, they're...
useless people, you know?

ROB

Yeah, man, no doubt. But... Look,
man, I been thinking... I think we
should pledge. Y'know, to a
fraternity.

ANDREI

What?

ROB

Yeah, I mean, once you've pledged,
man, they're your brothers. I
mean, these are the people who are
get you, like, jobs and shit,
y'know, forever.

ANDREI

Shit on that. I'm leaving.

ROB

You... what?

ANDREI

New York is fucking dead, man.
I'm moving to Berlin, I'm done
with this shit.

ROB

Dude, no! C'mon, man, don't be a
fucking idiot!

Andrei can't believe Rob would talk like that, but Rob's
unstoppable.

ANDREI

Excuse me?

ROB

Iif you leave, then New York
fuckin' beat you, y'know? You
gotta kick the shit outta this
town, man, and then we can go to
fuckin' Vietnam or wherever.

ANDREI

Why in god's name would I move to Vietnam?

ROB

No, dude, my cousin's job sent him to Vietnam 'cause it's all capitalist and shit now, and they fuckin' set him up! He's got a fuckin' house, like with servants and shit, man.

ANDREI

They hire a bodyguard too?

ROB

Whatever, man, it's not like fuckin' Moscow, y'know. You don't just get whacked. He's rich, man, he's living the fuckin' life.

Andrei reacted at "Moscow", and now he's getting up. He leans in close, resting his weight on Rob's thighs.

ANDREI

Rob... No one will ever help you. Do you understand?

ROB

Yeah, I know, man. It's just us.

Andrei straightens up, and walks away. He turns and stares at Rob, but doesn't say anything.

ROB

Hey, so, I'll see you tomorrow, right.

Andrei shrugs, still staring.

ROB

I mean, you're gonna let that chick stew for a while, right, but... Hey, we should do some shit.

ANDREI

Yeah, sure, Rob.

Andrei walks away, leaving Rob on the bench as the sun is coming up.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

I mean, I usually didn't see Andrei during the daytime. But, y'know, sometimes I'd, like, see him on campus and we'd hang out, y'know, like in public.

49 EXTERIOR — HANDBALL COURT — DAY

Rob is playing handball, alone, as he was earlier. He's approached by BEN, a fit, sensitive young guy.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

And I guess that's why, like... I mean, people knew me and Andrei were, like, friends, y'know?

BEN

Hey, can I join you?

ROB

Sure, man.

Ben takes the ball, and gets ready to serve. He smirks at Rob.

BEN

So---you ready to get your ass handed to you?

And bam, they're off. Ben turns out to be a good player, Rob perks up, and they end up having a fun game, with plenty of good-natured trash talking.

50 EXTERIOR — HANDBALL COURT EDGE — DAY

Rob and Ben, after the game, are wiping off and sitting down.

BEN

Hey, good game.

ROB

Yeah, we should play again, man. I'm Rob.

BEN

I know. I've seen you around.

ROB

Oh yeah? We have a class together?

BEN

No, no. I... used to know Andrei.

ROB

Oh, yeah? That's awesome, man. Hey, have I seen you at his place? I'm over there, like, all the time...

BEN

No. I don't... I don't go to Andrei's any more.

ROB

Yeah? Well you should come by, man, it's really cool.

BEN

Look, Rob... I think you should come to a meeting. We're at the Student Center every Wednesday, and we'd love to have you there---

Ben takes Rob's hand. Rob jumps back, and leaps to his feet.

ROB

Hey, what the fuck, man!?!

BEN

Rob, I'm sorry---

ROB

[backing away] You just stay right fuckin' there, alright?

BEN

Rob, listen, you need a friend right now---

ROB

[laughing] You know what, I got fuckin' friends, man.

Rob turns around and takes off, still laughing.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER
I mean, it was fuckin' hilarious, right, 'cause Andrei's---

51 EXTERIOR — DENISONS BUILDING — NIGHT

Andrei is ringing the buzzer to the building, with Rob in tow.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER
---sure as shit not fuckin' gay, right?

52 INTERIOR — DENISONS APARTMENT — NIGHT

Rob, Prof. Denison, and Leah, playing cards.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER
But like, I was kinda wondering about Professor Denison. I mean, I know he was fuckin' married and shit, but that dude was weird.

53 INTERIOR — DENISONS APARTMENT — NIGHT

Leah isn't there. Instead, Professor Denison just stares at Rob, as Rob tries to talk over the sex sounds from the kitchen.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER
Like, there was a couple times when I guess that chick Leah couldn't come over so he'd just, like, sit there and stare at me. I mean, if he figured out what me 'n' Andrei were doing, man, it'd be fuckin' kill or be killed, y'know. But like, I had Andrei's back, man.

54 INTERIOR — ROB'S APARTMENT — NIGHT

Rob is alone, looking at his books, eating from a bag of cookies. Bored, he goes down to Andrei's room.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER
But after a while, Andrei just sorta stopped going over there. I mean, he didn't... I dunno what happened.

55 INTERIOR — ANDREI'S ROOM — NIGHT

Andrei is lying on his bed, tearing pictures down from the collage on his wall and ignoring Rob, who's looking around the room for distraction.

ROB
Hey, d' you wanna, like... I dunno, do something?

ANDREI
Do what?

ROB
Well, y'know, do you wanna go somewhere?

ANDREI
Do you want to see a movie, Rob?
Do you want to share a milkshake?

ROB
Yeah, right. No, I mean we could--
--

ANDREI
Do you want to jerk each other off?

ROB
[laughs]

ANDREI
Do you like having your balls sucked on, Rob? Or just played with?

ROB
Um... [laughs]

ANDREI

Do you have cash? Let's get some food.

Andrei hoists himself out of bed to put on his shoes.

ROB

Sure, yeah. Hey, do you wanna go see Vera some time? Like, I think I'm figuring out how to play fuckin' bridge---

ANDREI

What an idiotic game---that must be why you are good at it. [mimes passing out cards, imitating Rob's accent] "Do you wanna... Do you wanna..." Just like how you talk, right?

ROB

Yeah, right. I still don't get how to play---it's so fuckin' stupid, right?

56 EXTERIOR — ROB'S BUILDING — EVENING

Rob and Andrei are stepping out of the building, into the street.

ROB

Vera's really cool, though, right? Like, she's so not a typical chick, y'know?

ANDREI

Vera? She is completely typical rich cunt. Does she look like your mother?

ROB

No! Hey, I just thought, like... you'd wanna go over there, y'know, if you, like, need some cash...

ANDREI

No, I want quiet. I'm going to the library.

ROB
Oh---actually, I need to get some
books for class---

ANDREI
No, you go eat. Have big, fat
cowboy breakfast.

ROB
Hey, do you wanna hang out later?

ANDREI
We'll see. Don't come down---I
don't know when I'll be here.

ROB
Oh yeah, where are you---

But Andrei is already down the block.

57 INTERIOR - DINER - NIGHT

Rob is eating, alone, in a diner off-campus.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER
I didn't know what was wrong with
me. I mean, I was totally in love
with Vera, but I just felt like a
piece of shit.

JEAN-MICHEL comes in, with AUDREY and HELENE in tow, and sees
Rob immediately. They crowd around Rob's table, talking to each
other.

JEAN-MICHEL
What is so sad as a lost puppy?
Imagine, its little whimper, its
poor fur all wet. Please, sir,
where is my leash?

AUDREY
Oh, Jean-Michel, no, just look at
him. [she sits down beside Rob]
Some terrible girl has made him
sad. [to Rob] It is sad to be in
love, no?

JEAN-MICHEL
[sitting down on the other side of
Rob] Audrey, no girl could so
break this boy's heart.

HELENE
Of course she would, girls are
awful.

JEAN-MICHEL
His heart would not even beat if
it disturbed Andrei. [patting
Rob's chest] He would hold it
tight, make it stop, before some
terrible girl could take away
Andrei's toy.

Rob grabs Jean-Michele's shirt, and hauls him up to his feet.

ROB
Hey, le fuck you, okay?

JEAN-MICHEL
Oh, poor pup.

Jean-Michel laughs. Rob shoves him away, and heads for the
door.

JEAN-MICHEL
The puppy is sick, it does not
mean to bite. You should stay,
puppy. Look at you---you could
not kiss a girl without Andrei
holding your cheeks.

ROB
[storming out] Pay for my fuckin'
burger yourself, you fuckin'
cheesedick.

58 EXTERIOR — STREETS TO VERA'S — NIGHT

ROB'S VOICE-OVER
I couldn't do this anymore. That
French fag was right--- I had to
go in there and take what I
wanted.

59 EXTERIOR — VERA'S LOBBY — NIGHT

Rob storms through the lobby, pacing as he waits for the elevator.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

It's like there's something, like, missing in Andrei, he doesn't know what to fuckin' do with someone who, like, loves him, he doesn't owe them--- he thinks he doesn't owe them---

60 INTERIOR — VERA'S BUILDING — NIGHT

Rob buzzes, is admitted, takes the elevator up, and strides down the hallway to Vera's.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

--- but you fuckin' do, when someone loves you, you fuckin' owe them something---

Prof. Denison answers the door.

PROF. DENISON

It's just you? Hm. It's like looking at one of those scientific dogs, with their left half missing, so you can see the insides. Well, come in, don't drop your kidneys on anything.

61 INTERIOR — VERA'S APARTMENT — NIGHT

Prof. Denison waves off to one side.

PROF. DENISON

She's in her room, I think. That is, I assume you're not here to play cards. I've never understood why he makes you do that---you're so bad at bridge! It's like playing catch with a pigeon.

Vera has entered to see who's there.

PROF. DENISON

Ah, Vera---look after the company.
I have to go to a faculty thing,
so... At least you'll have a better
evening than I will.

Prof. Denison leaves. For a moment, Rob and Vera look at each other, at a loss.

VERA

It's just you?

ROB

Vera, I...

He's losing momentum. He can feel the head of steam he'd built up drain out of him. He scrunches up his face and rallies his spirits, as Vera looks at him, bemused. He works himself into a fury before her eyes, and then throws himself at her. He bites at her lips, tears at her clothes, plunges his face into her neck like an ax.

VERA

You can't leave marks, baby.
That's the rule.

He pulls her to the armchair, tearing off her shirt, which she lets go with a smile.

62 INTERIOR — ROB'S APARTMENT — NIGHT

Back in his room, a little later, Rob is lying on his bed, still in the same clothes, masturbating furiously, his face triumphant.

63 INTERIOR — ROB'S APARTMENT — NIGHT

A little later still, Rob is still in the same clothes, sitting on the bed with his pants still unbuttoned, twitchy.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

I mean, it was fuckin' crazy!
Like, all of a sudden I was
fuckin' The Guy, y'know? So, I
needed a fuckin' cigarette, and
hey, I know a dude who's got
smokes, right?

Rob leaps off the bed, buttoning up his pants as he goes.

64 INTERIOR — ANDREI'S APARTMENT — NIGHT

Andrei is sitting on his futon, putting in his contacts. He's dressed a little differently than we've seen him before, a bit toned down. Rob bursts in.

ROB

Hey man, give me a cigarette.

ANDREI

Sure, "man".

Andrei throws the pack, with matches inside, to Rob, who lights one up and coughs.

ROB

Ah, yeah, yeah I fuckin' need that, man. Listen, Andrei, I gotta tell you something, okay? And if you wanna hit me or whatever, that's totally cool, like, that's your right.

ANDREI

Really?

ROB

Look--- [making eye contact, this is serious] Look, Andrei... I hooked up with Vera.

Andrei grins, and lies down on the futon.

ANDREI

Oh yeah?

ROB

Yeah, look, if you wanna get pissed, get pissed at me, 'cause this is not her fault, and if you wanna fuckin' deck me...

Andrei laughs. Rob's glad Andrei's going to be cool about it; he laughs too.

ROB
'Cause man, like... I fucked the
shit outta her, right?

ANDREI
Oh yeah, I'll bet you fucked her
in half.

ROB
Dude, I fuckin' brusied my dick,
man, there's gonna be fuckin'
black and blue on my crotch in the
shape of her ass.

As Rob's gesturing to indicate that shape, there's a knock on
the door. Andrei jumps up to answer.

ANDREI
It's open.

In comes DAVID, a marketing guy in a very nice suit. He's in
his mid-20s, but that makes him significantly older than either
of the boys.

ANDREI
[to David] Hey, I left it open for
you.

DAVID
Are you ready to go?

ANDREI
Yeah, yeah.

DAVID
You're wearing that? We're not
going to a Cowboys game, Andrei.

Andrei gives a servile laugh.

ANDREI
Yeah, yeah, you're right. I'll,
I'll change---

DAVID
You look fine, let's just go.

ANDREI

Okay, yeah, sure. Um, hey, do you
wanna go now or...?

David looks at Rob.

ANDREI

Oh no, David, this is Rob, he's a
guy who lives in my building, he's
cool.

David and Rob shake hands.

DAVID

Mmm, hadn't planned to meet your
little friends. [shaking hands
with Rob] Hi, I'm David. [to
Andrei] No, I don't have anything
on me, but Toby'll have something.
One of my clients gave me a little
weed, but I don't really like pot,
do you?

ANDREI

No, no. Rob, why don't you have
it?

ROB

Yeah? Hey, lemme get my wallet, I
can give you some cash.

ANDREI

Don't worry about it, man. [to
David] That's okay, right?

DAVID

Oh sure, it's no problem.

ROB

Cool, thanks man. [lights up]

ANDREI

Okay, so, I'm ready.

ROB

Hey, I'm totally wired, where're
you guys going?

David opens the door to leave and Rob, slightly paranoid already, draws back from the open door.

ANDREI

Nowhere. It's fine. Why don't you just finish that in here.

ROB

That's cool? Thanks, Andrei.

ANDREI

No problem.

Andrei and David leave, and Rob sits on Andrei's bed to finish smoking.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

And, like, that was it, y'know? Like, Andrei was totally cool about it.

Rob lies down, still smoking. After a little while, he dozes off.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

So, like, I was thinking about how I was gonna, like, now everyone was gonna wanna hang out at my place, so I should get, like a keg and some music and shit and, like, I probably shouldn't talk about it much to Vera 'cause, y'know, it'd probably make her feel weird that I'm gonna be meeting all these chicks, but, like, it'll be---

Rob wakes up when the joint has burned down to his fingers. He yelps, and drops the joint on the bed. He pulls it off frantically, and pats the singed area, swearing. Once it's out, he guiltily gets up, checks himself in the mirror to make sure he's respectable-looking, and stumbles out, as the camera holds on the empty mirror.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

But after that, I didn't really see Andrei again.

65 SCENE DELETED

66 INTERIOR — ANDREI'S HALLWAY — DAY

Rob is in the hallway with a mattress mover. Rob knocks on the door, but there's no answer, so he tells the mover to just leave it in the hall.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

Like I felt bad about burning his
shit, so I actually, like, bought
him a new futon, but he never
answered the door. So I just left
it there. But he took it in
later, I guess, I mean, it wasn't
there the next day.

67 INTERIOR — ANDREI'S BUILDING LOBBY — DAY

Rob is looking through the mail on a ledge in the lobby.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

I mean, I knew he was okay, he was
gettingg his mail, he just, like,
wasn't hanging out much.

68 INTERIOR — THEATER — DAY

Rob sneaks into the back of a technical theater lecture.
Actresses 1 & 2, Actors 3 & 4, and Techs 1,2 &3 are sitting and
taking notes. The Lighting Professor is onstage giving his
lecture under work lights.

LIGHTING PROFESSOR

What color is my shirt?

ACTRESS 2

It's... green?

The Lighting Professor waves his hand towards the light booth,
and the lights on stage change to a saturated green.

LIGHTING PROFESSOR

But what color is my shirt now?

ACTOR 3

It looks black, but that's just because you changed the light.

LIGHTING PROFESSOR

No! You just call it red because the sun is yellow. If the sun were green, you'd call it a black shirt. That's all color is.

Rob has made his way to the techs, and is asking them if they've seen Andrei; they shake their heads.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

Like, no one really saw him. I mean, I guess he just wasn't around.

69 EXTERIOR — STREETS TO VERA'S — DAY

Rob is on his way to Vera's, with a spring in his step.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

Which was fine, like, I didn't really need him for when I was going to Vera's. Like, that was always stupid---

70 INTERIOR — VERA'S LOBBY — DAY

Rob crosses the lobby cheerfully.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

I just checked Professor Denison's class schedule and went over there when he was teaching.

71 INTERIOR — VERA'S LOBBY — DAY

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

Like, I don't know why Andrei didn't do that in the first place. He just, like, didn't think about stuff like that.

72 INTERIOR — DENISONS APARTMENT — DAY

Vera opens the door to Rob, and smiles. Dissolve to Vera and Rob on the floor, fucking in various places and positions. They're fucking vigorously, but they never look at each other. Vera is enjoying herself, though---she's looking healthier and happier.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

But whatever, man, the way I saw it, I'd fuckin' graduated! Like, I definitely didn't want Vera to get all, like, emotional and stuff, but I figured that wasn't gonna happen, 'cause, y'know...

73 INTERIOR — DENISONS APARTMENT — DAY

Rob and Vera, post-coital. Rob pulls out a cigarette.

ROB

Hey, do you ever, like, end up doing me and Andrei on the same day? Like, do you get sore?

VERA

You can't smoke in here.

74 INTERIOR — ANDREI'S HALL — EVENING

Rob is going up the stairs towards his apartment. He stops in front of Andrei's door for a moment, debating whether to knock, before continuing upstairs.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

But even though we weren't, like, hanging out anymore, I thought we were still, like, friends.

75 INTERIOR — ROB'S APARTMENT — EVENING

Rob is making a desultory effort to study, aimlessly flipping through his textbooks.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

I mean, shit, I didn't have time to see him anyway. Like, I had classes and all---

Rob gives up on studying. Instead he lies on the floor and masturbates, his ass banging the floor over Andrei's room.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

And plus I was fuckin' exhausted,
y'know? Bet he was too, right,
Vera was a fuckin' wildcat.

From his face, we see that Rob's finished. He stares at the ceiling.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

Only then I saw him... Well, I ran
into him, right?

76 EXTERIOR - DINER - DAY

It's getting into winter now---students are walking around in coats. Rob is heading down the block when he sees Andrei, having a smoke with some glamorous-looking people.

ROB

Hey Andrei!

Andrei's friends get quiet when Rob approaches. They're dressed much more continental-chic than Andrei's previous friends; their low-key, tasteful, clothes make Rob, who's still dressed like Andrei's previous friends, look like a clown.

ROB

Hey man, what's up? [to Andrei's
friends] Hey, I'm Rob.

They return his handshake, but look at Andrei.

ANDREI

Oh, hi.

Andrei waves, and turns to go into the diner with his friends.

ROB

Hey, man. [pulling Andrei aside]
So hey, you diggin' having me rock
Vera for you? She all, like,
warmed up now?

ANDREI

What?

ROB

Yeah, right! Hey, we should hang out, man, like, next time you're going over there let me know and we can---

ANDREI

Pfft! Rob, I don't... God, I don't even remember the last time I saw that cow.

ROB

Are you kidding?

ANDREI

Rob, I have to go, but---are you seeing her?

ROB

Yeah, man, fuckin' all the time.

Andrei laughs, and starts back to the diner, then stops.

ANDREI

You know what, Rob? You should keep seeing her. She's perfect for you.

ROB

Hey, man, c'mon---

ANDREI

She's perfect for you.

Andrei goes back to his friends, and says something to them in German as they all go inside.

77 INTERIOR — DINER — DAY

Rob stares through the window as Andrei and his friends head in.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

I just... I couldn't believe it. He, he just... He... How can you treat someone like that, how could

ROB'S VOICE-OVER [CON'T]
he... How could he talk about Vera
that way? Like, that's fucked up!

Rob storms away from the diner, and heads to Vera's.

78 EXTERIOR — STREETS TO VERA'S — DAY

ROB'S VOICE-OVER
I mean, Vera's not, like, a saint
or nothin', but she's cool, like,
she's... She's not a fucking cow!

79 INTERIOR — VERA'S HALLWAY — DAY

ROB'S VOICE-OVER
Like, who the fuck does he think
he is to just walk away from her?

Vera answers the door. She's surprised to see Rob, but not displeased.

VERA
Oh, hi Rob!

ROB
Hey, Vera.

Rob steps into her apartment.

80 INTERIOR — DENISONS APARTMENT — DAY

VERA
God, look at you! Do you want a
drink?

ROB
Um, yes please.

Vera goes to the bar, leaving Rob to just stand there for a moment, looking haggard. She comes back with a glass, hands it to Rob, and starts unbuttoning his shirt.

VERA
How do you always know just when
to come over, hm? Have you been
spying on me?

She starts to play with his chest. Rob isn't here for this, but he can't help but get into what she's doing.

ROB
Uh, yeah, yeah...

She kisses him, which keeps him quiet for a moment. But once she moves to his neck---

ROB
Hey, Vera, you're terrific, you know?

VERA
Mmmm, so are you.

She gets a hand down his pants, and starts to masturbate him.

ROB
Ahhhh god...

Vera curls up close to him as she continues to tug.

VERA
Rob, Paul's not home now, but... He really wants to be here next time you come over. It'll be so hot, baby. I can suck on your cock while he's fucking me. I want to come with you in my mouth.

Vera kneels down in front of Rob.

ROB
Mmm, yeah, anything you wanna do, Vera. [reaching down to stop her]
Hey---really, anything you want.

Vera smiles, and goes to the bookshelf, where there's a discreet wooden box full of condoms.

ROB
Yeah, like--- hey, I think you're really cool, Vera. I... I think you're great.

She rolls on a condom, turns to face away from him, pulls up her dress, and slides down onto him. She leans back against him, reaching back to pull at his head.

VERA
Mmmm, bite my neck.

He takes a nip, then resumes talking.

ROB
Yeah, you're one of the coolest chicks I know. Like, I just ran into Andrei, and he was being a total dick!

VERA
Mmm.

ROB
Like he was saying---has he really not been here?

Vera leans forward, and pulls herself and the attached Rob towards a large armchair. She leans over the chair, thus escaping his talking for a moment even as he continues thrusting into her.

ROB
'Cause he was talking like he's never over here anymore and like, like, he was talking about you too, like, being a dick, like... [attempts a mocking impression of Andrei's accent] "Oh, Vera, she is such a fucking American cow, oh I am so funny, I am so cool, and Vera is so stupid cunt."

Vera disengages.

VERA
You know what, Rob? This is not interesting for me.

ROB
Aw, hey, I'm sorry.

Rob pulls her close and pets her in a consoling fashion, much to her irritation.

ROB

Y'know, he's a fucking idiot, if he's gonna dump a great woman like you. He just... He just never cares about anyone, y'know, or you. God, I think there's gotta be something wrong with him, y'know? To not care about people he's with, how can someone do that?

VERA

Rob---do you know what I majored in? Or even if I went to college? Or if I have kids, or if my mom is alive?

ROB

Um, I never saw any kid stuff around, so I just figured---

VERA

Rob, it's fine, I just... I would rather not talk about Andrei, okay?

ROB

Sure, Vera, that's cool.

She leans back onto him. After a beat, she stands to get dressed.

ROB

Um, hey, do you wanna finish?

VERA

No... No, I was just getting ready to leave when you got here.

ROB

Oh, okay. Well, I'll see you around, alright?

VERA

Sure.

ROB
Um---is it cool if I, like, finish
myself off?

VERA
Sure, Rob. Just don't take too
long.

Vera leans on Rob's shoulder and nibbles his ear without passion
as he masturbates.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER
But it was weird, like... I
couldn't blame her for getting all
emotional about stuff and, y'know,
I guess I wanted to see her again
but, like, right then, I just... I
just wanted not to be there, like,
I just wanted to go home.

81 SCENE DELETED

82 INTERIOR — DENISON'S LOBBY — DAY

Rob is coming out of the elevator, just as Professor Denison is
coming into the building; they can't help but stop to talk. In
the background, the building janitor is running the loud floor
cleaner.

PROF. DENISON
Rob! Hi!

ROB
Um, hello, sir.

Denison throws a friendly arm around Rob.

PROF. DENISON
Hey, Rob, it's great to see you
again. How are you doing?

ROB
Fine.

PROF. DENISON
That's great, Rob. How are your
classes? Are they good?

ROB

Yeah.

PROF. DENISON

That's great. So, uh... Have you picked your major yet?

ROB

No.

PROF. DENISON

Well, that's fine, you've got time. Rob, I wanted to say--- you're a good kid.

ROB

Thank you, sir.

Pause.

PROF. DENISON

Well, I'll see you soon, right?

ROB

Yessir.

83 INTERIOR — ROB'S APARTMENT — DAY

Hard cut to Rob, alone in his apartment, compulsively eating the home-baked cookies his mom has sent.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

Like, everything was just so fucked-up, y'know, like, I didn't even know what was wrong except, like, everything. And then there was a knock---

Rob leaps up, and runs to answer the door.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

---and I thought, like... I don't know...

He opens the door, and it's Sandy, with a male friend.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

But it was just Sandy.

Sandy and her friend are dressed up to go to a screening of The Rocky Horror Picture Show---her as Magenta, him as Frank N. Furter, meaning she's busty and gothy, he's in lingerie and makeup. She invites Rob to come, and he refuses, though we don't hear their conversation.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

And seeing her, I just, like.. I just felt so bad. Like, she looked like a total freak now, and she was hanging out with, some, like, gay guy.

Sandy throws an arm around her friend as they leave. Rob closes the door, and goes back to the bed. He starts eating again, and begins weeping uncontrollably.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

Like, it was just all really sad, y'know, and, like, it was all my fault. That's when I really got it, like---I was the one who was being a dick. I mean, I'm, like, having sex with a married woman, like of course she's gonna freak out, y'know, that's a sin, like, especially for her! And even before that, I blew off Sandy just like Andrei blew off, y'know, Vera, and now I'd made Sandy all fucked up too..

84 INTERIOR - GYM - DAY

Rob is lying on his back, grimly, repetitively lifting weights.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

Like that's what I really learned that year. For Andrei, it's cool, you know, to just, like, go---like he's living a real life. But I was just fucking up. So after that, y'know, I stopped smoking and even, like, quit drinking beer and just started working out and

ROB'S VOICE-OVER [CON'T]
going to class and just, like,
getting my shit together.

A man in shorts walks into the frame, his face offscreen.

GYM GUY
Hey, do you wanna spot each other?

ROB
No.

The man walks off, leaving Rob along in the gym, lifting and lowering repetitively.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER
'Cause I shouldn't waste college,
right? Like, by the time I
graduate, I wanna get married and
get a job and make enough money to
buy a house and just, like... Just
be normal, y'know. 'Cause for
most of us, that's a lot of work.

Fade to black.

THE END.