

"ANDREI KOLOSOV"

by

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Adapted from a story by Ivan Turgenev

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INTERIOR — PROF. LEVINE'S OFFICE — DAY

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 in camp, that was the
first time I ever, like, knew I
wasn't going home tonight.

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, he got so homesick, he threw up every single 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 hearing---

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, like, he doesn't even know me...

PROFESSOR LEVINE
So how's your Dad doing?

ROB
Good! Um, the store's doing really great. He opened 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! Let's have a drink, eh?

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

ROB
---so that I don't 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...

INTERIOR — ANDREI'S APARTMENT — NIGHT

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.

INTERIOR — PROFESSOR LEVINE'S OFFICE — DAY

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 trash can, dripping on the floor, and Prof. Levine's ushers him to the trash can, 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...

INTERIOR — PROFESSOR LEVINE'S FOYER — DAY

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 starting college.

MRS. LEVINE

My gosh, you look just like---

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

But it's not even about me, really.

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

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, like, 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. Like, 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.

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

I could! I might! Possibly!
Perrrhaps! But the journey will
be fraught with peril!

ROB

Hey, let's peril that shit up.

INTERIOR — BURSAR'S OFFICE — DAY

Rob and Sandy are standing in line, talking as they wait.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

Like, it was crazy, you could just
talk to anyone. Like, I ended up
hanging out with this, like,
theater chick, right? But she was
actually pretty cool.

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 left 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.

They stand.

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 a really cool person, and like, she knew a bunch of people already---

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.

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 in between both groups, 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 Russian, right, you all think he's a genius.

ACTRESS #2
No, he's really got this amazing presence.

ROB
Yeah, and he's got a retractable beard too, right?

TECH #3
No, 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.

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.

UNCLE REED [V.O]

Bobby? Is this 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, yeah, 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?

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.

EXTERIOR — COFFEE SHOP — DAY

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

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

[in Russian] I speak to you, you speak to him, he speaks to you, we speak to them---

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? Do you have a cigarette?

SANDY

Yeah.

FROSH GIRL

Hi, I'm Amy---

ANDREI

Come on, let's have a smoke. [to Rob] Do you want one too? [to Frosh Girl, in Russian] Watch my

stuff. [in English] Watch my
stuff.

FROSH GIRL

Um, okay, are we---

But Andrei is already heading for the door.

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 drink coffee.
This is just stupid. They are
meant to be together. These
things are natural!

Andrei has strange, long, toothy Slavic features, but the
assemblage is, on him, almost unearthly beautiful, especially as
he gestures with his long fingers and smokes.

ANDREI

But what do you expect from people
who have to speak fucking English
all the time. It melts your
brain---[imitating broad American
vowels] "where y'aaaaat?"
"waaannaaa pizzaaaaa?"

SANDY

[in Latin] I speak, you speak, he
speaks...

Rob is confused by Sandy suddenly speaking a foreign tongue.

ANDREI

You don't need fucking Latin!
Just something that isn't fucking
"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 really cool. Like, we
had 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.

EXTERIOR — CAMPUS LOCATIONS — VARIOUS TIMES

Andrei is in various places, talking to people. Rob is always
nearby, watching and listening.

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 known
anyone like him, ever.

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.

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 choosing your presents! Love, Mom.

INTERIOR — ROB'S APARTMENT — NIGHT

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 falls down on the bed.

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.

INTERIOR — LIBRARY — DAY

Andrei is at an off-campus bookstore with his friend GAVRILOV. Gavrilov is another Russian boy, scrawny and a little sickly. They're in the foreign-language stacks, putting books away, joking about the titles. Rob is hanging out there too, trying to join in.

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, who I guess he knew from back in Russia, and he was a complete asswipe, but him and Andrei were always hanging out. I mean, I'm sure Andrei was just hanging out with his 'cause, like, he didn't have any friends, was the only reason---

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 does a series of parodic muscle poses, grunting with each, coming closer to the bed. Rob laughs. Andrei steps over to the desk.

ANDREI

Oh, you bought heavy books so you can build 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 be ripped like you.

ROB

Oh yeah, 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

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, man, the campus gym is full of wannabes, you know, just showing off their butts. I know a place downtown, they've got Nautilus, free weights, pool---it's a place where we can really focus, you know? 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, that's totally it.

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 gets 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

Yeah---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

I'll see you around, okay?

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.

EXTERIOR — CAMPUS DAY

Rob is walking across campus. Sandy spots him.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

That's just how he was, though, like, he just wanted to be in the middle of life, right, like, like a spider.

SANDY

Hey! Hey!

SANDY

Hey, how are you?

ROB

Uh, I'm cool.

SANDY

You doing anything tonight?

ROB

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

SANDY

Oh yeah?

ROB

Yeah, we've totally been hanging out.

SANDY

That's cool. So what're you doing?

ROB

Oh, y'know, same old same old.
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. Hey, look..

SANDY

Are you still gonna major in business?

ROB

Yeah, I guess. Hey, it was really nice to run into you. Um, like, 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.

INTERIOR — ROB'S APARTMENT — DAY

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.

ANDREI

Listen, man...

ROB
Hey, Andrei, hey come in.

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---

ROB
Hey, no, I'm sorry, man, hey... [He
kneels down beside Andrei] 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...

For a beat, they just hold each other.

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 fucking assholes, right?

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 fucking American, Rob, to ask questions all the time.

Rob is silent as they go to the door.

EXTERIOR — CITY STREETS — NIGHT

Andrei is smoking and talking, while Rob listens, rapt.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

It was amazing, like, suddenly, I was this cool guy. We did some shots in his room, and then he's just, like, let's go, and I just, like, did it. I was just, like, real.

EXTERIOR — APARTMENT BUILDING — 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 few
blocks 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
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.

INTERIOR — LOBBY — NIGHT

The boys head towards the elevator.

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

ROB
Um, yeah, okay.

ANDREI
Okay, you're going to have to play
cards. I don't know what fucking
game they play.

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

ANDREI
No.

INTERIOR — BUILDING HALLWAY — NIGHT

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

PROF. DENISON
Ah, Andrei. Do you have a key now?

ANDREI
I think your wife buzzed me in, Professor Denison.

PROF. DENISON
Mm.

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

INTERIOR — DENISONS APARTMENT — NIGHT

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. 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 friend. You must be very friendly, Andrei.

ROB

Uh, hey...

PROF. DENISON
Vladimir. Hm. You should close
the door.

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?

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 some chick who I guess he plays cards with. I mean, I guess they knew each other pretty well, but 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.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

So thank god Andrei finally saved me from that shit. The Professor, he doesn't even get up, he just, like, waved and then him and that other chick went back to, like, telling jokes and shit.

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

Sure. Listen, Vera, I need something for the week.

VERA

Of course.

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
fucking cunt?

ROB

Yeah, man.

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.

INTERIOR – LIQUOUR STORE – NIGHT

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

ANDREI

You were really good, man. She
liked you.

ROB

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

ANDREI

Her husband is such an asshole.

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
motherfucker's T.A.?

ROB

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

ANDREI

"You're totally banging her"----
jesus, you are so fucking Oklahoma
when you talk like that.

ROB

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

Rob pulls out his wallet, and some cash.

ROB

Let's have a party, right.

ANDREI

[smiling broadly] Yeah sure, Rob,
let's have a real fucking party.

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.

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---

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 hang
out with 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,
but I ended up feeling kinda bad
about that, because she didn't
know anyone there and, like, I
think it was kinda weird for her,
not fitting in like that.

INTERIOR — CLOTHES STORE — DAY

Andrei and Rob are looking at clothes.

ROB

Hey, this is really cool, right?

ANDREI

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

ROB

I wouldn't know, man.

ANDREI

Now this is cool.

ROB

Oh yeah, man, that'll be awesome.

ANDREI

What do kids do in Oklahoma, in
their clown suits?

ROB

Montana, man, it's awesome down
there, like, you can go fishing,
or just go driving---

ANDREI

Big cars, big dicks, purple mountains majesty. You like camping with the boys, Rob?

ROB

Oh yeah---hey, you should come up with me, like, 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

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, Rob.

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

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

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

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, I would usually get coffee in the afternoon and sometimes Andrei would be there and we'd, like, hang out. But there was this one fucking guy, he was always fucking wasting time drinking coffee and he was just a total dick---

Rob sees JEAN-MICHEL, a French grad student, sitting at a table with two beautiful, chic-ly 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, and no one even listened to him.

JEAN-MICHEL

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

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

Like, he had no fucking idea.

JEAN-MICHELE

Are you thinking about your Russian lessons?

Rob doesn't deign to reply.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

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

INTERIOR — ROB'S APARTMENT — EVENING

Rob is studying, when there's a knock on the door. It's Andrei, inviting Rob out. They leave, closing the door behind them.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

Andrei was coming upstairs to my place, like, a few times a week then, and we'd just, like, hang out and talk.

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---

INTERIOR — DENISONS APARTMENT — EVENING

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

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

---and I'd, like, play shitty cards for a while---

INTERIOR — DENISONS APARTMENT — NIGHT

The boys are leaving.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

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

INTERIOR — LIQUOR STORE — NIGHT

Andrei is buying booze with another wad of cash.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

---like, he'd totally wanna party. So I'd give him some cash for booze, and then ---

INTERIOR — ANDREI'S APARTMENT — NIGHT

Andrei is in his apartment, talking to a friend of his in Russian. Rob is watching them, trying to follow, eating from a bag of 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.

INTERIOR — ROB'S APARTMENT — NIGHT

Rob and Sandy are making out on his bed. Note that they make out for the duration of the shot---we don't see the moment described below.

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

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.

EXTERIOR — STREETS TO VERA'S — NIGHT

INTERIOR — VERA'S APARTMENT — NIGHT

Quick shots of Rob and Andrei going to Vera's, Rob playing cards, Rob looking offscreen towards where Andrei and Vera are.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER
I mean, I didn't usually see
Andrei during the daytime. But,
y'know, a couple times I'd, like,
see him on campus and we'd hang
out, y'know, like in public.

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..
Y'know, people knew me and Andrei
were, like, friends, y'know?

BEN

Hey, can I join you?

ROB

Sure, man.

Ben and Rob play handball for a while. At first, Rob's indifferent, but when Ben turns out to be a good player, Rob perks up, and they end up having a good game, with plenty of good-natured trash talking.

EXTERIOR — HANDBALL COURT EDGE — DAY

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

ROB

Hey, good game, man.

BEN

Thanks, you too.

ROB

Hey, we should play again
sometime. I'm Rob.

BEN

I know. I've seen you around.

ROB

Oh yeah? Are you in the bio
seminar?

BEN

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

ROB

Oh, yeah? That's awesome, man.
Hey, have I seen you at his place?

BEN

No. I haven't been over there in a long time.

ROB
You should come by, man, it's really cool.

BEN
Thanks, Rob, but... In my experience, being with Andrei makes you feel more alone.

ROB
Um... [laughs] Okay.

BEN
Look, Rob---I know what it's like. I think you're probably feeling pretty confused right now.

ROB
Yeah, man, I'm definitely confused.

BEN
Rob, I'd like you to 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, I know it's scary, but 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---

EXTERIOR — DENISONS BUILDING — NIGHT

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

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

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.

INTERIOR — DENISONS APARTMENT — NIGHT

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

ROB'S VOICE-OVER
Like, there were a couple times when I guess that chick he played cards with 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 I was totally cool, like, I had Andrei's back, man.

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, he just sorta stopped going over there much. I mean, he didn't say anything, but... I dunno, he like wasn't interested.

INTERIOR — ANDREI'S ROOM — NIGHT

Andrei is reading, lying on his bed, 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

You want to see a movie, Rob? Share a milkshake?

ROB

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

ANDREI

You wanna 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

It's such a stupid game---that's why you are good at it. [mimes passing out cards, imitating Rob's accent] "Do you wanna... Do you wanna..." It's just like how you talk, right?

ROB

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

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 mom?

ROB

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

ANDREI

"Dude"? You are such a fucking Oklahoma cowboy. I have to go.

ROB

Yeah, where do you wanna eat?
Hey, do you wanna try---

ANDREI

No, I want quiet. I go to the
library.

ROB

Oh---actually, y'know, I need to
get some books for class---

ANDREI

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

ROB

Okay---hey, do you wanna hang out
later?

ANDREI

Maybe. 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.

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, and love's supposed to
make you feel alive, but I just
felt like a piece of shit. I just
wanted to be someone else, y'know,
to not be this fucking asshole.

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-MICHELE

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] Marie, 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 toys.

Rob grabs Jean-Michele's shirt, and hauls him up, knocking the
table over. The girls are startled, but Jean-Michele just
laughs.

ROB

Hey, le fuck you, okay?

JEAN-MICHEL

Oh, poor pup.

Rob shoves Jean-Michel away, and gets out of the booth.

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.

EXTERIOR — STREETS TO VERA'S — NIGHT

ROB'S VOICE-OVER
I couldn't do this anymore. That
fuckin' fag was right---if I was
gonna man up, I had to walk in
there and take what I deserved.

EXTERIOR — VERA'S BUILDING — NIGHT

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

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 me.

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 couch, tearing off her shirt, which she lets go with a smile.

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.

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, I suddenly felt like I was,

like... Like I was so fuckin' cool,
like I was The Guy, y'know. I
needed a fuckin' cigarette, and
hey, I know a guy who's got
smokes, right?

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

INTERIOR — ANDREI'S APARTMENT — NIGHT

Andrei is stretched out on his futon, reading Lermontov. Rob bursts in. Andrei smells the sex on him, and gives Rob a look.

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
What?

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

ANDREI
[grinning] Oh yeah?

ROB
Yeah, look, if you wanna get
pissed, get pissed at me, 'cause
this is not her fault, and if you
wanna take me on...

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 bet you fucked her in
half.

ROB
Aw, 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
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. [stand up] 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

[to Rob] Hi, I'm David. [to
Andrei] No, I don't have anything
on me, but Toby'll have something.
I have a little pot from a client,
but I don't really like pot, you
know?

ANDREI
Hey Rob, do you want it?

ROB
Yeah, if that's cool. 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 cool, you can
finish that in here, it's fine.

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 that was it, basically. Like, he was totally cool about it. That was the kinda guy he was, he just, like, understood things. He was just cool.

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 like get a keg and some music and shit and, like, I probably shouldn't talk about all my parties 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 probably be fine...

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, pats the singed area, then stumbles out into the hall.

INTERIOR — ANDREI'S HALL — NIGHT

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

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

EXTERIOR — CAMPUS — DAY

Rob is walking across campus. He sees some of Sandy's friends who had been at the party, and asks if they've seen Andrei, which they haven't.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

Like, hardly anyone ever did. I mean, I guess he just wasn't around that much.

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. He took it in later, I guess, I mean, it wasn't there the next day.

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 took his mail, he just, like, wasn't around to hang out much.

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

INTERIOR — DENISONS APARTMENT — DAY

Various shots of Rob and Vera fucking. He fucks hard, and can pound away at great length, but rarely looks directly at her---mostly he looks up, and closes his eyes. Vera is enjoying herself, though---she's looking healthier and happier.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

But whatever, he can find some other asshole to play cards. I

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

INTERIOR — DENISONS APARTMENT — DAY

Rob and Vera, post-coital. Rob is pulling out a cigarette.

ROB

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

VERA

You can't smoke in here.

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 before continuing upstairs.

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

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

INTERIOR — ROB'S APARTMENT — EVENING

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

ROB'S VOICE-OVER

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

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? Probably he was too, man, like, Vera was a fuckin' wildcat,

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

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] Hi, 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]
Hey, I haven't seen you in... geez.
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... Jesus, I
don't even remember the last time
I went over there.

ROB
Are you kidding?

ANDREI
I gotta go, but---are you seeing her?

ROB
Yeah, man, fuckin' all the time.

ANDREI
Ugh, god, she is such a bourgeois American cow with fucking pretensions. So she fucks pretension, right?

ROB
Yeah...

ANDREI
Yeah, right!

Andrei starts back to the diner, then stops.

ANDREI
You know what, Rob? You should keep going. She's perfect for you.

ROB
Hey, man, you wanna go---

ANDREI
She's perfect for you.

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

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

ROB'S VOICE-OVER
I just couldn't believe it. He, he just... He... How can you treat someone like that, how could he... How could he talk about her that way? Like, that's fucked up!

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

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!

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.

INTERIOR — DENISONS APARTMENT — DAY

VERA

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

ROB

Um, yeah, yeah please.

Vera goes to the kitchen, leaving Rob to just stand there for a moment, looking haggard. She re-enters with a glass, hands it to Rob, and starts unbuttoning his shirt.

VERA

He doesn't have class today, but
he's not here.

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

Ahhh, god, Vera, that feels so great.

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

ROB
Hey, Vera, you're great, 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.

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, Vera, I think you're great.
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 total asshole,
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 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.

Pause.

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 soon, alright?

VERA

Sure.

ROB

Um---is it cool if I, like, finish 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.

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

Oh, hi Rob.

ROB

Um, hello, sir.

PROF. DENISON

Rob, it's great to see you. How are you doing?

ROB

Fine.

PROF. DENISON

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

ROB

Yeah.

PROF. DENISON

Good for you. 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
Um---thanks.

Pause.

PROF. DENISON
Well, I'll see you soon, right?

ROB
Yessir.

INTERIOR — ROB'S APARTMENT — DAY

Hard cut to Rob, alone in his apartment.

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, like, some gay guy.

Sandy throws an arm around her friend as they leave. Rob closes the door, brings a bag of cookies into his bed, and starts eating and weeping.

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 had blew off, y'know, Vera, and now I'd made Sandy all fucked up too...

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. And my grades were bad and... So after that, y'know, I stopped smoking and even, like, quit drinking beer and just started working out and going to class and just, like, getting my shit together.

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

MAN

Hey, do you wanna spot each other?

ROB

No.

The man walks off.

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.