

THE DESIGNATED DRIVER

By

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2 OVER BLACK

MALE VOICE (V.O.)

I always considered myself a bit of a loner. A "mama's boy," if you will. I never went out with friends like other people. And until college, I was fine with it. Then this happened, and I started to see myself differently.

FADE IN:

3 INT. COLLEGE DORM ROOM - NIGHT (SIX MONTHS AGO)

A messy room, a bottle of vodka half-empty on a table. Two freshmen make out passionately on the bed.

The guy pulls off the girl's top, then his own. He unbuttons her bra. They start to have sex.

CUT TO:

4 INT. DORM HALLWAY - SAME TIME

Outside the room, ZACH, a freshman, walks up to the door across the hall, which has the name "Zach" written on a white board.

Zach is overweight, unshaven, and hasn't had a haircut in months. He wears baggy sweats. He's carrying a toothbrush.

The sound of screams from the students' intercourse penetrates the male's door. Zach goes to unlock his room, but turns and looks back when he hears the noises.

CUT TO:

5 INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE - DAY (PRESENT DAY)

A psychologist, DR. BROOKS, stares at his unseen patient.

DR. BROOKS

So you stood there and listened to them have sex?

Pull to reveal his patient is Zach, whose voice was heard earlier.

ZACH

No, of course not. That's weird,
doc.

DR. BROOKS

Then why tell me this?

ZACH

It's relevant. Just wait.

6 BACK TO SCENE

Zach shakes his head, unlocks his door and enters--

7 ZACH'S DORM ROOM

The room is even messier than his neighbor's. The platformed bed blocks the view of the room from the hallway. As Zach enters, he walks around the bed to the other side, where a futon is set up in front of a TV.

There are empty bags of potato chips, candy bar wrappers, and several empty orange soda cans littering the room.

Zach sits down on the futon, unpauses a movie, and watches.

8 INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE - DAY (PRESENT DAY)

Zach and Dr. Brooks, as before.

DR. BROOKS

I'm not sure how this is relevant to you being here. Watching movies and eating junk food is pretty normal.

ZACH

That may be true. But college kids do those things with other people, not alone.

He pauses. Dr. Brooks looks on intently.

ZACH

I wanted to be that guy across the hall. Not even the sex part. I just don't want to be alone anymore.

Zach looks down, nervous. Bites his nails.

ZACH

I'm depressed. It's taken me all summer to come to terms with that but I'm depressed. And I'm trying to do the right things to get better.

DR. BROOKS

How do you think you'll do that?

Zach doesn't know how to answer. He waits. Dr. Brooks waits for an answer, but Zach is expressionless.

FADE TO BLACK

9 OVER BLACK: "THE DESIGNATED DRIVER"

FADE IN:

10 INT. ZACH'S HOUSE - DAY

Zach, 20, and his MOM and DAD carry boxes into the house. Zach is a little cleaner than before, and has lost some weight. Three college sophomore boys are in the living room:

LANCE - tall, athletic, handsome in an obvious way

PAUL - thin, blonde, awkward-looking

SAM - nerdy, wears glasses, combed hair

Lance is the first to come over and greet them.

LANCE

I hope you're Zach.

Zach looks at him, confused.

ZACH

I am.

LANCE

Good, I was worried you were here to murder us.

Zach's dad sets a box down and goes to shake Lance's hand.

DAD

Which one are you?

LANCE

Lance.

They shake hands.

LANCE

And these are Paul and Sam.

Paul and Sam nod and wave.

LANCE

You guys need help?

MOM

That's so sweet of you to ask. I'm sure my husband could use a hand with some of the furniture.

11 UPSTAIRS - MOMENTS LATER

Zach and his mom carry boxes past a bathroom.

ZACH

This must be my bathroom.

The bathroom door opens, and ZOEY exits. Zach is even more nervous talking to her than he was to the guys.

ZOEY

Oh! Hi. You must be Zach?

ZACH

Yep. Nice to meet you.

ZOEY

I'm Zoey, by the way. Sam's girlfriend.

Zach realizes his mistake in not asking her name.

ZACH

Oh, okay. This is my mom.

He points to his mom.

MOM

Nice to meet you.

ZOEY

Can I help you guys out?

ZACH
I think, uh, Lance is helping my
dad with some stuff. There are
boxes in the truck.

ZOEY
Okay!

She smiles and goes downstairs.

12 INT. ZACH'S ROOM - DAY

Zach and his mom unpack boxes. Zach is still quiet,
obviously nervous.

MOM
I like this room. It's bigger than
your dorm, wouldn't you say?

ZACH
Sure.

MOM
Are you going to keep that futon in
here or put it somewhere else?

ZACH
Not sure.

MOM
Do you want me to take you grocery
shopping before you leave?

ZACH
Ok.

She stops what she's doing, walks up to Zach and puts her
hands on his shoulders.

MOM
Why are you so nervous?

ZACH
I'm not.

MOM
Yes you are. But you shouldn't be.
You had a great summer, you're
getting better, and it looks like
you have some nice people here.
Take advantage of it.

13 EXT. CAMPUS - DAY

Zach walks home from class, alone. He sees a group of guys at a frat house setting up for a party. He stops and watches for a moment, sad/jealous, then keeps going.

14 INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE - DAY

Dr. Brooks and Zach in his office. A new time.

DR. BROOKS

Do you like your new roommates?

ZACH

They seem alright, so far.

DR. BROOKS

This is a positive step forward. You'll have people there to talk to and invite you to do things, right?

ZACH

I hope so. I mean, that's my thought, anyway.

DR. BROOKS

But one thing I encourage you to do is be open to them. Part of why you're here is you're often too reluctant to go after opportunities. Were there ever any times in the dorms when people would say hello to you?

ZACH

Yeah, sure.

DR. BROOKS

And did you say hello in return?

ZACH

Yeah.

DR. BROOKS

And nothing else, right?

Zach says nothing. He knows Dr. Brooks is right.

DR. BROOKS

Challenge yourself. If someone initiates conversation, follow that. Talk, for God's sake. Ask questions.

15 INT. ZACH'S HOUSE - DAY

Zach walks into his house and sees Zoey hanging up streamers and lights on the wall. There are balloons all around and a cake on a table in the corner.

He looks confused. Zoey, noticing this:

ZOEY
They didn't tell you?

He nods: no.

ZOEY
It's Sam's birthday tomorrow and I wanted to throw him a surprise party.

ZACH
Oh that sounds fun.

ZOEY
(bubbly, excited)
Yeah! The guys all went out to eat and then Lance and Paul were gonna distract him while I set up.

Zach sets his things down.

ZACH
(reluctantly)
Let me help you with that.

He grabs a strand of lights and she hangs them up as he holds them.

ZACH
How many people?

ZOEY
Like 30 or 40 maybe. A bunch of our friends from high school are coming, too, so that should be fun.

ZACH
Cool.

ZOEY
Yeah it should be fun! You're coming right?

ZACH
I'll see what I have going on.

ZOEY
You should really come. It'll be a lot of fun, and it's not like you even have to leave your house.

16 INT. ZACH'S ROOM - NIGHT

Zach Skypes with his mom, dad, and 12-year-old sister, Chloe.

ZACH
You miss me yet?

CHLOE
Hmmm...let me see.....NOPE

ZACH
Wow, rudey pants.

CHLOE
Ok, maybe a little.

MOM
What are you doing tonight?

ZACH
My roommates are apparently having a get together at the house.

DAD
A "get together?"

ZACH
Yeah, like a party. Like a surprise party for Sam.

MOM
Fun.

CHLOE
You party?

ZACH
No, of course not! You know me, I probably will be so nervous I won't even go downstairs!

CUT TO:

17 UPSTAIRS LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Zach is lying on the couch upstairs, nervous and anxious as a party rages on below him. The sound of dance music and people talking and dancing.

He's stressed, nauseous looking. Enter Zoey from downstairs.

ZOEY

What are you doing?

He opens his eyes but doesn't move.

ZACH

I don't feel good.

She gives him a look of dissatisfaction.

ZOEY

I think you're full of it, you bug baby.

ZACH

I'm not a baby! I wanna throw up.

ZOEY

Just relax. I have to go back downstairs but I just came up to check on you. You'll be fine, nobody bites.

She leaves. Zach sits up. The music stops.

CUT TO:

18 DOWNSTAIRS

Sam blows out the candles on his birthday cake and gives Zoey a kiss.

19 UPSTAIRS LIVING ROOM

Zach lays back down and closes his eyes.

20 ZACH'S POV

Zach opens his eyes and sees LAURA standing, looking down on him. She's short, pretty, girl-next-door-ish.

LAURA
Zach...

21 BACK TO SCENE

Zach gives her a blank look.

LAURA
What the fuck are you doing?

ZACH
Resting.

LAURA
Be my beer pong partner.

ZACH
I'm sorry, i don't know you.

LAURA
I'm Laura, I'm friends with Lance.

ZACH
I'm Zach.

LAURA
Yeah, I know. Be my partner.

ZACH
I...uh...

LAURA
Oh my God, let's go.

She starts walking away. Zach sits up but doesn't stand yet.
She turns around.

ZACH
(reluctantly)
I'm coming. Geez.

22 INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

Zach and Laura play beer pong against Lance and Paul in the crowded basement. Zach misses a shot, bouncing the ball in front of the cups.

A drunk girl, Kim, watches on a couch, drinking from a red Solo cup.

KIM
 Oh my God, Zach, you suck. My
 grandma actually plays better than
 you. Like, actually.

ZACH
 (to Laura))
 Who is she?

LAURA
 My friend, Kim. Focus.

Laura makes a cup.

KIM
 Zach, you suck!

Lance and Paul both make a cup. Paul gets hyped up, does a
 little dance and taunts Zach and Laura.

Zach's turn again. He overshoots the table and Paul catches
 the ball.

LAURA
 Zach, c'mon. I'm carrying this
 team right now.

ZACH
 I'm sorry.

LAURA
 Don't be sorry just be better.

Paul makes a cup and again celebrates dramatically. Lance
 and Paul have one cup left, compared to Zach and Laura's 5.

LAURA
 (to Paul)
 Are you serious right now? The
 game's not over yet.

ZACH
 Yeah! We got this!

LAURA
 (to Zach)
 You haven't hit one cup yet. I've
 got five. Don't talk.

Laura makes another cup. Zach misses again.

KIM
Seriously, Laura, who the fuck is
this guy? He sucks.

LAURA
He played baseball! I thought he
could play beer pong, too!

Zach looks at her, confused as to how she knows that.

LAURA
I went in your room.

Paul sinks the winning shot and comes over to do a victory
dance around Zach and Laura.

PAUL
Woo-Hoo! Drink up, bitches!

Laura starts to drink, but Zach is hesitant. She stops.

LAURA
Why am I the only one drinking?

ZACH
Do I have to?

LANCE
Bro, it's the rules.

ZACH
I don't really drink.

Paul gets in his face.

PAUL
You lost, mothafucka, drink up!

ZACH
I don't drink. Like at all.

LAURA
Wait.

Laura pushes Paul out of the way to get to Zach.

LAURA
Have you had anything tonight?

ZACH
No. Never.

LAURA
Do you have a car?

ZACH
Yes.

LAURA
So you're driving us to Taco Bell.

ZACH
I suppose I...

LAURA
No, you're driving us. You owe me
for sucking ass at beer pong.

ZACH
Ok. I guess.

LAURA
I need to get more drunk
first. I'll get you when I'm
ready.

Laura, Kim, Lance and Paul go upstairs to dance. Zach is alone in the basement, except for a couple strangers mixing drinks in the corner.

23 EXT. ZACH'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Zach goes outside for a breath of fresh air and to calm his nerves. He watches traffic go by, and then heads back to the house. He stops and sees MIA and TIM MCHALE on the porch.

MIA
Oh, that's so nice of you.

TIM MCHALE
I'm serious. All those guys, fuck
'em. They're a bunch of dicks.

He sees Zach.

TIM MCHALE
Isn't that right?

ZACH
(playing along)
Oh yeah. Totally.

TIM MCHALE

See! I never met this guy and he knows what's up.

MIA

Well, I don't know what to say.

TIM MCHALE

Bro, what's your name?

ZACH

Zach. I live here.

TIM MCHALE

Bro, don't you think that this girl deserves better?

Zach and Mia exchange a look; clearly, she doesn't know what's going on.

ZACH

I could not agree more.

TIM MCHALE

(to Mia)

You...you...

MIA

Mia...

TIM MCHALE

Mia! You deserve someone who will brush the hair out of your eyes, and say...

As he speaks, he brushes hair behind her ear.

TIM MCHALE

...you are beautiful.

Mia blushes, but is also a little creeped out.

ZACH

Good man, this guy.

Zach points to Tim McHale, then pushes his way inside.

24 INT. ZACH'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Laura, Kim, and their drunk friends GINA and ALEX have their coats and shoes on and are waiting for Zach.

LAURA
We're ready.

ZACH
Oh, I see.

KIM
Let's go.

GINA
TODAY!!!

ALEX
I'm SO HUNGRY. I think I'm going to order the whole menu. Like, the actual menu that you order off of.

LAURA
Where are my manners? Zach, this is Gina and Alex.

GINA
Take me to get Taco Bell now.

ZACH
(to Laura)
Which one is this?

LAURA
That's Gina.

He nods, gives Gina a somewhat dirty look.

25 EXT. ZACH'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Zach pulls up in his almost-new Mustang for his first drive. The girls get in and they take off.

26 INT. MUSTANG - NIGHT

Zach pulls the car up to the Taco Bell drive-thru.

ZACH
What does everyone want?

They answer in unison.

KIM
Three soft tacos.

GINA
Cheese quesadilla.

ALEX
Chicken nachos with medium sauce.

LAURA
Diet coke.

DRIVE-THRU MAN
Order whenever you're ready.

Zach looks at the girls, annoyed.

ZACH
One second.

He turns to the girls.

ZACH
One at a time.

They answer in unison.

KIM
Three soft tacos.

GINA
Cheese quesadilla.

ALEX
Chicken nachos with medium sauce.

LAURA
Diet coke.

ZACH
Laura, what do you want?

LAURA
Nothing, I'm not hungry anymore.

ZACH
You asked me to take you here!

LAURA
Fine. A soft taco.

ZACH

You?

GINA

Cheese quesadilla.

He points to Kim.

KIM

Three soft tacos.

He points to Alex.

ALEX

Nachos. With chicken.

Zach turns back to the window.

ZACH

Alright I'm ready.

ALEX

And mild sauce!!!

ZACH

(to the window)

Four soft tacos. A cheese
quesadilla. And chicken nachos.
WITH mild sauce.

DRIVE-THRU MAN

Will that be all?

ZACH

Yes, sir.

Zach pulls up to the next window.

LAURA

You didn't get anything.

ZACH

I didn't want anything.

LAURA

You can have my taco.

ZACH

No, it's fine.

LAURA

Eat my taco.

ZACH

No.

She gives him a "death stare."

ZACH

I'm good. Promise.

27 INT. ZACH'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Zach returns to the party at his house. He enters the kitchen with the girls.

ALEX

Thanks!

GINA

Yeah, thanks, boo!

Gina gives him a peck on the cheek and the girls run off into the crowd.

28 LIVING ROOM

Zach sees Mia and Tim McHale on the couch, looking very ill.

ZACH

You guys alright?

TIM MCHALE

Who the fuck serves chili at a party?

ZACH

I think it was Zoey's idea.

TIM MCHALE

(beat)

That was rhetorical.

Zach's look: "oh."

ZACH

(to Mia)

You okay?

Mia mumbles. She closes her eyes and curls up on the couch.

TIM MCHALE

Do you have some aspirin or water or something?

MIA
(mumbles)
I wanna throw up.

ZACH
Hold on.

Zach leaves.

29 MOMENTS LATER

Zach returns with a wastebasket. He hands it to Mia.

MIA
Thank you.

He nods.

ZACH
You need anything else?

MIA
I'm cold.

ZACH
I'll get you a blanket.

30 SERIES OF SHOTS: LATER THAT NIGHT

- 1) Mia and Tim McHale sleeping under a blanket on the sofa bed.
- 2) Zoey waving goodnight to Zach and heading into Sam's room.
- 3) Zach giving Laura and Kim a blanket and a pillow to Alex.
- 4) Zach turning the lights off to a room of sleeping house guests.
- 5) Zach alone in his room, going to bed.

31 INT. ZACH'S HOUSE - DAY

Zach and his roommates clean up after the party. Lance mops the floor, Sam and Zoey do dishes, and Zach and Paul take down decorations.

They don't say much. Mia and Tim McHale are asleep on the couch.

Laura comes downstairs in the same clothes from the night before.

LAURA
Guys, we need to talk.

LANCE
About what?

LAURA
Whose futon is that I slept on?

PAUL
(ashamed)
It....would be mine...

LAURA
I felt like I was sleeping on a
fucking pile of snakes. I need a
chiropractor.

PAUL
Yeah...

CUT TO:

32 KITCHEN

Zoey takes the lid off a coffee mug. She catches a whiff of what's inside and quickly covers it back up.

ZOEY
Oh my God.

SAM
What was that?

ZACH (O.S.)
I can smell that out here.

Zach and Lance come in.

ZOEY
I have no idea, but it's nasty.

Paul and Laura enter.

PAUL
(very "macho")
Let me see it.

He opens and closes the mug quickly. Everyone shrieks.

LANCE
Sweet Jesus. Get rid of it.

A half-asleep Mia enters the kitchen.

SAM
What is it?

ZOEY
Whose mug is that?

ZACH
It's mine.

LANCE
Ok, well we need to get that shit
out of here.

Kim and Alex come downstairs and meet everyone else in the--

33 LIVING ROOM

Paul has the cup. Everyone else huddles around it.

KIM
What the fuck? I could smell
something nasty from upstairs.

Paul holds up the mug. Others plug their noses.

ALEX
Let me see it.

Paul hands her the mug. She opens it, screams, and sticks it
back out for Paul to grab. Paul grabs it, runs out the front
door, and throws the mug into the street.

ALEX
I saw it. I wish I didn't but I saw
it.

KIM
What was that?

ALEX
Definitely someone vomited in
there.

LANCE
Who the hell would store vomit in a
coffee mug and leave it there?

Nobody answers. Then:

LAURA
 You never know, guys. Maybe someone
 just wanted to keep the house
 clean.

They all look at her. They know it was her now.

LAURA
 Sorry?

34 EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

Zach walks home from class on the phone with his mom.

MOM (V.O.)
 How long was it there?

ZACH
 Just since the night before.

MOM (V.O.)
 That's disgusting.

ZACH
 Yeah, but it's whatever.

MOM (V.O.)
 Did you have fun otherwise?

ZACH
 Yeah, I mean, I definitely didn't
 think I'd ever be driving to Taco
 Bell at 1 a.m. with a car full of
 girls.

MOM (V.O.)
 Yeah be careful with that. I was a
 young girl once.

ZACH
 What does that mean?

CUT TO:

35 INT. MOM'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Zach's mom cutting vegetables.

MOM
 Just that girls will find a nice
 guy like you, and sometimes take
 advantage of him.

36 BACK TO ZACH IN THE STREET

Zach stops walking for a moment.

ZACH

I don't think it's like that. They were really nice. They said thank you, and this morning added me on Facebook and sent me nice messages. They're cool.

MOM (V.O.)

If you say so.

ZACH

Yeah, if anything, I think this might be a great way to make friends, you know?

37 INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Zach zones out of a lecture. He turns the page in his--

38 CU: NOTEBOOK

notebook and draws a t-chart and labels the two sides "pros" and "cons".

In the "pros" side he lists: make friends, don't have to drink, meet people, meet girls, people like me.

In the "cons" side he lists: gas money, time, late nights.

39 BACK TO SCENE

Zach ponders.

ZACH (V.O)

I've been thinking. You said I need a plan to get better.

40 INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE - DAY

Dr. Brooks and Zach talk in his office.

DR. BROOKS

And?

ZACH

I need friends. But I don't want to be the type of guy who goes out and parties and gets drunk.

DR. BROOKS

Are these two things not exclusive of each other?

ZACH

I didn't think so. That's the college way now.

DR. BROOKS

And is your reluctance to be part of this "college way" a reason why you were so lonely last year?

ZACH

I think so.

DR. BROOKS

You said you "didn't" think so. Something has changed?

ZACH

Yes. The other night at a party, I drove these girls to Taco Bell. They had been drinking, but I hadn't. And they were really nice about it.

DR. BROOKS

Did they enjoy it?

ZACH

What do you mean?

DR. BROOKS

These girls. Did they enjoy the ride?

ZACH

(joke)

Oh, they enjoyed the ride, doc.

DR. BROOKS

I see what you did there. But I'm being serious.

ZACH

Yes, I think they did. I mean, I don't see why not.

DR. BROOKS
Did YOU enjoy it?

Zach thinks for a second.

ZACH
Yes. I did.

DR. BROOKS
What about driving these girls to
Taco Bell was fun for you?

Again, he thinks.

ZACH
It was fun. They're entertaining,
for one. Two, they're nice. Three,
it beats sitting at home alone.

DR. BROOKS
And this is your plan?

ZACH
I don't know.

A beat.

ZACH
Is it a good plan?

Now it is Dr. Brooks' turn to ponder.

DR. BROOKS
Let me ask you one more question.

Zach nods.

DR. BROOKS
Do they appreciate you?

ZACH
Of course.

DR. BROOKS
Then here is what I think. As you
said, it's difficult to socialize
in college without going to parties
and drinking alcohol. That's not to
say it is impossible, but just what
the culture dictates. Now, you
don't want to do that, which is
your right. And, frankly, I think
that's a smart choice.

Zach smiles a little.

DR. BROOKS

If being the designated driver is a way for you to circumvent this lifestyle and still be a part of it, then I think it has to potential to be something very positive for you.

41 INT. ZACH'S ROOM - NIGHT

Zach plays video games in his bedroom with Paul. A baseball game.

PAUL

FUCK.

ZACH

Dude, I've literally thrown the curve to Hamilton every time up. You gotta wait on that.

PAUL

I just want the bomb.

ZACH

Not today.

42 TV SCREEN

A player hits a ground ball up the middle. The second baseman makes a diving stop and throws him out.

43 BACK TO SCENE

Paul slinks back into his seat.

PAUL

No way he actually makes that play.

ZACH

What?

PAUL

Bullshit.

They keep playing. Zach's phone vibrates.

44 CU: PHONE

A text message from Zoey: "Hey"

45 ZACH ON COUCH

He types.

46 CU: PHONE

Zach: "What's up?"

Zoey: "Not much"

47 ZACH ON COUCH

He keeps playing. Phone vibrates again.

PAUL

Who is texting you? Don't they know
we're in the middle of an intense
game here?

He ignores Paul.

48 CU: PHONE

Zoey: "You busy?"

Zach: "No"

Zoey: "Will you come pick us up?"

Zach: "Yeah sure"

Zach: "Who's 'us'?"

Zoey: "Me and my roommates michele and britney"

Zoey: "If you can't that's fine"

49 ZACH ON COUCH

Zach looks up.

PAUL

THROW THE BALL.

ZACH

Sorry.

They play for a minute.

50 CU: PHONE

Zoey: "You there?"

Zach: "yeah im coming. where u at?"

51 BACK TO SCENE

Zach pauses the game.

ZACH

Sorry, man. I gotta go.

PAUL

What??? It's the 8th inning!

ZACH

We can finish in a bit, maybe. I won't be gone long.

PAUL

Nah. I should probs do something with my life. I have an exam Monday and I haven't been to the class yet, so that's there.

52 KITCHEN

Zach puts his shoes on and checks his phone.

53 CU: PHONE

Zoey: "my brothers house"

Zoey: "1423 Adams"

54 INT. MUSTANG - NIGHT

Zach pulls up to a house and dials his phone. Zoey picks up on the other end, but her voice is barely audible over a crowd of people.

ZOEY (V.O.)
Where are you?

ZACH
Zoey?

ZOEY (V.O.)
You.....

She fades out.

ZACH
I'm here.

The phone call drops.

Zach waits and thinks about what to do. He finally gets out.

55 EXT. KYLE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Zach walks up to the front door. There is only a porch light on. Otherwise, the house looks abandoned. He knocks on the door. No answer.

Zach looks around. He tries to peek in the window but sees nothing. He gets nervous. He knocks again. Again, no answer.

Finally, Zach decided to crack the door open. He peeks his head in but sees nobody. He opens the door fully and enters--

56 INT. KYLE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Zach sees two guys standing in the corner drinking beer and talking. They look at him but don't acknowledge him. Zach looks back. It's awkward. He keeps going forward.

He goes down a hallway and stops when he hears Zoey's voice. He goes into--

57 KYLE'S BEDROOM

Zach sees Zoey and KYLE, her older brother, talking. She's sitting on the bed. He's standing. She sees Zach and jumps up and gives him a hug.

ZOEY
Zach!

ZOEY
(to Kyle)
This is Zach.

KYLE
Who is Zach?

ZOEY
He lives with Sam. He's
a...good...guy.

She's very drunk.

KYLE
Nice to meet you, bro.

ZOEY
Zach, this is my brother. This is
Kyle. That's Zach.

ZACH
You ready to go?

ZOEY
Noooooooooooo I'm thirsty.

KYLE
I'll be right back.

Kyle leaves.

ZACH
You told me to come.

ZOEY
Take Michele and Britney home. They
need a ride home.

ZACH
Yeah you said that. What about you?

ZOEY
They need help.

ZACH
Where are they?

ZOEY
They're at the party. At my
brother's house.

Zach rolls his eyes.

Enter MICHELE and BRITNEY. They stumble in, very drunk. Bloodshot eyes, sweaty, smeared makeup.

Zoey gives them a hug.

ZOEY

Zach these are my roommates.

MICHELE

Hi.

Britney doesn't speak.

ZACH

You guys ready to go?

MICHELE

Where are we going? I don't want to go? Who the hell is this guy?

ZOEY

This is Zach he can drive.

MICHELE

I can walk. I'm not ready.

Britney holds her stomach.

MICHELE

Brit, bathroom, Now.

They go to the bathroom.

ZACH

Will she be ok?

ZOEY

Yeah, just take her home.

Kyle enters carrying four beers.

KYLE

Where's your friends?

ZOEY

They had to go to the bathroom.

She grabs a beer. Kyle hands one to Zach but Zach doesn't take it.

ZACH

Nah, I'm good.

Zach looks at the bathroom door, which is closed with Michele and Britney inside.

ZACH
Actually, let me hold those for you.

He wants to hide them from Michele and Britney, who are too drunk already. Zoey finishes her beer quickly.

ZOEY
I'm going to dance! Come dance!

ZACH
No, I'm taking you home, remember?

ZOEY
Take them home first.

She leaves. Kyle shrugs his shoulders.

KYLE
See ya, bro.

He goes to give Zach a man-handshake but Zach fails, not knowing how it works.

ZACH
Nice to meet you.

Kyle leaves.

Zach looks around for a place to hide the beers, and settles on under Kyle's bed just as the girls enter the room. They look at him awkwardly.

58 INT. MUSTANG - NIGHT

Zach drives. Michele rides up front. Britney, who still doesn't talk, is in the back.

MICHELE
She does this. She gets sick when she drinks.

ZACH
That sucks.

MICHELE
Nah it's good. She's a champ.

Awkward silence. Zach looks over at Michele. By the way he looks at her, we know he finds her attractive.

MICHELE

I'm sorry who are you? I mean, I know you live with Sam and Zoey knows you but what is your name?

ZACH

Zach.

MICHELE

I'm Michele.

ZACH

I know.

MICHELE

Zoey said take us home.

ZACH

I know.

MICHELE

You have a really nice car.

ZACH

Thank you. I like it.

MICHELE

You must have a lot of money.

ZACH

No, actually I work for it.

MICHELE

Well, it's a nice car. You're a nice guy.

Just then, they hit a bump in the road. Britney vomits all over the back seat.

MICHELE

Oh my God, I'm so sorry. That never happens.

ZACH

It's fine.

MICHELE

No, I feel so bad. I'm going to clean it up when we get to the dorm.

ZACH

Don't worry about it. You know what, I fart a lot anyway, so it probably won't even make a difference.

MICHELE

That's gross.

ZACH

I...I was kidding.

They hit another bump and Michele vomits in the front seat.

Zach looks at it, but is surprisingly calm.

59 EXT. DORMS - NIGHT

Michele helps Britney out of the car. When Britney is out, Michele leans in and speaks to Zach.

MICHELE

Stay here. I'm going to get you money to get that cleaned.

ZACH

No, I can't do that.

MICHELE

Stay here.

ZACH

Michele, it's fine.

MICHELE

Are you sure? I feel so bad?

ZACH

Listen, I do this because I want to. It'll clean up.

MICHELE

If you say so.

ZACH

If you ever need a ride, I'm here for you, alright?

She nods and walks off.

60 EXT. HOUSE PARTY - NIGHT

The mustang pulls up to the driveway. Laura, Kim, Alex, and Gina get out and head into a party.

CUT TO:

61 INT. MUSTANG - CONTINUOUS

Zach considers his options. Laura comes back to the door.

LAURA

You sure you don't wanna come in?

ZACH

Nah, I'm good.

62 EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Zach, avoiding the party, drives around town. He pulls into a parking spot and watches as people walk by on their way to bars and parties.

He turns off the engine, turns on the radio, and leans back in his chair.

63 A WHILE LATER

Zach's phone rings. He opens his eyes, check the phone, starts the car and drives off.

64 EXT. HOUSE PARTY - NIGHT

Zach pulls up in the mustang. Laura, Kim, Gina, and Alex are joined by Paul.

They file into the car. Paul, the last one in, takes the front.

PAUL

What up brosef?

ZACH

How u doin?

PAUL

Dude, I feel like some hard core parkour tonight.

ZACH
What?

PAUL
(screaming)
PARKOUR!

Zach starts to pull away. Paul jumps out of the car and runs toward the house. He spots a tree at the side of the house and starts climbing it.

65 INT. MUSTANG - CONTINUOUS

Zach and the girls watch Paul.

ZACH
What is he doing?

KIM
Some parkour bullshit.

GINA
Not gonna lie, I'm real confused.

ALEX
He's been saying that all night.

66 EXT. HOUSE PARTY - CONTINUOUS

Paul shimmies down the tree and runs toward a fence. He tries to jump over the fence, but hits it, and the fence collapses and he falls on top of it.

He gets up, dusts himself off, and runs back to the car.

Laura gets out the car.

LAURA
Hell no.

PAUL
That tree couldn't handle me.

LAURA
Get in.

PAUL
I called shotty!

LAURA
And you lost it. We can't have you
jumping out of the car anymore.

Paul puts his head down like a child admitting defeat to his
parents.

CUT TO:

67 INT. MUSTANG - NIGHT

Zach drives them all. Laura is up front. Paul is squeezed
between Kim and Alex with Gina also in the back.

PAUL
PARKOUR!

GINA
Stop.

PAUL
PARKOUR!

Paul leans forward over Laura's shoulder.

PAUL
PARKOUR!

Laura pushes him back.

ALEX
I can't sit next to him.

KIM
Yeah what the fuck, Laura? Why do
you get to sit up front?

LAURA
Zach said so.

ZACH
No, I said nothing, actually.

ALEX
But, for real. We need to switch
seats.

PAUL
PARKOUR!

GINA
Chinese fire drill.

Zach laughs.

GINA
I'm actually being serious. We
should do it at the next light.

ZACH
Wait, what?

KIM
I'm d.

ALEX
Let's do it.

LAURA
Guys, I don't know.

Paul whispers into Kim's ear.

PAUL
Parkour.

ALEX
Yes. Doing it.

68 EXT. MUSTANG - NIGHT

The traffic light ahead of the car turns yellow.

GINA
Ok, here we go.

The light turns red. The car pulls up to the intersection
and stops. There are no other cars around.

69 INT./EXT. MUSTANG - CONTINUOUS

Zach puts the car in park. Laura opens the door on her side
and hurries out. Kim puts the seat down and climbs out.

ALEX
Wait. We're dumb.

ZACH
Yeah how is this going to work in a
2-door car?

PAUL
By PARKOUR!

Paul leaps into the front, climbs over Zach, opens the driver-side door, and crawls out head first.

On the other side, Alex and Gina get out and Laura gets back in first. The girls struggle in their drunkenness.

KIM
Hurry!

Paul, meanwhile, climbs onto the front hood and lays seductively across it, like a model.

Gina gets back in the car.

Paul gets up, crawls over the roof of the car to the back.

Alex gets back in.

Paul rolls off the back trunk and lands on his feet.

Kim puts the seat up. Paul runs around the car and jumps butt-first into the front seat.

The light goes green. Zach puts the car in drive. Kim reluctantly sits on Paul's lap.

70 INT. MUSTANG - CONTINUOUS

Zach drives. Gina looks at Alex.

GINA
Not my best idea.

She shakes her head in disbelief.

Kim adjusts herself so she can see Paul's face and gives him a menacing stare.

KIM
I fucking hate you.

71 INT. ZACH'S ROOM - DAY

Zach Skypes his family.

CHLOE
How are you?

ZACH
Good. I'm really good. Busy. How is school?

CHLOE
Good.

ZACH
Yeah? You make some new friends this year?

CHLOE
No, just the same girls as last year.

ZACH
How's your boyfriend?

CHLOE
STOP. I don't have one.

ZACH
Yeah that's probably good. You'd be too mean to him.

CHLOE
Stop!

MOM
It's ok, Chloe. You'll be dating before Zach ever is.

ZACH
Wow.

MOM
So how are the new friends?

ZACH
Good.

MOM
Just "good?"

DAD
(implying sex)
Or GOOD?

ZACH
Just....fine. Having fun.

MOM

Yeah? What have you been up to.

Zach looks at Chloe. He doesn't want to talk about alcohol in front of her.

ZACH

(lying)

We went bowling the other night.
That was fun.

CHLOE

I miss bowling. Can we go next time
you're home?

ZACH

Definitely! Hey I gotta go.

CHLOE

Okay love you.

ZACH

Love you too.

MOM

Bye.

72 PHONE CONVO: INT. ZACH'S ROOM/INT. KIM'S APT. - NIGHT

Zach gets a phone call.

ZACH

Hey.

LAURA

Zach.

ZACH

What's up?

LAURA

Can you pick us up?

ZACH

Sure. Where at?

LAURA

Kim's apartment. 2234 Leonard. See
you in a few.

73 EXT. KIM'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Zach waits in the car. Laura, Gina, Kim, and Alex get in.

LAURA
Just drive.

ZACH
Ok.

He starts to drive.

ZACH
Where we going?

ALEX
The library.

ZACH
The library?

LAURA
Yeah we wanna dance.

GINA
And clubs are not ratchet enough
for us.

ZACH
So the library?

LAURA
Yes.

ZACH
Okay.

KIM
We thought it'd be funny if we
showed and were like "who wants to
party?"

LAURA
Yeah.

74 INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

The girls lead Zach into the library. People study around them, on tables with their books and computers.

KIM
We should do like the Gangnam
style.

ALEX
So last year.

KIM
Well, I'm not gonna do any salsa
shit or flamingo whatever the hell
that is.

LAURA
Sam?

The girls see Sam studying with a group of people.

ALEX
Oh my God this is perfect.

ZACH
I don't get it. Why is this
perfect.

GINA
Grab books.

ZACH
I...I don't get it.

They all head to the bookshelves and Zach stays behind.

Gina, Kim, and Alex all grab stacks of books from a section
titled "SEX" and titled and covered obviously about sex.

One by one, they walk over to Sam's table and, without
saying a word, drop the books on the table next to him. They
don't even make eye contact with Sam.

Laura walks back to Zach.

SAM
Hey, what is this?

The girls don't respond. When they're done, they run away.

LAURA
Will you help me with something at
my house?

ZACH
Sure, I guess.

LAURA
Like tonight. Like right now?

ZACH
Yeah what is it?

LAURA
I need your muscles.

ZACH
Ok.

Sam's classmates look at him, very annoyed at the disruption. He's embarrassed.

75 INT. LAURA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Zach helps Laura unpack her things.

ZACH
Why haven't you unpacked yet?

LAURA
I've been busy.

She points to a big box.

LAURA
Can you put that on the top shelf
in the closet?

He nods and picks the box up. It's very heavy.

ZACH
Geez, what the heck is in here?

LAURA
Pictures. Be careful.

He struggles to get under the box, but finally does and puts it on the shelf. He stops to catch his breath.

LAURA
Do you not swear?

ZACH
Why?

LAURA
You said "heck." I'm just curious.

ZACH
Not really.

LUARA
Huh.

ZACH
What does THAT mean?

LAURA
It's different.

He looks at her for more.

LUARA
Forget I said anything.

They keep unpacking.

ZACH
Ok, no. This is bothering me. Why
is it so different that I don't
swear?

LAURA
Most people here do.

ZACH
So?

LAURA
Stop getting so defensive.

ZACH
I'm not being defensive.

LAURA
Yes you are. I was actually going
to give you a compliment if you'd
stop being so dramatic.

He shuts up.

ZACH
Fine.

LAURA
I was going to say I think that's
cool. And, honestly, I'm not really
that surprised.

ZACH
Now I'm even more confused.

LAURA
Well, you seem like the type of guy
who always is doing the right
thing, ya know?

ZACH
Ok, I can see that.

LAURA
Yeah, so that's cool.

ZACH
Alright.

A beat. More unpacking and organizing.

LAURA
Can you hand me that box over
there?

He hands it to her.

LAURA
So, why?

ZACH
Why what?

LAURA
Why not swear? Why be this
do-the-right-thing guy? You don't
even drink or go out with us.

ZACH
I just don't get into that stuff.

LAURA
Ok, my turn to get pissy. Spill.

Zach speaks as he screws together an endtable for Laura. He
doesn't look up.

ZACH
Well, as you know, I played
baseball in high school. But that
was about the only thing I did that
could be considered even remotely
"cool." I was a mama's boy. I'm
proud of that, though. You know, my
sister needed someone to babysit

ZACH
her sometimes and...well, I guess
I've always just rather spend time
with my family than with kids at
school. That's how I always was.

LAURA
Did you have friends?

ZACH
Sure, but they were my friends at
school. I'd go to their birthday
parties. My mom would throw me
friend birthday parties but they
were never as fun as the ones with
my cousins.

Laura stops what she is doing and is genuinely intrigued.

ZACH
I obviously got good grades, or I
wouldn't be here. So that was me.
School, baseball, family. I guess I
never thought having friends was
important. And...then, my freshman
year of college was a big
adjustment.

LAURA
Your family wasn't here.

ZACH
Yep. And I was so...inexperienced
at finding friends and so bad at it
that I just sort of gave up. And I
was miserable.

Laura looks saddened by this.

LAURA
I'm sorry.

Zach looks up from the endtable for the first time. This is
the most down-to-earth he has seen Laura yet.

ZACH
Thanks.

LAURA
So, can I ask you a question?

ZACH

Yes.

LAURA

With all of that, why drive us
drunk girls around?

He looks down, cracks a smile, and keeps working on the
endtable.

ZACH

Honestly, you guys entertain me.

She giggles.

ZACH

But, you guys are also pretty cool.
And I like hanging out with you
all.

A beat.

ZACH

And, mostly, I'd never forgive
myself if I found out that any of
you got hurt or something bad
happend because you walked home
alone drunk or something.

He looks up. They make eye contact.

ZACH

I think everyone deserves someone
they can always count on. And I
like to be that guy.

He stands up. The endtable is finished, and he sets it next
to Laura's bed. As he plugs in a lamp and sets it up on the
new table, Laura watches him, in awe, maybe lovingly.

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LATER THAT NIGHT

The boxes are mostly unpacked. Laura sits down on the bed.

LAURA

Well, I'm pooped.

ZACH

Alright. Well, if you need more
help let me know.

LAURA
Thanks for helping out.

ZACH
No problem. See ya.

He turns to leave.

LAURA
Wait.

He turns around.

LAURA
Where are you going?

ZACH
Home. It's like 3 am.

LAURA
Yeah, exactly. Just stay here.

ZACH
You sure?

LAURA
Yeah, none of my roommates are home.

ZACH
Ok. Well, I'll be on the couch downstairs I guess.

LAURA
Zach, stop being dumb. Just sleep here. It's fine. It's not a big deal.

The thought of sharing a bed with a girl gets Zach very nervous. He gets quiet and calmer.

ZACH
Umm...ok. Yeah, sure.

LAURA
Can you get the lights? You're closer.

Zach walks over and turns off the light. When he goes back to the bed, Laura is already curled up under the blanket. She lifts it up and makes room for Zach.

Zach climbs into bed, in his clothes, and lays as far away from her as possible. He faces the opposite direction, his nose an inch or two from the wall.

LAURA
Goodnight, Zach.

ZACH
Night.

Several moments pass and Zach is unable to fall asleep.

77 INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Zach pays attention during a lecture and takes notes.

PROFESSOR
And now, it's time for your
favorite part of the term - your
research papers.

The class moans.

PROFESSOR
On the website, I've just posted
the requirements. I won't spend too
much time talking about it in class
but if you have questions come to
my office and I'd be glad to help
you out.

As the professor rambles on, Zach opens up the website on his laptop. The research paper is huge. 15 pages. 8 sources.

78 INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Zach looks through the shelves in the library for books. He's holding his research paper prompt.

As he looks for books:

ZOEY (O.S.)
Zach!

Zach looks up and sees Zoey standing next to him.

ZACH
Oh, hey. What's up?

ZOEY
Exam tomorrow. Whatcha lookin' for?

ZACH
Trying to get a head start on my
research paper.

ZOEY
What class?

ZACH
History 210. Ancient Roman Politics
or something like that.

ZOEY
Well, come sit with us.

ZACH
Us?

ZOEY
Me, Brit, and Michele.

ZACH
Oh, okay. Yeah I'll be right there.

79 TABLE - MOMENTS LATER

Michele and Britney sit with Zoey at a table in the library.
Zach walks up and waves when they look up.

He sits down at the only empty seat, between Zoey and
Michele. He sets his books down and opens one up quietly.

MICHELE
(whispers)
Did you get your car cleaned out?

ZACH
Yeah. It wasn't bad.

MICHELE
Does it smell?

He shakes his head: "no." They continue working in silence
for a moment.

MICHELE
Whatcha workin' on?

ZACH
 Research paper for a history
 class. You?

MICHELE
 We have an exam tomorrow.

ZACH
 What class is that in?

MICHELE
 Philosophy.

ZACH
 Is that your major?

MICHELE
 I'm thinking about it.

Again, they go silent and start working again.

80 MOMENTS LATER

Zach looks up, first nowhere in particular but then over to Michele, who doesn't catch him staring. However, Zoey sees him, although Zach is unaware of that.

Zach looks around, trying to think of something to say. Small talk is not something he's used to.

ZACH
 So, that party looked fun the other
 night.

MICHELE
 Yeah....we don't talk about that
 night anymore.

Zach stops talking for good.

81 INT. THERAPIST OFFICE - DAY

Zach sits with Dr. Brooks.

ZACH
 So,

82 INT. MUSTANG - NIGHT

Zach pulls the car up to a party. Laura and Kim are in the car. They get out.

KIM
Thanks, Zach.

LAURA
Yeah, see ya later.

She closes the door. Zach turns the radio up and gets ready to pull away, but is stopped by a knock on the window. He rolls it down to see Laura peeking in.

LAURA
Hey, why don't you come in?

ZACH
I was never invited.

LAURA
Well, I'm inviting you in.

ZACH
I don't know anyone here.

LAURA
So? I know like 4. It'll be fun.

ZACH
But...I...

LAURA
What?

ZACH
I've never been to a party. Like, besides Sam's a few weeks ago at my house.

LAURA
There's a first time for everything. C'mon! I'm cold.

83 INT. HOUSE PARTY - NIGHT

Zach follows Laura into the party. He recognizes no one. The party is crowded. It's dark. People are dancing in one area and in other are talking with drinks in hand.

Zach is approached by a guy, Nathaniel.

NATHANIEL
You look bored.

ZACH
I don't really know anyone here
besides a couple of friends I came
with. Not really my thing. I was
actually thinking of leaving.

NATHANIEL
You should stay. These people are
pretty chill. I'm Nathaniel, by the
way.

ZACH
Zach. Nice to meet you.

They shake hands.

NATHANIEL
So, Zach, who did you come with
here.

ZACH
My two friends Laura and Kim.

NATHANIEL
Ahh, I think I know Kim. Are you
guys dating?

Zach is taken back by this a little bit and it shows.

ZACH
No, I mean I never really thought
of dating Kim.

He laughs to himself a little bit.

NATHANIEL
She's cute, why not?

ZACH
I'm just working on some personal
stuff right now...I don't think I'm
ready for that sort of thing just
yet.

NATHANIEL
Why not? I mean, look at you.
You're handsome, you seem really
nice. I bet you could get anyone
you wanted.

Nathaniel, as he speaks, puts his hand on Zach's shoulder, smiles and looks into Zach's eyes. Zach, realizing Nathaniel is gay and coming onto him, doesn't know what to say.

ZACH
That...that is...

LANCE (O.S)
Heyyyyyyyyyyy!!!!!! What the hell is
this?

Lance comes up and gives Zach a big hug. Nathaniel drifts away as Lance and Zach talk.

LANCE
Dude, what are you doing here?

ZACH
Laura...invited me in.

LANCE
Well, good. We're gonna get you
laid tonight.

ZACH
What? No, I don't...

LANCE
Don't be a pussy. I'm gonna wing
man you. I have just the girl too.

He points to ASHLEY, who is pretty and with a group of girls.

LANCE
Her. We're going to go up to her.

ZACH
No. What do I say? I...I don't like
this.

LANCE
Here we go.

He pushes Zach forward and walks toward Ashley.

LANCE
Hey.

ASHLEY
Hey.

LANCE

I'm Lance.

ASHLEY

Ashley, nice to meet you. These are my friends Tanya and Nicole.

LANCE

Nice. Have you met Zach?

He pushes Zach in front of Ashley and walks away.

ASHLEY

Jack?

ZACH

Zach. With a Z.

He writes a Z in the air with his finger.

ASHLEY

Oh, got it.

She's quickly losing interest.

ZACH

So, how are you?

ASHLEY

I'm fine.

He nods along, looking around for something to say.

ZACH

Sorry about my friend. I didn't even know he was here.

ASHLEY

It's ok.

ZACH

Cool.

Laura runs up and taps Zach on the shoulder.

LAURA

Can we leave?

ZACH

Yes.

He turns to Ashley.

ZACH
Nice to meet you.

Zach and Laura walk out of the party.

LAURA
Were you talking to that girl? OH
MY GOD did I just cock block you?

ZACH
No. It was super awkward.

LAURA
Oh. So...Taco Bell?

ZACH
Sure.

84 INT. MUSTANG - NIGHT

Zach pulls up to Laura's house with her and Taco Bell bags.
Silence.

LAURA
What?

ZACH
Can I have my food?

LAURA
Oh, duh.

She giggles, then reaches into the bag. Zach checks his phone for a moment.

Laura realizes there is nothing left in the bag.

LAURA
Ummm...

ZACH
What?

LAURA
I...sort of...ate your food.

ZACH
How is that even possible?

LAURA
I was hungry.

ZACH
You ordered three tacos
yourself. You ate all those...AND
my nachos...AND my burrito?

LAURA
Sorry?

He shakes his head. He's not angry.

ZACH
No, it's fine.

LAURA
You sure?

ZACH
Yeah. Don't worry about it.

More awkward silence.

LAURA
Ok, get out of the car.

ZACH
What?

She gets out of the car.

LAURA (O.S.)
C'mon!

85 EXT. PARK - MOMENTS LATER

Zach and Laura walk down the sidewalk to a playground near her house, outside an elementary school.

ZACH
I didn't know this was here.

LAURA
Do you know how to swing? Please
tell me you are not THAT stupid.

He looks at her, less offended than confused.

ZACH
Yes, Laura, I know how to swing.

Laura sits down on the swing set and starts swinging. Zach watches her for a moment.

LAURA
(swinging)
Do it!

He gets on a swing and starts pumping his legs, and quickly he is going higher than Laura.

They continue for a while, laughing and swinging until--

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MOMENTS LATER

Zach and Laura sit on a swing set looking at the stars.

LAURA
I like coming here sometimes, just to get away from everything for a little bit, you know?

ZACH
Yeah.

LAURA
So peaceful.

ZACH
Hey. You know what I just realized?

LAURA
No.

ZACH
The other day, I told you basically my whole life story. Yet I still don't know a whole lot about you.

LAURA
Good.

ZACH
What does that mean?

LAURA
Because I'm boring.

Zach stands up and starts to walk away.

LAURA
Where are you going?

He stops and turns around.

ZACH
Well, if you're so boring I must be
making a big mistake hanging out
with you all the time.

He smiles and sits back down on his swing.

LAURA
(dryly)
Ha. Ha. Very funny.

ZACH
Seriously, though, what's your
story?

LAURA
I don't like talking about me.

ZACH
Ok, then don't.

They watch the stars for a little while longer. Then--

LAURA
I used to do this with my dad when
I was really little. Look at the
stars.

ZACH
They're very pretty.

LAURA
The night he died, I ran outside
when my mom wasn't looking and just
laid down and looked at the
stars. I fell asleep in the
backyard and she had to come carry
me into my bed.

Zach stares at her. He didn't know she lost a parent.

ZACH
How old were you?

LAURA
Thirteen.

ZACH

I'm sorry.

LAURA

It's fine. It was tougher on my mom, actually. Which I why I have issues. I had to be tough for her, and almost take care of her.

ZACH

That must've been tough.

LAURA

Yeah. Whatever. Let's go.

She jumps up and walks back toward her house.

87 INT. ZACH'S ROOM - NIGHT

Zach studies for an exam in his room. He reads from a book and goes over notes in his notebook.

His phone, on the desk, buzzes. He picks it up and reads a--

88 TEXT MESSAGE

from Gina: "hey where u at"

89 ZACH AT DESK

He ignores it.

A beat, then another buzz.

90 TEXT MESSAGE

from Gina: "ubusy ?"

91 ZACH AT DESK

Zach reads it, then responds.

92 TEXT MESSAGES

from Zach: "studying for a big exam tomorrow"

from Gina: "r u busy"

from Zach: "yes i'm studying"

from Gina: "can u pleasecom ge tme."

93 ZACH AT DESK

Zach shakes his head. He continues studying.

94 MOMENTS LATER

Zach's phone buzzes again.

95 TEXT MESSAGE

from Gina: "pleasssssee help me"

96 ZACH AT DESK

Zach texts on his phone.

97 TEXT MESSAGE

from Zach: "where r u?"

98 ZACH AT DESK

Zach works for a minute. The phone doesn't vibrate. He thinks he's off the hook. Then...

99 TEXT MESSAGE

from Gina: "wilton and broad"

from Gina: "plesa"

from Gina: "by broad sreet"

100 ZACH AT DESK

He rolls his eyes, bangs his head on the desk.

A beat. He gets up and leaves.

101 EXT. CAMPUS - NIGHT

Zach exits the Mustang with his coat and hat on. It's cold out. Campus is pretty dead.

He pulls out his phone. Checks it. It's 1:35 a.m. He texts Gina.

102 TEXT MESSAGE

from Zach: "where are you?"

103 BACK TO SCENE

No response. Zach waits.

104 SERIES OF SHOTS: ZACH LOOKS FOR GINA

--Zach texts her and gets no response again

--Zach walks down the street looking into crowds of people for her. People stare back at him, as if he's being creepy.

--Zach drives around campus looking for her.

--Zach walks up to a bar, but it is closed. He checks his phone: 2:15 a.m.

--Zach calls Gina, but she doesn't answer.

--Zach goes back to the spot he started at, the corner of Wilton and Broad. No Gina.

--He texts her again. She replies back with a series of nonsense messages he can't understand.

--His phone rings.

ZACH
(on phone)
Hello?

FEMALE VOICE
Zach?

ZACH
Yes?

FEMALE VOICE
This is Gina's friend Rachel. Where
are you?

ZACH
I'm at Wilton and Broad, where she
said.

FEMALE VOICE
Ok where is that?

ZACH
I...who is this?

FEMALE VOICE
Zach?

ZACH
Yes!

FEMALE VOICE
We're.....hold on...

Gina's voice is heard mumbling in the background.

FEMALE VOICE
We're at Wilton and Broad. Where
are you?

Zach rolls his eyes.

--Zach walks around the neighborhood. No people anywhere.

--He reads a text message from Gina that just says "Angels"

105 EXT. CAMPUS - NIGHT

Zach looks confused.

ZACH
Angels? Angels... An-gels.....

He has an idea.

He walks a few doors down an ice cream parlor called "Angelo's" which is closed. The lights are off but a young employee is inside sweeping the floor. All the chairs are on the tables.

Zach tries to open the door, but it's locked. The YOUNG EMPLOYEE sees him and comes to open the door.

YOUNG EMPLOYEE
Can I help you?

ZACH
Is there, by any chance...a
red-haired girl throwing up in your
bathroom?

The young employee just nods and lets him in.

106 INT. ICE CREAM SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Zach walks toward the bathroom and knocks on the door. RACHEL opens. Gina is behind her, on the floor.

RACHEL
Zach?

ZACH
Yes. Are you guys ok?

RACHEL
Yeah, we're totally fine.

Rachel is surprisingly coherent.

RACHEL
Can you take it from here?

ZACH
Yeah, sur...

Before he can finish, Rachel is on her way out. He squats to talk to Gina.

ZACH
You ok?

She nods "yes."

ZACH
Can I take you home now?

She reaches out her hand and he helps her up. She puts her arms around him.

107 INT. DORM HALLWAY - LATER

Zach walks Gina to her door.

ZACH

It's 3 a.m. on a Wednesday
night. What were you doing?

Gina mumbles. She's a mess.

They walk a little further. She stops him.

RACHEL

I have to go see my neighbor.

She walks to the wrong door. Zach pulls her back.

ZACH

No, no. Go to sleep.

108 INT. ZACH'S ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Zach gets home and sees his textbook open at his desk. He looks angry, then just flops into bed.

109 INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - DAY

Zach eats lunch with Alex, Gina, Kim, Laura, Alex's little sister Catherine.

ALEX

Shit.

KIM

What?

ALEX

Brianne can't make it to the
concert tonight.

KIM

That bitch. What is she doing?

ALEX

She's going home.

GINA

Going home?

LAURA
Are you serious?

ALEX
Yeah. Going home.

Zach feels left out.

ZACH
What concert?

ALEX
My boss gave me six free tickets to
see Taylor Swift tonight.

LAURA
And how much are they worth?

ALEX
85 bucks. Shit.

LAURA
Who else is free?

ALEX
I don't know.

KIM
We can sell it.

ALEX
No, if my boss finds out I'm in
trouble. Wait.

She looks at Zach.

ALEX
Do you like Taylor Swift?

ZACH
I don't know much of her music.

ALEX
Would you want to come?

ZACH
I mean, why not?

110 INT. STADIUM - NIGHT

Zach sits down with the girls at the concert. The seats are amazing. He's at the end, next to Kim.

He taps on the shoulder of the person on his other side.

ZACH
Excuse me, could you take a picture.

LAURA
Yeah! We need a good one!

PERSON
Sure!

The PERSON takes their picture. Zach looks so happy.

After the picture, he looks around to take in the moment.

ZACH (V.O.)
Right then, I thought, "I've made it."

CUT TO:

111 INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE - DAY

Dr. Brooks listens to Zach talk about the concert.

DR. BROOKS
Made it?

ZACH
Friends. Success. I've made it.

DR. BROOKS
I am happy for you. I am. Are we done yet?

ZACH
No, I don't think so.

DR. BROOKS
Something else is bothering you.

He nods.

DR. BROOKS
What is it?

ZACH
I can't help thinking...

He pauses.

DR. BROOKS
Thinking?

ZACH
This girl. Michelle.

DR. BROOKS
Zoey's friend.

ZACH
Yeah, someone's taking good notes!

DR. BROOKS
(unamused)
Continue.

ZACH
Well, I'm making friends. I'm
generally happier. But, I want
more. There's still....that hole.

DR. BROOKS
A relationship?

ZACH
Bingo.

DR. BROOKS
Well, let's talk about that.

112 INT. SAM'S ROOM - NIGHT

While Sam and Zoey study, Zach enters.

ZOEY
What's up?

ZACH
Got a second?

ZOEY
Sure. Everything ok?

ZACH
Yeah I just need some advice. Help,
sort of.

Sam looks up ever-so-slightly from his book to survey the exchange. He closes his book.

SAM
I'll let you guys talk.

He leaves.

Zach sits down in his place.

ZACH
So...I have this problem.

He's very nervous.

ZOEY
A girl?

He's surprised how quickly she guessed that.

ZACH
How'd you know?

ZOEY
That's usually the case. Who is it? Anyone I know?

ZACH
Perhaps.

ZOEY
Can I get a name?

ZACH
Ummm.... I just want some advice.

ZOEY
Ok, Shoot.

ZACH
Well, so as you guessed I kinda like this girl. But I have a hard time, like, talking to her. I get all nervous and don't know what to say or do.

ZOEY
Hmmm. I see. Well I could help you, but it's different for every girl, you see.

ZACH
It's someone you know.

ZOEY
Michele.

ZACH
You're scary good at this.

ZOEY
No. You're scary bad at this. I've known for awhile now. And I'll help you out. But you have to help yourself, too.

ZACH
Sounds fair.

ZOEY
The first thing to know is that Michelle likes to have fun. So you need to be more part of the group. Join us when we go out, do stuff, ya know?

He nods along.

ZOEY
And if you wanna ask her out, you're going to need to start talking to her first.

113 INT. BOWLING ALLEY - NIGHT

Zach joins Sam, Zoey, Michele, Lance, and Paul at the bowling alley.

They're all in one lane. Paul bowls a strike and does a victory dance like his one from before.

PAUL
Suck my dick!!!

Lance goes. Bowls another strike. Sits down.

Zach's turn. He has trouble lifting the ball. He gets up to the lane, and his bowl isn't terrible, but he only gets a couple of pins.

As he waits for his ball to be returned, he ignores the rest of the group. His ball comes back.

He goes up, and again only gets a few pins. He shakes his arm off a bit. Sits back down.

As Sam gets up to bowl, Zoey shoots Zach a look, as if to say "talk to Michele."

114 MOMENTS LATER

Michele's turn. She bowls, gets 8 pins, and sits down near Zach.

 ZACH
Nice job. Impressive.

 MICHELE
No I suck. Like a lot. That was lucky.

 ZACH
Well I'd like some of your luck.

He rubs his arm. She sees it.

 MICHELE
What are you doing?

 ZACH
Old baseball injury. I can't really do stuff like this often.

 MICHELE
That sucks.

 ZACH
Yeah, I'm kinda used to it.

In the background, another Paul happy dance.

 MICHELE
Yeah Paul!

Zach tries to reinsert himself into the conversation, sensing she's already lost interest.

 ZACH
How have you been, by the way?

 MICHELE
Good. Did you ever get your car cleaned?

ZACH
Yeah I took care of it. Thanks
again.

MICHELE
No, thank you.

ZACH
And, uh, seriously. Like I said,
I'd be happy to do it again.

115 INT. ZACH'S ROOM - NIGHT

Zach is asleep. His phone rings, waking him up. He picks it
up and answers.

ZACH
(sleepy)
Yeah?

KIM (V.O.)
(yelling)
ZACH!!!

He is startled.

ZACH
What?

116 INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION

Kim at a rocking party.

KIM
Zach! Can you pick us up?

Zach in his room.

ZACH
What time is it?

KIM
I don't know, like....1:30.

ZACH
Umm, sure. Where you at?

KIM
Owen's house! Thanks!

She hangs up. Zach gets up out of bed. He puts his
sweatpants on. The phone rings again. He picks up.

It's Laura, with Kim.

LAURA
Zach, we don't need you anymore.

ZACH
What?

LAURA
We're good. Thanks.

She hangs up.

Zach takes his sweats back off and starts to get into bed. The phone rings. He picks up.

KIM
(yelling)
ZACH!!!

ZACH
Kimberly, why must you always yell?

KIM
We do need a ride.

ZACH
Ok. On my way.

He hangs up, stands up, puts his pants on, puts his coat on, and walks to the door. The phone rings. He answers.

LAURA
Ok, sorry again. We're gonna walk.

ZACH
Are you sure? I'm getting tired of this.

LAURA
Did we wake you up?

ZACH
A little bit, maybe.

LAURA
Ok, I'm sorry. Go to bed. Talk to you later.

ZACH
Ok. It's really cold out there.

LAURA
We're big girls. Go to bed.

She hangs up. Zach takes his coat off. Then he waits. He leaves his pants on for a moment.

The phone rings. He answers.

KIM
(yelling, again)
ZACH!!! It's cold as balls out
here!

He gets up and runs out the door before they can stop him again.

117 EXT. SIDEWALK - NIGHT

It's Halloween, and the whole gang goes out together. Zach dresses as Slash from Guns N' Roses.

Everyone walks down the street: Zach, his roommates, all the girls, Zoey, Michele, Mia, Britney...

ALEX
What are you?

ZACH
I'm Slash.

ALEX
Da fuck?

She walks away. Zach rolls his eyes.

The group walks and people have conversations. Zach brings up the rear by himself. Zoey slows down to walk with him.

ZOEY
So...

ZACH
What's up?

ZOEY
How's that thing we talked about?

ZACH
We'll see.

ZOEY

We're about to break off and go to a party. You should come with us.

ZACH

I...don't know. I don't really like the whole party thing.

ZOEY

It's part of the plan.

ZACH

I'll come for a little bit.

ZOEY

God.

118 EXT. FRAT PARTY - LATER THAT NIGHT

Zach, Michele, Zoey, and Britney enter a party. Zach stays at the front door, afraid to go in.

ZACH

Michele!

She turns around.

ZACH

In case we get split up, let me give you my number.

MICHELE

Ok. Text it to me.

ZACH

I don't have yours.

MICHELE

Oh, right. 734-586-9250

ZACH

Thanks!

She heads back in. Zach pauses, then leaves, never going into the party.

119 EXT. SIDEWALK - NIGHT

Later that night, Zach walks alone down a sidewalk in his costume. He walks past a group of guys smoking and drinking on their front porch.

GUY

SLASH!

Zach points to him.

His phone rings. He checks a text message.

120 INT. MUSTANG - NIGHT

Zach pulls up to the frat party. Michele and Britney get in.

ZACH

Where's Zoey?

MICHELE

(really drunk)

She went home with Sam earlier.

ZACH

Oh.

MICHELE

Thank you for the ride. You're so sweet.

ZACH

Sure, no problem. Where to?

MICHELE

We need to take Britney home. She needs to sleep.

ZACH

Ok. How you doing Britney?

She closes her eyes and lays down in the back seat, not saying a word to him again.

Zach starts driving.

121 MOMENTS LATER

Still driving...

MICHELE

STOP!

ZACH

What?

MICHELE

Pull over now!! Pull over!!!

ZACH

But...

MICHELE

NO STOP THE CAR NOW!

Zach pulls the car over.

ZACH

What is wrong?

MICHELE

Jimmy John's sells day-old bread
for real cheap.

Zach looks out the window and sees they are near Jimmy
John's.

ZACH

Okay...

MICHELE

Last Halloween, Zoey and I got the
day old break and brought it back
to the dorm and ate it and said we
were going to spend every Halloween
together doing the same thing.

She almost starts to cry but doesn't.

ZACH

Well, I can...

She jumps out of the car.

MICHELE

Brit!

Brittany wakes up and starts to get out.

122 EXT. JIMMY JOHN'S - NIGHT

Michele is inside buying bread. Britney is falling asleep, leaning against the wall outside the store, slipping down to a sitting position.

ZACH
Umm excuse me?

She slides back up and opens her eyes.

She starts sliding back to sleep.

ZACH
Britney...

Britney stands leaning against the wall, barely awake.

A beat. She closes her eyes again.

ZACH
Brit...

Michele comes out holding bread.

MICHELE
(mouth full)
Want some? They didn't even charge me!

Zach nods: "no"

ZACH
Does she ever talk?

MICHELE
Nope.
(beat)
Well, thanks. We can walk.

ZACH
It's fine, let me drive you. It's like 20 degrees out.

MICHELE
It's fine...

ZACH
Well...I'll walk with you guys then.

MICHELE

Fine. That works because then when we drop Britney off I want to come to your house and see Zoey and Lance and them. We were supposed to all be together tonight.

123 EXT. STREET - NIGHT

After walking Britney back home, Michele and Zach walk back toward the car.

ZACH

Did you have a fun night?

She's sobered up a bit.

MICHELE

Yeah. You? I didn't see you at that party.

ZACH

Ehhhh, parties aren't my cup of tea.

MICHELE

You just gotta do it, sometimes. You know what I mean?

ZACH

Yeah, I'm workin on it. Oh my God, what is that?

They spot two tall, athletic males running past in tutus.

MICHELE

Only the funniest shit I have ever seen.

They start laughing. As the tutu boys pass, one of them smacks Zach's butt.

ZACH

Wow.

MICHELE

Yeah. What the hell? You'd think it was MY ASS that'd get a slap!

Zach laughs.

MICHELE
Speaking of which, what are you
supposed to be?

ZACH
Are you kidding? I'm Slash. The
guitar player! He was...and still
IS, a really big deal!

Michele is clueless.

ZACH
Kid's these days.

MICHELE
Hey, cool it.

ZACH
I'm just saying...

MICHELE
Wait, even better than those guys.

She stops in her tracks, as does Zach. She points at a group
of girls in tight, short skirts and very little else on.

ZACH
Now, remind me again why this is a
bad thing?

Michele looks at him, rolls her eyes.

ZACH
Joking.

MICHELE
I will not feel sorry for them when
they wake up in some asshole's
pants tomorrow morning and don't
know where they are. It is WAY too
cold for that.

A beat. They start walking again.

MICHELE
This is all pretty new for you,
huh? Taking care of us bitches.

ZACH
I kinda enjoy it.

MICHELE
How can you enjoy this?

ZACH
You all are good people.

MICHELE
But crazy as fuck, right?

ZACH
I wouldn't say that.

MICHELE
Well you don't know crazy, then.
What's the craziest thing you've
ever done?

ZACH
Honestly? Probably this night. I
know, pretty lame, right?

MICHELE
Yeah...pretty lame. You need to get
out more.

ZACH
Hey!

MICHELE
The truth hurts. Get over it.

ZACH
Ok, what about you? What's so crazy
that you've done?

MICHELE
Uh, last night I did coke for the
first time.

Zach laughs.

MICHELE
I'm...not kidding.

He's taken aback.

ZACH
Oh.

MICHELE
And I don't sleep around, but I've
had a few crazy nights where...

He cuts her off.

ZACH
I can imagine.

124 INT. MUSTANG - NIGHT

A few days later.

Zach drives Laura, Kim, Alex, and Gina around.

ZACH
What is this guy's name?

LAURA
Ken Trout.

ZACH
Why haven't I met Ken?

LAURA
No. Ken Trout. Always two names.

GINA
He's super mysterious.

KIM
Al, sext him again.

Alex types on her phone as she reads what she is sending out loud.

ALEX
Hey big boy, I'm bringing the hot sauce if you got the tamales.

KIM
That doesn't even make sense.

ALEX
What do I care? It's Ken Trout.

ZACH
So you guys just send him seductive text messages? And then what?

GINA
Usually, he doesn't respond. I just told him "can't wait to take you to the forbidden forest."

KIM
Better. Not as good as "I'd like to slay your dragon."

LAURA

But, Zach, this is why we have you.
You're going to help us find
him. If you want. We don't want
to force you.

ZACH

No it sounds like fun.

125 INT. DORMITORY - NIGHT

The girls and Zach try to find Ken's room in a maze-like
dormitory.

ALEX

I feel like we've been walking for
an hour.

KIM

Seriously, what the fuck? This is
like a maze.

They go down a set of stairs, and turn the corner to find a
dead end.

GINA

Should someone text him?

LAURA

I did. He won't answer.

They go back up the stairs, and down a hallway that
turns. They go up a short set of stairs, turn again, and
find a dead end.

ZACH

There are a lot of dead ends.

ALEX

He said he lives at a dead end.

ZACH

So you guys have NEVER seen his
room?

LAURA

He never invites us over.

GINA

I was her once.

They all look at her, wondering why she won't direct them.

GINA
I was shwasty.

They find it, finally. Laura goes to knock on the door. Kim stops her.

KIM
(whispering)
Wait.

Kim takes a sign off the door and tapes it to the neighbor's door. The sign has Ken's name on it. She switches it with the neighbor's.

KIM
Ok go.

Laura knocks again. KEN TROUT comes to the door. He opens. He's panting, his eyes bloodshot, and only shows his face.

KEN TROUT
Yes?

LAURA
Hey, can we come in?

KEN TROUT
Now really isn't a good time. Bye.

Laura pushes the door open, revealing Ken Trout pantless with an erection. He'd been masturbating.

The girls all scream and run away. Zach closes his eyes and follows them out.

126 INT. ZACH'S ROOM - NIGHT

Zach watches TV on his couch. The phone rings.

ZACH
Hey?

127 INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION

Zach's mom in her kitchen.

MOM
Oh, my long lost son is alive!

Zach in his room.

ZACH
What does that mean?

MOM
I haven't heard from you in almost
three weeks.

ZACH
That's not true.

MOM
Um, yeah, it is.

Awkward silence.

ZACH
How are you?

MOM
Oh just peachy.

She's pissed.

ZACH
Listen, I'm sorry. I've just been
really busy.

MOM
No, Zach, it's fine. I get it if
you're too busy playing with all
your little girls to call your mom.

She hangs up.

CUT TO:

128 INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE - DAY

Dr. Brooks listens to Zach talk.

DR. BROOKS
How did that make you feel?

ZACH
Well, I am really sorry that I
haven't been in touch with
her. But, at the same time, she
needs to understand that I'm trying
to do what's best for me right now.

DR. BROOKS

Are you? Doing what's best for you?

ZACH

I think so. I'm happier than I was. I'm having fun. Isn't my happiness what is most important?

129 INT. ZACH'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Zach walks into the living room, where Sam is studying.

SAM

Hey.

ZACH

Hey. Whatchu up to tonight?

SAM

The books. Lots of work to do. Want to join? A little roomie homework party?

ZACH

I would, normally, but it's Saturday night, man. I think I'm gonna go out and wait for the call.

SAM

"The call?"

ZACH

Yeah. Inevitably, every Saturday night, someone will call for a ride.

SAM

That sounds....fun.

Zach senses his sarcasm.

ZACH

It is. In the interim, I just people watch by the bars.

SAM

I don't know if you're just really creepy or actually onto something here.

ZACH
I think it's brilliant. Seeya
later, man.

130 INT. MUSTANG - NIGHT

Zach pulls up to a spot near the campus bars to wait for
"the call."

131 SERIES OF SHOTS

--Zach turns on the radio and jams out to a song.

--Zach plays a game on his phone.

--Zach watches people walk by.

--Zach goes to text Michele, but deletes it.

--Zach checks his phone for messages. There are none.

--Zach closes his eyes and reclines his seat.

--A group of kids walk by and stare at him funny.

--Zach turns the car on and checks the time. It's 2 a.m.
Realizing nobody is going to call, he leaves.

132 INT. ZACH'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Zach returns home. He goes--

133 UPSTAIRS

--and sees Lance leaving his bedroom.

LANCE
Hey bud what's up?

ZACH
Nothing. Tired. What are you doing
up?

LANCE
Oh, nothing.

Just then, Michele comes out of the room wearing only a
towel.

MICHELE
Hey don't forget...

She sees Zach.

MICHELE
Oh, hey!

Zach just stares at the two of them.

134 INT. ZACH'S ROOM - DAY

Zoey sits across from Zach in his room.

ZOEY
I'm sorry.

ZACH
It's not your fault.

ZOEY
I know. But I feel bad. Like I
let you believe you had a chance.

ZACH
Well, you didn't know this would
happen, right?

ZOEY
I did, actually. Zach, I'm so
sorry.

ZACH
Why would do that? Why not just
tell me right away? Or try to
prevent it?

ZOEY
I can't prevent it, she's my best
friend and she can do what she
wants, but I should have been
honest with you from the start.

ZACH
Yes you should have.

ZOEY
Maybe I was trying to protect you.

ZACH
Well, maybe I don't need
protecting.

135 INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

Zach's phone rings as he works. He answers, but whispers.

ZACH

Listen, I'm just not in the mood,
Laura.....No, really, I've had a
long week.

136 LAURA AT A PARTY

LAURA

Please? I promise I'll make it up
to you.

137 ZACH AT THE LIBRARY

ZACH

Fine, but just to pick you guys up.
No taco bell, no Ken Trout. I'm
really tired and have a lot to do
this weekend and a test Monday.

138 INT. MUSTANG - NIGHT

The girls (Kim, Laura, Gina, and Alex) get in the car.

KIM

Go, go, go.

ALEX

Zach, drive. Now.

Zach pulls away.

ZACH

What is going on?

ALEX

We stole a bunch of weed from that
party.

KIM

(laughing)

They have no idea.

Zach is very uncomfortable, but says nothing. He looks at
Laura, who is quiet but happy-looking.

139 INT. KIM'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The girls sit around a table. Zach is there, too.

GINA
Guys, I'm starting to feel really bad.

ALEX
I know. Maybe this wasn't a good idea.

KIM
We should get rid of it.

GINA
How?

ALEX
Yes, dispose of the evidence.

Alex gets up and runs to Kim's bedroom.

LAURA
Zach you've been quiet.

ZACH
I just really don't like this. At all. I said I would take you home. I didn't sign up for this.

LAURA
You can take me home.

KIM
No, stay. Smoke with us Laura don't be a bitch.

LAURA
Zach, can I stay a little bit? You don't have to wait if you don't want to.

ZACH
No I want to make sure you get home.

Alex returns with a bong. She fills it, lights it, and takes the first puff and passes it to Gina.

Gina smokes, passes it to Kim, who smokes, and passes it to Laura. Laura looks at Zach, passes the bong back to Kim, and stands up.

LAURA

You know what, I'm tired. Zach take me home.

140 INT. MUSTANG - NIGHT

Zach drives Laura home.

ZACH

I really didn't like that.

LAURA

I know.

They drive on in silence.

141 INT. ZACH'S PARENTS HOUSE - DAY

Zach's entire, large family is at the house for Christmas lunch. Zach sits on a chair in the living room watching basketball with his grandpa.

Chloe comes up and sits on Zach's lap.

ZACH

Hey.

CHLOE

I miss you.

ZACH

Well, I'm here, aren't I?

CHLOE

Yeah but we never skype anymore. You don't call or text me.

ZACH

I'm sorry. How about I take you to see a movie this week?

CHLOE

Ok. There's one I really want to see that comes out tomorrow I think.

ZACH

Awesome!

Zach's mom enters.

MOM
Let's eat!

142 MOMENTS LATER

Everyone sits around the table.

GRANDMA
Zach, you going to say the prayer
like you always do?

ZACH
Yep.

MOM
I think Michael should say the
prayer this year. It's time we
changed things up.

MICHAEL, Zach's 9-year-old cousin, smiles.

GRANDMA
Ok, Go Mikey!

Everyone bows their heads. Except for Zach.

MICHAEL
Dear Jesus, Bless this food and
bless the family and bless baby
jesus and the presents amen.

EVERYONE
Amen!

143 LATER THAT NIGHT

Zach sits down watching a movie with his parents and Chloe.

DAD
This movie never gets old.

CHLOE
Yes it does! Why do we watch it
every year?

DAD
It's tradition! It's a classic!

MOM
Chloe, your dad is stuck in his
ways and we just need to let him be
sometimes.

CHLOE
Apparently.

ZACH
I love this movie.

CHLOE
You would. You're like an old man,
too.

ZACH
Hey!

Chloe sticks out her tongue at him.

They all keep talking, but Zach tunes out the conversation. He checks his phone. He gets a lump in his throat as he reads something.

The room is silent to him. He swallows the lump and starts sweating and shaking, but nobody notices.

144 INT. PARENTS BEDROOM - NIGHT

Zach enters the bedroom as he knocks the door. His parents are in bed.

ZACH
Can I come in?

DAD
I was sleeping. Your mother insisted on getting frisky but I told her to stop since you might just walk in at any moment.

MOM
Just come in.

ZACH
I need to talk to you guys.

MOM
Sit.

He sits in a desk chair. His parents sit up in bed.

DAD
Can we make this quick?

MOM

Shut up. Let him talk.

ZACH

Thanks, um...I first want to say that I'm really sorry for not being in touch a lot this semester.

MOM

That's an understatement, not being in touch, but go on.

ZACH

Anyway, I know I haven't been a great son, but it's been really hard to balance trying to have a life, with school, and you guys, and it gets really overwhelming.

MOM

This is why we send you to Dr. Brooks. I thought you were ok?

ZACH

No, no, no, I'm fine in that area. Like, I'm happy and I'm not depressed or lonely. I just wanted to try and explain myself. But mostly just say I'm sorry.

MOM

Ok.

A beat.

MOM

Thank you. Is that it?

ZACH

No.

MOM

What else?

ZACH

Tonight, I got an email. And don't freak out, because it's just a temporary thing and I'm going to do everything I can to fix it.

MOM

(nervous)

WHAT? WHAT?

ZACH
I'm on academic probation.

She jumps up and starts yelling at him. His dad stays in bed silently.

MOM
(yelling)
Academic probation? Academic probation? How does my son, my honor roll son, get academic probation. That's just pure laziness. You are smart enough. Are you not going to class? Are you not turning things in? How did this even happen? I'm just so confused. You could have gone to smaller schools, but you said - you said - that you'd be fine here.

Zach says nothing once she stops, at first.

ZACH
I'm so sorry.

MOM
Well, sorry doesn't fix it. I want an explanation.

He's silent, ashamed.

MOM
And you don't have one, do you?

ZACH
I...I just...

She tones it down a bit.

MOM
No, I know what it is. It's this driving drunk people around thing. You're spending all your time chasing these people around - you're probably broke, too, paying for gas all the time - and that's why. You can't do homework when you're out til 3 a.m. being reckless.

ZACH
I'm sorry.

MOM

STOP! STOP apologizing. You said you are going to fix it? Well, damn right. Damn fucking right you're gonna fix it. We're not paying your car insurance anymore. You need to get your shit together, kid. I'm done. I'm...I'm, just done.

She gets back in bed. Zach takes his cue to leave.

ZACH (V.O.)

She's right.

CUT TO:

145 INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE - DAY

Zach, talking to Dr. Brooks.

ZACH

I'm a screw up.

DR. BROOKS

Just because you are on probation, academic probation, does not make you a screw up, Zachary.

ZACH

I thought I had everything under control.

DR. BROOKS

We never have everything under control. We're not robots, or computers, and even they have errors.

ZACH

I'm at square one. No, I'm at square zero.

DR. BROOKS

But you know where you've gone wrong, and emotionally, you have to see that you're more capable of handling this. Are you depressed?

Zach shakes his head: no.

DR. BROOKS

Then you're in a better position
than you were a year ago.

146 INT. DINING HALL - DAY

Zach and all his friends have a big group dinner in the dining hall to celebrate being back at school for the winter term. They sit at one long table.

ZACH

Everyone, can I say something,
please?

They all quiet down and look at him.

ZACH

I just wanted to say that getting
to know you all has been a lot of
fun, and I hope these friendships
continue, but unfortunately, I will
no longer be able to drive anyone
around at night.

GINA

WHAT!

KIM

NO!

He starts eating, saying nothing else.

147 MONTAGE: ZACH "RETIRES"

1) INT. ZACH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT. Zach does homework in his room.

2) INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT. Paul watches TV. Zach comes out of his room.

ZACH

Hey, man, can you turn that down,
please?

3) INT. LIBRARY - DAY. Zach rents books from the library.

4) INT. ZACH'S ROOM - NIGHT. Zach turns his phone off at 10 pm to avoid being called.

5) INT. PROFESSOR'S OFFICE - DAY. Zach meets with a professor to talk about an exam.

END MONTAGE.

148 INT. ZACH'S ROOM - NIGHT

Zach Skypes his family.

CHLOE
Hey big brother.

ZACH
Hey, how are you?

CHLOE
Good.

ZACH
How's school?

CHLOE
Good.

ZACH
Yeah? What are you learning right
now?

CHLOE
Stuff.

ZACH
C'mon, what kind of stuff?

CHLOE
The civil war.

ZACH
Ahh.

MOM
What about you, mister?

DAD
Yeah you learning "stuff?"

ZACH
Yes, my grades are all in great
shape. The probation should be
lifted at the end of the term.

MOM
Good. Are you okay otherwise?

ZACH
Yeah, I'm fine. Hey sis, how many
boyfriends you got now?

CHLOE
Stop!

149 INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE - DAY

Zach and Dr. Brooks talk as they always do.

DR. BROOKS
You see well, then.

ZACH
Yeah. Grades are good. Family is
starting to forgive me...

His voice trails off.

DR. BROOKS
But?

ZACH
Nothing.

DR. BROOKS
Zach, I'm your psychologist, it's
my job to know when you're keeping
something from me. And I know you
are doing just that.

ZACH
I'm fine.

DR. BROOKS
You miss driving the drunk people.

ZACH
No, honestly, I don't think that's
it.

DR. BROOKS
Then you miss you're friends.

ZACH
I still see them, just not as much
as I used to.

DR. BROOKS
Why is that?

ZACH
Because....I don't know.

DR. BROOKS
Is it because you are not driving
them around anymore?

ZACH
I suppose.

DR. BROOKS
Do you think maybe they are then
taking advantage of you? Are these
people really your friends if you
only see them when they need you?

ZACH
I guess I never looked at it like
that. I don't know.

150 INT. ZACH'S ROOM - NIGHT

Zach watches movies alone, as he did before moving in to the house and making friends. He's sad and lonely. His phone rings. It's Laura texting him.

151 TEXT MESSAGE

Laura: "hey can i get a ride. i know u stopped but plz"

Zach: "no."

152 BACK TO SCENE

His phone rings again. This time, a phone call. He answers.

ZACH
(into phone)
Hey.

LAURA (V.O.)
(whispering)
Hey, Zach, I need your help.

ZACH
Laura, I was just about to go to
bed.

LAURA (V.O.)
Please. I really need help. I don't
feel safe.

ZACH
Listen, I'm sure you're fine. I
gotta go.

He goes to hang up.

LAURA (V.O.)
Wait.

He waits.

LAURA (V.O.)
You there still?

ZACH
Yes.

LAURA (V.O.)
You told me once that everyone
needs one person in their life they
can count on. I need to count on
you right now. Please.

He thinks for a second. The guilt gets the best of him.

ZACH
This is the last time. Ever, ok?
text me the address.

He hangs up and walks outside.

153 INT./EXT. MUSTANG - MOMENTS LATER

Zach gets back into his car. It's cleaner, inside and out,
than it has been since he moved in during the fall.

He starts it up and drives off.

154 EXT. HOUSE PARTY - NIGHT

Zach knocks on the door of a house party. Nobody answers.

He knocks again. Again, no answer.

He cracks the door open, peeks in, and enters--

155 INT. HOUSE PARTY - SAME TIME

The house is empty and the lights are off. It's quiet, but littered in cups and beer cans.

He sees a light on upstairs, and walks up to the--

156 UPSTAIRS BEDROOM

--where Laura is talking with a group of guys.

She sees Zach, runs up, and gives him a hug.

LAURA

(quietly)

Thank you so much. I'm so happy to see you. Wait downstairs for me. One second.

She goes back to the guys. Zach leaves.

157 DOWNSTAIRS - MOMENTS LATER

Zach waits for Laura.

A beat, then she comes walking down the stairs, mid-conversation with a PARTY GUY.

PARTY GUY

Hey, what's your number?

LAURA

I'm not giving you my number.

PARTY GUY

Why? C'mon!

LAURA

What do you need my number for?

PARTY GUY

I dunno.

LAURA

What are you gonna do? You gonna call me? You gonna text me?

PARTY GUY

We can, I dunno, hang out.

LAURA

We're gonna "hang out?" Are you kidding me? No. We're not gonna "hang out."

PARTY GUY

Laura, you make my heart sing.

LAURA

(laughing)

OH. MY. GOD. You are so cheesy. I..just. I can't. Good. Bye.

She walks to Zach.

LAURA

Let's go.

158 EXT. HOUSE PARTY - NIGHT

They walk to the Mustang.

LAURA

Zach you saved me tonight. Like, actually saved me. If I were there any longer I probably would have slept with that guy and hated myself.

ZACH

No problem.

LAURA

No, I'm buying you food. And not Taco Bell shit. We're going to get some real food.

159 INT. DINER - NIGHT

Laura pays for their food at a diner. They're seated at a table inside.

ZACH

Thanks.

LAURA

My pleasure. It's the least I can do for you.

ZACH
Yeah, you're probably right.

LAURA
What?

She gets offended.

ZACH
Nothing.

LAURA
No, what did you just say?

ZACH
I'm just saying...I've done a lot
for you, and it was nice to be
repaid for once.

LAURA
ExcUSE me?

ZACH
Come on, Laura. You know it's true.

LAURA
Umm, no, I do not.

ZACH
Just, drop it, ok?

LAURA
No, I'm not going to drop this. You
have really hurt my feelings. I
thought we were friends.

ZACH
We are friends.

LAURA
But yet I do nothing for you
apparently?

ZACH
That's not what I said.

LAURA
Then enlighten me, oh great one.

ZACH
Stop.

She says nothing but gives him a dirty look, expecting more.

ZACH
All I'm saying is, sometimes I feel
taken advantage of.

LAURA
(disbelief)
By me?

ZACH
Yes. You, Kim, all you guys.

LAURA
You feel taken advantage of by "all
us guys?" REALLY?

ZACH
Yes, I do.

LAURA
Give me an example.

ZACH
Gina at Angelo's.

LAURA
Ok, another one.

ZACH
I don't want to play this game.

LAURA
One more.

ZACH
For God's sake, Laura, you guys let
me help you steal a massive amount
of weed from a party and made em
watch as you smoked it.

LAURA
Don't do that. Don't: a) criticize
my friends, and b) tell me lies
about things I did. For your
information, I did not know they
were doing that when I called you,
and I DID NOT smoke anything that
night.

ZACH
I'm gonna go home now.

He gets up and leaves but Laura follows him.

160 EXT. DINER - MOMENTS LATER

Laura is taken aback. She walks behind Zach as he tried to lose her.

LAURA

That's it? Nothing more to say.

Silence.

LAURA

You're a pushover Zach. If you have a problem, I want you to tell me like a man, and quit dancing around it. I'm your friend. I can handle it.

ZACH

Clearly.

LAURA

I told you things I've never told anyone else. I let you share a bed with me. I just bought you dinner. And in case you don't remember, every time I asked you for a ride, I always took time to hang out with you, too. I was never just using you.

He walks faster, ignoring her.

LAURA

I didn't help you talk to a girl when I knew she wasn't interested, did I? And I sure didn't FUCK YOUR ROOMMATE!

Zach starts running now. He runs right up to a frat house. He stops at the door, pauses, then enters.

161 INT. FRAT PARTY - NIGHT

Zach looks around the party. Seeing nobody that he knows, of course, he walks around.

He stops at a table full of many different alcoholic beverages, but passes them up.

He stands in the corner of the room, watching people dance.

He takes out his phone, pretending to be busy. He puts it away. He keeps watching people.

Girls at the party stare at Zach, with dirty looks.

People whisper while looking over to him.

A HOST comes up to him.

HOST
Hey man, what's your name?

ZACH
Zach.

HOST
Oh, nice. Hey, Zach, can I get you
a drink?

ZACH
I don't really drink, man. Thanks.

HOST
Well, then how about you go dance?
Lot of pretty girls here.

ZACH
Not much of a dancer.

HOST
Well, I'm gonna have to ask you to
leave.

ZACH
Are you serious?

HOST
Bro, you're the creepy guy in the
corner.

Zach looks around and realizes the host is right.

ZACH
Yeah, on second thought, where are
the drinks?

162 INT. FRAT PARTY - LATER

Zach walks up to the drink table.

163 SERIES OF SHOTS: ZACH GETTING DRUNK

--Zach surveys the drink table

--He opens a can of beer.

--He spits the beer out.

--He takes a cup and pours some soda, then a variety of alcohols into it.

--He downs the whole glass in one gulp.

--He mixes another.

--And another.

--And another.

--Zach hits on a girl.

ZACH

Hey, you know what they called me
in school? Moby Dick. Haha.

--He takes a shot with some frat guys.

--Zach dances with a girl. When she goes in to kiss him, he
at first doesn't know what to do.

--More shots.

--Zach makes out with another girl.

--A guy runs into Zach.

ZACH

Hey watch it!

He shoves the guy. The guy wisely walks away.

ZACH

Damn straight. Bitch.

--Another drink.

CUT TO:

164 INT. FRAT BATHROOM - NIGHT

Zach throws up into the toilet. He blacks out.

CUT TO BLACK.

165 INT. LAURA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Zach wakes up, unsure where he is, then recognizes the furniture he helped move and realizes he is at Laura's.

166 INT. LAURA'S KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Laura is making breakfast when Zach walks in.

LAURA
Good afternoon.

ZACH
Afternoon? What time is it?

LAURA
Just after 2. I made you breakfast.

Confused, and looking awful, he sits down at the table.

LAURA
How'd you sleep?

ZACH
No fucking clue. How did I get here?

LAURA
Well, you were an asshole to me...

ZACH
I remember that. Then a party. And then...

LAURA
You blacked out. But because I'm your FRIEND - which you don't believe - I followed you to the party, watched as you made a fool of yourself, and then when you blacked out I walked you back here and made sure you were ok.

He is embarrassed. He puts his head in his hands.

ZACH
How did this happen?

LAURA
If that's your way of saying "thank
you," it's not effective.

ZACH
Laura, thank you. I can't believe
you did this.

LAURA
Well, believe it.

She sits down and slides a plate of eggs his way.

LAURA
I care about you. And I'll try to
show it more. I'm sorry if I've
ever made you feel taken advantage
of. That must hurt.

He looks up.

ZACH
Eggs?

LAURA
Yes, eggs. What now?

ZACH
You cook?

LAURA
I can scramble eggs.

ZACH
I see.

LAURA
What the fuck?

ZACH
Laura, I think this could be the
start of a beautiful friendship.

She gives him a look.

ZACH
I love eggs.

167 INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Zach's family comes to visit. They all sit at a table.

MOM
Grades are still good?

ZACH
Yeah. I think I've finally got some balance in my life. Friends, school, family. Nothing more than the other.

DAD
Took you long enough.

MOM
I'm proud of you, you know that, right? I push you because I love you.

ZACH
Yeah I know.

MOM
And I want you to be happy and have friends.

ZACH
I know.

MOM
Just as long as you are not being pushed around.

ZACH
You know, I don't think I am. I think I'm good.

168 EXT. CAMPUS - DAY

Zach shows his sister around campus.

CHLOE
What is that fence like that for?

They spot a fence at a house, but part of it is broken on the ground. Recognizing it as the part Paul broke months before, he says--

ZACH
Some kid probably got drunk and
broke it.

CHLOE
That's stupid.

ZACH
Yeah, a little bit.

169 INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE - DAY

Zach talks to Dr. Brooks.

DR. BROOKS
So, you've got it all figured out,
then.

ZACH
Of course not.

DR. BROOKS
No?

ZACH
No...

170 INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Zach studies with Lance and Sam at the library, answering a
Facebook message from Laura.

171 COMPUTER SCREEN

Zach and Laura have an IM chat.

Laura: Tonight still on?

Zach: Yep.

Laura: Good!

CUT TO:

172 INT. ZACH'S ROOM - NIGHT

Zach sits alone his room, as he had before so many times.

ZACH (V.O.)
(continuing to Dr. Brooks)
I've learned this year that I never
really have it all figured out.

He starts a movie, alone.

Laura comes in from the bathroom and joins him.

ZACH (V.O.)
But, I like to think I'm starting
to figure it out.

173 INT. DINING HALL - DAY

Zach runs into Michele.

MICHELE
Hey.

ZACH
Hey. How are you?

MICHELE
Good. You?

ZACH
Not too bad. Have a lot of exams
this semester?

MICHELE
Two.

ZACH
Oh, that's not bad.

Their conversation fades out as the voice over comes in.

ZACH (V.O.)
There'll always be things I could
have done better, or differently.
But some things will never change.

174 EXT. ZACH'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Zach's bedroom lights turn on, then off again.

The Mustang in the driveway beeps and remotely starts.

175 CUT TO BLACK