ACT ONE

FADE IN.

EXT. CAMPUS - DAY

SHOT: A banner being raised that says "Welcome Parents."

SHOT: A CAMPUS PHOTOGRAPHER taking a photograph of TINA and HER PARENTS.

INT. MARSHALL AND RON'S ROOM - DAY

MARSHALL vacuums under RON's bed for the first time that year. Ron is reading a "Maxim" and not helping out.

    RON
    That little kid from "Growing Pains" is all jugged out, man.
    She's hot.
    (beat)
    Stop that. Your parents don't care what's under my bed.

    MARSHALL
    Sorry, man. I gotta get this done so I can rehearse my song. I won't have time once they get here.

Marshall picks a half eaten slice of toaster pizza out of the nozzle.

    RON
    Hey, I was saving that.

STEVEN walks in on a cordless phone. We follow him as he paces around the entire suite.

    HAL
    (on phone)
    Well, how come mom gets the first half of the weekend, and I get sloppy Steven seconds?

    STEVEN
    Because I haven't seen her for two months since she went to Europe.
HAL
Get in line, Mister, neither have I.

STEVEN
Well... she kinda asked me to split the weekend up.

HAL
Man, how immature is that?

STEVEN
Look, I want us all to be together too, but there's that awkward thing where you two got divorced.

HAL
Separated.

STEVEN
Separated, whatever.

HAL
I just thought that maybe we could talk things out. I'm a good listener now, Steven. You should tell her that. The old man's changed. She could do a lot worse.

Steven reaches into the couch and pulls out some crushed ice cream cartons.

STEVEN
Yeah. But let's do it her way for now. I don't want anything to ruin this.

HAL
Fine. But you know why she doesn't want to see me? She's afraid of the old Hal love voodoo.

STEVEN
(grossed out)
Ew, dad.

HAL
Part of being a man, son. Part of being a man.

CUT TO:

INT. LIZZIE AND RACHEL'S ROOM - DAY

Lizzie is looking in a mini-refrigerator stuffed with produce and miscellaneous groceries.

LIZZIE
Radishes? When have you ever eaten radishes?

RACHEL
You don't understand. If my mom doesn't see healthy vegetables and fresh milk in the fridge, she will make my life a living hell.

Rachel is holding up one of Lizzie's stuffed kangaroos and sewing it's head back on.

LIZZIE
Well you didn't have to rip open my favorite stuffed animal. I mean, there's no way your mom is that paranoid.

RACHEL
When I was sixteen my mom found a joint in my jeans pocket, which by the way I was too afraid to even try, and sent me to rehab for six weeks.

LIZZIE
Oh my god.

RACHEL
I had to sleep next to a woman who used to inject heroin between her toes. So, I am not going to just leave our fake ID's and condoms anywhere she can see them.

LIZZIE
My mom and dad would never even look in my drawers. They totally trust me.

RACHEL
I don't even know what that means. I'm, like, her full time job, so she's been going nuts since I left.

LIZZIE
Well, that's one good thing about my parents having to go to that conference this weekend. I'll be here to make you look really good. So, relax.

RACHEL
How glad am I that you're my roommate? Now hand me the monkey.

Lizzie reluctantly throws her a stuffed monkey, and Rachel starts taking it's head off.

CUT TO:

INT. RON AND MARSHALL'S ROOM - DAY

Marshall rips a sheet of fabric softener out smells it, and starts to rub it on his sheets.

RON
I can't imagine anything worse then having my parents here. They'd just embarrass me with stupid stories about how I couldn't pronounce "L's" when I was six.

LLOYD
You couldn't pronounce "L's?" Oh my God. That's adorable.

RON
That's right, Woyd. See? They're not even here and I'm humiliated.
LLOYD
Well, I'm off to pick up my little sister. If she calls, tell her to stay put.

Lloyd exits.

RON
Have you seen the picture of Lloyd's sister? She is hot. Smoking hot.

MARSHALL
Yeah, but she's his sister.

RON
So? Like if I had a hot sister, you don't think he'd sleep with her? Grow up. And besides, there's nothing wrong with sleeping with a friend's sister if you're going to marry her.

Marshal grimaces and tugs Ron firmly off the bed.

MARSHALL
Get up for a second.

Marshall runs a sheet of fabric softener over Ron's sheets while pushing the bed against his own bed.

RON
What are you doing?

MARSHALL
I have to make my parents' bed.

Marshal continues pushing. Ron lets the words sink in.

RON
Your parents are sleeping here? No. No way. Tell them to get a motel room.

MARSHALL
My Dad says he already pays $8,000 for this motel room.
  (in English accent)
What do you care? You'll be having a bit of a slap and tickle with Lloyd's sister anyway.

A beat. Then Ron wipes the soles of his shoes on the bed.

CUT TO:

INT. GUY'S COMMON ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Steven, still on the phone, is pacing around the common room brushing his hair. There's knocking on the suite front door, and we follow Steven out as he goes to answer it.

HAL
(on the phone)
Just call me and tell me if she looks good. No, call me and tell me if she looks bad, even if she looks good.

Steven opens the door. Standing there is DEBRA, his mom. She looks tan and healthy, and is dressed in flattering clothes she clearly bought overseas. They're happy to see each other.

STEVEN
I gotta go. See you tomorrow.

HAL
Is mom there? Does she look depressed? Tell me she looks depressed.

Steven hangs up. The two stand smiling at each other.

STEVEN
Mom!

DEBRA
Hey, beanpole. I really missed you. You look like you've grown a foot.

Steven and his mom hug joyously and walk into Steven's room. Marshall and Ron exit their room. Marshall is strumming a guitar.
RON
So, when are you going to tell your dad you dropped your business classes and became a music major?

MARSHALL
Right after my performance at the talent show. He'll see how much my music means to me and we won't even have to talk. He'll just know. It'll be like in Billy Elliot.

RON
(a beat)
If you start prancing around here I'm getting a new roommate.

CUT TO:

INT. STEVEN AND LLOYD'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Steven's mom is checking the place out. She and Steven have a much more natural rapport than Steven has with his dad.

STEVEN
So you seem like, really great, mom.

DEBRA
Well, I'm finally happy. I've tried so many new things. I went snowshoeing. I toured Dracula's castle. Did you know there really was a Dracula?

STEVEN
You know, I've been having kind of a hard time with you and dad's spl--

DEBRA
Nope! No talking about anything depressing. We're going to forget all that this weekend and just have fun.

Lizzie rushes in.
LIZZIE
Steven! Do you have anything to drink in here for Rachel's mom?

STEVEN
I have some root beer...

Lizzie scrunches her face a bit.

STEVEN (CONT'D)
Lizzie... this is my mom.

Steven hands her the root beer.

LIZZIE
Oh! Hi! I should have guessed, you look so much like Steven! Well, we'll talk later. I'm supposed to take care of Rachel's mom... ahhh. Crazy weekend.

Lizzie runs out. Debra looks at Steven mischievously.

DEBRA
So... what happened between you two?

STEVEN
What? Nothing! Why would you even ask that?

DEBRA
You're blushing, Sweetie.

CUT TO:

INT. RACHEL AND LIZZIE'S ROOM - DAY

Rachel's mom is taking the root beer from Lizzie while looking in the fridge.

LIZZIE
Here you go. This is all I could find. I can't believe how much you guys look alike.

MRS. LINDQUIST
Actually, she looks more like her father. Rach honey, you should really keep juice around.
RACHEL
We do. We must have just run out.

LIZZIE
She drinks O.J. like a fish. I can barely get a glass.

MRS. LINDQUIST
Well at least you're keeping up on your fruits and vegetables. And this room!

Nervous beat as they wait to hear what she says.

MRS. LINDQUIST (CONT'D)
I wish you were this neat at home.

CUT TO:

INT. GUY'S COMMON ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lloyd's sister, AMANDA, is checking out the room while Ron checks her out.

AMANDA
I can't believe how big your room is. At University they're like teeny, tiny boxes.

RON
You're in college? I mean University.

LLOYD
No. She's still in high school.

AMANDA
I graduate this spring. And I date older boys... Poppit.

RON
(laughing)
Poppit?

LLOYD
Don't you have to study for a test or something?

RON
No.
AMANDA
(teasing)
Poppit is our family's little nickname for Lloyd.

RON
That's so sweet. Over here we like to call him Goldilocks.

Ron tussles Lloyd's hair. Amanda laughs. She and Ron are starting to connect.

AMANDA
You're funny.

LLOYD
No, he's not.

AMANDA
So, tell me. Are there any parties this weekend?

RON
Yes.

LLOYD
No. There aren't any.

A beat.

RON
(nervous)
There might be a few.

AMANDA
Great.

Lloyd punches Ron in the arm.

RON
Stop it, Poppit.

Ron and Amanda share another laugh.

LLOYD
Let's go get something to eat.

RON
Jolly good idea.
LLOYD
You're not invited.

Lloyd exits with Amanda. At the door she turns and smiles at Ron.

CUT TO:

INT. LIZZIE AND RACHEL'S ROOM - DAY

Rachel's mom is sitting next to Lizzie on her bed.

MRS. LINDQUIST
I'm so glad Rachel is sharing a room with you. You seem like such a nice girl.

LIZZIE
Oh, I am. Very nice. And so is your little Rachie.

MRS. LINDQUIST
So what do you girls do for fun?

LIZZIE
Mostly study. A lot of studying. That's why we're here. To study.

MRS. LINDQUIST
And what about boyfriends?

RACHEL
Please. I wish I had time for boyfriends.

MRS. LINDQUIST
Wow. I never thought I'd hear those words from my daughter. But don't worry, there'll be time for that after graduation.

LIZZIE
Unless we all go to graduate school.

MRS. LINDQUIST
Oh, Rachel. A Masters degree? That would be marvelous.
Mrs. Lindquist smiles at her daughter. Rachel, happy things are going so well, smiles right back.

CUT TO:

INT. RON AND MARSHALL'S ROOM - DAY

Marshall's parents, MR. NESBITT and MRS. NESBITT are checking out the room with Marshall and Ron.

MR. NESBITT
(cheerful)
Look at this dump!
(Laughs, then to wife)
Let me help you with that, sweetie.

MR. NESBITT takes a cooler out of his wife's hands and sets it down on Ron's desk. He is a large, avuncular man with four days of driving grime on him. MRS. NESBITT carries gear into the room from outside: Luggage, coolers, shopping bags.

Ron helplessly watches as his room is invaded. Marshall hugs his mom and dad.

MARSHALL
I can't believe you're here!

MR. NESBITT
In the flesh.

RON
So you guys must have a lot of activities planned for the weekend. So, get out... See the sites.

MR. NESBITT
Hell no. I work fourteen hours a day, six days a week, fifty weeks a year. The only reason I left my own couch was to come see our boy.

MARSHALL
I'm their baby.

RON
I can see that.
MRS. NESBITT
Oh. We brought an air mattress for you boys

Mrs. Nesbitt takes the air mattress out of a satchel.

RON
(under breath to Marshall)
We're not sharing a bed.

Mr. Nesbitt pulls a plug and the air mattress immediately starts to inflate.

MR. NESBITT
All right. Time to hit the hay. Lights out in five minutes.

RON
(whispering)
You so owe me...

CUT TO:

INT. RACHEL AND LIZZIE'S ROOM - MORNING

MUSIC UP: A string quartet

MRS. LINDQUIST is searching through Rachel and Lizzie's room. She looks through drawers, then spots the stuffed kangaroo. She feels it, then rips it open and finds the fake ID and tosses it on a bed with condoms and mini liquor bottles.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - MORNING

There's a string quartet in the common area. Pan to find Steven and his mom heading out for the day. They're kidding each other and having a great time.

DEBRA
You've never been to the college museum. That's shameful. That's the first place we're going.

STEVEN
Not a chance.
The elevator doors open. Standing there is Hal. Debra's smile falls instantly. Steven looks angry.

HAL
Hey, family!

FADE OUT.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

STEVEN
Dad. You're here a little early.

HAL
(joking)
Well, I wanted to beat the traffic.
(laughs, beat)
Hi, Debra.

Hal seems to make and unmake ten decisions in one second, then finally kisses his ex-wife on the cheek. She grimaces. Steven tries to take control.

STEVEN
Okay. Dad, why don't you go see if Lloyd and Ron want to hang out. I'll see you tomorrow morning like we planned.

DEBRA
(hiding anxiousness)
No no, it's okay, honey. Dad came a little early, we can roll with it.

Debra enters the elevator with a smile. Steven gives his dad a chastising look. Hal returns the gaze sheepishly. Steven steps in, and Hal follows. As the elevator doors close:

HAL
Going down!

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMPUS - DAY

Ron and Amanda are sitting under a tree getting to know each other.

    RON
    Come on, say it again.

    AMANDA
    You're so silly.

    RON
    Come on.

    AMANDA
    Alright. (Beat) Ils faut cultiver notre jardin.

    RON
    God, I love the way that sounds.

    AMANDA
    It means we should cultivate our own gardens. It's from Candide.

    RON
    Okay.

    AMANDA
    You try and say it.

    RON
    Uh... El foe cul-something some guy.

    LLOYD (O.S.)
    Amanda! Amanda!

Lloyd is crossing the campus looking for his sister. He doesn't see them.

    AMANDA
    Oh, crap. He's going to be so mad I ditched him after breakfast. I don't feel like dealing with him now.
RON
Neither do I.

AMANDA
He's just so smothering. He thinks he's my dad.

RON
Yeah, how do you stand it. Quick, let's hide behind the bushes.

They get up and quickly jump behind the bushes. Lloyd walks past without seeing them.

LLOYD
Amanda!

AMANDA
This is fun. I feel like a wanted criminal.

RON
(under his breath)
You're wanted all right.

CUT TO:

INT. LIZZIE AND RACHEL'S ROOM - DAY

Rachel and Lizzie enter. We reveal Mrs. Lindquist standing gravely with variously confiscated items arranged on the bed: condoms, cigarettes, the fake ID, some Bacardi Mixers.

RACHEL
Oh my God. You opened up our stuffed animals? You're psycho.

MRS. LINDQUIST
Rachel, I wouldn't have to spy on you if you didn't try to deceive me time and time again.

LIZZIE
Mrs. Lindquist --

MRS. LINDQUIST
How bad a place are you in now? If you just tell me it will be easier when you go to the clinic.
Lizzie watches helplessly. She feels for her friend.

LIZZIE
Mrs. Lindquist. It's mine. All this stuff is mine.

Rachel is blown away. She can't believe Lizzie is doing this.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)
Rachel didn't want the fake ID, so I use it instead. The bouncers never look at them if you wear a tight shirt.

Mrs. Lindquist looks at her disbelievingly.

MRS. LINDQUIST
(to Rachel)
Is this true?

Rachel and Lizzie exchange looks.

RACHEL
Yeah.

LIZZIE
And the liquor is all mine, too. And the condoms. I use them when I have sex.

RACHEL
(getting into it)
Yeah. She has an older boyfriend, and she slept with the guy across the hall, and Adam Sandler. She's a slut.

Lizzie's eyes go big at Rachel to cool it. A Beat.

LIZZIE
Yeah... I guess I have what they call an addictive personality.

MRS. LINDQUIST
I'm sorry I doubted you, Sweetheart.

Rachel and her mother hug, over her mother's shoulder Rachel to Lizzie...
RACHEL
(mouthing)
Thank you.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMPUS – DAY

Steven gives Hal and Debra a tour of campus. THIS SCENE COULD BE CUT.

STEVEN
That's the old AV center. It's supposed to be haunted.

HAL
(cheerful)
So how's the big Europe trip so far? Meet any hot Italian studs?

DEBRA
The trip is just wonderful. You should really think about travel, it opens your mind up to the world.

STEVEN
She went snowshoeing in Norway.

HAL
Norway? Oh, you really are getting around. Well, we're having a great time back here too. Right Steven?

STEVEN
Yeah, sure. I mean, we miss you--

HAL
Sure, of course we miss you, but we're having a great time. Steven and his buddies come over, we watch the "Jackass" show.

DEBRA
(sarcastic)
Sounds fun.

HAL
It is fun. You should join us sometime.

Sensing the tension, Steven tries to ease it.

STEVEN
(laughing)
We better hurry, wouldn't want to be late for the museum and miss the first pitch.

Hal and Debra stare awkwardly at each other.

They are approached by a COLLEGE PHOTOGRAPHER (David Bertman) who is taking complimentary photographs of families in front of a college landmark.

COLLEGE PHOTOGRAPHER
Would you folks like your photo taken? Compliments of UNEC?

Hal looks at Debra and Steven. He clearly wants to do it.

DEBRA
How nice. Why don't you and Steven do it. Father and son.

HAL
Oh, come on, it's just a picture. Uh oh, proof we were together as a family! Destroy it, quick!

DEBRA
I'd prefer not to.

This is too much for Steven.

STEVEN
Stop it! First you want to avoid each other, then you want to pretend to be a family, now you're fighting in public. Why can't it be like the old days - you know, when you hated each other quietly enough that I couldn't tell?!

He turns and takes off down the path. Hal and Debra look at each other, not sure what to do.

COLLEGE PHOTOGRAPHER
How about just you two then?

CUT TO:

INT. LIZZIE AND RACHEL'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

MRS. LINDQUIST is chastising Lizzie with Rachel next to her.

MRS. LINDQUIST
You must control your impulses, Lizzie, it can only lead to trouble.

LIZZIE
Yes, ma'am.

MRS. LINDQUIST
I just wish I was your mother, because it's quite clear that your own parents aren't looking after you.

RACHEL
Mom!

MRS. LINDQUIST
Now if you girls will excuse me, I'm going to go to the ladies room.

MRS. LINDQUIST exits. Lizzie makes sure she's gone, then...

LIZZIE
My parents are the best parents ever.

RACHEL
I know.

LIZZIE
They would never do this. And everybody has a fake ID, and everybody drinks a little and... I'm not a slut.

RACHEL
Of course you're not. And neither am I. Welcome to the first eighteen years of my life.

LIZZIE
Seriously. You don't think I'm a slut, do you?

CUT TO:

INT. STEVEN'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

Hal and Debra are fighting in the bedroom. The fight builds, louder and louder.

DEBRA
You know, it's incredible. I've been happy for the last two months straight, but I see you, and I'm miserable within seconds.

HAL
Well, I'd be happy too if I could run off to Europe and spend money that isn't mine snowshoeing with god knows who.

DEBRA
Oh, I think I earned that money, Hal. I think eighteen years of carrolls, and making sure Steven poops in the potty...

HAL
He still does, congratulations...

DEBRA
...and sitting home watching television alone, and feeling dead inside...

HAL
Dead inside, here we go...

CUT TO:

INT. GUY'S COMMON ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Everyone is standing in the room, listening. Steven has his head in his hands, and Marshall is next to him.
MRS. NESBITT
We should go outside.

MR. NESBITT
Yes. That's what we should do.

Mr. Nesbitt rips open another bag of chips and sinks into the couch ready to listen.

CUT TO:

INT. STEVEN'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

DEBRA
Meanwhile, you're "working late," but you somehow find time to screw several women whose names I still don't know...

Hal is silenced by that. He's gotten so angry he'd forgotten.

DEBRA (CONT'D)
...Have you told your new buddy Steven about that? Or were you too busy helping him through this difficult time?!

A beat or two passes. Hal knows he's down for the count.

CUT TO:

INT. GUY'S COMMON ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Steven, hearing this, gets up and leaves.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMPUS - AFTERNOON

Lloyd and Ron are walking together on campus.

LLOYD
You better not be trying to sleep with her Ron or I'll punch you in the eye.

RON
What are you talking about? I haven't even seen her. I've had classes all morning.

LLOYD
She's still in high school. She may look older but she's my baby sister and you know I would never ever try to do anything with your little sister.

RON
Firstly, you know I don't have a sister. And secondly, you know you would nail her if I did. Not that I'm trying, I just don't want you getting away with flawed logic.

LLOYD
Just keep your stupid jokes and horny hands away from her.

RON
Fine. But I'm telling you, I haven't even seen her.

Amanda approaches.

AMANDA
Lloyd!

LLOYD
(to Ron)
Go away.

RON
She's not even that cute, you know.

Ron walks away, then turns and waves at Amanda behind Lloyd's back. He taps his watch and holds up four fingers while mouthing "four o'clock" and points to the dorm building.

CUT TO:

INT. STEVEN'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON
Things have transitioned from yelling to resignation between Hal and Debra.

HAL
You know, you never even let me make things better. You just left, boom.
(hard for him to ask)
Why did you do that to me?

DEBRA
(fighting tears)
Why? Because I thought you were a monster.

HAL
Well, you were in Europe so you missed the part where I got defanged.

Hal smiles a tiny bit, and Debra returns it a tiny bit.

DEBRA
It's funny. Both of us sitting here, feeling angry and miserable, and scared. Its the first time we've had anything in common in years.

HAL
(lightly joking)
Yeah. Love is in the air.

They sit there for a beat. Then, simultaneously, they kiss each other.

CUT TO:

INT. DORM STAIRWELL - AFTERNOON

Ron and Amanda are talking in a stairwell.

RON
I told him I hadn't even seen you and, get this... I didn't even think you were that cute.

Amanda playfully punches him.

AMANDA
You didn't have to go that far.

RON
It was a good move. It worked.

AMANDA
Well... Do you have any other good moves?

Ron suddenly gets very shy.

RON
Uh...

AMANDA
You are such a boy.

Amanda leans in and kisses Ron.

CUT TO:

INT. GUY'S COMMON ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Everyone in the common room is trying to ignore some very clear lovemaking sounds coming from Steven's room. Marshall, horrified, is peeking through the door. Then shuts it.

MARSHALL
Oh, God, I just made eye contact with him.

MR. NESBITT (O.S.)
Listening's one thing son, looking's another.

Steven enters.

STEVEN
Are they still fighting?

The sounds of the headboard rhythmically hitting the wall.

MARSHALL
Uh... they're... they're banging heads.

The headboard starts to hit the wall faster and faster. It begins to dawn on Steven.
STEVEN
Oh my god. Oh my god.

Marshall begins to laugh.

MARSHALL
Funny, that's exactly what your mom was saying.

STEVEN
Shut up.

Tina stops by and sticks her head in the room.

TINA
Ooooh. I smell sex. Is Lloyd in there?

Steven runs out of the room.

FADE OUT.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. DORM HALLWAY - EVENING
Ron and Amanda emerge from the stairwell as Lloyd rounds the corner and catches them.

RON
Lloyd... Uh... Hey buddy. Look who I found.

LLOYD
You bastard. I knew it. I told you to stay away from her.

AMANDA
Oh sod off, Lloyd. I'm a big girl and you can't tell me what to do.

RON
Yeah. That's right.

LLOYD
Shut up, Ron.

RON
No. I will not shut up. I'm not afraid of you.

Ron steels himself and puts his arm around Amanda.

RON (CONT'D)
We're a couple now and you'll just have to get used to it. And if you don't, well, then we don't care.

LLOYD
You are not a couple.

AMANDA
We are definitely not a couple.

Amanda takes Ron's arm off of her.

RON
What?

AMANDA
You're very sweet and funny. But... you're more like a... brother.

RON
You kissed me.

LLOYD
You kissed him?

AMANDA
Just to see. That's all it was. I'd never spent that much time with a boy without kissing him. So I did, but there wasn't any sparks.

RON
Why don't you yell that a little louder.

AMANDA
Don't be sad. We had fun together. Like I would with one of my little brothers. Come on, hiding from Lloyd was a blast.

She playfully punches Ron in the arm.

LLOYD
You are such a dead man.

AMANDA
So Poppit, I guess you should be taking me to the airport. My flight to Seattle leaves in a couple of hours.

RON
Seattle?

AMANDA
My boyfriend lives there. He's an actor at the Seattle Rep. He used to be one of Lloyd's best friends. Give us a kiss.

Amanda gives Ron a peck on his cheek.

AMANDA (CONT'D)
I'll e-mail you.

RON
Can't wait.
Amanda walks down the hall. An awkward silence between Ron and Lloyd. Ron looks like he's about to cry.

RON (CONT'D)
A brother? Why am I always the brother?

A beat.

LLOYD
(laughing sweetly)
Little brother.

RON
Thanks.

LLOYD
Well, if you were her brother, doesn't that kind of make you my brother too?

RON
If you try and hug me I'm going to deck you.

LLOYD
When I get back we'll go out and get drunk. How's that?

RON
Okay. But for the record, I'd rather make out with your sister.

CUT TO:

INT. TALENT SHOW DINNER - NIGHT

We start on a close-up shot of a college Acapella group singing an old standard with smarmy enthusiasm. Reveal a COLLEGE DINNER in a college reception area. It's really done up - candlelight, vest and bow-tie clad student waiters, great food, etc. All of our main characters and their parents sit around a large table. A STUDENT WAITER sets prime rib down in front of Mr. Nesbitt.

MR. NESBITT
Is this what my 8,000 dollars buys? Prime rib for teenagers?

MARSHALL
Dad, we don't eat like this all the time. It's all a show for the parents.

MRS. NESBITT
Marshall, it has your name listed in the program as one of the performers.

MARSHALL
Yeah... How 'bout that.
(whispers to Ron)
Billy Elliott.

RON
Yeah.

Ron suddenly gets up and walks out of the room.

ANGLE ON STEVEN, HAL AND DEBRA

STEVEN
So, Mom, I guess you're not going back to Europe now.

HAL
Yeah, I think she's going to stay right here.

Hal looks at Debra for confirmation.

DEBRA
(whispering)
Let's go outside.

Debra stands up and walks out. Hal follows behind her.

CUT TO:

INT. LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Ron is on the phone.

RON
So I was thinking if you wanted to come up next weekend... you don't have... Great, great. I miss you too... Mommy.
INT. LOBBY - NIGHT

Outside the reception area, Hal and Debra are in a corner of the lobby.

DEBRA
Hal. I am going back to Europe.

Hal's face falls. He realizes he's about to get dumped again.

HAL
You can't do this to me again.  
(trying to joke)
Boy, do I feel used.

DEBRA
Look, what happened back there was fun...

HAL
(disbelief)
Fun.

DEBRA
...we got caught up in the moment. 
It was nice...

HAL
Nice.

DEBRA
...but we've both moved on. Yes, you have changed since I last saw you.

HAL
I don't want to change. I want you.

DEBRA
I'm sorry. I don't mean to hurt you, but it's just not going to happen.

Steven walks up to them.

STEVEN
Hey. There you guys are. I was just seeing if everything's cool...

Steven reads the situation. It doesn't look cool.

HAL
Take a seat, Steven. We need to talk.

CUT TO:

INT. LIZZIE AND RACHEL'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lizzie and Rachel are huddled in their room. Mrs. Lindquist is in the common area preparing some tea.

MRS. LINDQUIST (O.S.)
All I'm saying is that if you don't straighten out your life, Lizzie, you're going to ruin it. Now, if you'll just give me your mother's number I can help you.

LIZZIE
Did you hear that? She wants to call my mother.

RACHEL
She's not going to call your mother.

LIZZIE
How do you know?

RACHEL
Because I'm going to put an end to this. I'm eighteen. I get good grades. I work at Color Me Mine during the summer. I'm very responsible. And if she can't see me as an adult then she'll just have to stop seeing me.

A determined Rachel gets up and walks into the common room to face her mother.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
Mother. Stop harassing Lizzie. She did nothing wrong.
MRS. LINDQUIST
You call condoms, fake ID's and alcohol nothing wrong?

Lizzie peeks from her room to watch the confrontation.

RACHEL
Yes.

MRS. LINDQUIST
Then I guess college has skewed your sense of perspective.

RACHEL
No, it's opened it up. You know what? John Lennon was a heroin addict. Sigmund Freud was a coke head. Half the kids on this campus swallow Ecstacy like it's candy. That's how life works. People take journeys.

MRS. LINDQUIST
And are you back on one of your journeys?

A beat. Rachel turns and looks at Lizzie. Lizzie walks up to Rachel and places a supportive hand on her shoulder.

RACHEL
Me? No. No. I'm just saying that people... like Lizzie... make mistakes and we should embrace them, not judge them. I've been working with her and I promise I can get her back to the girl she used to be, but if you call her parents, it'll just send her right to the hard junk. I learned about this in rehab.

A long beat.

MRS. LINDQUIST
Lizzie. You're very lucky to have a friend like my Rachel.

RACHEL
I won't let you fail.
Rachel turns and hugs Lizzie.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
(whispering)
I'll do your laundry for a month.

LIZZIE
(whispering back)
Two months.

CUT TO:

INT. TALENT SHOW DINNER - NIGHT

Marshall is now on-stage. He is greeted by polite applause.

MARSHALL
I'd like to dedicate this song to all of the moms and dads who make up the UNEC family. I hope it means as much to you as it does to me.

The rooms breaks out into applause. Marshall begins to sing

MARSHALL (CONT'D)
(singing)
SONG LYRICS

CUT TO:

INT. LOBBY - NIGHT

Hal and Debra have finished explaining what's going to happen to Steven. Steven is trying to take it in.

STEVEN
I was always the only kid I knew who's parents were together, you know? When did we become so normal?

Hal and Debra laugh tearfully. This isn't easy for any of them - the talk they never had as a family.

STEVEN (CONT'D)
I never thought I'd see you guys together again. I thought you hated each other too much.
DEBRA
It looked that way for a while, but I think we're past that.

Debra looks at Hal. Hal nods. Steven starts to say something, then breaks down a bit and hugs them.

CUT TO:

INT. TALENT SHOW DINNER - LATER

Marshall approaches his parents at their table.

MARSHALL
So what'd you think of the song?

MRS. NESBITT
It was very loud. Nice. But loud.

MARSHALL
Dad?

MR. NESBITT
I think I'm glad you're getting a degree in business so you can get a real job someday.

A beat. Marshall considers, then...

MARSHALL
Yeah. So am I. Good business school here.

(beat)
So I better go put this back in the case. Because...

Marshall's dad is focused again on his dinner. Marshall walks away depressed. He's approached by Tina and her parents.

TINA
Can I have your autograph? That was really cool.

MARSHALL
Really?

TINA'S FATHER
Yeah. You keep on practicing, you could be famous someday.

TINA
And I can say I have your autograph.

MARSHALL
Yes, you can.

Marshall signs and then walks away on air.

TINA'S FATHER
He's not very good.

TINA
I know. But I like to be encouraging.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

TAG

FADE IN:

INT. STEVEN AND LLOYD'S ROOM - MORNING

Steven are sleeping in their respective beds. They wake up to the alarm.

LLOYD
Tell me you washed your sheets before you went to bed last night.

STEVEN
No.

LLOYD
Eww. That's disgusting. You slept in a bed where your parents did the nasty deed.

STEVEN
Uh actually, according to Marshall... They did it on your bed.

Lloyd leaps from his bed in terror and goes running out of the room.

    LLOYD
    Marshall!

    FADE TO BLACK.

    THE END