FADE IN:

EXT. WILDERNESS - NIGHT


The full moon shimmers on a puddle. A FROG SPLATS IN, splashing a one man pup tent.

INSIDE THE TENT

LUKE's eyes pop open, disoriented, realizing he's fallen asleep reading by flashlight. He's nineteen, still slightly awkward and unaware he's growing handsome.

He listens as the ENGINE RUMBLES LOUDER, closer.

He peers out through the tent flap. Glaring head lamps ROAR toward him. Scrambling out of his sleeping bag, he HURLS himself against the side of the tent, as...

OUTSIDE

an RV CAMPER nearly plows down the tent, skidding to a stop in the mud.

Stillness.
Luke extricates himself from the tent. He runs to the driver-side window of the RV.

**LUKE**
Are you all right?

Inside, ALEXA, thirties, earthy, looks up at him bleary-eyed. She nods 'yes.'

**LUKE (CONT'D)**
How did you even get here? There's no road.

**ALEXA**
I'm sorry. I'm from Utah.

**LUKE**
It's okay.

**ALEXA**
Are you alone out here?

He nods 'yes.' She bursts into TEARS.

**ALEXA (CONT'D)**
My husband. Bastard. I've been driving for days. I don't even know where I'm going.

**LUKE**
Oh, wow. I'm really sorry.

She gathers herself, sniffling.

I have warm apple kringel in the camper. Would you like some?

**LUKE**
Uh, what is it?

**ALEXA**
Pastry.

**INSIDE RV CAMPER**
Luke stands at the RV's tiny kitchen counter, wolfing pastry off a paper plate.

ALEXA
So, this "Survival Quest" is your vacation?

LUKE
Yeah. It's my third try. Kind a' lame, huh?

ALEXA
No. Seven days alone in the wilderness? I'd be afraid.

LUKE
It's just something I really wanted to do.

Luke notices an odd pile of stuff by the sink.

ALEXA
His shoes. Fishing lures. The electric drill.

LUKE
Good.

3.

She smiles, grateful, eyeing his torn t-shirt and shorts.

ALEXA
You're all wet and muddy. Why don't I hang those up to dry?

LUKE
Thanks. I'm okay.

ALEXA
I'm propositioning you.

LUKE
Oh... Oh, wow. You are?

He considers, fearful, but thrilled.
EXT. LANGFORD UNIVERSITY - MORNING

Students crisscross on bikes in front of the quadrangle.

The huge round headlights and muscular front grill of an old SEMI-TRUCK RUMBLES up to the curb. It's the cab only, like the sliced-off front of a train engine.

Luke hops down, startling his friends, KEENAN and JANINE, passionately making out on the sidewalk.

Twenty, brainy and athletic, Janine adjusts her glasses, the only remnant of a bookish past, as she thoughtfully considers Luke's massive truck.

JANINE
It's remarkable. Sort of retro. I thought you were gettin' a pickup?

LUKE
I changed my mind.

Hoping for a more enthusiastic response, he turns to Keenan, who climbs up and peeks inside the cab. He's rugged, streetwise, perpetually bemused, -maybe Ed Norton and Bill Murray had a son...

KEENAN
It's awesome. It's pleather.

LUKE
Fuck you. You think it's stupid.

Janine stares at him.

LUKE (CONT'D)
What?

She shrugs, trying to put her finger on it, and when Luke rolls up his T-shirt sleeves, she grins.

LUKE (CONT'D)
What?!

JANINE
Oh my God. You got laid.  
Finally! Who is she?


**KEENAN**  
I didn't say a word! I swear! You know Janine. She's got X-ray vision.  
(to Janine)  
Camping! A total stranger.

**JANINE**  
I knew that whole "waitin' to meet the right girl" thing was crap. Congratulations! I have to get to Physics. The truck's great.

**KEENAN**  
See ya', hottie.

**JANINE**  
Could find something to call me, other than what every guy in the world would say?

**KEENAN**  
"Sweetheart?" "Babe?"  
"Aphrodite?"

Janine sneers. At a loss, Keenan grabs her and kisses her passionately.

She walks off rolling her eyes, but secretly loves it.

Keenan climbs up into the cab.

**KEENAN (CONT'D)**  
So this is gonna' be like your car?

5.

**LUKE**  
Look, I know it's dopey. But don't you recognize it? It's painted and the muffler's switched out, -but this was my dad's.

Keenan looks around with fresh eyes. He reaches an arm way
up under the glove box and GRINS, pulling out a small stash of weed.

KEENAN
Ten years. A little dried out.

EXT. COUNTRY HIGHWAY - DAY

The truck barrels along through the trees. Luke and Keenan share a joint.

LUKE
First off, that woman. We didn't go all the way, you know?

KEENAN
Yeah? Okay, so?

LUKE
You think technically I'm still a virgin?

KEENAN
Were you inside her?

LUKE
Yeah.

KEENAN
It counts. Next. ...What?

LUKE
I been havin' this weird dream. The thing is, I think maybe the dream's real. Forget it. No way I'm tellin' you.

KEENAN
You know enough of my secrets to get me shot. Sharon's mom on Thanksgiving? What the fuck dream is there you can't tell me?

LUKE
It's about part of me gettin'
smaller. An important part.

Keenan looks over warily, then busts out LAUGHING, then realizes Luke's serious.

**KEENAN**
You have gotta' be fuckin' kiddin' me. You're not thirteen!

**LUKE**
Screw you. Maybe I caught something.

**KEENAN**
I think it's good you bought this truck.

They both LAUGH.

**INT. ROAD RAGE GARAGE - DAY**

A small, run-down service garage, crammed with tires, tools and discarded car parts.


MAX, nineteen, lean, in overalls, with shoulder-length hair and edgy eyes, wipes his greasy hands on a rag.

Dripping with masculinity, he swaggers around the truck, chewing gum, wielding a pneumatic torque-wrench, which he occasionally REVS for emphasis.

**MAX**
I can do the gasket for twenty bucks. But new T-sprockets, for this thing? Two, three hundred, maybe?

**LUKE**
Shit. Can I hold off on that?

**MAX**
No skin off my ass. But a few days, weeks, your whole transmission could blow.

**LUKE**
Ah, Jeez. I shouldn't got this.
Max considers, sets his baseball cap on the truck fender and SIGHS.

MAX
Four hundred seventy-five horsepower. Twenty-eight inch wheels. It's a classic. Let me dig around out back. Maybe we got a used set.

LUKE
That'd be great. Thanks.

Max disappears through a squeaky door at the back.

Luke picks up a rag and wipes fingerprints off the fender.

He sits, impatient for Max to return.

He examines Max's cap, tries it on. He picks up the torque-wrench, swaggers about, trying to look macho, in the manner of Max.

He spins around and REVS the wrench, catching sight of MICHELLE, twenty, watching him from out front in jeans and T-shirt, with warm, confident eyes.

Luke swallows, wide-eyed, a deer in headlights. He sets down the torque-wrench.

LUKE (CONT'D)
It's not my wrench. It's my truck.

MICHELLE
What's wrong with it?

LUKE
Oh, just needs a new gasket and a couple T-sprocks. The flanges are sheared off. No big deal.

MICHELLE
You have to watch my brother, Max. He's sellin' you "T-sprocks?"

LUKE
Yeah?
MICHELLE
There's no such thing. Last week
he sold Mrs. Gustafson a whole set:
six hundred bucks. My name's
Michelle.

8.

LUKE
From New York. Poli-Sci transfer.
I sort of asked around campus.

MICHELLE
You did?

LUKE
You've prob'ly already got a
stalker, huh?

MICHELLE
No.


LUKE
You heard about Cafe Lunizia?
Italian? They got New York style
pizza. Make you feel at home.

MICHELLE
You askin' me out?

LUKE
Oh, well, uh, -definitely!

An SUV pulls up at the gas pump, stuffed with Keenan and
OTHER GUYS. CHAD, exuding supreme self-confidence, calls
over to Luke as he pumps gas.

CHAD
Hey, Spanky, let's go! Look
forward to kickin' your puck ass.

LUKE
My ride.

MICHELLE
Your name's "Spanky?"
LUKE
No, Puck Ass, but people just call me Luke. We're beatin' his frat boy team in street hockey. Pisses 'em off.

MICHELLE
I'll talk to Max. Tell him to just replace the gasket.

Luke's BREATHING grows HEAVIER.

LUKE
Thanks. So, what do you think?
I'll just sit there while you eat.
I won't even talk.

MICHELLE
Look, I just split up with this total amoeba.

LUKE
Oh, I'm a paramecium. That's way more evolved. I'm practically pond scum.

MICHELLE
Maybe I'll give you a call when the truck's ready.

LUKE
Great. You mean to go out, right?

Michelle smiles, and walks out through the squeaky door at the back. Keenan approaches.

KEENAN
(a whisper)
Whoa. That was her! Jesus, you're sweatin' like crazy.

Luke sits, nods 'yes,' wipes BEADS of SWEAT from his brow.

LUKE
We're goin' out.

Keenan gives him a high-five. Luke smiles, catching his
breath.

INT. LUKE & KEENAN'S PLACE

A small, run-down house. Hockey gear, dirty laundry and Keenan are strewn across the garage-sale sofa. He munches a burrito while watching the game.

LUKE (O.S.)
KEENAN! COME HERE, QUICK!!!

Keenan leaps up.

WHAT?!

He races down the hall, sliding on the linoleum.

10.

BATHROOM

Luke, a towel around his waist, stares at himself in the mirror, horrified.

LUKE
Look! My chest!

Keenan looks, clueless, a little uncomfortable now.

KEENAN
Yeah?

LUKE
I had hair. Come on! Not a lot, but you've seen me -some- right?

KEENAN
Okay, I don't know. So?

LUKE
Well, where'd it go?

Keenan takes a bite of the burrito in his hand, now mashed.

KEENAN
I really thought you gettin' laid was gonna' help. What is it with
you, man? I mean, you're smarter than me, you're better lookin' than me.

LUKE
I am not.

KEENAN
I know. But I'm just sayin', you can get any girl you want.

LUKE
Easy for you, you've got Janine.

KEENAN
I'm still workin' on my GED. How long you think Brainiac's gonna' wanna' hang with that?

LUKE
She worships you.

KEENAN
Man, I'm gonna' be that wild fling she had with the local dude from the bike shop. "God, what was his name?"

LUKE
You're crazy.

Keenan gives him a look of "I'm crazy?"

KEENAN
You're gonna' have a great time with her tonight. Just be yourself. ...Mostly.

EXT. CAFE LUNIZIA - NIGHT

Cheap elegance. Luke and Michelle dine on the patio, strung with far too many white lights.

MICHELLE
I caught him with my best friend. Former. Such a cliche'.
LUKE

Sorry.

MICHELLE

Winthrop Hawkins. "Hawk." From this Park Avenue family. He'd know what kind of mushrooms those are, what the best wine is.

LUKE

The best wine is beer.

MICHELLE

I'm such a moron.

LUKE

You're not.

MICHELLE

No, I am. I have incontrovertible proof.

She kicks off her shoe and sticks her bare foot on the table, a TATTOO of a GREEN BIRD on her ankle.

12.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

It's a hawk. Get it? "Hawkins?" See, you're smirking!

LUKE

I'm not.

MICHELLE

And it's GREEN! That's the one color tattoo they can't REMOVE!

LUKE

Oh. Bummer.

MICHELLE

I'm considering a prosthetic foot.

She smiles.

They sip from their glasses and drink each other in.

Luke contemplates a kiss,...
but his breathing grows shallow, he GASPS.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)
What's the matter?

LUKE
Nothin'. Maybe just kind a' hot out here. You want moron? When my dad died, -it's okay, I was nine. I barely knew what was goin' on- But I thought the tombstone was really sad looking, so I painted smiley faces and fish all over it.

MICHELLE
That's sweet.

LUKE
Yeah, I'm sure dad would've loved that.

His face REDDENS. Overheated, Luke tugs at his shirt, brushes SWEAT from his brow.

MICHELLE
So, what do you think makes a good relationship?

LUKE
For real? I don't know.
Friendship. Great sex. Knowing you want to be there even when it gets scary or bloody.

MICHELLE
Whoa. Where'd that come from?

LUKE
Sorry.

MICHELLE
No, it's just not the usual guy thing. ...You're great, you know?

Luke puts his hand on his chest, FEELS something.

He stands, puts on his jacket.
LUKE
Will you excuse me a sec'? 

NEAR THE KITCHEN
HYPER-VENTILATING, his arms CLUTCHING HIS CHEST,
BEADS OF SWEAT on his forehead,
Luke checks the Men's Room door: LOCKED.
He ducks out the service entrance.

EXT. PARKING LOT
By the dumpster, Luke reaches behind his head, WHIPS off his jacket and shirt, and looks down...
His eyes GO WIDE.

LUKE
-AAH!
On his chest: FEMALE BREASTS.
Two WAITERS come outside for a smoke.

FIRST WAITER
Table twenty-nine. Like to bring her the cannoli special.

Luke peers over the dumpster, down at his breasts, with a HIGH FEVER, and PASSES OUT, slumping to the ground.

BEHIND THE DUMPSTER - LATE NIGHT
Luke's eyes open, dilated, disoriented. He's lying on the ground, shirtless among bits of garbage.

He watches bleary-eyed, as a MOUSE peers at him from inside an empty milk carton. The mouse runs over and sniffs at a canteloupe, which triggers Luke's memory:

He GRABS his chest, relieved to find it's back to normal.
He stands, dizzy, surveying the dark, locked restaurant, and
staggers across the deserted parking lot toward his truck.

**EXT. WOODED HIGHWAY - LATE NIGHT**


**INSIDE THE CAB**


He hears HEAVY BREATHING, MOANS, VOICES.

**FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)**

Oh yes! Don't stop!

He looks around for the source of the sounds, glances over.

**RIGHT SIDE VIEW MIRROR**

in it's reflection a leering male, stripped to the waist.

**MALE VOICE (O.S.)**

Lie down for me, baby!

The HEAD LAMPS of an oncoming car FLASH at him.

As he glances out the driver-side window, MUSIC BLARES from the passing car.

**INSIDE THE CAR**

A glimpse of what might be an ORGY of BODIES intertwined.

The **FEMALE DRIVER** - GRINS MANIACALLY UP at Luke as the CAR HORN SCREAMS by.

Luke CAREENS to one side, glancing at the truck's

15.

**LEFT SIDE VIEW MIRROR**

The car recedes in the distance, but the Female Driver appears CLOSE in the mirror's reflection, LEERING. She LICKS THE MIRROR from the inside, and disappears.

**THROUGH THE TRUCK WINDSHIELD**
Luke stares out, EYES GLAZED.

INT. KEENAN AND LUKE'S GARAGE

The decrepit old garage looks as if it may collapse any second. Barbells on the floor. Luke dodges and weaves, slugging a makeshift punching bag.

Keenan appears, wiping sleep from his eyes.

KEENAN
   We takin' up boxing?

LUKE
   I don't know. I am.

KEENAN
   What's goin' on? You competin' for Mr. Universe this week?

LUKE
   Everyone should just mind their own fucking business!

Keenan recoils at the attitude.

KEENAN
   Didn't go so great, huh?

Luke punches the bag, harder and faster, a near SEIZURE: ROAD RAGE.

He collapses in a heap.

KEENAN (CONT'D)
   Dude.

LUKE
   It was goin' great. She's amazing. Funny. And really smart. And the way she eats ravioli, like 'aah.'

KEENAN
   Cool.
Then I started feelin' all weird again, and... oh, man, you'll think I'm nuts... Keen, I had breasts. I felt 'em.

**KEENAN**
Whoa, first date. Definitely the 'new Luke!'

**LUKE**
No! On me.

**KEENAN**
You're startin' to creep me out. Listen, I think I know what's goin' on, okay? "Acute Adolescent Anxiety." It's from the stress of college, girls, grades. It's really common.

**LUKE**
I'm not an adolescent. Where'd you get this crap?!

**KEENAN**
The Net. I found all the symptoms right off: panic attacks, "Localized Alopecia" — that's hair loss. This doctor wrote back, "Any chance your friend, Luke, just lost his virginity?"

**LUKE**
You told, -you gave him my name?!

**KEENAN**
He's a doctor, back East. He's sending this information pack. Look, I started thinkin' you're goin' bipolar on me or somethin'. Come on, man, BREASTS?!

Luke considers.

**EXT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - MORNING**
Luke hops down from the truck cab, fixes his shirt and hair, trying to look nonchalant as he rings the doorbell.

Hearing something behind him, he turns as Max PUNCHES him in the stomach, knocking the wind out of him.
MAX
You son-of-a-bitch, stay the hell away from my sister!

Luke GASPS for air.

MAX (CONT'D)
You don't say a word?! You just leave her sittin' there?!

LUKE
I came to apologize.

Max shoves him across the yard.

MAX
Get out a' here! She's not home, anyway.

LUKE
Will you tell her I came by?

MAX
No. She's honest with you, so you bolt? And then what, you wake up feelin' sorry for her?

LUKE
No! Is that what she thinks? I left 'cause a' what she said? That's crazy! She's like the most incredible girl I ever met!

Max sneers, skeptical.

LUKE (CONT'D)
I had this 'pasta quattro funghi' - four mushroom. It took me a while to even figure it out, but I think someone put shrooms in it, or somehow they got in there by mistake. I was hallucinating and everything.

MAX
Amazes even me, a guy's capacity to be a world-class asshole. Fortunately, I'm familiar with the
LUKE
Will you please just tell her I came by? Forget it. I'll catch up with her on my own.

MAX
No. You won't.

LUKE
Look, I'm gonna' see her again, -if she'll see me. I don't care what the fuck you say about it.

MAX
Oh, really?

They face off.

LUKE
Yeah, really.

MAX
You get near her, I'll feed your nuts to the neighbor's dog!

LUKE
What kind a' dog is it?

MAX
Huh?

LUKE
I mean, is it a pitbull, or what?

Caught off guard, a smile escapes Max.

LUKE (CONT'D)
I'm crazy about her.

MAX
Shrooms, huh?

Luke nods 'yes.'

MAX (CONT'D)
I'll tell her you came by.
Luke nods, appreciative.

19.

**EXT. MUDDY WATERS' MINI-MART - NIGHT**

A tanker truck **QUAKES** past. Surrounded by fir trees, the eerily empty mini-mart glows with fluorescent junk food.

**INSIDE MINI-MART**

Luke stands behind the cash register, leafing through "The Outdoors Man."

The **CHIME BINGS** and **SYDNEY** enters, early thirties, elegant in thrift-store chic. She's cool and in control, ...at least on the outside.

She surveys random candy bars, stealing glances at Luke.

**SYDNEY**

Had a sudden intense craving for a cherry popsicle.

**LUKE**

You can check in that freezer.

**SYDNEY**

What a relief. I'm Sydney. You?

**LUKE**


**SYDNEY**

Workin' late, huh? Luke?

**LUKE**

Yeah, four AM. It sucks.

**SYDNEY**

Sometimes you guys are just unfathomably stupid.

**LUKE**

Excuse me?

**SYDNEY**
Why in the world do guys say "it sucks" as if it were a bad thing? I mean, every guy's dying to get a blow job, right? So, you think they'd treat those words with profound respect, like holy scripture. "What an unbelievable sunset, honey: doesn't it just SUCK?,"... "You won an Olympic Gold Medal?! that BLOWS!"

LUKE
I guess you're right.

SYDNEY
It must be great at your age. That river of testosterone coursing through your veins, the damn about to burst! How about we just lock this place up and go for an Olympic Gold?

LUKE
No thanks. Jeez, lady.

Disappointed, she checks her reflection in the freezer door.

SYDNEY
I ought to dye my hair. Don't you think?

LUKE
Uh, I don't know. Looks fine.

SYDNEY
Your hair is such an incredible color.

LUKE
It's brown.

SYDNEY
I love it. Do you think I could cut just a little piece? Match the color? It really "sucks."

LUKE
Nah, c'mon. You're messin' with
me.

SYDNEY
I'm not. I love it. You really should get rid of that thing, anyway. I have clippers in my bag.

LUKE
What thing?

SYDNEY
Cowlick. Right here. See? I can just snip it off.

She SNIPS his hair. Luke pulls away.

21.

LUKE
Hey.

SYDNEY
What's the matter? Don't you like being touched? Don't you like being a guy?

LUKE
No. I mean,... What? Sorry, but you're just bizarre.

She CHUCKLES, lays money on the counter.

SYDNEY
May be. But I learned long ago, you can't change your true nature, even if it can change you.

As she leaves, she takes a provocative bite of the popsicle.

EXT. POLLY WOG'S POOL HALL - DUSK

Acres of yellowing corn surround a dilapidated farmhouse converted into a pool hall. The windows glow from warm lights inside.

Parked along the gravel driveway are pickup trucks, cars, and Luke's Semi.
INSIDE POOL HALL

Smoke, ROWDY MUSIC and the CLACK of cue balls.

Keenan and Luke snake their way through the pool tables.

LUKE
Holy shit. It's that lady from the store! Grey and black at the bar.

Keenan looks over at Sydney, finishing off a bourbon.

RENTAL COUNTER

Janine and Michelle check out a rack of billiard balls from the worldly British owner, POLLY.

She runs the place like a wild west saloon, with such ease and confidence, it suggests there may be a shotgun under the bar.

POLLY
That boy, Keenan, still giving you trouble?

JANINE
Actually, I tried exactly what you said.

POLLY
And...?

JANINE
Unbelievable! Thanks.

POLLY
Works every time.
(to Michelle)
Nice to meet you, darling. I hope you'll find not too many rules here, and the drinks not too dear.

MICHELLE
Yeah, thanks. It's amazing.

Polly moves off.
JANINE
Isn't she great? Guys drive across the state just to buy a beer from her. Total loner, though. No one's ever seen her with anyone.

MICHELLE
What did she tell you to try?

Janine whispers in her ear.

Michelle's jaw drops open, scandalized.

They LAUGH.

AT THE BAR

Luke hands his keys to JEREMY, the handsome bartender, in exchange for a full pitcher of beer.

LUKE
Thanks, man.

KEENAN
Oh, God. She's eyeing you. I think she's comin' over.

23.

Sydney saunters up.

SYDNEY
Can I buy you a drink?

LUKE
Uh, no thanks. We're already here with dates and stuff.

SYDNEY
You are? Who? Where is she?

KEENAN
They're around somehwere.

SYDNEY
Luke, if you like this girl, we better talk.

LUKE
What?
Sydney glances around, talks quietly.

SYDNEY
Anything happen since we last spoke? Hot flashes? Pressure in your chest?


LUKE
No.

KEENAN
Who are you?

SYDNEY
Dr. Sydney Catchadourian. Keenan, right?

LUKE
You know him?!

SYDNEY
We exchanged E-mail. I came right away.

Luke gives Keenan the evil eye.

KEENAN
From Philadelphia? Why?

SYDNEY
Your friend here has an extra chromosome.

The little remaining color in Luke's face now drains away. He shakes his head 'no.'

LUKE
Someone put mushrooms in my mushroom sauce.

SYDNEY
I tested your hair.

LUKE
You're like some whack job. Get
the hell away from me.


**SYDNEY**

Denial, denial, denial. Always the first step. Keep him away from that girl.

**KEENAN**

What're you talkin' about?

**SYDNEY**

Chromosomes. Most people have forty-six: Two X if you're a girl, an X and Y if you're a guy. He's got forty seven: An X, a Y, and a Z.

**POOL TABLE**

Janine and Michelle select pool cues.

**JANINE**

We've only been together six months. And he's such a guy's guy, everyone's buddy, but, alcoholic parents, six months in "Juvey."

**MICHELLE**

Wild past, huh?

**JANINE**

I think the only reason he's even alive right now, is okay, partly 'cause he's so damn smart, but mostly 'cause there's this one person, he knows, absolutely, no matter what, won't bale on him.

**MICHELLE**

You.

**JANINE**

No. He doesn't trust me at all. Luke. He's a rock.

**MICHELLE**
Yeah?

**JANINE**
So, yes, you can trust him. I'm hoping Keenan's the same way. 'Cause believe me, I'm not used to rocks, I'm used to pebbles.

Michelle LAUGHS.

**MICHELLE**
Grains of sand.

Luke rejoins them with the pitcher of beer, glancing back toward the bar. Keenan comes too, with a look of concern.

**JANINE**
Everything okay?

**KEENAN**
Sure. I need a drink.

Keenan steals glances at Luke, trying to sort it all out.

**KEENAN (CONT'D)**
(aside to Luke)
That lady's nuts.


**AT THE BAR**


26.

**JEREMY**
Another round?

**SYDNEY**
Please. You see that couple over there? I don't get it. What's he see in her?

**JEREMY**
The brunette? You kiddin'? I'd give my left one to be with her.
SYDNEY
Yeah? So could he.

POOL TABLE - LATER

Now alone with Michelle, Luke lines up his cue stick, then catches Michelle's admiring eyes.

She smiles, glances over at Keenan and Janine, making out by the jukebox.

MICHELLE
Your friends sorta' like each other, huh?

LUKE
Super-glue. Thirty seconds together, you can't pull 'em apart.

MICHELLE
How'd they meet?

LUKE
Keenan sold her a bike. I don't think they've been apart more than six hours since.

Luke peers over the corner pocket, and watches Michelle shoot and sink the ball.

LUKE (CONT'D)
I never thought in a million years you'd go out with me, let alone twice.

MICHELLE
You're not s'posed to say that. That's a total pathetic, loser thing to say. But I'm gonna' take it as a huge compliment.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)
Okay, two word answers only. Why'd you ask me out in the first place?

LUKE
Beautiful. Unpretentious. Why'd you say 'yes'?

MICHELLE
Gentle.

Luke sneers, not his favorite compliment.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)
...Hot. Deep. Three words.

He smiles.

LUKE
Okay, two words. What're you most passionate about?

MICHELLE
Friendship. Trust. You?

LUKE
Hockey. Hockey.

MICHELLE
So much for "deep."

They LAUGH.

LUKE
You.

The electricity between them charges the air.

Luke maneuvers himself closer.

LUKE (CONT'D)
Okay, I'm gonna' take a wild shot. Ricochet off the back, over here, then straight into that side pocket. What are my chances?

MICHELLE
Point zero zero zero one.

Luke takes his shot,...

and KISSES HER.

The ball ricochets off the back, across the table, and sinks in the pocket at the side.
AT THE BAR

Jeremy looks on, aroused. Sydney squints, dismayed, barely able to watch.

JEREMY
Damn. Will you look at that tonsil hockey?

SYDNEY
I'd prefer not. This could get bad.

JEREMY
You've been staring at him all night. You got a thing for him, or what?

SYDNEY
Actually, I'm hoping he's got one for me.

POOL TABLE

Keenan and Janine rejoin Luke and Michelle, all four elated.

KEENAN
Looks like you two are gettin' on okay. Should we rack up another game?

MICHELLE
Definitely! I'd like to get good at this pool thing.

Luke racks up the balls as Michelle lines up the cue.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)
Okay, I'm gonna' break this wide open!

LUKE
Go for it!

Before Keenan has lifted the wooden triangle rack, Michelle HAMMERS the cue ball.

It CRACKS off the rack, ROCKETS off the table,...
and CANNONBALLS Luke in the CROTCH.

Keenan, Michelle, and Janine ALL GASP.
They CRINGE, poised, waiting for Luke to react.

MICHELLE
God. Sorry.

Luke picks the cue ball up off the floor and sets it on the table.

He sees them watching him.

LUKE
What?

KEENAN
Man, I'd be on the floor cryin' like a baby.

LUKE
No, I'm all right.

Surprised, they return to the game.

Michelle lines up the cue ball again, as Luke considers, ...

with a slow-dawning realization that something, somehow, just isn't right.

He casually touches his hand to his pants.

He pales slightly.

LUKE (CONT'D)
Would you excuse me a sec'?

He looks to Keenan for help.

AT THE BAR

Sydney watches as Keenan and Luke cross the hall toward the back.

She flags Jeremy.
SYDNEY
Jeremy! Bourbon. Fast!
(a glance at Luke)
Better give me the whole bottle.

OUTSIDE MEN'S ROOM
Luke tries the men's room door, locked.

KEENAN
In here.

Keenan opens another door that leads them into a store room. Luke follows, with a look of concern.

INSIDE STORE ROOM

KEENAN (CONT'D)
I mean, it was like a precision-guided missile.

Luke unzips and gently digs in his trousers.

He looks down, SHUDDERS,...

LUKE
Uh- ah-


KEENAN
I'll get some ice.

Luke shakes his head "no," points toward his crotch, GASPS, barely able to make a sound...

LUKE
It's-! Look!

Keenan gives him a look, repelled, perplexed...

KEENAN
What?

then takes a look,...

His EYES GET HUGE.
KEENAN (CONT'D)

DUDE!!!

Sydney BURSTS in with the bottle of bourbon.

SYDNEY
I was afraid a' this!
(to Keenan)
Make sure no one gets in!

31.

SYDNEY (CONT'D)
(to Luke)
Now, will you listen to me?!

Luke, slack-jawed, keeps checking himself. Each time the horror of it grows more intense.

LUKE
Oh, GOD!

Sydney uncaps the bourbon and drops capsules in from a prescription bottle.

SYDNEY
It's gonna' come back. Drink this!

LUKE
What're you givin' me?!

SYDNEY

LUKE
"CAAAALM DOWN?!!!!!!"

SYDNEY
Here we go...

He and Sydney have to yell to hear over Luke's escalating MANTRA...

LUKE
"CAAAALM DOWN?!!?"

KEENAN
What's wrong with him?!

SYDNEY
He's a Zerophiliac.
KEENAN
A what?! I'm gettin' a doctor!
This isn't right!

Sydney GRABS Keenan, SHOVES him against the wall.

SYDNEY
I am a doctor! You breathe one word, anyone else sees him like this, and he's fucked! Pictures all over the net, tabloids, television!

LUKE
TELE-VISION?!!

SYDNEY
No! We're gonna' get it back!
(to Keenan)
You let me help him, he gets a normal body, lives a normal life. Now, you his friend or not?!

Keenan nods that 'yes, he is.' Sydney releases him.

SYDNEY (CONT'D)
Hang onto him. So he doesn't get hurt when he passes out.

KEENAN
Now just wait a sec'? Is it CONTAGIOUS?!

SYDNEY
There are no recorded incidents of transmission from physical contact.

KEENAN
"Recorded incidents?!!"

LUKE
Oh, PLEASE God! What did I DO WRONG?!

SYDNEY
Nothing. You're a Z.
KEENAN
"RECORDED INCIDENTS?!" Oh my God, I used his deodorant!

SYDNEY
Oh, will you calm down?

KEENAN
"CALM DOWN?!!"

LUKE
"CALM DOWN?!!"

Luke's eyes glaze over...

He weaves, losing his balance...

SYDNEY
Finally.

33.

Sydney helps Luke FLOP DOWN on the floor. He passes out.

SYDNEY (CONT'D)
He'll be alright. He didn't go all the way. When you fall asleep or pass out, a Z almost always reverts back. It's called a Nocturnal Remission.

Keenan approaches Luke, then steps back.

SYDNEY (CONT'D)
Oh, relax, it's not contagious.

Keenan grabs the bourbon-Darvon concoction from Sydney, wipes the rim of the bottle just in case, then takes a big swig.

INT. SYDNEY'S BED & BREAKFAST - LATE NIGHT

On a corner table sits high-tech laboratory equipment.

SYDNEY
In the world? A hundred. A thousand. There's no way to know. It doesn't show up in any normal DNA test. It's triggered when you first have sex.

LUKE
The woman in the RV!

KEENAN
(dark)
From Utah.

SYDNEY
Now, you're Morphescent whenever you're aroused.

KEENAN
You tellin' me this is gonna' happen any time he gets the hots for a girl?

Keenan looks over at Luke...

KEENAN (CONT'D)
Man, this could be a problem.

LUKE
Is there a cure?

SYDNEY
It's not a disease! But there are steps you can take.

LUKE
Well, what are they?

SYDNEY
Take it easy. You can't rush this. Before anything, you need to try going all the way.

KEENAN
"All the way?"

SYDNEY
You need to turn all the way into a
female.

LUKE
You out of your mind?!

SYDNEY
You have to give it a try.

KEENAN
Maybe we should get a second opinion.

LUKE
Yeah, may be! 'Cause you can FORGET THAT!

SYDNEY
Fine, but I warn you, they've never seen this before. First, they'll try a barrage of antipsychotic medications, surgery, electroshock therapy, -god knows what.

KEENAN
If he were to try goin' all the way, then what?


KEENAN (CONT'D)
I'm just askin'.

LUKE
It ain't gonna' happen!

SYDNEY
Oh, for Chris' sake! I'm trying to help you. That Z chromosome's not latent anymore! You don't get control a' that thing, you don't know when it's going to kick in, what it's gonna' do! You want to end up with three left breasts, behemoth hips and one testicle?!


Sydney calms herself down.
SYDNEY (CONT'D)
Now, there's no reason for that to happen. Sorry. You're not the only one who didn't get any sleep. Now, are you going to let me help, or not?

KEENAN
How would he even do that? Go all the way, I mean?

SYDNEY
He's a Z.
(to Luke)
You become Morphescent when you get turned on. You can change all the way when you have an orgasm.

LUKE
With who?

SYDNEY
I'm available.

LUKE
No way!

SYDNEY
Well, excuse me. Truth is, at this stage, you don't really need anyone else.

LUKE
Huh?

Sydney wearily sips a highball. She looks to Keenan for help. Keenan flashes the international sign for jacking off.

LUKE (CONT'D)
Oh.

SYDNEY
It's a lot to absorb, I know. When you're ready, give me a call. Your first time, you shouldn't be alone.
EXT. CEMETERY - DAWN


LUKE
Michelle. And I really like her, dad. But,...

He bounces a soccer ball against the headstone.

LUKE (CONT'D)
You know, I always thought your dying was the worst thing that ever happened to me, and that happened more to you than it did to me... I mean, a lot more, really.


LUKE (CONT'D)
Look, every day I wish you were around, but I swear, if I tell you this, you damn well better stay dead!

He glances at a burial ceremony, half-mile away.

LUKE (CONT'D)
And I swear to God I'm gonna' beat this thing. No matter what it takes. Before I tell you, I just want to make sure you know that, okay?

A hushed voice...

LUKE (CONT'D)
I think I might be a Zerophiliac.

EXT. LUMBER MILL


Luke WHACKS the hockey puck with such intensity, it may land on Mars.
LUKE
I'm not doin' it. I don't care what she says! I can control this thing.

KEENAN
How?

LUKE
I didn't know what was goin' on before. I do now, so, it's not gonna' be a problem. I just need to stay focused!

KEENAN
You mean, keep yourself from getting turned on? How're you gonna' do that? You get turned on by two scoops of ice cream.


KEENAN (CONT'D)
I'm just sayin'. I mean, you think Larissa, the horse-faced girl's got her good points.

Michelle and Janine ride up on their bikes.

JANINE
I knew we'd find 'em here.

MICHELLE
We just wanted to know if you're alright. After last night.

LUKE
Yeah. I'm fine. Thanks. Perfect.

MICHELLE
Good.
(slightly suggestive)
Good.

Luke smiles, his face REDDENS.
I had a really good.

LUKE
Me too.

Luke smiles, nods, followed by a look of PANIC.

LUKE (CONT'D)
Will you excuse me a sec'?

He ducks away.

JANINE
What is goin' on?!

KEENAN
We just need to be alone. We got a big game tomorrow. Sometimes guys just need to hang with the guys, you know? No distractions?

Janine gives him a look of "What the hell are you talkin' about?"

Keenan stares back, PLEADING.

Janine relents, despite herself.

JANINE
C'mon, Michelle. Let the boys play with their pucks.

BEHIND STACKS OF LUMBER

Luke leans against the logs, wipes sweat from his brow, and realizes...

SOMETHING'S HAPPENING AGAIN.

Panicked, he grabs his crotch, feels it,

Everything's normal.

Or is it?

He frantically unbuttons his shirt and peers inside,...

He slumps back against the logs,

WAVES OF RELIEF.
INT. LUKE'S HOUSE - DAY


LUKE
You TOLD HER?!

KEENAN
I had to. You know Janine. She knew somethin' was up.

JANINE
I've read about this kinda' thing, but I didn't think it was real. It's so cool!

LUKE
It's disgusting!

JANINE
How can you say that? If I had a chance to be a guy for a day, I'd jump at it. Seriously, Keen, wouldn't you want to get inside a girl's body?

Realizing she just handed him the perfect straight line...

JANINE (CONT'D)
Don't EVEN go there!
(rolling her eyes)
Fine. You're boys. Still, isn't it every guy's dream to have a pair of boobs to play with anytime he wants?

LUKE
Not my own!
(to Keenan)
Man, how could you tell her?!

KEENAN
She should be here. It's just weird, two guys alone, one turnin' into a girl.

JANINE
Yeah, I can't wait. Not exactly
something you get to see every day.

LUKE
Forget it!

40.

JANINE
What, HE gets to, and I don't!

LUKE
No one gets to!

Luke goes in the bedroom, SLAMS the door.

Keenan and Janine take up residence outside.

Janine tries to peek through the keyhole, beneath the door.

JANINE
Should we put on some soft music?

KEENAN
You want a magazine in there?

LUKE (O.S.)
Shut up!

LATER

Janine keeps an ear held close against the door.

KEENAN
How 'bout a couple beers?

JANINE
Maybe you want to take a bath?

LUKE (O.S.)
Will you PLEASE shut up?!

JANINE
Does he sound different?

KEENAN
Think so.

LUKE (O.S.)
Oh God!
(lewed)
INSIDE THE BEDROOM

Now approaching the mirror, in awe, ...gently raising a hand to touch the exquisite FEMALE FACE reflected there, stands a real female, an absolutely FEMALE LUKE.

OUTSIDE THE DOOR

Janine knocks.

JANINE

Luke? You alright?


They STARE, AT A TOTAL LOSS, INCREDULOUS...

KEENAN

Whoa.

JANINE

Dude.

Female Luke speaks, with an unmistakably female voice.

FEMALE LUKE

Happened fast, huh?

JANINE

Can we see?

Female Luke hesitates.

KEENAN

Come on. It's not like I haven't seen you naked a hundred times. And she's a girl!

Female Luke shyly parts the sheet, revealing her stunning naked torso.
KEENAN (CONT'D)

Whoa.

JANINE

Dude.
(exasperated)
Of course they're perfect. I couldn't have tits like that?

Female Luke checks herself out in the mirror.

42.

FEMALE LUKE

Oh, God. Look at me.

Keenan and Janine sit on the edge of the bed, in shock.

FEMALE LUKE (CONT'D)

What's the matter?

Keenan, afraid to answer, looks to Janine.

They both have the same reaction...

JANINE

You're really hot. Victoria's Secret hot.

KEENAN


JANINE

Latvian Lesbians' Hidden Camera Chronicles.
(to Keenan)
Don't look at me, -it's your tape.

Keenan keeps his distance from Luke, embarrassed, if turned on.

KEENAN

Look, I just wanna' get one thing straight. No way I'm gonna' sleep with you.

FEMALE LUKE
Man, even as a joke, that's just SICK!

JANINE
I will. I'm definitely not into the butch hair thing, though. You gotta' do something about that.

Keenan looks at her shocked.

JANINE (CONT'D)
I thought you're into watchin' two girls?

Keenan's speechless.

Female Luke can't stop gazing at herself in the mirror.

43.

FEMALE LUKE
This is too weird. This is freaking me out.

KEENAN
Should we call Dr. Catchadourian?

FEMALE LUKE

JANINE
Already?

KEENAN
Yeah, okay, yeah.

JANINE
Will you stop starin'?!?

Janine rolls her eyes, as she and Keenan back out of the room, their eyes locked on her amazing body.

OUTSIDE BEDROOM - LATER

Janine and Keenan are sprawled on the nearby couch.

Luca opens the door.
FEMALE LUKE
Janine? It's like I can't get in the right mood or something.

JANINE
Welcome to my world. Oh, honey, no one could in this situation.

FEMALE LUKE
You gotta' help. I need to do this right now!

JANINE
You can't force these things.

KEENAN
Some girls go half their lives before they even have one.

JANINE
Okay, Studly, what do you suggest?

44.

KEENAN
She likes it when I tell her stuff.

JANINE
Like what?

KEENAN
"You're so beautiful,"
"I love your smile,"
"The English Patient was my favorite movie too."

Janine and Female Luke both roll their eyes. Female Luke swings the door shut.

The DOORBELL CHIMES.

FEMALE LUKE (O.S.)
Who's that?!

KEENAN
Pizza! Figured you'll want some after.
FRONT DOOR

Janine throws it open, Max stands outside.

MAX

Hey.

JANINE

Can I help you?

MAX

I was lookin' for Luke.

KEENAN

Hey, man. He's not around right now. What's up?

Female Luke comes out of the bedroom, wrapped in a sheet.

FEMALE LUKE

Thank God. I'm starving!

She stops in her tracks, stares at Max.

Max stares back, intrigued.

MAX

How ya' doin'?

Female Luke nods 'okay.'

MAX (CONT'D)

I'm Max. You live here too?

Janine, Keenan, and Female Luke are momentarily speechless.

JANINE

No. She's just visiting.

KEENAN

She's Luke's cousin.

JANINE

Luca.

Keenan and Luca GLARE at Janine.
Max gazes at Luca, spellbound.

MAX
I always thought "Luca" was a guy's name? Italian or something.

Luca wraps herself more tightly in the sheet.

LUCA
I'm part Italian.

MAX
Cool. I'm part Italian too. The important part.
(perfect Italian)
Lei sono una bella donna. Amerei per mostrarlo il che inclinando torre di pisa.

LUCA
What's that mean?

His eyes fixed on Luca, he smiles.

MAX
You in town for a while?

JANINE
No, just a few weeks.

LUCA
'Weeks?!

KEENAN
Days.

LUCA
I'm leaving today! Now!

KEENAN
Is there anything you want me to tell Luke?

Max gets fluid, scanning the room for a toehold, infatuated by Luca. He seizes on a hockey stick.

MAX
I'm way into hockey. I was hopin'
Luke could show me the ropes. Is he as awesome as I've heard?

LUCA
Yeah. He's alright.

MAX
Do you play?

LUCA
Uh, I don't know.

JANINE
She's gotta' pack. You need to go.

MAX
Really nice meeting you.

Janine ushers Max out the door and shuts it on him. Luca ducks into the bedroom, shuts the door.

INSIDE BEDROOM
Luca at the window, peers out between the curtains, watching, as Max walks away.

OUTSIDE THE HOUSE
As Max gets to the end of the driveway, he stops and turns back, sporting a charming smile.

INSIDE THE BEDROOM
Luca jumps away from the window, smacking into Janine.

JANINE
Are you okay?

Luca just stares back at her, nonplussed.

JANINE (CONT'D)
What is it? What's the matter?
(beginning to get it)
Oh...
LUCA
"Oh" what? What do you mean, "oh?"

JANINE
(shrugs)
He's a hunk.

LUCA
I got to switch back. Right now!

JANINE
What's the big deal?

LUCA
Get out of here! Just GET OUT!

JANINE
Okay, okay.

OUTSIDE BEDROOM
Janine emerges from the bedroom to join Keenan. He looks up at her, questioning.

KEENAN
What's goin' on?

JANINE
It's a girl thing.

KEENAN
Does he need any help in there?

JANINE
Not from you.

OUTSIDE BEDROOM DOOR - LATER
Keenan and Janine sprawled out, leaning against the door, half-eaten pizza between them on the floor, WEARY.

BUZZING emanates from inside the bedroom.

LUCA (O.S.)
This is good!
Keenan and Janine PERK UP.

KEENAN
Finally.

JANINE
Alright, okay, now open those little levers on the sides,... and flip that center thingy back...

Keenan finds this particularly unsettling.

LUCA (O.S.)
(enthused)
Did you get this thing at the mall?

JANINE
No.

KEENAN
Janine wouldn't have one a' those.

JANINE
Please. And mine's got way more features than that one.
(Keenan's crotch)
Or that one.

Keenan gives her the evil eye.

LUCA (O.S.)
So, where'd you get it?

JANINE
It was Larissa's. My roommate.

Inside the bedroom, the BUZZING STOPS.

LUCA (O.S.)
GROSSS!!!

OUTSIDE DOOR

Keenan grabs the last bottle from his six-pack.

KEENAN
I'm just sayin', he's not that experienced with girls.

JANINE
Oh, and you are?
KEENAN
I'm startin' to wonder if you are?

JANINE
I'm not gonna' feed your fantasies.

Keenan flips the TV remote, disturbed.

INSIDE THE BEDROOM

Luca sits on the edge of the bed, frustrated.

JANINE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Luca?

LUCA
Don't call me that!

JANINE (O.S.)
You gotta' just think about whatever turns you on. No matter what it is.

Luca considers, she goes over to the window, peers out momentarily, then draws back.

OUTSIDE THE BEDROOM

Janine lies down on the floor.

JANINE (CONT'D)
(last ditch)
Okay, pretend you're thrown on your back, pinned against the bed...

Spread eagle, eyes closed, she fantasizes, as she directs...

JANINE (CONT'D)
You can't move an arm, a leg, nothing, even an inch!

Keenan glances over, taken aback at her tone...

JANINE (CONT'D)
And two strong hands feel your thighs,...
Keenan watches, getting turned on...

    JANINE (CONT'D)
    creeping firmly, slowly toward your breasts...

Keenan lunges for Janine.

    JANINE (CONT'D)
    Keen!

    KEENAN
    Babe, every time I look at you, I get the shivers! I just want to rip your clothes off, and throw you down...

    JANINE
    Oh, Keen!

They're kissing, ROLLING AROUND TOGETHER now,...

    KEENAN
    I want to envelop every inch of you, that incredible curve along your side,...

They roll on the floor, clothes torn...  

    KEENAN (CONT'D)
    I want to pin your arms over your head, and make mad, passionate...

    LUCA (O.S.)
    AAAHHH!

Keenan and Janine RECOIL.

Whether agony or ecstasy, it's a frightening sound.

The door opens.

Luke stands in his shorts, ALL MALE.

    JANINE
    You're a screamer.
EXT. LANGFORD STATUARY SUPPLY - NIGHT

Sydney makes her way through a barbed-wire fence, past a "No Trespassing" sign. A lone DOG HOWLS in the distance.

Life-size replicas of Greek Gods, Venus and David, all face one way in the mist. Their cold stone bodies press up against each other; nude, indifferent.

A figure peers out between the statues in a long black coat, a baseball cap over his eyes: Luke.

51.

SYDNEY
What are we doing here?

LUKE
Didn't want anyone around. So, I did what you said.

SYDNEY
Amazing, huh?

LUKE
Weird. Awful.

SYDNEY
Hmm. Was it difficult making the switch?

LUKE
No. It was hard gettin' back. I need an owner's manual.

Sydney smiles, nods in agreement.

SYDNEY
A lot of guys could use one of those.

LUKE
So, what now? Do I take pills or something?

SYDNEY
No, it doesn't work like that. This may sound odd, but I need to know if you're attracted to me.
LUKE
What? No.

SYDNEY
Hmm. You're not gay, are you?

LUKE
NO! Jeez! I'm just not attracted to you like that.

SYDNEY
Okay, calm down. This could be a problem. Right now, you can go either way anytime you want. It's a very special and critical time for a Z, something you'll experience only once in life.

LUKE
Good.

SYDNEY
You need to use this incredible opportunity you've been given, to figure out which you're supposed to be: male or female.

LUKE
What?

SYDNEY
Don't you see? You get to choose.

LUKE
I don't want to choose. I want to be a guy.

SYDNEY
Yes, well, the thing is, sometimes your desires can conflict with your desires. It's important to know for sure.

LUKE
Believe me, I know.

SYDNEY
I think you need to try again.
LUKE
No way!

SYDNEY
Why're you so resistant? If the truth is, you want to be a guy, great, but if not...

LUKE
Don't even say that!

SYDNEY
Well, clearly some part of you feels differently. You couldn't change if you didn't want to.

LUKE
What?! That's crap!

SYDNEY
That's the thing about the truth. It'll set you free, but first it can really piss you off.

Sydney moves to leave.

LUKE
This is nuts! I'm supposed to be a guy!

SYDNEY
Then what's the problem? You are one.

Sydney turns to leave.

LUKE
You're not gonna' help?!

SYDNEY
I will, the moment you're ready to try again. You can come back to my place right now if you want.

LUKE
Forget it!
EXT. LUMBER MILL - DAY

Bikes and SUV's outside the shut down mill. Abandoned timber surrounds an asphalt clearing.

Luke, Keenan, Chad, Jeremy, and OTHER GUYS in the midst of a friendly, if brutal roller hockey game.

Luke glances over and spots Max high up on a pile of logs, cheering them on.

Jeremy passes the puck off to Luke who drives it MANIACALLY to score the winning GOAL.

The Guys CHEER.

CHAD
Well, ain't we a basket a' biscuits?

JEREMY
Yeah, Luke, what got into you today?

LUKE
The Force.

AFTER THE GAME

The guys gather up their belongings near the cars.

Luke sits on the running board of his truck, unlacing his skates.

Max comes over.

MAX
Hey. Good game.

LUKE
Yeah.

MAX
I dropped by your place. Any chance you could give me a few pointers.
LUKE
Me?

MAX
You're awesome out there. And according to my sister, you walk on water.

Luke grunts, a smile.

MAX (CONT'D)
Truth is, I uh, met your cousin. Luca.

LUKE
Oh. Yeah?

MAX
You both have practically the same name?

LUKE
We were both named after our Uncle. Locasto.

MAX
Well, she's cool. Actually, she's hot. I was hopin' maybe you could hook me up.

55.

LUKE

MAX
Boyfriend?

LUKE
No! She just wouldn't be interested!

MAX
She a Lesbian?

LUKE
No! Of course not. Jesus! She's, -my cousin!
MAX
Yeah, okay. So? Michelle's my sister. You gonna' tell me you wouldn't like to do her?!

LUKE
FUCK YOU, man!

Luke SHOVES Max, who SHOVES him right back.

MAX
What is your deal?!

LUKE
You ASSHOLE!


They go at it, wrestling FIERCELY.

Max gets the upper hand, and pins Luke down to the ground.

Luke surges with RAGE, breaks free. Grit teeth, ripped clothes, they roll on top of each other, two rabid pitbulls.

Keenan and the Other Guys rush in, pulling them apart.

MAX
Keep the fuck away from me! And Michelle too!

LUKE
You can fuck off!

CHAD
What the hell's goin' on?!

KEENAN
(to the guys)

VARIOUS GUYS
(recognition)
Aaaah!

LUKE
Oh, you can all fuck off!
Luke breaks free of the guys, and moves off.

INT. POLLY WOG'S POOL HALL - DAWN

Sydney stands at the bar with a cup of coffee, chatting with Jeremy.

JEREMY
This shirt? I've had it for years.

SYDNEY
Well, it's very sexy. I love men's clothes. What else have you got in your closet?

Jeremy smiles, unsure what she means. When Polly approaches, her eyes a little red, Jeremy pulls her aside.

JEREMY
Polly, are you alright? Didn't mean to walk in on you.

POLLY
Oh, hon. I'm fine, thanks. Love, tears. That's the trade-off.

She puts a hand to his cheek, reassuring. Jeremy ducks behind the bar.

SYDNEY
My God, he's gorgeous.

POLLY
Yes, he's a Michelangelo. And the sweetest boy in the world. Sorry, darling, I'm afraid you'll find he's not your type.

SYDNEY
Oh, we'll see about that.

POLLY
I think he may prefer men.

SYDNEY
I certainly hope so.
Keenan and Janine enter.

**SYDNEY (CONT'D)**
You two better have a seat.

**JANINE**
Is Luke alright?

**SYDNEY**
He should have full control over this now. Something must be really confusing him. The only thing I can think of...

**KEENAN**
What?

**SYDNEY**
When he became Luca, was he attracted to one of you? You can get really thrown by that. Janine?

**JANINE**
No. Not me.

**KEENAN**
Well, he sure as hell wasn't attracted to me.

**JANINE**
No. Definitely not.

**SYDNEY**
Wasn't it just the two of you?

**JANINE**
Not exactly.

Janine glances to Keenan, as his eyes GO WIDE, grossed out.

**KEENAN**
Oh, give me a break! No way! Max?! They just had a huge fight. He tried to beat the crap out of him!

Janine and Sydney exchange a knowing look.
KEENAN (CONT'D)
Oh, Christ, Luke's not queer! He was just turnin' into a girl!

JANINE
Exactly. He was a girl.

KEENAN
Oh! This is just wrong.

JANINE
Would you rather she was attracted to me?

KEENAN
Would you?!

JANINE
Maybe I would!

SYDNEY
Whoa! HANG ON! Right now, Luke needs your help. He needs to know you're behind him, no matter what he wants.

Janine nods.

JANINE
So, what's all this mean?

SYDNEY
Bottom line? Maybe Luca really likes this boy, enough to want to be female.

JANINE
(to Keenan)
Don't sneer!

KEENAN
Oh, come on! I know the guy. We've done all kinds a' shit together: Hoops, hockey!

JANINE
Oh, and girls can't play sports?!

KEENAN
Oh, -whatever! Christ, Janine! Why the hell would he want to be a
girl?!

59.

**JANINE**
That's so hard to imagine?!

**KEENAN**
Uh, -YEAH!

**SYDNEY**
HEY! LISTEN UP! I know what I'm talking about. You see this?

Sydney pulls out a SNAPSHOT, shows it to Janine.

**JANINE**
Who's he? An Ex? ...Oh, my God.

**SYDNEY**
Ex me.

**KEENAN**
You're one too?
You're a Z?
You're a guy?!

**SYDNEY**
Was. I made a terrible mistake.

She and Keenan keep staring at the photo...

**SYDNEY (CONT'D)**
And once you finally figure out who you are, it's a horrible thing not being yourself. That's why it's crucial we help Luke.

Janine nods, grasping the significance.

Keenan keeps looking from the photo to Sydney and back again.

**KEENAN**
You musta' worked out.

**EXT. CAMPUS - OUTSIDE DORM**

Luke sits, waiting on the steps of a campus dormitory.


Janine approaches, grinning, carrying a box tied with a bow. Keenan trails behind, straddling his bike.

**LUKE**

What's this all about?

Janine hands him the box.

Keenan sneers, cringes.

**JANINE**

It's just a little something we thought you might want.

Luke opens it, pulls out a BLUE DRESS.

**LUKE**

What the hell is this for?

**KEENAN**

(elated)

I told her.

(to Janine)

I told ya'. What a stupid ass idea!

**JANINE**

Keen! Don't! We just want you to know, whatever you decide, it's all right with us.

**LUKE**

Decide?! WHAT?! No, it's not! Get this thing away from me! JUDAS PRIEST!

Luke HURLS the box out to the curb. Keenan gives him a thumbs up!

**KEENAN**

Sorry, man. Think she wishes everyone was female.

**JANINE**

What's that s'posed to mean?
KEENAN
Oh, Christ, Janine! It means he doesn't want to be girl! Like he'd have to think about THAT!

JANINE
There happen to be millions of us out there that like being female!

LUKE
Well, bully for YOU!

Janine walks over to pick up the box.

JANINE
NO! I want to know! Just exactly what's wrong with being a girl?!

LUKE
Nothin'! It's great! It's fuckin' PHENOMENAL, if you happen to BE one!

JANINE
Maybe we should've had this conversation the other afternoon?!

LUKE
That wasn't my choice!

JANINE
I sure as hell didn't make you do it!

KEENAN
Janine, will you just let me talk to him for a sec'?

JANINE
Oh, what?! It's a 'GUY THING'!! Give me a fuckin' break!

Janine storms off with the box.

KEENAN
Sorry, man. She talked me into it. You know Janine.
Keenan picks up his bike, gets on.

KEENAN (CONT'D)
Look, uh,... you do like bein' a
dude, right?

LUKE
Asshole!

Keenan GRINS, rides off.

KEENAN
(calling back)
You should thank me. The one she
picked out was PINK!

UP THE WALKWAY
Luke passes a sidewalk trash can and notices the gift box
mangled inside.
Glancing around to make sure no one's watching, he pulls the
dress out, brushes off some dirt.
He shoves it back in the trash, stares at it.

INT. MINI-MART - NIGHT
Luke kneels on the floor, stocking candy shelves.
The CHIME BINGS.
He peers over the aisle, looks around, no one in sight.
Michelle appears by the soda dispenser, wary of him.

MICHELLE
Hi.

LUKE
Hey. How are you?

MICHELLE
I'm okay. You?
As they talk, Michelle maneuvers to get closer.
Luke maneuvers to keep his distance.

LUKE
Okay. You look really nice.

MICHELLE
Thanks. I was hopin' you might call.

LUKE
I was going to.

MICHELLE
There's something I need to talk to you about. -But did I do something wrong?

LUKE
No. Nothin' like that. There's just some stuff I've got to sort out.

MICHELLE
Like what?

They gaze at each other across the magazine rack, a mountain range of silence between them,...

MICHELLE (CONT'D)
There's nothing you can't tell me.

LUKE
Me too. What did you want to talk to me about?

They stand silent, beneath the hum of fluorescent lights.

MICHELLE
Nothing really. So, heard you and Max really got into it?

LUKE
Yeah. I kind a' lost it.

MICHELLE
He knows how to push buttons, huh?
What exactly did he say that got you so pissed off?

LUKE
I don't know. We'd just finished a game. I was all revved up.

MICHELLE
He's actually a really nice guy.

LUKE
Not sure he's too crazy about me seein' his sister.

MICHELLE
Did he scare you off?

LUKE
No, he doesn't "scare" me. What, his struttin' around, thinkin' he's such a bad ass, with his shirt hangin' open half the time?

Luke's surprised and embarrassed by his own words.

Michelle steps away, confused.

MICHELLE
It's just an act. He likes pretending he's Joe Cool. Always says you gotta' just be whatever you want, and fuck 'em if they can't take a joke.

LUKE
Well, he's a joke alright.

MICHELLE
Look, I'm not sure this is gonna' work out.

LUKE
I'm sorry, I didn't mean-

MICHELLE
No. I can't do this. I'm not sure you even know who you are. Much
less who I am. Have you ever even had a girlfriend?

LUKE
What's that supposed to mean?!

MICHELLE
Well, if you think my brother's such a "joke," how much better could you think of me? We're not that different, you know?

LUKE
You're totally different. He's a guy, for one.

MICHELLE
And he's my best friend. If you don't like him, you can't like me.

She exits.

MINI-MART - LATER

Luke kneels in the aisle, stocking shelves, distracted, fidgety, distressed.

He glances up at the magazine rack. A Female Fitness magazine catches his attention. The BEAUTIFUL COVER model seems to MOVE.

He stares at it: no movement.

Luke approaches the rack, and flips over the magazine cover. As he steps away, he glances back at the rack,

CELEBRITY MAGAZINE COVER

The ADONIS on the cover comes to life. He rips off his shirt as he moves off one magazine cover and into another, where he passionately kisses the BIKINI-CLAD COVER MODEL.

MAGAZINE RACK

THE MODELS AND OTHERS on half a dozen covers begin stripping down, moving to other magazines and making out with each
other all across the rack.

OUTSIDE THE MINI-MART

The windows glow among the dark trees.

Inside, Luke rips up covers, HURLING magazine after magazine across the floor.

INTERCUT WITH:

INSIDE BATHROOM - LATE NIGHT

Michelle leans against the shower wall, staring at the spray of water, upset.

Steam rises, filling the bathroom.

She begins SINGING, longingly,...

MICHELLE
"I wanna know how to go
To the inside of love.
I can't find my way through."

Washing herself,

behind the shower curtain,

the timbre of her singing voice mysteriously shifts.

As her hand turns the shower faucet, it changes...

MICHELLE (CONT'D)
"I'm outside of love,
To the side or above,
I can't find my way with you"

66.

A glimpse of her shoulder behind the shower curtain, grows more muscular,

and her voice begins LOWERING IN PITCH,...

as MICHELLE BECOMES MAX.

MAX
"Must be a special view,
Finding a me with a you,  
On the inside of love."

Max steps out of the shower, and towels off in the mirror.

**INT. ORLANDO'S BED & BREAKFAST - NIGHT**

A persistent **KNOCK on the door.** Sydney pulls on a robe over a pair of men's boxers, wiping sleep from her eyes. She swings the door open.

Luke stands outside in **POURING RAIN.**

**SYDNEY**

Oh, honey. Come in.

**BY THE FIREPLACE**

Sydney pours hot tea.

**LUKE**

You're one too. Why didn't you tell me?

**SYDNEY**

I didn't want to confuse the issue.

**LUKE**

So, it's true what you said? You really know. I wouldn't change unless I wanted to?

**SYDNEY**

Maybe some part of you.

**LUKE**

What part? How much of me? I mean, for it to work? Half? More than half? What if it was only a tiny bit, -a thought?

**SYDNEY**

I don't know. But I believe there may be thousands of Z's out there, millions for all we know, go their whole lives without even knowing they are one. Nothing ever
happens. You couldn't keep it from happening.

LUKE
I love being with Michelle. How come I can't control it when she's around?

SYDNEY
I think whatever part of yourself you deny, just gets bigger and bigger until it takes you over.


LUKE
You think I don't really want to be a man.

SYDNEY
I think for some, making it stop is more important than knowing who you are. It was for me.

LUKE
Maybe for me too.

SYDNEY
Right now, you're Morphescent. The key is to have sex with another Z. You become Adulmorphic. Your gender locks. You can't just change anytime you want.

LUKE
Another Z?

SYDNEY
That's why I came all the way out here.

LUKE
And why you keep tryin' to get me in the sack?

SYDNEY
Thought maybe I could save you some distress. But you say you're not
attracted to me. For it to work, both of us have to be into it.

LUKE
That won't be a problem.

SYDNEY
Okay then.

LUKE
Tonight.

SYDNEY
Not right now? Okay. Tonight.

EXT CEMETERY - MORNING


LUKE
Remember that Christmas when Keen and me accidentally set the Scofields' house on fire?

He stares up at the sky.

LUKE (CONT'D)
And that burning shingle drifted over and lit up the Robertson's place? The whole town was ready to lynch us, and we snuck back home... Two AM, you were up drinkin' coffee,...

He tugs out hunks of grass.

LUKE (CONT'D)
I thought you were gonna' kill us. But you just looked me right in the eye, and said, "Son, there's leftover pizza in the fridge."

A tear rims his eye.

LUKE (CONT'D)
That was the coolest thing anyone ever said. Dad, I'm in such trouble.
LUKE (CONT'D)
I feel like if I let this thing in,
it's all over. But I don't know
what else to do. Guess you can't
figure out who you are, until you
accept who you might be.

INT. ORLANDO'S BED & BREAKFAST - DAY

Department store shopping bags and boxes are strewn across
the bed.

Sydney checks herself out in the full-length mirror. A
man's
gray tuxedo jacket over lingerie.

INT. LUMBER MILL - DAY

The giant work floor of the abandoned mill. Sunlight beams
through holes in the roof.

Max, on roller blades, practices guiding the hockey puck
along the floor.

He stops when he notices the figure watching him from
outside
the giant metal doors:

Luca in the blue dress, on roller blades, hockey stick in
hand.

MAX
You're about the last person I
expected to see.

LUCA
I can show you a few moves if you
want?

MAX
Yeah? What the hell.

LATER

Luca demonstrates hockey technique, expertly guiding a
hockey
puck through an obstacle course of broken equipment, timber,
and sawdust piles.
All the while, she dodges Max's attempts to steal the puck.

Max finally gets it, which riles Luca. She hip checks Max. They swerve to avoid a pipe, crash-landing on top of each other on a sawdust pile.

They bust out LAUGHING.

70.

**LUCA**

Not bad.

**MAX**

You're better than Luke.

**LUCA**

I taught him everything he knows.

Luca pulls away from Max, suddenly self-conscious that Max's leg is on top of hers.

Awkward from the broken connection, they gaze up at the blue sky through a hole in the roof.

**MAX**

I thought you left town?

**LUCA**

Had to come back.

**MAX**

Good.

**LUCA**

Where'd you learn to speak Italian?

**MAX**

Just tourist stuff. "I'll have the spaghetti bolognese." "How much for a room?"

**LUCA**

Have you been?

**MAX**

Little Italy. In New York. Someday, though. Want to go with
Max leans over and KISSES Luca. She responds, tentatively at first,
then as she grows more confident,...
her face REDDENS, she GASPS.
Luca pulls back, self-conscious, confused. She brushes sawdust off her dress, stands.

**LUCA**
Look, this was a mistake.

**MAX**
Yeah. Of course. I know.

Looking up, Luca sees Keenan, staring at them from across the floor, incredulous.

Keenan exits out through the giant doors.

**LUCA**
Oh, Jesus...

**MAX**
Are you and he...?

**LUCA**
Huh?

**MAX**
It's really none of my business.

**LUCA**
No! I'm sorry. I shouldn't've come here.

Max stands, brushes off the sawdust.

**MAX**
Please don't say you're "just visiting." That you "need to leave." I'm the one who needs to leave.
Max skates off across the giant shop floor.

**EXT. LUMBER MILL - DUSK**
The Semi Truck is parked alone in the middle of the asphalt. From inside the cab, the blue dress flips over the rolled down window.

**ACROSS THE PARKING LOT**

Keenan leans against a tractor, rolls his eyes, and twists open another beer, which he gulps.

**AT THE TRUCK**

Luke hops down from the truck cab wearing Langford U. sweats and a T-shirt.

Keenan sits on the running board.

---

72.

**KEENAN**
I mean, what the FUCK is goin' on?!
You do wanna' be a girl? You're into guys now?

**LUKE**
No! I don't know exactly. I don't know.

Keenan downs his beer, pensive. He crushes the can and hurls it, SMACKING a garbage can.

**KEENAN**
What about Michelle?

**LUKE**
I had to be sure. I am now. Come on, it's sort of a Catch-22. I make out with a girl, I start turning into one. You gotta' admit, it's a little weird, isn't it?

Suddenly uncomfortable sitting so close to Luke, Keenan stands.
LUKE (CONT'D)
Let's get outta' here. You want a ride somewhere? Janine's?

KEENAN
Why don't you go see her? Think you're more her type.

Keenan picks up his bike.

KEENAN (CONT'D)
I'll see ya' round, okay?

LUKE
"See me around?"

Keenan shrugs.

KEENAN
Look, I'm gonna' find my own place, okay? This is gettin' too fuckin' weird for me.

LUKE
I'm goin' to Dr. Catchadourian's tonight. To make this stop.

73.

KEENAN
I don't care. I've had it with all this crap. I mean, you gonna' start hittin' on me next?

LUKE
Yeah, that's right Keenan, you and me: let's do it.


INT. SYDNEY'S BED & BREAKFAST - NIGHT
Sydney wears a stunning black silk evening gown.
Small Greek statues now adorn the room.

LUKE
I guess I really did need to face it head on in order to see.

**SYDNEY**
It was courageous.

**LUKE**
Girls, are just, I don't know. It's a different energy. They're soft and warm, they can make a guy feel complete.

**SYDNEY**
And multiple o's. Actually, male Z's have multiple o's too. Been so long I nearly forgot.

**LUKE**
Cool.

**SYDNEY**
Okay, to be honest, I'm relieved you sorted this out. My conscience would have bothered me for decades if we'd just gone ahead without you being certain.


**SYDNEY (CONT'D)**
To womanhood!

74.

**LUKE**
To manhood!

They drink.

**LUKE (CONT'D)**
So, how does this work?

**SYDNEY**
We just do it. And, ...it just happens.

**AT THE BED**
Luke and Sydney begin undressing.
SYDNEY
Do you like this dress?

LUKE
Sure. Looks great on you. Man, dresses! Even without everything else, dresses are reason enough right there to stay a guy.

Sydney takes this in, considers,...

SYDNEY
"Stay a guy?" Let me get this straight. You didn't decide to be a woman?

LUKE
No. Of course not. What?

Sydney, realizing her mistake, regroups: Plan B.

SYDNEY
Just testing you. Hold on a moment. There's something I forgot...

She retrieves some ROPE.

LUKE
What's that for?

SYDNEY
You've never done it with another Z. Trust me, you need to be tied down.

LUKE
Does it hurt?

SYDNEY
On the contrary.

BEDSIDE TABLE - LATER

The alabaster eyes of a small Greek Statue stares blankly in the direction of the CARNAL SOUNDS coming from the bed, OFF
SCREEN...

SYDNEY (O.S.)
Just let yourself go completely.

LUKE (O.S.)
Wow, this is intense.

SYDNEY (O.S.)
When two Z's do it, the lateral hypothalamus gets completely overwhelmed,...

LUKE (O.S.)
OH, MAN!!

SYDNEY (O.S.)
Cellular fission kicks in, and, well,... you can go Zytusional!

LUKE (O.S.)
Unbelievable!

The chiseled eyes of a two-foot Statue of David, blankly stare.

LUKE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Oh no. What's happening?

Luke's voice begins RISING IN PITCH...

HALF-LUCA (O.S.)
What have you done?!
(Luca)
NOOOOO!!!!

The SOUNDS ESCALATE, growing increasingly more INTENSE, culminating in the extraordinary, never before heard, SOUND OF ZYTUSIONAL CLIMAX...

76.

LUCA/LUKE AND SYDNEY (O.S.)
!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Silence.

MIRROR - LATER
A great-looking, bare-chested guy with Sydney's hair appears in reflection: MALE SYDNEY.

Behind him, still strapped to the bed, is now Luca, a GAG in her mouth.

Male Sydney carries a phone while fussing with his hair in the mirror.

    MALE SYDNEY
    (into phone)
    I hear you're the best. Yes, it's an emergency! Please. Or I'll have to cut it myself.
    (to Luca)
    Now, you look me in the eye, and tell me that wasn't the best sex you ever had.

Luca MOANS, STRUGGLES VIOLENTLY!

    MALE SYDNEY (CONT'D)
    (into phone)
    Half an hour! YES! THANK you!

Male Sydney clicks the phone off.

    MALE SYDNEY (CONT'D)
    You can have all my clothes. Oh, and I just bought these incredible Anna Felucci pumps.
    (reconsiders)
    Maybe I should keep those.

Male Sydney returns to dressing, a ribbed tank beneath a gray Italian tux.

    MALE SYDNEY (CONT'D)
    Okay, I wasn't completely honest with you, but I never lied either. It stopped. That is what you wanted. You're Adulmorphic now. The only way to switch is to do it with another Z.
He gazes at Luca, a pang of guilt. He sits on the bed, speaks softly.

MALE SYDNEY (CONT'D)
I know you don't believe me, but this is the right thing for you. Eventually, you'll figure that on your own. But I could tell it was just gonna' take way too long!

Luca stares, distraught.

MALE SYDNEY (CONT'D)
Oh, for Chris' sake. Being a woman doesn't make you any less of a man!

The entire bed LURCHES back and forth as Luca struggles.

Male Sydney winces, pangs of guilt, which turn to anger...

MALE SYDNEY (CONT'D)
Damnit! I can't live my whole LIFE wrong 'cause of one stupid mistake! I'm a man! I love havin' this chest, these arms! But most of all,...
(grabs his pant crotch)
Welcome home, boys! Hang in there, I'm takin' you out for a SPIN!

LATER

Luca lies alone in the room, bound and gagged on the bed.

A KNOCK at the door.

Luca MOANS and tries to YELL through her gagged mouth.

The KNOCK PERSISTS.

SIDE WINDOW

The ivy parts and Keenan peers in.

His eyes GO WIDE.

He pushes the window open a little, whispers...

KEENAN
What's goin' on? Where is she?

Luca MOANS and struggles against the ropes.
KEENAN (CONT'D)

Whoa. I guess I really didn't
think you were gonna' go this way.
Okay. Whatever.

Keenan sits on the edge of the bed.

Luca MOANS trying to get Keenan to remove the gag.

KEENAN (CONT'D)

Hang on a sec'. Look, I'm sorry
about earlier, -what I said. But
all this stuff. Janine and I
split up.

Luca stops struggling, shocked.

KEENAN (CONT'D)

All I ever did was piss her off.
I'm not sure she even wants a guy.
And you think I'm so much better
with girls than you, and sure I can
get laid anytime I want, but truth
is, I never even woulda' hit on her
if it weren't for watchin' you.

Keenan climbs on top of Luca, starts untying her hands,
straddling her.

KEENAN (CONT'D)

The way you just talk to 'em about
anything, like it was okay. I
gotta' get her back, man.

With Herculean effort, Keenan struggles to hold back
tears...

KEENAN (CONT'D)

It's like the whole world's blown
apart. Ah, shit. Man, you havin'
tits now is just weird.

EXT. WOODED HIGHWAY

The truck THUNDERS along through the trees, head lamps
BLAZING, dashboard lights bright.

Keenan's at the wheel.

**LUCA**
Janine said he's definitely there.

**KEENAN**
Did she mention me?

Luca indicates 'no.'

**KEENAN (CONT'D)**
Women. God, I'm glad you want to be a guy. You are absolutely sure, right?

**LUCA**
Yes!

**KEENAN**
'Cause it really is totally cool either way.

**LUCA**
I'm SURE.

**KEENAN**
Okay, I just don't want you to think I'm zerophobic, or somethin'.

**EXT. POLLY WOG'S POOL HALL - NIGHT**

Students gather outside the farmhouse pool hall.

Male Sydney spots his prey, and approaches Jeremy, who hangs out alone on the grass near a small bonfire.

The firelight licks their faces.

**MALE SYDNEY**
You're on the wrestling team.

**JEREMY**
Yeah. You catch the meets?

**MALE SYDNEY**
Just an educated guess. Wanna' wrestle?

Jeremy LAUGHS, glances around, unsure what to make of him.

INSIDE THE SEMI
The truck CAREENS around a CURVE.

LUCA
Can't this thing go any faster?!

Luca considers...

LUCA (CONT'D)
You know me better than anyone.
What do you think?

KEENAN
Huh?

LUCA
I mean, if I weren't a hundred percent sure which I'm s'posed to be. If you had to say.

KEENAN
All I know is, every time you look at Michelle, or think about her, you smile. What the hell else do you need to know?

LUCA
It's not right. She deserves to be with a normal guy.

KEENAN
So, you don't get to be with anyone?

They drive in silence.

KEENAN (CONT'D)
That why they call it "zero-phia?"

LUCA
She's not gonna' want some guy who
thinks maybe he's supposed to be a girl sometimes.

KEENAN
How do you know? Did you ask?

LUCA
No way I'm gonna' ask her that.

KEENAN
Well, you have to. Where are your nads, man?!

Luca glares at him. Keenan realizes his mistake...

KEENAN (CONT'D)
We'll get 'em back.

81.

The truck ROARS on.

EXT. POLLY WOG'S

As Janine looks on, Male Sydney moves in for the kill.

MALE SYDNEY
Come on, let's grab a couple beers.

Sydney tugs at his T-shirt.

MALE SYDNEY (CONT'D)
Of course, I see you brought your own six-pack.

GRAVEL PARKING LOT

Keenan and Luca hop down from Luke's truck, scanning the crowd.

Janine waves to Luca and points across the way.

Luca nods.

LUCA
Let's go!
KEENAN
Jeez. She won't even look at me.

They stride across the field.

BEHIND THE BARN

Male Sydney shoves Jeremy passionately against the wall.

MALE SYDNEY
I do love to mess with Texas.

Keenan and Luca appear around the corner.

LUCA
There!

MALE SYDNEY
We better get outta' here.

Keenan reaches them first. He wrenches Male Sydney and Jeremy apart.

82.

JEREMY
Keenan?! It's not the way it looks.

KEENAN
Oh, Jeremy, I so profoundly don't care if you're queer. Trust me, around here, that's nothin'!

Luca catches up and TACKLES Male Sydney, throttling him on the ground.

LUCA
You son-of-a-bitch! We're doin' it again, right now!

JEREMY
Jeez. She your wife?!

MALE SYDNEY
No! She just said, she wants sex!
(to Luca)
I can't. I'm sorry.

LUCA
"Sorry?!" Fuck you! FUCK ME! NOW!

MALE SYDNEY
It won't work.

LUCA
We're goin' inside right here!

MALE SYDNEY
I'll scream rape.

LUCA
So will I.

They pull Male Sydney toward the barn door.

MALE SYDNEY
But I'm gay!

LUCA
So what?

83.

KEENAN
Such bullshit.

Jeremy moves off, wide-eyed and disturbed.

MALE SYDNEY
That's why I became a woman in the first place. I couldn't handle it. Figured if I was female, it was okay to like guys.

KEENAN
She's lyin'.

Male Sydney shakes his head 'no.'

LUCA
You're tellin' me, 'cause you're straight as a girl and I'm straight as a guy, we can screw and switch, but...
MALE SYDNEY
'cause you're straight as a girl, and I'm gay as a guy, even if we do it...

LUCA
I'm just screwed.

Keenan's confused...

KEENAN
Jeez. You need trigonometry to figure this thing out. Maybe you're 'bi.'

MALE SYDNEY
In my world the Kinsey scale's three-dimensional, but trust me, girls do nothing for me. Zilch! (to Keenan)
You, on the other hand...

Keenan RECOILS.

LUCA
What am I gonna' do?

KEENAN
What if he's lying? I say, do him again anyway!

LUCA
Fine!

MALE SYDNEY
Fine. Waste of time.

Luca notices Michelle standing nearby.

LUCA
Michelle.

KEENAN
Oh, man.

LUCA
It's not what you think.
Keenan and Luca realize that she's Luca right now, not Luke.

**KEENAN**
What does she think?

**LUCA**
I'm not sure.

**MICHELLE**
You asshole!

Michelle moves off.

**ALONGSIDE THE BARN**

Luca runs up.

**MICHELLE**
I don't believe this. You slept with that guy?!

**LUCA**
It's not what you think.

**MICHELLE**
Oh, please! What about Max?

**LUCA**
What about him?

**MICHELLE**
Don't you care about him at all?!

**LUCA**
Not like that: I'm straight! I'm attracted to you!

85.

**MICHELLE**
Oh, who cares, you idiot! And sorry to break it to you, but I'm straight too.

**LUCA**
No. This'll sound crazy, but I'm not who you think I am-

**MICHELLE**
Oh, Christ, Luke, -Luca: I know who you are!

Luca stares, stunned.

**LUCA**
You know I'm a Zerophiliac?!

**MICHELLE**
Yes! So you can just go fuck yourself. -Literally!

**LUCA**
Does Max know who I am?

**MICHELLE**
What if he does? Do you?

**LUCA**
He's a guy!

**MICHELLE**
And you're a girl!

**LUCA**
I'm not!

Michelle gestures "Oh really?!

**LUCA (CONT'D)**
I'm not supposed to be!

**MICHELLE**
There's no supposed to be anything, you just ARE!

**LUCA**
Is that what you think?! NO!

Well, then congratulations! You're a guy, just like every other guy I ever met! I can't believe you slept with him!

**LUCA**
He was a woman! I was tricked. I didn't know I'd switch.
Michelle stares, incredulous.

**MICHELLE**
You're gonna' tell me he's a Z too?! Both of you?!

**LUCA**
Yes!

**MICHELLE**
Well, that's just perfect. What, is there something in the water around here?!

**LUCA**
She told me it would make it stop. That it would keep me from turning into a girl.

**MICHELLE**
So what?! Why's that so important to you?! There's no way this was gonna' work.

**LUCA**
Because I'm a Zerophilia.

**MICHELLE**
Because you can't stand being one!
Bye, Luca.

**LUCA**
(correcting her)

She glances back, sad and angry.

Luca watches her go, distraught, and then RUNS...

**ATOP A GRASSY HILLSIDE**

Luca collapses on the ground, overlooking Polly Wog's.

Janine and Keenan run up, a few yards behind. They sit nearby, catching their breath, unsure what to say.

Luca gazes up at the moon.
LUCA (CONT'D)
What's it like? To really make love?

They all three gaze up at the moon.

Keenan steals a glance at Janine.

KEENAN
The best part's just lyin' there after. Really close, really far away.

JANINE
Like goin' to the moon, maybe.

KEENAN
Yeah. ...They should open a pizza joint up there.

Janine glares at him, and Keenan winces.

LUCA
What am I gonna' do?

KEENAN
Maybe being a woman'll turn out okay. Like being an elevated member of the male species.

JANINE
Elevated "member?"

KEENAN
I just mean, maybe he'll learn to like it.

JANINE
(sarcastic, to Keenan)
As hard as that is to conceive!

LUCA
Shut up! Both of you! What, you want a written guarantee? You're so damn lucky! You're into him, he's into you. Super-glue! What the hell else do you need to know?
Janine looks to Keenan with a look of remorse, hopeful...

**KEENAN**
I think you're the female half of me.

**JANINE**
I think you're the macho half of me.

They kiss.

**LUCA**
And I don't know what half of who the hell I am.

They look to Luca surprised,...

then all three bust out LAUGHING.

**JANINE**
What are you gonna' do?

**LUCA**
I don't know. I prefer being a guy, but I'm a girl? I'm attracted to Max, but I'm in love with Michelle? It's like I'm s'posed to be both.

Her own admission surprises her.

**LUCA (CONT'D)**
Not too practical. But at least now I know.

She almost laughs, sad, but relieved.

**INT. POLLY WOG'S POOL HALL - LATE NIGHT**

The place is cleared out, save for Polly cleaning up behind the bar and Max, alone, shooting pool.

**POLLY**
Girl trouble? Boy trouble?

Max shrugs.

**POLLY (CONT'D)**
How about we get a game in before
Max nods, sets up a new rack.

**MAX**
What's the point? It never works out. Or they just cheat on you anyway.

**POLLY**
Liverpool was a veritable shagfest when I was your age. A boulevard of broken hearts. But eventually, I found him.

She sinks the cue ball in a corner pocket.

**POLLY (CONT'D)**
Scratch. Then he died.

**MAX**
Sorry.

**POLLY**
Everything reminded me of him. So, I came here, half way round the world to forget. Then created this place, just like the one where we met.

**MAX**
He can't handle this. Us. He can't handle who he is.

**POLLY**
You being a guy too?

**MAX**
Or him being a girl.

Polly's confused, but presses on.

**POLLY**
Everyone's terrified. But once you really know someone, and they know you, it makes you whole.

**MAX**
No one wants to know who I really am.

POLLY
You're so sure?

MAX
It's impossible. He was the one person I thought could understand. But no, it's impossible.

Max puts the cue stick down, and moves off. Polly calls after,...

POLLY
It's worth finding out.

EXT. ROAD RAGE GARAGE - LATE AFTERNOON

Max slides out from under an old car. Seeing Luca, he hardens, wiping his greasy hands on a rag.

LUCA
Hey.

MAX
Hey.

LUCA
I know she doesn't want to talk to me. But do you know where I can find her?

MAX
New York. Left two days ago.

LUCA
Oh, man. ...You're staying?

MAX
Just 'til Friday.

Max returns to his work.

LUCA
I wanted to apologize to her.
Forget it, I don't know,... Obviously, nothing's gonna' ever be with me and her, but I just wish she knew how much I, -and that I wasn't cheating, I was just trying to be a man for her.

(laughs)
She'd have a field day with that one, huh?

MAX

True.

LUCA
If you talk to her, please just tell her, I'm sorry, and I wish her the best,... everything.

MAX

Thanks.

Luca 'nods', not fully understanding Max's response.

LUCA
I'm sorry. To you too.

MAX
For what?

LUCA
Mixed signals, I guess.

Max walks toward the back, then YELPS, wincing.

MAX
Ow! Son-of-a-bitch!

LUCA
You all right?

MAX
Stepped on a nail. Damn it!

Max sits on a crate, starts untying his boot.

MAX (CONT'D)
So, you gettin' used to this at all?
LUCA
I wish.

MAX
You definitely had me confused.

LUCA
For whatever it's worth. I think you're a pretty hot guy.

MAX
Thanks. But you're not interested?

LUCA
Truth is, I am. And I guess it sounds crazy, but I couldn't do that to Michelle.

Luca moves off, as Max removes his boot, and his sock.

MAX
For whatever it's worth, I think you're pretty hot too.

LUCA
Thanks.

MAX
Too bad you're a moron.

LUCA
Excuse me?

MAX
I have incontrovertible proof.

Luca stares at Max, and then down at his ankle, at the TATTOO OF A GREEN BIRD.

Max meets her eyes,

and it finally dawns on Luca,

standing, in shock, and now putting it all together,
she LUNGES for him, nailing him to the ground, kissing him.

She RIPS Max's T-shirt as they fall to the asphalt, knocking over oil cans.

Passion. Unbridled.

**IN THE PARTS YARD**

Luca manhandles Max, shoving him against a pile of huge tires, as Max's face transforms...

**BY OLD RADIATORS**

Michelle slams back onto the crabgrass. She pulls Luca toward her as Luca's face transforms into Luke.

**BY DISCARDED TRUCK CHASSIS**

Luke and Michelle roll on the crabgrass, kissing, transforming as they roll, into Luca and Max and Michelle and Luke and Luca—or was that Max?

93.

**INT. MICHELLE'S BEDROOM - DAWN**

White gauze curtains billow in the morning breeze. The sun's first rays light up the down comforter and white pillows.

Michelle stirs slowly, then BOLTS AWAKE. She grabs Luke, a vise grip around his torso.

He awakens, groggy.

**LUKE**

Hey you. ...Good morning. What's up?

Michelle bites her lip, embarrassed, releases him.

**LUKE (CONT'D)**

You still think I'm going to bolt, don't you?

**MICHELLE**
And leave me stuck.

He smiles.

LUKE
What do you want, a gender pre-nup?

MICHELLE
Maybe. I have to go to work.

She nuzzles him playfully. Luke glances at the clock, moans.

LUKE
Only place I'm going is back to sleep.

MICHELLE
No. I can't show up at work like this.

LUKE
Oh, yeah.

He smiles, folds into her.

FADE OUT