

"Resolutions"

By

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"NEW YEAR'S DAY... NOW IS THE ACCEPTED TIME TO MAKE YOUR REGULAR ANNUAL GOOD RESOLUTIONS. NEXT WEEK YOU CAN BEGIN PAVING HELL WITH THEM AS USUAL."

-- MARK TWAIN

FADE IN.

INT. ERIK'S APARTMENT - ENTRANCE HALLWAY -- DAY

The door swings open.

ERIK (20s) enters his apartment carrying a VIDEO CAMERA. As soon as he can, he places the camera down and heads for the-

INT. ERIK'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN -- DAY

Erik grabs a glass and fills it up with WATER at the sink.

He gulps it down.

Filling the glass up a second time, he repeats the process.

Filling it up a third time, he raises the glass and places it against his forehead, releasing a sigh of relief.

After a beat, he gulps down the third glass then drops the glass in the sink. He then exits the kitchen heading for the-

INT. ERIK'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM -- DAY

Erik walks over to the couch, falls down on his face, and quickly drifts to sleep.

INT. NICK'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM -- DAY

Behind the shower curtain, the water cuts off.

NICK (20s) gets out of the shower holding his jaw. Notice the blood on his lip.

He places the empty beer can down next to the sink and exits the bathroom.

INT. NICK'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM -- DAY

Nick gets dressed and then exits his room heading for the-

INT. NICK'S APARTMENT - ENTRANCE -- DAY

Nick heads for the front door while maneuvering around the many cardboard boxes that litter his apartment. He grabs his keys off of the door-side table and exits.

EXT. PARKING LOT -- DAY

Nick walks over to his car. A beat up old Dodge Stratus that has seen better days.

INT. NICK'S CAR -- DAY

Nick gets into his car just as-

His phone rings.

At first, he checks the caller ID. While we can not see it, he smiles and answers.

NICK

Hey, what's up... You know what, all-in-all, it was a pretty good night... You should have been around this morning...

INT. NICK'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM -- DAY

EARLIER.

Nick is sleeping in a recliner, beer bottles sprinkled all around him, some even stacked on top of the numerous cardboard boxes. Notice the blood on his lip.

There's a knock on the door. Nick wakes up. After looking around to figure out where he is, he turns to the door.

INT. NICK'S APARTMENT - ENTRANCE -- DAY

Nick slowly opens the door. A girl, LAURA (20s) is standing there with a look in her eyes that screams "we need to talk".

(CONTINUED)

NICK (V.O.)
Well my day started with Laura
coming over...

NICK
Hey.

LAURA
Can I come in?

NICK
Yeah, sure.

Nick let's Laura past him. She walks into-

INT. NICK'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM -- DAY

Laura sees all the beer bottles. She shakes her head.

LAURA
I've been thinking about last
night.

NICK
And?

Laura punches Nick in the jaw.

NICK
Damn it! Would everyone please
just stop hitting me in the face!

Nick watches as Laura walks past him. Before she leaves the room, she turns back.

LAURA
And you can go to hell, Nick.

Laura exits.

Nick walks out of the room for a moment. After a beat, he returns with a beer in his hand.

NICK
Well, this is a good start.

Nick cracks open the beer and heads for the shower.

INT. ERIK'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM -- DAY

Erik stirs to life on the couch. He pulls himself into a seated position, and then finally to his feet.

As if on auto-pilot he walks off screen and returns after a beat with his VIDEO CAMERA in his hands.

Finally, he walks into-

INT. ERIK'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM -- DAY

Erik takes a seat at his desk and hooks up his camera to his computer.

ERIK

Alright. What do we have here?

INT. NICK'S CAR -- DAY

Nick is still on the phone, sitting in his car in the parking lot.

NICK

Yeah, so I guess that's over... right in the jaw... Do I remember what happened last night?... Most of it I guess. But for some reason it's all backwards. Don't tell Marcus I said that.

INT. NICK'S APARTMENT - ENTRANCE -- NIGHT

EARLIER... AGAIN.

The door swings open.

Nick and Erik enter. Both are very drunk. Erik is holding a VIDEO CAMERA.

Nick walks off screen for a moment. Erik tries to keep his balance by the door. Nick returns with two beers; he hands one to Erik. They both walk into the-

INT. NICK'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT

Both of them take seats in recliners. Erik tosses his video camera onto the table between the two chairs.

ERIK

Well, that was fun.

NICK

Are you serious?

ERIK

Hell, yeah. These are the kinds of nights we'll talk about forever.

NICK

If you say so.

Erik punches the air while looking over at Nick.

ERIK

Like right in the face!

Nick clutches his jaw.

ERIK

I couldn't believe that!

NICK

So uncalled for...

ERIK

Uncalled for?

NICK

OK, so maybe not entirely uncalled for, but still. He blindsided me.

ERIK

If that's how you want to remember it.

NICK

Yes, actually. That is how I want to remember it.

Erik laughs and stands up; he finishes the rest of his beer.

ERIK

I should probably get going.

Erik grabs his video camera.

(CONTINUED)

ERIK
I got a long day tomorrow editing
this stuff.

NICK
Let me know how that goes.

ERIK
Should be interesting.

NICK
To say the least.

Erik heads for the door.

ERIK
Happy New Years, man.

NICK
You too.

Before Erik exits the room, he turns back.

ERIK
Hey.

Nick turns around in his chair.

ERIK
Don't forget... I want that final
interview.

NICK
I know... I'll come over tomorrow.

ERIK
Was it the best night of the year?

NICK
That's an interview
question... I'll talk to you
tomorrow.

Erik nods his head and laughs. He exits.

Nick turns back around and turns on the TV.

As he sits there, his mind wanders. He is clearly going over the night's events in his head. He smiles and rests his head on the back of the chair.

Before long, his eyes close.

INT. ERIK'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM -- DAY

Erik pulls up the software needed to edit the video footage. As the footage comes into view, WE ZOOM INTO IT.

As soon as he hits PLAY the BLACK AND WHITE footage plays out in a first person view through the lens of the camera.

EXT. PARK -- DAY <<ERIK'S CAMERA>>

The lens focuses on the face of a FRAT GUY. The frat guy seems to be waiting for a cue from the person behind the camera. Suddenly, we hear Erik's voice from behind the camera.

ERIK (O.S.)
Alright, Johnny.

FRAT GUY
Um... Jackson.

ERIK (O.S.)
Whatever... what are your New Year's plans?

FRAT GUY
Gonna get drunk! And then I'm gonna...

ERIK (O.S.)
(interrupting)
Fantastic. And what's your New Year's resolution?

FRAT GUY
Umm... To get with way more girls this year!

ERIK (O.S.)
(beat)
You're truly a fascinating person, Jimmy. I wish you luck.

FRAT GUY
Thanks.

The camera starts moving. Erik is walking away from the Frat Guy.

ERIK (O.S.)
Wow. That actually just happened.

(CONTINUED)

Erik turns the camera to look around the park. After a few turns, he notices a couple sitting on a park bench off in the distance.

Erik approaches the bench from the back side. The camera suddenly gets lower to the ground... he's sneaking up on the couple sitting on the bench.

As he gets closer, it becomes obvious that the couple is Nick and Laura.

Erik is now inches behind the bench. Nick and Laura are laughing about something.

ERIK (O.S.)

Hey!

Both Nick and Laura nearly jump off of the bench. They turn to see Erik. Erik begins walking to the front of the bench.

NICK

What the hell, man?

LAURA

You scared the hell out of me!

ERIK (O.S.)

Sorry, I didn't mean to... except that I did.

LAURA

What's with the camera?

ERIK (O.S.)

In two days, it will be New Years Eve. Arguably the greatest party night of that given year. I have decided to chronicle this event.

LAURA

So why is the camera on now?

ERIK (O.S.)

Because you have to capture the build-up, Laura. That way, the party is much more meaningful. Did they just show the party in Can't Hardly Wait?... I think not.

NICK

Can't Hardly Wait? A real classic.

ERIK (O.S.)
And I saw it at your house.

NICK
You did? Must not have been that bad.

LAURA
Is that the one with Sarah Michelle Gellar?

ERIK (O.S.)
Jennifer Love Hewitt.

LAURA
Same thing.

NICK
Pretty much.

ERIK (O.S.)
Yeah, so I'm going to Cloverfield the shit out of this New Years. Hopefully without the giant monster though... although I'm open for anything.

NICK
That would be pretty amazing.

ERIK (O.S.)
Too bad the camera guy gets eaten in that.

NICK
I think you had a good run.

ERIK (O.S.)
Yeah, I guess so. Anyway, I need to find Marcus.

NICK
Then why are you looking outside? He's working right now, like always.

ERIK
Oh, I know. And I'm gonna make sure he gets messed up on New Years. Like, very drunk... to the point where he might hurt himself.

NICK
(laughing)
Good luck with that.

ERIK (O.S.)
You wait, sir... you wait. But
before I go, I need to ask you guys
a question.

NICK
What's up?

ERIK (O.S.)
New Year's Resolutions. What are
they?

NICK
Well, generally, they're a waste of
time.

LAURA
They are not!

NICK
I'm sorry, have you ever kept a
resolution? Ever?

LAURA
(beat)
Well, that's not the point. New
Year's resolutions give be hope
that the new year will bring about
change. What's wrong with hope.

NICK
It's false hope.

ERIK (O.S.)
So does that mean you don't have
one?

NICK
Oh, I have one. But I'm not going
to keep it.

ERIK (O.S.)
Interesting.

LAURA
What is it?

NICK

Don't worry about it. It's not like I'm going to keep it.

LAURA

Well, mine, if you'd like to know, is to read at least one book every two months this year.

ERIK (O.S.)

Wow.

LAURA

What?

ERIK (O.S.)

That... is... lame.

LAURA

But it's doable.

ERIK (O.S.)

... And pointless! What's the point of it? I say go big or go home!

NICK

He's right. That is kinda lame.

Laura strikes Nick in the side.

LAURA

Shut up! It is not!

NICK

Kind of.

ERIK (O.S.)

I'm going to find Marcus. Maybe he actually has a real resolution to share.

Erik shakes the camera as if he were shaking his head. Laura looks up at him, clearing pissed off. Nick can't help but laugh.

ERIK (O.S.)

Just... terrible...

Erik turns the camera away from the couple and starts walking. The camera turns off.

EXT. NICK'S APARTMENT BUILDING -- NIGHT

BACK TO NEW YEAR'S.

Outside, sitting on the steps of the apartment building where Nick lives, is Nick, Erik, and MARCUS (Late 20s). They're just sitting there, looking up at the stars.

Resting next to Marcus is a pair of CRUTCHES.

MARCUS

So that's it, huh? Another year gone?

ERIK

It seems like it all goes by so quickly.

NICK

Or not quick enough.

ERIK

What's that supposed to mean?

NICK

I don't know. I just feel like we should be doing more with our lives at this point. You know?

MARCUS

No, what do you mean?

NICK

Well, I don't expect you to know, Marcus, you have a solid job that actually pays well. But me and Erik, we're just barely getting by right now.

ERIK

Excuse me? I could hold down a solid job as well... if I wanted to...

NICK

You quit your last job because they wanted you to come in an hour early...

ERIK

Like I said, if I wanted to... Clearly, I didn't want to.

(CONTINUED)

NICK

But anyway, I just feel like we're running out of time to pursue our dreams.

MARCUS

Dreams? Lame... But don't worry. The older you get, the more you realize that dreams are just that... And then you settle into a job you hate until the day you die.

NICK

You live a charmed life.

MARCUS

Thank you.

ERIK

Nick, you sound like you've been thinking about this for awhile.

NICK

Tonight was just one of those nights. Got me thinking.

MARCUS

I'm surprised you can think right now. You got your fucking block knocked off!

Nick touches his bleeding lip only to quickly retract his hand out of pain. It's still tender.

NICK

Can we not talk about that?

MARCUS

I feel like that might come up tomorrow.

NICK

Maybe we should talk about your night, Marcus.

MARCUS

I see your point. And let us not.

ERIK

I told you I'd get him drunk tonight.

MARCUS
First of all...

Marcus tries to stand up.

MARCUS
I'm not...

Marcus falls back onto the steps.

MARCUS
OK... maybe I'm a little... but
you know what?

There's a long pause as Nick and Erik wait for Marcus to say something... anything.

MARCUS
What was I talking about?

ERIK
You were just about to give me your
sister's phone number. It was kind
of weird. But I mean, if you want
me to have it, I'll take it.

MARCUS
What?

NICK
I think you were talking about
going to bed.

Marcus smiles.

MARCUS
Bed... Sounds good right about
now.

He tries to stand up again, this time reaching for his crutches.

NICK
Need some help?

MARCUS
I'm...

Marcus tries his hardest to balance on the crutches, swaying back and forth, seeming as if at any second he could fall.

After several moments, he steadies himself.

MARCUS
... good. Now, which way do I
live?

Erik points.

ERIK
Over in that direction.

MARCUS
Thank you very much. Sirs, I bid
you a good night and a Happy New
Year.

NICK
Night, man. Have a good one.

MARCUS
Year? Hell yeah I'm gonna have a
good year! You have a good one as
well!

ERIK
You gonna make it home alright?

MARCUS
Of course I am. I'm a fucking
adult!

Marcus starts crutching away into the darkness. Before long he turns back, pulling off a maneuver that is extremely dangerous on crutches.

MARCUS
Have you ever realized that
drinking is like the movie
Memento? When it comes time to
remember it, it's always backward
for some reason.

Nick and Erik laugh at the absurd statement. Marcus continues to crutch away.

NICK
I can't say I've ever had that
problem.

ERIK
Yeah, that's just wrong. But good
for him. He needed this.

NICK

Well, we can still grab that beer.

ERIK

Yeah, I could use another beer.

NICK

I got a few left in the fridge.

ERIK

Well, what are we waiting
for... It's freezing out here.

Nick and Erik stand up from the steps and head inside the building.

INT. OFFICE -- DAY <<ERIK'S CAMERA>>

The camera turns on. Erik is walking down a row of cubicles.

He swings the camera around to record his face.

ERIK

OK, so here we are. About to catch
Marcus Smith in his natural
habitat.

Erik swings the camera back around.

He turns the corner and enters one of the cubicles. Marcus is sitting at the computer, looking at an Excel Spreadsheet.

ERIK (O.S.)

Hey buddy.

Marcus turns around. He doesn't look happy.

MARCUS

What are you doing here?

Marcus grabs the camera and pulls Erik into his cubicle. Erik takes a knee next to Marcus' desk.

MARCUS

How did you even get into the
building with that camera?

ERIK (O.S.)

Is this bad?

(CONTINUED)

MARCUS
It could be.

ERIK (O.S.)
I disagree. This is important. We
are two days away from New Years
Eve.

MARCUS
Oh my God, you have to be kidding
me!

ERIK (O.S.)
I am not.

MARCUS
Get out of here!

ERIK (O.S.)
Fine.

Erik stands up from his kneeling position.

ERIK (O.S.)
If you don't want to be
interviewed, I'm sure everyone else
here would like to be.

Erik starts to leave the cubicle before quickly being
grabbed back by Marcus.

MARCUS
Alright, alright. You can
interview me. But can we make it
quick?

ERIK (O.S.)
Well that's up to you. Give me
something good, and we're
done. Keep bitching about how I
should leave, and this could take
awhile.

MARCUS
Just ask your damn question.

ERIK (O.S.)
Marcus Smith, how excited are you
for New Years Eve, arguably the
greatest party night of the year?

MARCUS

I don't know if excited is the right word, but I'm looking forward to it.

ERIK (O.S.)

And what are your plans for this night? I'm sure all the ladies in this building would love to know.

MARCUS

Well, I will be attending Charlie's party. Just like you.

Erik turns the camera around to face himself.

ERIK

Ah, yes! Charlie Palmer! The love of Marcus' life.

MARCUS (O.S.)

Shut up.

ERIK

And our next stop on the interview list.

Erik turns the camera back to Marcus.

ERIK (O.S.)

So Marcus, how do you feel about the rumors that you will be blitzed out of your mind on New Years?

MARCUS

What rumors?

ERIK (O.S.)

The rumor I just started. You're going down in two days, buddy.

MARCUS

(laughing)

No chance!

ERIK (O.S.)

You can't escape this one, Marcus. Don't fight it.

MARCUS

Would you get out of here already?

ERIK (O.S.)

On last question. What's your New Year's Resolution?

MARCUS

To stop hanging out with you guys.

ERIK (O.S.)

(laughing)

I love it! But seriously, what is it?

MARCUS

To not work as much.

ERIK (O.S.)

I love it even more!

MARCUS

Third year in a row. Maybe this is the year I hold on to it.

ERIK (O.S.)

Doubt it.

MARCUS

So do I. Now would you please leave?

ERIK (O.S.)

Oh, I'm gone!

Erik exits the cubicle and starts walking away. The camera turns off.

EXT. STREET -- NIGHT

BACK TO NEW YEAR'S.

UNDERSTAND HOW THIS WORKS NOW?

IF NOT, YOU'LL GET IT.

Nick is laying on his back on the sidewalk, looking up at the stars. His lip is bleeding, but he doesn't seem to mind. He appears to be at peace.

Erik helps Nick back to his feet. Marcus is standing there on his crutches, speechless.

A group of three guys are walking away, at least two blocks away by now.

(CONTINUED)

ERIK

Wow.

MARCUS

What just happened?

NICK

Ow.

Nick finally reaches for his jaw. He rubs it, making sure it's still there.

ERIK

On the plus side...

Everyone looks over at Erik.

ERIK

The camera was still on.

NICK

Oh, that's great news. Thanks.

ERIK

I'm just saying. When it's time to laugh about this, I got it right here.

They start walking down the sidewalk.

NICK

Well, that's one way to end a night.

Erik shines the camera in Nick's face.

ERIK

How about a closing interview.

Nick just looks at Erik. Erik turns the camera off.

ERIK

I'll get it later.

NICK

Later will be better.

MARCUS

I'm just going to throw this out there. But drunk crutching is really fun.

Nick and Erik laugh.

MARCUS
I wonder if I can not use my feet
at all.

Marcus tries to walk without using any feet. Obviously, he falls.

Nick and Erik assist him back to his feet.

MARCUS
OK, so no. Can't do that.

NICK
No, can't do that.

MARCUS
But what if I...

NICK
No!

MARCUS
Fine.

All of a sudden, a car pulls up to the curb.

ERIK
Oh, great. Hey Nick, was it
comfortable on the sidewalk?

NICK
Not again.

The three do not move. However, when the door to the car swings open, they all take a step back. Out of the car steps a large man named CARPER (late 20s).

CARPER
Finally found you.

ERIK
Look man, one of us has already
caught a beating tonight. We can
just tell everyone it was you and
we'll be even. Does that work for
everyone?

CARPER
What are you talking about?

ERIK
You're not here to kill us?

CARPER

Nah. You guys are cool. I just wanted to say thanks.

ERIK

Wait. I'm confused.

MARCUS

What did we do?

CARPER

We cool. I'll catch you guys later.

NICK

And by catch us, you mean...

CARPER

How many times do I have to say we cool?

NICK

We cool.

ERIK

Yeah, we cool.

MARCUS

I'm still...

ERIK

Shut it!

CARPER

Have a good night.

Carper gets back into his car. It's then that a skinny brunette appears in the passenger seat. Her name is VICTORIA (early 20s).

VICTORIA

Hey guys!

ERIK

Of course.

VICTORIA

Happy New Years!

NICK

Yeah, you too.

Victoria waves from the window as the car speeds down the street.

(CONTINUED)

MARCUS

It's funny how these things work out. Well, except for you, Nick. You feeling OK, man?

NICK

Yeah, let's just keep walking. I'm freezing my ass off out here.

EXT. NICK'S APARTMENT BUILDING -- NIGHT

The three guys reach the outside of Nick's apartment building.

NICK

You guys want to come up for a beer?

MARCUS

Beer is good.

ERIK

Don't see why not.

Marcus gets as far as the front steps before his crutches slip and he falls. Instead of trying to get back to his feet, he just finds comfort on the steps, trying to play it off.

MARCUS

You know what, just give me a minute. It's such a beautiful night.

Nick and Erik shrug their shoulders and take seats on the steps as well. Each of them eventually turn their gazes upward.

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT <<ERIK'S CAMERA>>

The camera turns on. Erik is sitting on a couch in a nicely furnished living room. CHARLIE (late 20s) enters the room and hands Erik a drink.

CHARLIE

Here is your whiskey and coke, sir.

ERIK (O.S.)

Why, thank you.

Erik turns the camera to face himself.

(CONTINUED)

ERIK

I'm currently sitting in the living room of the one and only Charlie Palmer. And I must say, what a nice place!

Erik turns the camera back to Charlie.

CHARLIE

Thanks. Yeah, I just moved in last month.

Erik tilts the camera just a bit... he's taking a drink.

ERIK (O.S.)

Damn... I spilled a little on my shirt. That first sip always gets me.

CHARLIE

It's the trickiest of all the sips.

ERIK (O.S.)

Do you have a napkin?

Charlie starts fumbling around on the table next to him.

CHARLIE

Let me see here...

He holds up the options for Erik.

CHARLIE

Well, I have a Pizza King, and a fork.

Charlie is holding up a napkin with the Pizza King logo on it and one of those forks that are plasticly sealed in with a napkin.

ERIK (O.S.)

Well, you never know when you'll need a fork.

CHARLIE

So true.

Charlie tosses Erik the fork/napkin. Erik places the camera down on the couch (still facing Charlie) while he opens the plastic to get the napkin.

(CONTINUED)

ERIK (O.S.)

So how do you feel about trashing
you're new place in two days?

CHARLIE

Trashing? Not exactly what I had
in mind, but if it happens, then it
happens. I'm cool with it.

ERIK (O.S.)

Great answer.

CHARLIE

You're going to trash this place,
aren't you?

ERIK (O.S.)

I never said that.

Erik picks the camera back up.

CHARLIE

Answer the question.

ERIK (O.S.)

Yes. Yes I am.

The both laugh.

CHARLIE

Well it was bound to happen, I
guess.

ERIK (O.S.)

I mean if this place gets trashed,
who are you going to blame first
anyway?

CHARLIE

Most likely you and Nick. But
that's mainly because you guys
never leave the scene of the
crime. Like, remember that time in
high school when one of you guys
broke a TV in my house, and then
you just stood right next to it the
rest of the night.

ERIK (O.S.)

Well, hold on a sec, that doesn't
mean we broke it.

CHARLIE

You were telling everyone that you broke it. That's how I found out it was you. You guys were so proud for some reason.

ERIK (O.S.)

Had you seen that drop-kick, you'd have been proud too.

CHARLIE

Hold on, you drop-kicked my TV? Who does that?

ERIK (O.S.)

Nick. Definitely Nick.

CHARLIE

Well, could you please promise to not to break my TV this time?

Erik pans the camera over to Charlie's TV.

ERIK (O.S.)

Oh man, that thing would shatter.

CHARLIE

That doesn't reassure me.

ERIK (O.S.)

We won't drop-kick your TV.

CHARLIE

I appreciate it.

ERIK (O.S.)

I've been working on my spin kicks anyway...

CHARLIE

Not funny.

A key can be heard opening the front door. Erik pans the camera over to the door.

A girl enters. This is Charlie's girlfriend, KAITLIN.

ERIK (O.S.)

And here is the wonderful Kaitlin Reynolds. What a surprise! Welcome to the documentary.

(CONTINUED)

KAITLIN

Hey Erik. Documentary? What documentary?

CHARLIE (O.S.)

Erik is making a documentary about New Years.

ERIK (O.S.)

Mainly just New Years Eve. That's all I really care about.

KAITLIN

I see. Well that sounds lovely.

ERIK (O.S.)

It's going to be amazing. I can't wait to watch all this.

Erik follows Kaitlin as she walks across the room to kiss Charlie. Afterward, she disappears, exiting the room.

CHARLIE

Should be interesting. And it'll give me hard evidence if anything happens to my apartment.

ERIK (O.S.)

Oh, if anything happens to this apartment, this tape is going to get buried so deep. I'm talking like end of Raiders of the Lost Ark deep.

They laugh.

CHARLIE

(quoting the movie)

We have top men working on it right now.

ERIK (O.S.)

(finishing the quote)

Top... men.

Kaitlin enters the room again and takes a seat next to Charlie.

KAITLIN

What about top men?

CHARLIE

Oh, well Erik was talking about men
on top...

ERIK (O.S.)

I'm a power-bottom.

KAITLIN

Didn't want to know that.

Erik and Charlie laugh.

KAITLIN

Are we going?

CHARLIE

Yeah. I invited Erik too if that's
alright. And I think Nick might
stop by as well.

Kaitlin seems surprised but she plays it off.

KAITLIN

Oh... Well, that's fine.

ERIK (O.S.)

And I called Marcus, but I think
he's working late tonight.

CHARLIE

Does that guy ever have fun?

ERIK (O.S.)

He's not like us, man. We always
have a good time.

CHARLIE

Why do you think that is? Is it
the constant flow of booze, or
what?

ERIK (O.S.)

We're just easy-going people.

EXT. STREET -- NIGHT

Marcus, Erik, and Nick are walking down the street. Notice
that Nick's lip is fine.

Behind them, three people are quickly approaching. One of
them is Charlie.

(CONTINUED)

CHARLIE

Hey, Nick!

Nick turns.

NICK

Hey, Charlie. What's...

Without another word, Charlie punches Nick in the jaw. Nick falls on his back on the sidewalk. However, he seems at peace. He just looks up at the stars.

EXT. STREET -- NIGHT <<ERIK'S CAMERA>>

Erik is walking in the back of the group. Visible in front of him are Charlie and Kaitlin. They are too far ahead to be heard.

Erik pans over to his left to reveal that Nick is walking beside him.

ERIK (O.S.)

This night was good, but it'll be completely over-shadowed by New Years.

NICK

You keep saying that.

ERIK (O.S.)

Because it's true.

NICK

Hopefully on New Years you don't forget to turn the camera on.

ERIK (O.S.)

Yeah, it doesn't record sometimes. Probably all those beer bathes this thing has taken.

NICK

Four hours holding a camera in a bar and you have nothing to show for it.

ERIK (O.S.)

Are you kidding me?

NICK

You're right. A lot of girls did flash you. That was pretty awesome.

(CONTINUED)

ERIK (O.S.)
This camera is a gold mine!

NICK
That was way too easy.

Erik pans to Kaitlin and Charlie as they both turn around and start walking backward.

KAITLIN
Those girls were skanks!

CHARLIE
Yeah!

Charlie is shaking his head "no" and giving a thumbs up just out of sight of Kaitlin.

KAITLIN
I mean, who really lifts up their shirts in the middle of a bar?

ERIK (O.S.)
Cool people.

KAITLIN
So I'm not cool?

Erik zooms in on Kaitlin's chest.

ERIK (O.S.)
You can be. It's not too late.

Kaitlin flicks off the camera.

ERIK (O.S.)
Suit yourself.

Erik zooms back out.

ERIK (O.S.)
So what's the plan for tomorrow?

CHARLIE
Well, I have to work.

KAITLIN
Sucks for you. Vacation, bitches!

NICK (O.S.)
Unemployment, bitches!

Erik pans over to Nick too late.

ERIK (O.S.)
Hell, yeah!

NICK
Probably just gonna lounge around
and watch some shitty movies.

KAITLIN (O.S.)
And I'm getting in on that.

Starts to pan over to Kaitlin, but decides not to and keeps
the camera on Nick instead.

NICK
Always welcome.

Finally pans over to Charlie and Kaitlin.

CHARLIE
Hey, Nick, why didn't Laura come
out tonight?

KAITLIN
Yeah, I haven't seen her in
forever?

Erik pans back over to Nick.

ERIK (O.S.)
Yeah, Nick. In forever!

NICK
She went out with her girlfriends
tonight. It's cool.

Erik pans back to Charlie and Kaitlin.

CHARLIE
Does she hate us? I just need to
know.

Camera back to Nick.

NICK
No. Well. Just Erik.

ERIK (O.S.)
What? She hates me! Why?

NICK
I think you know why...

ERIK (O.S.)
What? That? That was like one
time!

Nick gives Erik a look.

ERIK (O.S.)
OK... two times! But time to get
over it!

NICK
It was pretty funny...

ERIK (O.S.)
Thank you!

KAITLIN (O.S.)
What did you do, Erik?

Erik pans over to Kaitlin, but she's done talking, so he
pans back to Nick.

NICK
I'll tell you some other time.

ERIK (O.S.)
Hey Nick, can you hold this for a
second.

NICK
Yeah, I guess.

Erik transfers the camera into Nick's hands. Nick points
the camera at Erik.

ERIK
OK, so for starters...

Erik strikes a very awkward pose. Nick pans off of him.

NICK (O.S.)
OK, this does not need to be on
camera...

The camera turns off.

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN -- NIGHT

Nick is leaning against the kitchen counter with Marcus
hanging on to him with an arm around his shoulder. Marcus'
leg is clearly injured. Nick can't stop scanning the room.

(CONTINUED)

NICK

So what were you thinking, man?

MARCUS

What was I thinking?

NICK

That's what I just asked you.

MARCUS

Oh. What was I thinking, man?

NICK

OK, this is going nowhere.

MARCUS

I'm messed up.

NICK

Hey, don't say that. You're the king of this party right now. Just look around.

MARCUS

I'm seeing four of everything.

Across from them on the opposite counter is four beer cans lined up.

Someone picks up one of the four beer cans.

MARCUS

Wait. Now only three of everything. I'm sobering up!

NICK

Yeah... well... every girl in here is looking your way, man. You just impressed the hell out of them.

MARCUS

Panties on the floor?

NICK

All over the floor.

MARCUS

Nice.

NICK

All because of you.

MARCUS
Wait... What did I do?

NICK
Alright, never mind. You're going to love Erik's movie.

MARCUS
Did he get that on camera?

NICK
God, I hope so.

MARCUS
Don't show my Mom.

NICK
She'll never see it.

MARCUS
You're a good friend.

NICK
Not that good.

MARCUS
Why does my leg hurt?

NICK
(pointing at the line of cans)
You know what, let's focus on those cans for now. When it gets down to one, you're sober again.

MARCUS
Oh, good call.

Charlie enters the kitchen with a pair of crutches.

CHARLIE
Here, he can use these.

NICK
Thanks.

Nick takes the crutches and passes them to Marcus.

NICK
Here you go, Marcus. Six crutches.

MARCUS
I'm only seeing two.

(CONTINUED)

NICK
Look who just go sober!

Nick quickly heads to the counter opposite them and bats two of the cans away.

Marcus puts the crutches under his arms and looks over at Nick.

MARCUS
Hey, there's only one can!

NICK
I'd thank Charlie. He's a miracle worker.

MARCUS
Thanks,
Charlie! Char-ley! Char-ley! Charles... Can I call you Charles?

CHARLIE
You can call me whatever you want. I'm just glad you came, and that you didn't kill yourself.

MARCUS
What's he talking about, Nick?

NICK
Nothing. I don't know.

Nick walks over to Charlie and puts his arm on his shoulder.

NICK
Nobody's going to forget this anytime soon.

CHARLIE
Tell me about it.

NICK
Have you seen Erik?

CHARLIE
Yeah, actually. I think he's over by the beer pong table. But have you seen Kaitlin?

NICK
Not for awhile.

CHARLIE

Oh... Thanks anyway.

NICK

Yeah, no problem.

Charlie starts helping Marcus out with the crutches since Marcus has started using them to try and grab objects off of the counter.

Nick walks out of the kitchen and into the-

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT

Nick makes his way through the party until he reaches Erik.

Erik is talking with Victoria. Erik is handing Victoria a LARGE PURSE.

ERIK

And here is your purse back, madam.

VICTORIA

Thank you, Erin.

VICTORIA

Oh, and I found your camcorder.

Victoria hands Erik his video camera.

ERIK

Nice! I was wondering where I left that! And it's Erik, by the way.

VICTORIA

What?

ERIK

Nothing.

Nick enters the conversation.

NICK

You know, I was starting to think you liked that purse. I was going to buy you one for your birthday.

ERIK

While the strap on that purse may have been incredibly comfortable, you can go screw yourself sir. You remember Victoria?

(CONTINUED)

NICK

How could I forget. How are you?

VICTORIA

I'm great! I thought you guys left
for good!

ERIK

Just had to run an errand. Came
right back.

VICTORIA

I'm glad you did.

She hugs Erik.

ERIK

OK, but you should probably let go
now. Don't want to upset your
boyfriend... again.

Victoria lets go.

VICTORIA

Yeah! Where is that
fucker! Carper!

Victoria, as if she was never talking to Erik or Nick, just
begins to wander back into the party.

ERIK

We are so dead.

NICK

It might be time to leave.

ERIK

You might be right. Is Marcus
alive?

NICK

Yeah, he's fine. Let's go get him.

Erik and Nick head back to the-

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN -- NIGHT

Charlie is still helping Marcus get the hang of his
crutches.

(CONTINUED)

NICK

Marcus, you think you have the hang
of it yet?

MARCUS

I'm a fucking champ on these
things.

NICK

You know what? I'll take your word
for it. Because we need to get
going.

Charlie doesn't seem to be in the same good spirits as he currently was.

CHARLIE

Well, what's the rush?

NICK

Funny story. Don't really have the
time to tell you right now.

CHARLIE

I bet.

Nick seems confused by Charlie's demeanor, yet he carries on.

Erik is looking over his shoulders nervously.

ERIK

Alright, let's go.

Nick, Marcus, and Erik head for the front door, exiting the kitchen. Meanwhile, Charlie starts getting the attention of two of his other friends.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE MARCUS' APT. -- DAY <<ERIK'S CAMERA>>

The camera turns on. Erik is holding it facing himself.

ERIK

Alright, so it's about eight in the morning, and I'm standing outside of Marcus' door. And any second now he should be leaving for work.

Erik turns the camera to face the door.

(CONTINUED)

ERIK (O.S.)
I've been out here since
seven-thirty. Completely unheard
of by my standards. But absolutely
necessary. Marcus is sure to
understand and respect my
dedication at this point.

The door opens and the second Marcus sees Erik and the camera, he closes the door again.

ERIK (O.S.)
Or maybe not... But he will soon
enough.

Erik knocks on the door.

ERIK (O.S.)
You have to go to work eventually.

After a moment, the door opens very slowly. Marcus reluctantly exits his apartment and steps out into the hallway.

MARCUS
You just don't quit, do you?

ERIK (O.S.)
No sir.

MARCUS
It is eight in the morning. Why
are you here?

ERIK (O.S.)
Time for another interview. New
Years Eve is tomorrow and I still
don't think you understand what's
going to happen.

MARCUS
Nothing! Nothing is going to
happen!

Marcus starts walking down the hallway. Erik makes sure to stay in front of him, keeping the camera on his face.

ERIK (O.S.)
I happen to disagree with you,
sir. Respectfully.

MARCUS
What are you and Nick up to?

ERIK (O.S.)
Nothing.

MARCUS
For some reason... Can't imagine
what that would be... I don't
trust you.

ERIK (O.S.)
No idea what you're talking about.

MARCUS
Last year you duct taped to a chair
and had a very large man give me a
lap-dance. That is not something
you just forget.

ERIK (O.S.)
But you looked like you were having
such a great time.

MARCUS
Oh, I did, did I?

ERIK (O.S.)
I wouldn't have given the guy all
the money out of your wallet if I
didn't think you were gonna like
it.

MARCUS
I hate you, Erik. And Nick for
that matter.

ERIK (O.S.)
No you don't.

MARCUS
Listen to me. Neither you or Nick
will get me to do anything stupid
tomorrow night. You can quote me
on that!

Marcus steps into the elevator. As Erik tries to step in,
Marcus pushes him out.

MARCUS
You can catch the next one.

ERIK (O.S.)
I'm taking that as a
challenge. You know that, right?

MARCUS
I'll say it again. You won't win
this.

The elevator doors start to close.

MARCUS
You won't get me!

The doors close.

ERIK (O.S.)
We'll see...

Erik turns the camera off.

EXT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT -- NIGHT

Nick and Erik are looking up. They're both smiling. Nick is holding a brown paper bag that is soaking wet, and Erik has a large purse hanging off his shoulder.

NICK
I'm speechless.

ERIK
This makes up for everything.

Up on the roof of the building is Marcus. He's in his boxers and holding his arms out to his sides as if he were Jesus.

The majority of the party is outside watching him, egging him on to jump.

MARCUS
I am a Golden God!

Everyone cheers.

NICK
Almost Famous.

ERIK
Good movie.

(CONTINUED)

NICK

I hope he doesn't jump.

ERIK

Yeah, there's no pool. He'll die.

NICK

Should we say something?

ERIK

I think he's got it under control. Let's get inside.

Nick and Erik head inside.

Back on the roof, Marcus is starting to realize what he's doing. After looking around, he notices that Charlie is up there with him, trying to get him to come down... and put some pants back on. Charlie is holding Marcus' pants.

MARCUS

Maybe I should get down.

CHARLIE

Yeah, man. Come and get your pants. It's cold out.

MARCUS

But I'm a Golden God...

CHARLIE

I know. But you should still be wearing pants.

MARCUS

Alright... It is a little cold.

Marcus gets down from the ledge.

The crowd is disappointed.

Once to safety, and on his way to Charlie, Marcus slips and falls. Charlie immediately heads over to him.

CHARLIE

Are you OK, man?

MARCUS

Yeah, I'm good.

Charlie helps Marcus back to his feet. It's then that Marcus feels the pain, falling back down.

MARCUS

OK, no. My leg is gone. My leg is gone!

CHARLIE

Your leg is not gone. You just sprained your ankle... at worst.

MARCUS

As long as I have a leg. That's good.

CHARLIE

How much did you drink tonight?

MARCUS

Numbers are just numbers, man.

Charlie rolls his eyes and assists Marcus back inside.

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT

Nick and Erik head through the front door, entering the party. Erik adjusts the purse strapped on his shoulder, as if it were bothering him.

Nick looks down at the wet paper bag he is carrying.

NICK

Why am I still carrying this?

Nick throws it to the ground.

ERIK

Alright, I'm going to go try and explain this to Carper. Hopefully he understands.

NICK

I'd drop the purse before you do that.

ERIK

Well now, let's not be hasty.

NICK

How is that hasty?

ERIK

I'm not dropping the damn purse!

(CONTINUED)

NICK
Alright, fine!

ERIK
I'll catch ya later.

NICK
And by catch, you mean...

Erik shakes his head and walks away, disappearing into the crowd.

NICK
We are so dead.

All of a sudden, Laura walks past Nick, heading for the front door.

NICK
Laura? Where are you going?

Laura doesn't respond. She just continues on toward the door. Nick reaches for her, but can't grab hold.

After a short look around, Nick sees Charlie leading Marcus into the kitchen. He heads over there.

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN -- NIGHT

NICK
Marcus, I need to talk to you.

CHARLIE
Oh, hey Nick. Can you watch him for a minute?

NICK
What happened? Marcus, you didn't jump did you?

MARCUS
Nah, man.

CHARLIE
He just hurt his leg coming down. I have some spare crutches somewhere, I just need to find them. Can you make sure he doesn't hurt himself?

(CONTINUED)

NICK
I can do that.

CHARLIE
Cool.

Charlie leaves Marcus in the care of Nick. Nick immediately turns to Marcus.

NICK
I have to know, did you say anything to Laura?

MARCUS
Who is Laura?

NICK
My girlfriend, Laura. Did you say anything to her?

MARCUS
I don't know man. I said a lot of shit to a lot of people... I think.

NICK
That's helpful... Thanks.

Nick leans Marcus up against the counter.

NICK
Well, I have to go catch her, so just don't hurt yourself until I get back. OK?

MARCUS
I can handle that!

Marcus lifts one of his hands off of the counter to give Nick a thumbs up. He immediately slips in that direction and smacks his head on the counter, falling to the floor.

Just then, EVERYONE starts the countdown for the New Year. Nick starts pushing his way through the crowd.

EVERYONE
Ten! Nine! Eight!

Nick exits the party.

EXT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT -- NIGHT

Nick closes the door behind him. He sees Laura not that far away; she's talking to someone near the sidewalk. Nick rushes to catch up with her.

NICK

Laura!

EVERYONE

Seven! Six!

Laura turns to see Nick. She tries to walk away. He grabs her arm.

NICK

Where are you going?

EVERYONE

Five!

LAURA

Where do you think I'm
going. Home!

EVERYONE

Four!

NICK

Why?

EVERYONE

Three!

LAURA

Sometimes you ask some really
stupid questions, Nick.

EVERYONE

Two!

NICK

Look, I'm sorry.

EVERYONE

One!

LAURA

Are you?

Nick hesitates for a minute. He looks down at his feet. Up at the stars. Even he doesn't know what he's talking about anymore.

(CONTINUED)

EVERYONE
Happy New Year!

Everyone around them starts to celebrate. Hugs and kisses are exchanged, beer cans go flying into the sky, and yet Nick and Laura are isolated in their moment.

NICK
No. I guess I'm not.

LAURA
Well, I'm glad you're finally being honest.

NICK
Well, what did you think was going to happen?

LAURA
You told me that that didn't matter? That you had gotten over it!

NICK
Well, I guess I lied.

LAURA
That doesn't give you the right to...

NICK
Actually I think it does. I checked, and I'm right.

LAURA
You're an idiot, Nick.

NICK
That might be true, but you're kind of a bitch. And I finally said it. For the longest time you have slowly been draining me.

Laura appears shocked.

NICK
And I have grown to hate you on some level. You pretty much stand for everything I don't want in my life. And I don't want to sit through another day of this.

(CONTINUED)

LAURA

Wow. Are you done?

NICK

Yeah, I think that pretty much sums up everything.

Laura starts walking away.

NICK

Wait...

Laura pauses and turns back. Nick walks over to her.

NICK

You know what, that's not entirely fair. Because, you're right. I should have told you a long time ago. I don't know why I've been dragging this out. That's my fault. So if you'd like to punch me in the face right now, I'd understand.

LAURA

What? Nick I'm not going to punch you in the face! That won't fix anything!

NICK

Are you sure? Because you kind of look like you want to.

LAURA

(beat)

A little... But I'm not going to.

NICK

So, I guess that's it then.

LAURA

Yeah, I'd say so. You're a free man Nick. Exactly what you wanted. I won't be your anchor anymore.

Laura turns and starts walking away. Nick watches her leave.

NICK

Enjoy your reading this year!

LAURA
Asshole.

Nick smiles.

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN-- NIGHT

Nick heads back to the kitchen where he left Marcus. Marcus is still on the floor.

NICK
Oh, shit. Are you alright, buddy?

Nick helps Marcus back to his feet.

NICK
Here, put your arm around me.

Marcus does.

NICK
I said not until I got back to hurt yourself.

MARCUS
Sorry, man.

NICK
It's cool. I'll let it slide this time.

They both just look out at the party. Taking it all in.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE NICK'S APARTMENT -- DAY <<ERIK'S CAMERA>>

Erik looks down at the doorknob. He turns it. The door opens.

Erik enters. He immediately hears the laughter of a guy and a girl.

INT. NICK'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM -- DAY <<ERIK'S CAMERA>>

Sitting in recliners in the apartment, with several empty beer cans spread out on a table between them, are Nick and Kaitlin.

(CONTINUED)

NICK
And then he says the couch started talking to him!

KAITLIN
No way! What was it saying to him?

NICK
And I quote... Not nice things.

They both laugh.

KAITLIN
That's good.

NICK
Those were some good times.

Nick turns around in his chair to see Erik and the camera pointed their way.

NICK
What's up, Erik?

Kaitlin turns to look as well.

KAITLIN
Hey ya.

ERIK (O.S.)
Hey guys. What's going on?

NICK
Just doing some day-drinking.

ERIK (O.S.)
My favorite kind of drinking!

NICK
I know.

Nick hands Erik one of the unopened cans on the table.

Erik walks around to the living room and takes a seat on the couch. He keeps the camera facing Nick and Kaitlin.

The camera lowers to show the beer can. Erik cracks it open. The camera returns to Nick and Kaitlin.

ERIK (O.S.)
So is Charlie here?

KAITLIN
He's working.

ERIK (O.S.)
Laura?

NICK
No idea.

ERIK (O.S.)
So it's just you two?

NICK
Why'd you say it like that?

KAITLIN
You know, we were friends long
before we had significant others.

ERIK (O.S.)
I know. Just usually don't see you
guys without your significant
others. Well, except for Nick.

NICK
Yeah, I barely see that girl.

KAITLIN
Yeah, what's up with that?

NICK
Last couple of months I feel like
she's been avoiding me.

ERIK (O.S.)
Don't lie, she's avoiding me.

KAITLIN
Why would she be avoiding you?

Nick and Erik laugh.

KAITLIN
Oh come on. You started telling
this story last night, but you
didn't finish. What exactly
happened between you guys?

NICK
That's still a story for another
time.

KAITLIN

Fine... But if you never see her,
why are you still going out with
her?

NICK

I don't really feel like making
that effort. I say we need to
talk, she flips out, I have to
console her, eventually she's
crying and I'm feeling like an
asshole for some reason. Yeah, I'd
rather just... stay with her
forever. Much simpler.

KAITLIN

You're an idiot.

NICK

I know.

ERIK (O.S.)

Plus, she puts out like all the
time.

NICK

Wow... thanks for sharing that.

KAITLIN

What, Nick? Are you embarrassed?

NICK

No. Why would I be?

ERIK (O.S.)

Maybe by the fact that sometimes I
can hear her from the street.

NICK

OK, now you're just making shit up.

KAITLIN

Yeah, Nick can't satisfy a woman
that well.

NICK

Wait, why am I getting
double-teamed here?

ERIK (O.S.)

Now is no time to quote Laura,
Nick.

Kaitlin and Erik laugh. Nick smiles.

(CONTINUED)

NICK
Not funny.

ERIK (O.S.)
You laughed.

NICK
Alright, maybe a little funny.

KAITLIN
Is that a story for another time,
too?

ERIK (O.S.)
Don't worry, there's a tape.

KAITLIN
What?

NICK
There's no tape! It never
happened!

ERIK (O.S.)
Keep up the lie. That's the
spirit!

NICK
You need to leave.

ERIK (O.S.)
Alright, I have other places to be
anyway. Is this all you guys are
doing today?

NICK
We'll probably go out later.

KAITLIN
Day-drinking is only the beginning.

Nick raises his can toward Kaitlin. She meets it with her can. A cheers.

ERIK (O.S.)
Well I wish I could join you, but i
have to finish this documentary.

NICK
I love how you're calling it a
documentary now.

ERIK (O.S.)
What else would I call it?

NICK
I'd go with found footage.

ERIK (O.S.)
(beat)
I like that.

NICK
See.

ERIK (O.S.)
Found footage... Alright, but
before I go, I need your thoughts
with one day to go.

Erik zooms in on Kaitlin.

ERIK (O.S.)
Kaitlin?

KAITLIN
Um... Well, it's been a crazy
year. So it should be an equally
crazy night.

Erik pans over to Nick who is already smiling.

NICK
Let's make some bad decisions!

Kaitlin starts laughing. Nick and Kaitlin cheers once
again.

ERIK (O.S.)
Kaitlin. New Year's Resolution?

KAITLIN
My New Year's Resolution? To stop
sweating the small stuff.

ERIK (O.S.)
That's so...

NICK
Vague? Abstract? How do you even
measure that?

KAITLIN
But you know what I mean, right.

NICK

No. Not at all actually.

ERIK (O.S.)

Kaitlin, we're guys. We don't understand when girls talk about the small stuff.

KAITLIN

Really, Erik? You know what... too easy. Not gonna go there.

ERIK (O.S.)

Ouch.

NICK

But Erik's right. Naturally we don't sweat the small stuff by default. In fact, most of the time we don't sweat the big stuff.

ERIK (O.S.)

We're a very easy going gender.

KAITLIN

That's bullshit and you guys know it. Guys can get just as emotional as girls, sometimes even more so.

NICK

Whatever, it doesn't change the fact that you have a terrible resolution.

KAITLIN

How is that a bad resolution?

NICK

You can't measure it. And if you can't measure it, it's impossible to keep up with. And it's impossible just in general. I know you. You will always sweat the small stuff.

KAITLIN

Not this year.

NICK

Yeah.

KAITLIN
Don't think so.

ERIK (O.S.)
Nick? What about you?

NICK
Am I gonna sweat the small stuff?

ERIK (O.S.)
No. Would you like to share your
New Year's Resolution?

KAITLIN
Yeah, Nick. What's your
resolution? Let's hear it.

NICK
I told you I can't tell you.

KAITLIN
It's not a damn birthday wish.

NICK
Just stop asking. It's not
happening.

ERIK (O.S.)
Fine. I need to go anyway. Need
to see a guy about some stuff.

NICK
That doesn't sound sketchy...

ERIK (O.S.)
I'll tell you more about it later.

Erik walks back to the door. Before he leaves the room, he turns back around.

ERIK (O.S.)
Enjoy your day-drinking
festivities. And I'll see you guys
later on.

NICK
Later, man.

KAITLIN
See ya.

Erik exits the apartment stepping into-

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE NICK'S APARTMENT -- DAY <<ERIK'S CAMERA>>

Once the door is closed and he's out in the hallway, he turns the camera to face himself.

ERIK
And the plot thickens...

The camera turns off.

EXT. LIQUOR STORE -- NIGHT

Nick and Erik leave the liquor store. Nick is carrying a paper bag with a few bottles in it. Erik has the purse strapped onto his shoulder.

NICK
Do you really think this will work?

ERIK
It better.

NICK
I highly doubt we can persuade Carper not to kill us with a cheap bottle of Tequila and some Hennessy... which once again, is kinda racist.

Nick pulls the bottles out of the paper bag one-by-one to examine them.

ERIK
Oh, well excuse me that black people love Hennessy. And it's not racist if it's true. And furthermore, that Tequila is in a glass bottle. So it's not that cheap. Cheap would be plastic.

NICK
He's still gonna kill us.

Erik nods his head. There's a brief silence as they walk.

NICK
Listen, Erik. I just wanted to say I didn't mean what I said earlier.

(CONTINUED)

ERIK

... I know man. It's been a long night. For everyone.

NICK

And you have a lovely purse.

Erik readjusts the purse hanging from his shoulder.

ERIK

I know.

NICK

This should make for an interesting documentary at least.

ERIK

Found footage... If I find it.

NICK

It'll turn up. It has to.

ERIK

It better. There's some good stuff on there. And not to mention incriminating stuff.

NICK

No joke.

ERIK

It's cool. I'll delete all that stuff.

Nick remains quiet. He just shakes his head, knowing exactly what Erik is talking about.

ERIK

Don't worry. He'll never know. Unless he finds the camera before I do.

NICK

That's comforting.

ERIK

It's cool. I think I remember where I put it down.

NICK

I feel like we should be walking faster.

ERIK

Nah, I'm good at this pace.

Nick starts walking faster.

ERIK

Where are you going? You don't know where the camera is.

Nick slows down.

NICK

Just make sure nobody sees that.

ERIK

Who you talking to? I got your back.

As they step off the curb, ready to cross the street, a CAR comes out of nowhere and whizzes by, inches in front of them.

Startled, Nick drops the bag of liquor. Both bottles break loudly.

NICK

Oh, shit!

ERIK

Is it OK?

Nick picks the bag up from the cement. The bag is soaking wet, and not from water. Nick pulls one of the bottles out. It's broken from the neck down.

NICK

Well, that kills that plan.

ERIK

What time is it?

NICK

It's almost midnight. We don't have time to go back.

ERIK

Fuck! We're dead! We're so dead!

NICK

Maybe not...

ERIK
Do you have a plan?

Nick throws the broken bottle neck into the bushes.

NICK
(beat)
No.

ERIK
Game over, man! Game over!

NICK
Alright, let's just get back to the party. Maybe if we just calmly explain it to Carper, we'll be OK.

ERIK
What kind of plan is that?

NICK
If we don't die, then it's a good one!

ERIK
Well, I don't like it.

NICK
It's all we can do.

ERIK
Actually, I have a plan.

NICK
What is it?

ERIK
We can run!

NICK
That's probably the worst thing we can do.

ERIK
Alright, fine. I have another plan.

NICK
And that is?

ERIK
I can't tell you. Not yet.

NICK
Just as long as it doesn't involve
us dying.

ERIK
It might involve throwing Marcus
under the bus.

NICK
(beat)
I can live with that.

They start walking again.

ERIK
You know we're fucked, right?

NICK
Yes.

They turn a corner and Charlie's apartment comes into view.

NICK
Holy shit, is that Marcus?

Erik starts looking around.

ERIK
Where?

They both spot him now, on the roof.

EXT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT -- NIGHT <<ERIK'S CAMERA>>

Marcus is walking in front of Erik, heading up the stairs to Charlie's door.

ERIK (O.S.)
So how was work today?

Marcus seems wound up.

MARCUS
Fine.

ERIK (O.S.)
Do anything exciting?

MARCUS
No.

(CONTINUED)

ERIK (O.S.)
Excited to have the day off
tomorrow?

Marcus finally snaps. He turns around to face Erik.

MARCUS
OK, what is it that you and Nick
have planned? What are you going
to do tomorrow?

ERIK (O.S.)
I have no idea what you're talking
about.

MARCUS
Don't play this game with
me. Alright, I'm rattled. I have
to know. It's all I can think
about.

ERIK (O.S.)
I told you not to worry about it.

MARCUS
This isn't a fucking joke! You
keep talking about how I'm going to
be so messed up that I won't
remember anything. I don't drink
that much! What are you planning?

Erik is loving it.

ERIK (O.S.)
Oh, Marcus...

Erik pats Marcus on the shoulder.

ERIK (O.S.)
I can't ruin the surprise.

MARCUS
I hate you, Erik.

Marcus knocks on Charlie's door.

ERIK (O.S.)
You and I both know you don't mean
that. So lighten up.

MARCUS
I'll lighten up next year.

ERIK (O.S.)
If you make it...

MARCUS
And what does that mean?

ERIK (O.S.)
Just calm down, I was joking.

Charlie answers the door.

CHARLIE
Hey guys. Come on in. Is Kaitlin
with you?

ERIK (O.S.)
No, it's just us.

CHARLIE
Oh, OK.

They enter the apartment.

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT -- NIGHT <<ERIK'S CAMERA>>

They all walk into the living room. Marcus and Erik take
seats.

CHARLIE
Do you guys want anything to drink?

MARCUS
Yeah, I'll take a water.

ERIK (O.S.)
You sure about that?

MARCUS
Shut it, Erik.

ERIK (O.S.)
Just saying, you might want to
start building your tolerance for
tomorrow night.

MARCUS
Not listening.

ERIK (O.S.)
Suit yourself.

MARCUS
I'll have a rum and coke.

ERIK (O.S.)
There it is... And I'll have the same, if you got it.

CHARLIE
You know I do.

Charlie goes into the kitchen. Erik swings the camera over to Marcus. They start speaking quietly.

ERIK (O.S.)
Does he seem upset?

MARCUS
A little.

ERIK (O.S.)
What's that all about?

Marcus shrugs his shoulders.

There's a knock at the door. Charlie comes out of the kitchen to answer it. The camera follows him to the door.

Charlie opens it. Kaitlin and Nick enter.

KAITLIN
Hey, babe.

Kaitlin kisses Charlie.

NICK
How's it going, Charlie?

CHARLIE
Not too bad, Nick. Can I get you anything?

NICK
Oh, I can get it. Do you have any whiskey?

CHARLIE
Yes, sir. You know where it is.

Nick walks past Erik and Marcus, heading to the kitchen.

NICK
What's up, guys?

(CONTINUED)

MARCUS (O.S.)
What's up, Nick.

ERIK (O.S.)
Sup, Nick.

Erik keeps the camera on Charlie and Kaitlin.

CHARLIE
Where were you?

KAITLIN
I was hanging out with Nick. I told you that.

CHARLIE
Wait, are you drunk?

KAITLIN
I've had a bit to drink.

Erik takes the camera off of them and puts it back on Marcus.

ERIK (O.S.)
Awkward... How about that kitchen?

MARCUS
How about it?

Marcus and Erik get up and go into the-

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN -- NIGHT <<ERIK'S CAMERA>>

Here they find Nick making a drink for himself. They also find the drinks that Charlie had made, but had yet to deliver.

ERIK (O.S.)
Oooooo.

Erik picks up his drink from off the counter. Marcus does the same.

NICK
Why are you looking at me like that?

MARCUS
Have you looked out there?

(CONTINUED)

NICK
No. What's going on?

Charlie enters the kitchen.

CHARLIE
How's it going guys?

NICK
Pretty good, man. How are you?

Nick and Charlie hug.

CHARLIE
I've been good.

NICK
We didn't really get the chance to talk last night.

CHARLIE
No, I guess we didn't.

Erik pans the camera over to Marcus and Marcus mouths "I know" to Erik, implying that Erik must have mouthed something to Marcus first.

Kaitlin enters the kitchen.

KAITLIN
Well, my roommates are getting here soon. I really hope you guys aren't going to stay huddled up in the kitchen all night.

NICK
It's possible. I'm trying to stay out of trouble.

ERIK (O.S.)
Is that your resolution?

NICK
Nice try, but no.

ERIK (O.S.)
Damn it. I'll get it Nick. You just wait. I'll get it.

KAITLIN
Right... well, I hope the rest of you enjoy having fun.

The door can be heard opening. The voices of several girls can be heard out in the living room.

Kaitlin exits the kitchen to go and greet her friends.

CHARLIE

Hey guys, you better stick around tonight. Please don't leave me with all of Kaitlin's roommates. I don't know how much I can handle talking about The Hills.

MARCUS

That Lauren is something, isn't she?

Everyone looks at Marcus.

CHARLIE

(beat)

Right. Well... Just promise me you'll all stick around.

ERIK (O.S.)

Dude, why would we ever leave? It's not like we have other friends. We have nowhere else to go.

NICK

(laughing)

Oh, that's so sad, but kind of true.

ERIK (O.S.)

We're not going anywhere.

EXT. STREET -- NIGHT

Nick and Erik are walking down the street away from the party. Erik has that purse hanging from his shoulder.

NICK

How do keep dragging me into these situations?

ERIK

Nobody wants to die alone, Nick.

NICK

Oh, well I'm honored.

(CONTINUED)

ERIK

If they find me in a ditch
somewhere tomorrow morning, I'm
sure it'll comfort my parents to
know that you were right there next
to me.

NICK

Yeah, I'm sure it will.

ERIK

Look, the sooner you accept the
fact that we're going out at the
same time, the sooner we can get on
with the rest of our
lives... however short a time that
may be.

NICK

How did you even break his bottle?

ERIK

It's a long story.

NICK

I highly doubt it is.

ERIK

Look, it doesn't matter at this
point. What does matter is that if
we don't replace that bottle, he
will shoot us both with his gun.

NICK

He has a gun? Or are you just
guessing that because he's black?

ERIK

No, I'm guessing that because he
showed it to me.

NICK

Alright, so what do we need to buy
at the store?

ERIK

Absinthe.

NICK

Absinthe? Thankfully they sell
that now.

ERIK
No. He had the real
absinthe. That stuff you can only
get in Europe.

NICK
So why are we going to the store?

ERIK
Because we need to replace it with
the next best thing... Hennessy.

NICK
Wow, that's racist.

ERIK
Do you have a better plan?

NICK
(beat)
Hennessy it is.

They stop walking as they reach a crosswalk.

ERIK
Hey, I need to tell you something.

NICK
What?

ERIK
Earlier. When we were
pre-gaming... I saw you and
Kaitlin.

NICK
You did?

ERIK
On camera.

NICK
What did you see?

ERIK
Not much. I didn't keep the camera
on you for long.

NICK
And where is your camera?

ERIK
Still at the party.

NICK
And what if Charlie looks at
it? Or Laura?

ERIK
Nobody is going to see it.

NICK
How can you be so sure?

ERIK
I just am. Who picks up a camera
and starts looking at all the old
videos?

NICK
(beat)
Fucking everyone does that!

ERIK
(beat)
I don't do that...

NICK
You know what, Erik, you always do
this! You throw me into trouble
all the time. It's like you're
trying to fuck up my life! Are
you? Can we just settle this! Are
you trying to fuck up my life?

ERIK
No, man.

NICK
Fuck!

They finally cross the street.

NICK
Let's just buy this damn liquor and
get back to the party. And then if
you could just stay away from me
for the rest of the night, I'd
greatly appreciate it. Oh, and
that purse makes you look fucking
stupid!

Erik readjusts the purse.

(CONTINUED)

ERIK

Oh, that reminds me. I should probably get these drugs off my person.

NICK

Off my person? Who says that?

Erik reaches into his pocket and pulls out a SMALL BAG OF PILLS. He puts them in the purse.

NICK

How does that change anything? You're still carrying them!

ERIK

Right, but this isn't my purse.

Nick just shakes his head. The liquor store is in sight.

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN -- NIGHT <<ERIK'S CAMERA>>

Erik and Marcus are in Charlie's kitchen. The noise level in the background implies that the small party is still going on.

ERIK (O.S.)

So yes, it'll be like this...

Erik is using the fact that Marcus is standing up as an example to make his point.

ERIK (O.S.)

... but with less being able to walk.

MARCUS

I hate you guys. I really do.

ERIK (O.S.)

You're gonna love us after tomorrow.

MARCUS

You know this is getting old, right?

ERIK (O.S.)

(laughing)

Not for me.

(CONTINUED)

Marcus shakes his head and leaves the kitchen. Nick passes him and enters the kitchen.

NICK
There he is!

ERIK (O.S.)
How is it out there?

NICK
Everyone's wondering where the camera went. I think this could be a repeat of last night.

ERIK (O.S.)
Just outstanding. I'm never putting this thing down.

Nick makes himself a drink.

ERIK (O.S.)
So we need to talk about Marcus. And what I have in store for him.

NICK
Oh, yeah, what have you got?

The camera shakes as Erik reaches into his pocket. He pulls out a BAG OF PILLS and shows it to Nick.

NICK
Oh, what are those?

ERIK (O.S.)
Fuck if I know. Dude just told me Marcus is going to hit the floor.

NICK
That sounds safe enough. Where did you get those?

ERIK (O.S.)
I know people.

NICK
You don't know anybody that I don't.

ERIK (O.S.)
Alright, I got them from Jimmy Fake.

NICK
Jimmy Fake? How is he doing?

ERIK (O.S.)
Still violating his parole and
getting away with it.

NICK
Good for him.

ERIK (O.S.)
So tomorrow, while we're
pre-gaming, you need to distract
Marcus, and I'll slip some of these
in his drink.

NICK
Some? You don't even know what
those things are.

ERIK (O.S.)
And?

NICK
You're probably right. He'll be
fine.

Erik puts the pills back into his pocket.

ERIK (O.S.)
He's gonna love us.

NICK
That's one theory.

Nick takes his fresh drink back out into the living room. Erik follows.

INT. CHARLIE'S APT - LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT <<ERIK'S CAMERA>>

Everyone seems to be having fun. Talking, playing drinking games, relaxing.

Nick walks over to talk to Kaitlin. Erik takes a seat next to Charlie on the couch.

Erik pans the camera over to Charlie. Charlie seems intent on watching Nick and Kaitlin. Erik pans over to Nick and Kaitlin and then back to Charlie.

ERIK (O.S.)
Something on your mind?

CHARLIE
Not really.

ERIK (O.S.)
Hmmm... just seems like you're
thinking something.

CHARLIE
Can you turn off the camera for a
sec?

ERIK (O.S.)
Nope.

CHARLIE
Fine. Can you edit this out?

ERIK (O.S.)
I'll see what I can do.

Charlie leans in a little closer.

CHARLIE
Nick would tell you if something
was happening with him and Kaitlin,
right?

ERIK (O.S.)
Really? You think something is
going on between them?

CHARLIE
I don't know.

ERIK (O.S.)
Dude, nothing is going on between
them. You've known Nick almost as
long as I have. You need to have a
little more faith in your boy...

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT -- NIGHT

Victoria is giving Erik a seductive look. She grabs Erik by the hand. Erik places his camera down on a table and goes to dance with Victoria.

Nick is standing there watching Erik dance with Victoria. He shakes his head but can't help but smile.

(CONTINUED)

All of a sudden, someone pulls on Nick's arm, dragging him into a corner. It's Kaitlin.

As they talk, their words can't be heard. However, the camera that Erik had placed down is facing them.

IT'S RECORDING.

Across the room, Laura sees the two of them talking.

Not far from this, Marcus is sitting on the couch, zoned out, staring at a wall. All of a sudden, he stands up.

A girl sitting next to him looks up at him as if waiting for him to say something profound. Marcus looks down at her.

MARCUS

I can fly.

The girl laughs. Marcus grabs her hand and they begin to walk off into the party.

Back on the designated dance floor, Erik is still dancing with Victoria when all of a sudden, she stops.

VICTORIA

Hey, can you hold my purse?

ERIK

Sure!

Victoria hands Erik her large purse.

VICTORIA

I'll be right back.

ERIK

OK.

Victoria leaves Erik standing there on the dance floor. After several moments of awkwardly holding the large purse, Erik tries it on, putting it on his shoulder. Surprisingly, he finds it to be comfortable.

After several more moments, he decides to start looking for Victoria. Erik pushes his way through the party, looking around.

Right before Erik reaches the kitchen, he turns completely around, walking backward, taking one last look at the party.

INT. CHARLIE'S APT - KITCHEN -- NIGHT

Erik, still backpedaling, runs into someone.

At first, all he can hear is the breaking of glass. Looking down, he sees that a bottle has broken and that a liquid is now everywhere on the kitchen floor.

Looking up, he sees the owner of the bottle. It's Carper, easily the largest person at the party.

CARPER

Do you know what that was?

ERIK

Aristocrat?

CARPER

That was Absinthe. And not that shit they sell in the States, either. The good shit from Europe that makes you see shit. And you just broke it.

ERIK

Sorry?

Carper looks at the purse around Erik's shoulder.

CARPER

And where did you get my girlfriend's purse?

ERIK

(beat)

This is my purse...

CARPER

Oh, that's not funny. Where's Victoria?

ERIK

She walked away. She asked me if I could hold it.

CARPER

Were you dancing with her?

ERIK

(beat)

No.

(CONTINUED)

CARPER

Oh, so my girlfriend isn't good enough for you?

Erik looks down at Carper's waist line. He sees that Carper has a gun tucked into his jeans.

ERIK

OK, you see, that's not fair. You can't be throwing me trick questions right now. I'm just trying not to die.

CARPER

Well, you're not doing a good job.

ERIK

It doesn't seem that way, does it?

Nick arrives.

NICK

What's going on?

ERIK

Oh, good! You're here! Just in time! I was just telling our large friend here how we were going to go on a liquor run for him.

NICK

We are?

Carper nods his head.

CARPER

Yeah, you are. And if you don't, I'm probably going to kill you both.

NICK

Kill? Both? Wait...

CARPER

First I'm gonna kill your purse wearing boy here, and then I'm going to kill you for associating with him.

NICK

Not really sure that makes sense...

ERIK

Don't question the man. Let's just go. Would you like your girlfriend's purse back?

Carper just stares Erik down.

ERIK

You know what, I'll just hold onto it for now. Get it back to her later. No big deal.

NICK

What the hell just happened?

ERIK

Walk.

Nick and Erik exit the kitchen, heading back into-

INT. CHARLIE'S APT - LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT

They begin pushing through the crowd, working towards the exit.

NICK

How in the hell did this happen?

ERIK

I don't know. Things were going great, and then the shit hit the fan. Like, very quickly.

NICK

What time is it? Do we even have time to get to the liquor store?

ERIK

Oh, we're not going to the liquor store. I'm getting the hell out of here. We're going home.

NICK

I can't go home yet. I have to stick around.

ERIK

What? Screw that! He's going to kill us!

NICK

No, you don't understand. I can't leave yet.

ERIK

Fine. We have like thirty minutes before the store closes. I guess we can buy him something. Although I like my plan better.

NICK

It's just a liquor run. No big deal.

ERIK

Fine. Let's just get this over with.

NICK

You're the one who was looking forward to this night!

ERIK

That was before a large black man threatened my life!

NICK

Did you get it on camera at least?

ERIK

I think it's better that I didn't. Some things don't need to be remembered.

They reach the front door.

ERIK

Alright, let's just do this. So you can get back to doing whatever it was you were doing that was so important.

NICK

You could be making this walk alone. Actually, you should be.

ERIK

But then, what kind of friend would you be?

NICK

A living one.

Nick and Erik exit the party. Kaitlin sees Nick leaving and heads for the door as well.

Just as she sees Kaitlin following Nick out of the apartment, Laura notices Erik's camera sitting on the table. She picks it up and starts flipping through it. She begins to watch something. It's the footage of Nick and Kaitlin talking. She appears shocked.

EXT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT -- NIGHT

Kaitlin stands by the steps as Nick and Erik walk down the street, away from the party.

KAITLIN
(to herself)
Good night, Nick.

Kaitlin heads down the steps and starts walking home.

INT. NICK'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM -- DAY <<ERIK'S CAMERA>>

The camera turns on. Erik is lying on a couch in Nick's apartment. He looks around as if he didn't know that.

A noise can be heard. Erik swings the camera around to see Nick entering the room holding two beers and a bowl of cereal.

ERIK (O.S.)
Guessing I crashed on your couch
last night?

NICK
How'd you figure that one out?

ERIK (O.S.)
Oh, shit. My head is killing
me. I was supposed to save the
hangover for tomorrow morning.

NICK
Well, you made it to your day of
days. Here, breakfast of
champions. Get you back on your
feet.

Nick hands Erik one of the beers.

(CONTINUED)

ERIK (O.S.)
Thanks.

The camera shakes as Erik cracks open the beer.

ERIK (O.S.)
Hey, what's with all the boxes in
this place?

Nick looks scans the room to examine the numerous boxes stacked around his living room.

NICK
Oh, I was just cleaning out my
closet... And then I decided to
build a fort.

ERIK (O.S.)
Very nice.

Nick starts pouring beer over the bowl of cereal.

ERIK (O.S.)
And very wrong.

Nick looks up while scooping some beer cereal into his mouth.

NICK
(with mouth full)
What?

Erik takes a sip of his beer.

ERIK (O.S.)
Nasty... So the last thing I
remember was talking with
Charlie. What happened last night?

NICK
Nothing much. Marcus kept grilling
me about what we had planned, and
Kaitlin kept pushing her drunk
friends on you and me.

ERIK (O.S.)
How'd that go?

NICK
Pretty well until one of them threw
up on you.

ERIK (O.S.)

Wait, what?

Erik turns the camera down onto his own shirt. There's a crusty, brown stain on the front of it.

ERIK (O.S.)

Oh! Gross!

NICK

And if any of that got on my couch,
you're cleaning it.

ERIK (O.S.)

I don't even know what to say right
now.

NICK

When I said Kaitlin was pushing her
friends on us, I meant literally
pushing. They were flying all over
the place.

ERIK (O.S.)

I'm thoroughly disgusted right
now... and speaking about
Kaitlin...

NICK

How was that speaking about
Kaitlin?

ERIK (O.S.)

I think Charlie was a bit jealous
last night.

NICK

Really?

ERIK (O.S.)

If I'm remembering correctly. Has
anything ever?

NICK

I think you better just drink your
beer.

ERIK (O.S.)

You'd tell me if anything ever
happened between you two, wouldn't
you?

Nick stands up, realizing the beer cereal was a terrible idea.

NICK
Probably not.

Nick exits the living room, heading for his own room.

ERIK (O.S.)
Nick? What does that mean,
Nick? Buddy? Hey!

Erik turns the camera to face himself.

ERIK (O.S.)
For the record, silence usually
means yes.

Erik just shakes his head.

ERIK (O.S.)
I can't imagine that being good...

All of a sudden Erik flips out. He jumps up from the couch and drops the camera.

Nick comes rushing out of his room.

NICK (O.S.)
What? What happened?

ERIK (O.S.)
I touched the puke! It's so
crusty! Get it off! Get it off!

NICK (O.S.)
Why are you taking off your
pants? Take off your shirt! Put
your pants back on! No, don't take
off your shirt now!

ERIK (O.S.)
I need a shower.

NICK (O.S.)
Unbelievable.

After a beat, Nick picks up the camera and turns it off.

EXT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT -- NIGHT

Marcus is standing outside of Charlie's apartment. He's looking at and feeling something in his hands. He's smiling with the wonder of a five-year-old at Disney World.

(CONTINUED)

MARCUS
It's so crusty...

Nick comes out the front door and approaches Marcus.

NICK
Hey, Marcus, what have you got
there?

Marcus raises the item in his hands to eye level so that Nick can see... It's an old, USED CONDOM.

NICK
Oh, God!

Nick slaps Marcus' hand. Marcus drops it.

NICK
Dude, what the hell? Where did you
get that?

MARCUS
I found it on the ground.

NICK
And you picked it up? OK, you know
what...

Nick puts an arm around Marcus and starts walking him back inside.

NICK
Let's go get you a drink. Keep you
out of trouble.

MARCUS
OK...

NICK
How you feeling?

MARCUS
I feel like a raven...

NICK
(beat)
OK... cool...

CUT TO:

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT -- NIGHT

Nick and Marcus are now carrying beers. Nick walks Marcus over to the couch and sits him down next to a girl that appears to also be very drunk.

NICK

Just sit right here. You'll make some friends. You'll be fine.

MARCUS

Never more.

NICK

Yeah, I see what you did there... That's good. You're a raven. You gonna be OK?

Marcus looks around.

MARCUS

Nope.

NICK

(nodding)

Good. I'll see you later.

Marcus turns to the girl sitting next to him.

MARCUS

How do I know Tobey McGuire?

The girl just laughs, herself unable to say anything.

Meanwhile, Nick catches sight of Kaitlin talking to one of her friends. He approaches her.

NICK

Hey. Can we talk?

Kaitlin looks at him for a moment. She doesn't look happy. Then she just walks away without saying a word.

NICK

Thank you! That was exactly what I wanted! Very helpful.

Finally, Nick sees Erik talking with some girls, holding his camera. He goes over to him.

NICK

How's it going?

(CONTINUED)

ERIK

Not good. None of these girls are buying the girls gone wild angle. I need to regroup.

NICK

That's too bad.

ERIK

On the plus side, that girl over there has the eyes for me.

Nick follows Erik's gaze to a girl, Victoria, dancing by herself on the designated dance floor.

NICK

I wouldn't go for it, man. She's here with someone.

ERIK

Are you sure.

NICK

Pretty sure.

ERIK

I don't know, man. I'm gonna go for it.

NICK

Hey, do you know what's wrong with Kaitlin?

ERIK

Don't care.

NICK

She's avoiding me for some reason.

ERIK

Said I don't care. But if you want advice, listen up, because I'm only going to say this once.

NICK

That's probably a good thing.

ERIK

If you want to understand a girl, you need to understand the rules. Which, coincidentally, are the same rules as fighting a bear.

Nick has already lowered his head in shame.

(CONTINUED)

ERIK

Rule one. Stay calm. They can smell fear, and that will just cause them to attack with no mercy. Rule two. Maintain eye contact. You look away for a second, and next thing you know, you're married with two kids.

NICK

Are we still talking about the bear?

ERIK

Don't interrupt me... Rule three. If all else fails, go for the groin. You'll win every time.

NICK

(beat)

I don't think that's right... for anything...

ERIK

(nodding)

Oh, it's right.

Erik returns his gaze to Victoria on the dance floor. Nick stands there completely stunned.

NICK

You know what? Go for it. She seems into you.

ERIK

I was gonna anyway, Nick. I was gonna anyway.

Erik makes his move. Nick stands there, shaking his head.

NICK

At least this can't come back to kick me, right? Right?

Nick looks around.

NICK

Who am I talking to?

As he watches Victoria and Erik start to dance, Nick can't help but laugh.

INT. CHARLIE'S APT - LIVING ROOM -- DAY <<ERIK'S CAMERA>>

The camera turns on.

Charlie, Marcus, Nick, Kaitlin, and Erik are all standing in Charlie's living room. Each of them are holding shots of liquor. Erik makes sure that everyone (with the exception of himself) is on camera.

CHARLIE
To a great night!

Charlie raises his shot glass. Everyone follows by example.

ERIK (O.S.)
Wait... that's it?

CHARLIE
Yeah, that's it.

ERIK (O.S.)
I've been filming for more than two days now and that's all you got. No. No. Somebody better say something deep. This is a big moment. Treat it like one.

Everyone starts exchanging glances, waiting for someone to step forward.

NICK
Alright, I guess I'll say something.

ERIK (O.S.)
Good man. Here we go.

NICK
In about twelve hours, it'll be a new year. And with every new year comes change. Or at least the hope for change. And while I've been giving you all a hard time for your resolutions, I'm starting to think that maybe I was wrong. Maybe this is the year we figure this out, and actually follow through.

ERIK (O.S.)
Wait, is that your resolution? Is your resolution to follow through on a resolution?

(CONTINUED)

After looking into the camera with a baffled expression, Nick just takes his shot.

NICK
I don't even know what that means.

CHARLIE
Yeah, that's confusing.

Charlie takes his shot. Marcus does the same.

KAITLIN
Alright, maybe this is the year!

Kaitlin takes her shot. Erik hesitates.

ERIK (O.S.)
Wait, that's it? That's
deep? That's not deep.

NICK
Do you have something better?

MARCUS
Yeah, Erik, let's hear it. You've
been the one building this up.

ERIK (O.S.)
Hey, I'm holding the camera for a
reason. When you watch this,
you're not supposed to know I'm
here.

Erik takes his shot. Everyone laughs.

NICK
Can't interact? What if I do this?

Nick playfully grabs at the camera.

ERIK (O.S.)
Knock it off! I'm
invisible! Invisible!

The camera turns off.

INT. CHARLIE'S APT - LIVING ROOM -- DAY <<ERIK'S CAMERA>>

The camera turns back on.

There are several more people at Charlie's apartment now. Erik gets Nick's attention from across the room. Nick walks over to him.

(CONTINUED)

NICK
What's up?

ERIK (O.S.)
It's time.

Nick looks around.

NICK
Alright. I'll distract him.

Nick walks over to Marcus, who is currently talking with Charlie on the couch.

Erik gets up and walks over as well. Nick takes a seat next to Marcus on the couch. He sits down with such force, that Marcus spills some of his drink.

MARCUS
Hey, man!

NICK
Oh, my bad, Marcus. I better slow down.

MARCUS
You think?

Marcus puts his drink down on the table and walks into the kitchen. Meanwhile, Nick starts talking with Charlie, in order to distract him from seeing Erik.

Erik walks over to Marcus' drink and drops one of his pills into it. It immediately fizzes up like an Alka-seltzer.

After some hesitation, Erik drops a few more into the drink.

Erik then walks away, whistling like a very guilty person. He passes Marcus on his way to the kitchen.

ERIK (O.S.)
Hey buddy. I got puked on last night!

Marcus looks at him confused.

MARCUS
That's great... Hey, Charlie, can I borrow a shirt?

CHARLIE
Yeah, sure.

Charlie gets up off of the couch to go get Marcus a new shirt.

Meanwhile, Marcus takes a sip of his drink. Erik pans over to Nick who can barely hold back his laughter. When Marcus looks over at Nick, Nick tightens up, trying to look as if nothing is wrong. Marcus immediately looks over at Erik.

MARCUS
What did you do?

ERIK (O.S.)
What? Nothing!

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT -- NIGHT

Nick comes out of one of the bedroom's in Charlie's apartment. He's smiling and buzzing like a champ. Immediately he sees Erik. He walks over to him.

Erik is looking at his camera, reviewing some footage.

NICK
What are you looking at?

ERIK
Oh, nothing.

NICK
I'm gonna get a beer, you want one?

ERIK
Already have one, but thanks.

NICK
You know, I meant what I said earlier.

ERIK
About what?

NICK
I just have this strange feeling that this year could be different.

ERIK
Oh, I know. I know it will.

Nick smiles again and walks off to get a beer.

(CONTINUED)

Not long after he leaves, Kaitlin comes out of that same bedroom.

ERIK

Hey.

KAITLIN

Hey ya. Enjoying yourself?

ERIK

Yeah. I'm having a great time. Have you seen Marcus lately? He was trying to eat the couch about five minutes ago.

KAITLIN

Really? Is he that drunk?

ERIK

He's that something...

Kaitlin smiles, but has no idea what Erik is talking about. That's when Kaitlin sees the camera in Erik's hands. Her eyes widen.

KAITLIN

Delete it.

ERIK

Excuse me?

KAITLIN

Delete it now.

ERIK

I will... Tomorrow when I edit all of this.

KAITLIN

Why in the hell is that on your camera anyway? Were you spying on us?

ERIK

Spying is such a strong word. I'd say I was following Marcus into the bathroom, I'm not explaining that part, and stumbled upon a cracked door. And on the other side of that door was a very interesting conversation, followed by something even more interesting...

Marcus walks out of the bathroom and passes by Erik and Kaitlin.

ERIK
Hey, buddy. Feeling better?

MARCUS
Paving hell.

ERIK
Great to hear it. See? But since all of that is a lot of words, let's just go back to saying I was spying. Spying is much easier to explain.

KAITLIN
If Charlie sees that...

ERIK
He won't. My camera will never leave my sight. I promise.

KAITLIN
Why can't you just delete it?

ERIK
Why can't you close a door? Don't blame me for your mistakes.

KAITLIN
Erik, I will murder you in your sleep.

ERIK
Good thing I won't be sleeping anytime soon... It's New Years!

KAITLIN
Wow, you're impossible!

ERIK
It's the principle of the matter! Did I delete the footage of myself on the toilet? No! Did I delete the footage of Nick getting dressed this morning while listening to Beyonce?

KAITLIN
Beyonce?

ERIK

No! I kept it all. And it isn't going anywhere until I edit it all tomorrow.

KAITLIN

When did you... You know what, never mind. Have a good night, Erik. Sometimes you're a real jackass, you know that?

ERIK

Yes I do. You have a good night as well.

Kaitlin walks away, extremely frustrated.

ERIK

(smiling)

Gonna be a good night. Yeah...

Across the room, Marcus passes by Nick and takes a seat on the couch. Almost immediately, Marcus begins sniffing the armrest. He then licks it.

NICK

Hey buddy. Is it any good?

MARCUS

So good.

NICK

Glad to hear it. Save some for me.

Marcus raises an arm with a thumbs up and goes back to licking the armrest. After a couple more licks, Marcus jumps up to his feet.

MARCUS

(to no one in particular)

I'll be outside!

Marcus walks toward the door.

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN -- NIGHT

Nick grabs a fresh beer. He runs into Charlie.

CHARLIE

Hey, man. Where you been?

Nick almost locks up.

(CONTINUED)

NICK
Me? Nowhere. Always
nowhere. You? Where have you
been?

CHARLIE
O... K... Well, I just wanted to
tell you to grab my feet.

NICK
I'm sorry?

CHARLIE
I'm trying to do a keg stand.

NICK
Oh, right. Your feet. Yeah. I
got you. Go for it.

Charlie advises one of his other friends to grab the tap on
the keg. After a short countdown, Nick raises Charlie's
feet up in the air.

Kaitlin walks into the kitchen.

KAITLIN
Very nice.

Charlie makes some noise, but continues to drink. Kaitlin
looks over at Nick.

KAITLIN
Doing a lot with your life, I see.

NICK
No one holds 'em like I
do... Wait. That sounded bad.

KAITLIN
Hey, could you talk to Erik?

NICK
About what?

KAITLIN
Can you just talk to him?

Kaitlin gives Nick a look. Nick is oblivious.

NICK
Um... Sure, I'll get right on
that.

KAITLIN

Thanks.

NICK

No problem...

Charlie starts spitting up beer and Nick is forced to lower Charlie's legs to the ground.

NICK

Oh! What was that, like twelve seconds? What is this, a family party? My little sister can do twenty! Someone grab my legs!

Nick transitions to the keg for his keg stand. Kaitlin isn't impressed.

KAITLIN

(to herself)

Definitely know how to pick winners, Kaitlin.

Kaitlin leaves the kitchen just as Nick finishes his keg stand.

CHARLIE

You talk a lot for nine seconds!

NICK

I was given a slow count! A slow count! Your ass was throwing Mississippi's in there for some reason! I want a rematch later.

CHARLIE

How about one right now?

NICK

Hell no!

Nick leaves the kitchen just as Charlie goes up again and the count starts over. He looks over at the couch and notices that Marcus is no longer sitting there.

NICK

OK, so what did she want me to do? I really need to start listening. Where in the hell is Marcus?

Just then, Laura pops out of nowhere.

LAURA

Hey, you!

NICK

Hey! What are you doing here?

Laura looks confused.

LAURA

What?

NICK

Well, that was just poor word choice. I'll work on that. No, I mean I'm glad you're here. But I need to find Marcus.

LAURA

Oh... Well, I just saw him outside sniffing the sidewalk.

NICK

I'm sorry, did you say sniffing?

LAURA

Sadly, yes. How much has he had to drink?

NICK

Very much I'm afraid. And I should go get him.

Nick starts to walk past her.

LAURA

Wait.

Laura grabs his arm.

LAURA

Where's my kiss?

Nick gives her a quick kiss and then continues on toward the door. As he exits, Laura rubs her lips as if she tasted something.

INT. CHARLIE'S APT - LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT <<ERIK'S CAMERA>>

Erik holds the camera in front of Marcus' face. People have started to show up at Charlie's apartment, and they can be heard in the background.

(CONTINUED)

ERIK (O.S.)
Hey. How you feeling? You don't
look so good.

MARCUS
I'm fine. Why do you keep asking
me that?

ERIK (O.S.)
No reason.

CHARLIE (O.S.)
Hey, what channel are they going to
show the ball drop?

Erik pans the camera over to Charlie. Charlie looks over at Erik expecting an answer, but he doesn't get one for a while. There's a pause.

CHARLIE
What?

ERIK (O.S.)
Are you joking?

CHARLIE
No.

ERIK (O.S.)
Just turn the fucking TV on at
midnight and you'll see the fucking
ball drop! It's New Years
Eve! That's all anyone shows!

CHARLIE
Not everyone...

Erik pans back to Marcus.

MARCUS
Hey, how do you guys feel?

CHARLIE (O.S.)
Feeling pretty good. Got a solid
buzz.

ERIK (O.S.)
I'm good too. Marcus?

Erik zooms in on Marcus.

MARCUS
Is it just me, or is the floor
spinning?

Erik starts laughing. He zooms out.

Erik takes a seat next to Charlie on the couch. And that's the moment Laura pops out of nowhere.

LAURA
Hey guys!

Erik pans over to Charlie. Charlie looks over at Erik confused. Erik pans back to Laura.

ERIK (O.S.)
Hey, you! What's up?

LAURA
Nothing, just looking for
Nick. Have you seen him?

ERIK (O.S.)
No. Maybe check the kitchen? I
don't know.

LAURA
I thought you always knew where he
was? You told me once you made
Nick complete.

ERIK (O.S.)
Hey, I never said that. Charlie, I
never said that. That really makes
us sound... It's not true.

LAURA
Pretty sure you said it.

ERIK (O.S.)
I think he's in the kitchen.

LAURA
Thanks.

Laura heads for the kitchen.

CHARLIE
Who was that?

ERIK (O.S.)
Are you joking? That was
Laura. Nick's girlfriend, Laura.

(CONTINUED)

CHARLIE

Oh, no way! I don't think I've ever seen her before.

ERIK (O.S.)

I was actually really surprised she just talked to me.

CHARLIE

Why is that?

Charlie takes a sip of his beer.

ERIK (O.S.)

Because a couple months ago, we totally had sex.

Charlie promptly spits out his beer.

CHARLIE

Are you serious? Does Nick know?

ERIK (O.S.)

Oh, he knows. I told him. How could I not share that?

CHARLIE

And he was OK with it?

ERIK (O.S.)

Yeah. Amazingly, he never got upset about it. To tell you the truth, I don't think he really cares about that chick.

CHARLIE

Well, considering she's never around and he seems pretty happy about it, I'd have to agree.

Laura returns, very cheery for some reason.

LAURA

He wasn't in the kitchen.

ERIK (O.S.)

It's so funny, you just missed him. He just stepped outside for a smoke.

LAURA

(smile fading)

He's smoking again!

Laura charges off towards the front door. Erik starts laughing.

ERIK (O.S.)
I love doing that. So, Charlie. I haven't asked you yet. What's your New Year's Resolution?

CHARLIE
You really want to know?

ERIK (O.S.)
Not really. (beat) Why else would I ask? Come on! Hit me!

Charlie quickly looks around the room before leaning in closer to the camera.

CHARLIE
To finally propose.

ERIK (O.S.)
No, shit!

CHARLIE
Yep. I have a ring picked out and everything. Just have to pull the trigger.

ERIK (O.S.)
That's amazing man. Congratulations. You know, if you actually go through with it.

CHARLIE
Oh, I'm going to. Why wouldn't I? Kaitlin is...

ERIK (O.S.)
Hold that thought.

Erik pans over to Marcus. Marcus is holding his stomach and covering his mouth.

MARCUS
I think I need to throw up.

Marcus gets up from the couch and rushes to the bathroom. Erik tails not far behind.

ERIK (O.S.)
Sorry, Charlie! Wait up, Marcus! I need to see this!

(CONTINUED)

Marcus rushes into the bathroom and closes the door behind him. Erik tries the knob, but finds that he is locked out.

ERIK (O.S.)
Oh, that's so not cool. Where's
your team spirit? Let me watch you
puke!

Erik bangs on the door but nothing happens. He turns the camera past a cracked door. After realizing that both Nick and Kaitlin were inside the room, he turns the camera back to the door.

ERIK (O.S.)
(whispering)
Why, what do we have here?

Erik zooms in through the crack in the door. Nick and Kaitlin are sitting on the edge of the bed in the room.

KAITLIN
I mean, of course I feel that
way. But I mean, it's you.

NICK
Yeah, it's me. What is that
supposed to mean?

KAITLIN
We've been friends for like, seven
years.

NICK
And?

KAITLIN
You're the one who introduced me to
Charlie!

NICK
And?

KAITLIN
Stop saying that! How come you
never said anything before?

NICK
Because... it's me.

Kaitlin smiles. She grabs Nick's hand.

KAITLIN

I just don't know. How can you?

NICK

I don't know! Are you kidding me? I have no idea what I'm doing right now! I just know I have to do it.

There's a pause and they look into each others eyes. Nick leans in for the kiss. Kaitlin doesn't stop him.

Erik zooms out and turns the camera to face himself.

ERIK (O.S.)

Probably shouldn't have seen that. But I'm still going to watch it again.

The camera turns off.

INT. ERIK'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM -- DAY

BACK TO THE PRESENT.

We zoom away from the computer screen to see that Erik had been at his computer and had been reviewing all the footage the entire time.

ERIK

Wow. I am a jackass. Why do people still talk to me?

Erik pulls up a screen showing thumbnails of all the different videos that he shot that night. One of them catches his eye.

ERIK

Wait. Did I miss one? Which one is this?

Erik pulls up the video that caught his eye. It's the video that was taken when Erik had put his camera down. It's the video of Nick and Kaitlin talking at the party. The same video that Laura watched on the camera.

The missing conversation.

CUT TO:

INT. NICK'S CAR -- DAY

Nick is now driving his car down the street, still talking on his phone.

NICK

Definitely a night I won't be forgetting anytime soon. At least until my face stops hurting. And if I keep getting punched in the face, that could be a long time from now... Listen, I'm just glad you called me. Wasn't sure you wanted to talk to me today.

Nick stops at a red light.

NICK

No, it's cool. Laura punches harder than you.

Nick laughs at something said.

NICK

Yeah, take it easy Charlie. Have a good one. Later, man.

Nick hangs up the phone and tosses it onto the passenger seat. He then turns and looks out the window. Nothing in particular catches his eye, but something is clearly on his mind.

The light turns green.

CUT TO:

INT. ERIK'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM -- DAY

Erik finishes watching the video. There's a knock at his door. He gets up and heads to the-

INT. ERIK'S APARTMENT - ENTRANCE HALLWAY -- DAY

Erik opens the door. It's Nick.

NICK

You still want that interview?

ERIK

Oh, I definitely have some questions for you.

Erik leads Nick back into-

INT. ERIK'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM -- DAY

Nick takes a seat on the edge of the bed. Erik gets on his computer again.

ERIK

Does this look familiar?

NICK

What's this?

ERIK

You tell me...

Erik starts the video. We zoom into the screen again...

INT. CHARLIE'S APT - LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT <<ERIK'S CAMERA>>

The camera is stationary, resting on a table. Nick and Kaitlin are standing in a corner talking.

KAITLIN

About what happened earlier...

NICK

I don't know...

KAITLIN

I might feel the same way.

NICK

But there's a but. Always a but...

KAITLIN

But...

Nick can't hold it in any longer.

NICK

Look, Kaitlin, I'm leaving.

KAITLIN

What do you mean you're leaving?

NICK

I'm moving out of this city. That's why I told you all that. It was just something I needed to get off of my chest.

(CONTINUED)

KAITLIN

When did this happen?

NICK

It's been in the works for awhile. I just finally decided to follow through with it. I mean, I have nothing in this place. I don't want to be here.

KAITLIN

But what about us? You're just gonna leave all of us? All your friends?

NICK

Well, I was kind of hoping you would come with me. You know, as part of my grand scheme. But I'll understand if you say no.

KAITLIN

Nick. I can't do that.

NICK

Are you sure? It'd be the perfect getaway! Just like the old days. We'd be partners in crime.

KAITLIN

Look, Nick, I care about you...

NICK

And again there's a but. Always a but...

KAITLIN

But I love Charlie. And I'm not leaving him.

NICK

(beat)

Wow.

Kaitlin reaches out and grabs Nick's hand.

KAITLIN

But I see why you think you need to leave. And I wish you luck. All the luck in the world. Although, it's going to be a boring place around here without you. Just for the record.

(CONTINUED)

NICK

That it will be. And you know, just for the record, we probably don't need to tell Charlie about any of this.

KAITLIN

I mean he'll probably find out somehow. He's crafty like that. Don't know how he does it. But I'm not going to tell him, if that makes you feel any better. Somethings just stay between us.

NICK

I appreciate that.

KAITLIN

Not sweating the small stuff.

NICK

Would you look at that? Maybe I was wrong about you.

KAITLIN

Only most of the time.

They laugh. The mood isn't nearly as serious now.

NICK

I can't believe you said love. That's big.

KAITLIN

You'll understand when you grow up.

NICK

Really? For true? And as for all that stuff I said. You understand right? Just had to be said.

KAITLIN

And I'm glad you did. And just so you know, this doesn't change anything between us. You'll always be my friend.

NICK

Wow. Really? The friend talk?

KAITLIN

What's wrong with the friend talk?

NICK

No one wants to hear the friend talk. It's the worst of all talks. Look, I know we're friends. Can't we just leave it unspoken?

KAITLIN

Fine. Unspoken. I take it back.

There's a pause. Kaitlin hugs Nick.

KAITLIN

Make sure you say goodbye. We'll talk more then.

NICK

Alright. Sounds good. So what's the plan for now?

KAITLIN

I'm actually going home. One of my roommates is apparently smashing dishes back at the apartment. Should probably take care of that.

NICK

Yeah, probably.

Kaitlin walks away from Nick, releasing his hand. Nick smiles.

Nick is now alone in a crowd of people. His smile fades. He looks defeated.

INT. ERIK'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM -- DAY

We zoom out, back to Erik's room.

ERIK

Probably didn't need to play the entire clip, actually.

NICK

Probably not.

ERIK

When were you gonna tell me you
were moving?

NICK

Look at that? You finally found
out my resolution.

ERIK

I can't believe you kept this from
me.

NICK

I kept this from everybody. To be
honest, I was still questioning it
until last night. Because now
there's no going back.

ERIK

No shit.

There's a pause. An unusual awkward moment between two friends.

NICK

I have a question for you...

ERIK

Yeah?

NICK

What happened with Carper. All of
a sudden, we're cool?

ERIK

Remember when I put the drugs in
Victoria's purse? Well, Carper
found those drugs. Apparently
those were worth a lot more than
that Absinthe.

NICK

Oh, so we're drug dealers now?

ERIK

Yep.

NICK

Cool.

Erik unplugs his camera from the computer and turns it to face Nick.

ERIK
Get ready. This is happening.

NICK
Here we go.

INT. ERIK'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM -- DAY <<ERIK'S CAMERA>>

The camera turns on. Erik turns the camera to face himself.

ERIK
Alright. It's New Years
Day. Which means we
survived... Mostly intact... And
I'm here with Nick to get his final
interview.

Erik turns the camera to Nick. Nick waves from the edge of the bed.

ERIK (O.S.)
So, Nick. Let's hear it. What's
the news?

NICK
This is a lot like the ending of
Almost Famous.

ERIK (O.S.)
I was just thinking that. And I
think that's two Almost Famous
references in less than twenty-four
hours.

NICK
And I'm OK with that.

ERIK (O.S.)
Agreed.

NICK
But the news... My New Year's
Resolution if you will. (beat) I
will be leaving the city. Moving
far and away. New Years Eve was
the final page of this chapter of
my life.

ERIK (O.S.)
Final page of the chapter... I
like that. So why the big move?

NICK

I'm twenty-four years old. I haven't held a job for more than six months at a time, ever. And it's not because I'm incapable. It's just because I'm doing work I don't care about. I realized I was settling into a life I didn't want. And I needed to do something about it.

ERIK (O.S.)

So what will you do?

NICK

(beat)

I have no clue!

Nick looks around the room as if searching for an answer. His eyes return to the camera.

NICK

But that's the fun of it. I don't need a plan. I don't want a plan.

ERIK (O.S.)

Planning is for losers.

NICK

(laughing)

That was a hell of a night.

ERIK (O.S.)

You gotta watch this footage... It's pretty good.

NICK

Is it?

ERIK (O.S.)

We might be bad people.

NICK

Might be...

Nick is looking around the room again.

NICK

Hey, why aren't you packed?

ERIK (O.S.)

Packed?

NICK
You're coming with me right?

ERIK (O.S.)
Are you serious?

NICK
I'm definitely serious. Do you want to make what could be the biggest mistake of your life?

ERIK (O.S.)
Absolutely! (beat) Wait... Are you just inviting me because Kaitlin shot you down? Am I your backup?

NICK
Hey, you'll always be number one in my book.

ERIK (O.S.)
Part of the grand scheme?

NICK
Shut up.

ERIK (O.S.)
Alright, one final question. Nick... Nicolas Johnson... If you had to sum up your night in either one word, or at most a few sentences, what would you say about it?

Nick looks into the camera. Erik zooms in a little on Nick's face. Nick looks as if he's setting up for a very serious answer. It's clear that he's replaying the night in his head. He can't keep the straight face.

He starts laughing.

CUT TO:

INT./EXT. VARIOUS LOCATIONS <<ERIK'S CAMERA>>

A YOUNG MALE STUDENT is smiling.

MALE STUDENT
I went to Times Square! What more is there to say?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

113.

CUT TO:

A FEMALE STUDENT.

FEMALE STUDENT
I had to work. Do you believe
that?

CUT TO:

FEMALE STUDENT #2

FEMALE STUDENT #2
I met someone.

CUT TO:

A BOYFRIEND and GIRLFRIEND.

BOYFRIEND
We stayed at home and watched
movies.

GIRLFRIEND
Really bad movies.

BOYFRIEND
Really great movies.

CUT TO:

FRAT GUY

FRAT GUY
Toga!

CUT TO:

SORORITY GIRL

SORORITY GIRL
Dancing!

CUT TO:

FRAT GUY #2

FRAT GUY #2
Keg Staaaaaaaannnnnnnnndddddd!

CUT TO:

MALE STUDENT #2

(CONTINUED)

MALE STUDENT #2
Prayed to the porcelain god, and
not in the fun way... I was sick.

CUT TO:

FEMALE STUDENT #3 with her FRIENDS.

FEMALE STUDENT #3
We did nothing.

CUT TO:

FEMALE STUDENT #4

FEMALE STUDENT #4
For the third year in a row, I
spent it with my
grandmother. She's in the later
stages of Alzheimer's now, and
always thinks that it's 1999 on New
Years Eve... I'm going to miss
having Millennium parties with her.

CUT TO:

MALE STUDENT WITH CAST on his arm.

MALE STUDENT WITH CAST
Night started at a party at my
cousin's place; ended at the
emergency room.

CUT TO:

INT. ERIK'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM -- DAY <<ERIK'S CAMERA>>

Nick stops laughing and looks into the camera. He still
can't help but smile.

NICK
Nothing I say could really do it
justice. It's just one of those
nights you'll talk about for the
rest of your life...

FADE OUT.