

Dangerous Exploits: Pilot Episode

By

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INT. ROLAND'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Roland, a white, very attractive, 24 year old male, puts on a shirt and sits at his computer in his bedroom. He checks email. A porn advertisement pops up.

Roland speaks in a dark, slow, sarcastic tone for voice-overs, and a friendly, charming tone in conversation.

ROLAND (V.O.)
Sex. It's everything. It starts
lives, ends lives, and starts them
back up again.

He opens his drawer and takes it out of the dresser completely. He flips it over to reveal a bag taped under the drawer, full of hundreds of condoms. He takes a few condoms and puts them in his pocket. He puts the bag and the drawer back in place.

ROLAND (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Everyone does it. Humans...
Animals...

Roland steps on a misplaced dead leaf as he walks towards the door.

ROLAND (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Plants.

INT. TV ROOM

There are several posters of naked women on the wall.

ROLAND (V.O.) (CONT'D)
It should be illegal. At least
regulated. Yes, that's just a joke;
part of my 'charm'. Inside, I'm not
really all that charming, not at
all. But outwardly, I have to be.
Or I'd never get laid, right?

An advertisement about erectile dysfunction plays on the tv. Roland walks into the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN

Roland gets a banana. His roommate DAVE motions a blowjob at Roland as Roland eats the banana and smirks.

ROLAND (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I really have no idea why I do it.
Yet I feel some need to continue
on. The act itself just barely
crosses over the line of enjoyment.
Like getting the lowest possible
"above average" grade on a
standardized test. A 69 in my case.
Ironic.

Roland walks to the bathroom and opens the door. His roommate, JESSE, is in the bathroom, and faces away from the door. He has a ruler and compares it along side his penis. Roland quickly slams the door shut.

ROLAND (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I guess I just found what I'm good
at. And no, I'm not even saying I'm
good at sex: I'm just good at
getting it.

Jesse bursts out of the bathroom.

JESSE
I think it grew!

ROLAND
Aw, ew, man, come on, nobody cares.

Roland walks into the bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM

Roland puts on deodorant. The deodorant label says "Smell like a man".

ROLAND (V.O.)
'Smell like a man'. But what type
of man? Some women like nice guys.
Some like assholes. Some like
abusive men, clingy men, distant
men, poor men, rich men, or just
plain weird men.

Roland throws the deodorant in the garbage.

ROLAND (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I am all of the above and more.

Roland walks out of the bathroom.

INT. TV ROOM

His roommates, SHAWN, Dave, and Jesse are seated at the couch as they watch tv. They turn around as he approaches them.

ROLAND

You guys ready?

SHAWN

Hell yeah.

DAVE

Let's do it.

Roland smiles with a thumbs up, and points towards the front door.

ROLAND (V.O.)

My name is Roland Rijpstra, and I
am a self-declared, sexual
sociopath.

EXT. STREET - TEMPE, ARIZONA

Roland, and his roommates, Shawn, Jesse, and Dave, walk down the street excitedly.

SHAWN

First party of the semester!
Bringin' me back...

DAVE

Yeah man, two more years of this
shit! So pumped! Figured graduation
would be the end.

ROLAND

Well, now we're grads in Grad
school, go figure.

DAVE

Clever, bro. Hey Shawn, got an
extra rubber?

SHAWN

Not extra, sorry. Ask Roland or
Jesse.

DAVE

Ha, ask Roland?

ROLAND

Why'd you say it like that?

DAVE

We've lived with you for five years now, and not once have you brought a girl back.

ROLAND

Girlfriends don't count?

DAVE

No, they don't. Plus, two girlfriends in five years? A hottie you dumped for no reason, and some fat chick for a few months.

ROLAND

She wasn't that fat, and she was really cool.

ROLAND (V.O.)

She was that fat, and she wasn't really cool. I had to maintain my image. Nobody suspects a 'nice guy' like me, who dated a big girl for her *personality*, would do what I do.

ROLAND (CONT'D)

Plus, I wouldn't bring a girl back to our place with your gross self wandering around.

JESSE

Oh shit!

DAVE

I'm always just wandering trying to find your V-card, but, oh, wait, you never dropped it.

JESSE

Oh!!!

ROLAND

False. And here ya go.

Roland slaps a condom into Dave's hand.

DAVE

This probably expired in like 1997.

ROLAND

Okay, I'll take it back.

DAVE

Nah I'm kidding, thanks man,
clutch.

ROLAND

Clutch? Why?

DAVE

Easily nailin' this girl from
class.

ROLAND

Oh yeah? What's her name?

DAVE

Jenny, uh, I forget her last name,
I think maybe, Jameson.

ROLAND

If you're making the joke that it
sounds like, you mean Jenna.

DAVE

True, is that who you whack off to
since you're never bringing girls
home?

ROLAND (V.O.)

Dave just made a mistake.

ROLAND

Yeah, her and your mom.

JESSE

Ohh!!

ROLAND (V.O.)

Uncharacteristically juvenile of
me, but not far from the truth...

SHAWN

Man, stop with that, Jesse.

The guys stop as they hear loud music from above. They look up. There is a big party on the roof of an apartment complex. The guys enter the apartment complex.

EXT. ROOF POOL PARTY

The pool party is loud. Everyone runs around in their bathing suites, drinks, and dances. Roland looks over and sees a couple as they nearly have sex in the corner.

ROLAND (V.O.)

Sometimes it's as easy as saying
hello and finding one common bond.
Forty-something minutes later,
you're the eighth girl I've fucked,
this week.

Roland walks by a pretty girl and smiles. She turns away, as he looks past her and notices her boyfriend, who stares angrily at Roland.

ROLAND (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Other times they make me work on
it. Could be for months. Figuring
her out, her complexities, faults,
what she wants, what her boyfriend
doesn't give her, what her Daddy
did wrong, what she's done wrong.
And while I'm out playing sexual
hopscotch, I didn't forget about
her. When the moment's right, I
make my move. And I always make my
move.

Shawn unexpectedly puts a Yankees hat on Roland's head.

SHAWN

Check out what I found on the
stairs.

ROLAND

Ew man, you found that?

Roland takes the hat off, pretends to toss it, and gives it back to Shawn.

ROLAND (V.O.)

I have more "championships" in a
month than the Yankees have in
their entire history. And yes, that
is saying much.

JESSE

Yo, Roland! Shawn! Come here!
Shots!

Roland and Shawn walk over to a table where Jesse, Dave, and JENNY await him with a shot of vodka. They all cheers and take a shot.

DAVE
Hey, Roland, this is my friend
Jenny from class.

ROLAND (V.O.)
Fuck. He used my real name. I don't
like to do that.

Jenny is short, brunette, and pretty. Roland extends his hand for a handshake

JENNY
No, I like hugs.

Jenny, clearly drunk, gives Roland a hug.

ROLAND
Nice to meet you too. Alright I'm
gonna walk around I'll come back in
a few minutes for another shot.

DAVE
Sounds good man.

Roland walks around the party, as he gives all elements of the scene a look at. He looks at what the girls drink, the guys drink, what girls are with what guys, and analyzes what girls are too drunk.

ROLAND (V.O.)
So much to gather from such little
information. The girl in the
pool...

A girl in a white bikini is surrounded by guys in the pool as she drinks from a bottle with laughs and smiles.

ROLAND (V.O.) (CONT'D)
...hates her life. She's suffered;
a creature of depression, victim of
neglect. Most guys see a girl like
her and smile, but it makes me kind
of sad. Kinda...

FLASHBACK: APPROX 24 YEARS AGO

INT. FARGO'S FINEST: STRIP CLUB - NIGHT

ZOE, a pretty, pregnant woman in her late teens, works at the front entrance booth of Fargo's Finest, a strip club. The strip club is empty aside from two strippers on stage, the manager, PAUL ROLAND, and three male customers.

A GROSS MAN walks in and approaches the entrance booth.

ZOE
Ten bucks to get inside, there.

Gross Man looks down at Zoe's pregnant belly.

GROSS MAN
How about I give you twenty and say
we have a little premature
threesome?

Gross Man laughs and goes to rub Zoe's belly. Zoe slaps his hand away.

ZOE
Ten bucks, please.

GROSS MAN
Aw come on now, let me touch it.

Gross Man forces his hand on Zoe's belly and rubs it with a smile. Zoe moans in pain.

ZOE
Ah! Oooh! Oh my G-d, wha-

GROSS MAN
Sure a quickie for a regular tart.

Zoe continues to moan. Water splashes on the floor beneath her. Paul Roland runs over to Zoe.

ZOE
My fucking water just broke!

PAUL ROLAND
Everyone get the fuck out of here!

The three men and Gross Man quickly leave. The two strippers, MANDY and ANGIE, run over to Zoe.

MANDY
Come here, baby, we got you.

Mandy, Angie, and Paul Roland carry Zoe onto the stripper stage. Zoe yells fiercely. She goes into labor.

SEVERAL HOURS LATER.

Zoe, drenched in sweat, bears a baby boy. Paul Roland cuts his cord and hands him to Zoe. She holds him in her arms.

ZOE
Sweet baby Roland.

THREE YEARS LATER.

INT. FARGO'S FINEST: STRIP CLUB - EVENING

Zoe does a routine on the stripper pole on stage. Roland, three years old, cries in the corner. Zoe soon gets off stage. She picks up Roland.

ZOE
Jesus Christ do you ever stop?
Let's get you to bed.

Zoe walks towards the exit. A MAN taps her on the shoulder.

MAN
How much for some private time,
sweetheart?

ZOE
I'm kinda busy here...I'll be back
in like five minutes for lapdances.

MAN
I'm not talking about lapdances...

Man holds out a stack of cash. Zoe raises her eyebrows.

MAN (CONT'D)
Got a place?

INT. ZOE'S APARTMENT

Zoe's apartment is a one bedroom studio right on top of Fargo's Finest.

Zoe puts Roland in his crib, which is next to her bed. She then has sex with Man. Roland watches.

BACK TO PRESENT

EXT. ROOF POOL PARTY

The girl in the white bikini starts to kiss one of the guys in the pool.

ROLAND (V.O.) (CONT'D)
The lack of pleasure she gets from life, she tries to make up for with sex and alcohol. Too easy. For tonight at least.

Roland looks over at a girl that is across the party from him. She sips on wine as she text messages.

ROLAND (V.O.)
Boyfriend, long term.

Roland looks at the dance-area. Most girls grind with guys, but a few just dance casually.

ROLAND (V.O.)
Boyfriends, short term. They still feel like "independent women" that can go out dancing. That'll end soon.

Roland walks back over to the table where his roommates and Jenny are.

DAVE
Roland!

ROLAND
Hey. How many shots did you take?

DAVE
Only like, six.

ROLAND
What! I've been gone like two minutes!

ROLAND (V.O.)
Dave's making my job easier.

DAVE
Gotta catch up to Jenny, she's been here like an hour!

ROLAND (V.O.)
So easy.

ROLAND

Alright man, well line me up, I
need to get on your level.

Dave pours Roland a shot.

DAVE

(to Jenny)

See, he needs to get on *my* level.

JENNY

Roland, isn't Dave's shirt awesome?

Dave's shirt reads: "Know Your Vowels: **A-E-I-FOCK-U**"

ROLAND (V.O.)

Peacocking. Wearing something that
gets you attention, a convo
starter.

ROLAND

Yeah it's really cool, I gotta get
some shirts like that.

ROLAND (V.O.)

And my face is usually peacock
enough. Humble, I know.

JENNY

Nah, you have good style.

ROLAND (V.O.)

Thanks for the in, Dave. I guess
peacocking worked against you
tonight.

ROLAND

Thanks. Another shot?

JENNY

Yeah, let's do it.

DAVE

Yeah! Number 8!

JENNY

You should really slow down, Dave.

ROLAND (V.O.)

Gracias, Dave. See you later.

DAVE

Okay, you right, you right.

Dave stumbles off. Roland and Jenny cheers and take a shot.

ROLAND

So you're in class with Dave?

JENNY

No, no, no, no, I was just taking a tour, thinking about starting here in the Spring.

ROLAND

Oh, cool, what grad program?

JENNY

Nah, not grad, undergrad. I don't know why they had me sit in on a grad class.

ROLAND (V.O.)

Please be eighteen, please be eighteen...

ROLAND

Yeah that's weird. So are you a senior?

JENNY

In high school? No, no, I graduated a few years ago, I just took some time off before college, I'm 19.

ROLAND (V.O.)

Thank fucking G-d.

ROLAND

Gotcha. Travel or anything?

JENNY

Nah, I wish. Just worked and figured out what I want to do with life.

ROLAND

And what's that?

JENNY

Travel. Ha, no, just kidding, um, like social work. What do you want to do?

ROLAND

I'll stick with the theme and say I want to travel as well, but I'm studying psychology.

JENNY

Oh, wow! That must be pretty interesting.

ROLAND

Yeah, must be. I think so at least. Hey I'm gonna go catch up with my roommates and see how Dave is, I'll see you later though?

JENNY

Yeah, definitely, sounds good.

Roland walks around, as he further observes the party.

ROLAND (V.O.)

Time to let her marinate.

The girl in the white bikini in the pool kisses another guy.

ROLAND (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Shocker.

The guy puts his hand down the girl's white bikini bottom.

ROLAND (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Literately.

Roland finds Dave, who can hardly walk.

ROLAND

Hey, you alright buddy?

Dave sounds very drunk.

DAVE

Yes, I am good. Where Jenny?

ROLAND

I don't know, around. Still going for it?

DAVE

Uh, duh, yes, so in there. She loved my shirt.

ROLAND

Yeah, you got it man. I'm gonna go walk around.

DAVE

Okay, tell Jenny to come here.

ROLAND

Will do buddy.

Roland walks back to Jenny.

ROLAND

Hey, Dave wants you to go talk to him...you might have some babysitting to do...

JENNY

Ugh, great. You're his roommate, go take care of him.

Roland gives Jenny a "yeah right" stare. Jenny slaps Roland's arm.

JENNY

I'm kidding! Jeez!

ROLAND

Good. Alright I'll catch up with you in a few minutes, you don't want to leave Dave waiting.

JENNY

Woo-hoo...

Roland walks exits the roof and walks into the apartment building.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING STAIRWELLS

The stairwell is very dark, and has a space under the sets of stairs on each floor, the size of a small room.

ROLAND (V.O.)

Time to scope it out. The number one rule, never bring a girl home. That's how they find you again. Some say don't shit where you eat, I say don't fuck where you eat. Not that I shit where I eat either. This will due.

Roland exits the stairwell and returns to the rooftop pool party.

EXT. ROOF POOL PARTY

Roland walks back onto the roof. Dave sits in the corner with a puke bucket as Jenny rubs his back. Roland approaches them.

ROLAND

Hey buddy, how ya feeling?

DAVE

Jenny's nice girl.

Jenny and Roland look at each other with a smile.

ROLAND

Sure is. You okay, Dave?

DAVE

Yes. Need drink.

JENNY

No!

DAVE

Ow! Loud! No, drink water, not bad drink.

ROLAND

Hold on, let me get you some water.

Roland walks over and gets a bottle of water out of a cooler that is by the alcohol table. He walks back over to Dave, opens the cap, and hands the water bottle to Dave.

ROLAND

Here ya go, drink up.

JENNY

So sweet.

DAVE

Yeah, you are like a, honey flower.. teddy bear, lolly-pop.

ROLAND

Okay...thanks man.

Jenny smiles.

ROLAND (V.O.)

I am a sweet, attractive guy, a great friend, and showed little interest. She is very interested.

ROLAND

Dave, will you be okay if we go take a shot and come back?

DAVE

Yes.

ROLAND

Okay then. After you, Jenny.

Jenny and Roland walk towards the alcohol table. Jenny stops Roland.

JENNY

Thanks for getting me out of that.

ROLAND

No problem, he does it all the time, he'll probably pass out any minute.

JENNY

You'd think he'd be able to handle his liquor at his age.

ROLAND

You'd think. Another shot?

JENNY

Eh, I mean I'm kinda drunk.. I will if you want, -

ROLAND

Nah I'm good, I just figured you wanted to.

Roland and Jenny chuckle.

ROLAND (V.O.)

And now I'm relatable. The intimidation, just like her pants, is basically gone.

JENNY

So where'd you go before?

ROLAND

Come with me, I'll show you.

Roland grabs Jenny's hand and leads her out the door.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING STAIRWELLS

ROLAND

Just felt like taking a break from
the party for a minute.

JENNY

Yeah, I gotcha.

ROLAND (C.O.)

If I were creepy she'd be creeped
out, but I'm not.

Roland and Jenny sit under a set of stairs. Roland puts his arm around Jenny. He kisses Jenny. She kisses back. She soon stops him.

JENNY

Do you live around here?

ROLAND

Kinda, why?

JENNY

I don't know, I mean, I'd rather go
there than a stairwell.

ROLAND

Yeah, I would too, but I'd feel
really bad taking you back. Seems
like Dave kinda likes you.

JENNY

Really? Yeah, I thought he might,
ugh. I can leave really early
though.

ROLAND

It isn't worth the risk, I don't
want him to be mad at me.

JENNY

You're a good friend.

ROLAND (V.O.)

I'm a good friend.

Jenny kisses Roland. They lay down together as the kisses become more intense. Clothes come off. A condom comes out.

10 MINUTES LATER.

ROLAND

Shit! What time is it?

JENNY

Uh, like, 12:45.

ROLAND

Shit! I meant to leave earlier.

JENNY

You seemed fine outside, not a lot of time passed in here...

ROLAND

Ouch.

Jenny rubs up against Roland.

JENNY

Come on, do you have another condom.

ROLAND

No, I don't, I'm sorry. I really need to go.

JENNY

And not even a cuddle? So sad.

ROLAND

I wish I could. I know most guys hate it, but I seriously love cuddling, it's so relaxing.

JENNY

Yeah! It really is! Wow, a guy that likes cuddling, we should hang out again.

ROLAND (V.O.)

Cuddling and euthanasia are synonymous to me.

ROLAND

Yeah, definitely.

JENNY

Well, what's your number?

Jenny takes her phone out of her pocket.

ROLAND

480-446-0609

JENNY

I'm really sorry, what was your name again? I'm awful with names, especially if I'm drinking.

ROLAND (V.O.)

I was banking on that.

ROLAND

Ha, yeah, no worries, I am too.
It's Cliff.

ROLAND (V.O.)

The name of my childhood pet rabbit.

JENNY

Okay cool, I'll give you a text.
Why do you have to leave so early anyway?

ROLAND

Got work in the morning.

ROLAND (V.O.)

That's a lie. I work night shifts,
part time at Safeway Supermarket.

JENNY

How responsible.

ROLAND

Grad student, gotta prepare for real life soon.

JENNY

Very true.

ROLAND

Hey, could you tell Dave I say bye when you go in?

JENNY

Why don't you go in real quick?

ROLAND

Eh, it'll take forever to get outta
there by time I say bye to
everyone.

JENNY

Oh, sorry, Mr. Popular.

Jenny sticks her tongue out.

ROLAND

That's me.

JENNY

No problem though, I'll tell him.
Goodnight, text me.

Jenny kisses Roland and goes back to the roof. Roland walks down the stairwell and out the building.

EXT. STREET - TEMPE, ARIZONA

Roland walks down the street. A buzz is heard. Roland takes his phone out of his pocket. He has a text message, from Jenny, that reads:

"Hope you had fun tonight, ASU may
have just became my first choice :)
See you soon?"

Roland saves Jenny's number in his phone, deletes the text, and turns his phone off as he continues to walk down the street.

ROLAND (V.O.)

I never give girls my real number.
This is my "going out"
phone...helps me keep track of my
"numbers"...although, I can only
save a maximum of 300 contacts...

Roland arrives at his apartment, enters, and closes the door behind him.

FOUR DAYS LATER

INT. SAFEWAY SUPERMARKET - EARLY MORNING

Roland walks out of the dark, unlit Safeway Supermarket.

EXT. STREET

Roland walks many blocks down the street and arrives at Arizona Mills Mall.

INT. ARIZONA MILLS MALL

Roland walks into the mall and over to the food court. He orders a snack, sits down, and eats it. While he eats, he stares, subtly, at the girl who works at Tempe Cafe in the food court. She has "hipster" style.

ROLAND (V.O.)
Final day of research. Can't wait
for the test..

INT. ASU CLASSROOM - MORNING

Roland sits in the middle of a classroom. The class consists of 24 other students. His professor, PROFESSOR KENRICK, addresses the class from the front of the room.

PROFESSOR KENRICK
Class, good morning. My name is Albert Kenrick, you can call me Albert, Professor Kenrick, Al, whatever. Before we get started, congrats to all of you for getting into this elite program. Only 25 students are selected at any one time. And since this University has the highest enrollment in the country...

ROLAND (V.O.)
Which is why I go here.

PROFESSOR KENRICK
.that is certainly a feat. So a little bit about me. Well, I'm from Virginia originally, but I like sand and dry heat so now I'm here.

A few students chuckle.

PROFESSOR KENRICK (CONT'D)
My area of expertise involves the application of evolutionary models to social cognition and interpersonal behavior, you know, influence of fundamental motives on
(MORE)

PROFESSOR KENRICK (CONT'D) (cont'd)
attention memory, and economic
decision-making. The motives being
primarily self-protection, disease
avoidance, uh, what else, oh,
mating, romantic attraction,

ROLAND (V.O.)
Bingo.

PROFESSOR KENRICK
etc. I know, I sound like a
textbook sometimes, hopefully I
didn't scare you off with the big
words, but hey, you're in Grad
school now, so get used to it. Now
a lot of you probably will be
working with other professors that
share your research interests. Who
here is signed up to be working
with me?

Roland, PACO, a chubby, male, Latino student, KATIE, an attractive female student, EVA, an unattractive, fat female student, and KELLY, a harsh, feminist-type female student, all raise their hands.

PROFESSOR KENRICK
Excellent. Really quickly, each of
you say your name, where you're
from, and why you're here.

Professor Kenrick points to Paco. Paco stands up. Paco speaks with a subtle Mexican accent.

PACO
Hey, I'm Paco Escobedo, uh, I'm
Mexican-American, from near Rio
Rancho, New Mexico. And, I'm here
to learn!

The class laughs. Roland stands up. He speaks well and with a smile.

ROLAND
Hey guys, Professor, my name's
Roland Rijpstra. I'm from Grafton,
North Dakota, but managed to get
out of there before the weird Fargo
accent set in.

The class laughs.

ROLAND

I also got my bachelor degree here,
and I want to be a psychiatrist so
I can help people with their
problems

ROLAND (V.O.)

And use my knowledge to sleep with
as many women as possible despite
my disinterest in sex itself.

PROFESSOR KENRICK

Very nice Roland, I look forward to
working with you.

Paco looks offended.

PACO

(under his breath)

Don't look forward to workin' with
me?

PROFESSOR KENRICK

Roland, pick someone to go next.

ROLAND

Alright, how about, you?

Roland points to Kelly. Kelly stands up. She sounds unenthusiastic, sarcastic, and angry.

KELLY

Yeah I'm Kelly, from San Francisco,
this stuff interests me so I study
it. To answer the question you're
all afraid to ask, yeah, I'm a
feministic dyke, fight for the
rights, woo-hoo, get over it.
Bachelor at Cal State Berkley.

Katie stands up. She has a sweet tone to her voice.

KATIE

I'm Katie Smith, not a feminist dyke, from Phoenix, Arizona. I used to cheerlead at Michigan State, now I'm back here for my Masters so I can commute, and I want to work in research.

ROLAND (V.O.)

Can't fuck a classmate, can't fuck
a classmate, can't fuck a
classmate.

PROFESSOR KENRICK

Okay, great Katie. And finally we have:

Eva stands up. She looks around the room and barely makes eye contact with any students or Professor Kenrick.

EVA

My name's Eva, I'm from Mississippi. I, uh, I don't know what else really to say I'm sorry.

PROFESSOR KENRICK

That's alright, nice to meet you Eva. I'm gonna hand out the curriculum and let you guys go.

Professor Kenrick passes out packets to each student.

ROLAND (V.O.)

If Eva wasn't a classmate, I'd absolutely give her a confidence-fuck, poor girl. But, can't fuck a classmate.

PACO

That's it?

PROFESSOR KENRICK

Yup, that's it. Your respective professors will be emailing you with your individual and group meeting times. Thanks for your time today guys, regardless of its brevity.

The students file out of the classroom and into the hall.

INT. ASU ACADEMIC BUILDING HALLWAY

Paco catches up to Roland.

PACO

Ay yo, Roland, hold up.

ROLAND

Hey man! How's it going?

Paco and Roland shake hands.

PACO

Decent, you know. Want to grab
lunch?

ROLAND

Yeah definitely, cafeteria?

PACO

Sounds good to me. Man this is
awesome, I totally forgot you were
coming for Grad school here too.

ROLAND

Having a friend doing the same
research will definitely make it
better.

PACO

For sure man.

Paco and Roland walk into the cafeteria. They pick out their meals and find a seat. Paco eats two salads and Roland eats a sandwich with chips.

ROLAND

Salads?

PACO

Yeah man, gotta drop a few.

ROLAND

But two salads?

PACO

Eh, better than two burgers.

ROLAND

This is true. So anything new going
on?

Paco looks deep into his salad and takes a hard stab at it. He bits the salad off the fork roughly and fills up his whole mouth. He speaks with food in his mouth.

PACO

Eh, nah, I mean not really, you?

ROLAND (CONT'D)

Paco is easy to read for a
psychology major.

ROLAND

Nah, just work and now school. You
sure you're all good?

Paco avoids eye contact.

PACO

Yeah man, why?

ROLAND

You seem a little...angry at your
salad.

PACO

It's nothing important.

ROLAND

Come on, my future profession is
going to be helping people talk out
their problems, what is it?

ROLAND (V.O.)

Paco is a decent friend of mine,
I'm willing to help.

Paco puts his fork down.

PACO

Okay, listen, you can't talk to
anyone about this.

ROLAND

Of course.

PACO

I really could use your help
though.

ROLAND

Sure, with what?

PACO

Okay so my little sister was here
the other week. Thinkin' about
coming to ASU, checkin' it out.

ROLAND

Sounds awful.

PACO

Fuck you man. Nah, but like, she
came back to my place all drunk,
which is fine, college, whatever.

(MORE)

PACO (cont'd)
But she was cryin' sayin' some dude
like touched her.

ROLAND
Oh man, that's awful.

ROLAND (V.O.)
I strongly dislike the idea of
rape.

ROLAND (CONT'D)
Did she get a name?

PACO
Nah that's the problem, she was
like blacked out, doesn't remember
a lot of the night. But she's
freakin' out, like thinks she's
pregnant.

ROLAND
I'm really sorry to hear that man.

PACO
Yeah, but I'm definitely findin'
this guy. Down to help out?

ROLAND
I mean, sure, but did you get any
info on him?

PACO
Just that he's some pretty boy,
Grad student.

ROLAND (V.O.)
No way...

ROLAND
I guess that narrows it down a
little.

PACO
Yeah I'ma figure out the address of
that party, talk to some people,
see who was there.

ROLAND (V.O.)
Could her misconstrued memory be
pointing a finger at me?

ROLAND

Once you find out where the party was at, it shouldn't be too hard to figure it out from there.

PACO

I hope so.

ROLAND

Well you have my number, let me know if you need anything.

PACO

I do and I will. I appreciate it Roland.

ROLAND

Any time.

ROLAND (V.O.)

...Fuck.

NEXT DAY.

INT. SAFEWAY SUPERMARKET - EARLY MORNING

It is 6:30am. Roland has 30 minutes left of his shift at Safeway.

Roland walks around the dark grocery store, up and down isles. He skims through the book "On The Road" by Jack Kerouac.

ROLAND (V.O.)

Spontaneity. Kerouac seems to have it down to a science. Not a normal book on my list, but a key element in my next experiment.

Roland walks into the back of the store and goes to the employee lockers. He opens his locker and takes out a backpack.

ROLAND (V.O.) (CONT'D)

The play is finally today. Time to dress the part.

Roland puts on thick-framed, black glasses, roughs up his hair, and puts on a shirt that says: 'Republicans Are Terrorists'.

Roland signs himself out of work and exits the building as others come in to take over his shift.

EXT. STREET

Roland walks down the street, opposite direction of his apartment and ASU. He walks for a while, until he arrives at the Arizona Mills Mall.

INT. ARIZONA MILLS MALL

ROLAND (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Since I've been working the
graveyard shift, I've been going to
the mall food court for breakfast
afterwards. With a 'fully loaded
menu', I had struggled to pick just
one. But, I managed.

Roland sits at a table and watches JAYNE. Jayne is a hipster by all means and works at the Tempe Cafe in the mall food court.

ROLAND (V.O.) (CONT'D)
She's been working here for years.
She met me a few months ago, but
has no idea. A quick transformation
and the tables are turned.

Roland walks up to the Tempe Cafe counter, with his "On The Road" book in hand. He acts and sounds superior with a tone of boredom.

ROLAND
Soy mocha latte, no sugar unless
you have natural cane.

JAYNE
Your total is \$5.35.

Roland takes out his wallet and puts "On The Road" on the counter.

ROLAND
Only \$5.35? Great. Hope it's good.

JAYNE
Always is. Hey you're reading On
The Road?

ROLAND
Yeah.

JAYNE

Awesome, great read.

ROLAND

Yeah, I mean, it is, but my trip is more exciting honestly.

JAYNE

Oh, really? Where are you going?

ROLAND

Going? Nowhere, I'm already here. But soon, all the way East. New York is where I want to be.

JAYNE

That's so cool!

ROLAND

Mhm.

Roland hums a tune as he pulls money out of his wallet.

JAYNE

Oh my gosh are you humming Of Montreal?!

ROLAND

Yeah. They're great.

JAYNE

Yeah! I feel like nobody around here has even heard of them!

ROLAND

Nobody around here seems to know much.

JAYNE

Seriously, you're lucky you don't live here.

ROLAND

Yeah, seems it. Where I'm from isn't great, but yeah.

JAYNE

Where are you from?

ROLAND

West LA.

West LA is the Malibu-area of Los Angeles.

JAYNE

Isn't it dangerous there?

ROLAND

I mean, a little bit, but when you grow up around it, you get used to it.

JAYNE

Wow.

ROLAND

Wow, indeed. You seem like a pretty interesting person, shocked to find one around here. Gettin' off work soon?

JAYNE

I was just gonna say, I'm going on break soon.

ROLAND

Break? Take off, I can't stand being in a mall anymore.

JAYNE

Ah, I don't know, I can't just leave work.

ROLAND

You can. It's just if you want to, is the question.

JAYNE

I do, anything's better than working in this mall. It's a quiet day anyway, b-.

ROLAND

Okay then.

JAYNE

Wait, sorry, what's your name by the way?

ROLAND

Asher. You?

JAYNE

Jayne.

ROLAND
Cute name.

Jayne blushes.

JAYNE
Thanks. I'm gonna go tell my boss I
feel sick.

Jayne goes in the back of the cafe. She comes back with a
smile.

JAYNE
Okay, let's go.

EXT. STREET

Jayne and Roland stand outside the mall.

JAYNE
I feel like I'm in 500 Days Of
Summer or something. I haven't done
anything like this in forever.

ROLAND
What does that mean?

JAYNE
It's a movie, pretty good.

ROLAND
Oh. I don't really watch movies.

JAYNE
Yeah, no, I usually don't..I don't
know.

ROLAND
That's cool.

Jayne begins to walk in the direction of Safeway. Roland
doesn't move.

JAYNE
Coming?

ROLAND
Nope.

JAYNE
Why not?

ROLAND
I've been that way.

JAYNE
So?

ROLAND
I told myself that I wouldn't take steps backwards in my trip.

ROLAND (V.O.)
Or towards my house...

JAYNE
So you literately won't go somewhere you've been already?

ROLAND
Exactly.

JAYNE
Wow that's really cool.

ROLAND
Yeah.

ROLAND (V.O.)
Even *I'm* surprised this act is working. Although there is some truth to me not turning back...

SEVEN YEARS AGO:

INT. RUBY'S CITY DINER

A group of middle aged men, Mr. Jensen, MAN 2, MAN 3, MAN 4, and MAN 5, in camo outfits sit around a table in Ruby's City Diner in Grafton, ND. It is a hick restaurant, with many dead animals on the walls.

Roland, age fifteen, enters. RUBY is at the cash register. She sees Roland before the men do, and quickly motions for him to leave.

ROLAND
Hey Ruby, I'll take the usual to go, for my Dad too.

The group stares at Roland.

ROLAND (CONT'D)
Hey, what's up everybody?

MR. JENSEN
Guess you haven't heard from one of
your girlfriends in a while.

ROLAND
Which? As in your daughter?

MR. JENSEN
Yeah, as in, my daughter. Think
you're sly, son?

Mr. Jensen throws Roland a newspaper. The front cover says:
"Local Teenage Girl Commits Suicide".

ROLAND
Is...is that-

MR. JENSEN
Couldn't keep your little dick in
your pants, boy?

ROLAND
Wh-

MR. JENSEN
Claire was buyin' a dress for the
dance, thought you'd ask her. Funny
thing, she ran into three other
girls thinkin' the same damn thing.
You had them all tricked up, every
last one. You think that's right?

ROLAND
Sir, I n-

MR. JENSEN
She was cryin' all night. Thought
it to be nothing, just an
embarrassed teenage girl. But
imagine my morning. Seein'
something in the yard, think it's a
possum stuck up a tree. I nearly
got out my shotgun to shoot it
down. But I went closer to it,
still half asleep. It looked
like...

Mr. Jensen stops for a moment but Roland knows what he is
saying.

MR. JENSEN
Nothin' I could do but cut her down, put her in her grave, and pray to Jesus that he'll still take her into heaven.

ROLAND
Mr. Jensen, I neve-

MR. JENSEN
You'd better hope you still have a spot with your whore of a mother down in Fargo, 'cause if I ever see you again, I'm gonna shoot you right in the mouth.

BACK TO PRESENT.

EXT. STREET

JAYNE
Well.... we can go to my house if you want.

ROLAND
Yeah, whatever. As long as it's forward.

JAYNE
Ha, it is, don't worry.

ROLAND
Solid.

INT. PACO'S APARTMENT

Paco is on the phone with Jenny while he searches a number on whitepages.com.

PACO
Yo I got it! The site worked, the number you gave me, the address is around here. 42 East Spence Ave.

JENNY
What are you gonna do?

PACO
I'ma just go over there and talk to him.

JENNY
Don't do anything stupid, Paco!

PACO
Nah, chill, it'll be fine.

JENNY
Seriously, he might be the father
of my kid.

PACO
Fuckin' rape kid! I should kill
him, your kid would be happy!

JENNY
Paco!

Jenny begins to cry and sniffle.

PACO
I'm sorry, yo, don't worry, it'll
be fine. I'll just straighten this
Cliff guy out, my boy is comin'
with me. He's way more level
headed, nothin' crazy is gonna
happen. You trust me?

JENNY
I do, thank you. Just be careful.

PACO
Don't worry, it'll be fine, Jenny.
I'll let you know how it goes. Call
me after you take the pregnancy
test.

JENNY
Thanks, Paco. I will, and thanks
for not telling Mom.

PACO
You got it. Bye, love you.

JENNY
Love you.

INT. JAYNE'S HOUSE

Jayne and Roland walk into Jayne's house. They walk into the tv room and sit on a couch.

ROLAND

That thing's a waste of money.

JAYNE

Yeah, my parents gave me it, I
don't really use it.

There is an open "TV Guide" on the coffee table in front of them.

ROLLAND

That's good. Sucks I'm not staying longer, hard to find a girl that's cool like you.

JAYNE

Then why don't you stay longer?

ROLAND

Can't. Got a lot to do, lots to see. I should be gone already, honestly.

JAYNE

I really want to travel like that one day.

ROLAND (V.O.)

Time to let her 'live vicariously' through me.

ROLAND

Yeah it's the best. Living out of a backpack, good beer, great music.

JAYNE

Ugh, take me with you.

ROLAND

In a dream. But I travel alone usually. I just prefer it.

JAYNE

What if you had an awesome chick with you?

ROLAND

If she was making more than eggs that could be cool.

JAYNE

Oh, I think she would be.

Jayne leans in to kiss Roland. He leans away.

ROLAND

I was just hoping we'd talk more first. I find you really interesting.

JAYNE

Wow, guys like you don't exist. You should really stick around here for like, a day even.

ROLAND (V.O.)

Somebody get this girl to a used car salesman. She'll buy anything.

ROLAND

Maybe.

Roland leans in to kiss Jayne. She accepts with a smile. They get intimate. Roland's cell phone rings.

JAYNE

Gonna get it?

ROLAND

The world is nothing other than what's in front of me right now.

JAYNE

Me?

ROLAND

You.

ROLAND (V.O.)

Wow...

Roland and Jayne have sex on the couch.

10 MINUTES LATER.

Jayne hands Roland his shirt with a smile.

JAYNE

I meant to say, that's a great shirt.

ROLAND (V.O.)

I peacocked...whoops.

ROLAND

Thanks.

JAYNE

Voted Obama?

ROLAND

Nah, I chose not to vote. I think it's disgusting how the majority of people don't vote, but I seriously studied each candidate in depth and decided neither were fit.

JAYNE

Yeah, I get that.

ROLAND

I'm glad. Listen, I should keep on moving, I'm still nowhere near New York.

JAYNE

Already? How are you getting there?

ROLAND

Just hitching.

JAYNE

Do you want a ride to the highway at least?

ROLAND

Nah, that'd ruin it. Just point me East.

JAYNE

Alright I can do that.

Jayne and Roland go outside.

EXT. OUTSIDE JAYNE'S HOUSE

JAYNE

Just walk that way, towards Hardy Drive, you'll see signs.

ROLAND

Thanks. See ya.

JAYNE

Wait. Are you ever gonna be back here?

ROLAND
Can you see the wind blow?

Jayne looks confused.

ROLAND (CONT'D)
That's the certainty I feel when I travel. I'll take down your number just in case.

JAYNE
Yeah that'd be awesome, it's 480-491-7707.

Roland takes out his phone and types in the number.

ROLAND
Goodbye, Jayne.

JAYNE
Bye, Asher. Text me sometime.

Roland walks off down the street.

EXT. STREET

His phone rings. He answers.

PACO
Yo man, I got some info, and I kinda know where this mother fucker lives.

ROLAND
Huh?

PACO
The fuckin' rapist, can you meet up?

ROLAND
Oh, what?! That's wild. Yeah I can, where?

PACO
Whitepages.com let me trace his address by phone number.

ROLAND
She has his number?

PACO

Yeah, some fuckin' dude named,
uh..hold on, I wrote it down.

ROLAND (V.O.)

Cliff?

PACO

Cliff. Fuckin' stupid name. Yo I
gotta go, meet me at 42 East Spence
Avenue, around noon.

ROLAND

Wait, Paco, y-Fuck!

NOON, SAME DAY.

INT. ROLAND'S APARTMENT

There is a knock at the front door. Roland opens the door to find Paco outside. Paco looks very confused.

PACO

Bro, what the fuck are you doin'
inside?

ROLAND

I live here.

PACO

Wait so you know Cliff?!

ROLAND

Man, there's no eas-

Dave wakes up from the couch and peeps his head up towards Paco and Roland.

DAVE

Who's there Ro?

ROLAND

My friend Paco, that girl Jenny's
sister.

PACO

That girl?

Dave perks up off the couch and comes over to Roland and Paco.

ROLAND

No, I mean like, t-

PACO

Yo, what the hell is going on?

DAVE

Dude, that's your sister?

PACO

Yeah man, that fucking is. What the hell is this shit?

DAVE

I'm really sorry, dude, like you can beat the shit out of me, I deserve it. I was an asshole. I'm sorry, let me talk to he-

Roland looks confused at Dave's apology.

Paco punches Dave across the face. Dave falls backwards.

PACO

You think you can just go touch any girl however you want, Cliff?!

Roland's eyes widen, but tries to pry Paco off Dave as Paco begins to choke Dave.

ROLAND

Paco, wait! D-

PACO

Back the FUCK off, Roland!

ROLAND

That's Dave! Not Cliff!

Paco stops and looks up at Roland, out of breath.

PACO

Huh?

ROLAND

This is my roommate Dave. We were both at the party, and both met Jenny, but Dave didn't do anything.

ROLAND (V.O.)

End of an era...

ROLAND

I'm C-

DAVE

I was sayin' sorry that I couldn't stop Cliff, man. That's all.

PACO

What?

Dave gives a "just go with it" look to Roland.

DAVE

Your sis was in my class for the day so I knew her. And me and Roland chilled with her at the party. But then this dude, Cliff, was like super drunk and bein' all aggressive.

PACO

So why are you sorry?

DAVE

'Cause like, I felt responsible, she didn't know anyone else there. And I got too drunk to see what was goin' on. And I left her there.

PACO

Man, you know that's really messed up, leaving her in that situation. But respect for being honest with me. I'm sorry 'bout punchin' you.

DAVE

Yeah man, no, no problem, I'dve done the same if I thought someone messed with my lil sis.

PACO

Alright, we're all good. But then how'd whitepages lead me here?

ROLAND

Maybe you accidentally put my number in the search. Remember how we studied that last year? Subconscious cognitive dissonance, kinda stuff.

PACO

I was pretty sure I put in Cliff's,
but you know, yeah that'd make
sense actually.

DAVE

Yeah, and if not, it could be the
number of whoever lived here last.

PACO

Yeah it's probably that. But man, I
almost wish Cliff lived here. I
need to find this guy.

ROLAND

I mean I'm down to help, but you
might just have to let it go, so
many kids go to ASU.

PACO

Nah, Dave knows, someone messes
with your little sister, it isn't
something you let go.

DAVE

That's the truth.

PACO

So you said you're still down to
help out, right Roland?

ROLAND

Of course.

PACO

How about you, man? The more troops
the better.

DAVE

I mean, yeah, sure. I'm really
busy, but keep in touch through
Roland. If I'm free I'm in.

PACO

Awesome bro. Nah even better, keep
in touch through me.

Dave and Paco exchange numbers.

DAVE

Sweet man, will do.

PACO

I really appreciate it guys. Yo
when shit's settled, you guys down
to party soon?

ROLAND

Absolutely man.

DAVE

Always.

PACO

Alright, sick. I'm gonna run, sorry
about the confusion, and thanks
Roland.

DAVE

Nice to meet you man. Well, kinda.

PACO

Ha, just put some ice on that, my
bad. See you guys.

Paco leaves the house.

DAVE

What the fuck was that!?

ROLAND

You tell me! Who the fuck is Cliff?

DAVE

There is no Cliff, I was just
coverin' my own ass with that b.s.

ROLAND

What?

DAVE

At the party, I guess I passed out
for a while. I woke up and you were
gone. I guess shit got a little
sloppy, I don't know, I browned
out, basically blacked out.

ROLAND

And?

DAVE

When I saw Jenny I just started
makin' out with her.

ROLAND

Dude..

DAVE

But I think that's it. Like, I really don't remember, but who knows, there could be a Cliff, but savin' her from another guy is the last thing on my mind. 'Cause I was actin' like 'that guy'.

ROLAND

Yeah, well, Paco says Jenny thinks she might've been raped.

DAVE

What?! So maybe there is a Cliff? That got to her once I passed out again?

ROLAND

I don't know, but he also said she might be pregnant.

DAVE

What?! Why aren't these people usin' condoms.

ROLAND

I doubt rapists think that rationally...

ROLAND (V.O.)

Or do they, Dave?

DAVE

But has she not heard of abortion?

ROLAND

That's what I'm sayin'. But still...

DAVE

Fuckin' weird, all of it.

ROLAND

Yeah. Man, you need to stop blacking out.

DAVE

Tough life I live.

ROLAND

Alright, "Cliff". Go ice your
bruise.

Roland and Dave laugh.

DAVE

Yeah I really should.

Dave goes to the kitchen to get ice. Roland looks deep in thought.

ROLAND (V.O.)

Am I Cliff? Or Dave? Or both?...

Roland's phone rings.

ROLAND

Hey, Paco?

PACO

Yo man, just called Jenny to tell
her about today's fail.

ROLAND

What'd she say?

PACO

She wants to come up again next
weekend.

ROLAND (V.O.)

Party animal..

ROLAND

Huh, why?

PACO

To help me find Cliff. She says
she'll know his face.

ROLAND

She wants to drive like seven hours
just to look for one guy on a
70,000 student campus?

PACO

That one guy is gonna be the father
of her child, so yeah, she does.

ROLAND

Holy fuck! Paco, I'm..

ROLAND (V.O.)
screwed..

ROLAND (CONT'D)
so sorry man, I can't believe this.
I almost feel responsible, I was
there.

PACO
Don't feel that way, it's nobody's
fault. Cept the guy, Cliff. But you
and Dave really need to help when
she comes next weekend.

ROLAND
Yeah, of course. But how would we
be useful? She's just looking for
one guy by face.

PACO
Just safety in numbers, I don't
know, I can't think right now, I'll
hit you up later.

ROLAND
Alright man, let me know if you
need anything, peace.

Roland hangs up. He walks into the kitchen.

INT. ROLAND'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN

Roland sits next to Dave at the kitchen table, as Dave ices
his bruise. Roland looks worn out.

DAVE
What was that call about?

ROLAND
Paco.

DAVE
Seems like he needs a life. What'd
he want?

ROLAND
Jenny, she's coming up next
weekend. To look for the guy.
Cliff.

DAVE
...Seriously?

ROLAND
Yup. She's pregnant.

Dave drops the ice with a look of horror.

ROLAND (V.O.)
I think I may be Cliff. Dave thinks
he may be Cliff. What do you think,
Cliff?..