UNDERCLASSMEN - EPISODE 1 "PILOT"

by

Joseph Ilia

fromanshevz@yahoo.com

FADE IN:

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

The cafeteria is busy, full of high school students having lunch.

STACY HUNTER, girl, high school freshman, is sitting at a cafeteria table with a plate of food in front of her.

ERIC (V.O.) This is Stacy...the girl of my dreams.

CHRIS ELLIOT, guy, high school freshman, puts his food on the table and sits down next to Stacy. She looks at him and they start to make out.

> ERIC (V.O.) And the guy currently eating her face is Chris, one of my best friends.

Across from them, ERIC WALKER, guy, high school freshman, sits with a plate of food. He is staring at Stacy and Chris.

THANABHUM "BOOM" ARAMWATANANONT, guy, high school freshman, puts his tray next to Eric's and sits down.

ERIC (V.O.) This is Boom. We call him that because no one really knows how to pronounce his full name.

FLASHBACK:

INT. SCIENCE CLASSROOM - DAY

A TEACHER stands at the front of the classroom and all of the students sit at their desks.

TEACHER

Mike Aaron?

STUDENT

Here.

TEACHER Th-ta-tanab-bhum? Tanabahum...Araw-arawamatanot? BOOM Thanabhum Aramwatananont.

TEACHER ....Can you repeat that?

ERIC (V.O.) He was solely responsible for killing off the first ten minutes of every class.

END FLASHBACK

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Back in the cafeteria, the group continues their conversation.

BOOM What are you doing, Eric?

ERIC ...What? Oh, I don't know, it's hard to look away even if you want to. It's like a car crash.

BOOM Saying sad stuff always works. (to Stacy and Chris) Bambi's mother was shot.

Stacy pulls away and Chris realizes that Eric and Boom are staring at them.

ERIC (V.O.) Boom moved here from Taiwan three years ago and was full of useful information.

STACY I cry every time I watch that movie.

CHRIS (sarcastically) Thanks, Boom.

Chris kicks Boom.

BOOM Ah, son of a shit! ERIC (V.O.) He had yet to learn how to curse.

BOOM Excuse me for being uncomfortable with your PDA.

CHRIS Well I can't help it that Stacy is the most beautiful, and nicest girl I have ever met.

STACY (to Chris) Aww! You are so sweet, lovie.

Chris gives Stacy a peck on the lips and then they begin to make out again.

ERIC Hurricane Katrina!

Chris and Stacy stop kissing.

ERIC (to Boom) This is fun.

INT. MR. SHERMAN'S CLASSROOM - DAY

MR. EDWARD SHERMAN, biology teacher, 60s, stands in the front of the classroom teaching. Eric is sitting one seat behind Boom, and they are in the last two rows. To their left is ELIZABETH "LIZ" JOHANSSEN, freshman girl.

ERIC (V.O.) For Boom and me, after lunch we would have a free period and then suffer through Mr. Sherman's biology class. It was bad enough that he talked in a monotone and a generally uninteresting voice, but today was a Friday. And all we wanted to do in class was-

FANTASY SEQUENCE

Eric and Boom get up out of their seats, walk to the front of the classroom, and pick up Mr. Sherman.

# MR. SHERMAN

What are you kids doing?!? Put me down right now!

Another student opens the window then Eric and Boom throw Mr. Sherman outside. Liz pulls a boom box out of her backpack and blasts dance music. Everyone starts to dance or make out with someone.

END FANTASY SEQUENCE

Eric has his eyes closed and is dancing at his seat.

LIZ What the hell are you doing?

ERIC It's my "I'm imagining I'm not in school on a Friday" dance. Don't question it.

Liz laughs a little too much at this comment. Mr. Sherman takes notice.

MR. SHERMAN Liz, quit acting rude, crude and socially unnacceptable.

ERIC (V.O.) That "rude, crude, and socially unacceptable" line was Sherman's thing.

LIZ Sorry Mr. Sherman.

BOOM (whispering to Eric) Dude, she's so into you...that sounds dirty.

MR. SHERMAN Eric, do you think you are allowed to be rude, crude and socially unnacceptable?

ERIC I didn't say anything.

MR. SHERMAN You did right now, so shut the big hole in your face and use the two (MORE) MR. SHERMAN (cont'd) small ones on the sides of your head.

Mr. Sherman continues teaching the class.

ERIC (V.O.) Mr. Sherman was a very weird guy. He liked biology a little too much to be considered human.

LIZ Hey, are you guys going to Justin's tonight?

Eric and Boom look at each other unsure of what to say.

INT. ERIC'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Eric, Chris, and Boom sit in Eric's bedroom tossing around a tennis ball.

BOOM We should definently go.

CHRIS

No doubt. Everyone's going to be there. Come on, even Stacy is there. We're just wasting our time sitting around here doing nothing.

ERIC Yeah, can you imagine how awesome it would be?

FANTASY SEQUENCE

INT. JUSTIN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Eric, Chris, and Boom are sitting on three separate couches surrounded by hot high school girls. They are each making out with one. Eric stops making out with his hot girl and begins to look around.

> ERIC Okay, who haven't I had sex with yet?

END FANTASY SEQUENCE

ERIC Bet the gettin' is good. CHRIS

What?

ERIC

Never mind, the point is that it's not even like we're doing anything wrong. If anything, we are the ones breaking the laws of high school.

CHRIS The laws of high school?

ERIC Shut up, it's true.

CHRIS

It's stupid.

ERIC You're stupid.

CHRIS Your mom's stupid.

BOOM Guys, stop. You're both dumb.

Pause.

CHRIS ....You're dumb.

BOOM Your mom's dumb.

CHRIS

Touche.

INT. ERIC'S HOUSE - NEXT

CHRIS Why are we still here? There's nothing stopping us so let's go already.

Eric, Chris, and Boom get up look at each other and then sit back down.

ERIC The cops could show.

#### CHRIS

If our parents smell that stuff on us we're dead.

#### BOOM

What the Christ! We're such dicks! Justin is holding what could be the coolest party of our lives down the street, and we're here holding our asses scared.

Pause.

CHRIS Screw this, I'm going.

BOOM

Me too.

Chris and Boom get up.

### ERIC (V.O.)

It's sad to say, but by the beginning of freshman year, it's easier to find someone who's been to a party with illegal activity than someone who hasn't. And while peer pressure may not be the biggest factor in it--

ERIC

Screw it, I'm in.

ERIC (cont'd V.O.) It does exist.

Eric gets up and the three boys leave.

# EXT. JUSTIN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Eric, Chris, and Boom stand at the front of the driveway of Justin's large house. There is loud music playing and people can be seen going in and out of the house with drinks.

BOOM So...I guess this is the next step.

ERIC

I guess so.

BOOM Let's go get blown.

ERIC (sarcastically) I think we should go get wasted, but if we got blown, that wouldn't be bad either.

INT. JUSTIN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Eric, Chris, and Boom navigate through Justin's house looking around and taking in the atmosphere. Many walk around drunk and holding more drinks. A couple of kegs are set up.

INT. JUSTIN'S HOUSE - NEXT

Chris spots Stacy and hugs her from behind and kisses her neck. She panics at first, not knowing who it is.

STACY What the fu--OH! Hey love dove! I didn't know you were coming.

Stacy gives Chris a big hug then they kiss a little.

CHRIS

So what's up?

STACY

Not too much, Kiela and I were just here and she went to get me another drink and...Kiela! I don't know where she went. I can't believe you came!

Stacy gives Chris more hugs, and kisses him sloppily.

INT. JUSTIN'S HOUSE - NEXT

Eric is sitting back on a couch alone. He looks around a bit and then Boom plops down next to him with a beer in hand.

BOOM

Sip?

### ERIC

I'm good.

Boom looks around.

BOOM Hey, isn't that Liz? ERIC Uh...yeah, think so. BOOM You should go talk to her. You probably won't get a better opportunity to...well, you know...tip that. ERIC No way, man. BOOM Why the shit not? ERIC (V.O.) I have to teach him English. ERIC Because... Eric cannot think of anything. BOOM Do it man. ERIC I don't even like her that much. BOOM Something's better than nothing, even if it is just a backup plan. ERIC (V.O.) My raging teenage hormones agree. ERIC (hesitates) Fine, but fuck you.

Eric gets up to go over to Liz.

BOOM

Cheers.

INT. JUSTIN'S HOUSE - NEXT

Eric approaches Liz, who is holding a beer and is very cheery. She notices him.

ERIC!?!

Liz hugs Eric and spills a little on him.

LIZ Oops, I'm so sorry.

Liz laughs a little.

LIZ Let me get that.

Liz tries to wipe Eric's shirt clean.

ERIC (V.O.) Oh, she is so into you...just go for it.

ERIC Hey, go out with me.

Liz stops.

LIZ

What?

ERIC Look, I've heard you like me, you act like you like me, and I like you too. So I don't know how else to say it...go out with me.

Pause.

LIZ (upset) I like Boom. Have you seen him?

ERIC

Uh...I'm sorry. Umm...I'll get him. Sorry. Sorry, I'm going.

Eric, stunned, goes back to the couch where he and Boom were sitting. Boom, confused, looks at Eric.

BOOM What happened, dude?

ERIC She wants you. What?

ERIC

BOOM

She wants you.

Boom looks at Liz, who waves him over.

BOOM Nah man, I can't.

ERIC Just go dude, I don't mind.

Pause.

ERIC

Go!

BOOM Thanks, I owe you.

Boom leaves. Eric leans his head back and takes in a deep breath.

INT. JUSTIN'S HOUSE - NEXT

Chris and Stacy are leaning back against a wall together. Then, KIELA BROWN approaches them with two drinks.

> KIELA Hey Chris, I didn't know you were going to be here.

CHRIS Yeah, I changed my mind last minute.

Kiela takes a sip from one cup while handing the other drink to Stacy.

STACY (very drunk) Yay! More of it...

Stacy giggles strangely. Chris looks at her awkwardly and takes the cup from her.

CHRIS Okay, you've probably had enough.

STACY Aw, but Chris...

# CHRIS Just relax a bit...come here.

Chris pulls Stacy closer and gives her a kiss.

ERIC (V.O.) When faced with a bad situation, I believe we define the type of people we are. Some people can be cool and do the right things.

EXT. JUSTIN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Eric walks down the street outside Justin's house pulling on his hair.

ERIC (V.O.) But me: I'm a duck-and-run kind of guy.

Eric flails his arms around fiercely.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Eric and Stacy sit across from Liz and Boom, all have trays of food. Chris comes over with his tray.

#### CHRIS

Move over.

Eric moves and Chris takes his place.

ERIC (V.O.) I thought Chris and Stacy was bad, but now with Liz and Boom together I became the fifth wheel, all by myself. I couldn't get in touch with any of them for the rest of the weekend...not that I would want to after I thoroughly embarrassed myself. They made themselves a couples' corner and it now was almost impossible to communicate with them. It's like there's a wall in between us.

### FANTASY SEQUENCE

There is a glass wall in between the couples' corner and Eric.

# Hey, can I borrow some salt?

The couples' corner completely ignores Eric. Eric turns to the glass wall.

ERIC

Guys?

Eric starts to knock on the glass. From the other side of the wall, Eric cannot be heard and the couples do not pay attention.

LIZ So who was she?

BOOM I don't know her name but she was some 8th grader.

Eric begins to yell but is still not heard.

CHRIS What an idiot. She goes to her first party and drinks until she passes out.

BOOM Well, some people are stupid.

Eric stands up on his chair.

STACY Don't call her stupid!

CHRIS

She had to get her stomach pumped. She ruined the whole thing. Her parents must've found out, too.

Eric slips and falls to the floor.

# ERIC

(ignored) Okay, I think I'm bleeding.

LIZ

From what I saw of you Stacy, you weren't that much better than she was.

STACY Hey, I didn't need my stomach pumped or anything. I was fine.

Chris chuckles and casually checks his watch.

CHRIS

Yeah, you were fine 'cause I was watching you...Oh shit, we gotta go to English.

ERIC (ignored) Help! Help, please.

The couples get up and leave.

END FANTASY SEQUENCE

Eric is rubbing the back of his head. He notices the couples deep in their own conversation.

ERIC (V.O.) I shouldn't even bother.

Eric leaves the table.

INT. MS. EVANS' CLASSROOM - DAY

Eric sits at the back of the classroom next to DOM LIEBOWITZ, a freshman and friend. Eric is holding his head and looks upset.

DOM Yo, you okay man?

ERIC Ah, it's just my damn head...I can't take it sometimes.

DOM Migraine? My mom gets those. Don't worry about it.

ERIC (V.O.) It's stupid to think that people care about that shit.

MRS. EVANS, cute English teacher (30s), walks into the classroom and puts some books on her desk.

#### MRS. EVANS

Okay guys, quiet please. We're reading from Shadow of a Killer so please take (out your books and turn to...)-

ERIC (V.O.) Mrs. Evans...my English class crush. The person I like to observe while I attempt to not learn during school. It's not like I expect anything to happen...but it's not like I don't want anything to happen. The truth is I've viewed a lot of people as forms of art.

### FANTASY SEQUENCE

INT. MUSEUM - DAY

Eric, in a tuxedo, is being led around an art exhibit by a MUSEUM CURATOR. To their right, a beautiful freshman GIRL stands motionless.

MUSEUM CURATOR And here we have Elisa from the Grossman family, originated in a 1998 recreational soccer league.

ERIC

Ah, she's filled out.

They continue forward and on their right there stands another GIRL, but she is ugly.

> MUSEUM CURATOR And here is one of your rather peculiar choices, Sir.

ERIC I don't remember her...

MUSEUM CURATOR Mount Snow, 2004.

ERIC Okay, in my defense, she had a ski mask on and her eyes are beautiful.

Eric and the Curator continue forward again where a BOY stands to their right.

MUSEUM CURATOR And this is Jeremy Wright.

ERIC From Elementary School?

JEREMY You always used to look at me during recess.

ERIC You had a giant mole on your face.

JEREMY I liked you Eric, I thought you were cute.

ERIC Jeremy, I'm just not into-...wait, cute?

END FANTASY SEQUENCE

Eric shakes his head violently.

ERIC (V.O.) Ah! Bad thoughts!...Ow, my headache.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Eric walks the hallways alone.

ERIC (V.O.) Sadly, the one commonality between me and the girls I've liked is that I've done nothing but...like them.

Boom catches up to Eric.

BOOM Hey man, what's up?

ERIC Not too much.

BOOM Where were you at lunch today?

ERIC Sitting...right next to you.

#### BOOM

Really? Sorry...must've been a little distracted...I've been getting distracted more often because of...Liz and me...

ERIC (correcting Boom) "Liz and I"

BOOM

I think it's "Liz and me".

ERIC (V.O.)

This guy is trying to correct my English?

ERIC No, it's Liz and I.

BOOM Really? Could have sworn it was "Liz and me"...anyway, you haven't congratulated me yet.

ERIC (sarcastically) Really? I'm so proud of you, buddy.

BOOM Why can't you be happy for me?

ERIC I'm happy for you. The backup plan worked just fine.

BOOM Who the damned do you think you are saying that?

ERIC I didn't say that. You did, Friday.

BOOM ...Ass...Well, just because I got the girl doesn't mean you should be all depressed.

As Eric keeps walking Boom grabs him and stops him.

BOOM

What's wrong?

ERIC I don't know, man...I didn't get the girl I wanted and I couldn't get the "backup plan"...This doesn't exactly make me feel good.

BOOM

Don't worry about it dude, it's no big deal.

ERIC (V.O.) (sarcastically) I think it's his compassion that makes him such a good friend.

ERIC Yo, I'll see you, dude.

BOOM

Yeah, see you.

Eric heads into a classroom. Stacy approaches Boom.

STACY Hey, you. What's up with Eric?

BOOM

Ah, it's nothing. What class you have now?

STACY

Math, you?

BOOM Nothing, I got a free.

STACY Walk with me?

BOOM

Sure.

Boom and Stacy begin to walk to their next class.

STACY So...you and Liz.

BOOM Well at least someone's interested. Who wasn't?

### BOOM

Eric.

# STACY

Don't worry about it, he's probably got another headache or something.

### BOOM

Whatever.

Pause.

STACY You never answered my question.

BOOM

Did you ask a question? I thought that was a statement.

STACY It was a question.

BOOM What was the question?

STACY

You and Liz.

BOOM See, that's just another statement.

### STACY

Ah, shutup.

# BOOM

Hard to answer a question when I'm supposed to shutup.

Stacy shoves Boom into a locker.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Eric sits in the library with a book, fidgeting and shaking his legs.

ERIC (V.O.) History test, focus, focus, history test, test, Galileo, test, focus...focus sounds a little like fuck ass...

Chris approaches Eric.

CHRIS Hey, Eric. ERIC What's up? CHRIS Busy? ERIC Trying to study for the history test. ERIC (V.O.) Like you were studying, fuck ass. CHRIS No, I don't mean now, I mean, like, later. ERIC How much later? CHRIS Today, after school. ERIC Maybe, why? CHRIS I think Stacy, Liz, Boom, and I were planning on going downtown after school to get something to eat, you interested? ERIC (V.O.) And fall victim to the couples'

Eric closes his book and stares at the ceiling for a moment.

ERIC You know what, I think I'm busy.

corner?

Who's busy?

CHRIS Really? What are you doing?

ERIC (V.O.) Yeah, what are you doing?

ERIC Stuff...family stuff, you know how it is.

CHRIS Yeah, that sucks man, sorry. Anyway, I'll see you later. Good luck on your history test.

Chris leaves.

ERIC (V.O.) Great, now I can go home and be lonely today instead. Fuck ass.

At the other end of the library, Chris is exiting the building as Liz walks in.

LIZ

Hey, Chris, you know what we're doing later?

CHRIS

Umm...yeah, I think it's just going to be you, me, Stacy, and Boom. Maybe chinese or the deli.

LIZ What about Eric?

CHRIS

Says he's busy. Listen, I got to see Mr. Sherman for extra help. See you later.

LIZ

Sure, see you.

Chris leaves. Liz looks around and spots Eric across the library.

LIZ (raised voice) Eric! Why aren't you coming out with us?

A LIBRARIAN approaches Liz.

LIBRARIAN Will you quiet down? This is a library for goodness sakes, people are trying to do work.

Liz looks around to see there's no one else in the library.

LIZ

I'm sorry.

Liz begins to approach Eric.

ERIC (V.O.) If there's one thing our school librarians hate it's noise, and they're very good at pointing it out.

FANTASY SEQUENCE

The librarian stands behind the front desk typing at the computer.

Across the library, behind a book shelf, two girls are trying to not be heard. One mouths to the other "Write it down" while motioning a pen motion. The other girl takes out a piece of paper from her backpack and a pencil. As her pencil touches the paper, the paper crinkles softly.

Across the library, the librarian tilts her head like a dog who has just smelt something. She then appears next to the two girls.

> LIBRARIAN Will you two quiet down? This is a library for goodness sakes, there are people trying to do work.

END FANTASY SEQUENCE

Liz is now next to Eric.

LIZ Eric, why aren't you coming out with us? ERIC I got something to do.

LIZ Bullshit, it's a Monday. I know you don't have a lot of homework.

Liz takes a seat across from Eric.

ERIC What if I just don't want to?

LIZ What's wrong? Is it because of me?

ERIC

Come on.

LIZ

I'm sorry that I rejected you like that, but I like Boom.

ERIC

It's not that. Listen, you're a cool girl and all, but honestly I wasn't that interested either. Boom said you had a crush on me and I should go after you. Better to have a "backup plan" than nothing.

LIZ Boom didn't say that.

Pause. Eric stares seriously at Liz.

LIZ I got to go talk to him. Come out with us.

ERIC (V.O.) Why can't these people just leave me alone?!?

A LIBRARIAN walks by and stops near Eric.

LIBRARIAN

Young man, I will not tolerate anymore excessive noise coming from you, understand? This is a library. ERIC (V.O.) It's like they're in my head.

EXT. SCHOOL COURTYARD - DAY

Boom, Chris, and Stacy are all gathered in the school courtyard. Liz approaches Boom.

STACY Hey, Liz. LIZ Hey, Boom, can I talk to you for a sec? BOOM Umm...yeah...sure. LIZ ... Over there. BOOM (to Liz) ...Okay. (to Chris and Stacy) Just a sec. Liz leads Boom away from Stacy and Chris. BOOM What's up? LIZ

I don't know...maybe you thought I had a crush on Eric.

BOOM What? Who said that?

# LIZ

Eric did.

Boom sighs.

LIZ

Look, I don't like when people go around making assumptions about me, especially assumptions that are wrong! BOOM

Look, I'm sorry, but honestly I was just guessing.

LIZ

Oh, and another thing, why is my boyfriend referring to me as a "backup plan"?

BOOM

Okay...first of all...that was Eric, you were Eric's "backup plan", and secondly, that was before I was your boyfriend.

LIZ

Ugh!

Liz begins to walk away.

BOOM

Liz...

Liz turns towards Boom.

BOOM -Oh, sorry, I don't really know what to say...just saying "Liz".

Liz rolls her eyes and storms off. Chris and Stacy look over concerned.

CHRIS

What happened?

BOOM I don't know, Stacy, can you go talk to her for me? Please?

STACY

Yeah, sure.

Stacy follows Liz.

INT. ERIC'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Eric is sitting at his desk typing something. Boom walks in and knocks on the door. Eric turns and to his surprise sees his friend.

Boom?

Yeah, my mom dropped me off for a sec, we're on our way home.

#### ERIC

Oh, okay.

#### BOOM

Listen...this isn't easy for me to say...

ERIC

Just say it, you know you can tell me anything.

#### BOOM

I just stopped off to say that...I realize you're upset about the whole Liz thing and everything, but that doesn't give you a right to ignore everything but your feelings.

#### ERIC

What are you talking about, man?

#### BOOM

I like Liz...a lot. When I found out she liked me...not you...I was happy. Yeah, it sucks that she wasn't into you but like you said, she was your backup.

ERIC

Again, you're actually the one who said that but continue.

# BOOM

The point is your my best friend...I wanted someone to be happy for me and instead you only concentrated on the fact that she rejected you. You even told her stuff that we said about her and she got pissed at me about that. I can take you being cold to me, but to talk to Liz like that...that's not right.

Boom leaves.

### ERIC (V.O.)

When faced with a bad situation, I believe we define the type of people we are. Some people can be cool and do the right things. But me: I'm the guy who drowns in his own embarrassment and rejection, trying to lick my wounds, and ignorant to what's troubling others...I don't want to be that guy.

Eric gets up and catches Boom as he's exiting Eric's house.

ERIC

Boom, hold up.

BOOM

Yeah?

ERIC Things okay between you and Liz?

BOOM She got pretty pissed after she talked to you...but I think we're okay.

ERIC I'm happy for you, man.

Boom smiles.

ERIC Give me a call when you get home.

BOOM Will do...Oh, and Eric...I asked Mrs. Evans, it is "Liz and me".

ERIC (V.O.) Great, I have worse grammar than that "son of a shit".

The End