

Bad Abstraction

...there's nothing more seductive than the perfect story

By

Levi Stroud

FADE IN:

INT. KATHY'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Kathy lays in bed, an alarm clock going off next to her for an uncomfortably long time.

KATHY (V.O.)  
Long term writers block. It's like  
a death...no...a divorce.

Kathy, her eyes still closed, runs her hands along the empty side of the bed next to her.

KATHY (V.O.)  
You and your writing start having  
problems. You go to therapy.

We see Kathy's room. We see her office space.

KATHY (V.O.)  
You do all the little things the  
shrink suggests.

Images of Kathy's office space: The wall in front of her desk is littered with positive notes.

KATHY (V.O.)  
You remind yourself to think  
positively.

Notes with inspirational messages like "Today is THE day," "You are the next big thing," "Write like no one is reading," "FUCK THE AGENTS! No one can judge your work but YOU!"

KATHY (V.O.)  
You surround yourself with hope.

We see posters of famous writers.

KATHY (V.O.)  
And you look for advice in all  
corners of the earth.

We see instruction books on writing neatly stacked on two rows of shelves.

KATHY (V.O.)  
But no matter how hard you try...

Kathy turns over and slaps her alarm clock's off button.

(CONTINUED)

KATHY (V.O.)  
Everything still falls to shit.

Kathy's turning over causes her vibrator to fall out of her bed.

KATHY (V.O.)  
And you spend the rest of your life  
alone masturbating while thinking  
about the good old days.

Kathy walks to the bathroom. She's a pretty sexy woman, but something seems dead inside. She shuts the door and the vibration causes one of her inspirational stickies to fall onto the ground.

The note reads "Love your stories, and they'll love you back."

INT. KATHY'S CAR - MORNING

Kathy, dressed in her usual conservative clothing, starts the ignition. She puts headphones in her ears.

VOICE ON RECORDING  
Steps to Confidence: Chapter One--

SMASH CUT TO

INT. KATHY'S CAR - MORNING

Out of the windshield we see a sign that reads "Redford City Limits--Population 2,569."

VOICE ON RECORDING  
-Staying Positive.

SERIES OF SHOTS OF REDFORD

--Shots of Main Street, which looks more like the rundown set of a western than a modern-day town.

VOICE ON RECORDING  
Count your blessings. Simply look  
at all the greatness within and  
outside of you.

--A sign posted on the road that reads "METH WATCH."

(CONTINUED)

VOICE ON RECORDING  
Think of your shelter.

--A shot of an exploded meth house.

VOICE ON RECORDING  
Think of your home. The place your  
love belongs.

--40 year old junkies chilling in a park.

VOICE ON RECORDING  
Think of the amazing people you  
meet everyday.

--An advertising sign of "Redford Speedway--race your  
homemade race cars. BETTER THAN NASCAR"

VOICE ON RECORDING  
And think of all the great things  
you have to do.

--A sign reading "McDonald's--Coming Soon."

VOICE ON RECORDING  
And all the joy that your future  
holds.

Kathy's eyes squint.

VOICE ON RECORDING  
It's almost beautiful enough to  
make you cry.

EXT. REDFORD HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING

Kathy gets out of her car. She takes a deep breath.

KATHY (V.O.)  
But, hey, being alone isn't that  
bad.

It reads, "Welcome back, Redford Indians!" It has a red  
Native American on it as the town mascot. Kathy stares at  
the Native American and her smile fades.

KATHY (V.O.)  
Scratch that. It's shit being  
alone.

INT. TEACHER'S LOUNGE - MORNING

Kathy doodles on a piece of paper with her co-workers around her.

KATHY (V.O.)  
Focus on your career, Kathy.

We see the teachers talking but do not hear them as Kathy looks at them with contempt. Their balding heads. Their disappearing waste lines. Their fatty to-go breakfast burritos.

KATHY (V.O.)  
Listen to your bumblefuck  
co-workers.

Kathy and KENT (35) make brief eye contact. He's attractive and buff. He talks in front of the group.

Kathy finishes her doodle. It reads "KILL ME NOW" in fancy writing. She starts to embellish it with more flowers and hearts.

MEREDITH (40), a plump woman with a squeaky voice raises, her hand.

MEREDITH  
Are we safe?

KENT  
Just because he's been to juvenile  
detention does not mean--

Kathy perks up with interest.

MYA (29) interjects. She's attractive and thin, but aging.

MYA  
I'm the school counselor. I know  
unstable. We're not gonna be on CNN  
for a school shooting.

MEREDITH  
Kent, write her up. That type of  
humor is NOT funny.

MYA  
Kent, Meredith has obviously not  
dropped the resentment from the  
hippo incident from last spring.  
It's supposed to be a NEW year.  
Write HER up.

INT. KATHY'S CLASSROOM - DAY

KATHY (V.O.)  
 Writer's block: you lose all sense  
 of voice.

Kathy makes a lame attempt at inspiring students as she  
 stands in front of them.

KATHY  
 English. Literature. The gateway to  
 magical worlds.

She looks out at the students. None of them are engaged,  
 most on their phones.

KATHY  
 WAKE THE FUCK UP AND LISTEN, YOU  
 INGRATES! YOU THINK I WANT TO BE  
 HERE EITHER? Please, I don't need  
 any more reminders on why I should  
 have gone to law school.

The students snap to attention.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. KATHY'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Kathy looks out at her students, still on their phones or  
 looking out the window.

KATHY (V.O.)  
 I didn't really say that. But I  
 wish I could.

KATHY  
 This year, we're going to focus on  
 American literature.

INT. TEACHER'S LOUNGE - DAY

Kathy sits across from Mya. Mya is ranting, but we don't  
 hear her.

KATHY (V.O.)  
 This is Mya. AKA my one form of  
 entertainment in this wasteland.

Mya makes a gagging motion with her finger, pointing to  
 Meredith's ass as she bends over to get her hot-pocket out  
 of the microwave.

(CONTINUED)

MYA  
Divorce is nasty, Kathy.

MEREDITH  
Mya, I saw on the calendar your  
birthday is coming up. Thirty,  
right? Congrats.

There's an icy silence in the room.

Meredith looks out of the teacher's lounge window as a boy,  
RHETT (18) walks by.

MEREDITH  
It's him!

MYA  
Who?

MEREDITH  
The criminal!

MYA  
Oh, Jesus fuck, Meredith.

Kathy leans out of her chair to see the back of the boy walk  
down the hall.

INT. HALLWAY - SAME TIME

We now see Rhett walking down the hall. He has incredibly  
chiseled features with ice-grey eyes.

Students stare at him as he passes by like he's a serial  
killer. They instantly part out of his way. Some of the more  
attractive girls pose seductively for him.

Rhett reaches his locker and begins to place some books  
inside of it.

The locker neighbor to his left closes his locker and rushes  
away.

Down the hall LORISSA (17), a sexy red head, smiles at him.

RHETT  
Hey, Lorissa.

Lorissa smiles at him.

RON (17)--super tall and stocky--jumps into the picture,  
blocking Rhett from Lorissa.

(CONTINUED)

RON  
You just talk to my girlfriend?

RHETT  
Your girlfriend? How do my seconds  
taste?

Ron punches a locker. Students watch in interest.

RON  
If I wasn't close to getting  
expelled, that would be your face.

RHETT  
And if you would have made a dent,  
I would have been scared. Maybe.

RON  
I heard about you here all  
summer--being a player with all the  
girls. Mine's off limits.

RHETT  
She's off limits for now. This  
summer--very different story.

Ron punches the locker again.

RHETT  
Still didn't make a dent.

INT. KENT'S OFFICE - DAY

The blinds are closed. The room is dark. Kathy is bent over  
Kent's desk as he thrusts into her.

Kathy looks at the nameplate on Kent's desk. It reads  
"PRINCIPAL KENT HOWARD."

KATHY (V.O.)  
You do things in an attempt to feel  
alive again. Or distracted. Or  
both.

Kathy looks at a picture of Kent with a woman and a baby on  
his desk. She looks at the wedding ring on his hand.

KATHY (V.O.)  
But it just makes you hate yourself  
more.

(CONTINUED)



KATHY  
So, have you thought about that  
literature camp?

Kent continues thrusting.

KENT  
The...uh...what?

KATHY  
The literature camp I proposed.  
Cover our bad test scores.

KENT  
Can you...just let me...finish?

KATHY  
Uh, yeah. Yeah, sure.

Awkward silence as Kathy stares at the picture of Kent with  
his family.

Kent lets out a stifled moan. Kathy fakes an orgasm.

KATHY  
That was...great.

KENT  
Yeah.

Kent zips up his pants.

KENT  
Look, Kathy...

KATHY  
About the literature camp?

KENT  
No, uh, it's about us. This thing  
between us. We gotta trash it.  
Trisha and I decided to better our  
relationship.

KATHY  
By not fucking other people?

KENT  
She better not be fucking other  
people. She just told me she wanted  
us to stop fighting and go on a  
diet. I figure I should cut all the  
extra fat, you know?

(CONTINUED)

Kathy dresses herself.

KATHY  
We've been doing this for two  
years.

KENT  
It's never too late to quit. Like  
smoking.

Kathy pauses while dressing herself.

KATHY  
You're right.

Kathy forces a smile.

KENT  
I'm glad you could understand.

Kathy turns away from Kent to fix her clothes. We see her  
wipe away a tear in her eye.

INT. MYA'S OFFICE - DAY

Mya sits across her desk from Rhett.

RHETT  
Do you call every student to your  
office? To ask about their first  
day?

MYA  
Your circumstances are...different.

RHETT  
I don't need anyone else making me  
feel different.

MYA  
Ah, so you're not fitting in?

Mya takes a drink out of her water bottle.

RHETT  
All they'll ever see me as is the  
boy they wanna avoid, beat up, or  
fuck.

MYA  
Language.

(CONTINUED)

RHETT  
Is that really water you're  
drinking?

MYA  
Of course.

RHETT  
Your breath tells a different  
story.

Mya shifts uncomfortably.

RHETT  
Now can we talk to each other like  
we're both adults? I am eighteen.

Mya looks at her water bottle.

MYA  
Water with rum--hydrate while you  
dehydrate. Follow my good example.

INT. HALLWAY - SOON AFTER

Rhett walks down the empty hall. He passes Kathy's  
classroom's open door.

INT. KATHY'S CLASSROOM - SAME TIME

Kathy sits at her computer, a blank Microsoft Word doc in  
front of her.

KATHY (V.O.)  
Nothing ever comes out. No matter  
how much you wait. No matter how  
much you hope.

EXT. SCHOOL - LATER

Rhett smokes a bowl behind a small building.

COACH WILLARD (30) spots Rhett.

COACH WILLARD  
Hey, you! Kid!

Rhett dashes away.

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Kathy walks out of the school to her car.

KATHY (V.O.)  
All that comes is another year of  
empty pages.

Kathy gets into her car.

INT. KATHY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Cathy sits in her seat.

KATHY (V.O.)  
All hope for a story is lost.

Rhett pops out from Kathy's back seat.

RHETT  
Okay, just let me explain--

Kathy lets out a scream.

RHETT  
God, fuck. Stop screaming.

KATHY  
You're...you're the delinquent.

RHETT  
I'm the what? Oh, yeah...I guess  
that's me.

KATHY  
I knew I should have took that free  
pepper spray.

RHETT  
Your door was unlocked.

KATHY  
I don't think that excuses this.  
Mya said you were sane. This is not  
sane.

RHETT  
You're cute when you're wiggling out  
like this.

(CONTINUED)

KATHY

Really? Wait, no. You can't say those things to me. I'm a teacher.

RHETT

Look, I was running from some dude, because I was smoking weed and he caught me.

KATHY

You brought drugs into my car?

RHETT

Pot isn't a drug. It's an herb.

Rhett spots Coach Willard looking about the lot. Rhett ducks down.

RHETT

Fuck, it's him.

KATHY

Coach Willard?

RHETT

I don't know his fucking name.

KATHY

Okay, I think we're going to need to cool it on the cursing, young man.

RHETT

I'm eighteen. It's fine. Will you please just get me the fu--the heck out of here. If this dude sees me, I get busted for smoking and go back to juvie. Would you really want to do that to a student?

KATHY

I don't know if I want to aid his escape either.

RHETT

Decide soon, 'cause I'm gonna have to start eating all the pot in my bag if I'm getting busted.

Kathy looks Coach Willard. She then looks at Rhett in her rear view mirror. She looks at the inspirational sticky note attached to the mirror that reads: "EVERY DAY IS A NOVEL WAITING TO BE."

She puts the key into her ignition and turns on the engine.

INT. KATHY'S CAR - LATER

Kathy drives as Rhett climbs into the front seat.

KATHY  
Stay down in the back seat.

RHETT  
Oh, come on. You know you like  
being seen with me.

KATHY  
That is the furthest thing from the  
truth.

RHETT  
Can I smoke a cigarette?

KATHY  
No!

RHETT  
I'm gonna smoke a cigarette. That  
was stressful.

Rhett removes a cigarette box from his pockets. Kathy grabs  
it and chucks it out the window.

KATHY  
Second hand smoke kills.

RHETT  
That's a myth made up by the  
liberals.

KATHY  
I'm a liberal.

RHETT  
I'm indifferent.

KATHY  
Where am I even taking you?

Rhett digs through his bag.

RHETT  
I didn't think about that. My  
place?

(CONTINUED)

KATHY  
I am not driving to your place.

RHETT  
Your place?

KATHY  
You are not going back to my place.

RHETT  
Wow, it's like we're deciding what  
to do after a date.

KATHY  
Don't compare this to a date.

RHETT  
I wouldn't really know. Never been  
on a date.

KATHY  
Okay, don't lie to me.

RHETT  
I haven't. Dates are for people  
with patience.

Rhett removes another cigarette carton from his bag.

Rhett lights his cigarette. He exhales. Kathy can't help but  
stare.

KATHY (V.O.)  
Could this be the day the wait is  
over.

KATHY  
Where is your place?

Rhett smiles.

INT. KATHY'S CAR - LATER

Kathy and Rhett sit in her car, parked outside of Rhett's  
trailer.

The trailer sits on a country road with no neighbors around.

KATHY  
Can I ask you something? What did  
you go to juvie for?

(CONTINUED)

RHETT

Beat a kid up with brass knuckles.  
Put him in the hospital for a long  
time.

KATHY

Why did you do it?

RHETT

See that trailer? Just me and my  
bro live there. He's twenty-four  
and a fag.

KATHY

Rhett, you can't say that.

RHETT

He's my brother; I'll call him a  
fag if I want. But if someone else  
calls him a fag, they get hit.  
Anyone calls him a fag while  
jumping him, they get off even  
worse. Nobody fucks with the people  
I love.

There's a long silence.

RHETT

You wanna come in?

Kathy looks around. Nobody is looking.

KATHY

I could use some water. This has  
been very stressful.

INT. RHETT'S TRAILER - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Kathy and Rhett walk into the trailer. Kathy looks around.  
It's surprisingly clean and orderly.

KATHY

Why is it so clean?

RHETT

My bro is a total  
twenty-four-year-old mother mind.

Kathy looks at a bowl loaded with weed on the table.

(CONTINUED)



KATHY  
Is that...

RHETT  
A loaded bowl. Yes.

KATHY  
I really should go.

RHETT  
Chill out for second.

Rhett picks up the bowl.

RHETT  
It's organic.

Rhett takes a lighter from his pockets and lights it.

KATHY  
Don't you get tested if you're on  
probation.

RHETT  
There are ways to get other  
people's piss.

KATHY  
Just for the record: I'm not  
hearing or seeing any of this right  
now.

RHETT  
You can trust me to keep a secret.

KATHY  
Because I've known you for so long?

RHETT  
Because you saved my ass today. And  
because you're the only person I've  
met at the school who isn't totally  
boring. I wouldn't want to lose  
that.

Kathy hides her smile by looking down.

RHETT  
You want a hit?

KATHY  
I've never smoked marijuana.

(CONTINUED)

RHETT

"Marijuana?" Why not?

KATHY

Because I was a good girl. I stayed home and wrote while I could be partying.

RHETT

Weed is great for writing. It's a creative orgasm.

KATHY

I don't write anymore, so no thanks.

RHETT

What stopped you?

KATHY

Block.

Kathy is silent.

KATHY

My ex broke up with me three years ago. Because he said I only thought about my writing. Not the real world. And...then I got depressed, became a teacher, and...the rest is history.

RHETT

He was stupid.

Rhett gets closer.

KATHY

He was right.

RHETT

Passion looks good on people. Especially when they're already as hot as you.

KATHY

Don't hit on your teachers.

RHETT

Miss Singler?

KATHY  
Call me Kathy when I'm in your  
living room.

RHETT  
Kathy?

KATHY  
What?

Rhett puts the bowl to Kathy's mouth.

RHETT  
Inhale.

Kathy does. She lets the smoke out and begins to cough uncontrollably.

KATHY  
Oh, my god.

RHETT  
Damn, you went hard.

KATHY  
Oh, my god. I just smoked  
pot...with a student.

RHETT  
It's fine. I'm eighteen.

Kathy walks to the door and opens it.

KATHY  
I need to go.

She pauses at the door.

KATHY  
Wait? Am I in the state to drive  
right now?

RHETT  
You took one hit. You're not high.

KATHY  
That was my weed virginity, Rhett.  
How the fuck am I supposed to know?

Kathy slams the door shut. Rhett smiles.

INT. KATHY'S CAR - SOON AFTER

Kathy drives down the road with intense concentration.

A deer runs out in front of her. She slams on her breaks and barely misses it.

Kathy stares in shock, her car motionless. She closes her eyes.

INT. RHETT'S TRAILER - LIVING ROOM (FLASHBACK)

KATHY'S POV

Rhett holding the bowl to her mouth, smoke rising in front of his face.

RHETT

Inhale.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. KATHY'S CAR - DAY

Kathy still has her eyes closed.

KATHY (V.O.)

There's nothing more seductive than  
the perfect story.

Kathy's eyes pop open.

KATHY

Shit, that's a good sentence!

Kathy pushes on the gas.

INT. KATHY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Kathy rushes into her bedroom. She quickly removes her laptop from her bag and places it on her desk. She opens Word and types.

KATHY (V.O.)

There's nothing more seductive than  
the perfect story...

Kathy stares at the sentence in amazement. She looks at an inspirational note on her wall. It reads "THE END OF YOUR WRITER'S BLOCK IS JUST A SENTENCE AWAY."

She begins to type more.

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Kathy gets out of her car. She looks at the school.

KATHY (V.O.)  
You tell yourself to stay in the  
world you belong. Don't stray.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Kathy walks by Rhett in a crowd of students.

RHETT  
Hi, Kathy.

Kathy looks away quickly and walks past him.

KATHY (V.O.)  
Don't stray, Kathy. Don't stray.

INT. KATHY'S CLASSROOM - MORNING

Kathy sits at her desk on her laptop, typing on Microsoft Word.

KATHY (V.O.)  
But you feel its calling. You hear  
it from above.

P.A. SYSTEM  
Will Miss Singler please report to  
the Principle's office? Thank you.

Kathy looks up in panic.

INT. KENT'S OFFICE - SOON AFTER

Kathy walks into the office. In it is Kent, Coach Willard,  
and Rhett.

Kathy looks at Rhett in shock then quickly looks away.

RHETT  
Hi, Miss Singler.

(CONTINUED)

KATHY  
Hello...student.

KENT  
Kathy, we need to clear something  
up.

KATHY  
Okay, look, I was the passive  
person in this--

RHETT  
You need to tell him where I was  
after school yesterday. Helping you  
run books from the middle school.

KENT  
Coach Willard thinks he saw this  
young man smoking marijuana on  
school property.

COACH WILLARD  
I know I saw him.

RHETT  
Again, that's bullshit.

KENT  
Language.

RHETT  
I'm eighteen.

KENT  
Is it true? Was Rhett helping you  
after school between three and  
four.

Kathy is silent for a moment.

KATHY  
That is correct. It couldn't have  
been him.

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

Kathy walks down the hall with Rhett as she whispers to him  
without making eye contact.

KATHY  
What did you think you were doing?

(CONTINUED)

RHETT  
I was covering my ass.

KATHY  
I'm not an ass-cover!

RHETT  
Chill. It's all taken care of.  
Wanna get lunch with me?

KATHY  
No.

RHETT  
We're both two people who don't  
wanna be here. Might as well have  
some fun.

Kathy stops and looks Rhett in the eyes.

KATHY  
We'll have fun in separate  
playgrounds.

RHETT  
Oh, come on. You can share your  
sand box with me. I've got lots of  
toys.

KATHY  
I have enough toys for myself,  
thank you.

Kathy reaches her classroom, opens the door, enters and  
shuts it behind her.

Rhett stares at the door with a smile. Kathy reopens it.

KATHY  
Get to class.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Kathy stands in the front of the line near the food stand.

KATHY (V.O.)  
You can try to ignore the calling,  
but it won't give up. It pursues  
you dauntlessly.

Rhett cuts the GIRL behind Kathy so that he's right behind  
her.

(CONTINUED)

Kathy pretends not to notice.

GIRL  
Hey, no cutting.

RHETT  
I play by juvie rules, kid.

GIRL  
Miss Singler? Did you see him cut?

KATHY  
What? Um...oh, no. I didn't see anything. Sorry.

The COOK (40) begins preparing Kathy's tray.

COOK  
Two hot dogs or one?

KATHY  
One.

RHETT  
(whispering)  
You know you want more meat than that.

Kathy surreptitiously steps on Rhett's foot and continues down the line.

KATHY (V.O.)  
But in your heart of hearts, you know its only a matter of time before the story totally devours you.

INT. KATHY'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Kathy stands in front of her class.

KATHY  
Any questions?

The class is dead.

KATHY  
Any at all? Going once, going twice...

JANICE (15) raises her hand.

(CONTINUED)



JANICE

What does star-crossed mean again?

KATHY

It means...

Kathy gets distracted when she sees Rhett running with the boys gym class outside. He takes off his shirt and fans himself with it while he looks at Kathy from the distance.

JANICE

Miss Singler?

KATHY

It means fate intended it to be.

INT. KATHY'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Kathy sits at her desk, outlining a lesson plan.

She pauses. She pushes the lesson plan away and opens up her laptop and gets to a Microsoft Word document with Rhett's name all over it.

She types.

KATHY (V.O.)

The story is your fate. Your fate is the story. It's the only thing that gives you a reason to be.

Rhett walks into the classroom. Kathy sees him, quickly smiles, shuts her computer, and gets back to her lesson plan.

RHETT

Aren't you supposed to, like, snap to attention when a student comes into your room.

KATHY

I was just wrapping something up.

Rhett sits down at a desk.

RHETT

Okay. I'll wait.

KATHY

You're not in one of my classes. I don't see how I can help you.

(CONTINUED)

RHETT  
By dropping the "I don't want it"  
act.

KATHY  
Close the door.

Rhett smiles. He walks to the door and closes it.

RHETT  
You ever been to the speedway?

KATHY  
No. It's only a collection of  
rednecks and Budweiser.

RHETT  
I race in the speedway.

KATHY  
I was only talking about the  
audience.

RHETT  
I got a souped up ride. Race  
tonight. You should come. At eight.

KATHY  
I have plans.

RHETT  
Plans?

Mya opens the door.

MYA  
Please tell me we're still on for  
drinks tonight. Tommy just got a  
new girl toy, and she's a size  
zero. Really? He might as well be  
fucking one of these students.

Kathy indicates for Mya to see Rhett.

KATHY  
Watch your mouth.

MYA  
Whatever. He's eighteen and been to  
juvie. He can take it.

RHETT  
Right on the money, Mya.

EXT. RHETT'S TRAILER - SHED - DAY

Rhett sits on his race car as DEAN (24) lifts weights. He's extremely muscular yet feminine.

RHETT  
Dean, what do you do when a girl  
plays hard to get?

DEAN  
You're the brother who knows girls,  
not me.

RHETT  
Like, what if she's the hardest  
catch in the sea? Like a teacher?

DEAN  
For baby Jesus's sake, you're  
chasing a teacher?

RHETT  
I didn't say that.

DEAN  
You've never used a hypothetical  
before. Maybe she's holding out  
because, I don't know, it's  
illegal.

RHETT  
What do I do when I can't have  
something?

DEAN  
Steal it.

RHETT  
Exactly.

DEAN  
But you can't steal a person, sweet  
cheeks.

RHETT  
But I can steal her attention.

(CONTINUED)

DEAN

Good luck, grasshopper.

RHETT

I invited her to my race. If I win,  
you think she's mine?

DEAN

You're gonna have to do more than  
that.

Rhett looks at the hood of his car. He smiles as an idea  
comes to mind.

INT. SMALL TOWN BAR - EVENING

Kathy and Mya sit at a bar. Mya has a slight slur to her  
words and several shot glasses are in front of her.

MYA

I hope his fat gut breaks that  
little twig.

KATHY

How do you even know she's a size  
zero? Just by seeing her?

MYA

I haven't seen her.

KATHY

What?

MYA

I was going through Tommy's car and  
I found her clothes.

KATHY

What on earth were you doing in  
Tommy's car?

MYA

It all started with that new  
Kitchenaid mixer. See--

RYLIE (O.C.)

The races are going to be mighty  
fine tonight!

Kathy looks at RYLIE (35), speaking. Kathy concentrates on  
this man as he speaks to a group at his table. At his table  
is CHARLES (30), TIM (35), and two other men of similar age.  
They look rough--ripped flannel and Budweiser hats.

(CONTINUED)

RYLIE

I got my bet on the kid.

CHARLES

Please, his balls probably ain't even dropped yet.

RYLIE

You should probably ask your daughter about that, Charles.

The table laughs.

Kathy checks her watch. It's 7:45.

CHARLES

You best ask yours too, Rylie. He's rottin' everyone's apples.

A WAITRESS (30) walks to the table, bringing drinks.

WAITRESS

Boy can't help that he's a lady killer.

MAN

Don't tell us you fucked him too, Jessica.

WAITRESS

No. But, I named my dildo after 'im.

The men recoil.

Kathy looks to another table at a bar. The whole bar goes quiet. She sees Rhett there, smoking a huge blunt and surrounded by hot and scantily clad girls. The girls stroke his face, kiss his cheek. But the entire time, he keeps his eyes fixed on Kathy.

KATHY (V.O.)

The lady killer. The bad boy. The delinquent everyone wants to be or wants to fuck. The race car champion.

Rhett gets up from his seat. He walks to Kathy.

KATHY (V.O.)

He chose you. Imagine the story you could have.

(CONTINUED)

Rhett holds out a hand to Kathy. Kathy stares at the hand in hesitation.

RHETT

Eight o'clock. Time's running out.

KATHY (V.O.)

You'd have to be crazy to turn it down.

MYA (O.C.)

Kathy?

SMASH CUT TO:

BACK TO REALITY

MYA

Kathy? Are you listening to me?

Kathy snaps out of her day dream.

KATHY

Of course.

MYA

What was the last thing I said?

KATHY

Uh...

TOMMY (30) walks into the bar with TONYA (24). Tonya is incredibly thin.

MYA

Fuckballs. Looks like Tommy brought his pet pencil...

KATHY

They may not even be together.  
She could have just walked in at  
the same time as Tommy...

Tommy slips his hand into Tonya's back pocket. The Waitress takes them to a table. Tommy sees Mya and quickly averts her gaze.

Mya gets up from her seat.

KATHY

What are you doing?

(CONTINUED)

MYA  
Making him jealous.

Mya walks to a DRUNK (30) a bit away. The man is clearly disgusting, but Mya doesn't seem to notice. She sits down next to him with a super arched back.

Kathy looks back at the men at their table. They are beginning to leave.

RYLIE  
Races are waiting, boys! Let's go!

Kathy looks at the men walking out and then Mya who's hand is on the drunk's arm. She looks at her watch. It's 7:50.

INT. BAR - SOON AFTER

Mya's arm is now around the drunk. She gets very close to him.

MYA  
You have beautiful eyes.

She glances back at Tommy, who isn't watching. The drunk downs a shot.

DRUNK  
Thanks.

MYA  
How about we go outside?

DRUNK  
I prefer the liquor to the outdoors.

MYA  
I really think there's more than nature to offer outside.

DRUNK  
This is a small town. Ain't you heard I'm gay?

Mya looks nervously at Tommy.

MYA  
You can't be gay. You have horrible clothing.

(CONTINUED)

DRUNK  
'Cause I'm broke.

MYA  
And you took the drink I bought  
you.

DRUNK  
I ain't gonna turn down alcohol.

Mya stands up trying to maintain her dignity. She looks at  
where Kathy once was.

MYA  
Kathy?

INT. JUNKER TRUCK - NIGHT

Kathy sits in the truck with the group of flannel clad men  
from the bar. They listen to heavy metal and pass around a  
flask.

Kathy tries to talk over the music.

KATHY  
Thanks for the ride.

RYLIE  
It's nothin'.

Tim holds the flask out to Kathy.

TIM  
You ever heard you look like  
Jessica Simpson?

KATHY  
Thank you?

Kathy takes the flask and passes it on. But she then takes  
the flask back and takes a shot.

KATHY (V.O.)  
There's no other thrill like  
entering another world.



INT. LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

Rhett dresses in his racing gear.

KATHY (V.O.)  
A place you're not supposed to be.  
Like being in another person's  
skin.

EXT. REDFORD SPEEDWAY ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Kathy approaches the entrance to the speedway with the men  
with whom she drove.

KATHY (V.O.)  
A foreign country of wild things.

People are pulling into the grass parking lot, roaring their  
engines and honking their horns.

Loud drunks rush past with beers in their hands.

KATHY (V.O.)  
Like visiting an abandoned house.

Kathy walks to the entrance, reaching the ticket office. A  
MAN (60) with rotting teeth smiles at her from behind the  
glass ticket booth.

MAN  
10 dollars.

EXT. FIELD - NIGHT

Rhett walks to his car. He looks at the lights coming from  
the race track stadium.

KATHY (V.O.)  
Even the stars in this world look  
different.

EXT. REDFORD SPEEDWAY STADIUM - NIGHT

Kathy walks into the stadium. Her eyes grow wide as she  
stares at the bright lights and hollering locals.

KATHY (V.O.)  
You're already lost. But it's okay.  
There were no maps to start with.

INT. RHETT'S CAR - NIGHT

Rhett gets inside of his car. He starts the engine.

EXT. REDFORD SPEEDWAY STADIUM - NIGHT

Kathy sits in the stands.

People stand as the race cars enter the stadium.

ANNOUNCER

Rider 49--Chad Whistler.

People in the stands cheer as Rider 49 enters the track.

ANNOUNCER

Rider 88--Brian Hersh.

People cheer more. The man behind Kathy goes wild and spills his beer on her. She shrugs it off.

INT. RHETT'S CAR - NIGHT

Rhett pulls into the stadium, getting bathed in bright lights.

EXT. REDFORD SPEEDWAY STADIUM - CONTINUOUS

Rhett makes his entrance.

ANNOUNCER

Rider 18--Rhett Miller.

The crowd goes wild. Kathy spots Rhett's car's hood. On it is written "4 KAT."

Kathy looks about the stadium, worried someone knows the meaning.

No one looks at her. She relaxes and then lets out a large "whoooo."

INT. RHETT'S CAR - SAME TIME

Rhett roars his engine and looks at his competition.

A girl in a tight and revealing shirt gets onto a stand with a checkered flag.

Rhett looks at the girl--it's Kathy.

EXT. REDFORD SPEEDWAY STADIUM - SAME TIME

Kathy looks at the girl with the checkered flag hold the flag high.

ANNOUNCER

Ready racers. On your marks...get  
set...go.

The girl hurls the flag down and the cars take off.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

INT. RHETT'S CAR/EXT. REDFORD SPEEDWAY STADIUM - NIGHT

--Rhett races down the speedway, dodging cars.

--Rhett pulls to the front of the pack.

--Kathy watches in anguish.

--A car surpasses Rhett and rams into him.

--Rhett goes off the track and almost flips, but he  
rebounds. He's now fallen to fifth place.

KATHY

Come on, Rhett!

--Rhett pushes past people, railing into them.

--Two cars get into a collision. One flips over and tumbles  
onto the field.

--Kathy clenches her hands into fists.

--Rhett is now neck to neck for first place.

ANNOUNCER

18 and 28 on the last lap!

--Rhett and 28 race with all their might to the finish line.  
They bump into each other, but their forces are equal. Rhett  
sees Kathy standing at the middle of the finish line. He  
stomps down more on the acceleration.

--Rhett reaches the finish line first. Mad cheers erupt, the  
loudest of them from Kathy.

(CONTINUED)

ANNOUNCER  
Rider 18 is the winner!

EXT. FIELD - NIGHT

Rhett pulls into the field near the stadium to see Kathy waiting.

Rhett stops his car and gets out.

RHETT  
You enjoy the show?

KATHY  
Not exactly the safest practice.

RHETT  
That's what makes it fun.

Kathy walks to his car and sits on the hood.

KATHY  
I thought you were kinda amazing  
out there. Does it scare you?

RHETT  
Nope. Just excites.

KATHY  
How?

RHETT  
Let me show you.

Kathy gets off the hood.

KATHY  
Okay.

Kathy walks to Rhett's passenger door and enters his car.

INT. RHETT'S CAR - NIGHT

Rhett zooms down the country road with Kathy in the passenger seat.

KATHY (V.O.)  
With him--there were no rules.  
Nobody could get hurt because he  
was a fighter, not a lover. We were  
so wrong for each other that  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

KATHY (V.O.) (cont'd)  
nothing real could ever come. There  
was no right, no wrong. It was all  
just a fun ride to the middle of a  
blissful nowhere.

EXT. RHETT'S TRAILER - NIGHT

Kathy and Rhett lay on Rhett's hood, staring at the stars.

KATHY  
You know that I'm a figure of  
authority to you, right?

RHETT  
Which would make fucking me highly  
illegal.

KATHY  
Sex offenders list.

RHETT  
I can keep a secret.

KATHY  
Can you?

Rhett moves on top of her. He gently slides his hands to her  
throat.

RHETT  
Does that even really matter to  
you? In this very moment.

Kathy looks into Rhett's eyes.

KATHY  
No.

Rhett kisses her. They make out passionately, Kathy flipping  
on top of him. She runs her hand over the K painted on  
Rhett's hood.

KATHY (V.O.)  
And that's how the corpse of Kathy  
Singler came back to life.

INT. KATHY'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Kathy types at her laptop.

KATHY (V.O.)  
Then started the child's play...

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Kathy and Rhett pass each other in the hall. They make brief eye contact.

KATHY (V.O.)  
The pretending nothing happened.

INT. KATHY'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Kathy sits at her desk as her students do their work (play on their phones).

Kathy opens a drawer in her desk. In it, a note reads "A+ ON THE ROAD HEAD LAST NIGHT."

Kathy blushes and pockets the note.

KATHY (V.O.)  
The secret communication.

EXT. UNDER THE BLEACHERS - DAY

Kathy and Rhett under the bleachers. Rhett slides his hands down Kathy's pants.

KATHY (V.O.)  
The fooling around.

INT. STORAGE CLOSET - DAY

Rhett and Kathy fuck in the closet.

KATHY (V.O.)  
And more fooling around.

INT. STORAGE CLOSET - LATER

Kathy lays in Rhett's arms on the floor.

KATHY (V.O.)

It was like being the girl in high school I always wanted to be, but was just too afraid.

KATHY

Do you ever think about what you're going to do after you graduate?

RHETT

I'm not gonna graduate.

KATHY

What?

RHETT

My probation doesn't last that long.

KATHY

So you're gonna be a high school drop-out?

RHETT

A proud high school drop out.

KATHY

There's no pride in that.

Rhett stands up and buttons his pants.

RHETT

Remember what I said about lecturing me? It's really not hot.

KATHY

You shouldn't have chased a teacher if you didn't want to get lectured.

RHETT

And you shouldn't have fucked a student if you wanna be a teacher.

KATHY

It's just...you're smart. The things you say, the things you know...

(CONTINUED)

RHETT

I don't need a teacher to tell me  
I'm smart. Or a high school degree  
from bumfuck central.

KATHY

Then what's your plan?

RHETT

I don't make plans.

KATHY

You need to have a plan, Rhett.

RHETT

Okay. My plan is to graduate high  
school. Go to college. And become a  
teacher that hates his job. You'd  
suggest that path, right?

KATHY

The least you can do is finish the  
year. It's worth the investment.

RHETT

I don't make investments. You  
invest, you get fucked over. I  
learned that when my bi-polar  
mother up and left when I was  
twelve.

KATHY

You never talk about your mother.

RHETT

Gee, I wonder why.

Kathy takes Rhett's hand.

KATHY

Okay, do what you wanna do. I'll  
just enjoy the ride.

Rhett looks away for a moment and then kisses Kathy.

The storage closet door opens and Mya sees the two of them.

MYA

Fuck me stupid...

KATHY

(to Rhett)

I thought you locked the door!



INT. MYA'S OFFICE - DAY

Kathy sits across from Mya.

Mya is crying and Kathy hands her a tissue.

MYA

It's just...I feel like life is so over, you know?

KATHY

No, Mya, you're life is not over.

MYA

But I walk in, and see you with him, and then I'm like, "Holy shit, even she is cooler than me now."

Kathy hands Mya another tissue as she winces at her.

MYA

It's just, like, you were always my consolidation friend. Like, I was divorced, but at least I wasn't Kathy. Who's been single since...

KATHY

It's only been three years.

MYA

Three fucking years! And then I walk in, and I find out you've been fucking that hot bad ass. I couldn't even pick up a chubby man with back hair at that bar.

KATHY

Mya, you're beautiful.

Mya lets out a deep sigh and chucks the tissue box across the office.

MYA

I want in.

KATHY

What?

MYA

I want to go on a double date.

(CONTINUED)

KATHY

That...that's not possible.

MYA

I just caught you kissing a student. I don't think you're in the position to tell me what's possible.

INT. KATHY'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Rhett waits in Kathy's classroom. Kathy enters.

RHETT

So, is she gonna tell? I know she sneaks vodka into school, if that gives us any leverage.

KATHY

She has a...lofty request.

The two stare at each other.

INT. KATHY'S CAR - DAY

Kathy and Rhett are parked in front of Rhett's trailer.

KATHY

I'm still not okay with the fact that you told him.

RHETT

He's our only solution.

KATHY

Rhett, you can't be all willy nilly about who you tell our...situation to.

RHETT

Situation?

KATHY

Yes, situation.

RHETT

What does that mean?

KATHY

I don't know. Back to the point: are we going to ask your brother or not.

INT. RHETT'S TRAILER - DAY

Kathy stands with Rhett and Dean.

DEAN  
You want me to do what?

KATHY  
Just make her feel...I don't know,  
young and pretty.

DEAN  
So I'm supposed to play straight  
boy to cover your asses?

KATHY  
I would be so grateful.

DEAN  
Kathy, right?

KATHY  
Yes.

DEAN  
I just met you, and you're asking  
me to be an accomplice to your  
crime?

RHETT  
This isn't a cri--

KATHY  
Yes, that's exactly what I'm asking  
you.

DEAN  
I'm not eating her pussy. No no.

INT. MYA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

SERIES OF SHOTS -- MYA GETTING READY

--Mya applying foundation in front of a mirror to sumptuous  
music.

--Mya adjusting her boobs to the point of playing with them.

--Mya applying lipstick and smiling to see lipstick covering  
her teeth.

--Mya applying eyeliner.

(CONTINUED)

--Mya spraying herself with perfume.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

We now see Mya's entire face--her makeup is way over-done. She has total raccoon eyes. She smiles at herself in the mirror.

MYA  
Tonight, Mya, you get laid.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. RHETT'S TRAILER - AROUND BACK - NIGHT

Kathy, Rhett, Dean, and Mya sit at a bonfire behind Rhett's house.

Mya, freezing underneath her dressy coat, looks awkwardly at Dean behind her overdone make up.

Dean spits out his chew tobacco into a water bottle. Mya recoils.

MYA  
So, Dean...

DEAN  
(Deep-voiced.)  
Yo.

MYA  
Where are you from?

DEAN  
Gary, Indianan.

MYA  
Hm, that's where *The Music Man* is set, right?

DEAN  
I don't know about that gay musical stuff.

Mya shifts back in discomfort.

RHETT  
Who wants pot?

(CONTINUED)

MYA

Actually, I have to go to the bathroom. Kathy, come with me.

KATHY

I think you're fine on your own.

MYA

Kathy, girlfriends go to the bathroom together.

KATHY

Okay.

Kathy gets up and walks away with Mya.

RHETT

The toilet is kinda broke so only flush if you have to shit.

Mya's stride intensifies.

RHETT

Jesus, Dean. You could be a little more talkative.

DEAN

Straight guys don't talk. They grunt and mutter.

INT. RHETT'S TRAILER - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Mya and Kathy in Rhett's living room.

MYA

Did you set me up with an autistic man?

KATHY

Let's not jump to disabilities, Mya.

MYA

And what the hell? A bonfire? I though we'd go clubbing, or get in a car chase or something.

KATHY

Rhett and I like our privacy.

(CONTINUED)

MYA

This...

Mya opens her coat to reveal an incredibly low cut and high-rising dress in which her ass basically hangs out.

MYA

...is not an outfit for a bonfire.

EXT. RHETT'S TRAILER - AROUND BACK - NIGHT

Rhett and Dean at the bonfire.

RHETT

At least compliment her.

DEAN

On what? it looks like bozo the clown did her make up.

RHETT

She has a kinda nice rack.

DEAN

You can't say that to a girl.

RHETT

I would.

INT. RHETT'S TRAILER - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Kathy and Mya in the living room.

MYA

And his tobacco chewing. Gross!

KATHY

Straight guys chew tobacco!

MYA

What?

KATHY

Never mind.

EXT. RHETT'S TRAILER - AROUND BACK - NIGHT

Dean chucks down his water bottle.

DEAN

I can't chew this anymore. It's making me sick.

INT. RHETT'S TRAILER - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Kathy and Mya.

KATHY

Look, we'll go out there, smoke some pot...

MYA

I. Want. Adventure.

EXT. RHETT'S TRAILER - AROUND BACK - NIGHT

Kathy walks to the bonfire. Mya is not with her.

KATHY

The lady wants adventure.

INT. KATHY'S CAR - NIGHT

Rhett is in the driver's seat. Kathy in the passenger's. Mya and Dean are awkwardly in back.

MYA

Where are we going?

RHETT

You'll see.

Rhett passes a blunt back to Mya. Mya skeptically takes it.

Dean looks at Mya then places a hand on her leg.

Mya smiles and inhales from the blunt.

Rhett starts the car.

INT. KATHY'S CAR - NIGHT

The group pulls into the parking lot of Meijer.

MYA  
We're at Meijer?

RHETT  
You ever been to Meijer high?

MYA  
No, actually. Big surprise there.

RHETT  
It's the best.

MYA  
This was not what I was expecting.

RHETT  
Glad I could surprise you.

INT. MEIJER ENTRANCE - NIGHT

The group walks through the entrance.

MYA  
Really, Kathy?

KATHY  
Where else are we going to go past  
midnight where no one else will see  
us?

Mya looks at the store.

MYA  
It is pretty colorful.

RHETT  
Like childhood all over again.

INT. MEIJER - FROZEN FOOD ISLE - NIGHT

Mya and Dean walk down the isle.

MYA  
This is what it means to be  
American. Endless varieties of  
shit.

(CONTINUED)



Mya stops at some jalapeno poppers. She opens the freezer door.

MYA  
Nothing would be better than these  
right now.

DEAN  
Can you say saturated fat?

Mya leans back and lets the door fall closed.

MYA  
Oh my god, you're gay.

INT. MEIJER - CLOTHES SECTION - NIGHT

Rhett holds out an extremely low cut shirt for Kathy.

RHETT  
Meijer has gotten way less  
wholesome. Try it on.

KATHY  
I'm not going to wear that.

RHETT  
Come on. You dress  
so...conservative. In cardigans and  
shit.

KATHY  
I dress maturely.

RHETT  
AKA boring.

Kathy takes the shirt.

INT. MEIJER - RECYCLING CENTER - NIGHT

Mya and Dean hide out and eat Oreos and share a half-gallon of skim milk.

MYA  
I should have known when you looked  
at my shoes before you looked at my  
rack.

(CONTINUED)

DEAN  
They're nice shoes.

MYA  
Really?

DEAN  
Yeah.

Mya scoots closer to Dean.

MYA  
I like you more as a homosexual.

DEAN  
Girls usually do.

MYA  
Dean, why do boys not like me?

DEAN  
What?

MYA  
Ever since my divorce, my ex has  
been in hog heaven, and I've  
been...barren as the Sahara.

DEAN  
I don't know. Maybe because you're  
trying too hard?

MYA  
My therapist says it's because I  
don't love myself.

DEAN  
Who does?

MYA  
I think Rhett does.

DEAN  
You'd be surprised.

MYA  
I hate Kathy for landing him.

DEAN  
You don't want him.

( CONTINUED )

MYA

Probably not. I just want the idea of him. That's how it was with my ex. Or at least that's what my therapist said. I fell in love with the idea of him. But had to deal with the reality for years...

Mya pops a whole oreo into her mouth.

DEAN

Like, we all fall for the idea of someone. And the idea of what we could be with them.

MYA

I miss deep high conversations. I haven't done it since college when I was experimenting with lesbianity.

DEAN

We should smoke together more.

MYA

You just made my millennium.

INT. MEIJER - DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

Rhett slides his hand over Kathy's body now in the skimpy shirt. They look at each other through the mirror.

RHETT

You should steal it.

KATHY

That's bad for the economy.

RHETT

Fuck the one percent.

KATHY

I've never shoplifted. I'm not going to start now.

Rhett slides his hand to Kathy's throat.

RHETT

What if I make you take it.

Kathy moves his hand away.

(CONTINUED)

KATHY  
Forced shoplifting doesn't turn me  
on.

RHETT  
Come on.

Rhett indicates to Kathy's sweater on the ground.

RHETT  
Leave that boring shirt here, and  
wear this risky one out the door.

KATHY  
What are you going to do in return?

RHETT  
I'll...finish high school.

Kathy turns and looks Rhett in the eyes.

KATHY  
You'll finish high school if I  
shoplift this?

RHETT  
Cross my heart.

Kathy goes to the stall door.

KATHY  
Wait in here for a bit. I don't  
want people to see you coming out  
with me.

Rhett smiles. Kathy exits. Rhett picks up Kathy's abandoned  
sweater and smells it.

INT. MEIJER - CLOTHES SECTION - MOMENTS AFTER

Kathy walks through the young girl's clothing. Kent, looking  
at Baby clothes, spots her.

KENT  
Kathy?

Kathy sees Kent and quickly puts on her coat.

KATHY  
Kent. What are you doing here?

(CONTINUED)

KENT

Diaper run. I was just...

Kent's eyes get lost in Kathy's cleavage. Kathy buttons up her coat.

Rhett exits the stalls. He begins to walk to Kathy but she indicates to Kent with her eyes and head. Rhett sees him and backs away.

KENT

...I was...I was just looking at baby clothes.

KATHY

I, uh, I was just here on an emergency tampon run.

KENT

Ewe.

KATHY

I think you can understand why I have to rush off.

Kent nods. Kathy walks away. Kent follows her with his eyes. Rhett realizes Kent's interest.

INT. MEIJER - RECYCLING CENTER - SOON AFTER

Mya and Dean look at the empty Oreo container.

MYA

Should we go bulimic?

DEAN

I tried that three years ago.

MYA

I tried it last week after brunch.

DEAN

Let's not go back to that stage in our life.

MYA

Agreed.

Kathy enters.

(CONTINUED)

KATHY

What are you guys doing in here?

Mya hides the Oreo container behind her back. Dean hides the almost empty half-gallon of milk.

MYA

Nothing.

DEAN

Just chilling.

INT. MEIJER ENTRANCE - NIGHT

The group leaves. As Kathy passes through the exit, the sensors go off.

Kathy stops dead in her tracks.

RHETT

Don't just stand there--run!

KATHY

But--

RHETT

If you want me to graduate, run!

Kathy takes off. The rest follow suit.

EXT. MEIJER - NIGHT

Everyone races to Kathy's car laughing.

MYA

You shoplifted?

KATHY

It was for a good cause.

RHETT

Fuck the one percent!

INT. KATHY'S CAR - LATER

The group travel down country roads. Rhett takes Kathy's hand.

In the back, Dean puts his arm around Mya, who leans her head on his chest.

INT. KATHY'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Kathy types at her laptop.

KATHY (V.O.)  
And through exploring him, I  
explored myself.

MONTAGE - THEIR RELATIONSHIP PROGRESSES

-- Kathy's bedroom -- Kathy checks herself out in the mirror in panties and the skimpy shirt Rhett picked out for her. She runs her hand along her curves and smiles.

-- Kathy's classroom -- Kathy lectures the students with an intensity and liveliness we have not seen. She is smiling and moving her hands vibrantly.

-- Outside Kathy's classroom - same time -- Rhett watches Kathy lecture through a small window. He smiles.

-- Rhett's trailer -- Rhett teaches Kathy how to take a bong hit. She can't stop coughing when she's done, but laughs through it.

-- Redford Speedway Stadium -- Kathy cheers madly in the stands with a Budweiser hat on her head. Dean and Mya sit next to her sharing a wine bottle.

-- Rhett's car -- Kathy drives Rhett's car with him in the passenger's seat. Rhett points for her to drive into a cropland field. She at first protests but then does so. She drives the car in mad figure eights in the field, tearing up its mud.

-- Dressing room -- Kathy puts on a revealing yet professional blouse. She smiles at herself in the mirror.

-- School hallway -- Kathy walks down the school hallway. She passes Kent, who stares at her with intense interest, but she doesn't notice. She passes Rhett and they share short and secret smiles.

-- Rhett's trailer -- Kathy types on her laptop while Rhett writes geometry problems on paper with his math book in front of him. He raises his hand, and Kathy goes to help him.

-- Kathy's bedroom -- Kathy types madly at her computer. She then looks at the posters and inspirational notes around her.

(CONTINUED)

-- Kathy's Bedroom - soon after -- Kathy puts the posters and notes into a trash bag.

-- Kathy's bedroom - soon after -- Kathy's wall is completely bare of all forced inspiration. She then tapes one note on the wall--it's the note from Rhett that reads "A+ on the road head last night."

END MONTAGE

INT. KATHY'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Kathy lectures her class.

KATHY

So, today, we're starting our creative writing unit.

There's no arousal in the class whatsoever.

KATHY

Creative. Writing. Fun times!

Kathy looks out into the dead classroom. Many of them are on their phones.

KATHY

Jimmy, Tonya, Eric, Kyle, Susan, Amanda. Phones--put them on my desk NOW.

The students are shocked.

KATHY

You can collect the phones after detention. As for the rest of you, how about you take some damn value in your education. You know, children in Mexico would kill to have what you have, and you all act like you're in a fucking penitentiary. Oh, yeah, I said fucking, that got a response, didn't it? See, kids, words really do possess power.

Everyone's attention is on her.

P.A. SYSTEM

Will Miss Sinlger please come to the principle's office?



INT. KENT'S OFFICE - DAY

Kent sits across his desk from Kathy. Kent's eyes are on Kathy's revealed cleavage.

KENT  
So, how have things been going with  
your...your uh...

KATHY  
Teaching?

KENT  
Yeah, that stuff.

KATHY  
I'm getting to understand my  
students more and more.

KENT  
We need to talk about your...your  
clothing.

KATHY  
My clothes?

KENT  
I've noticed...a change. A  
revealing change.

KATHY  
I'm adhering to the dress code.

KENT  
The dress code is for students.

KATHY  
I'm not a student.

KENT  
Exactly my point.

KATHY  
Kent, have you heard about  
narrative subtext?

KENT  
I wasn't an English major.

KATHY  
It's what the story's really about  
behind the surface.

(CONTINUED)

KENT  
Kathy, I'm not your student.

KATHY  
What is this really about?

KENT  
Your inappropriate attire is  
distracting students.

KATHY  
Or is it distracting you? And  
you're mad because you broke things  
off.

Kent is silent.

KATHY  
I'll take what you said into  
account. Can I go now?

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Rhett smokes a cigarette by railroad tracks.

Lorissa approaches him.

LORISSA  
Smoking on school property?

RHETT  
I'm on the other side of the  
tracks. Not school property.

LORISSA  
Why don't you cross over to my  
side? Live on the edge.

RHETT  
Rather not.

LORISSA  
When did you start caring?

RHETT  
Who said I cared?

Lorissa walks closer.

LORISSA  
You hear I broke up with Ron?

(CONTINUED)

RHETT  
Why? Small dick?

LORISSA  
It didn't compare to yours. That's  
for sure.

Lorissa walks in even closer.

Rhett looks at her and throws his cigarette down on the  
ground.

LORISSA  
You had half that cigarette left.  
You coulda shared.

RHETT  
I've got plans.

LORISSA  
What plans?

RHETT  
It's a surprise.

Rhett walks away.

LORISSA  
When's the last time you've fucked  
a girl? Rumor is, you've gone gay  
like your brother.

RHETT  
At least I'm not desperately  
looking for a rebound.

LORISSA  
Fuck you.

RHETT  
No thanks.

INT. RHETT'S TRAILER - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Rhett covers Kathy's eyes with his hands.

Rhett takes away his hands so that Kathy can see a candle  
lit living room with a table in the middle covered by a  
checkered table cloth.

(CONTINUED)

RHETT  
Surprise. I thought I'd try giving  
romance a go.

KATHY  
That's great...

RHETT  
I mean, you know what today is,  
right?

KATHY  
Uh, not really.

RHETT  
Oh, uh, never mind then. You wanna  
beer or to smoke a bowl or  
something?

KATHY  
What day is it?

RHETT  
Never mind. I was stupid. I thought  
it was your birthday.

KATHY  
My birthday's in June.

RHETT  
June...October. Guess I got the  
months mixed up. Dinner's in the  
oven.

Rhett walks into the kitchen. Kathy follows.

INT. RHETT'S TRAILER - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Rhett removes a tray of lasagna from the oven.

Kathy looks at the lasagna, amazed.

RHETT  
There's salad in the fridge.

KATHY  
You cooked all this?

RHETT  
Dean helped a lot.

Rhett cuts the lasagna. His hands are shaking a bit.

(CONTINUED)

KATHY  
I'm impressed.

RHETT  
Thanks. Go sit at the table and  
I'll serve things up.

KATHY  
It's not my birthday. I can help.

RHETT  
(Angered)  
Just go fucking sit at the table,  
alright?

Kathy places her hand on Rhett's arm.

KATHY  
Is everything okay?

Rhett flings Kathy's hand away.

RHETT  
Yeah. It was just a long day. I  
don't think I did that great on my  
anatomy test.

KATHY  
I'm sure you passed.

RHETT  
A monkey could pass it. Maybe I'd  
like to prove I'm smarter than a  
monkey.

KATHY  
You are.

Kathy goes in to give Rhett a kiss. He stands still and  
doesn't kiss back.

RHETT  
It was our one month anniversary  
today.

Kathy pulls away.

KATHY  
I didn't think we were counting.

RHETT  
Isn't that what people do?

(CONTINUED)

KATHY  
I guess people do that, but--

RHETT  
Just go sit down, and I'll serve  
you your dinner.

Kathy smiles and Rhett turns away to cut the lasagna again.

INT. RHETT'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Rhett thrusts softly into Kathy while he kisses the side of her neck. Kathy looks at herself in a full-length mirror and winces.

Kathy looks at Rhett. He lets out a boyish moan as he cums.

He collapses on top of Kathy and grips her firmly.

KATHY (V.O.)  
And in that moment, I wasn't so  
sure where my story was going.

INT. KATHY'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Kathy is in her empty classroom. Rhett enters.

RHETT  
You ready to see me dominate the  
track tonight? Fifth time in a row.

KATHY  
I actually have a writing workshop.

RHETT  
Oh, yeah? That's...cool.

KATHY  
You don't mind do you?

RHETT  
No. It's cool. I mean, you're only  
missing one race. There will be  
more.

KATHY  
Many more victories to come.

Rhett hangs out at the door for a moment.

(CONTINUED)

RHETT  
Did you enjoy last night?

KATHY  
Of course.

RHETT  
You just seemed kinda...limp.

KATHY  
You get tired when you're not  
eighteen.

RHETT  
You're only twenty-eight.

Kathy looks at her computer.

KATHY  
I have a meeting. I'll see you  
soon.

Kathy strides out of the classroom. Rhett lingers behind.

RHETT  
When is soon?

INT. COLLEGE HALLWAY - DAY

A sign reads "WRITING WORKSHOP WITH PUBLISHER REGINA  
SHINER." Kathy walks by it.

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

Kathy sits with a group of writers.

REGINA SHINER (40) stands in front of them.

REGINA  
So in this exercise, we'll practice  
doing touch ups on preexisting  
works.

Kathy sees her computer is dying. She looks in her bag for  
her charger. It isn't there.

KATHY  
I've misplaced my charger, can I  
use one of the computers?

Kathy indicates to computers at a nearby table.

INT. LIBRARY - SOON AFTER

Kathy sits at the computer typing while Regina assists the class.

REGINA  
Remember, class, think about your  
audience. What will bring them in?

INT. RHETT'S CAR - NIGHT

Rhett races cars at the speedway.

REGINA (V.O.)  
What's exciting about your work?  
Your idea?

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

Kathy finds and replaces all "Rhett's" with the name "Mike."

REGINA  
What will the audience remember  
about your characters?

INT. RHETT'S CAR - NIGHT

Rhett focuses on racing.

REGINA (V.O.)  
Is a clear voice present?

KATHY (O.C.)  
Did you really think I was going to  
keep interest?

Rhett looks over to see Kathy in the passenger seat.

RHETT  
Shut up, I'm driving.

KATHY  
You're just a kid. What could I  
really see in you?

RHETT  
I think I've proven I'm more than a  
kid.



INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

Kathy types as Regina lectures.

REGINA

How does what you say now reflect  
what will happen later?

INT. RHETT'S CAR - NIGHT

KATHY

You get tired when you're not  
eighteen, Rhett. Tired of  
everybody.

RHETT

You're only ten years older.

KATHY

That's ages of life experience.  
And, sorry, but some kid with  
straight C's who's been to  
juvie...isn't really my type.

Two cars pass Rhett.

RHETT

Fuck.

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

Kathy searches for her name and replaces them with  
"Alexa's."

REGINA

Is your story far enough removed  
from reality to entertain yet close  
enough to be relatable?

INT. RHETT'S CAR - NIGHT

Kathy reaches for the door.

KATHY

I'm getting out now.

RHETT

Don't. You'll get hurt.

(CONTINUED)

KATHY  
I don't need you to protect me.

EXT. REDFORD SPEEDWAY STADIUM - NIGHT

Dean and Mya watch Rhett race from the stands. His car swerves as cars pass him.

MYA  
Why is he sucking all of a sudden?

DEAN  
I don't know. Why isn't Kathy here?

INT. RHETT'S CAR - NIGHT

RHETT  
This car is going way too fast for you to get out.

KATHY  
It doesn't matter how fast you drive. You can't keep me.

Kathy begins to open the door. Rhett reaches for her.

RHETT  
Don't leave.

INT. RHETT'S CAR/EXT. REDFORD SPEEDWAY STADIUM - CONTINUOUS

Rhett's car swerves and hits another car. It sends Rhett off the track and into a tumbling disaster. The car he hit faced the same fate and lands on top of Rhett's car. The spectators are aghast.

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

Regina lectures and Kathy types.

REGINA  
Do you have a direction for your story. How will it end?

Kathy's phone vibrates. It's a call from Mya.

Kathy walks out of the library.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Kathy talks on the phone.

KATHY  
Jesus, Mya. Have you come down with  
calling turrets? You keep hitting  
up my phone.

Kathy is silent.

KATHY  
Oh...oh, shit.

More silence.

KATHY  
I'll, I'll be on my way.

Kathy rushes off.

INT. LIBRARY - SAME TIME

Regina curiously watches Kathy rush away behind the window.

Regina passes Kathy's computer and sees her open Microsoft Word document.

She begins to read its text.

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

Kathy rushes in. She looks at Mya sitting there reading a fashion magazine.

KATHY  
What are you doing here?

MYA  
I wanna know if he makes it out.

KATHY  
We can't be so visible. People  
would think it's funny that we're  
waiting out here for him.

MYA  
He's our student.

(CONTINUED)

KATHY  
It's obviously not that simple.

MYA  
Jeeze, I thought I was the selfish  
bitch between the two of us.

KATHY  
You are.

MYA  
Then why haven't you asked how he's  
doing?

Dean enters the waiting room.

DEAN  
He's stable, but out of it.

KATHY  
What happened?

DEAN  
Apperently he got sloppy. The boy's  
driving was as shitty as his  
bathroom aim.

KATHY  
He does piss all over the rim.

DEAN  
Are you the one who has to clean it  
up?

KATHY  
So...will he be all right?

DEAN  
Some bruising. Strained neck. He  
got lucky. Doctors said...if he  
would have hit his neck...just a  
little different...

Dean can't finish.

MYA  
Dean?

DEAN  
Just a little different, and the  
little shit would have been  
paralyzed.

( CONTINUED )

KATHY  
When can I see him?

DEAN  
He's pretty knocked out now. But  
maybe wait here a couple hours.

Kathy looks self-consciously around the waiting room. She spots two children coloring with crayons.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Rhett, bruised badly, returns from his slumber.

He sees Dean.

DEAN  
Hey there, you irresponsible idiot.

RHETT  
Hey there, shit eater.

Rhett looks about the room.

RHETT  
Where's Kathy?

DEAN  
She uh...she left. But she wanted  
me to sneak this to you.

Dean hands Rhett a card made out of notebook paper and crayons. On the cover it reads "HAPPY LATE ANNIVERSARY"

Rhett opens it and reads it. His jaw tenses and he swallows as he blinks.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

RHETT'S POV

We walk down the hall. Students look at us and hide laughter.

REVEAL Rhett in a neck brace, walking through the hall.

The bell rings.

INT. KATHY'S CLASSROOM - MORNING

Kathy sits at her desk. Rhett enters the room.

RHETT

Can I get a ride? Doctors say I  
can't turn my neck enough to check  
blind spots.

KATHY

To where?

RHETT

Junk yard. I gotta pick up some of  
the things from inside my car.

EXT. JUNKYARD - DAY

Kathy pulls up to the junk yard.

INT. KATHY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Kathy and Rhett in her car.

KATHY

What do you need to get?

RHETT

Just some good luck charms.

KATHY

What are they?

RHETT

Secret. Just wait here.

Rhett gets out of the car. Kathy watches Rhett walk to a  
man, who goes to the shed and hands Rhett a trash bag of  
stuff.

The man points Rhett in a certain direction. Rhett begins to  
walk that way.

Kathy drives up to Rhett, her window down.

KATHY

Where are you going?

RHETT

To look at the damage.

(CONTINUED)

KATHY  
Don't you think it's a little soon?

RHETT  
Give it a week, and the car will be  
picked to shreds.

KATHY  
I think it's best to just let it  
go.

RHETT  
Don't tell me what's best.

Kathy stops following Rhett with her car. Rhett turns  
around.

RHETT  
Do you wanna see it?

KATHY  
I'll just wait.

RHETT  
You sure? The damage is pretty  
sick.

KATHY  
Sick damage isn't really my thing.

RHETT  
Just come.

Beat.

RHETT  
Please.

Kathy stealthily looks at the junkyard man.

INT. JUNKYARD - DAY

A leached dog barks madly at Rhett and Kathy as they pass.  
They approach Rhett's car. It's a completely crumpled mess.  
Kathy looks at the massacred "4 KAT" on his hood.

KATHY  
Fuck, Rhett.

(CONTINUED)

RHETT  
See what you missed that night?

KATHY  
I didn't miss anything.

Silence.

RHETT  
I've been driving since I was  
twelve.

KATHY  
That's...illegal.

RHETT  
Racing since fifteen, then  
officially when I was sixteen.  
There was nothing that made me feel  
more in control of my life.

Rhett goes to his car and places his hand on it.

RHETT  
I almost died, didn't I?

Kathy takes his hand.

KATHY  
But you didn't.

RHETT  
Give me your keys.

EXT. JUNKYARD - DAY

Rhett rushes to the driver's door of Kathy's car. Kathy  
rushes behind him.

KATHY  
The doctor said--

RHETT  
Fuck doctors. They're only good for  
getting recreational meds.

KATHY  
You can't check your blind spot.

RHETT  
Bullshit.

(CONTINUED)



Rhett twists his body at the waist repeatedly. In his neck brace, he looks both sad and entertainingly ridiculous.

RHETT  
Look what I'm doing: turning my  
body. Checking my blind spot.

Rhett gets into the driver's seat.

RHETT  
Let's go.

INT. KATHY'S CAR - LATER

Rhett sits in the driver's seat with Kathy in the passenger seat. He puts the key into the ignition.

INT. RHETT'S CAR - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Rhett inside his car as it flips out of control.

INT. KATHY'S CAR - DAY

Rhett's hand shakes as he takes the car out of park.  
Kathy notices his fear.

INT. RHETT'S CAR - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Rhett seeing out his window as a car flies at him.

INT. KATHY'S CAR - DAY

Rhett slowly lets off the gas. The car begins to move.

INT. RHETT'S CAR - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

The car makes an impact with Rhett's car, crunching on top of it.

INT. KATHY'S CAR - DAY

Rhett slams on the breaks and puts the car in park.

(CONTINUED)

RHETT  
I...I can't.

KATHY  
It's okay. It's only been--

RHETT  
FUCK!

Rhett attacks Kathy's steering wheel.

RHETT  
FUCK DAMMIT!

Kathy places her hands on Rhett's arm.

KATHY  
Stop.

Rhett pushes her hand away and punches the steering wheel hard.

RHETT  
Fuck you!

KATHY  
Fuck me?

RHETT  
It's your fault.

KATHY  
What?

RHETT  
Nothing. You...you shouldn't have  
let me drive. It...it was too soon.

Kathy puts her hand on Rhett's hand.

KATHY  
There's more to you than racing,  
Rhett. You're smart, and funny, and  
cute.

Rhett looks away from Kathy and out the window.

RHETT  
Don't leave me.

Silence. Kathy looks at the sticky note on her mirror  
reading "EVERY DAY IS A NOVEL WAITING TO BE."

(CONTINUED)

RHETT  
Don't leave me?

KATHY  
I won't.

Rhett turns to Kathy and goes in for a kiss. Kathy pulls away, indicating to the junk yard man a distance away.

INT. RHETT'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kathy lays awake with Rhett resting on her bare chest. His neck brace makes the position horribly awkward.

Kathy looks at the trash bag Rhett collected from the junkyard.

Kathy gets up and stealthily looks inside the bag. She pulls out the sweater she thought she left long behind at Meijer's dressing room.

Kathy looks back down at Rhett who stirs in his sleep. She shoves the shirt back in the bag.

Kathy sits down on Rhett's bed. He places his head on her legs. She plays with his hand.

INT. MYA'S OFFICE - DAY

Kathy sits across from Mya and chugs down a mug of coffee.

MYA  
Someone's thirsty for caffeine.

KATHY  
I couldn't sleep last night.

MYA  
You want some drank?

KATHY  
Drank? Are we sixteen?

MYA  
It perks me up. You know what else  
perks me up?

Mya removes a small bag of weed from her purse.

(CONTINUED)

MYA

Maybe it's because I'm ADHD, but  
pot is a total upper.

Kathy shoves the bag back into Mya's purse.

KATHY

You brought that to school?

MYA

Dean gave it to me at a discount.  
It's...what did he call it? It's  
the opposite of reggie...

KATHY

Chronic?

MYA

Yeah, that's it! I'm on that  
chronic shit.

KATHY

You need to stop hanging out with  
Dean.

MYA

You're the one breaking the law.

KATHY

Yeah, well, that may be about to  
end.

MYA

What?

KATHY

He...he's a kid.

MYA

He's eighteen.

KATHY

Exactly.

MYA

What about all the fun? What about  
enjoying the ride?

KATHY

Rhett can't drive anymore.

( CONTINUED )

MYA

Yeah, that neck brace kinda fucks everything up.

KATHY

I was speaking metaphorically.

MYA

What about the four of us? What about the gang?

KATHY

This isn't...Dawson's Creek.

MYA

I haven't told anyone your secret.

KATHY

How valiant of you.

MYA

So give me some credit and don't break it off with him.

KATHY

Why do you care?

MYA

Because.

KATHY

Because you like smoking pot with the boys?

MYA

Because I like not feeling alone.

The bell rings.

KATHY

I have to get to class.

Kathy leaves the office. Mya takes a big swig from her water bottle.

INT. KATHY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kathy sits with her phone in her hand.

ON PHONE SCREEN

We see through Kathy's messages that Rhett has messaged her three times. "TIT PIC?" "THAT WAS A JOKE OBVIOUSLY" and "WANNA COME OVER TONIGHT?" The times of the messages are spread out in roughly thirty-minute increments.

BACK TO SCENE

Kathy stares at her phone.

She begins texting.

ONE PHONE SCREEN

Kathy begins to type: "WE NEED TO"

Kathy stops texting. Then deletes what she wrote.

She tries again: "NOT TONIGHT. I JUST"

She stops again and deletes what she wrote.

BACK TO SCENE

Kathy looks at the road head note from Rhett posted on her wall.

Her phone rings. The number is unknown. She answers it.

KATHY

Hello?

INT. REGINA'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Regina sits with a pile of papers in front of her at her desk.

REGINA

Kathy. It's Regina. The publisher.

INT. KATHY'S BEDROOM/REGINA'S OFFICE

KATHY

Re...Regina?

(CONTINUED)

REGINA  
Yes, Ma'am.

KATHY  
Did I...did I break something at  
the workshop or something?

Regina laughs.

REGINA  
No. Just left in such a rush that  
you didn't close your computer.

KATHY  
Oh....

Regina shifts through the papers

REGINA  
And, I read your work.

Kathy looks like a deer in headlights.

KATHY  
You read my work?

REGINA  
Sure did.

KATHY  
Uh...I can explain, I just--

REGINA  
You don't need to do any  
explaining. This shit is golden,  
sister!

Kathy removes the phone from her ear and stares at it in  
amazement.

KATHY  
What?

REGINA  
You heard me. This is just the  
escapist spank-bank material  
middle-aged housewives are begging  
for!

KATHY  
Um...you always said to know your  
audience.

(CONTINUED)

REGINA  
I'm glad I had an effect. Why  
didn't you ever submit this before?

KATHY  
It's...a new work in progress.

REGINA  
Get inspired then, because when you  
finish it, I will be VERY  
interested.

INT. KATHY'S BEDROOM - LATER

Kathy primps herself in front of her mirror.  
She messages Rhett.

ON PHONE SCREEN

Kathy writes: "BE AT YOUR PLACE SOON."

INT. RHETT'S BEDROOM - SAMETIME

Rhett sits on his bed, staring at his phone. He smiles as he  
gets a message from Kathy.

INT. KATHY'S HOUSE - ENTRANCE - SOON AFTER

Kathy opens the door. Kent stands at her doorstep. He is  
red-faced and his dress shirt is sloppily dangling out.

KATHY  
Kent?

Kent enters her house and goes in for a kiss. Kathy pulls  
away.

KATHY  
How drunk are you?

KENT  
I'm sober.

KATHY  
Kent, I have a nose.

(CONTINUED)



KENT

Maybe I'm a little tipsy.

Kent leans against the wall.

KENT

You look pretty tonight. Going out?

KATHY

Just...going to a friend's.

KENT

A boyfriend?

KATHY

It's a girlfriend.

KENT

What's her name?

KATHY

I'm running late.

KENT

I can see it on you. You've got another man. I could tell weeks ago.

KATHY

Did you drive here?

KENT

It's fine. I could pass all that cop...drunk drivin'...test shit in my sleep.

KATHY

You need to sober up.

KENT

I can sober up here.

Kathy walks to the door and opens it.

KATHY

No. You can't. You can sleep in your car.

KENT

Come on. It's been too long since I've been in your bed.

(CONTINUED)

KATHY

Remember how you're trying to be a better person? Diet? Not cheating on your wife?

KENT

We quit the diet a loooong time ago. And she never puts out.

KATHY

Maybe you should talk to a counselor about that.

KENT

You telling me I need a shrink?

KATHY

No.

KENT

Don't cop an attitude with me, little missy. I'm giving you another chance.

Kathy stares at Kent with slitted eyes.

KATHY

Another chance?

KENT

Great big opening in my schedule.

Kathy walks out of her house.

EXT. KATHY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Kathy looks at Kent still in her house.

KATHY

Go sleep in your car, and this will all be a joke in the morning.

Kent punches her wall.

KATHY

What is it with men and hitting inanimate objects? Now get in your car.

KENT

May I remind you I'm your boss.

(CONTINUED)

KATHY  
You'll thank me in the morning.

INT. KENT'S CAR - LATER

Kathy drives out of her driveway. Kent watches her drive away from inside his car.

Once she's out of site, he looks at her house door.

EXT. KATHY'S HOUSE - ENTRANCE

Kent places his hand on Kathy's doorknob. He twists it. The door opens.

SERIES OF SHOTS - KENT EXPLORES

--Kent sits on Kathy's bed, looking about her room.

--Kent goes through Kathy's closet, running his hands along the clothes.

--At her drawer, Kent removes panties. He sniffs and pockets one.

--He looks in Kathy's mirror. He punches it and it shatters. His knuckles bleed.

KENT  
Fuck!

He winces in pain but spots something.

We see that he is looking at the road head note.

Kent walks to it and takes it off the wall. He looks on the back of it. On the back is signed "--RHETT."

INT. RHETT'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kathy types on her laptop with Rhett sleeping next to her.

KATHY (V.O.)  
How would this story end? And could  
I even control its ending?

Kathy closes her laptop and places it on Rhett's nightstand. She lays down in bed and stares at the laptop. Rhett puts his arm around her. She closes her eyes.

INT. RHETT'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Kathy wakes up. She looks to where her laptop once was. She reaches for it and looks around. It's no where in site. Neither is Rhett.

KATHY

Rhett? Rhett, have you seen my laptop?

INT. RHETT'S TRAILER - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Kathy walks through the empty living room.

KATHY

Rhett?

Kathy opens the trailer door.

EXT. RHETT'S TRAILER - MORNING

Kathy calls out the door.

KATHY

Rhett? Are you out here?

RHETT (O.C.)

I'm around back.

Kathy lets out a sigh of relief.

EXT. RHETT'S TRAILER - AROUND BACK - MORNING

Kathy walks out to see Rhett at the fire pit with a lit fire. He has papers in his hands.

KATHY

Have you seen my--

RHETT

Your laptop? It's in your car with the rest of the shit you've left at my house.

KATHY

Is something wrong?

Rhett begins to read the papers.

(CONTINUED)

RHETT

"He was a strange creature. But misunderstood. Even in that moment, I couldn't tell if he was a lone wolf, or a lost soul."

Rhett cripples up the paper and tosses it into the fire.

KATHY

That was my private--

RHETT

Shhh...I'm doing a reading of a very literary work by yours truly. Here's another good part: "I wondered, could he be the one to make my writing come alive again? Could he be the answer?"

Rhett tosses that page into the fire as well.

KATHY

So what? You inspired me.

RHETT

Here's my favorite part: "With him--there were no rules. Nobody could get hurt because he was a fighter, not a lover. We were so wrong for each other that nothing real could ever come. There was no right, no wrong. It was all just a fun ride to the middle of a blissful nowhere."

Rhett tosses all of the pages in the fire.

RHETT

Is this what you think of me?

KATHY

It...it was loosely based on you.

RHETT

Loosely? It's like reading some fucked up biography. What was I? Just material?

KATHY

When you're a writer, everyone is material.

(CONTINUED)

RHETT

But this isn't me! Some strange creature? Some fighter who can't...love?

KATHY

Once again: loosely based. A writer can take liberties with the truth.

RHETT

Some fucking immersion writer you are.

KATHY

Look...I...I had nothing else in my life but this story, okay? I'm a failed writer teaching at a bumblefuck high school.

RHETT

You had nothing else but this fifty-shades of crap? That's the only thing you had in your life?

KATHY

Yes. I know. I'm pathetic. You don't need to rub it in.

RHETT

What about me?

KATHY

I didn't think you'd ever read it.

RHETT

No. What about me? You had me in your life.

Kathy looks at her story crackling in the flames. Rhett points at the fire.

RHETT

So what is it? Do you love me. Or do you love...that.

KATHY

I...I loved myself when I was with you.

Rhett stares at her for a moment. He kicks the fire.

(CONTINUED)

RHETT

Who the fuck were you when you were with me?

KATHY

I don't know. Rhett, you weren't supposed to get hurt.

RHETT

And you were supposed to care! You were older, and more mature, and wanted the best for me. And you...believed in me.

KATHY

Mature? Caring? Rhett...that's just some bad abstraction of me. I suck.

RHETT

You're wrong. Get the fuck out of here.

KATHY

Rhe--

RHETT

I repeat: get THE FUCK out.

Kathy begins to walk away.

KATHY

Don't you need a ride to go to school?

RHETT

I'm not going to school.

KATHY

I guess you deserve a day off.

RHETT

You didn't understand me. I'm not going to your shitty school anymore. My probation is off. And I think this makes our deal invalid.

KATHY

Rhett. Don't allow me to fuck up your life.

RHETT

Too late. You think I wanna see you around that school everyday?

(CONTINUED)

KATHY

I don't teach any of your classes.

RHETT

Stop making excuses for yourself.  
And by the way, I see why you're  
just a teacher at a shitty school.  
That writing is awful. No one would  
buy that.

KATHY

FUCK YOU!

Kathy punches the side of Rhett's house.

KATHY

Shit, that hurt!

Kathy storms off.

Rhett applies lighter fluid to the fire and it expands.

INT. KATHY'S CAR - SOON AFTER

Kathy enters her car. She looks at a pile of clothes,  
brushes, her laptop, and other belongings on her passenger's  
seat.

She sees the sweater she thought she left at Meijer in the  
pile. She pulls it out.

INT. KATHY'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Kathy now wears her old sweater as she stares blankly at her  
computer.

KATHY (V.O.)

Without the muse, the writer is  
dead.

Mya enters Kathy's classroom.

MYA

You look like shit.

KATHY

I didn't shower this morning.

MYA

Oh, so you were at Rhett's? Guess  
you two aren't off then, are you?

(CONTINUED)



Kathy is silent.

MYA  
You didn't?

KATHY  
He broke it off with me.

MYA  
What did you do?

KATHY  
We just...we didn't agree on life.

MYA  
Who cares about life? You guys are young.

KATHY  
No, Mya. I'm not. And neither are you. We need to grow up.

Mya shifts uncomfortably at the door.

MYA  
Will...will we still hang out?

KATHY  
With Rhett and Dean?

MYA  
No, with each other?

KATHY  
We're...you're supposed to keep your work friends at work. Be professional.

MYA  
Fuck professional. I want to live.

Mya walks out.

KATHY  
(muttering to self)  
So fucking melodramatic.

INT. LORISSA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Rhett and Lorissa enter her bedroom.

Rhett throws Lorissa down on the bed. He gets on top of her.

LORISSA  
You're so bad.

RHETT  
You like playing hooky with the bad boy?

LORISSA  
Yeah. The fact that you've been to juvie turns me on bad.

RHETT  
Oh, so you like my criminal record?

LORISSA  
Absolutely. And I've never fucked a guy in a neck brace.

RHETT  
Glad to give you a new experience.

LORISSA  
You wanna do some role play?

Rhett stops, taken aback.

RHETT  
Role play?

LORISSA  
Yeah, like tell me I've been a bad girl and I need to be punished.

RHETT  
You wanna be punished?

LORISSA  
Yeah, by the one person who's badder than me.

Lorissa unbottons and unzips Rhett's pants.

Lorissa looks at Rhett's dick.

LORISSA  
Um...

The two separate a little.

(CONTINUED)

LORISSA

Is the role play not...turning you on?

RHETT

I...I just need time to warm up.

LORISSA

That's not how it was last time. You popped up like bread out a toaster.

RHETT

That was two months ago. Can we just...just watch TV or something?

LORISSA

I didn't invite you over for TV.

Lorissa moves her hands to Rhett's dick.

LORISSA

I had a very specific interest.

RHETT

Just drive me back home then.

Lorissa recoils.

INT. RITE AID/MYA'S OFFICE - DAY

Dean is in his Rite Aid uniform stocking shelves.

He removes his cell phone and answers it.

DEAN

I'm at work. Can't talk.

MYA

You can at least answer my texts.

DEAN

I'm busy.

MYA

Both of us have way to much free time on the job. You know that.

DEAN

Busy day.

(CONTINUED)

MYA

Are we still on for ten minutes from now? Hotbox your car, watch cheesy gay erotica, go to--

DEAN

I don't need the play-by-play.

MYA

So you'd rather just do it in live action?

DEAN

No. I wouldn't.

MYA

Did...something come up?

DEAN

Your bitch friend came up.

MYA

She said Rhett broke up with her, if that's what this is about.

DEAN

Yeah? You know why?

MYA

Because...they didn't see the world the same. I mean, I told her it was stupid--

DEAN

They didn't see the world the same? That's funny. The way I heard it is very different.

MYA

Did she lie to me? She was supposed to be my main bitch.

DEAN

She lied to everybody. She's apparently real good at putting on faces.

MYA

But why are you mad at me?

DEAN

I'm mad at all of you teachers.

(CONTINUED)

MYA

I'm not a teacher. I'm a counselor.

DEAN

Do you guys even care about your kids?

MYA

Rhett isn't a kid.

DEAN

Yeah? You should have seen his diary.

MYA

He kept a diary? Isn't that kinda gay for Rhett?

DEAN

There's a lot of things you wouldn't expect. Like when I read his diary the other night, he couldn't stop singing Kathy's praises. He thinks she's a goddess. He talked about marriage. Marriage! And she couldn't even think about a week down the road. And now he has to deal with seeing her at school everyday.

MYA

Dean...he dropped out.

DEAN

What?

MYA

He called counseling this morning. His probation is up. The bird's leaving the cage.

DEAN

Oh, fuck no.

Dean hangs up.

MYA

Dean...hello? Hello?

INT. RHETT'S TRAILER - DAY

Rhett sits on his couch, smoking a bong. Dean enters.

DEAN  
Get the fuck up.

RHETT  
Is that how you're gonna talk to a  
guy who just had his heart broken?

DEAN  
No. That's how I'm gonna talk to a  
dumbass who just dropped out of  
school.

RHETT  
I'm eighteen. It's my choice.

DEAN  
Yeah? Who pays the majority of the  
rent?

RHETT  
Don't give me that mother knows  
best bullshit.

Dean grabs Rhett's bong and chucks it across the room,  
breaking it on a wall. Rhett stands in anger.

DEAN  
I will give you whatever my wicked  
mind can conjure up. Anything to  
knock the stupid out of your head.

RHETT  
Face it. We're losers. It doesn't  
matter if I finish high school or  
not.

DEAN  
If you didn't have that neck brace  
on, I would slap you so hard.

RHETT  
Fucking bring it! Worst that  
happens, is you snap my neck and I  
die. Big deal.

DEAN  
Throw it all back in my face.

(CONTINUED)

RHETT

Throw what?

DEAN

All I've done for you.

RHETT

What you've done for me? What? Am I just some chore? Just some fuck up of a responsibility you didn't ask for?

Dean grabs Rhett by his shirt.

DEAN

You think that's what I think of you?

RHETT

I'm dropped out. I'll move out. And you can finally stop...having to deal with me.

Dean scoops Rhett into an uncomfortably tight embrace.

DEAN

You know how you're gonna make me happy? By not going anywhere.

INT. KATHY'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Kathy puts on her coat and picks up her bag. Kent enters.

KENT

Where do you think you're going?

KATHY

Home. Rough day.

KENT

You didn't come to my office when you were called.

KATHY

I just didn't feel like having the talk. Look, you don't need to explain yourself for last night. It's fine.

KENT

I'm not the one who needs to explain myself.

(CONTINUED)

KATHY

Really? Because what you did was a violation on many levels.

KENT

I was under the influence.

KATHY

Even worse.

KENT

I don't think you're in a position to judge me.

KATHY

Why's that? Because I'm the woman who should have said no in the first place?

KENT

You really shouldn't have said no at all. Especially last night.

KATHY

Thank God I said no last night.

Kent takes out Rhett's road head note.

KENT

Can you explain this?

KATHY

You...you went through my house?

KENT

Again: can you explain this?

KATHY

What you did is breaking and entering.

KENT

And what you did was statutory rape.

KATHY

He wrote that as a joke. He was being stupid.

KENT

Then you should have brought this to me. We could have slapped him with sexual harassment.

(CONTINUED)



KATHY

Sexual harassment? Sexual harassment is fucking your employee.

KENT

Better than fucking a student.

KATHY

He's eighteen.

KENT

So you're admitting it?

KATHY

No.

KENT

Come on, Kathy, nobody hangs "just a joke" on their wall.

KATHY

I guess I just have a sick sense of humor.

KENT

No. You're sick in another way.

KATHY

I'm going home.

KENT

I checked the cameras from that day Coach Willard caught that little bastard smoking. I didn't check the cameras at first as a respect to your word. Boy was I wrong.

KATHY

I wasn't lying.

KENT

Neither of you were bringing books from the middle school. What were you doing? Skrewing?

KATHY

This is ridiculous. I'm...I'm going now.

Kent grabs Kathy's arm. Kathy winces in pain.

( CONTINUED )

KENT

Just tell me. Tell me. It's him,  
isn't it? He took you from me.

KATHY

Nobody took me. I left.

INT. DEAN'S CAR - SAME TIME

Dean pulls into the parking lot in front of the school.  
Rhett is in the car with him.

DEAN

Now, you're gonna first tell that  
bitch what's up, get what you need  
to off your chest, and then get  
your little butt reenrolled.

RHETT

Yes, ma'am...

Rhett sees through Kathy's window. He sees Kent grabbing  
Kathy's arm and shaking her.

RHETT

I'm gonna kill that motherfucker.

Dean sees what Rhett sees.

DEAN

Isn't that...

RHETT

The principle.

Rhett makes a move for the door. Dean grabs his arm.

DEAN

You are not getting in a fight with  
the principle. The only place that  
will take you back after that is  
juvie.

RHETT

No one touches her like that.

Rhett opens the door and pulls away hard, but Dean pulls  
back even harder.

DEAN

That cunt broke your heart.

Rhett punches Dean.

(CONTINUED)

RHETT  
Don't call her that. Ever.

Rhett runs off. Dean gets out of his car and chases him.

DEAN  
What are you gonna do? You're in a  
neck brace.

INT. KATHY'S CLASSROOM - SAME TIME

Kent is still grabbing Kathy.

KENT  
Now, you have a choice. Come back  
to me or have the whole world know  
about your sick affair.

KATHY  
You're the one having affairs.

KENT  
You're the one who'd be on the sex  
offender's list.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - SAME TIME

Mya stealthily adds water from the drinking fountain to her  
rum in a water bottle. She hears running in the halls.

MYA  
No running in the halls, idiots!

She then sees Rhett rounding the corner.

MYA  
Rhett?

She then sees Dean chasing him.

DEAN  
Stop him!

MYA  
Stop him from doing what?

INT. KATHY'S CLASSROOM - SAME TIME

Kent brings Kathy closer.

KENT  
Decide.

KATHY  
Fine. Fine. I'll come running back  
to you. Happy?

KENT  
Kiss me.

Kathy looks for a long moment at Kent.

RHETT (O.C.)  
Let me the fuck in!

Kathy and Kent look at the door. It opens slightly, but then  
slams back shut.

INT. HALLWAY - SAME TIME

Mya blocks the door, holding it closed.

MYA  
Nope. Back off.

Dean reaches Rhett and restrains him.

RHETT  
Let me in or I'll hurt both of you.

INT. KATHY'S CLASSROOM - SAME TIME

Kent and Kathy listen to the argument.

DEAN (O.C.)  
You're gonna hurt me? You're the  
one who doesn't have a lock on your  
bedroom door.

KENT  
LET HIM IN!

Silence.

DEAN (O.C.)  
You don't want him in there. He saw  
you grabbing his...teacher.

(CONTINUED)

KENT

Bring him in. I want to have a word with him.

KATHY

Kent, you do not want him in here. He'll beat your ass.

KENT

Shut up, slut. He needs to see who's the man here.

KATHY

God, your ego.

The door opens. Rhett, Mya and Dean enter.

RHETT

Didn't anyone tell you: never handle a lady like that.

KENT

Shut the door.

Dean shuts the door. Rhett marches up to Kent, getting in his face.

KENT

You both knew about Kathy and this boy, didn't you?

Mya, Rhett, and Dean are taken aback.

KENT

Sick.

RHETT

How did you know?

KENT

Because I'm an adult. I find things out. You think you can stand up to me?

RHETT

I know I can stand up to you.

Kent walks around the classroom.

KENT

Yeah. All you kids at this school think you're bad asses. Trying to take on adults. Trying to land some adult skank ass.

(CONTINUED)

Kent looks at Kathy.

KENT

It's disgusting. That her life was that sad to stoop that low. Because, Rhett, I know you're story. And you're not really a badass. I've talked to your social workers. You grew up as a problem child in a single parent household. Your mother left after your first run in with the law--at twelve. Because she couldn't handle your bullshit. I know that you've been from school to school because you can't make friends, you burn your bridges, the teachers hate you, the students hate you. Your grades are sub-par--no they're fucking close to retarded. I mean you had that stupid sport of racing going for you, but...now look at that thing around your neck. Face it, you don't have shit in your life. You're a loser. A drop out. Now admit that you can't stand up to me. You don't even compare.

Rhett's chest expands as he breaths deeply in anger. Dean grabs Rhett to hold him back, but Rhett doesn't try to force himself forward. Instead, tears begin to pour down his cheeks. Dean holds him.

RHETT

I'm only eighteen, you bastard.

KENT

Awe, don't cry because of the truth, kid. You needed to hear it. Or else you'd think you could go around beating up men like me--men who were born to be your bosses. Now--

Kathy strikes Kent over the head with a stapler. He doubles over in pain.

KATHY

Don't you ever...

Kathy hits Kent once more.

(CONTINUED)

KATHY  
...ever...

Another hit.

KATHY  
...talk to him that way again!

Kent is now on the floor in pain. Kathy kicks him in the stomach.

KATHY  
That boy is smart, and kind, and  
has a huge capacity to love. He is  
a good man.

Another kick to Kent's stomach.

KATHY  
And all you do is use people, you  
sack of shit. To pad your sad life.

Kathy kicks him once more.

KATHY  
Nobody fucks with the people I  
love!

Rhett smiles.

Kathy spits on Kent.

KATHY  
I quit, you douche bag.

The entire room is in shock.

MYA  
Bad...ass...

INT. KATHY'S CAR - DAY

Kathy drives down the road with Rhett.

RHETT  
What are you doing to do with  
yourself now?

KATHY  
I have no idea.

Rhett places his hand on her leg.

(CONTINUED)

RHETT  
I get why we can't be together.  
It's cool.

Kathy sees an empty field as she drives by. She stops and pulls to the side of the road.

RHETT  
What are you doing?

KATHY  
Rhett, if you love something, never let anything kill that. Get in the driver's seat.

RHETT  
I...I can't.

KATHY  
You fucking can.

RHETT  
I can't check my blind spot.

KATHY  
You don't need to check your blind spot when you're tearing up a field.

INT. KATHY'S CAR - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

Rhett sits in the driver seat, the car running.

KATHY  
GO!

Rhett hits down on the gas and takes his car into the field.

He spins the car in mad circles while he lets out a scream. Kathy joins him in screaming.

EXT. CAR - SAME TIME

We see the car tearing up the feild.

KATHY (V.O.)  
There will always be stories.



INT. KATHY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Kathy is on the phone as she looks at her laptop.

KATHY  
Hi, Regina. I don't think I'll be  
finishing this book. It just  
doesn't feel right.

Kathy snaps her laptop shut.

INT. KATHY'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Kathy clears off her desk and puts her things into box.

KATHY (V.O.)  
Their will always be inspiration.

Kent walks by, the side of his head bruised. Kathy smiles at him and waves.

INT. DEAN'S CAR - NIGHT

Dean and Mya hotbox his car. They laugh together.

KATHY (V.O.)  
There will always be that spark.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Rhett sits at a desk. Meredith smiles at him and gives him back a test. He got an 99 percent.

KATHY (V.O.)  
There will always be a future.

INT. KATHY'S CAR - DAY

Kathy drives in her car on an interstate. She hits the gas and goes up to a hundred miles an hour.

KATHY (V.O.)  
There will always be that drive.

EXT. KATHY'S CAR - DAY

We're back to watching Kathy and Rhett spin out of control in the field.

KATHY (V.O.)

As long as you trust that a story  
will come. As long as you trust you  
can tell one. As long as you trust  
you can write your own life. But  
still also live it.

FADE OUT