

LOVE & DEATH AT TERRINGTON PREP

by

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BLACKNESS

MALE VO

And then there is the story of the ghost
of Terrington.

EXT. FROZEN LAKE - DAY

CHYRON: 1876

A boy is skating on the pond.

MALE VO

Jonathan Terrington, third son of Samuel
Terrington, Episcopal priest, holder of
thirty patents (including that of the
slide rule) and, most notably, founder of
the Terrington School, is skating one
fine winter morning.

The ice splinters and breaks. The boy, Jonathan Terrington,
is gone.

INT. CHAPEL - DAY

Samuel Terrington stands on the pulpit, before his small
congregation.

SAMUEL

Jonathan was a good boy. Good at his
studies. Excelled at mathematics. His
dream was to be a hog farmer, the
wealthiest hog farmer in the land he
would have been. But now it is merely a
dream. A dream that, on God's green
Earth, will never be realized.

The small pulpit shakes and a crucified Jesus falls to the
floor, breaking into pieces.

SAMUEL (cont'd)

A winter draft! Can we please keep the
door shut! Can we please keep it shut!!!

A Master stands at the door.

MASTER

But Reverend Terrington... the door is
shut.

The people in the chapel look shocked. Samuel crosses
himself.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MALE VO

The ghost of Terrington appeared several times over the course of the school's history. On the lake...

EXT. LAKE - DAY

CHYRON: 1953

A crew boat slices through the river.

COX

(over the loudspeaker)

Stroke one! Stroke two! Stroke three!

The crew team is passing the place where Jonathan Terrington fell through the ice. The stroke turns to the left and his eyes fill with horror.

STROKE

(whispering)

A boy...

(yelling)

...I'll save you!

The Stroke reaches out. His oar flies back into his stomach, flinging him over the side of the boat.

MALE VO

In Thomas Terrington's former room...

INT. JONATHAN TERRINGTON'S FORMER ROOM - DAY

CHYRON: 1977

A boy and a girl are hanging on his bed, smoking from a bong. They're half-clothed. Tapestries adorn the walls.

MUSIC CUE: Steppenwolf's Magic Carpet Ride.

The boy hands the bong to the girl. The girl takes a hit.

BOY

It's good stuff; my brother bought it from the guy who sells to the Moody Blues, so no wastey.

STEBPENWOLF

~~(over the loudspeakers)
Why don't you come with me
little girl, on a magic
carpet ride?~~

There's a knock on the door.

BOY

(freaking out, whispering)

Hide! Hide!

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BOY (cont'd)
 (speaking to the door)
 I'll be there in a minute!

The girl starts to speak and smoke comes out of her mouth.

BOY
 (whispering)
 Keep your mouth shut! The smoke! Keep
 it shut!

*

Another knock.

BOY (cont'd)
 (speaking "normally")
 I'll be there in a minute!

The door starts shaking hard. The song starts playing
 backwards.

STEPPENWOLF
 (over the loudspeakers)
 Edir teprac cigam a no lrrig --

The windows start rattling hard. Tapestries fall off the
 wall.

STEPPENWOLF (cont'd)
 (over the loudspeakers)
 Elttil em htti moc ou tnod yhw

Books fall off the shelves. Then, silence. The girl coughs
 the smoke out and then barfs all over the bed. The boy
 begins to shake.

MALE VO
 And, once again, in the Chapel...

INT. CHAPEL - NIGHT

CHYRON: 1985

Two small freshman, one scrawny, one fat. The fat one is
 standing before the altar, his back to us.

SCRAWNY FRESHMAN
 What're you, a faggot? Do it.

FAT FRESHMAN
 No way.

SCRAWNY FRESHMAN
 So I guess you're a faggot.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FAT FRESHMAN
I'm not a faggot.

SCRAWNY FRESHMAN
You're such a faggot you'd screw a guy. *

FAT FRESHMAN
I'm not a faggot!

SCRAWNY FRESHMAN
Oh, then I guess you'd do it then, if
you're not a faggot.

FAT FRESHMAN
I'm just pee shy. Just stop talking and
I'll be able to do it...

The Fat Freshman finally starts to pee.

FAT FRESHMAN
Oh, yeah. I'm doing it. I'm doing it. *

SCRAWNY FRESHMAN
You're doing it!

FAT FRESHMAN
Who's the faggot now, bitch? Aww-yihhh!

Suddenly the whole altar starts shaking really hard. The Fat Freshman backs away just as the Crucified Jesus falls to the ground and breaks into pieces. The two freshman book.

MALE VO
Which is why the students of Terrington --

CLOSE UP:

The name "Jonathan Terrington" carved into the wall of alumnae. It is far shinier than the names that surround it.

MALE VO
-- rub Jonathan's name for good luck.

INT. ALUMNAE HALL - CONTINUOUS

The male VO belongs to LUBRA, a clean cut tour guide originally from Ghana, who's leading a group around the school, including BILL ROSEN (15), a rather diminutive boy and his parents, MAUDE and ROBERT ROSEN.

LUBRA
Other names that are rubbed for good luck
include --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

We see each name as he says each name.

LUBRA (cont'd)
-- Grover Cleveland --

GROVER CLEVELAND, shinier than the rest of his class.

LUBRA (cont'd)
-- Nelson Rockefeller --

NELSON ROCKEFELLER, shinier than the rest of his class.

LUBRA (cont'd)
-- Judd Nelson.

JUDD NELSON, quite shiny as well.

LUBRA (cont'd)
-- and Peter Pecker --

PETER PECKER, super-shiny.

MAUDE
Who's Peter Pecker?

LUBRA
I don't know. It looks like he was class
of '92.
(super rehearsed)
Those are just a few of the superstars
that have graduated from these hallowed
halls. Alumnae Hall is not just the last
stop for Terrington students before
graduation -- it's also the last stop on
our tour. Are there any questions?

Maude, Robert and Bill don't say anything. Maude looks
ecstatic.

EXT. ALUMNAE HALL

Maude, Robert and Bill walks outside. It's a beautiful fall
day.

MAUDE
Smell that air. Can you smell that air?

BILL ROSEN
Yes I can smell that air.

MAUDE
This is it, honey. This...is...it.
Isn't this it?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ROBERT

This is it.

MAUDE

I know you like it at home, but you're
too smart to disappear into that public
school mess.

Maude takes another deep breath of air. Maude and Robert
walk off, Bill following. They pass a pale, odd kid who we
will find out is THOMAS TERRINGTON. As Bill passes him...

THOMAS TERRINGTON

(sotto, to Bill)

Don't believe the hype. This place sucks
ass.

BILL ROSEN

What?

Thomas doesn't repeat himself, nor does he turn to look back
at Bill.

BILL ROSEN

Who was that?

Thomas spits. Freeze frame on this disgusting moment.
Lubra, our tour guide, pops up from out of frame.

LUBRA

Thomas Terrington.

EXT. LAKE

A bench. THOMAS TERRINGTON (17), a quiet, sour-looking kid
in an overcoat, reading "Secrets to Coin Magic." Lubra
stands before him.

LUBRA

Great-great-great-grand-nephew of
Jonathan and third child of Avery. Avery
is --

INT. LIBRARY - BOOKSHELF

A hand moves across a series of yearbooks and pulls out:

THE 1965 TERRINGTON YEARBOOK: Photos of Rector Terrington Fly-
fishing, mimeographing the *Terrington Bi-Weekly*, giving a
valedictorian speech, graduating --

INT. RECTOR TERRINGTON'S OFFICE - DAY *

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! Rector Terrington smiling at his
appointment as photographers take pictures of him. *

LUBRA (V.O.)
-- the youngest appointed rector of
Terrington School -- *

EXT. CEMETARY *

Rector Terrington in front of a gravestone with his four
kids. *

LUBRA (V.O.)
And a widower. Oldest sister, Felicity. *

INT. LIBRARY - BOOKSHELF *

A hand moves across a series of yearbooks and pulls out: *

THE 1992 TERRINGTON YEARBOOK: Photos of Felicity writing an
amazing equation, debating a small Asian boy, throwing her
cap up at Harvard graduation. *

INT. GOLDMAN-SACHS - SAME MOMENT *

Felicity, very attractive, very wound-up, in her glassed-in
office on the phone. *

LUBRA (V.O.)
Currently the youngest senior analyst in
the history of Goldman-Sachs. *

Felicity slams the phone down and throws open the door to her
office. *

FELICITY
I just made Credit Suisse my bitch! MY
GODDAMN BITCH! *

The whole office cheers. Lubra pops up. *

LUBRA
Older Brother. Jack. *

INT. LIBRARY - BOOKSHELF *

The hand moves across and pulls out: *

CONTINUED:

THE 1996 TERRINGTON YEARBOOK: Photos of Jack rowing, in a tie-dyed t-shirt making peanut butter for a group of black children, leading a tour, throwing his cap up at Yale graduation, on the lake coaching a crew boat through a megaphone.

INT. THE SCHOOLHOUSE - DAY

Jack struts down the hall.

LUBRA
Currently the most beloved teacher at
Terrington.

Jack points his fingers at different girls who swoon. He playfully punches a boy in the shoulder who punches him back.

INT. CLASSROOM

Jack turns to the class and jumps on the table.

JACK
Write what you feel, class! Damn the
Establishment! Write what you feel!
Carpe Diem! Carpe goddamn diem!!!

All the students cheer. Lubra pops up.

LUBRA
Youngest sister. Isabella.

INT. LIBRARY - BOOKSHELF

The hand sweeps across the bookshelf past the yearbooks to a photo album. We see a painting of a field of flowers. We flip through *Poetry* magazine to Isabella's poem, 'The Feeling of Longitude' by Isabella Terrington.'

INT. LINCOLN CENTER STAGE

An adult ballerina does an impossible move.

LUBRA (V.O.)
Currently the most talented ballerina at
the New York School of American Ballet.

The Russian instructor stops her.

RUSSIAN BALLET INSTRUCTOR
The Kirov calls this dancing? Well I
call this shit! Shit!

The ballerina looks like she's going to cry.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RUSSIAN BALLET INSTRUCTOR
(cont'd)

Isabella, show Nataalka how we dance in
America.

Isabella, 12 years old, goes onstage and executes a perfect
move. All the ballerinas clap and tear up. The Russian
Ballet Instructor weeps.

RUSSIAN BALLET INSTRUCTOR
(cont'd)

You...are...perfection.

The Instructor hugs Isabella, picks her up and swings her
around. Lubra pops up.

LUBRA

And, finally, Thomas Terrington.

EXT. ALUMNAE HALL

Thomas, in mid-spit. We UNFREEZE and Thomas continues
walking away from a perturbed Bill and an unconcerned Maude
and Robert.

LUBRA

Avid reader. Amateur magician. Avid
reader of magic books.

MAUDE

So, is this it?

BILL ROSEN

(unconvinced)

This is it.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP OF A PENCIL-DRAWN MAP OF TERRINGTON. We see the
Lake, Wheaton Library, the Old School, Alumnae Hall, Peabody
Hall, Tien Quad, The Cafeteria, Gym, the Boathouse, the Post
Office, and, of course, the Chapel. We ZOOM in on Peabody
Hall. Peabody Hall changes from a pencil drawing into the
imposing Gothic structure it is.

EXT. PEABODY HALL - DAY

CHYRON: THE NEXT YEAR

Cars are lined up outside as new students move in.

INT. BILL'S DORM ROOM - DAY

The door bursts open. Maude, Robert and Bill file in.

MAUDE
Looks like your roommate's already moved
in.

Maude picks up Bill's roommate's electric razor.

MAUDE (cont'd)
Uh-oh.

BILL ROSEN
Mom, leave his stuff alone.

ROBERT
We have to start back if we're going to
beat rush hour.

EXT. PEABODY HALL

Maude hugs Bill.

MAUDE
Did I give you the roll from the plane?

BILL ROSEN
Yeah.

Maude tears up. She hugs him.

ROBERT
Do well. I'm not going to tell you how
much this place costs but it's enough to
buy two fully-equipped Honda Accords a
year, every year, for the next four
years.

BILL ROSEN
One hundred twenty-six thousand dollars?

MAUDE
Jesus Christ, Robert.

Maude hugs Bill.

BILL ROSEN
Alright, mom, it's fine. I'll be fine.

MAUDE
Call as much as you want.

CONTINUED:

Maude and Robert hug Bill. They get into the car and drive off. Bill tears up. Then he starts crying, hard. Like funny hard. After a moment he stops crying. He looks around to make sure no one saw him and walks back into the dorm.

INT. BILL'S DORM ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Bill is sitting on his bed. His side of the room is all made up now. He fingers his roommate's electric razor. His roommate, CARSON FISCHER, enters. Bill drops the razor. Carson is a gigantic, muscular athlete with a five o'clock shadow. He's wearing athletic shorts and no shirt.

CARSON FISCHER

Are you my roommate?

Carson grabs a remote and hits play on his stereo.

MUSIC CUE: Bon Jovi's "It's My Life."

BILL ROSEN

(shouting over the music)

I don't know ...

(checking his rooming sheet)

...are you Carson?

CARSON FISCHER

Sure am. I was here a few days early for soccer practice so I took the right side. We'll switch half-way.

BILL ROSEN

This is fine.

CARSON FISCHER

If you want, there's porn under my bed. Clam-porn -- none of that pussy-ass, soft-focus shit.

BILL ROSEN

Uh, thanks.

Carson drops his shorts.

CARSON FISCHER

And if you want to fart use the fart chair.

Carson motions to a ratty chair.

CARSON FISCHER (cont'd)

It absorbs them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Carson grabs a towel and slams the door. Bill remains seated on his bed. He pulls the roll from the plane out of his jacket pocket and takes a bite. Bill starts crying again.

EXT. TERRINGTON ROAD

Carson and Bill head up towards the Post Office. Two huge guys, GRIFFIN and POTTER run up behind them. Griffin's dipping.

GRIFFIN

You missed football, asshole.

POTTER

Who's the little dude, Fischer?

CARSON FISCHER

Roommate.

BILL ROSEN

My name's Bill Rosen.

POTTER

Do you know Liz Rosen? She's a friend of the family. Big tits.

BILL ROSEN

No.

GRIFFIN

Liz Rosen, there must be a million Rosens... what a dumbass question. What are you Potter, some kind of dumbass?

Pause. Then they both fall to wrestling on the lawn.

INT. POST OFFICE

Bill opens his P.O. Box and takes out a letter.

RECTOR TERRINGTON (V.O.)

"Dear Bill,
Welcome to Terrington! To facilitate your orientation to our Elysium, we have assigned you a big brother who'll show you the ropes, as they say. He is:
THOMAS TERRINGTON
Sincerely,
Rector Terrington"

*

EXT. LAKE

Thomas is reading by the lake. Bill walks up to him, not totally remembering him from the year before.

*
*
*

BILL ROSEN
Are you Thomas Terrington?

THOMAS TERRINGTON
(barely looking up from his book)
Yes.

BILL ROSEN
I'm your little brother. My name's Bill Rosen.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
I don't have a little brother.

BILL ROSEN
No. I know, of course you don't.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
I have a little sister. She's a monster.

BILL ROSEN
Yeah, well, umm, the school assigned me to you. You're supposed to "show me the ropes," or whatever. I'm from New Jersey. You probably want to know which exit. Heh, heh.

*
*

THOMAS TERRINGTON
What?

BILL ROSEN
The New Jersey turnpike. Which exit am I off of... where are you from?

THOMAS TERRINGTON
Here.

BILL ROSEN
Cool.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
Not really.

Thomas resumes reading, ignoring him.

BILL ROSEN
Well, see ya.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Bill walks away. A group of girls from the cross country team run by, including the beautiful KRISTEN GOOD (17). Thomas looks up. FREEZE FRAME. Lubra pops up.

LUBRA

And one more thing. Thomas Terrington: desperately, hopelessly, impossibly, incurably in love with tri-varsity, popular, beautiful and all around perfect girl Kristen Good.

MUSIC CUE: Belle and Sebastian's *Stars of Track and Field*

1) Kristen runs in slo-motion with a group of girls as Thomas stares at her.

2) Kristen continues running, this time alone. Thomas somehow floats alongside.

3) The screen SPLITS into THREE.

In the first box, Kristen continues to run. In the second, Kristen plays field hockey. In the third, Kristen rows.

4) The screen SPLITS into SIX.

The three boxes as before with three additional boxes, Kristen playing softball, cross country skiing, playing squash.

5) The screen SPLITS into twelve.

The six boxes as before with six additional boxes -- Kristen lugeing, jumping hurdles, scoring a soccer goal, playing tennis, sea kayaking, swimming.

6) The screen SPLITS into twenty-four.

The twelve boxes as before with twelve additional boxes -- Kristen performing on the balance beam, throwing the discus, water-skiing, log-cutting, playing polo, go-kart racing, shooting clay pigeons, archery, skydiving, rock-climbing, shot-putting, and playing ping-pong.

7) The screen SPLITS into forty-eight.

The twenty-four boxes as before with twenty-four additional boxes of Kristen doing even more sports even more amazingly.

Forty-Eight Kristens turn to Thomas.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KRISTENS

(in an older, male voice)

Thomas. Thomas. What're you doing here?

The weird fantasy abruptly ends.

EXT. LAKE - AS BEFORE

Thomas shakes his head. Jack is looking down at him.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Oh. Good afternoon, Jack.

JACK

What're you doing here alone?

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Jerking off. You?

JACK

Aren't you supposed to be at Natural Sciences?

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Yes.

JACK

Do you want me to write you up? Cause I don't want to write you up.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Then don't.

JACK

You're gonna flunk out and then dad's going to be on your ass. Do you want that?

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Yeah, I want him on my ass. Dad's hot.

JACK

Do you think that's witty?

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Is this witty?

Thomas gives Jack the finger.

JACK

(overly ominous)

Now you've done it. Now you've really done it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Jack takes out a pad of pink slips and writes him up. While doing so --

JACK (cont'd)
 Since you're determined to skip class you could at least do it with other students. Or are you that determined to be a complete loser?

Some more girls jog by.

GIRLS
 Hi, Mr. Terrington.

JACK
 Hello ladies.

The ladies pass out of sight.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
 Which one are you screwing now?

Jack hands Thomas the detention slip.

THOMAS TERRINGTON (cont'd)
 Oh, no, another detention. I really did it this time.

JACK
 Mid-term holiday's in a couple weeks. You're gonna have a lot of fun while dad screams at you all weekend.

Thomas sees Bill sitting next to the lake. Bill tosses a stone into the lake.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
 I'm bringing a friend home.

JACK
 You don't have any friends.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
 Well that shows how little you know me.

Jack hands the write-up to Thomas and walks away.

INT. PEABODY HALL - BASEMENT

Bill and other frosh are drinking from gallons of water as students all around him chant.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STUDENTS

Drink! Drink! To Jonathan Terrington's
dick! Drink! Drink! To Jonathan
Terrington's dick!

A guy next to Bill pukes water all over the place. Bill puts
his down.

KENNY PUDER

What're you, a gaywad?

BILL ROSEN

Well, we are drinking to a dead kid's
dick, so I guess so.

KENNY PUDER

What did you say?

BILL ROSEN

Please don't kill me. Oh god, please
don't kill me!

The seniors laugh. Kenny sticks his finger down the back of
his shorts, removes it and holds up his finger.

KENNY PUDER

You know what this? You know what this
is?

BILL ROSEN

Just don't kill me! Don't kill me!

Kenny stuffs it under Bill's nose

KENNY PUDER

It's ass pussy!

Kenny and the other seniors leave a distraught Bill.

EXT. BOAT HOUSE

Carson and Bill are standing near to boats.

CARSON FISCHER

Why are you doing this?

BILL ROSEN

Are you kidding? I love boating.

CARSON FISCHER

Crew. It's called crew.

Jack walks over, holding a clipboard.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK
 Alright. Get in the boats boys.

Bill heads towards Carson's boat.

JACK (cont'd)
 No. You go there.

Jack points to a boat surrounded by a group of scrawny misfits.

EXT. LAKE

Bill's in the boat. Jack's in a motorboat speaking through a megaphone.

JACK
 Count your strokes in unison! And make sure not to catch a crab!

BILL ROSEN
 What's a crab?

JACK
 Go!

The shell takes off. Bill's oar gets stuck under the water, rebounds into his stomach and he gets tossed out of the boat.

MISFIT STUDENT
 That.

INT. BILL'S DORM ROOM

Bill's studying while sitting in the ratty chair. Carson's reading Sports Illustrated on his bed.

BILL ROSEN
 Wow. The chair works.

MARY, a pretty girl, walks in.

CARSON FISCHER
 Sup.

BILL ROSEN
 Hi. I'm Bill.

MARY
 I'm Mary.

BILL ROSEN
 Where are you from, Mary?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARY

New Jersey.

BILL ROSEN

Really? How interesting! I'm from
Jersey!

CARSON FISCHER

Hey, don't you have studying to do?

BILL ROSEN

No.

CARSON FISCHER

Yeah, you do.

BILL ROSEN

No, I really don't.

Carson leans over and whispers to Bill.

CARSON FISCHER

(whispering)

Leave so we can --

Carson makes the universal sign for doing it with his hands.

BILL ROSEN

(very wooden)

I forgot. I do have studying to do. It
was nice meeting you, Mary.

Bill packs up his bag. He notices his trunk is broken into.

BILL ROSEN (cont'd)

Who broke into my trunk?

CARSON FISCHER

You have a trunk?

BILL ROSEN

All my Doritos are gone!

INT. STONERS ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Three stoners, FUNG, SASE and TIBBLER, their hands covered in
bright orange cheese are giggling uncontrollably. There are
empty bags of Doritos everywhere.

INT. PEABODY HALL - BASEMENT

Bill's on the phone with his parents, trying to hold back
tears.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BILL ROSEN

You're not coming for Mid-Term holiday?

ROBERT (V.O.)

Plane tickets are expensive, Bill.
Besides, Thanksgiving is only in a couple
months.

BILL ROSEN

A couple months?

MAUDE (V.O.)

I thought you liked it there.

BILL ROSEN

I hate it! This is the worst place on
Earth!

MAUDE (V.O.)

(on the phone)

Well sometimes you have to hate something
to love something.

BILL ROSEN

That doesn't mean anything, mom.

MAUDE (V.O.)

You stay there and you'll get into a good
college. A smart kid like you has no
business being in a classroom with fifty
kids who all have guns.

BILL ROSEN

I've never even seen a gun. Like not
once in my life.

ROBERT (V.O.)

Here's the deal, Bill. Unless you're
George Clooney, high school sucks and
then it's over and then you're in college
and you're getting laid.

MAUDE (V.O.)

Robert!

ROBERT (V.O.)

(to Maude)

Well, it's true. Look at us.

BILL ROSEN

Dad!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ROBERT (V.O.)

You both want my advice and then you can't deal with it.

BILL ROSEN

You know what I can't deal with? This place. This place sucks. It sucks...sucks fucking shit!

MAUDE (V.O.)

Alright. You don't like it? Fine. If you don't like it by Thanksgiving, you can drop out.

BILL ROSEN

No loopholes?

MAUDE (V.O.)

(on the phone)
No loopholes.

BILL ROSEN

See you at Thanksgiving.

Bill hangs up.

CUT TO:

INSERT: BILL'S CALENDAR. Half of September has been crossed off. Bill's hand crosses off another day.

EXT. CAMPUS

Bill's wandering across campus. Thomas runs up to him.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

I've been looking for you everywhere.

BILL ROSEN

You have?

THOMAS TERRINGTON

What're you doing for Mid-Term Holiday?

BILL ROSEN

Uh, well, I had some plans to maybe hit the slopes.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

It's October. There's no skiing for months.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BILL ROSEN
In Chile. Hit the slopes in Chile.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
So you're going to Chile?

BILL ROSEN
I'm not going anywhere.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
I was wondering if you want to spend the weekend at my house. I mean, it could suck --

BILL ROSEN
Really? Why?

THOMAS TERRINGTON
Because I want you to.

BILL ROSEN
Why?

THOMAS TERRINGTON
Do you want to come or not?

EXT. THE RECTORY

The rectory sits atop a hill overlooking the school. This is where Rector Terrington lives. It's a beautiful, yet austere, 18th century clapboard house. Bill walks up to the building. He knocks on the door.

INT. THE RECTORY

The door flies open. Rector Terrington towers above Bill.

BILL ROSEN
I'm Thomas's friend --

RECTOR TERRINGTON
Bill Rosen! Damn glad to see you again, ol' man.

Rector Terrington pumps Bill's hand.

BILL ROSEN
Damn glad to see you.

Thomas appears behind his father.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
Hey.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RECTOR TERRINGTON

So what have you ol' rapscallions been up to? Sculling? Fly-fishing? Frisbee golf? Goddamit I love autumn!

BILL ROSEN

I dunno.

RECTOR TERRINGTON

Well we'll be performing plenty of fall sportage this weekend. You're just in time for the Terrington games.

BILL ROSEN

The what?

RECTOR TERRINGTON

Follow me, boss.

The Rector, Bill and a mute Thomas walks outside.

BILL ROSEN

(sotto to Thomas)

I can't believe people actually talk like this.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Like what?

EXT. GARDEN - CONTINUOUS

Bill, Rector Terrington and Thomas join Isabella, Jack, Felicity, and Lucas, Felicity's fiance. Felicity's on her cell phone.

FELICITY

(on the phone)

I don't give a shit what you say! Camner promised us a piece so we're getting a goddamn piece!

*
*
*

ISABELLA

I'm Isabella. What was your PSAT score?

BILL ROSEN

I don't remember.

ISABELLA

My score was perfect.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BILL ROSEN
 Uh, congratulations.
 (to Lucas)
 I'm Bill.

LUCAS
 I'm Lucas. Felicity's fiancé.

Felicity hangs up.

FELICITY
 Camner's shit all over us! *

LUCAS
 Oh, honey bear, I'm sorry.

FELICITY
 Shit balls! I want knee his bald head in
 the goddamn ear! *

RECTOR TERRINGTON
 This is Bill. He'll be joining us for
 the 153rd Terrington games.

BILL ROSEN
 (sotto to Thomas)
 What is this?

Lubra pops up.

LUBRA
 The Terrington games: an annual mid-term
 holiday event in which the family
 competes against itself for the title of:

CU: A hand puts the finishing touches on an inscription which
 reads: "BEST HALF OF THE FAMILY."

LUBRA (cont'd)
 The results are recorded in the
 Terrington Games Volume.

CU: A worn leather book. A hand writes the results in the
 leather book.

LUBRA (cont'd)
 Inscribed on the Terrington Cup.

CU: The results are inscribed on a silver cup.

LUBRA (cont'd)
 And boasted about for years to come.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CU: Dinner table. Felicity, Rector Terrington and Jack are pointing and laughing at Thomas, Isabella and Lucas.

FELICITY

You guys suck! Hahahahahah!

Lubra disappears.

BACK TO THE PRESENT:

BILL ROSEN

(joking)

Oh, so it's like the Olympics, but fake.

No one finds this amusing.

RECTOR TERRINGTON

The games begin with Badminton.

Mr. Terrington tosses the birdie to Bill. Bill hits it way out. Mr. Terrington is obviously upset.

BILL ROSEN

I'm sorry. I've never played.

RECTOR TERRINGTON

Bend your knees.

FELICITY

Choke up on the racket.

JACK

Keep your eye on the birdie.

ISABELLA

Follow through on that swing.

RECTOR TERRINGTON

Let's let him take that serve again.

BILL ROSEN

If someone else wants to serve...

RECTOR TERRINGTON

You can serve. You gotta learn to believe in yourself, buddy.

*
*

BILL ROSEN

I'm just saying.

ISABELLA

Serve.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Bill hits it way out.

TERRINGTON OLYMPIC MONTAGE:

1) TITLE: FRISBEE GOLF

Bill's frisbee completely misses the tree. Thomas doesn't even bother throwing it.

2) TITLE: SCULLING

Bill and Lucas vs. Isabella and Jack. Bill immediately catches a crab and is thrown out of the boat. A bored Thomas watches from the shore. *

3) TITLE: FOOTBALL *

The same play. Thomas is standing in the End-Zone. Bill's defending. Felicity runs past Jack and a sluggish Thomas to score. She spikes the football and performs a garish victory dance.

4) TITLE: DESSERT EATING *

Thomas sits, barely eating his gigantic slice of cake. Isabella wolfs down her cake. Rector Terrington looks in Isabella's mouth and lifts up her hand.

6) TITLE: CLOSING CEREMONIES

RECTOR TERRINGTON
And the final tally shows... Halcyon team
which is made up of Isabella, Felicity
and Lucas...

Isabella, Felicity and Lucas hold hands.

RECTOR TERRINGTON (cont'd)
Three hundred and twenty five points!

They jump up and down excited.

RECTOR TERRINGTON (cont'd)
Shattuck team which is made up of Thomas,
Bill and Jack...

Thomas doesn't care, Bill's weirded out and Jack is mad.

RECTOR TERRINGTON (cont'd)
Six points. Halcyon wins again! A
decade of Halcyon. I didn't think it was
possible. We reconvene at dinner.

INT. THOMAS'S ROOM

Bill walks in, having taken a shower. He's wearing a suit.
Thomas is reading.

BILL ROSEN

Well those games. That was something.
If I was good at sports, I'd do one in a
heartbeat. It's my secret shame.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Sports suck.

Thomas leaves. Bill sits, confused.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

A huge portrait of the Terrington Family Tree hangs over the dining room table. It's labeled as such. The Terrington Games Cup and Volume sit below it, on the mantle. Bill wanders in. Rector Terrington is seated at the table nursing a martini. He's sauced.

BILL ROSEN

Hi, Rector Terrington.
(noticing the cup and volume)
Wow. That's some fast engraving. That
was good, those games.

RECTOR TERRINGTON

No it wasn't. It was a landslide.

BILL ROSEN

Yeah, totally.

RECTOR TERRINGTON

You know what that is?

BILL ROSEN

(reading the label)
The Terrington Family Tree.

RECTOR TERRINGTON

That's the Terrington family tree. You
know the Terrington family has been in
America for three hundred years.
Washington's right hand man was a
Terrington. Blaine Augustus Terrington.

BILL ROSEN

Wow.

CONTINUED:

RECTOR TERRINGTON
How long has your family been here?

BILL ROSEN
I don't know. Eighty years I guess.

RECTOR TERRINGTON
What did your great-grandfather do?

BILL ROSEN
He ran a knish stand in Queens.

RECTOR TERRINGTON
(not listening)
Thomas's great-grandfather started the
FBI. In fact, every one of us
Terringtons has done something
spectacular. Look at Thomas's siblings.

BILL ROSEN
I know. They're amazing.

RECTOR TERRINGTON
They've had it tough. Their mother died
while giving birth to Isabella. Yet
they're still the cream of the crop.
They're like ballistic missiles, my
children, headed up up up to the wide,
blue yonder. Past the wide, blue yonder.
In a couple weeks, they'll be zipping
past Neptune.

BILL ROSEN
Wow. Neptune. That's far.

RECTOR TERRINGTON
In fact, the only Terrington who didn't
accomplish anything in his life was our
great-great-great-grand uncle Jonathan.
And that's because he drowned when he was
fourteen. So maybe you can tell me, what
the fuck's wrong with Thomas?

*

Bill's speechless.

SFX: A dinner bell.

RECTOR TERRINGTON (cont'd)
Supper time!

INT. DINING ROOM - LATER

Everyone eats around the dinner table.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ISABELLA
(almost whining)
I'm touring with NYC this spring and the
Kirov next fall! I already told you!

FELICITY
Well, my mistake Isabella.

LUCAS
More potatoes, boo bear?

Felicity takes them.

ISABELLA
(to Bill)
If you're in Vladivostok this fall you
should come see me.

BILL ROSEN
Cool. I might be.

RECTOR TERRINGTON
Enough of that ballet shit, sweetheart.
So, Jack, how's the history of education
going?

JACK
Coming along.

RECTOR TERRINGTON
When you've finished that sucker I'll zip
it right over to Val at St. Martin's
Press. She's just salivating over it.
God, before you know it this kid's gonna
be rector. What're you headed to Thomas?
Figured it out yet?

THOMAS TERRINGTON
I don't know.

RECTOR TERRINGTON
So, Lucas, how's the financial sector
working out for you? What're you in,
real estate?

LUCAS
I trade derivatives.

RECTOR TERRINGTON
When did you leave real estate?

LUCAS
I've always traded derivatives.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RECTOR TERRINGTON

No you didn't. Maybe you can give Tommy some pointers. He likes derivatives and the trading of them.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

No I don't. I don't even know what that is.

JACK

You don't like anything. Maybe you'll not like derivative trading a little less than everything else.

ISABELLA

I like derivative trading.

RECTOR TERRINGTON

What kind of grades do you need to go into real estate?

LUCAS

Well, I imagine good ones. I know that in derivative trading if you're on the floor grades don't matter -- salesmanship does. If you're an analyst, well, that's a tougher nut to crack.

JACK

How about if you flunk out of high school? How about then?

LUCAS

That certainly makes things tougher.

FELICITY

Are you flunking out?

ISABELLA

Thomas is flunking out!

RECTOR TERRINGTON

(to Thomas)

If you flunk out, and your brother's rector, you could be a grounds keeper. We hire retards for that.

Thomas gets up from the dinner table and heads to his room.

RECTOR TERRINGTON (cont'd)

It's a program I started in cooperation with the state mental health facility.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

RECTOR TERRINGTON (cont'd)
Great bunch. Work for nothing. Never
complain.

FELICITY
Lucas recently transferred to Deutsche-
Bank.

RECTOR TERRINGTON
They're good folks, them Germans. Hard-
working.

BILL ROSEN
May I be excused?

RECTOR TERRINGTON
Loyal too.

No one hears Bill so he leaves.

INT. THOMAS'S ROOM

Thomas is staring at a photo of Kristen. Bill opens the
door. Thomas hides the photo under his pillow and starts
casually shuffling a deck of cards.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
Have you enjoyed meeting my family?

BILL ROSEN
Yeah, they're, uh, they're, uh, very
interesting.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
I brought you as a buffer and they still
laid into me. Typical.

BILL ROSEN
You just hoped that by me being here your
dad wouldn't yell at you for bad grades?
Parents yell. That's why you become one.
So you can yell.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
You don't care that I used you?

BILL ROSEN
It's either be used or alone in my room
for the weekend.

Thomas is oddly moved.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
I want to show you something.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BILL ROSEN

Are you about to get gay on me?

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Thomas and Bill are standing AT HIS FORT. It is a small claptrap wooden structure. There's a stool, a little table, some photos pinned to the walls. It's open to the elements.

BILL ROSEN

This is your fort?

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Yup.

BILL ROSEN

What could this fort possibly protect you against?

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Other people. They're illegal, you know.

BILL ROSEN

Why? Extreme lameness?

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Smell that weird gassy smell?

BILL ROSEN

Did you fart?

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Natural methane escaping from the pond. Add to that seasonal dryness and the fact that nature attracts bongos and matches. Boom. Ya know?

BILL ROSEN

(not really getting it)
Yeah. Totally.

Bill sits on a stool. Thomas plops on the ground and pulls a pack of cards out of his shirt pocket.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Examine the deck.

BILL ROSEN

Ohmigod. You're about to do a magic trick. This is so gay. This is gayer than gay. This is gay squared.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Do it.

BILL ROSEN

This is so gay it's gone to straight and then back to gay.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Do it already!

Bill reluctantly examines the deck.

BILL ROSEN

It is a normal deck.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Pick a card. Don't let me see it.

Bill picks a card. It is the EIGHT OF HEARTS. Bill puts it back in the deck.

THOMAS TERRINGTON (cont'd)

Shuffle.

Bill does so. Thomas grabs the deck back.

BILL ROSEN

Now what? Are you going to find it? That's impossible. Only some kind of magic man could find it.

A single card rises from the deck which Thomas hides in one of his hands. Bill picks his left hand. It's empty.

BILL ROSEN (cont'd)

(sarcastic)

It is not in your hand. That is amazing.

Bill picks Thomas's right hand. It's also empty.

BILL ROSEN (cont'd)

And it is not in your right hand. I am amazed. Where could it be? Perhaps my ear?

Thomas reaches into Bill's ear. He opens his hand and releases a small fireball into Bill's face.

BILL ROSEN (cont'd)

Ah!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Nope. You got fire in your ear. Was this your card?

Thomas smiles. Engraved on his two front teeth are 8 and a heart.

BILL ROSEN

Ah! How'd you do that? And don't say magic. I will hit you hard if you say magic.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

The fire was flash paper.

Thomas shows him a small piece of paper. He rubs it and it ignites.

THOMAS TERRINGTON (cont'd)

The 8 and the heart is carved into a homemade retainer I slipped into my mouth.

Thomas removes a homemade-looking retainer.

THOMAS TERRINGTON (cont'd)

I'm missing my front teeth. Ninth grade attempt at lacrosse. Kept them for tricks though.

BILL ROSEN

But how'd you know it was going to be the eight of hearts? Did you make that retainer while I wasn't looking? Is there a magic orthodontist in the woods?

THOMAS TERRINGTON

You didn't have a choice except to pick the eight of hearts.

Thomas hands Bill the deck. It's composed entirely of eights of hearts.

BILL ROSEN

But it was a normal... how'd you?

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Don't make me say the m word.

Bill notices a framed newspaper clipping of Kristen that's been cut out of the sports section of the *Terrington Bi-Weekly*. She's crossing a finish line, her arms up in triumph.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BILL ROSEN

Who's that?

THOMAS TERRINGTON

No one.

BILL ROSEN

That's not no one. That's that hot chick that's always running around everywhere. You like her!

THOMAS TERRINGTON

It's getting late -- we don't want to be assaulted by my great-great-great-grand uncle's ghost.

EXT. FOREST

Bill and Thomas are walking back.

BILL ROSEN

You like that girl! You like that girl!

THOMAS TERRINGTON

I'm serious -- stop talking about her.

They walk in silence. Then --

BILL ROSEN

Do you do a lot of magic?

THOMAS TERRINGTON

It's all I do.

BILL ROSEN

Is there a future in it?

THOMAS TERRINGTON

I don't care if there is.

BILL ROSEN

I'm going to be a psychiatrist I think. Or an investment banker. All I know is that I'm definitely going to medical school and law school. That's why I'm here. Are you going to be a magician when you grow up?

THOMAS TERRINGTON

I'm not going to be anything when I grow up. That's all my brother and sisters are -- people who want to be things when they grow up. Not me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BILL ROSEN

Well, then, why are you doing it?

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Because...of what just happened. I just freaked you out. For a brief moment, I owned you. People don't consider it an art -- but the best art should freak people out. Magic, the art of illusion, I think it's the most powerful art.

BILL ROSEN

That's...really... stupid.

Thomas punches Bill in the shoulder. Bill punches Thomas back. They regard each other and then fall to the ground wrestling.

MONTAGE: BILL AND THOMAS BECOMING FRIENDS

1) Bill and Thomas studying together in the library. Bill throws a paperball at Thomas. Thomas throws a paperball back. Bill throws his paperback book. Thomas throws one back. It escalates until they're taking books off the bookshelves and throwing them rapid-fire.

2) Thomas is lying on his bed asleep. Bill is reading at Thomas's desk. Bill stands up, positions his ass over Thomas's face and farts. Thomas wakes up and starts pounding on Bill.

3) Bill's peeing at a urinal. Thomas walks up behind him and, in a buddy-like way clamps a hand down on his shoulders. Bill pees all over himself.

4) Thomas is walking across campus, staring at Kristen. Bill runs by, knocking Thomas's books out of his hands. Thomas chases after him.

INSERT: BILL'S CALENDAR -- More days are crossed off. Bill's hand crosses off yet another day. We're into October.

INT. THOMAS'S ROOM

Thomas stares at the newspaper clipping photo of Kristen.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

(whispering to himself)

You're gonna talk to her, you're gonna talk to her, you're gonna talk to her --

Bill walks in. Thomas shoves the photo in his pocket.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THOMAS TERRINGTON (cont'd)

Ah! Knock!

BILL ROSEN

Sorry. Dinner?

INT. CAFETERIA - LATER

Thomas and Bill are sitting in the cafeteria. Kristen and her friends, all carry lacrosse gear, sit down a couple tables away. Thomas turns red.

BILL ROSEN

You like her.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Will you stop?

BILL ROSEN

You'd have to be gay not to.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Shut up.

BILL ROSEN

I mean, those legs. Actually, even a gay man would love those legs.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Shut up.

BILL ROSEN

(doing a gay accent)
I love those legs!

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Seriously, I will kill you in the night if you do not shut up.

BILL ROSEN

Why don't you ask her out?

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Are you nuts? Look at me!

BILL ROSEN

I am.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Well? What do you see?

BILL ROSEN

I see a good-looking, young man.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THOMAS TERRINGTON
That was creepy, you saying that.

BILL ROSEN
I'm telling you, she'll go out with you.
Most high school kids are dicks. Not
you. You're interesting. You're like
David Blaine. He gets hot chicks.
Claudia Schiffer.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
(distracted)
That was David Copperfield.

BILL ROSEN
Another one. Maybe I should start doing
magic. Have an extra wand?

Thomas stares at Kristen.

BILL ROSEN (cont'd)
Hello? Thomas?

THOMAS TERRINGTON
Do you have a pen?

Bill hands him a pen. Thomas pulls out his deck and writes
something on one of the cards.

THOMAS TERRINGTON (cont'd) *
I'm doing this.

Thomas stands up.

BILL ROSEN
(alarmed)
You're doing what?

Thomas makes a beeline for Kristen.

BILL ROSEN (cont'd)
(kind of to himself)
You're doing that? He's doing that?

THOMAS TERRINGTON
Hey, Kristen.

KRISTEN
Um, hi.

Thomas takes out a deck of cards.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

THOMAS TERRINGTON
This is a normal deck, right?

KRISTEN
Yeah. What're you doing?

THOMAS TERRINGTON
Pick a card.

KRISTEN
What?

THOMAS TERRINGTON
Just pick a card.

Kristen picks a card. There's something written on it.

KRISTEN
(reading)
Kristen, will you go out with me.
(up to Thomas)
Who are you?

THOMAS TERRINGTON
What?

KRISTEN
I don't know you and I have a boyfriend.

Lubra pops up.

LUBRA
Kristen Good started dating when her
father, Robert Good --

WE SEE A PHOTO OF ROBERT GOOD IN FRONT OF A MICROPHONE. HE
HAS AN EXTREME SIDE PART.

LUBRA
-- famed stage actor, voice over artist,
and ubiquitous book on tape narrator --

ROBERT GOOD (V.O.)
In a time... and a place... one man...
against all odds...

LUBRA
-- died.

The picture fades.

Lubra (cont'd)
Kristen was eleven.

*

EXT. CEMETARY

A family is around a grave. Eleven-year-old Kristen is standing next to the grave as well.

LUBRA

She met her first boyfriend at Robert's funeral.

Eleven year-old Kristen locks eyes with a sixteen-year-old pallbearer.

NOTE: EVERY GUY LOOKS LIKE KRISTEN'S FATHER. THEY ALL HAVE EXTREME SIDE PARTS.

INT. FUNERAL HOME - COFFIN ROOM

Eleven-year-old Kristen and the pallbearer hide behind some coffins. Kristen spits out her gum and sticks it to the underside of a coffin. She and the pallbearer immediately start making out.

LUBRA

She hasn't stopped dating since.

EXT. CAMPFIRE

A bunch of kids around a campfire. Lubra pops up.

LUBRA

Wonderland Camp when she was twelve.

We PAN AWAY FROM THE CAMPFIRE to a twelve-year old Kristen making out with an older counselor who has a guitar slung around his shoulder.

INT. CATHEDRAL

A choir is singing. Fourteen-year-old Kristen sings in it. Lubra pops up.

LUBRA

With the hot priest at fourteen.

She stares at a young, hot priest. He smiles, but then shakes his head.

Lubra (cont'd)

In secret, of course.

INT. CLASSROOM

Two short students debate each other. Lubra pops up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUBRA

With America's number one ranked debater,
ages 16 to 20 at fifteen.

The debater's making a point. Fifteen-year-old Kristen
knocks on the window. The Debater blows her a kiss.

EXT. LAKE

GUS BLAKE, a very good-looking, nice, but kind of dumb,
crewbie is in the midst of rowing. Lubra somehow rides
along.

LUBRA

And currently with Gus, the stroke of
first boat.

COX

Stroke!

GUS

2, 4, 6, 8 --

The boat passes the finish line. Gus raises his arms up.

GUS (cont'd)

Uhhhh --

FLASH TO REALITY:

INT. KRISTEN'S BEDROOM

Gus and Kristen in the midst of having sex. Gus, with arms
up, climaxes --

GUS

-- uhhhh!

-- and collapses on Kristen. He rolls off her and snaps off
the condom.

GUS (cont'd)

Thanks, Krissy.

KRISTEN

(confused)

You're... welcome.

(pause)

Were you counting?

GUS

When?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KRISTEN
During...it.

GUS
No. Why?

KRISTEN
Cause I heard you counting.

GUS
Must have been someone else.

KRISTEN
But you were the only one here.

GUS
You were here too.

Gus kisses Kristen's forehead. Kristen pushes Gus's hair into her father's extreme side part.

GUS (cont'd)
I gotta get to practice. Jack's been running us hard.

KRISTEN
Love you.

Gus pulls on his Varsity Crew sweats, flexes in front of the mirror and kisses Kristen.

GUS
Love you too. Wish me luck erging.

KRISTEN
Good luck erging.

Gus jogs out. Kristen unlocks her closet revealing a SHRINE to her father. Pictures of her father grace every nook and cranny of her closet.

Kristen (cont'd)
Hi, daddy. So, whaddya think? Isn't Gus the greatest?

BACK TO:

INT. CAFETERIA - REALITY - AS BEFORE

Thomas is shocked.

KRISTEN
Are you alright?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THOMAS TERRINGTON
Ohmigod, I'm sorry.

KRISTEN
It's OK.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
No, it's not, I'm sorry. Oh god.

Thomas backs away.

KRISTEN
Do you want your card back?

Thomas runs out of the cafeteria. Bill jumps up.

BILL ROSEN
Thomas!

Thomas just keeps running. Kristen's friend EVELYN, pipes up.

EVELYN
What a freak.

Gus sits down at the table.

GUS
Who was that?

EVELYN
Some freak.

INT. THOMAS'S ROOM

Thomas is destroying his room.

He's ripping down the magic posters. He's smashing the furniture. He's tearing the sheets off the bed and punching holes in the wall. He burns the newspaper clipping of Kristen and sits down to write a suicide note. PAN DOWN to the suicide note.

PAN UP: Bill runs in. No Thomas. Bill sees the note. It says on the envelope "TO BE READ AT MY FUNERAL." Bill runs out.

EXT. FOREST

Bill runs towards Thomas's fort. Thomas turns towards him. Suddenly, the whole thing explodes. Fire engulfs the forest.

CUT TO:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

INSERT: BILL'S CALENDAR -- Half of October's gone. Bill crosses off yet another day.

EXT. TERRINGTON CEMETARY

MUSIC CUE: Organ.

A small cemetery next to the Chapel.

SIGN: "MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR THOMAS TERRINGTON: 3PM"

EXT. TERRINGTON CEMETARY - DAY

Rector Terrington stands before the mourners. The Terrington family's lined up, quietly. Isabella fidgets, but beyond that no one makes a noise. Bill sits with a small group of students that includes Kristen, Gus and Lubra.

RECTOR TERRINGTON

Today is a terrible day for Terrington and for my family. Thomas Terrington has passed from this world. I loved him dearly. A devotee of biochemistry, the works of James Joyce and derivative trading, Thomas was going places.

Bill is angry at the Rector's changing of the facts. The Rector pulls out a note.

RECTOR TERRINGTON (cont'd)

This is the note that Thomas Terrington left for us. He requested that it be read at his funeral.

(reading the note)

Dear friends, family, loved ones. By the time this is read I will have passed on to a better place. Father, do not worry. This is not your fault. I was not right for this world. I was too fragile, too frail, too weak and I apologize for failing you. You were the best father in the whole universe -- unfortunately the best father was cursed with the worst child.

Rector Terrington takes a moment. For the first time, he shows emotion.

RECTOR TERRINGTON (cont'd)

Well, no longer. To Felicity, whenever you make a trade or screw over a rival agency, I too will rejoice in heaven.

*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Felicity smiles sadly.

RECTOR TERRINGTON (cont'd)
 Jack -- I could never carpe diem. Let's
 hope that you continue to.

Jack looks upset.

RECTOR TERRINGTON (cont'd)
 And little Isabella -- every time you
 dance, me and my angel friends will give
 standing ovations.

Isabella has a wide smile on her face.

RECTOR TERRINGTON (cont'd)
 To my friends, as few as they may be, I
 apologize for leaving so suddenly and
 without a goodbye.

Bill looks down.

RECTOR TERRINGTON (cont'd)
 I look down upon you and smile, ecstatic
 in the knowledge that I knew you. To my
 lover... well, I never had a lover, but I
 loved many and was loved by many.
 (as if being interrupted by
 someone)
 Uh... what's that you say? I am sorry,
 that was the Angel Gabriel calling me
 from on high. It seems as if there's an
 empty seat at God's poker table. Well,
 my fellow humans, I bid adieu to the
 world of the living and wish you all good
 luck in making this world a better, more
 peaceful place. And now, please remember
 my passing by listening to my favorite
 piece of music of all time.

Rector Terrington takes a tape and puts in a boom box. He
 hits play.

MUSIC CUE: *Memories* by Andrew Lloyd Webber filters out of
 the speakers.

Rector Terrington looks up, his face streaked with tears.
 There's not a dry eye in the house. Jack throws a bouquet of
 flowers onto the coffin.

EXT. TERRINGTON CEMETARY

Bill's walking away from the service with his backpack.
Kristen breaks away from Gus.

KRISTEN
Hey, you were friends with that guy,
Thomas, right?

BILL ROSEN
Yeah.

KRISTEN
Well, I'm sorry.

BILL ROSEN
It's alright.

KRISTEN
No it's not.

Kristen walks back to Gus.

GUS
Who was that?

KRISTEN
Friend of the dead kid.

GUS
I heard they could only identify him by
his teeth.

KRISTEN
Shut up, Gus.

GUS
What? I'm not the one who blew him up.

INT. CLASSROOM

It's before class. Bill sits near the stoners.

TIBBLER
That Thomas Terrington, man.

FUNG
He was just so, like, I don't know, you
know? I'm gonna miss him.

SASE
I already do. It's like just yesterday
he was here.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BILL ROSEN
He was here yesterday.

FUNG
Exactly.

Fung slaps five with the surprised Bill. Jack enters, holding his books. The students quiet down.

JACK
Why the long faces? Did someone die in here?

Awkward pause.

JACK (cont'd)
Hahahaha!

The class nervously laughs along.

INT. BILL'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Bill's sitting listlessly at his desk trying to read Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying*. He's using Thomas's eight of hearts card as a bookmark. Bill examines it. He flips it around in his hands. He tries to palm it. There's a knock at the window. It's just a tree branch. Bill reexamines the eight of hearts. There's another knock. Bill looks up.

Thomas stands at the window.

BILL ROSEN
AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!

Thomas raises his hand to his lips.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
Sh! Sh! Sh!

Thomas opens the window.

THOMAS TERRINGTON (cont'd)
It's alright, it's alright.

BILL ROSEN
Not real not real not real --

THOMAS TERRINGTON
I'm real, Bill. I'm alive.

BILL ROSEN
Get away! Get away from me!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Bill throws a book at Thomas.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Ow!

BILL ROSEN

Why aren't they going through you?

Bill throws another book at Thomas which he dodges.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Cause I'm alive asshole!

Thomas slaps Bill.

BILL ROSEN

Ow! Don't hurt me!

Thomas slaps Bill again.

BILL ROSEN (cont'd)

You're alive. You are alive. You motherfucker.

Bill starts slapping Thomas.

BILL ROSEN (cont'd)

I thought you were dead. You made me think you were dead!

*

Thomas grabs Bill's hands.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

I'm not. Deal with it. Now let's get something to eat. I'm starving.

INT. CAFETERIA - NIGHT

Bill and Thomas have snuck in. All the lights are off. Thomas is eating a cookie.

BILL ROSEN

But they buried you.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

No. They buried the science department's skeleton and a couple of teeth I wasn't using.

Thomas smiles. He's missing his front teeth.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THOMAS TERRINGTON (cont'd)
Apparently some teeth are all they need
to identify you. It's surprisingly easy
to die.

BILL ROSEN
What're you going to do now?

THOMAS TERRINGTON
I don't know. Run away I guess. I
didn't expect to get away with this.

BILL ROSEN
And you sure you're not dead?

THOMAS TERRINGTON
I'm not dead. How could I be talking to
you if I was dead?

BILL ROSEN
If you were a ghost. I thought you were
a ghost. *

THOMAS TERRINGTON
Well I'm not. *
(then, realizing) *
But I could be. *

BILL ROSEN
No you can't. You're alive. *

THOMAS TERRINGTON
As an illusion. If I want to start my
magic career off with a bang I can become
a ghost. *

BILL ROSEN
What're you talking about? *

THOMAS TERRINGTON
My great-great-great-grand uncle died at
fourteen and is probably the most famous
Terrington student ever. *

BILL ROSEN
Besides Judd Nelson. *

THOMAS TERRINGTON
We don't praise Judd Nelson's dick during
water-drinking contests. That's
everlasting fame. *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BILL ROSEN
That is everlasting fame.

*
*

THOMAS TERRINGTON
To do it right, we're going to need
stuff.

*
*
*

EXT. BOAT HOUSE

Bill steals a rope off one of the crew boats.

THOMAS TERRINGTON (V.O.)
A rope --

INT. SCIENCE CLASSROOM - NIGHT

Bill running with a cooler out of the classroom.

THOMAS TERRINGTON (V.O.)
-- dry ice --

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Tibbler, Sase and Fung are walking through the woods.

THOMAS TERRINGTON (V.O.)
-- and most importantly, the right
target. Someone who scares easily.
Someone with a very, very low fear
threshold.

They are very high.

SASE
I'm telling you, "Bathtub Gin" is by far
their greatest work.

FUNG
No way, dude. No way. Have you heard
Nectar, Denver, 89? That drum solo's
kind.

ANGLE ON: Bill dropping the dry ice in a tin of water. Dry
ice fog spills out of it.

SASE
You don't like drum solos. You just want
us to think you like drum solos so we
think you're extra smart.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FUNG

That is not true, man, and here's why:
That drum solo's kind.

ANGLE ON: A tree. Bill's lowering Thomas with the rope.
Thomas has his hands outstretched in a menacing way.

TIBBLER

Do you see that? What is that?

FUNG

What is what? I can't see shit through
the fog.

Sase puts out the joint.

TIBBLER

Shh. I think it's a bear.

FUNG

There aren't bears in New Hampshire.

SASE

That's why there might be bears now. I
mean, if I was a bear and knew there
weren't bears here, knew there was a bear
deficit--

FUNG

(cracking up)
Bear deficit!

SASE

(cracking up)
Bear deficit.

FUNG

Bear deficit.

ANGLE ON: Bill's straining. He suddenly drops Thomas to the
ground.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

(under his breath)
Shit!

*

TIBBLER

What was that?

Thomas stands up, brushing himself off.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

THOMAS TERRINGTON

(to Bill)

Was dropping me part of the plan, idiot!

Sase shines his flashlight at Thomas.

THOMAS TERRINGTON (cont'd)

(to the stoners)

Look, let's just keep this between ourselves, all right?

ALL THREE OF THEM

Ahhhhh!

The stoners run out of the forest.

INT. CAFETERIA - NIGHT

Tibbler, Fung and Sase are excitedly discussing their encounter with MELISSA and COURTNEY (two stoner chicks). Bill's sitting nearby, eavesdropping.

FUNG

And then he came out, he like floated out.

SASE

Fucking Thomas Terrington.

FUNG

He floated out. It was like you could touch him, but you couldn't, you know?

TIBBLER

I got a chill too. But I didn't see my breath.

SASE

I saw my breath.

FUNG

That wasn't your breath.

They slap five.

MELISSA

And you all saw him?

COURTNEY

At the same time?

SASE

We all saw him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MELISSA

Was he burnt up or anything?

TIBBLER

Yeah, but he looked peaceful.

COURTNEY

If he's so peaceful, why's he still on our astral plane? He wants to tell us something.

FUNG

He's after our brains.

TIBBLER

There's something to that.

MELISSA

There's definitely something to that.

FUNG

It's a Terrington family legacy. First Jonathan and now Thomas. That family's cursed.

Bill excitedly leaves the cafeteria.

EXT. FOREST

Bill and Thomas are jazzed.

BILL ROSEN

They think you're cursed. The school thinks your cursed.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

I need stuff. If they haven't cleared my room, can you pick up some stuff for me?

BILL ROSEN

Course. Who're you haunting next?

THOMAS TERRINGTON

I have some ideas.

INT. THOMAS'S ROOM

Bill has a suitcase filled with stuff for Thomas. Most everything's in boxes.

(CONTINUED).

CONTINUED:

LUBRA (O.C.)

Hello Bill. What are you doing here?
The Rector's picking up his belongings
tomorrow.

BILL ROSEN

I want some of Thomas's stuff. To
remember him.

LUBRA

Boxer shorts?

BILL ROSEN

We're the same size. When I wear them
I'll think about him.

(off his look)

We had an odd friendship.

(exploding)

I can't believe I'm justifying this stuff
to you! He's gone!

LUBRA

I'm sorry.

BILL ROSEN

Not as sorry as me.

Bill leaves with the suitcase.

INT. JACK'S TEACHER APARTMENT

Jack's in his apartment reading. The shower turns on.

JACK

Hello? Who's there?

Jack goes into the bathroom. There's no one there. He turns
off the shower. The mirrors are fogged up.

He goes back to reading. The shower turns back on. Jack
goes into the bathroom. The faucets running too. The
bathroom's filled with steam.

Jack turns off the shower. He turns. Written in the mirror
fog is:

"Don't stand so close to me. love, your little brother."

JACK (cont'd)

Ohmigod.

MUSIC CUE: "The Police's" Don't Stand So Close To Me --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

-- blasts on his stereo.

JACK (cont'd)
I'm sorry, Thomas. Please, I'm sorry!

Jack drops against the wall and shields himself from the possible soul-eating that's about to happen. Jack covers his eyes. The stereo turns off.

PAN UP:

TO THE WINDOW

Bill is there with Jack's remote, turning the stereo on.

BACK TO:

JACK opens his eyes. He walks out of the bathroom into a bedroom FILLED WITH PINK SLIPS.

EXT. FOREST

Bill and Thomas. *

BILL ROSEN
That was amazing! *

THOMAS TERRINGTON
I totally made Jack shit his pants. I'm
like a superhero now! *

BILL ROSEN
Yeah. Gay Man.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
That's very funny.

BILL ROSEN
Wait, if you're a superhero, you can do
anything, right?

INT. KENNY PUDER'S ROOM

Kenny and some buddies are sitting around with a bottle of vodka and several shot glasses.

KENNY PUDER
And then I put it in her, if you know
what I mean.

The roommates laugh. They all do a shot.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ONE OF THE ROOMMATES
Wait. What do you mean?

There's a knock on the door.

KENNY PUDER
Shit shit shit shit!

They all put away the shot glasses and the bottle.

KENNY PUDER (cont'd)
Come in.

MR. HOWELL, a portly teacher, enters.

MR. HOWELL
Hey, guys. Sorry to break up this little party, but it's check-in time.

KENNY PUDER
I'm in.

MR. HOWELL
And you guys are out.

They all leave.

MR. HOWELL
Why don't you read one of your schoolbooks Kenneth?

KENNY PUDER
I think maybe I will.

Kenny grabs a textbook. Mr. Howell leaves.

KENNY PUDER (cont'd)
Dicklicker.

He puts down his book, reaches under his chair and pulls out some porn.

SFX: Window opening.

Kenny shivers. He can see his breath. He goes over to the tapestry, lifts it up. He closes the window. Kenny sits back down with the porn. Bill opens the window again. Kenny goes back to the tapestry which is now blowing in the wind. He lifts it and closes the window.

KENNY PUDER (cont'd)
Hello? Anyone there?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Kenny's creeps out now. He sits back down in his chair and picks up the porno.

SFX: Window opening.

Kenny jumps up.

KENNY PUDER (cont'd)
 Alright! That is not cool. Is that you
 Simon? Hello?

Kenny runs to the window and slams it shut. A figure sneaks into his room.

THOMAS TERRINGTON (O.C.)
 (whispering)
 Kenneth.

Kenny spins around. Thomas is standing in behind him. His face is darkened with soot and he's wearing burnt clothing.

KENNY PUDER
 Ah! Thomas Terrington? No, that's
 impossible.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
 (raising his finger to his
 lips)
 Shhh.

Kenny kneels slowly to the floor.

KENNY PUDER
 What do you want? Do you need a body to
 inhabit? Just don't hurt me.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
 Shhhh.

Thomas motions with his finger and points to his ass.

KENNY PUDER
 What?

THOMAS TERRINGTON
 (whispering)
 Do it.

Thomas starts to approach Kenny. Kenny sticks his finger up his rectum before Thomas gets any closer.

KENNY PUDER
 What now?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Thomas holds his finger under his nose. Kenny holds his finger under his nose.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
(whispering)
Asspussy.

KENNY PUDER
I'm sorry! I'm sorry I did that!

Kenny watches Thomas motion something, but we don't get a clear view of what it is. Kenny closes his eyes and puts his finger in his mouth. Then he opens his eyes. Thomas is gone.

INT. CAFETERIA

Bill's eating lunch. Lubra comes up to him. He's holding a notepad and pencil.

LUBRA
Hello, William.

BILL ROSEN
How ya doing, Lubra?

LUBRA
May I be rather personal?

BILL ROSEN
I guess.

LUBRA
There's been ghost sightings of your friend, Thomas. Has his spectre visited you?

BILL ROSEN
No, Lubra. He's gone.

LUBRA
Well, if you see anything out of the ordinary, give me a call.

BILL ROSEN
You have a phone?

LUBRA
Just come by the Terrington Bi-Weekly Offices. I'm usually there.

Lubra continues standing there.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BILL ROSEN
Is that all?

LUBRA
May I join you for lunch?

BILL ROSEN
(surprised)
Yeah. Of course.

Lubra sits down. Kenny walks by.

KENNY PUDER
Bill!

Kenny throws down twenty bucks.

BILL ROSEN
What's this?

KENNY PUDER
For damages. And if, in the future, some asshole does asspussy to you, you tell me; because if someone does asspussy to you, it's like if they were doing asspussy to me. You got it?

BILL ROSEN
I got it.

KENNY PUDER
See ya later, buddy.

Kenny walks away.

LUBRA
What was that?

BILL ROSEN
He owed me some money. For pizza and laundry and stuff.

MONTAGE: GHOST FEVER GRIPS THE CAMPUS

INT. CHAPEL - MORNING

It's morning assembly. Melissa, one of the stoner girls, is reading a poem.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MELISSA

And this is what Jerry G. had to say/You
are your brother's keeper./Follow the
path of our Thomas T./And never fear the
reaper.

Everyone claps. Bill smiles.

EXT. FOREST

A group of boys in robes sit in a circle holding candles.

BOY 1

And I now call to order the first meeting
of the Thomas Terrington Society.

BOYS

Here! Here!/Let's do this/Pass me an
apple.

The boy pulls out a book.

BOY 1

Because I could not stop for Death/He
kindly stopped for me/The Carriage held
but just Ourselves/And Immortality.
Emily Dickinson.

The boys observe a moment of silence.

BOY 1

The Thomas Terrington Society's first
order of business will be the passing of
the bong.

*

Boy 2 holds the bong up.

BOY 2

To the continual spiritual existence of
Thomas Terrington.

BOYS

Here! Here!

EXT. BOAT HOUSE

The crew team is assembled around their boat with their heads
down.

GUS

May Jonathan and Thomas Terrington supply
our scull with the necessary strokes to
pull past Exeter.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Gus looks up.

GUS (cont'd)
Now let's beat their fucking asses!

INT. CLASSROOM

It's before class.

MELISSA
And then Thomas like floated across the pond and into a tunnel of light.

MARY
And he was holding a dove?

MELISSA
Two doves. Maybe three. And for some reason they were singing "Bobby McGee."

Jack walks in. The class stiffens to attention.

CUT TO:

INSERT: BILL'S CALENDAR -- Two weeks in October are crossed out. INSTEAD of crossing this next day out, Bill's writing in "Haunt cafeteria, 5PM. Purchase candles and watermelons."

INT. GIRLS' DORM

Evelyn, Kristen, in a one-piece bathing suit, and Courtney are sitting around a Ouija board.

EVELYN
Thomas once Thomas twice won't you talk to me tonight.

COURTNEY
Do you hear that?

EVELYN
What! What!

KRISTEN
I didn't hear anything.

COURTNEY
This is so scary.

KRISTEN
It is?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

EVELYN
What should we ask?

COURTNEY
When am I going to die?

EVELYN
That is so freaky and stupid!

COURTNEY
Ohmigoditsmoving!

The Ouija "cursor" starts slowly moving across the board.

EVELYN/COURTNEY
S-P-R-K-I-E-P.

COURTNEY
Sprkiep.
(mystified)
What could he mean?

EVELYN
Sprkiep. That is seriously creepy.

KRISTEN
I'm late to water polo.

Kristen leaves.

END MONTAGE

INT. CAFETERIA - LUNCH LINE

Bill's at the pasta bar dishing pasta out to himself.
Kristen joins him, in softball gear. There's a softball on
her tray, along with drinks and food.

KRISTEN
Hey. You're Bill, right?

BILL ROSEN
I'm Bill.

KRISTEN
Have you seen... you know your friend...

BILL ROSEN
I haven't seen Thomas since he died.

KRISTEN
That's what I thought. Sorry I asked.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BILL ROSEN

Hey, you're not the first.

Kristen notices that Bill's plate is piled high with food. There's a sandwich and pasta and four Cokes and a bunch of bananas.

BILL ROSEN

Carbo-loading. I, uhh, triathlon run.

*

Bill abruptly walks away.

EXT. FOREST

Thomas made himself a new fort. He's eating one of the sandwiches Bill made in the cafeteria.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Did she seem turned on?

BILL ROSEN

I don't know. She seemed intrigued. I mean, you're dead so being turned on would be kind of weird. But definitely intrigued.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

I'm going to visit her.

BILL ROSEN

Like scare her?

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Just visit. Say hello.

BILL ROSEN

Ghosts don't say hello. They drag chains and whisper ominous things like woooo or "nevermore" or "I'm back." And even if they're just there to say hello, it's terrifying.

(imitating a spooky ghost)

Hellooooo.

(back to normal)

See, that was terrifying. Or it would be. If you thought I was dead. Do you need my help?

THOMAS TERRINGTON

I'm the ghost here. I'll figure it out.

EXT. KRISTEN'S BEDROOM

Thomas sets up the ghost effect. Thomas sets up a Mag Lite flashlight behind him, so his ghostly image is projected on her bug screen.

INT. KRISTEN'S BEDROOM

Kristen's asleep in bed. Her window slides open. Thomas looks at her. Kristen's eyes flutter open.

KRISTEN

Who is that? I have mace!

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Shhh.

KRISTEN

Who's there?

THOMAS TERRINGTON

(whispering)

My name is Thomas Terrington.

KRISTEN

What?

THOMAS TERRINGTON

(whispering)

My name is Thomas Terrington.

KRISTEN

Huh?

NOTE: Thomas switches from whispering to Kristen to speaking in a funny, overly spooky voice. As he does so he turns up the mag-lite flashlight.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

My name is Thomas Terrington.

KRISTEN

Ohmigod.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

I am not here to hurt you.

KRISTEN

I know.

Thomas is surprised.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THOMAS TERRINGTON

You know?

KRISTEN

If you wanted to hurt me you would have already. Why're you here?

THOMAS TERRINGTON

I missed the light, Kristen. I saw the light and then I missed it.

KRISTEN

Like in that movie Ghost?

THOMAS TERRINGTON

It's a lot like that, yes.

KRISTEN

What's the after life like?

THOMAS TERRINGTON

It's very... peaceful. There's light. And there's also dark.

KRISTEN

Have you seen my father?

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Your father?

KRISTEN

He passed away six years ago.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Um. What does he look like?

KRISTEN

Tall. Brown hair. Brown eyes.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Of course I have. He loves you very very much.

KRISTEN

Really? What else?

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Um, he loves you and we actually had dinner, me and him and... Marilyn Monroe. It was a banquet really. And he couldn't stop talking about you.

Kristen starts tearing up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KRISTEN
He's friends with Marilyn Monroe?

THOMAS TERRINGTON
More than friends, really.

KRISTEN
What do you mean?

THOMAS TERRINGTON
It's unimportant.

KRISTEN
I miss him. And I love him.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
Yes. And he knows that you love him.

KRISTEN
Why have you come here for me?

THOMAS TERRINGTON
I want you to do a favor for a friend.

EXT. KRISTEN'S BEDROOM - AT THE SAME MOMENT

Gus walks up to the room. He flexes a couple times and then opens the door.

INT. KRISTEN'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kristen's door opens. Thomas jumps down from the window.

KRISTEN
Ah!

GUS
It's just Gus.

KRISTEN
You startled me.

GUS
Were you talking to someone?

KRISTEN
Myself.

Gus kisses Kristen.

KRISTEN
Will you do something for me?

*

INT. CAFETERIA - THE NEXT DAY

Bill's eating lunch with Carson, Mary, Griffin and some other boys. They're listening to his story with rapt attention.

BILL ROSEN

And that was the last time I saw him.

CARSON FISCHER

But you haven't seen him as a ghost?

BILL ROSEN

And I hope not to. Thomas -- Thomas was a good man. But if he is back, and of course I don't believe this, but if he is back, he's probably quite a powerful spirit who has some unfinished business.

Lubra approaches the table.

LUBRA

Hello, Bill. May I have a seat?

BILL ROSEN

You don't have to ask, Lubra.

LUBRA

I was wondering if you'd write a profile on Thomas Terrington for the Terrington Bi-Weekly.

BILL ROSEN

I don't know.

LUBRA

It could be the start of your own column. It only has to be a couple lines long. And I'll put your photo next to it.

BILL ROSEN

Thomas is a sensitive topic.

LUBRA

Every Friday the newspaper staff gets pizza.

BILL ROSEN

Done.

Gus walks up to the table.

GUS

You're Bill Rosen, right?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BILL ROSEN

Yeah.

GUS

You want to be on the crew team?

BILL ROSEN

(so happy)

Really?

Lubra watches this suspiciously.

INT. PEABODY HALL - BASEMENT

Bill's on the phone.

BILL ROSEN

(on the phone)

Hi momdad.

MAUDE (V.O.)

Haven't heard from you in a while. Has
someone been liking school more?

CUT TO:

BILL LIKING IT MORE MONTAGE:

INSERT: BILL'S CALENDAR -- It's filled with activities now --
Bi-weekly, French Club, haunting of the girl's locker room.
Bill's hand writes in "Crew, 2PM."

INT. TERRINGTON BI-WEEKLY OFFICES

Bill with Lubra proofreading the paper.

LUBRA

Let's put this baby to bed.

They slap the paper onto a photocopier and hit print. They
slap five.

INSERT: The paper SPINS up to us.

The HEADLINE: "'Thomas Terrington: A Friend in Life, a Lesson
in Death' by Bill Rosen"

There's a photo of Bill next to the article.

INSERT: Another paper spins up.

HEADLINE: "'What It's Like Being Jewish' by Bill Rosen."

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

INSERT: Another paper spins up.

HEADLINE: "'I Heard it Through the Grapevine: Why Our School Should No Longer Serve Grapes' by Bill Rosen."

INT. BILL'S DORM ROOM

Carson's reading with Mary. Bill walks in.

CARSON FISCHER

Hey, Rosen.

BILL ROSEN

Yeah?

CARSON FISCHER

I can't believe grape farmers aren't unionized. I'm done eating grapes. Done!

INT. CREW BOAT

Bill's the cox. He's facing Gus. All the boats around him are passing him. He doesn't care. He's having a great time.

BILL ROSEN

Stroke One! Stroke Two! Stroke Three!

INT. OBSERVATORY - NIGHT

Bill and Lubra are looking through the telescope. A portly science teacher looks on with them.

INT. PEABODY HALL - BASEMENT

Kenny runs down the hall banging on doors.

KENNY PUDER

Newb run! Newb run! Get up and run, bitches!

Bill comes out of his room.

KENNY PUDER (cont'd)

Good evening, Bill. If you wish to be involved in the Newb Run, then, by all means. Otherwise, we will see you when we return. Have a good night's rest.

*

BILL ROSEN

I am a newb, therefore I should run.

EXT. CENTER HALL - NIGHT

Bill and the rest of the guys in his dorm are standing outside the girls' dorm.

ALL
 (singing to the tune of
 Centerfold)
 Dah dah dah dah dah! My angel is a
 Center Hall girl! She is so hot! Her
 breasts are large! My angel is a Center
 Hall Girl! Angel is a Center Hall Girl!

The girls open their windows.

GIRLS
 Get out of here/Eat shit/You're all
 homos! *

The girls throw water balloons at the guys. The guys turn and drop their shorts. Painted on their butts is "Peabody Hall Rules!" A fat security guard in a jeep pulls up and shines a light on them.

CARSON FISCHER
 It's Ninj! Run!

The boys run.

BACK TO:

INT. PEABODY HALL - BASEMENT - AS BEFORE

Bill on the phone with his parents.

BILL ROSEN
 It's OK.

EXT. KRISTEN'S BEDROOM

Kristen's in bed. Gus knocks and opens Kristen's door.

KRISTEN
 What're you doing here?

GUS
 What do you think I'm doing here?

KRISTEN
 Not tonight.

GUS
 It's been two weeks, babe.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KRISTEN
I'm tired, OK?

GUS
(sexy)
So am I.

KRISTEN
So go to sleep.

Gus closes the window and disappears. Kristen pretends to go back to sleep. There's a snap outside, she jumps up.

KRISTEN
Thomas, is that you?

*

It's nothing. Kristen lies back down.

The Mag-Lite comes on. Thomas appears outside her window.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
Yes. It's me.

KRISTEN
I didn't think I'd ever see you again.
It's amazing. I mean, I'm not scared.
It's like you're still alive and we're
just having a regular chat.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
I wish I was Kristen.

KRISTEN
What would happen if I touched you?

THOMAS TERRINGTON
Um, well, that would be hard, because I'm
very, very cold. And not here really.
Like, there's a chance that you could go
through me and then I could accidentally
possess you.

KRISTEN
I don't think you're dead.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
Of course I'm dead. I burned up.

KRISTEN
Then how can I talk to you?

Thomas slowly turns the Mag-Lite down --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Kristen (cont'd)
Thomas? Are you there? Where are you
going?

-- until he's disappeared. Kristen jumps to the window and
opens it up. Thomas is gone.

EXT. BOAT HOUSE

Gus and Bill have just finished crew practice.

GUS
Krissy's been acting weird, recently.
It's like she's doing it with someone
else. Like before we'd see each other and
she would talk, not much, but like a
little bit. But now, it's like she
doesn't talk at all. It's like hanging
out with a dead person.

BILL ROSEN
I understand.

GUS
I mean, she's not rotting. She smells
good and she's still hot.

BILL ROSEN
Gotcha.

Jack walks up to them. He looks tired and out of it.

JACK
Alright, guys, ready for practice?

GUS
We already practiced coach. Are you
sick?

JACK
No.
(oddly confrontational)
Are you sick?

GUS
No.

JACK
Hey, Bill. Can we talk?

Jack turns around and starts walking back. Gus and Bill are
confused.

INT. JACK'S TEACHER APARTMENT

Jack and Bill. Jack's sauced.

JACK
Did you know my brother well?

BILL ROSEN
Yes.

JACK
What was he like?

BILL ROSEN
He was a nice guy.

JACK
You know, it's like I know my little sister better than I knew Thomas. And she's always away dancing and writing and not shutting up. That's kind of screwed up, isn't it?

BILL ROSEN
I guess some people in families click better than others.

Jack takes a huge gulp of liquor. It's very awkward.

BILL ROSEN (cont'd)
How's your book going?

JACK
Why? Do you want to read it?

BILL ROSEN
I don't know.

JACK
Of course you don't! Education's so boring! And the history of? Ohmigod! I'm falling asleep just talking about it right now! Do you want some Scotch?

BILL ROSEN
No thanks. Look, there's gotta be something interesting about education --

JACK
Well even if you want to see it you can't because it doesn't exist! Have some Scotch, goddamit.

(as if a radio)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK (cont'd)
Scotch to Bill! Scotch to Bill! Drinky-
me-uppy!

BILL ROSEN
Students aren't allowed scotch.

JACK
Who says that? God? Does God say that?
What are you, a nerd? A snitch?

BILL ROSEN
I'll have some scotch. I love scotch.

Jack pours Bill some scotch. Bill sips it and grimaces.

BILL ROSEN (cont'd)
How's the rest of your family taking it?

INT. GOLDMAN-SACHS

Felicity's power-walking through the office holding a very large Starbucks. As she passes cubicle after cubicle, secretaries and various fellow workers pop up and hand her files. She shows no emotion.

SECRETARY
Sorry to hear about it Felicity.

FELICITY
Thank you.

Felicity passes a co-worker.

CO-WORKER
My condolences.

FELICITY
He was a screwed up kid.

Felicity passes the mail boy.

MAIL BOY
Sorry Felicity.

FELICITY
Shit happens.

INT. FELICITY'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Felicity goes into her office and closes the door. There's a gift basket with a mylar balloon that has "My Condolences" stenciled on it over a sad face.

Lucas walks in.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUCAS
Hey, busy bee, wanna have lunch today?

FELICITY
CAN'T YOU FUCKING KNOCK?

Lucas is terrified.

INT. JUILLIARD ART CLASS

Isabella's painting in a room filled with other young ballerinas, opera singers, and child actors.

ART TEACHER
Well, let's see what you're working on.

The Art Teacher looks through Isabella's book. Every picture she's drawn is of a boy burning himself up.

ART TEACHER (cont'd)
(very concerned)
Huh.

ISABELLA
(completely oblivious)
Do you like them?

INT. RECTOR TERRINGTON'S OFFICE

Lubra comes in. The rector's watching hockey on a television.

RECTOR TERRINGTON
(distracted)
Hello, Lubra. What may I do for you?
GO! GO! GO!

LUBRA
I was wondering when you're going to clear Thomas's room.

RECTOR TERRINGTON
(distracted)
In due time. C'mon, that's not a foul!

LUBRA
Cause the Activities Committee wants to turn it into a Ping Pong den --

RECTOR TERRINGTON
(suddenly not distracted at all)
Drop it. Is that all?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUBRA
(scared)
Yes.

RECTOR TERRINGTON
(rosy again)
I think we're done here.

Lubra leaves.

BACK TO:

INT. JACK'S TEACHER APARTMENT - AS BEFORE

JACK
They're all pod people. I'm sure they're fine.

Jack picks up a photo of Thomas and the Terringtons.

JACK
Poor kid. The Terringtons never gave him a chance.

*

Jack starts crying. Bill pats his back.

BILL ROSEN
It'll be fine. It's gonna be fine.

Jack hugs Bill and holds it for too long.

JACK
You're a good kid, Bill. Am I a good kid? Don't say it if you don't mean it.

BILL ROSEN
Of course you're a good kid.

JACK
You're a good kid.

EXT. FOREST

Thomas and Bill.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
Kristen suspects that I might not be dead.

BILL ROSEN
You're not.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THOMAS TERRINGTON

I feel like I'm getting close to something. We have to patch that hole up.

BILL ROSEN

Alright.

(beat)

Hey. Um, a weird thing happened. I ended up -- I guess, it's just your brother's acting kind of weird. He got drunk in front of me. I don't think teachers are supposed to do that.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Is that a rule?

BILL ROSEN

He just doesn't seem to be taking your death that well. Or whatever.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

You know, he didn't treat me that nice when I was alive so I just can't feel bad about him now.

BILL ROSEN

Forget it.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Already forgotten.

INT. KRISTEN'S BEDROOM

Kristen's practicing karate. There's a knock on the door. Kristen opens it. It's Bill.

BILL ROSEN

Nice karate robe.

KRISTEN

It's called a gee.

BILL ROSEN

Right. Well, I'm sorry to bother you, but the Terrington Bi-Weekly is asking for subscriptions this year.

KRISTEN

Why would I want to subscribe to it? It's free.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BILL ROSEN
It's kind of a donation more than a
subscription.

KRISTEN
I don't have any money.

BILL ROSEN
I'm sure you've got some spare change or
something. Everyone here has money. I
mean, this is a prep school.

KRISTEN
Ohmigod!

Thomas is standing behind Bill.

BILL ROSEN
What?

KRISTEN
Thomas is standing right behind you!

BILL ROSEN
That's not funny.

KRISTEN
Look!

Bill turns around and pretends not to see anything.

BILL ROSEN
It gets even more not funnier.

KRISTEN
I'm not kidding.

Thomas raises his finger to his lips --

KRISTEN (cont'd)
Now he's raising his finger to his lips!

BILL ROSEN
There's no one there, Kristen.

-- and wanders away.

KRISTEN
But there is!

Kristen pushes Bill aside and stares down the hall. Thomas
is gone.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KRISTEN

I must have seen something -- I --

BILL ROSEN

You know, this is really inappropriate.
He was my best friend here. I really
miss him.

KRISTEN

I miss him too.

BILL ROSEN

You didn't even know him.

KRISTEN

Bill --

Bill dramatically shushes her by placing his finger on her
mouth.

BILL ROSEN

(whispering)

It's OK. We all miss him. If you change
your mind about the subscription just
drop me a line. And tell them Bill Rosen
sent you. I get a Charleston Chew for
every subscription.

Bill leaves.

INT. CLASSROOM

The class is settling down. The bell rings. Jack walks in
wearing a bathrobe.

JACK

So, what did you think of the reading?

CARSON FISCHER

I thought it seemed good.

JACK

What seemed good?

CARSON FISCHER

Everything.

JACK

How about you Bill?

BILL ROSEN

Yeah. It seemed right.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK

Did any of you do the reading?

No one raises their hand.

JACK (cont'd)

You're all getting Fs for this semester.

ALL

Ohhh/C'mon/This is not kind.

Bill raises his hand.

BILL ROSEN

That seems unfair. You assigned us Moby Dick.

JACK

What's wrong with Moby Dick? Moby Dick's a classic of American literature. Herman Melville's probably rolling in his grave. Do you even know who Herman Melville is?

BILL ROSEN

The author of Moby Dick.

JACK

At least you read the cover.

BILL ROSEN

It's impossible to read Moby Dick in one night!

JACK

That's not my problem.

BILL ROSEN

What? What does that even mean?

JACK

It means what it means.

BILL ROSEN

What does that mean?

JACK

That means what it means.

STUDENT

It means what it means, Bill.

BILL ROSEN

I don't think this is about Moby Dick.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JACK
Class dismissed.

Everyone sits there, confused. They've only been in class for five minutes.

JACK (cont'd)
I said class dismissed!

Everyone gets up and leaves.

EXT. PLAYING FIELDS

Kristen is dressed up in her running gear. She holds a racket. Gus is dressed up for crew practice.

GUS
You're leaving me for a ghost? I thought you were hooking up with Puder.

KRISTEN
I thought you'd understand.

GUS
There's nothing to understand. That's nuts, Kristen. That's completely nuts.

KRISTEN
I realize it's hard.

GUS
Between your dad and Thomas Terrington you've got too many dead people in your life.

Kristen slaps Gus across the face and jogs away.

GUS (cont'd)
What was that? I'm the one getting dumped here!

A group of crewbies jog by him. Gus joins them.

INT. KRISTEN'S BEDROOM - THAT NIGHT

Kristen is lying in her bed, pretending to sleep. The light comes on outside. Thomas floats there.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
Follow me. I want to show you something.

Thomas opens her window and backs away. Kristen steps out of the window.

EXT. FOREST

Thomas is walking several feet beyond Kristen. They reach a clearing of burnt ground.

KRISTEN

Is this...?

THOMAS TERRINGTON

This is where it happened.

KRISTEN

It's so sad. Such a sad place.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

I don't think so. If I hadn't died, we wouldn't have met. I know how odd that sounds.

KRISTEN

It's not odd. My father told me that love is as immortal as our souls. It was in his last days -- he was jacked up on tons of codeine, but I still believed him. I always believed that, believed that he was watching over me. Every once in a while there was a little doubt. He never gave me a clear sign. But then you appeared and confirmed what I'd always believed.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

What if I wasn't dead?

KRISTEN

It doesn't matter. Because even though you're a ghost, you're more alive than anyone in my life. I've broken up with Gus to be with you. I love you.

Thomas is shocked. He can barely speak.

KRISTEN (cont'd)

What? Are you alright?

THOMAS TERRINGTON

I love you too.

KRISTEN

I wish we could kiss.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Close your eyes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Kristen closes her eyes. Thomas kisses her. When she opens them, he's gone. Kristen smiles.

JACK IN TROUBLE MONTAGE:

INT. CHAPEL

We PAN down the row of teachers. Jack Terrington is absent. There's a drawing of his face with a talk bubble taped to his seat. In the bubble he's written in the words "Chapel's the best!"

Bill looks perturbed.

INT. CLASSROOM

The class is reading quietly. Jack's absent. On the blackboard, Jack has written:

"Read *War and Peace*. When finished, compare and contrast war part with peace part."

Bill's more perturbed.

EXT. BOAT HOUSE

The rowers cluster around a note tacked to the boat house wall. It reads:

"Rowers, Can't make it. Row. Row fast if you want to. And try not to drown. Best wishes, Coach Terrington."

Bill turns to the rowers.

BILL ROSEN

Well, I guess we should row.

EXT. LAKE

They're rowing down the lake.

BILL ROSEN

And stroke one, stroke two, stroke three!

THE STROKE

Ow!

The Stroke stops rowing.

BILL ROSEN

Hold up, hold up! What was it?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THE STROKE
Something hit me!

SECOND SEAT
Ow!

A rock hits the second rower. They turn. Jack is throwing rocks at the boat.

JACK
Try to row away from this!

Jack throws more rocks at the boat. He's clearly very drunk.

EXT. JACK'S TEACHER APARTMENT

Bill knocks on the door. Jack answers. He's in his robe. His eyes are bloodshot. He's holding a lit cigarette which he lamely hides behind his back and a tumbler of scotch which he tries to hide and then gives up on.

JACK
What do you want?

BILL ROSEN
What the hell was that? You could have killed us!

Jack throws up a little bit on himself.

BILL ROSEN (cont'd)
Oh, god.

JACK
Don't get old.

BILL ROSEN
You're only twenty-nine.

JACK
Time is an ungrateful bitch.

Jack closes the door.

EXT. FOREST - THE NEXT DAY

Bill and Thomas.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
I don't care how he's doing.

BILL ROSEN
I think he's becoming an alcoholic.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THOMAS TERRINGTON
 Everyone in my family are alcoholics.
 I'm surprised it took him this long.

INT. TERRINGTON BI-WEEKLY OFFICES *

Bill and Lubra are working on the paper. *

BILL ROSEN
 Hey, Lubra...

LUBRA
 What?

BILL ROSEN
 Nothing.

LUBRA
 What is it?

BILL ROSEN
 What would you do if someone you knew was
 doing something they shouldn't be doing?

LUBRA
 Like marijuana?

BILL ROSEN
 Kind of.

LUBRA
 I would tell them you don't need
 marijuana to have a good time. Are you
 doing marijuana? Because marijuana is a
 gateway drug --

BILL ROSEN
 No, I'm not. It's not marijuana.

LUBRA
 What is it then?

EXT. CAMPUS *

Bill's walking, Lubra following close behind. *

LUBRA
 You have to make him tell his family!
 And if he won't you have to tell his
 family yourself.

BILL ROSEN
 I can't do that to him. He'll freak out.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUBRA
Imagine if your child died. How would
you feel? *

BILL ROSEN
Sad, distraught -- I have no idea. Look,
forget I even mentioned it. *

LUBRA
Where is he? *

BILL ROSEN
I can't tell you. *

LUBRA
Please. I shall keep it a secret. *

BILL ROSEN
I can't. Now forget it. *

Bill stalks off. *

EXT. FOREST *

Bill's with Thomas in the forest. Thomas is in the zone. *

BILL ROSEN
You have to tell your family that you're
alive. *

THOMAS TERRINGTON
No way. Especially not when I'm making
progress with Kristen. *

BILL ROSEN
You're not going to date her. *

THOMAS TERRINGTON
What? *

BILL ROSEN
You're a ghost, Thomas! As soon as she
finds out you're alive it's over! *

THOMAS TERRINGTON
Don't you get it -- it's just beginning.
Kristen's in love with me! *

BILL ROSEN
What're you going to do? Take her into
the woods and put on a ghost condom and
have ghost sex? *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Ha ha.

*
*

BILL ROSEN

I'm serious. It's time for this to be over!

*
*
*

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Look, it's going to be fine. Our next move is simple.

*
*

BILL ROSEN

There's no more "our."

THOMAS TERRINGTON

What?

BILL ROSEN

There's no more "our."

THOMAS TERRINGTON

What does "r" stand for?

BILL ROSEN

Not the letter "r." "Our."

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Huh?

BILL ROSEN

I can't split my time between the world of the living and the world of the dead. It's getting creepy.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

You're the creepy loser who thought of it in the first place.

BILL ROSEN

I'm not a loser.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Oh, sorry. You're a winner.

BILL ROSEN

I'm not the one who lives in the forest pretending to be a dead guy for the love of a girl who's way way way out of his league!

Thomas pushes Bill.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BILL ROSEN (cont'd)
Is that a fight? Are you starting a
fight?

THOMAS TERRINGTON
You're the one who started it.

Thomas pushes Bill again causing him to trip over a tree
stump.

BILL ROSEN
Not cool.

Bill gets up and punches Thomas.

BILL ROSEN (cont'd)
(shaking his hand)
Ow!

Thomas grabs Bill. They fall wrestling to the ground when --

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH!

Camera flashes explode from the bushes.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
What the hell was that?

CUT TO:

A PAPER SPINS UP TO THE SCREEN:

"THOMAS TERRINGTON ALIVE!!! GHOST A HOAX!!! by Lubabalu
Bululu.

INT. SCHOOLHOUSE - HALLWAY

In SLO-MO, THOMAS walks down the hall, flanked by two
teachers. Students stare at him. Lubra tries to snap some
photos of him. Thomas punches him. The teachers grab and
subdue him.

INT. JACK'S TEACHER APARTMENT

The phone rings. Jack is passed out on his bed. Jack
reaches over to the phone.

JACK
Hello? Thomas is what? He's alive?
He's alive!

Jack hangs up the phone.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK (cont'd)
 (to himself)
 Thomas is alive.

Jack passes out.

JACK (cont'd)
 (mumbling to himself)
 He's alive.

INT. SNAZZY NYC LUNCHPLACE

Felicity's talking to Lucas. Lucas is making a frowny face.

FELICITY
 So then Konner's all, I'm not taking your
 shit. Well my shit he did take.

Felicity's phone rings. She checks the caller ID. She holds
 out her finger to "quiet" Lucas.

FELICITY (cont'd)
 Felicity.
 (beat)
 That little fucker.

INT. JUILLIARD STUDENT COUNSELOR'S OFFICE

Isabella walks in.

STUDENT COUNSELOR
 Hi, Isabella. Maybe you should have a
 seat.

ISABELLA
 I must return. Mr. Sarkovsky's
 impatient.

STUDENT COUNSELOR
 Please sit down.

Isabella sits down.

STUDENT COUNSELOR (cont'd)
 Your brother's alive.

ISABELLA
 Oh. May I return to Mr. Sarkovsky now?

INT. RECTOR TERRINGTON'S OFFICE

Lubra walks in. The rector's watching ice hockey.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUBRA

Yes, Rector. You called for me?

RECTOR TERRINGTON

Paper's shut down.

LUBRA

Free speech.

RECTOR TERRINGTON

This is high school. No such thing as
free speech. Paper's shut down. Now get
out.

*
*

EXT. BOAT HOUSE

*

Bill walks out to crew practice. Gus and all the rowers are
looking at him, oddly.

*
*

GUS

Did you know that Thomas was hooking up
with my girlfriend?

*
*
*

BILL ROSEN

Technically it never really got to that
point.

*
*
*

GUS

I thought you were my friend.

*
*

One of the other giant rowers pats Gus on the back.

*

GUS (cont'd)

(voice cracking)

I can't trust you, and if I can't trust
you, I'm sorry, but you can't be my cox.

*
*
*
*

BILL ROSEN

But who's going to do it?

*
*

GUS

We already got a new guy. The best part
is he's half your weight.

*
*
*

A TINY FRESHMAN steps out from behind the rowers.

*

TINY FRESHMAN

Beat it, Rosen.

*
*

Bill turns, dejected.

*

INT. THE RECTORY - THOMAS'S ROOM

Thomas is lying on his bed. His dad opens the door.

RECTOR TERRINGTON
Starting Monday you're going to military
academy.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
OK.

His dad pauses for a moment in the doorway.

RECTOR TERRINGTON
I grieved when your mother died. For
about six years. Sometimes I find myself
still grieving. You know how hard it is
to deal with the fact that not just one
but two people you love are dead?

THOMAS TERRINGTON
You love me?

RECTOR TERRINGTON
That's the wrong take-away!

His dad leaves. Isabella appears in the doorway.

ISABELLA
It's so weird that you're not dead.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
I guess so.

Isabella sits on the couch.

ISABELLA
I just got back from Vienna where we
performed Swan Lake. I was going to be
Odette but I'm not tall enough so I'll be
Odette next year. *

Isabella leaves. Thomas leans back on his bed and closes his
eyes. *

INT. BILL'S DORM ROOM *

Bill's lying on his bed. He opens his closet. Sase and
Tibbler JUMP OUT Of the closet. *

BILL ROSEN
(girlish scream) *
AH! *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SASE
That's for freaking us out in the forest.

BILL ROSEN
Look, I'm sorry.

TIBBLER
Sometimes sorry isn't enough. Give us
your food.

Bill opens his desk and hands them half a bag of Doritos.

SASE
And what's in the trunk.

BILL ROSEN
There's nothing in the trunk.

TIBBLER
Then it won't hurt to open it.

Bill opens the trunk that's been fitted with a new lock. The
trunk's filled with candy, chips and cookies.

TIBBLER (cont'd)
(almost weeping)
It's... so... beautiful.

EXT. FIELD HOCKEY TERRINGTON

Thomas stands next to the field hockey field. Kristen walks
up to him, dressed in field hockey garb.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
You're playing field hockey now?

KRISTEN
Yeah. It's better for college. I'm
still running cross country though as an
alternate. You know, when the team needs
me.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
Look. I'm sorry.

KRISTEN
That's really big of you to apologize.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
Hey, you wished I was alive. And now I
am.

Kristen swings her stick into Thomas's shins.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THOMAS TERRINGTON(cont'd) *

AHHH!

Thomas falls to the ground.

KRISTEN

You're a real piece of crap, you know that?

THOMAS TERRINGTON

I said I'm sorry.

KRISTEN

Nothing you say will make this better.

The ball rolls into frame. Kristen hits it back onto the field and runs after it.

INT. SQUASH CLUB HOUSE *

Bill's talking to the stern-looking FEMALE SQUASH CAPTAIN. *

BILL ROSEN *

Hi, I'd like to try out for the squash team. *

INT. SQUASH COURT *

Bill and the FEMALE CAPTAIN face off. The girl hits the ball at the wall. Bill hits the ball back. The girl hits. Bill brings his racket back fast, accidentally SLAMMING his racket hard into the wall. Bill grabs his arm. *

BILL ROSEN *

GODDAMIT THAT HURTS! *

INT. CAFETERIA

Bill's eating alone. All the tables around him are full. Lubra walks up to him holding a tray.

LUBRA

May I have a seat?

BILL ROSEN

Free country.

Lubra sits. Bill leaves.

INT. BILL'S DORM ROOM

Bill's stuff is in boxes. He's tossing stuff haphazardly into the boxes. Carson walks in.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CARSON FISCHER
So, you're leaving?

BILL ROSEN
Yup. I guess you have a single now.

CARSON FISCHER
I wonder if I'll get all As?

BILL ROSEN
You only get all As if I kill myself.

CARSON FISCHER
Oh.

There's a knock on the door. Lubra walks in.

BILL ROSEN
What do you want?

LUBRA
Where are you going? Were you kicked out too?

BILL ROSEN
No. I'm leaving. My parents told me that by Thanksgiving if I didn't like it I could go. It's Thanksgiving.

LUBRA
And you don't like it?

BILL ROSEN
Get out. I mean it Lubra. Get the hell out of here.

Lubra leaves.

CARSON FISCHER
You're not going to kill yourself now, are you?

INT. PEABODY HALL - BASEMENT

Bill's on the phone.

MAUDE (V.O.)
(on the phone)
I thought you were having a good time.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BILL ROSEN
 (on the phone)
 Well, I wasn't and it's almost
 Thanksgiving and you made a promise so
 I'm coming --

A hand hangs up the phone. REVEAL it's Lubra's hand.

BILL ROSEN (cont'd)
 What're you doing?

LUBRA
 (mimicking him)
 What're you doing?

BILL ROSEN
 I was talking to my mom.

LUBRA
 (mimicking him)
 I was talking to my mom.
 (normal)
 Mama's boy. I want to tell you a story.

BILL ROSEN
 You screwed up my life.

LUBRA
 Come with me, mama's boy.

Lubra walks away. Bill dials the phone. Lubra's hand slams
 down on the receiver.

LUBRA (cont'd)
 I said, come with me.

INT. COMMON ROOM

Bill sits with Lubra.

LUBRA
 (very stoic)
 At the end of this year when I return to
 Ghana I will partake in my tribe's coming
 of age ceremony. Like my father before
 me and his father before him, I shall
 walk into the wilderness. Once in the
 wilderness I shall sharpen a stone with
 which I will circumcise myself. Then I
 must survive for three days. When I
 return to my tribe, I shall return a man.

Pause.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BILL ROSEN

Aren't you scared?

LUBRA

(no longer stoic at all)
Of course I'm scared. I'm terrified. I have to slice my penis up with a homemade stone-knife! Are you kidding me? I stay awake every night dreading the end of school. If I could I would never go home again but I must so I will.

BILL ROSEN

What's your point?

LUBRA

It's my duty to do it.

BILL ROSEN

So it's my duty to stay here?

LUBRA

You don't have to stay anywhere. But you'd be crazy not to. This place is incredible. You have an observatory and crew boats and a lake for the crew boats and beautiful girls everywhere you look. All the rich men with their trophy wives makes the girls here beautiful and blond. I mean, this place, it's like a eugenics project but without Nazism. Even if you can't kiss them you can look at them and their perfect boobs and legs. They're so hot. I want to fuck them all. What're you doing even thinking about leaving?

Pause.

BILL ROSEN

Why'd you screw me?

LUBRA

I didn't screw you. The stories are never good. But this story, this story was good.

Pause.

BILL ROSEN

The story was good.

INT. THOMAS'S ROOM

Thomas lies on his bed. Isabella pokes her head in.

ISABELLA

Thomas.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Yeah?

ISABELLA

Your friend Bill is on the phone.

INT. PEABODY HALL - BASEMENT

Bill on the phone.

ISABELLA (O.S.)

(on the phone)

I'm sorry. He's not taking calls.

Bill hangs up.

INT. THOMAS'S ROOM

Thomas lying on his bed. A brick crashes through the window. Taped to the brick is the eight of hearts. Thomas peers out the window. Bill's standing there.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

You broke my window.

BILL ROSEN

Sorry. I have a plan.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

I'm having supper with my family. I don't have time for plans.

BILL ROSEN

It's a good one.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

It's over, Bill. I need to get serious.

Thomas starts to close his window.

BILL ROSEN

For the first time since I've known you, you sound like a Terrington.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

That's because I am one.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Thomas closes the window.

INT. DINING ROOM

Jack, Thomas, Rector Terrington, Isabella, Felicity and Lucas are eating dinner and taking turns staring at Thomas. It's very, very, very awkward.

RECTOR TERRINGTON

(to Jack)

So, I got your resignation.

FELICITY

You're leaving Terrington? I thought you loved it!

JACK

Not as much recently.

RECTOR TERRINGTON

You can't publish your Education History without a teaching job. And you can't succeed me as rector of Terrington if you quit your job at Terrington. *

JACK

I screwed one of my students. Now do you want to me to be rector? *

Awkward moment.

MR. TERRINGTON

You know what? Grow up. It's not like you were the first to do it. Every high school teacher has screwed at least one of their students. *

(to Thomas)

Look what you've done to your brother.

Thomas just eats without responding. Jack flings a spoonful of creamed spinach at the Family Tree.

MR. TERRINGTON (cont'd)

What are you doing?

Jack flings another spoonful of creamed spinach at the Family Tree.

FELICITY

Stop it, Jack!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUCAS
 (to Isabella, to relieve the
 tension)
 You're supposed to eat spinach, not throw
 it.

ISABELLA
 I know what you're supposed to do with
 spinach, Lucas.

Jack flings another spoonful of spinach at the Family Tree.

RECTOR TERRINGTON
 That's two hundred years old, Jack!

JACK
 Hmm. That's true. It's survived too
 long to be damaged by spinach.

Jack grabs the entire turkey and throws it at the Family
 Tree. It smashes through the painting.

JACK (cont'd)
 I'm going to my room now.

*

Jack gets up to leave.

RECTOR TERRINGTON
 Not so fast.

In one swift move, Mr. Terrington picks up a drumstick and
 throws it hard, nailing Thomas.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
 OW!

JACK
 This isn't about him! He's the sanest of
 all of us!

Jack grabs the mashed potatoes tray and throws them back at
 his father. Dad throws the green beans at Jack. Jack throws
 the carrots at Dad. It's rapid fire -- Ham, pie, sweet
 potatoes, cranberry sauce flying through the air --

RECTOR TERRINGTON
 You're throwing your life away!

JACK
 It's my life to throw away!

RECTOR TERRINGTON
 I own you!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JACK
Eat carrot bitch!

FELICITY
Stop it! Stop throwing carrots!

Felicity manages to restrain her dad.

JACK
AHHHHH!

Jack, in his fury, grabs a bottle of wine and throws it at his dad. It KONKS him hard on the head. He collapses onto the ground. There's silence.

FELICITY
Ohmigod.

Isabella peers over to her dad.

ISABELLA
I think you killed dad.

*

EXT. ROAD

An ambulance tears down the road.

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM

Thomas, Jack, Mrs. Terrington, Lucas, Felicity and Isabella are in the waiting room. Isabella's doing pirouettes. The Doctor walks in.

JACK
Is he alright?

THE DOCTOR
He's going to be fine. He's just a little angry.

FELICITY
Can we see him?

THE DOCTOR
I don't think he wants to see anyone right now.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
We're seeing him.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM

The Rector's in a bed, his head bandaged up, an oxygen mask over his mouth. Thomas looks down at his father, suddenly full of sympathy. He grabs his father's hand.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
Hey, dad. I'm sorry. About everything.
I'm really, truly sorry.

Thomas tears up.

THOMAS TERRINGTON (cont'd)
(to everyone)
I'm gonna get some air.

Thomas leaves.

LUCAS
Where's the drink machine?

THE DOCTOR
Down the hall.

FELICITY
Get me a Diet Coke.

LUCAS
Of course, sweetie bear.

EXT. HOSPITAL

Thomas is outside. He's smoking a cigarette very poorly, coughing hard. Lucas walks outside.

LUCAS
(surprised)
Oh. Hey there, sport.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
Hi.

LUCAS
Good thing about you being alive.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
Thanks.

LUCAS
It's OK. You couldn't help what you did.
You inherited it.

CONTINUED:

THOMAS TERRINGTON
Inherited what?

LUCAS
The crazy gene. Your family's the biggest bunch of crazies I've ever met in my entire life. I thought I'd seen crazy, but wowie zowie! You think I'd want my kids to be like you? Or your brother? Or Felicity? Your little sister's in good shape, but one in four? Those just aren't good odds. *

A taxi pulls up.

LUCAS (cont'd)
Tell your sister that it's over.

Lucas hands Thomas the ring and a Diet Coke.

LUCAS (cont'd)
Happy holidays.

The taxi takes off. Thomas pulls the eight of hearts out of his pocket and smiles a weird smile.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM

Jack, Felicity and Isabella stand around their dad. Thomas walks in.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
Dad, Felicity, Jack, Isabella -- I have something to say.

FELICITY
Shh. Dad's sleeping.

RECTOR TERRINGTON
(mumbling)
I'm not asleep.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
Earlier today my best friend told me that I sounded like a Terrington and, honestly, I found it insulting.

RECTOR TERRINGTON
(mumbling)
Why is he talking?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THOMAS TERRINGTON
But not anymore. Sure our family's got
its share of bullshit. But the fact is,
everything's bullshit.

*
*
*

RECTOR TERRINGTON
(mumbling)
Stop saying shit.

*

THOMAS TERRINGTON
Therefore we have no reason to apologize
about our bullshit-ness.

*

Thomas places a hand on his dad's shoulder.

THOMAS TERRINGTON (cont'd)
Good luck, father. The doctors here will
take good care of you.

FELICITY
It's just a minor concussion, Thomas.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
And now, I must return to Terrington, to
a best friend who has a plan.

Thomas leaves. A moment later Thomas returns.

THOMAS TERRINGTON (cont'd)
I almost forgot. Lucas left you,
Felicity. I'm sorry. Here's the ring.

Thomas gives Felicity the ring and the Diet Coke.

FELICITY
What?

THOMAS TERRINGTON
He was a chump. You can do much, much
better.

Thomas leaves.

FELICITY
(confused)
Lucas left me?

RECTOR TERRINGTON
(mumbling)
He was kind of a chump.

INT. HOSPITAL HALL

Thomas is charging down the hallway. Jack catches up to him. In the background, Isabella does pirouettes.

JACK

Thomas!

THOMAS TERRINGTON

I'm not changing my mind --

JACK

Don't. When a girl hits you in the shins with her field hockey stick, you've gotten to her. I fully support whatever it is you're about to do.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Really?

JACK

Of course. For lack of a better expression, carpe diem. Here.

Jack hands Thomas five dollars.

JACK (cont'd)

Taxis aren't free.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Thanks, Jack. I'm good for it.

JACK

Just take it.

They hug. As they're hugging they watch Isabella dance.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

What a weird little robot.

JACK

She'll crack too, Thomas. We all do.

EXT. BILL'S DORM ROOM

Lubra and Bill are working on a paper.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Hello, Mr. Rosen. Ah! What's this guy doing here?

BILL ROSEN

He's good. It's good.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUBRA

You're not allowed to be here, Thomas.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

I don't live by the rules, Lubra. I may have before.

BILL ROSEN

You didn't before.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

I guess some people aren't meant to. So, you said you had a plan.

BILL ROSEN

I said it hoping you'd have one.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

You hoped correctly.

Thomas pulls out a crumpled up piece of paper.

THOMAS TERRINGTON (cont'd)

Wait, what are you guys doing?

LUBRA

Your dad shut down the Terrington Bi-Weekly. We've started an underground rag.

Lubra shows Thomas the cover:

"The Terrington Free Press"

Underneath is a picture of Hitler with the caption: *"Is this Man Our Rector?"*

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Masterful.

LUBRA

I thought so.

Thomas checks his watch.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Alright. It's go time.

MONTAGE:

INT. BILL'S DORM ROOM

Thomas dumps out a sack of flash paper onto the bed.

EXT. SCIENCE BUILDING

Bill, in all black, crawls across the roof. He opens a window and climbs into a classroom.

INT. SCIENCE CLASSROOM

Lubra's already there; Bill's confused. Lubra points to the front door which is open. Lubra and Bill head towards the freezer.

INT. BILL'S DORM ROOM

Thomas is licking together pieces of flash paper.

INT. LIBRARY

Bill checks out a book on tape.

CLOSE UP: "Moby Dick" by Herman Melville as read by Robert Good.

INT. BILL'S DORM ROOM

Lubra's helping Thomas licking together more pieces of flash paper. The sheet is the size of a pillowcase.

PAN OVER to where Bill is dubbing one tape onto another tape. He hits rewind and then record, then rewind and record.

INT. KRISTEN'S BEDROOM

Kristen, in cross country gear, leaves her room. Lubra enters a moment later and grabs the photo of her father off her dresser.

INT. TERRINGTON BI-WEEKLY OFFICES

Lubra and Bill are at the photocopier with the huge gray sheet of flash paper.

INT. KRISTEN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lubra and Bill putting the photo back on the dresser.

PAN OVER TO: Her doorknob turning. Kristen enters already in her pajamas.

PAN BACK OVER: Lubra and Bill are gone and the photo's back on the dresser.

Kristen kisses the photo of her dad, gets into bed, and turns off the light. The window opens.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Kristen stirs, goes to the window and closes it. She gets back into bed. The light turns on. Kristen opens her eyes.

KRISTEN

Thomas? Is that you? If it's you, I swear, get the hell out of here or I call campus security and they'll book you.

Kristen turns off the light. She lies back with her eyes open. Her eyes close slowly. The room fills with smoke. Kristen opens her eyes. Her father floats over her bed.

KRISTEN (cont'd)

I know that's you, Thomas. You're really sick, you know that!

*

NOTE: Each word Robert says has been clearly stolen from a tape so his sentences sound disjointed. When words repeat, such as sea or love, it's clearly the same recorded version of that word.

ROBERT GOOD (V.O.)

Greetings, dear.

KRISTEN

Dad?

ROBERT GOOD (V.O.)

It is I. And my love for you is as large as a whale.

KRISTEN

That can't be you.

ROBERT GOOD (V.O.)

From sea to sea, I search for you, my love. Oh, Ezekial, my darling. And now you are found.

KRISTEN

You found me.

ROBERT GOOD (V.O.)

The metaphorical harpoon must be removed, perchance, from the heart of you. Forgive Ta-Mast. Life is not long. Forgive Ta-Mast.

KRISTEN

I will, father.

Kristen reaches up to touch her father. As she touches his face, he goes up in flame and is gone. Kristen tears up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ROBERT GOOD (V.O.)
Moby Dick by Herman Millville, read by
Robert Good, continued on side two.

BILL ROSEN
(whispering)
Shit.

Kristen turns on the light. She tears open the closet.
Bill's there stopping the tape.

KRISTEN
Why. Why do I even... get out.

Bill opens the door.

KRISTEN (cont'd)
Everyone get out. I know there are more
of you.

Lubra crawls out from under her bed. Thomas comes out from
behind the curtain. Kristen removes a cell phone.

BILL ROSEN
(re: the cell phone)
You're not allowed to have those.
They'll get you for having one of those.

KRISTEN
(into the phone)
Campus security. I'm reporting an
intruder. Center Hall. Room 302.
(to Thomas)
Are you armed?

*

THOMAS TERRINGTON
No.

KRISTEN
(into the phone)
No. See you soon.

Kristen hangs up. Thomas turns to Lubra and Bill and motions
for them to go. They sneak out.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
Kristen, I can explain.

KRISTEN
How an obsessed boy used my dead dad to
get into my pants? Go ahead, explain
away.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

THOMAS TERRINGTON
I made a poor choice.

KRISTEN
So you're sorry.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
Yes. I mean, no. *

KRISTEN
You can't even say you're sorry. You can rig up this whole stupid heartless thing but you can't say you're sorry?

THOMAS TERRINGTON
That's because I'm not! And you know why? Because that kiss I'll never forget. Because when I fell in love with you I didn't know why, but now I do. And because for the first time in my life, I've lived. Fact is, I don't care whether you accept my explanation because I know it's whole and true and that one day you too will see this experience for what it was -- simply a boy telling a girl he likes her, albeit, in a kind of screwed up way. *

There's a knock on the door. Ninj, the fat security guard who broke up the newb run, pokes his head in.

NINJ
Hi, Thomas.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
Hey, Ninj.

NINJ
(to Kristen re: Thomas)
Is this the intruder?

EXT. KRISTEN'S DORM

Thomas is pushed into a cop car as Bill, Ninj and Lubra watch, helpless.

INT. KRISTEN'S BEDROOM *

Kristen watches from the bedroom. The car pulls away. *
Kristen lies down on her bed. She closes her eyes and goes *
to sleep. *

INT. KRISTEN'S BEDROOM - LATER

The window is open. Kristen shivers in bed. She gets up and closes the window. She looks around the room.

KRISTEN

Thomas!

There's no one there. She lies back. She opens her eyes. Jonathan Terrington floats at the end of her bed.

KRISTEN (cont'd)

Goddamit! How do you do this shit!

Kristen throws a book at Jonathan. It passes right through him. She throws another book. Then another. Then, in a panic, the framed photo of her father. It smashes against the wall and --

INT. KRISTIN'S BEDROOM - MORNING

-- Kristen sits up, suddenly wide awake. It's morning. Sunlight streams in through the windows. It was a dream. Except on the ground, at the foot of the bed, is the shattered photo of her father.

EXT. LAKE - DOCK

Kristen holds the photos of her father. She walks to the edge of the dock. She drops all but one of the photos into the water and watches as the current takes them downstream. She folds up the final photo and puts it in her pocket.

INT. JUVENILE PRISON - THOMAS'S CELL

Thomas is in the cell next a drunk guy. A prison guard walks up to the cell door.

GUARD

You've been bailed out.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Who did it, my dad?

GUARD

No. Some chick.

EXT. JUVENILE PRISON

Thomas walks outside. Kristen's there in Terrington athletic gear.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KRISTEN

You owe me a hundred fifty dollars.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Thanks.

KRISTEN

We can't date.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

I know.

KRISTEN

I need to be single. I realized that after what happened. I mean, I did try to get back together with Gus, but he had a new girlfriend basically instantly.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

I'm going to military academy so I'm going to get to date a lot of guys.

Kristen laughs. Bill and Lubra show up.

BILL ROSEN

You're already bailed out? Uh oh. It's her.

KRISTEN

Don't worry. I'm fine.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

We're fine.

LUBRA

Do you need a ride?

KRISTEN

Nah. I'm late for jai-alai practice. They're trying to make the sports department more global.

THOMAS TERRINGTON

Visit sometime.

KRISTEN

We'll see.

Kristen picks up her cesta (curved wicker jai-alai basket), sets her stopwatch and jogs away. The boys watch her. After a moment.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LUBRA
You really kissed her?

THOMAS TERRINGTON
Yes.

BILL ROSEN
How awesome was it?

THOMAS TERRINGTON
You can't even begin to imagine. *

INT. PEABODY HALL - BASEMENT *

Bill's on the phone with his parents. *

MAUDE (V.O.)
(on the phone) *
So now you're staying? What happened? *

CUT TO: *

INT. BILL'S ROOM *

Bill's on the couch. The door's kicked open. Kenny Puder's
standing there. *

KENNY PUDER *
So your friend. I guess he's not dead. *

Bill drops into a fetal ball and clenches his eyes shut. *

BILL ROSEN *
Just do what you're going to do to me and
get it over with. *

KENNY PUDER *
How the hell did you get away with it? *

BILL ROSEN *
Get away with what? *

Bill opens his eyes a little bit. *

KENNY PUDER *
The whole ghost thing -- that was like
legendary shit. Seriously. You should
host one of those candid camera shows. *

Beat. *

BILL ROSEN *
So you're not going to haze me? *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KENNY PUDER

Oh, no. I'm going to haze you hard.
 You're drinking like twenty gallons of
 water tonight. But that doesn't mean I
 don't respect you.

Kenny drags Bill out of the room, but Bill's actually
 smiling.

INT. SCHOOLHOUSE

Bill's walking in the schoolhouse. A CUTE, NERDY GIRL comes
 up to him.

CUTE GIRL

Hey, you're Mad Dog, right?

BILL ROSEN

(nervously)

What're you talking about?

The Girl pulls out an issue of the Terrington Free Press.
 Instead of names Bill and Lubra have used the pseudonyms "Mad
 Dog" and "Magic Man."

CUTE GIRL

The editor-in-chief of the Terrington
 Free Press?

BILL ROSEN

(nervously shushing her)

On the DL, on the DL.

CUTE GIRL

(whispering)

How can I write for you guys?

BILL ROSEN

(whispering)

We're meeting at midnight. Chapel steps.
 And don't tell anyone.

CUTE GIRL

(whispering)

Cool. See you there. Mad Dog.

The girl winks at Bill and walks off. Bill smiles broadly.

INT. CAFETERIA

Bill's sitting with Lubra, the Cute Girl and several other
 nerdy, but sociable kids.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BILL ROSEN
You probably want to know which exit.

*
*

All the kids laugh hard.

*

INT. PEABODY HALL - BASEMENT - AS BEFORE

*

Bill on the phone.

*

BILL ROSEN
I don't know -- it's not as bad these
days.

*
*
*

EXT. THE RECTORY

Bill and Thomas stand with his suitcase. A military academy
van pulls up.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
Well, here's my ride.

BILL ROSEN
You should come to Jersey during spring
break. Lubra will be there. The three
of us, we'll tear it up.

THOMAS TERRINGTON
Until then, keep up the good work.

BILL ROSEN
What good work?

THOMAS TERRINGTON
I don't know. Just keep it up.

Thomas and Bill hug. Thomas gets into the van. The van
pulls away and we --

CUT TO:

*

INT. ALUMNAE HALL - ALUMNAE WALL OF NAMES - NOW

A tour guide is finishing the ghost of Terrington story. He
stands before the Alumnae Wall of names. He's talking to a
tiny prospective student and a jocky prospective student.

TOUR GUIDE (O.C.)
And that was the most recent sighting of
the ghost of Terrington.

TINY PROSPECTIVE STUDENT
Have you ever seen the ghost?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

REVEAL: That the tour guide is Bill.

BILL ROSEN
No. I don't believe in that stuff.

JOCKY PROSPECTIVE STUDENT
Who's that guy?

The Prospective Student is pointing at the name "Thomas Terrington" which is super shiny.

BILL ROSEN
Thomas Terrington?

TINY PROSPECTIVE STUDENT
Yeah, I've heard of him. Is he famous?

BILL ROSEN
How much time do you guys have?

JOCKY PROSPECTIVE STUDENT
Mom's picking us up at four.

TINY PROSPECTIVE STUDENT
Like two hours.

Bill looks at his watch.

BILL ROSEN
Make yourselves comfortable.

The three of them sit down. Bill cracks his knuckles.

BILL ROSEN (cont'd)
And then there's the story of Thomas Terrington.

MUSIC CUE: Neutral Milk Hotel's "Ghost"

We PULL OUT and AWAY from the ALUMNAE BUILDING to an OVERHEAD VIEW of TERRINGTON that MORPHS into the PENCIL DRAWN MAP that's on the INSIDE COVER of the TERRINGTON YEARBOOK.

The yearbook closes and we --

FADE TO BLACK.