

FADE IN:

SCENE 1: INTRO

EXT: COLLEGE CAMPUS - DAY

Montage shot of varying couples wandering around the campus exchanging valentine's day gifts such as balloons, cards and flowers. All of the couples seem overjoyed to be with their respective partners. Boyfriends are being considerate and romantic with the gifts to their girlfriends. This lasts a minute or so. The opening credits are rolling with this montage. The title card comes up:

TAINTED LOVE

We now fade to the introductory scene.

FADE TO:

SCENE 2: INTRODUCTION TO CHARACTERS

INT: COLLEGE DORM ROOM FROM THE POV OF THE TV - DAY

We see from the point of view of the TV, two college students flipping channels sitting on a torn up couch. They flip channels by pointing the remote towards the camera and punching buttons. They both look overly bored on this day. The one with the remote is JAMES PIERCE. He is a typical, Bluto Blutarsky worshipping college student. His hair is unkempt, he is several days in need of a shave and he seems to have been wearing the same clothes for weeks. He is sipping on a beer. He could be an attractive guy if he would take better care of himself. He is a big guy at 6'3". He is thick but not fat. His friend is WILLIAM TRAVIS. He goes by WILL. HE seems even more disinterested than JAMES in the TV. He seems to be looking through it rather than at it. WILL is a slightly more kept guy. HE is clean shaven and seems to shower regularly. HE is smaller than JAMES and not as bulky either.

JAMES continually flips the channel and curses each bad show on TV.

JAMES

(To the TV)

Fucking chick flicks. Nothing but chick flicks.

WILL rolls his eyes. He is getting frustrated by the flipping of channels.

WILL

Fuck, James! Just leave it on something.

JAMES

Like what? Meg Ryan movie number 1 or Meg Ryan movie number 2? Its like they think that guys stop watching TV on this day. I Fucking hate Valentine's Day.

WILL

Yeah. Speaking of. Shouldn't you be doing something with your girlfriend since it is Valentine's Day?

JAMES stops flipping and turns to WILL. He raises his beer towards him.

JAMES

Hell no. Bro's before Ho's.

WILL half-heartedly clinks his glass to JAMES' beer bottle.

WILL

Yeah Right. Bro's before Ho's.

JAMES doesn't sense WILL'S sarcasm.

WILL

So James, isn't she gonna be pissed that you didn't do anything for her?

JAMES

I've already got it taken care of.

JAMES smiles confidently.

JAMES raises the remote and clicks towards the camera. The screen flashes like it changes channels. When it does so it:

CUT TO:

SCENE 3: INTRODUCTION TO STELLA

INT: STELLA'S DORM ROOM - DAY

STELLA is sitting on her bed. She is a pretty young brunette. She is a tiny girl. She looks like the kind of girl who should be treated right. She doesn't have tattoos and she is not grungy. She is very distraught. There is no flowers or gifts as you would expect her to have on Valentine's Day. She only has one thing. She is holding a greetings card. She continues to stare at it in disbelief. The longer she stares, the more upset she becomes. She eventually breaks down and begins to cry. Softly at first, then she begins gushing. She drops the card as she raises her hands to cover her eyes. The camera follows the card in slow motion as it falls to the floor. It falls to the ground and we see that it is an incredibly cheesy Valentine's Day card. It slowly opens up to reveal the heart-felt message from her boyfriend: "Love ya' babe. Love, James". We see a teardrop hit the open card and begin to make the ink run.

FADE TO:

SCENE 4: MORE WITH JAMES AND WILL

INT: COLLEGE DORM ROOM FROM THE POV OF THE TV - DAY

JAMES and WILL are still sitting in front of the TV. They now are holding video game controllers and are violently tapping on them.

They shout obscenities back and forth.

JAMES

You fucking suck. You can't tackle shit.

WILL

I'm still beating your ass.

JAMES suddenly looks worried.

JAMES

Oh fuck no. NO. NO!!!

WILL

Yes. Go. Go. Touchdown!\

The phone rings. It is a cordless phone sitting on the coffee table. JAMES looks incredibly angry that the phone would ring at a time like this. He continues to play the game. The phone continues to ring until he can no longer take it.

JAMES picks up the phone and harshly hits the answer button.

JAMES

(To the phone)

What? Oh hey babe. No. No.

Look. I can't. Because I'm busy.

Stuff. Ok. I'm sorry. I love you too. Yeah. Later.

JAMES turns off the phone and tosses it down. He lets out an "ugh" at having to be distracted from his game for a second.

WILL

What was that about?

JAMES

Stella wanted me to go see a movie or something with her.

WILL

So, why don't you?

JAMES

Because that shit is always so boring. She never wants to see good movies.

WILL

You know that you do have to do some stuff that she likes sometimes. Y'all don't do anything anymore.

WILL pauses for a second to think.

WILL

Why are you still going out with her?

JAMES

Oh not this shit again. I still love her, but we don't have to be doing something all of the time.

WILL

Don't you think you should do something with her some of the time.

JAMES

Shut up and play the game.

WILL

Uh oh. 5. 4. 3. 2. 1. And that is the game!

WILL stands up in victory and holds his hands up over his head.

JAMES stares at the TV for a second before slamming down the controller.

JAMES slowly rises and walks over to the wall. HE punches it as hard as he can out of frustration.

WILL looks worried.

WILL

Dude, calm down. It's just a fucking game. Damn. You have got to learn how to control that temper of yours.

JAMES

Fuck you!

JAMES wanders over to the coffee table and grabs the remote.

HE hits a button and the screen:

CUT TO BLACK:

FADE IN:

SCENE 5: STELLA AND JAMES AND HIM BEING AN ASS

INT: WILL, JAMES, GLENN AND CHRIS' DORM ROOM, IN THE LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

JAMES and STELLA are sitting on the ratty couch that WILL and JAMES own. JAMES is flipping through the TV channels. STELLA has her arms wrapped around the neck of JAMES and is draped on him. They are alone in the living room.

STELLA begins to nibble on JAMES' earlobe.

She squeezes him tighter. She clearly wants to get intimate right now. JAMES isn't taking notice.

STELLA finally can't take anymore. She grabs his chin and turns his face towards her. She kisses him deeply on the lips. He finally takes notice.

JAMES turns his whole body towards her and puts his arms around her.

As they embrace we hear somebody entering the room. JAMES and STELLA immediately stop kissing and straighten up.

WILL walks into the room with two new people. GLENN HARDWICK and CHRIS RAY are two average college students. GLENN and CHRIS are rather similar in their temperament and beliefs. They both have very dry senses of humor and are very strong willed. They are best friends. GLENN is about 5'11", average build, white guy. CHRIS is about 6', lean muscular black guy. They are both 21. They are all clearly dressed up like they are going out.

They finish throwing on their coats and begin to head out the door.

JAMES looks angry that he isn't being included.

JAMES

Hey, where are you guys going?

GLENN

(Enthusiastically)

Party!

WILL hits GLENN on the arm.

GLENN
(Calmly now)
Uhm. I mean party.

WILL
(Clarifying to JAMES)
It's just a little thing over at
Garrett's place. It's no big deal.

CHRIS
Yeah. So y'all have the place to
yourselves for the night. Behave.

STELLA looks happy that they will finally be alone. JAMES still looks mad at being left out of the plans. He begins to stand. STELLA puts pressure on him to stay seated. HE fights through not even noticing.

JAMES
You motherfuckers! You were going
to ditch me and go to a party.

This takes the group by surprise. They all assumed that he would want to stay and make out with his girlfriend.

WILL
What? No dude... It's not like
that. We just thought that you and
Stella would...

Before WILL can finish, JAMES hops up and is running towards his room.

JAMES (O.S.)
Hold on. I'M getting changed right
now.

WILL looks towards STELLA. She is almost in tears again.

WILL mouths "I'm Sorry".

JAMES comes back into the room. HE starts out the door.

WILL stops him and points his head towards STELLA indicating that he forgot about her.

JAMES
(To STELLA)
Oh. UH. Do you want to go babe?

STELLA
I really wanted to just spend some
time alone with you.

JAMES
No. We should get out. We don't
want to look asocial. Besides we
hang out by ourselves all the time.

STELLA
But...

JAMES reaches over and grabs her hand without hearing her
side.

She reluctantly rises. She goes back to his room and grabs
her coat.

CUT TO:

SCENE 6: PARTY-TIME

INT: GARRETT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

We enter in a common college house. It is one story and no
more than 3 bedrooms. There is an assortment of cheap used
furniture decorating the place with no real theme or color
scheme. There is a party going on. The lights are off and a
red light is glowing in the room from varying neon and such.
Loud music is playing and people are dancing. Couples are
making out on the couch and people are playing drinking games
at the dinner table.

The camera makes its way through the crowds of people and
arrives at the door.

The door swings open to reveal JAMES, STELLA, WILL, GLENN and
CHRIS entering.

GARRETT greets them at the door. He is the stereotypical
frat boy. He is a real nice guy who wants to make sure that
everyone has a good time at his parties. He is wearing a
dirty cap with TEXAS TECH on it. He has a pitcher with beer
in it and is drinking straight from it rapidly.

GARRETT is very happy to see they guys enter his place. He greets them with high fives.

GARRETT

Gentlemen. How are ya? Cups are in the back along with the keg. Feel free to donate to the party fund. Welcome, welcome.

JAMES is very enthusiastic about being here. He gives GARRETT a very animated high five.

JAMES

Garrett! My man.

WILL gives a rather sedated high five. HE is happy to be out, but this is not the highlight of his life like it is for JAMES. Everyone else files in quickly. STELLA is still angry with JAMES but is putting on a happy face.

GLENN

Time to get fucked up!

CHRIS

Hell Yeah!

WILL and the gang find an empty spot on a wall to lean against.

GLENN, CHRIS and JAMES begin to make their way back to the keg.

WILL once again has to stop JAMES and look out for the interest of STELLA.

WILL

(Taking JAMES aside and whispering to his ear)
Dude, aren't you forgetting about Stella?

JAMES

(Shakes his head like he forgot)
Oh yeah. Duh.
(To STELLA)
Babe, do you want some?

WILL throws his head back in frustration.

STELLA shakes her head no.

JAMES

Oh OK. I'll be back.

JAMES starts to leave and motions for WILL to follow.

WILL shakes his head no and makes a motion that he is driving and cannot drink.

JAMES shakes his head OK.

WILL leans against the wall to talk to STELLA.

WILL

I'm sorry. I was trying to give y'all the night together alone but he just... I dunno. I can't figure that boy out.

STELLA

I know. I appreciate that but I just don't even think that he loves me anymore.

WILL

He does. He just doesn't know how to show it. I'll talk to him.

STELLA

But you shouldn't have to do that. I just think that if he wanted to be with me, he would try harder. I don't think that I can take it anymore.

It takes a second for it to settle in what STELLA means.

WILL

Are you going to break up with him?

STELLA tears up at hearing the words come out of WILL'S mouth.

STELLA

I just can't do it anymore. HE obviously doesn't want to be with me, so I won't make him anymore.

WILL

No, don't. It would kill him. You can't. Just give him another chance, I will talk to him and everything will be alright.

STELLA

No, Will. It won't. I have to do this. I just can't go on like this any longer.

WILL

But...

STELLA leans over and kisses him on the cheek.

STELLA

Thanks for trying.

STELLA leans back against the wall.

JAMES comes back to them giving people high fives along the way. He stops short of them noticing that STELLA is crying. His jaw is hanging open.

JAMES

Are... You OK, babe?

GLENN and CHRIS come up behind JAMES with beers in hand.

STELLA grabs JAMES' hand without saying a word. She escorts him to the back door and they go outside. GLENN and CHRIS go over to WILL.

CHRIS

What is that all about?

CUT TO:

SCENE 7: BREAK UP

EXT: OUTSIDE GARRETT'S HOUSE AWAY FROM EVERYBODY - NIGHT

Most of the party is contained to the inside of the house. The back yard is pretty scarce. The camera follows STELLA and JAMES as she leads him to the far back corner away from everyone. They lean against the back fence. The sound has all but faded away from the party. There are a few people out back talking, but not making too much noise.

STELLA wipes away her tears and clears her throat to talk.

JAMES

Babe, what's going on? Are you...

STELLA stops him by putting a finger over his mouth.

STELLA

Please... Just listen.

STELLA stops for a second to compose her thoughts. She clears her throat again.

STELLA

James, I... I can't do this anymore.

JAMES looks very confused and almost says 'do what' before STELLA puts her finger to her lips to say shhh.

STELLA (cont'd)

We've been going out for some time now and I feel that I have grown and matured. I don't think that I am the same person that you first began dating. And that's fine. People should grow and mature. But, I don't feel that you've grown with me. I feel that we have just grown apart. I still love you with all of my heart, but I just feel that you don't love me that same way.

STELLA begins to cry again.

STELLA (cont'd)

And you can tell me a thousand times that you do, but your actions tell me a thousand times over that you don't. And I just can't take it anymore. I need more than that from you, but I want it to come because you want to, not because I ask you to.

JAMES lets a tear fall, and then another.

STELLA wipes it away.

STELLA (cont'd)

I'm sorry James. Goodbye.

STELLA walks back into the house. JAMES is left standing alone in the corner. HE is softly crying, stunned.

INT: GARRETT'S HOUSE AGAIN - NIGHT

STELLA walks into the house. WILL is standing on the same wall talking to an attractive girl and flirting with her.

STELLA walks over to him.

STELLA

Please take me home.

WILL seems taken aback.

WILL

What hap...

STELLA interrupts him.

STELLA

Just please take me home.

WILL apologizes to the young lady. She turns and walks away. WILL Finds GLENN and CHRIS and whispers to them that he is taking STELLA home and will be back for them later. They have no problem with this as they are dancing with some attractive girls. They wave goodbye.

WILL digs in his pockets for his keys, grabs his coat from the couch and STELLA and WILL leave.

CUT TO:

SCENE 8: DRIVE ME HOME - NIGHT

EXT: WILL DRIVING STELLA HOME IN HIS CAR

WILL is driving down the road. We see the car from outside the passenger window looking at STELLA with WILL in the background.

STELLA has her head against the window, staring at the passing street lights. She is crying, but not making a noise.

WILL looks over every few seconds to make sure that she is OK.

WILL
Stella?

She doesn't react.

WILL
Stella, did you?

She still doesn't react. He knows the answer.

WILL
What did he say?

STELLA
He didn't even try to stop me.

WILL
He probably didn't know what to say.

STELLA
No. I think he wanted this, or needed it. He could have stopped me at any point in time, but he chose not to.

WILL
But...

STELLA

Please just drive Will. I don't
want to talk about it anymore.

WILL respects her wish.

FADE TO:

EXT: OUTSIDE STELLA'S DORM - NIGHT

They arrive at her dorm. WILL puts the car into park. HE
turns it off. STELLA opens the door and WILL does the same.

STELLA

No. Stay. I'll be OK.

WILL

Are you sure?

STELLA shakes her head 'yes'.

WILL

If you need anything, just call.
We're all still your friends.

STELLA smiles and turns to walk to her dorm. WILL Stays to
watch to make sure that she gets in alright. When she gets
to the door, she turns and waves goodbye and gives a little
smile.

WILL closes his door and starts the car and drives away.

CUT TO:

SCENE 9: BACK TO THE PARTY

INT: GARRETT'S HOUSE AGAIN - NIGHT

The party is still going strong. WILL Enters through the
front door and scans the room for his friends. He spots
GLENN and CHRIS. They are dancing with a new set of girls
very closely.

The camera follows WILL as he goes to talk to them.

WILL

Hey, Chris, Glenn. Where's James?

CHRIS

I dunno. I've been keeping my eye on Vicky here.

GLENN

Shit, you got me.

WILL spots GARRETT still entertaining his guests. WILL approaches and whispers into his ear.

WILL

Hey, have you seen James?

GARRETT gets real pissed off looking.

GARRETT

Yeah, I did. And you tell that prick if he acts like that again, then I'm going to beat his ass.

WILL

What happened?

GARRETT

I went to talk to him, right. I was just going to make sure that he was alright since he looked pissed. So I say, 'Hey Jimmy, you cool?' But he didn't say a word, he just shoved me out of the way. Then he left.

WILL

Where did he go?

GARRETT

I don't know and don't care. He went out the front door about 20 minutes ago.

WILL

Thanks, G.

GARRETT

No prob, Will.

WILL

Take it easy.

GARRETT
You're leaving too?

WILL
Yeah, later.

GARRETT
That sucks. It's not even midnight
yet. Oh well. Your loss.

GARRETT goes back to entertaining his guests.

WILL finds GLENN and CHRIS again.

WILL
Guys. We need to go.

GLENN
Hell no. This place is kicking.

WILL
Stella broke up with James. He
stormed out of here. We've got to
find him.

CHRIS
Shit. That asswipe.
(To his girl that he was
dancing with)
I'll call you. Bye.

CHRIS and GLENN embrace and kiss their respective girls and
then follow WILL out.

Their kisses take longer than they should.

WILL grabs them both by their arms and pulls them away.

GLENN and CHRIS look sadly at the attractive girls they are
leaving behind.

FADE TO:

SCENE 10: JAMES LETS HIS FEELINGS OUT

EXT: JUST OUTSIDE GLENN, CHRIS, WILL AND JAMES' DORM - NIGHT

WILL fumbles with his keys looking for the right one to open their door. CHRIS and GLENN look pissed off.

GLENN

Where is that stupid motherfucker?

WILL

Calm down man. Stella just broke up with him.

CHRIS

Fuck that. I was going to score for sure tonight. Instead we had to drive around for 2 hours looking for that stupid fuck.

GLENN

Yeah, I'm definitely kicking his ass when I see him again.

WILL rolls his eyes and gets the door open.

The camera follows the guys into the apartment to find JAMES sitting on the couch. He is just staring into space. He looks pissed and sad at the same time. He has been crying. GLENN and CHRIS immediately feel bad about what they said. They hang their heads and leave to go back to their rooms.

GLENN

Sorry about Stella, man.

CHRIS

Yeah man, me too.

GLENN

Night.

WILL stays in the living room to talk to JAMES.

He takes a seat beside him on the cruddy old couch.

INT: COLLEGE DORM ROOM FROM THE POV OF THE TV - NIGHT

JAMES doesn't flinch or blink as WILL sits beside him.

WILL throws his keys onto the coffee table.

WILL
You alright man?

JAMES doesn't move.

JAMES
(Slowly, with pauses
between sentences)
Why she do this to me man? I don't
even know what happened. Oh God.
She really hurt me tonight.

WILL
I'm sorry dude. But...

At the but, JAMES turns to look at WILL.

WILL stops talking when he does so.

JAMES
But what?

WILL shrugs.

JAMES
What? You think that I deserved
this?

WILL
Well... You didn't always treat
her right.

JAMES grows incredibly pissed.

JAMES
I loved her. I never yelled at her
or hurt her or called her anything
or...

WILL gets indignant.

WILL
Well, doing those things aren't the
only ways to hurt somebody. Fuck,
dude. It's like you forgot she
existed sometimes. And she is a
great girl. You just took her for
granted.

Why don't you quit feeling sorry
for yourself and realize that this
was your fault.

JAMES becomes enraged. He stays seated as WILL rises to go
back to his room.

JAMES
Why don't I fucking slit your
throat, you fucking backstabber?

WILL stops in his tracks. He slowly turns to face JAMES who
suddenly realizes what he said.

WILL
What did you say? Backstabber?

JAMES
(Whining)
Why are you taking her side? I
Thought we were friends? Bro's?

WILL
We are. That is why I spent most
of my time trying to keep you in
line so this didn't happen. Don't
you dare say that shit to me ever
again.

JAMES hangs his head. HE knows what he said was wrong.

WILL turns around and retreats back to his room. As WILL
turns around, JAMES yells to him, half-crying.

JAMES
I'm sorry, Will.

WILL doesn't react.

JAMES
(Softly)
I'm sorry.

JAMES buries his head in his hands a cries.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

SCENE 11: THE NEXT DAY.

INT: WILL'S DORM ROOM - NOONISH

WILL has clearly just woken up. His hair is messed up and he is still wearing boxers. He is at the kitchen counter pouring himself a bowl of cereal.

WILL plops himself down in front of the TV on the ratty old couch.

INT: COLLEGE DORM ROOM FROM THE POV OF THE TV - NOONISH

WILL is flipping through the channels when JAMES comes into the room.

JAMES seats himself down on the couch next to WILL.

JAMES looks at WILL very sincerely to apologize. WILL is kind of ignoring him.

JAMES

Will. Dude. I'm sorry. For real.
I shouldn't have said that shit
last night. I was just upset. I
know that you have and always be
there for me and that you always
will. I'm sorry.

WILL looks down at him. He breaks down his guard.

JAMES offers his hand.

JAMES

Are we cool?

WILL

Yeah. We're cool.

WILL shakes JAMES' hand.

JAMES

Some Madden?

WILL

Hell Yeah.

They pick up the video game controllers and WILL puts his cereal on the coffee table.

JAMES rises and turns on the system.

While the game is loading up, WILL'S phone rings.

WILL picks it up and looks at the caller id on it.

WILL sets down his controller and begins to walk back to his room.

WILL

Hold on for a second.

He walks back to his room. He closes the door behind him.

INT: WILL'S BEDROOM, CLOSE-UP OF WILL TALKING ON THE PHONE - DAY

Quietly WILL begins to talk on the phone.

WILL

Stella? Hey, are you doing alright?

INT: STELLA'S DORM, CLOSE-UP OF STELLA TALKING ON THE PHONE - DAY

STELLA is sitting on her bed, putting some old things in a box like pictures of JAMES and old cards and notes.

STELLA

I will be. I didn't sleep much last night.

INT: WILL'S BEDROOM, CLOSE-UP OF WILL TALKING ON THE PHONE - DAY

WILL

That's understandable. James didn't sleep much ...

INT: STELLA'S DORM, CLOSE-UP OF STELLA TALKING ON THE PHONE -
DAY

STELLA
Please. I don't want to hear about
him now.

INT: WILL'S BEDROOM, CLOSE-UP OF WILL TALKING ON THE PHONE -
DAY

WILL
OK. I'm sorry.
(Pauses for a second)
So what can I do for you?

INT: STELLA'S DORM, CLOSE-UP OF STELLA TALKING ON THE PHONE -
DAY

STELLA
I left some stuff over there. I
was wondering if you could bring it
over for me?

INT: WILL'S BEDROOM, CLOSE-UP OF WILL TALKING ON THE PHONE -
DAY

WILL
Like what?

At that moment, JAMES busts into the room.

JAMES
Dude, are you going to play or
what?

WILL
(To the phone)
Hold on.
(To JAMES)
Yeah, I'll be in there in a second.

JAMES
(Suspiciously)
Who are you talking to?

WILL thinks for a second.

WILL

My Mom, dude. I'll be there in a second.

JAMES shrugs to apologize and quietly closes the door.

WILL breaths a small sigh of relief.

WILL

(To the phone)
You still there?

INT: STELLA'S DORM, CLOSE-UP OF STELLA TALKING ON THE PHONE - DAY

STELLA

Yeah.

INT: WILL'S BEDROOM, CLOSE-UP OF WILL TALKING ON THE PHONE - DAY

WILL

What stuff do you want me to get?

INT: STELLA'S DORM, CLOSE-UP OF STELLA TALKING ON THE PHONE - DAY

STELLA

I've got some clothes and stuff over there, but I really need my backpack before Monday. Can you get it without letting James know?

INT: WILL'S BEDROOM, CLOSE-UP OF WILL TALKING ON THE PHONE - DAY

WILL

I'll try. I'll give you a call later.

INT: STELLA'S DORM, CLOSE-UP OF STELLA TALKING ON THE PHONE - DAY

STELLA

Wait! Will?

INT: WILL'S BEDROOM, CLOSE-UP OF WILL TALKING ON THE PHONE -
DAY

WILL

Yeah?

INT: STELLA'S DORM, CLOSE-UP OF STELLA TALKING ON THE PHONE -
DAY

STELLA

Thanks.

INT: WILL'S BEDROOM, CLOSE-UP OF WILL TALKING ON THE PHONE -
DAY

The phone hangs up and WILL is still listening to the dial
tone until he hears a pounding on his door.

JAMES (O.S.)

You done talking to your Mommy yet?

INT: COLLEGE DORM ROOM FROM THE POV OF THE TV - NOONISH

WILL sits back down on the couch beside JAMES. He picks up
the controller.

JAMES

Damn dude, she talked your ear off.

WILL doesn't respond.

WILL examines the game loaded up for a second.

WILL

You made me the Panthers? You
suck.

JAMES laughs.

WILL

So, are you cool today? Are you OK
about Stella?

JAMES starts to play it cool.

JAMES

Yeah. Fuck that bitch. All she
ever did is complain anyways.

WILL

She's not that bad.

JAMES

You want her, then you can have her.

JAMES wasn't even thinking about what he just said.

WILL stares at him in disbelief. While he is looking over at him JAMES celebrates a good play.

JAMES

Oh Yeah! I sacked you ass.

GLENN and CHRIS walk into the room already dressed. JAMES Takes notice.

JAMES

Hey, who's got next?

GLENN and CHRIS look at each other.

GLENN

Uhm. We're not playing.

CHRIS

Yeah. We're going to lunch with the two chicks from the party last night.

JAMES looks mortified.

JAMES

You skipping Madden for some girls?
Oh well your loss. Bro's before
Ho's is what I always say.

CHRIS

(Under his breath)
Yeah and look where it got you.

JAMES didn't hear. WILL did and shoots CHRIS a nasty shut up look.

GLENN and CHRIS leave.

WILL

Yeah, by the way. I think you need a new catch phrase rather than 'Bro's before Ho's'.

JAMES

Whatever. I'm not going to be a pussy-whipped son of a bitch like those two.

WILL just shakes his head.

FADE TO:

SCENE 12: WILL GETS STELLA'S THINGS TO HER

INT: JAMES' BEDROOM - NIGHT

JAMES is rummaging around through his dirty room searching for who knows what.

WILL comes and stands at the threshold to JAMES' room. He is clearly thinking of how he can get STELLA'S stuff away from JAMES without him knowing.

WILL looks over to the chest of drawers that are all open. He sees some of STELLA'S underwear. He picks up a pair of red panties and holds them up.

WILL

(Sarcastically Suggestive)

Uhm James, we need to have a talk about your wardrobe.

JAMES looks up to see what WILL is talking about.

JAMES gives a frown that says 'whatever'.

JAMES

Yeah.

WILL

So are you just going to leave Stella's shit in your drawers or what?

JAMES

I was thinking about having a ritualistic fire later.

WILL

Yeah, I'm sure no one would mind a bonfire in the middle of the campus. Why don't you just box the stuff up and I'll take it over to Goodwill for you?

JAMES

What if she wants it back?

WILL

Do you really give a shit what she wants?

JAMES thinks for a second since WILL insulted his macho ego.

JAMES

You're right. Fuck what she wants.

JAMES begins looking around and throwing her stuff in a pile in the center of the room.

FADE TO:

INT: JAMES' BEDROOM SAME - NIGHT

They now have all of Stella's things in a box. The last thing that they grab is her backpack and throw it on top of the box. WILL picks up the box.

JAMES

Dude, I'll take it.

WILL

No, you've already had to deal with enough. I'll take it for you.

JAMES gets a smile across his face. He is so happy to have a friend like WILL.

JAMES

Thanks, bro.

WILL gives a quick guilty smile. He feels bad about lying to his best friend. He turns to go out the door. JAMES pats him on his back as he exits.

CUT TO:

EXT: WILL DRIVING IN HIS CAR LOOKING INTO THE DRIVER SIDE WINDOW AT WILL- NIGHT

WILL is driving down the street when he takes out his cell phone. HE dials STELLA'S number.

WILL

(To Phone)

Stella? Hey, it's Will. Yeah, I got your stuff. No, he doesn't know. I'll be outside your dorm in a second. Could you meet me downstairs? Alright, I'll see you in a bit. Bye.

WILL hangs up the phone. Since they both live on campus, it doesn't take WILL long to get to STELLA'S dorm.

STELLA is waiting, sitting on the curb, as WILL pulls up.

They both casually wave hello to each other.

WILL opens his car door and gets out. He leans back down into his car and reaches across to the passenger seat to grab the box of stuff.

WILL

(Handing the box to STELLA)

Here you go. I think we got it all.

STELLA

(Looks surprised)

Wow. I didn't know that I had left that much stuff over there.

As WILL hands the box to STELLA, their hands slowly brush as she grabs the handles. They freeze for a second.

They look into each others' eyes and give an awkward smile and laugh.

They are quiet for a second.

STELLA speaks up to break the silence.

STELLA

Uhm. So, uh. How did you get away from him?

WILL

Oh. I just said that I was going to take this stuff to Goodwill.

STELLA

Well, thanks again.

WILL

Hey, no problem. Call me if you need anything else.

STELLA

OK, I will.

STELLA puts the box down to give him a hug goodbye.

They embrace just a little longer than friends should. They let go and back away realizing that they were getting too close.

WILL

I'll see you later.

STELLA

Bye.

WILL gets into his car and pulls away.

STELLA picks up the box and stands on the curb watching until his car is around the corner.

She smiles to herself and turns and goes inside.

FADE TO BLACK:

FADE IN:

SCENE 13: JAMES' SCHOOL PROBLEMS

INT: COLLEGE DORM ROOM FROM THE POV OF THE TV - DAY

GLENN and CHRIS are sitting on the couch playing video games. Some time has elapsed since the last shot. This is evident because GLENN has grown a goatee and CHRIS' hair has changed.

JAMES bursts into the apartment cussing up a storm. He tosses his bag down on the ground and is stomping around fretting.

GLENN and CHRIS don't turn their attention from the TV.

The camera changes focus onto whoever is talking at the time for the duration of the following conversation.

JAMES

Oh fuck. Damn it. I'm dead. Oh fuck. Oh fuck. Oh fuck...

GLENN

What the hell are you bitching about?

JAMES

I just failed the shit out of my Differential Equations test. This is the last test before the final and I needed an A on this to be OK for the semester. Shit.

CHRIS

Serves you right for taking such a stupid course to begin with.

JAMES

Thanks, asshole. That doesn't help me now.

(Pause)

My parents are going to kill me.

CHRIS

(With as little enthusiasm as possible)
Probably.

GLENN

(Follows suit)
Yep. Dead Meat.

JAMES just stares at the two pissed off.

WILL enters the room coming back from class.

Before he can even fully enter the room, JAMES confronts him.

JAMES
I'm fucking screwed.

WILL takes a step back a little shocked.

GLENN
Yep, he's screwed.

CHRIS
Big time.

WILL
Shut up you two.
(To JAMES)
What happened?

JAMES
Fucking 54 on my Differential
Equations test. 54! I'm dead.

WILL
(Speechless for a second)
I'm sorry, dude. I don't know what
to tell you.

JAMES
I'm going to fucking kill that
professor.

GLENN
Yep, you're screwed.

JAMES
You'll be fucking next, Glenn.

GLENN is unaffected by this threat. He doesn't turn his attention from the game.

WILL pulls JAMES aside away from GLENN and CHRIS.

WILL
Can you still pass?

JAMES
Well technically, but...

WILL
But nothing. Go talk to your
professor tomorrow. Get some help,
study your ass off and you'll be
fine.

JAMES takes a breath to calm himself.

JAMES
Thanks, dude.

WILL hears his phone ringing in his room.

He look at the caller id, closes his door and answers it.

WILL
(To the phone)
Hey. How are you?

On the other end we hear STELLA'S voice. We don't cut to see STELLA, we just hear her through a voice over. The camera stays on WILL the entire time.

STELLA (V.O.)
I'm surviving.

WILL
So what's going on?

STELLA (V.O.)
Well, I hadn't talked to you for a
while and wanted to meet you for
some coffee or a drink somewhere.

WILL
Yeah, sure. What about Crickets
tonight at like 8?

STELLA (V.O.)
That would be great. I'll see you
there. Bye.

WILL
Bye.

WILL hangs up the phone. He sets down his stuff from class and opens the door.

JAMES is standing there.

JAMES
So, what's going on?

WILL stutters for a second as he thinks something up.

WILL
Uh, this chick from class, wants help for our next test. I'm going to meet her at Crickets to go over some stuff.

JAMES doesn't seem to buy it. But he doesn't question him.

JAMES
Cool.

JAMES walks back to his room and shuts the door. WILL Looks down about lying to JAMES again.

WILL slowly wanders back to the living room. WE go back to the camera shot from the TV point of view.

WILL takes a seat beside CHRIS and GLENN on the couch.

GLENN
(Still not looking from the couch)
Studying. Crickets. Right.

This surprises WILL greatly.

WILL quickly turns his head to look at them. They obviously overheard his conversation and are not buying it. They seem to know what he is up to.

CHRIS
Was that really the best you could do?

WILL just hangs his head back. He isn't happy with the hole that he is digging for himself.

FADE TO:

SCENE 14: BARS, STELLA AND WILL

INT: CRICKETS BAR - NIGHT

We follow WILL as he enters Crickets. It is a casual bar. It doesn't have loud music so that people may converse inside. It is fairly crowded.

WILL spots STELLA sitting alone at a table with two chairs. She has a drink in front of her, though it looks untouched.

WILL makes his way over to her and pulls out a chair across from her.

WILL

Hi.

STELLA just smiles back. She looks kind of upset, but is trying to hide it.

WILL

Are you OK?

STELLA

Not really.

This takes WILL aback.

WILL

What's wrong?

STELLA

A lot.

(She thinks for a second
on how to summarize)

When I was with James, I spent so much time trying to be with him and make him happy. I Spent so much time trying to be the perfect girlfriend, that I alienated all of my friends. They all kind of left me behind. And I don't blame them. If one of my friends ignored me as much as I ignored them, then I would probably leave them behind as well. I haven't done much more than sit in my dorm room lately.

I'm pretty much friendless right now.

WILL

That's not true. You always have me, Glenn, Chris...

STELLA rolls her eyes.

STELLA

That's a whole different thing.

WILL

How so?

STELLA

How can I really hang out with you? Do you really think that James would take that well? I'm just feeling very alone and... I don't know. I'm not sure what I thought you could do.

WILL moves his chair around beside her. She begins to cry. WILL Consoles her.

WILL

It'll be alright. I'm here for you.

STELLA pulls back and looks at him. She composes herself. She puts her hands on his.

STELLA

Do you want to come over for a little while?

WILL knows exactly what she means. He is searching for the right words.

WILL

I can't. I can't do that to James. It wouldn't be fair to him.

STELLA

Why don't you forget about fair for tonight? Please Will.

WILL

I'm sorry.

STELLA

Well. This is rather embarrassing.
I think I need to go.

WILL grabs her hand.

WILL

Please don't.

STELLA sits back down.

STELLA

I'm sorry. I shouldn't put you in
that position.

WILL nods slowly.

WILL

If you ever want to, I would be
willing to do some plutonic
activities with you.

(Pause)

I know that this has been hard on
you.

STELLA smiles a very large smile. This seems to be the
happiest that she has been since her breakup.

STELLA

Thanks.

STELLA stands again. WILL doesn't stop her this time.

STELLA turns to leave and WILL stays at the table.

When STELLA is gone, WILL lets out a sigh of relief because
of the tension.

FADE TO:

SCENE 15: END OF SEMESTER

INT: THE GUYS' DORM - DAY

The dorm has been cleaned out for the end of the school year. GLENN and CHRIS carry the last few of their respective bags out.

WILL and JAMES come out a second later carrying the last of their stuff. They set their stuff down for a second to say goodbye.

JAMES

Another year gone.

WILL

Yes, but next fall, we do it right.
More parties, more girls more...

JAMES hangs his head.

WILL stops.

WILL

What?

JAMES raises his head and he has a tear falling on his cheek.

JAMES

I'm not going to be back in the
fall.

WILL is in shock.

WILL

Why?

JAMES

After Stella and I broke up, I kind
of slacked off in class. I gave
up. She always used to keep me in
line. I never realized how much I
needed that until now.

(Pause)

My parents got my grades in. They
said that they won't pay for grades
like mine.

WILL is genuinely upset.

WILL
Oh man. Is that for sure. I mean
can't you...

JAMES starts shaking his head no.

JAMES
It's for sure. I'll be staying
back in Florida and working.

WILL can't speak.

WILL gives JAMES a hug. They stand in the middle of the room
in which they'd shared many memories and embraced. The
setting sun is pouring through the open door and the room has
a strong orange tint to it.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

SCENE 16: NEW YEAR, NEW PEOPLE

INT: THE GUYS' DORM - DAY

It's back to school. The old dorm room has already been set
up. The TV is back in place and GLENN and CHRIS are back
playing it again. It looks the same as it always has.

There is somebody fumbling with keys outside. The door opens
and WILL enters with a few suitcases.

GLENN and CHRIS don't take notice.

GLENN
Hey dude.

CHRIS
What's up Will?

WILL sets down his bags.

WILL
What's up guys?

CHRIS

We got a new guy here.
(Shouts to the back room)
BRIAN!

A guy sticks his head out from the near room. He has no shirt on.

GLENN

Brian, Will. Will, Brian.

BRIAN waves hello. WILL returns the wave. BRIAN ducks back into his room.

WILL

(Half-whisper)
How is he?

GLENN

Well, he hasn't threatened to kill me, so he is one up on James.

WILL gives a disapproving look.

BRIAN comes out putting on a shirt. He walks up to WILL with his hand extended.

BRIAN

Hi. I'm Brian.

WILL

Hey. Will. Where are you from?

BRIAN

Houston. Do y'all have any special rules for this place?

WILL shakes his head no. BRIAN smiles.

BRIAN

Cool.
(To GLENN)
Can I get next?

GLENN

Sure.

WILL

I see that not much has changed?

CHRIS

Well this is Madden 2004 rather than 2003. Anything changed with you and a certain psycho's ex girlfriend?

WILL

What are you talking about?

CHRIS gives him a 'don't give me that shit' look.

WILL

We just hung out.

CHRIS gives him the same 'don't give me that shit' look.

WILL

Besides, I didn't even see her all summer.

CHRIS once again gives him the 'don't give me that shit' look.

WILL

Whatever.

WILL goes to the fridge and opens it. It is stocked full of beer.

WILL

I see that you got the basics.

WILL cracks open a beer and sits beside GLENN and CHRIS on the couch.

GLENN

(Picking up where they left off)

Because you know that we don't give a shit if you do go out with her. I think it would actually be good for the both of you.

WILL

Why?

GLENN

Because you want her and she needs you.

WILL

And what about James?

CHRIS

What about him? He fucked up. That's not your fault. Then he even said 'if you want her, you got her'. How much more of an invitation do you need?

WILL

She probably forgot all about me over the summer, so it is a moot point.

CHRIS

Do you get off on being delusional? Why not just go for it?

WILL

Because I can't do that to James.

GLENN

(Beat)
I would.

FADE TO:

SCENE 17: STELLA RETURNS

INT: WILL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

WILL is in his room getting things back arranged again. The door is closed. He has things close to being finished.

There is a knock at the door.

GLENN (O.C.)

Dude, we're getting pizza. You want any?

WILL

No thanks.

WILL goes back to arranging things.

There is another knock at the door.

WILL

Yeah?

CHRIS (O.C.)

You haven't eaten all day. We think that you need some pizza. Are you sure that you don't want any?

WILL

Yeah, I'm sure.

WILL goes back to arranging things.

Yet another knock on the door. WILL Gets a little frustrated.

WILL

What?

BRIAN (O.C.)

Hey, Will. Glenn told me to ask if you wanted any pizza.

WILL can hear GLENN and CHRIS laughing in the background.

WILL

Brian, it would be better to not listen to them.

BRIAN (O.C.)

Uhm. OK. So is that a no?

WILL

Yeah.

WILL goes back to arranging.

One more knock on his door.

WILL is fed up.

WILL

For the least time, I don't want
any pizza.

HE goes and opens the door to reveal:

STELLA.

She is standing at the doorway looking rather cheerful. Her
hair is considerably longer. She seems more confident and
she seems to have matured a lot over the summer. She seems
to be glowing.

WILL steps back a little sorry for yelling at her.

STELLA

Well, then I'm glad that I didn't
bring any.

WILL

Stella. Hi.

STELLA

Hi.

(Pause noticing WILL's
confusion)

I figured that it was OK to come
over now since James moved out.

WILL

How'd you know?

STELLA

I called and asked Glenn when you
were getting back and he told me
about James.

STELLA walks in.

STELLA

(After she already
entered)

Is it alright if I come in?

WILL is still trying to find what to say.

WILL

Uhm. How was your summer?

STELLA laughs at his attempt at small talk.

STELLA
Fine. I just worked.

WILL
Are you doing any better?

STELLA
I've gotten over things more. I have a new roommate and I think that we are going to get along well. She's going to be a lifesaver.

WILL
Did you date anyone?

STELLA
I've become sort of a cynic towards dating new people.

WILL
Oh.

STELLA
What about you?

WILL
Naw.

STELLA smiles.

STELLA walks over to WILL and hugs him.

STELLA
I missed you.

WILL gives in and puts his arm around her.

STELLA closes her eyes and seems happy being where she is.

She starts rubbing her head against his neck.

WILL looks down at her without moving his head. He doesn't know what to do for a second.

WILL
But Stella...

STELLA
Shut up, Will.

Finally WILL gives in and begins to slowly tilt his head down towards her's as she raises her head towards his.

STELLA lightly kicks the door closed.

As their lips touch:

FADE TO:

SCENE 18: THE FIRST LIE

INT: WILL'S ROOM - NIGHT

All of the lights are off in WILL'S room. We start with a close up on his face as he is lying in bed asleep. It appears as though he is alone.

The phone rings.

On the second ring, WILL wakes up. He fumbles around for the phone.

He picks it up and brings it to his ear without opening his eyes.

WILL
(Very groggy)
Hello?

A familiar voice is on the other line.

JAMES (O.C.)
Willie!

WILL's eyes shoot open and he leans up onto his elbows. We now have a close up of his face filling the frame. He has a worried look on his face.

WILL
James?

JAMES (O.S.)
Yeah buddy.

WILL
Where are you?

JAMES (O.S.)
Oh, I'm still back at home in
Florida. Macking on some Ho's.

WILL is relieved to hear that he isn't in town.

JAMES (O.S.)
What are you doing?

WILL
Just lying here.

JAMES (O.S.)
You weren't sleeping were you?

WILL
Yeah, I was.

JAMES (O.S.)
You wus. How was your summer?

WILL
Fine. Yours?

JAMES (O.S.)
Great man. It is awesome down here
in Florida. Anything new with you?

As JAMES says this, we see STELLA come into frame and kiss
WILL silently on the lips.

WILL searches for what to say.

WILL
(Not convincingly)
No.

JAMES (O.S.)
Oh well. I really think that this
summer has been good for me.

WILL

How so?

JAMES (O.S.)

Well, when me and Stella broke up, she said that I didn't act like I loved her or something like that. I think that I figured a lot of stuff out.

(Pause)

I think that I may try and call her and get back together.

WILL doesn't reply. He looks down at STELLA.

The camera switches to show her smiling back at him.

JAMES (O.S.)

Will? You there?

WILL

Yeah man. I'm here.

JAMES (O.S.)

So what do you think? Should I call her?

WILL

I don't know if that is a good idea.

JAMES (O.S.)

Why? Is she seeing somebody?

WILL

I don't think so.

WILL grimaces at having to say this.

JAMES (O.S.)

Then why can't I call her.

WILL

I dunno.

JAMES (O.S.)

It finally hit me this summer. I Love her.

And that isn't me saying it just to say it. After our time apart, I realized how much I missed her. It hurts me to be apart from her. I know now that I can be that guy she wanted me to be. Have you seen her recently?

WILL

No.

WILL grimaces again.

JAMES (O.S.)

Hey. I'm going to come down there soon, maybe talk things over with Stella. Is it alright if I stay with you guys?

WILL

Of course.

JAMES (O.S.)

Cool. Thanks for listening man. Have a good semester and I'll see you sometime.

JAMES hangs up the phone and WILL is still holding the phone listening to the dial tone.

After a second, he hangs up the phone.

STELLA

Who was that?

WILL

(Pause)

James.

STELLA gets a frightened look on her face.

STELLA

Is he here?

WILL

No. He's still in Florida.

STELLA

He really freaked me out this summer.

WILL

How?

STELLA

Several times he called me late at night. Like at 3 or 4 in the morning. He would call up saying how he'd figured things out and how it was only a little while before we were together again. He sounded like he had lost it.

WILL grows rather concerned.

STELLA (CONT'D)

I think that he has some real problems. When I told him that we weren't getting back together, he would freak out and say that we belonged together and that I would figure that out real soon.

WILL

Oh my god. Did he ever do anything?

STELLA

No, he stayed in Florida all summer, but it really scared me.

WILL

He told me that he was going to visit sometime soon.

STELLA looks petrified.

STELLA

We can't let him know about us. I don't think that he could take that. Who knows what he would do.

WILL

Let's not find out.

WILL lays back down and spoons STELLA. They both lay with their eyes wide open not able to sleep.

FADE TO:

SCENE 19: GUILT WEIGHING HARD

INT: DORM ROOM - MORNING

GLENN and CHRIS are eating cereal in front of the TV. Cartoons are clearly playing because of the noises. They are in boxers and old T-shirts.

WILL comes into the living room, pours a cup of juice and sits beside them. He looks like he didn't sleep.

Nobody is saying anything. They all watch TV silently until:

STELLA walks in. She is wearing one of WILL's oversized shirts and a pair of socks. She looks very tired as well, but happy.

STELLA goes into the fridge and pours some juice as well.

STELLA looks over and sees everybody looking at her. She casually smiles and waves hi to the three. Nobody responds. They just watch her go back to WILL's room.

GLENN and CHRIS take another spoonful of their Count Chocula cereal.

GLENN and CHRIS both turn and look to WILL for an explanation. He says nothing.

GLENN

So, how was your slumber party with your 'friend'?

WILL doesn't react or respond.

CHRIS

I guess you got over that whole 'I can't do that to James' thing, huh?

WILL groans at the mention of his name.

WILL

He called last night, too.

GLENN and CHRIS don't react.

CHRIS
(Dryly)
How'd he take you boinking his ex?

WILL
Like I'm going to tell him.

GLENN
(Also dryly)
You are doing your best friend's ex
girlfriend and lying to him about
it? Good job. You make us proud.

WILL rolls his eyes and retreats back to his room. Before he gets there, he turns back to the guys.

WILL
Hey, if he ever calls, let me know
what he says.

They give a vary sarcastic thumbs up. They have been living together way too long.

WILL goes around the corner.

They go back to watching cartoons as if none of this affected them at all.

INT: WILL'S ROOM - SAME

WILL returns to his room.

STELLA is changing back into her clothes. She isn't in a hurry at all.

WILL sits down on the bed beside her.

She seems to have gotten over the JAMES phone call and seems very happy.

WILL
We should talk.

STELLA
About what?

WILL

Well. What happened last night?

STELLA

(Sarcastically)

Oh, did your parents never have
that talk with you?

She smiles at him. WILL is trying to be serious.

WILL

No, uhm so what are we going to do?

STELLA

I don't know. What do you want to
do?

WILL has to think for a second. He was expecting her to have
all of the answers.

WILL

Do you want to go out? I mean do
you want to...

STELLA

I know what you mean and I think
you know what I want. The real
question is can you handle it?

WILL

What about James?

STELLA

Let's pretend that he isn't part of
the equation, what would you say?

WILL

I would say yes.

STELLA

Good. I'll see you later sweetie.

STELLA smiles, kisses him and walks out.

WILL doesn't comprehend what just happened.

WILL
(Shouting out the door at
STELLA)
So are we going out now?

STELLA (O.C.)
I'll call you later.

WILL still doesn't comprehend. He sits on his bed with his boxers on. BRIAN knock on his half open door. WILL looks up.

BRIAN
Hey, when are you...

BRIAN notices WILL's confusion.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
You alright?

WILL
I dunno.

BRIAN
Well, Glenn and Chris told me that you spent the night with that cute girl who just left, so you can't be doing all that bad. Right?

WILL
It's just that... She. Well, I...
Uhm.

WILL can't really find a reason to be upset.

WILL
It's just that she used to go out with one of my best friends.

BRIAN
I see.

WILL
It's more complicated than that. When they broke it off, he said 'if you want her, you can have her'.

BRIAN
Seems pretty black and white to me.

WILL
But, I think he wants her back now.

BRIAN
It sounds like he had his chance
and blew it.

WILL nods.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
When are you going to go buy your
books?

WILL
After lunch, I think.

BRIAN
Is it cool if I go with you?

WILL
Yeah, sure.

BRIAN starts to leave. WILL Stops him.

WILL
Hey Brian.

BRIAN turns around.

WILL
Thanks.

BRIAN smiles and leaves.

WILL sits and thinks of the possibilities. He begins to
smile. It grows and grows until he seems over joyed at being
with STELLA.

FADE TO:

SCENE 20: WILL & STELLA ROMANTIC MONTAGE

EXT: OUTSIDE STELLA'S DORM BUILDING - EARLY EVENING

We see WILL pacing back and forth outside of the door nervously. He is holding a single red rose in his hand.

He stops. He takes a deep breath. He goes back to nervous pacing.

A girl comes up to the door and opens it.

WILL takes another deep breath, catches the closing door and enters the dormitory building.

INT: OUTSIDE STELLA'S DORM ROOM DOOR - SAME

WILL puts his hand up to knock, but can't do it.

He tries again and lightly raps on the door.

We hear female voices beyond the door.

The door swings open to reveal:

STELLA.

She is standing there rather surprised to see him.

He smiles awkwardly.

He pulls his hand from behind his back and extends the rose towards her.

She takes it and smiles.

STELLA

I guess you figured some stuff out.

WILL

Yeah. Brian, our new roommate, put some things in perspective for me.

STELLA

Come in.

WILL enters.

There is a pretty young redhead laying down watching TV.

STELLA
Will, this is my new roommate,
Kate.

She rises to greet him.

KATE
Hey, how are you doing?

WILL
Good, thanks.

STELLA
So, what are you all dressed up
for?

WILL gets a little nervous.

WILL
I. I wanted to see if you wanted
to grab some dinner?

STELLA is ecstatic, but puts up a calm front.

STELLA
Sure. Let me grab my purse.

KATE jokingly confronts WILL.

KATE
Now you be good to my little girl.

WILL
Yes sir.

KATE
And you have her home by 11.

WILL is trying to think of what to say.

KATE
Oh, I'm just messing with you.
11:30.

STELLA is ready to go.

STELLA
Bye Kate.

KATE

I won't wait up.

STELLA and WILL walk to his car.

He is being exceptionally chivalrous. HE opens the doors for STELLA.

When they get outside, he opens her car door for her.

He goes around to his side.

He slides in the car. STELLA is impressed with him.

STELLA

I'm not used to all of this
chivalry. You're scoring major
points.

GREEN DAY'S "GOOD RIDDANCE" begins to play in the foreground.

The car speeds away.

We begin the montage of WILL and STELLA's romantic rise. We see a trade off of things that WILL might enjoyed and then things that STELLA might enjoy. But they are both enjoying all activities just because they get to be together.

1. WILL and STELLA at the restaurant. Laughing and connecting.
2. WILL and STELLA playing video games as only the guys had previously done.
3. WILL taking STELLA to see a chick flick as JAMES never did.
4. WILL and STELLA playing basketball against each other and flirting in the process.
5. WILL and STELLA walking through a park trail holding hands and talking.
6. We finish with silhouettes of WILL and STELLA lying on top of each other kissing.

WILL

I love you.

STELLA
I love you too.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

SCENE 21: JAMES' HOME PROBLEMS

INT: JAMES PIERCE'S HOUSE IN FLORIDA WITH HIS PARENTS -
MORNING

This will be a severe contrast to the recently shown romantic montage just shown to show how rotten things are for JAMES. They may not be so bad in reality, but in JAMES' mind, he is at the lowest point he could possibly be at.

MR. PIERCE and MRS. PIERCE are sitting at the breakfast table having their morning routine. Coffee, eggs and bacon. Pretty stereotypical American breakfast. MR. PIERCE is dressed in a three piece business suit.

MRS. PIERCE is dressed in business attire as well.

JAMES enters the breakfast room looking like he just went through hell. His hair is in disarray, his clothes are dirty and his eyes are half closed.

He wanders over to the fridge and grabs the OJ.

JAMES drinks a big swig from the carton and puts it back.

JAMES grabs a kid's cereal from the pantry and pours a bowl of it.

JAMES sits down at the table and begins to eat the cereal without milk with his hands.

His parents have been watching him with concerned looks the whole time.

MR. PIERCE
James?

JAMES
Yeah, pops?

MR. PIERCE
Son, is everything alright?

JAMES
Yeah, sure.

MRS. PIERCE
Sweetie, what's wrong?

JAMES
(Getting defensive)
Nothing!

MRS. PIERCE
You know that we are here for you
and that we love you.

MR. PIERCE
Please son, we want to help you.

JAMES
I just miss my friends.

MR. PIERCE
I see.

JAMES lets a tear fall.

JAMES
And I'm not in school anymore, and
nobody remembers that I am alive
and I have become a joke.

MRS. PIERCE puts her arm around him.

MRS. PIERCE
You're not a joke.

JAMES
Yes I am. I had to drop out of
school and now I'm working in a
dead end job, which I will probably
do for the rest of my life.
Everything in my life is slipping
away from me.

MR. PIERCE

Son, you're just in a rut. You'll
break out soon.

JAMES sits silently for a while.

JAMES

(Finally admitting it to
his parents and himself)
And I miss Stella. I really loved
her and I messed that up. She was
the best thing that happened to me.

MRS. PIERCE

I understand. You just need to try
harder. You'll be back in school
next year and be back on track.
For now, you just need to get your
mind off of things.

MR. PIERCE looks at his wife and she nods at him. They have
something planned.

MR. PIERCE

I was saving this for your birthday
next week, but I think you need it
now.

MR. PIERCE pulls an envelope out of his pocket.

JAMES looks up and receives the envelope. He opens it.

JAMES

Dad... I don't know what to say.
Thank you so much.

MR. PIERCE

I figured that you would want to go
to the Tech - A&M game a few weeks
from now. You have a hotel room
for the weekend if you want it. Or
you could stay with your friends.
We can't afford to fly you down
there, but we will help you with
gas money for your trip.

JAMES bursts into happy tears.

JAMES

Thanks y'all. I love you so much.

JAMES gives his parents a big genuine hug.

MR. PIERCE

Are you going to call your friends?

JAMES

No. I'm going to surprise them. I think I may try to get back with Stella while I'm down there.

MRS. PIERCE and MR. PIERCE seem very happy that they could help their son.

FADE TO:

SCENE 22: FOOTBALL GAME

INT: JAMES' WORK - SUPERMARKET - EARLY EVENING

JAMES is taking off his work apron and clocking out. He is hurrying to get on the road to go to Lubbock.

Some employees see him leaving and wish him well on his trip.

FELLOW EMPLOYEE

When do you leave for Lubbock?

JAMES

As soon as I get out of here.

FELLOW EMPLOYEE

Jeez. How long of a drive is that?

JAMES

About 20 or so hours.

FELLOW EMPLOYEE

Are you stopping anywhere for the night?

JAMES

Nope, I'm driving straight through.

FELLOW EMPLOYEE

That's harsh. Drive safe and have a good trip, James.

JAMES

Thanks, dude. See you next week.

JAMES thanks them and says his good-byes as he almost runs to his car to leave.

He is beyond ecstatic.

EXT: JAMES DRIVING HIS CAR LATE - NIGHT

We see JAMES driving on a long trip back to Lubbock to go to the football game.

JAMES is blinking and rubbing his eyes. He has apparently been driving for a good while.

FADE TO:

EXT: JAMES ARRIVING IN LUBBOCK - DAY

JAMES pulls into a gas station. He hasn't slept all night. He looks physically and mentally exhausted.

JAMES looks again at the ticket to check the start time: 3:00 pm.

He looks at his clock in his car: 2:37.

He doesn't have time to get gas or go to the hotel or do anything. He drives off to the football game.

He arrives at the parking lot. There are tons of people wearing red and black to show their school pride for the game. JAMES is smiling ear to ear.

He gives the ticket at the gate and goes inside. He doesn't even look at the ticket, he know exactly where he is going.

He goes to the top of the section where his group of friends always sit for the game. He searches the crowd for them. He finally spots them.

JAMES looks and sees GLENN and to his right is CHRIS and the BRIAN and then WILL and then STELLA.

JAMES squints to get a better look of STELLA sitting next to WILL.

JAMES smiles. He is so excited at seeing his friends again.

JAMES starts down the isle towards them.

JAMES looks back down towards WILL and STELLA.

WILL puts his arm around STELLA.

JAMES stops and his jaw drops.

STELLA turns to WILL and they kiss.

JAMES' face goes pale. JAMES looks like he is short of breath and begins breathing hard. His eyes tear over. He glances down again to make sure that he is seeing what he is seeing.

WILL and STELLA are still kissing.

JAMES turns and slowly walks against the oncoming crowd of people entering the stadium. He is mortified.

The crowd roars behind him as the kickoff happens.

FADE TO BLACK.

SCENE 23: JAMES CONFRONTS WILL & STELLA

INT: JAMES IN HIS HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

JAMES is sitting on the side of his bed at his hotel room.

He has emptied out several little liquor bottles from the complimentary mini-fridge.

He is just staring off into space. He looks over at the clock. It reads: 4:31 AM.

He picks up the phone.

He begins to dial a number.

He puts the phone to his ear.

On the other line we hear:

WILL
(Very groggy)
Hello?

JAMES doesn't respond.

We switch cameras to see WILL lying in bed with STELLA.

We hear JAMES breathing heavily on the other end.

WILL
Hello?

WILL is fully awake now.

JAMES (O.S.)
Why?

WILL
What? Who is this?

JAMES (O.S.)
Just tell me why?

WILL
James?

JAMES (O.S.)
Why, Will?

WILL
Why what?

JAMES (O.S.)
Don't give me that shit. Why?

WILL
Listen, I don't know what you're
talking about.

JAMES (O.S.)
Stella.

WILL mouths 'Oh Shit'.

WILL
What about her?

JAMES (O.S.)
(Enraged)
DON'T FUCK WITH ME! I KNOW! SO
WHY?

WILL
It just happened. I'm sorry. WE
didn't mean to hurt you.

JAMES (O.S.)
(Calmly)
Well guess what...
(ENRAGED AGAIN)
YOU FUCKING DID!

JAMES' scream is so loud that the distortion on the phone makes it almost inaudible. WILL has to pull his ear back from the receiver.

JAMES (O.S.)
We were friends. How could you do
this to me?

WILL
You told me that you didn't want
her anymore. You told me that I
could have her if I wanted her.

JAMES is silent.

WILL
James?

JAMES (O.S.)
You fucking cocksucker.

WILL
I'm sorry.

JAMES (O.S.)
(Crying and whining)
I'm sorry isn't going to keep me
from driving off a cliff.

WILL
Don't even say that shit.

JAMES (O.S.)
Let me talk to her.

WILL looks over at STELLA. She is in deep sleep.

WILL
No.

JAMES (O.S.)
No?

WILL
Dude, she's sleeping.

JAMES (O.S.)
I don't give a fuck. Wake her up.

WILL
No. Sleep it off. We'll talk
tomorrow.

JAMES (O.S.)
If I'm still breathing.

JAMES hangs up.

WILL
James? James!

WILL hangs up the phone.

WILL
Fuck.

WILL lays back down beside STELLA and embraces her. She snuggles closer in her sleep. WILL can't close his eyes. The events of tonight are running through his mind.

FADE TO:

SCENE 24: LYING TO STELLA

INT: WILL'S BEDROOM - MORNING

WILL is already awake lying with STELLA. He looks horrible. He has dark bags under his eyes. The morning orange glow of the sun rising is covering him.

STELLA rolls over awake. She stretches her arms.

STELLA
(Surprised to see him
awake)
Well, good morning.

WILL
Good morning.

STELLA rubs her eyes.

STELLA
Jeez, you look like hell.

WILL
Very flattering.

STELLA
Are you OK, sweetie?

WILL is clearly contemplating telling her of the phone call last night.

WILL
Yeah.

STELLA
Will, what's wrong?

WILL
Nothing.

STELLA
You know that you're not allowed to
keep stuff from me, right?

WILL laughs. WILL rolls over closer to her.

WILL
Oh, I can't?

STELLA
(Playfully)
Nope.

WILL
Well, I'll tell you what I can do.

STELLA
What?

WILL begins to tickle STELLA.

STELLA begins laughing uncontrollably. They play-wrestle around as the scene fades out.

FADE TO:

SCENE 25: TRYING TO RECONCILE WITH JAMES

INT: WILL'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

WILL sits on the edge of the bed. He is alone in his room and the door is shut. He is holding his phone just staring at it.

WILL takes a deep breath.

WILL Looks at a sheet of paper that read "JAMES' CELL PHONE" and a phone number.

WILL closes his eyes and takes another deep breath and then begins dialing the phone.

The phone picks up.

WILL
(To the phone)
James?

JAMES (O.C.)
What?

WILL
I wanted to talk to you about
what's going on.

JAMES (O.C.)

No, I've got it all. You're fucking me over. I get it.

WILL

It's not like that. Listen, you're still my best friend and I...

JAMES (O.C.)

You're not my fucking friend. We're nothing. You are nothing to me anymore.

WILL

James, please. I know this just sounds like a cop-out, but I was going to tell you.

JAMES (O.C.)

Yeah, that does sound like a cop out.

WILL

I just didn't know how to tell you. I knew that you were having a hard enough time being away from school and everything. I didn't think that you would be ready for this. I was just waiting until the time was right. I was waiting until I thought that you would be happy for us.

JAMES (O.C.)

When did you think that would be? At what point in time did you think that I wouldn't care if y'all got together?

WILL

(Cutting JAMES off)

When you said that I could have her if I wanted her.

JAMES (O.C.)

(Silent Pause.)

I see. So you interpreted that to mean 'Go fuck my ex?'

WILL

No, that's not what...

JAMES (O.C.)

I would have thought that as my friend, you would say that you could never do that to me. That you could never do that to a friend. I guess our friendship didn't mean enough to you to stay away from her.

WILL

It just happened. It wasn't premeditated.

JAMES (O.C.)

Whatever.

WILL

As my friend, I would think that you would want what's best for me.

JAMES (O.C.)

Don't try to turn this shit around on me.

(Pausing to think of an argument)

What did Glenn and Chris say about it?

WILL

They said that it would be good for Stella and me.

(Pauses)

I'm going to level with you. I love her.

JAMES (O.C.)

I don't want to hear this.

WILL

I'm going to be with her.

JAMES (O.C.)

Stop.

WILL
(Gets very adamant)
And I still want you as my friend.

JAMES (O.C.)
Shut up!

WILL
So when you get over this, let me
know. I'll still be your friend
and still be here for you.

JAMES hangs up and WILL is left listening to the dial tone.

WILL hangs up the phone and leans his head back exhausted
from having to do that.

SCENE 26: BRIAN'S "ACCIDENT"

INT: INSIDE WILL'S DORM - DAY

It is now Thursday. There is a knock on the front door. It
is a hard pounding knock.

BRIAN comes to the door and opens it revealing...

JAMES

He has a look that is beyond anger. His face is flushed red
and he is almost shaking.

BRIAN looks at him in confusion since he doesn't know who he
is.

BRIAN
(After waiting a second
for JAMES to introduce
himself)
Yes?

JAMES
Will? Where is he?

BRIAN
(Thinking)
Uhm. He left a while ago.

JAMES

Stella?

BRIAN

I think she's with him.

JAMES closes his eyes and takes a deep breath trying to not go berserk.

JAMES

What about Glenn or Chris?

BRIAN

They went to play basketball at the rec. Can I help you with something?

JAMES

No. I'll wait for them.

JAMES walks inside without giving BRIAN a chance to say no.

JAMES sits down on the couch and stares off into space.

BRIAN is a little freaked out.

BRIAN

Who are you?

JAMES

I used to live here.

BRIAN figures out who he is.

BRIAN

James?

JAMES is not phased.

BRIAN works up the courage to be assertive since he is much smaller than JAMES.

BRIAN

Look. It's probably best if you weren't here when they got back.

JAMES turns to look at BRIAN. JAMES stares at him hard. The look says 'do you know who you are messing with?'.

BRIAN
I'll tell them you came by and have
them call you.

JAMES
Why shouldn't I be here?

JAMES rises to confront BRIAN.

BRIAN is shaking his head indicating that he has no answer
for him.

BRIAN takes a few steps back as JAMES advances very slowly.

JAMES
What have they been saying about
me? WHAT?

BRIAN
(Frightened)
He just said that he didn't want to
hurt you, but...

JAMES
But what?

BRIAN
But he also said that you said that
you said that he could have her.
That's all. He didn't know what to
do.

JAMES
And what did you say? Did you say
how wrong it was to steal a
friend's girl away?

BRIAN is backing away but trying to remain in control of the
situation.

BRIAN
No. I didn't say anything.

JAMES
LIAR! Don't make me snap your
fucking neck.

BRIAN
(Finding strength inside
of himself to stand up to
JAMES)
I told him to go for it. You lost
her.

JAMES becomes enraged.

He quickly advances towards BRIAN which makes BRIAN back into
the bathroom.

JAMES
I love her! And because of you I
can't have her! FUCK YOU!

At that point, JAMES shoves BRIAN by ramming the heel of his
hand into BRIAN'S sternum. This causes BRIAN to step back.

When BRIAN steps back, his falling foot slips in a puddle of
water on the tile.

As he falls, his neck makes contact with the side of the
bathtub and snaps.

JAMES looks on in disbelief.

We see a close up of BRIAN's head resting on the side of the
tub. He has a drop of blood dripping from the side of his
mouth.

JAMES steps back in horror. Did he really do this?

JAMES backs his way to the living room, not taking his eyes
off of BRIAN's corpse.

JAMES passes BRIAN's room and happens to glance over. He
sees BRIAN'S keys lying on the desk.

JAMES walks over to them, removes the dorm room key and
places the rest of the keys back on the desk.

He grabs a rag from the sink and grabs the door handle with
it so he leaves no fingerprints.

He exits the dorm and checks both ways. Good, nobody saw him
go in or out.

He sprints out of sight.

FADE TO:

SCENE 27: TAKING BRIAN AWAY AND COPING

INT: WILL'S DORM ROOM BATHROOM WHERE BRIAN FELL - NIGHT

We see a medical stretcher being raised up. It has a black body bag in it with BRIAN's body inside.

WILL, GLENN and CHRIS are standing by watching. They all look very solemn. They are all fighting back tears. They don't say a word as his body is wheeled off. They each put their arms around each other consoling one another.

CHRIS

Life fucking sucks sometimes.

They all silently nod in agreement.

GLENN

Do you think that James might have had something to do with this?

WILL

(Responding without thought)

No. He's not even in this state. Besides, he was a jerk, not a killer.

They all let that thought pass.

They all break up to mourn in their own way. We have slow shots of each person in their own environment coping.

CHRIS retreats to his room and shuts his door.

GLENN sits on the couch and stares at the walls.

WILL retreats to his room to call STELLA. WILL dials the number then begins talking without a greeting such as hello.

STELLA (O.S.)

Hello?

WILL
(To the phone)
Can you come over?

STELLA (O.S.)
Yeah. How's everybody taking it.

WILL
(To the phone)
I dunno. I just don't want to be
alone right now.

We fade to later when STELLA arrives.

WILL has his door closed when he hears a knock.

He opens the door for STELLA.

He retreats back to his bed where he lies down. STELLA
follows him and lies with him.

There is a serene silence for a second.

WILL
I don't know if I can take this.

STELLA understands that she should just listen right now.

WILL (CONT'D)
I just met him a few moths ago, but
we felt real close.

WILL begins to cry softly.

WILL (CONT'D)
He just always knew what to say and
when. He was a really great guy.
He really put things in perspective
for me when I was deciding whether
to go out with you or not. That
really meant a lot to me. I just
don't understand why God has to
take all of the good ones. He...

WILL chokes up and can't continue.

STELLA wipes away a tear and nuzzles close to him to comfort
him.

WILL squeezes her tight to comfort himself as he cries on her shoulder.

FADE TO:

SCENE 28: JAMES CALLS HIS PARENTS TO APOLOGIZE FOR FUTURE EVENTS

INT: JAMES' HOTEL ROOM - SAME

We fade in on JAMES sitting on the edge of his bed rocking himself.

He is crying and his face is extremely flush red. He is breathing extremely heavily.

He picks up the phone. He dials methodically.

He puts the phone to his ear.

MRS. PIERCE (O.S.)
(On the phone)
Hello?

JAMES
I love you.

MRS. PIERCE (O.S.)
James?

JAMES
I just want you to know that I love you.

MRS. PIERCE (O.S.)
I love you too honey. Is everything alright?

JAMES
It will be. Soon.

MRS. PIERCE (O.S.)
Your work has been calling. You've been down there for almost a week. Honey, when are you coming home?

JAMES
Soon. It'll all be over real soon.

MRS. PIERCE (O.S.)
Honey, you're scaring me. Are you
OK?

JAMES
Yes. I won't be here much longer.
I Love you. Tell Dad that I love
him too.

MRS. PIERCE (O.S.)
OK, sweetie. I will. I love you
too.

JAMES hangs up the phone. He immediately bolts up and leaves
the room.

SCENE 29: JAMES BUYS A KNIFE

INT: WAL-MART SPORTING GOODS SECTION

JAMES is staring down into a case.

The salesman is looking back at him from the counter
impatiently.

JAMES' eyes dart around quickly.

Finally...

JAMES
(Points into the case)
That one.

The salesman reaches under the case and pulls out a large
hunting knife.

SALESMAN
That there is a good'un. Skinned
myself a good few deer with
that'un.

JAMES doesn't even hear him because he gets lost staring into
the knife blade.

SALESMAN
Is that the one you want?

JAMES nods. The SALESMAN works the register.

SALESMAN

That'll be ... (research and find
apprx prices).

JAMES slaps a wad of money that he pulls from his pocket on
the counter.

The man counts the money. It is enough.

The SALESMAN makes change and puts his change on the counter.

JAMES grabs the receipt but leaves the change, still staring
into the blade.

SALESMAN

(Shouting after JAMES)
Sir... Your change!

The SALESMAN gives up, looks around and pockets the money.

CUT TO:

SCENE 30: GLENN'S DEMISE

INT: WILL'S DORM POV OF THE TV AGAIN - EVENING

WILL and STELLA are cuddled up on the couch watching TV.
CHRIS and KATE are seated in different parts of the room.
Nobody seems terribly interested in what's on TV, it is just
to pass the time. Nobody has gotten over BRIAN.

GLENN opens the door to leave, he has his backpack on. He
also has a suitcase with him.

KATE

Where are you going?

GLENN

I've got a night class.

WILL

What's with the suitcase?

GLENN sets it down for a second. He pauses to compose
himself.

GLENN

I need to get away. I'm having
trouble coping with Brian.

GLENN lets a tear fall.

GLENN (cont'd)

I'm flying down to Houston to visit
my family. Garrett is going to
take me from class to the airport.
I'll see y'all in a few days.

WILL and CHRIS shake their heads showing that they
understand. Everyone waves goodbye.

GLENN picks his suitcase back up and closes the door.

CHRIS hops up and follow GLENN outside.

CHRIS

Hey, Glenn.

GLENN turns around.

GLENN

Yeah?

CHRIS

You take care bud.

GLENN

Thanks.

CHRIS

Call me if you need anything.

They give each other a buddy hug.

We are now outside.

We see from somebody's point of view looking at GLENN coming
out of the dorm. The camera watches him from half-behind a
tree. GLENN never looks over to see who is watching him.

We then see that it is JAMES watching him. It is still
pretty early and the sun is going down.

We now fade to GLENN coming out of his night class.

He is still carrying his suitcase. He stops on the curb apparently waiting for GARRETT.

A little time elapses so that there is nobody out anymore. GLENN is alone on the curb. We are close in on GLENN's face right now.

Suddenly, we see the large hunting knife pull up to GLENN's neck, but not cut it.

JAMES comes up from behind him and puts his face right by GLENN's ear.

JAMES

What about you? Did you tell Will to stab me in the back as well?

GLENN

(Not scared at all)
You've fucking lost it.

JAMES

Why didn't anybody tell me?

GLENN

Because you're a fucking loser.

JAMES

Say that again and you're fucking dead.

GLENN

Fuck you.

JAMES slits his GLENN'S throat. GLENN Grabs at his neck and begins gasping.

JAMES just watches as GLENN falls to his knees and slowly dies before his eyes.

JAMES drags GLENN's dead body to a dumpster behind one of the buildings.

JAMES dumps GLENN's body and his suitcase in the dumpster.

JAMES walks away. He is no has feelings. He has become extremely cold and heartless.

FADE TO:

SCENE 29: WILL GETS A CALL

INT: WILL'S DORM SUNDAY - NIGHT

The weekend has passed without incident. There is a few pizza boxes lying around making it evident that they didn't go out this weekend. They didn't do much but stay at home. No one has heard from GLENN and they weren't supposed to.

We now fade back to WILL's dorm room. Everyone is looking very tired.

STELLA has fallen asleep on WILL's shoulder.

KATE looks at her watch. She taps STELLA on the shoulder.

STELLA wakes up. She is a little disoriented.

KATE

Time to go girl. We've got class tomorrow.

WILL looks disappointed.

WILL

Do you want to stay here for the night.

STELLA

No, I have to drive Kate home. Then I'm just going to crash. I'm exhausted.

KATE

(To WILL)

Sorry.

WILL

(To KATE)

That's fine.

STELLA kisses WILL goodbye. She and KATE make their way towards the door.

WILL
Stella, wait!

WILL sounds very urgent.

STELLA
Yes?

WILL
Be safe.

STELLA smiles at his caring so much.

STELLA
I love you.

She gives him one last kiss on the mouth. WILL still looks worried as he closes the door behind her. He seems to have a gut feeling that they are not safe.

CHRIS stumbles towards his bedroom.

WILL continues to stand by the door.

We now cut to following STELLA and KATE out the door to the parking lot. As they are walking across the lot.

STELLA
Do you think that Will is OK?

KATE
I dunno. That is some tough stuff to go through.

STELLA
He really means a lot to me.

KATE
I know he does. I think that in itself is helping him a lot.

They enter STELLA'S car and pull out of the parking lot.

As they drive past rows of cars, the camera stops at WILL'S car. The camera pans down to see JAMES lying on his back cutting the brake line.

FADE TO:

INT: WILL'S BEDROOM - LATE NIGHT

We see WILL fast asleep in his bed. He is tossing and turning and not sleeping well.

Suddenly, the phone rings.

WILL grabs for it half-asleep.

He puts the receiver to his ear.

WILL

Yeah.

We hear somebody crying on the other end.

MRS. PIERCE (O.S.)

(On the phone)

Will?

WILL

Yeah.

MRS. PIERCE (O.S.)

This is James' mother.

WILL

Hi, Mrs. Pierce.

MRS. PIERCE (O.S.)

I'm sorry to call so late.

WILL opens his eyes to look at his clock, it reads 2:34 AM.

MRS. PIERCE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

But, I'm worried about James.

WILL closes his eyes again and lies back down.

WILL

What's he done now?

MRS. PIERCE (O.S.)

Well, we can't get a hold of him.
He was acting very strangely last
time we talked to him.

WILL

He's probably just out late partying on those nice Florida beaches.

MRS. PIERCE (O.S.)

No. He's there in Lubbock.

WILL bolts upright. He is now wide awake.

MRS. PIERCE (O.S.)

Didn't you know?

WILL

No. We didn't.

MRS. PIERCE (O.S.)

Could you go check on him?

WILL

Sure. Where's he at?

MRS. PIERCE (O.S.)

He's staying at the Lubbock Inn, room 131. Please tell him to call us, we are so worried.

WILL

Sure, no problem.

MRS. PIERCE (O.S.)

Thanks you so much, Will. You were always such a good friend to James.

This really brings WILL down. He can't even bring himself to say goodbye as she hangs up.

WILL frantically jumps up to get dressed. He grabs his keys and bolts out the door.

He runs out to his car and starts it up. He goes slow out of the parking lot. The light is green leading out of his parking lot, so he keeps going. He is going down the main road towards the Hotel. WILL looks very upset.

As he approaches the intersection, WILL taps the brakes. Nothing is happening. There is some cross traffic.

He becomes frantic and begins slamming on his brakes.

As he nears the intersection, he turns the wheel hard to avoid the cross-traffic.

His car goes into a spin and spins right into a phone pole. Luckily he misses all other cars.

WILL's head smashes into the window and he is unconscious.

JUMP CUT TO
BLACK.

FADE TO:

SCENE 32: HOSPITAL, STELLA AND KATE

INT: HOSPITAL - NIGHT

WILL comes to and as his vision fades in, he sees STELLA holding his hand and crying.

As he comes to, STELLA becomes extremely relieved.

The hospital staff is apparently done taking care of him and he is in a room already.

KATE is standing in the corner of the room watching on.

WILL has blood streaking down his face. He also has an oxygen mask on. He seems very disoriented. He seems to have no other injuries.

STELLA
Will? Are you awake?

WILL nods yes.

STELLA
Oh my God. You had me so worried.
I thought that I had lost you.

WILL pulls off the mask.

STELLA
No, just leave that on.

WILL shakes his head no.

WILL

It's James. He's here.

STELLA becomes petrified.

STELLA

What? Does he know about us?

WILL nods his head yes.

WILL

He called earlier this week.

STELLA

And you told him about us?

WILL

No. He already knew. I guess he saw us together.

STELLA

Why didn't you tell me?

WILL

I didn't want to scare you.

STELLA

(Disappointed in him)

Oh, Will.

(She shakes her head)

What did he say?

WILL

He threatened to kill himself. He sounded bad. He just kept asking 'why'.

STELLA

Do you think that he messed with your car?

WILL

I don't think so. He wouldn't do that to me. His Mom called me tonight and asked me to check on him.

STELLA is clearly scared.

WILL

Listen, Stella. I need you to call the Lubbock Inn and see if he is still there. Can you do that for me? You don't have to talk to him, just see if he's there still.

STELLA nods.

STELLA stands to leave, she makes it halfway to the door before she turns back around. KATE follows.

WILL urges her to go.

WILL

Go. I'm fine.

STELLA walks out.

WILL lays his head back against the pillow.

WILL rubs his hands against his face. He is clearly thinking of what to do.

It doesn't take STELLA long to come back with the news.

STELLA

He checked out several days ago.

WILL

We've got to find him, before he hurts anybody or himself.

STELLA agrees.

FADE TO:

SCENE 33: TRYING TO FIND JAMES

INT: WILL'S DORM ROOM - EARLY EVENING

Some time after WILL was released from the hospital the next day. He is sitting on his bed, with STELLA by his side. WILL has a large white bandage on the top left side of his head from where his head hit the window. He has some bruises on the left side of his face.

KATE is sitting in a chair across the room.

WILL

(To the phone)
Thanks, Craig. Let me know if you
hear anything.

STELLA

Nothing?

WILL shakes his head no.

CHRIS comes walking in.

CHRIS

Jeff, Darryl, Lance, nobody has
seen him.

STELLA

Why don't we just call the police?

WILL

Because!

WILL calms himself.

WILL

Because, we don't even know that
he's done anything.

CHRIS

Look at your head. That shit
doesn't happen on its own.

WILL glares at him. HE knows that CHRIS is right, but
doesn't want to believe that his friend would do this to him.

WILL picks up the phone.

WILL

I just want to try a few more
places.

WILL dials.

WILL

(To the phone)
Roy? Hey, this is Will.

ROY (O.S.)
(On the phone)
What's up Will?

WILL
Nothing. Hey, you haven't seen
James in town this week, have you?

ROY (O.S.)
Naw. Sure haven't.

WILL
Alright, thanks, bud.

ROY (O.S.)
Wait.

WILL
Yeah?

ROY (O.S.)
Hey, if you hear from Garrett tell
him to call me, we were supposed to
party last weekend.

WILL
Will do. Later.

ROY hangs up and WILL does the same.

WILL picks the phone back up and begins to dial.

GARRETT (O.S.)
(Answering machine)
Hey, this is Garrett, I'll call you
back. (Beep)

WILL hangs up the phone.

WILL
Shit. Garrett's not answering and
nobody has seen him all weekend.

CHRIS
Let's go.

They all make their way down to CHRIS' car.

WILL Looks underneath to make sure that no lines are cut.
Everything looks cool.

They pile in and make their way to GARRETT'S house.

SCENE 34: GARRETT'S HOUSE

EXT: THE CAR PULLING UP TO GARRETT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

They arrive and find a light on inside.

They cautiously approach the door and ring the bell.

Nobody answers and it sounds as though nobody is inside.
They try the door and find it open.

Slowly they open the door.

KATE

Hello?

WILL

Garrett? You home buddy?

Nothing.

They all enter the house and close the door behind them.

They make their way into the empty living room.

They look over and see GARRETT hunched over on the table. It
doesn't look good.

WILL

Stella, you and Kate stay back.

STELLA

Sorry, bud, but I'm not leaving
your side.

WILL doesn't put up a fight.

They approach GARRETT. They pull him back to reveal his neck
slit. He had his face in a pool of his own blood.

KATE and STELLA grab a little tighter onto WILL.

CHRIS Just shakes his head. He is pissed at JAMES.

KATE

I guess we should have seen that coming.

CHRIS

I swear to God I'm gonna kill this motherfucker.

WILL doesn't feel like disagreeing.

They walk away and search the rest of the house.

They check the bathroom...empty.

They check the first bedroom...empty.

They check the closet...empty.

They check the other bedroom. It has a suitcase lying on the bed.

CHRIS walks over to it and reads the name tag on it. He turns to the group.

CHRIS

It's James'.

STELLA

Oh my God. Do you think he's here.

WILL

It doesn't look like it.

STELLA

What should we do?

KATE

I say that we get the fuck out of here and go get the police.

They all agree.

FADE TO:

SCENE 35: POLICE DEPT.

INT: POLICE DEPARTMENT - NIGHT

The police department is relatively quiet. Not much crime goes on in Lubbock, TX. All four are sitting around an officer's desk. It looks as though they just got done giving their statement.

The POLICE OFFICER is an older guy, bald. He is tough as nails though. He has a real country accent.

POLICE OFFICER

We'll get an APB out on him right now.

The group still looks worried.

POLICE OFFICER

Don't worry everything will be alright.

WILL

So, what should we do now?

POLICE OFFICER

You kids have had a long night. Go home, get some rest. I'm sure that this will all be over by morning.

CHRIS

Is that all? You do realize that he probably will come after us, right?

POLICE OFFICER

(Slowly, like explaining to a child)

That's why I'm sending Officer McClane to stand guard tonight.

The group still looks a little uneasy. CHRIS looks pissed at being talked to like he just was.

POLICE OFFICER

Unless, you want a cell for the night?

STELLA

Oh, hell no.

WILL

Fine. Let's get out of here.

The group stands and turns to leave. They are not happy with what just happened.

POLICE OFFICER

Will.

WILL turns and looks back. The officer is extending his hand with a card in it.

POLICE OFFICER

If you hear anything, here is the number to my desk. Give me a call immediately.

WILL

Thanks.

As they are walking away...

KATE

I think I'm going to spend the night at your place tonight. That cool?

They leave with WILL hugging STELLA to comfort her.

FADE TO:

SCENE 36: CHRIS MEETS IT, BUT NOT WITHOUT A FIGHT

INT: WILL'S DORM - NIGHT

Everyone is laying about the living room bored as hell. They are flipping through the channels, but not truly watching anything.

WILL looks towards the door. He sees the shadow of OFFICER McCLANE standing guard. He still doesn't feel safe.

CHRIS has gotten beyond pissed off.

He rises and goes back to his room.

Everyone's eyes follow him.

He comes back putting on his coat.

WILL

What the hell are you doing?

CHRIS

I'm going to get some food.

WILL

Hello? There is somebody out there who may be trying to kill us.

CHRIS

(In a rant)

So what? I'm not scared of that bitch. I'm not going to let him intimidate me. Let that pussy motherfucker to try something. I'll bitch slap his ass. I've got better things to be scared of.

WILL

Fine, then we all go with you.

CHRIS

No. Y'all stay.

WILL

Chris...

CHRIS is already gone. We see the officer confront him outside. OFFICER MCCLANE is a tall attractive young guy. He looks like somebody that would have no trouble taking down JAMES.

OFFICER MCCLANE

Sir. I don't think it's a good idea to go out.

CHRIS walks right by him without acknowledging him.

It is very dark. There is nobody out.

CHRIS walks down to the car with a very exaggerated swagger.

He gets to his car. He pulls his keys from his pocket. He fumbles with them as he tries to open the door.

Suddenly he stops. He can feel that he is being watched. He stands upright. He puts his keys back in his pocket and turns to his left revealing to the camera...

JAMES

JAMES is holding both of his hands behind his back.

CHRIS
What motherfucker?

JAMES brings his hands from behind his back to reveal the large hunting knife. JAMES Isn't saying anything. HE is just glaring at CHRIS expecting him to cower. CHRIS Does anything but that.

CHRIS
So what? That supposed to scare me?

CHRIS waits for a response.

CHRIS
Huh?

JAMES
It sure did tear up your buddy Glenn.

CHRIS lets his jaw drop. CHRIS almost boils over, then. He is beyond pissed.

CHRIS
Fuck you. You fucking pussy. Why don't you put that shit down so we can settle this?

JAMES tilts his head to consider. CHRIS Rips off his jacket and throws it on the roof of his car. He puts his hands up like a street boxer. JAMES raises the knife in front of his face and slings it back towards the ground. It embeds itself into the ground with the handle sticking out of the ground.

BLUR's "SONG 2" starts playing.

JAMES raises his fists to fight.

CHRIS comes at him strong and puts his whole shoulder into an uppercut that lands on JAMES' nose.

JAMES is stunned.

CHRIS puts two right roundhouses into JAMES' head.

JAMES is falling back.

CHRIS walks up to him.

JAMES has time to recover and bull rushes into CHRIS. They fall back onto CHRIS' car.

JAMES is hitting CHRIS in the ribs.

CHRIS finally works up the strength to throw an elbow into the back of JAMES.

This drops JAMES to his knees.

CHRIS rears back and soccer kicks JAMES across the face. JAMES is bleeding hard-core out of his nose now. JAMES is still up on his knees, but very disoriented. CHRIS is really whomping on him.

CHRIS is talking trash the whole time he is beating down JAMES.

CHRIS rears back to throw a knockout blow to JAMES.

He connects right across JAMES' cheek. This spins JAMES to his right. His right hand lands on the knife handle. CHRIS doesn't see this.

CHRIS walks over to him to hit him again.

JAMES grabs the knife and spins his right arm up to CHRIS' neck and slits it with the knife.

CHRIS stumbles back not realizing what happened for a second.

CHRIS is still standing grasping his neck with one hand while blood bubbles from his mouth and his neck.

JAMES rises and stands in front of him.

JAMES
(Taunting)
Bitch!

CHRIS manages to raise his free hand and give JAMES the middle finger.

JAMES gets pissed and shoves CHRIS who falls back like a board. He is dead before he hits the ground.

JAMES spits at CHRIS and walks off clearly hurt.

CUT TO:

SCENE 37: POLICE PROTECTION OF WILL, STELLA AND KATE

INT: WILL'S DORM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Everyone has just begun to turn in.

WILL is bringing spare blankets and pillows out to KATE.

KATE
Thanks, Will. This should be good.

WILL
Goodnight, Kate. Are you sure that you don't want to sleep on my floor in there with Stella and me?

KATE
Yeah. I'll be fine with Ranger Bob outside.

WILL
Cool.

WILL turns to leave.

KATE
Hey, Will.

WILL
Yeah?

KATE
Do you think Chris is OK?

WILL

I hope so.

KATE nods. WILL waves goodnight.

WILL shuts off the lights.

KATE snuggles into the blankets.

KATE looks over and sees the officer's shadow still standing outside.

Suddenly...

A shot is heard. WILL And STELLA come rushing into the living room.

KATE

What was that?

STELLA

Shh!

WILL

It came from out there.

WILL walks over to the door. STELLA is by him shaking her head and mouthing 'no', not wanting him to open the door.

WILL puts his hand up and mouths 'it's ok'.

STELLA and KATE back away.

WILL opens the door.

They see OFFICER MCCLANE from behind. His head is hanging back and his mouth is wide open.

WILL Reaches out and touches his shoulder.

OFFICER MCCLANE's head rolls to it's side to reveal...

OFFICER MCCLANE with his mouth hanging open. He looks dead. The three look a little closer. Suddenly...

OFFICER MCCLANE jumps awake frightening the three. Everyone breaths a sigh of relief.

OFFICER MCCLANE

I'm sorry. I must have dozed off.
Is everything OK?

WILL

Yeah. We heard a shot. I guess it
was a car backfiring.

STELLA

Come on, Will. Let's go back to
sleep.

OFFICER MCCLANE

Sorry again.

They shut the door and retreat back to their respective beds,
with KATE back on the couch.

Fade to later that night.

There is heavy light pouring in from outside the blinds
coming right down on KATE's face. She is sleeping
restlessly.

We get a shot of WILL and STELLA in deep sleep.

We also get a shot of OFFICER MCCLANE deep asleep leaning
outside their door.

We go back to KATE tossing and turning.

Suddenly a shadow slowly begins to cross the blinds. It
looks like JAMES leading with the knife. The change in light
across her face awakens KATE fully. At seeing the figure
holding the knife going towards the cop, KATE Freezes.

As she recovers, she leaps up and hides out of sight from the
door behind the other couch.

We cut to see JAMES sticking the knife into the forehead of a
sleeping OFFICER MCCLANE.

OFFICER MCCLANE makes no noise as he dies instantly and
slides down the wall.

JAMES removes BRIAN's old key from his pocket and quietly
enters the dorm.

JAMES surveys the living room and doesn't see KATE and thinks nothing of it.

JAMES then turns and goes towards WILL's bedroom.

KATE looks over and sees a softball bat.

We cut to see JAMES sneaking into the open bedroom door of WILL. He and STELLA are still in deep sleep. He gets close enough to let his shadow fall on the sleeping pair. They are such easy targets.

JAMES closes his eyes and mouths what looks like a prayer.

He raises back the knife to strike. Suddenly...

KATE (O.C.)
(Loudly)
HEY ASSHOLE!

JAMES turns around and is greeted with a bat across the face.

KATE's yell wakes up WILL and STELLA. They sit up to see JAMES fall on his face. WILL And STELLA are in shock.

WILL
(To KATE)
Go! Call the police. Now!

KATE runs off to another room.

WILL and STELLA are trying to make their way around JAMES without waking him. It is a small room with not much room around him to step. STELLA leads out of the room.

Halfway across without incident. Slowly they walk by his legs. STELLA is at the threshold of the door and walk on through.

WILL makes it to the threshold when he stops. There is sheer pain in his face.

STELLA screams.

JAMES Rises up behind WILL holding the knife which is embedded in WILL's back.

STELLA is crying hard staring at WILL who is slowly falling to the floor.

STELLA
(Crying and muttering)
No...Will...Oh God.

JAMES forces WILL to the ground by the blade in his back. WILL fights, but falls and seems to pass out.

STELLA is left being face to face with JAMES.

She is frozen and can't move. She continues to cry and mutter under her tears.

JAMES' face is beaten to hell. He moves closer to STELLA.

JAMES
I'm sorry that it took me so long,
but I finally realized how much you
meant to me.

JAMES reaches out and hugs STELLA. This makes her hysterical.

STELLA
(Crying)
No! No! No! Get away from me!
No!

WILL seems to be dead on the floor.

JAMES
It's OK. I've changed. I finally
realized who you wanted me to be,
and I think that I can be that guy
now. We can finally be together
again.

JAMES has completely lost touch with reality. He is smiling like everything is OK. STELLA is fighting furiously to break his grasp.

JAMES
It's OK, Stella. We're fine now.

JAMES goes suddenly from looking happy to looking like he is in a dear amount of pain.

JAMES pulls back away from STELLA.

STELLA is confused.

Suddenly WILL rises from behind JAMES like JAMES did to him a second ago.

JAMES falls to his knees. He reaches for STELLA. She backs away.

JAMES falls to his face. WILL Falls to his knees behind JAMES. STELLA runs to him and hugs him.

WILL seems near death. He is breathing heavy and seems weak.

WILL takes STELLA's arm off of him.

WILL
Get out of here.

STELLA
Wha...?

WILL
I'm going to finish this.

STELLA
No, Will. The police will be here in a second. They'll take him away to jail. We'll be fine.

WILL
I don't want him to go through that. I don't want his parents to deal with a trial and their son in jail. I'd rather them remeber him the way he was. I just want this to be over.

STELLA thinks for a second and realizes that this is best. She walks away.

When she is out of sight, WILL pulls the blade from JAMES' back.

JAMES is still breathing, but not well.

WILL rolls over JAMES.

JAMES is conscious, but he has no strength.

WILL kneels by him.

WILL takes the knife in his hand in a stabbing position.

*****MAYBE*****

WILL raises the knife to plunge it into JAMES' chest. As he is bringing it down, JAMES catches WILL'S hand.

WILL is trying to force the blade down towards JAMES.

JAMES punches WILL with his free hand.

WILL falls back.

JAMES staggers to get up.

WILL recovers and gets into defense mode. He still has the knife in his hand.

WILL makes an aggressive swipe towards JAMES' midsection.

JAMES dodges it by jumping back.

WILL takes a swipe towards JAMES' face.

JAMES leans back and avoid the knife again.

WILL makes a stab towards JAMES, but JAMES catches WILL'S arm and punches WILL while holding his arm.

This sends WILL falling onto the bed.

JAMES rushes towards WILL.

WILL recovers and delivers a punch right into the nose of the onrushing JAMES.

This stuns JAMES and he is blind for a second.

WILL takes the opportunity to take a stab into JAMES' stomach.

JAMES cries out in pain.

WILL pulls the blade out. JAMES is severely weakened.

JAMES lunges forth with another punch the WILL dodges and takes another stab into JAMES' torso.

WILL pulls the blade out.

JAMES has lost all strength and he falls to his back.

Barely breathing, WILL once again kneels beside JAMES.

WILL takes the knife into a stabbing grip.

WILL leans down close to JAMES.

*****End of MAYBE*****

WILL puts his mouth near JAMES' ear to say something to him.

WILL
(Whispers)
I'm sorry Bro.

WILL pulls back and plunges the knife into JAMES' heart.

JAMES gasps. He gasps again and the one last time before he passes.

WILL breaks down and cries at JAMES' side.

He reaches over and closes JAMES' eyes.

WILL Rises and enters the living room.

He falls into STELLA's arms where they embrace.

STELLA
Is is over?

WILL shakes his head yes.

STELLA cries softly in relief.

KATE stands by watching as Police lights flash in the window.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END.