

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. HALLWAY/GUYS' COMMON ROOM - DAY

The elevator opens. Ron runs down the hall as fast as we've ever seen him run. He runs into the guy's common room and yells to Steven.

RON  
(out of breath, excited)  
They're giving out money!

STEVEN  
What?

Ron runs into Lloyd's room.

RON  
They're giving out money! Come on!

Steven sticks his head into Marshall's room.

STEVEN  
Marshall, they're giving out money!

The four run out into the hallway where they pass Lizzie and Rachel.

RACHEL  
What's going on?

RON  
They're giving out free money in the  
middle of the quad!

The girls run after them. When they reach the elevator they all stop and wait. The door opens and they pile in. Steven bangs on the button for the door to close. Finally it does.

CUT TO:

MUSIC UP: "BELL BOTTOMS" BY THE JON SPENCER BLUES EXPLOSION

EXT. CAMPUS QUAD - CONTINUOUS

The six explode out the doors and run across campus. Ron is in the lead.

RON  
COME ON!

STEVEN, MARSHALL, LLOYD, LIZZIE and RACHEL quickly follow. They all keep running. Marshall slows down.

MARSHALL  
I'm getting a cramp. Go on without me.

LLOYD  
No! We're all in this together!

Lloyd slings an arm over him and drags him. They continue to run, until suddenly, Ron stops short.

RON

This is going to change our lives.

Everyone looks up and sees a GUY in his twenties wearing a QUEST credit card baseball cap and a QUEST credit card. HOT GIRL EMPLOYEES wear neon green QUEST t-shirts. The GUY holds up a giant facsimile of a QUEST credit card. In place of the card holder's name it reads: JOHN Q. COLLEGE STUDENT. A sign says: "\$800 CREDIT LINE AVAILABLE." They stare at it in awe.

RON

It's beautiful man, it's beautiful.

CUT TO:

CREDIT SEQUENCE

INT. STUDENT CENTER - THREE WEEKS LATER

Marshall and Steven stand on a long line at the ATM machine. Marshall opens up an envelope with his new credit card. Steven holds his as well.

MARSHALL

Oh ,sweet sweet credit card, daddy's gonna take good care of you.

(he kisses the card)

We're gonna have a good time.

Steven carries a class paper riddled with red ink.

STEVEN

(re: the paper)

Look at this. A D-plus.

MARSHALL

That's not so bad. Maybe you should focus on the plus.

STEVEN

This Lit class is killing me. I worked so hard on this paper. I don't know if I can do any better. This may be as smart as I get.

Marshall reaches the front of the line. Marshall makes a big show for TWO GIRLS standing behind him and Steven on line. He punches his code in.

MARSHALL

Let's see now... how much do I need for the weekend? FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS CASH oughta do it.

He presses a button and the ATM machine begins to whirl and spit out twenty dollar bills. Marshall grabs them. PERRY, who has been standing on the ATM line behind Steven and Marshall, taps Steven on the shoulder.

PERRY

I know a guy who can hook you up.

STEVEN

What?

PERRY

I know a man who will happily compose a paper for you... for a price.

MARSHALL

I've heard about this guy. He's a townie, right?

PERRY

Yes, he's a gentleman who resides in town.

MARSHALL

He's one of those dudes who can't leave the house.

PERRY

He doesn't care to leave the house. He attended UNEC for seven or eight years and he has no interest in leaving our community.

MARSHALL

Stick to your D, man. That's just wrong, having some freak do your homework for you.

PERRY

(leans in to Steven)

Call the sign on the kiosk that says, "I Type Papers Fast". He takes credit cards. This is what we call, power over the system.

Perry gives them a fist of solidarity and walks away.

MARSHALL

You wanna see power over the system? Meet the wad. You get the power of money but the key is to never spend it.

Marshall takes a hundred dollars and hands it to Steven, making a show for the girls.

MARSHALL (CONT'D)

(to Steven)

What? You need a little cash? Again? Hey, I'm always here for you. No, you don't have to pay me back, just keep it. You know me.

The girls look impressed, smiling at Marshall as they leave.

MARSHALL

Give me that.

Marshall grabs the money back from Steven.

STEVEN

So listen, I think I'm going to check out Perry's tip. Wanna come?

MARSHALL

Let me consult the wad.  
(whispers to wad)  
The wad needs to think about it.

CUT TO:

INT. RON AND MARSHALL'S ROOM - DAY

Lloyd is doing mouth exercises in the mirror, acting faces. Ron organizes his desk. He arranges his computer and stack of financial magazines. Ron points to his computer, where a graphic of a stock is on the rise.

RON

I have an enormous brain. I'm going to make tons of money with this credit card. Do you want in or not?

LLOYD

No, Ron, I do not want in. I am an artist. I don't need money. I live by my acting craft.

RON

Online investing is a craft.

LLOYD

Online investing is for desperate souls.

RON

That's true, except for me. This is the company I'm investing in. Anatomica. These guys are going to make human stomachs in petri dishes.

LLOYD

That seems wrong.

RON

It's not wrong. Every old guy with an ulcer is gonna want one of these dish guts.

LLOYD

You Yanks are all the same. All you think about is money.

RON

Oh yeah, and English guys don't? "We don't want money, we're just gonna tax your tea." Everybody on Earth wants money, at least we Americans are honest about our greed. I'm a greedy American and I'm gonna be rich.

CUT TO:

EXT. DAVE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Steven and Marshall stand at the door. Steven knocks. They hear a scuffling. The door flings open. DAVE stands there, a tall guy in his mid-thirties, wearing a threadbare flannel shirt over a UNCC t-shirt, baggie shorts and one oven mitt. ALICE IN CHAINS is blasting in the background.

DAVE

You Steven Karp?

STEVEN

Yeah, I-

DAVE

(looking around)

Come in.

CUT TO:

INT. DAVE'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Steven and Marshall enter a disheveled apartment. There is dusty photographic equipment and a few home improvement projects seem to have been started and then abandoned long ago. There are lots of UNEC related items, posters, newspapers, mugs, clothes etc. -- all of it circa '92.

DAVE

(a slow, deliberate speaking manner)

It's 75 bucks for a new paper, 50 off the stack. Now I don't do every subject. I won't write pre-med, for instance. I don't mess with that. I don't want doctors doing stuff wrong 'cause of me. So, what's your paper on?

STEVEN

It's on "Madame Bovary's Escape From Her Trapped Existence".

Dave starts looking through a box of files.

DAVE

Freshman Comp Lit -- man, oh, man, takes me back.

(stops searching)

I don't have a Bovary anymore. But I'll write a new one. It'll be good to have one on file.

He sits across from Steven.

DAVE (CONT'D)

When you need it?

STEVEN

Pretty quick. Tomorrow at noon.

DAVE

What time is it now?

MARSHALL

Seven.

DAVE

p.m. or a.m.?

MARSHALL

p.m.

DAVE

No problem. Cash or credit?

Steven hands him his credit card. Dave pulls a credit card slider out and slides the card through, then dials the phone.

DAVE (CONT'D)

While we're waiting for authorization, let me ask you a question or two -- I want to

get a sense of who you are, so I can write  
in your voice.

Dave clicks on a microcassette recorder.

DAVE (CONT'D)

What's your major, Steven?

STEVEN

Um, well, I, uh ...

MARSHALL

(laughs)

He's undeclared.

DAVE

What's wrong with that?

STEVEN

Um, I guess I want to keep myself open,  
you know? I don't know what I want to do  
yet. I'm not ready for any big decisions.

DAVE

(clicks off tape recorder, is  
thoughtful)

Yeah. That's cool. I was undeclared, too.  
Hey, I still am. We're just keeping our  
options open, right bro?

(perks up)

Alright! Credit card authorized! Mr. Big  
Stuff. Do you have the book?

Steven hands it to him.

DAVE

I guess I better get cracking.

Dave leans back and starts reading. Steven and Marshall get uncomfortable and  
realize they should leave.

Dave slaps Steven on the shoulder.

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - A FEW DAYS LATER

Students line up at Professor Horowitz's desk, waiting to hand in their essays.  
Steven waits too, trying to play it cool. He chatters nervously to Marshall.

STEVEN

That was a very difficult paper to write. It  
took me a very long time to write it, also.  
Madame Bovary is a very complex lady  
and the book was filled with lots of levels  
and themes.

MARSHALL

You're being really obvious, man.

A terrified Steven hands his paper to Professor Horowitz.

CUT TO:

INT. RON AND MARSHALL'S ROOM - LATER

Lloyd walks in the room. Ron is sitting at the computer, smoking a cigar.

RON

I am the smartest person you will ever see in your life. I have already made two thousand, four hundred dollars.

LLOYD

You're a lying bastard, Garner.

RON

Look for yourself, Limey. And I did it in my boxers.

Ron shows the graphic display of the rising stock.

RON (CONT'D)

Look at this, I could buy a very decent used car. Or, an amazingly thorough prostitute.

LLOYD

And it just keeps going up like that?

RON

Yes, it does, and you need to join me. You don't want me to be the lonely rich guy, do you? I want to share this with you. My friend. At least until I meet a girl.

LLOYD

(unsure)

I told you. I don't need money. My acting craft. Remember?

RON

Come on, Lloyd. Once I'm rich, I won't be able to trust any of my new friends. They might just be using me. But you, Lloyd. You knew me when.

LLOYD

When?

RON

Now!

LLOYD

Well, I could use a little extra spending money. Maybe get a new for special occasions.

(parenthetical)

Promise me you won't lose my money.

RON

The only way I fail if is I make a buttload of money instead of an ass load.

Ron sits down at his computer. Lloyd pulls up a chair.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE  
ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. DORM HALLWAY - DAY

Steven walks down the hall with Marshall. He waves his paper around, happy.

STEVEN

He said I was going to get an A and I did!

MARSHALL

You didn't get an A. Dave did.

STEVEN

It's my first A since I got to this school.

Don't ruin it for me.

STEVEN

Besides, I learned more from reading  
Dave's paper than I could ever learn from  
class. He's so smart.

MARSHALL

He's got a black light picture of a woman  
riding a panther, how smart could he be?

STEVEN

Like genius smart, okay? I could make the  
Dean's List with this guy. I never got good  
grades before. That's why I'm at this  
school.

MARSHALL

This isn't a good school?

STEVEN

Don't worry, I'll just do it for a little while.  
The teacher thinks I'm an A guy. I can't go  
back to being a D guy. I mean, could you  
go back to being a guy without a wad?

He takes out an enormous pile of Mexican currency.

MARSHALL

You must mean Senor Wad. He's only 500  
dollars in U.S. Currency, but in Mexican  
he's seventy seven thousand, six hundred  
pesos. Look how grande he is.

CUT TO:

INT. RON AND MARSHALL'S ROOM - DAY

Ron and Lloyd are dancing to 'BIG PIMPIN', smoking cigars and celebrating. Lloyd is wearing a very tailored leather rock star suit. Steven and Marshall walk in.

STEVEN

I got an A on my paper!

LLOYD



The only paper I care about is green and has Benjamin Franklin on it!

STEVEN

I thought you didn't care about money.

LLOYD

You know, my mother always told me that money wasn't important. But as it turns out, she was wrong.

MARSHALL

(British accent)

That's a sweet suit.

LLOYD

Well, thank you for noticing.

Lloyd describes the , tells them what designer it is.

RON

You guys gotta check out my new computer screen.

He shows them a very thin, very huge computer screen and waves his hand behind it.

RON

Wanna know what's back here? Nothing. Cause it's so damn thin.

(a beat)

Steve, grab me a soda?

STEVEN

What? No. Get your own soda.

Ron hands him twenty bucks. Steven walks over to the fridge and gets Ron a soda.

RON

Thank you, boy. See? I don't even need beer anymore because I am intoxicated by power.

Lizzie and Rachel walk into the room, haggard and tired.

LIZZIE

Will you guys turn the music down? We're trying to study.

RACHEL

Yeah, and it's hard.

STEVEN

(like a salesman)

What would you say if I told you I knew how you could not write a paper and still get an A.

MARSHALL

Oh man. If you bring these girls into your ugly web of deceit, I want nothing to do with this anymore, Steven. And neither does the wad. Adios, muchacho.

Marshall walks into his own bedroom.

CUT TO:

EXT. DAVE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Steven, Lizzie and Rachel stand in front of the house. Steven knocks.

LIZZIE

I don't know. This seems like a bad idea.  
It's like cheating.

RACHEL

It's not like cheating. It is cheating. This is  
cheating.

Dave opens the door. He grins.

DAVE

Look who it is!

STEVEN

Dave, these are my friends I told you  
about, Lizzie and Rachel-

DAVE

Come on in, come on in ...

CUT TO:

INT. DAVE'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

They enter the house. Dave is making a model of an office building.

DAVE

Can you believe we got an "A"?! And that  
guy is a tough grader.  
Steve, I was so in the zone when I wrote  
that paper. It blew away my old Bovary.  
Hey, you guys want blintzes? I just made  
'em. Not frozen. They're not at all what  
you think they're gonna be.

(beat)

I'll be back. Check out this office building.  
It's for an architecture client. Grad student,  
very talented.

He exits to the kitchen.

LIZZIE

I'm scared for my life.

STEVEN

He's a good guy.

LIZZIE

Well, my family pays a lot of money for me  
to come to college and learn.

RACHEL

Would you stop babbling? We'll forget  
everything we learn two weeks after  
graduation anyway.

Dave returns with a plate of blintzes.

DAVE

You guys watch the basketball game? We kicked USEC's butt!

(to Steven)

This one's got goat cheese.

He sits down.

STEVEN

(trying it)

Hmm ... really good ...

LIZZIE

Here's the thing, okay -- all our papers are due like Friday morning. So we thought we'd tell you what the subjects are and you could tell us which ones you could do?

DAVE

I'll do 'em all. 24 hours is fine. No prob.

RACHEL

You must be kidding.

LIZZIE

It's three papers.

DAVE

(offended)

Oh, what, you don't think I'm the kind of guy who can pull that off? Why, cause I'm not a professor or something? I got Steven an "A" from Hard-Nose Horowitz. How about that?

STEVEN

I'm sure if Dave says he can do it-

RACHEL

It's impossible.

DAVE

Go ahead. Doubt me. Nothing motivates me more.

The threesome share uncomfortable looks. Dave gets up.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Come on, what's your paper on?

RACHEL

A thousand words on Jackson Pollock's contribution to modern art.

DAVE

Action painting. Limited palette, non-figurative technique. Championed by Clement Greenberg, Curly?

LIZZIE

Five pages on Freud's dream studies.

DAVE

Wish-fulfillment. Subconscious distortion.  
Transference of childhood trauma into  
symbolism. And my bud here?

STEVEN

Morality in "The Brothers Karamazov".

DAVE

Alyosha versus Ivan. Law of Man versus  
law of God. Cake walk.

RACHEL

If you think you can do it.

DAVE

When you guys get your A's, just promise  
me that we'll celebrate here at the party  
pad.

LIZZIE

How'd you get so smart?

DAVE

I read like 8 or 9 books a week.

(beat)

Oh, and I do a ton of speed. Like, all the  
time.

Steven, Lizzie and Rachel give each other puzzled looks.

CUT TO:

"FREE TIME SEQUENCE"

MUSIC: "SO NICE TO BE WITH YOU"

OMITTED

OMITTED

EXT. CAMPUS LAWN - DAY

-Steven, Rachel and Lizzie play a game of touch frisbee with some other college  
students.

STEVEN

You guys want to go to Movie Night at the  
campus center? They're showing Wizard  
Of Oz set to Pink Floyd's "Dark Side of the  
Moon". It should be awesome.

RACHEL

I'm sorry. I can't go. I have to write a  
paper.

Silence, then they all burst into laughter.

CUT TO:

OMITTED

INT. RON AND MARSHALL'S ROOM - LATER

Ron sits at his computer, absorbed in the screen, crying. Lloyd walks into the room, smoking his cigar and wearing his new . He sees that Ron is crying.

LLOYD

Those are tears of joy, right Ron?

RON

Lloyd, I have some bad news.  
(beat)  
Steven is dead.

LLOYD

What?! Steven is dead?

RON

Well, no. He's not dead. But our money is gone.

LLOYD

WHAT?! That's even worse!

Ron points helplessly to the computer screen.

RON

Don't yell! It keeps going down! I can't stop it! Up you idiot! UP!

ON THE SCREEN: The Anatomica stock is plummeting as each second goes by. 22...21...20...

RON (CONT'D)

It's those damn religious zealots. They're protesting our company. They're saying the dish gut is against the laws of nature.

Lloyd sits down, trying to collect himself.

LLOYD

Let me try and understand this. You've lost all our money.

RON

No. We've lost all our money and we owe a lot of money. We traded on margin.

(Lloyd is about to speak)

And don't ask me what that means. I don't know. It's just bad.

The phone rings.

RON (CONT'D)

Don't answer that! Those brokers, they're after us!

Ron picks the phone up and hangs it up immediately.

RON (CONT'D)

God wants people to have stomachs. Why can't they see that?

Lloyd grabs his own stomach.

LLOYD (CONT'D)

I feel sick.

Ron peels Lloyd's suit jacket off of him. Lloyd resists. They fall to the floor, struggling.

LLOYD

Get off me!

RON

You have to take it back. I'm sorry. We need every penny.

CUT TO:

INT. GUYS' COMMON ROOM - LATER

Steven walks in, still carrying the frisbee. Hal, wearing his waiter's uniform, is sitting on the couch. He gets up from the couch and hugs Steven.

STEVEN

Dad, what're you doing here?

HAL

I just stopped by. I brought you some underwear I got on sale. 32 right? And then I saw this...

He goes to the refrigerator and takes off Steven's "A" paper.

STEVEN

(nervously)

Oh. That.

HAL

Listen to this humble guy. *Oh that*. An A. That's fantastic. You must have gotten them word smarts from your mother 'cause I always got D's in English.

STEVEN

It's not a big deal.

HAL

Sure it is. You've been working so hard and I've been working so hard waiting tables to pay the crazy tuition. But it's paying off.

STEVEN

I guess so.

HAL

See? You *are* smart. You just had to apply yourself.

(hugs Steven again)

My genius boy. *You* should be teaching that class. I could not be more proud of you, Steven.

STEVEN

(guilty)

Thanks a lot, Dad.

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Steven sits in his classroom as Professor Horowitz hands papers back. Marshall sits near Steven.

STEVEN  
(quietly to Marshall)  
This is definitely the last paper. Enough is enough.

Steven turns to a PRETTY GIRL next to him.

STEVEN  
Maybe next time he'll give us an assignment that's like, challenging.

Professor Horowitz hands Steven his paper. Steven takes it and looks down at the grade. D PLUS. The Pretty Girl looks too.

PRETTY GIRL  
I guess he did.

Steven looks furious.

CUT TO:

EXT. DAVE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Steven, Lizzie and Rachel stand in front of his door.

RACHEL  
What are you gonna say?

STEVEN  
I'm going to demand our money back. And then we're quitting.

LIZZIE  
We definitely have to stop. I know that C plus was punishment for not writing my own paper.

RACHEL  
We can stop whenever we want. This is just recreational.

CUT TO:

INT. DAVE'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Dave sits playing a video game on his TV. He is pale and kind of shaky and looks wired out of his mind. There's a knock on the door.

DAVE  
Go away! I'm busy!  
(at the TV)  
That's right, Samurai mama! The calvary's a-comin.

The door swings open. Steven pokes his head in.

STEVEN  
Dave, um, it's Steven-

DAVE

Oh, hey, buddy. Come in. Grab a pumpkin muffin. I rocked those Karamazov Brothers, huh?

Steven, Rachel and Lizzie enter.

RACHEL

We need to talk to you. We all got D's on our papers.

DAVE

What?

LIZZIE

Actually, I got a C.

RACHEL

The point is, for seventy-five dollars, we should be getting at least B's! That's what you promised.

DAVE

Whoa. Hold on. Let me see those.

(taking their papers)

"Redundant. Illogical. Shallow." Man, Horowitz is so tough. But we're gonna fight this, Steven! Let's take this to the administration!

RACHEL

Dave, I read my paper on Jackson Pollock. It's pretty lame.

DAVE

Really?

(reading the paper)

Oh, man, this is pretty lame.

(contrite, begging)

Guys, please don't be mad at me. I'll totally make it up to you.

LIZZIE

We just want our money back.

DAVE

Um. I don't have your cash right now. I sort of threw it into my gaming system. PS2, not everyone can get them, but I know a guy-

LIZZIE

We don't care!

RACHEL

You ripped us off!

DAVE

Woah girls, back off! I'm not your daddy.

(off their angry looks)

Okay, look, I'm going to make this all right. I promise. I'm going to do your next papers, okay? Gratis.

LIZZIE



I don't think that's the best idea.

RACHEL

I do have one due.

DAVE

I guarantee an "A." I can bring it. Just feed me the rock.

STEVEN

All right.

DAVE

Yes. Thank you. Hey, you guys down for a little tangle with PS-Deuce?

CUT TO:

INT. GUYS' COMMON ROOM - DAY?

Ron is putting his thin computer in a box. Lloyd packs away his in a bag.

LLOYD

I can't believe I listened to you.

RON

We just need a little more money to play with, then we buy while it's low and when it comes back up, we'll be rich again.

LLOYD

No. Money is bad. I should have listened to my instincts.

RON

We have no choice. If we don't pay off the debt we'll have bad credit for life. We won't even be able to get a Discover Card. You know what that means?

LLOYD

No more leather suits?

RON

That's right. Now go bring me some money.

LLOYD

How?

RON

I don't care. Use your precious craft.

Ron pushes Lloyd out of the room.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMPUS QUAD - DAY

Lloyd, in white make-up, tries to mime "Running Against The Wind". A baseball cap lays on the ground in front of him with a dollar bill in it. No one stops. He tries to mime lasso a GIRL as she walks by.

GIRL

Aren't you that jerk that blew cigar smoke  
in my face?

Lloyd does an exaggerated shrug, feigning innocence. The Girl walks away. Lloyd sees the guy dressed up as the giant credit card coming his way. He walks towards him, pushing him over.

CUT TO:

INT. RON AND MARSHALL'S ROOM - DAY

Marshall rolls on his bed in a pile of one dollar bills. The radio is on to financial news.

RADIO TALK SHOW HOST (V.O.)

...and now we have a call about the  
Anatomica stock disaster.

RON (V.O.)

(old man's voice)

I am an old old man. I need my dish gut.

Marshall walks into the common room. Ron is on the phone.

RON (CONT'D)

(old man's voice)

Please don't abolish the dish gut. I need it  
or I'll die. Thank you. And everyone  
should buy stock in this wonderful  
company too.

CUT TO:

EXT. DAVE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Steven, Lizzie and Rachel look up at Dave's window. The apartment is dark.

RACHEL

I can't believe he isn't here.

STEVEN

It's weird. I thought he was afraid to  
leave.

Suddenly, a brief shadow crosses one of Dave's windows.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

Hey, did you see that? He's in there!

(yells up)

WE KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE!

(to the girls)

I'm gonna go look for an open window.

The girls follow Steven as he walks around the side of the house. Steven jumps in through a window.

CUT TO:

INT. DAVE'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Steven, Lizzie and Rachel climb through the living room window. The room is completely dark except for the light coming from the TV. A Playstation Ninja video is on.

STEVEN  
I know I saw something move.

An aluminum bundt cake pan rolls across the empty room. They all jump.

LIZZIE  
Maybe it was a cat.

DAVE  
(kitty noise)  
Meow.

LIZZIE  
Kitty?

STEVEN  
He doesn't have a cat. That was him.

RACHEL  
Look!

Out of a corner, Dave darts across the room, pelting Steven, Lizzie and Rachel with kitchen utensils. They dodge the utensils and try to tackle Dave, chasing him around the room.

DAVE  
(shrieking)  
KILLER SAMURAI! STAY AWAY! YOU  
WILL NEVER CONQUER TOKOGAWA!

Dave faces Steven, wielding a spatula.

DAVE (CONT'D)  
Oh, no! My javelin has broken in two.  
Yasu, have you come to kill me?

STEVEN  
Dave, it's me. Steven. The Karper.

DAVE  
Liar! I'd know you anywhere, Yasu. You  
can't hide beneath your crimson shield!

Steven walks to the kitchen and sees Dave cowering on the floor. Rachel flips on the light switch.

DAVE (CONT'D)  
Please don't tell my family I dishonored  
them. Just put your lance in my heart.  
Take me quick.  
(beat-crying)  
I've been up for five days.

CUT TO:

INT. GUYS' COMMON ROOM - NIGHT

Lloyd is on the phone. Ron hovers over him.

LLOYD  
Hi Granny? It's Lloyd.  
(whispers)  
Your little crumpet. Yes, all the way from  
California.

RON  
(whispering)  
Ask her!

LLOYD  
You know, it was my birthday last week,  
and I never did receive a birthday check  
from you... don't cry, Granny. I know you  
forget sometimes... I'll talk to you later.

He hangs up the phone.

LLOYD (CONT'D)  
I feel unclean.

CUT TO:

OMITTED

INT. DAVE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Dave is on the couch, looking wild-eyed. Lizzie brings him a glass of water.

DAVE  
Oh god, Steven. I thought I was in the  
Ninja game. I almost killed you. I really was  
gonna kill you!

STEVEN  
You told us to come by and get our  
papers. Where are they?

DAVE  
I took extra speed. A lot of extra speed.  
That might've been a miscalculation. I just  
need another day or two-

LIZZIE/RACHEL  
Oh no.

RACHEL  
This isn't happening.

STEVEN  
They're due tomorrow morning!

DAVE  
Stop pressuring me! I don't perform well  
under stress!

STEVEN  
Stress?! All you have to do is sit here all  
day and write papers and you can't even  
do that!

DAVE  
Either can you! You're paying me!

STEVEN  
You're right. I'm not going to turn into  
you. Unprepared to go out into the real  
world.

DAVE

You already are me! You have no major,  
you don't know what you're doing!

STEVEN

Yeah, but I'm only nineteen years old.  
Not thirty. At least I can leave my house.

DAVE

(an idea hits him)

Okay, let's just start over like we just met.  
Hi, I'm Dave.

LIZZIE

Come on, let's go.

They head for the door.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

I know you mean well. But get out of the  
house, Dave. Before it's too late.

Steven closes the door behind him.

RACHEL

Does this mean we have to write the  
papers ourselves?

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO  
ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. RON AND MARSHALL'S ROOM - NIGHT

Ron is at the computer, looking haggard. Marshall sits on his bed, pressing his  
twenty dollar bills flat with a heavy dictionary. As Lloyd enters, looking dejected,  
Ron looks up.

LLOYD

I got five dollars.

RON

All you had to do was get us a few  
hundred dollars. How hard is that? Didn't  
you see "Oliver"? That little bugger  
scammed people all over the place. You  
are a horrible actor, Lloyd

LLOYD

What happened to your gigantic brain,  
Ron?

RON

My brain is a complicated labyrinth, Lloyd.  
It takes a while to unravel its mysteries.

LLOYD

Well, now we have nothing.

MARSHALL

Hey guys, what about me? I'm always interested in a good investment.

LLOYD

Go play with your wad, Marshall.

MARSHALL

That's the thing. I've done everything you can do with the wad except actually spend it. I even laid it out in a briefcase and pretended I was getting a hostage back. The wad's getting boring. I might be ready for a change.

RON

(excited)

You'd really be helping us--

MARSHALL

--whoa, whoa. Hold on a second. I said I think I might be ready. I'm not so sure this technology investment is really viable.

RON

But it is. Anatomica is back on track.

MARSHALL

Hmmm, and what's the valuation?

LLOYD

(annoyed)

He doesn't even know what valuation is. Define it, Marshall.

RON

Shut up, Lloyd. Marshall. Friend. With the money you could make, your wad could have it's own wads.

Marshall thinks for a moment, then hands over his money.

MARSHALL

It's time the wad did some good for somebody.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMON ROOM - NIGHT

Steven, Lizzie and Rachel sit at a table trying to study. They are all clearly distracted. Steven, who is at the beginning of his book, flips to the last page.

STEVEN

Could this be more boring?

LIZZIE

I know. I would kill for just one page of an essay.

By the door they see Dave. He has a giant stack of papers in a shopping cart. He is glazed in perspiration, unsure of himself.

DAVE

What's up, guys?

STEVEN

Oh my god, Dave, what are you doing here?

DAVE

I just wanted to thank you. I thought a lot about what you said...as I waited for the speed to wear off. Which took a while. It made a lot of sense.

RACHEL

Are you okay?

DAVE

Yeah. I talked to a friend in Seattle. He's got a connection at a Home Depot up there. He said he'd hook me up.

LIZZIE

That sounds really great. Good for you.

DAVE

Before I left, I wanted to leave these with you.

STEVEN

What's that?

DAVE

It's all the papers I've written. I didn't have the heart to burn them. I thought you could do it for me.

RACHEL

Are you sure you want us to burn them?

He hands the file box to Steven.

DAVE

From the ashes rises the phoenix.

He hugs Steven.

DAVE

Could you guys front me like fifty bucks for the bus?

CUT TO:

OMITTED

EXT. CAMPUS - NIGHT

Steven, Hal, Rachel and Lizzie stand around a small bonfire.

Steven hands Lizzie a stack of TERM PAPERS. Lizzie looks at the papers and then slowly starts to drop them onto the flames.

STEVEN

I'm sorry I cheated, Dad. I know you were proud of me.

HAL

I don't know why you fessed up.

STEVEN

I was trying to be an honest person.

HAL

Exactly. That's good.

Hal MOVES OUT OF FRAME. Lizzie pours more papers onto the bonfire. Steven sees the ATLAS SHRUGGED paper burn.

RACHEL

(sadly)

Those are some good papers.

STEVEN

This is the right thing.

Ron, Lloyd and Marshall walk up. Marshall tosses his credit card into the fire.

MARSHALL

Adios, Los Waddos. We had some good times.

Lloyd drops his card in the fire.

LLOYD

Good riddance.

Ron tries to force his hand, holding the card, near the flames.

RON

I can't do it!  
(beat)  
Okay, fine.

He drops the card in.

RON

Burning plastic smells just horrible.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE: STEVEN, LIZZIE AND RACHEL'S CRAM SESSION

INT. COMMON ROOM - NIGHT

STEVEN

Let's do this.

RACHEL

We haven't even read the books.

LIZZIE

It's gonna be a long night.

-Lizzie pours coffee for Steven and Rachel. They all down it, munching candy bars and trying to stay awake.



-A frustrated Steven throws his book across the room. It hits Marshall in the head as he walks by.

-Steven highlights every line of his book while holding his eyes open, trying to stay awake.

-Lizzie and Steven pull Rachel away from the shopping cart as she digs for a paper.

CUT TO:

INT. RON AND MARSHALL'S ROOM - EARLY MORNING

Ron, Lloyd and Marshall are glued to the TV. Ron has his computer on his lap.

MARSHALL

This sucks. You don't know what you're doing, do you? My wad...

RON

Just shut up, man. Ride it out.

Lloyd points to the TV.

LLOYD

Oh Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

They all look.

RON

It's happening!

MARSHALL

It is?

RON

It's going up.

LLOYD

It's hit 42. Sell.

RON

We can't just sell. It's still rising. Don't be a coward.

MARSHALL

You said you'd sell at 42!

RON

Just a few minutes longer! Then we'll be rich again!

Lloyd can't take it anymore. He grabs Ron and shoves him away from the computer.

LLOYD

Sell, you bitch, sell! Don't get greedy.

MARSHALL

Hit the send button!

Lloyd hits the button. They all breathe a sigh of relief.

MARSHALL (CONT'D)

What happened? Is the wad okay?

LLOYD

We've made 27 dollars.

MARSHALL

Now I've got 27 dollars to wrap around the wad. That rules.

LLOYD

I'm just glad this is over.

ON THE COMPUTER SCREEN: The Anatomica stock has sailed past 42. It's at 46...47...48...

RON

We are morons! I'm going back in.

LLOYD

NO, RON. This is over.

Lloyd grabs Ron and pulls him away from the computer. Ron collapses in a heap.

CUT TO:

INT. STEVEN AND LLOYD'S ROOM - DAY

Lizzie watches as Steven finally finishes his paper.

STEVEN

Paper's done. And I did it all by myself.

Steven presses "SAVE". A sad face appears. Steven freaks.

LIZZIE

What's the frowny face mean?

CUT TO:

LIVING CREDITS:

INT. GUYS' COMMON ROOM - LATE NIGHT

Ron is back at his computer, sweating. Marshall wakes up.

MARSHALL

What are you doing?

RON

Nothing. Just... playing a little Snood.

FADE OUT.

THE END