

FADE IN TITLE

L'asperches U.

FADE OUT TITLE

INT. CAMPUS CAFETERIA - DAY

It's late in the day, but the sun still shines brightly through the windows of the cafeteria at L'asperches University located in central New Jersey.

(L'asperches University, est. 1910, sits on what once was a large estate of a prestigious family, in the heart of the now suburban city of Friedrich.

All University buildings have a brick exterior and resemble one another--mostly Neo-Classical and Jeffersonian. They exude an air of aristocracy and are placed with plenty of breathing room, nothing too claustrophobic.

The grounds are in the lush vein of Italian Renaissance Baroque: open, spacious, and compartmentalized around what was once the villa, with a thick screen of surrounding trees becoming more dense the closer one was to the property limits.

The university houses every tree species that grows in North America on its premises, save the palm which is only shipped in for special occasions, and is the habitat to abundant wildlife

It is a small college when it comes down to registered students, about three thousand, most of which know each other, if not by name, at least by sight. The mascot is a fierce porcupine and the school colors are maize and black.)

The cafeteria is full with the DINNER CROWD. CHESTER, a freshman, is walking the perimeter of the room near the back of the cafeteria, carefully avoiding any human contact. The eighteen-year-old Chester is short, slightly overweight, and looks like he's really only twelve or thirteen. He seems like he's overwhelmed by the number of people he sees. He's wearing a backpack.

Approaching a table in the back of the cafeteria are CASPAR and SIMON. Caspar is an eccentric and highly animated individual. When he starts ranting on a topic it looks like a cross between extreme hyperactivity and a person about to explode. At other times he is completely mellow. There is no in-between. He is a junior in his early twenties. He

dresses in jeans and a dress shirt. Simon is a "go with the flow" kind of guy. He is an eighteen-year-old freshman. Both are carrying a tray with their dinner.

CASPAR

Oh, oh, oh my God. Do you believe him, man? Donovan is such an asshole. Not that I'm trying to taint your first impressions or anything. What do you think of the film department so far?

SIMON

A main factor in me deciding on this college was the campus itself. Though I admit, after our last class, the department seems a little lacking.

At the table they're approaching sits DAVE. He is a nineteen-year-old sophomore. His dinner is on the table in front of him but he is not eating. He's observing Chester who is still walking back and forth along the perimeter confused as to what he wants to do. He is not making eye contact with anyone.

CASPAR

Lacking? LACKING! That's putting it mildly. It'd be generous to say it even exists! It's like big foot. People hear about it but no one really ever sees it with their own eyes. The program's a hoax.

Caspar and Simon reach the table and put down their trays.

CASPAR

(to Dave)

What are you looking at?

Dave turns around and looks up at Caspar.

DAVE

The usual. You're right on time. He's just begun to pace.

Dave turns around again and resumes observing. Both Caspar and Dave look over at CHESTER too.

CASPAR

Uh, uh, oh yeah. That odd little fellow. A never ending source of entertainment.

Simon smiles knowingly. Caspar and Simon sit down.

CASPAR

(to Dave)

This is Simon. I just met him today in class. He's a fellow film major.

Dave glances up and nods in acknowledgement but then quickly returns his eyes upon Chester. Chester is now in the doorway of the kitchenette swaggering back and forth, not knowing what to do.

CASPAR

Simon, this is Dave. Dave and I met last year and have been good friends since.

SIMON

Nice to meet you.

Dave is still watching Chester who now has a fork in his hand. Chester looks in the kitchenette, turns around, then looks in the kitchenette and turns around again. Dave isn't really paying attention to Simon. He briefly looks at Simon and then back at Chester.

DAVE

What?...uh, oh. Nice to meet you too.

CASPAR

(to Simon)

Don't mind him. We're just entirely fascinated by that weirdo. We think he has serious problems.

Chester disappears into the kitchenette. BRIANA EVE comes out of the kitchenette at the same time. She is in her early twenties. She is thin with small breasts. She looks cute, sweet, innocent. You'd never know in a million years that she is a slut.

With her are two guys, SIDEBURNS and HOMELY. Sideburns has long sideburns. Homely has long hair that hangs over his face and looks unwashed. Both look grungy, worse looking

than your average, run of the mill, trailer park white trash.

SIMON

He's my roommate.

Dave's attention is grabbed by this remark.

DAVE

No way!

SIMON

Yep. I'm a little afraid of him myself.

DAVE

Well?! Tell us about him.

Chester comes out of the kitchenette with a tray of food and begins to scale the side wall. They don't notice him.

SIMON

His name is Chester. I've tried to talk to him but don't get much of a response.

DAVE

Gee, who would of thought.

Dave and Caspar LAUGH. Chester now reaches the corner of the side and back wall. He begins to walk along the back wall. They still don't notice him.

SIMON

When I went in my room the other day, I tried to have a conversation with him. Before I got two words out of him, he put on his shoes and left.

Caspar LAUGHS hysterically. Dave and Simon LAUGH too.

Chester is now seated alone at a table in the back corner. His book bag is on the table. The tables around him are all empty. His back is to the entire cafeteria. Caspar notices him.

CASPAR

Sneaky little bastard! Look...

Caspar nods in Chester's direction.

CASPAR (CONT'D)
...He's already at his usual table.

FADE OUT

FADE IN

INT. FRESHMEN DORM - MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM SECTION 2,
STUDY/MAILROOM - NIGHT

This room contains desks, chairs, and cubicles, and
mailboxes line the wall.

Simon is putting in his combination to open his mailbox.
LETTER BOY, a scanky looking student in ghetto clothes, is
also checking his mail. Simon opens his mailbox but, before
he looks in it, he is startled by Letter Boy. Letter Boy is
looking at the letter in his hands.

LETTER BOY
(to himself)
WOW!!! "Hi. You don't know me, but
I've got a package for you. The mail
room messed up and put it in my box.
Come get it. Briana Eve, Madison Hall,
Room 369." Sweet!

Letter Boy slams the door to his mailbox, which doesn't
close tightly as a result, and exits through a door leading
to a staircase. Simon looks in his mailbox and sees he has
nothing. He closes the door and makes sure it's locked. He
then exits through the divider door in the opposite
direction from where Letter Boy exited.

CUT TO:

INT. FRESHMEN DORM - MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM SECTION 1, LOUNGE -
CONTINUOUS

Simon enters. A projection screen is on the wall opposite
the divider. Several sofas of different sizes (single,
double, and triple) are facing the screen. There are a few
coffee tables disbursed between them. There is another exit
adjacent to the screen.

An action movie has already begun and the lights are out.
Simon sees that Caspar is sitting in the first row on the
end by the door. Dave is sitting behind him. The room is
pretty much packed with STUDENTS.

Simon takes a seat three rows back and on the opposite side of where Caspar and Dave are. As he takes his seat, Briana Eve comes through the door near the screen with Sideburns and Homely following her and exits through the divider door. Caspar and Dave notice.

In the movie, there is an explosion. The guy sitting in front of Simon cringes. Simon realizes it's his roommate, Chester. In the movie some guys are physically fighting.

CHESTER
 (to himself, re-
 garding the movie)
 No!...Stop that!...NO!...NOOOO!

DISSOLVE INTO:

INT. FRESHMEN DORM - MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM SECTION 1, LOUNGE -
 LATER

Briana Eve, Sideburns, and Homely enter through the divider door and take a back seat.

Chester is staring at the screen. He appears like a deer looking into a pair of headlights. In the movie, the characters are cursing.

CHESTER
 (to himself, re-
 garding the movie)
 Don't say that...it's not nice...
 it's bad...

Chester covers his ears. Simon looks at him oddly. Briana Eve, Sideburns, and Homely get up and exit through the door by the screen. Caspar and Dave notice.

DISSOLVE INTO:

INT. FRESHMEN DORM - MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM SECTION 1, LOUNGE -
 LATER

In the movie, a crime is being committed. Briana Eve, Sideburns, and Homely enter through the door by the screen and exit through the divider door. Caspar and Dave notice.

CHESTER
 (to himself, re-
 garding the movie)
 What are you doing?...

Chester points his finger at the screen and waves it up and down as he's scolding the characters.

CHESTER (CONT'D)
(to himself, re-
garding the movie)
...That's against the law...that's
wrong...

DISSOLVE INTO:

INT. FRESHMAN DORM - MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM SECTION 1, LOUNGE -
LATER

In the movie, a very revealing sex scene is taking place. Chester crumples into a ball, puts his hands over his face as he turns his head around. Chester sees that Simon is sitting behind him and quickly breaks eye contact.

Just as the woman in the movie begins to MOAN, Briana Eve enters through the divider door. This time she is not only with Sideburns and Homely, but with FIVE OTHER SCANKY LOOKING GUYS as well--one of them being Letter Boy. Chester sees her.

Then the woman in the movie begins a series of MOANS. Every time she lets out a MOAN, Chester squints his eyes shut extremely hard and cringes even tighter into a ball.

Whereas Chester squints, Briana Eve smiles every time as she leads her men to the door near the projection screen. Caspar and Dave notice.

When Briana Eve and her men are all through the door, Caspar assumes it is safe to speak though the door hasn't completely shut yet.

CASPAR
DAMN! She must be BANGING all of
them!!!

Briana Eve opens the door, stands in the doorway, and stares at Caspar with her hands on her hips for a few seconds. She doesn't seem angry, mad, or even offended. She's just indifferent. Then one corner of her mouth barely lifts up in an almost unseen smile, she turns around, and exits.

FADE OUT

FADE IN

INT. CAMPUS CAFETERIA - DAY

Caspar, Simon, and Dave are sitting at the same table they were the other night. Food trays with their dinner sits before them on the table. Caspar is speaking enthusiastically and is very animated.

CASPAR

Holy Shit, man! I still can't believe it. That slut heard me last night. And, I mean, she like didn't have a problem with what I said at all. She just stared at me, gave me the once over, and then made a little smirk as if to say, "that's right *baby*, wouldn't you like to know. You wanna piece of me?"

Simon and Dave LAUGH.

CASPAR (CONT'D)

Then she seductively turned around and was like, "why don't you follow me and find out."

They all LAUGH. Dave is watching the door as Chester enters wearing his backpack.

DAVE

Well look who's here.

Caspar and Simon turn around and look at the door.

SIMON

You guys missed it. I was sitting right behind him last night. He was going crazy. Any violence made him cringe and cry "uh, no...no...noo!"

Simon LAUGHS.

CASPAR

(surprised)

No shit?

DAVE

Wow. He's got issues.

Chester reappears from the kitchenette with his tray of food, and begins to scale the wall.

SIMON

Uh, here he comes.

Chester reaches Caspar, Dave, and Simon's table.

SIMON

Hi, Chester.

Chester stops walking but remains staring straight in front of him, as if into space. His head begins to shake violently from left to right but restrained, as if his head is in a vice and he's trying to break free. Finally, he makes eye contact with Simon for less than a second.

CHESTER

(softly, almost
inaudible)

Hello.

Chester quickly looks ahead again and begins scaling the wall at a quicker pace. He takes his usual seat at the empty table.

DAVE

That dude's fried man. Fuck! What the hell did his parents do to him? Bash his head into the wall? Look at him, he still looks like he's only twelve. Like he experienced a trauma and has been stuck in that state ever since.

SIMON

As his roommate, I feel as if I have a duty to help him. I'm going over there and I'm going to ask if he'd like to join us.

Simon gets up.

CASPAR

Are you crazy? You have a death wish?

Simon LAUGHS.

SIMON

No!

Simon begins to walk towards Chester's table.

DAVE

It's your funeral!

Simon reaches Chester's table and appears to converse with him. Caspar and Dave watch in awe. After a minute, Simon begins to return to the table alone. He starts to smile, then bows his head slightly and covers his face with his hand.

DAVE

So, what happened?

Simon is barely able to speak he's LAUGHING so hard. He then contains himself.

SIMON

Get this! I go over there and I'm like, "you don't have to eat all alone, you know. You can eat with us if you like."

DAVE

And what did he say?

Simon begins to LAUGH again.

SIMON

He said...he said, "you don't want to see me eat. Trust me."

They all start CRACKING UP.

CASPAR

What, does he have a tentacle that comes out of his head or something, that starts slurping up everything in sight?

Caspar demonstrates as he makes SOUND EFFECTS, sort of sounding like a deranged Cookie Monster tearing away at his cookies.

They all continue to LAUGH.

CASPAR

(comedically)

Pardon me, are you going to eat that there piece of processed meat?...No?

Caspar grabs at the imaginary food, and again begins making
SOUND EFFECTS.

Again they all LAUGH.

CASPAR

(serious)

Well, I have had enough of this crap.
I'm going into town. Would you guys
like to join me?

Caspar stands up.

DAVE

Yeah.

SIMON

Sure.

Dave and Simon stand up.

CASPAR

Okay. Great. Let's go.

They get rid of their trays and exit.

CUT TO:

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