

FADE IN TITLE

Overnight Prospective

FADE OUT TITLE

EXT. ZIDAY COLLEGE CAMPUS - BOULDER - DAY

A GROUP OF PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS, all wearing name tags, are gathered near a large boulder that is painted with campus events, hugging, kissing, and saying their goodbyes in general to their PARENTS. It is an overnight event at Ziday University, located in New Jersey, near the beginning of Fall Semester during an Indian Summer.

Among them is ANDERS, a high school senior who is reserved and observant. His DAD gives him a firm handshake and his MOM gives him a tight hug with misty eyes.

DAD

Enjoy yourself.

MOM

(getting emotional)

My boy...we'll see you tomorrow.

Anders's parents get in their car and cruise down the drive that winds around the boulder and then up and over a hill. They are part of a caravan of other parents, sandwiched near the tail end.

BAILEY, their tour guide who is in his junior year of university, gestures for the group's attention.

BAILEY

We'll continue on in a few moments as your parents make their departure.

Bailey smiles and those parents that are still straggling take the hint to hit the road.

BAILEY (CONT'D)

You, all 15 of you, have expressed your interest in this institution and Ziday University, likewise, has shown its interest in you by inviting you to get a taste of the college experience. To see if you're a good fit here.

BAILEY sees DENNIS and CODY, both college juniors, approaching and gives them a nod. Dennis is carrying a video camera.

BAILEY (CONT'D)

I'm going to personally drop you off at your sponsors for this evening and throw fun tid-bits at you along the way.

Bailey waves Dennis and Cody forward.

BAILEY (CONT'D)

Don't mind these guys.

Bailey messes with Dennis's hair and mock punches Cody's shoulder.

CODY

(goofily)

Ouwwww.

BAILEY

Dennis is making a documentary featuring Cody here.

Bailey grabs Cody's shoulders and Cody LAUGHS a bit, though he does so weirdly.

BAILEY (CONT'D)

If you'd like to be a part of it, they have releases you'd need to sign. Now let's get started.

Dennis passes the waivers around and the kids are too naive to know any better. They just think it's cool and sign away. (None are taking into consideration that most are still minors and would require one of their parent's signature too.)

Bailey begins to lead the way as Dennis hastily and sloppily tries to collect the releases so his fun can begin. Cody scans the crowd, making eye contact with each and every one of them, with a creepy, somehow inappropriate smile on his face.

CODY

Oh boy!

Cody starts to receive the first of uneasy glances from the Prospective Students.

Cody physically comes across as normal but any time spent with him and one notices that there is something definitely off. His speech is erratic, his voice always sounding somewhat excited, his inflexions hitting a high note every other sentence or so. His head seems to slightly shake as he speaks, like there is an intensity to talking.

Dennis shoves the papers into his backpack, throws his backpack over his shoulder, and turns on the camera.

Bailey is leading the group forward as Cody eyes an attractive GIRL at the end of the line.

CODY

Hi ya.

PROSPECTIVE GIRL

Umm, hello.

CODY

So uh, you're uh new around here, aren't ya?

She rolls her eyes.

PROSPECTIVE GIRL

(forces a laugh)

Obviously.

Dennis creeps up from behind, capturing the moment on film, and then nudges Cody as he heads to the front of the line near Bailey.

CODY

I uh gotta run.

Cody leans in and gives the girl a quick peck on the cheek before running up towards Dennis, who missed this magic moment on film. Prospective Girl is repulsed but blushes in embarrassment. Two other Prospective Students near her that saw the exchange start GIGGLING.

CUT TO:

EXT. ZIDAY COLLEGE CAMPUS - WELL - MOMENTS LATER

The group approaches a well on their journey.

BAILEY

And on your right is the old well.
They say it had some of the best
water in the state. Early on, it
was open to the whole community.

ANDERS

And now?

BAILEY

Eh, it hasn't been functional since
long before my time. Sealed off.

CODY

Did-ya know uh that someone died
down there.

Eyes widen in the group as a smile spreads across Dennis's
face. Dennis quickly moves the camera back and forth
between Cody and the shocked crowd.

BAILEY

Every campus has a ghost story or
two.

CODY

It was uh hundred.

The Prospective Students GASP.

BAILEY

What? Get out of here. One hun-
dred people didn't die down there.

CODY

Uh, one student drowned in 1910.

BAILEY

Yeah, one, not one hundred. That's
the tale.

CODY

But there's uh more. He had dysen-
tery, contaminated uh the water.
Hundreds died before they figured
it out.

DENNIS
(skeptical)
Are you sure? I've never heard
that.

CODY
My big brother told me and he does-
n't lie, he's Christian.

DENNIS
Isn't that his name?

CODY
Yes.

The Prospective Students don't know what to make of this.
Cody is visibly getting frustrated. Dennis is eating this
up and egging it on.

DENNIS
He was probably pulling your leg
there, Cody.

CODY
No! He's good. He's uh Christian.

DENNIS
Then aren't you Christian too?

CODY
Uh, yes. No, I'm Cody. He's Chris-
tian.

DENNIS
Christian Christian?

CODY
Errrrr.

DENNIS
Even Christians tease their broth-
ers.

CODY
Dennis uh stop! I don't uh wanna
talk about it anymore.

DENNIS
But...

Cody jerks his hand in front of Dennis's face, gesturing a stop sign.

DENNIS

Okay.

CODY

I uh need B.B. now.

Dennis smirks.

DENNIS

Alright man, go for it.

Cody walks behind Dennis and unzips Dennis's backpack. Dennis tries to swing around to capture this moment on film while the backpack is still attached to him. Cody pulls out a stuffed BUGS BUNNY, about two feet long. Bugs is a little ratty, having seen better days, probably when Cody was three.

Cody gives Bugs a big hug and then holds him in his arms as he rejoins the group.

BAILEY

(raising his eyebrows)

Moving on...

The group resumes walking, all a little uncomfortable.

CUT TO:

EXT. ZIDAY COLLEGE CAMPUS - LOUNGE - MOMENTS LATER

Bailey leads the group to the double-doors of a brick building, ivy draping over nearly the entire frontage adding an air of mystique.

BAILEY

Alright, we're about to enter the main lounge on campus. Whether you want to fraternize, scrutinize, or otherwise, this is the place to do it.

Bailey comes to a halt about five feet in front of the door, as not to be hit by anyone coming out. Dennis stands by, video taping.

BAILEY (CONT'D)

It's also where I'll be introducing you to your hosts and I'll be taking my leave.

Dennis turns his camera on the crowd which stands a few feet back, spear-headed by Cody.

DENNIS

Thanks for participating.

CODY

That's all folks!

Bailey dramatically opens both doors at once and then leads the crowd in.

One by one, Cody gives each a big hug as they pass, regardless of sex. Some try to sneak by and avoid the close contact, Anders being one of them, while Cody has his grips on a helpless other.

Cody does catch his amour from earlier though.

CODY

My uh little French pastry.

She wiggles out of his hug but he takes her hand and kisses it. She nervously smiles and then makes for the door.

CODY (CONT'D)

Till we meet again.

CUT TO:

INT. LOUNGE - MOMENTS LATER

All but two of the Prospective Students have been paired off with their HOSTS and they all stand in a misshapen semi-circle in the foyer of the lounge, exchanging greetings.

Bailey stands in the front overlooking all this with Anders and the Prospective Girl that was subjected to Cody's affection. There is one other lone GIRL amongst the crowd, looking around.

BAILEY

And finally, Cindy, your charge here is Elise.

Cindy (the Lone Girl) smiles and waves. Elise heads for her.

CINDY
How was the tour?

Elise
I don't want to talk about it.

Cindy's smile turns upside down as BAILEY starts for the door.

Anders feigns a COUGH.

ANDERS
What about me?

BAILEY
I didn't forget about you, kid.
You're with me. Let's get out of
here before the shit hits the fan.

CUT TO:

EXT. ZIDAY COLLEGE CAMPUS - OUTSIDE EATERY - MOMENTS LATER

BAILEY
I'm hungry, are you hungry?

ANDERS
Sure.

BAILEY
Good. It's on me.

ANDERS
Thanks.

BAILEY
Don't mention it. Just take off
that silly name tag.

Anders LAUGHS and peels it off.

BAILEY
I kind of have a study date. Not
a *date* date, but a project I need
to get done with an assigned part-
ner. You okay with that?

ANDERS

I guess.

BAILEY

(jests)

Good, not that you had any choice
in the matter.

They head inside.

CUT TO:

INT. EATERY - LATER

Anders and Bailey are at a table, halfway through their
meal.

ANDERS

So what was with that back on the
tour? The "documentary"?

DEE approaches with a tray from afar. She has piercing blue eyes, and long raven hair that is separated into two braids. Though her skin is naturally olive, it presently has an almost orange tint to it, as if she had tried to get her tan out of a bottle. Even with this mishap, she still has a semi-cute look to her.

BAILEY

Not now.

Bailey nods his head towards Dee.

BAILEY (CONT'D)

That's her.

ANDERS

Oh.

(smiles)

Oh, nice.

DEE

Hi-eee.

Dee puts down her tray.

DEE

(to Bailey)

Cute kid. Is he yours?

Dee sits down.

BAILEY

Fruit of my loin, no. But I'm going to show him around.

DEE

(exaggerated, as if
Anders was deaf)

I'm Dee. What's your name?

Dee takes a bite of some French fries. However, the ends of the fries that were held in her fingers are disposed of on the side of her tray.

ANDERS

(annoyed)

Anders.

DEE

(still exaggerated)

Hmmm, I think I'd be upset too.

Anders and Bailey exchange glances.

DEE (CONT'D)

(to Bailey)

So, I was thinking, we could drive over to L.U. They're supposed to have every type of tree there, right?

Dee repeats the process with her fries.

BAILEY

Yeah, that'll work, though security is heavy at that place.

(to Anders)

We have an Environmental Science class together. Damn requirement.

ANDERS

Gotcha.

Anders looks at Dee and observes her peculiar way of eating fries. Then he shoots a puzzled look to Bailey.

BAILEY

What are you doing with your fries?

DEE

I never eat the ends. One bite and trash the rest.

ANDERS

Okay then.

Dee then takes a bite of one of her onion rings. A big piece of onion slides out, dangling, as Dee tries to get it in her mouth. As she does, disgust spreads over her face.

DEE

(seriously)

There's onions in onion rings?

Both Bailey and Anders exchange glances, containing their laughter.

BAILEY

Uh, yeah.

DEE

Shit man, I hate onions.

CUT TO:

