

DANNY 27.

HIGHSTON  
Whoa, slow down...

INT. PSYCHIATRIC CENTER BUILDING - HALLWAY - DAY

The aide opens a door for Highston.

AIDE  
Go ahead and take a seat and Dr.  
Gabler will be in shortly.

HIGHSTON  
Thank you so much.

INT. PSYCHIATRIC CENTER BUILDING - MEETING ROOM - DAY

Six chairs are in a circle. DANNY ST. CLAIR, 18, is in one, reading "WALDEN." Across from him MOLLY MEEKER, 17, sits sullenly. They glance at Highston as he sits between them but nobody speaks for awhile. Highston points at the book.

HIGHSTON  
I like Thoreau.

DANNY  
Have you read "Walden?" He was  
fucking on fire in this one.

HIGHSTON  
"All men lead lives of quiet  
desperation."

DANNY  
Fucking A they do.

Molly finally looks over.

MOLLY  
All men? What about women?

DANNY  
No, he said they're fine.

Molly gives him a look. Danny smiles at her.

DANNY (CONT'D)  
You know, you're pretty enough to  
be a singer.

MOLLY  
And you're stupid enough to say  
something like that.

← START

1/4

Molly stares at Highston to get a read on him. Highston is wary, but very taken with her. He smiles.

HIGHSTON

Hi.

Molly isn't sure what to make of Highston, but she softens. Flea walks by Danny, looking concerned.

FLEA

This guy is a moron. I'm starting to get a bad vibe here.

Flea sits next to Highston. The door opens and DR. GABLER, 40, enters. She sits and smiles benevolently at the three.

DR. GABLER

Welcome, I'm Dr. Gabler. Let's introduce yourselves, and tell us why you think you're here. Molly.

Molly shifts in her chair.

MOLLY

I'm Molly Meeker and I'm here because I don't play well with others.

Dr. Gabler smiles, turns to Danny.

DANNY

I'm Danny St. Clair, and I'm an alcoholic. No, just kidding. I'm here because my search for truth and understanding has led me to total three of my parents' cars.

DR. GABLER

Good. And Highston.

DANNY

Highston?!

Highston nods and smiles as Danny laughs.

HIGHSTON

I'm here because I love my family and want them to feel better even though they're wrong.

FLEA

Excellent answer.

2/4

DR. GABLER

Very good, Highston, very good.

FLEA

It's like she's talking to a dog.

DR. GABLER

And tell us Highston, what is your biggest fear?

FLEA

Hold on, you don't even know these people yet.

Shaq sits down on the other side of Highston.

SHAQ

Flea is right. This is bullshit. (skip)  
Don't answer that.

FLEA

Just because this lady has a note pad doesn't mean she has the right to your most private thoughts.

DR. GABLER

Highston?

Highston looks over at Dr. Gabler.

HIGHSTON

Well, I would have to say...

FLEA

Run for it while you can Highston.

HIGHSTON

My biggest fear...

FLEA

Listen. There was this time I had lost my way a little bit, wasn't really inspired anymore. I was feeling constricted. Everyone was trying to tell me what to do. But they just didn't understand.

Highston leans forward, intense, empathetic. Flea jumps up and acts out his story.

FLEA (CONT'D)

So one night I put on the X album "Los Angeles" really loud, and in that moment I had a total epiphany about why I wanted to play rock music in the first place. I started jumping around and threw my plate against the wall!

SHAQ

~~Wow! Your plate!~~

FLEA

~~Yeah, I was smashing shit. My daughter was like, "Papa, what's the matter with you?" So sweet. I threw myself on the ground. I was on the verge of tears, but they were happy tears.~~

Highston smiles.

FLEA (CONT'D)

That's where you're at, Highston. Other people will try to control you, but you have to find what inspires you, find your own path. When it's the right path, you'll know it. Does this feel right?

Highston looks around at the others. He shakes his head.

FLEA (CONT'D)

Does that help?

SHAQ

~~It helped me. Damn that was good, Flea. I have to get that album.~~

HIGHSTON

Yeah, that was much better than the stripper bar story. This one is actually pertinent.

DANNY

Who's he talking to? This guy's nuts!

DR. GABLER

Highston?...

Highston realizes they're all staring at him.

← END  
4/4