

FADE IN:

INT. OREGON COAST CAVE - BLACK

Flash-light beams illuminate the black and jagged edges of the grotto. WATER DRIPPING. All American cop, NATHAN HALVORSEN and detective RON RUSTH descend the narrow passageway. Ron Rusth is 29, with weathered sex-appeal.

NATHAN HALVORSEN
They pull bodies out of this
cave three times a year, Ron.

RON RUSTH
Is that the pacific coast version
of a pep talk, Nate?

A wave topples in. Nathan Halvorsen grasps for the lip of the cave.

That's when he sees, they're not alone. DICK LUNA, a simple man in his forties crouches on higher ground. Dick Luna pivots. His face is paralyzed with fear and purpose.

Another wave crashes in. The two men hold steady.

HALVORSEN
Let's get him and get out of here.
(To Dick)
Dick, come on!

Discomfort contorts Halvorsen's face.

DICK LUNA
No Nate. She's my only child.

RON RUSTH
(To Nate)
Go, I'll stay with Luna.

Dick Luna continues on into the cave.

RON RUSTH
You've got a family, Nate.

Nathan reconsiders, turns, and scurries for the exit. Ron Rusth is left with a moment of lonely realization. The detective swallows it and continues.

EXT. ENDPORNT BEACH, OREGON -- DUSK

A small search party of townies huddle around the mouth of the cave, imbedded deep into the 100 foot cliff. Water rolls

into it like a drain. They gaze with hate at the unforgiving cave.

Two men help Nathan out onto the sand. They are HAUSEN and MICHEALS, the brain and the brawn. Small town men with money.

An enormous shadow casts down on the party, and they glance up.

On the edge of the cliff is a TEENAGE BOY. He stands beside a historical landmark sign. The townies exchange a knowing glance.

HAUSEN
She's in there.

On the cliff, the boy pushes his hands together as if to pray... or to dive.

The search party watch in horror, as the figure launches forward into a handstand. Despite the boy's strength and control, this is a daredevil notion on the edge of a 100 foot drop.

Dust and small rocks sift down, feet away from the men.

EXT. CLIFF EDGE

The boy's intense face is strained with concentration. His muscles quake beneath him. His face twists in indecision. Is his face pained with indecision or fear? Life or death?

THE LANDMARK SIGN

The Edge is the highest known point of erosion on the Oregon Coast. The towns of Bayharbor and Saftel have vanished into the tempermental Pacific Ocean. Is the town of Endport next?

INT. CAVE.

Water gushes past the two men, as they continue. The grotto ECHOES loudly. Ron drops his flashlight and it clatters away with the water. Ron and Dick are left in the dark, but only momentarily. Something's caught their attention.

A dainty light flickers on the cave ceiling. The bluish-green reflection flitters playfully. The two men freeze, captured by its splendor.

Dick instinctively follows it. Ron Rusth has no choice but to

follow Dick.

The men trail the light for several feet. Suddenly, the cave levels. Even the water is more peaceful, here.

Ron and Dick straighten within the tight sanctuary. Dick is transfixed by the flicker, lingering like a lost soul.

Ron's eyes drop. Horror stiffens the detective's face.

RON

Jesus.

A TEENAGE GIRL of ghostly beauty. Her body rests below the surface of the tide-pool. Light from the cave's ceiling ricocheting off of the water caused the flicker.

By Dick Luna's face, we know it is his daughter, BETH LUNA.

DICK

Oh, God! Nooooo!

Beth's hair sweeps like white seaweed around her father's dock boots. His cries fade with the PIANO intro of the classic teenage anthem, *Leader of the Pack*.

Dick Luna rocks his daughter. The detective is frozen in the cross-fire of a father's loss; and the love for his daughter. Tears gather in the detective's eyes.

EXT. CLIFF

The handstand on a cliff. The boy weakening. The boy falls back, out of harms way.

ON THE BEACH

The town glares at the boy with that same unforgiving hate.

LEADER OF THE PACK (V.O)

*"Is she really goin' out with him?
There she is. Let's go ask her."*

EXT. BEACH -- MORNING

Storm clouds gather. The tide has devoured the beach. Divers maneuver pulleys, brutally extracting Beth's body from the cave.

LEADER OF THE PACK (V.O)

"Betty is that Jimmy's ring you're wearing?"

MARLA PHISH, 37, stands, one hand on the landmark sign. Marla is a lighthouse, powerful and unmoving.

Behind Marla Phish, the opulent little town awakens just feet away from the drop off. ENDPORT, OREGON POP. 10,000.

"By the way, where'd you meet him?"

Restored cars putter past book stores. Trophy wives push designer strollers down quaint Main Street.

On high ground sits Endport high school.

"I met him at the candy store."

The high school is a lavish facility that resembles a well-kept factory. Smoke stacks tower over the three story brick structure. The football field adjoins the Endport Cemetery.

"He turned around and smiled at me."

A missing person's poster blows across the field. Its flight is interrupted by a goal post.

It's Beth Luna's yearbook photo imbedded in the poster.

"You get the picture? Yes, we see."

The ethereal girl smiles. A rosary hangs from her neck, tied like a noose.

MONTAGE - ENDPORT HISTORY

The song plays during the black and white montage.

1800's - Photos of Endport settlers building rapidly.

"That's when I fell for. The leader of the pack."

1955- "Seductive cliff takes mother of two." A young girl and boy stand at the sight of the cliff. A dead woman is under a sheet.

1961- Yearbook photo of Marla Phish, the young girl from the cliff.

"My folks were always putting him down..."

1992 - World-renowned gymnast family settle on coast. The whole family in gymnast attire. Teenage daughter and son, lined next to his parents trophies, trophies themselves. The son is they boy from the Edge, only younger.

"They said he came from the wrong side of town..."

1920's - front page reads, "Earth Wiggles Beach Houses. Safeteel residents forced to move."

Class of 1961, "Nursing facility closed after suicide pact takes the lives of two." A photograph of The Edge shows a sign that reads: DANGER POINT FOR YOUTHS.

"...They told me he was bad."

1995 - KURT COBAIN, singer for Seattle band, NIRVANA commits suicide.

"I knew that he was sad..."

1998 - Kip Kipling open fires on his Springfield, Oregon high-school.

"...that's when I fell for... the leader of the pack..."

1997 - Youth Televoice, Endport broadcast station is approved through council.

1914 - Headline, "Widening gap takes Endport home; others totter." Photo of abandoned houses falling into the ocean.

INTERCUT

A DARK CHURCH

Black and white photos getting closer to the Edge.

A TEENAGE BOY'S hand lights a red candle.

The landmark sign, the violent ocean below.

The BOY'S SMIRK, dangerously seductive.

Look out, Look out, Look out"

He raises his finger to his lips...

TEENAGE BOY

Shhh.

This blows the candle out and stops the song abruptly.

The urgent bassline of *The Smile* by The Gufs fills in. The alternative rock song sounds like a car alarm.

EXT. ENDPORNT CEMETERY -- LATE AFTERNOON

The music cuts into the tense atmosphere of Beth's outdoor funeral. FATHER GRAY speaks over the casket. Preparations for the next football game are underway only feet away.

FATHER GRAY

In a small town, we are all family.

RON RUSTH leans on a tree in the background studying the town's inhabitants.

On one side of the casket are the parents. They feign concern. On the other side are the teenagers. They are indifferent, obviously only there to ditch school.

THE POPULARS:

Even though each of them are dressed drastically different, they each wear a cellular phone and press passes that read their names along with YTVN:

JASON MARSH wears tight clothing and eye-liner. He holds a recording tape recorder.

JASON

Funerals kick ass.

Jason's brother, RUSTY MARSH is mini-gangsta, sporting Krylon spraypaint logos and baggies. Rusty chews his fingernails.

RUSTY

Cutting school, rules.

LANA PHISH listlessly takes notes. Her style of dress and manner shows control and intellect, sexuality bridled.

ZIP HAUSEN plays a Gameboy. His shirt reads "Hollywood cloned me."

LANA

Zip, get one picture at least.

ZIP

(Not looking up)
Only if she leaps from the casket.

MICHELLE HALVORSEN wears roller-blades and thick makeup. She pushes a bottle of white out to her nose and inhales. Her father, policeman Nathan Halvorsen pretends not to notice.

MICHELLE
Zip, would it be so much to ask,
in your sorrow, to turn down the
volume on your Gameboy?

ANNA TOLL is super model waifish with huge painful eyes. She hangs on Zip.

FATHER GRAY (V.O.)
Beth was a devout Catholic girl.

ZIP
You're just intimidated by my
immortality?

By the sound emitting from Zip's Gameboy, we know he's died.

ZIP
Breeders!

Lana gives Zip a dirty look. Zip pushes Anna away.

ZIP
(Re: Anna)
Off.

Michelle leans into Anna and Lana.

LANA
What do you think of the new cop?

MICHELLE
He's a dish, too bad he did a dirty.

The sun sets in the distance. Students hang a banner for Beachfest 2000 in the football field.

ANNA
I bet it was an accident.

Michelle rolls her eyes at Anna.

RHINO MICHEALS leans on a headstone reading a muscle car magazine. The stone shifts due to his largeness.

JASON

Try not to knock over any graves,
rubber-chunk.

RUSTY
Yeah, chubba-rump.

RHINO
It's gravestone. Dogfarts.

Lana Phish shuffles papers loudly, disrupting Father Gray.

Marla Phish stands militantly. Lana looks at her mother in disgust. Their gaze breaks...

In the sunset, someone is there, approaching through the football field.

Suddenly he busts through the banner. He approaches. It is the boy from the edge: ADOM CARL.

Adom pushes through the parents. The boy's black hair sweeps his face. His features are intense. He has an undeniable presence.

FATHER GRAY
We give beloved Beth from our hands,
to God's...

Adom is barefoot. He wears a black trench-coat, and stretch-pants. He looks like a Gothic gymnast.

Adom stomps up to the casket. Ron Rusth's straightens.

THE PRESS

Zip frantically snaps pictures from a digital camera. The other kids glare.

Dick Luna turns away.

Adom moves past them like air. He pulls a rosary from his trench-coat. It is the rosary from Beth's year-book photo.

SLOMO

Adom pulls Beth's rosary apart, freeing the beads. They fall, clattering onto the smooth surface of Beth's casket.

RHINO
(under their breath)
*Isn't breaking a rosary like a
curse or something?*

RUSTY
Sacrilege, maybe?

MICHELLE
Bad luck, ya'll. Bad luck..

Adom shoves the broken rosary into Dick Luna's hand and exits.

Mr. Luna holds the broken rosary to his pursed lips, his eyes pressed close.

Adom stops directly in front of Ron Rusth. He turns and addresses the crowd.

ADOM
 Who will pick up the check, for
 our deceased guest?

Careless tears fall from his eyes.

ADOM
 You?
 (the parents)
 You?
 (the students)
 Huh, Father?

Adom pans the crowd. No one will make eye contact.

ADOM
 Is it me?

Adom reaches in his coat. Ron Rusth touches his gun, easing the safety off.

Adom jerks his hand out of his pocket simultaneous to Ron Rusth drawing his weapon.

Adom points at the crowd, his hand, long fingers shaped into a gun. The town gasps, all but the detective. He is unshakeable, gun pointed at Adom.

Adom and the detective stare each other down. Adom points the gun to the gasping crowd. Then to his own head. This is where he pulls the trigger.

FATHER
 Adom.

ADOM

NO!

Adom releases an electric smile. He knocks Rusth's shoulder as he passes. Adom looks up only once, haphazardly at Lana. A glimpse of angry passion and despair. Lana drops her notebook.

ZIP
Suicidal psycho.

Lana staggers a breath.

ANNA
Real tears.

RUSTY
Just like Jesus.

Michelle notes the disruption on Lana's face.

MICHELLE
Just like butter.

Lana straightens up. Michelle smirks.

INT. HALLS OF ENDPORIT HIGH SCHOOL -- MORNING

The halls, the library, the cafeteria are handsomely funded, with assembly line precision. TV monitors hang like art, angled and hoisted. Students are transfixed by it's programming (still unseen).

Adom shuffles by an elaborate poster for BEACHFEST, showing the headlining band, The Gufs. He rips it down.

INT. LOCKER HALL

Adom puts a magic marker back into his locker. A photo of Beth hangs, cocked. Her angelic face. Rosary around her neck. Adom slams the locker and staggers off, a few feet, before entering the girl's locker room. On the locker-face, in black marker are the words:

**The
End**

Above Adom's locker is a monitor, broadcasting in full color YTV's station identification.

MONITOR

Youth Televoice Endport. It is a pop-culture, MTV-type broadcast showcasing proms, ball games, and interviews.

ZIP (V.O.)
Youth Televoice Endport, in support
of free speech.

LANA (V.O.)
Practice what you preach.

MICHELLE
YTVE would like to thank the
supporters and sponsors of Oregon's
youth voice, youth news station.

RHINO
Serious issues for serious students.

RUSTY (V.O.)
The news through the school. The
power of youth in groups.

JASON (V.O.)
From Endport high to the Edge,
echoing the sound.

LANA (V.O.)
YTVE, talking Rock

ZIP (V.O.)
YTVE, rocking talk.

INT. GIRL'S LOCKER ROOM

Adom enters carrying a baseball bat. Half dressed girls
scream and scurry away.

Adom busts Beth's lock and retrieves her crumpled gym
clothes.

When Adom turns, something stops him.

Lana stands there, naked. Her wet hair. Her untouched form.
The two innocents are frozen. Vulnerable. Lana's bottom lip
trembles.

And in a flap of his trench-coat, Adom is gone, leaving Lana
there, wet and wanting.

Above her is a monitor.

MONITOR

Reporter, Anna Toll follows station I.D. She is dressed supermodel sparse, highly glam and photogenic.

ANNA

Students gathered in the rows of last Monday's council meeting to discuss plans for renovating the old nurses quarters for a student child care facility.

EXT. ENDPORNT CEMETERY

Beth's casket is lowered into the ground. Rosary beads still surround the fresh earth.

ANNA (V.O.)

The building adjoining the nurses' station has remained empty since the suicides of three nursing students in the eighties-

INT. LIBRARY

Monitors hang in the attractive library.

MONITORS

Anna stands outside of the abandoned nurses quarters speaking. Her words are closed captioned on the screen:

...The proposal was crushed... Without a single teacher's support... the nurses quarters stands... a gutted tribute to loss. ...

INT. SAMANTHA'S CHITWOOD APARTMENT

SAMANTHA CARL, 20, stands from the rocker to lay her sleeping daughter SIDNEY in a crib. The apartment is shabby, but clean.

ANNA (V.O.)

Every year, EPHS loses 3-5 girls to teen pregnancy.

In the crib's background is the aged news clipping of the Carl family in a frame.

INT. JEWEL'S OFFICE

Anna roots through Jewel's Rolodex. She finds Adom Carl's information and tears it out.

ANNA (V.O.)

Please welcome the head of Endport's city council, and guidance counselor, Marla Phish.

INT. CAFETERIA

Adom eats alone watching the YTVN monitors that hang everywhere.

THREE MONITORS IN A ROW

Anna times three moves over to allow Marla Phish to sit. Anna looks at her lap. Three Marla's are three too many.

MARLA

In high-school students replace family with friends. Kids raising kids in school will cause an epidemic. My daughter's a role model, a virg-

The sound goes dead. An aerial view of the Virgin Islands. Cut to Anna cleaning her fingernails with a bobby pin. When the sound picks up, Marla is still speaking.

MARLA

It is the disease of youth to be easily influenced.

Cut to a field of cattle. Zip is seen among them holding the old-fashioned McDonald's hamburger styrofoam container open to the cows, trying to coerce the cows inside.

ZIP

Come all ye cattle.

BELOW THE MONITOR

Adom's gaze falls to a poster of the Heimlich Maneuver. A drawing of a man who chokes on a piece of food.

Adom puts a tater-tot in his mouth. With one gasping inhale, Adom lodges the tator tot in his airway.

He chokes successfully for only a moment. A violent cough sends the tator tot against another kid's head.

Kids move away. Tator tot saliva drips from Adom's mouth as

he witnesses the handsome detective Rusth's saunter through the cafeteria, Cinnamon roll in hand.

Adom stands and makes his way out of the cafeteria, all eyes on him. Kids mutter comments like, "murderer."

MONITOR

Michelle reports from a roller rink. With the grace of a porn-star, she ultraflexes to string her skate. This isn't a PSA, but a spoof on a PSA, overacted, and intending to be funny as hell.

MICHELLE

Is your boyfriend negative. Does he keep you from homework and friends? Do you follow him around, scared.

INT. ADOM'S CHURCH STUDIO

Anna Toll sneaks into Adom's room. Dark band posters of *The Cure* frighten her at first glance.

INTERCUT BETWEEN MONITOR AND STUDIO

MONITOR

Zip works the concession stand, handing out popcorns to a ROLLER-COUPLE. The boy yanks the popcorn from the girl's hand and laughs. He skates away, leaving her there to sulk.

ZIP

Obviously this girl has low self esteem, or she would never let anyone treat her like that.

Zip smiles and gives the girl a wink. She smiles reassured. This is basically a Mentos commercial. The girl turns and skates into Rhino. Rhino throws her to the ground.

RHINO

Teenagers are trying to separate from their parents. So, they are hesitant to tell them of the abuse.

INT. CHURCH STUDIO

Anna looks down to see Beth's homework. Besides the original is the beginning of Adom's recopied version.

RHINO (V.O.)

They want to appear independent
and in control. With so little
experience, girls tend to take
jealousy as love.

Anna approaches large crudely shaped objects covered in
sheets.

Anna pulls the sheets off to show gymnastics equipment. A
vaulting horse, side-horse and rings are worn.

The equipment is graffitied with random words: *lust*,
hormones, *betrayal*, *menstruation*, *YTVN*, *growing pains*,
Virginity, *puberty*, *Arithmetic* and so on.

LANA (V.O.)
Do you feel trapped.

On the floor, Anna sees two chalk outlines. Beth and Adom.

LANA (V.O.)
Do you perform sexual acts that
you don't enjoy?

A pictures of Beth hangs, surrounded by shrine-like candles.

MONITOR

The clan circle on skate. The shots show kids wiping out
hard core in the background

RUSTY
Speak- Tell a friend.

ZIP
Tell a family member-.

Nathan Halvorsen skates by.

NATHAN HALVORSEN
Tell the police.

Nathan smiles a golden smile, before wiping out on skates.

INT. ENGLISH CLASSROOM -- PRESENT DAY

The clock ticks out the last 10 minutes of class. Adom
mutters the song to himself.

ADOM
You're such a strange girl. I want to

be with you.

Adom sits in back of the room, slouched. He's turned his chair to faces the empty chair next to his, obviously Beth's.

ADOM

I think I'm falling in love.

Adom's eyes travel from the empty desk to just outside of the window. There sits a row of police cars.

At the head of the class, Rhino ends his presentation.

RHINO

*... In conclusion, my best ideas are
born in bucket seats.*

The students clap as Rhino sits. Kids start to collect their books. Suddenly a distant voice carries like an echo into the room from the hall.

BETH LUNA (O.S.)

*My favorite band is the Cure.
Hypocalepsy- what the world means.*

Adom stands.

TEACHER

Adom, sit down.

Adom strides towards the exit at the front of the class.

BETH (O.S.)

*Bethlehem Maria Luna. The ones
inside speak of the end of the world,
a lip of a town, that pulls the
unsuspecting down.*

Adom follows Beth's voice out of the room. The teacher rises.

EXT. SCHOOL HALL

Adom follows the voice to a monitor.

MONITOR

Beth's memorial. Her face is in extreme close up. Adom touches her lips. She's beautiful, her eyes full of life.

BETH

*Tears go up in the air. Blood and
break their neck. You know, reject.*

What has been said appendix page x
is, this is my last broadcast.

Beth seems to grow disoriented despite her smile. Adom kisses two fingers and puts them in front of her lips.

ADOM
Shh, shh.

Adom disappears back into the classroom, interrupting class.

TEACHER (O.S.)
Adom!

Back in the hall, Adom places a chair under the monitor and stands on it.

BETH
Hours are short in all these,
Endport sport.

Adom touches her face and hair, on the screen. He smiles and puts his face up against the screen.

BETH
Nosey Pilgrims seek, do good.
Rudders, water, there's going to
be a flood.

THE BELL RINGS, jarring Adom from his intimate moment.
Students spill into the halls.

BETH (V.O.)
Hyper-plastic, capitalize correct.

Students collect under the monitors. They giggle at Beth's rambling. Horror sweeps Adom's face.

ADOM
No. Get away.

Adom pushes the crowd back with his hands. They fill back in, gazing, still. They laugh cruelly.

BETH
Ten percent water in the female
body, all things if not fair, are
fluid.

Adom grabs the chair. Students step back. With a YELL, Adom SMASHES the chair into the T.V. screen.

Teachers, students and policemen spill into the hall.

Detective Ron Rusth fights his way through the crowd.

Coach Jewwel comes from the gymnasium. Anna Toll follows him holding a clipboard and a whistle. Coach Jewwel tries to stand in Adom's way as he darts for another monitor.

COACH JEWWEL

Adom!

MONITOR

Boys shoot hoops in the gym. Beth dances freely to music from her head-phones. Boys circle her, hungrily. One boy dances dirty with her.

Adom bursts through the crowd and rescues her. The boys laugh as Adom pulls Beth away.

BETH (V.O.)

Sensitivity is cancerous. Have you
been bit, drop em, let the town have
a peek. Walk kindly, led blindly by
the sobbing angel -pathos.

Adom interrupts the broadcast with a flying chair. He heads for another monitor.

Marla Phish steps out of an office labeled, GUIDANCE
COUNSELOR.

Halvorsen and another cop tackle Adom underneath the monitor.
Beth plays above them.

BETH

Glenda the good witch, you are
size 6 slippers bound to Beth's
blistered feet.

Adom swoops a piece of glass from the ground. Police back away only momentarily.

Adom slices his arm. The police fight Adom to the ground.

The monitors play clips of Adom and Beth together in the halls, being ridiculed. Beth's word salad voices over.

BETH (V.O.)

Barbed lunacy, I repeat. But Adom's
smile sweeps the ocean's below,

BETH (cont'd)

caressing black hair woven into a
ship.

Two other policemen appear and help struggle Adom under submission.

BETH (V.O.)

The Bible states, "Let women learn in silence with all submission, Timothy 2:11. Submit, surrender, fall asunder, be obedient.

ADOM

Beth!

MONITOR

Adom guards the bathroom. He knocks the camera away as she wets her pants. Adom swings at the kids that sneer and point.

Yearbook photos are spliced in to show a disintegration of Beth's dress and hygiene.

Adom and Beth walk hand in hand down the hall as kids snicker. Beth looks back but Adom tugs her along. They have a combined confidence.

INT. HALL

The cops push Adom away. Adom turns to the monitor.

MONITOR

The memorial flashes digital photos of Adom breaking the rosary. It looks like Adom is shaming Beth's grave.

Beth stands at her locker, alone, but only momentarily. Adom enters the frame and swings a fist at the press.

INT. HALL

Tears run down Adom's face as police push him past Rusth.

RUSTH

I've heard a lot about you, Adom.

ADOM

Then, what's the buzz- fuzz!,

RUSTH

O.K., let's go.

Michelle and Rhino overhear the other kid's commenting.

BOY

He's fearless.

GIRL
It's so romantic.

Adom is pushed through the halls. Students throw erasers, paper, notebooks and pens at him. He ducks.

ADOM
Save a seat. The end is sweet.

Lana makes note of it all in her notebook. Zip films.

ZIP
Televised suicide or slaughter?
Quick Lana, talk to him.

Someone throws a staple remover that nicks Adom in the cheek. He bleeds. Adom is pushed past Lana.

LANA
Uh. Any other words for YTVE?

ADOM
Shhhhhh.

Suddenly Adom breaks from the cops. He sprints in the direction of the track field.

RUSTH
Let him go. I'll get him later.

Underclassmen watch from the doorway.

Riotous activity exits the halls with Adom. Every student in the hall watches the monitors.

MONITOR

Beth and Adom. They lie in the dirty grass behind the high school. Wind blows trash past them. Beth sleeps in Adom's arms. He sings to her a song by the Cure.

ADOM
*You're such a strange girl. I think
you come from another world. You're
such a strange girl. I really don't
understand a word.*

For all practical purposes, she looks dead.

ADOM
*Your such a strange girl. The way you
look like you do-*

The clip dissolves to Adom doing a strange Tai Chi tumbling type ritual outside of the girls' restroom. It is the one that Adom did on the cliff. It is composed of a praying/diving motion with steps, turns, and ending in a hand stand.

ADOM

*I wanna be with you. I think I'm
falling in love. I think I'm falling
in love-*

It is freakish and baffling. Lana stares up at the screen.

LANA

Mental gymnastics.

Students surround Adom's locker with its apocalyptic message, *The End*. Nathan Halvorsen and Ron Rusth push through the crowd.

NATHAN HALVORSEN

A threat?

RON RUSTH

Graffiti. Get the janitor to clean it.

Nathan snaps a few photographs. Ron Rusth walks.

NATHAN HALVORSEN

Ron.

RON RUSTH

Don't believe everything you read.

Rusth glances up at the monitor.

RON RUSTH

And half what you see.

Nathan is left to herd the kids away.

INT. SCHOOL CONFERENCE ROOM

Principal SID PHOAM enters the room with Lana. Detective Rusth heats the Cinammon roll in a microwave. He licks his fingers before moving to shake Lana's hand.

PHOAM

This is Lana Phish, reporter and editor of YTVE.

LANA

I'll take it from here, Sid.

Sid Phoam excuses himself. Lana and Rusth shakes hands.

LANA
How do you like Endport?

RUSTH
Chilly. The weather, that is.

Lana smiles at him. The hint of a girl. And then it's gone.

RUSTH
Lana, we're doing informal interviews
regarding the deceased. Do you mind
being recorded?

LANA
I prefer it.

Detective Rusth smiles.

RUSTH
Start at the end and tell me the
last time you saw Beth Luna?

LANA
I can do better; I can show you.

INT. DARK YTVE EDITING SUITE -- SYNTHETIC NIGHT

Zip and Rusty jog/shuttle through the fight footage.
Walls of video-tapes surround them.

ZIP
Going hunting again this year?

Rusty nods with defeat. Zip looks at the digital pictures
that he took of Adom at the grave-sight. Adom's dark intrigue
is unsettling.

ZIP
Aren't you a vegetarian?

Zip laughs, shaking his head.

RUSTY
Well, what is this, the eighth time
you've broken up with Anna for Lana.

Lana and Detective Rusth enter on cue. Rusty quiets. Zip
stands at the sight of Lana.

LANA

Zip, Rusty, this is Detective Ron
Rusth. Rusth, this is Zip, cofounder
of YTV. Zip's our handyman with a
steady cam.

Anna comes to the door, the address sheet in her hand. She
stops when she sees Zip holding Lana's waist.

ZIP

(saluting)

Born again geek. Forever will my
pocket wear a protector.

LANA

Rusty and brother Jason-

RUSTY

Separated at birth but never in
a sentence.

LANA

Rusty is our editing man. If you
hear "cut and splice," its Rusty
they're referring to. Jason's sound
but he's not around.

RUSTY

a steamer.

LANA

Detective Rusth's on the Luna case.

ZIP

Ahh, so you're the squirrel for this
nut-case. Dare say murder?

RUSTH

Inconclusive.

Zip imitates a squirrel. Rusth scans the video wall.
*Homecoming, Valentine dance, Christmas parade, theater
seasons, poetry readings, ball games, .*

RUSTH

Quite a collection.

Lana moves to a distant wall shelf.

LANA

Here they are. Beth and Adom. A real
love hate relationship.

RUSTY
These people were born dating.

RUSTH
Which ones are theirs?

LANA
This whole wall.

The entire wall shelf is labeled Adom and Beth.

LANA
Dead air between events. Adom and
Beth could be counted on for
entertainment.

RUSTY
We've lost our primary filler.

LANA
That's real touching.

ZIP
I got their first date. Sixth grade.
Same year I got my camera.

RUSTH
How old's a kid in sixth grade?

LANA
Eleven years old, about.

RUSTH
Six years.
(Re: the tapes)
I'll need them all.

Nathan Halvorsen appears in the doorway behind them.

RUSTH
Excuse me, please.

Detective Rusth leaves with a hand full of tapes.

ZIP
Lana, we going to Beachfest?

Lana follows with a handful of tapes, ignoring him.

Zip lets loose a maniacal laugh as Rusty stands.

ZIP
Cut and splice, pork fried rice.

Where you going? Let's egg roll.

Zip is left to talk to himself.

INT. ADOM'S CHURCH STUDIO

Adom enters with a small paper sack. He sheds his trench-coat and plops down on bedroom floor. Adom plugs a home-made Cure tape into a cassette player.

Adom closes his eyes to the music. He moves Beth's gym shirt up to his mouth and nose and takes a breath in.

FLASHBACK. INT GYMNASIUM. DAY

The boys are separated from the girls, Adom runs lazy laps with the rest of the boys around the gym.

COACH JEWEL

Pick up the pace, children.

Coach Jewel coaxes the boys on, but Adom's attention is all on Beth. Beth sits with the other girls on the mat. She does situps in the gym clothes.

COACH JEWEL

Two more laps.

Beth is fidgeting, scratching and refusing to do sit-ups.

This goes noticed only by Adom. He slows to a walk, then suddenly breaks away from the runners.

Adom steps over the other girls in a bee-line to Beth. The girls stop.

GIRL 1

Hey.

GIRL 2

What are you doing, Asshole?

Surrounding girls move out of the way as Adom drops next to Beth.

ADOM

What is it?

He takes her hands.

BETH

I fear all this twisting is
making my spine to go snakey.

ADOM
I'll take care of it.

Adom moves her hands into a praying motion. Beth tries not to look away from Adom, despite her class-mates watching.

BETH
Yes, we'll pray to go away.

He puts his head to hers, begins to squeeze her neck.

Jewel looks back, but continues to press the boys on.

JEWEL
What are you looking at? Move.

Girls watch in shock. Students look to Jewel. Coach Jewel pretends not to notice.

INT. ADOM'S CHURCH STUDIO -- DAY

Anna moves closer to Adom. She watches him as he does the ritual by himself, eyes closed. Tears are in her eyes.

Adom's hands move against someone who is no longer there. He smiles. He reaches for the bag.

He pulls a bottle from the bag. He spins off the plastic top filling the room with the weighty smell of anti-freeze.

FLASHBACK 2. INT. CHURCH PEW -- NIGHT

Across from Adom is Beth's smiling face. They touch faces and hands in the ritual.

INT. ADOM'S CHURCH ROOM -- DAY

Adom raises the poison to his lips.

ADOM
I'm coming.

Anna purposefully drops a book making Adom jolt. Anna stands there boldly.

ANNA
Don't.

Adom drops the poison, spilling on the floor. Adom stands in a rage. He drops Beth's gym clothes.

ADOM
Who let you in here?

Adom knocks over a row of books. Anna glances at Beth's shrine. Adom throws a book at Beth's shrine, tumbling it.

ADOM
Don't look at her.

ANNA
It was unlocked. I'm sorry,

ADOM
How long have you been here?

ANNA
You're scaring me.

Adom throws an alarm clock at her.

ADOM
TELL ME!

ANNA
I'm Coach Jewwel's P.E. assistant.
He has information on you.

ADOM
For Jewwel? Leave, now.

Adom kicks things out of his way. He backs her into a corner. She cries openly.

ANNA
I can't.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLS -- NIGHT

The school is empty, except for the janitor who cleans "The End" from Adom's locker. Above him is the monitor.

MONITOR

It is an old YTVN segment. Zip stands in a toy shop amongst countless teddy bears. In the background, Michelle wears a cowboy hat and spurs and straddles an enormous teddy bear.

ZIP

What do these teddy bears have to do with crime? As children we cling to security objects. The loss of such objects can upset a child, possibly bringing about mutilative or suicidal gestures.

INTERCUT BETWEEN MONITOR AND
CHURCH STUDIO

Adom tears down posters.

ANNA

I didn't come for Jewel. It was Lana who wanted your address.

ADOM

Lana?

ANNA

For YTV. But that's not why I came. Nobody knows I'm here.

Adom slows to a more confused violence. He grabs his head.

MONITOR

Zip reports from ICU. Doctors and nurses hustle by. Even Zip wears scrubs.

ZIP

In honor of Valentine's Day,
YTV interviews students on first
love in a solace object.

Zip exits the hospital, and suddenly he is outside of the Veterinarian clinic. He throws bloody gloves to the ground as he passes Jason. Jason pets a panting dog and stands.

JASON

The Christmas before grandma died,
she got me and Rusty a puppy. Dad shot
him when he was a year old. He was so
weak and whimpering.

FAMILY PHOTOS WITH THE DOG.

JASON

Now I'm a serial killer.

The monitor show Jason stabbing into a box of LIFE

cereal with a knife.

Next we see him emptying the cinammony entrails of the cereal off of The Edge.

CHURCH STUDIO

Adom grabs Anna Toll forcefully by the shoulders with intent to push her from the room.

ANNA
Tell me about her.

Anna hugs Adom, holding him tightly.

ANNA
Pretend I'm her.

His hands slowly move to her neck.

MONITOR

Rhino stands in a wrecking yard.

RHINO
I had this king Big wheel when I was about 7. I rode it all summer. Remember that movie where the guy's dad motorcycles off the cliff.

A QUESTION MARK

RHINO
Anyway, it was a long winter, the winter that mom lost her baby. When spring came, I was too big. Until...

We see that Rhino has been leaning on a Metallic blue Chevy Nova. REVVING.

CHURCH STUDIO

Adom's arms slowly moves around Anna's waist. Adom throws her to the bed.

He stands there just staring at her for some time.

She unbuttons her jeans and slides them off of her bony hips. It's obvious that she's anorexic.

Adom doesn't know how to react. Her thin arms reach out to

him.

He looks at her momentarily before kneeling. He puts his head in her lap. His grasp, more tender.

She closes her eyes. Adom slides his hands around her neck.

ADOM

Beth.

He begins to choke her. She struggles, panicking.

INT. SCHOOL CONFERENCE ROOM

hits the play button on a high tech remote control. A big screen television monitor comes out of the wall.

RON RUSTH

Whoa.

MONITOR

Beth and Adom stand at the lockers. They are wound into each other, unaware of the bustling students around them. He kisses her eyes, her hair. He touches her skin. Ron Rusth is caught off guard. This boy is tender.

Ron Rusth unwraps hostess twinkies.

MONITOR

The first clip appears to be merely a rough recording of a church service.

Zip's P.O.V. Father Gray speaks, but the only ones who can be heard are Zip's mom and dad. They're arguing.

MRS. HAUSEN (V.O.)

Why'd you let him bring it.

RYAN HAUSEN (V.O.)

He wanted to. He's bored

MRS. HAUSEN (V.O.)

It's disrespectful. Richard, put the camera away.

Zip's view drops only momentarily. His camera pans the church. The whole town is here.

Zip's camera focuses in. A small face peeks from behind the pulpit. A disheveled looking child with dark hair travels

through the backstage.

In the front row sits Beth Luna, eleven years old and alive. When she sees the boy, she smiles. Suddenly their eyes meet.

Rusth smiles, engrossed.

The footage suddenly makes a editing jump. Now it is after the church service. The church is nearly empty. Beth Luna searches the pulpit.

Unable to find the little boy, she sits in the front pew. That is when a black head of hair pops up behind her.

The boy's hand reaches forward, touching her white hair gingerly. Beth turns and snatches his hand. He is too shocked to pull it away. Her radiant smile captures him.

BETH

Light and beauty surround you.

There is no reply.

BETH

I'm Beth.

The boy looks at her with wild eyes.

BETH

Do you live here, alone?

The boy nods.

BETH

You'll never be alone again.

She leans forward and presses her lips against his. He watches her as she pulls away. His fingers tighten around hers.

Ron Rusth watches, his fingers tightening around the remote. His eyes softening.

Detective Rusth glances at the body shots of Beth Luna. Rusth presses play on the tape recorder.

RUSTH (V.O.)

State your name, grade, then proceed.

ANNA (V.O.)

Anna Toll, senior. Romeo and Juliet was the Shakespeare class movie pick.

RUSTH (V.O.)
Pretty romantic pick.

ANNA (V.O.)
Beth was really into it. Especially
the suicide part. She didn't even
notice that we were kicking her seat.

RUSTH (V.O.)
What happened?

ANNA (V.O.)
Adom forced her to leave. Death is
the best part of that movie. What
powers such passion?

RUSTH (V.O.)
So you're not afraid of death?

ANNA (V.O.)
My dad's Endport coroner It'll
like we're all dating death.

Rusth unwraps a Cure C.D. from it's cellophane. He puts the
C.D. in the player. The detective pulls the evidence bag out
from under a box of Hostess cakes.

THE NOTE

*Adom will be upsad by my decide. His
betterness will be homed by Samantha
guardian, said. She loves her
brother to have good life, and he
shall. Adom reads well into my
sickness, he without it can forget
to be sick, the kiss of Beth and be
fun. Life return to him, like water.
Bethlehem Lunacy*

Beth's body is the background. Rusth SLOMOs the memorial.
Beth's mouth moves, making it look like she's singing along
to the Cure.

BETH
————— "I think it's dark and it looks like
snow you said and the wind is blowing
like it's the end of the world, you

BETH (cont'd)
said. And it's so cold, like the cold
if you were dead. Then you smiled."

Rusth turns up the volume on a song and sings along. He's a Cure fan.

*"Sometimes you make me feel like I'm
living at the edge of the world."*

Halvorsen buzzes in, shocking Rusth out of Beth and Adom's world. Rusth answers via speaker phone.

RUSTH

Yeah?

HALVORSEN

What's that music.

Ron Rusth turns the volume down.

RON RUSTH

(Under his breath)

I like this kid.

HALVORSEN

What? Ron, another girl's gone. We picked up the boy.

INT. POLICE STATION HALL

Detective Rusth and Halvorsen walk down the hall to the room containing Adom.

HALVORSEN

Coroner's report shows no sign of struggle. Injuries were sustained in the fall.

RUSTH

Any drugs in her system.

HALVORSEN

One. Thorazine. Beth's dad is on some retreat. I can't reach him.

RUSTH

What about the boy's parents?

Nathan shakes his head.

NATHAN

He lives in a spare room in the church, overseen by Father Gray.

RUSTH

An outcast.

NATHAN
He's never missed school, ever.

RUSTH
Sounds like a suicide.

Halvorsen hands the detective a clear evidence bag.

NATHAN
Double Dutch.

Inside are two suicide notes. Nathan stops at the door.

NATHAN
You going in?

RUSTH
If he sucks my frontal lobe out
through my nasal cavity, save yourself.

HALVORSEN
If you don't mind.

INT. QUESTIONING ROOM

Detective Rusth enters and sits across from Adom. Adom's cuts are bandaged. Adom stares at the mirror behind Rusth.

RUSTH
Shall we try this again? Beth Luna
was your girlfriend of 6 years? True
or False.

ADOM
Viro sebil Virma Totem Rogda
Parful Smilton? False or true?

RUSTH
Can you understand?

ADOM
Can you hand-stand? I can, son of
Sam I am.

RUSTH
What does this mean?

Rusth slides several photos at Adom. They are the photos of his locker, and the words, THE END.

Adom falls out of his chair and rolls into a hand stand. Adom kicks his shoes off. Rusth yawns. Adom circles the room on his hands. Rusth slips on the tape recorder.

ADOM

Nosey Pilgrims seek and ye shall
find, your posie work defined.
Rudders, water, there's going to
be a flood.

RUSTH

I am interested in the events
leading up to the death of Beth Luna.
Especially since you were there.

Adom falls at this. Rusth is unmoved.

ADOM

Gymnast cannot maintain clarity in
styroform, Rorschach.

Adom stands.

RUSTH

Adom, do you know what Thorazine is
used for?

ADOM

Moon-angel-mercy was sent to warn
Jesus of the coming plague. You
understand? The End is coming with
a fiddle and a band.

RUSTH

Was Beth Schizophrenic?

Adom reaches across and hits the stop button on the recorder. He is face to face with Rusth, just a little too close for comfort.

INT. TOWN HALL -- NIGHT

A counsel meeting is underway. Marla Phish stands at the podium, she repeatedly hits a game-show buzzer to signal attention. Arguments among the parents die down.

MARLA

Thank you all for coming to this
emergency meeting. I think I speak
for all of you when I say we have a
time bomb right here in Endport.

INT. EDITING SUITE

Lana and Zip address the usual crowd: Rusty, Jason, Michelle, and Rhino.

LANA
We're going to have to start without Anna.

No one objects.

LANA
This situation has to be handled very delicately. It's important that we handle this professionally.

Zip tries to put his arm around him. She glares him off.

LANA
This is the biggest story to break in Endport in ten years, and depending on how it turns, we have the first priveledge-

ZIP
If this rainbow blows, we have a gold mine right here in Endport.

RUSTY
But, why would he trust us?

EXT. POLICE ROOM -- MORNING

Detective Rusth exits the room to greet Halvorsen.

Through the window, Adom is seen going through a tumbling Tai-Chi-type ritual. Adom takes off his shirt and pants.

HALVORSEN
Oh, Marla Phish called an emergency council meeting.

Rusth frowns.

RUSTH
Perfect.

HALVORSEN
Oh, the boy's sister is here.

RUSTH
Sister?

NATHAN
Downstairs.

INT- GROUND FLOOR

Detective Rusth spots her. He's smitten. The detective's eyes widen. She is tall and fit, dark and natural. She's an angel in a gymnast's body-suit until she opens her mouth.

RUSTH
Detective Rusth. You are?

Her face sours at the sight of him.

SAMANTHA
Samantha Carl. How could you arrest
My brother. He's underage?

RUSTH
He says he killed Beth Luna.

SAMANTHA
What?

RUSTH
Beth Luna.

SAMANTHA
I know who she is.

Detective Rusth smirks at her spirit.

SAMANTHA
Yeah, he killed her with kindness.

She passes him. They proceed upstairs. She eyes him.

RUSTH
There's no way that he is going
to be released before we get some
information. He was the last to see
her alive. He needs supervision.

SAMANTHA
I'm not going to argue with you.

RUSTH
I'm glad you changed your mind.

EXT. HOLDING TANK

Entering the holding tank, Sam sees that her brother is completely naked. His back is to them. He is hanging himself from the water pipes by his belt.

RUSTH
And then there's that.

Samantha and Detective Rusth rush to pull Adom down.

Adom sits on the floor gasping for air. Samantha collects his things and tries to dress him.

RUSTH
Why do you punish yourself, Adom?

ADOM
I see you met shock rocket Rorschach.

Detective Rusth hands Adom's other shoe to Samantha.

RUSTH
Let me buy you dinner.

Sam laughs in the detective's face. Still, there is a certain electricity between them.

Sam drags her half dressed brother out of the door.

ADOM
My throat hurts.

SAMANTHA
Come on, Adom.

RUSTH
If he chews a hole through his restraints, don't hesitate to call.

SAMANTHA (O.S.)
You can go to hell.

EXT. PRECINCT

The second they step out of the building, Samantha and Adom are surrounded. Underclassmen picket with signs that read, "Set him free." and "Adom out."

YTVN banners lay claim on the event. Zip and Rusty film the release.

LANA
And Adom is released after being

wrongfully apprehended. Adom's sister, Samantha, former student of Newport has apparently released him.

Samantha pushes Adom through the crowd. Adom is dumb-struck.

INT. SAM'S CAR

Samantha drives. A gurgling baby is in the back seat.

SAM

I had to leave Sydney in the car.

Adom is in his own world.

ADOM

I used to know a girl I know of.
I remind a girl of whom I know to
you, When you see the colder days
I know a girl, I used to.

SAM

And what the hell was that!

ADOM

She falls to remind the night of
rolling, catch her floor sore,
Rolling, I wake soft and time is
the night is about the name.
Smiling, she used to just stand.

SAM

Answer me.

Adom puts a Cure tape in the car's cassette player. *Catch* plays out loud.

ADOM

Remember when you said if anything
ever happened to Sydney, you couldn't
Go on. You'd kill yourself?

Adom looks out of the window as they drive next to the ocean, where chunks of highway have actually eroded off. Samantha is dumbfounded.

THE CURE

*I know who you remind me of, a
girl I think I used to know, I'd
see her when the days grow colder,*

*on those days when it felt like
snow.*

Adom looks out the window at the lovely ocean. He sadly mouths the words to the song. Tears well in Samantha's eyes.

THE CURE

*And she used to fall down a lot,
that girl was always falling
again and again and I used to
sometimes try to catch her, but
never even caught her name.*

EXT. ENDFORT HIGH SCHOOL -- MORNING

Zip interviews Coach Jewwel on the school steps. Rusty films.

ZIP

There are child-care facilities on college campuses with the increasing population of non-traditional students.

JEWWEL

High school's different. We must encourage, if not abstinence, then safe-sex.

Jewwel sees Sam's car approaching.

JEWWEL

Hold on.

Jewwel tramples students in an attempt to get to Sam's car.

JEWWEL

Shit, Sam, wait!

Samantha sees Jewwel. She SCREECHES away. All heads turn as Adom walks onto school grounds. Girls whisper. Suddenly all of the geeks, goths, outcasts, hippies, quiet kids and weirdos clap. Michelle and Rhino hang all over one another in the halls.

Michelle wears a shirt that reads, "I'm not popular, I'm a slut." Only the word slut has been partially covered by a pin that reads "honor student."

MICHELLE

Hey there, Jesse James.

Michelle points and shoots with her finger. She blows the

smoke off the tip of her gun. But it looks more like a kiss.

RHINO
Sac swingin.

Michelle puts her arm around Adom's shoulder and whispers something into his ear.

RHINO
We're cutting sixth and seventh. We'll meet you at your locker.

They leave Adom baffled. Adom continues to his locker.

EXT. ADOM'S LOCKER

Adom takes out a marker and writes the words on his locker:

**THE
TIME
IS
NOW**

Above him, the monitor plays the pretty Lana.

MONITOR

Lana stands on the beach, not far from where Beth was found.

LANA
Endport is preparing for its annual Beachfestival. Headlining is band, The Gufs. YTVE will get an interview prior to-

INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM

Senior English, five minutes till lunch break. In addition to Beth's seat being empty, is Adom's and Anna's. Zip films Lana's presentation.

Lana putting condoms on kids' desks. She slips them into front pockets. She even puts one on the eye piece of Zip's camera.

RHINO
(Whispering)
Virgins always talk about sex.

Rhino, Jason and Rusty turn and collectively dump their

condoms on Michelle's desk. They all laugh.

MICHELLE

Hey!

Lana stands at the head of the class.

LANA

Sexual liberation entails acceptance of your own unique sexual responses as an intimate expression of yourself. Becoming more assertive may in turn free men of their counterpart roles.

Lana stops. A group of kids pass the doorway, led by Adom. Zip looks up. The condom falls from his eye.

ZIP

What's going on?

Lana and Zip poke their heads out into the hall. The kid just shrugs and keeps walking.

MICHELLE

He's got the edge.

RHINO

More like death-wish.

Lana, Rhino, Rusty, Zip and Jason catch up.

ZIP

We need something with zip. How's "killer."

LANA

No, the Edge. It fits him.

Just as Adom reaches the gymnasium, Coach Jewwel step out.

Without a word Adom punches Coach Jewwel in the face.

Some kids cheer. Rhino, Michelle, Lana, Zip and the twins stand, mouths open in shock.

JEWWEL

Adom wait!

ADOM

A warning, Jewwel. Nose out of my affairs.

No attempts are made to obtain Adom. The principal fumbles with calling the authorities from a cell-phone.

Adom walks up to the principal. Sid Phoam covers his head. Adom takes the cell phone, redials 911 and hands it back to him.

Zip film Jewel spitting blood into a water fountain. Rhino and Jason walk by.

JASON

Cool.

RHINO

Is that sanitary?

JEWEL

Get to home room!

The bell rings but kids just stand there. Lana walks up to Adom and swings Adom around.

LANA

Where's Anna.

Adom grabs her face and kisses her. Cops enter and grab Adom violently. They shove him to the ground. Lana grabs her lip.

SID PHOAM

To class, all of you.

The student body just stands there. Standing together, nobody can force them to do anything.

Underclassmen, minorities and geeks push past the trendy populars to follow Adom out of the door.

MICHELLE

What the hell?

ZIP

Don't worry, we'll get you out.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL

Students stare from every window in the school. Detective Rusth's police car pulls up as Adom is carted towards a cop car by Halvorsen.

RUSTH

Now what?

HALVORSEN
He decked a teacher, Ron.

We see Anna sitting in the back seat of Rusth's car with her head down.

RUSTH
Halvorsen, take Anna. I'll bring him in.

HALVORSEN
Anna? Where was she?

RUSTH
Wandering the beach.

Adom looks for Anna.

RUSTH
Anna go with Nathan.

Anna steps from the car.

Anna and Adom cross each other briefly. Anna reaches out for him.

Halvorsen pulls her toward the school.

ANNA
Adom, Adom!

ADOM
Adeiu, Adeiu.

ANNA
Adom, Adom please. Don't.

Anna suddenly starts to scream and fight.

ANNA
Let go! LET GO OF HIM YOU
FUCKING- LET GO OF ME!

Anna breaks away. It takes two cops to retrieve her. Rusth tucks Adom into the car.

At the window Anna's friends watch, in disbelief.

RHINO
Did you hear that?

RUSTY
Wow.

MICHELLE
Have you ever heard her raise
her voice?

On the ground, Halvorsen leads Anna into the school.

HALVORSEN
Come on, Anna.

INT. DETECTIVE RUSTH'S POLICE CAR

Detective Rusth and Adom drive away from the school.

RUSTH
Have to admit, you got a way
with women.

ADOM
Shame, dead guys don't date.

EXT. ADOM'S LOCKER

Kids crowd around Adom's locker. It reads:

24
Hours

INT. HIGH SCHOOL

Anna enters heartbroken, strangely different. Lana catches her and rushes her into the video room.

ANNA
Help me, we have to get him out.
You have to help me.

INT. DETECTIVE RUSTH'S POLICE CAR

Inside the police car, Adom acts crazy, struggling in the cuffs. Adom mumbles nonsense.

ADOM
Need Rorschach be remindified that
repeat defenders need not
commercially broadcast the episodes
of Videvil, AKA YTVE VIP and Q's This
ADOM (cont'd)
dangly word truth means. Death vein,
hits, hits, pain, hits, pain, hits.

Adom hits his head on the window.

ADOM

Overflowing voids of dark voices
remind us of our worth. In a
group of many you may not see
that you blink blind. Minuscule,
pain. Impotent bleed.

RUSTH

Adom.

ADOM

Life may be too short, to grow
wonderful length back to purity.

Rusth turns up the music as Adom gets louder.

ADOM

Alas that life may be too short,
Star stretching means sane parts,
crazy parts.

Adom kicks the radio. The detective pulls a gun out and
pushes it to Adom's lips.

RUSTH

Shut up.

ADOM

Do it.

Rusth puts the gun back in its holster. He pulls a wrapped
piece of pound-cake from the jockey box. He starts eating it,
loudly.

RUSTH

The thing that I love about pound
cake is that it's straightforward.

ADOM

Excuse me?

RUSTH

It says what it is, it says what
it does. It doesn't lie.

ADOM

So what are you saying?

RUSTH

You're not dumb enough to do it.

ADOM
Is that a dare?

Rusth throws Adom a photocopy of the suicide note.

RUSTH
You didn't go through it then, now
you're alone, and you're too scared.
A curious pair of twins.

ADOM
What do you know about pain?

RUSTH
More than your coward ass.

Adom snatches Rusth's gun and puts it to his head. Rusth slams on the breaks. It jars the gun, nearly causing it to go off.

ADOM
Nice job, you could have killed me.

Rusth unrolls his long sleeves to reveal deep suicide scars.

RUSTH
Just don't think you can run
around this town doing anything
you want. Give me my gun.

He snatches it from Adom's hand.

ADOM
I'm going to do it.

Rusth taps the gun upside Adom's head.

ADOM
Ouch.

RUSTH
You're going to your sister's.
(Beat)
You can still call me Rorschach,
though.

INT. VIDEO-ROOM

Zip enters. Rusty films Lana and Anna.

ANNA
I was just wandering on the Edge.

Every single thing is different.

LANA
Can you describe what happened.

ANNA
It was a warm comfortable sensation
It was the most unimaginable high
being so close to death.

LANA
Did he hurt you?

ANNA
I don't think so. I forgot myself.

RUSTY
This shit's delicious.

ZIP
(Jealous)
Shut up.

ANNA
Warmth velvet radiating, waves
rolling over my eyes and hands in
a wonderful rhythm. My heart was
pounding fiercely.

ZIP
Fiercely.

ANNA
His touch was like warm candy.

Lana looks surprised at her description. Rusty and Zip
whisper to each other in the background.

ZIP
It's simple. Expertise in the
field.

Anna does the hand motions of Adom's routine.

RUSTY
That's enough, Sexual Ed.

ANNA (O.S.)
It's everything that we were
promised in the movies.

ZIP
Sixteen Chapel' church of sex,

size, and videotape, Pulitzer prize-winning Sex-u-mentary.

RUSTY
That's my boy.

ZIP
Go find out where Anna's supposed to be. Get your brother to find out where Adom went.

LANA
What's that that you're doing?

ANNA
The safety dance.

LANA
Don't worry, we'll get him back.
(Beneath her breath)
Mental gymnastics.

INT. YMCA GYMNASIUM

Detective Rusth and Adom walk into the gym. Sam is there teaching spinning on the uneven parallel bars. Middle school kids watch. Adom clears his throat.

Rusth glances down at Adom's handcuffs.

RUSTH
Sorry, right.

Rusth releases Adom.

Rusth can't take his eyes off of her. Adom rolls his eyes.

Sam's body spins. Arching her back, Samantha catches on the lower bar and spins her body around.

Rusth watches as Sam gracefully lands.

SAM
The Hetch is a popular uneven bar maneuver.

RUSTH
Beautiful.

Rusth claps and whistles, getting the attention of the kids as well as Sam.

SAM
Small potty break kids, get some
water. When you come back we'll
all try the hetch.

ADOM
I live on the hetch?

Sam steps into some sweat-pants. She walks to Rusth and Adom standing on the side-lines. She touches the blood on Adom's shirt.

RUSTH
That's amazing.

SAM
What are you doing here?

RUSTH
I was hoping to talk to you.

SAM
Adom, there were a calls for you,
from YTVN? What happened to you?

ADOM
Don't worry, it's Jewwel's blood.

Sam smirks. She sees Detective Rusth and covers her mouth.

SAM
What have I told you?

She giggles a little.

RUSTH
Can you excuse us, Adom.

Adom shrugs away. He walks toward the girls who laugh. He acts as if he is going to fall on them. They scatter.

Meanwhile he does several forward rolls. They scream and laugh. Adom does several tumbling maneuvers.

RUSTH
He's good.

INT. INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE WITH WINDOWS

Rusth walks around looking at pictures on the walls. He stops to stroke a trophy.

Through the windows Adom mounts the balance beam and goes into a routine.

RUSTH
Your brother punched out a teacher.

SAM
Jewel? Don't worry. He won't press charges.

RUSTH
But Anna Toll's parents will.

SAM
What?

RUSTH
The Tolls think Anna was raped.

SAM
What?

RUSTH
I thought I'd bring our little suicide Super-star to your doorstep.

SAM
Thanks.

RUSTH
Anna's acting weird, talking about a religious sexual experience.

SAM
Epiphany.

RUSTH
Epiphany, right.

SAM
I can't keep him here. He won't stay.

Rusth studies a trophy case.

RUSTH
Yours?

SAM
Our parent's trophies. They were famous trainers. They disappeared in Zaire, Africa when we were kids.

Sam glances out at Adom. Adom executes a perfect dismount.

RUSTH
You're really charming.

SAM
Don't ask me out, please. I don't
date older men anymore.

RUSTH
O.K.

SAM
Thanks.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL -- NEXT MORNING

Kids swarm around Adom as he enters the school. Jason
approaches Adom. Adom acts guarded.

JASON
I'm anti-violent, but that was a
nice one you laid on Jewwel.

MICHELLE
You got the Edge.

Adom is repeatedly approached. Students touch him. Adom spins
around, confused.

FOOTBALL QUARTERBACK
I'll show you my pass if you
show me yours.

FOOTBALL PLAYER
Hey Edge.

A girl passes, whispering.

2nd GIRL
-Teenage Don Juan.

Adom stops under the monitor and stares.

MONITOR

Church music plays over a commercial for:

ZIP
Sixteen Chapel' church of sex,
size, and videotape, Pulitzer
prize-winning Sex-u-mentary.

Adom stands, a Christ figure. Clips show him being persecuted

in the halls and bleeding while cops cart him off.

ANNA (V.O.)

It's everything that we were
promised in the movies.

ZIP

Episode two at sixth period break.

The halls watch Adom's every move. Adom pulls a marker from his jacket. He goes to write on his locker, but stops.

The school surrounds him, waiting for his next move.

POPULARITY MONTAGE

THE EDGE

The group cruise along in Rhino's car. Zip films Adom. They all share a bottle of Everclear. Adom looks into the camera. He's loaded.

JASON

It has to be theatrical. You have to
take into consideration, props.

Adom takes another swig and hands the bottle of Everclear to Zip.

ADOM

What do you see?

ZIP

I see people everywhere. Music.
I see a wide-open place.

RUSTY

Beachfest, perfect.

MICHELLE

The end is near. We have to get
planning.

JASON

That's what I'm saying, dress
rehearsals, people.

RHINO

It'll make national news.

The pressure is as thick as fog. Lana touches his hand.

LANA
You'll be famous.

Adom takes another swig.

ADOM
Let the countdown begin.

VIEWING ROOM

Rusth is there, strung out on video footage. Coffee cups and coffee cakes surround him. The man needs some romance.

MALL

Lana takes Adom shopping. In the background, Jason models women's fashions for them.

SKATE-PARK

Rhino, Adom and the others spin cookies in the grass. They make their getaway down the main street. Nathan Halvorsen pulls Rhino over. When Nathan drives off, Michelle takes the ticket and crumples it.

Michelle rollerblades up an incline and does an impressive jump.

LANA (V.O.)
You're something special. Adom,
you're a perfect addition to our
group.

WAREHOUSE

The group rolls on Ecstasy. They touch each other's faces, backs, and hands. They take turns video-taping.

Anna goes down on Zip. Michelle goes down on Rhino. Jason and Rusty play with neon play-dough. Rusty moves to Adom and pulls something out of his coat. It is a revolver.

RUSTY
It's yours. I'd be honored.

Lana looks at Adom. Adom handles a gun that Rusty hands him. Adom allows it to get comfortable in his hands.

ADOM
She was everything pure and good.

Adom looks away from Lana's wanting eyes.

INT. CHITWOOD APT. -- NIGHT

Rusth calls Samantha. Samantha lets it ring. Next to the phone are the flowers.

EXT. PHISH ESTATE -- NIGHT

Marla answers the door to the flower delivery BOY. She can't help but smile at the gesture. She opens the card to find Ron Rusth's signature and a Valentine Card.

INT. CHURCH STUDIO -- MORNING

Adom wakes in a sweat. He searches everywhere. Buried under concert tickets and various other party paraphenelia is Beth's curled photograph.

Adom loads the gun with, not just one bullet, but an entire chamber. Looking at the room, you see he has enough bullets to mow down the entire school.

EXT. ENDPORNT -- MORNING

Signs all over town promote Beachfest.

INT. HAUSEN ESTATE -- NIGHT

Zip's room is an ode to technology. Anna sits next to Zip. He ignores her, playing a Sega game.

ANNA

Can I play?

He throws the other control at her.

ZIP

I don't know why, you'll just kill yourself.

Anna holds the control tightly in both hands, looking seriously at it.

INT. POLICE STATION

Ron Rusth sits across from Marla Phish.

MARLA

There's no proof that it was a

suicide.

RUSTH
Would you like to question him?

MARLA
Don't patronize me, Detective
Rusth. I'll go over your head.

RUSTH
I'm keeping a close watch. What
would you suggest?

MARLA
Portland Mental Institution. To
protect the others.

RUSTH
He's not a popular boy. He won't
be missed.

MARLA
Your wrong. You're wrapped up in him
too, aren't you?

RUSTH
Tell me, did you have your children
naturally or did you form them from
sand?

MARLA
I know about you, Rusth. I know your
wife left you for your partner. Who
could blame her when you were locked
away in some psych ward, crying over
the kid you killed.

All charm has left Ron Rusth's face.

RUSTH
I won't let you wash this boy out to
sea. He's innocent.

MARLA
Not all young people are innocent,
but don't you know that Detective?

Marla stomps out. Rusth ponders momentarily. He tears open a
boxed cheesecake, and starts to literally tear it to pieces,
devouring it.

RUSTH
Sam, I am.

Calming, Rusth fast forwards over a YTV commercial for a segment called LOCAL ALIENS. It shows the couple doing the routine. The commercial shows several other weirdos, but mainly Beth and Adom acting strangely.

Next clip, Beth and Adom are at a formal school dance. They are dressed formally, although Adom's hair is long.

The couple slow dance. Adom is the gentleman, tenderly turning her. He dances elegantly, eye to eye. The couple are lost in each other.

RUSTH
Samantha Carl.

Rusth stares at them, misty eyed. He jumps to his feet and begins to spin his imaginary mate.

INT. FLOWER SHOP -- MORNING

Detective Rusth looks through the showcases of flowers.

Ron Rusth turns. Marla Phish stands behind him.

MARLA
He's expelled. I want him out of school.

Marla walks away. Rusth gives a sarcastic shiver.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM

Students are dressed down in P.E. gear. The populars mill around waiting for an appearance, but Adom is missing.

Lana and Michelle look around.

LANA
Where is he?

MICHELLE
He never misses school.

Jewel stands in front of the gymnasium. Above him are gymnastic rings.

JEWEL
These are known as the rings.
JEWEL (cont'd)
They are used to show agility,

control and strength. These take months, even years to mount.

Rhino and Zip stand behind Lana.

RHINO
Like someone else we know.

ZIP
After beachfest, buddy.

JEWEL
Now I don't expect anyone to be able to use these right away-

Adom enters with bandaged wrists. Jewel backs away.

Adom jumps up on them. He straightens out.

He pulls himself upside-down.

He spins once around and remains in the position of the cross. Spots of blood come to his bandages.

Adom holds for as long as possible till blood drips to the gymnasium floor.

Adom drops down and rolls into a handstand. The kids gasp. Adom does a series of cart-wheels taking him across the gym.

A roundoff drops him in front of Lana.

He backs away from her, keeping eye contact. He stands below the basketball hoop. He jumps up, grabs onto it, and pulls himself upside down.

He does a handstand on the top of the basketball hoop.

Kids laugh and clap. Lana eyes Adom hungrily.

ZIP
Are we going to Beachfest or not?

LANA
(She walks towards Adom)
I have a date.

INT. ANNA'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Anna Toll lies in bed, the only light is from the digital clock blinking 12:00.

She lays on her stomach, almost methodically stuffing food into her mouth.

There are huge bags under her eyes. She has been crying.

Anna's hand reaches over and jerks the plug out of the wall. The room goes black.

INT. ADOM'S ROOM -- NEXT NIGHT

Adom dries his hair. He picks up Beth's photograph and wipes it with a towel.

ADOM
(Whispering)
Whatever words I say, I will
always love you.

Michelle comes into Adom's room. He is drying his hair.

She closes the door behind her.

INT. THE PHISH ESTATE -- NIGHT

Lana comes down the stairs, dressed elaborately. She tries to sneak out the door.

MARLA
I forbid you going out with that boy.

LANA
Sorry.

MARLA
You're using this to get me back.

LANA
You take away everything. You won't
take this away from me.

Lana leaves. Her mother watches from the window.

INT. END STOP CAFE

This rustic cafe overlooks the beach. Ron Rusth awaits dinner. Sam enters. She sees Rusth and approaches.

RUSTH
Dropping off Adom?

Sam nods (Email scripts@ladyluxxx.com for more)