

Uradium College
Episode 1: Party Forever

Written by
Edgerin McArthur

edgerinmcArthur2024@gmail.com
267-351-1859
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

ACT 1

INT. RAINY AFTERNOON - URADIUM COLLEGE GYMNASIUM

At a band rehearsal, NEVEAH (18) is clearly playing her trombone low and terribly, hiding amongst the choir as they do a recite of "Funky Town". They all stand dressed in black. She tries to appear confident, but she can feel the judgey gazes to her side. The rain outside can be heard getting more intense.

INSTRUCTOR
(Waving hand)
Okay, okay, hold on.

The band stops. Neveah tenses.

INSTRUCTOR (CONT'D)
We're still weak, I can't feel enough
power. From the top, clarinets, let me
hear you.

The clarinets begin to play before he motions them to stop.

INSTRUCTOR (CONT'D)
Trumpets.

The TRUMPETS play before he motions them stop. Neveah's hands begin to sweat and mouth drools.

INSTRUCTOR (CONT'D)
Flutes, go!

The FLUTES begin to play. At that moment a crew of soccer players enter the gym, wet from rain. They immediately get to kicking balls around and shooting them into the basketball nets. Neveah spots a familiar boy amongst them and enamoring her gaze within seconds.

The instructor motions the flutes to stop.

INSTRUCTOR (O.S.)
(Muffled)
Trombones.

The TROMBONES beside her blare out, taking her from her trance.

INSTRUCTOR
(Motioning to stop)
Ah! Someone's distracted.

He points a commanding finger to her and she shrinks with embarrassment as everyone turns to her.

NEVEAH
(Nervously chuckling)
My bad, I-

INSTRUCTOR
Let me hear you.

NEVEAH
(Shocked and confusingly)
Me?

The instructor cocks his head.

NEVEAH (CONT'D)
(Acceptance)
I...okay.

She slowly lifts the trombone to her lips. She takes a slow, deep breath in and presses against the mouthpiece. A terrible note plays.

CUT TO:

Neveah returns her trombone case to the instructor after rehearsal and they exchange a look of disappointment. She sighs and turns to the leave.

Neveah throws on her coat following as everyone exits. She watches some of her old bandmates from the doorway as they walk home gleefully together. She decides to catch up behind them.

The crew hear her approaching and turn towards her as she stamps across the puddled gravel walkway.

NEVEAH (CONT'D)
Hey!

BAND GIRL
(Cheerfully)
Oh. Hey!

NEVEAH
(Nervously)
I know I'm not in the band anymore,
but you guys seem cool! Maybe we could
hang sometime! I don't know, rehearse
or something.

The band looks to each other briefly.

BAND GIRL

Yeah, you seem so cool too! And don't worry I've heard worse.

The girl mimics the flat trumpet and the rest of the other laughs. Neveah laughs along. Then a silence.

NEVEAH

(Pulling out her phone)

Maybe I should get your number?

BAND GIRL

Yeah, just call me whenever you wanna go out!

NEVEAH

(Playing it cool)

Cool.

The girl puts her number in Neveah's phone and puts the contact under Tina Bone, with contact profile at the top showing "T. Bone"

TINA

Here you go.

NEVEAH

Okay, I'll see you guys.

TINA AND OTHERS

Byee!

Tina mimics the trombone again before giggling and waving Neveah bye. She chuckles and waves back, then goes down the opposite path.

INT. JONATHAN'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

JONATHAN (18) is sitting on his couch with a bowl of popcorn watching Transformers. His living room is filled with freshly watered plants, sports posters, decorative dish sets, and magazines and comics.

Jonathan watches as Ironhide dies and shakes his head in disappointment.

JONATHAN

(Chewing popcorn)

That's fucked up.

Shortly after, there's a rhythmic knock at the door and Jonathan's face lights up. He sets his popcorn bowl down on the coffee table in front of him and goes to answer the door.

There stands Neveah. She throws up a peace sign and kissy lips.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

My love.

They share a hug, Neveah makes her way to the couch and Jonathan closes the door behind her.

NEVEAH

Ooh, smells like popcorn.

JONATHAN

Yeah, I'm just in here watching a movie.

Neveah looks to see Transformers playing as she sits down on the couch. She reaches for the popcorn bowl in front of her.

NEVEAH

My god, you love these.

JONATHAN

Yeah, cause they're good.

He sits beside her on the couch.

NEVEAH

I know Letterboxd's tired of your shit.

They both cackle.

JONATHAN

Shut up.

NEVEAH

Mm, why is this so good?

JONATHAN

You know I like to dapper up my shit.

Neveah looks to see a collection of popcorn enhancing seasonings, butter, and bucket holders, and an ambiguous container that says "Jonny's Special".

Neveah looks down to the popcorn disgustingly and sets it

back on the coffee table.

NEVEAH
I'm actually kinda pissed. I just got
kicked out of the band.

JONATHAN
(Surprised)
Oh my God. Why cause you're shitty?

NEVEAH
I mean at least I was trying, shit.
You know I always wanted to join a
band.

JONATHAN
(Chuckling)
Yeah, but why trombone out of
everything again? It's just so damn
large and long.

Neveah makes a raunchy face at Jonathan and they both giggle
at the last choice of words.

NEVEAH
Cause that's my shit right there.

They briefly return to watching the movie.

JONATHAN
Wanna smoke?

CUT TO:

Neveah inhales a hit from a rolled up joint moments later as
Jonathan gets some music started. He plays "This Must Be The
Place" by Talking Heads

NEVEAH
So, anyway, speaking of large and
long, guess who I happened to see at
the gym earlier.

JONATHAN
Who?

NEVEAH
Maverick!

Neveah lets out a shrill.

NEVEAH (CONT'D)
He was literally coming in from
practice, you know it started to pour
earlier. He looked wet and muddy and
sexy.

JONATHAN
Ugh, this the same boy from your Econ
class too?

NEVEAH
Yup.

JONATHAN
When you finally plan on talking to
him?

He grabs ahold of the joint from her and inhales it.

NEVEAH
Soon. There's always a right time and
place.

JONATHAN
Just don't miss your opportunity.

NEVEAH
I guess, but, uhhh, I don't know how.
I've never had anyone that looks at
good he does. I wouldn't even know
what to say to him.

JONATHAN
It'll come to you.

NEVEAH
Yeah... But don't forget, we've got
his game tomorrow.

JONATHAN
(Sarcastic)
Wouldn't miss it.

(BEAT)

NEVEAH
But what about you?

JONATHAN
(Taking another inhale)
Me?

NEVEAH

Yeah, anyone you got your eye on?

Jonathan shrugs his shoulders. He passes the joint.

JONATHAN

Meh, not really.

NEVEAH

How come?

JONATHAN

No one really worth crushing on.

NEVEAH

I wouldn't say that, there's so many pretty girls here.

JONATHAN

Pretty, sure, but honestly most of the people here are asses, and on top of that, I'm a more solo-dolo kinda guy. I don't mind the solitude.

NEVEAH

I actually spoke to some nice girls earlier! From band. I got their number and everything they said we could hang whenever. I could prolly set something up.

She nudges him in his arm.

JONATHAN

No, that's not necessary.

Neveah drops down.

NEVEAH

(Inquisitively)

But why don't you ever wanna... do a little more?

JONATHAN

It's not that I don't want to but... we're only a few weeks in. What's the rush to do a whole lot, you know. What's *your* rush?

NEVEAH

My rush?

JONATHAN

Yeah, you're doing like a lot right now. You're a cam operator for some news show. You just joined a trades program. Somehow got a gig to be a masseuse for the women's rowing team. Just got kicked from band...just seems to me like you're rushing a bit. We already worked our asses getting in here, nothing wrong with riding out for a little.

Neveah sits with the thought for a moment before taking another hit and passing it again.

NEVEAH

Did you like high school?

JONATHAN.

Yeah, for sure.

NEVEAH

Oh.

JONATHAN

And you didn't?

NEVEAH

(Defensively)

No, I did! It's just... I don't know I wish it was just more, you know? It just went so fast, and sometimes I think

(shrugs shoulders)

more could've lasted, I guess, from it, or I had more to look back on and be proud of.

Jonathan nods his head in understanding before taking another hit before responding.

JONATHAN

(Supportive)

You had me.

Neveah dawns a soft smile at Jonathan before turning to look at the paused TV screen.

NEVEAH

(Warmfully)

Yeah.

They both take in the music playing for a moment.

Jonathan tries to pass the remainder of the joint back to the Neveah.

NEVEAH (CONT'D)
Nah, I'm pretty cooked.

They both laugh.

Jonathan takes one final hit before putting it out on in his ashtray.

JONATHAN
Now I'm starving.

NEVEAH
Oh my god, yes! I need a burger or something.

JONATHAN
It's only like 8:30, that campus bar and grill should still be open, I think.

NEVEAH
Ooh, should I call the girls?

JONATHAN
Bro, again with these girls. Fine. Just don't try anything tonight, please.

NEVEAH
Right.

Neveah pulls out her phone to call Tina. The phone rings as she puts it on speaker.

After a moment, the line answers with silence.

NEVEAH (CONT'D)
Tina?

At that moment, an obnoxiously loud trombone blares over the phone, startling Neveah causing her to drop it. On the floor, they hear a group of people laughing before the line hangs up.

They look at each other in silence.

JONATHAN
(Getting up from the couch)
Let's just go.

EXT/INT. CAMPUS BAR & GRILL - CONTINUOUS

Jonathan and Neveah follow the path down to the bar & grill restaurant. The rain's stopped but they still make sure to kick the puddles as they pass by.

The campus is quiet, except a few buzzing cicadas and electrical buzzing from the light posts. There's an eerie tranquility in the air.

Other students around the campus noticeably are going in an opposite direction to them, walking strangely uniform and appear to be having very minimal conversation.

NEVEAH
Where's everybody going?

JONATHAN
Who knows.

Continuing down the path, Jonathan looks up at another, student who smiles at him. Jonathan nervously smiles back.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)
Oh. And they're smiling.

NEVEAH
I don't think we've ever gone out this late since being here. It's probably another party happening.

JONATHAN
Yeah, Uradium sure does love to party.

They make it to the front of the restaurant and Jonathan holds the door open. They go inside and stand in the line. The restaurant is scarce with a few people about.

They get to the front of the line.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)
Can we have two double cheeseburgers and fries, please?

CUT TO:

At the booth, Jonathan and Neveah are scarfing down their

double cheeseburgers, looking out beside the window into the dark and dimly lit with street poles. The workers in the background are beginning to close for the night: Restocking, wiping counters, etc.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

I do gotta say, campus is super pretty at night.

NEVEAH

I know, makes you wanna come out more often.

Jonathan holds his burger to his mouth in thought for a bit before taking another bite.

JONATHAN

Yeah, kinda does.

Most of the stragglers in the restaurant have left and the workers have disappeared to the back.

Shortly after, a series a fireworks begins setting off in the distance.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

(Surprise)

Holy shit, fireworks!?

NEVEAH

Oh my gosh, this is everything I needed for my high right now.

JONATHAN

Ha, yeah. It's pretty cool.

They continue watching through the window in the distance.

NEVEAH

Maybe we should get a closer look.

JONATHAN

Wanna go?

At that moment, a remaining young girl passes by the table to leave the building. Her long black hair obscures the sides of her face.

NEVEAH

(Waving to her)

Oh, excuse me!

The girl stops in her tracks and doesn't turn.

GIRL (V.O.)

Hey!

NEVEAH

Uhh...

The light above the girl's head begins to flicker. Neveah and Jonathan look to each other, but she continues anyway.

NEVEAH (CONT'D)

Those fireworks are from a party,
aren't they? Do you know where it is?

The girl turns her entire body very slowly with intense buildup, her face only visible when she fully faces them, as she dawns an extreme wide-eyed expression and says nothing for a moment.

Suddenly, the kitchen lights shut off.

Then the girl instantly lights up.

GIRL

(Gleefully)

Of course I do! I'm headed there right
now!

Jonathan turns around to face Neveah.

JONATHAN

(Whispering)

Um, she's fucking creepy. There's no
way we're gonna go with her.

GIRL

Wanna come?

NEVEAH

Yes!

As Neveah gets up from the table grinning, Jonathan mouths for her to sit back down, but she ignores him Jonathan rolls his eyes and follows behind.

They stand in front of her and she stares at them again with another blank expression.

NEVEAH (CONT'D)

We ready?

The girl makes a 180 degree spin and leads Jonathan and Neveah from the restaurant. Jonathan gives her a disapproving head nod, which Neveah shrugs off, following the girl out the restaurant.

ACT 2

EXT. CAMPUS - CONTINUOUS

The fireworks are still going strong as the girl leads them closer to the party. They walk staggered behind her, trying not to bump into her.

JONATHAN

(Whispering)

My god, why is she moving so slow.
We're gonna miss it by the time we get there.

NEVEAH

(Whispering)

I don't know. Should we ask her to go faster?

JONATHAN

(Genuine concern)

I don't want her to like... break though.

NEVEAH

(To the girl)

So...we kinda wanted to catch the fireworks while they were still going.
Do you think we'll miss them?

She continues walking ahead the path with no response.

NEVEAH (CONT'D)

Hello?

No response. They look to eachother.

NEVEAH (CONT'D)

It's whatever, I think I can hear some music now, anyways.

CUT TO:

An intense party scene rages on: Students passed out on the front lawn of a town house, red Solo cups littering the ground, people splashing from the backyard pool, LED lights flashing every which way, music you can feel in your bones...

Jonathan and Neveah approach the front of the house with the girl.

She abruptly stops in her tracks at the front of the lawn right before the grass meets the pavement. She stands frozen.

JONATHAN

Ugh, it reeks out here, what is that smell?

Jonathan looks down to see the girl standing directly on top of an open bottle of PINK SAUCE, with the contents oozing out onto the grass and concrete.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

(In disgust)

Uhh, well thanks. We're gonna-

The girl suddenly snaps back to normal.

GIRL

(Throwing arms in the air)

Woooo!

Jonathan jumps back out of fear.

JONATHAN

Woah, what the fuck!

GIRL

Let's have some funnn, y'all!

She reaches into her pocket and pulls out a bottle of Xanax. She takes two before running off into a crowd out on the lawn and instantly begins chugging beer as people cheer.

Jonathan watches in pure confusion and Neveah takes a look up into the sky.

NEVEAH

(Runs fingers through hair)

Wait, no! The fireworks stopped!

JONATHAN

Uh oh. Looks like they did. Welp, time to head back.

NEVEAH

No, we came here for fireworks! I know they've got more.

Neveah looks towards the house.

NEVEAH (CONT'D)

But since, we're here anyway. Maybe we should go inside and find them.

Neveah tries to march forward, but Jonathan grabs ahold of her arm.

JONATHAN

No, no, no, this is not our scene. We don't even know anyone here. No one invited us.

NEVEAH

So? We'll meet people! Easy. Besides, we got our homegirl over there.

She points to the same girl who is now chugging two beers on a handstand.

JONATHAN

When have you ever been the party type?

NEVEAH

Tonight.

Neveah snatches back her arm childishly and proceeds towards the front of the town house before suddenly a series of fireworks explode from within the house, sending people screaming and running. Visible flames appear inside. Neveah stops dead in her tracks with a look a shock and horror.

Watching the chaos ensue, Jonathan slowly steps up behind Neveah.

JONATHAN

Looks like that was a sign, huh?
Party's ending early tonight it looks like.

He gives Neveah a reassuring pat on the shoulder. They watch for a minute as the flames and screams intensify, completed with a dazzling firework and light show. Jonathan with a look of pride, Neveah still in horror.

Jonathan can't help but admire the beauty of the sight a bit.

INT. DINING HALL - LUNCH

Jonathan sits down with his tray at a two-person table in front of Neveah in the crowded Uradium dining hall.

Their lunch complete with roast beef and gravy, mashed potatoes, and carrots. On the side, Neveah has some extra chicken nuggets and Jonathan some French fries.

JONATHAN

How was the morning?

NEVEAH

It was alright, I just had home ed.

JONATHAN

Oh yeah? They teach you all about taxes today?

NEVEAH

Nah, how to resuscitate an asphyxiated pet. Yours?

JONATHAN

Alright, too. I guess. I woke up super late, though.

Jonathan pulls out his phone and scrolls for a bit while snacking on some fries.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

Last night sure does look...interesting.

NEVEAH

Every night here looks interesting.

JONATHAN

I think we're thinking of two different interesting...

Neveah rolls her eyes.

NEVEAH

Well...I don't know, I think we should actually go to one.

JONATHAN

So you were forreal about going in there last night?

NEVEAH

Yeah, who knows. We might could actually have some fun.

Jonathan looks back at his phone.

JONATHAN

I just I don't think these things are really for us. Neither of us like the taste of alcohol, but besides that, we're...Homebodies, nerds, always anxious; how would we even function there?

NEVEAH

(Jokingly)

Oh please, you're definitely a bigger dweeb than me.

She gently reaches over and pushes his forehead with her thumb, leaving a print of syrup.

NEVEAH (CONT'D)

And even if that's *somewhat* true, I've been trying to tell you, it don't always gotta be that way.

Jonathan rubs the syrup from his forehead.

JONATHAN

These parties follow the same format: You get wasted, do some wild shit, fuck a stranger, and then regret it all later. *That's* what you're looking for? You saw what happens last night when you mix teens, liquor, and fireworks.

NEVEAH

Ain't nothing wrong with a little regret. It's about the *moment*. I know you had a moment last night.

JONATHAN

What do you mean?

NEVEAH

You felt something while we were out, admit it. You *liked* the party scene.

Jonathan blushes a bit.

JONATHAN

It's pretty... sure. But all that glitters isn't gold.

NEVEAH

Oh god, here comes the analogies.

JONATHAN

They work for a reason. *We're* not going. Final.

NEVEAH

Fine. You're probably a *little* right anyway. But c'mon we got that *soccer gameee*. Imma go change.

JONATHAN

Alright, yeah. Imma head to mine too.

INT. JONATHAN/NEVEAH'S APARTMENTS - CONTINUOUS

Jonathan steps into his apartment and throws his keys down on the counter. He goes into his fridge and pours a glass of water from his Brita filter. After looking at some plaques along his wall, he walks through the short hall to get to the living room and see his ashtray with weed sitting on the coffee table.

CUT TO:

Neveah enters in her apartment. It is very warm and cozy in color, decorated with pink rugs and lamps, a sunlight projector, and bean bag chairs. In her room, she has an arrangement of different hoodies hanging on her wall, a clutter of books and papers laying untouched on a desk, which she bypasses to turn on a tiny space heater on the same desk.

She steps into her bathroom to run a hot shower.

CUT TO:

Jonathan with a freshly rolled up joint sits on his couch and grabs hold of the remote to put something on the TV. In the middle of his search, he hears three knocks at his door. He lets out a sigh.

CUT TO:

Neveah right before getting ready to take her shirt off reacts to the "same" knock. She lets out a sigh before walking out from her bathroom to approach the front door.

CUT TO:

Jonathan is approaching his door while still inhaling his

joint.

JONATHAN
(To himself)
Christ, literally who could this be,
blowing my high.

A shot of his hand grabs the door handle.

CUT TO:

Neveah opens up her door.

CUT TO:

Jonathan's feet are shown as he opens the door. A black piece of paper is visible on the ground.

CUT TO:

Neveah is surprised to see no one. She looks both ways down the empty corridor. She takes another look down at the ground.

CUT TO:

Jonathan reaches down slowly to grab the piece of paper. He inspects it in his hand confusingly, turning it to see the front and back.

CUT TO:

In Neveah's hand, the paper shows a flyer with a corpse arm reaching up from the dirt in front of an old, abandoned looking house, surrounded by lightning holding a note. She starts to read the words on it.

NEVEAH
(Slowly)
"A party like no other.-"

CUT TO:

JONATHAN
(Slowly)
"-A world so captivating you may-"

CUT TO:

NEVEAH
"-find it difficult to leave."

JONATHAN
"Discover what awaits this
Friday?"

NEVEAH
"Discover what awaits this
Friday."

Right after in Neveah's apartment, she jumps at the sound of something falling in her living room. She looks over to see a small miscellaneous case full of paperclips, pencils, pens, earbuds, etc. had fallen over on the table with her rose toy rolled over and buzzing. She sucks her teeth and rolls her eyes.

CUT TO:

Jonathan eyes the paper for a few seconds longer.

JONATHAN
Oh, please.

He throws the flyer out in the trash and heads back to his couch. As soon as he settles back down and finds something on the TV, he gets a ring on his phone.

Neveah.

He answers.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)
(Phone to ear)
Is this what I think it's about.

NEVEAH
(Phone to ear)
Bruh! Did you just get this flyer
too!?

JONATHAN
I did, and we're still not going.

NEVEAH
What!? But this is the invite we were
waiting for.

JONATHAN
I wasn't waiting on anything. And how
convenient, right, definitely isn't
some obvious foreboding.

NEVEAH
Ugh. Just...sleep on it?

Jonathan lets out a sigh of defeat.

JONATHAN

Maybe.

NEVEAH

Ayy! Okay, meet you at the game!

JONATHAN

Byee.

They end the call and Jonathan continues with the rest of joint.

EXT. SOCCER MATCH - FIELD - LATER

The game plays on. It's a nice hot day out on the field. The bleachers are filled with students as they watch the opposing colleges play.

The band is lining up across the pitch getting ready for their performance.

Jonathan and Neveah are center row watching the game.

NEVEAH

God, he's so good.

JONATHAN

He was on the benches for like the first...three-eighths of the game.

NEVEAH

Saving their best for last.

At that moment, the buzzer rings calling for halftime. Students get up from the bleachers, taking a stretch, walking around field, grabbing food and water, etc.

The band begins their performance of "Funky Town"

NEVEAH (CONT'D)

Dang, halftime already? Did anyone score?

JONATHAN

No, it's like the World Cup.

They continue people-watching for a moment when Neveah spots Maverick leaning by himself on the fence on the far end of the field.

NEVEAH
I'm gonna go and talk to him.

JONATHAN
Who?

Jonathan follows her gaze and spots Maverick across the field.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)
Wha-, right now?

NEVEAH
Yes, the time is right. I know it.

Neveah stands tall and adjusts her clothing. She scans the field and sees a waterboy in the distance carrying a large tub.

NEVEAH (CONT'D)
And I know just how.

Neveah quickly heads off in the waterboy's direction.

JONATHAN
Neveah, wait!

She jumps down the bleachers and runs off in the distance, reaching the waterboy. Jonathan watches as she appears to have a casual conversation with him.

Suddenly, she grabs hold of the water tub and starts fighting with the waterboy for it. Eventually, she gains the upper hand and kicks him down to the ground. While he's down, she goes over to him and grabs his visor cap off his head and puts it on.

She starts making her way over to Maverick.

Shortly after, he's joined by a familiar long, black-haired girl as she sits down beside him.

GIRL
Oh, hey!

JONATHAN
(Nervously looking for an escape)
Oh, uh. Hi.

GIRL
I remember you from last night.

JONATHAN

Yeah, I remember you too. You were certainly...an observation.

GIRL

(Laidback)

Yeah, I know. I get *super* crazy on party nights. Say where's the girl you were with?

JONATHAN

Oh, Neveah. She's just over there.

Jonathan points over to Neveah who has just walked up to Maverick.

NEVEAH

(Shyly)

Hi.

MAVERICK

Hey, wassup.

NEVEAH

(Slightly stammering)

Umm, it's pretty hot, I'm just coming around with some water, you know. Would you-. Would you want some?

MAVERICK

Sure, I'll take some.

Maverick grabs his empty water bottle from beside his feet. He places it underneath the spout and pours. Neveah watches him intensely, her eyes widening and her heart racing.

He lifts back up and takes a sip from the bottle. He instantly gags and spits out pink globs, startling Neveah.

NEVEAH

Woah! Oh my God, are you okay?

MAVERICK

(Wiping his tongue, with concern)

What the fuck is in there?

NEVEAH

It's water-

Neveah turns the tub around to see a label written in hot pink marker that says "PINK SAUCE" with tiny yellow stars

around it.

NEVEAH (CONT'D)
 What the fuck was he doing with-!?
 (To Maverick)
 I'm so, so sorry, I really didn't mean
 to.

MAVERICK
 (Still spitting)
 It's fine.

She looks across the field and spots another waterboy holding a large tub with the label "WATER". She growls her face at him. She looks back to Maverick regularly.

NEVEAH
 (Recovering)
 I can go get you some actual wate-

SOCCER BOY (V.O.)
 Yo, Mav! Check this shit out, bro.

Neveah looks as another soccer player approaches.

CUT TO:

GIRL
 So is she, like, your girlfriend or?

JONATHAN
 Nah, we're best friends.

GIRL
 Huh. I'm surprised I don't see you
 more then.

JONATHAN
 What do you mean?

GIRL
 I know it's looks massive with
 everyone here, but it's a relatively
 small school, a lot of the same faces.
 She's practically everywhere. Not you.

JONATHAN
 Oh. People have been... noticing her?

GIRL
 Yeah. It's not always a *good* notice,
 (MORE)

GIRL (CONT'D)
but... people notice.

JONATHAN
Huh.

GIRL
Where'd you guys come from?

CUT TO:

SOCCER BOY
(Showing phone to Maverick)
We got everything basically ready to go, bro. The booze, the lo, the *action*. Absolutely zero fuck ups this Friday. The frats clearly can't host properly...

MAVERICK
Bet it. We've gotta set an example with this one.

He looks at Neveah still standing there and watching them.

SOCCER BOY (CONT'D)
Who's this?

MAVERICK
Oh. Just the water girl.

NEVEAH
Oh- well, actually I'm Neveah.

MAVERICK
Cool.

There's a short pause.

NEVEAH
But uhh.. Did I hear that right? Are you- are you hosting this week's party?

MAVERICK
Yup. And we're gonna be the biggest to do it. You coming?

NEVEAH
I...

SOCCER BOY

No way she's coming, dude, she's a dork.

NEVEAH

(Defensively)

No, I'm not! Fuck yes! I'll be there. And... I could bring you guys some extra weed, too.

MAVERICK

Ohh, alright, party girl. I should see you there, then.

Neveah instantly blushes and Maverick starts walking off with Soccer Boy.

NEVEAH

Oh-okay.

CUT TO:

GIRL

And it's really just been you two?

JONATHAN

Yeah. We depend on each other.

GIRL

Well, I wouldn't be so sure *she* depends on *you*.

JONATHAN

What do you mean? We've always been there for each other.

GIRL

Sure, you can *be* there for somebody but that doesn't mean you have to *depend* on them.

Jonathan doesn't respond.

GIRL (CONT'D)

Neveah is out there. Doing her thing. Being herself. And where are you?

JONATHAN

I'm right here too!

GIRL

Yeah, but, do you actually know where you are? Have you found yourself?

JONATHAN

Uhh-, I don't think I'm los-

GIRL

Maybe it's just been you two because you don't know how to have anything else. Are you scared?

JONATHAN

(Anxiously)

What the-, what is this, palm reading going on right now.

GIRL

I don't know, I could be wrong, but I'm just saying. You made her your whole world and I think you've just been... retreating to it. Maybe you wouldn't feel nearly as anxious if you learned to open yourself up to others.

Jonathan stares at her, internalizing her strange words making him confront a truth he had been too afraid to see.

NEVEAH (V.O.)

Jonathan!

He looks over to see Neveah approaching him, coming up the bleachers. He waves out to her. He turns back around to face the girl only for her to have completely vanished. He urgently scans around for her.

He's able to catch a glimpse of black hair quickly ducking behind the bleachers on the far right.

NEVEAH (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Hey...

He turns back to face her, now sitting beside him, both with something to say.

JONATHAN

We gotta go to that party.

NEVEAH

We gotta go to that party.

ACT 3

INT/EXT. JONATHAN AND NEVEAH'S APARTMENTS/PARTY HOUSE -
FRIDAY AFTERNOON

"22" by Taylor Swift plays.

Her and Jonathan talk on the phone the night of the party. She dresses in black-ripped shorts with a white top and her shoulder hanging out. She layers on a few pieces of jewelry around her neck and wrists. She moisturizes down to perfection and adds a touch of makeup.

Jonathan is trying on a hideous new graphic tee and denim style outfit, something very out of his style.

JONATHAN

(Phone on speaker)

I don't remember agreeing to bring them my stash. I'm sure they've got plenty.

NEVEAH

Just a bit, please!? I had to spice it up a bit.

Jonathan throws on a pair of shades before taking a look in the mirror.

JONATHAN

(Phone on speaker)

I look ridiculous.

NEVEAH

(Laughing)

I told you you should've let me pick your outfit in the store.

JONATHAN

Whatever. This is going to be a one-night thing, anyway.

NEVEAH

Nuh uh. You said wanted to come, don't front now.

JONATHAN

I'm not. I'm almost ready to go.

NEVEAH

Good. Cause we're gonna enjoy it.

JONATHAN
Yeah, I sure hope so.

NEVEAH
I know so. There's games, new friends,
a *pool*...And Maverick!

JONATHAN
(Sarcastically)
Get ready for the night of our lives!

CUT TO:

As the lyrics "I don't know about you, but I'm feeling 22" plays, the scene transition outside of the party house inside one of the town houses, where the song continues blasting from inside.

A crowd is already collecting outside and in the house.

A foam machine. Smoke machine. A group of boys chug beer from a large kettle.

Flashing LED lights on the front porch and inside the windows.

A boy flips on the foam machine and large bubbles erupt. Someone else hits the smoke machine.

People are on the rooftop sitting, smoking, drinking, dancing, jumping into the pool. One girl props herself beside a large machine with them up top. It shows a red sticker labeling "ASBESTOS MACHINE". She pulls a string and asbestos shoots out from the roof.

Jonathan and Neveah approach the front lawn alongside dozens of others. They all stop right before crossing the grass and stand frozen in their place for a few odd moments. Then, they snap out of it and run head first into the party.

Jonathan and Neveah remain completely unfazed by them.

NEVEAH
Okay. This is it. We're here.

Several people in the foreground choke and fall out from the asbestos.

JONATHAN
Yup.

NEVEAH
 (Confidently)
 And we're going in!

Neveah leads the way up the town house steps, excusing pass by people, and opens up the front door.

They're met with the warmth of dozens of bodies as they enter in slowly, taking in the scene in front of them.

A boy comes approaching from the side.

PARTY BOY 1
 (Buoyantly)
 Uh ohh, looks like we've got some new partygoers. I don't think I've seen you guys at one of these before, right?

NEVEAH
 Nope, trying something else out tonight.

PARTY BOY 1
 Oh that's good, that's good. Hope you guys aren't too easily spooked, we do get wild at these parties sometimes, I gotta warn ya.

NEVEAH
 Nah, two tough cookies right he-

Party Boy 1 jumps at them both with a scary face and his tongue out suddenly.

PARTY BOY 1
 Rahhh.

Jonathan flinches back a bit.

PARTY BOY 1 (CONT'D)
 Look, see, I thought you were a tough cookie, bitch.

JONATHAN
 What?

PARTY BOY 1
 (Slapping his arm)
 Nah, I'm just fucking with you man.

He reaches over and grabs two shots from a nearby table and passes them to Jonathan and Neveah.

PARTY BOY 1 (CONT'D)
Pour up, y'all.

We've got all night.

They hesitantly take the shots from him and give each other a reassuring look before taking them down.

Their faces ball up from the taste as they gag and cough.

PARTY BOY 1 (CONT'D)
(Laughing)
C'mon, lightweights. Don't worry,
we'll have you whipped into shape in
no time. Enjoy the party, y'all!

He gives Jonathan another slap on his arm and opens the way for them.

JONATHAN
(Rubbing arm, sarcastic)
Ahaha, thanks.

They step further into the party:

To their left, people crowd the couch, shooting dice, sitting down by the coffee table rolling weed, and playing Call of Duty on the TV.

To their right, people stand on countertops, crowding the kitchen, cheering on the chuggers and playing cup pong.

Directly ahead, the backyard door glows from the pool lights and people are seen running and jumping in.

NEVEAH
(Nervously)
Where should we start?

JONATHAN
(Scanning the room)
Uhh, the couch crew seems cool, maybe.

NEVEAH
Alright, c'mon

She grabs ahold of his arm and they go over to the couch.

NEVEAH (CONT'D)
 (Waving)
 Hi! I'm Neveah.

JONATHAN
 (Nodding)
 Jonathan.

COUCH CREW (5)
 Heyy!

BLONDE GIRL
 What's up!

NEVEAH
 Is there some space with you guys?

BLONDE GIRL
 Yeah! Jeremiah, move over.

JEREMIAH
 (Scooting over and patting the
 seat)
 Plenty of room!

Jonathan and Neveah maneuver past people sitting by the
 coffee table eating and rolling weed and take a seat.

NEVEAH
 Thank you. It's nice to meet you guys.
 What's all your names?

BLONDE GIRL
 I'm Melanie.

JEREMIAH
 Jeremiah!

BRAIDS
 Jasmine.

CURLY HAIR
 Matt.

MUSCLE TEE
 Andy.

Jonathan and Neveah are sat in the middle of the couch:
 Melanie and another random to the left beside Neveah,
 Jeremiah to the right beside Jonathan, Jasmine sits at the
 coffee table rolling weed, Matt and Andy are playing a match

of cards.

NEVEAH

Cool!

(Beat)

What have you guys been up to?

MELANIE

Ugh, finally getting some coke!

At that moment, another guy comes over with three lines of coke on a single tray and sits it in front of Melanie on the coffee table before walking off.

She bends over take to take a hit.

JASMINE

(Lighting a blunt)

Honestly, waiting for the rest of the party to arrive.

MATT

Yeah, it's gonna turn up once the rest of the guys are here.

MELANIE

(Wiping her nose)

Wait, hang on...

She bends over again, taking another hit to be sure.

MELANIE (CONT'D)

(Yelling to guy)

Ughh, guys! This is crack!

JASMINE

Where are you guys, usually?

NEVEAH

Uh, we're...around. I'm in a few different clubs! I did just get kicked from the band, though.

ANDY

Oh wait, I actually think I recognize you. I think we have home ed together, don't we?

NEVEAH

Oh my gosh! I think I recognize you too.

ANDY

You could probably join my group for the next project if you didn't have one already. We chose tax evasion tactics.

NEVEAH

Yeah, yeah! Let's do it!

MATT

Get ready to jump ship. Andy can't work in a group to save his life.

They all giggle at the comment, except for Jonathan.

Melanie takes a look at him.

MELANIE

Jonathan! You're not saying much. What's the deal, dude?

JONATHAN

Oh! Nothing. I'm just-

JASMINE

Oohl, we have a man of mystery in our midst.

JONATHAN

(Nervously chuckling)

Nah, I'm not mysterious. Just... my first party, I guess!

JEREMIAH

Wait, you're the new guys?

JONATHAN

Yep.

The couch crew look at one another.

Jonathan rethinks his question.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

Wait, what do you mean?

MELANIE

Come on, yall, I need a few more shots in me!

Jonathan looks over in Melanie's direction when he catches

Girl walking to the party. They spot each other and do a nod of acknowledgement. She walks off into the kitchen.

JONATHAN
Yes! Let's do more shots.

JASMINE
Ohh, someone's made a quick
turnaround.

5 minutes later. Jonathan is drunk spilling a story.

They all laugh.

JEREMIAH
Dude, you're sick.

NEVEAH
(Still laughing)
He's always been like this.

JASMINE
Honestly, good. Don't ever lose it.

MELANIE
So you two been friends for a while,
huh?

JONATHAN
Yeah, since middle school.

MELANIE
Interesting...

She takes a glance at Jasmine who smiles as if she's thinking the same.

MELANIE (CONT'D)
And you never once hooked up?

They both become visibly uncomfortable from the question.

JONATHAN
I, uh...

PARTY BOY 1
The guys have arrived!

Everyone looks over as the soccer team comes in. They bring with them extra bottles of liquor, more games, soccer balls, and fireworks.

Neveah instantly spots Maverick.

NEVEAH
(To Jonathan)
Hold it down?

JONATHAN
I got it.

She gets up from the couch and approaches Maverick as he prepares himself a drink in the kitchen.

NEVEAH
Maverick! Hey!

MAVERICK
Oh, yo! Nevette?

NEVEAH
(Chuckles)
It's Neveah.

MAVERICK
Neveah! Right. You made it!

NEVEAH
Yeah, you know. Wouldn't miss it. I was hoping that you'd get here soon.

MAVERICK
Well, here I am.

CUT TO:

Jonathan and the couch crew continue conversing.

JONATHAN
I mean... It was just a one-time thing.

COUCH CREW
AHHH!

Jonathan shushes them.

JONATHAN
(Laughing)
Stop, stop, don't let her hear.

CUT TO:

NEVEAH
I did hold up my offer...

She reaches in her pocket and pulls out an eighth. He grabs it from her.

MAVERICK
Oohl, "popped cherry" flavor. Thank you! We can roll it up later.

NEVEAH
(Blushing)
Ye-yeah. We will.

MAVERICK
But first, let's party. Yo Ian, make sure those fireworks are secure for the night.
(Shouting out)
Let's get this show on the road!
Everybody up!

CUT TO:

JEREMIAH
Ready for the best night ever, man?

JONATHAN
Let's fucking do it!

INT. PARTY - MONTAGE - CONTINUOUS

The party turns up and rages on, moving in slow-motion. Everyone crowds the dance floor, busting out their dirtiest moves.

The stoners, jocks, nerds, and preppy kids all mingle.

Marijuana smoke fills the room.

Jonathan and Neveah hit the floor ducking and jiving.

Bottles, cups, and cans fill up the couch, counters, and floors.

Jonathan and Neveah play beer pong with the couch crew. They both miss several shots. Andy falls over on the table, knocking down all of the cups.

Jonathan and Neveah dance some more. Girl joins them.

Melanie and Jasmine bump boobs together as people watch.

Jonathan vomits in the trashcan. Neveah taps him on his shoulder reassuringly before she pushes him out the way to vomit in the same can.

Neveah wraps herself with flashing LED's on the dance floor as she grabs Maverick for a dance.

The frats perform their dance.

Out on the front lawn, the soccer team put on a match.

Jonathan and Girl share a drink and have a chat.

In the backyard, the gang all strip down in their underwear and jump into the pool.

EXT/INT. PARTY - POOL - CONTINUOUS

The couch crew and others partygoers drink, talk and smoke in the pool. Maverick and Neveah are talking along the edge with Jonathan and Girl on the opposite end, both still very drunk.

JONATHAN

After this whole time, I still don't know your name.

GIRL

(Laughing)
You never asked.

JONATHAN

Well. What's your name?

GIRL

Zuriel.

JONATHAN

My god, that's gorgeous.

ZURIEL

Aw, thank you!

JONATHAN

Zuriel. Ha. Sounds like it should be in *The Odyssey*.

ZURIEL

The who?

JONATHAN

It's this real old ancient Greek mythology book. Odysseus, this lost king, has to make his journey back home, but his kingdom is sorta planning to take his throne. It's got all these themes of divine intervention and-

Jonathan feels himself getting in too deep.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

Basically what I'm saying is, it sounds like a Goddess.

ZURIEL

That's so sweet! You're such a nerd!

JONATHAN

(Laughing)

Yeah.

The sit in the moment.

ZURIEL

I'm glad you came, you know.
Especially with what we talked about.

JONATHAN

Hell yeah, me too. I wasn't expecting to have this much fun. Honestly, after a few shots I stopped even tasting the liquor, so it wasn't too bad to get over.

ZURIEL

Yeah, that'll take some of the stress off. You aren't a drinker, really?

JONATHAN

I think I am now.

NEVEAH (V.O.)

Jonathan!

Jonathan looks across the pool to see Neveah standing with Maverick by the backyard door.

NEVEAH

We're gonna go upstairs, okay? You good?

JONATHAN

Yep. I'm good. You be good, too.

Neveah cracks a smirk and follows behind Maverick inside.

ZURIEL

She's having fun tonight too, I see.

JONATHAN

I knew she would. She would've never allowed it to be dull.

ZURIEL

So I can assume I'll see you out more now?

He thinks for a moment.

JONATHAN

Yeah, you just might. I don't know, though, this is all...really epic, but I'm still just little me. I don't wanna bite off more than I can chew, you know?

ZURIEL

Yeah, I get it. But my philosophy is...

She leans in closer, surprising Jonathan a bit.

ZURIEL (CONT'D)

Every night is still young.

They lock eye contact as they lean into each other's lips before closing them and locking their lips.

After a moment, they pull back, looking into each other's eyes with a soft smile as the pool light enchants their faces.

Jonathan gags and vomits into pool.

JONATHAN

(Chuckling)

Oh shit. I'm fucked up.

Zuriel laughs out loud and grabs him whole body and pulls him into the pool with her in a big splash.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)
(Spitting water, laughing)
Ay! Why'd you do that?

ZURIEL
(Splashing him)
Thought it would make you feel better.

Jonathan laughs some more trying to dodge her water attacks.
He feels another throwup coming.

JONATHAN
Nah, I think I'm gonna hurl, again.
Imma head to the bathroom. Be right
back, okay!

ZURIEL
Okay!

Jonathan stumbles and hops out of the pool and heads back
inside the house to find the bathroom, leaving behind his
clothes in a pile.

He pushes past people, the bright lights creating a
astigmatic effect, the music sounds like it's drowning.

He's find several rooms: A gym, an office, an armory.

JONATHAN
Jesus fuck, where's the bathroom?

At the end of a hall, he finds another door and goes to twist
the handle. He pushes the door to see that it's jammed.

He jiggles it harder.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)
Dammit, open!

He uses bodily force, sending the door flying open and him
falling directly down a flight of steps. The door shuts
behind him.

He lands on his face.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)
(Rubbing forehead)
Ah shit. That hurt.

Jonathan, with his head still spinning, slowly stands as he
scans the room. An old, dusty basement lined with wooden

shelves and large boxes. A mashing machine and dryer. Large metal scraps and a small light flashing in the corner.

He decides to snoop and looks at various things in the room. Opening a few boxes to find soccer equipment, textbooks, yearbooks.

He moves over to the metal scraps. He kneels down to investigate. They look like strange parts to a machine.

CUT TO:

Upstairs, Neveah and Maverick enter into a bedroom together. The party can still be heard raging from downstairs.

MAVERICK

...And this is me.

Neveah looks around the room. She catches from photos and soccer trophies across his desk and picks one up.

NEVEAH

So what made the whole soccer team decide to live here together?

MAVERICK

Well it's not all of us, but... I don't know if you've noticed the culture here is sort of divided.

NEVEAH

Yeah?

MAVERICK

It's like all of the major players at the school are... really competing with one another over a hierarchy.

NEVEAH

(Giggling)

Hierarchy?

MAVERICK

There's really a lot that makes Uradium what it is. The athletes, the student executives, the frats, residential, representatives; we are what make the spirit of this school and almost everyone is fighting for dominion of it. Different groups just stick together so they can work

(MORE)

MAVERICK (CONT'D)
stronger together. That's why everyone
hosts so many parties. We all want to
sway the population to our own side.

NEVEAH
Holy shit, you guys have political
parties.

MAVERICK
(Chuckling)
Yeah, something like that. Even though
we all ultimately have the same goal
in mind.

NEVEAH
What's that?

MAVERICK
To party forever.

NEVEAH
(Supportive)
Oh. Cool!

Maverick takes a seat on the bed as Neveah sets the team
photo back down. She turns and they look at each other in
silence for a moment exchanging flirtatious looks.

NEVEAH (CONT'D)
I really like you, Mav. I have for a
some time actually.

MAVERICK
You should've come to me sooner.

NEVEAH
I know I was just so... ugh.

She blushes and looks down.

NEVEAH (CONT'D)
This is so embarrassing.

MAVERICK
(reaching for her arm)
No. It's alright.

He pulls her in closer to him on the bed. She stands with his
hand resting holding on her arm.

MAVERICK (CONT'D)
Just look at me.

CUT TO:

Jonathan is etching closer to the flashing light in the corner. He moves a metal scrap from out the way to get to the source behind.

Reaching down, he picks up a circular metal device resembling a crown, with the flashing bulb right in the center.

He inspects inquisitively.

JONATHAN
What the hell is all this stuff.

He drops the crown back down before turning to head back up the stairs. Out from under a table sticks another box, tripping Jonathan and tipping it over.

Out of it, comes out a number of polaroid photos with labeled dates on them.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)
Shit.

He reaches down to pick up the photos when he stops to look at them. They all appear to show disturbing rituals taking place in a dark room with filled with people surrounding subjects with the same circular device around their heads.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)
Woah. What orgy is this?

He flips over the photos and reads text on the back:

Subject 342 Successfully Assimilated. Forever Partygoer Complete.

Jonathan feels his heart sink in that moment.

He flips the photo back over to internalize the words and the image once more in horror.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)
They're brainwashing people into...
Partying!?

At that moment, Jonathan hears struggling at the basement door.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)
Shit, someone's coming.

He scrambles to pick back up the box and place the photos where they were.

He hears the basement door open up and pairs of feet come descending down.

Quickly, he ducks underneath the table beside the box.

Out emerges two soccer players. Jonathan watches as they inspect the basement.

SOCCER BOY 2
Dude, what the hell, I think someone's been down here.

SOCCER BOY 3
Where's that kid, at?

Jonathan feels that the "kid" in question is him

SOCCER BOY 2
I don't know, I don't think I've seen him.

SOCCER BOY 3
Shit, c'mon. We gotta move fast.

They both flee back upstairs. Jonathan waits a few short moments before emerges from underneath the table.

JONATHAN
Neveah!

INT. PARTY - CONTINUOUS

Jonathan slowly comes from behind the basement door. The room enters slow motion as he carefully maneuvers through the crowd.

JONATHAN (V.O.)
Is everyone here fucking brainwashed?

CUT TO:

Maverick sits Neveah down on the bed beside him.

NEVEAH
(Nervously chuckling)
Oh God. My armpits are sweaty.

He laughs at her comments, which comforts her a bit.

MAVERICK
You're funny, you know that?

NEVEAH
Oh. I guess I can be.

MAVERICK
I'm serious. Tell me some more about you.

NEVEAH
Uhhh, I love cats, I mean. I study anthropology.

Maverick listens closely and affectionately.

NEVEAH (CONT'D)
Mmm, I'm a writer. I write... little poems and stuff. Save quotes to use for later and whanot. Yeah! A few things about me.

MAVERICK
Have you ever been in love?

The questions stuns her a bit. She thinks on it for more a moment.

CUT TO:

Making it up the stairs and onto the upper level, Jonathan attempts each door he comes across looking for Neveah and Maverick.

He throws open another door.

JONATHAN
Neveah!

He catches several men in black lingerie who immediately stop in their tracks when they see him.

He slowly retreats back.

CUT TO:

NEVEAH

Yeah, I've been in love before.

She looks down and twiddles her thumbs.

NEVEAH (CONT'D)

But I don't think anyone's ever been in love with me.

MAVERICK

What makes you say that?

NEVEAH

A few of my exes just thought... I was too much, I guess. That I was loud and clingy. Most people kinda just get... sick of me after a while. Honestly, I'm just waiting for the day Jonathan is too. I feel like I'm... losing it!

Maverick softly looks into her. He grabs her by the chin and turns her head towards him.

MAVERICK

I don't believe for a second he'll leave your side.

He starts leaning in closer. Neveah feels her heart begin to race. She leans in further.

MAVERICK (CONT'D)

And I think it's time you had someone who knows how to handle all you've got to offer.

Neveah's heart warms as she and Maverick lips are just an inch from connecting.

Jonathan comes barging through the door, interrupting the moment. They both jump up and look to the door.

JONATHAN

Neveah!

NEVEAH

Wha-? Jonathan!? What're you doing!?

JONATHAN

Neveah, you've gotta come with me now.

He comes inside and goes to grab her. She pulls away.

NEVEAH
Jonathan, what the hell!

MAVERICK
Everything alright, man?

JONATHAN
Yeah, yeah. All cool. Neveah. Just a word, please.

Neveah sees the concern in his eyes and reluctantly listens.

NEVEAH
UGH! Fine.
(Turns to Maverick)
Maverick, I'm so sorry, please can you just give me a second?

MAVERICK
Yeah, sure. Go head.

Jonathan pulls Neveah into the hallway with him. She immediately snaps at him.

NEVEAH
What the fuck is this! You're fucking my hookup up!

JONATHAN
No, I'm saving you! This place is a fucking trap!

NEVEAH
A trap-!? We were having fun. *You* were having fun. What is happening, right now.

JONATHAN
I was! I saw something-

Jonathan sees the soccer boys from the basement coming up the steps. He hurriedly grabs Neveah's arm again and pulls her into a room at the end of the hall.

They're hidden in a small, storage closet with light coming in through a window facing out to the backyard.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)
There's people looking for us right now, Neveah! This whole party... it's a set up! They're brainwashing people
(MORE)

JONATHAN (CONT'D)
into partying!

NEVEAH
What are you talking about!? No, no,
no, I think you need some more alcohol
in you. Or maybe you had too much,
actually. Something's getting to you.

Neveah opens the storage door and begins to walk out. Jonathan tries to stop her, but he makes himself visible as the soccer boys continue down the hallway, spotting both of them.

Neveah sees as their faces fill with pure intent. They came rushing forward. She stops in her tracks and ducks back behind the door, pushing Jonathan. She slams it shut and locks it, still holding onto the doorknob.

NEVEAH (CONT'D)
What the fuck!? Why did they just do
that!?

JONATHAN
I told you! They want to turn us into
forever partygoers. Everyone here is
brainwashed!

The boys start banging on the door. Neveah screams as she jumps back, letting go off the door knob.

NEVEAH
Oh my God! Oh my God! What do we do?

Neveah steps back further as they continue to bang until she feels something underneath her foot. Both her and Jonathan look down.

JONATHAN
Fireworks!

NEVEAH
Fireworks!

A large pile of fireworks sit at their feet. They look to each other, both with the same bright idea. Jonathan reaches down and grabs a pack.

JONATHAN
We need gas or something!

They both quickly search the miscellaneous items scattered

about the room.

Tossing things about, Neveah finally finds a bottle of PINK SAUCE.

NEVEAH
This'll work!

She dumps the bottle on all of the fireworks. Jonathan finds a lighter.

He picks up a handful of fireworks in his hand and flicks on the lighter.

JONATHAN
Stand back.

Neveah takes a few steps back and Jonathan faces the door, the boys still banging. He slowly unlocks the door.

Once in final position, he kicks the door open with all of his might, a loud BANG. The boys go flying back.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)
Eat! Literal! Shit!

He throws all of the fireworks in his hand at them and tosses the lighter, igniting the entire upper level and detonating a firework show.

SOCCER BOY 2
Holy shit!

Several others emerge from the rooms and screams can be heard coming from downstairs.

Maverick comes from out of the bedroom and locks eyes with Neveah, separated by the intense fire.

MAVERICK
And what are you supposed to do now?

Jonathan and Neveah slowly step back, realizing the sticky situation they are in. Neveah closes the door back and turns behind her to look out the window.

NEVEAH
We gotta jump!

JONATHAN
What!?

NEVEAH
We have no choice!

Neveah gears herself to leap out of the window.

Jonathan looks up at the large curtain above it.

JONATHAN
We'll climb!

Neveah stops and looks above her.

NEVEAH
Oh.

They quickly grab the curtain off the window and open it up.
They throw it down like a tarp.

JONATHAN
I'm gonna have to hold it for you. Go!

NEVEAH
Woo! Okay.

First, she throws sparklers down on the grounds. She props herself on the window, then grips tightly onto the large curtain. She slowly eases herself down as Jonathan keeps his feet planted, holding her steady.

Everyone in the backyard watches the scene.

NEVEAH (CONT'D)
(Makes it to the ground)
C'mon!

Jonathan looks urgently to find something to hold the curtain steady as he goes down. He wraps it around the bar on of the shelves before propping himself onto the window to climb down.

He nervously eases himself down, taking much longer than Neveah did.

NEVEAH (CONT'D)
Hurry, hurry!

JONATHAN
I'm trying!

Maverick and the other soccer boys enter the backyard through the downstairs, looking up to watch Jonathan. Neveah grabs

the sparklers and points them defensively.

Shortly, the knot starts to unravel and the curtain falls.

Jonathan slips and hits the ground with a bounce and he rolls with his head landing inside the pool, though he quickly recovers.

The outro to "By Your Side" by Sade plays.

NEVEAH
Jonathan! You okay!

JONATHAN
(Coughing)
Nugh... Yeah!

He gets up and stands beside Neveah, grabbing a few of the sparklers from her.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)
(Flailing his arms)
Back up! All of you! We're not afraid
to use em!

Jonathan turns to see Zuriel still in the pool. She smiles and gives a maniacal wave to him. The couch crew right beside her.

MELANIE
You know I really loved meeting you
guys. But... I'm really gonna love the
new you even more.

MAVERICK
There's no point resisting. Just let
us conform you into our society.
You're already a part of Uradium. Why
not embrace it. You *both* can thrive
here...

His chilling words tingles their spines.

MAVERICK (CONT'D)
Forever.

They look to each other. They nod in agreement.

JONATHAN
FUCK! YOU!

NEVEAH
FUCK! YOU!

"Oh, when you're cold. I'll be there. By your side, baby"

In a slow motion sequence, they slide the sparklers across the ground and they burst with flames and light. Together with their battle cries, they charge through the crowd, pushing past them every single person to make it through the house.

Inside the house, they jump over people leaping at their feet.

They duck as people try to attack them from the countertops.

They wave their sparklers to and fro, forcing people from in front of them.

At the door, Jonathan punches Party Boy 1 out of the way and opens up the door. Grabbing onto Neveah's arm, they both charge down the flight of steps.

A net is thrown and is seen ensnaring Jonathan's feet, tripping him and landing him in the grass. Neveah stumbles overtop of him, but is able to keep upright. She turns her back slightly to see Jonathan on the ground and the crowd dangerously close. Regardless, she turns back for him and grabs ahold of his hand.

NEVEAH (CONT'D)
(Slow-motion)
Jonathan!

In an effort to pick Jonathan up, the party crowd circles them both. Neveah is overpowered and thrown to the ground. They fight, trying to kick and punch and scream.

Jonathan and Neveah's arms are seen reaching up from the crowd and being slowly pulled down.

A wide shot from above shows the upper level of the house in flames and fireworks still ablaze with the party now moved onto the front lawn.

Cut to black.

INT. MORNING - ANOTHER DAY

Jonathan and Neveah stand side by side in an empty hallway. They face forward towards a door. They dawn blank, wide-eyed expressions.

Slowly, their heads turn toward one another to look directly

at each other. They slowly nod, then slowly faces back forward.

Jonathan kneels down out of frame and is heard setting a piece of paper on the ground. He slowly rises back up.

Together, they knock three times.

Cut to black.