

INT. DANCE FLOOR- NIGHT

Techno music blasts from the speakers. Hundreds of frenzied bodies twist to the rhythm of the fast paced music. Young people from all walks of life are enjoying the night. Some of them get creative with the dancing moves. Some indulge themselves by kissing their partners.

Camera weaves around people and focuses on CATHY, 29, who dances to herself. She's letting herself go and doesn't seem to mind the narrow space in which she's moving. Her closed eyes make her look like she's in a trance.

Carrying two glasses of beer and slowly making his way towards Cathy through the people, we see RAUL, a young man about her same age.

He disrupts Cathy when he gets to her side. He says something but Cathy can't hear. He speaks to her ear. She shakes her head negatively. He then offers her a glass, but she only takes a small sip and gives it back.

Getting the point, Raul walks back leaving Cathy to get back to her trance. She then gets surrounded by two guys. Cathy looks at them, smiles and accepts the dance invitation.

INT. BAR- LATER

Raul drinks alone by the bar. His sweaty body and half closed eyes reveal he's been drinking for a while. He looks at the people dancing when Cathy appears from the crowd. She carries a wide smile and stands next to him.

CATHY

Two guys wanted to have a threesome with me. How funny!

RAUL

Are we ready to go?

CATHY

Where's everybody?

Raul looks around.

RAUL

They left already. It's just you and me.

CATHY

What? It's four-thirty! This place closes at five.

RAUL

Not everyone has your energy.
Besides, we're not so young
anymore.

CATHY

This sucks. I guess we should go.
Thanks for sticking around.

RAUL

Hey, you're my ride home. I had to
stay anyway.

Cathy laughs and hugs him

CATHY

Have I ever told you how much I
love your stupid ass?

RAUL

Not lately, but after tonight you
will have to say it a lot.

They walk away.

INT. CATHY'S CAR- EARLY MORNING

Cathy listens a nostalgic song as she quietly drives. She
sees the first rays of the sun in the distance as she turns
to a street.

Raul's mouth is wide open as he loudly snores in the
passenger seat.

Cathy pulls over in front of a house and elbows Raul. He
wakes up with a jump.

RAUL

Shit! What happened?

CATHY

You're home.

RAUL

How long have I been asleep?

CATHY

The whole way. I think you drooled
over my leather seat.

RAUL

Oh, shit! Sorry. Fuck!

Cathy smiles.

CATHY
I'm kidding. You were just snoring.

RAUL
It's still embarrassing. But,
whatever, it's you.

CATHY
Do you want to have lunch with me
this afternoon?

RAUL
Yeah, sure. But call me after two.
I want to get some fucking sleep.

Cathy smiles and hugs him.

CATHY
Thanks for being a good friend.
I'll never forget this.

RAUL
That's what friends are for. Are
you going to be okay?

Cathy nods as she pulls away.

CATHY
Thanks for tonight. You were great.

RAUL
You make it sound like we had sex.
Did we while I was asleep? And you
didn't wake me up? You dirty...

Cathy laughs and punches him on the shoulder.

CATHY
In your dreams you pervert. Get out
of here!

Raul steps out of the car.

RAUL
You wish you had a man like me. You
wouldn't be able to handle me.

Cathy flicks him the finger while laughing. She then drives
away leaving Raul waving at her.

EXT-STREET INTERSECTION- CONTINUOUS

Cathy stops in front of an intersection. She puts her left signal and turns the volume up of the same song she was listening before. Standing on a tree branch, she sees a mockingbird. A smile is drawn on her face as she decides to make the left turn.

Suddenly, out of nowhere; a speeding car violently slams into her car. The crash is loud as Cathy's car slides to the other side of the street barely missing a tree on the medium.

Thousands of shattered pieces of glass are scattered on the street. Tire tracks are imprinted on the asphalt. A tire rim rolls until it hits the pavement.

After a couple of seconds, the silence is deafening.

FADE OUT.

INT. MANNY'S HOUSE- MASTER BEDROOM- DAY

We look down on a king sized bed from overhead.

MANNY, 29, lies sleeping face up wearing only underwear. The phone rings and he gets it without opening his eyes.

MANNY
(to phone)
Yeah!

Manny listens for some seconds and then quickly sits up.

MANNY
(to phone)
What? How?
(pause)
When? OK.

Manny hangs up the phone. Extreme confusion sets on his face. He looks around and then jumps from his bed. He runs to his bathroom. We could hear him vomiting.

INT. LIVING ROOM- CONTINUOUS

Manny still in his underwear is sitting down in front of his computer.

Angle on computer screen: We see he's checking out information on various flights from Los Angeles to Miami.

He sees the cheapest prices for overnight flights begin from \$1,500 and up.

Manny sighs heavily as he covers his face with his hands.

INT. MANNY'S HOUSE- MASTER BEDROOM- LATER

Manny is now fully clothed. He has an open carry-on suitcase on top of his bed. He is packing various pieces of clothing from his closet in a rush. His breathing is heavy.

He stops abruptly when he sees a dark gray suit hanging. He stares at it with a sad expression. With extreme care, he gets it and stretches it next to the suitcase.

INT. OFFICE- DAY

The elevator door opens and Manny walks out. He hurriedly walks by various desks with computers on all of them.

He notices he's gotten the attention from a male CO-WORKER who seems curious.

CO-WORKER

Manny, it's Sunday. What are you doing here?

MANNY

Where's James?

CO-WORKER

In his fortress, like always. Is something...

Manny rushes past his co-worker who seems intrigued.

INT. JAMES' OFFICE- CONTINUOUS

JAMES, a man in his late thirties sitting on his desk is laughing because he's watching some cartoons on his TV.

He gets startled a bit when Manny walks in on him.

JAMES

Shit, Manny! You scared me.

MANNY

James, remember my vacations for next month?

JAMES

Yeah?

MANNY

Forget them, I have to go to Miami now. Something happened.

JAMES

What's the rush? The police after you?

MANNY

I'm serious James. Move all those vacation and sick days to now. Don't know how long I'll stay.

James changes his expression.

JAMES

You're serious. What's wrong?

MANNY

My best friend died this morning in an accident.

JAMES

Fuck me! I'm so sorry Manny.

MANNY

Look, you'll be getting calls from me every now and then. So, don't worry.

JAMES

Who's taking you to the airport?

MANNY

No one, the tickets were too expensive. It's cheaper by car.

JAMES

You're driving?

MANNY

I've done it before. Besides, the wake is set on Thursday. I should be there.

JAMES

This sucks, I never know what to say in these situations.

MANNY
 You don't have to say anything.
 Thanks for understanding.

JAMES
 Be careful on the road.

Manny shakes his hand and walks out.

INT. MANNY'S CAR- DAY

Manny stops at a red light. His face holds a tense expression. As he waits for the green light, he looks to his side and notices he stopped in front of a high school.

He gazes at the empty building.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING- DAY

It's a regular school morning day. Hundreds of teenagers are getting ready for another day. Rows of buses make way to drop off more students. A couple of police officers observe that nothing out of the ordinary happens.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY- CONTINUOUS

Sound of lockers being opened and closed are heard everywhere. In the midst of the crowd, we see Manny as a teenager walking to class. A blond teenager named DANIEL walks next to him.

DANIEL
 ...And that's how you beat Mike Tyson's Punchout. Lots of patience and strategy. Like a real boxer.

MANNY
 That's so cool! Lend me the game.

DANIEL
 Sure, now I want to beat Contra 2. That game is the funk!

MANNY
 Nintendo is the best. The graphics, the games, it'll be very hard to top them.

DANIEL
Don't worry, Nintendo will stick
around for ages. You'll see.

They stop in front of a classroom and keep a beat.

MANNY
Ready for Kaplan?

DANIEL
Ready for routine?

They both flick their middle fingers to the door. Then, they take a deep breath and enter.

INT. CLASSROOM-LATER

Students take notes of what seems to be important information. They listen to KAPLAN, a middle aged, long haired teacher. He is dressed elegantly.

Sitting in the last seat of the classroom, Manny is not paying any attention. As a matter of fact, he's drawing something on his notebook.

He looks to his side and notices Daniel looking bored. Daniel starts mimicking with his hand various ways to kill himself like a gun, rope, choking, etc.

Daniel laughs and catches the attention of Kaplan.

KAPLAN
What seems to be so funny
Mr. Ventancourt? Are you writing
this down?

MANNY
Yes, sir!

KAPLAN
Hope you are. This project will be
worth fifty percent of your year's
grade.

Kaplan keeps giving instructions as Manny looks at Daniel who imitates the teacher.

Manny goes back to his drawing when...

KAPLAN
Mr. Vetancourt, you're going to be
paired up with Ms. Fernandez.
(MORE)

KAPLAN (cont' d)
Your project will be about
marijuana. All the rules and
guidelines are in the handout.

Kaplan keeps mentioning more names to form pairs.

DANIEL
You got the stuck up bitch.

Manny looks to the front row. We see Cathy as a teenager
looking back at him with a disappointed look. She shakes her
head in disagreement.

MANNY
Why her? Why not you?

DANIEL
This sucks.

MANNY
I hate this fucker Kaplan.

KAPLAN
(to class)
There are a couple of minutes left.
I suggest you get together with
your partner and start
brainstorming your projects. Go!

All the students stand up and join their partners.

DANIEL
Good luck with Ms. Goody-Goody.

Daniel stands up and walks out of frame. Manny stays on his
seat and sees Cathy walking toward him.

She sits next to him.

CATHY
Hey!

MANNY
Hey!

CATHY
I have some ideas for this paper.
Do you?

MANNY
Piece of cake. Let's smoke a joint
and write about it.

CATHY

Are you going to take this seriously? Look, I care about my grades and if you're going to be acting like a clown, I'll tell the teacher if I could do this paper by myself.

MANNY

Relax, lady! You heard the man, this grade is very important. I help you if you help me.

CATHY

What?

MANNY

I help you get a good grade on the paper and you help me pass the class.

CATHY

What makes you think you could help me get a good grade on this freaking paper?

MANNY

You could say fucking.

CATHY

Shut up!

MANNY

To begin, the subject is marijuana, right?

CATHY

Right.

MANNY

I'm familiar with marijuana unlike you. There are some great books on the library about it and I have some ideas for the oral presentation. What do you think?

Cathy keeps a beat. The school ring ends the class.

CATHY

Meet you in the library after school.

Cathy gets up and walks away. Manny mocks her as she leaves.

Copyright 2005 Gregorio Ugaz -- All Rights Reserved

For the complete script please contact Jennifer Brooks at
info@filmmakers.com