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Kids Will Be

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KIDS WILL BE

A Thesis

Submitted to the Graduate Faculty of the
Louisiana State University and
Agricultural and Mechanical College
in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the degree of
Master of Fine Arts

in

The Department of English

by
Thomas E. Moran
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ABSTRACT

This is the pilot episode of a television series, which explores a young girl's descent into suburban drug culture.

In this episode, the main character, Ally, follows her disaffected love interest, Marco, to the squat, an abandoned building inhabited by runaways and addicts.

KIDS WILL BE

ACT I: OD AND OJ

FADE IN:

INT. ALLY'S BEDROOM - DAY

ALLY, a young 14, sits at her vanity and looks through a small wooden box which holds collection of BUTTERFLY BARRETTES.

CROSS CUT:

INT. SQUAT - NIGHT

ALLY, one year later, multiple facial piercings, too much eye liner, looks like she's on death's door. Ally opens the same small wooden box, but now it is filled with NEEDLES, SPOONS, and a small BAG OF HEROIN.

ALLY (V.O.)

"Suicides have a special language. Like carpenters they want to know which tools. They never ask why build."

Ally quotes Ann Sexton, whose poetry will play an important role later in the season.

CROSS CUT:

INT. ALLY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Ally pushes a group of multi-colored plastic bracelets up past her elbow. She smiles.

ALLY (V.O.)

"To thrust all that life under your tongue!"

CROSS CUT:

INT. SQUAT - NIGHT

Ally ties a rubber tube around her upper arm. She smiles.

ALLY (V.O.)

"That, all by itself, becomes a passion."

CROSS CUT:

INT. ALLY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Ally puts on mascara, then lipstick.

ALLY (V.O.)
"Death's a sad Bone; bruised, you'd
say, and yet -"

CROSS CUT:

INT. SQUAT - NIGHT

Ally runs her fingers over her lips. Ally cups her hand over her mouth. She vomits.

CHRIS(O.S.)
(Ally's Father)
You're going to be late.

CROSS CUT:

INT. ALLY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Ally flinches, looks at her watch, and frantically wipes off the makeup and zips a sweater over her tank top. THREE KNOCKS at the door.

CROSS CUT:

INT. SQUAT - NIGHT

Ally convulses on the floor. FOOT TAPS ON THE FLOOR THREE TIMES.

ALLY (V.O.)
"She waits for me, year after year,
to so delicately undo an old wound,
to empty my breath from its bad
prison."

PISS (O.S.)
Shit. I told you not to bring that
bitch here.

PISS, a hardened long time squatter nudges Ally with his foot. POCKETS a younger, less worn out street kid, bends down and checks Ally's eyes.

POCKETS
She's tanking.

Pockets tilts Ally's head back.

PISS

Smart. Now it will be easier for her to choke on her own puke. Roll that bitch over.

Pockets rolls Ally onto her side and cradles her head.

PISS (CONT'D)

If you think I'm helping you drag her skanky ass to the yard, you're stupider than you look.

Piss leaves. Pockets strokes Ally's hair.

ALLY (V.O.)

So how did I get from there to here?

POCKETS

Ally? Ally, come on.

CROSS CUT:

INT. ALLY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Ally stashes her makeup in her backpack. CHRIS, Ally's light-blue-collar dad (sears-sucker suit, \$20 watch) stands in the crack of a partially open door.

CHRIS

Ally, Come on. You're gonna be late.

ALLY (V.O.)

Same as everyone else. One day at a time.

Ally slings her backpack onto her back and explodes through the bedroom door.

ALLY (CONT'D)

I'll make it. I've got a ride.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Ally stops short. The table is set: a plate of scrambled eggs, bacon, toast, and O.J.

Chris fiddles with the breakfast plates. He lines up the knives and forks on the folded paper napkins.

CHRIS

A ride?

ALLY
Now this will make me late, fat,
and a prime candidate for
cardiovascular disease.

CHRIS
Who's this ride coming from?

CAR HONKS.

ALLY
April.

Chris looks out the window and takes a deep breath. Ally
watches him from behind.

ALLY (CONT'D)
She's still my sister.

CHRIS
How is she?

ALLY
You know.

CHRIS
No, I don't.

ALLY
I'll fill you in tonight. Don't
wanna start a new school on a bad
foot.

Chris rubs his forehead with one hand and grabs a full glass
of orange juice with the other.

Angle on "FROM-CONCENTRATE O.J." container.

CHRIS
At least drink your juice.

ALLY
You know I adore you, daddy, but if
it's not organic -

Ally rushes out the door.

ALLY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Remember, Plus C stands for
carcinogens.

Chris takes a swig of orange juice and shakes his head.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Ally rushes to a rusted out old junk heap and flings open the back door.

INT. MATT'S CAR - DAY

APRIL, a beautiful 16 year-old bad-ass and MATT, her 23 year-old, gaunt, artist boyfriend make out in the front seat. Matt periodically REVS THE ENGINE to keep the car from stalling.

ALLY

What is this, a Porno?

APRIL

Bow-chic-a-bow-bow.

MATT

You know what a fluffer is, Ally?

(Ally through the rearview mirror).

ALLY

Yes. And no, that's gross.

APRIL

Keep us waiting and our minds wander.

Matt playfully grabs a handful of April's hair.

ALLY

Your mind, his hands - Great, I can skip sex-ed today, but I have history first period, so unless you're planning on reenacting the French revolution up there -

APRIL

I'll let you eat cake, baby. And whatever else you want.

Matt slaps his hands together in mock-prayer and then slams them onto the steering wheel.

MATT

(Fake french accent)
Off with her pants!

APRIL

The king must go down.

Matt flops his head onto April's lap. April SQUEALS.

ALLY

Mel Brooks did it first and better -
letsgo-letsgo-letsgo.

APRIL

Alright already, you don't have to
take our heads off.

April and Matt burst into giggles. Ally gives a begrudged
smirk and shakes her head just like her father.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Matt's car pulls into the street.

CAR HORN

Another car swerves to avoid Matt's car.

INT. MATT'S CAR - DAY

April lights a cigarette and passes it to Matt, then offers
one to Ally. Ally waves it off.

ALLY

Dad asked about you.

APRIL

What did you tell him?

ALLY

What could I tell him?

April takes a long drag. Ally takes off her baggy
sweatshirt, and takes out her make-up bag. For the rest of
the scene Ally will attempt to put on makeup; April will take
each piece of makeup away and do it for her.

APRIL

You're doing that wrong - you're
gonna look like a \$3 ho. Tell him
I'm an adult, and when he starts
treating me like one we can talk.

ALLY

You're 16, you can't even buy your
own cigarettes.

MATT

Sure can smoke'em though.

APRIL

Cheap's not your best look, baby.

April gives up on Ally's supply of makeup and pulls out her own stash.

ALLY

I'm just saying - maybe he's got a point.

APRIL

If he didn't want me to grow up so fast, maybe he shouldn't have turned me into an eight-year-old house wife. .

ALLY

He didn't -

APRIL

Laundry, dishes, dinner, getting you ready for school in the morning.

ALLY

He just needed help after -

APRIL

Even before she killed herself - She was a waste of space.

Matt puts the car in park.

MATT

Last stop. Corner of Angst Avenue and the Boulevard of Broken Homes - everyone out.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

MARCO, 16, the bad boy all the girls want to fix, sits smoking with ANT, 17, the pot head, and FOUR GUYS on the front steps of the school.

Ally looks back at Matt's car, April and Matt are going at it again.

PAIGE (O.S.)

Ally!

PAIGE, 14, Ally's best friend from grade-school runs toward Matt's car with a bulging back-pack and an arm full of books.

PAIGE (CONT'D)
Where were you? I went by your
house.

Ally looks through her backpack, avoiding eye-contact with
Paige.

ALLY
I was running late so I caught a
ride with April.

Angle on Matt's car.

PAIGE
PDA much?

Marco notices Ally.

MARCO
Who's that?

ANT
That's that psycho-bitch-April. I
told her she looked hot one day;
bitch keyed my car.

Ant flicks away his cigarette.

MARCO
I mean the new girl.

ANT
Let me get a drag.

Marco stares at Ant, then takes a long drag.

ANT (CONT'D)
Aight, I see how it is. I guess
that's psycho's sister. I wouldn't
try to hit that. If she's anything
like her sister, she'll hit back.

From behind we see Marco flip his cigarette so the lit end is
near his palm. Marco holds eye contact with Ally. He lets
out a slight gasp and smiles.

Ally smiles back.

PAIGE
I just thought - we always walk to
school together.

Paige follows Ally's eyes to Marco.

ALLY

Middle school was only three blocks. Isn't that Marco?

PAIGE

What's left of him. My sister said he went completely nuts when his brother died.

Ally and Page walk toward the school entrance.

PAIGE (CONT'D)

Quit all his extra curricular activities, started dressing like a freak, and from the looks of it stopped bathing. Do you think April would mind if I caught a ride in the mornings?

Camera angle on April and Matt still making out in the car.

ALLY

I'll ask her, if she ever comes up for air.

PAIGE

We should go - I did a run through over the weekend and it should take us three minutes to get from our lockers to homeroom, which leaves us a minute and a half to setup our books and stuff.

Paige and Ally walk past Marco, Ant, and the guys on the steps.

ALLY

You came to school on a weekend, and timed your routes? Did you synchronize your watch to the clock in the principal's office?

Paige smiles widely and does a little happy dance.

PAIGE

Oh my God, I didn't tell you. You know how my sister works in the office; she got us all the same classes, even homeroom.

Ally smiles half-heartedly. The BELL RINGS. Paige looks at her watch.

PAIGE (CONT'D)
See? You joke, but -

Paige grabs Ally's wrist and makes a run for the front door.
The other kids on the steps start casually toward the door.
Marco stays and finishes his cigarette.

FADE OUT.

ACT II: IT'S NOT STALKING, IT'S RESEARCH

FADE IN:

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Ally stands in front of a trophy case. A clean cut version of Marco is featured in three team photographs: Football, wrestling, and track & field. Ally fixates on the trophy case for the entire scene.

PAIGE (O.S.)
Earth to Ally. We're going to be late for fourth period.

ALLY
We have study hall fourth period.

Paige looks at the trophy case and shrugs.

PAIGE
They still take attendance. And we need to create a spreadsheet for our extra-curricular, anyway.

ALLY
I think I'm going to see if I can get a pass to the library.

PAIGE
Great! We can sign up for all the activities we want before the after school rush. We'll be first on every list - that's sure to impress the faculty advisors.

Ally cringes with embarrassment.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Ally looks through two open yearbooks. Paige shifts through a stack of flyers for various activities.

PAIGE
The trick is picking the right combination - to seem diversified, not scatter-brained.

ALLY
I don't get it.

PAIGE

Like grouping the school paper, literary journal and yearbook shows a focused interest in publication, but yearbook, the school play, and student government makes you look like a dilatant - The play, the math league, and the newspaper seems like you have no idea what you want to do or where your strength lies.

Ally holds up an open yearbook to show to Paige.

ALLY

Marco's freshman quote: Live each day as if you were the person you wish you were.

PAIGE

I'm thinking debate, student government, the paper. Accentuating my leadership and communication skills.

ALLY

Then sophomore year: I think it's kind of funny, I think it's kind of sad - the dreams in which I'm dying are the best I've ever had.

Paige reaches over and closes the yearbook Ally is reading from.

PAIGE

Stalking losers is not an extra curricular activity you can put on your college application.

ALLY

I'm not stalking him. I find him interesting.

PAIGE

He's not that interesting - if everyone who lost someone they loved just fell apart what would the world look like?

Ally runs her finger over a YEARBOOK PICTURE of Marco with his arm around his brother, Barry.

PAIGE (CONT'D)
People die - get over it.

Ally becomes visibly upset. She looks like she might cry or scream. Paige looks suddenly concerned.

PAIGE (CONT'D)
I didn't mean your -

Ally stands up and goes to the LIBRARIAN's desk.

ALLY
I need a pass back to study hall.

The Librarian retrieves a small slip of paper from a multislotted wooden box.

PAIGE
Ally!?

The Librarian SHUSHES Paige, without looking up from her work.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Ally is walking briskly down the hall. Paige runs to catch up with Ally.

PAIGE
Look, I'm an idiot.

Ally stops, but doesn't turn around to face Paige.

PAIGE (CONT'D)
Forgive me?

ALLY
Maybe. You said your sister knew about Marco and his brother right?

Paige NODS excitedly, obviously relieved that Ally is still speaking to her.

INT. MAIN OFFICE - DAY

Paige's sister, MOLLY, 22, the kind of receptionist that makes high school boys hope they get called to the principal's office, sits at the front desk checking attendance sheets. There is a high counter in front of Molly's desk.

Ant walks up to the counter and grins. Molly smirks at Ant.

MOLLY
Third trip to the office today.

Ant leans over, closer to Molly.

ANT
The man's keeping me down.

MOLLY
Take a seat. Seems you're not the
only one who forgot he was back in
school.

Molly spins around in her seat and focuses her attention on
her computer screen.

ANT
I'd just as soon keep you company
up here.

Paige and Ally walk up to the counter. Still typing at the
computer, Molly points at the row of chairs. Ant reluctantly
walks away.

Paige wrinkles her nose at Ant.

PAIGE
They're all in love with her.

MOLLY
First day and little sis is already
cutting class. So much for being
the good daughter.

From Paige and Ally's viewpoint we can see what Ant was
smiling at - a clear look down Molly's shirt.

PAIGE
I'm not cutting. I have a pass from
study hall.

Paige sounds younger in her sister's presence.

MOLLY
Did you miss your big sister?
That's so adorable.

PAIGE
It was Ally's idea.

ALLY
Do you have a minute?

MOLLY

No misbehaving while I'm gone, or
it's the ruler when I get back.

Ant Beams. Molly picks up the stack of attendance sheets.

MOLLY (CONT'D)

Come with me - I have to file
these.

INT. FILE ROOM - DAY

Molly files the attendance sheets.

MOLLY

Spill it. You're pissed I stuck
you in all the same classes as my
dorky little sister aren't you?

ALLY

Yeah.

PAIGE

Bitch.

ALLY

But, I wanted to ask you about
something else. What do you know
about Marco?

MOLLY

Absolutely everything. I am the
eyes and ears of this institution,
the confidant of horny young boys
who would lose all faith in God if
I ever buttoned my top button.

Molly checks her shirt to make sure she is showing a
sufficient amount of cleavage.

PAIGE

And you wonder why I'm the
favorite?

MOLLY

But whose favorite, pussy cat?

Molly files a folder.

ALLY

So what happened? He went from
like Captain America to -

PAIGE
Rebel with out a bath.

ALLY
In three months.

MOLLY
His brother died of cancer.

Molly sounds different now. Her voice is softer, calmer.

ALLY
So he just gave up?

MOLLY
It wasn't an overnight thing.

Molly reaches into the file drawer and pulls out Marco's file.

MOLLY (CONT'D)
Freshman year he was an A-B
student, few absences, made varsity
on three sports.

PAIGE
Those are personal files. You can't
just -

Molly and Ally ignore Paige.

MOLLY
He was never sent to The Pit.

ALLY
The Pit?

MOLLY
In-school suspension - the cubical
behind my desk. It's where I get
all the good gossip. For some
reason the dolts that get sent
there think it's sound proof.

Molly Flips through the pages of the file. Paige looks nervously out the small window of the door.

INT. MAIN OFFICE - DAY

Ant pokes around at Molly's desk.

INT. FILE ROOM - DAY

Molly flips through the pages in the folder.

MOLLY

Here we go. Excused absence for the last three weeks of school - That's when his brother got really bad

PAIGE

You know you get fired for this.

Molly sighs.

MOLLY

No, really, I couldn't. You think the student's are the only ones I have dirt on - The principal's been screwing Mrs. Grove, the biology teacher in his office for months - she's a moaner -

Ally and Molly laugh. Paige sticks her finger in her mouth and mock-vomits.

PAIGE

Gross, we have her next period.

MOLLY

And her husband is on the board of education, which technically makes him the principal's boss.

ALLY

Sweet.

Molly flips to the back of the file, reads through it silently for a second, and then sticks the closed folder under her arm.

MOLLY

Marco's brother died right before the school year ended - not pretty from what I hear - Marco started slipping: Increased absences, more notes from the faculty on attitude, falling grades, he played football again for about a month and then quit..

ALLY

It's kind of sad. Didn't anyone notice and try to help him?

MOLLY

He had a weekly appointment with the school shrink, but he stopped showing up around the time he quit football. Now, he rarely makes it to class at all.

PAIGE

Real winner you've fixated on, Ally. His brother dies and he just hides from the world - try's to become no one.

Paige presses her ear against the door and closes her eyes tight with concentration.

Molly gently puts a hand on Ally's thigh and gazes off into the distance.

MOLLY

Not no one - His brother was a lot like Marco is now. Marco was the good son, Barry was the bad seed. I guess he's trying to become Barry.

PAIGE

Oh no. If you die, I'm gonna have to become a slut.

Molly snaps out of her reverie.

MOLLY

If I died and left you my boobs maybe. As it stands now -

PAIGE

Honestly, I don't know why you care. He's lost any shot he had at getting into a good school. He's probably going to end up right back here working some dead end job.

Paige shoots a scathing look at Molly.

MOLLY

Remember who writes your schedule - You want first period P.E., followed by metal shop?

ALLY

Maybe he just needs someone who understands what he's going through?

PAIGE

Maybe he just needs some prozac and a bath.

Paige opens the door as Ally, and then Molly, approach.

PAIGE (CONT'D)

Come on, we're gonna be late for fifth period.

INT. MAIN OFFICE - DAY

Ant lounges sleepily in the waiting area, but perks up when Molly returns to her desk.

ANT

(To Molly)
You know we're gonna be partying at my place this Friday - you should come down.

Ally gives Paige a nudge. Paige mouths no-way.

MOLLY

I know you just want me for the beer I could bring.

ANT

Girl, I want you for everything you can bring.

BELL RINGS

INT. BIOLOGY CLASSROOM - DAY

Ally and Paige sit at a lab table which accommodates 4. They are joined by JERRY, 14, extremely well groomed. Jerry's cloths are more stylish/urban-adult then the other kids in the room.

JERRY

We have homeroom together. Thought I'd sit with a familiar face.

Paige shushes him.

MRS. GROVE, 40, an attractive but harsh looking woman drops her chalk while writing her name on the board. Mrs. Grove GROANS as she bends down to pick up the chalk.

Ally and Paige shudder.

MRS. GROVE

I am Mrs. Grove and this is Bi-

SERENA, 16, heavily tattooed, manic panic hair, combat boots comes in late for class. Mrs. Grove speaks without skipping a beat and continues writing on the blackboard: BIOLOGY 1.

MRS. GROVE (CONT'D)

Serena, How nice of you to join us for a third year of freshman biology. Take an empty seat.

Serena flips Mrs. Grove the finger and sits down next to Ally. Paige rolls her eyes. Ally smiles at Serena. Serena mouths FUCK YOU.

MRS. GROVE (CONT'D)

It seems you do not have enough room left to turn yourself into a walking cheat sheet this year, so I suggest you make it here on time and pay attention.

Mrs. Grove stands at the front of the room, facing the class.

SERENA

Actually there's a little room left on my ass, but I'll have to ask you to read it to me.

The CLASS chuckles.

MRS. GROVE

Enjoy The Pit Serena. Staring at four blank walls will do more to prepare you for *your* future than my lecture anyway.

Serena smirks and strolls out; she flips off the entire class.

MRS. GROVE (CONT'D)

I hope you choose your seat carefully, these will be your lab partners for the rest of the year. Table three, I feel truly sorry for you.

PAIGE

But -

Mrs. Grove speaks right over her.

MRS. GROVE

There will be no alterations and no exceptions.

Paige looks destroyed.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Ally and Paige walk down the hall. Jerry tags along behind them.

PAIGE

I can't do it. I can't work with such an obvious sociopath.

JERRY

She is pretty intense, huh.

Paige looks at Ally, but speaks to Jerry.

PAIGE

Who are you?

JERRY

I'm Jerry. Just moved to town this summer from -

Now Paige gives Jerry her attention, as though she just realized something terribly important.

PAIGE

What's your G.P.A.? I need to know if we're gonna have to carry two mental midgets or just one.

JERRY

3.5, But I'm -

Paige and Ally open their lockers and put their books away.

PAIGE

I guess that's okay. But we're all going to have to work twice as hard as usual to exceed expectations.

ALLY

Welcome to town, Jerry.

PAIGE

Which means there is no way we can go to that party this weekend.

JERRY

There's a party this weekend?

They both ignore Jerry's question.

ALLY

If we don't go to the party on Friday, I'll be too depressed to do any work on Saturday.

Paige looks exasperated with Ally, so she turns her attention back to Jerry.

PAIGE

Yes, there's a party. No, we aren't even invited. And yes, Ally's going to be a complete pain in the ass until she gets her way.

ALLY

Look, I'll make you a deal. We'll work on the Biology project Friday afternoon, go to the party, then get back to the project first thing Saturday morning.

PAIGE

There are still two major problems with your plan - We're not invited and there is no way either of our parents would let us go even if we were.

JERRY

Alright, ladies, I can't secure your invites, but if you let me tag along, I think I can help with the parents.

BELL RINGS

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Ally, Paige, and Jerry carry trays down a long buffet style line. Paige and Jerry select various food items, Ally so far only has a bottle of spring water. Behind the counter a surly CAFETERIA WOMAN glowers.

ALLY

Excuse me. Do you serve anything that isn't laced with preservatives and pesticides?

CAFETERIA WOMAN

Of course we do, princess. But we keep it all in the back room with the china and crystal, so the common folk don't feel jealous.

The cafeteria woman laughs at her own joke. Jerry laughs a little, too.

PAIGE

Here comes the angry letter to the school board: (mimic's Ally's voice) Teen obesity and depression have both been linked to the exact type of food you serve in your -

ALLY

Wouldn't you like a healthy alternative? A baby green salad or meat that's not filled with steroids and antibiotics?

Jerry grabs a twinkie.

JERRY

Personally, I'll take all the free steroids and antibiotics you've got. Any idea what those things cost on the street?

Jerry grabs a second twinkie.

PAIGE

Spend much time on the street, there, Jerry? You're wearing three hundred dollar shoes.

JERRY

Are they? These things just appear in my closet.

Ally pays for her bottle of water.

PAIGE

What, does your mom still shop for you?

JERRY

No, she has people to do that, and everything else, for her.

Paige pays for a small tray of food.

ALLY

I'll catch up with you guys in a bit. I'm gonna go see if April is out in the parking lot.

PAIGE

Lunch in the parking lot - Welcome to lifestyles of the poor and forgettable.

FADE OUT.

ACT III: BRUNCH WITH BURNOUTS

FADE IN:

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Marco, Ant and BURNOUTS sit on the steps leading down to the parking lot, eating brown bag lunches and fast food.

April and Matt sit on the hood of Matt's car, feeding each other french fries between kisses.

Ally walks past Marco. She smiles, then quickly looks away and makes a b-line to her sister.

ALLY

Didn't you graduate from here like four years ago?

MATT

What is this graduation you speak of?

April rolls over and straddles Matt

APRIL

My man delivers.

ALLY

I see you've already covered the tip.

April reaches for Matt's zipper.

APRIL

Actually, I was just about to uncover it -

MATT

The hours are shit, but the benefits are great.

ALLY

Do you know that guy over there?

Ally nods in Ant's direction.

APRIL

Bug or something right?

ALLY

Ant, I think.

APRIL

Real sweet talker - Last spring he told me my ass looked so good he'd like to wear it as a hat.

Matt puffs up his puny chest and makes to walk over to Ant.

MATT

I don't care how young he is, that boy's getting a busted lip.

April pushes him back down onto the hood and kisses him.

APRIL

Don't worry baby, I keyed his car - he got the message.

ALLY

Guess you're not going to his party Friday?

APRIL

Please, why would I go hang around with a bunch of little boys when I got a man at home?

MATT

A man with Percy tickets for Friday night.

Matt pulls two tickets out of his pocket. April grabs them and inspects them closely. She is obviously excited.

APRIL

I love you.

MATT

I was gonna surprise you, but - (To Ally) sorry to block your play, but those cost me forty. Couldn't let them go to waste.

Ally stares at the sidewalk in resignation.

ALLY

Thanks, Matt.

APRIL

Why do you wanna spend time with that insect anyway?

Ally betrays herself by glancing at Marco.

ALLY
I didn't. I just thought a party
might be fun.

APRIL
I see.

April makes kissy faces and starts hugging herself.

APRIL (CONT'D)
O Marco I love you - please, please
let me have your babies.

ALLY
Shut up.

APRIL
She had this huge crush on him when
he was in eighth grade - I thought
she got over it when he went to
high school. But now that they're
back in the same school - (sings)
let's get it on.

ALLY
Wanna tell me again how mature you
are?

MATT
I'm feeling kind of fatherly -
maybe I should go find out what the
young man's intentions are?

Matt and April hop off the hood and walk over toward Marco.
Ally grabs April's shirt as she's walking away.

ALLY
If you do this, I will never
forgive you.

April pulls her shirt away from Ally.

APRIL
Of course you will - It's your
nature.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL STEPS - DAY

Ant, Marco and four others finish there lunch. April and Matt
walk up the steps. Ally follows.

ANT

I was hittin' that shit so hard,
she was screaming like someone was
killin' her.

April stands in front of Ant.

APRIL

That tends to happen if you don't
have consent first..

ANT

Shit. What you want? I ain't said
nothin' to you - I know how it is.

April slings her arm around Ally.

APRIL

See this innocent looking little
girl.

ANT

Wassup? You pimpin now? How much?

Ally looks horrified. April gives Ant a quick kick in the
shins and looks over her shoulder at Ant's CAR.

APRIL

Those new tires you got there?

Ant looks at his car then at the ground. He is intimidated.

APRIL (CONT'D)

This is my little sister; she's
coming to your party on Friday. If
any of you dumb fucks try to slip
something in her drink,

Angle on Ant.

APRIL (CONT'D)

or give her just enough drinks so
she mumbles something close enough
to "Okay" to let you sleep at night
-

April flicks her wrist. Matt SNAPS a rubber band against his
wrist.

APRIL (CONT'D)

I'll castrate every mother-fucking
last one of you.

MATT

(To Ant) And just so you remember,
I've got something in my car I'd
like to show you.

Matt and Ant walk over to Matt's car. April follows. Ally
turns to leave.

APRIL

You have fun, sweetie.

MARCO

So you're coming out Friday?

ALLY

You mean I didn't just die of
embarrassment? I could of swore I
keeled over right after "innocent
little girl."

Marco takes her wrist as if he's checking her pulse.

MARCO

I'm pretty sure you survived.

Marco holds her wrist a second longer than necessary.

ALLY

In that case I guess whatever
doesn't kill you -

MARCO

Eventually wears you down and kills
you.

Marco lights a cigarette.

ALLY

Yeah.

Ally looks at the cigarette. Marco flips the cigarette so
the lit end is in the cup of his hand - it becomes invisible
except for the smoke rising through his fingers (he does not
take another drag).

MARCO

I don't know - I think it's kinda
cool how she looks out for you.

ALLY

She could be a little less militant
about it, but yeah, she looks out
for me.

Ant returns to the steps, pale and shaken.

ANT
Those two are fucking crazy.

MARCO
What?

ANT
Forget it, man.

Ally looks back at April and Matt, both of them laugh then start making out again.

ALLY
Alright then - I gotta go.

MARCO
So, I'll see you Friday maybe?

Ally nods at Marco. She turns toward the entrance of the building with a huge smile on her face.

INT. MAIN HALLWAY - DAY

Ally does a little victory dance and ducks into the girls room.

INT. GIRL'S ROOM - DAY

Serena sits on the window ledge smoking. Ally looks a bit startled, then goes to the sink and washes her hands.

SERENA
I must have dropped too much acid
this morning.

Serena hops down off the ledge.

SERENA (CONT'D)
I could have sworn I just saw you
talking to Marco out on the steps.

Ally soaps up her hands.

SERENA (CONT'D)
He's taken.

Serena turns off the faucet.

ALLY
I didn't know you guys were dating.

Ally moves down one sink and turns on the water and finishes rinsing her hands.

SERENA

We're not. But you're not going to be dating him either - understand?

ALLY

I understand - that you apparently did drop too much acid this morning.

Serena blocks the door. Someone tries to get in from the outside. Serena kicks back at the door.

SERENA

It's fucking occupied.

ALLY

You know with all those tattoo's - some of those are homemade right? - You should really get tested for hepatitis.

BANGING ON THE DOOR.

SERENA

I said: It's fucking occupied.

GIRLS push their way in. Serena turns and walks out.

SERENA (CONT'D)

This isn't over.

EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY

Jerry, Ally, Paige and a CROWD burst out the main doors.

JERRY

It's over. I've survived the first day at a new school, in a new town - no name calling, no wedgies, no fights.

ALLY

Lucky you.

PAIGE

Maybe you could get a restraining order, then they'd have to switch her lab group.

ALLY

I don't think being a bitch is grounds for a restraining order.

Jerry scoots past Paige to catch up with Ally. Jerry puts his hand on Ally's shoulder for moral support and to slow her down.

JERRY

We're still going to the party, right? You're not gonna chicken out.

ALLY

Do you think she's gonna be there?

Serena sits on a wall, lights matches, and flicks them at CHEERLEADERS as they walk past.

PAIGE

If she puts you in the hospital, that's definitely grounds for a restraining order.

Cheerleaders scoff and walk away. Serena LAUGHS.

ALLY

I'm going - not only did I get invited -

PAIGE

Spill it.

ALLY

Marco, kinda said he hoped he'd see me there.

Jerry smacks his hands together.

JERRY

We're all set then. You got the invite; I have the parents covered.

PAIGE

Exactly how are you planning on convincing our parents to let us go to a burner party?

Ant passes a DIME BAG to a KID IN FLANNEL.

JERRY

I'm not. You tell your mom your
you're studying at Ally's, and you
tell your mom you're sleeping at
Paige's.

Jerry stops, crosses his arms - completely satisfied.

PAIGE

Ally's mom's dead, and that's a
shit plan - what are we supposed to
do after the party? Sleep in the
park?

JERRY

After the party, you two can come
home with me.

ALLY

Yeah - no.

Paige makes a "Whatever" hand sign.

PAIGE

Nice try, horn-dog. I don't know
what the girls are like where
you're from, but around here -

TWO SENIOR GIRLS, scantily clad walk by.

SENIOR GIRL 1

Does semen have carbs?

SENIOR GIRL 2

If it does - Blow your diet or your
boyfriend.

SENIOR GIRL 1

Tough call right?

Jerry gestures toward the senior girls.

PAIGE

Well, we're not those kind of
girls. And if you think -

JERRY

Trust me, the thought never entered
my mind.

PAIGE

Why not!?

Ally laughs at Paige's sudden desire to be desired.

ALLY

What are you going to tell you're parents? Or are you just expecting them to be cool with this little coed slumber party.

PAIGE

I'm very attractive!

Paige pushes out her barely-there chest.

JERRY

Are you kidding? My father will practically wet himself with masculine pride - it will keep him off my back for at least three months.

PAIGE

You'd be lucky to date a girl like me.

Jerry gives her little more than a sideways glance.

JERRY

And my mother won't even know you're there unless you're swimming around in the bottle of gin beside her bed.

PAIGE

So I'm not like hollywood-hot, but come on. I'm not exactly hard on the eyes.

Ally turns to Paige.

ALLY

You're adorable, Paige.

Ally looks back to Jerry.

ALLY (CONT'D)

Alright, but you're riding the couch - whether it's crossed your mind or not.

PAIGE

You can't be serious?

JERRY
We have plenty of spare bedrooms.

Ally spots Matt's car.

ALLY
You need a ride?

INT. MATT'S CAR - DAY

Matt grabs April's sides. April squirms and giggles.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

CAB pulls up behind Matt's car.

JERRY
Looks like mom sent a cab. Thanks
though.

Ally zips her cover sweater over her tank top. Ally and Paige pile into the back seat of Matt's car.

ALLY (O.S.)
Pee-wee Herman didn't even watch
this much porn.

Matt's car SPUTTERS away.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Matt's car SPUTTERS in the distance outside. Ally sans-makeup comes through the door and slings her backpack into a chair.

Chris stirs a pot and watches the car drive off from the window.

CHRIS
Learn a lot?

ALLY
Yup. Four places you can shoot
heroin without leaving a mark, and
how to make a crack pipe out of a
light bulb and a ballpoint pen.

Ally retrieves a pen from her backpack and wiggles it.

CHRIS
My tax dollars at work. It's about
time they started teaching kids
things they can use in the real
world.

Ally peaks under the lid of a simmering pan.

ALLY
What-cha cooking, good-looking?

Chris uses an oven mitt to push the lid back onto the pan.

CHRIS
You know if you lift the lid you
let the magic out.

ALLY
(sings) Try, try, try to understand
it's a magic pan - papa.

CHRIS
Heart - *Dreamboat Annie* - 1975.

Ally slings her arms around her father's neck and kisses his cheek.

ALLY
Is there anything you don't know?

CHRIS
Well, I don't know that the capital
of Croatia is Zagreb.

Ally picks up a newspaper from the table.

ALLY
Someone's been sneaking crossword
puzzles again.

CHRIS
Busted. You know what I would like
to know -

Chris brings the pan to the table.

ALLY
That your food is free of harmful
additives and artificial flavors?

Chris serves the chicken.

CHRIS
Free-range chicken.

Chris points at the pot.

CHRIS (CONT'D)
Wild rice.

Chris points to the salad on the table.

CHRIS (CONT'D)
Organic baby Arugula with all
natural balsamic vinaigrette.

Chris brings over the pot of rice.

ALLY
Yes on the chicken. Yes on the
salad. No on the rice - You know
wild doesn't mean natural.

Chris serves himself a heaping pile of rice.

CHRIS
Thought I could slip it past you.
Speaking of slipping past - how's
your sister?

ALLY
She seems good.

CHRIS
Working part time jobs to support a
dead-beat pedophile boyfriend seems
good to you?

ALLY
Why do you even ask?

Ally wolfs down forkfuls chicken and salad.

CHRIS
I keep hoping you'll say: good,
she's dumped the loser and is
currently packing her things to
move back home. Or horrible, she's
miserable and needs you to bust
down the door and rescue her.

Ally pauses before she speaks. She puts her hand gently on
her father's arm.

ALLY
She's okay - Matt really seems to
love her and she's not exactly new
to taking care of people.

Chris pulls his arm out from under Ally's arm, dismissing the
tender moment, and offers Ally more salad. Ally waves it off.

CHRIS

I know I was unfair to you girls
after -

ALLY

You did the best you could. We all
did. I have a lot of homework to
do. If I don't get a move on, I'll
be up til midnight.

Chris watches Ally walk away.

CHRIS

Homework on the first day of
school?

Ally disappears through her bedroom door.

ALLY (O.S.)

There's a fine line between
educator and sadist.

Chris returns to his meal.

FADE OUT.

ACT IV: PARTY BALLS

FADE IN:

EXT. JERRY'S HOUSE - DAY

CAB pulls up to the curb. JERRY'S HOUSE takes up the entire property crowding out the small houses on either side.

Ally, Paige, and Jerry pile out of the cab.

PAIGE
This is where you live?

JERRY
No, I would not say - live.

ALLY
Harold and Maude?

Jerry smiles.

PAIGE
Where did this come from? I think I would have noticed a mansion on Garden Street sometime during the last 14 years.

The three of them look up at the massive house.

JERRY
My dad had it built over the summer. It's a Mc-mansion. You pick what you want out of a catalog. They say would you like fries with that? And three months later your order is ready.

The three of them walk up the steep, marble stairs leading to the front door.

Paige admires the exotic looking flowers on either side of the stairs.

PAIGE
Is your father looking to adopt?

JERRY
He's in New York on business most of the week, but he usually comes back early Friday afternoon. He should be back now. We can ask him.

INT. JERRY'S FATHER'S OFFICE - DAY

BILL WATERS, Jerry's father, the kind of guy who wears power ties around the house even on Saturdays, flips through a legal pad. FRONT DOOR CLOSES.

Jerry pops through the door and beckons Ally and Paige to follow.

BILL
Hey big-guy, get in here a tic.

JERRY
This is Ally and Paige, I told you they were coming over tonight.

Bill gives Jerry a "Not-bad" smirk and nod.

BILL
Right, I'll talk to you later.

Bill comes out from behind his desk and puts one hand on each of the girls shoulders, gently walking them out of his office.

BILL (CONT'D)
I hope you girls aren't after Jerry just for his money.

PAIGE
We're -

BILL
Cause he doesn't have any - I'm serious, we've been defrauding the IRS for years and now they're coming to take all this back.

Paige and Ally exchange awkward looks.

BILL (CONT'D)
I'm just kidding - he's loaded.

JERRY
Dad!

Bill pushes the girls further down along the hallway. Bill stops Jerry. Bill makes a plunging motion.

BILL
It doesn't matter how you get them as long as you get them in the end - am I right?

JERRY
Sure thing, dad.

Jerry walks quickly to catch up with Paige and Ally.

BILL
Hey if it looks like it's going to
be wet out there tonight - Don't
forget to bring a rain coat..

JERRY
He really believes you don't
understand what he just said to me.

INT. JERRY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Ally sits at the computer desk. Paige sits on the bed. Jerry
flips through an enormous CD collection.

PAIGE
So about that whole adoption
thing... Your dad is kind of a
perv.

JERRY
He definitely loves women, or the
idea of them, anyway.

Jerry puts on a CD - Indie girl rock.

PAIGE
Why do all guys want girls just for
sex?

JERRY
Not all guys.

PAIGE
Yeah right.

Ally spins around in the desk chair to face them.

ALLY
Jerry's right. Not all guys are
like that.

PAIGE
You'll see soon enough. If Marco
does like you, even just a little,
he's gonna try at the party
tonight.

Ally stretches and runs her fingers through the back of her hair.

ALLY
Maybe, I'll let him. Maybe I just want him for sex.

Paige jump ups, scandalized.

PAIGE
You little slut.

ALLY
Christ, I'm just kidding.

Paige looks down. She's standing on the edge of a BANANA REPUBLIC CATALOG. She peeks under the bed and pulls out a STACK OF CATALOGS.

PAIGE
I thought you said someone shops for you. What are you doing with all these men's fashion catalogs?

INT. JERRY'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Ally applies way too much makeup. KNOCK ON DOOR.

JERRY (O.S.)
You decent?

ALLY
That's a matter of opinion. But yeah, I'm dressed.

Jerry walks in and shakes his head.

JERRY
When we reached a full hour, I suspected as much.

ALLY
What?

Jerry wipes off Ally's excess makeup and starts from scratch.

JERRY
You're over-doing it. You look like a drag-queen. Not that there's anything wrong with drag queens - But somehow I don't think that's Marco's type.

ALLY

I know. I suck at this.

JERRY

Then it's a lucky thing you met me.
I happen to be fantastic at it.

ALLY

How do you know how to do this sort
of thing?

JERRY

I read a lot of magazines.

INT. JERRY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Paige sits on the bed and flips through a fashion magazine.
Jerry walks out of the bathroom and closes the door behind
him.

PAIGE

I'm giving her five more minutes
and then I'm going to bed.

JERRY

Inhale now because Ally is about to
take your breath away.

Jerry opens the bathroom door. Ally's hair and make-up look
professionally done.

ALLY

Does it look okay?

PAIGE

You look great - and it only took
an hour and a half. Amazing.

EXT. ANT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The party is in full swing. SIX JOCKS are drinking beer out
of plastic cups on the front steps. A cab pulls up carrying
Ally, Jerry, and Paige.

PAIGE

What's the varsity football team
doing here?

JERRY

Jocks and kegs: If you tap it they
will come.

DAMIEN, senior, linebacker, letter-man jacket, stumbles to the bottom of the steps.

DAMIEN
What? Does your dad drive a cab or something?

JERRY
No, my dad drives a bus.

Damien turns back to the Jocks and raises his beer.

DAMIEN
Party Bus!

All the Jocks raise their beers.

JOCKS ALL
Party Bus!

Jerry raises an empty hand in the air.

JERRY
Band Wagon!

Jocks raise their beers again.

JOCKS ALL
Band Wagon!

Ally, Paige, and Jerry climb the steps. The Jocks all pat Jerry on the back as he passes.

INT. ANT'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The activity at the party is as diverse as the people who showed up: KIDS make out on the couch, KIDS talk intensely in groups of 3-4, KIDS dance by the speakers, KIDS push each other angrily, KIDS pass around a three foot water bong.

Paige walks through the door and collides with FRANCIS, a shirtless sweaty burnout.

FRANCIS
My bad, baby.

Francis wraps his arm around Paige's head, more than her shoulders. Paige looks at the hairy armpit an inch away from her face.

PAIGE
Ally?

ALLY

Can I borrow her for a minute? We
need to get some drinks.

Francis lets go of Paige and points at the kitchen.

FRANCIS

I'll catch you later, baby.

INT. ANT'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Serena and Ant sit at a table with THREE KIDS. Serena
bounces a quarter off the table, it lands in a shot glass.
She pushes the glass across the table to ANT.

SERENA

That's right - Drink bitch.

Ally stops short in the kitchen door. Serena laughs.

SERENA (CONT'D)

This is too good.

Serena stands up struts toward Ally.

SERENA (CONT'D)

Either you got some big hairy balls
under that skirt, or you're dumb as
shit.

ANT

Give it a rest, Serena.

ALLY

(To Serena)
Have you seen Marco? Cause he told
me he was gonna be here.

Serena licks her chops.

SERENA

(To Ant)
That was three in a row right?

ANT

Yeah, let's get back to the game.

SERENA

Three in a row means I get to make
a rule -

Serena smiles slowly. She looks Ally over, head to toe.

SERENA (CONT'D)

From now on before you take the shot you have to say: I came on Ally's face and it was an improvement.

ANT

Would you bitches chill out? Marco's not even comin' tonight. He said he had some business at the Squat.

SERENA

You have a shot to do.

Ant looks apologetically at Ally.

ANT

Don't tell your sister, okay - It's just a stupid game. I came on Ally's face and it was an improvement.

Ant takes the shot. Serena turns back to Ally.

SERENA

Stay the fuck away from Barry.

The room falls silent.

ANT

You just called Marco -

ALLY

Barry?

SERENA

Fuck this.

Serena pushes her way past Ally and Paige.

INT. ANT'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Serena stomps through the circle of Kids smoking from the bong in the center of the room.

Jerry sits on the stairs to the second floor with a group of girls.

SERENA

Move it, asshole.

Serena shoves Jerry to the side.

JERRY

And she seemed so nice the first
time I met her.

INT. ANT'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Ant bounces a quarter off the rim of the shot glass. Paige
grabs Ally by the arm.

PAIGE

He's not coming. Can we just go
now?

ALLY

Marco's not the only reason I came
tonight. I wanna have some fun for
a change.

Ant passes the shot glass to the next kid at the table.

ANT

No hard feelings, right? You need a
drink?

ALLY

Yeah, we do.

ANT

We got beer, beer, some berry
flavored wine cooler-shit.

PAIGE

I'll take a berry one.

KID at the table snickers. Ant hands Paige a wine-cooler.

ALLY

Do you have anything stronger?

ANT

Vodka.

ALLY

Great.

ANT

I'll screw ya.

ALLY

Just a drink is fine.

ANT

A screw-driver. You don't wanna
drink this shit straight.

Ant pours a quarter glass of Vodka. Ant pulls out a container
of orange juice (The same brand her father offered her).

ALLY

Wait - not too much juice.

ANT

You like it strong, huh?

Ally takes a sip and makes a sour face.

ANT (CONT'D)

Too strong?

Ant tries to add more juice.

ALLY

Are you kidding - I can barely
taste the vodka.

Paige rolls her eyes and walks back into the living room.

INT. ANT'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jerry and THREE GIRLS sit on the steps to the second floor.
Paige walks over to Jerry.

Damien and Jocks enter from front door.

DAMIEN

Party Bus!

Jerry waves. Damien and the Jocks go into the kitchen. Step
girl 1 puts her arm around Jerry's shoulder.

STEP GIRL 1

Does your dad really drive a party
bus?

JERRY

Just a regular old greyhound.

PAIGE

His dad doesn't drive a bus. He's
like a millionaire CEO of
something.

Jerry points up the stairs. Everyone looks. Jerry walks
away.

INT. ANT'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

The kitchen is messier than before. Only Ant and Ally are still at the table. Ally continuously attempts to bounce a quarter into a shot glass.

ALLY

I'm gonna get good at this. Then we'll see who makes the rules.

ANT

Serena's not so bad, she's just a little -

Ant makes a squish motion with his hand.

ANT (CONT'D)

upstairs you know.

Damien enters and pumps the beer-ball, then pours a cup of foam.

DAMIEN

Beer run.

Francis pops his head through the door.

FRANCIS

We're out too. Gonna hit the squat.

Ally stops bouncing the quarter.

ALLY

What is The Squat? Is that like a club or something.

FRANCIS

It's not like a club, club.

ANT

People go there to hang out; it's hard to explain.

ALLY

You mind if I come check it out?

FRANCIS

Sure, why not?

ANT

No way. Your sister'll kill me if she finds out you went down there.

Ally grabs her purse.

ALLY
I won't tell, if you don't. Just
let me tell my friends.

FRANCIS
Don't worry man we'll be back in
like a half hour.

INT. ANT'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Paige taps her foot outside the bathroom door.

ALLY
I'm gonna run down to the squat
real quick and see if Marco's
there.

PAIGE
Wait - where are you going?

ALLY
It's like a club, but not like a
club, club - It's hard to explain.

Bathroom door opens THREE GIRLS walk out.

PAIGE
Wait right here. I'll be right out.

Paige goes into the Bathroom.

Francis walks over to Ally.

FRANCIS
You ready?

ALLY
Don't worry I'll be back in like a
half hour.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Paige throws her hands in the air.

PAIGE
Am I talking to myself?

Paige looks at herself in the mirror.

PAIGE (CONT'D)
Are you talkin' to me? You talkin'
to me?

Paige chuckles and checks her hair.

EXT. ANT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Ally and Francis walk across the lawn.

ALLY
Is this place far?

FRANCIS
Not too far.

ALLY
Does Marco go there a lot?

FRANCIS
Not really. His brother used to be
there all the time though.

Ally and Francis get into a cheep car with tinted windows and
expensive rims.

Francis' car pulls away too slowly.

INT. ANT'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Paige checks her watch. Jerry walks over to her.

PAIGE
Are you talking to me now?

JERRY
Looks like it.

Jerry hands Paige a wine cooler.

PAIGE
If you didn't want anyone to know
about your dad you should have said
something.

JERRY
When I don't want someone to know
something, I don't say anything
about it at all. Which is what I
was doing.

Jerry looks around the room.

JERRY (CONT'D)
Where's Ally?

PAIGE
She went to some club, the Squat.

JERRY
WHAT!

SMASH CUT

EXT. SQUAT - NIGHT

Francis' car pulls up in front of an abandoned house on the wrong side of town.

Marco stands in the doorway holding a BUNDLE wrapped in a flannel shirt.

MARCO
Try and stop me.

Marco turns away from the house.

INT. FRANCIS' CAR - NIGHT

Francis and Ally both watch Marco.

ALLY
What's going on?

FRANCIS
Just shut-up.

GUN SHOT.

EXT. SQUAT - NIGHT

Marco crumbles in the doorway.

Ally runs to him.

FRANCIS
Fuck this.

Francis peels out down the street.

FADE TO BLACK.

VITA

Thomas E. Moran was born in New Jersey on November 14, 1977. He graduated with a Bachelors of Arts in English from Felician College in 1999. He moved to Louisiana to pursue a Creative Writing Masters of Fine Arts from Louisiana State University in 2002