

**DEAD PIXELS**

"Pilot"

Written by

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. CARTRIDGE TOWN - NIGHT

LEE (obese, black, 20's) locks the door behind him to a rundown retro video game store. He heads into the parking lot with DESIREE (20's, pink e-girl hair). Both wear lanyards with nametags.

LEE

You're gonna like working here. Jeff leaves his office unlocked most of the time, so you can pretty much take whatever you want. Last week I sold his birth certificate to a guy on the dark web. Fifty bucks, easy!

DESIREE

Why was his birth certificate in his office?

LEE

He keeps it hanging on the wall like a degree. He's a pretty sad guy.

DESIREE

Smile!

Desiree takes a cell phone picture of Lee with the flash on. He squints. It's an extremely bad photo.

DESIREE (CONT'D)

Gotta put my new work bff on my story. Thanks for making my first day so fun.

LEE

Yeah, it was great meeting you.

She moves her hair out of her eyes.

DESIREE

So, what are you going to do with the money you got? Take your girlfriend out to dinner?

LEE

Oh no, I am alone.

DESIREE

Really, big muscular guy like you?

LEE

Ma'am, you are mistaken. I'm very fat.

DESIREE

I don't know. I bet you could pick a girl up and throw her around.

LEE

I mean, probably. When I was twelve I threw my Auntie in an above ground pool and got sent to a different middle school.

DESIREE

No, I mean, like, I bet you could dominate someone. Really take charge.

LEE

Well, I am the leader of my Counterstrike Go team. They recently stopped calling me slurs!

DESIREE

Ooh, I bet they did! That's pretty sexy.

LEE

Really?

DESIREE

Yeah.

She waits for him to make the next move. He doesn't.

LEE

Well, bye!

Lee turns around and hurries away. She is confused.

He approaches his car.

LEE (CONT'D)

(to himself)

Idiot.

He's about to unlock his car, then he stops. Something overtakes him. He turns back and yells across the row of cars at her.

LEE (CONT'D)  
Hey, Desiree!

DESIREE  
What?

LEE  
I, uh, forgot that I left my car at home today. Can you give me a ride?

DESIREE  
Isn't that your car?

Lee looks at his custom license plate: "LEE."

LEE  
Uh, no.

DESIREE  
Why do you have keys in your hand?

Lee looks down at his hand. He's holding his keys.

LEE  
Because...

He looks around the parking lot.

LEE (CONT'D)  
Uh...

He panics and throws the keys. They land in the back of a PASSING CONVERTIBLE. Desiree and Lee both watch the car drive into the distance. She looks back at him. He has sweat completely through his hoodie.

INT. CARTRIDGE TOWN/JEFF'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

JEFF (male pattern baldness ponytail, creepy glasses, 40's) watches from the window of his darkened office as Lee gets in Desiree's car. An empty picture frame is on the wall behind him. He drinks a glass of scotch with a tortured look on his face.

INT. LEE AND BRIAN'S APARTMENT - LATER

Desiree walks ahead of Lee into his shit hole apartment. He has no furniture except for an air mattress on the worn wooden floor. There is a katana hanging on the wall. Miscellaneous video game and anime memorabilia clutters the space.

DESIREE

You sleep on an air mattress?

LEE

Yeah, me and Brian share it. We face different directions though so it doesn't get too spicy.

She points at a pile of shredded rubber in the corner.

DESIREE

What's that over there?

LEE

Popped air mattresses.

DESIREE

Couldn't you buy an actual bed with all the money you spend on air mattresses?

Lee thinks about it.

LEE

It's a real Catch 22.

DESIREE

Is it?

Lee lies down on the air mattress. A high pitched whine is heard as air immediately starts escaping.

Desiree can't help but laugh.

DESIREE (CONT'D)

Wow, you really are a loser.

She climbs on the mattress with him and they start making out. Way too much tongue. It's disgusting.

DESIREE (CONT'D)

Do you have a condom?

Lee's eyes bug out in total panic.

LEE

Uh, it's getting pretty late. I have work in the morning.

DESIREE

What do you mean you have work? We have the same job.

LEE  
 Sorry, I should go.

Lee gets off the mattress and heads for the door.

DESIREE  
 This is your house, though!

Lee SLAMS the door.

Lee opens the door again.

LEE  
 Uh, I'm gay?

She stares blankly. He slams the door again. She is completely baffled.

She listens to his footsteps disappearing into the night, then gets up and puts on Lee's hoodie. She holds it to her face and smells it.

She walks to the bathroom, picks up Lee's toothbrush, gazes at it adoringly, and pockets it.

She looks in the mirror with intense, mentally ill eyes.

INT. CARTRIDGE TOWN - THE NEXT DAY

A grimy second-hand retro gaming store. Badly drawn cardboard cutouts of bootleg characters dangle from the water-stained ceiling tiles. All your favorites: Sanic, Morio, Mister Chief. Lee stands behind the counter with BRIAN (short, also fat, 20's.)

Several COLLEGE GIRLS are making fun of an ancient beige game console hooked up to a long-broken TV.

BRIAN  
 Oh my god, dude. I gotta try that thing with the keys. Super smooth.

Jeff leans his head out of his office door.

JEFF  
 It was very smooth.

Lee beams with pride.

LEE  
 Come on. It was nothing.

BRIAN

Nah, dude. So alpha. I'm gonna try something like that on one of those girls over there. Look at those wives.

LEE

Why do you have to say it like that? Can't you just say girls?

BRIAN

Nah, man. Those are wives. If you want something, you put it out to the universe and you'll be rewarded. It's called The Secret, and I want each and every one of them to be my wife.

LEE

That's just prayer! You're not supposed to pray for horny reasons!

BRIAN

Whatever, dude. I bet I can talk to them. I'll totally close.

LEE

Brian. You will not close. You're too small!

BRIAN

I'm not too small! How many stories do I have about getting laid?

LEE

That's only because every time you have sex it's weird and bad! You've only done it like four times.

BRIAN

I've done it more than four times, and it's not bad every time! One of the times it was fine.

Jeff leans his head out of his office door.

JEFF

I'm with Lee on this one. Five times max.

Brain punches a hole in the wall behind him and yells.

BRIAN  
How could you betray me like this,  
Jeff?!

The college girls look over, weirded out.

JEFF  
That's strike eight. Next time you  
punch a hole in the wall, it might  
come out of your paycheck.

BRIAN  
You wouldn't dare.

Jeff slowly closes his door.

BRIAN (CONT'D)  
Whatever, dude. You're the one  
who's a straight-up incel.

LEE  
Don't say that. People respect me  
here!

BRIAN  
No one respects you here. You wanna  
earn some respect? Help me close  
with these girls.

LEE  
What do I say?

BRIAN  
It's easy. Just wait till they walk  
by and pretend we're having a  
debate about something and we need  
their opinion. I learned it on  
reddit.

LEE  
Okay.

The girls stop messing with the console.

COLLEGE GIRL  
This place smells like pizza roll  
farts. Let's go.

They head toward the exit. Lee loudly clears his throat for  
way too long. They stop and look back at him.

LEE  
Excuse me, ladies. Maybe you can  
help settle a debate we're having.

(MORE)

LEE (CONT'D)

You see, my friend here thinks Bill Cosby is innocent.

BRIAN

I should have been way more specific.

INT. BRUNCH RESTAURANT - SAME DAY

Desiree sits at a table with her father STEVE (dorky, 50's), sister ASHLEY (model pretty, 20's), and mother LEANNE (stern, 50's). They are all dressed from church.

ASHLEY

So after the party, these guys invite me and my sorority sisters back to their house to swim, and when we get there, there isn't even a pool. They made a big circle of dead grass in the yard and tried to pretend like someone had stolen their pool. It was psychotic.

DESIREE

Do I know these guys?

ASHLEY

I don't think so. One of them was named Brian maybe? Little guy.

LEANNE

Nothing burns me up like a liar. If you girls ever find out a man kept the truth from you in the beginning of a relationship, you run, or you'll regret it for the rest of your life.

Everyone looks at Steve. He wipes his mouth with his napkin awkwardly.

STEVE

Like Pastor Cross says, everything happens for a reason, though, right?

Blank stares.

STEVE (CONT'D)

So! Desiree, how's the new job?

DESIREE

It's great! It's nice to spend more time with Lee. So happy he got me the job.

ASHLEY

When are we going to get to meet this guy, anyway? You two have been dating for what, six months?

DESIREE

He's moving in. I think he's going to propose.

STEVE

Wow, that's great news! Everything you've told me makes him sound like a nice young man. You should bring him to church next Sunday.

DESIREE

We'll see. He's pretty shy.

LEANNE

Don't you think this is all moving a little fast?

STEVE

Hey, we moved fast, and look how well that turned out!

Long, uncomfortable beat. Leanne turns to a nearby server.

LEANNE

Can I get another mimosa? Actually, just bring me a bottle of champagne.

Desiree is staring with a possessed expression at her phone under the table. She's adding heart emojis and other effects to the photo of Lee she took earlier.

Inside her hoodie pocket, she strokes the toothbrush.

FADE OUT.

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. CARTRIDGE TOWN - EVENING

The store is closed. Lee and Brian watch a training video. Two employees who look remarkably like them are standing in a similar looking store addressing the camera. They wear name tags and deliver their lines poorly.

ON THE TV

LOU (ON TV)

Joining a union isn't something I ever want to do. I want to work hard and be rewarded because I do a good job! Not get passed over because someone else has seniority!

BYRON (ON TV)

I want to be in control of my own career, and with a union, you give that control to somebody else.

A GUY WHO LOOKS LIKE JEFF comes out and gives a double thumbs up.

JAFF (V.O.)

I care about my employees, and that's why I'd never let them form a union.

BACK TO SCENE

JEFF turns off the video. He switches to a POWERPOINT PRESENTATION labeled, "Fourth Quarter Earnings."

JEFF

Now, as you can see by this chart I spent all day figuring out how to make, sales are down this quarter, but with our new bus bench ad that says GameStop is racist, we should expect--

LEE

Jeff, we don't care about this. You pay us like seven dollars an hour.

JEFF

Well, maybe if you boys sold more membership cards I could pay you a living wage.

Brian jumps to his feet, knocking his chair over.

BRIAN

I think we should seize the means of production and overthrow you, the ruling class! How would you like that, you fascist?

JEFF

What means of production? More than half of our business is selling used hentai to homeless people.

A HOMELESS MAN is banging on the glass out front.

JEFF (CONT'D)

We're closed!

The homeless man walks away.

LEE

We can produce our own hentai! I can draw tits really good.

BRIAN

You should see it. He's not lying.

JEFF

I don't want to see it! What I'm trying to say here is I'm no millionaire either. We're all in this together.

BRIAN

This wouldn't be happening if you didn't have to pay all that stupid alimony.

LEE

It's true. You've sabotaged us and this store along with your pathetic marriage.

JEFF

I didn't sabotage my marriage! I tried my best!

BRIAN

Speaking of sabotage, Lee completely boned his chances with Desiree last night.

JEFF

No relationships between coworkers! Come on guys, she just got hired! It's in the company handbook!

Jeff throws down an enormous binder of company policies on the table with a hand written front cover: "Cartridge Town Code of Conduct by Jeff." Brian grabs the binder and throws it across the room.

BRIAN

We gotta plan Lee's next move. That was a sure thing last night and you blew it!

LEE

Should I just call her?

BRIAN

No, you dolt! You don't call women on the phone. It's too aggressive. You have to play it slow.

JEFF

He's right. When I met my wife, I didn't introduce myself for a whole year. I just studied her routine and gathered information.

BRIAN

Exactly. We've got to be organized. Women live in chaos. They respect systems. They crave order!

LEE

Have you been listening to that alt right professor guy's podcast again?

BRIAN

Yes, and I don't care what people say about him. When he said Hitler was right, he probably meant something else by that!

LEE

I don't know if I should listen to you guys.

(to Jeff)

(MORE)

LEE (CONT'D)

You're divorced.

(to Brian)

And you've never once been truly happy!

BRIAN

I've been happy lots of times.

LEE

Name one time!

BRIAN

Once, my mom told me my dad said he was proud of me.

LEE

Your mom told you your dad said that?

BRIAN

Yeah, he said it in another room where I couldn't hear it.

JEFF

Your dad definitely didn't say that.

BRIAN

If he never said it, then why did I cry so much?

LEE

We're getting off track. If I can't call her, then what do I do?

BRIAN

It's simple. You like one of her Instagram posts. Nothing wild like a bikini pic or anything, just a picture of her grandma. Wait a week. Like a few more. Maybe a selfie. Follow her. Wait for her to follow you back. Oh, what's that, progress pics at the gym? Figure out what gym it is. Join her gym. "Oh wow, you go here too? Sorry, can't talk. I'm busy listening to an audiobook written by my favorite author: a woman." Go home. Send her a DM. Hey, it was great seeing you at the gym today. Do you want to be my wife?

Lee and Jeff puzzle over this plan.

LEE

Wow, Brian. That's genius! I'm gonna do it.

Lee pulls out his phone and likes one of Desiree's Instagram pics. His phone immediately starts ringing. She's calling him.

LEE (CONT'D)

Oh no. What do I do?

BRIAN

Don't answer it.

JEFF

Definitely a trick.

BRIAN

It's probably the CIA.

Lee answers the phone.

LEE

Is this a trick?

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

We can't see much of what's around her. Cats can be heard fighting in the background.

DESIREE

Why would it be a trick?

INTERCUT LEE AND DESIREE

LEE

I don't know. I have trust issues. When I was five my parents told me we were going to Disney Land and then instead I got circumcised.

DESIREE

Wow. So, I saw you liked one of my pics. You thinking about me?

LEE

Yeah, I guess. I'm here at the store hanging out with Jeff and Brian and we're all, uh, thinking about you!

Brian cringes. Jeff shakes his head no.

DESIREE

What happened last night? Why'd you leave?

LEE

I don't know. It's complicated.

DESIREE

You should explain sometime.

LEE

For sure.

DESIREE

Like on a date.

LEE

Yeah.

DESIREE

You should ask me on a date.

LEE

I agree.

DESIREE

Lee! Ask me on a date!

LEE

I'm sorry! Uh, do you wanna go out tonight?

DESIREE

Sure, that sounds fun. Call me later. Bye.

She hangs up, smiling. She looks down at her computer and continues to photoshop an image of her and Lee on vacation in Times Square using the photo she took earlier. Lee looks bad. A caption in word art is above them: "THREE MONTH ANNIVERSARY!!!"

BACK AT THE STORE, Brian and Lee high five and celebrate.

BRIAN

Hell yeah! First date. You're gonna get your hog sauced for sure.

LEE

Get my hog sauced? Why do you have to say everything in the worst way possible?

BRIAN

I don't know, man. I'm really grasping for some kind of identity.

They belly bump.

JEFF

If you're taking her out tonight, who's going to work the midnight release?

BRIAN

Jeff, who gives a shit?

Brian karate chops the head off of a cardboard cutout of Jeff with a speech bubble that says, "Low prices!"

LEE

Nobody cares about this place you giant idiot!

Lee knocks over a big shelf of games. HUGE CRASH.

INT. LEE AND BRIAN'S HOUSE - LATER

Lee and Brian burst into the apartment. There is an extremely well-drawn hentai image hanging on the fridge.

LEE

I've never been on a date before. Do I bring the sword?

BRIAN

No. Women do not respect swords.

LEE

What do they respect?

BRIAN

Women respect a man of fabrics. A garbed man.

He opens the closet. Inside are a bunch of identical copies of Lemaire's hoodie and jeans outfit.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Do you just wear different copies of the same outfit every day like a cartoon?

LEE

No, just the same copy. Those are all smaller sizes from me getting fat. I can only still fit into the one I have on.

Brian pulls one of the smaller hoodies out to reveal it is ripped.

BRIAN

How have I never noticed this about you?

LEE

I don't know! It's a cry for help!

INT. CARTRIDGE WORLD/JEFF'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

Jeff is drinking whiskey with his shirt off. He goes to the wall and removes a framed photo of himself looking extremely bad. He reveals a secret wall safe. He opens it.

Inside, there is a gun and a locket. He moves his hand back and forth between the two, unsure of which to pick up. He opens the locket.

On one side is the same bad photo of himself from the picture frame. On the other, it just says "Insert wife here."

JEFF

Watch out, Lee. We'll see who my much younger employee really loves.

EXT. CARTRIDGE TOWN - NIGHT

A LINE OF NERDS is camped out for the midnight release.

JEFF exits the store and locks the door behind him.

JEFF

The release is cancelled. Go throw a football. It's not too late.

He heads toward the parking lot.

NERD #1

Man, you suck! I don't even feel bad for keying your car now.

Jeff doesn't look back.

JEFF

You think I care about my car? I have a ponytail in my 40's. I don't care about anything.

NERD #2

That's really dark!

A moment passes while they wait for Jeff to leave. NERD #3 smashes the store window with a brick.

INT. LEE AND BRIAN'S HOUSE - SAME TIME

Lee paces back and forth.

LEE

I can't do this.

Brian rips down the curtains.

BRIAN

We can turn these curtains into a cool outfit! Like a smock!

LEE

Forget it. The clothes don't matter. I'm too fat and ugly. I'm awkward. Girls don't like me.

BRIAN

Hey, five inches is considered average!

LEE

What?

BRIAN

Sorry, I was thinking about something else.

LEE

I know I'm gonna chicken out at the last second like I always do. I'm a coward.

BRIAN

Hey, cowards have done great things! They killed Jesse James! They betrayed Jesus! Hell, they even did 9/11! Cowards have changed the course of history!

LEE

I don't want to change anything! I just wanna do bong hits and light our farts. Scrape our pennies together to buy a new air mattress. Why change something if it works?

BRIAN

Come on man, don't you want to know what else is out there?

Brian grabs Lee's phone off the windowsill where it's charging.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

If you want to cancel, I'm not gonna stop you, but this girl could be your wife. I think you're making a big mistake.

LEE

You really think she could be my wife?

BRIAN

Definitely, dude! She's total wife material. Trust me.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT - SAME TIME

Desiree is smoking meth on the couch. There are WAY TOO MANY CATS. She's listening to a horrible indie rock band. A dreamcatcher hangs on the wall next to a poster from some 70's movie. An open pizza box sits in front of her next to a bunch of half empty white claw cans.

She exhales a big cloud of meth smoke and looks into her pipe.

DESIREE

Needs more meth.

She picks a piece of crystal up off the coffee table.

DESIREE (CONT'D)

Wait a second, this isn't a meth crystal. This is a healing crystal.

She puts it back in a decorative bowl of crystals. She takes a big bite of pizza.

Her phone rings. She starts choking.

Her eyes widen. She panics and tries to do the Heimlich on herself, but she can't. She picks up the phone.

INT. LEE AND BRIAN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Lee is standing in the middle of the apartment with the phone to his ear while Brian paces behind him.

LEE  
Desiree! It's Lee, you know, from  
earlier! What time should I pick  
you up?

INTERCUT DESIREE AND LEE

Desiree chokes into the phone.

LEE (CONT'D)  
Are you there?

More choking. She's beet red now. Brian takes the phone from Lee.

BRIAN  
Hello?

Even more choking. She's turning blue.

BRIAN (CONT'D)  
I think she's trying to tell you  
what she's going to do to your  
dick!

LEE  
Nice!

They high five. Desiree falls over and smashes her head on the coffee table. The cats all rush towards her.

FADE OUT.

ACT III

FADE IN:

EXT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jeff badly parks his car. He gets out, beer cans spilling on the ground. He's completely hammered.

JEFF  
(practicing to himself)  
I love you, but in a boss way.

He stops for a second.

JEFF (CONT'D)  
Yeah, that sounds good. No need to overthink it.

He walks up to the front door. He starts banging.

JEFF (CONT'D)  
Desiree!

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Jeff lets himself in the front door.

JEFF  
(to himself)  
This is okay to do. Chicks dig confidence.

He looks around at the cats tearing around the place and meth smoke wafting through the air.

JEFF (CONT'D)  
Smells like my wife's boyfriend's apartment in here.

He calls into the next room.

JEFF (CONT'D)  
Desiree! I love you! Also, hello!

He notices a puddle of blood trickling in from the next room. He walks to the doorway and looks inside.

JEFF (CONT'D)  
Oh shit, the cats started eating her immediately.

INT. LEE AND BRIAN'S HOUSE - SAME TIME

LEE and BRIAN lie facing opposite directions on the air mattress.

LEE

Do you think she'll call back?

BRIAN

I know I gave you a big speech earlier about believing in yourself, but I didn't think you'd get this far. She probably met some muscular Chad with a cool car and a real gun and now they're making love on your grave.

LEE

My grave? But I'm still alive!

BRIAN

Remind me to tell you about your grave sometime. It's a funny story.

Lee frowns. The phone rings. He jumps up to answer it.

LEE

Hello? My sweet angel?

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jeff is standing in Desiree's apartment. He has somehow gotten the blood all over him.

JEFF

It's Jeff. Desiree's dead.

INTERCUT LEE AND JEFF

LEE

What?! Did you murder her?

He puts the phone on speakerphone.

JEFF

No, I didn't murder her! Jesus!

BRIAN

Are you sure, Jeff? Cause you give off a pretty murderly vibe with that wall safe and everything.

JEFF

You guys know about my wall safe?

BRIAN

We know about the clown suit in the trunk of your car too.

JEFF

The only way I get to see my kids is by disguising myself as a party clown!

LEE

Stay on topic! Are you sure she's dead?

JEFF

Let me check.

He checks her pulse.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Yep, no pulse.

LEE

You're still there!? Why didn't you call the police yet?

JEFF

Oh shit, that's a good idea.

Jeff hangs up. He starts to dial.

JEFF (CONT'D)

9... 1...

He can't quite remember the last number. He's so drunk.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Ah crap, I know this.

EXT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT - LATER

Lee and Brian walk up to the police tape. A BODY BAG is being wheeled out on a stretcher by two EMT's.

EMT

Wow, I've never seen cats eat a body so quickly!

She notices the shocked look on Lee's face.

EMT (CONT'D)  
Tough break, pal.

She pats him on the shoulder and whistles as she pushes the body away.

A COP leads Jeff out in handcuffs.

BRIAN  
Jeff, if you get lethal injection for murdering this girl, can I have the store, or at least your gun?

JEFF  
I didn't murder her! I slipped on all the blood and fell down.

Brian looks at the cop.

COP #1  
He's probably telling the truth. I'm mostly taking him in because he tried to give me ten dollars trade in on a brand new game last week. Watch your head, you capitalist parasite.

The cop puts Jeff in the back of his cruiser.

BRIAN  
Wow, that's a woke cop.

LEE  
I can't believe she's dead. I was so close to feeling that soft--

Steve approaches them from behind. He is wearing an overcoat and looks distraught.

STEVE (O.C.)  
Are you the boyfriend?

Lee hears him, but ignores him.

LEE  
--velvety...

Steve frowns.

STEVE  
Hello?

Brian looks back at Steve.

BRIAN  
We're talking! Don't be rude.

He turns back to Lee.

BRIAN (CONT'D)  
Lee, you were saying?

LEE  
--pussy.

Steve walks around to face them.

STEVE  
I'm Desiree's father. It's nice to  
meet you.

LEE  
Oh, hi. I'm Lee.

STEVE  
I know who you are. I've been  
hearing all about you for a long  
time.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT/VARIOUS - CONTINUOUS

QUICK CUTS. A DETECTIVE takes down and bags hundreds of  
photoshopped photos of Lee and Desiree on fake dates. Every  
single one uses the same photo of Lee from earlier that day.  
The photos illustrate a fictional timeline of a nearly year  
long relationship.

Another cop opens a closet to reveal Lee's whole "wardrobe"  
replicated.

In the bathroom, Lee's toothbrush sits in a cup next to  
Desiree's.

EXT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

LEE  
You have?

STEVE  
Of course I have. I can't believe  
we never met you. You're all  
Desiree used to-- oh my god.

He BURSTS INTO TEARS.

STEVE (CONT'D)

(sobbing)

When we went out after church for brunch today, she said, Lee is just the nicest boy. I think he's going to propose soon.

Lee looks at Brian uncertainly. Brian backs away from the circle.

LEE

She said what?

STEVE

I know this is a lot to ask, but we're all gathering at the house. It would mean so much to Desiree's mother if she could meet the person who made our daughter so happy.

LEE

Listen man, this is pretty soon to be meeting a girl's parents under any circumstances, much less--

ASHLEY (O.C.)

Dad, is that him? Is that Lee?

Lee looks toward the voice. He sees Ashley waiting by the car. Lee instantly falls in love. SLO-MO GLAMOUR SHOT.

Brian and Lee blatantly stare at her. Lee starts fake crying.

LEE

I'm sorry, I just loved her so much! I need someone to comfort me in this difficult time!

ASHLEY

It's okay, come back to the house with us.

LEE

Is there food there?

Brian watches Lee walk to the car with Steve and Ashley. He smiles and turns to a NEARBY COP.

BRIAN

I think our boy might get laid tonight after all.

NEARBY COP  
(yelling off camera)  
Should I detain this guy?

Brian quickly follows Lee.

BRIAN  
Hold on, I'm coming too!

EXT. EVERETTE FAMILY HOME - NIGHT

Steve and Ashley sit in the front of the modest sedan. Brian and Lee are in the back. Steve pulls into a huge mansion.

Brian and Lee gawk out the window.

BRIAN  
Nice house! What do you do for a living?

STEVE  
Oh, I'm retired. But I made a lot of money off of an app.

LEE  
That's dope. Me and Brian have an app idea! It's like a period tracker for farts.

BRIAN  
We're not making that. Please respect us.

LEE  
We gotta network if we're gonna get this off the ground!

INT. EVERETTE FAMILY HOME - NIGHT

Steve leads Ashley, Lee, and Brian into the house. Inside, Leanne sits in a chair in the dark drinking vodka.

Steve turns on the light. He walks over to Leanne and drapes his arms around from behind the chair. Everyone cringes as she resists his touch, gets up, and goes upstairs with the bottle.

STEVE  
(obliviously chipper)  
Anyone want a drink?

INT. EVERETTE FAMILY HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Steve, Ashley, Lee, and Brian stand around the kitchen island. Steve pours everyone a glass of very expensive whiskey.

STEVE

Let's all go around the table and share our favorite memory of Desiree. I'll start. I keep thinking about the last time she came home from rehab. She looked so healthy. So full of hope. That's how I want to remember her.

ASHLEY

I remember the first time she told me about Lee. It must have been about a year ago. She said, "I saw the cutest boy today dropping a hot dog on the ground. He looked so sad without his hot dog. I have to figure out a way to meet him." I'm not sure what she did, but clearly, you guys met and hit it off.

LEE

A year ago?

BRIAN

I remember Desiree's first day working at the store. She seemed nice.

Brian throws his drink back.

STEVE

What about you, Lee?

Lee is very sweaty.

LEE

I have to go have an emergency in your bathroom.

Lee leaves the table in a hurry. Steve follows him into the hall. Brian helps himself to another drink.

BRIAN

I'm sorry about your dead sister. She was really hot.

ASHLEY

Who are you?

INT. EVERETTE FAMILY HOME - ARCADE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lee throws open the door to a dark room and flees inside.  
Steve follows him.

STEVE

I'm sorry if this was too much  
inviting you over like this. I just  
didn't know what to do. I thought  
it would help if we were all  
together.

LEE

No, it's fine. It's nice. It's  
just, I'm not sure if we're really  
on the same page here. I'm not sure  
what Desiree told you about me, but  
we weren't...

Steve hits a switch on the wall. The room lights up with neon  
tubes and retro arcade machines. It's a nerd's wet dream.

STEVE

No sense standing around in the  
dark.

Lee looks around the room in wonder.

STEVE (CONT'D)

You weren't what?

Lee ignores him and walks through the maze of arcade  
machines.

LEE

How did you get all these?

STEVE

With money.

LEE

Oh, that's weird.

STEVE

Look, I understand if you want to  
leave.

Lee is already playing one of the games, eyes completely  
glazed over.

He looks over at the door at Ashley.

He looks back at his game.

LEE

You know what, I think I'll stay.  
Do you have anything to eat?

STEVE

I'll have the chef make you a hot  
dog.