

4 GIRLS FRIENDS OF NICK: 19-24; each girl fulfills a niche...2 SCENES

TARA (20) thin, tan, and attractive with black hair; sensitive and airy.

KARI (20) slightly bigger than Meg with a curvy figure and a large engagement ring on her hand, blonde hair, a quintessential Midwest jeans and sweater strong-willed girl.

ANNE (20) Intellectual type, short dyed hair, black pants, normal body type with no definition, pale, intellectual pitch to her voice, well read.

DRENNAN (20) Andrea's cohort, hypochondriac type, nervous energy, chubby, glasses, sincere, and smart.

INT. GREEN HOUSE - SAME

Nick BURSTS through the front door to four young women: All four watch television and are happy to see Nick, but not surprised.

GIRLS

What's up?

NICK

My 9oclock is cancelled.

Nick sits on one of the couches and sprawls out.

NICK

(cont'd)

Are you guys still having a party tonight?

EXT. GREEN HOUSE - NIGHT - 10 MONTHS EARLIER

A few cars are parked in the driveway and on the street.

INT. GREEN HOUSE - NIGHT

Everyone laughs and has a good time, there are only about 30 people. Some play drinking games.

Nick gets drunk and disappears to a hallway bathroom. He emerges from the hallway with nothing but a towel around his waist and everyone laughs. Nick dances and sings to a song playing on the CD player like a drunken hippie, eyes closed, in an interpretive dance holding a beer.

The music fades out and the party fizzles out to Nick, now in pants and the girls in the middle of a conversation.

NICK

No offense Kari, but I can't imagine dating the same person throughout high school and then marrying that person.

KARI

What's so strange about that?

NICK

It's not strange, it's commendable, but I'm saying that after high school, and especially in high school – I don't think any person really knows who they are.

TARA

They got engaged for a reason?

NICK

You know how I feel. For the sake of Kari and Tom I group them into my philosophy of love.

ANNE

Yeah, and you'll never find love because of that 'philosophy'.

NICK

On the contrary, my philosophy guarantees that when I do find someone, I won't need to second guess myself.

DRENNAN

Explain it again, last time, I swear.

The other girls SCOFF and roll their eyes facetiously as Nick prepares himself. He uses his hands to draw three invisible horizontal lines in the air and curvy waves in-between those lines.

NICK

There are three parallel horizontal lines and in-between those lines are waves like a pulse. The bottom line is marked friendship ect., the middle line is pure love, and the top line is pure love. So you have frienshp etc., pure love, pure love. At its worst, pure love valleys at the middle line, which still exists in love, while friendship ect. only occupies love in those rare sublime moments. Even though pure love has got its own peaks and valleys, the essence, the purity stays the same. People say they love each other right while the divorce rate is like seventy percent. When I fall in love those waves will peak on the top line of love and valley where love begins – It's as simple as that. A lot of people are living on the bottom two lines so it's kind of remarkable that some people actually find their soulmates, but what's even more remarkable is that some people might find their soulmates and lose them trying to find someone else.

KARI

Ok, but what about Tom and me?

NICK

I'm just saying that going to college or just getting out of the house is the most eye-opening experience in anyone's life, especially when it comes to boyfriends and girlfriends and all that shit. Obviously you and Eric are an exception, maybe, but I don't see how anyone's relationship can survive from high school to college. I remember when I was kind of seeing a girl a

couple years ago. We went to high school together and after high school she moved and we started sending letters and poetry and shit like and then she either called or I called or she sent me a letter and told that she loved me. I'm just saying you can't throw an I love you out there like it's for anybody.

ANNE

Well I love you and I'm not afraid to say that.

NICK

And I like you a lot and I'm not afraid to say that. I'm gonna run to the bathroom, then we need to make a run to the store to get some more beer.