

**GIRL: 22-28; an attractive artist type living and working in Fargo. She is independent, talented and comfortable in her own skin...1 SCENE**

INT. EMPIRE BAR – 3 MONTHS EARLIER

He orders a drink and finds a girl to talk too. GIRL is attractive and has a curvy figure, but she does not flaunt her assets. She is a brunette and although she is independent, she does not carry herself flatteringly or pretentiously. She appears to know Nick and it is obvious neither are there for small talk. They leave together.

EXT. EMPIRE BAR – CONTINUOUS

They walk next door and Nick opens the front door to Zandbroz.

GIRL  
You work here?

NICK  
Yeah?

NICK  
What do you do?

GIRL  
I don't live to far from here. I  
can show you?

INT. APARTMENT – CONTINUOUS

They walk to her small studio apartment. The floors are hardwood, the kitchen is part of the room and there are pieces of art everywhere. The girl talks about her pieces and the emotional meaning of each. There is one painting Nick sees and likes. The painting resembles "Christina's World" by Andrew Wyeth, but instead of a girl, the painting depicts a man and the scene is more modern. Nick stares at the painting and at this point is more interested in the girl.

They begin making out and the session gets a little more intense, but nothing untypical of a college kid. As things begin to get heavy the moment skips ahead to the two of them in bed. She's asleep and Nick is wide awake. He gets

up, fixes himself a drink and stares at her artwork. She wakes up a bit groggy.

NICK

What do you want to do with all this?

GIRL

Hang it up.

NICK

Where?

GIRL

Wherever there's space.

NICK

That's not an answer.

GIRL

Yeah it is. Have you driven through North Dakota? There's plenty of space.

NICK

You don't get it do you?

GIRL

(indifferent and annoyed)  
Get what?

NICK

You need to be proactive. Get it out there. What good is it gonna do sitting in here?

GIRL

They're in-between locations. I don't need to defend myself.

NICK

I'm not asking you to defend yourself. You're talented, it's obvious. I'm just wondering what you're gonna do.

GIRL  
Search my name.

NICK  
What?

GIRL  
Go over to my computer, get on the  
internet and search my name.

Nick gets up, maybe a butt shot, maybe not. He sits down at  
her desk, types something in.

NICK  
Is it an 'a' or an 'e'?

GIRL (OS)  
'e'.

He continues to type and begins reading.

GIRL  
What do you see?

NICK  
Your website, a few gallery  
listings, a grant you received, a  
few local write up's and a couple  
write up's in Minneapolis.

GIRL  
Now search your name.

NICK  
I already have.

GIRL  
And?

NICK  
One poem, published in a college  
journal.

GIRL  
I'm here because this place  
inspires me. What's your excuse?

NICK  
This place.

A beat.

Nick starts to get dressed.

                  GIRL  
You don't have to leave.

                  NICK  
Yes I do.