

"ALL-NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY"
Excerpt #2 - Pages 5 - 8
Original Screenplay by Peter Kovic

INT. JEROME'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

On the edge of his sofa, TV remote raised high, Jerome is frozen like a statue.

He holds this position for unreasonably long time, undecided. Will he turn on TV and give in to soul-crushing passivity? Or will he leave it off and pursue his dreams?

In his lap are discolored leftovers eaten from tupperware.

Apartment is under-furnished. Cracked walls, chipping paint.

TV on. Defeat.

INT. JEROME'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Eyes open, Jerome lies on too-small mattress, smoking. He watches ceiling fan turn and turn, getting nowhere.

JEROME (V.O.)
Every day is the same when
your dream is dead.

MONTAGE - SPLIT SCREEN

Three screens show Jerome on three different days, months apart. In each screen, he does EXACT SAME THING.

Seasons and clothes change, but Jerome goes through same routine, with slight variation, like a robot in a loop.

- 1) In kitchen Jeromes make vodka-spiked coffee.
- 2) Jeromes piss in bathroom with door open.
- 3) Jeromes slip scripts into big envelopes, stamped and addressed to various screenplay contests.

- 4) Jeromes glare hatefully while driving the kind of \$1000 OBO hatchback jalopy most of us stopped driving in high school.
- 5) Outside, traffic stands still in a crappy part of town. Exhaust blurs everything.

CLOSE ON OUTDOOR STOREFRONT SIGN

in a strip shopping center. It reads:

FOUR-STAR VIDEO & EDITING SERVICES
WEDDINGS - GRADS - SCHOOL - B-DAYS - CORPORATE - ETC.
ONE STOP - FILM - EDIT - DVD / VHS / INTERNET

CLOSE ON DIPLOMA HANGING ON A WALL

First one framed diploma.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-AUSTIN
BACHELOR OF ARTS - RADIO-TELEVISION-FILM
ROBERTO MARIO GONZALEZ

Then another.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-AUSTIN
BACHELOR OF ARTS - RADIO-TELEVISION-FILM
STEVEN MOSES DEAL

Then a third, also from the University of Texas -- but it's been obscured by a sticky note which reads --

FOR USE AS TOILET PAPER.

SPLIT SCREEN - INT. FOUR-STAR VIDEO & EDITING SERVICES
- DAY

Three screens, three days, three Jeromes, all brooding at cluttered desk behind computer, staring hate rays at everything. Jeromes don't even pretend to be busy.

On floor next to Jerome's desk is a computer with a 2002 BLUE NORTHER FILM FEST bumper sticker. Computer is busted up, as if someone took a chair to it.

JEROME POV: A start-up business that never started up. Nothing's changed since they opened three years ago. Nothing is different from one screen to the next. Defeat makes the office dingy.

Desks, computers, phones, filing cabinets. Metal shelves hold camera and video equipment.

BOBBY is Jerome's age. He is hard at work at one of the desks, crisp in khakis and a polo.

STEVE is inside a separate glass office. He paces, serious on the phone. He wears a tie.

They are realists, their film aspirations long gone.

Whiteboard calendar hangs from a wall, dotted with scattered appointments like weddings, school band concerts, and school games.

All three Jeromes pause from their loathing to type as hard as keyboard will let them.

COMPUTER SCREEN - EMAIL MESSAGE

Jerome skims, every word a foregone conclusion in his miserable life. Random words come at us, glimpses.

"Unprofessional." "Not going to pay."
"Unacceptable." "Cigarette burns on bride's dress."

Every pore on Jerome's face says "fuck you."

Mouse cursor moves to DELETE. Click!

Second email. "Your last check bounced." "Don't say 'bitch ex-wife' around Taylor." "Alimony."

DELETED!

Third email. "Thank you for submitting your script."
"Over 2000 entries." "Unfortunately your screenplay."

Cursor hangs over DELETE.

Jerome considers.

Cursor clicks SAVE instead. His fatalism is Romantic.

Two Jeromes keep typing. One opens a drawer. From it, he produces a DVD case with homemade packaging.

One side of DVD shows younger, cleaner versions of Jerome, Bobby, and Steve in a dramatic movie still.

WRITTEN, DIRECTED, AND STARRING --

But his finger obscures his own name. He turns case over. Other side reads:

NOMINEE! BEST STUDENT FILM
2002 BLUE NORTHER INDEPENDENT FILM & VIDEO FESTIVAL

He snaps DVD back into drawer.

From a different drawer, he lifts halves of a credit card and tube of glue. He clears desk space and sets to gluing severed halves. Other Jeromes keep typing.