

Sophomore: Graduation

FADE IN:

INT. AZAR'S INTERNET CAFE

Conor McCloud is sitting in an internet cafe with an espresso and a pile of change in front of him. He is sitting down in front of a computer reading emails, reading Wikipedia, etc. The screen goes black and asks for more money. The shopkeep, Azar, a friendly indian man is at the counter typing on a computer.

CONOR MCCLOUD

I have paid whores in Thailand less money than this goddamn computer.

Azar approaches him.

AZAR

You know, Mr. McCloud, it might be cheaper for you to just buy a laptop or something at this point.

CONOR MCCLOUD

Oh right, Azar. And let the United States Government inside my home, and eventually into my brain. Fat chance. Here take my quarters, and make the machine work again please.

Azar gives Conor McCloud a look before picking up the quarters and putting them into the slot, something McCloud could have easily done himself. The computer resumes working.

CONOR MCCLOUD (CONT'D)

Thank you, Azar. I hope I didn't get too heated on you, you're a good friend. I just.. I'm trying to stay off the grid, you understand, right?

A tone sounds, startling McCloud.

CONOR MCCLOUD (CONT'D)

Christ, Azar, we have been compromised, we gotta submerge this machine in water immediately.

CONOR MCCLOUD (CONT'D)

A box just came up with my name on it, they even know my school email. They have been stalking me this whole time.

Conor grabs the computer and tries to remove it from the wall, Azar runs over.

AZAR

No, no, no, what are you doing, Mr. McCloud??

CONOR MCCLOUD

A box just came up with my name on it, they even know my school email, they have been stalking me this whole time.

Azar approached the computer.

AZAR

Mr. McCloud, that is an instant message. Someone is trying to communicate to you. Look, see those bubbles? It means someone is typing.

CONOR MCCLOUD

Well, what is it trying to say?

AZAR

I don't know yet.

CONOR MCCLOUD

This anticipation is worse than Paul Revere's wife waiting by her window that one night.

A message pops up on the screen: **Good afternoon, Conor McCloud, we are writing you today in regards to inviting you to speak at our senior commencement ceremony.**

CONOR MCCLOUD (CONT'D)

This is.. from .. work?

AZAR

It appears to be that way, sir, will you accept?

CONOR MCCLOUD

I need a minute, Azar.

Conor McCloud stares at the computer, contemplating, for what seems to be an eternity. Finally he speaks.

CONOR MCCLOUD (CONT'D)

I accept.

Azar overhears Conor McCloud speaking to the computer.

AZAR

Mr. McCloud, you know you can't just say you accept, right? You must type back.

CONOR MCCLOUD

(Lying)

Of course I knew that.

INT. THE PUB - EVENING

The boys are at the bar, it is unusually crowded for a Wednesday night. They are trying to play pool, but are getting increasingly frustrated because of the amount of people. James Zune goes to take his shot at billiards and is bumped by another patron.

JAMES ZUNE

Jesus, why is it so packed tonight, is it a holiday?

HENRY BAKER

It must be because of graduation, happens every year.

JAMES ZUNE

Really? People actually care about these things?

HENRY BAKER

Well, the people graduating do...

JAMES ZUNE

Sounds stupid, McCloud, remember what we did for our graduation?

CONOR MCCLOUD

Of course not.

JAMES ZUNE

I'm not surprised, asshole, you were knee deep under that one chick that would always say how everything was "giving her life".

JAMES ZUNE (CONT'D)

(imitating )

Omg, this song is giving me life right now. OMG, this drink is giving me life right now...

CONOR MCCLOUD

This story can't be true.

PIPEN SCOTT

(Genuinely)

I like to think that you guys give me life.

Henry goes to take his turn and misses. James Zune goes to take his next shot, but is knocked into, and his drink spills.

JAMES ZUNE

Ef this, let's go sit. 4 seats just opened up.

The group of teachers mosey to the bar and order some drinks.

HENRY BAKER

Even for graduation weekend... this seems crowded.

A group of people walk by the teachers, as James Zune ducks to avoid being seen.

JAMES ZUNE

Holy shit, was that Lord Helmet?

CONOR MCCLOUD

My god, I think you are right.

PIPEN SCOTT

Who?

JAMES ZUNE

Lord Helmet. I've never seen a kid with a bigger head than Lord Helmet, he was a grade or two below us, right? What the hell is he doing here?

HENRY BAKER

I think I taught his younger brother this year, must be in town for the graduation.

JAMES ZUNE

Listen, if I am going to be seeing people I used to go to highschool with, I need to get way more drunk. Bartender, another round please.

The bartender sends another round to the teachers.

PIPEN SCOTT

So, Conor, are you feeling ready for your speech tomorrow?

CONOR MCCLOUD

Of course I am ready, I first began by watching some of the greatest public speakers of all time. I collected the best speeches and came up with a formula for the perfect speech, what pace to speak at, how long to speak for, talking points, humour, emotion. I studied it all. From there I developed 3 unique commencement speeches. I will decide tomorrow at the podium which speech I will recite.

JAMES ZUNE

3 speeches? No way.

Conor McCloud grabs James Zune's face and looks his dead in the eye.

CONOR MCCLOUD

3 speeches. Every single word.

PIPEN SCOTT

Speech 2, Line 45!

Conor McCloud ponders for only an instant.

CONOR MCCLOUD

"Only the question their purpose in life".

PIPEN SCOTT

I got goosebumps.

HENRY BAKER

Pretty chilling, Conor, can't wait to hear it.

JAMES ZUNE

Enough of this, I am still sober and just saw Randy Howell. Me and his sister did hand stuff at their family bbq one summer.

JAMES ZUNE (CONT'D)

(Irritated)

Jesus, what do I have to do to get a drink around here, Barkeep, 8 beers, please.

The drinks arrive.

JAMES ZUNE (CONT'D)

Alright. Name Game. Let's go.

HENRY BAKER

What's the Category?

JAMES ZUNE

Students' Names.

HENRY BAKER

Dax Huntt.

CONOR MCCLOUD

Hannah Crupley.

JAMES ZUNE

Chris Vergas.

PIPEN SCOTT

(Stuttering)

Uh.. uh.. Veronica Price.

HENRY BAKER

Pete Labell.

The boys continue their game. Drinking when they take too long to name a student. Several rounds go by and the boys are starting to feel the effects.

JAMES ZUNE

(Slurring his words)

That's easily 6 seconds, drink,  
bitch.

Conor McCloud is staring down at the bar with a deadpan look on his face.

JAMES ZUNE (CONT'D)

Yo, how much time do you need?  
Drink.

PIPEN SCOTT

Is he dead?

Conor McCloud gets up with out saying a word and walks away from the group.

HENRY BAKER

Prolly gonna puke or something.

JAMES ZUNE

He is definitely going to puke.

INT. THE PUB - LATER THAT NIGHT

James and Henry are in a heated debate and Pipen is passed out on the bar, fast asleep.

HENRY BAKER

No chance, man. There is no way you could climb Kilimanjaro right now, you're not in the necessary physical shape.

JAMES ZUNE

(Lifting his shirt)

First of all, fuck you. This body never quits-

The teachers are mid conversation when Conor comes back with a girl in hand, and her friends tagging along.

CONOR MCCLOUD

James, put your tits away.

James is caught off guard by the company and lowers his shirt.



CONOR MCCLOUD (CONT'D)

(Pointing to the  
girls)

Guys, this is Grace. And these are her friends, Bridgette, Sam, and I don't know that one, actually.

RUTH

My name is Ruth.

CONOR MCCLOUD

Yeah, yeah, whatever. Grace is in for her brother's graduation tomorrow. Ladies, this is Henry, James, and the homeless one sleeping is Pipen.

SAM

Is he alright?

JAMES ZUNE

He tends to sleep in places he shouldn't, don't worry.

CONOR MCCLOUD

Pip, get up, we are having a shot with my new friends. Let's go.

Pipen does not budge.

HENRY BAKER

Yeah, count me out, too, man. It's getting pretty late. We better head home now.

Henry shakes Pipen until he wakes, groggily.

HENRY BAKER (CONT'D)

Come on, big boy, let's get you home.

PIPEN SCOTT

(Half asleep)

Henry, when we get to bed can you tell me a bedtime story?

HENRY BAKER

(Patronizingly)

Sure, Pip, I will read you a bedtime story.

PIPEN SCOTT  
... and chocolate milk?

HENRY BAKER  
You're an adult, I don't give a  
shit.

PIPEN SCOTT  
Pleaseeeeee.

HENRY BAKER  
Christ sake, fine let's go.

CONOR MCCLOUD  
Great idea, Henry! Hey girls, why  
don't you come back with us?  
Henry has a great liquor  
selection, and I can put on some  
music that doesn't make me feel  
like a tween.

Without hesitation, the girls jump on to the invite. For better or worse, they all head back to Henry's house for more drinks. Conor McCloud is head over heels with Grace, and the others seem to be nice enough. They spend some time playing games and listening to music. The night winds down, PIPEN and James are passed out. Henry is cleaning up, the girls are gathering their things, and Grace and Conor are making out. The night is winding down, Grace's friends call for a taxi.

FRIEND 1  
C'mon, Grace, the taxi is here.  
Let's go.

CONOR MCCLOUD  
Leaving? It's early, I can make  
us another drink. How about some  
boilermakers?

GRACE  
Yeah, one more drink!

FRIEND 2  
I have work in like 3.5 hours, it  
is time to go.

CONOR MCCLOUD  
Uh.. How about I come along!

GRACE

Really? That sounds fun!

CONOR MCCLOUD

Of course. The night is still young, I know a great place the cab can drop us off.

Conor McCloud rushes out the door with Grace and the girls. Henry calls out as he is leaving the house.

HENRY BAKER

Rememeber, we are leaving for the ceremony at noon tomorrow!

But by this time, Conor McCloud is long gone.

INT. HENRY'S HOUSE - THE NEXT MORNING

The next scene opens with Henry reading the clock it says 12 noon. The time they were all supposed to be heading out. He pops up to see where everyone is, Zune and Pip are sprawled out on the couches.

HENRY BAKER

Boys, let's go! Wake up call! We should have been out the door 10 minutes ago.

He begins to shake the boys as they did not respond. Henry is running around trying to get ready.

HENRY BAKER (CONT'D)

(Yelling up the stairs)

Conor, wake up lovebird, you got a big speech today!

JAMES ZUNE

Henry, shutttt upppp man, it's so loud in here, chill dude.

Henry comes back to the living room

HENRY BAKER

Where is McCloud?

JAMES ZUNE

I don't have a GPS on the kid, he just got a cell phone three weeks ago.

HENRY BAKER

Well, can you call him?

James Zune's eyes begin to close as he is falling back asleep.

HENRY BAKER (CONT'D)

Fine, I'll call him.

Henry grabs his phone and calls McCloud's phone, it begins to ring inside the house.

JAMES ZUNE

So, he is home.

HENRY BAKER

Doubtful.

Henry pulls a phone from the under the couch cushion Pipen is sleeping on, it is Conor McCloud's. The ringing startles Pipen from his sleep.

HENRY BAKER (CONT'D)

He left his phone here.

PIPEN SCOTT

(Groggily)

Uh... Morning..

HENRY BAKER

Shit, where could this kid be,  
did anyone get a number from  
those girls last night..?

The teachers look at each other semi-embarrassed, realizing they probably should have.

HENRY BAKER (CONT'D)

Damn it, let me think.

Henry begins to organize a plan in his head, you can see the wheels turning.

HENRY BAKER (CONT'D)

Alright, Pip you're going to stay here and shower and hope McCloud gets back here soon. If/when he does, call me and then drive to the ceremony. Zune go back to the pub, he may be there again, or still, I'm not sure. I am going to call Jessica and look around town for him, does everyone have their phones on them, or walkie talkies if you're Pip?

PIPEN SCOTT

Roger that, captain.

JAMES ZUNE

Over and out.

James Zune stumbles out the door, still fairly drunk. Henry is following him and calling Jessica. Pipen rolls off the couch to the coffee table to roll a joint.

HENRY BAKER

Hey Jess, I have a McCloud emergency can you pick me up at-

Henry closes the door behind him, leaving Pipen the only one in the house.

PIPEN

Ok ok, I'll do whatever I promised Henry, but first I need a little tasty wake up call.

EXT. HENRY'S HOUSE

James begins to walk back to the pub. Jessica pulls up to the house to get Henry. James Zune arrives at the pub down at the bar, it's fairly empty. There are no signs of Conor McCloud He gets the bartender's attention.

JAMES ZUNE

Hey Dillon...

DILLON

Hey James, what are ya having?

JAMES ZUNE

Uh.. nothing. Have you seen Conor McCloud this morning, or late last night?

DILLON

Nothing?

JAMES ZUNE

Who am I kidding? Ok, any canadian beer and a shot of whiskey.

DILLON

Coming up.

JAMES ZUNE

So, any sign of McCloud?

DILLON

No, I wasn't here last night. But, he hasn't been in since I opened.

Dillon serves James Zune's drink.

DILLON (CONT'D)

Let me call Rachel, she closed up.

James Zune downs the shot and throws back the beer.

JAMES ZUNE

Don't worry about it. Another one, Dillon.

INT. JESSICA'S CAR

Henry is acting jumpy in the passenger seat.

HENRY BAKER

I don't even know where to begin...

JESSICA

Well, who did he leave with again?

HENRY BAKER

I don't know, some asian  
smokeshow. No clue where she came  
from.

JESSICA

Asian, huh?

HENRY BAKER

I didn't mean it like that,  
but...

JESSICA

Like, what?

HENRY BAKER

(flustered)

Who cares how I meant it! Let's  
focus on where McCloud is.

Henry and Jessica drive around town in search for Conor  
McCloud, but have no luck.

JESSICA

Maybe he made his own way there,  
you know he is speaking after  
all.

HENRY BAKER

Hopefully, but I doubt it.

Henry looks at the clock. It is almost time for the ceremony  
to begin.

HENRY BAKER (CONT'D)

Let's just go to the school and  
find out.

Jessica agrees, and they head toward the school.

INT. HENRY'S HOUSE

Conor McCloud stumbles into Henry's house, quite drunk, coat  
slung over his shoulder, with red lipstick all over his face.  
Pipen is stoned on the couch watching a picture slideshow of  
wild animals on the tv screen.

CONOR MCCLOUD

I AM IN LOVEEEEE!!! Oh, Pip, my  
boy! It feels so good!

Pipen's intense concentration breaks, and he looks toward Conor McCloud.

PIPEN SCOTT

Woah, hey man! What's going on?

CONOR MCCLOUD

Get the marijuana leaves out of your ears, Pipen. I am in love!

Conor grabs Pipen to hug him.

PIPEN SCOTT

Really? Congratulations, that's amazing! Hey, beers?

CONOR MCCLOUD

Of course, beers, my hippie companion, of course. I'll even have some of this cannabis. Fuck it, and whatever else you're on, I'm so jovial!

Pipen leaves and brings back a handful of beers.

PIPEN SCOTT

This is awesome. So, what's she like, man?

CONOR MCCLOUD

Grace? The girl from the bar last night, remember?

PIPEN SCOTT

Uh...

CONOR MCCLOUD

Fair enough, you were sleeping on the bar when I introduced her.

PIPEN SCOTT

I was? Well, she sounds great. Tell me more!

CONOR MCCLOUD

From the moment we locked eyes during the Name Game last night, I knew I must have her.

PIPEN SCOTT

Ohhhh, that's what you were doing.



CONOR MCCLOUD

But, when I really knew that I wanted to be with this woman forever was after we left here last night. We went for a walk after we dropped her friends off, got pancakes at the diner, and I learned about her family. We went to that neo-disco club that opened on Porter.

PIPEN SCOTT

Neo-disco?

CONOR MCCLOUD

I feel like you of all people would... Anyway, then we went back to her place where I spent two hours making passionate love to her non-stop. Just the way I liked it, too. Bound in leather and begging for more.

PIPEN SCOTT

Oh, she likes to be bound then?

CONOR MCCLOUD

No, I do.

Conor McCloud stares at Pipen for a second.

CONOR MCCLOUD (CONT'D)

I am seeing her again tonight. Now, let's drink these frosty beers!

Pipen takes a hit from his joint and passes it to McCloud.

PIPEN SCOTT

Love, what a beautiful thing. I am happy for you!

Conor McCloud inhales from the joint.

CONOR MCCLOUD

I know, man, I know.

PIPEN SCOTT

You should ask her to marry you.

CONOR MCCLOUD

Really, you think this soon?

PIPEN SCOTT

If there's one thing I know about, it's making rash decisions.

CONOR MCCLOUD

Hm, you're right. I am the happiest I have ever been! I am gonna do it.

PIPEN SCOTT

Great idea, man. I'll try to record it.

Pipen pulls out a phone from 2007.

PIPEN SCOTT (CONT'D)

But, I'm not sure if I'll really be able to capture the emotion.

CONOR MCCLOUD

It doesn't matter, I'll never forget the feeling. Hey, where are the other guys? I want to share this with them, too.

PIPEN SCOTT

I'm not really sure, I think Zune is having a beer at the pub, and Henry went out with Jessica.

Conor McCloud grabs the joint from Pipen and takes a hit.

CONOR MCCLOUD

Nice, are those two banging? And why are you so dressed up?

PIPEN SCOTT

This is how I always dress.

CONOR MCCLOUD

No, you usually dress in a towel.

Pipen receives a text message from Henry, and reads it out loud.

PIPEN SCOTT

Oh, it's Henry! "Have you seen McCloud?"

Pipen reads aloud as he types back.

PIPEN SCOTT (CONT'D)

"Yeah, we are chilling at the  
crib, wanna smoke?"

The phone rings immediately, it is a fuming Henry.

HENRY BAKER

GET CONOR MCCLOUD HERE NOW.

PIPEN SCOTT

Woah man, where?

HENRY BAKER

THE SCHOOL. HE IS DUE TO SPEAK IN  
30 minutes. NOW, PIP.

PIPEN SCOTT

Oh righttttt, that is today.

McCloud is nosey, and asks about the conversation. Pipen covers the mouth receiver to whisper to McCloud.

PIPEN SCOTT (CONT'D)

He wants us to go to the school  
for your speech, what should I  
say?

CONOR MCCLOUD

Oh fuck. Uh, how much time do we  
have?

PIPEN SCOTT

30 minutes.

Henry is still waiting on the line.

HENRY BAKER

Pip? Hello?! Pip, where the hell  
are you?

CONOR MCCLOUD

Tell him we will be there. But  
first, a beer.

Pipen uncovers the phone's receiver to reply to Henry.

PIPEN SCOTT

On our way, captain!

Pipen and McCloud move no faster than before. They crack another beer and slug it down.

EXT. SCHOOL - PIPEN AND MCCLOUD MEET HENRY

Conor and Pipen arrive to the school in one piece. Conor McCloud is still in the clouds. Henry looks Conor McCloud over and turns to Pipen.

HENRY BAKER

What the hell is this?

PIPEN SCOTT

That, my friend, is what love does to you.

HENRY BAKER

Really? Because I think it's what pot and booze do to you.

CONOR MCCLOUD

It's not about the love in the booze, but the pot in your... shoes.

HENRY BAKER

Christ, he can't speak. Let's go, we will hide him out in the locker rooms.

CONOR MCCLOUD

Nonsense, goes on the show must.

HENRY BAKER

Look what you've done, Pip. Can you stay sober for, I don't know, 3 hours?

CONOR MCCLOUD

Leave the hippie alone, I am in love, I am happy and here.

McCloud grabs a water bottle from Henry and slugs it down.

CONOR MCCLOUD (CONT'D)

And, now I'm sober. Let's go speech.

HENRY BAKER

This is not a good idea.

The students and family members are taking their seats, and the teachers head inside as well. McCloud goes backstage to prepare his speech. Meanwhile, James Zune is sitting down at his seat with his phone out, not paying attention to anything going on. Henry sits down next to him, Pip sits down and takes out a gameboy. Henry rolls his eyes at them. McCloud goes to the side of the stage waiting to be introduced. McCloud is introduced and he takes the stage. He walks onto the stage confidently waving to the audience while they clap. He approaches the podium and takes a deep breath.

CONOR MCCLOUD

Thank you for the warm  
introduction, Mrs. Toure. And,  
good afternoon to all of you!

As Conor McCloud continues his speech the other teachers begin to tune him out and focus on their devices. Conor McCloud notices Grace, his new adoration, as she sits down and takes a seat. His energy uplifts and he begins to steer his speech towards happiness, love, and her. Grace leans over and kisses the man next to her, holding his hand. Clearly, they are a couple. He looks a bit closer and sees rings on both their hands. His speech spirals very quickly, and the other teachers see the disaster brewing.

PIPEN SCOTT

Why is he so upset?

James Zune hands over the phone to show a photo of Grace's breasts, then another of McCloud motorboating them.

PIPEN SCOTT (CONT'D)

Oh damn, who is that?

JAMES ZUNE

The girl from last night, idiot.  
The chick he's been stumbling  
over.

PIPEN SCOTT

No wonder he's pissed.

JAMES ZUNE

Henry, you going to go do  
something about this?

HENRY BAKER

Nope, nope, no one listens to me,  
I'm going to enjoy the show.

James Zune considers stepping in for a moment, and then decides to sit back as well. As Conor McCloud's speech goes out of control, two ushers come and bring him off stage, cutting the speech short. The teachers sneak off from their seats and head backstage.

JAMES ZUNE

Hey man, I don't blame you, who is the little slut she is married to, do you want me to take him out?

CONOR MCCLOUD

He looked like a goddamn wife robber, with a mustache, and great hair. Even his dumb suit was perfectly tailored. The man looked flawless!

Pipen takes out a flask and bowl.

PIPEN SCOTT

Here man, let's feel better.

JAMES ZUNE

Wait, you said a mustache. Did he have 3 piercings in one ear?

James Zune realizes it's the same guy he had beef with years ago.

CONOR MCCLOUD

I don't know, he might have, I...

HENRY BAKER

(Addressing Pipen)

Yo, put that shit away. Let's go, the students are walking out, we have to go.

The teachers line up to shake the hands of the students. Grace walks right by McCloud with her hubby in hand. He is too broken to say anything and somberly watches her walk away. It feels like a loss for the whole crew.

INT. SCHOOL - DAY

James Zune is in the school, shuffling through some files, and looks like he is somewhere he shouldn't be. He sifts through the files and finally pulls one out. He searches the page, finds a number, and composes a text message sending off the photos of Grace.

EXT. POOL - MOMENTS LATER

Grace's husband is sitting by a pool with a mojito in hand, his phone buzzes off and he checks the text to see photos of his wife naked.