

Richard enters, slamming the door. Nathan wears binoculars.

Nathan
You'll shake the house down, Richard.

Richard
Your father said you were going out.

Nathan
I am.

Richard
I don't remember giving you permission.

Nathan
I've been waiting for you all day... you didn't show. So I made plans to go hang out with—

Richard
Shut up and listen—

Nathan
Go to hell—

Richard
What are you going to do—huh?

Beat

Nathan
Go bird watching.

Beat

Richard
That's fascinating Nathan.

Beat

Nathan
I wrote something for you, but you never showed.

Richard
Who cares, I found out about some crazy stuff that happened in Michigan. My buddy just told me –

Nathan
I've been typing up a list –

Richard
So there was this guy, right – this cab driver, right – who pulled over to pick up these two guys.

Nathan

My list illustrated our moral tenets –

Richard

Shut up. Don't talk when I'm talking. Didn't anyone ever teach you any manners? So, this guy pulls over and picks up these two men, who stick him up and hijack his car. They drive him to a secluded area and shove a cloth drenched in ether in his mouth. The guy passes out – blacks out, right? Out like a light. So then, eventually the cabbie wakes up – he comes to, right... and he is covered in blood. I mean, drenched in blood. So he stumbles to a nearby house and like falls into some guy's house, right. They call the police, a doctor – the whole deal, right? And guess what happened? Oh you'll never guess – No... No... guess – guess what happened? You know what happened... Guess, guess – He was castrated. These guys came and hijacked this guy and totally castrated him for no reason. Castrated.

Nathan

For no reason?

Richard

Castrated.

Nathan

No reason?

Richard

No reason.

Nathan

Excellent!

Richard

Well, he probably knocked up the wrong girl or something.

Nathan

No!

Richard

What?

Nathan

You are such a—

Richard

Don't start—

Nathan

If they had a reason to castrate that man then their act was normal – it was human. To just pickup a man, any man and for no reason castrate him – that is something more.

Richard

The act of violence is the beauty.

Nathan

Everyone is so caught up in average life that it makes me want to scream. They worry

about nonsense to escape the fact that they could die tomorrow – disappear. We could kill them because their lives mean nothing. That’s what it’s all about...right?

Richard

Tell me what you wrote.

Nathan takes off his jacket.

Nathan

I’ve been grading all the men we know on a scale from man to superman. The perfect superman is above the moral code and social law. He is allowed to break the rules for two reasons. He doesn’t feel the need to sympathize with his victims. And he’s smart enough to get away with it. You’re a ninety.

Richard

What are you?

Nathan

Sixty-three. I am of superior intelligence, but lack certain physical attributes and social graces.

Richard

Then appearance does factor.

Nathan

Yes.

Richard

Where does Buchman fall on your scale?

Nathan

Twenty-two for stupidity.

Richard

Dick Rubel?

Nathan

Thirty-eight.

Richard

Your father?

Nathan

Too sensitive — twenty-six.

Richard

That sounds about right. So, I’m master. I am superman. Does anyone come close? Nathan walks over to his record player. Lea is moving through her room. She wears a black evening gown and looks stunning. She lights candles and drapes the room in fabric through the following.

Nathan

I’m sure you didn’t need my evaluation to tell you that.

Nathan moves and picks out a record. He plays “Always” By Irving Berlin. After a beat, he closes the window and drapes. The room is cast in shadows so that both rooms begin to glow in soft light.

Nathan

Isn't this the song you danced to Wednesday night — at the Garden Club? You know... with Cybil whatever her name is.

Richard

Yes.

Nathan

You're a good dancer. This song is kind of creepy. “I'll be loving you always” has an obsessive ring to it. You forget to listen to the words sometimes.

He moves towards Richard

Richard

Still, it's nice. Just let it be.

Nathan

It is nice.

Richard

What? Do you want me to dance with you now?

Nathan

What? I mean... (beat)

Richard

Because I'm not going to.

Nathan

No. I didn't think you would. I mean, I didn't want to — if that's what you're getting at.

Richard

You just finished gushing about how smart and perfect I am, and yet you think I'm completely unaware of what you're doing. Any girl could see through that trick. I know 'cause I've used it before. You want to pump me up so I might dance with you... or kiss you?

The music ends.

Nathan

I was just making it easy for you to follow through with what you want to do anyway.

Richard

We need to come to an agreement Babe.

Nathan

So now this is a business meeting?

Richard

If you want to mess around with me, we need rules and a contract.

Richard walks over to the dartboard and grabs some of the darts. He crosses the room and begins tossing them accurately.

Nathan

The ancient Greeks used to think it was natural for superior men to be with each other. They were intelligent and only fit for one another. You and I fit together.

Richard throws a dart at Nathan and it just misses his head.

Nathan

Go to hell!

Richard laughs.

Nathan

You want to kill me?

Richard

I thought about it. If I wanted to kill you I would have. I just wanted to shut you up. I'm not a cocksucker.

Nathan

Yes you are.

Richard

You make me sick.

Nathan

Stop it.

Richard

You're a cocksucker—

Nathan

Stop—

Richard

You're a joke.

Nathan

Please stop. (Beat) You care about me. *(Richard laughs)* You can't even get it up with a girl. You were the laugh at Michigan. You came crawling into my bed.

Richard attacks Nathan.

Richard

Shut up.

Nathan

You didn't have any problems there!

Richard

I'm stronger than you. You Goddamned Cocksucker!

Richard beats Nathan through Blackout.