

STUDY HARD

Written by

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Based on a story by Darren Johnson.

FADE IN:

1 INT. DARREN'S ROOM - DAY

1

Cue "Seasons in the Sun" by Terry Jacks.

We crawl up a poster of a young woman wearing a crop top. Her wet T-shirt reminds us to "STUDY HARD."

We zoom out from a wall of photos. A wall of empty Coors Light cans behind a keg. A muscle car. His girlfriend (LISA) with 80s hair.

DARREN, a sophomore at UCSB, is sitting at his desk writing a letter to his parents in King City.

DARREN
(VO while writing)

Dear Mom and Dad,

We zoom out to see BART, Darren's African Grey parrot, standing on the desk. BART is chewing on a pen, awaiting further instructions.

DARREN
(VO while writing)

I'm writing this on a Friday. I hope you are doing well. Things are going OK here. My classes are getting pretty tough though.

My friend Todd is an amateur filmmaker, so we're going to shoot one of my short stories this weekend. I don't know how it will go because none of us have any acting experience. But it should be fun.

My Creative Writing teacher says to "write what you know." So some friends are coming over tonight to study. Which reminds me, I could really use another \$40 for books if you could send a check when Dad gets paid. Thanks!

Anyway...

DISSOLVE TO:

2 EXT. HOUSE, DRIVEWAY - DAY 2

Cue "Slow Ride" by Foghat.

A loud, dark muscle car pulls into the driveway. DARREN dismounts and walks around the front of the car. TONY struggles to pull a full keg out of the back seat.

TONY
It's stuck!

3 EXT. HOUSE - DAY 3

We track around some bushes to see DARREN assisting TONY with the keg.

4 EXT. HOUSE, FRONT PORCH - DAY 4

We pan up as the front door bursts open. SCHNOID is standing there, wearing sunglasses and a cap made out of six-pack cardboard. The cap says, "69th Miller Patrol."

SCHNOID
(Eagerly)
All right. Let's party til we puke!

5 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY 5

DARREN and TONY struggle to drop the keg into an iced rubber trash bin.

Ed is lying flat on the living room floor, draining a beer. The empty bottle rolls out of his hand onto the dirty carpet.

ED
I'm so drunk, my teeth itch.

JB enters the room holding a full beer mug. He flops into a bean bag chair and sloshes the beer all over himself.

DARREN
(Cackling)

JB
(Embarrassed)
Someone turn on The Flintstones. I want to be entertained.

SCHNOID walks to the TV and turns it on.

WIPE TO:

6

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

6

Cue "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction" by The Rolling Stones.

SCHNOID, ED, TONY, JB and DARREN are playing quarters at the kitchen table.

DARREN

(Drunkenly)

You know, someday the whole world's
gonna be like California.

TONY

(Bobbing)

Whoa, gnarly.

JB

(Awkwardly, to DARREN)

Bitchin'.

DARREN

(Slurring)

You're gonna a whole world, tanned
and dieting blonde surfer boys,
buxom beach bunnies.

ED

Buxom beach bunnies?

TONY

(To ED)

You know what bunnies do best,
don'tcha?

ED

(To TONY)

Eat carrots?

DARREN

World where everyone and his dog
knowhowda play frisbee.

TONY

(Bobbing)

Tubular.

ED
 (Pointing, scholarly)
 There's only two seasons in
 California: Night and day.

DARREN
 (Snarkastically)
 Wow Ed, that's really profound.

ED
 Thank you.

DARREN bounces a quarter in a cup and points to SCHNOID.

SCHNOID
 (Standing)
 I gotta go bleed my lizard.

TONY
 (Derisively)
 Go bleed your lizard, Schnoid.

SCHNOID
 (Saluting TONY)
 10-4, Rubber Duck.

SCHNOID leaves the kitchen and the boys resume the game. JB looks depressed and introspective.

JB
 (To DARREN)
 Why are we here?

DARREN
 What?

JB
 Why are we here?

TONY
 (To JB)
 To drink beer, ya big buffoon!

JB snickers and feigns splashing his beer mug on TONY.

JB
 (To DARREN)
 No, I mean, why are we born only to
 suffer and die?

ED
 (To JB)
 Good question.

TONY

(To ED)

You would think so.

DARREN

(To JB)

What brought this on?

JB

Well last night I dreamed I saw a big Irish Setter in a cardboard box full of chicken soup.

ED

(Pointing at JB)

How do you know it was chicken soup?

TONY

(To Ed)

What does it matter, Ed?

ED

(To TONY)

Hey, it could be important!

TONY

(Bobbing)

You infernal spunk-wad.

JB

(To DARREN)

Well anyway this dog was playing around in the soup and then it stood up and barked at me.

JB and TONY both take a swig of beer.

JB

And then it got outta the box and peed right in my face.

TONY does a spit take all over the table while the others erupt into laughter.

DARREN

(To JB)

That's like there's some heavy symbolism there.

ED
 (Pointing at JB)
 Maybe it means you're pissing your
 life away.

TONY
 (Turning to JB)
 Nah, it means life's pissing on
 him, right in the face.

JB
 (Ashamed)
 Sure was depressing, that's fer
 sure.

SCHNOID returns after eavesdropping.

SCHNOID
 (Lisping impishly)
 Hey, JB. When life gives you
 lemons, make orange juice.

7 EXT. HOUSE, FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

7

Cue "Tube Snake Boogie" by ZZ Top.

Two partiers arrive and pound on the front door.

GUY #1
 Hey, open up!

GUY #2
 Hey, we know there's a party in
 there!

SCHNOID opens the door.

SCHNOID
 Hey!

GUY #1
 Schnoid! How's it goin'?

SCHNOID
 (Excitedly)
 Hey man, let's do the boogie-
 woogie.

We zoom out on a bottle of 190-Proof Everclear. DARREN unscrews the cap and dumps it into a large water dispenser tank which was already mostly full, while TONY looks on.

TONY

Jeez. Don't you think that's enough?!

DARREN

(Mumbling)

I dunno. Let's find out. Hold on.

TONY

(Picking his nose)

Can't you get brain damage, drinking that stuff?

DARREN

(Wryly)

Now why should that bother you?

TONY

(Shrugging)

I don't know...

DARREN

Gotta shake this.

DARREN hands TONY the heavy tank and they start to shake it. But they're already too drunk to coordinate.

DARREN

Hey, come on.

TONY

Here, try this shit.

TONY helps hoist the tank so DARREN can take a swig. DARREN loses his balance but TONY rights the ship.

TONY

I gotcha.

DARREN

(Officiously)

Could use just a tad... more... vodka.

DARREN deftly spins the cap off a vodka bottle and empties it into the tank.

TONY
 (Chuckling, then serious)
 Whoa.

DARREN
 (Giddily)
 Let's go.

DARREN lifts the tank up and they give it another good sloshing.

9 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 9

TONY turns the tank upside-down into the water dispenser as a few more partiers cheer.

CUT TO:

10 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 10

Someone pops a new cassette tape into the stereo. It's labeled "Fear."

Cue "Seasons in the Sun" by Me First and The Gimme Gimmes.

11 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 11

GUY #1, DARREN and TONY are standing in the kitchen doorway. DARREN is manning the keg, wearing mirrored sunglasses. GUY #1 leaves after getting a refill.

GUY #2
 (OS)
 Look at Tony's eyes...

ROCHELLE, a cute blonde girl, steps up in line and DARREN gives her a thorough once-over while filling her cup.

DARREN
 (Sincerely)
 You know, I'd really like to have sex with you.

ROCHELLE
 (Patting DARREN's cheek)
 I know. But you can't. Too bad.

12 INT. DARREN'S ROOM - NIGHT 12

ED is on his back with his head inside BART's cage. The poor parrot is pinned up in the top of the cage, squawking at the rude intruder.

ED
Hey, birdie-birdie. Heeeeey. Come here.

13 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 13

DARREN is still leaning against the doorway with his wingman TONY.

TONY
(bobbing and weaving)
We need some drugs.

DARREN
(Shaking his head)
We don' need nanny drugs, man.

DARREN slumps to a seat.

DARREN
We can barely fuckin' walk.

SCHNOID enters from the kitchen for a refill.

DARREN
Schnooooiid! Grabbabeer.

TONY
Schnoid, got any drugs?

SCHNOID
(Shaking his head)
No, no drugs.

DARREN
(To TONY)
Here, hassome more.

DARREN pulls the keg hose up to TONY's mouth and TONY takes a swig. DARREN then pulls the hose toward SCHNOID and sprays his crotch with beer.

DARREN
(To SCHNOID)
Hereyago, Schnoid.

14 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 14

The party is in full swing now, with nine people chatting in the living room.

15 INT. TIM'S ROOM - NIGHT 15

JB is passed out on the floor. TIM and LISA, whose magic mushrooms have kicked in, are playing tic-tac-toe on JB's back with permanent markers. ALEX is writhing on the floor. He has been drinking from a bottle of Al Sauce.

ALEX

(Tripping)

I'm sizzling! Get those eggs off me! It's hot out here! Stop it. It's hot!

ALEX frantically twists the bottle's cap. Meanwhile, BOBBIE is bouncing childishly on the bed with his shirt open, singing out of tune to the music.

BOBBIE

(Tripping)

We had joy, we had fun
We had seasons in the sun

16 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 16

The party continues in the living room, only louder now. DEBRA is sitting on TONY's lap, eating Jif peanut butter from the jar.

17 INT. TIM'S ROOM - NIGHT 17

ALEX is drinking Al Sauce again, and it's dripping all over his mouth.

18 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 18

The kegger is winding down. GUY #2 is passing out in the bean bag chair. Empty Solo cups cover the floor.

19 INT. TIM'S ROOM - NIGHT 19

BOBBIE is still bouncing on the bed, singing to the music.

BOBBIE

(Entranced)

We had joy, we had fun
We had seasons in the sun
But the stars we could reach
Were just starfish on the beach

CUT TO:

20 INT. DARREN'S ROOM - DAY

20

Cue "Excellent Birds" by Laurie Anderson & Peter Gabriel.

DARREN is sitting at his desk, finishing up the letter to his parents while BART the parrot looks dutifully on.

DARREN

(VO while writing)

Anyway, I got my grades and I want to make sure you're both sitting down. Please know that I'm as disappointed as you're going to be when you see them, believe me!

I just can't seem to focus on my studies since I moved out of the dorms. I'm not sure why, to be honest. But I'm going to speak to my counselor on Tuesday so don't worry.

Bart says hi. He's helping me write this letter. He misses you guys too. He's an excellent bird.

Love,
Darren

BART

(Squawking)

I like beer. I really like beer.

CUT TO:

21 INT. DARREN'S ROOM - DAY

21

DARREN flips his report card over on top of his finished letter.

The grades aren't good.

FADE TO BLACK.

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