

The Social Network

screenplay

by

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FROM THE BLACK WE HEAR--

MARK (V.O.)
Did you know there are more people with
genius IQ's living in China than there
are people of any kind living in the
United States?

ERICA (V.O.)
That can't be true.

MARK (V.O.)
It is true.

ERICA (V.O.)
What would account for that?

MARK (V.O.)
Well first of all, a lot of people live
in China. But here's my question:

FADE IN:

INT. CAMPUS BAR - NIGHT

MARK ZUCKERBERG is a sweet looking 19 year old whose lack of
any physically intimidating attributes masks a very
complicated and dangerous anger. He has trouble making eye
contact and sometimes it's hard to tell if he's talking to you
or to himself.

ERICA, also 19, is Mark's date. She has a girl-next-door face
that makes her easy to fall for. At this point in the
conversation she already knows that she'd rather not be there
and her politeness is about to be tested.

The scene is stark and simple.

MARK
How do you distinguish yourself in a
population of people who all got 1600 on
their SAT's?

ERICA
I didn't know they take SAT's in China.

MARK
I wasn't talking about China anymore, I
was talking about here.

ERICA
You got 1600?

MARK
You can sing in an a Capella group.

ERICA
Does that mean that you actually got
nothing wrong?

MARK
Or you row crew or you invent a 25 dollar
PC.

ERICA
Or you get into a final club.

MARK
Or you get into a final club, exactly.

ERICA
I like guys who row crew.

MARK
(beat)
Well I can't do that. And yes, it means I
got nothing wrong on the test.

ERICA
Have you ever tried?

MARK
I'm trying now.

ERICA
To row crew?

MARK
To get into a final club. To row crew?
No. Are you, like--whatever--crazy?

ERICA
Sometimes, Mark--seriously--you say two
things at once and I'm not sure which one
we're talking about.

MARK
But you've seen guys who row crew, right?

ERICA
No.

MARK
Okay, well they're bigger than me.
They're world class athletes. And a
second ago you said you like guys who row
crew so I assumed you'd met one.

ERICA
I guess I meant I liked the idea of it.
The way a girl likes cowboys.

MARK
The Phoenix is good.

ERICA
This is a new topic?

MARK
It's the same topic.

ERICA
We're still talking about the finals clubs?

MARK
Would you rather talk about something else?

ERICA
No, it's just that since the beginning of the conversation about finals clubs I think I may have had a birthday.

MARK
We can change the subject.

ERICA
(can't get over it)
There are more people in China with genius IQ's than the entire population of--

MARK
It's about exclusivity.

ERICA
God...what is?

MARK
The final clubs. And that's how you distinguish yourself. The Phoenix is the most diverse. The Fly Club, Roosevelt punched the Porc.

ERICA
Which one?

MARK
The Porcellian, the Porc, it's the best of the best.

ERICA
I actually meant which Roosevelt.

MARK
Theodore.

ERICA
Okay, well, which is the easiest one to
get into?

MARK takes a cigarette from a pack, lights it, takes a drag
and blows the smoke out before he says...

MARK
Hm.

ERICA
What?

MARK
Why would you ask me that?

ERICA
I was just asking.

MARK
They're all hard to get into. My friend
Eduardo made \$300,000 betting on oil
futures last summer and he won't get in.
Money or the ability to make it doesn't
impress anybody around here. Everybody
can do that.

ERICA
He made \$300,000 in a summer?

MARK
He likes meteorology.

ERICA
You said it was oil futures.

MARK
If you can predict the weather you can
predict the price of heating oil. You
asked me that because you think the final
club that's easiest to get into is the
one where I'll have the best chance.

ERICA
(beat)
I've lost my place again.

MARK
You asked me which one was the easiest to
get into because you think that's where I
have the best chance.

ERICA
The one that's easiest to get into would
be the one where anybody had the best
chance.

MARK

I just think you asked--the placement of where you asked the question--

ERICA

I was honestly just asking. Okay? I was asking just to ask. Mark, I'm not speaking in code.

MARK

Erica--

ERICA

You're obsessed with the finals clubs. You have finals clubs OCD and you need to see someone about this who'll prescribe some sort of medication. You don't care if side effects may include *blindness*, okay, just do it.

MARK

Final clubs. Not finals clubs and there's a difference between being obsessed and being motivated.

ERICA

Yes there is.

MARK

Well you do--that was cryptic--so you do speak in code.

ERICA

I didn't mean to be cryptic.

MARK

I'm saying I need to do something substantial in order to get the attention of the clubs.

ERICA

Why?

MARK

Because they're exclusive.

(beat)

And fun and they lead to a better life.

ERICA

You think Teddy Roosevelt got elected president because he was a member of the Phoenix Club?

MARK

He was a member of the Porcellian and yes I do.

ERICA
Maybe he sang in an a Capella group.

MARK
I want to be straight forward and tell you that I think you should be a lot more supportive. If I get in I'll be taking you to the parties and you'll be meeting people that you wouldn't normally get to meet.

ERICA
(smiles)
You would do that for me?

MARK
You're my girlfriend.

ERICA
Okay, well I want to be straight forward and tell you that I'm not anymore.

MARK
(beat)
What do you mean?

ERICA
I'm not your girlfriend anymore.

MARK
Is this a joke?

ERICA
No, I'm sorry, it's not.

MARK
You're breaking up with me?

ERICA
You're going to introduce me to people I wouldn't normally get to meet? What the fuck is that supposed to mean?

MARK
Take it easy.

ERICA
What was it supposed to mean?

MARK
It was--Erica, the reason we're able to sit here and drink is that you used to sleep with the door guy.

ERICA
(pause)
I want to really try not to lose it now.
(MORE)

ERICA (CONT'D)

The door guy's name is Bobby. I haven't slept with the door guy, the door guy's a friend of mine. He's a perfectly good class of people and what part of Long Island are you from--England?

MARK

I'm from Westchester.

ERICA

I'm going back to my dorm.

MARK

Wait, wait, this is real?

ERICA

Yes.

MARK

I apologize, okay? Sid down.

ERICA

I'm going back to my dorm, I have to study.

MARK

Erica--

ERICA

Yeah.

MARK

I'm sorry and I mean it..

ERICA

I appreciate that but--

MARK

Come on.

ERICA

--I have to study.

MARK

You don't have to study. Let's just talk.

ERICA

I can't.

MARK

Why?

ERICA

Because it's exhausting. Going out with you is like dating a stairmaster.

MARK

All I meant is that you go to B.U. and so you're not likely to--I wasn't making a comment on your parents--I was saying you go to B.U.

ERICA

I have to go study.

MARK

You don't have to study.

ERICA

How do you know I don't have to study?!

MARK

Because you go to B.U.!

ERICA stares at him...

MARK (CONT'D)

(beat)

Do you want to get some food?

ERICA

I'm sorry you're not sufficiently impressed with my education.

MARK

And I'm sorry I don't have a rowboat.

ERICA

I think we should just be friends.

MARK

I don't need friends.

ERICA

I was being polite, I had no intention of being friends with you.

MARK

You're really leaving.

ERICA takes MARK's hand and looks at him tenderly...

ERICA

(close)

Listen, You're going to be successful and rich. But you're going to go through life thinking that girls don't like you because you're a tech geek. And I want you to know, from the bottom of my heart, that that won't be true. It'll be because you're an asshole.

And with that stinger, ERICA walks off and we stay on MARK as the pulsing intro to Paul Young's "Love of the Common People" crashes in--

ERICA (CONT'D)
 (calling over her shoulder)
 And you're never getting into a final club.

Along with the MUSIC, we slowly push in on MARK. A fuse has just been lit.

TITLE:

Harvard
 Fall Semester, 2003

CUT TO:

EXT. BAR - NIGHT

As MARK busts out of the bar, past Bobby the door guy and into the population of Harvard Square.

CUT TO:

EXT. HARVARD SQUARE - NIGHT

As MARK continues on, he passes a group of people heading in the opposite direction for a party.

As MARK's steady and determined stride continues, he'll pass by all kinds of (seemingly) happy, well-adjusted, socially adept people.

The vocals from the Paul Young song come in--

PAUL YOUNG
 LIVING ON FREE FOOD TICKETS
 WATER IN THE MILK FROM A HOLE IN THE ROOF
 WHERE THE RAIN CAME THROUGH
 WHAT CAN YOU DO?
 TEARS FROM YOUR LITTLE SISTER
 CRYING 'CAUSE SHE DOESN'T HAVE A DRESS
 WITHOUT A PATCH FOR THE PARTY TO GO
 BUT YOU KNOW SHE'LL GET BY

CUT TO:

INT. KIRKLAND HOUSE/LOBBY - NIGHT

As the MUSIC CONTINUES and MARK busts into the lobby of his dorm. He doesn't look at anyone as he heads up the stairs and we

CUT TO: