

THE GRADUATE SCENE-----

There is a KNOCK on the door. He rises, puts the iron back in the drawer as quietly and quickly as he can, then back to the chair, sits down and holds the newspaper on his lap.

BEN

Come in.

There is another KNOCK. Ben crosses to the door and opens it. Elaine is standing in the hall.

ELAINE

I want to ask you a question.

BEN

Come in.

ELAINE

No. I want to know why you're here in Berkeley?

BEN

Because - I am.

ELAINE

Is it because I'm here?

BEN

What do you think?

ELAINE

I think it is.

Ben nods.

ELAINE

I said I think it is.

BEN

All right then! Yes!

ELAINE

Well, I want you to leave.

BEN

Elaine - I love you.

ELAINE

(looking down)

How could you do that, Benjamin?

Ben moves in behind her and puts his hand on her arm.

ELAINE

Do you just hate everything?
How could you possibly rape my...

BEN

What?

ELAINE

I don't understand -

BEN

Did you say rape her?

ELAINE

- how you - how anyone - could
do a thing like that.

BEN

What did she say?

ELAINE

(holding his arm)

Let me go.

BEN

You've got to tell me what she
said.

He touches her hair.

ELAINE

Why?

BEN

Because it isn't true.

ELAINE

I don't feel well.

Ben pushes her down softly onto the bed. He kneels
along side her.

BEN

Tell me.

Ben sits next to her and puts his hand on her shoulder.

ELAINE

She said she was having a drink
in the hotel with a friend.
You waited for her in the parking
lot and told her she was too
drunk to drive home and that
you would get her a room for
the night.

BEN

Then what?

ELAINE

Then you took her upstairs and
you raped her.

BEN

Elaine - that is not what happened.

She puts her hands on his shoulder.

ELAINE

Please let me go.

BEN

All right - but listen to me.
What happened was there was
this party at my parents. I
drove your mother home - then
we went upstairs to see your
portrait -

Elaine tightens her arms around his neck.

ELAINE

Don't tell me -

BEN

- and when we got up in the
room she starts taking her her
clothes off - and -

ELAINE

Benjamin - this is my mother!

BEN

- suddenly there she was without
any clothes on - I mean really
naked -

Ben is almost lying on top of her. Elaine screams - a
long, loud scream. Ben looks at her. He leaps off
the bed and runs to the sink. He fills a glass with
water and brings it to Elaine.

SOUND: A KNOCK on the door.

MR. McCLEERY'S VOICE

What's going on in there?

Elaine sits up and drinks the water. Ben looks at
her then goes to the door and opens it.

BEN

Oh - hello, Mr. McCleery.

MR. McCLEERY

Who screamed?

BEN

It's all right, Mr. McCleery.

MR. McCLEERY

Screaming isn't all right. Not
in my house it isn't. Do I need to call the cops?

BEN

It was just a visitor. But it's
all right now. See - she's just having some
water. Now there's no need
for the cops or anything.

Mr. McCleery and Ben stand and look at each other for a few seconds.

MR. McCLEERY

I want you out of here.

Mr. McCleery turns away and walks down the hall and starts
down the stairs.

BEN

Mr. McCleery?

Ben turns and goes back into the room shutting the door behind him.

ELAINE

I'm sorry I screamed.

Ben opens the suitcase.

ELAINE

Benjamin, when you came up here,
what did you think was going to
happen between us?

BEN

Elaine - right now I don't feel
like talking much. I'm sorry
about everything but I think I'll
just do this now.

He stands, looking into the empty suitcase.

ELAINE

Can I just sit here while you're
packing?

BEN

If you want.

Elaine sits in the chair. She watches him as he goes to
the bureau, takes some shirts from a drawer and puts them
in the suitcase, then goes back to the bureau. He gets
down on his knees and looks under the bureau.

ELAINE

What are you going to do now?

BEN

I don't know.

He goes back to the bureau, gets some socks and underwear and carries them to the suitcase.

ELAINE

Are you going home?

BEN

No.

ELAINE

Well - where are you going?

He goes back to the bureau, opens a drawer, takes out some T-shirts and the beer can and carries them to the suitcase.

BEN

Elaine - you're going to have to stop asking me that.

He packs the T-shirts, then carries the beer can back to the bureau and puts it back in the drawer, takes some ties from the drawer and crosses to the suitcase. Elaine gets up, goes to the door and opens it.

ELAINE

I don't want you to leave tomorrow.

BEN

I don't understand.

ELAINE

I don't want you to go anywhere until you have a definite plan.

BEN

But Elaine -

ELAINE

Goodbye.

She walks out, shutting the door behind her. Benjamin wait a second before crossing to the door. He opens it and she is standing there.

We could end it right here or:

ELAINE

Benjamin?

BEN

What?

ELAINE
(taking a step
forward)
Will you kiss me!

He goes to her and they kiss.

BEN
Will you marry me?

She shakes her head.

BEN
You won't?

ELAINE
I don't know.

BEN
But you might.

ELAINE
I might.

BEN
Is that so? You might marry me?

ELAINE
Yes.

BEN
When?

ELAINE
I don't know.

BEN
How about tomorrow? I don't mean
to be pushy but -

ELAINE
I don't know. I don't know what's
happening.

BEN
You mean you're confused?

She nods.

BEN
Well - look - don't be confused.
We're getting married.

ELAINE
I don't see how we can.

BEN

We just can.

ELAINE

I have to go back now.

She goes to the door.

BEN

Elaine - are you serious about this?

ELAINE

I'll think about it.

BEN

You really will?

ELAINE

Yes.

She opens the door and steps into the hall. He goes to the door.

BEN

Well - let's get together sometime.

He closes the door.

BEN

Good God!

DISSOLVE TO: