

# ::HARD outline

by Matthew Temple

has become someone who is trying to erase himself  
him growing up as an artist in high school, cutting class, doing  
video projects with erica, where he touched erica's breasts  
with erica and her telling him about the next door neighbor being a  
murderer, they're pretty sure that guy killed somebody  
driving his old girl, the freak who becomes the square, to her  
college graduation, (sleeping with her in his dad's attic?), she  
breaks up with him after she graduates---she maybe just needed a  
ride---fucking her when her cheeks get red and she just lets him do  
anything he wants, for as long as he wants, then they go to sushi  
dinner and she tells him about natural parenting techniques  
old party  
him liking to dress up in women's clothing  
breaking up with last girlfriend  
the first time he ever smoked pot, with the new people, the freaks  
having sex with crro while last girlfriend stands outside banging on  
the door, hysterically afraid of spiders  
sex with crro and coke in her parents house, fucking her when she's  
sick, wanting to take her car and leave while in the park with her  
that night..not caring about the law, not caring about people  
anymore, just wanting to get out, but not doing it  
he is bored, bored of his friends, they say the same things over and  
over  
it's obvious what they want :: they don't do anything new :: they're  
squeamish  
me and beth decide to bring back the word cunt  
he meets this new one for the first time  
the house of transformation, the foursome (pairs) at the east dayton  
house after the old party..one girlfriend throwing up in the front  
bathroom, the other throwing up in the back  
he meets up with a new friend, z-friend, who likes ashley  
the divorce events from friends on the floor of the naughty

he goes on a journey with his friend, they see themselves from  
outer space  
see the earth, know they have sent themselves down into it

his new friends come and see him at work  
they have a little picnic  
he works with squares :: these people are freaks  
they bring a candle to put on his desk  
maybe he manages a call center, maybe keep it closer to home and  
make him a programmer

meeting her..he's doing the sets for the show she's in?  
or keep it closer to home and she's a student, he's a fledgling  
writer?  
or make her an actor, him a painter with a day job?

their first date, the terrible one  
shakes at a diner

still having sex with the last girlfriend after having met the new one  
and after introducing the old one to the z friend..that old-pair thing  
that woody allen does so well in everybody says I love you  
and the z friend has no place to go, and stays with him, and  
wonders if he is gay, but he says he's not  
the z friend talking about his brother and sister who are incestuous,  
he's embarrassed for his family to know anything about him, his  
failures, his pride :: you should always know your seventh deadly  
sin

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when he goes to pick her up at her theatre  
finding her sitting on a bench, counseling someone she just met,  
and loving the one who loves the world, loving the one who is  
saving starfish  
meeting at the club  
free drinks from the bartender friend

passing out glow sticks en masse  
smack my bitch up  
ecstasy in the trunk of the car out front  
the kiss afterward

the old one coming over and the new one being there  
the new one being upset that the old one just shows up  
the new one loving his women's clothing, loving his colors, her  
stealing his clothes to wear, him loving that, her coming over to  
wash clothes at his house and her feeling uncomfortable about  
having no money but him loving that he can help her, let her do  
laundry, buy her breakfast, etc.

what she loves are connected people, meditated people  
she is disconnected, alone, everything is shallow to her  
her little brother died of ecstasy, at a dance club, at a rave, at a  
party, overheated  
yet she is a magician :: and he is hers  
the magician for the magician  
the one who brightens the eyes of the one who brightens eyes  
eating on the slanted roof at his house  
she has found him, he is the one and the only great thing in her life  
right now  
and the same is true for him  
he texts her asking her how are things?  
she says "HARD"?  
but when they get up and dance :: the whole world gets up to  
dance :: they turn the drab into the rainbow

her demon is an eating disorder  
she loves that he loves food  
she over-exercises  
he falls in love with her but can't deal with her demons, her  
demons are the crime that gets between them, that he ignores to be  
with her  
and ultimately she leaves him

who loves who the most :: who will leave who first? :: which would  
you rather be, the one more in love, or the one more loved?  
she does cocaine, it dovetails with her eating/exercise disorder

his demon is his friends  
she hates his friends  
guys who listen to icp-type and shoot bullets through walls  
who murder their own children in the country lake  
who smoke pot constantly  
and he who drinks  
and does other drugs  
z gets together with a woman, he's worried that she'll die from her  
motorcycle (base her off that girl in LA)

the new one freaking out at me in a parking lot about having done  
heroin  
at first you see her point of view  
then it's indicated that she's just acting, that mainly she's trying to  
get what she wants :: that mainly she's trying to control something

his father comes to visit  
they get along great :: and have nothing in common  
the son leaves his father sleeping on the floor to go to warehouse  
party  
she's a virgin, they change clothes in different rooms, she leaves  
pretty little notes around, but they get hot and hard  
she considers him the divine master :: divine master god  
he feels awkward at meditating, she does it for her acting, but  
somehow, he is the one who's in tune, he is the one who's  
connected  
when he comes back, having not slept, the father is masturbating

sleeping with her on the warehouse roof  
waking up, seeing her face in the sunlight  
she plays her music for him

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his old g/f a freak from antioch becomes a square, square job, buys a house, gets remarried to her ex, starts going to church, won't talk to any of them, and she's having a baby  
and z accidentally kills someone on his girl's motorcycle, hits a pedestrian, and he goes to jail :: he calls me, I meet him in the cemetery, he's looking at his g/f's mother's grave, or maybe they're at the funeral of the (better, yes) they're at the funeral of the boy he killed, and that's when z tells him what happened, and then he has m [him] drive him [z] to the police station, and he won't let him come in, he just makes him drop him off and say goodbye, promise not to tell anyone where he is, etc.

[he] is shaken

breaking off the friendship with the old one

she has been eclipsed

he can't even be the old one's friend anymore

he stops h because of her

and goes to a new job interview, high, and gets the job

he might be committing to the business world---at least more \$\$

dressing each other up in masks

seeing each other in various light

being with a stranger, do I even know you? is this who I found?

they're planning the ultimate party

which never happens

then she asks him if he wants to do H with her

she wanted to leave

she wanted to leave her body

she imagined that if she thought about it in the right way, she would disappear

go back to the universe, see herself from outside

and as much as he doesn't want it, he is the one who ushers her out

a most perfect usher, for a most intense passing

and he has gone into the darkness, to find the light

only there were the secrets he wanted, that is why he sent himself  
to earth  
to go into the darkness of humankind  
because there and there alone is light, is breath  
only there can breath be gotten, found  
he went to earth to remind himself, he went to the darkness to  
remind himself  
of love, of what's been lost, of some truth about who we are  
that we had forgotten

him thinking of leaving his whole life, when she dies, of leaving,  
just like he thought of it earlier with crro/coke, but he doesn't do it,  
he stays to face the music

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that idiotic conversation with erica about "making it right" in the  
parking lot

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her clothes still being in the dryer  
sitting in the parking lot at an atm, listening to her song  
empty parking lot, 10am, late for work and had to be  
what are you going to do now?  
but he has the realization :: of what reality do you want to be  
creating in this moment, he has the light, so bright it's vacant and  
hurts, he has the light found from sending himself into such  
darkness  
and maybe even having found so much light that he doesn't know  
what to do with it :: counter-impose, through the story, a coming-  
to-light in terms of the character's mentality, with a coming-to-  
darkness in the character's outward world  
and in the narration in the end, foreshadow that the future gets  
worse..that [z] gets out early but then hangs himself, that I would  
get a call at work about this later in the week and find myself  
sleeping with z's g/f out of loneliness, etc. etc. etc...

(she has a pure, seeking heart..when she sees someone, he thinks the person is a transvestite..she just noticed that they were dressed nicely)