

INEXORABLE

EPISODE 1

Written

By

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FADE IN:

1 EXT. PERMET CITY ALBANIA EUROPE - DAY**1**

STATIC SHOT EUROPEAN MAP

THE STORYTELLER (V.O.)

I started my path in the year 1991. My name is Lir Garder. I was the last-grade student at a high school in Permet, a small town in the south of Albania, a little country in southern Europe.

ESTABLISHING SHOT DRONE PERMET CITY

LIR (CONT'D) (V.O.)

(Subtitle PERMET CITY)

I was doing well with the lessons and dealing with sports, but I wasn't very famous for having great skills in relationships with girls and I was barely dragging their attention. This was maybe because I was exceedingly skinny and perhaps not very charming, so the girls weren't exactly turning their heads in my direction as I walked across the hall. I tried to have a relationship with any girl, but to cut to the chase, that was unsuccessful. As if my weak skills in relationships weren't enough, the communist system had previously influenced people with opinions, words, rumours and hard laws which isolated the female.

WIDE SHOT HOUSE

LIR (CONT'D) (V.O.)

Anyways, at the end of the school year, I went too to apply for university. I had a keen desire to choose the field of medicine because I won third place in a medical competition which was attended by seventeen students from my school. The doctor position belonged to me, but it was reserved for the wealthy who had the money, connections and a good reputation. I was therefore given the branch of pharmacy.

(MORE)

LIR (CONT'D) (V.O.)
I was a bit disheartened, but I decided that it didn't really matter because this branch still belonged to the field of medicine. Anyways, I was happy because I won the scholarship that I had been dreaming about it.

LIVING ROOM

LIR (CONT'D) (V.O.)
I spent those three months of summer vacation thinking about what to expect in the future. How would the university be like, and how different would life from a small town be compared to life in a capital which was many times greater? What friendships would I have? How would my first day at the university be like? However, my main concern was with which type of girl I would get to know and if I would be able to get any of the girls.

MFS - LIR PACKING SUITCASE

LIR (CONT'D) (V.O.)
As the days were passing, I became happier, but I wasn't able to share this expression with my friends or parents. I started to pack my clothes that I would take with me a week before school started. It seemed like the time was passing very quickly. Finally, the day of my departure to Tirana arrived.

FADE TO:

2 EXT. TIRANA CITY ALBANIA EUROPE - DAY

2

ESTABLISHING SHOT DRONE CAPITAL CITY TIRANA

LIR (CONT'D) (V.O.)
 (Subtitle TIRANA CITY)
The first days there I was as unconcentrated. I put up in a room at the students' buildings called "21 December".

WIDE SHOT 6 FLOORS STUDENT CAMPUS

LIR (CONT'D) (V.O.)

I met two friends there from the same branch, both of whom stayed in the same room as me for the five years of university. They were named Max and Ben. We just arranged ourselves in the room and then we went out for the first time, sitting over the benches of the main street's sidewalks in the front of the buildings for fresh air.

THREE SHOT - LIR, MAX, BEN CLIMBED ON BENCH

LIR (CONT'D) (V.O.)

It was something special, three people, who were known for two days, coming from different areas, hanging with each other? I was wondering what conversations we may have. We presented each other and we started to become acquainted a bit. While hanging out on the bench, in front of these campuses, looking at the girls coming and going, we also saw other benches, where there were boys and girls, couples in love.

LIR MAX BEN PVO - GIRLS ON BENCH, ENTRANCE

LIR (CONT'D) (V.O.)

I thought that it would be easy to connect with someone here at the university, or maybe it seemed so easy because the others were older. When we'll reach their age, we'll do miracles. To be honest, our eyes and hearts wanted us to have a relationship with a girl there, at least in our group, despite not knowing everyone yet. All three of us had the same concern but none of us said it to each other. To break the ice, I intervene.

LIR

Hey guys, what do we do? Could we "catch" any?

They looked at me with amazement.

MAX

That's the point.

BEN

Yeah, man.

LIR (V.O.)

They will remind me of what I said in the years to come. The first few days were passing like this, without anything special happening. I just learned about the place around me and the surrounding area, like the refectory and the football field. We were getting ready for the first day of university. It was a day that no one in the world would forget, the first impressions of each student remain buried in my mind and will and stay in there forever.

LIR ROOM

LIR (CONT'D) (V.O.)

Anyway, we started this day, three friends in the same room and we wore the best clothes that had, brushed and pressed. We seemed like actors, but now that I am writing this after many years, I laugh at this and regret the way we dressed, our hair model e.t.c.

CUT TO:

3 EXT. FACULTY OF MEDICINE - DAY

3

All the pharmacy students are in front of the Faculty of Medicine. The guys are staying on one side and the girls on the other.

LIR (CONT'D) (V.O.)

I looked at the group's girls that were there, but I didn't get an electric shock. However, not all of them had come yet. As I learned later in our course, we were 9 boys and 36 girls. What an opportunity for me! I was thinking about this until we got called to go to the second floor to start the lesson.

LOBBY

They are waiting in the lobby, the boys sitting on the steps and the girls in front of us standing up.

Suddenly, a group of girls came and joined the others.

LIR PVO - GROUP GIRLS

LIR (CONT'D) (V.O.)

I scanned each one of them for a few seconds, and to say it right, my eyes couldn't stop looking at one of them, and so I didn't want to continue scanning the others anymore, so I didn't need to look any further.

MCU - GIRL

LIR (CONT'D) (V.O.)

She was a brunette with short hair, cute, she had an average body and was wearing simple clothes. I was watching her, but she was hiding between other taller girls. This made me more curious and I pulled up my head to find her. She seemed like the type of woman I could match up. I felt a certain interest for her, a kind of shock as if someone pulled my heart with a pump. In the meantime, I was talking with the friends I had around, but my mind wasn't on them. I wanted to get a closer look.

LIR (CONT'D)

I'm going to see if the lessons started.

CLASSROOM

LIR (CONT'D) (V.O.)

After we went into the classroom, I had to learn who that girl was, her name, where she came from and where she was located. My mind began to work at the speed of light, to capture any information, but without anyone noticing. As we were introduced to the professor, I learned her name: Anna Xhakolli from Maliq, Korce, in the south not far from Permet. That day she was wearing red pants and a red shirt. It was a maddening red colour that could not only anger bulls but me also.

FRONT FACULTY

LIR (CONT'D) (V.O.)

Other days when she was delayed to get to the lessons, I was looking at the bus station from the Faculty's courtyard, as tall as I was, 50 meters downhill, hoping to catch something red with my eyes.

One afternoon in the chess room, I stood up.

CUT TO:

4 INT. CAMPUS GUYS ROOM - DAY

4

LIR ROOM

LIR (CONT'D)

I'm going to go out in the street.
If you want to join me, I'll wait down.

MAX

Go first, I'll catch you later.

CAMPUS MAIN ROAD BENCH

He goes downstairs, sits over the bench and looking around. After 15 minutes, Max comes.

MAX

Hey, how's it going and what's new? I see you here at the benches every afternoon. Are you counting the people going in and out? What's wrong?

LIR

I am doing the homework.

MAX

Homework? No pen and papers?

LIR

Repeating in my mind.

MAX

What's wrong?

LIR

Nothing much, I have problems with someone.

MAX

What is it that has upset you so much?

LIR

She is someone in our group, with short hair and who usually wears red clothes, called Anna.

MAX

It seems that I have an idea of who you are speaking about however, you don't have a very bad gusto.

LIR

Thanks anyways. Now I need to find the window of her room, but she doesn't appear in the windows. I've been here three days guarding and still nothing.

MAX

That's easy. You can stay here another three days and you'll still have nothing found out.

LIR

How could I proceed then?

MAX

She usually stays with a girl from my area, from our group too, called Ermira. Tomorrow I will talk to her and try to buy any information I can get from her.

LIR

Ok, tomorrow, that's your homework.

There comes Ben too.

BEN

What are you guys doing? What's the business with the girls?

MAX

There is one that is chasing Lir and won't leave him alone.

BEN

Nooooooo, how come?

LIR

It happens.

BEN

She will "Kidnap you" watch out.

LIR

This is your best advice?

BEN

Good luck man, I'm joking.

Time passed and more students advanced toward the canteen for dinner.

MAX

Look at these three girls that are going to mealtime, I think is the middle one.

He turns his head towards them and when he sees her, he frizzes. There is Anna, Ermira and the other roommate.

LIR PVO - ANNA

LIR

Oh God, what is this feeling that manhood can't recognize which is not a force but makes you as weak as a child?

BEN

Oh Max, even one friend we had, is gone.

MAX

Lir is here, is not going anywhere. Now with this case, we have to rent a bench.

BEN

No kidding.

LIR

They have taken the bowls in their hands, which means they won't stay in the cafeteria, but they will take their food with them to their rooms. Is it a good opportunity to do something so that she can understand? But what should I say? They are coming back. God damn it!

MAX

Tell her anything, whatever comes to mind.

LIR

I will try, but if it is needed, come closer, do it because they are three and so are we and I can't stop all three of them or separate her.

The girls are approaching

LIR (CONT'D) (V.O.)

They are approaching, and I felt like all I wanted to do is to get away. I got cold sweat, and then my voice left me and was raised the atmosphere. I still don't know how I was able to jump from the bench and call them, and I was so surprised by what I've done that even I barely heard my own voice.

OUTSIDE FRONT CANTEEN

LIR

(stutters) Yo An...An...Anna!
I mean what's your name
Sorry.

They stopped. She is looking at him like a frightened bird, but so does him more than her.

LIR

I...,I (stuttering)... I wanted to ask you about those boo...,those boo...

ANNA

Yes?

LIR

Where do you buy them, where do you buy them?

ANNA

My, my, (stutters) my boots?

LIR

No, no, not boots, the books, the books, the lecture books. Where do you purchase them? Tell us and we will buy yours and ours.

She isn't separated because the three of them had stopped. Anna looked at her friends, left to right as if being captured by fault.

ANNA

I don't know exactly, my friends probably know.

With this answer, she switches the conversation toward them. In the meantime, Lir's "warriors" approach. They talk about the books for about a minute. They go away and she is walking uncomfortably.

MAIN ROAD BENCH

The guys return to the bench.

MAX

Wow, where did you find that great reason to stop them?

LIR

What was there to do Max? Where could've found a better reason? We've only known them for three days.

BEN

He did well, he gave her a little sign so that she could understand something. You know what? I liked the other one who had curly hair and was chubby. What is her name?

MAX

They all stay together in a room, Anna, Ermira and the curly one. She's a student of the medical branch, not a pharmacy one. Only Ermira could tell us her name.

LIR

If you like her, don't wait. They are friends and so are we, so let's become partners helping each other.

Ben passed the cigarette from his fingers to his mouth and shake hands with Lir to say that he accepts his proposal.

LIR

You too Max, will you become a partner with us? Don't waste the chance.

BEN

Ermira's from your area. It's a miracle! We don't want to leave you single.

LIR

One hand wash the other and both washing the face.

MAX

(Shy) What do you mean? My, my hands are clean.

BEN

Yo, you shy guy, I help you, you help me, we help each other.
(Imitating) My hands are clean!

MAX

(Stutters) Don't, don't say that because both hands are supposed to wash even the, even the..., the but..., the butt..., the buttt...

BEN

What happened. Your cassette is stocked?

LIR

Oh, don't mention the rear, you don't have to.

MAX

No, no I meant both hands are designed to wash also the but...the buttered plastics, buttered plastics you guys left in the sink this morning. You had both hands too, but you were lazy and left it for me to wash. So where is the help, I don't see.

BEN

We will fix that, don't worry.

LIR

Now that we're partners, come on.

MAX

I didn't say that, if I don't see the room cleaned up and everything in order, then I'll give you the answer. Let's go.

They grab Max from the arms and start to laugh and bother him. He turned red with shame.

MAX

Woa, woa. Yo guys calm down. I didn't say "yes". "With a glass of water, you start swimming"?

LIR

But you didn't say "No"

CUT TO:

5 INT. GIRL'S ROOM - NIGHT

5

ANNA

Well girls, what was that conversation about the books or boots? Was that so necessary to ask? As if the books would disappear. Those guys seem very interested in their lessons!

ERMIRA

Oh, thank God the conversation turned to books because I thought this guy is asking for boobs.

ANNA

Don't tell me! Oh, man.

ERMIRA

And overall he was directed to you by a nickname An.

ANNA

He said that?

ERMIRA

Don't you remember?

ANNA

I guess so. Oh yeah, yeah, look at that, where he found the courage like I am his close friend?

ERMIRA

I think, it was because he was shaking by emotions. But since you too don't remember, you had emotions as well.

ANNA

Did I show that way?

ERMIRA

Well, let's take it positively. They're friends in our group and they asked us a question, and what's wrong with that?

ANNA

But why exactly did he ask me? And he mentioned my name, imagine! When did this guy learn my name in three days? Strange. You were there too, why didn't he address himself to all of us? He could've said: Yo girls excuse me ...

ERMIRA

No, I don't think so, he seemed like a calm, simple and charming guy.

ANNA

Yeah right! Tell him to behave himself, to pay attention to school and that's it. We haven't even started school yet!

ERMIRA

By the way, what are we going to do to get those books? We can't go and buy them ourselves at the "University Book" store because it's quite far from here and who knows how long it will take us to get there. We will tell them to buy books for us too.

ANNA

Fine Ermira do so, but talk to them yourself.

ERMIRA

We'll see. We'll play rock, paper scissors.

CUT TO:

6 INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

6

The next day in the morning, Ben and Lir had given Max two tasks, to meet Ermira and to bring us information for both of us. In the class, they are pushing him a lot before meeting her, but his only answer was:

MAX

It's not the moment yet.

BEN

Hurry up.

MAX

I'm busy.

LIR

Move.

MAX

I have a lot of homework to do for you guys.

BEN

Really!?

FACULTY HALLWAY

At last, when they finish school, Anna and Ermira are walking ahead and the guys are behind them. Lir gives a sign to Max to go on Ermira's side and Lir on Anna's side.

LIR

I have some relatives in Korca with the surname...let me guess...eyyy... (Thinking a random name)

ANNA

I don't know them. I'm from Maliq, not Korca.

LIR

Aha, that's why. I was in Maliq once it's a small and beautiful town, I liked it.

ANNA

It's a flat region, unlike Permet, which has a lot of mountains.

LIR

Well when you'll be boring in fields your whole life, you can move to the mountains for more attractiveness. You'll not be alone, you'll have me there too.

ANNA

I don't think so.

LIR
Never say never.

ANNA
I didn't say, never.

LIR (V.O.)
Even if it would curse me, I would be happy enough that I was actually, speaking to her despite being a bit nervous.

LIR (CONT'D)
Do you have a clothes iron in the room so I can borrow and return it to you, if yes I can call you down at the campus today?

ANNA
No, I don't have one. Get dressed without ironed clothes.

LIR
No? Ok, what else do you have, by the way, do you have any...

ANNA
Dry cleaning? There is one right in the corner.

LIR
Aha.

LIR (CONT'D) (V.O.)
I am sweating from my emotions after her always opposing and barely continuing the conversation. I try to change the subject.

LIR (CONT'D)
We are, we are celebrating with the guys for the new start. Do you have some bal..., some ball..., do you have some balll...

ANNA
Of course not.

LIR
I'm lo..., I'm loo...

ANNA
Losing? Yeah, I believe that.

LIR

Lo..., Lol, no, no I'm saying I am
loo..., I am looking, I am looking
forsome bal..., for some ball...,
balll...

ANNA

You don't have any? These for sure
we don't have. Not the girls.

LIR

I mean some balll..., ballons,
ballons some balloons. We want to
invite yougirl to celebrate too. We
got the balll...

Anna is giving him a strange look.

LIR (CONT'D)

Balloons, other decorations, drinks
everything.

ANNA

Like I said...

LIR

Never?

ANNA

I don't think so.

ANNA

Ermira, the bus is coming!

ERMIRA

Bye guys!

They go on the bus, and the guys stay a few feet away.

DISSOLVE TO:

7 EXT/INT. BUS - DAY

7

MFS - STANDING UP

BEN

What news do you bring us, Max?

MAX

First of all, her window is at D6,
according to the position of the
chess box.

LIR

Sixth floor?

MAX

Yes, and secondly, the girl with curly hair is called Zepina and doesn't have a boyfriend.

BEN

Lir how did it go with her?

LIR

Terrible! As if I grabbed her food. I barely created an opportunity to speak! And overall, I felt completely stuck in the conversation.

MAX

Why, what happens?

LIR

I invited her to the celebration, but I couldn't speak.

BEN

Aha, what celebration?

LIR

The signal, I mean the sound wasn't coming out of my mouth.

MAX

It happens the same to me too, when I try to talk to girls.

BEN

Because you're a virgin, that's why. To me happened when I proposed to a girl.

MAX

Not to me.

LIR

You have a strong character.

MAX

I never have proposed.

LIR

Aha, I thought I got permanent damage, but finally recuperated.

MAX

The damage will persist when
you will be again in front of
her.

LIR (O.S)

Yeah?

MAX

Depends on how you feel about her.

LIR

The more you feel the more
you're stuck?

MAX

And the opposite.

BEN

Hold on, hold on. What is that
celebration about?

LIR

I...I just tried to create a case, a
fake celebration, like for the new
school year beginning.

MAX

Did she accept it?

LIR

Of course not.

BEN

And what if she accepted.

LIR

We would be thinking about
celebrating somewhere.

BEN

You lied that's why you were stuck.
Don't worry, it's only the
beginning.

A few feet away.

MFS - STANDING UP

ANNA

What did Max say?

ERMIRA

Nothing really, he asked about us in
general. But what was your friend
saying?

ANNA

He tries a lot to come close. He asked me to borrow the iron to press his clothes and other invitation. What is this approach? Is he only creating these conversations to talk with me?

ERMIRA

No no, they're just boys and don't know how to wash and press their clothes.

ANNA

You trust everything Ermira, watch out. The first time, it was about the books and now the iron press and stuff. Something is going on. "Somewhere the rabbit is hidden". And after that, I see that he is sometimes watching me. Instead of focusing on their homework, they're trying to catch up.

ERMIRA

As I said, they're guys and their homework is watching the girls.

ANNA

Not the lessons?

ERMIRA

They don't give a damn about lessons. Let's see how he will behave later. We arrived.

BOOKSTORE

LIR (V.O.)

That day the three of us went to buy the books for our lessons, and we also bought the girls' ones too. I was happy because I had another opportunity to see Anna and to talk to her. Just like that, the afternoon came. After, the next five days of school passed the same way.

BASKETBALL FIELD

LIR (CONT'D) (V.O.)

We discussed, relaxed a bit that weekend with some chess, football and basketball, but without

detracting our attention from the D6 window. Monday arrived fast, and we were back to school. New week, new luck, I thought. I missed her because it had been two days that I hadn't seen her. I distinguished her from a distance to the bus station, not only her clothes but also the shape of her hair.

LIR ROOM

LIR (CONT'D) (V.O.)

I decided to tell her. I didn't like to pretend and create fake cases to speak with her. In our room, I woke up before the others and doing some push-ups.

MAX

Nice, soon I will start the exercise with you.

LIR

For me, it's just for today.

MAX

Why, what is it today?

BEN (O.S)

Monday.

MAX

Monday, ok?

LIR

I'm going to propose today and I'm doing some preparation so I'll be in shape.

BEN

Oh yeah, it's a mission?

After exercises, Lir is drinking three raw eggs.

MAX

Oh three eggs I see.

BEN

Proteins after exercises, like in the movies.

MAX

Exactly, if you want to get in shape, that's fine. You don't have to hide. What proposal are you talking about?

LIR

I'm not taking eggs for their proteins, I am getting them to treat my throat so I don't stutter again.

BEN

Aha, fair enough.

LIR

Do you guys have a better trick?

BEN

Another trick? I never used any trick before. For you virgins, I don't know.

LIR

Ben, you don't care much because your cable is disconnected.

BEN

What, what cable?

LIR

The emotions' cable.

BEN

The emotions cable!

MAX

Exactly, your cable from your brain to the senses.

BEN

Eyyyy! Give me time to get it.

LIR

The cable from your brain to your sensors is cut off already.

MAX

Out of service.

LIR

Forget it. You got any other tricks before we get out?

MAX

Take this bottle.

LIR
What is this?

MAX
Mouthwash.

LIR
I washed my mouth.

MAX
It's for your throat.

LIR
The throat too, has to be washed?

MAX
Gargle damn it, make to your throat
exercise while gargling.

LIR
Oh, ok if it helps, why not.

Lir is gargling while coming around the room. The others are getting dressed.

MAX
Gargle with sound, sound.

LIR (O.S)
Ok.

Since he speaks, the mouthwash spilled from my mouth.

MAX
Again, put more.

LIR (O.S)
Ok, ok.

MAX
Don't talk, goddammit.

LIR
You told me sound and don't ask me.

MAX
You owe me a new mouthwash bottle.

LIR
Got it.

BEN
Again spilled?

MAX

Change the sound.

LIR

Whoa, whoa, whoa...

MAX

You have 3 minutes in Do-major, it's enough. Change it to Re-minor.

He changes the gargle's sounds as Max asked.

LIR

Is it a good enough chef?

MAX

Change it to Bass, Bass.

BEN

Let's go you "Rock star" musicians.

After finishing the first hour of school, they descended their second-period room.

CUT TO:

8 INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

8

LIR (V.O.)

I ordered my two friends not to stay near me. I sat directly behind her and Elmira. My eyes were rolling to the left, right, forwards and backwards to find the suitable moment to talk to her. I waited until two students who were standing near them just left. The only obstacle was Elmira. I necessarily need her to go away before the professor arrived.

THREE SHOT - LIR, ANNA, ERMIRA

LIR

How are you girls doing?

ERMIRA

Well, you?

LIR

I have to send to Maliq a package to a friend of mine and it's important,

Anna if you could bring it with you whenever you go home, that would help me a lot, otherwise, I will need to go myself, perhaps with you Anna on the bus.

ANNA

Package, with me on the bus? Oh no way, I mean no needed. What package? And for whom is it?

LIR

No, I can't say that now, because there are people here. Their ears are sharper than radar and they shouldn't hear this. (Watching toward Ermira). After school, or better I'll call you in the afternoon, I'll bring the package also.

ANNA

Say it here, it's no problem.

ERMIRA

Well, since it's a secret, I am going to go a little further.

LIR (V.O.)

Whichever case Ana chose would've been good with me. Unfortunately, she was sitting in the worst spot, in the middle of the whole class. Just as Ermira left, I quickly went to sit at her place. I had emotions, words trembled and they were mixed up. Time was limited. Should've I given up and found another moment later on? However, I was lucky to have even gotten that moment. It seemed to me that all students of the group were looking at me. God knew how this would go.

LIR (CONT'D)

Actually, I don't have any package to send and I know nobody in Maliq.

ANNA

Ok, then where is the problem?

LIR

Of course, I have a problem.

ANNA

What is it?

LIR

The case is that I've got some emotions that when you aren't in class or on the bus and when you are delayed to come to the lessons or in other situations like this, I can't stand it and I can't stay without seeing you. My mind is on you all the time and I want to introduce myself to you more. When a cute girl has a proper character, she becomes beautiful. These qualities are what I like in you and why I love at you.

ANNA

Wow, well, weeeell (Stutters) I hear..., I hear...

LIR

Your heart, your heartbeat quickened, it's normal.

ANNA

No, no I mean I hear..., I heard youout of res..., out of res...

LIR

Res..., resume this evening where weleft off? Did you get stuck now, like me the other day, remember? That's means we feel the same.

ANNA

No, not me.

LIR

Yes, you did. We're equal now.

ANNA

Ok, (clean throat) then I heard you out of respect, but my answer is, no, no.

LIR

No, do you mean no?

ANNA

No, it means nooooo...

LIR

(Continuously) ...Nooo one, yes no one can pull me out of this.

ANNA

Now, the professor is coming, can you get up, please?

LIR

You don't even know me, so any answer you'll give, will not be considered, it's an abstraction? However, we can't come up with the solution here and yes, now I'm getting up. Elmira is looking at me in anger. She is your bodyguard or because I got her seat? See you.

His mind wasn't paying attention to the classes during all the school hours that day. Lir turns his head back and sees Max and Ben, who are moving their heads and laughing at him. When the lessons finish, they go outside.

FRONT FACULTY

BEN

Yo, you created a great BAM! In class, Congratulations!

MAX

Did you do anything good or...?

LIR

All I know is that she said no.

BEN

What did you expect? At least you told her. You passed the "exam"! Now, what do I do with Zepina?

LIR

At least I'm a bit more relaxed now. Come, we are going to drink something. Today, it's my treat.

MAX

Definitely, we'll sit down and celebrate, and you'll tell us what you told her.

LIR

Ok, now I'm relaxed, I did my homework.

CAMPUS MAIN ROAD

LIR P.O.V - 6 FLOOR GIRLS BUILDING

LIR (CONT'D) (V.O.)

The following days were full of sadness. Now all groups knew everything. Besides at school, I never saw her anywhere else, she started to distance herself. And at mealtime, she wasn't coming down to the refectory. Were her roommates carrying her food? I got so sad that there wasn't anything left for me to do. I felt guilty, and like everyone looked at me and said without a voice: "Why did you do that? Now you have no place in our friendship" I was staying at school silently and waited impatiently for someone to speak to me. It seemed like I was getting punished for what I did.

Finally, Ben decided to speak to Zepina. In their room.

GUYS' ROOM

BEN

I'll talk to her tonight.

LIR

Have you decided yourself?

BEN

However it is, I don't care.

LIR

Good for you. I however it may go with Anna, will not propose any more for at least two years.

BEN

You'll come down?

LIR

Of course, I will pass inconspicuously, to give you some courage. When you're finished, we'll wait at a coffee shop so that you could buy us something.

BEN

Ya right, to celebrate my failure.

MAX

You're leaving now? It's not your fault, Ben is a "monkey see monkey do".

LIR

We're going down to have fun and
have a good laugh about it, like you
guys, laugh with me the other day.

They walking to the bar.

LIR, MAX P.V.O - BEN, MAIN GIRL'S ENTRANCE

Ben is speaking to her, moving his hands and feet, acting
twisted. After a little while, he comes to the bar while
making the cross.

CAFÉ BAR

MAX

Your ears are dropped down too?

BEN

Wooooow, I haven't seen any like
this, she's probably on her period.
A double Cognac please because she
gave me an electric shock.

Since they both failed and are disappointed, they are
comforting each other.

LIR

What problem was there that I
proposed to "my girl"? Should I keep
the relationship between us as
friends for some time, so I can
speak to her more, to buy her mind
and turn her towards me? Now she
knows why I approach her, and keeps
her distance. It's a wrong tactic,
but it's done and can't be
reversed.

MAX

My condolences. Cheers.

Max and Lir are in the room. They hear steps in the corridor
and soon their room's door opens. Ben comes in.

GUYS' ROOM

BEN

Yo, what did you do?

MAX

We stretched a bit.

LIR

Yo, what's new?

BEN

I saw your "wife", she just came
out.

LIR
With who was she?

BEN
With Ermira.

LIR
Where did they go?

BEN
Straight down the main road.

MAX
Why are you asking?

LIR
I was thinking to try something today. It has been a week that I talked to her for the last time. I could tell her that at least I am still in a "position". It has to be done, no choice about it, I must do it.

CAMPUS MAIN ROAD

LIR (CONT'D) (V.O.)
We go down as we did every day. We talked, joked a bit but I hadn't smiled in a while. I was staying, waiting for her to come back. I had sent other girls to call her to come down several times before but it was in vain, she never came down, so the only little possibility was to stop her while she was entering the building. Then she finally came. I had emotions but they weren't as strong as those at the beginning. This was becoming worse and worse, and hope was diminishing daily. Therefore, I thought that I had nothing to lose and to just continue attempting. They were approaching. I started to walk to her side and spoke to her.

LIR (CONT'D)
Anna, please, could I talk a little bit, to express myself once for all until the end, because you've never heard me. And in class, I had no time at all.

ANNA
(Moving) We have nothing to say anymore. I only have four words for you: I don't want to.

LIR (V.O.)

She didn't even want to stop. I knew it and I felt it. There were others around who saw this scene. I came back again to our bench. I was numb. Continuing to insist was pointless. I couldn't give up, though, she had fallen into my mind and was inserted in my heart. I was loving with the freshness of the first feelings of the passion of my youth.

DISSOLVE TO:

9 INT. CANTEEN - THE NEXT DAYS - DAY

9

Some days passed. Lir is in at mealtime, waiting at the counter to take his food. He hears some guys' voices behind him mentioning his name and looking for him. Lir turns around with the plates in his hands and sees two older guys.

GUY 1

Are you Lir?

LIR

Yes.

GUY 2

Can we talk to you a bit?

LIR

Of course. Wait until I finish my lunch.

GUY 1

We are waiting outside.

LIR

Ok.

Lir sits down to eat.

LIR (CONT'D) (V.O.)

I guessed why they had come since they were talking one after the other, no turns. She was that pissed off? It ends here. Why was I so unlucky, oh God! How can it end like this, something so straightforward and beautiful?

(MORE)

LIR (CONT'D) (V.O.)

What's the accusation? (Clean throat, exhales) They made the food stuck in my throat. I wish to go well outside. I had an appetite and now it's gone, no more hungry. I have to face thisthunder in the blue sky.

He goes outside to speak with them.

LIR

How are you?

GUY 1

Well, how are you? Where do you come from?

LIR

From Permet.

GUY 1

You are in the pharmacy group with Anna?

LIR

...Anna? (Stuttering) Again who, whoooo...

GUY 2

Woo...whoops, whoooops.

LIR

No, no...

GUY 2

No? You don't know her, really!

GUY 1

Hold on, let me do the talk.

GUY 2

Ok.

GUY 1

So you don't know Anna, do you?

LIR

No, no I meant whooo..., who is this, who is this?

GUY 1

Try to remember, take your time, relax.

LIR

(Stuttering) Bec..., bec..., bec...

GUY 1
Become a good boy.

LIR
No, no.

GUY 1
Not a good boy? Then we got a
problem.

LIR
No, I said bec..., bec...,
because, because I know few of
them, fewpeople with that name.

GUY 2
The more you don't remember, the
worse will be.

LIR
Aha, got it, I guess I have someone
in the group with that name!

GUY 2
Good boy, like I said.

LIR
Oh, thank you. Tell Anna please
that I'm a good boy, but if I am a
good boy why don't you let me talk
to her?

GUY 1
You try to fool us like you don't
know her, do you?

LIR
No, because we are all new here,
just started school and we still
don't know each other, that's why.

GUY 2
We are her cousins. She has
complained to us and we are here to
tell you to not disturb her anymore.
If you continue, we will talk
together differently. Is that clear?

LIR
As I said, this happens because we
are, I mean everyone is trying to
know each other because is the
beginning, that's why I'm talking to
her, that's it.

GUY 2

Look, don't try to sell, if you're smart just try to buy, got it?

LIR (V.O.)

It was pointless to resist. They were inhabitants of Tirana and I had just arrived in town and didn't know what I could expect to happen after. Anyways, I continued to play their game.

LIR

Do you want to not speak with her at all?

GUY 1

No, you can talk together as friends but no further.

LIR (V.O.)

What they said seemed interesting because I had a chance to resume our relationship as friends, and when the time would come, to take the appropriate tactical turns. Exactly what I should've done before proposing. That thought slightly warmed me up in the middle of this ice.

GUY 2

This is the last warning agreement.

LIR

(Stuttering) Ok, as..., ho..., ass..., hoo..., ass..., hooo...

GUY 2

Whaaaaat?

LIR

Asss..., assignment, assignment, ho..., hoo..., hopefully, will be fine.It's done.

GUY 1

Oh, ok.

LIR

Good..., good...

GUY 1

Ok goodbye.

LIR

Good..., goodness, goodness.

LIR (CONT'D) (V.O.)

The following days, she should've known that I gave up, at least in appearance, although she could've thought the opposite. I tried to get into their conversations like a good boy and without any intentions. Two months went so quietly without anything new happening. Ben gave up on Zepina, but I too retreated for a bit to counterattack later on.

OUTSIDE THEATRE

LIR (CONT'D) (V.O.)

We were three boys and three girls as we went into the theatre, where Anna would definitely be as well.

WIDE SHOT LAKE

LIR (CONT'D) (V.O.)

We also went down to the lake and I arranged it so that she would be there too. In a few words, where she was, I was also. At the lake in the park among the trees, we all took a picture together as a group. I was as casual in the photo as I found myself behind her, and so with this photo, whenever she sees it, I tell her that I'm still there for her.

FRONT CAMPUS

LIR (CONT'D) (V.O.)

During Christmas and the New Year, students usually take two weeks off. Before all of our departures across the districts, we organized a disco. We met the entire group before going to the building and continued to walk towards the disco. I was walking at a certain distance behind her, looking at her from up to down.

LIR P.V.O - ANNA SHADOW

LIR (CONT'D) (V.O.)

Even from her shadow, I could've distinguished her. I had to pay attention to her at all times when she was walking, dancing e.t.c. That evening, I definitely wanted to tell her something, not so straight forward but that would imply a message.

DISCO EVENT

LIR (CONT'D) (V.O.)

I was not allowed to speak what my heart felt. I waited until the music was playing quietly and went to ask her to dance. Her hair touched my lips. It seemed as if I had the world in my arms.

LIR (CONT'D)

Today you look different than before. I couldn't recognize you.

ANNA

How, good or bad?

LIR (V.O.)

If I had the freedom of speech, I would say the most beautiful words that I knew.

LIR

Somewhat, but...

ANNA

But what?

LIR

But even this "Somehow" brings me that much emotion that it is preventing me from speaking. When will you depart?

ANNA

Tomorrow.

LIR

Would it be possible for you to do me a favour?

ANNA

What favour?

LIR

I want to send a package to Maliq, to a

Anna raised her head in amazement as if she is going to eat him.

ANNA

Again?

LIR

No, not at all, I am just fooling around.

LIR (CONT'D) (V.O.)

I started to laugh, but she smiled humbly with her head down, so that I wouldn't see it. At last, the day that I would make her laugh a bit had arrived. If there were no laws in two or three days, I would throw her on my shoulder, run and take a flight away to any desert island to live with her without ever coming back. After, the laws could resume back.

LIR (CONT'D)

Happy holidays! Have a good time, and when midnight on New Year's Eve arrives, take a glass, make a wish, and drink to it. Even I will do the same thing. Do you think our wishes will match?

ANNA

I don't believe so.

LIR

They say that when wishes match on that special night and you're looking into the sky, a star goes off.

ANNA

Has anyone ever went off for you?

LIR

No never. And you?

LIR (CONT'D) (V.O.)

With this question, she probably wanted to know if I ever loved before. Anna wasn't well-positioned because of providing me information.

ANNA

(Swallowing) Nope, me neither.

LIR (CONT'D) (V.O.)

*I wanted this dance to never
end because it made me very happy.
Ironically, the music was
interrupted, we divided ourselves,
and for a moment looking into each
other's eyes as if to say goodbye in
silence. We sat at our places where
we usually sat and we hung out as a
group around a table. I didn't have
the chance to speak to her anymore.
She escaped me so easily as if the
wind took her away from me. The
dinner ended.*

The guys accompanied the girls up to their building.

LIR ROOM

They each talked about their time at the disco, each of them with their own stories. Lir has a hard time sleeping that night. The next day Ben left early to his home, but Lir has to go in the same direction with Max.

They are still in the room and sit in front of the window and watching outside. It is the first time that they are leaving. Suddenly they saw Anna with Sophia (another of the group's girls from Korca)

LIR

They are departing.

MAX

She will travel together with
Sophia.

LIR

It seems so.

MAX (O.S)

Aah.....

Lir doesn't understand Max's
sigh.

LIR

"We can't always get what we want".
Their station is the same as ours.
We're going too.

Lir and Max started with their bags on their shoulders. They go to the station.

CUT TO:

10 EXT. BUS STATION - DAY

10

They were 10 m away from them drinking Pepsi. Lir doesn't dare to approach her and wait for the bus all four of us.

LIR

Come on Max, you first and I am coming behind.

MAX

Let them. They want to stay alone perhaps. So, Sophia is beautiful but I don't know her character.

LIR

Therefore, you don't have the courage as well. What are you waiting for, you should go for it, do not let her "fall to the ground".

MAX

I do not know, I do not know.

Lir likes it or not, he turns to them.

LIR

Is the Pepsi cold?

SOPHIE

Yes, they're cold.

LIR

Max, you want Pepsi?

MAX

Eyyy, Pepsi? No, no thanks.

SOPHIE

We don't have more Pepsis, anyway.

LIR

I thought to buy another four, for you too.

ANNA

No thanks.

LIR

Of course not. I hope your bus comes first.

SOPHIE

Why?

LIR

Well, to accompany you.

SOPHIE

Oh yeah.....

LIR

The ladies first, then us. We won't see each other for two weeks. Will you two remember us? That is not hard to do, and free of charge, at no cost. Yes, Max?

So Lir enters Max into the game with her too. Seems like he isn't paying attention to what Lir says.

MAX

Yes, yes, free Pepsi? Yes, I want.

LIR

It's a meditation, remembering our best moments here at school. So is the Pepsi here too, just for memory.

MAX

Aha, it's this a new famous brand's Pepsi?

Lir can't handle anymore his foolishness, since either the girls are chuckling.

LIR

What the f..., what the f...famous, famous fall in your head. (Whispers) You didn't want drinks before. You're not here, do you? Next time no partners, I'll be alone.

MAX

Because, because we can have a seat at the terrace across. There is no need to drink while standing up, do you?

They are looking at Max surprisingly. He came finally into the conversation.

LIR

Bingo.

SOPHIE

Well..., well...

MAX

If it's well, then let's go.

LIR

Well..., well..., welcome back
Max, welcome back.

Their bus arrived, they boarded and waited to depart. Lir and Max sit in a coffee shop and watching from afar.

CAFÉ BAR TERRACE

MASTER TWO SHOT - LIR, MAX

The girls are departing. Without conscious thought, Lir stood up and walked towards the bus until they disappeared.

LIR (CONT'D) (V.O.)

I felt like I couldn't hang out anymore. Tirana seemed empty to me. I never felt so lonely and abandoned in my life.

LIR (CONT'D)

Max, we need to go and relax because we're losing it. What is happening? Even in jail, I'd be more relaxed. Well, tell your folks that I say hi. Bye.

MAX

You too. Bye.

11 EXT. PERMET CITY - DAY

11

ESTABLISH SHOT PERMET CITY

LIR (V.O.)

I went to Permet. It was the first time that I had left my home for three months. The city seemed to have changed, and my home as well. I wasn't as free as before. I felt ashamed to eat even a piece of bread in the house where I was born and grew up.

(MORE)

LIR HOME

LIR (CONT'D) (V.O.)

At home, I had my mother, father and sister. Mother and father loved me, but not as much as they loved my sister. They ignored me sometimes, which lasted a day or two without where they wouldn't talk to me. Could have been my fault too, I agree with that. Anyways, there isn't much to be said about these two weeks, since it was such a short period of time.

STATIC SHOT - STORE OF JEANS PANTS

LIR (CONT'D) (V.O.)

I asked if it was possible to buy a pair of jeans because at that age I had never had such good pants. Maybe their salaries were not sufficient. All my friends who finished high school with me had denim pants, which then were the the most luxurious style of pants. Regardless of their parents' salaries, which were probably lower than those of my parents, they got the pants.

STATIC SHOT - STORE OF SNEAKERS SHOES

LIR (CONT'D) (V.O.)

However, pants go with sneakers, and I couldn't do so much of them. Therefore, I thought that I would maybe buy pants first and sneakers after two or three months since both could be probably too much. Until that moment, I wore my father's shoes. My father was working as a police officer and my mother was a seamstress.

MCU - MOM WORKING ON SEWING MACHINE

LIR (CONT'D) (V.O.)

Whatever remained of the uniform of my father: jackets, pants, raincoat, shirts and my mother sewed and recycled them for me. It seemed like the perfect solution, but I looked like a little policeman.

(MORE)

LIR (CONT'D) (V.O.)

On the other side, nothing was missing to my sister, fashion clothes, items, electric toilet, bags, shoes, jewelry, etc... I had only wanted to change a bit and become charming so that I could have a lover, or at least look handsome to other people. Let's not extend this any longer, I didn't get any jeans.

LIR'S MOM

In Permet there are no good jeans. When your father comes over to Tirana, we will purchase some.

LIR (V.O.)

I wanted to go up to Anna wearing something stylish. On New Year's Eve, I wished for her to be mine. When would the days pass so that I could see her again?

END

FADE TO BLACK.