

TM

FRESHMEN

**ISSUE #1
SCRIPT**

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PAGE 1

PANEL 1 - INT. CAR - DAY

Six small panels, all with the same basic image. Close on the passenger side of a car, stopped at a curb. Annalee Rogers, soon to be The Puppeteer, nervously looks out of the open window, gazing at something large and intimidating. Her mother, in the drivers' seat, peers over as well.

1 TOP CAPTION

Wednesday, August 24. A day I'd been eagerly awaiting my entire life.

2 MOTHER

It's going to be okay, Annalee. Your first day of college is always--

3 ANNALEE

I know.

4 MOTHER

And don't drink too much.

PANEL 2 - SAME AS 1

Annalee looks down, sadly.

5 ANNALEE

So... when I get back. Dad won't be there?

PANEL 3 - SAME AS 1

Annalee looks down again.

6-7 MOTHER

This is just... how things happen sometimes.

And don't be a slut, Annalee. Sluts destroy families. Like your father's secre-bitch. Wendy.

PANEL 4 - SAME AS 1

Annalee looks away from her mother, down at the curb.

8 ANNALEE

Will you be alright, mother?

9 MOTHER

Yes. Why wouldn't I be?

PANEL 5 - SAME AS 1

Annalee looks at her mother, who wears a fake, plastic smile.

PANEL 6 - SAME AS 1

Annalee, troubled-looking, opens the door of the car.

PANEL 7

A larger panel, probably the bottom-half of the page, of Annalee standing alone, nervously looking up. A computer bag over one arm, backpack over another, and two suitcases behind her. Mother's car has just pulled off. From this wider perspective, we see other students being dropped off and approaching.

10 CAPTION

I remember wondering why people act so much, why pretenses are so important. Why she couldn't just open up to me.

11 CAPTION

I remember wishing I could get inside people's heads.

12 CAPTION

I guess the old cliché is true: Be careful what you wish for. You just might get it.

EXT. FREESE COURTYARD - DAY

SPLASH PAGE - Reverse angle on Annalee as she takes her first step toward college. Other kids are excitedly approaching. Some are playing hackey sack, some are reading under trees. Among them: Charles Levy, a Felix Unger/bleeding heart vegan-type we'll come to know as Green Thumb

A giant sign on the administrative building's entrance says "Welcome Freshmen! D.W. Freese College Welcomes our Next Generation!" Next to the text: A painted logo of the school mascot, a beaver wearing a crimson-and-gold FREESE sweater, waving goofily.

There's a long line of kids leading to a table designated as "Dorm Assignments." Most of the kids are heading in that direction. In front of Annalee, there's a horse and buggy, with a heavy Amish kid (Liam) getting off the carriage, saying goodbye to his Mom and Dad. Near the end of the line, Brady, a thuggish tough guy, has pulled up on his motorcycle, with Renee, trashy/sexy Jersey girl, getting off the back.

1 CAPTION

I just watched them for a couple minutes-- every creed, every color, and wondered where I'd fit in. Didn't seem like anyone else was nervous.

2 CAPTION

There are a lot of first steps you have to take in life, and I guess you never know exactly where they're going to lead.

3 CAPTION

This, for example, was my first step toward becoming a superhero.

TITLE BOX:

"SUPERHERO BASICS 101: INTRODUCTION TO SUPER POWERS"

PAGE 3

PANEL 1 - EXT. FREESE CAMPUS - DAY

Annalee walks past Liam on her left. Liam is hugging his mother. She watches, smiling.

1 LIAM'S MOTHER

Promise me you won't lose yourself, boy.
Won't forget your values. You'll keep reading the
Book.

2 LIAM

I promise, mom.

PANEL 2

Annalee walks past Jacques on her right. He's an exceptionally good-looking Frenchman with open shirt and perfect hair. He winks at her. She scowls at him.

PANEL 3

Annalee walks past Renee and Brady on her left. They're deep kissing. She has reached the back of the line, tries not to stare.

PANEL 4 - CLOSER ON RENEE AND BRADY

They break their kiss and Brady spits with disgust.

3 BRADY

Damn, woman, you taste like cigarettes!

4 RENEE

You taste like an idiot.

5 BRADY

You come to school lookin' like a cheap ho and I'm
the idiot?

PAGE 4

PANEL 1 - MEDIUM SHOT OF ANNALEE AT THE BACK OF THE LINE

She's trying not to pay attention to the fighting. We might notice Elwood (soon to be the Intoxicator) in front of her in line, with a tie, thick glasses and hair slicked back. A virgin in every sense of the word.

Behind her, Renee and Brady are yelling at each other, and the entire background and part of their bodies are squeezed out by word balloons. Some on top of each other, some bursting.

1 RENEE

Let's see, who's the idiot--

2 BRADY

-- can't believe I'd even sweat such a slut--

3 RENEE

Who got the clap from Amy on Prom Night?

4 BRADY

Who banged Kevin while two of his friends watched?

5 RENEE

Who tried to text Caroleigh from my computer--

6 BRADY

Don't know why you even bother putting clothes on. You take them off so fast, you'd think they were on fire--

7 RENEE

Get back on your piece of ~~shit~~ crotch rocket, since your real one barely works--

8 BRADY

Pearl necklace is something you buy in the store, baby--

9 RENEE
Limp, impotent, thumb-sized,
two-pump chump--

10 BRADY
Trashy, skanky, fat--

PANEL 2 - CLOSE-UP OF RENEE

With her fist clenched and her lips snarling:

11 RENEE
Fat...?

PANEL 3

Everyone in line watches as Renee socks Brady, laying him out. Liam has reached the back of the line.

PANEL 4 - MEDIUM SHOT

The last 15 or so kids in line, including our entire cast, look backward at Renee in shock. She happily dusts her hands off.

This panel has an opportunity to establish some of the less-important side characters, like the kids who will become Long Dong (mulletted Ray), and Post-It (goofy, stoner-type Jimmy). There's also another kid I'd really like to include, a dark, shaggy-haired loner who will ultimately become an important character in the sequel series. We should talk this through after some character designs.

The pompous administrator approaches in the background.

12 ADMINISTRATOR
Excuse me, ladies and gentlemen.

PANEL 5 - REVERSE ANGLE OF 4

The last 15 or so kids in line, including our entire cast, look forward in shock, as the administrator says:

13-15 ADMINISTRATOR
As a full 1/3 of our freshmen class is expected to fail or drop out, we routinely overbook our living facilities. We have concluded our dormitory registration process, and the rest of you are what we consider overflow.

Until placements are available, we will do our best to accommodate you in the science facility.

Please understand this is a trying time for all.

PANEL 1 - EXT. BOUGHL SCIENCE BUILDING - ESTABLISHING

The large, ultra-modern science building at the center of the Freese Campus. A sign on it should read BOUGHL SCIENCE BUILDING.

1 CAPTION

Boy, they know how to take your dignity away at college. Real quick.

PANEL 2 - INT. SCIENCE CLASSROOM / GIRLS' DORM

An establishing shot of the girls' room, widescreen, with Annalee in the center, lying on her cot, writing in her diary.

A converted classroom, with folded tables off to one side and very cheesy temporary furniture supplied for the girls. There are five cots spread as far from each other as possible.

2 CAPTION

We were stuffed into a classroom in the science building. Five girls in one room. And we all might as well be from different universes.

PANEL 3 - ON PAULA (THE SEDUCTRESS)

She's arranging candles on a table next to her bed. Several posters and cut-outs of male idols are above her bed, along with dozens of pictures cut into hearts, or connected by plus signs. Her hair is in pigtails.

3 CAPTION

Paula Pophouse, from New Hampshire, defines the fan base of Us Magazine: She lives for soapy, lovestruck gossip. Didn't exactly win the genetics lottery, though. I think the bubblyness masks a very troubled girl.

PANEL 4 - ON RENEE (PULLER)

Renee, who we saw earlier arguing with Brady (they'll be the Drama Twins, she'll be Puller), is teasing her hair in a tacky mirror she must have put up. Every outfit she wears is more tight and revealing, and she's always decked out in flashy jewelry.

4 CAPTION

Renee Bellochio, a Jersey Girl through and through, complete with teased hair and mad bling. Yup, I just

wrote "mad bling." She nodded to me when she walked in. That must pass for validation in skankville.

PANEL 5 - ON CACOPHONY

Cacophony, who isn't a main character, sits on her cot with thick headphones and a keyboard. She's a goth, her hair shaved on the sides and dyed black and purple. Always glaring, and "Hello," "Awesome," "Good job" and "Fuck you" are all conveyed by the devil horns sign, which she's giving right now.

5 CAPTION

Then there's "Cacophony," or so she calls herself, who sits in the corner and glares. And I mean glares. She should be in the glaring Olympics. Who can she hate that much?

6 CAPTION

One girl hasn't arrived yet. I already like her best.

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PANEL 1 - INT. BOYS' DORM

Another widescreen panel establishing the room. Annalee peeks in through the doorway, looking around at the guys, who are much more social.

1 CAPTION

Figures the boys are already making friends.

PANEL 2 - ON LIAM (QUAKER)

Liam, the Amish boy we saw earlier (soon to be Quaker), has unpacked his extremely utilitarian belongings and is currently admiring the light switch.

2 LIAM

Ingenious! A device to turn the light on and off!

3 CAPTION

Liam Adams just got off the boat from Amish country. I thought Amish people weren't fat, though.

(Note for color: It'd be funny if each of the following panels alternated lights on, lights off.)

PANEL 3 - ON JACQUES (THE SQUIRREL)

Jacques (soon to be the Squirrel), the good-looking French student we saw earlier, is sitting on his cot, filing his nails. His bed is made with silk sheets, he has candles on his night table.

He's having a conversation with Norrin in the next panel.

4 CAPTION

Jacques Lalleaux, the exchange student who has graced our campus with his majesty. Good-looking, suave and emotionally unavailable. Every girl's nightmare.

5 JACQUES

I bedded zee stewardess twice on zee flight. Once on zee kitchenette, and once on zee toilet. I found her... unimaginative.

6 NORRIN

So... uhm... what did you say to her? To get her to... y'know...?

PANEL 4 - ON NORRIN (WANNABE)

Norrin, (soon to be Wannabe), arranges comic book posters, busts and action figures around his area. He has a distinct long white box of important issues under his cot.

7 CAPTION

Kenneth Weismeyer, or so it reads on the card on the door. Really weird kid. He calls himself "Norrin." If you're going to change your name, why the heck would you pick that? Plus, I keep seeing him, like, watching me.

8 JACQUES

I told her she 'ad beautiful eyes and skin of thick cream.

9 NORRIN

Wow.

10 JACQUES

I offered to make 'er feel like a woman. A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, with no regrets. A memory in the making.

11 NORRIN

Shazam.

PAGE 7

PANEL 1

Charles Levy (The Green Thumb) is watering his Ficus tree. He has Greenpeace and PETA posters on the wall, and pictures of him at various protests.

1 CAPTION

Charles Levy, die-hard vegan, is only truly alive when he's martyring himself. This guy lives to protest. A ticking bomb in any conversation. Tons of fun.

2 CHARLES

(whispering)

Yes, that's my beautiful girl. That's my lovely, life-giving sweetheart.

3 CAPTION

Oh, and he calls his Ficus tree Susie.

4 CHARLES

I've done four protests in Washington this year. Two for the environment, one for federal funding for organic farms. The best one was against WTO.

PANEL 2

Elwood Johns (The Intoxicator) arranges his iMac perfectly through his thick glasses. He has pouches on the wall for his calculator, compass, writing utilities and books-- a pocket protector for the wall. A periodic table poster. This guy is a Bill Gates-style nerd, but we won't know him that way very long.

5 CAPTION

Elwood Johns, who couldn't get out of his own way if he had a road map. How can you not see that you're playing the role of prototypical nerd? Good lord, buddy, hit the mall once in a while, if only just to make your own life easier.

6 ELWOOD

Very interesting. Is there any economic impact to your work? Is there a viable industry to support you?

7 CAPTION

There's another room of boys, but I haven't met most of them yet. A total of 14 of us in the science building.

Not counting Renee's idiot boyfriend Brady, who isn't even enrolled.

PANEL 3 - BOUGHL SCIENCE BUILDING HALLWAY

Annalee turns to leave, but Norrin has seen her. He pursues out of the dorm/classroom. Another kid (Ray, the mulleted side character we'll come to know as Long Dong) carries his suitcase past.

8 NORRIN

Hey!

PANEL 4

Annalee turns with a faint smile.

9 NORRIN

I'm, uhm, Norrin.

10 ANNALEE

Yup, we met.

11 NORRIN

I, uhm, saw you walking by.

12 ANNALEE

Yup. Just... looking around.

13 NORRIN

Cool.

PANEL 5

Annalee looks bored and uncomfortable. Norrin is getting sweaty pits. He's completely in love with her and has no idea what to say. She's looking up in the air, he's looking down.

14 NORRIN

So... uhm...

In the background, that dark kid with long, shaggy hair walks past. He'll be important in the second series, and it'll be very cool to look back later and establish that he was in the building and nobody noticed him.

Behind him, Brady approaches.

PANEL 6

Brady looks them over. Both still very uncomfortable.

15 BRADY

She's too much woman for you, son.

16 CAPTION

Summarized just so eloquently.

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PANEL 1 - EXT CAMPUS MEETING

Annalee, Paula, Charles, Norrin and Elwood sit on the lawn. A sophomore in a FREESE sweatshirt on a small stage in front of them speaks on a microphone. In the background, you might see a cute little beaver in a custom-made school sweatshirt. He'll be important later.

Our group is surrounded by other students, it's an orientation type thing. Joining our kids but not paying any attention, Brady and Renee are making out intensely.

1 CAPTION

College started just how I'd expected. Lots of orientations and rah-rah speeches.

2 STUDENT ON MIC

... in the spirit of political correctness, we'd like to welcome our freshperson class this year...

PANEL 2 - INT. DINING HALL SERVING AREA

From the servers' POV, Annalee, Paula, Liam and Elwood are in line at the buffet dining hall. They're petrified by the food in front of them. Charles looks like he's about to cry.

3 CAPTION

Lots of disgusting meals at the dining hall.

4 CHARLES

You slaughter animals for food... and turn them into that? If pigs killed and roasted you, wouldn't you hope you'd at least have some ~~fucking~~ flavor?

5 ANNALEE

That's... a really bizarre question.

6 LIAM

The drinks come out of this machine? Amazing!

Behind them, Brady and Renee are screaming at each other toe-to-toe. The entire background is full of word balloons, some even cutting off Brady and Renee, so it looks like they're drowning. Many of the balloons just have random curses, which can be safely hidden by overlapping balloons.

7 BRADY

Wait, I forget, which one of us failed gym three years in a row?

8 RENEE

The one that didn't cry over dropping his science project down the stairs--

9 BRADY

Not the one that blew the shop teacher for a good grade?

10 RENEE

-- at least I'm good at something, not like you could even find my--

11 BRADY

-- you'll fail out too, unless you declare your major in sucking--

12 RENEE

You couldn't even get into the school that gives scholarships to 'tards!

PANEL 3 - INT. DINING HALL MESS AREA

Our kids suffer uncomfortable conversation as Brady and Renee make out. Brady's hands are in mysterious places. Annalee watches them with intense discomfort.

13 CAPTION

Lots of uncomfortable, get-to-know-each-other conversations.

14 CHARLES

Do you know how long red meat stays in your digestive tract?

15 ELWOOD

Have any of you read any Warren Buffet?

16 NORRIN

Anyone heard of The Tick?

Liam is fiddling with the napkin dispenser.

17 LIAM
(whispering)
How nifty!

PANEL 4 - INT. BOYS' DORM ROOM

Charles stands before a tray of wheat grass, tossing some freshly-cut grass into a blender. He still has the scissors in his other hand. Annalee, Paula and Liam are listening.

18 CAPTION
Self-query: College kids take themselves waaaay too seriously. Do I do that too?

19 CHARLES
Not only does this boost your energy and your immune system, but it's easy to organically grow yourself...

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PANEL 1 - INT. PSYCHOLOGY LECTURE HALL - DAY

We're behind Annalee as she sits in a stadium-style classroom, taking notes. A Psychology professor has written on the board: Dime-store psychology, armchair quarterback syndrome, amateur psychotherapy.

1 CAPTION

I was impressed with the college workload compared to high school. There's clearly a lot more responsibility demanded of us, and far less room for excuses. No challenging subjects just yet, but they were handholding the freshmen and I couldn't blame them.

PANEL 2

Annalee watches as Jacques, a row below her, leans in to a cute blond girl, smiling charmingly. Clearly hitting on her.

2 CAPTION

I really couldn't blame them.

A balled-up piece of paper hits Annalee on the head.

PANEL 3

Annalee, holding the ball, angrily looks across the room at a cute Frat Guy, Rob. His baseball cap is on sideways, and it, along with every damn piece of clothing he ever wears, bears the Alpha Chi Rho logo (AXP). His smile is disarming.

PANEL 4 - CLOSE-UP ON THE UNCRUNCHED PAPER BALL

It's a xeroxed invitation for a party:

TONIGHT! ALPHA CHI RHO'S ANNUAL WELCOMING OF THE FRESHMEN CLASS! MORE THAN A PLEDGE DRIVE! MORE THAN A REASON TO GET SMASHED! THE PARTY TO SET THE STANDARD FOR THE SEMESTER!

LADIES GET IN FREE!

Rob has hand-written on the top: "Hey, my name is Rob."

And on the bottom: "I'd love to see you there. Bring as many friends as you can, but save a few minutes to talk to me."

PANEL 5 - SMALL PANEL ON ANNALEE'S SURPRISED FACE

3 CAPTION

Okay. I'd really like to tell you that I was disgusted by this childish display and insulted by the chauvinistic invitation.

4 CAPTION

But... dammit.

5 CAPTION

That boy was cute.

PANEL 1 - INT. GIRLS' DORM - NIGHT

Annalee studies under a lamp. Big open textbook, spiral notebook. A pencil in her hand, tapping it on the page.

1 CAPTION

Annnnd cue the loss of my dignity...

PANEL 2 - OVER THE SHOULDER SHOT

Annalee has written one sentence: "How stress affects physiological processes." In the top margin, left margin, and consuming the bottom of the page she has written "Rob" in various fonts, some extremely elaborate.

2 TOP CAPTION

... right now.

3 PAULA (O.S.)

Who's Rob?

PANEL 3 - TWO-SHOT

Paula, in sweats and her retainer, slides in next to Annalee, who has her head in her hand.

4 ANNALEE

He's nobody.

5 PAULA

Does he know you love him?

6 ANNALEE

I don't "love him."

7 PAULA

Pssh-- Don't be a pooper. It's such a wonderful feeling, why not enjoy it?

PANEL 4 - ON PAULA

Paula is all smiles. Holding her hands together with glee.

8 ANNALEE

It's going to distract me.

9 PAULA

Distract you? From what!

10 ANNALEE
From life. Studies. Schoolwork.

PANEL 5 - ON ANNALEE

Annalee looks up with deadpan disgust.

11-12 PAULA
This is life!

Annalee, romance is what makes the heart beat. It's what everyone secretly wants-- more than anything.

13 ANNALEE
What-- would you-- I just--

PANEL 6 - TWO SHOT

Annalee in protest, Paula determined.

14 PAULA
Name one thing in the world you want right now more than, say, talking to Rob.

15 ANNALEE
That's-- I-- huh?

16 PAULA
And then tell me why you weren't doodling about it in your notebook.

PANEL 7 - ON ANNALEE

Dazed, like she just lost a fight that started with an ambush.

17-18 ANNALEE
Do you wanna go to a party?

Come on, let's get everybody. We're going to a party.

19 CAPTION
Thus began a series of events that would change us forever.

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PANEL 1 - EXT. ALPHA CHI RHO FRAT HOUSE

A stand-alone house surrounded by woods, typically adorned with an AXP banner. "Welcome Freshmen" is spray-painted on a banner that's been draped across the top balcony.

Annalee and Paula approach, followed by Elwood, Jacques and Norrin. Ten kids are lined up outside, holding swords at an angle to allow guests to walk under them, military-style.

PANEL 2

Annalee leads the group underneath the swords. As she emerges, Rob greets her.

1 ROB

You made it!

2 ANNALEE

We did. What is this?

3 ROB

Our sophomore pledge class. They're vying for a spot in the frat.

PANEL 3 - CLOSE-UP ON ROB

With a cocky glare, hinting at evil intent.

4 ROB

Men, you have your mission.

PANEL 4

The pledges spin, with their swords under their arms. All of them yell:

5 PLEDGES

Sir, yes sir!

PANEL 5

As the pledges disburse, our group watches them with some level of discomfort. Rob takes Annalee's hand.

6 ROB

Let me show you around.

PANEL 1

Our kids mingle in a giant crowded room with an even more full balcony overhead. Each kid is looking in a different direction, each in awe of the college party: Students joking, dancing, smoking, making out. There's a keg off to one side and a full bar on the other. At the front of the group, Rob has led Annalee to a quiet corner.

1 ROB

So what's your name?

2 ANNALEE

Annalee.

PANEL 2 - TIGHT ON ROB AND ANNALEE

Other kids are bumping into them, it's very crowded.

3 ROB

You're really hot.

4 ANNALEE

Uhm... thanks.

5 ROB

What's your major?

6 ANNALEE

Psychology.

7 ROB

You like to get into other people's heads, huh?

PANEL 3

Right next to them, a couple is making out furiously. Annalee watches with discomfort.

8 ANNALEE

Sort of.

9 ROB

Can I get you a drink?

10 ANNALEE

Sure.

PANEL 4 - LARGE PANEL

Rob heads off, and we're getting the party in first-person view from Annalee's perspective.

11 CAPTION

I remember thinking to myself... this is a college party? I thought there'd be challenging intellectual conversations... political debates, ideological sparring. I thought there'd be chips, at least.

12 CAPTION

I think Rob likes me.

13 CAPTION

This is just a bunch of high school kids with more alcohol and more freedom. They can't quite formulate their own plans yet, their own codes, so they join these idiotic fraternities.

14 CAPTION

He's gotta like me, right? He said I'm cute. No, pretty. He said I'm pretty. What's that, though? Is that what you say to a horse?

15 CAPTION

Everyone's just so afraid to think for themselves.

A balloon leading off-panel:

16 NORRIN

Hello.

PANEL 1 - INT. FRAT PARTY

A nervous Norrin has swooped in on Annalee while she was alone. He's wearing a black T-shirt with yellow text that reads: "June 23." He nervously shakes Annalee's hand.

1 NORRIN

Remember me?

2 ANNALEE

Uhm... yes. We came in the same car.

3 NORRIN

Right. Of course.

4 ANNALEE

And we talked yesterday. And went to lunch twice last week.

5 NORRIN

I know, silly me.

PANEL 2

They're both silent. Norrin guzzles his drink, trying to become brave.

6 CAPTION

I saw the lightbulb over his head as he guzzled that beer, trying to find bravery in the bottom of the cup.

7 CAPTION

I knew the horror was about to begin, but there was nothing I could do to stop it.

PANEL 3

Norrin tries to don a look of seduction. Mostly by squinting and crooking his lips.

8 NORRIN

You have beautiful eyes, and-- uhm, and skin of thick cream.

9 ANNALEE

Oh... God.

10 NORRIN

I just... I'd like to make you feel like a real woman. A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity... with no regrets--

11 ANNALEE

Oh God.

PANEL 4

From across the room, Jacques watches as the horror unfolds. Annalee has her hand across her mouth.

Paula is looking at Jacques. Smiling, a bit lovelorn.

12 PAULA

Uhm... hi. I'm, uhm, Paula. I think we both live in the science building.

PANEL 5

Jacques squints at her.

13 JACQUES

My dear silly mademoiselle, you are not attractive enough for me to talk to.

PANEL 6

Paula watches him leave. She has a hint of a smile on her frozen face, like she doesn't want anyone to see her dying inside.

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PANEL 1 - BACK WITH NORRIN AND ANNALEE

As Rob returns, with a drink in each hand. Annalee and Norrin both look sick. Rob is looking at Annalee.

1 ROB

Uhm... hi.

PANEL 2 - THE SAME

Rob is looking at Norrin.

PANEL 3 - THE SAME

Rob is looking at Annalee.

2 ROB

Everything okay?

3 NORRIN

Bye.

PANEL 4 - CLOSE ON ANNALEE

She's not just embarrassed, she feels very sorry for Norrin as she watches him bolt through the crowd. Rob is holding the drink up to her face.

4 ROB

Still want that drink?

5 ANNALEE

Oh... man.

6 FRAT GUY (O.S.)

(yelling)

Ladies and gentlemen!

PANEL 5 - LARGE PANEL

Annalee and Rob, along with the rest of the party, look upward. Some of the sophomore pledges are holding Ray (mulletted side character who becomes Long Dong), by his legs, over the balcony. Others are gathered around, laughing their asses off.

Ray's pants are off. We can digitally scramble his crotch like they do on the Real World, or carefully draw a light fixture so it's in the way. He's been gagged with tape, his mullet is hanging upside down.

7 ASSHOLE PLEDGE

This year's pledge class of Alpha Chi Rho would like to cordially dismiss the freshmen from our party so it can truly begin.

8 PRICK PLEDGE

Thank you very much for attending our bash, we can't blame you for wishing we'd welcome you to our home.

9 ASSHOLE PLEDGE

But, face it, we're not that nice.

10 COCKSUCKER PLEDGE

We'll see you next year, and, in the meantime, no hard feelings.

SFX (coming from everywhere): HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAH

11 FRAT GUY (O.S.)

Wow, that guy is short stacked!

PANEL 1 - INT. GIRLS' DORM ROOM

Annalee writes in her diary. As if a memory, a closer image of Ray's face, gagged, humiliated, dangling upside down with veins in his temples bulging, dominates the background.

1 CAPTION

They humiliated him. Ruined him.

2 CAPTION

Assaulted his pride in a way that will probably affect him every day of his life. Corrode his self-image. Maybe lead to deep-seeded rage and distrust.

PANEL 2 - ANOTHER ANGLE OF THE ROOM.

Revealing that it's been vandalized. "Welcome freshpersons" and "Welcome freshpeeps" has been spray painted across the walls, with no care for their posters, pictures, calendars, etc. A gigantic ice cream sundae, made right on the floor, sits in the middle of the room, melting.

3 CAPTION

They vandalized our room. Spray painted the walls, over our pictures. Put whipped cream on our beds. Peanut butter on our clothes. Ice cream on the floor.

Paula is going for the closet. Cacophony is sitting on her bed, glaring at the ceiling, listening to her iPod.

PANEL 3

Paula, on the opposite side of the room, opens the closet door. The school mascot, the Beaver in the school sweater, leaps out at her and she screams!

4 CAPTION

Demoralizing us. To our souls. And why?

PANEL 4

Another close-up of Annalee. Over her shoulder, a memory of the party. Her furiously looking at Rob.

5 ROB

(whisper)
I'm sorry.

6 CAPTION

Casual cruelty.

PANEL 5

Paula sits down on her bed, crying. Annalee watches sadly.

7 CAPTION

How could someone do such a thing... what was going on inside their heads?

8 PAULA

(whispering)

Nobody will ever love me.

9 CAPTION

That was the last thing I remember thinking... "What was going on inside their heads?"

10 CAPTION

And then it happened.

PANEL 1 - INT. GUYS' DORM ROOM

Liam (Quaker) sits on his bed, rubbing his belly.

1 CAPTION

A split-second in time. A moment which, under normal circumstances, you'd likely never pay a second thought.

PANEL 2

Liam, across the room, watches as, in the foreground, Elwood (Intoxicator) sits with a beer in his hand. Jacques (The Squirrel) is next to him, smiling.

2 CAPTION

Passing through the rites of adolescence.

3 ELWOOD

Geez... I've never had a beer before.

PANEL 3

Norrin sits on his bed, head in his hands. Miserable.

4 CAPTION

Dealing with rejection.

5-6 NORRIN

Anybody hungry?

I'm going to get a pizza.

PANEL 4

Charles (Green Thumb) waters his plants with a spritz bottle. He leans in, whispering to them.

7 CAPTION

Clinging to familiarity.

8 CHARLES

(whispering)

Yes, you'll grow big and strong, baby. You're safe with me, Susie, I'll always love you.

In the background, note that Jacques has moved toward the window.

9 JACQUES

Cold in 'ere...?

PANEL 5

In the closet, lit only by a sliver of light, Brady and Renee (The Drama Twins, Pusher and Puller) are having sex.

10 CAPTION

Afraid to let go.

11 RENEE

(whispering)

Oh, baby...

PANEL 6

Another kid, Jimmy, who we've only seen in the background, runs in with 600 post-it notes covering his entire body. He has victorious arms in the air. The guys look at him, perplexed and amused. Jacques, by the way, has reached the open window.

12 CAPTION

Trying to fit in.

13 JIMMY

Yes! I did it! All 600 post-its!

14 CAPTION

About to be thrust into adulthood.

PANEL 7 - IN THE OTHER BOYS' ROOM

This is the other guys' room, which houses Ray, Jimmy and the introverted kid we saw earlier, who will become a villain. A wide shot to make it clear that Ray is all by himself, sitting on his bed. Emotionally devastated.

15 CAPTION

Ready or not.

PAGES 17 & 18

DOUBLE-PAGE SPREAD

The energy explosion that gives the kids their super powers has gone off, and appears to be emanating from the bottom center of the two-page spread. The explosion should somehow resemble the shape of the Ax-Cell-Erator symbol, which is something we'll see in the next couple issues, but is important to establish because we'll see it sometimes when some of the kids use their powers. I figure the symbol should be some variation on the icon for an atom, but I'm open to suggestion.

Waves of bursting energy make up the panels.

Among the panels, in no particular order:

- Brady and Renee, in silhouette, riding out the ecstasy
- Paula with her hands in her head, tears in her eyes
- Charles whispering to the plants
- A perspective of Ray holding a ruler up to his crotch. The ruler is right in front of the our viewpoint, and he's squinting, so we get a sense of what he's doing: Measuring the ol' shlong. Come on... you know you've done it at some point in your life.
- Liam rubbing his belly. Post-It is in the background, still psyched about all those damn post-its.
- Elwood guzzling beer
- Jacques, surprised and terrified at the windowsill by a squirrel that watches him from a tree branch just outside.
- Annalee, pencil to her lips, deep in thought.

SOLO PANEL – BOTTOM RIGHT CORNER

Alone by itself, in the corner, a panel that's unique in that it's not created by the static shows Norrin alone in a corner in the pizza shop, chewing on a slice and reading a comic book.

PANEL 1 - EXT. BOUGHL SCIENCE BUILDING - MORNING

An establishing shot of the Boughl Science Building in crisp daylight.

1 CAPTION

It was the strangest of mornings for all of us. The first morning, in so many ways.

PANEL 2

Charles stirs from sleep. He has drool on the side of his face.

PANEL 3

Charles sits up and looks around. Everyone is passed out, right where they were when the energy field went off.

Susie, the Ficus tree next to his bed says:

2 SUSIE

(green balloon)

Good morning, my love.

(Note: All plant dialogue should be in green balloons. Only Charles/Green Thumb can hear it.)

PANEL 4

Charles has stood up. This is a shot of him scratching his head in confusion. Everyone else is sleeping.

3-4 CHARLES

Good morning...?

Er... did someone just say good morning?

PANEL 5

Charles tosses things in his blender. His tray of wheat grass sits in the foreground of the shot, next to the scissors. There are zillions of voice balloons, many overlapping, each leading to a blade of grass:

5 WHEAT GRASS

(green balloons; whispering)

... oh no / oh no / he's going to cut us / someone do something / Uncle! Uncle! / Goodbye cruel world!

PANEL 6

Charles, holding his scissors, looks down at the Wheat Grass tray, shocked. Again, millions of stems from the word balloons:

6 WHEAT GRASS
(green balloon)
Don't cut us!

7 CHARLES
Wh-what? Did-- what?

8 WHEAT GRASS
(green balloon)
Don't cut us, you sonofabitch!

9 CHARLES
Hoooo... boy.

10 WHEAT GRASS
(green balloon)
Put the scissors down, motherfucker!

Long panels frame either side of the page.

PANEL 1 - LONG LEFT SIDE PANEL

Worm's-eye view of Jacques. He's outside, near a tree. The POV is focused near an ACORN before him. He's looking down at it, crazed, as if it's the holy grail. But a part of him is also terrified and perplexed. If there's a face of crazy, here it is.

PANEL 2 - INT. BOUGHL SCIENCE BUILDING BATHROOM

Liam comes in with his bathroom kit, wearing just flip-flops and a towel. In the toilet stall, he sees Elwood hurling.

1 LIAM
Elwood? Are you okay?

PANEL 3

Elwood falls backward, looking upside-down at Liam.

2 ELWOOD
No. I think I'm still drunk.

3 LIAM
Perhaps you should not have consumed so much alcohol.

4-6 ELWOOD
Ya think?

Ohhh...

I'm never drinking again.

7 LIAM
Somehow I doubt that.

PANEL 4

Elwood BURPS at Liam. But it's not just a regular burp, it's a super-powered Intoxicator burp that will allow him to share his sickness with his foe. A toxic cloud emanates from his mouth.

PANEL 5

Liam, the toxic cloud dissipating around his head, holds his hand to his mouth and goes bug-eyed. He's become sick instantly.

8 LIAM

Oh... no...

PANEL 6

Liam blows chunks into the sink. It splashes up.

Sfx: HURRRRRR!

PANEL 7 - LONG RIGHT SIDE PANEL

Ray is in the shower. Steam and bubbles cover up his nether regions, but he's looking down at his own crotch in complete awe.

9-11 RAY

Oh.

My.

God.

PANEL 1 - INT. GIRLS' ROOM - MORNING

Annalee holds her pillow tightly. She's awake, but hasn't gotten out of bed.

1 CAPTION

Y'know, reading these past few days back over, I kind of feel like I have to remind myself of something.

2 CAPTION

It's not that I have some sort of superiority complex. I'm not judging these people, not feeling better than them. I'm just genuinely trying to understand them.

3 CAPTION

I don't know... maybe it's a self-defense mechanism.

4 CAPTION

Maybe sometimes I treat people more like test subjects than... people.

PANEL 2 - ANNALEE'S POV

Paula brushing her hair in the mirror. Smiling and singing.

5 PAULA

(singing)

I'm walking on sunshine-- woo-hoo! Walkin' on sunshine- woo-woo, and it's time to feel good!

6 CAPTION

But last night she's crying her eyes out. This morning she's singing. So what is this? Denial? Should I let her go on this way? Should I try to talk her through her issues? Is she even aware of them?

PANEL 3 - ON ANNALEE

Annalee has sat up in her cot. Her eyes glow with what will be the signature of her using her powers. The Ax-Cell-Erator symbol is visible in her eyes.

7 CAPTION

What's going on inside her head?

PANEL 4 - ANNALEE'S POV INSIDE PAULA

Looking at her hands. The dresser in the background.

8 CAPTION

It's almost dreamlike, there's a thickness to it that makes it feel like you're drunk, or confused... a stranger inside your own body.

9 CAPTION

Except it's not your body.

PANEL 5 - LARGE PANEL

Paula looks in the mirror in astonishment. A vague outline of Annalee surrounds her, mostly just to convey to the reader what's going on. This is one method I've considered, but I've also thought about just using the eye effect on Annalee's victim. That may be a bit cliché. I'd like to consider a few different methods for showing this power, very open to suggestion.

In the mirror, behind Paula's left, we see Annalee's body, passed out on the floor in front of her cot. On the right, Renee and Brady have sat up in bed together. They're looking at Annalee's body, sensing that something is wrong.

10 LEFT CAPTION

It only lasts a minute or two, then I seem to need time to recharge. And it only works with eye contact.

11 LEFT CAPTION

I can move around, talk, jump-- anything their body is capable of doing. But if I injure them, the wounds appear on my body as well.

12 LEFT CAPTION

Speaking of which, my body is defenseless, catatonic. Like I've left the building. It's eerie, seeing myself from the outside. I look fat.

13 RIGHT CAPTION

I'm a visitor in their minds, so it's like being dropped into a new kitchen for the first time-- you have to look around to find stuff.

14 RIGHT CAPTION

And, of course, you get the discomfoting sensation that you're rifling through other people's things.

15 RIGHT CAPTION

But, ultimately, it's all there. Even if it's suppressed, even if it's forgotten, even if they wish it not to be true. It's there.

16 RIGHT CAPTION

And it's mine for the taking.

17 THE BEAVER (O.S.)

How peculiar...

PANEL 1 - SPLASH PANEL

In a panel taking up almost the entire page, Brady, Renee and Paula (possessed by Annalee) turn in shock to see the Beaver, who is standing in the middle of the room, his finger in the air as if to prove a pompous point. His giant tail is in the air, dignified to the very end. Imagine that he sounds very much like John Cleese playing Anthony Hopkins in Remains of the Day.

1-2 THE BEAVER

... I daresay we've all gone through a bit of a change over the course of the evening.

Perhaps we ought to gather for a dialogue concerning these events, and then proceed to investigate further.

At the bottom, a series of three panels, each pulling further back from Boughl Science Building.

PANEL 2

A medium shot of Boughl Science Building. Kids toss Frisbees outside.

PANEL 3

More distant. Now we're over the shoulder of someone watching. Watching through binoculars.

PANEL 4

Now more distant. The frat guys are watching, recognizable by their AXP jackets. More than a dozen of them. We can't see any of their eyes, since they're all watching through binoculars.

They're surrounding the place.

TEXT BOX:

NEXT ISSUE: COSTUMES!