

RIVER

July 29th "locked" draft

Story by

Mark Wihak
Maya Batten-Young
Adam Budd

1 INT. OFFICE - NIGHT 1

In the foreground, a MAN clears papers off a desk and puts them in a briefcase. He exits past the camera. In the background, the sound of a vacuum cleaner gets louder.

ROZ enters frame pushing the vacuum cleaner.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Roz cleans the mirrors.

INT. OFFICE - NIGHT

Roz takes a picture with a digital camera. She hooks the camera up to an office printer and prints the photo.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

Roz has changed. She stuffs her work clothes into a locker.

2 EXT. OFFICE - NIGHT 2

Through a window, we watch Roz turn off the lights.

3 INT. WESTERN PIZZA - NIGHT 3

Roz sits at a back booth, writing in her notebook.

STAN enters and sits at another booth. He pulls out a notebook and begins to write.

Roz and Stan look at each other, then return to their writing.

4 INT. ROZ'S PLACE - NIGHT 4

Roz returns home. It's a small basement bachelor, a little bit messy.

She pins the photo she printed to a wall of similar photographs. It's a grid photo of the office she cleans. It's 3/4 finished, she's told herself she'll quit by the time it's done.

Roz pulls on some headphones and hits play on her boombox. She lights a joint. Roz sits at a desk drawing.

5 INT. ROZ'S PLACE - DAWN 5

Dawn is in the sky. Roz goes to bed.

6 EXT. STREET - DAY 6

Roz wanders through the city, taking photographs of things she encounters.

A piece of paper flapping on a telephone pole catches her attention. It's a poem. She pulls out her camera and takes a picture of it.

7 INT. OFFICE - NIGHT 7

Roz vacuums.

Roz takes a picture. Roz prints a picture.

8 INT. WESTERN PIZZA - NIGHT 8

Roz sits at her table, writing.

Stan comes in. He sees Roz. He gets a coffee and goes to sit at his table.

After a moment he gets up and sits down at Roz's table. He puts his watch on the table and proposes a 5 minute conversation. He suggests some topics: the weather, caffeinated or not, the origins of the universe. Roz wonders why they need topics. They debate the need for topics. Roz points to the watch, the 5 minutes are up. Stan says if she wants another five minutes, any time, the offer is open. Stan returns to his table.

LATER

Stan, back at his table, nods to Roz and exits. Roz smiles.

9 INT. ROZ'S PLACE - NIGHT 9

Roz, headphones on, sits at the table drawing.

10 INT. FRATHOUSE - DAY 10

Stan sits in front of an old manual typewriter. The sound of an action movie pounds through the floorboards. Stan is annoyed.

LATER

Stan wanders downstairs. A housemate is slouched on the couch watching an action movie with the volume turned up to 11. Stan wanders into the kitchen. It's filthy. He opens the fridge. Someone has taken his last egg.

- 11 EXT. STREET - DAY 11
 Stan wanders through the city. He pulls out a piece of paper from his bag and staples it to a telephone pole. The poem flaps in the breeze.
- 12 INT. WESTERN PIZZA - NIGHT 12
 Stan is at his table.
- 13 EXT. WESTERN PIZZA - NIGHT 13
 Roz peers in through the window. She sees Stan.
- 14 INT. WESTERN PIZZA - NIGHT 14
 Roz enters. She goes to the counter and gets a coffee. She sits at her table and pulls out her book. Stan glances at her.
 Roz steels herself. She walks over and puts a sand timer down on Stan's table. She starts it running. She talks about how unusual Stan's action of the other night was, a stranger talking to a stranger and how seldom that happens in the city. They talk about anonymity.
 The timer runs out - the conversation stops, a pregnant pause - Roz flips it over and the conversation resumes. It ranges over topics, the city, the sound of trains, dumpster diving, photographs.
 The timer keeps getting flipped over. They talk for hours.
 They part as dawn creases the sky, each walking off in a different direction down the middle of the empty street.
- 15 EXT. WESTERN PIZZA - DAY 15
 Roz and Stan meet outside the Western Pizza.
- 16 EXT. STREETS - DAY 16
 Roz and Stan wander through the city, down back alleys, up fire escapes.
- 17 EXT. CONSERVATORY - DAY 17
 Stan leads Roz to a courtyard behind the Conservatory. He gestures for her to listen.
 From the windows above them, music pours out: a soprano singing an aria, a trumpet player running the scales, a violin, a piano. Stan and Roz drink it in.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Stan tells Roz a story about listening to the Metropolitan Opera on the radio on winter afternoons with his mother. It opened up the world to him.

Roz tells Stan about the Joni Mitchell records her mother used to play, and how when she was a teen and her mother was selling the albums at a garage sale, Roz bought the Joni Mitchell records.

They talk about the music they both love.

18 INT. CONSERVATORY - DAY 18

Stan and Roz wander through the hallways of the Conservatory, listening in at doors to musicians practicing. They roam through the building, exploring tiled old bathrooms and narrow steep stairs. The climb higher and higher.

19 INT. TOWER ROOM - DAY 19

Stan and Roz enter the Tower Room, a large open space at the top of the building.

They look out the windows.

Stan leads Roz in a series of dances: line dancing, the chicken dance, a polka.

20 EXT. STREETS - DAY 20

Roz and Stan wander through the city.

21 EXT. MET THEATRE - DAY 21

Stan leads Roz into a parking lot and tells her the history of the movie theatre that used to stand there.

Stan leads Roz into the auditorium and they talk about the best place to sit. Then Stan performs a scene from *Manhattan* (or *Annie Hall* or *Taxi Driver*). Roz doesn't know the film.

Roz sings a song from "Whatever Happened to Baby Jane". Roz and Stan trade lines from the film.

22 EXT. STREETS - DAY 22

Roz and Stan wander through the city.

23 EXT. PARKADE - EVENING 23

Roz and Stan are on the top level of a parkade. Roz gets vertigo when she goes near the edge.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The open a bottle of wine. They sit against a wall and talk about what they hated about the towns they grew up in.

They stand looking across the city towards the evening sky.

24 EXT. STREET - NIGHT 24

Roz and Stan wander through the city.

25 EXT. ROZ'S PLACE - NIGHT 25

Stan has walked Roz back home. They still have a lot to talk about. Roz has some pot to smoke. She invites him in.

26 INT. ROZ'S PLACE - NIGHT 26

Roz is embarrassed by the size of her apartment and the mess. She keeps Stan waiting in the hallway while she rushes about hiding clothes.

She lets Stan in. Stan is fascinated by the photographs on the wall. Roz tells Stan about her job, and why she took the photographs.

LATER

They sit on the floor and Roz rolls and lights a joint. She takes a deep pull and offers it to Stan. He takes a shallow puff and immediately releases it. Roz instructs Stan on how to do it. Stan comments that alcohol is his drug of choice. Roz tells Stan about the pros and cons of various drugs. Stan doesn't feel the grass is having an effect.

LATER

Roz slips the headphones over Stan's ears and plays him her favourite song.

LATER

Stan is on the floor, struggling to stay awake. Roz is in the kitchen making some tea and talking a mile a minute about her favourite album. She asks Stan if he takes cream or sugar and doesn't really notice that he doesn't respond.

Roz sets the tea down, still talking a mile a minute. She finally notices that Stan is asleep.

LATER

Roz has placed a blanket over Stan. She sits at her desk, headphones on, drawing.

- 27 INT. ROZ'S PLACE - DAWN 27
- Stan wakes up, confused. He looks over. Roz is asleep on the futon. Stan looks around. When he looks back to Roz, he sees her looking at him.
- SEVERAL DAYS LATER
- 28 INT. 1651 11TH - DAY 28
- Roz and Stan look around a large, empty space. They are very excited.
- 29 INT. 1651 11TH - DAY 29
- Roz and Stan are moving in.
- 30 INT. 1651 11TH - EVENING 30
- Surrounded by unpacked boxes, Roz and Stan sit on the floor and eat a take-away pizza.
- Roz lights a stick of incense and purifies the space.
- The play rock/paper/scissors to decide who gets the large bedroom.
- 31 INT. 1651 11TH - NIGHT 31
- Stan and Roz are each in their beds, the lights are out. They've left their bedroom doors open and they're talking to one another. Roz tells Stan a story about a ghost train.
- 32 INT. 1651 11TH - MORNING 32
- Stan is up and about. He's been out to get some eggs and coffee. He's boiling his morning egg when Roz enters. She's not really a morning person.
- Stan offers to cook her an egg but all Roz wants is a coffee and a smoke. Roz tastes the coffee and quizzes Stan on how he makes it. Her recipe is for much stronger coffee.
- The apartment is very bare.
- 33 EXT. STREET - DAY 33
- Stan and Roz are dumpster diving. They find a decent chair and haul it back to their apartment.

- 34 INT. 1651 11TH - MORNING 34
Roz and Stan paint a table they're constructing out of old doors and milks crates.
ONE WEEK LATER
- 35 INT. 1651 11TH - DAY 35
The place is looking more settled. They've got a small fridge, some lamps, a kitchen table, an old sofa and chair and Stan's TV. Roz has her work table set up, and at a right angle, Stan has set up a small writing table.
Stan scoops some Kraft Dinner on to Roz's plate. She doesn't look impressed.
- 36 INT. 1651 11TH - NIGHT 36
Roz and Stan are both working. Their desks face one another. Stan is writing, Roz, headphones on is drawing.
- 37 INT. 1651 11TH AVE. - DAY 37
Roz joins Stan at the table, pours herself a coffee and lights up a smoke.
- 38 INT. 1651 11TH - EVENING 38
Roz is cooking sauce. Stan sits reading. Roz gives Stan a task, cutting onions. He's not that handy with a knife, tears stream down his face.
- 39 INT. 1651 11TH - NIGHT 39
Stan hands Roz a copy of his novel and asks her to read it. Roz is the first person he's shown it to. Roz is excited. She takes it to her room.
- 40 INT. ROZ'S ROOM - NIGHT 40
Roz stays up all night reading Stan's novel.
It's a story told in the first person by a character named Jason. Jason lies in a hospital bed, paralysed after an accident when the truck driven by Jason's friend Tyler skidded and rolled on a grid road. Tyler later committed suicide.
- 41 INT. 1651 11TH - MORNING 41
Stan is making his coffee. Roz comes in, she hasn't slept. She puts Stan's novel down on the table.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She tells him how much she loved it, how strong the writing was, how much it made her think about life in a small town. She tells him though that she thought he'd been unfair to Tyler, that he was a 2-dimensional character. Stan is a little defensive, but also excited about finally being able to talk to someone about the story.

42 INT. 1651 11TH - NIGHT 42

Stan has set up a drum set. He bashes away.

Cut to Roz sitting opposite him, wielding a guitar. She plays.

They try and play together.

43 INT. 1651 11TH AVE. - DAY 43

Roz has brought home a bunch of photography books from the library. She pours over them. Stan enters. He's found an old tripod for Roz in a second hand store.

LATER

Roz assembles a still-life of fruit and photographs it. Stan runs an idea for his novel past Roz.

44 INT. 1651 11TH - NIGHT 44

Stan and Roz watch an old movie on TV (*Ghosts before Breakfast*). Stan explains Dada to Roz.

45 EXT. STREET - DAY 45

Roz is doubling Stan on a bike. They cruise through the city.

Stan talks about his novel. Roz stops to photograph.

46 INT. DUNLOP ART GALLERY - NIGHT 46

Stan and Roz attend the opening of the David Hoffos exhibition. Stan knows a lot of people at the opening and chats with them. Roz feels a little bit out of her comfort zone.

47 EXT. STREET - DAY 47

Roz and Stan are on the bike, exploring the parking lots surrounding big box stores.

They have a clutch of Stan's poems that they slide under the wiper blades of parked cars.

48 INT. 1651 11TH - MORNING 48

Roz is shaving Stan's head.

49 INT. 1651 11TH AVE. - DAY 49

Roz takes portraits of Stan. She puts him through a series of poses, snapping away.

50 EXT. STREET - DAY 50

Stan and Roz are on their bikes.

A car races past them. From the window, the driver yells "fag".

The car slams to a stop. Roz and Stan get ready for trouble. The car backs up at high speed towards them. It's TRAVIS, an old housemate of Stan's. Stan is not thrilled to see him.

Travis hops out. He tells them a story.

51 INT. 1651 11TH - DAY 51

Roz has created a large mosaic photo of Stan and is pinning the last elements to the wall. She stands back to appraise it. She is very happy with the result.

LATER

Roz sits drinking coffee. Stan returns to the apartment. At first he doesn't notice the mosaic photo. When he does, he's startled.

Roz thinks he doesn't like it and begins to take it down. Stan stops her and tells her he's overwhelmed by it. They talk about the work.

Stan thinks there should also be a photo of Roz on the wall. Roz resists, but Stan insists. Roz shows Stan how to use her camera. He takes her picture.

52 INT. 1651 11TH - NIGHT 52

Stan and Roz are in drag. Roz applies makeup to Stan.

They practice dance steps from an instructional tape.

A large mosaic photo of Roz looks across the room to the photo of Stan.

- 53 INT. 1651 11TH - MORNING 53
 Stan and Roz run around with a Super 8 camera. They are making their own instructional dance film.
 A large mosaic photo of Roz is on the wall beside the photo of Stan.
- 54 INT. 1651 11TH - NIGHT 54
 Stan lies on the couch reading. Roz is at her work table. Stan runs an idea for his novel past Roz.
- 55 INT. 1651 11TH - NIGHT 55
 Stan introduces Roz to the rituals and history of absinthe.
- 56 INT. 1651 11TH BATHROOM - DAY 56
 Roz is vomiting. Stan stands by.
- 57 INT. OFFICE - NIGHT 57
 While Roz vacuums, Stan photocopies his novel.
- 58 INT. 1651 11TH - NIGHT 58
 Stan sets up the projector and they watch the Super 8 film they've shot.
- 59 INT. 1651 11TH - NIGHT 59
 Roz has got some Ecstasy for Stan. He's excited but a little apprehensive.
 LATER
 They start to re-arrange elements of the 2 mosaic photos, swapping an eye, an eyebrow, half a lip, an ear.
- 60 EXT. FOLK FESTIVAL - DAY 60
 Stan and Roz wander through the crowds at the Folk Festival.
- 61 EXT. FOLK FESTIVAL - SUNSET 61
 As the sun goes down, Roz and Stan sit outside the RPL listening to Feist.
- 62 INT. 1651 11TH BATHROOM - DAY 62
 Stan stands at the sink brushing his teeth. Roz is in a stall having a pee. They chat.

- 63 INT. 1651 11TH - EVENING 63
Stan and Roz doing the dishes.
- 64 INT. 1651 11TH - NIGHT 64
Stan waits for Roz to return home from work. He's got a party hat on and the drinks mixed. Roz returns, puts on her hat and they have a cocktail.
- 65 INT. 1651 11TH - NIGHT 65
Stan and Roz leg wrestle.
Stan and Roz arm wrestle.
- 66 EXT. FLAT COUNTRY ROAD - DAY 66
A straight line of road running across land as flat as a tabletop. In the distance, barely visible on the horizon, something moves towards the camera.
Off screen we hear Stan talking about New York City.
The object continues to move closer, we make out a car. We continue to hear Stan.
The car is in frame, Stan driving, Roz is shotgun. Stan is still talking. The car races past the camera.
- 67 INT. CAR - DAY 67
We jump inside the car as Stan continues to talk about NYC.
- 68 EXT. RAILROAD CROSSING - DAY 68
Stan and Roz have pulled over at a level crossing on a dirt road. Roz has her camera out.
They tightrope walk the tracks. They throw stones at telephone poles. They put a nickel on the tracks.
LATER
A heavy freight train roars past. Stan and Roz stand as close to the tracks as they dare. The ground shakes. Roz screams.
The train passes. They're exhilarated. They look for the nickel.

69 EXT. FARM YARD - DAY 69

The car pulls up in the long grass of an old farmyard. A collapsing house, an old barn.

70 INT. FARM HOUSE - DAY 70

Stan and Roz explore the old farm house. Roz talks about the ghost train of St. Louis.

71 INT. CAR - DAY 71

Still in the farmyard. Stan sits in the backseat, Roz in the front. Dappled sunlight filters through the trees.

Stan talks about his father and how he wanted him to take over the ranch.

Roz talks about her father.

72 EXT. COUNTRY CEMETERY - EVENING 72

Stan and Roz in an old prairie cemetery. They walk through the graves and talk.

73 EXT. COUNTRY FIELD - MAGIC HOUR 73

Stan and Roz walk through a tall field of grass.

74 EXT. GRID ROAD - NIGHT 74

Stan and Roz set off fireworks.

75 EXT. ART PROJECT'S GALLERY - EVENING 75

Stan and Roz attend an opening at a small gallery.

76 INT. 1651 11TH - NIGHT 76

Stan and Roz host a small party for people they met at the opening. Travis is here, talking the ear off Stan. Roz flirts with NICK.

LATER

The party is dwindling. Travis is still talking to Stan.

Stan watches as Roz slips into her room with Nick. The door closes.

LATER

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Stan is alone with the debris of the party. Roz is still in her room with Nick. Stan cranks up the stereo and leaves.

77 INT. 1651 11TH - MORNING 77

Stan sits at the table drinking his coffee. Roz's door opens and Nick tiptoes out, pulling on his shirt.

He joins Stan at the table. Nick is in a good mood. Stan doesn't want to talk to him.

Roz joins them. Stan walks out.

78 INT. 1651 11TH - DAY 78

Roz returns with some shopping. Stan sits at the kitchen table. He gives her the silent treatment. Roz gets angry at Stan, she suspects what's causing Stan to act this way but she wants him to talk to her. Stan walks out. Roz is upset.

79 INT. 1651 11TH - NIGHT 79

Roz returns home from work. Stan hasn't come home yet. Roz stays up all night working. Stan doesn't return.

80 INT. 1651 11TH AVE. - DAY 80

Roz sits alone at the table drinking coffee.

81 EXT. EASTEND - SUNSET 81

Stan sits on a bleak hillside near Eastend.

82 INT. OFFICE - NIGHT 82

Roz vacuums.

83 INT. 1651 11TH AVE. - DAY 83

Roz starts to throw Stan's belongings into garbage bags. Stan hasn't been home for 2 nights.

Stan returns. He's dressed in his Eastend clothes (polo shirt, blue jeans). He's come to explain himself, to apologize, but the sight of his packed bags makes him angry and confused. Roz is furious with him. They argue.

Stan tries to tell Roz that he thought he was jealous of Nick but he realised it wasn't sexual jealousy so much as the thought that he and Roz weren't sharing everything. They start to listen to one another.

LATER

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Roz and Stan sit at the kitchen table drinking shots and talking about sex.

84 INT. 1651 11TH AVE. - DAY 84

Stan sits at the kitchen table, an open letter in front of him. Stan's just been accepted into grad school in NYC. He's very excited.

Roz, just awake, enters and pours herself a coffee. Stan tells her the news. He's so excited he doesn't think what the impact will be on her. Roz is excited for Stan but also upset at the thought of him moving in.

ALSO TO BE SHOT : Stan then invites Roz to come with him. She's very excited. They dance around the room.

85 EXT. STREET - SUNSET 85

In a long take, Stan and Roz race their bikes through the streets, the setting sun behind them.

86 EXT. BUS STATION - DAY 86

The bus east is ready to go. Stan stands at the steps, looking a little forlorn. He climbs aboard.

Roz comes racing out of the bus station with 2 coffees. She hops on the bus.

87 EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY 87

The bus heads east.

ALTERNATE ENDING

88 EXT. ART PROJECT'S GALLERY - EVENING 88

It's the opening of Roz's first show, a series of portraits of Stan. A small crowd is gathered.

SCENES TO BE SHOT IF TIME PERMITS

89 EXT. TAYLOR FIELD - DAY 89

Stan and Roz wander through the crowds gathered for the football game.

90 INT. ART GALLERY - DAY 90

Roz and Stan visit an art gallery. Stan is a little pedagogic, trying to fill Roz in on stuff he's picked up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She resents his tone. They have an animated discussion about which art works they like and which they dislike.

91 INT. 1651 11TH - MORNING 91

Stan is making a paper mache mould of Roz's face.

92 EXT. ST. LOUIS - DAY 92

Roz sits on the bridge watching the river flow.

93 EXT. NYC STREET - DAY 93

Stan stands overwhelmed on a busy NYC street.

Roz exits a deli carrying a coffee and they set off into the city.