

# **Over the Counter**

**By Chris Miller**

## INT SUBWAY

A train pulls up to allow passengers to exit and others to get on. As it pulls out of the station a boyfriend and girlfriend walk down the stairs to the near deserted subway platform.

Their voices argue but it is unclear exactly what is being said. Another train is approaching, she turns away from him and he puts his hand out as if to push her into the path of the oncoming train.

## INT SMALL CONCRETE ROOM

The boyfriend from the subway wakes up suddenly. Sitting up briefly in his bed, which consists of blankets and a pillow on the floor. He looks around to get his bearings, as if he doesn't remember where he has slept. He has dark circles around his eyes and he is alone in the small concrete room.

The boyfriend turns and takes a picture of the girl from his dream off of the wall. It appears to be cut from the newspaper. It is slowly becoming apparent that the room is being filled with the sound of electric motors. The ventilation shaft next to his bed vibrates with the throbbing of the powerful motors.

He gets up from his bed and reaches into a pile of empty cold medicine packages and pulls out a bottle of Nyquil. Removing the cap he takes a long swig and breathing deeply he tries to relax and go back to sleep.

## TITLES - OVER THE COUNTER

## INT MOVIE THEATER PROJECTION BOOTH

The screen is completely dark, we hear a door open and suddenly a bright white hallway is illuminated by the overhead fluorescent lights as the projectionist, the boyfriend, turns the switch on.

He walks to the elevator and rides it up one floor. Exiting the elevator he bumps into an usher in the theater's uniform sweeping the carpeted hallway. There are no customers present so they lean against the wall talking for a few minutes.

FRIEND

You look like shit. I heard what happened man, too bad.

BOYFRIEND

I feel like shit. Since she... left I feel all empty inside. The scary part is that I am starting to like how it feels.

FRIEND

When was the last time you ate?

BOYFRIEND

Not since it happened, unless you count soda and cold medicine as food.

FRIEND

You're the one who's been raiding the medical supplies!?!

His friend says with a sarcastic smile on his face.

FRIEND

They thought it was one of us. Hey, I got better stuff than that if you really want help getting over this.

BOYFRIEND

I don't know if I can get over this.  
I don't know if I want to. She meant...  
means so much to me. My heart  
is gone, my whole world...

The boyfriend/projectionists walkie talkie squawks to life ending their conversation.

BOSS

Projectionist.

The boyfriend looks at the usher and rolls his eyes. Putting the walkie talkie to his lips he answers in a tired voice.

BOSS

We have a sneak preview in theater seven  
tonight. The print just got here so  
you'll have to put it together.

The usher just shakes his head at the last minute notification.

BOYFRIEND

All right.

The two separate quietly and each go to their separate work. The boyfriend ducks into the nearest projection booth to be alone for a few seconds. Inside he pulls several packets of cramp/menstrual medication from his pocket and opens and swallows them, washing it down with more Nyquil.

For a moment he just stares into the running projector, its flashing lights and moving sprockets, as the drugs pump into his system.

INT THEATER LOBBY - NIGHT

The theater lobby is abandoned. The boyfriend heads alone to his secret room to change and consume more over the counter drugs. In his bed he opens every conceivable kind of medication and takes it while drinking from a two liter bottle of soda with no label.

Soon he is out of pills and soda. For a minute he takes down the picture of the girl from his wall and stares at the girls face. He almost starts crying. He pulls himself together and heads out into back halls of the theater that connect the projection booths together. He is still only in his underwear as he wanders the brightly lit halls.

Wandering through the theater it is apparent he is having a hard time walking and soon it looks as if he is lost. Looking back and forth he tries to figure out where he came from, where he was going. He slumps down against the wall and while sitting pushes open the bathroom door.

Crawling in and using the sink for stability he stands and after looking at himself in the mirror he notices the first aid kit hanging on the wall. Looking through the first aid kit he pulls out every pill package regardless of its name or type and opens the packages up into a pile of multi-colored pills in his hand. Looking at himself again in the mirror he makes a grimace at himself and starts to shove the pills into his mouth. He stoops down to drink some water out of the tap to help wash them down.

He lays back against the wall and once again slumping to the floor he brushes the light switch to the off position and the bathroom goes dark.

We see a blurry landscape of red moving and slowly fading into view. The boyfriend is wandering the carpeted halls where he met his usher friend earlier. Having to urinate he wanders into the bathroom on this floor and while standing, wobbling, at the urinal the lighting seems to change. His friend from earlier appears in the bathroom with him.

FRIEND

I see you found my good stash.

Sarcastically.

The boyfriend finishes peeing and goes to the sink to splash some water on his face.

BOYFRIEND

Do you know the love we had?  
It was intense, it was real.

FRIEND

What else?

BOYFRIEND

It was all I had and now its gone.  
She's gone and I can never be with her again.

Behind him his girlfriend appears, a golden light comes from behind her. She appears perfect, Venus like.

GIRLFRIEND

I feel your love. That's what  
brings me here, back to you.

BOYFRIEND

I'm sorry I made you leave. I am sorry that I did what I did, if only I knew. But I didn't know what we had.

GIRLFRIEND

Its late. You have to work  
tomorrow. Why don't you get some sleep.

BOYFRIEND

No. I want to spend the rest of my  
life with you. I don't care about  
work, I don't care about anything.

Turning to his friend.

BOYFRIEND

I quit. Tell them tomorrow that  
I can't work because I'm in love.

He turns to talk to his girlfriend again but she is gone. His friend is gone too. Suddenly the theater bathroom seems very empty and lonely. The boyfriend slumps to the floor and starts crying.

BOYFRIEND

I want to be with you, I want to be with you.

He slowly gets up from the floor and starts to look around.

BOYFRIEND

Where are you? Where did you go?

More frantically now he runs through the theater and through a door that takes him into the top of a large theater . Leaning over the edge of the railing and looking for her he yells for her.

BOYFRIEND

Where did you go? Take me with you!

Running back into the hallways he runs out an exit door and onto the roof. She isn't there and he seems deflated. He goes back inside the door and sits on the steps starting to cry.

BOYFRIEND

We can be together. I understand the  
depth of my love for you. I wont  
hold back. Please, PLEASE!

Still crying he looks at her picture and starts to shake a little from the drugs in his system. He leans his head against the wall and lets his heavy eyelids shut. He starts to hallucinate again.

INT SUBWAY

His girlfriend is crying.

GIRLFRIEND

Its over.

She turns away and he puts his hand out to stop her from going. She gets on the subway and the doors close. She turns to face the boyfriend, truly saddened and looks at him through the window. They watch each other as the subway gets farther and farther away.

INT THEATER STAIRWELL

The boyfriend is on the floor now shaking and turning blue from the cold and the drug overdose. His eyes seem clear as if he is looking at something far off.

INT SUBWAY

GIRLFRIEND

Its over.

As she turns he puts out his hand to stop her but she jumps as an oncoming subway crushes her body underneath. He cries out in pain and falls to his knees. Suddenly he is alone in the subway station. He screams.

INT THEATER STAIRWELL

His curled up body moans as if it wants to scream but lacks the strength. His body is still as the last bits of life flow out and he dies. The weight of his body pushes the door open and his lifeless eyes stare up at the stars.

The picture of his girlfriend that he had saved from the newspaper floats out of his hand and down a few stairs mixing with the rest of the trash.

THE END