

Pilot
The U (Working Title)
Pilot Episode

Open on Devon throwing a suitcase in the trunk. He shuts the trunk and walks over to his family: his parents and three brothers.

Devon

That's my last bag. I'm supposed to meet my landlord at four so I'd better get going.

Dad

Have fun and behave yourself.

Devon

I'll try.

Mom

We're gonna miss you.

Middle Brother

I'm not gonna miss him. I get his Xbox.

Oldest Brother

I get his room.

Youngest Brother

I just don't really like him very much.

Devon

(sarcastically) Gee, thanks guys. I'm gonna miss you all, too. Bring it in guys.

The all hug.

Devon

I'll visit whenever I can.

Oldest Brother

You'll be staying on the couch. It's my room now.

Devon

Alright little bro.

Devon gets in the car and drives away. He drives through the town until he gets to Brock's house. He pulls into Brock's driveway. He knocks on Brock's door. Brock answers.

Brock
What's up, bro!

Devon
I'm all packed up. I'm hitting the road. I'm leaving. Just stopping by.

Brock
I still think you're crazy.

Devon
It's not going to be that hard.

Brock
Are you kidding?! Living off campus is insane! How are you planning on keeping your grades and paying rent *and* partying with me all of the time?

Devon
I'm not going to party with you. I've told you this already.

Brock
Why not?

Devon
I don't want to be the reason you're ineligible from playing basketball.

Brock
I won't get caught partying.

Devon
They drug test!

Brock
Dude, why are we fighting? You're heading off to the cities!

Devon
Don't start thinking that this conversation is over. I'm just gonna save it for when you're in the cities.

Brock
Whatever. When do you have to go?

Devon

(looks at phone) Shit. Right now. I've gotta meet my landlord at three. See ya in a few days.

They hug.

Brock

Don't party too hard until I get up there.

Devon starts his car and leaves. When he reaches the city limits sign, his phone rings. He looks at it. It's Maisie.

Devon

Shit.

He reluctantly turns around and answers the phone.

Devon

Hi...I'm on my way right now...Of course I didn't forget to visit you before I leave...I'll be there in a second...Goodbye. (hangs up)

Cut to Devon pulling into Maisie's driveway. She is waiting there, tears running down her face and smearing her makeup. To describe her appearance in a word: crazy. Devon gets out of the car and reluctantly walks up to Maisie.

Maisie

I can't believe this is it (sobs).

Devon

(awkwardly trying to defuse the situation) This isn't *it*. We aren't completely over. I'll come back to visit every month.

Maisie

But we have to break up.

Devon

Yes, but I'll come back every month and we'll see each other and we can have dinner, go to a movie, (moves in closer, to the point where he is touching her) have sex.

Maisie

I don't want to do any of that. Not unless there is a future in our relationship.

Devon

Who says we don't have a future?

Maisie

I do. Besides, you're eighteen and I'm seventeen, so I don't think we can legally have sex.

Devon

I don't think that's true. I'd better take some law classes though, just to make sure. I don't want to be a statutory rapist.

Maisie

Not funny. (she sobs again)

Devon

(squirming to get out of the conversation) I'm sorry, but I really have to go. Think about what I said.

Maisie

About the statutory rape?

Devon

No. Well, kind of. About us fucking every month.

Maisie

You an asshole.

Devon gets into his car.

Maisie

Hey! We're not done talking about this!

Devon

Goodbye, Maisie. I'll miss you. (under breath) Not really.

Devon steps on the gas in reverse and speeds away.

Cut to Devon drives past the city limits. Cue the song Bright Lights by Gary Clark, Jr. Show title card. The title card is followed by a montage of shots of Devon driving through the Twin Cities. Cut to Devon getting out of his car and grabs some of his bags. He enters the apartment building and climbs a flight of stairs. Once he gets to the top of stairs, he is greeted by his new landlord.

Landlord

Are you Devon Norstad?

Devon

Yes. Are you my new landlord?

Landlord
(extends hand and Devon shakes it) The names James Michaelson. Let me show you the apartment.

James opens the door and gestures Devon through.

James
It's bigger than most apartments for the same price.

Devon
It's a very nice place. Lots of space for just me.

James
What kind of furniture are you bringing?

Devon
Just two couches and a bed. Oh, and my TV and entertainment center.

James
Two couches

Devon
Yeah. I was thinking that I might keep one in my bedroom as well. Could you show me the bedroom?

James
Of course.

They go to the bedroom.

James
You're attending the University of Minnesota?

Devon
Yeah.

James
Great school.

Devon
Yeah. I was very impressed by the visit

They arrive at the bedroom. It is small.

Devon

Oh. I see why the living room is so big.

James

It's enough for a bed, nightstand, wardrobe, maybe your couch, depending on how big it is.

Devon

And rent is?

James

\$500 a month.

Devon

Really? That's not so bad.

James

Yeah. I think I'm giving you a good deal. Do you have a job lined up yet?

Devon

Not yet.

James

You'd better get one quick.

Devon

I know.

James

What do you have in mind?

Devon

I'm hoping to maybe find a job clerking for a law office.

James

Are you planning on being a lawyer?

Devon

Um...Kind of.

James

Kind of? It's a yes or no question.

Devon

Well, then the answer is no. I'm going to be an English major. I want to be a writer.

James

What kind?

Devon

Novels, screenplays, and hopefully TV.

James

Oof. You'd better be good.

Devon

That's the thing. I don't know if I'm cut out for writing. So I've decided that I'm gonna try writing for a year or two. If I can't find success writing I'm gonna go to law school.

James

Smart to have a fall back plan. I know that your next door neighbor Jake Kline is a business major. And there is a girl down the hall, Lily Erickson, is a music major. You should listen to her playing the violin. It's amazing.

Devon

That's a good idea. I'd like to meet my neighbors.

James

Alright.

They begin to walk to the exit.

James

When does school start?

Devon

Classes begin September 8th. My friend is gonna be attending Minnesota, too. He's gonna play basketball, too.

James

Wow.

They exit Devon's apartment and go to the adjacent apartment. James knocks on the door. Jake Kline opens the door.

Jake
How's it going, James?

James
Pretty good, Jake. Just got me a new tenant. (gestures towards Devon).

Jake
Right next door?

Devon
Hell yes. How's it going? My name's Devon Norstad.

Jake
Jake Kline. You're not a dick, are you?

Devon
Not always.

Jake
Good. I don't think I'm a dick, but it's hard to be objective when I love myself so much.

James
I'll leave you two alone.

James leaves. Jake gestures Devon in and they sit down on the couch.

Jake
So, where are you from?

Devon
Spring Cove, MN. South about three hours from here. Small town, population of 1,300. Nice place. You?

Jake
Green Bay.

Devon
Yuck. Packers fan?

Jake
Hell yeah. Cheese heads forever.

Devon

I'm not sure we can be friends.

Jake

How do you think I feel? I'm in the same city as the Minnesota Vikings. (he shutters)

Devon

You know what, fuck the Vikings and the Packers. We're both Gophers now.

Jake

Yeah, well, I guess. I do love the Badgers but-

Devon

Shut the fuck up. You're a Gopher now.

The door opens. Zoey Benson enters.

Zoey

Hi Jake, how's it- (sees Devon). Oh. Who is he?

Jake

This is Devon. He just moved into that empty apartment next door.

Devon

Well, not really moved in. I'm sleeping on the floor until the moving truck gets here in two days.
All I have is my clothes.

Zoey

I'm Zoey Benson, Jake's girlfriend.

Jake

You're on the floor?

Devon

Yeah.

Jake

That's not right, bro.

Devon

I can't afford a hotel. But the living room is carpeted so it won't be that bad.

Jake

But still. The floor? We have a damn comfy couch here.

Zoey

(alarmed) Jake! (makes a threatening face)

Devon

Nah, I've got too much pride for that.

Jake

Come on. I insist.

Zoey

Jake! Shouldn't we talk about this first?

Jake

Zoey, don't be a dick.

This gets Zoey really pissed. Her face is hilariously angry. Devon is amused by her anger.

Devon

(with a big, goofy smile) Yeah, Zoey. Don't be a dick.

Zoey

Fuck it. Whatever.

She goes to the bedroom and slams the door.

Devon

Shit. She hates me.

Jake

No. She's just pissed because, it's our anniversary and shit, and now we can't fuck.

Devon

Oh! Shit, dude! I'm definitely not staying here now. I can't take away a fun night of fucking from my new friend.

Jake

It's fine.

Devon

Hell no. Maybe I'll shack up with that music major chick from down the hall. James was telling me about her.

Jake

Good luck with that. She's a bit uptight.

Devon

Is she hot, though?

Jake

(nodding) Hell yeah. And she can sing. And play every fucking musical instrument you can imagine. What's your major?

Devon

English. Probably gonna minor in music. Possibly minor in law as well. Not quite sure.

Jake

I'm gonna be a business major.

Devon

Nice. That's so...generic.

Jake

(laughs) I know, I know. But whatever I decide to do with my life, I want to do it my way. So I need to know how to run and own my own business.

Devon

Watch out world. The next Mark Zuckerberg and Mark Twain are coming.

Jake

For sure.

Devon

I'm gonna go see what I can do for that music chick. Go patch up that situation you've got in there (points to the bedroom).

Jake

Yikes. Wish me luck.

Devon gets up and leaves. He goes to the end of the hall and knocks on the door. Lily Erickson opens the door.

Devon

Hi. I just moved in down the hall (points) and James told me to I had to meet you.

Lily

And why is that?

Devon

He said you make some beautiful music.

Lily

Oh. I don't know if it's beautiful-

Devon

Regardless, I'd love to hear it.

Lily

Oh. Well then, come on in.

Devon follows Lily in.

Devon

Your place is bigger than mine.

Lily

I probably pay more. I pay \$500 a month.

Devon

Man, James! I'm either getting ripped off, or you're getting one hell of a deal.

Lily

(laughs) Actually, I just batted my eyes and shook my ass a bit. He offered me his house but I said here would do.

Devon

I hope you're kidding.

Lily

I am.

Devon

It probably would've worked. I'm Devon Norstad, by the way. James said your name was...Lily Erickson?

Lily

Correct. What would you like to hear? (she sits down at the piano)

Devon

Play your best

Lily

Then I'll play my favorite song.

She plays Rocket Man by Elton John. It is beautiful. She also sings.

Devon

Wow...

Lily

Thank you.

Devon

Listen. This might sound a bit strange, but-

Lily

Please don't say my music gave you a boner. I've hear that one a million times.

Devon

What? No. I was gonna ask if I could crash on your couch tonight. The moving truck doesn't bring my bed and furniture until tomorrow.

Lily

Um...Sure. No problem.

Devon

Great. (lays down on the couch).

Lily

Don't you need to grab some pajamas?

Devon

Nah, I sleep in my birthday suit.

Lily

Me, too.

Devon
I'm kidding.

Lily
Good. I wasn't.

Devon
Oh. Good for you, I guess.

Lily
I'll be in my room, though, so you won't see anything.

Devon
(sarcastically) Oh! Thank God! I was worried I was gonna see you naked for a second! Yuck!

Lily
(laughing) Stop! You're so damn funny.

Devon
I like to think so.

Lily
What's your major?

Devon
English with minors in law and music.

Lily
Music?

Devon
Yes.

Lily
Do you play?

Devon
A little. I'm more focused on the anatomy of music. Music theory.

Lily
So when you graduate you are going to write a musical about a lawyer?

Devon

That's a hell of an idea. If I ever write a musical about a lawyer I'll make sure you get a producer credit.

Lily

I'd assume I'd get a producer credit.

Devon

Unfortunately, I'm not a big fan of musicals. I'm more of a novel, screenplay, and teleplay kind of guy.

Lily

Oh.

Devon

And what will you do with your music major?

Lily

Perform. Doing whatever. Hopefully make a name for myself as a singer-songwriter.

Devon

The Taylor Swift type?

Lily

God, no. The Bob Dylan type.

Devon

Cool. I'm a Kanye West type, myself.

Lily

Gross. I hate rap. I do admire the production on Kanye West's songs.

Devon

That's what I'm always saying.

Lily

What can you play?

Devon

The drums. I'm one hell of a drummer. I'm an excellent saxophone player, especially bari sax. I'm decent at guitar and piano. But I can't for the life of me figure out how to play the flute. It haunts me.

Lily
Flute is easy.

Devon
Not everyone is a musical prodigy. I'm more of a musical idiot savant. Imagine Forrest Gump, but instead of playing ping pong I make music.

Lily
Ok. Well, I'm gonna go to bed.

Devon
But it's so early.

Lily
It's midnight.

Devon
I thought that college kids partied hard and went to bed at, like, five in the morning.

Lily
Go to sleep. You have a big day tomorrow, I'm sure. First day in the big Twin Cities.

Devon
Shit. Yeah. Gotta move all my shit into the apartment, find a job, and hopefully make some more friends.

Lily
Sounds awful.

Devon
It will be.

Lily starts towards her room. She flirtatiously takes off her shirt, exposing her bra.

Lily
Good night, Devon.

Devon
(caught off guard) Oh. Good night.

Lily goes into her room and Devon lays down, quietly singing Rocket Man under his breathe.