

**Veronique****1. INT. LOCAL BUS - RAINY MORNING**

*We hear the hypnotic and monotone sound of the bus as we open on a MAN YAWNING. The camera then cuts to various passengers on the bus: another MAN CHECKING OUT PAGE 3 in The Sun, two WOMEN IN EARLY THIRTIES CHATTING, a FACTORY WORKER clutching a lunch box in his lap and looking straight ahead with a fixed stare, an OLD COUPLE in their seventies: the man asleep with his mouth open. The general mood on the bus is one of a typical grey and depressing Monday morning. We get a sense that this is a long bus ride: some passengers have been sitting here for quite some time. We then cut to a young and fresh-faced BOY at the age of thirteen to fourteen sitting towards the back of the bus. His hair might be wet from the rain outside and he is leaning against the window and looking out at the bleak landscape with a bored/dreamy look on his face.*

(VO) BOY  
I'm in love.

(OS) FRIEND  
What did you say?

(VO) BOY  
I'm in love. I'm in love with a girl. I tell you I never been so happy. It's the most ...the most amazing feeling.

*The BOYS eyes shift to the raindrops running down the window, tracing two of them until they finally join together to one.*

(OS) FRIEND  
When did you meet her?

(VO) BOY  
We met this morning on our way to school.

BUS DRIVER  
Next stop Lennard Street.

*The bus suddenly stops and we hear the sound of the doors opening and passengers getting on.  
The BOY causally shifts his attention to the front of the bus.*

(VO) BOY

*It was just so crazy; as soon as she stepped on the bus our eyes met and there was this instant attraction between us.*

*We now see a sudden and quick change beginning to take place in the boy. His face seems to light up as he sees a young and pretty girl among one of the new passengers. She is wearing a bright red rain jacket.*

**continue**

(VO) BOY

*At first she just froze and stared at me as if ... as if hypnotized or something and then - as she walked down to her seat - our eyes were like locked on each other.*

*At first glance he cannot see her fully as she is wearing a hooded jacket (a moment that might feel like an eternity) but as she walks down the aisle of the bus he watches her with an immense intensity. Seeming to be in her own thoughts, she does at no point look at the boy.*

(VO) BOY

*I guess we were falling in love at that precise moment.*

*As she moves further down the aisle towards where he is sitting his body seems to suddenly become alive and he sits up straight as if preparing for a blow to the gut. Finally the GIRL sits down just in front of him. As well as the rain jacket she is wearing a school uniform, however it is different from the one the boy is wearing.*

(VO) BOY

Then just as she sat down I smiled at her and she smiled back. From that point it was so simple really; I juts got up from my seat, sat down next to her and said.. something funny about the weather I think, which made her laugh.

Then we just started talking as we'd known each other forever.

*The BOY stares with complete and utter love at the back of the girl's head for a couple of beats before he slowly leans forward to inhale the scent of the girl's hair. Finally he turns towards the window with a sense of wonder expressed on his face.*

(OS) FRIEND

So what's her name?

(VO) BOY

Veronique. Her name is Veronique and she's actually French.

**FADE TO BLACK**

## **2. INT. LOCAL BUS - MORNING**

*Yet another morning on the bus and on the seat in front of the boy lie his school bag. He is impatiently drumming his fingers on the metal railing on the seat in front as he looks around the bus seeming slightly restless. He is wearing a brand new bright red jumper over his school shirt and has also put gel in his hair.*

BUS DRIVER

Lennard Street.

***continue***

*As the bus stops the BOY stares expectantly towards the front of the bus and as the GIRL boards he quickly moves his school bag from the seat in front.*

(VO) BOY

So Veronique and I met on the bus again this morning.

(OS) FRIEND

Oh yeah?

*He then sits back down in his seat and tries to act cool by casually drumming on the metal frame on the seat in front that he was so impatiently drumming before.*

(VO)

Yeah. I tell you...she is such a cool girl. I think it's because she's French. Although...she did say she thinks I'm pretty cool too.

*The GIRL is wearing a red hat and is just about to sit down in her normal seat when he looks up and they exchange eye contact. She stares briefly at his new, bright red jumper before nodding a brief 'hi'. The BOY nods casually back in response before uttering a 'hi' back in a strange and pathetic puberty voice. The GIRL sits down in her normal seat as the BOY buries his face in his hands, totally embarrassed.*

(VO) BOY

I tell you; I really love the talks me and Veronique have in the mornings and I know she does too. We always have so much stuff to talk about.

**FADE TO BLACK**

### **3. INT. LOCAL BUS - MORNING**

*We open on the familiar hum of the bus engine and see the BOY sitting in his regular seat looking out the window with a smile on his lips. As in previous scene he wears his red jumper.*

(VO) BOY

So did you know that French is the language of love?

(OS) FRIEND  
What?

(VO) BOY  
Or that Paris is one of the most romantic cities in the  
world?

(OS) FRIEND  
What are you talking about?

**continue**

*As soon as the bus stops the BOY moves his bag from the seat in front.*

(VO) BOY  
Veronique really wants me to come to Paris this summer.  
Her dad - who is a brain surgeon- have this enormous  
apartment out there that we can stay in. At first my  
parents weren't too keen but I told them I won't let  
anyone come between me and Veronique.

*A MAN boarding the bus before the girl suddenly sits down on the girls' seat before the BOY has time to interfere. From seeming so happy and relaxed the BOY now appears very distressed and at one point it looks like he is about to confront the man.*

BOY  
I guess sometimes you just have to put your foot down.

*Suddenly the BOY feels the precense of someone standing next to him and as he looks up sees the GIRL standing next to his seat. The BOY looks at her looking at his bag lying on the seat next to him before quickly moving it to his lap so the GIRL can sit down next to him. Both the BOY and GIRL sit staring straight ahead. Their hands are so very close to one another but still not touching. The BOY has a smile on his lips.*

(VO) BOY

You should see; sometimes we don't have to talk at all.  
We can communicate just by looking at each other.  
Veronique says that's a really special thing.

**FADE TO BLACK**

**4. INT. LOCAL BUS - MORNING**

*Another day and the BOY is sitting on the bus looking very cheerful.*

**BUS DRIVER**

Next stop Lennard Street.

*As the bus stops the BOY moves his bag on to his lap and turns towards the window and casually begins to sing a song low to himself. As he notice that the bus is suddenly moving without the girl having sat down neither next to him nor on the seat in front: he looks around to find her before also trying to look out the window on the other side, as if hoping to see her standing by the side of the road.*

*He finally slumps down in to his seat looking disappointed whilst behind him a YOUNG COUPLE can be seen kissing.*

**CUT TO:**

***continue***

**5. INT. LOCAL BUS - RAINY MORNING**

*The BOY is sitting in his regular seat staring straight ahead with a sullen expression on his face.*

(OS) FRIEND

So how's Veronique? You haven't mentioned her today.

(VO) BOY

Oh well, she moved.

(OS) FRIEND

No way?

(VO) BOY

Yeah. Well she got this great part in a ...in this French film. First she was going to turn it down unless I came with her but...well I told her she couldn't let *me* stand in her way of a great career. That might just lead to bitterness later on in life.

**QUICK CUT TO:**

**6. INT. LOCAL BUS -MORNING**

*Again a different day and the BOY sits alone on his seat looking solemn.*

(VO) BOY

You know it's funny, but I don't think I have one single picture of her.  
Of course I still think of her sometimes.

**QUICK CUT TO:**

**7. INT. LOCAL BUS - MORNING**

*The BOY is staring out the window with the same bored and dreamy look as in the opening scene.*

(VO) BOY

Especially when I'm on the bus on my way to school. After all, that's how we first met.

**QUICK CUT TO:**  
*continue*

**8. EXT. BUS STOP - MORNING**

*The BOY, with his school bag thrown over his right shoulder, is walking towards the school gates as the bus drives off*

(VO) BOY

But you gotta move on though don't you? Come to think of it, I'm probably too young for any real serious relationship.

**FADE TO BLACK**

**FADE TO END CREDITS**