

17A CONTINUED:

Eternal Sunshine of ^{24.} 17A
the Spotless Mind

"McRomance"

PATRICK

(squinting)

One-thirty-seven?

Joel appears from the side of the house.

STAN

There! That's him, right?

PATRICK

I think so.

The van trails Joel, who looks back at it, then makes his way toward his building. The van parks across the street.

18 EXT. JOEL'S APARTMENT BUILDING - CONTINUOUS 18

Joel heads up the walk to his building. He looks back at the van, tries to see in. The window rolls down and a hand comes out and waves cheerily.

MUFFLED PATRICK FROM INSIDE VAN

Thanks, Joel.

Laughter from in the van. The window is rolled up. Joel enters his building.

19 INT. JOEL'S APARTMENT ENTRANCEWAY - CONTINUOUS 19

Joel pulls his mail from his box. In the light we see that Joel has a blue dot drawn on either side of his forehead. A man enters the building. This is Frank.

FRANK

Joel.

JOEL

Frank.

The man opens his mailbox, sifts through some envelopes.

FRANK

Jesus, shit. The only Valentine's Day cards I get are from my mother. How pathetic is that?

Joel chuckles, distracted.

FRANK (CONT'D)

You're lucky you have Clementine, man. She's way cool.

1/2

(CONTINUED)

Joel looks at him. The guy continues to sift through his envelopes. A yellow envelope with the name "Lacuna" in the upper left catches Joel's eye.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Any big Valentine's plans with her?

JOEL

No.

Joel continues to stare at the yellow envelope.

FRANK

It's only a day away, better make reservations somewhere. Don't want to end up at Mickey D's.

The guy laughs. Joel smiles wanly.

FRANK (CONT'D)

McRomance!

The guy laughs again, too much.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Do you want fries with that shake?

JOEL

I've got to get to bed, Frank.

Frank looks at his watch.

FRANK

It's 8:30.

Joel shrugs, heads down the hall, unlocks his door, which is on the first floor.

FRANK (CONT'D)

What's with the dots?

INT. JOEL'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Joel changes into a pair of pajamas fresh from the package. He picks up a small vial from his night table, opens it, dumps a round pink pill into the palm of his hand, studies it, then swallows it quickly. He looks around the room, somewhat panicked, as if going through some checklist. He crosses to the window and looks out into the night. He tries again to squint into the van across the street.