

THE SOCIAL NETWORK by Aaron Sorkin (draft date: 5/28/09)

Step outline

Act One

Opening Scene: V.O. of MARK ZUCKERBERG and ERICA, we fade into the Campus Bar – its an awkward, confusing conversation. Mark is incredibly smart but also horribly in need of acceptance into the exclusive groups at school. “Money or the ability to make it doesn’t impress anybody around here.”

Inciting incident:

Erica breaks up with Mark – he insults her repetitively but it’s just his way of talking. She predicts he will be successful but girls won’t like him because he’s an asshole.

Harvard 2003

Mark walks into his dorm room with purpose. He’s in front of the computer, where he’s most comfortable. For hours Mark blogs, dissing on Erica, pulling up photo directories of all Harvard’s female students. Any visitors to his site can rate the girls by their pictures. None of the sites is impenetrable to Mark’s computer prowess.

In between seeing Mark compiling the photos on his computer, we see the Final Club party with all the beautiful people. We see several of the girls we will soon see rated.

We meet EDUARDO SAVERIN. He has an algorithm from a past computer betting scheme that Mark feels is all that’s needed to set his rating system into motion. FACEMASH is created. Mark sends it to a couple of his friends – the big question is whom will they send it to?

We see several locations as students across campus and at Final Club party rate the girls. We see Erica read what Mark blogged about her.

Eduardo warns Mark about the computer systems being monitored. But it’s too late, and the whole computer system crashes. Administrator COX is woken up with the news. Mark has revenge and success.

Three years later, Mark is with lawyers at a deposition. He’s strangely casually dressed (he’s like this throughout the whole story), and a different guy than he was when we first met him. His lawyer is SY and the junior associate is MARYLIN. She admires what Mark did, but probably not Mark himself. Eduardo sits on the other side of the table.

On the river, twin brothers CAMERON and TYLER WINKLEVOSS are in their skull, decimate the other Harvard two man rowing teams. Later in the dining hall, everyone admires the twins. Their friend DIVYA shows them the Harvard newspaper, The Crimson. Mark’s feat with the face book voting system impresses the twins.

At the deposition table, the Winklevoss and Divya oppose Mark.

In Harvard's Administrative hearing room, Cox accuses Mark of breaching security. Mark wants recognition for showing the gaping holes in their system. Eduardo waits for him outside. Mark gets six months academic probation.

The Winklevoss' meet Mark. When he hears they are rowers, he agrees to talk. They meet at the most exclusive club – The Porcellian Club. Divya is there. Mark barely listens as the three pitch him the idea for HarvardConnection – for students to upload photos, bios, etc. Without much conversation, Mark is in.

Point of no return – end Act One