

INT. LIVING ROOM OF GUYS' HOUSE

JOHN and TRAVIS, 20-somethings, are sitting on the couch, watching TV. STEVEN, in his 20s, walks in.

STEVEN

Hey, boys!

JOHN AND TRAVIS

(mumbles)

Hey.

STEVEN

What're you guys getting into tonight?

JOHN

Xbox.

TRAVIS

Pizza?

JOHN

Pizza.

STEVEN

Fantastic. Well, I'm off! See you later!

Steven exits. John sets down his XBOX CONTROLLER and turns to Travis.

JOHN

Hey, man, so have you noticed something odd about Steven lately?

Travis loads a BONG BOWL. He takes a hit and hands it to John.

TRAVIS

Hmm?

JOHN

(coughing)

Well ... I dunno ... I've just noticed him acting kind of ... strange ... lately.

TRAVIS

Oh. How so?

JOHN

I dunno, man. He's been coming home really late. Tuesday night I heard

him sneak in at, like, four in the morning.

TRAVIS

Huh. He usually passes out before midnight.

Sit in silence for a moment, in thought. They both rip the bong.

TRAVIS

You know, he has been buffing up lately.

JOHN

Yeah, I thought maybe he was just goin' to the gym at night. But it closes at, like, nine.

John passes the bong to Travis, who takes a hit.

TRAVIS

Huh.

JOHN

Yeah ... I think he's gay, man.

TRAVIS

What the hell dude.

JOHN

No, come on. I think he's trying to hide it. Maybe he thinks we'd be pissed about it or something.

TRAVIS

You know he'd tell us if he was gay, dude. He's our best friend. We don't give a shit who he's sleeping with.

JOHN

Well what else?

TRAVIS

What even makes you think that? Buffing up and staying out late? Maybe he has a girlfriend he's not telling us about.

JOHN

He has bragged about every girl he has ever touched to us in extraordinary detail. I don't think that's the case.

TRAVIS  
There you go. Straight.

John takes a hit.

JOHN  
That doesn't mean anything! He  
hasn't hooked up with anyone in  
months.

TRAVIS  
Huh. That is...unusual.

John passes the bong to Travis.

TRAVIS  
Cashed, man. Another?

JOHN  
Yeah.

John watches Travis load the bowl in silence. Travis slowly  
turns back to John.

TRAVIS  
You know... I did hear through the  
wall the other day...

FADE TO:

FLASHBACK INT. TRAVIS' BEDROOM.

Travis lies in his bed.

CUT TO:

INT. STEVEN'S ROOM.

He loudly jumps around doing karate in the mirror.

STEVEN  
Hi-yah!  
(pause)  
STEVEN (CONT'D)  
You want some more?

Travis hears Steven jumping around his bedroom, looks  
confused.

STEVEN (OFF)  
Hell yeah, buddy. You're gonna take  
all I got and then some.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM. PRESENT DAY.

Travis and John are still smoking.

JOHN

...what.

TRAVIS

I know, dude. I didn't really think too much about it, but now that you mention it...

JOHN

He's gay, man.

TRAVIS

Come on, we don't know that ...  
Yikes.

JOHN

Yeah.

John takes a hit and hands it to Travis.

JOHN (CONT'D)

I wasn't going to say anything...but  
I was walking by his room the other  
day...

FADE TO:

INT. FLASHBACK. THE DOOR IS CRACKED OPEN.

John walks upstairs.

STEVEN

Uhn. Yeah. Like that.

John peaks through the crack in the door to see a SPANDEX-clad Steven standing in front of the mirror, flexing.

STEVEN

Come and get me if you think you can  
handle it.

John slowly backs away and returns the way he came.

JOHN

(mumbling)

I didn't see anything I didn't see  
anything I didn't see anything I  
didn't see anything.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM. PRESENT DAY.

TRAVIS  
(coughing)  
What the hell! Is he a fucking  
stripper? Maybe he's a fucking  
stripper.

JOHN  
Yeah, a gay stripper.

TRAVIS  
I'm pretty sure that's a thing.

Travis passes the bong to John, who takes a hit.

JOHN  
Holy shit. Steven is a gay stripper.

TRAVIS  
You know what, yeah. Remember that  
call he got last night?

FADE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM. FLASHBACK.

Steven is walking up the stairs when his phone rings. John  
and Travis are in the living room.

STEVEN  
Shit!

John and Travis look up, Steven answers the phone.

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
Oh my goodness, another one? I  
thought I took care of those guys  
last week. I'm coming!

Steven trips as he runs back down the stairs, pulling his  
shirt off as he goes to reveal his spandex outfit  
underneath.

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
Hey, gotta run, promised some guys  
I'd meet up with them tonight.  
Later!

Steven slams the door behind him, John and Travis shrug and  
continue to play Xbox.

CUT TO:

INT. PRESENT DAY. LIVING ROOM.

John passes the bong to Travis.

JOHN

What the hell could he be doing with  
men while wearing spandex?

Silence. Both guys shudder.

TRAVIS

I don't wanna know.

Travis takes a hit and hands it to John.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)

He calls himself "Ferocious" when he  
thinks we can't hear him.

John coughs a lot as he exhales.

JOHN

... what?

TRAVIS

Yeah.

FADE TO:

INT. FLASHBACK. TRAVIS' ROOM.

Travis squeezes his eyes shut, trying to be asleep.

STEVEN (OFF)

You know who you are. You know what  
you want. You're a little fucker,  
aren't you? Yeah, look at you.  
Pathetic. You feel that? You feel my  
power...? I will destroy you.  
Ferocious will pound you harder than  
you've ever been pounded.

Travis puts his hands over his ears, but he can still hear  
him.

STEVEN (OFF)

Get on your knees, bitch!

TRAVIS

(whispers)

What...the...fuck.

CUT TO:

INT. PRESENT DAY. LIVING ROOM.

JOHN  
What...the...fuck.

TRAVIS  
(whispers)  
I know.

JOHN  
Do you think those strippers got him  
into the prostitution ring?

TRAVIS  
Is there a gay prostitution ring?

JOHN  
Gay dudes gotta fuck too!

John takes another hit and passes it to Travis.

JOHN  
We've gotta...we've gotta talk to  
him, man.

TRAVIS  
And say what?! No prostitution in  
the house?

JOHN  
No! Just, y'know, tell him the gay  
thing is cool...and the 'illicit  
activity' isn't.

Travis takes a hit while he thinks.

TRAVIS  
Tomorrow?

JOHN  
Tomorrow.

CUT TO:

INT. THE NEXT DAY. LIVING ROOM.

Steven walks down the stairs into the living room, where  
John and Travis are standing somberly.

STEVEN  
Oh, hey, boys! What are we up to  
today?

(confused)

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
...why are you standing there?

JOHN  
Steven, could you come sit with us  
for a second?

TRAVIS  
We would like to talk to you about  
about something, Steven.

STEVEN  
(skeptical)  
All right....

TRAVIS  
You're gonna need this.

Travis hands Steven the loaded bong.

JOHN  
We're all gonna need that.

Steven takes a hit and hands it to John.

STEVEN  
So ... what's this all about?

JOHN  
(exhaling smoke)  
Well ... Steven ... we've been ...  
noticing some odd behavior lately.

STEVEN  
Oh, god.

John hands the bong to Travis.

TRAVIS  
We're not accusing you of anything.  
We just want you to know....

Travis takes a hit.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)  
...that we're on board with the  
whole gay thing.

Absolute silence. Travis hands the bong to Steven, who takes  
a hit.

STEVEN  
...what?

JOHN  
 Come on, man. We know you're gay.  
 That's awesome! We just ... you know  
 ... we're worried about the  
 prostituting.

STEVEN  
 ...what?

JOHN  
 Just 'cause it's illegal! You can  
 bone every dude in the state for all  
 we care. But you've gotta get out of  
 this prostitution ring.

TRAVIS  
 Really, dude. If you're in some kind  
 of trouble ... if they're  
 threatening you....

STEVEN  
 Whoa, whoa, whoa. Who's threatening  
 me exactly?

TRAVIS  
 You know ... the ... ring leaders?

JOHN  
 What the hell are they called?  
 Bosses?

STEVEN  
 Pimps?

JOHN  
 That's the one! Is your pimp  
 threatening you, Steven? 'Cause you  
 know we'll kick his ass if he lays a  
 finger on you. Y'know ... an  
 unconsenting one.

Steven bursts out laughing. He continues laughing so hard  
 tears start to come down his face. Travis and John look at  
 each other bewildered, John takes the bong from Steven.

STEVEN  
 Ohhhhh holy shit. That's good.  
 That's great. Where did you even get  
 that idea?

TRAVIS  
 We share a wall, dude.  
 (whispers)  
 I hear things. Things I can't

unhear.

JOHN

Shh, shh, it's ok, take this.

John hands Travis the bong. He takes a huge hit and proceeds to cough a lot.

JOHN (CONT'D)

And what about that spandex suit you've been wearing under your clothes? Huh? You think we didn't notice? You think we can't see you through that crack in your door when you get done taking a shower and want to look at yourself in the mirror and--and--

Steven is still laughing as he wipes the tears off his face.

STEVEN

Wow. Oh, that's rich. That. Is. Rich.

TRAVIS

What do you mean? Come on man, we're trying to have a serious conversation here.

JOHN

Yeah, man, we care about you. We don't want you mixed up with the wrong people. You can be as gay as gay can be, but you've gotta get out of this ring.

STEVEN

Jesus Christ, guys, I'm not fucking gay. I'm Ferocious.

Travis and John look at each other, confused. Travis hands the bong to Steven, who takes a hit.

TRAVIS

You're ... ferocious? What does that even mean?

STEVEN

(disappointed)

Really? You haven't heard of me? Well, damn. There's a killjoy.

Steven hands the bong to John, stands up, and begins taking his clothes off.

JOHN  
What're you doing?!

STEVEN  
Trying to show you what's going on.

Steven removes his clothes to reveal his SUPERHERO COSTUME underneath.

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
See? I'm Ferocious.

TRAVIS  
You're ... Ferocious? Like ...  
you're a superhero?

STEVEN  
Isn't it obvious? I've been out all  
night fighting crime. Kicking ass.  
Curb stomping assholes. You know,  
superhero stuff.

JOHN  
So ... you ... have powers?

STEVEN  
Super strength, super agility,  
semi-super speed. The usual.

JOHN  
Oh ... well ... semi-super?

TRAVIS  
Shit, dude, I'm so sorry. We thought  
you were in some kind of trouble  
with your pimp.

STEVEN  
(laughing)  
I definitely don't have a pimp. This  
is a solo act.

Steven stands.

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
Speaking of which, I've gotta run.  
Wow, it's so nice not to have to lie  
anymore! Later guys!

Steven exits at semi-super speed. John turns back to Travis,  
who is taking a hit of the bong.

JOHN  
Definitely gay?

TRAVIS  
Definitely gay.