

VIDEO NASTY

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BE KIND

PLEASE REWIND

EXT. THE NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

Our heavy breath fills our MASK as we stare at THE HOUSE across the street.

It's a cookie-cutter AMERICAN CRAFTSMAN that looks like every other house on the block.

But there is something special about *this* house - a reason this is the one we're standing outside.

This is where THE GIRL (15) lives.

The girl watching TV in the living room - the one we can see through the window.

We move across the street and peer through the glass.

She's bathed in the glow of the TV sipping FRUIT PUNCH that stains her lip, and utterly oblivious to our presence until -

A CAT YOWLS and runs from the bushes.

Her head whips around.

We duck below the window as she comes to look outside.

But she doesn't see us.

So she goes back. We stand up just in time to catch her turn off the TV. A shiver runs down her spine...

She walks out of the living room and we follow her onto -

THE STOOP

We look inside the frosted window by the FRONT DOOR and see The Girl's silhouette travel up the stairs.

Once she's out of sight, we look down at our YELLOW GLOVE - at the blood-soaked HOUSE KEY held within our palm.

We unlock the door and step into -

THE FOYER

We quietly close the door behind us - no reason to *make the neighbors suspicious* - and listen.

We hear her upstairs. She's singing to herself a sweet, gentle melody.

We ascend the stairs slowly, the sound of her voice acting as our siren song, until we reach -

THE UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

At the end of the hall, we see the LIGHT glowing through the crack in her BEDROOM DOOR.

Her song grows louder with every step we take.

We look down at the KNIFE in our hand, our gloved thumb rubbing the fat end of the blade in anticipation, until we reach -

HER BEDROOM

We push open the door and see her sitting at her VANITY, brushing her hair in front of the MIRROR.

Her song hides the groan of the floorboards as we get closer, and closer, and closer...

We gaze upon our BLADE as we raise it high into the air.

But when we look back down, we see it -

Her MIRROR.

We see OURSELVES peering out from behind our RUBBER MASK.

Then we come to a horrifying realization.

The Girl has NO REFLECTION.

At that moment, she WHIPS AROUND.

She opens her gaping maw to reveal her vicious VAMPIRE FANGS.

She POUNCES. We FALL backwards onto the floor.

She bites into our THROAT.

We see our BLOOD SPRAY across the room.

It's the last thing we see before we die...

THE END

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY SHAWN AND LENA WRIGHT

LENA (O.S.)
Shawn.

INT. THE OLD BEDROOM - DAY

SHAWN WRIGHT (14) sits on the floor in front of his LAPTOP in a bedroom that's decorated like the floor of a Horror convention.

Between the POSTERS for Carpenter and Hooper flicks, NECA action figures, Stephen King BOOKS - it's a horror fan's dream.

Or it used to be, anyway. Now, half of his stuff has been packed into MOVING BOXES.

LENA (O.S.)
Shawn!

The door swings open and his sister LENA (15) steps inside. She's the same girl from the video, minus the fangs.

LENA
You haven't finished packing?

SHAWN
I was feeling nostalgic.

She walks inside and checks the screen.

LENA
Ah, *Girls Suck* - our masterpiece.

SHAWN
I always preferred *Mr. Buzzkill*.

LENA
That's because you kill *me* in that one.

She slams the clamshell closed.

SHAWN
Hey--

LENA
Mom's going to kill you when she finds out you're not done.

SHAWN
At least if I'm dead, I won't have
to move to Pennsylvania.

She pretends to hack him with a RUBBER CLEAVER.

LENA
Holdenfield won't be that bad.

She starts throwing more stuff into boxes - knife gloves, hockey masks, a Good Guy doll.

LENA
Did you know a bunch of kids there
went missing in the 80s? No one
knows what happened to them. Just
vanished.

SHAWN
Is that supposed to sell me?

LENA
Of course. We love that spooky
shit.

Shawn goes to the window and looks outside at the bustling
CITY LIFE happening outside their BROWNSTONE.

SHAWN
I just don't understand why things
have to change.

Lena takes a FRAMED PHOTOGRAPH off Shawn's shelf.

LENA
Yes you do.

She gazes at the image of the two of them as KIDS meeting
ROBERT ENGLUND. Standing next to them is their smiling DAD.
She places it gently in a box.

LENA
Because Mom can't afford this place
by herself.

She unplugs the dusty VCR. When Shawn hears the sound of a
TRASH BAG, he whips around.

SHAWN
What are you doing?

LENA
...Throwing it out?

SHAWN
No you're not.

He darts over and rips it from her grip.

LENA
Shawn. It's ancient.

SHAWN
Yeah. That means it's better. A lot
of movies only exist on VHS.

LENA
You can't take everything with you.

SHAWN
Why not? Why does *everything* have
to be different now?

She sees this is about more than a tape player.

LENA
I know. I'm scared, too.

SHAWN
I've seen every horror movie ever
made. I'm not scared.

LENA
Nothing important is going to
change. You'll still have Mom.
You'll still have me. We'll still
make popcorn and watch gory movies.

SHAWN
...Promise?

LENA
Promise.

She takes the VCR from his hand.

LENA
I won't leave you behind.

She tosses the VCR into the box and we SMASH to -

VIDEO NASTY

INT. THE BUS - DAY

Shawn sits alone on the bus listening to the *Halloween* soundtrack on a WALKMAN.

He looks out the window at the SUBURBS.

He's still not used to this.

THREE MONTHS LATER

He twists around in his seat and looks past the rows of ROWDY KIDS to see Lena sitting in the BACK.

She's with another girl - IZZY (16).

Izzy is cool. Much cooler than Shawn.

Lena doesn't notice him staring at her. Or she's ignoring him. He can never tell anymore.

The truth is she just hasn't noticed. She has other things on her mind.

Namely Izzy, who is resting her head on Lena's shoulder.

They're sharing a pair of AIRPODS.

IZZY

This is my favorite part.

Lena tries to listen but she keeps getting distracted by the smell of Izzy's hair.

When the song ends, Izzy sits up and peels off the headphones.

IZZY

What did you think?

Lena stares into her eager eyes.

LENA

Beautiful.
(but about the song)

LENA (CONT'D)

I don't really know much about music but...it's like it's happy and sad and familiar yet totally new all at the same time. How does she do that?

IZZY

She's bouncing between the fourth and the minor sixth so you're not sure where you are emotionally but then she builds you up with the pre-chorus and hits you with the drop and then the chorus and you get the lift - the catharsis you've been craving. She's a genius.

LENA

Amazing.

IZZY

She's going to play at The Factory. It's, like, the only venue in town but it's cool. Her show's at the end of the month - we should go together.

LENA

Really?

IZZY

Of course. This town can be kind of lame but it has its charms if you have the right person to show you around.

LENA

Yeah, that'd be awesome.

She blushes. She can't help it.

Shawn can see there's no way she's going to notice him.

But as he's about to turn around, a DOUCHEBAG stands up and blocks his sight.

DOUCHEBAG

Don't look at me.

Shit

Shawn turns back around and sinks into his seat, trying to appear as inconspicuous as possible. It doesn't work.

The Douchebag jumps into the seat BEHIND Shawn and looms over him. Shawn can feel his Flaming Hot Cheeto breath on the back of his neck.

DOUCHEBAG

I said don't look at me.

Shawn tries to disassociate by turning up his music.

SHAWN

I'm not.

He glances up to see all the kids waiting to see what will happen next. A bunch are filming with their CELL PHONES.

The Douchebag grabs the wire of Shawn's HEADPHONES and rips the walkman from his hands.

SHAWN

Hey!

He hits a button and a CASSETTE pops out.

DOUCHEBAG

What the fuck is this?

Before Shawn can respond, The Douchebag grabs Shawn's BACKPACK.

DOUCHEBAG

What other weird-ass shit do you have in here?

SHAWN

Stop!

He tries to grab it back but it's too late - The Douchebag is already digging around inside.

Shawn is forced to watch helplessly as The Douchebag pulls out a bottle of FAKE BLOOD.

Without missing a beat, he squeezes the tube and SPRAYS Shawn in the face to an eruption of laughter.

The commotion up front finally alerts Lena. She bolts to her feet.

LENA

Hey--

The bus comes to a stop.

Shawn finally wrenches his bag away from The Douchebag and rushes to the exit.

EXT. THE SUBURBS - DAY

Shawn bounds down the steps and races home. A moment later, Lena follows him out.

LENA
Shawn, wait--

But he's already out of earshot. She sighs.

She follows Shawn and the two walk home a full block apart, past rows of modest houses.

They pass an ABANDONED HOUSE littered with generations of MISSING PERSON SIGNS.

A strong GUST of wind blows some of the flyers loose. One hits Shawn in the face, sticking to the blood.

He rips it off and inspects it.

ALLISON QUIGLEY
AGE: 16
MISSING SINCE JUNE 30TH 1986

He tries and fails to get it off his fingers all the way home.

INT. THE KITCHEN - EVENING

Lena listens to music from her airpods and grins as she texts on her phone.

Shawn - his face still stained with traces of blood - stares at her as he moves the food around on his plate. Finally -

SHAWN
What's so funny?

But she doesn't hear him.

SHAWN
Lena.

She takes a pod out.

SHAWN
What's funny?

LENA

Nothing.

But obviously that's bullshit because she gets another text and immediately cracks up.

MOM (O.S.)

Fuck!

They both look to their harried MOM storming into the room holding her PHONE.

SHAWN

What's wrong?

MOM

The company's sending me to Virginia for a mandatory team building retreat.

LENA

That sucks.

MOM

Yeah. It does. Anyway. That woman from down the street is going to stay here while I'm gone.

SHAWN

Miss Kerrigan?

LENA

Fuck no.

MOM

Hey.

LENA

A baby sitter? I'm sixteen.

SHAWN

So was Allison Quigley.

Lena shoots him daggers.

LENA

You're not helping.

SHAWN

Just saying...

MOM

He's right. Bradley Clarke, Joanne Merchant--

LENA

So because a few kids went missing -
in the 80s - I need off-brand
Shelly Winters to surveil my every
move?

MOM

Not risking it, kiddo.

LENA

I'll stay at Izzy's.

MOM

What about your brother?

LENA

He can stay at a friend's house.

SHAWN

Whose?

Silence.

MOM

You're getting a baby sitter.

INT. THE HALLWAY - NIGHT

Lena stands in the dark outside a door covered in Fright Rag STICKERS. She knocks.

SHAWN (O.C.)

...What?

LENA

Can I come in?

After a pregnant silence -

SHAWN

It's open.

She opens the door to -

SHAWN'S NEW ROOM

It's practically empty. He still can't bring himself to unpack.

Shawn is on his bed watching a MOVIE on his old TV.

LENA

Hey.

She steps inside.

LENA

Dream Warriors again?

SHAWN

It's my favorite.

LENA

You've seen it a hundred times.

Oh, it's this part.

SHAWN

"Welcome to prime time,
bitch."

LENA

"Welcome to prime time,
bitch."

SHAWN

Exactly. No matter how many times I
watch it, it never changes.

She chooses her next words carefully.

LENA

I'm sorry. About today. The bus...

(beat)

I didn't realize what was
happening.

He shrugs.

SHAWN

You were talking to that girl. I
get it.

She sits on the edge of his bed.

LENA

Sucks about the baby sitter.

SHAWN

Doesn't affect my weekend either
way.

All right. Time for an olive branch.

LENA

Maybe since we're stuck together,
we can watch a movie or something.

Shawn hits pause. That's intriguing.

SHAWN

Really? You promise?

LENA

I'll make popcorn the way you like it. Olive oil and Old Bay.

He sits up.

SHAWN

Camp-Slasher marathon.

Sleepaway Camp, The Burning, Madman-

LENA

Just one.

SHAWN

Deal.

She glances at the movie.

LENA

Preferably one we haven't seen before.

SHAWN

I'll find it.

She gets up and goes to the door.

LENA

We cool?

He hits play on his movie. She'll take it.

She closes the door behind her. He grins.

INT. THE CLASSROOM - DAY

The TEACHER casually locks the door and turns out the lights.

TEACHER

You know the drill, guys.

Under your desks. No talking.

Shawn and the other students all crawl under their desks.

Shawn surveys his peers. Every one of them is on their phone - texting, tik-toking, instagramming, snapping.

He rolls his eyes as he pulls a dog-eared Clive Barker BOOK from his bag and starts to read.

But he gradually becomes aware of the giggling happening around him. He sinks. He knows that sound well.

He looks up to see some kids looking in his direction. Then he feels a BUZZING in his pocket. He pulls out his phone.

It's a text - a PICTURE of Shawn taken a moment ago under the words "FOUND THE SCHOOL SHOOTER"

His ears go hot and he shoves the phone back in his pocket, swallowing the lump in his throat.

INT. THE SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Shawn keeps his head in his locker, a brief respite from the day.

Eventually he takes out his backpack and closes his locker. It's the only one with insults carved into its surface.

EXT. THE SCHOOL - DAY

Shawn trudges to the row of idling BUSSES, one of the last to arrive.

He goes to his BUS and looks at the KIDS in the window. The ones who hate him.

And he sees Lena in the back, too distracted by Izzy to protect him.

He feels another BUZZ in his pocket. He looks at his phone. More abuse.

So with a hearty "Fuck this," he hurls his phone at the ground and turns around and walks away.

The bus pulls away without Lena ever realizing her brother isn't on it.

EXT. THE OLD GRAVEYARD - DAY

Shawn takes a shortcut home through the untamed grass of a forgotten CEMETERY.

After navigating through the tombstones, he emerges onto a neglected road when he notices something up ahead.

An empty parking lot. And a STRIP MALL.

EXT. THE STRIP MALL

Shawn looks up at the SIGN that looms over the parking lot and reads the names of the stores located here.

Only one catches his attention:

VIDEO CASTLE

A grin spreads across his face and he speeds past a ROW of STORES before arriving at the last one on the left, VIDEO CASTLE.

But when he gets there, his shoulders sink - it's obviously CLOSED.

He peers inside its dark windows when he hears a CAW. He looks up to see a CROW perched upon the sign.

It caws again, almost as if it's warning him.

He looks back at the store and furrows his brow.

The lights are ON. A sign on the door says OPEN.

He hadn't noticed that before, but Shawn knows a plot development when he sees one.

So he goes through its doors.

INT. VIDEO CASTLE - DAY

Shawn is immediately confronted by the smell of stale carpet and decaying plastic.

There's no one in here. Maybe it *is* closed.

SHAWN

Hello?

He clocks the sun-faded POSTERS, the expired snacks, and the SHELVES of DVDs.

He checks the SIGNS that hang from the ceiling - ACTION, DRAMA, COMEDY, and -

SHAWN

Horror.

He navigates the rows of shelves until he reaches the HORROR SECTION. He surveys the inventory.

Abominable Dr. Phibes, Alice Sweet Alice, American Werewolf in London, Amityville Horror, April Fools Day, Army of Darkness, Audition, Audrey Rose--

BARBARA (O.S.)
Can I help you?

Shawn jumps out of his skin. He turns to see, standing at the end of the aisle -

BARBARA (60s). Ghost white hair and a face like a Renaissance painting. Shawn swallows.

SHAWN
I'm sorry, I wasn't sure if...
Are you open?

BARBARA
Difficult to say. No one comes in anymore, but I insist on keeping the lights on. Creature of habit.

She strolls closer.

BARBARA
Back in the 80s, there were so many people in here on a Friday night, one could barely move.

Shawn shakes his head.

SHAWN
Things were better then. The movies. The people...

BARBARA
But things change, don't they?

SHAWN
Yeah. I was born in the wrong era.

BARBARA
Is that so?

She towers over him. He clears his throat.

SHAWN
I'm looking for a scary movie.

BARBARA
You've come to the right place.

Shawn looks over the selection.

SHAWN
Is this all you have?

BARBARA
This is the pinnacle of what the
genre has to offer.

SHAWN
You have the obvious ones, sure,
but I'm trying to impress someone.
I need something she's never seen.

BARBARA
I'm afraid what you see is what we
have.

Shawn sinks.

SHAWN
All right, well...thanks anyway.

Barbara watches him move towards the doors.

BARBARA
I do have some more obscure titles
not on display.

Shawn turns back around.

BARBARA
Unfortunately, they can only be
played on an older device.

Shawn perks up.

SHAWN
...Like a VCR?

INT. THE BACK OFFICE - DAY

Shawn hovers in the doorway as Barbara unlocks a DOOR in the
FLOOR.

BARBARA
Years ago, there were films deemed
too horrific for public
consumption.

She opens the door and reaches deep inside.

BARBARA

Cinema so filled to the brim with murder, mayhem, and mutilation that their mere existence was considered a crime against humanity.

She comes back with a stack of VIDEO TAPES.

BARBARA

They were called Video Nasties.

INT. VIDEO CASTLE, FRONT COUNTER - DAY

Shawn stands before the register appraising the stack of tapes. His eyes run down the titles:

Slaughter Fodder, The Heinous, Piccolo Olocausto, God Can't Save You, etc.

SHAWN

I've never heard of any of these.

BARBARA

Collector's items. Traded on the black market, known only to true aficionados of the morbid and the macabre. Some of these are the only bootlegs left in existence.

He takes one off the top of the stack.

SHAWN

How They Bleed.

He flips it over and reads the back.

SHAWN

"One night in a sleepy suburb, a group of unsuspecting teenagers are terrorized by an unstoppable killer."

(beat)

A slasher?

BARBARA

Indeed.

SHAWN

I don't know. We've seen *Faces of Death*, *Cannibal Ferox*, and *Mr. Hands* - I doubt a maniac with a mask and a machete is going to get our hearts pounding.

BARBARA

I promise you've never seen anything like this before.

She goes to take it back.

BARBARA

But if you're too frightened--

SHAWN

I didn't say that.

He scrutinizes the cover - a blood-drenched SICKLE.

SHAWN

She definitely has not seen this...

He pulls a wad of dollars from his pocket.

SHAWN

Do I need to open an account?

She opens the register.

BARBARA

I trust you'll return.

EXT. VIDEO CASTLE - DAY

Shawn grips the tape tight in his hand as he leaves Video Castle behind him.

From INSIDE the store, watching him from the window, Barbara is laughing like a mad woman.

INT. THE FOYER - DAY

Shawn opens the front door and is immediately greeted by his Mom's barely concealed rage.

MOM (O.S.)

Hello Kerrigan. Yeah, it's me again. Please answer your fucking phone.

THE KITCHEN

Shawn walks into the kitchen to see his Mom on the phone, pacing back and forth by her luggage, and -

Lena sitting on the counter top, eating an apple and grinning from ear to ear.

SHAWN

What's happening?

LENA

Kerrigan isn't coming.

SHAWN

Really?

MOM

She texted me. Two hours before my plane leaves, she *texts me*.

"Can't make it - cat is sick."

(beat)

Hope it goes Cujo on her fucking ass...

HONK

MOM

Great. My car is here.

She takes a breath. Settles down.

MOM

Okay...change of plan.

No baby sitter.

The kids try not to celebrate too obviously.

MOM

Lena - you are in charge. That means you do not leave this house. You do not have anyone over. You don't consume anything that requires Federal identification. You text me a picture of yourselves together on the hour every hour, and you do not answer the door to strangers. Got it?

LENA

Yes mother dearest.

HONK HONK HOOOOOONNNNNKKKK

MOM
ALL RIGHT!

Mom grabs her bag.

MOM
Don't make me regret this.

She quickly hugs them both and rushes out the door. And then there were two.

LENA
YES!!!

Lena hops off the counter and dances to herself. Shawn grins and proudly holds out the tape.

SHAWN
Look what I got--

She pulls out her phone and marches down the hall and up the stairs.

Shawn sinks. He looks down at the tape, at the bloody sickle, and nods.

This is going to work. *He's going to win his sister back.*

IZZY (PRE-LAP)
This is a phenomenal development.

INT. LENA'S ROOM - DAY

Lena wanders her room speaking to Izzy on Facetime.

LENA
Game changer.

IZZY (FACETIME)
And perfect timing. Word around the campfire is that Nate Evan's older brother gave him an unused keg from his frat. He's having people over at nine. Want to be my date?

LENA
Oh my God, yes--

But then she stops in her tracks.

LENA
Wait. Actually...
(sigh)
I don't think I can leave Shawn.

IZZY (FACETIME)
Oh. Oh yeah...
(beat)
Well...maybe I could come over?

Yes

LENA
I don't want you to miss the party
because of me.

IZZY (FACETIME)
I mean, could I even have fun if
you weren't there? Who are we
kidding?

Lena blushes.

LENA
Well yeah...if we're being
honest...

IZZY (FACETIME)
Just us girls?

Lena bites her lip.

INT. SHAWN'S NEW BEDROOM - EVENING

Shawn searches through one of the moving boxes he still
hasn't unpacked until he finds the VCR.

With the tape player tucked under one arm and the movie held
in the other, he bounds out of the room and down the stairs.

INT. THE KITCHEN - EVENING

Shawn follows the smell of butter into the kitchen.

He sees Lena adding olive oil and Old Bay to a bowl of
POPCORN - just the way he likes it. *Perfect.*

SHAWN
Ready for the movie?

IZZY (O.S.)
What are we watching?

Shawn spins around to see, to his abject horror, IZZY holding a half-empty bottle of Merlot. He backs away.

SHAWN
What is she doing here?

LENA
She's sleeping over.

Lena walks by with the popcorn and Shawn watches as the two of them go into -

THE LIVING ROOM

They sit down on the couch and start eating popcorn and pouring wine. Shawn follows.

SHAWN
Mom said no one else was allowed.

Lena and Izzy exchange "Is he serious?" looks.

LENA
...Are you going to tell her?

IZZY
Yeah Shawn, you know what they say about stitches and who's liable to get 'em.

They're already ganging up against him.

SHAWN
You said we were going to watch a scary movie.

IZZY
Oh...

LENA
Yeah, sorry - Izzy doesn't like horror movies.

IZZY
I'm a wuss.

LENA
Let's pick something else.

He grinds his teeth.

SHAWN

I don't want to pick something else. I want to watch the movie you promised to watch with me.

LENA

That was when we had a baby sitter. Things are different now.

"Things are different now" - he snaps.

Shawn KICKS the table, sending popcorn and wine spilling across the floor.

IZZY

Whoa dude!

LENA

What the fuck, Shawn?!

The girls jump up from the couch. The wine is all over the carpet.

LENA

What the Hell is wrong with you?

SHAWN

You've changed and I hate the new you.

Cool, so that's how it is now.

LENA

Yeah, I have changed. But you're still the entitled little shit you've always been. Grow the fuck up. Stay the fuck away from me. Go watch your stupid ass movie and leave us alone.

Shawn takes a survey of the chaos he's created, then he turns on his heel and storms away.

INT. SHAWN'S NEW BEDROOM - EVENING

Shawn punches his pillows until he's exhausted all his energy.

He focuses his attention instead on the VIDEO TAPE in the VCR.

When he's finally calmed down enough, he crawls across the floor -

And PRESSES the TAPE inside the VCR.

The screen goes BLACK. TRACKING LINES briefly fill the image before dispersing. And then...

VIDEO TAPE

INT. THE MORGUE

A WOMAN lies DEAD within an open casket. Her skin is waxen, her eyes are shut -

And her hands are placed over her PREGNANT BELLY.

The lid is closed and NAILED SHUT.

INT. PAUPER'S GRAVEYARD - MORNING

The cheap pine coffin lies six feet under the earth in a freshly dug HOLE.

GRAVE DIGGER (O.C.)
Who was she?

Standing above the hole is a boney, gnarled GRAVE DIGGER and an ashen-white PRIEST.

PRIEST
No one knows. A vagabond. A drunk.
A prostitute. Another pitiful soul
buried in an unnamed grave. Such a
tragedy.

The Priest walks off.

PRIEST (O.C.)
She was with child.

The Grave Digger shakes his head, then picks up his shovel and throws a pile of DIRT atop the coffin.

LATER

A layer of soil covers the surface of the coffin, and the Grave Digger keeps adding more.

But as he digs his shovel into the pile of dirt, he HEARS something - a CRYING BABY.

He surveys the foggy graveyard in search of the source of the wailing, but he sees nothing and no one.

That's when he realizes it's coming from INSIDE the coffin.

When his mind finally processes this, he JUMPS into the grave and frantically brushes aside the dirt.

He uses his shovel to pry open the lid and cast it aside, revealing the woman's corpse. And between her legs -

A NEWBORN

GRAVE DIGGER

My God...

He cuts the umbilical cord with the edge of his shovel then picks up the baby and cradles it to his chest.

GRAVE DIGGER

This is a miracle.

No. A *plague*.

ADMINISTRATOR (PRE-LAP)

He's been with us for 21 years.

INT. ASYLUM HALLWAY - DAY

An ADMINISTRATOR and a NURSE walk side-by-side, their footsteps echoing in the cavernous hall.

ADMINISTRATOR

In all that time, he's never spoken a word to anyone. We used to think him an idiot, but in his way, he displays a remarkable intelligence. Or rather...cunning.

NURSE

But if he isn't able to communicate, and he's never lived on his own, why is the hospital releasing him?

ADMINISTRATOR

"The Two Bees" - budgets and bureaucracy.

NURSE

But is he...dangerous?

ADMINISTRATOR

No. No, we have no reason to believe he would ever hurt a soul.

But he doesn't sound entirely convinced himself as they reach a closed DOOR.

He fumbles with his keys and unlocks the door to -

THE ROOM

ADMINISTRATOR

There he is.

They stand in the doorway and see - sitting on a thin cot by the window a hulking behemoth.

THE KILLER

He sits on the edge of his bed, his head hidden below his massive shoulders.

Neither the Nurse nor Administrator see the RAT in his grip, blood oozing from its mouth as he crushes its bones.

ADMINISTRATOR

In only a matter of hours, our dear boy will be set free into the world. He'll be amongst people. He'll learn how they speak, how they dress, how they love, and...

HOW THEY BLEED

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INT. SHAWN'S NEW BEDROOM - NIGHT

Shawn's eyes glow in the light of the TV, hypnotized by droning SYNTHS.

This is what he needed. This is medicine. This is heroin.

LENA (PRE-LAP)

He's such a shit.

INT. THE LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

While Izzy collects popcorn off the floor, Lena distributes baking powder on the wine stain.

LENA

The audacity. The unmitigated gall.

IZZY

He just wanted to hang out with his
sister...

Lena pours club soda over the baking powder.

LENA

He's an immature little ass who
would rather live in the past than
deal with reality.

IZZY

He sure likes his scary movies.

She goes to the DVD collection.

IZZY

I guess I never understood why
anyone would want to be scared

LENA

Really? You don't think it's fun?

IZZY

When I was a kid, my cousin gave me
her old Furby. Do you remember
those? The toys with the giant eyes
that would randomly speak in
tongues. I still have PTSD from all
the times it woke me up in the
middle of the night and have
constant nightmares that it's
watching me sleep.

(beat)

Not once did I find that experience
fun.

She pulls the *Halloween* box set off the shelf.

IZZY

Is this Jason?

LENA

No. *Halloween* is Michael Meyers. He
kills baby sitters. Jason is *Friday*
the 13th and he mostly sticks to
camp counselors.

IZZY

And what about Freddy?

LENA

Haunts the nightmares of the
children of Elm Street.

(beat)

Those were always our favorite,
especially the third one - *Dream
Warriors*. That's when the kids
learn they can manipulate the dream
world to fight back.
Change into whatever they want to
be.

Izzy watches amazed as Lena pats at the carpet with a paper
towel, lifting the stain and leaving it clean underneath.

IZZY

Wow. You're good at that.

LENA

I've had a lot of practice getting
bloodstains out of fabric.

IZZY

Um...

LENA

Fake blood.

(beat)

Back in the city, Shawn and I would
make these dumb little movies that
involved a lot of red dye and corn
syrup. Proper cleanup became a
survival method.

Izzy stands straight up.

LENA

What?

IZZY

You have to show me.

INT. SHAWN'S NEW BEDROOM - NIGHT

Shawn has moved even closer to the TV as blood and gore spray
across the screen.

He watches an OLD MAN take a SICKLE to the JUGULAR.

Then a hard CUT TO BLACK followed by New Wave music...

INT. TEEN GIRL'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Steam fills the bathroom as a TEEN GIRL (16) dances to the RADIO behind the frosted glass of her SHOWER.

But suddenly the music cuts off.

RADIO

Excuse the interruption. Police are reporting a double homicide at the Jenkins farm. The victims appear to have been murdered by what the authorities are describing as some sort of hooked blade--

She reaches her arm out and turns OFF the radio. She then grabs a TOWEL and emerges a moment later.

She wipes the steam off the mirror revealing her FACE.

PAUSE

INT. SHAWN'S NEW BEDROOM

Shawn narrows his eyes.

He scrutinizes the girl's expression as the tape gently tremors. He inches closer, then grabs the tape's BOX.

SHAWN

Where have I seen you before...

He reads the back of the box, but he sees no names of actors. He bites his lip and continues to stare. Shrugs.

He hits PLAY and watches her brush her wet hair, still trying to place her face when -

BOOM

Both Shawn and The Teen Girl JUMP at the sound of THUNDER outside their respective windows.

Shawn clutches his chest - she does the same. He looks to the window and sees the first drops of RAIN pelt the window.

Meanwhile, The Teen Girl doesn't see THE KILLER standing in her yard holding a SICKLE.

INT. LENA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Lena and Izzy sit on the edge of Lena's bed, her LAPTOP between them.

Izzy is watching Lena run screaming from what is clearly Shawn in a WELDING MASK with two BUZZ SAWS for hands.

Meanwhile, Lena is watching Izzy with growing anxiety.

LENA

I know, it's gross and stupid--

IZZY

You are so effing cool.

Lena breathes a sigh of relief.

LENA

Really? You like it?

IZZY

Are you kidding me? That was amazing!

She blushes.

IZZY

You're such a good actress. And that was Shawn as Mr. Buzzkill, right?

LENA

Yeah. I mean, we had to shoot it *Lord of the Rings* style so that he'd look taller.

IZZY

I'm in awe of you. Literal awe. I had no idea you were so spooky. I just...I...

The two stare deep into each other's eyes.

Then Lena KISSES her. It was only a matter of time.

But after a moment, she pulls away.

LENA

I'm sorry.

IZZY

Wow.

LENA

I'm really sorry. That was so not cool. You didn't consent to that. I just like you so much but I shouldn't have...

Lena takes Izzy by the chin.

IZZY

Shh. Hi.

LENA

...Hi

THE TEEN GIRL (PRE-LAP)

Hello?

INT. THE TEEN GIRL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Wrapped in her towel, The Teen Girl holds her giant PHONE to her ear, twirling the cord around her finger, as she searches her closet for an outfit.

BRAD (PHONE)

Hey there.

She smiles.

THE TEEN GIRL

Hi, Brad.

CLICK

HER FATHER (PHONE)

Hello?

THE TEEN GIRL

It's for me, Daddy. Brad's calling.

BRAD (PHONE)

Hi Mr. Q.

HER FATHER (PHONE)

You kids don't hold up the line for too long, now.

CLICK

THE TEEN GIRL

To what do I owe the pleasure?

BRAD (PHONE)
Wondering if you're going to
Joanne's party tonight.

THE TEEN GIRL
It's only the social event of the
season.

CLICK

THE TEEN GIRL
Dad! Get off the line.

Silence

THE TEEN GIRL
Daddy?

BRAD (PHONE)
What's going--

THE TEEN GIRL
Shh.

She listens and hears on the phone, ever so faintly...

HEAVY BREATHING

THE TEEN GIRL
Brad, I'm going to call you back.

She hangs up and looks out into her HALLWAY.

THE TEEN GIRL
Dad...?

INT. SHAWN'S NEW BEDROOM

Shawn watches The Teen Girl peer out into her hallway as the music gets more ominous. He smiles. The good shit is coming.

Outside - LIGHTNING FLASHES.

INT. LENA'S ROOM

Lena and Izzy awkwardly kiss atop Lena's bed, neither sure what to do with their hands, when -

BOOOOOM

They both jump. Izzy giggles, but Lena frowns at the RAIN battering her window.

LENA

Was it supposed to storm tonight?

IZZY

Who cares?

She pulls Lena's face back to hers.

INT. THE TEEN GIRL'S KITCHEN

The Teen Girl - wearing the PINK DRESS - steps into her KITCHEN.

The first thing she sees is the PHONE hanging off the hook, dangling back and forth. She looks to the LIVING ROOM.

Her DAD sits in his LAY-Z BOY in front of the football on TV.

THE TEEN GIRL

Daddy. The phone is off the hook.

No response. The volume is loud. Maybe he didn't hear her.

So she hangs up the phone and marches into the -

LIVING ROOM

She reaches for the back of the chair.

THE TEEN GIRL

You know if you sit too close to
the TV, you're going to give
yourself a splitting headache.

She SPINS the chair to find her Dad EVISCERATED - *cut in half
groin to scalp.*

She SCREAMS as the last threads of sinew holding him together TEAR and he SPLITS like a banana peel, his insides spilling onto the floor.

INT. SHAWN'S NEW BEDROOM

Shawn grabs his face with ecstatic disgust, marveling at the ingenuity and skill that went into the makeup.

SHAWN

Holy shit!

INT. THE TEEN GIRL'S LIVING ROOM

The Teen Girl's face goes white as she backs away from her dead father, her feet sloshing on the blood-soaked carpet.

She turns and runs back into the -

KITCHEN

But as soon as she steps onto the sleek linoleum, she SLIPS and falls to the ground.

She scrambles and crawls to the wall where she grabs the PHONE and dials.

THE TEEN GIRL

Hello? Police? My name is Allison Quigley and my Dad has been--

But the blade of a SICKLE cuts the phone cord. She looks up and SCREAMS when -

SHAWN (O.C.)

Wait.

INT. THE BASEMENT

Shawn leans forward, his brow furrowed as he watches her narrowly escape the killer. He focuses on her SCREAMING FACE.

SHAWN

No way.

He jumps to his feet and runs to the TRASH CAN in the corner.

SHAWN

No fucking way.

He digs around inside until he pulls out the sticky, crumpled MISSING PERSONS FLYER.

His eyes go wide as he absorbs the sight of ALLISON QUIGLEY.

And as The Teen Girl in the movie manages to escape her house and run outside, he holds up the flyer and compares the images.

IT'S. THE. SAME. FUCKING. GIRL.

He grabs the remote as the camera gets a CLOSE UP of her terrified face. As she opens her mouth to SCREAM -

He hits PAUSE...

...Only to hear a SCREAM coming from OUTSIDE.

His heart drops into his stomach. He looks to the window. *There's no way.*

INT. LENA'S ROOM

Lena releases her lips from Izzy's.

LENA

Did you hear that?

IZZY

No.

Lena gets up off the bed.

IZZY

No, come back--

LENA

I heard someone screaming.

She looks out the window but can't see anything past the rain.

IZZY

It's probably your brother's movie.

LENA

No. It was outside. A girl...

She listens for more screaming, but all she hears is the rain on the window. Until -

BANG BANG BANG

The girls exchange frightened looks.

BANG BANG BANG - the FRONT DOOR

INT. SHAWN'S NEW BEDROOM

Shawn holds his breath, only the hum of the TV and the patter of rain on the window, waiting for -

BANG BANG BANG

ALLISON (O.S.)
Someone! Please! Help!

INT. THE FOYER

Lena and Izzy hold each other as they quietly creep down the stairs, their eyes fixed on the door.

They reach the bottom and Lena slowly, cautiously peers out the WINDOW when -

SHAWN (O.C.)
Don't open it!

They yelp and turn to see Shawn cowering at the top of the stairs.

LENA
There's no one there...

Just then - a GIRL bangs on a WINDOW in the KITCHEN.

ALLISON
Help me!

The girls scream. Shawn's heart drops into his stomach.

The Girl is in the dark, obscured by the rain, but she's wearing a PINK DRESS...

LENA
It's a girl!

She runs into the kitchen and sees the girl in the dark - soaked from the rain.

SHAWN
Lena, stop--

But she's already gesturing to the back door.

LENA
She needs help!

While Izzy runs after Lena, Shawn slowly descends the stairs, his knees shaking, his fingers tightly gripping the banister.

INT. THE LIVING ROOM

Lena and Izzy rush to the BACK DOOR and unlock it, letting inside the teen girl.

Shawn turns the corner into the KITCHEN.

His legs almost buckle beneath him when he sees her.

It's ALLISON - Allison from the god damn fucking movie.

To avoid fainting, he keeps repeating -

SHAWN
*It's only a movie, it's only a
movie, it's only a movie...*

Allison collapses into Lena's arms, gasping for air between heaving sobs.

ALLISON
*He...he killed him...he...he's
coming for me.*

Lena and Izzy exchange panicked looks. Lena immediately LOCKS the door.

IZZY
I'm calling 911.

Izzy dials her phone while Lena clutches Allison and tries to keep it together.

LENA
Who is coming for you?

ALLISON
The...the...the killer...

IZZY
My call isn't going through...
(checks her phone)
I don't have any service!

Lena checks her phone.

LENA
Neither do I.

IZZY
Do you have a land line?

LENA
Is that a serious question?

IZZY
What do we do?

Allison breaks away from Izzy's grip.

ALLISON
We have to hide!

She runs into -

THE KITCHEN

Shawn backs into the corner as Allison runs past him. They make eye contact. It's her. *It's really her in his house.*

ALLISON
We're all going to die.

She runs down the stairs into the BASEMENT. Shawn keeps swallowing, trying to speak.

SHAWN
Lena...

But he can barely hear himself. He clears his throat.

SHAWN
(louder)
Lena--

BOOOOOOM - they all jump.

LENA
Fuck!

Lena and Izzy rush for the stairs leaving Shawn paralyzed in the corner.

Alone in the kitchen, he watches the bloody handprints get washed away in the rain, his entire world shifting beneath his feet.

He thinks, then runs UPSTAIRS.

INT. THE BASEMENT

Shawn carries the VCR down into the basement.

He finds Lena and Izzy by Allison, clutching her knees and rocking back and forth on the couch.

LENA

You're safe with us. We won't let anyone hurt you.

Shawn inches towards the TV.

ALLISON

No...you didn't see him...he's coming for me. He's coming for all of us.

He plugs in the VCR.

IZZY

What's your name?

Before she can answer -

SHAWN (O.C.)

Allison.

They turn to Shawn turning on the TV.

SHAWN

Her name is Allison Quigley.

He knows how crazy this is going to sound but -

SHAWN

She's the girl who went missing in the 80s.

LENA

Shawn. This isn't the time--

ALLISON

Everyone calls me Ali.

Lena and Izzy stare. Wait...wut?

LENA

How did you--

SHAWN

Look...

He pushes the TAPE back into the VCR.

Then - on the screen - A HOUSE.

But not just any house.

THEIR HOUSE

Shawn's face falls. He wasn't expecting that. Both Lena and Izzy stand and approach the television.

LENA

What is this?

Shawn doesn't have an answer.

IZZY

That's your house...

Lightning flashes both on the screen and outside the window.

IZZY

Is this live? How are you doing this?

LENA

It's a VHS...

(beat)

Wait...

She grabs the remote and turns up the volume.

LENA

Do you hear that?

Yes. They hear HEAVY BREATHING. And it dawns on them...

LENA

That's a POV shot...

On cue, the POV moves across the street onto the FRONT YARD.

The blood drains from all their faces. They all look to each other for answers that no one has.

Allison buries her face in her knees and whimpers.

ALLISON

He's coming...

Despite everything about this being utterly at odds with their conception of the rational rules of the universe, no one can deny it.

He *is* coming.

The POV moves onto the FRONT PORCH where Allison's bloody HAND PRINTS are still on the door.

SHAWN

He's outside...

Izzy can't handle this.

LENA

Who is "he?" The movie? Are you saying the fucking movie is outside?

They watch a dirty HAND try the door.

SHAWN

Is it locked?

LENA

I don't remember...

The hand pulls on the door but it *is* locked. The POV looks through the window's frosted glass.

SHAWN

At least we know where he is...

And because this is a horror movie, and all of the elements are conspiring against them - LIGHTNING FLASHES outside, THUNDER BELLOWS, and -

THE POWER GOES OUT plunging them all into DARKNESS.

The lights, the TV, their hope for survival - all GONE.

All they can hear is their own hushed, panicked breathing.

Lena turns on the FLASHLIGHT on her phone.

ALLISON

He's going to kill us, he's going to kill us--

LENA

Shh.

But then - CRASH - the sound of BREAKING GLASS, then the GROAN of floorboards above their heads.

LENA

He's inside the house.

SHAWN

We have to get out of here.

IZZY

Is there another way out?

SHAWN

LENA

No--

Yes! The--

SHAWN

(remembers)

Cellar door!

They turn their lights to the STAIRCASE in BACK. Allison jumps to her feet and sprints for it. The others follow, but as Shawn brings up the rear -

LIGHTNING FLASHES and illuminates the window -

And he sees SOMEONE walking by.

SHAWN

Wait!

But it's too late

Allison runs up the stairs

UNLATCHES the LOCK

PUSHES OPEN the doors

And sees HIM

THE KILLER

She sees his MASK

Warped and distorted

Obscured by tracking lines

Too terrifying for magnetic tape to process

Before she can scream

He swings his SICKLE

And DECAPITATES her

Her HEAD bounces down the steps

It rolls to Lena's feet

And after a moment

It looks up at her with wide eyes

ALLISON'S HEAD

*Don't let him kill you.
If he kills you he has you forever.
Trapped on the tape for eternity.
Dying over and over again.
And it always hurts, Lena.
It always hurts.*

She saw it. She heard it. But she can't believe it.

She looks up to see The Killer coming down the stairs,
stepping over Allison's crumpled, headless body.

Instinct kicks in. She turns and grabs Izzy by the hand and
RUNS, pulling Izzy behind her.

Shawn starts to follow but STOPS.

He looks from the girls running upstairs, to the VCR, to The
Killer stalking towards him.

He dives for VCR. He hits eject - *no power*. He reaches inside
and tries to pry the tape out - *can't do it*.

LENA (O.S.)

Shawn!

Fuck it - he yanks the power cord out of the wall and the aux
cables from the TV and takes the whole VCR.

The tape player under his arm, he scrambles up the STAIRCASE
where Lena and Izzy are waiting at the top.

IZZY

Hurry!

With The Killer perilously close, he runs through the door
and falls into -

THE KITCHEN

Lena looks back to see The Killer right behind him.

He SWINGS his sickle as she SLAMS the door closed.

The blade PIERCES through the wood as she LOCKS the door. The three watch in horror as he pulls back the sickle and then - SLAMS into the door over and over again.

They back away as splinters fly through the air.

LENA

Come on.

Lena runs down the hall to the front door. Izzy follows.

LENA

Now!

Shawn starts for the door then realizes - The Killer has stopped trying to break through.

SHAWN

Shit.

But he runs after them anyway.

EXT. THE HOUSE - NIGHT

The three scramble out the front door and run across the lawn but when they get to -

THE STREET

IZZY

Wait...

They stop and survey their surroundings.

IZZY

Where are we?

They're in their neighborhood, but it's different.

The HOUSES are smaller. The CARS in the driveways are all from the 70s and 80s. Palm trees line the street.

But there's no time to process this because--

LENA

Guys!

They look to see The Killer emerge from the cellar and stalk across the lawn.

LENA
Run!

They sprint up the road, racing as fast as their legs will take them.

Shawn looks back at The Killer walking slowly behind them.

He turns back and keeps running, but when he looks behind again -

The Killer is *still* walking and *still just as close*.

But then - a Godsend. HEADLIGHTS up ahead.

IZZY
A car!

The three frantically wave and yell at the approaching 1983 CHEVY MALIBU.

But despite their cries, it SPEEDS towards them.

LENA
STOP!

Finally, the car hits the BRAKES and SCREECHES to a stop right in front of them.

The three circle the car and jump inside -

THE CHEVY MALIBU

BRAD (17) in his Letterman jacket watches helplessly as Shawn jumps into the passenger seat and Lena and Izzy dive into the back.

BRAD
Hey, what the fuck you guys--

SHAWN
Drive!

BRAD
This isn't a fucking taxi service--

He sees The Killer.

BRAD
Who's that butthead?

And then he sees his bloody sickle glowing in the headlights, and he's getting closer and closer.

BRAD
Oh. Oh shit--

Shawn hops over the center console and slams his foot on the gas, shooting the car forward and HITTING The Killer.

He ROLLS over the hood, CRACKS the windshield and tumbles across the roof before the BLADE stabs through the ceiling and -

SLASHES Lena's arm.

She cries out in pain and looks back at The Killer's distorted face in the back window, still holding onto his weapon.

He winds up, PUNCHES through the glass, and GRABS -

LENA
Izzy!

The Killer's filthy, meaty fingers grip Izzy's shirt and he WRENCHES her backward but -

Lena grabs her and pulls her back. Shawn watches frozen as Lena and Izzy try to pry his fingers away.

While Brad's distracted by their struggle in the rearview, he drives through an intersection and -

A STATION WAGON smashes into the TRUNK.

The Malibu SPINS as The Killer is HURLED through the air.

The car comes to a stop in the middle of the road.

Once they've recovered, Lena holds Izzy tight.

LENA
Are you okay? Are you okay?

But Izzy focuses on Lena's torn sleeve and bleeding arm.

IZZY
Are you?

Shawn and Brad focus on the Station Wagon through the shattered windshield.

After a moment, the DRIVER gets out. He looks at his totaled car.

DRIVER
What the Hell?!

He turns to them.

DRIVER
There was a god damn stop sign,
asshole--

The SICKLE slices through his waist.

BRAD
Oh my God!

His torso topples onto the asphalt revealing The Killer
behind the geyser of blood erupting from the pelvis.

Brad throws the car into reverse, accelerating backwards
before whipping the car around and careening forward.

The kids look back through the broken window at the shower of
sparks caused by Brad's dragging bumper and -

The Killer standing in the distance, watching them go.

They're safe. For now.

Brad keeps the pedal pressed to the floor, blowing through
intersections, getting as far from The Killer as possible.

BRA
My Malibu! My beautiful fucking
Malibu! You fuckers! It's fucking
fucked! Fuck! Fuck! Fuck!

He turns to Shawn.

BRAD
This is your fault. This is all
your fucking fault.

Shawn's about to respond, but then he gets a good look at
Brad's face and realizes -

SHAWN
Oh shit. You're Brad.

BRAD
Yeah? So what?

SHAWN
Bradley Clarke. You disappeared in
1987.

For a brief moment, Brad's anger falters and a look of recognition flashes across his face.

But then he SLAMS on the breaks and sends everyone flying forward.

BRAD

Get out.

IZZY

Excuse me?

He doesn't wait for them before climbing out of the car and marching to the passenger side.

He swings the door open, grabs Shawn by the shirt, and DRAGS him out onto -

THE STREET

Shawn hits the asphalt.

LENA

Hey!

Lena and Izzy leap from the car.

IZZY

You can't leave us here!

Brad makes his way to the driver's seat.

LENA

The killer--

BRAD

Is not my god damn problem.

He slams the door closed and peels out, dragging the bumper behind him until it finally falls off.

The three of them stand alone in the middle of the dark street with no idea what to do next.

LENA

Fuck!

Shawn picks himself up as Lena paces back and forth.

LENA

What the fuck, Shawn? *What the fuck?* What is happening?

IZZY

And where are we? This is not your neighborhood. This is like...Pasadena.

Shawn looks around at the neighborhood he doesn't recognize, trying to make sense of the senseless.

SHAWN

We're in the movie.

LENA

What?

SHAWN

The tape I rented from the video store. We're in it. I don't know how but we're *in* the movie.

LENA

No. Shut up. That isn't possible.

IZZY

It talked to you.

She looks to Izzy - she can't be buying this, right?

IZZY

That poor girl's head...it...it
talked to you.

(beat)

That isn't possible, but I saw it happen.

Lena can't deny that. But she's going to try anyway.

SHAWN

...What did it say?

She shakes her head, refuses to answer. Why should she? *It didn't happen.*

IZZY

Lena.

Lena swallows. *Fine.*

LENA

...If he kills us, we're trapped in the tape forever.

Izzy looks to Shawn.

IZZY

The girl. You said she's one of the kids who disappeared in the 80s.

SHAWN

Allison Quigley.

IZZY

And that was really Bradley Clarke?

He nods.

SHAWN

They must have rented the same movie I did.

LENA

Enough.

What movie are you talking about?

SHAWN

How They Bleed. I got it from a weird woman at a video store with a lot of red flags I'm only now recognizing in retrospect.

LENA

So this is your fault.

SHAWN

I wanted to watch *Sleepaway Camp*!

IZZY

Stop it!

(beat)

Assuming I'm not actually dead or in a coma and all of this is really happening, we can't waste time fighting with each other. We need to get out of here without dying or we'll be trapped here just like them.

LENA

How do we get out if we don't even know how we got in?

It's a good question, one neither has an answer for. But after searching his brain, Shawn has a revelation.

SHAWN

The tape.

(beat)

SHAWN (CONT'D)
Reality started warping after I put
it on. If we destroy it,
well...maybe things will go back to
normal.

LENA
Or we'll be stuck here forever.

SHAWN
Do you have a better idea?

Lena and Izzy exchange looks. They don't.

LENA
Fine. Where is it?

He opens his mouth, but then remembers his hands are empty
and his shoulders sink.

SHAWN
In the Malibu.

LENA
You left it in his car?

SHAWN
He dragged me out onto the street!

LENA
God fucking damn it, Shawn!

IZZY
Stop!

And because it's Izzy saying it, Lena listens. Izzy scans
their surroundings.

IZZY
We need to go.

LENA
Go where?

IZZY
Anywhere. Need I remind you there's
a killer out there in the dark.

All three of them survey the dark neighborhood with no idea
which way to go first.

SHAWN
At least it stopped raining.

At that moment, the POWER comes back on, illuminating the street lamps and house lights.

As they blink their eyes, a strange sound gradually rises in the distance.

IZZY
What is that?

It's the faint sound of teenagers CHEERING followed by a sudden blast of NEW WAVE MUSIC.

Shawn's eyes go wide.

SHAWN
Joanne's party.

LENA
What--

SHAWN
It's the social event of the season. We need to go.

LENA
We're in a horror movie and you want to go to a high school party? Are you *trying* to get murdered?

SHAWN
We're going...

Shawn marches to the Malibu's fallen bumper and holds up the warped LICENSE PLATE - RAD-BRAD

SHAWN
Because that's where Brad's going.

EXT. JOANNE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Shawn, Lena, and Izzy follow the sound of music and revelry all the way up the long, arduous hill until they see -

JOANNE'S HOUSE - a large Victorian that sits perched atop a hill surrounded by woods.

The party has already spilled outside, with drunken TEENAGERS gallivanting across the yard.

They pass car after car, but no sign of the Malibu.

LENA

Does anyone see the car?

IZZY

No, but I see someone who would
know where it is.

She points to the front door. They see Brad hooting and hollering with the rest of the FOOTBALL TEAM before disappearing inside.

LENA

Okay. Here's the plan. We find
Brad, force him to take us to his
car, and leave with the tape before
the inevitable massacre.

The three of them hurry up to the house, but then Shawn stops moving. When Lena notices -

LENA

What are you doing?

SHAWN

I just realized...
This is the first party I've ever
been to.

Neither Lena or Izzy know what to do with that.

LENA

Let's go.

After a moment, he joins them, all the while unaware that -
FROM THE WOODS - *they're being watched.*

INT. JOANNE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The house is PACKED with TEENS in various stages of inebriation.

Shawn, Lena, and Izzy navigate a sea of JOCKS, NERDS, PREPS, FREAKS - the entire Breakfast Club - all engaged in Reagan-era debauchery.

LENA

Jesus, we really are in an 80s
movie.

SHAWN

Yeah, I've been hearing a lot of
"hard effs" being tossed around...

It's a struggle just to move.

IZZY

You guys are the experts - are there any "horror movie rules" I should be aware of?

SHAWN

Definitely don't have sex with anyone here.

Izzy passes a throng of HORNDOGS ogling a Hustler magazine.

IZZY

Not going to be an issue.

Suddenly a SPAZ shoves a CAMCORDER in Lena's face.

LENA

Hey!

SPAZ

I'm making a documentary on the hottest babes in school and journalistic integrity means I gotta get an interview with you.

She SMACKS it away.

LENA

Get out of my face.

SPAZ

Whoa, whoa - watch the merchandise. This is a brand new, top of the line Panasonic camcorder.

They push past him and scan the chaotic living room, they hear OUTSIDE -

THE CROWD (O.S.)

JO-ANNE! JO-ANNE! JO-ANNE!

INT. JOANNE'S BACKYARD - NIGHT

The Three of them manage to push and shove their way to the POOL.

A CROWD has formed to watch JOANNE (17) stretching on the DIVING BOARD.

Joanne runs, jumps, and does a perfect DIVE into the water. The Crowd goes wild with cheers and applause.

Shawn can't help but clap, too. The GUY next to him even gives him a high-five.

IZZY
There he is!

They see Brad chugging beer by the side of the pool. They fight their way over as Joanne is climbing up the ladder.

She shoves her hand in their face. None of them know why.

JOANNE
...Towel?

IZZY
Uh...

She rolls her eyes and pushes them aside, taking a TOWEL from a Freshman DISCIPLE all too eager to serve the Queen Bee.

DISCIPLE
Thank you, Joanne. You're so perfect--

But Joanne has already moved on, drying off as she moves through her party, her guests parting out of her way like the Red Sea.

Lena struggles to keep her eyes on Brad when suddenly, Izzy grabs her wrist.

LENA
What--

IZZY
That's Joanne Merchant.

When Shawn realizes what she means -

SHAWN
Oh shit. You're right.

IZZY
She went missing in 89. My Mom had her as a student. I can't believe it. She's here.

But Lena is focused on the mission.

LENA
But where's Brad?

She's lost him.

Meanwhile, Joanne takes someone's drink - glugs it - then throws the crushed cup back at them before cupping her hands and yelling to everyone outside -

JOANNE
Everyone - the band is starting. I want to see all those sexy bodies moving on the dance floor!

There's a roar of cheers followed by a mass exodus from the backyard into the living room.

LENA
Goddamn it.

They join the mass migration inside. Meanwhile, in -

THE WOODS

Spaz is hiding in the WOODS behind the house filming the BIKINI GIRLS still in the pool.

He chuckles to himself as he ZOOMS in.

SPAZ
Russ Meyer, eat your heart out.

THUNK

He looks down to see a SICKLE jutting from his STERNUM.

SPAZ
Ow...

The CAMCORDER slips from his grip and falls into the dirt as he's slowly raised high into the air...

Then dropped to the ground with a wet thud. Blood splashes across the lens.

INT. JOANNE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

THE BAND is wailing on their synths and keytars for a room absolutely packed with kids dancing to the music.

Shawn, Lena, and Izzy have to fight their way into the middle of the DANCE FLOOR.

They get pushed and shoved from all sides, and there's no sign of -

LENA
(shouting)
Brad?!

But her voice can't compete with the band.

LENA
Okay. Screw it. Let's just find the car and break the window.

SHAWN
But we just got here.

Both turn to Shawn - *what?*

SHAWN
I know, I know, but...

He gazes at the party that looks just like the ones in the movies he's watched all his life.

SHAWN
Isn't this amazing? It's the 80s.
We're at a party. *We're in a movie.*

LENA
A *slasher movie*. We could be decapitated.

SHAWN
Better than getting shot by an AR-15 in math class. Look at this place - no one is on their phones and there's still time to do something about climate change. It's awesome!

Lena opens her mouth to respond when - over the sound of the music - they hear a SCREAM.

Not everyone heard it - some are still dancing while others look around, silently asking each other if they heard it too.

Then there's another. One by one, the members of the band stop playing. For a moment, all that can be heard is a confused murmur. Then -

DANCER
The pool...

People look into the backyard and see that the once brilliant aquamarine pool is now a deep, dark RED.

SHAWN
Okay. We can leave now.

A PREP is thrown against the big GLASS DOORS. BLOOD SPRAYS from out his throat and all across the glass.

There are screams and wails but people are too shocked by the sight to move.

But his body falls and his blood drips down the glass and they see - standing behind him - The Killer.

All Hell breaks loose.

Shawn, Lena, and Izzy are TRAPPED by bodies and can only watch helplessly as two WRESTLERS try to hold the door closed.

But The Killer SWINGS his sickle - BREAKING the glass and CHOPPING their arms off.

It's pandemonium as a STAMPEDE moves away from the door. Partiers are pushed and shoved and crushed and trampled.

The Killer moves through the room like a lawn mower - slicing and dicing everything in his path, which just makes people more desperate to get away, which makes them push harder, which means more people slip on the slick floor.

Shawn, Lena, and Izzy are swept up in the wave, with no control of where they're going. They start to separate.

IZZY
Lena!
SHAWN
Lena!

Lena sees Izzy pulled to the LEFT and Shawn shoved to the RIGHT, both of them reaching out their arms for her.

But The Killer is closer to Izzy, and he's only getting closer. So she has to make a choice.

Shawn watches as Lena TAKES IZZY'S HAND and pulls her back towards herself as he drifts further away until they're at opposite ends of the room.

He sees Lena and Izzy disappear into the KITCHEN while he is pulled into -

THE LIBRARY

As soon as he steps foot inside, he trips on a SEVERED LEG and falls to his knees atop the rug.

He tries to stand but he's kicked and pushed and stepped on by fleeing teens.

Finally, the last one runs by and he can scramble back onto his feet. He turns just in time to see -

The Killer marching towards him, sickle held high.

Thinking fast, Shawn grabs hold of a BOOK SHELF and pulls it down. It TOPPLES into the wall, BLOCKING the door.

The Killer watches Shawn run away. *Temporary setback.*

INT. JOANNE'S KITCHEN

Gripping each other's hands tight, Lena and Izzy are pulled along the raging river of bodies.

LENA
We need to find Shawn!

With her free hand, Izzy grabs hold of the ISLAND and the two brace themselves against the onslaught.

When everyone else has passed through, they both takes KNIVES from the RACK.

INT. JOANNE'S DINING ROOM

Shawn runs past the long, oak dining table, checking over his shoulder as he runs into -

THE FOYER

He sprints for the FRONT DOOR but there is a GRIDLOCK of teens all trying to escape at the same time.

With no choice but to join the congestion, he runs up -

Just as The Killer arrives from the other side.

Shawn stops short and falls backwards as The Killer makes gruesome work of the poor souls bottlenecked at the door.

He jumps to his feet and changes trajectory, running instead up the STAIRCASE.

As The Killer pulls his blade from the last body, he looks up and catches sight of Shawn fleeing just as he makes it to -

THE UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Shawn runs across the hall, looking from room to room for a place to hide, when his eyes catch a DRAWSTRING swaying back and forth above his head.

He jumps and grabs it, pulling down a LADDER and as fast as he can, he climbs up into -

THE ATTIC

He pulls up the ladder and shuts the door, then slowly backs away, trying to remain as quiet as possible.

But as soon as he allows himself to exhale, a HAND wraps around his mouth.

JOANNE (O.S.)

Shhhh.

He turns to see Joanne hiding in the shadows.

JOANNE

You shouldn't be here.

She leans in close and whispers in his ear.

JOANNE

This is where I die.

A chill runs down his spine.

EXT. JOANNE'S HOUSE

Teens run for their lives across the yard, racing to their cars.

Brad manages to push himself through the front door and run for his Malibu, scrambling to get the KEYS from his pocket.

THE MALIBU

Brad jumps behind the wheel and starts the engine. But after he throws it into REVERSE -

He FREEZES. And he doesn't know why. He trembles.

BRAD

Fuck...

He grits his teeth. Sweat drips down his brow.

BRAD

Please...I don't want to...

But he can't help it.

As if compelled by something outside of himself, he puts the car in DRIVE and speeds up the DRIVEWAY back to the house.

INT. THE DINING ROOM

Lena peers around the corner of the LIBRARY looking like Laurie Strode with her knife at the ready.

Izzy looks, too, but they see neither Shawn nor The Killer.

They creep along the wall, checking under the table before getting to -

THE FOYER

They freeze when they see the pile of DEAD BODIES. Lena holds her breath as they cautiously approach the mound.

She scans the faces for a sign of Shawn. Thankfully, there isn't one. Izzy looks out the open door.

IZZY

Maybe he got out.

But then Lena sees the massive bloody BOOT PRINTS going up the stairs, and instinct tells her that's not true.

INT. THE ATTIC

Shawn sets his jaw.

SHAWN

...What do you mean "where you die?"

JOANNE

This is where the killer stabs his sickle through my skull. Just like he always does. Over and over. That's my role.

SHAWN

No. It doesn't have to be like that. This isn't real. We can take you back with us to the real world.

After a moment - Joanne grins.

JOANNE

Why would I want that?

SHAWN

Uh...

JOANNE

You know the only thing I remember about the "real world?"

(beat)

How lonely I was.

That hits close to home.

JOANNE

But here? I'm the most popular girl in school. I'll always be seventeen, I'll always have friends, and I'll always host the greatest party of all time.

(beat)

No matter how many times I die, I always wake up happy.

Shawn freezes as he hears heavy FOOTSTEPS stalking across the hallway beneath them.

When they're right below their feet - they stop. Silence.

JOANNE

Don't fight it. It's really not so bad.

On cue - the sickle BURSTS through the bottom of her foot.

Shawn backs away as Joanne FALLS to the floor. The sickle retracts from her foot and ERUPTS out her back.

JOANNE

See you at school tomorrow.

The blade finally EXPLODES through her head, and he sees her lips curl into a smile before her eyes roll back.

Shawn holds his hands over his mouth and listens to the sound of footsteps moving across the hall.

Then he sees it - across the room - a WINDOW.

The attic door SWINGS open and the ladder falls.

Shawn makes a run for it.

As he passes the door, The Killer's arm shoots up from the hole and GRABS his ankle.

He hits the ground hard. He looks back at The Killer halfway up the ladder. He tries to kick his leg free but it's no use.

He's doomed. So he takes a deep breath and prepares for death. *The first of many.*

But as The Killer raises his sickle and starts to pull Shawn backwards -

THE UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Lena STABS him in the back.

The Killer looks down at this unexpected development. Lena's just as surprised as he is, but she doesn't waste the opportunity.

She STABS him again. *Then again and again and again.*

So does Izzy. She goes fucking apeshit on his legs as they're showered in his BLACK BLOOD.

He SLIPS.

THE ATTIC

Shawn feels The Killer's grip loosen. He looks back just in time to see him disappear beneath the hole.

He picks himself up and runs to the window.

THE UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

The Killer hangs UPSIDE DOWN, his leg stuck through the rung of the ladder, his SICKLE on the floor.

The girls look to each other, neither knowing what to do.

So they just start stabbing him, plunging their knives in and out of his torso.

His arms flail, trying to grab one of the girls but it's no use. After taking more stabs than Caesar -

The Killer goes limp. The girls stand back.

IZZY

Is he dead?

LENA

They never are.

Izzy notes his sickle by their feet. She holds her breath, then picks it up.

IZZY

Well in that case...

LENA

No--

Too late. Izzy CHOPS The Killer's head OFF. Oily black blood spurts from the hole in his neck.

LENA

...Well damn.

THE ATTIC

Shawn looks out the open window. After a moment's hesitation -

He JUMPS.

THE UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Lena sees Shawn PLUMMET past the WINDOW at the end of the hall.

LENA

Shawn!

EXT. JOANNE'S BACK YARD - NIGHT

Shawn sails through the air and plunges into the blood-red POOL.

He sinks to the bottom where he sees a FOOTBALL PLAYER'S waterlogged CORPSE staring back at him with dead, soulless eyes.

He kicks himself up off the bottom of the pool, but just as he's about to reach the surface - he STOPS.

Panic flashes across his face. He looks down to see The Football Player holding onto his leg.

BLACK BLOOD oozes from his nose, swirling in the water around him.

FOOTBALL PLAYER

Where you going, man?

Shawn kicks his leg.

FOOTBALL PLAYER

Don't fight it. Join us. It's better in here. The water's fine.

Shawn's lungs burn and scream for air.

He sees a deep GASH in his forearm. So he reaches down, shoves his fingers into the flesh, and PULLS.

The arm SEPARATES and Shawn swims back to the surface.

As he splashes and gasps for air, Lena and Izzy race through the shattered back door.

LENA

Oh thank God.

Shawn hurriedly swims to the ladder where Lena tries to help him climb out.

LENA

We bought some time. Izzy killed him. Maybe. You know how these things go--

But he swats her arm away.

SHAWN

Fuck off.

Lena and Izzy watch confused as Shawn storms away, the arm still gripping his ankle.

LENA
Where are you going?

SHAWN
Away from you.

Lena and Izzy look to each other. Neither knows what's going on, but they follow him anyway.

LENA
Shawn. This is insane. We have to stick together--

She grabs his arm but he wrenches it away and whips around.

SHAWN
You chose her.

Izzy stops in her tracks.

LENA
What are you talking about?

SHAWN
He could have killed me. I'm your brother. You might never have seen me again but you chose her anyway.

LENA
It wasn't like that--

SHAWN
You left me behind.

That hits her like a freight train.

LENA
Shawn...

But he's already turned around and rushing away, kicking Savini's arm off as he goes.

LENA
Shawn, stop.

She chases him into THE WOODS.

Izzy starts to follow but then STOPS when something catches her leg.

She looks back at an INTESTINE jutting from a DEAD NERD's eviscerated gut and wrapping around her ankle.

IZZY

Gah.

She tries to pull away but it coils higher and tighter.

THE WOODS

Shawn navigates through the trees when he hears -

LENA (O.S.)

Shawn! Where the fuck are you?

He hides behind a tree and peers around to see Lena looking for him.

He quietly darts the other direction, putting distance between them when he TRIPS.

He looks back at Spaz's TORSO and next to that - the CAMCORDER. He picks it up as an idea percolates.

ELSEWHERE IN THE WOODS

Lena desperately searches for Shawn but he's nowhere to be found. She tries calling again.

LENA

Shawn!

She listens for his response. She doesn't hear it. But she hears something else instead. A familiar sounding ENGINE.

When she places it -

LENA

Brad!

THE BACK YARD

Meanwhile, Izzy is still trying to escape the clutches of the Nerd's large intestine.

She tries to kick away with her free leg, but then his SMALL INTESTINE bursts out and grabs the other.

It PULLS her back towards the body.

IZZY
I fucking hate horror movies!

THE FRONT YARD

Lena emerges from the woods into the front yard where she sees - idling in the driveway - THE MALIBU.

She runs to the car and swings open the door and she looks inside and YES - there it is. The VCR.

She reaches in and grabs it. But as she holds it triumphantly above her head -

The sleeve of a LETTERMEN JACKET wraps around her face.

Her eyes go wide as BRAD pulls her backwards and she DROPS the VCR onto the asphalt. It SMASHES into pieces.

BRAD
I'm sorry.

She struggles as he drags her to the TRUNK. He pops it open and she manages to wrestle his arm away from her mouth long enough to SCREAM.

THE WOODS

Shawn heard it.

SHAWN
Lena?

THE BACK YARD

Izzy heard it too.

IZZY
Lena!

That's it - enough fucking around. She grabs hold of the small intestine and RIPS it off of her.

She tries the same with the large intestine but it's too strong. So she pulls it to her mouth and BITES it off.

She gags as she jumps to her feet and runs to -

THE FRONT YARD

She arrives just in time to see Brad lock the crumpled TRUNK of his car as Lena yells and bangs from inside.

IZZY

Hey!

He looks up at Izzy racing toward him. He jumps in the driver's seat, starts the engine, and SPEEDS AWAY.

IZZY

No!!

She's forced to watch helplessly as it disappears over the road's horizon.

IZZY

Oh God oh God what do I do what do I do?

She paces in a panic when her foot crunches a piece of plastic. She looks down at the remains of the VCR and -

The TAPE.

She picks it up. Has no idea what to do with it now.

But then she sees RED and BLUE lights flashing across the trees. She turns to see a POLICE CAR driving towards her.

IZZY

Oh thank God.

She races towards it as the window rolls down and two OFFICERS - TOMMY and JARVIS - look out at her.

OFFICER TOMMY

What's going on out there, miss?

INT. THE UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

The Killer's headless body hangs limp from the ladder. His head lies on the floor.

It twitches. Just once. Then again. And again.

Until suddenly it starts spasming. His body, too. They convulse violently until both the body and the head -

DISSOLVE into pools of BLACK BLOOD that melt into the floor.

INT. THE TRUNK - NIGHT

In the DARK, Lena kicks at the trunk's door until her ankle twists.

LENA

Fuck!

She grabs her ankle and winces. Realizing what she's doing isn't working, she changes tactics.

She twists around and tries to speak through the crack in the seats.

LENA

Brad. I don't know what you're doing or why but you need to let me out.

INT. THE CHEVY MALIBU

Brad drives, staring ahead with pained eyes.

LENA (O.S.)

I know who you are. You're Bradley Clarke from Holdenfield, Pennsylvania. You went missing in 1987. People looked for you. People miss you.

(beat)

Whatever you're doing, you can make the choice to stop.

BRAD

No. I can't.

He turns on the RADIO and blasts generic Van Halen to hide her pleas.

He wipes BLACK BLOOD from his nostrils.

INT. POLICE CAR - NIGHT

Izzy is in the back of the cop car frantically looking out the windows as Jarvis drives and Tommy shines a LIGHT at the surrounding woods.

OFFICER JARVIS

Now what did you say he was driving?

IZZY

I don't know anything about cars.
It's red and it was in an accident.
There's no bumper. Isn't that
enough?

Jarvis gets on the radio.

OFFICER JARVIS

We got a 207, suspect is driving a
red car, missing a bumper, the
victim is in the trunk.

Izzy looks down at the VHS held tightly in her hand.

OFFICER JARVIS

So this...*psycho killer*? He's dead,
you say?

IZZY

His head is on the floor, but from
what I understand that doesn't
necessarily mean he's dead because
these movies are fucking stupid.

She realizes they're slowing down. She looks around - they're
in the middle of the road.

IZZY

What are we doing?

Jarvis turns off the engine. Both officers look straight
ahead.

OFFICER TOMMY

You're not from around here, are
you?

Izzy sinks into her seat. *Fuck.*

OFFICER JARVIS

We locals, well...we got a way of
doing things.

OFFICER TOMMY

A culture of tradition.

She tries the door but of course it's locked.

OFFICER JARVIS

And out-of-towners? It's been our
experience that they don't show
much deference to the done thing.

OFFICER TOMMY
Fortunately, when things go off the beaten path...

Officer Tommy twists around in his seat.

BLACK BLOOD oozes from out his eyes and nose and cascades down his grinning lips.

OFFICER TOMMY
We got a way of course correcting.

Izzy pushes back as far into her seat as she can.

Officer Tommy convulses in his seat, his rictus grin contorting into an expression of torture. He howls in pain.

Next to him, Jarvis can't stop LAUGHING.

OFFICER JARVIS
Here he comes...

Izzy can do nothing but watch helplessly as Officer Tommy grabs at his face and hair and disappears beneath the seat...

Only to return as THE KILLER.

Jarvis looks back at her.

OFFICER JARVIS
He's mad, now.

The Killer looks from Izzy to Jarvis. *First thing's first.*

The Killer grabs hold of Officer Jarvis's head and SMASHES it through the car window.

Izzy watches as The Killer opens the passenger door and lumbers past the windshield.

He pulls Jarvis' body through the shattered glass and onto the road, then lifts his boot and STOMPS, splattering blood across her window.

Now it's her turn.

Izzy scrambles to the other side as The Killer comes up to her door, but there's nowhere to go and nowhere to hide.

The Killer RIPS the door off the hinges and looks inside.

With nothing to lose, she flips him off.

IZZY
Fuck you, assface.

He reaches inside when -

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

Three BULLETS burst through The Killer's head and chest.

His body collapses onto the seat, revealing SHAWN behind him, CAMCORDER in one hand, Jarvis' GUN in the other.

They share a brief *holy shit did that just happen* look, then -

IZZY
Get in.

Shawn nods and jumps in the driver's seat. His hands still shaking, he starts the engine. But then -

SHAWN
...I don't know how to drive.

God damn it. Izzy looks through the partition.

IZZY
See the handle? Move it from P to
D.

He tries.

SHAWN
I can't.

IZZY
Foot on the brake.

Okay, that works.

SHAWN
Now what?

She's about to respond when The Killer lifts his head.

IZZY
Shit!

SHAWN
Huh?

He looks back to see Izzy KICKING The Killer in the head.

SHAWN

Oh.

IZZY

Hit the gas!

He steps on the pedal and the car zooms forward.

Lena kicks at The Killer again and again as his legs drag across the road until he finally FALLS out of the car.

She looks back to see The Killer's body rolling across the asphalt, but takes little comfort in this.

It's only a matter of time before they see him again.

EXT. THE ROAD

The Killer rolls down the street until he finally comes to a stop.

He picks himself up, cracks his neck, and walks into the WOODS.

INT. POLICE CAR - NIGHT

When Izzy catches her breath -

IZZY

I have the tape.

SHAWN

What?

She shows him the VHS.

IZZY

What do we do? Break it? Shoot it with the gun?

Shawn considers this. Shakes his head.

SHAWN

No. Not without Lena.

(beat)

Where is she?

IZZY

Brad took her. She's in the trunk of his car.

Shit

IZZY

The video - it's treating us like a virus. Seems like everything's trying to kill us now that we're changing the story.

SHAWN

And we have no idea where they went?

IZZY

No.

She sees his lip tremble in the rearview. He swallows the lump in his throat.

SHAWN

This is all my fault.

He can't fight any longer. He beats his fist against the wheel.

SHAWN

This is all my stupid fucking fault!

IZZY

We'll find her.

SHAWN

How? They could be anywhere! She could be dead by now!

He's right. They have no way of knowing. Except...

Izzy looks at the tape in her hand. Her eyes go wide.

IZZY

Spaceballs!

SHAWN

...Excuse me?

IZZY

Spaceballs?

Nothing.

IZZY

Dark Helmet? Pizza the Hut?

SHAWN
I don't know what those words mean.

She rolls her eyes.

IZZY
This is why you should expand your horizons.
(beat)
We need to get to a TV.

EXT. TOWN - NIGHT

The cop car drives through TOWN as Izzy looks out the window.

IZZY
There!

Shawn pulls over and the two of them get out of the car.

Tape in hand, they rush across the sidewalk to a DEPARTMENT STORE.

INT. DEPARTMENT STORE - NIGHT

Shawn and Izzy march through the store, passing the various departments - KITCHEN, YARD, PETS, BATHROOM.

SHAWN
Electronics, electronics,
electronics...

While Shawn looks for the electronics section, Izzy is keenly aware of the stares their getting from the other customers.

IZZY
Keep in mind everyone in here could potentially try to murder us.

They pass HOME REPAIR and she grabs a CLAW HAMMER off a shelf just in case.

SHAWN
I don't care. All that matters is that we find Lena.

IZZY
You really love her.

SHAWN
She's my sister.

IZZY

I have a brother. Trust me - we're not that close.

He considers this.

SHAWN

I never had a lot of friends...any friends. Everyone always thought the stuff I liked was weird and I was a creep. I was alone, and other kids can sense loneliness like sharks to chum.

But Lena protected me. Took an interest in my life. I mean, I don't know if she even likes horror movies all that much, but she at least pretended for my sake.

(beat)

But not anymore. She's outgrown me.

IZZY

That's not true.

SHAWN

It is. And I don't blame her.

(beat)

We're here.

They arrive at the -

ELECTRONICS DEPARTMENT

They run to a display of TELEVISION SETS all playing the same WORKOUT VIDEO.

SHAWN

Do you really think this will work?

IZZY

It did in--

SHAWN

Spaceballs - got it.

Shawn locates the VCR that's the source of the video. He hits EJECT. All the screens turn BLUE.

Shawn throws away the workout tape and inserts *How They Bleed* into the deck.

After a moment, every TV is suddenly filled with Lena's wailing FACE the sound of her scream multiplied by every set.

IZZY
That's her!

SHAWN
She's alive...

They watch as she kicks and screams in the TRUNK.

SHAWN
But where is she?

EMPLOYEE (O.S.)
What the heck, kid?

Shawn keeps his eyes on the screens while Izzy turns to the pimple-faced EMPLOYEE marching their way.

EMPLOYEE
You can't do that.

He reaches to hit eject but Izzy blocks his way.

IZZY
We'll just be a second.

Shawn watches as the shot CHANGES.

Brad is behind the wheel, driving through a thick FOG when POP - something bursts under the car's hood.

The engine sputters and smoke billows out from the sides. The car comes to a stop as the engine dies.

The shot changes again, revealing that they're outside a GRAVE YARD.

SHAWN
They're at a cemetery!

Izzy looks up at the screens.

IZZY
Yes!

EMPLOYEE (O.S.)
I said...

She looks back at the Employee. Black blood spills from his mouth onto his uniform.

EMPLOYEE
You can't do that...

He GRABS her by the THROAT and SHOVES her into the display.

Shawn looks up to see her being throttled. He hits EJECT.

Izzy's eyes bulge, but after a second - she remembers the HAMMER.

She winds up and PLUNGES the CLAW into the top of his skull. She then rips it back out and he collapses.

Shawn grabs the tape.

SHAWN
Run!

They run through -

THE STORE

They pump their legs as they race for the exit. They see CUSTOMERS turn their heads and start walking towards them.

IZZY
Shawn...

Suddenly, a MOM abandons her SHOPPING CART and LUNGES for them.

Izzy SMACKS her in the face with the hammer, dropping her immediately.

Shawn grabs the shopping cart and together they careen down the aisle with it.

Various PEOPLE try to stop them but they MOW THEM DOWN.

Finally, they reach the exit. They leave the cart and run outside.

INT. THE MALIBU - NIGHT

Brad sits behind the wheel of the unmoving car looking out at the GRAVE YARD shrouded in FOG.

As if on autopilot, he gets a FLASHLIGHT from out of the glove box. Then, with a resigned sigh, he gets out of the car.

INT. THE TRUNK

Lena realizes they're not moving.

LENA

...Brad?

EXT. THE OLD ROAD

Brad wipes the geyser of black blood pouring from his nose onto his sleeve.

BRAD

I'm sorry.

He turns on the flashlight and shines it across the fog.

BRAD

I don't want to hurt you, but I can't help it. The tape won't let me...

LENA (O.S.)

Brad, stop it.

He walks to the back of the car.

BRAD

It's not so bad. The more you die, the more you forget what came before. You give up. Play your role. Follow the script.

He stops outside the trunk.

BRAD

This is where it always ends for me.

INT. THE TRUNK

Lena hears the KEYS in the lock, then the trunk OPENS.

She looks up at Brad standing above her, blood running down his chin.

BRAD

And where it begins for you.

Her eyes go wide as she sees a behemoth of SILHOUETTE behind him in the fog.

LENA
Behind you!

She climbs out of the car onto -

THE OLD ROAD

But her legs give out from under her. As she scrambles back to her feet, Brad grabs her wrist.

BRAD
No. Don't run.

LENA
Get the fuck off me!

BRAD
It will be better this way. Maybe now we'll die together. Forever.

She sees THE KILLER emerge from the fog.

LENA
Let go of me you stupid fucking jock asshole!

Then she sees - in the trunk - the CAMCORDER. She grips the handle and WHACKS it across his face.

Brad stumbles backwards, letting Lena go, and she takes off into the fog.

Just as Brad recovers, the SICKLE bursts through his gut and The Killer HURLS him through the air.

The Killer wipes the blood off on his pant leg and sees Lena run through the IRON GATES into -

THE GRAVEYARD

Breathing hard, Lena limps on her twisted ankle across the moist dirt of the CEMETERY, past crucifixes and tombs.

She hides behind an OBELISK, pressing her back against the stone and catching her breath.

She peers around the corner but can't see through the fog.

INT. THE POLICE CAR

Shawn pulls up next to the Malibu.

SHAWN
They're here!

They rush out of the car.

INT. THE GRAVEYARD

Lena is about to dart away again when she hears -

IZZY (O.S.)
Lena!

She gasps and looks back - is about to call out when -

She sees The Killer's hulking frame illuminated by the HEADLIGHTS. He's coming right towards her.

She can't help it - a SCREAM escapes her lips.

EXT. THE OLD ROAD

Izzy hears Lena's scream from within the cemetery. She doesn't hesitate - she runs in after her.

Shawn checks the chamber of his gun - THREE BULLETS.

He follows Izzy inside.

EXT. THE GRAVEYARD

Lena limps through the cemetery, desperately searching all around for Shawn and Izzy when -

She TRIPS over a GRAVE MARKER and hits the ground hard.

But she's lucky, because she was INCHES away from falling into an OPEN GRAVE. She breathes a quick sigh of relief.

Then she sees - next to the grave - a mound of DIRT covered by a TARP. And next to that - a SHOVEL.

She gets up and grabs it.

ELSEWHERE

Izzy runs past a GNARLED TREE when she hears FOOTSTEPS.

She whips around, her eyes darting in all directions as she backs up into -

Shawn, doing the same thing. They knock into each other, SHRIEK, and spin around.

The gun FIRES and FLIES out of Shawn's hand. Once he's recovered from the shock -

SHAWN

The gun...

Shawn crouches down, searching the dirt under the fog for the revolver. But just as he finds it -

The Killer's BOOT presses it into the mud. Shawn looks up -

As the sickle SWINGS past his throat.

He falls backwards, scrambling away as The Killer lumbers towards him ready to strike again when -

Lena SMACKS the SHOVEL into The Killer's face.

While he's stunned, she STABS him in the chest with the shovel's blade and pushes him backward into the tree trunk.

But he recovers. He RIPS the shovel from her hands and throws it away.

Lena dodges his sickle and runs back to Shawn and Izzy.

SHAWN

You saved me.

LENA

Of course. You're my brother.

She grabs Shawn's hand and PULLS him to his feet.

LENA

Now come on!

The three of them run through the fog until they hit the gate's IRON BARS - a *dead end*.

LENA

Oh no...

She looks all around.

SHAWN

What?

LENA
I think we went the wrong way...

Then Izzy screams as The Killer lurches from the mist and marches right towards them.

Their backs against the gate, Lena takes Shawn and Izzy's hands, squeezes them tight, preparing for death.

But then The Killer takes a STEP

Onto the dirt-covered TARP

And falls into the OPEN GRAVE

Izzy and Shawn open their eyes to see Lena rush to the STATUE of the VIRGIN MARY looming over the hole.

LENA
Help me!

They see Lena shove against the statue and realize this was all part of her plan. So they run to join her.

As The Killer reaches up and finds purchase on the edge of grave, The Three push the statue with all their collective might.

And just as The Killer starts to pull himself out -

The statue TOPPLES over and CRUSHES him.

The three look down at The Killer at the bottom of the grave, struggling under the weight of the concrete, unable to escape.

SHAWN
You could have told us you had a plan before I pissed myself.

Izzy turns to Lena.

IZZY
You're alive.

LENA
I am--

Izzy grabs her face and KISSES her hard.

SHAWN
Whoa! What the fuck is this...

But as the two suck face, The Killer stops struggling. Shawn notices. He looks down into the grave as The Killer goes limp.

SHAWN

Hey...

He watches as The Killer's body pulsates and then DISSOLVES.

Shawn tugs at Lena's sleeve until she tears herself away.

LENA

What?

But then she sees The Killer's blood seep into the soil.

LENA

Shit.

IZZY

It's not going to stop, is it?

LENA

Not until we figure out how to get home.

But Izzy remembers -

IZZY

We have the tape!

EXT. THE OLD ROAD

The three of them haul ass out the gates and back to the cop car.

Shawn swings open the door and emerges with the VHS.

LENA

Yes!

IZZY

Now what?

Shawn considers his answer, but before he speaks, he sees something in the distance.

LENA

We need to be smart about this. We only have one shot.

As Shawn thinks, he hears the CAW of a crow in the distance.

He squints, looking through the fog at a GLOWING LIGHT - a SIGN.

IZZY

Do we rewind it to the beginning?
Smash it into a hundred pieces.

SHAWN

No...

Shawn walks to the glowing light like a moth to flame.

SHAWN

We return it.

They watch him vanish into the fog.

Izzy looks to Lena and shrugs. She follows him.

Lena starts to, but something catches her eye. She reaches into the car and grabs the CAMCORDER.

She bites her lip as a thought occurs to her. She takes it with her as she follows them.

EXT. THE STRIP MALL - NIGHT

The SIGN glows brightly in the foggy night as it looms over the packed PARKING LOT.

Shawn walks past the CARS and the STORES straight to the last one on the left.

VIDEO CASTLE

INT. VIDEO CASTLE - NIGHT

Shawn enters the video store, and just like he was told, it is indeed popping off on a Friday night.

PATRONS of all ages, shapes, and sizes peruse the shelves looking for the night's entertainment.

CHILDREN run through the ANIMATION aisle while OLDER COUPLES wander through FOREIGN. DADS are in ACTION, MOMS are in DRAMA, TEENS are in COMEDY and HORROR alike.

Then he sees it - THE BACK OFFICE.

He pushes past customers on his way to the DOOR. He checks to make sure the coast is clear...

Then goes inside -

THE BACK OFFICE

Shawn flips the light switch, illuminating the room with flickering florescent light.

His eyes find what he's looking for - THE DOOR in the FLOOR.

He rushes towards it and crouches down and opens it...

SHAWN

What the...

He's peering into a dark, seemingly BOTTOMLESS PIT

BARBARA (O.S.)

Can I help you?

Shawn jumps out of his skin. He looks to see, standing in the doorway -

BARBARA. She looks...*exactly the same*. Ghost white hair and a face like a Renaissance painting. Even the same age as when he first met her.

BARBARA

You appear to be lost. This is my office. Off limits to customers.

Shawn searches her face. Isn't sure how to play this.

SHAWN

Sorry, I was just...I needed to...

BARBARA

What's the matter, Shawn? You're not enjoying the movie?

His blood goes cold.

INT. VIDEO CASTLE

Lena and Izzy enter the store.

LENA

Where's Shawn?

INT. THE BACK OFFICE

Barbara strolls closer.

BARBARA

What about your sister? Was she impressed by the flick? Was she *spooked*?

He backs away.

SHAWN

Who are you?

BARBARA

I'm someone just like you, Shawn. A connoisseur of the way things were. A preservationist.

Shawn backs into the wall as Barbara kneels to the floor.

BARBARA

Admittedly I've been forced to evolve methods over the years.

She reaches inside the hole and returns with an OLD BOOK.

BARBARA

For centuries, fairy tales were my purview.

She opens the book and flips through its pages, revealing to Shawn ILLUSTRATIONS of CHILDREN in peril - cooked by witches, ravaged by wolves, crushed by giants.

One of the CHILDREN turns to Shawn and opens her mouth to scream, but Barbara slams the book shut.

BARBARA

But of course I had to adapt. Change with the times. Convert my gingerbread house into a humble video store.

She stands.

BARBARA

For years I collected the souls of the wayward youth who stumbled inside, but little by little they stopped coming. Video stores became a relic. All anyone wanted was...

BARBARA (CONT'D)
(shudders)
Streaming.

She grins.

BARBARA
But not you, Shawn. In you I found a special someone who appreciated the past as much as I do. Someone who longed for a return to a time when things were better.

She caresses his face.

INT. VIDEO CASTLE

Lena and Izzy navigate the aisles searching for Shawn.

All the while, their fellow customers are keeping a watchful eye on their every move...

INT. THE BACK OFFICE

Barbara takes a step forward. Shawn takes a step back.

BARBARA
This is my gift to you, a fellow nostalgic. To be forever immortalized on video tape.

(beat)
I've been watching you, Shawn. It's been a wonderful show. And I see there's nothing you want more than for your sister - the one and only companion you've ever known - to return to your side in comfortable familiarity.

She takes another step. This time, he stays put.

BARBARA
Out there? In the world to which you wish to return? She'll outgrow you. Forget you. Leave you behind. But here? In the movie? You'll always have her. You'll never know loneliness again. *I promise.*

...He's listening.

BARBARA

I'll make Izzy a nerd. A dork. A freak. So low in the social hierarchy that Lena won't even register her existence. She'll never get between the two of you again.

It's tempting.

BARBARA

And yes - you'll be murdered. A lot. But that's small price to pay for never really dying, wouldn't you say?

She takes one last step so that she's looming over him.

BARBARA

I'll make sure it's quick and...relatively painless.

She reaches past Shawn and takes from her desk a razor-sharp LETTER OPENER.

BARBARA

Nothing will ever change, Shawn.

She holds it to his jugular. He gulps.

BARBARA

Now hold still.

Shawn looks past her shoulder.

SHAWN

Yeah. Do it.

But before she can plunge the blade into his throat, a TAPE flies through the air and SMACKS her in the back of the head.

Barbara spins around to see Lena and Izzy standing in the doorway.

SHAWN

Run!

Shawn shoves past her and the three sprint back into -

VIDEO CASTLE

The run for the exit, but before they can escape -

A line of PATRONS blocks him from leaving. They stop in their tracks.

SHAWN
Um...excuse us--

BLACK BLOOD oozes from all their eyes and noses.

IZZY
Does it ever fucking end...

Barbara emerges from her office holding the VHS.

BARBARA
Shawn?

They look back.

BARBARA
You had your chance.
(beat)
Now your deaths will be brutal,
extended, and excruciating.

And with that, every person in the store oozes black from their orifices and lumbers towards them like ZOMBIES.

Everywhere they turn - Zombies. They're forced to move to the one aisle that isn't occupied - HORROR.

SHAWN
I'm so fucking sick of zombies.

LENA
I'm sorry, Shawn.

SHAWN
For what?

LENA
This is all my fault. I should have been there for you. I'm your sister. I should have watched whatever movie you wanted. There's nothing wrong with watching something you've seen a hundred times before.

SHAWN
No. This is my fault. All because I was afraid of losing you, afraid of things being different. I should have just learned to change...

And then a thought occurs to him.

SHAWN

Wait.

(beat)

I can change.

Izzy throws a TAPE at one of the zombie's heads.

IZZY

Great. You're self-realized.

SHAWN

No, I mean we can change into whatever we want to be. This is all just movie stuff. Zombies aren't real. Undead slashers and talking heads aren't real. This is not reality.

LENA

What are you--

Shawn shoves the VHS of *Nightmare on Elm Street* in Lena's face.

SHAWN

This is *dream world*. We're not bound to the rules. Which means...

Her eyes go wide - *he understands.*

LENA

We can be Dream Warriors.

Shawn nods. And just as a ZOMBIE DAD reaches out to grab her, Shawn gestures to the MIRROR on the ceiling. They look up.

Lena has NO REFLECTION.

Zombie Dad grabs her neck but she whips around and opens her gaping maw to reveal her vicious VAMPIRE FANGS.

She BITES into his throat and RIPS out his jugular and SPRAYS black blood across the room.

Izzy wipes the blood from her eyes and hears a ROAR. She turns around to see -

Shawn wearing an IRON WELDING MASK, his hands replaced by massive BUZZSAWS.

The siblings exchange holy-shit-we're-actually-doing-this- looks move down opposite ends of the aisle.

Lena pounces from one zombie to another, biting throats and slashing with her talons.

Shawn mows through the horde with his spinning blades, churning through zombie flesh.

All the while Izzy stands frozen in the center getting showered in blood.

After Lena rips off a ZOMBIE DUDE'S head -

LENA
Izzy! Turn into something!

IZZY
I don't know about horror stuff!

Shawn looks back as he saws through ZOMBIE PUNK'S guts.

SHAWN
It doesn't matter! You can be anything! Whatever scares you!

But the pressure is too much. Izzy shuts her eyes and holds her ears and tries to concentrate.

IZZY
Think, think, think...

But it doesn't matter - this is a massacre.

Lena and Shawn obliterate the Zombie horde, sending blood and bone and flesh flying through the air with glee.

And all the while, Barbara stands at the sidelines, her amusement turning to anger.

BARBARA
All right, you've had your fun.

BLACK BLOOD oozes from the carpet beneath her feet and travels up her body.

It overtakes her. Her clothes change to black COVERALLS. She GROWS into a hulking behemoth.

She becomes a massive, rebooted, extreme *Jason-X*-version of THE KILLER.

A distorted MASK covers her face and an enormous SICKLE forms in her hand.

But the siblings don't notice that yet.

Lena tears the heart out of a ZOMBIE PREP and Shawn cuts a ZOMBIE YUPPY down the center. And then there were none.

Coated in black blood, they turn to look at each other.

SHAWN

LENA

Welcome to prime time, bitch-- Welcome to prime time, bitch--

Suddenly - an entire SHELF careens into them, sending them flying across the room before pinning them underneath.

Barbara leaps across the room and lands on the shelf, crushing them beneath her, only their heads sticking out.

BARBARA

I'm sorry children, but there are no final girls in this movie. I'm the only returning star of this franchise.

She raises the sickle high in the air.

BARBARA

But don't worry.
At the end of the tape we rewind
and do it all over again.

But just before she can decapitate them -

Izzy POUNCES from the Horror Section.

But this isn't your standard Izzy.

This Izzy is covered in thick, matted FUR with enormous, wolf-like EARS and a vicious, razor-sharp BEAK.

Before Barbara knows what hit her, Izzy sinks her TALONS into Barbara's arm and RIPS it OFF.

Barbara lets out a tortured HOWL.

Shawn and Lena push the shelf off as Izzy and Barbara grapple like Kaiju monsters. Shawn is about to join the fight when -

LENA (O.S.)

Shawn!

He turns to see Lena holding the CAMCORDER.

LENA
The tape!

He sees the VHS on the ground. He avoids the wild swings of claws and blades and GRABS it.

He TOSSES it to Lena who catches it out of the air.

SHAWN
What are you--

LENA
I don't want to rewind the tape!

She inserts it into the camcorder and smacks it closed.

LENA
I want to rewrite the ending!

She hits RECORD.

LENA
Action!

From the camera's LENS, Lena records Shawn jumping in to help Izzy take on Barbara.

They bite and rip and saw and shred until all that's left of her -

Is her HEAD. She looks up at Izzy's snarling face.

BARBARA
Wait--

Izzy PULVERIZES her skull under her monstrous foot.

And in the quiet that follows, they hear a -

CLICK

The camera STOPS recording. Lena checks the VHS.

LENA
That's the end of the tape...

Shawn nods.

SHAWN
It's over.

Lena appraises Izzy, Barbara's blood staining her fur black.

LENA
Furby?

She shrugs.

LENA
What do we do now?

Shawn lifts his mask up and looks out at the HEAVY FOG outside the store.

SHAWN
We go home.

EXT. THE STRIP MALL - NIGHT

The thick fog swirls as the three open the door and walk outside.

It begins to dissipate. As it fades, it reveals the three of them have turned back to normal.

When it has lifted completely, they turn around.

The store is EMPTY. Decaying. A relic of the past.

IZZY
Did it work?

LENA
I don't know...

But then - a BUZZ.

Lena reaches into her pocket and pulls out her vibrating CELLPHONE.

LENA
It's Mom!
(beat)
I have thirty-seven missed calls...

She answers.

LENA
Hello--

She immediately holds the phone away from her ear because of her Mom's screaming at her.

LENA

I know, I know, I'm sorry. It was a weird night.

But as Lena tries to calm her mother down, Shawn and Izzy hear something moving inside the Video Store.

They see the silhouettes of ZOMBIES lumbering inside.

SHAWN

Oh shit.

They back up into Lena. She sees them, too.

LENA

God damn it.

They're about to run when the door bursts open...

And out steps Allison, Joanne, and Brad, each wearing the non-stereotypical outfit they wore the night they entered the VHS.

Everyone just looks at each other, no one knowing what to say.

Finally, Allison raises her arm to point at Lena's cellphone.

ALLISON

What the fuck is that?

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.

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ONE MONTH LATER

SHAWN (PRE-LAP)

That was so cool!

EXT. THE FACTORY - NIGHT

A mass exodus of CONCERTGOERS spill out from the venue and onto the street.

Shawn bounds out excitedly, adrenaline pumping through his veins, as Lena and Izzy follow behind.

LENA

Glad you enjoyed it.

SHAWN

I loved it. The way she was playing those old instruments, but they were, like, all different and modified, and the way they sounded coming out of the speakers, it was like...who has ever made sounds like that before?

IZZY

I told you.

SHAWN

And you were right! Old and new coming together to make something incredible. Holy shit, that was amazing.

Lena and Izzy laugh as Shawn bounces around on -

THE SIDEWALK

He can't contain his enthusiasm.

SHAWN

Do they do shows like that here all the time?

IZZY

They sure do. Lots of different artists. Lots of new stuff to discover.

SHAWN

I want to go to them all. Can we go to them all? Let's go to them all.

LENA

We'll go to a lot.

SHAWN

You want to start a band? We should definitely start a band.

Lena and Izzy exchange looks - they may have unleashed a monster. As they pass an ELECTRONICS REPAIR SHOP -

SHAWN

I'll come up with the name. How about Hypnocil? Or Mrs. Voorhees. Or...

He trails off when he sees the TELEVISION behind the window.
He furrows his brow.

LENA
What's wrong?

Lena and Izzy join him by his side and watch the screen. It's an old movie playing on VHS.

A GIRL is screaming and running for her life through a CORNFIELD.

In the distance, they hear the roar of a CHAINSAW.

LENA
Do you hear that?

They lean forward.

SHAWN
Is that getting closer...?

We wonder if it is as we SMASH TO -

THE END