

Bull Creek

by
o ya lik rly lolz

Part of the One Week Challenge

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

The sun shines brightly in the blue, cloudless sky. Birds fly in zigzags simultaneously.

A woman in her small car screams into the headset's speaker she wears on her head.

Next to her car, a large eighteen wheeler rumbles next to her. Its trailer shakes side to side and threatens to tip over.

The woman gets over in the next lane behind the eighteen wheeler and continues to scream into the headset's speaker.

The left rear tire of the eighteen wheeler suddenly explodes. The rubber rips off of the rim and tears apart.

One of the larger pieces shoots through the air and smashes into the windshield of the woman's car.

The piece of tire hits her head. Blood and brain spray all over the interior of the car as the glass shards fly in all directions like bullets.

CLAIR (V.O.)
Everybody dies. Enough said.

INT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

The place is almost empty except for a few cars. One car sits underneath a lamp post. The lamp shines down on it like a spotlight.

A man rushes over to the car and looks inside. He looks around the parking lot and slowly pulls out a slim jim.

The man jams the slim jim in between the window and the door and begins to jimmy the lock.

CLAIR (V.O.)
In the U.S of A, 76.2% of Americans
die from diseases, 4.4% from
accidents, 1.3% from suicide, and
.7% died from murders.

The man, now flustered, jimmies the lock more quickly and violently. He jams it further into the door.

The side airbag explodes from its compartment.

It shoots the slim jim out of the car door and through the man's skull, from the bottom of the jaw through the top of his shaved head.

Blood flows out of his nose like a fountain, and the man falls to the ground with a squishy thud.

CLAIR (V.O.)
But that was back in 2002.

A pool of blood forms around the man's head as he twitches on the ground in the spotlight.

FADE OUT.

CLAIR (V.O.)
Everybody dies. It doesn't matter
if you're good or bad, young or
old. Death is just a part of life.

INT. HOUSEBOAT - DAY

The bare walls of the houseboat are stained with moldy water leaks. Cabinet doors have been ripped off their hinges and any of the cushions of any seats have tears with cotton spilling out.

Cockroaches scurry across the floor into the tiniest, darkest cracks, and spiders build dazzling zigzags of webbing to catch the flies that buzz and swarm around the boat.

CLAIR (19) sits in the corner of the boat with a solemn look on her face.

CLAIR (V.O.)
That's me. And still alive and
kicking, unfortunately.

Around her are MASON (21) who sits on a couch, DILLAN (20) leans against a wall, and CARA (19), who sits next to Mason.

MASON
I still don't see how this is
possible.

DILLAN
Well it is.

MASON
All sharks live in the ocean,
Dillan!

Dillan walks over to Mason.

DILLAN

And that's true. All sharks *do* live in the ocean. But the Bull Shark is an exception, Mason, it can survive in both salt *and* fresh water.

FREEZE

CLAIR (V.O.)

Here, let's start over.

EXT. HOUSEBOAT - FLASHBACK - DAY

The exterior of the houseboat looks even worse: the wood is covered with a black moss that seeps through the cracks and stains the windows.

Rust decorates the metal walls at the bottom of the boat and seaweed hangs from tires that hang over the edge of the boat.

Clair and Dillan sit on the porch of the houseboat in some rusty, worn out chairs. Mason and Cara kiss as they swim in the water.

RYAN (20) walks out of the houseboat with a beer in his hand. He rubs one of Clair's shoulders with his free hand. She looks up and smiles and he gives her a quick peck on the lips.

Ryan steps into the water by climbing down a ladder off the edge of the back of the houseboat.

CUT TO:

Ryan remains in the water up to his waist. The houseboat rumbles as if something hit it. Clair and Dillan look at each other. Dillan stands up.

CUT TO:

Mason looks over at Clair and Dillan. Cara shifts over a bit and she twists around.

CARA

Ssomething just bumped against my leg.

CUT TO:

Ryan turns around to step up the ladder. Suddenly a large Bull Shark, about 15 feet long, splashes out of the water behind Ryan.

The shark snatches Ryan's legs and pulls him in the water. His head smashes against the houseboat and he is knocked unconscious.

The force of the blow causes ropes connected to the houseboat to snap. The boat begins to float away from land, and Clair and Dillan fall forward.

Mason and Cara scream as they see the grizzly scene and begin to swim towards the moving houseboat.

Ryan disappears, but a bubbling pool of blood replaces the point where he was last seen.

CUT TO:

Mason and Cara frantically climb up the nasty tires that hang from the side of the boat. Dillan tries to help them up as Clair looks at the pool of blood in shock.

DILLAN
Clair, help us!

Clair ignores everything around her. Her eyes are wide and her chin begins to shake.

FREEZE

CLAIR (V.O.)
(Crying)
Ryan!

INT. HOUSEBOAT - DAY

Dillan still stands in front of Mason. He sighs and turns around to face Clair and Cara.

DILLAN
Fresh water is like poison to sharks. But for some reason the Bull Shark can live in it and I don't know why.

MASON
Fuck...what are we going to do?

Clair's eyes open wide and she sits up, excited.

CLAIR
Cell phone!

DILLAN
Shit! Why didn't we think of that?

Cara pulls her cell phone out from her bag on a table.

CARA

Here.

She hands her phone to Mason and flips it open. He smiles.

MASON

There's a signal. It's not too strong but it'll work.

He dials 9-1-1.

MASON

Oh thank God! We're stuck on an old houseboat on Harrison Creek...! We're near the field that's next to the intersection of Carson and Terrace...! Please hurry there is a shark after us! I know that sounds crazy and I'm telling the truth! Please just send help!

A brief pause.

CARA

What's happening?

Mason holds his finger up to her.

MASON

Okay, thank you so much! Please, hurry!

He hangs up and hands the phone back to Cara.

MASON

They're on their way.

The other three cheer. Dillan and Clair embrace and Mason and Cara give each other a big, sloppy kiss.

The boat shifts forward. Any loose objects fall to the floor and roll around. Everyone tries to keep their balance.

EXT. HOUSEBOAT - DAY

A large dorsal fin glides against the side of the boat.

INT. HOUSEBOAT - DAY

Everyone remains still. They look at each other.

DILLAN

We need to stay quiet. And we'll stay in here, alright?

Mason and Dillan walk over to the couch and sit down. Cara sits down next to Clair.

MASON

It smells like shit in here.

He holds part of his shirt to his mouth and nose to breathe through it.

DILLAN

It's just the boat.

Cara stares at the floor as she talks:

CARA

You guys remember that one girl who disappeared about two days ago?

CLAIR

Yeah?

MASON

(Through his shirt)

Her name was, like, Madison or something like that, right?

CARA

Yeah. They said that they last saw her here at the lake. What if the same thing that's happening to us happened to her?

DILLAN

You mean that shark got her?

CARA

Yeah.

DILLAN

Sharks just don't go up and eat people, Cara.

MASON

People get attacked all the time. That's a lot of eating there.

DILLAN

Sharks are attracted to splashing and we were doing plenty of that in the water. They're also attracted to blood.

CLAIR (V.O.)

By now you can tell Dillan watches the discovery channel a lot.

CLAIR

How are we going to get back on land once the police arrive?

MASON

They bring a boat out, we all get on, we get on land, and they blow that fucker's head right off.

Dillan sighs.

CARA

Do you think it's still out there?

They all look out the back door of the houseboat. Mason looks at the other three.

CLAIR

There is no way I'm going out there.

EXT. HOUSEBOAT - DAY

Mason stands at the edge and looks at the water. Clair remains inside but looks outside next to Cara and Dillan, who lean against the railing.

DILLAN

How far away is the police station?

MASON

I don't know. It's going to take them some time.

Behind Cara and Dillan, a blurry and barely visible dorsal fin and tail glide through the water towards the boat.

CARA

Seriously, I think we should just stay inside until they get here. I don't care how nasty the inside of this boat is.

Suddenly, the boat pushes sideways. Cara flips over the railing and into the water. Dillan, the same, but he hangs on.

MASON

Cara!

Mason quickly reacts and dives over the railing. The boat slows down. Clair runs over to Dillan.

Cara emerges from the water and gasps. Mason swims over to her.

MASON

Swim!

He pushes Cara forward and they both begin to head for the boat.

CARA

Where is it?!

MASON

Just swim God damn it!

Clair helps Dillan over the railing. She grabs a life saver with a rope tied to it.

CLAIR

Mason!

She throws the life saver near Mason and Cara. Cara snatches it and Clair begins to pull them in.

Dillan leans over the railing and helps pull the life saver in.

The monstrous Bull shark raises itself out of the water and chomps down on Dillan's head, completely severing it at the neck.

Mason stops swimming and splashes away from the boat.

MASON

Holy shit!

Water splashes at Clair. She screams as Dillan's body thrashes about. It falls backwards, blood spurts from his neck, and it sprays at her.

The large dorsal fin swims away from the houseboat. Mason and Cara quickly splash their way to the ladder, which has been pulled up.

Clair sits on the ground. She covers her mouth as she stares at Dillan's body.

Mason tries to grab the ladder and pull it down, but he is unable to.

MASON

Clair! Clair put the ladder down!

The dorsal fin turns around and the shark thrashes its tail side to side. It speeds up as it nears the houseboat.

CARA

It's coming!

MASON

Clair!

He grabs the ladder but he's unable to pull it down. Instead, he begins to pull himself up. He climbs onto the houseboat and quickly turns around to help Cara.

The dorsal fin splits through the glassy surface of the lake. It disappears underwater.

Mason begins to pull Cara out of the water, but her arms are too slippery.

CARA

Help me, I can't get up!

The shark begins to rise out of the water again. It's only yards away from Cara.

MASON

Clair!

The shark's mouth opens up. It's upper jaw drops down, ready to attack. Cara screams.

Clair grabs Cara and they pull her up just as the shark snaps at her legs. The three fall back as they pull her out. The shark flaps its tail around. It bangs against the boat.

Mason grabs Cara's shoulders.

MASON

Are you okay?

CARA

No I'm not! I want to get out of here!

Mason looks at Dillan's body.

MASON

Oh God...Come on, get inside.

The three get up.

CLAIR

What are we doing?

INT. HOUSEBOAT - DAY

The three walk in but suddenly trip over themselves as the boat begins to get banged on.

UNDERWATER

The Bull shark rams its head into the hull. It dents the metal with each impact.

INT. HOUSEBOAT - DAY

They try and keep their balance as the shark continues to bang into the boat.

Water begins to leak into the boat quickly.

CLAIR

The boat's not going to hold.

A hole busts open as the sharks head sticks through. Water floods the inside of the houseboat.

The shark pulls its head out and more water pours in. The inside fills up quickly.

CRACK! The boards of the houseboat begin to splinter apart. A large crack begins to form around the houseboat. Bits of wood break off.

UNDERWATER

The shark turns around and speeds up. It gets ready to hit.

INT. HOUSEBOAT - DAY

BAM! The force of the hit causes part of the houseboat to fall apart. Water bubbles into the boat. More and more of the boat collapses.

A figure bubbles up from under water, out from inside the boat.

It's a girl. She looks seven years old, and she's dead. Multiple stab wounds are visible on her body and underneath her clothes. A little bit of blood still flows from them.

The water around the girl turns black.

FLASHES of newspaper articles, ones about a missing girl. A picture of the girl shows a resemblance of the girl from inside the boat.

Such titles as "GIRL MISSING" and "7-YEAR-OLD KIDNAPPED" fill the headlines.

Clair resurfaces face to face with MADISON (7). She stares into the closed eyes and lifeless face of the girl, and then at the stab wounds. Black blood leaks out of the injuries.

CLAIR (V.O.)
And there she was....

INT. HOUSEBOAT - FLASHBACK

A man drags Madison's body towards the houseboat. She kicks at the ground but can't get away.

CLAIR (V.O.)
Madison Williams was killed on July
14th after getting stabbed six
times. She was seven years old.

CUT TO:

The man stabs her repeatedly. Blood sprays on the ground.

CUT TO:

Madison's lifeless body is thrown into a small cubby hole inside the boat. The man covers up her grave with pieces of boards he removed. He covers the grave and blood with carpet.

CLAIR (V.O.)
By then the houseboat was slowly
sinking. Water had already gotten
in the hull.

INT. HULL - DAY

Madison floats in the water. Blood trickles out of her cuts and into the water.

CLAIR (V.O.)

For two days, the shark searched
for food in the area. Once we came,
the animal founds its food.

CLOSE UP: the blood spreads out in the water.

INT. HOUSEBOAT - FLASHBACK

DILLAN

Sharks are attracted to
splashing...They're also attracted
to blood.

EXT. LAKE - DAY

Clair stares at Madison's body.

Mason and Cara swim to the dock the houseboat was connected
to. They shout at Clair, but to her, their voices are
inaudible.

MASON

Get out of the water!

CARA

Clair!

Behind them, police cars pull up near the lakeshore with
their lights on.

Clair finally snaps back into reality. She looks back at
Mason and Cara who shout at her on the dock. The police
officers stare at her as the others try and help Mason and
Cara.

Clair frantically swims to the shore with Madison in her
arms.

The large dorsal fin emerges from underwater.

CARA

Clair get out of the water!

Clair reaches another dock away from the others. Police
officers run their fastest towards her.

She climbs out of the water and grabs Madison and begins to
pull her out.

The shark's head splashes out of the water and bites down on Madison's leg. It begins to pull her body into the water, but Clair pulls back.

She screams as the shark thrashes its head side to side.

CLAIR

No! Get back!

She continues to scream at it and holds on to Madison tightly.

One of the police men pulls out his pistol and aims at the shark. He pulls the trigger.

A large hole forms in the side of the shark. It lets go of Madison's leg and quickly slips into the water.

The police man continues to fire at the shark, but misses the rest of the time. The shark quickly disappears underwater.

The police officers surround Clair and Madison. Mason and Cara run over to check up on Clair.

FADE OUT.

INSERT:

A picture of Clair, Mason, and Cara, all three wrapped with towels.

REPORTER (V.O.)

Terrifying events have taken place in Harrison Creek after five teenagers were attacked by what seemed to be a Bull Shark. Out of the five, only three survived...

A picture of coroners and police officers surrounding two lumpy body bags on the ground.

REPORTER (V.O.)

...And if things couldn't have gotten any stranger, the body of 7-year-old Madison Williams was found by one of the teenagers after an old houseboat had collapsed. Apparently her body was stored inside. Investigators are still covering the scene...

A picture of Clair facing the lake. Most of the houseboat is underwater.

CLAIR (V.O.)

Everybody dies. Good or bad, young or old, one before another. I can't tell you exactly how it works, but what I do know is that after a near-death experience, you never really realized how many times you've cheated death until then, and don't realize how lucky you really are to be alive.

FADE OUT.