

CLEAVAGE

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. SPANISH HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY (MOVIE FOOTAGE)

Film grain. Overexposed. Hot Southern California sun.

A young MAN with a fake mustache sleeps in his swimsuit on a deck chair by the pool. A newspaper on the table next to him reads: "Monkey Flu Death Toll Tops 80".

The distant sound of a CRASH followed by a car alarm wakes him up.

He presses a thumb to his chest. Sunburn.

MAN

Shit.

He picks up his empty martini glass and stumbles into...

INT. KITCHEN - DAY (MOVIE FOOTAGE)

He heads straight for a vodka bottle. Broken glass crunches under his bare feet. He yelps.

MAN

Ahh! Mother-f... Owwww.

He pulls a shard from his foot. The floor is covered in blood, but not his. Red footprints lead out of the room.

MAN

Jenny?

Eerie music underscores the scene. He picks up a knife and follows the footprints past a broken table. They lead to...

INT. STAIRWAY (MOVIE FOOTAGE)

Streaks of blood are smeared up the wall to the 2nd floor.

He looks at the knife in his hands. Opens a door to the garage. Leans in, drops the knife and picks up a hatchet.

MAN (CONT'D)

Are you okay up there?

The Man limps cautiously up the stairway, wincing at each wood CREAK. The bloody prints lead to...

INT. BEDROOM - DAY (MOVIE FOOTAGE)

The Man creeps in, stiff with fear.

JENNY stands at the master bathroom sink with her back to him. Whew. He drops the hatchet onto the bed and approaches.

MAN

Babe, how's your foot? I saw the glass. For a minute I thought you -

She turns around, revealing a missing cheek! Blood from a half-eaten cat drips from her mouth.

She lunges, pins him to the floor and tears into his neck! Blood sprays in a wide arc. He SCREAMS and grabs the bed cover with his bloody hands.

Zombie-Jenny chews...

The Man SCREAMS...

Blood paints the walls...

MAN

(laughing)

Okay, okay. Stop... stop.

He squirms and tries to push her away. Jenny looks up at the camera with a huge bloody smile.

TITLE SEQUENCE - MONTAGE

A montage of scenes from B-horror and exploitation flicks:

- classic vampires
- topless girls
- seaweed creatures
- shower scenes
- zombies
- skinny-dipping
- gore
- more topless girls

Memories burned into the mind of a youth raised on late-night features.

END TITLES

INT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - HOME STUDIO (REALITY)

The over-saturation and film grain is gone.

Signed movie posters hang on the wall: "Body Swap: Again", "Doggy Duty: Number 2", "Second Chances 3: No More Chances"

WARNER (21), an aspiring documentary producer with a digital camera, films three teens huddled around a laptop.

The paused image of "Jenny" smiling is simultaneously displayed on a massive screen that takes up an entire wall.

ETHAN MILLER (18), who we recognize as the Man, minus the porno mustache, turns on the lights.

ETHAN (MAN)

What were you trying to do, give me a hickey?

SAMANTHA (18), a tomboy in baggy clothes, no longer wears the blonde wig she wore as "Jenny" in the movie. She adjusts a film grain post-effect over the image.

SAMANTHA

I was in the moment.

KANSY (18) looks closely. His sloppy physique and paint-stained clothes are the result of spending more time creating props than exercising.

KANSY

Do you like the gore?

Samantha replays the last bit of the scene.

ETHAN

Looks really good.

KANSY

Except for superstar's goofy grin.

SAMANTHA

Hey, I didn't even want to be onscreen.

ETHAN

Come on. Can't we at least look like we know what we're doing?

Ethan glances over at Warner.

ETHAN

Are you ready?

WARNER

I've been recording the whole time.

ETHAN

Oh. Shit...

Ethan sits up straight and addresses Warner's camera.

ETHAN

We're here with gore master Kansy
and post-pro wizard Samantha -

WARNER

Don't talk to the camera. It's a
making-of, not an interview.

CUT TO:

WARNER'S CAMERA (DOCUMENTARY)

We are now in "found footage-style" video. Ethan sits up
taller. Performs for the camera.

ETHAN

(over-expositorily)

Wow, our short film looks great
already, and we've still got two
months before the Goreapaloozafest
submission deadline.

KANSY

(looks at the camera)

Which is good, because last year
they created a special "Wall of
Shame" just for us.

WARNER (O.S.)

Seriously, just pretend I'm not
here.

KANSY

Ethan, are you sure we should keep
the Sam's cheesy film grain?

Samantha gives Kansy a dirty look.

ETHAN

I like it. A little more green.
More green, more... A smidge more.

Samantha adjusts the tint on the image from orange to an
oversaturated green look.

KANSY

I wish I was like you right now.

ETHAN

How's that?

KANSY

Fucking anal.

SAMANTHA

Classy. Giving or receiving?

KANSY

Just saying, it's a movie, not a science project. Let's try making it fun before worrying about what shade it is.

ETHAN

Fine... A little less green.

SAMANTHA

Now Kansy's fake-ass blood looks purple.

KANSY

Hey now. Do you know how much pro blood costs?

ETHAN

I'll buy the blood. We have to nail the gore this time. Every detail has to be perfect.

Samantha points to the blood sprayed across the bed.

SAMANTHA

You buying a new comforter too? Doesn't your dad get back tonight?

ETHAN

Nah, his shoot is running behind. How are the new heads?

KANSY

Still drying. Maybe another hour.

ETHAN

Sweet. Coffee run.

SAMANTHA

You don't even like coffee.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY (DOCUMENTARY)

The door chimes as Samantha, Kansy and Ethan enter. We follow them in, watching from Warner's camera.

Behind the counter, JOHANNA (18), tall, charming, confident, chats with COURTNEY, also 18, a trashy blonde cheerleader.

ETHAN

Hi Johanna.

JOHANNA

Hey guys! What can I get you today?

COURTNEY

Hey "Mantha", what's with the camera? Going full hardcore now?

SAMANTHA

No, skank. It's for a documentary.

JOHANNA

Are you here for a fight or coffee?

SAMANTHA

I'll have a tall, black.

COURTNEY

You couldn't handle one.

SAMANTHA

I bet you could handle three.

Courtney gives Samantha the finger. Pours the coffee.

KANSY

Classic! I'll have three lemon squares and a large mocha.

JOHANNA

(to Ethan)

How about you?

ETHAN

You chose. I like everything you make.

REALITY - CONTINUOUS

Warner stops recording and lowers his camera.

WARNER

I thought you were going to talk about the movie. I don't need this half-assed flirty shit.

ETHAN

Dude, I'm not...

(to Johanna)

I'm sorry, Warner's just -

JOHANNA

Courtney, what's the special today?

COURTNEY
The rusty trombone.

ETHAN
Ooo, what's that?

COURTNEY
A cappuccino with a ring of
cinnamon around it.

ETHAN
Tasty.

JOHANNA
Uh, yeah... Is this all together?

Ethan hands her a twenty.

ETHAN
You were great at the game last
night. Was that a new cheer?

JOHANNA
Sure.

She hands him his change and coffee.

ETHAN
Mmm, precious life-giving coffee.
This is too much change.

Johanna looks at the change, confused.

ETHAN
Twenty minus... Never mind, I'll
just - there.

He puts the change in the tip jar. Unimpressed, Johanna
turns to the next customers.

JOHANNA
Hey guys! What can I get you today?

EXT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY (REALITY)

ETHAN
God she's hot. I think I'm growing
on her.

SAMANTHA
Like a fungus.

ETHAN
Did you see how she smiled at me?

KANSY
It's her job. You literally paid
her to.

SAMANTHA
Like a prostitute.

ETHAN
I love her smile.

He sips his drink and shudders.

SAMANTHA
How's your rusty trombone?

ETHAN
Tastes like ass.

He tosses his drink in the trash. Samantha rolls her eyes
and hands him her cup of black coffee.

SAMANTHA
Keep it. I think Courtney left a
cold sore on the lid.

DUSTIN (18), classic jock, rolls up in a convertible. If
Draco Malfoy were a linebacker, he'd be this guy.

BRYAN (18), almost as built, but way more charming, sits
shotgun.

They get out and head to the coffee shop.

DUSTIN
Hey Pansy!

KANSY
Fuck off Dustin!

Dustin makes a move toward Kansy, but Bryan holds him back.

BRYAN
Leave him alone, Courtney's
waiting.

DUSTIN
Ever hear of a diet, you fat fuck?

Dustin launches an apple straight at Kansy's head...

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT (DOCUMENTARY)

BOOM! Half of a head explodes into a cloud of red chunks.

KANSY
You bitches ready?

Ethan looks at the camera and mouths "Are you rolling?"

WARNER (O.S.)
Quit looking at the camera.

Ethan puts on his professional act. Deepens his voice.

ETHAN
Let's do this.

Kansy aims his shotgun. Ethan and Samantha aim their cameras.

ETHAN
Rolling.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT (MOVIE FOOTAGE)

It's dark. The camera shakes. Something moves in the bushes. Then silence.

Suddenly a gruesome zombie leaps out! (Ethan in a new costume.) A discerning eye might notice some continuity differences between edited shots, otherwise it looks good.

Cut to a close up of the prop head, and BOOM! It explodes. Bloody chunks fly everywhere. Pretty convincing.

KANSY
Die you rotting bastard!

Kansy pumps the shotgun and fires again. BOOM! Another face explodes. Gore sprays the tree behind it.

KANSY
Eat this, un-dead motherfuckers!

BLAM! A shot rips through two zombie heads in a row.

KANSY
Fuck you Dustin!

BAM! A blond head rips apart.

Kansy pumps his shotgun again. A cell phone ring interrupts.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT (DOCUMENTARY)

Ethan checks his caller ID.

ETHAN

It's my dad. Hang on...

He moves off away from the group.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT (REALITY)

ETHAN

Hey Dad! You done with the shoot?

EXT. WAREHOUSE - MOVIE SET - NIGHT (REALITY)

JOE MILLER (45), a classic film director with a ball cap and beard, watches several people chase a monkey. A fire truck pulls up to put out a burning set.

JOE

Not yet, just taking a short break.

INTERCUT -- PHONE CONVERSATION

ETHAN

I got your ticket for graduation.

JOE

Yeah, actually... We're not wrapping 'til Monday. Slight delay -

An ACTRESS stamps across the set. She screams and tears off pieces of her clown costume. Joe's beautiful YOUNG ASSISTANT follows pitifully, begging her to calm down.

JOE

Don't worry about her, just catch that fucking monkey!

ETHAN

That's cool, I kinda figured -

JOE

So, great news. I had to wax a few balls, but Goldman agreed to interview you for the internship at the hedge fund.

ETHAN

Actually, I was kind of hoping to take senior summer off. We're -

JOE

Wait, what?! Do you know how many Monkey Heist sequels I just signed up for to get you this?

ETHAN

I was just thinking, maybe I don't want to spend my life writing trading algorithms. What if I wanted to make movies? You didn't even go to college, and you -

JOE

I couldn't afford to! You think I want to direct this soul-tainting crap? I'd kill to shoot my own shit, but it takes money. That's why I make movies for hedge funds.

ETHAN

You're still pretty successful.

JOE

Missing your graduation is not my idea of success.

ETHAN

Aw Dad. It's just high school.

JOE

Ethan, you're top of your class! Why waste your time making YouTube videos?

ETHAN

They aren't YouTube videos! We're making a short for Goreapalooza-fest.

JOE

I thought they banned you from submitting again?

ETHAN

That was just a suggestion.

JOE

Look, I know you. You're just anxious. Let me make this easy for you. Go to that interview, or I confiscate your camera.

Joe watches the monkey attack his Young Assistant.

ETHAN

Dad, you can't -

EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS (REALITY)

Shouts and monkey screeches blare over the phone.

JOE (V.O.)
Gotta go kiddo. See you in a week.

Ethan glares at his phone, then launches it into the forest.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT (DOCUMENTARY)

The camera pans over as Ethan angrily walks up.

KANSY
How's your dad?

He picks up his camera.

ETHAN
I've got an idea for a new scene.
Warner, want to be the camera guy
for a real movie?

WARNER (O.S.)
Ethically, a journalist can't
become involved with his subjects.

Ethan looks through his camera's viewfinder.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT (MOVIE FOOTAGE)

Kansy is in character as a teen in a backwards cap.

KANSY
Mom, I'm home!

He tosses his backpack onto the counter. The broken glass on the floor stops him in his tracks. Now he's worried.

KANSY
Dad? Are you guys here?

Kansy looks around the kitchen apprehensively. A noise outside draws him to the open sliding glass door. He peers out. It's too dark to see.

He flicks a switch. Landscaping lights highlight the backyard. The pool glows blue. A dark, feminine figure stands by the edge of the water.

KANSY
Mom? What are you doing out there?

The figure turns, unnaturally. Kansy flicks on the spotlights. It's his mother, Zombie-Jenny, drenched in blood. She lifts her arms and lurches forward, making an inhuman WAIL.

Kansy SCREAMS and stumbles backwards. He shuts the door just before she SLAMS into it. Blood smears across the glass.

KANSY
DAD! Mom's a zombie!

Kansy turns and runs right into Ethan, his Zombie Dad, still wearing his swimsuit. A chunk of his neck is now missing.

KANSY
Not you too Dad...

Zombie Dad stumbles forward.

Kansy slams a CHAIR over its head. Throws a KNIFE into its chest, THUNK! Jams a wooden SPOON into its eye. Breaks PLATES over its head. Nothing stops it.

KANSY
First Mom, now you? You were supposed to be here for me. You're supposed to care... Why Dad? WHY?!

Kansy pushes his Zombie Dad to the basement door.

KANSY
That's it! You brought me into this world, but I'm taking you out!

With a kick to the chest, he sends Zombie Dad tumbling down the stairs. Kansy SLAMS the door...

INT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN (DOCUMENTARY)

Samantha, still in zombie make-up, looks up from her camera.

SAMANTHA
Cut! Shit, that looked amazing!

They fling open the basement door and turn on the light. The stairs are covered from top down with mattresses.

KANSY
Are you alright?

At the bottom, Ethan sits up with a groan.

ETHAN
Please tell me it was perfect.

Samantha gives a thumbs up. Ethan collapses back down.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT (REALITY)

Warner is gone. Kansy packs away his makeup kit. Samantha carefully removes the latex wound from Ethan's neck.

SAMANTHA

What did your dad want?

ETHAN

The shoot's running behind, he's not coming back till Monday.

SAMANTHA

What about graduation?

ETHAN

Doesn't matter.

Samantha hands the wound to Kansy. Continues cleaning Ethan's face.

SAMANTHA

You sure? You seemed a bit pissed.

KANSY

What gave it away? The spoon in the eye, or the "Why Dad, why?"

ETHAN

He's flying me to New York next week to interview at Goldman's hedge fund. Basically, I have one week of freedom left.

KANSY

What?! It's senior summer! Didn't you tell him about our films?

ETHAN

Let me ask you. Why do you two really want to make movies?

SAMANTHA

Because we're a team. If we win that prize money we can buy our own equipment and do this for real.

KANSY

Special effects are the only thing I'm good at.

ETHAN

Well, my parents were never here. All I had was a wall of DVDs. I was basically raised by Roger Corman. Movies are my life. I know every movie rule there is. I know I can do this, but my dad doesn't take me seriously.

SAMANTHA

Wow. And here I thought you were just trying to impress Johanna.

ETHAN

She kissed me once, you know.

SAMANTHA

Yeah, in a movie you directed. In the eighth grade.

KANSY

You know what a rusty trombone is right? It's where you plant your lips on a dude's asshole and give him a reach around. It's all like -

Kansy mimes playing a trombone.

ETHAN

How do you even know this stuff?

KANSY

The internet is a dark place.

ETHAN

Whatever. What I'm trying to say is, we could shoot a whole feature, and blow everyone away.

KANSY

In one week?

ETHAN

Corman did, and that was back in the film days. I'm serious! Everyone thinks we're shit at this, but we can do it this time.

KANSY

Fuck yeah! I'm totally in.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY (DOCUMENTARY)

Students pack up for the day at their lockers.

Kansy spots Ethan and Samantha as they approach his locker. He digs through empty bags of chips and candy bars in his backpack and pulls out an envelope.

KANSY

Hey! Pick one of each color.

Kansy dumps a bunch of little colored cards into his hand.

ETHAN

What's this?

They each take five pieces and sort them.

KANSY

My horror movie plot generator.
Okay, what do you have?

SAMANTHA

(reading)

"A family", "at a nudist colony",
"hunted by", "ravenous", "peers".

KANSY

Awesome!

ETHAN

Seen it. Mine is: "Cheerleaders",
"at a lake", "terrorized by",
"backwoods", "lesbians". These have
all been done like, twenty times.

KANSY

That just proves it works. There's
millions of plots here. How about
"sluts in a high school enslaved by
mutant bikers?"

SAMANTHA

Why do all of your ideas involve
sluts and lesbians?

KANSY

The genre demands it. That's what
makes horror movies fun.

SAMANTHA

For you.

ETHAN

When I think of "fun", I think of
"funny". Ours has to be dark. Not
some cheesy B-movie.

KANSY

Filmmakers get attacked while making a horror movie.

ETHAN

Stop it. Meta-movies are the worst! The audience wants a story, not shitty filmmaker jokes.

KANSY

Half the horror flicks out there are found footage.

ETHAN

Because they're cheap to shoot. It's bottom of the barrel. I say we flesh out our zombie short. We've already got the opening scenes.

KANSY

We don't even have a script -

SAMANTHA

Or a location -

ETHAN

We'll write as we go. Finish act one today. Shoot the main dialogue scenes at the cabin tomorrow after graduation. Then do the zombie attack Friday and Saturday night.

KANSY

It's possible... barely. What about casting? We are NOT using Craigslist actors again.

Ethan watches Johanna and Courtney strut by into the girl's locker room.

ETHAN

We'll start with Johanna.

SAMANTHA

You're just casting with your dick.

ETHAN

No, it's perfect. She's popular. When she's in the movie, everyone will want to be in it.

SAMANTHA

And how many coffees are you going to order before you ask her?

ETHAN

You're right. You should do it.

SAMANTHA

Fuck no, those girls hate me.

ETHAN

Johanna doesn't, she's nice.
Pleeeeeease?

She relents at his puppy dog eyes.

SAMANTHA

Damn you Ethan. You know I'm only helping you get the popular cheerleader, because all along I secretly liked you, right?

ETHAN

Um...

Warner starts to follow her into the locker room.

SAMANTHA

(to the camera)

Uh, sorry. No.

WARNER

Come on! This documentary is going to be the most boring piece of -

The recording stops.

INT. SCHOOL - GIRL'S LOCKER ROOM - DAY (REALITY)

Johanna opens her locker and pulls out her cheerleader outfit.

Courtney approaches. SNAPS Johanna's ass with a towel.

COURTNEY

Hey ho.

JOHANNA

Ow. Hey girl.

Johanna bends over to drop her pants, revealing Samantha, whose eyes are locked on her bare ass. Courtney glares.

COURTNEY

Scouting for your dyke-umentary?

Johanna straightens up and looks back. Covers herself.

SAMANTHA

Uh... I, uh... Johanna -

COURTNEY

Well? See anything you like?

Samantha, speechless, 180s and heads straight for the door.

EXT. SCHOOL - UNDER THE BLEACHERS - DAY (REALITY)

Warner plays back footage on his camera for Ethan and Kansy. Johanna and Courtney walk onto the field for cheer practice.

Samantha stamps up to them, red-faced.

ETHAN

What happened? Did you ask her?

SAMANTHA

I tried, but I just ended up with her ass in my face!

KANSY

Okay, this is very important. Start from the beginning and give us every detail. For the documentary.

Kansy motions for Warner to start recording.

SAMANTHA

It's not funny. They already think I'm a lesbian.

KANSY

If she'll stick her ass in my face, I'll ask her.

ETHAN

No, I'll do it.

SAMANTHA

I just saw why you want her in the movie, and it's not worth it.

Ethan watches Johanna lead a cheer.

ETHAN

She's got talent. I'm serious. She's like the head cheerleader.

KANSY

I'm with Ethan on this one. It's one of his horror rules. The lead chick has to be super hot.

SAMANTHA

Guys suck.

KANSY

He'll never ask her anyway. Balls skip a generation in his family.

EXT. COFFEE SHOP - EVENING (DOCUMENTARY)

A car zooms past. Ethan stares across the street at the coffee shop. Nervous.

SAMANTHA

When she tells you to fuck off, will you finally stop ordering those shitty coffees?

KANSY

We've been here an hour. Sure you don't want me to ask her? I'm like, twice as charming as you.

Ethan takes a deep breath. Straightens his shirt.

ETHAN

I can do this. I'm going in.

He steps off the sidewalk.

KANSY

They're all going to laugh at you!

INT. COFFEE SHOP - EVENING (DOCUMENTARY)

The door chimes. We follow Ethan in.

ETHAN

Hey Johanna.

JOHANNA

Hi! How did you like that rusty trombone?

ETHAN

I think it's an acquired taste.

COURTNEY

Have you tried the snowball fog?

ETHAN

What's that?

COURTNEY

We shoot in a couple squirts of vanilla syrup, tea bag it, then swap it back and forth between cups until it's foamy. It's delicious.

ETHAN

Sounds great.

Johanna rings him up. He tries to be nonchalant.

ETHAN

Hey Johanna, have you ever thought about acting?

JOHANNA

Not really. Everyone says I should be a model, so I probably could.

ETHAN

Well, I was wondering... We're making a zombie movie, and we need to cast a few roles.

JOHANNA

Zombie movies are boring.

ETHAN

Not when you're actually in one. You'd be perfect for the lead.

JOHANNA

Really? Is this for school or something?

ETHAN

No, my dad's a big time director, it's in my blood. We're probably going to win Goreapaloozafest this year.

JOHANNA

Sure, whatever.

COURTNEY

Here's your snowball. Try gargling before you swallow.

ETHAN

Thanks!

EXT. COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT (DOCUMENTARY)

Ethan runs across the street.

ETHAN
She's in!

KANSY
An unexpected turn of events!

SAMANTHA
You actually going to drink that?

ETHAN
Hell no. This stuff jacks me up.

Ethan tosses his drink in the trash.

INT. BOYS LOCKER ROOM - DAY (REALITY)

Kansy and Ethan get dressed. Bryan sends Ethan stumbling into his locker with a "friendly" shove from behind.

BRYAN
Hey man, what's up?

ETHAN
Uh, hi Bryan.

Ethan rubs his shoulder.

KANSY
Hey bro! Great game. Can you teach me to tackle like that?

Bryan ignores Kansy.

BRYAN
Courtney said you guys are making a movie. What's it about?

ETHAN
Oh, it's uh, a group of friends who get attacked by a horde of zombies at a cabin in the woods.

BRYAN
Lame. "Walking Dead" drove zombies into the ground. Monsters are trending. How about werewolves?

ETHAN
Zombies will never die. It's a guiltless kill fantasy. They represent fundamental human fears... Wait, "We"?

BRYAN

How are zombies a fundamental fear?

ETHAN

They're symbols. A - Fear of disease. You love your brother, but if he gets the plague, you're out of there. B - Fear of people. You trust your neighbor, but when his kids haven't eaten for days, he's at your door with a shotgun, and C - It's a survival fantasy. Everyone thinks they'll be the last to go.

BRYAN

Wow! That's boring as shit. Fast or slow?

ETHAN

Well, fast zombies negate the -

BRYAN

Whatever, I'm in. I need it for my demo reel.

ETHAN

Actually, I was kind of thinking -

KANSY

I have a question first. How do you get abs like that? If I had those I'd be bangin' chicks left and right. What, do you have to do like a thousand sit-ups?

BRYAN

It's all about diet.

KANSY

So I'm ripped under all this?

Kansy grabs a handful of gut and looks up. Dustin heads his way. Kansy hides behind Bryan.

KANSY

Oh shit. You've got the part, just tell Dustin to leave me alone.

DUSTIN

What up Bry? You know you've got a queer little dude on your back?

BRYAN
Kansy? Nah, he's cool. We used to
be buddies in middle school.

DUSTIN
No shit?

BRYAN
He and my boy Ethan here are going
to launch my movie career, right?

Bryan musses Ethan's hair.

ETHAN
Sure...

BRYAN
Sick. Fix your hair dude, show a
little pride. See you at the shoot.

Bryan struts off with Dustin. Ethan pushes his hair down.

ETHAN
I told you everyone would want in.

INT. SCHOOL LUNCHROOM - DAY (DOCUMENTARY)

Kansy peels a pile of oranges for lunch while Ethan sketches
storyboards of a zombie horde.

SAMANTHA
He'd better not want Courtney in
the movie.

ETHAN
I don't know, you want the audience
to root for some kills.

KANSY
Speaking of slasher bait...

Courtney strolls up.

SAMANTHA
What do you want?

COURTNEY
If I'm going to be in your movie, I
have a couple questions. Are we
shooting at your place in Trailer
Park? 'Cause I can bring some rape
whistles.

SAMANTHA

It's Taylor Park. I live just three blocks down from you.

COURTNEY

Also, I don't have any shitty clothes. I'll have to borrow some of yours if you want me to be a zombie. And you don't want me to do anything weird, do you? I mean, it's cool that you're a les... hell, even I've been known to get beer-bi occasionally, but -

SAMANTHA

Okay, you know what? You're not -

ETHAN

Nothing weird. No nudity. Just lots of blood and gore. All you have to do is show up.

COURTNEY

Sweet! This had better not suck.

Courtney joins a group of girls walking by. Samantha buries her head in her arms.

EXT. FOREST ROADS - DAY (DOCUMENTARY)

Ethan looks at Bryan, Courtney and Johanna through one of three GoPro cameras mounted to the front of his SUV.

BRYAN

Hey man, we've been sitting here for an hour. What the hell?

ETHAN

I'm just setting up the shot. Give me a few more minutes.

Kansy pulls up in a crappy Datsun and gets out. Ethan and Samantha rush over.

ETHAN

Where have you been? We're trying to look professional here.

KANSY

Check this out. I downloaded the opening car ride scenes from about twenty different horror movies.

Kansy pulls a stack of papers from his backpack.

ETHAN

All you had to do was grab the dummy and print my scripts.

KANSY

The dummy's awesome, but the script's as dry as your mom.

ETHAN

Dude. Not in front of the lady.

SAMANTHA

Lady? What, am I like 30?

KANSY

You dress like you are.

SAMANTHA

Well, shit. I'd better go change before I tweak your MILF fetish.

KANSY

More like... MIWLF.
(awkward beat)
Mother I wouldn't like to fuck.

ETHAN

Guys!

KANSY

Come on. Take a chance. Improv is way more authentic. Just pick a line and riff on it.

ETHAN

Yeah? What about backstory?

KANSY

It's only character development. Talk about anything.

ETHAN

You can't just wing a movie. It won't make any sense!

KANSY

Some of my favorite movies don't make sense. Okay, fine. Here.

Kansy digs into his backpack and hands Ethan a stack of scripts. Ethan addresses the cast.

ETHAN

Alright, here we go. Everyone uses their real names so we don't get confused.

Ethan hands copies of the script to each actor as he talks.

ETHAN

Sam, you're the shy, nerdy girl who explains everything.

SAMANTHA

Oh come on.

ETHAN

You're secretly in love with Kansy, the uptight kid who always plays it safe.

KANSY

So basically you.

ETHAN

Bryan, you're the attention-craving jock. Dating Courtney, the slutty cheerleader.

BRYAN

Sounds visionary. Slutty's good.

He pinches Courtney, who ribs him back.

SAMANTHA

So who's Johanna? The loser friend that no one likes?

JOHANNA

Seriously?

ETHAN

No, she's the apathetic beauty. She's saving herself for the right guy. Someone who can inspire her.

SAMANTHA

(whispers to Kansy)
Yeah, I wonder who that would be.

JOHANNA

Whatever.

ETHAN

Act two starts as they head into the mountains. Remember, this isn't a comedy.

INT. SUV - TRAVELING (MOVIE FOOTAGE)

The characters speed up winding mountain roads into the forest. Kansy drives. Pensive. Sam sits next to him.

SAMANTHA

Want to tell us what's going on?

KANSY

I don't want to talk about it.

COURTNEY

Where is this place anyway?

KANSY

Big Bear. It's only another hour.

BRYAN

Your parents aren't going to be there, are they?

KANSY

They haven't been there for years.

BRYAN

Hell yeah, a weekend of freedom. You know what that means?

Courtney gives Bryan a slutty look. Kansy watches in the rearview mirror as Bryan's hand slides up under her skirt.

SAMANTHA

Look out!

Kansy looks up to see a figure standing on the road!

He locks the brakes and SWERVES. THUMP! Blood sprays across the driver's side window. They SCREECH to a hard stop.

KANSY

Oh shit. Shit!

BRYAN

What the hell was that?

EXT. FOREST ROAD - DAY (REALITY)

Ethan circles the blood covered car with his camera, filming the action. He steps past an obliterated dummy and buckets of blood.

Warner follows in a wider circle, filming Ethan.

EXT. FOREST - DAY (MOVIE FOOTAGE)

All is quiet except for the dripping of BLOOD from the SUV.

Courtney gets out and pukes. The rest emerge and stare at a ridiculous amount of gore streaked across the road.

JOHANNA

Where'd it go?

Bryan walks back toward the impact spot. He kneels to examine the blood spray on the ground.

BRYAN

Whatever it was, you nailed it.

KANSY

Come on. We should get out of here.

SAMANTHA

Look.

Samantha points at a pile of gore in the grass. A trail of blood leads off into the tree line.

KANSY

See, it walked away. Let's go.

Bryan searches, but the trail disappears.

BRYAN

Well, it's gone now.

SAMANTHA

I swear "it" was a person.

KANSY

It wasn't! It was a deer, or woodchuck or some shit. It'll be fine, let's just go, now.

EXT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - DAY (DOCUMENTARY)

An OLD COUPLE walks by and gives Kansy an awful look as he hoses the fake gore off the SUV. The others unpack the gear.

COURTNEY

So, what was "it" anyway?

SAMANTHA

It was a zombie, genius.

BRYAN

Oh, I thought it was Ethan's story,
limping off into the woods.

EXT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS (REALITY)

Ethan watches Warner film the crew. He takes the moment to talk privately with Johanna.

ETHAN

I loved your performance today.

JOHANNA

Did I look all right?

ETHAN

The camera loves you.

Kansy walks over, interrupting.

KANSY

How are we going to finish the
movie without a zombie horde?

ETHAN

Can I just have a minute -

The others approach, curious. Warner follows.

BRYAN

Yeah. Where are you going to get
all those zombies?

SAMANTHA

We really only need about 25
people. We can edit it to make it
look like hundreds.

JOHANNA

Is this going to take all summer?

BRYAN

It's not going to be like "American
Movie" where that dude takes years
making that Coven movie, is it?

ETHAN

Mark Borchardt is an indie horror icon. He proved anyone can make it if they're dedicated enough. And, we kind of have to finish it by Monday. That gives us five days.

BRYAN

Seriously?

ETHAN

Corman shot "The Terror" in two.

JOHANNA

So? You're still short 25 zombies.

ETHAN

Well, I was kind of hoping that since you guys were in the movie -

COURTNEY

Now you need us to find your cast too? Oh, I forgot you only have two friends. And this Warner guy.

Warner doesn't move from behind his viewfinder.

WARNER

Don't talk about Warner.

BRYAN

Dude. It's grad weekend. Everyone's going to Dustin's barbecue on Saturday.

KANSY

I can barbecue.

BRYAN

I guess you haven't heard about Dustin's pig roasts.

KANSY

What, is he going to have a clown? A big clown orgy? With sexy balloon animals and a bouncy castle?

ETHAN

Who wouldn't want to be in a movie?

COURTNEY

Maybe you get off on dressing like zombies. The rest of us have lives.

KANSY
What if we had alcohol?

ETHAN
At the cabin?

BRYAN
Actually, that would work. Dustin's
parents want a dry grad. How fucked
up is that?

Johanna and Courtney brighten up.

JOHANNA
I bet we can get a bunch of people.

ETHAN
Not too many. My dad loves his
cabin.

KANSY
Tell everyone to bring crappy
clothes. It's gonna get dirty.

INT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - HOME STUDIO - NIGHT (REALITY)

Ethan is alone as he puts his equipment away.

He opens a cabinet. Golden light shines on an impressive
array of lighting and camera equipment. His dad's personal
stash. In the middle, sits a top-of-the-line digital camera.

He reaches up to touch it, then shuts the cabinet quickly as
Samantha enters.

SAMANTHA
Your dad called my cell. He said
you weren't answering yours.

ETHAN
Thanks. Mine broke...

She hands him her phone and leaves. Ethan sighs.

ETHAN
What's up Dad?

EXT. ON-SET EDITORIAL CAMP - NIGHT

Joe sits by the temporary outdoor edit suite while an editor
cuts together a car chase and monkey reaction shots.

JOE
Just checking in, you doing okay?

INTERCUT -- PHONE CONVERSATION

ETHAN

The house is on fire. Also, I'm on trial for murder.

JOE

So you're mad at me?

ETHAN

For ruining my summer, or having absolutely no faith in me?

JOE

Is this about your movies? Trust me you don't want to be a director.

ETHAN

Enlighten me.

Joe's gorgeous Young Assistant walks up and hands him a coffee. He winks at her. She smiles and walks away.

JOE

Okay then. Today an actress had a fit because she had poo flung on her, our monkey bit the key grip, and I swear he and his 999 other monkey friends wrote this piece of shit, because the script is terrible. And somehow I have to turn it all into art.

ETHAN

What are you trying to say?

JOE

It's not worth it. Movies have been a good hobby for you, but it's time to move on. You're really smart, you're just...

ETHAN

What?

JOE

Not creative. I don't mean that in -

Ethan pushes the "end" icon on the phone repeatedly.

EXT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - NIGHT (DOCUMENTARY)

Samantha and Kansy huddle over the laptop.

SAMANTHA

This scene is actually really good.

KANSY

I think Ethan works better under stress.

Ethan storms out of the house, glares at Sam's cell phone, then furiously chucks it over the fence.

SAMANTHA

Hey!

ETHAN

Come with me.

INT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - HOME STUDIO - NIGHT (DOCUMENTARY)

Ethan eyes his dad's camera, then carefully takes it down.

SAMANTHA

Your dad will lose his shit.

ETHAN

Well he's not here, is he?

KANSY

Wait a second. What's this?

Kansy reaches over and pulls a tiny hair from Ethan's chest.

KANSY

Look, you're growing hair where there wasn't any before.

ETHAN

Fuck it. Just for the establishing shots. What could go wrong?

KANSY

That's my boy, show those chestal pubes with pride.

EXT. BEAR MOUNTAIN BREWERY - DAY (MOVIE FOOTAGE)

A semi truck roars past. The group, minus Kansy, finishes their lunch on the patio of a quaint gas station.

The footage is gorgeous. We push in closer. Music fades.

Johanna brings out two coffees and hands one to Bryan.

BRYAN

Mmmm, my hero.

Courtney pulls Bryan away.

COURTNEY

Break it up. So, does anyone know what Kansy's problem is?

SAMANTHA

Don't ask me, he's been acting really weird since yesterday.

COURTNEY

Well he needs to suck that shit up. This weekend's gonna blow if he's a whiney little bitch the whole time.

BRYAN

Ah shit, cop.

Ethan walks up, wearing a police uniform and mustache.

ETHAN (COP)

You kids lost?

BRYAN

Uh no, we're just heading to a friend's cabin for the weekend.

ETHAN (COP)

Where's your friend?

SAMANTHA

He went to the sporting goods store for some hunting supplies.

ETHAN (COP)

Sure. You know, we get a lot of piece of shit city kids like you coming up here. Drinking, breaking into cabins. This is a quiet town, and I like to keep it that way.

BRYAN

Don't worry officer, we - cop!

This time for real.

EXT. BEAR MOUNTAIN BREWERY - DAY (DOCUMENTARY)

Kansy lowers Joe's fancy camera.

The real SHERIFF pulls up and emerges from his car. Sunglasses. Hat. The perfect rural cop.

KANSY

Uh, good afternoon officer.

SHERIFF

(looking into the camera)
Doing a little filming, I see. I don't suppose you have a permit?

ETHAN

Permit? Oh, he's just doing a documentary for a student project.

The Sheriff points at the camera in Kansy's hand.

SHERIFF

What about that?

ETHAN

We're just making a YouTube video.

SHERIFF

Nice camera for a YouTube video.

Ethan carefully takes the camera from Kansy.

ETHAN

It's my dad's. He's a director. He let's me borrow it.

SHERIFF

Oh hey, you're Joe Miller's kid?

ETHAN

Yeah.

SHERIFF

Sorry Ethan. I didn't recognize you! Boy, you've grown. The last time I saw you was when your dad was shooting that movie by the lake, uh... Manic -

ETHAN

Mermaniac.

SHERIFF

That's it! His crew caught a goddamned tree on fire. You don't have any lighting equipment do you?

ETHAN

Just a couple of reflectors.

SHERIFF

Good. The forest is a box of matches this year. Don't want you following in your dad's footsteps.

ETHAN

No, of course not. Thanks, Sheriff.

EXT. CABIN - DAY (DOCUMENTARY)

Ethan, Kansy and Samantha confer as they set up large electric lights outside the cabin.

KANSY

That scene looked tits on your dad's camera. I'm not saying our movie sucks ass, but we need to kick it up a notch.

ETHAN

We're a notch above ass sucking?

KANSY

Two. We're at balls right now. But, with a little of my special sauce we can get it to dick.

SAMANTHA

Oh God...

ETHAN

So, in this metaphor, sucking dick is good?

KANSY

The scale goes back to front. Ass, taint, balls, dick. So first, we load it up with swears. The dialogue has to be way more crude, that's what sells now. But most important: shower scene.

SAMANTHA

Oh come on.

KANSY

I'm serious. Ethan's always talking about movie rules, this is the most basic one. Horror isn't any good without at least one topless shot.

SAMANTHA

Don't look at me, I'm not doing it.

KANSY

No, it has to be Johanna.

ETHAN

No way. A - It's totally gratuitous, and B - How about Courtney?

KANSY

She can be in the shower too, but we have to see the lead's tits... Unless she's an established actress. I don't make the rules.

ETHAN

I can break the rules.

KANSY

Sorry, but you're not exactly breaking new ground with a five-kids-in-a-cabin movie. At least with some tits we could get it in the bottom of Netflix.

ETHAN

It's all about the execution...

KANSY

Here's the thing. I know you want to impress Johanna, but the harder you try, the more you look like a giant frikkin' douche. If you want her respect, nail this movie and win Goreapaloozafest. You know I'm right.

ETHAN

Fine, I'll ask her. But if she says "no", discussion over.

Ethan picks up his dad's camera. He stares dreamily.

ETHAN

We have to win this time.

KANSY

Can't do any worse than last year. They said my character wasn't even believable as a human.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT (REALITY)

Bryan brings in a plate of grilled burgers. He hands one to Warner and offers another to Kansy, who peels an orange.

KANSY

No thanks.

BRYAN

Dude, what's with the oranges?

KANSY

I've lost 4 pounds in the last two days. I figure in three weeks I'll be in your rock-hard-abs club.

BRYAN

It's not a club... and you can't just eat fruit, you need protein. Exercise burns off the fat.

KANSY

You said it was all diet. Besides, I don't have your metabolism.

Ethan kneels next to Johanna as she eats.

ETHAN

Can I talk to you outside?

JOHANNA

Why? Something wrong?

Bryan and Courtney look over, curious.

ETHAN

Oh, no. Of course not. You're doing a great job. I just wanted to talk about the next scene.

JOHANNA

(chewing)

Talk here. Cold outside.

Warner grabs his camera and starts recording. Ethan is uncomfortable with everyone listening.

ETHAN

Well, I've been working on the script, and the scene coming up is... well, it's a shower scene.

BRYAN

Whoa. Hang on. You never said anything about nudity.

COURTNEY

I knew he had the creeps for you.

ETHAN

No, no, it'll be a closed set. Just you, Samantha and the camera. No one else, not even Warner.

Warner kicks a chair. Keeps filming.

COURTNEY

I bet Mantha's going to love that.

SAMANTHA

Believe me, it's not my idea.

JOHANNA

What will you show onscreen?

ETHAN

Barely anything. Briefly. It'll be totally tasteful, I swear.

JOHANNA

Is this why you cast me?

ETHAN

It's not like that. It's integral to the plot. See, Bryan's going to be outside spying on you -

BRYAN

Wait, this shit doesn't make any sense. My character would never creep on a girl like that. I mean, no offense, Johanna's got a killer ass, but - Ow!

Courtney punches him in the kidney.

BRYAN

I'm just saying, the script's a mess man.

KANSY

Hey, all the best horror movies have nude scenes, right Ethan?

COURTNEY

So which is it, Ethan? Part of the plot, or tits for tickets?

ETHAN

Look, if you don't want to -

JOHANNA

No, I don't. Not for you.

ETHAN
I'm sorry I asked -

JOHANNA
You can film me in my underwear,
but that's it.

ETHAN
(surprised)
Really? That will work. I'm sorry -

JOHANNA
Whatever.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT (MOVIE FOOTAGE)

The wall clock ticks. Bryan drinks with Courtney on the couch while the rest of the group plays a game of cards.

BRYAN
Come on, I'm bored. Let's go out to
the bunkhouse for a bit.

COURTNEY
I told you I'm not in the mood.

BRYAN
Of course not.

COURTNEY
I'll give you a hand job later.

BRYAN
I can do that myself.

JOHANNA
We're right here. You two are
disgusting.

Johanna gets up from the card game.

KANSY
Going to bed already?

JOHANNA
I think I'm disturbing the love
vibe in here. I'm going to take a
shower, anyone need the bathroom
first?

BRYAN
Nope. The forest is my outhouse.
Who wants a beer?

(beat)
Alright fine, pansies. More for me.

Johanna goes into the bathroom. Bryan heads outside.

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT (MOVIE FOOTAGE)

Bryan grabs a beer from a cooler on the porch and finds a tree to piss on.

He looks back and notices movement in the bathroom window. The curtains are lacy and clearly easy to see through with the light on in the bathroom.

It's too tempting. He creeps up to the window.

INT. CABIN - BATHROOM - NIGHT (MOVIE FOOTAGE)

Johanna unbuttons her shirt.

From inside the bright bathroom the lace curtains are nearly opaque. We see only the slightest hint of eyes outside.

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT (MOVIE FOOTAGE)

Bryan leans in as she removes her shirt. She turns away from the camera, unclasps her bra. It slips to the floor.

CRACK. A branch snaps. Bryan turns to look. The forest is dark. Quiet.

When he looks back, Johanna bends over and removes her pants. She's just wearing a thong. Bryan smiles.

A MOAN in the forest. This time there is definitely something out there. He moves away from the window, trying to get a better view in the dark.

BRYAN
Kansy, is that you?

A shadow moves behind a tree.

BRYAN
Quit fucking around...

A figure shuffles toward Bryan, head hung low. Face hidden.

BRYAN
Dude, you scared the crap out of me.

Bryan reaches out and shoves a shoulder. A bearded Zombie lifts its head. One clouded eye looks hungrily at Bryan, the other dangles from its socket.

It grabs Bryan! He SCREAMS.

INT. CABIN - BATHROOM - NIGHT (MOVIE FOOTAGE)

The noise of the shower fills the room. The old pipes GROAN.

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT (MOVIE FOOTAGE)

Bryan stumbles back and trips over a root. He holds up his hands as the Zombie falls onto him.

BRYAN
(movie yell)
Nooooo!!!

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT (DOCUMENTARY)

It's Kansy in heavy zombie makeup. Bryan pushes him off.

BRYAN
Get off me.

Ethan stops rolling the camera.

ETHAN
What's wrong?

BRYAN
I don't see why you're killing me
off so quickly.

ETHAN
It's a zombie movie, people die.

COURTNEY
Why not kill Kansy first?

KANSY
They're right, we should save Bryan
for the big zombie horde attack.
He's our Brad Pitt.

They stare at Kansy. Not because he is siding with Bryan, or has a dangling eye, but because he's sweating profusely.

BRYAN
Dude, you don't look so good.

KANSY
It's just the makeup.

ETHAN

We don't have time to reshoot the whole scene, and Kansy needs to be alive to tell about his parents.

COURTNEY

Just have Bryan run in screaming like a girl.

JOHANNA

(fully clothed)
That totally works.

BRYAN

Anyone else smell rotten oranges?

ETHAN

(ignoring him)
Are we writing by committee now?

COURTNEY

You have to admit it works better.

SAMANTHA

What do you know, Courtney? Ethan's good at this. All you have to do is smile and look pretty.

COURTNEY

That's what you like, right dyke?

SAMANTHA

You know what? Fuck you Courtney.

Samantha stomps off to the front porch of the cabin. Courtney chases after her. Kansy's stomach growls.

KANSY

I'll be right back.

He runs into the cabin.

ETHAN

I'll be in the bunkhouse.

Ethan stamps away.

Johanna pulls out her cell phone to update her status and wanders into the cabin. Warner's documentary camera looks at Bryan, who just shrugs and smiles.

BRYAN

This is kind of fun. Come on.

We follow Bryan around to...

EXT. CABIN - FRONT PORCH - NIGHT (DOCUMENTARY)

We crouch next to Bryan and eavesdrop from the bushes.

COURTNEY

Seriously, what's your problem?

SAMANTHA

Don't talk to me.

COURTNEY

Hey, just because I don't want you getting off on filming us naked -

SAMANTHA

You know what? You want to talk about this now? Fine. First off, you KNOW I'm not a lesbian.

COURTNEY

Why do you dress like a dude then?

SAMANTHA

Maybe I'm not as comfortable showing my shit to everyone as your are.

COURTNEY

You weren't so prissy when we were freshmen.

SAMANTHA

You were the one who posted that fucking picture of me online! I thought you were my friend.

COURTNEY

I was trying to help you fit in.

SAMANTHA

Seriously? By showing my tits to the whole class?

COURTNEY

Everyone thought you were weird. I just showed people that picture to prove you were cool. Dustin was the idiot who posted it on Facebook. If anyone, blame him. Or Zuckerberg.

SAMANTHA

I was already shy and that picture ruined me. You don't know what it's like to have girls whisper about you in the hall. Comments from guys who thought I was a slut.

COURTNEY

Well shit, I didn't know.

SAMANTHA

I'm not a lesbian. I just hated the way everyone looked at me. Ethan and Kansy were the only ones who never said anything about it.

COURTNEY

I told you I was sorry.

SAMANTHA

No, you didn't. You never did.

COURTNEY

Well, I am. I'm sorry.

Courtney reaches out for a hug.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT (MOVIE FOOTAGE)

Samantha screams!

A zombie bursts through the window, biting Kansy. Bryan shoots it through the eye and kicks it back out. The cast gives their best melodramatic performances.

SAMANTHA

You're bit!

Kansy drops to his knees in a full-on Platoon pose.

KANSY

NOOOOOOooooooo!!!

Samantha kneels down and cradles him in her arms.

BRYAN

Help me! Quick!

Johanna and Courtney hold up boards as Bryan nails them over the window.

KANSY

It burns!

SAMANTHA

Hold still! Shit, it looks bad. He needs help!

She tears off a strip of her shirt and wraps it around his arm. Bryan slams his fist on the wall, yells at the window.

BRYAN

Damn you! It should have been me!

SAMANTHA

We'll get you out of here, we'll find a cure.

KANSY

No, it's too late for me, I only have a few hours before I turn.

Samantha cries to the heavens.

SAMANTHA

Why God! Whyyyyyy!!!!

Kansy pulls her close, pleading.

KANSY

Samantha... before I turn into one of... them. I need you to do something for me.

SAMANTHA

I told you, we're just friends.

KANSY

Not that. I need you to... to kill me. I don't want to be one of them.

SAMANTHA

I won't do it. I can't.

Bryan steps up.

BRYAN

I'll do it bro.

He cocks his gun and aims it at Kansy.

KANSY

Not yet! I can still fight the bastards. I - can still - fight...

Kansy struggles to his feet, cocks his shotgun Terminator-style with his good arm.

KANSY
Let's do this shit!

INT. CABIN - NIGHT (REALITY)

ETHAN
Cut! That frikken' rocked!

BRYAN
I wasn't a bit over the top?

ETHAN
What do you mean? You were perfect.

Kansy moans.

BRYAN
You okay, Kansy?

KANSY
Yeah, I've just gotta -

He runs to the bathroom and slams the door.

Bryan grabs Warner.

BRYAN
Let's go.

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT (DOCUMENTARY)

We creep through the trees to the bathroom window.

BRYAN
Check it out. This is the real
behind the scenes.

WARNER (O.S.)
I'm not filming that.

Bryan looks in the window, laughs. The camera stays low.

BRYAN
He's got the squirts... Hah! Now
there's no toilet paper. You HAVE
to get this.

WARNER (O.S.)
I don't need a diarrhea scene.

BRYAN
Dude, this is priceless. He's going
to use his socks.

CUT TO:

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT (REALITY)

Warner turns off the camera. Stands up to leave.

WARNER
I'm out.

BRYAN
Oh come on. You have to admit, this
is way more interesting than
watching them set up shots.

Warner gets up and heads to the back door.

BRYAN
What story are you trying to tell?
This is the real drama.

Warner pauses. Looks at the window.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT (MOVIE FOOTAGE)

Bryan SLAMS the door behind him. His face drips with blood
and sweat. Courtney runs up to hug him. He dumps a small bag
of ammo on the couch.

COURTNEY
That's it?

BRYAN
The car's surrounded.

JOHANNA
I just want to get out of here!
Those things just keep coming!

KANSY
This is the safest place.

SAMANTHA
We'll get help. The police, the
military -

KANSY
- Are probably overwhelmed. Two
days ago I locked my un-dead
parents in their basement.

If the infection's already spread
this far, then we're fucked.

JOHANNA

We can move up the mountain.

KANSY

I'm not taking any chances. We have
shelter here, and food and guns.

JOHANNA

You just don't get it, do you? We -

ETHAN (O.S.)

Cut!

EXT. CABIN - PORCH (REALITY)

Johanna follows Ethan onto the porch.

JOHANNA

Now what's your problem?

ETHAN

Just stick to the script. No one
would ever say "You just don't get
it, do you?" in real life.

JOHANNA

I would.

ETHAN

No you wouldn't. It's a cliché.

JOHANNA

This whole movie is nothing but
clichés. What's really bothering
you?

ETHAN

I don't know, maybe you could
try... acting. Better.

JOHANNA

If you have such a problem with my
acting why did you cast me?

ETHAN

Because I know you can do it, but
you have to actually try.

JOHANNA

Maybe I'm not the problem. Why are you writing bullshit like: "It's you. It's always been you in my heart." Who talks like that?

ETHAN

I do.

JOHANNA

No, it sounds like you just copied that from another movie. Why can't you try writing your own words?

ETHAN

Okay, how about this, let's run the next scene. Pretend I'm Bryan and you're you. I want you to realize that you've really love me.

JOHANNA

Fine.

Ethan sets his dad's camera on a chair and starts recording.

ETHAN

And... action.

EXT. CABIN - PORCH - CONTINUOUS (ETHAN'S CAMERA POV)

They stare into each other's eyes. Their performance oozes with chemistry.

JOHANNA

The whole world's falling apart, what does it matter?

ETHAN

We can't do this. I've known Samantha since the 3rd grade.

JOHANNA

Say that again.

ETHAN

What? I've known -

Johanna puts her finger to Ethan's lips. Leans in.

JOHANNA

Stop. I thought you loved her.

ETHAN

Well, we've been together -

JOHANNA

That's not what I asked. Do you love her?

ETHAN

I'm not even out of high school. How can I really know what love is?

JOHANNA

I'll show you.

Johanna takes his hand and leans in for a kiss. Ethan closes his eyes. Purses his lips...

JOHANNA

And... scene! That was way better.

Ethan composes himself, masking his disappointment.

ETHAN

Yeah, that was... impressive.

JOHANNA

Except you said "Samantha".

ETHAN

Huh?

JOHANNA

You said you've known Samantha since the 3rd grade. In the movie, Bryan's dating Courtney.

ETHAN

Oh, yeah, right. Will you come for a walk with me?

JOHANNA

Where?

ETHAN

I need a shot.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT (DOCUMENTARY)

Kansy meticulously paints latex gash marks on Bryan's face.

BRYAN

I know I'm just an actor, but I had some thoughts about the script.

KANSY

Talk to Ethan. He's kind of... passionate about it.

BRYAN

That's the thing though, I know he's got a vision, but it just seems... a little... vanilla.

KANSY

I know right? I mean, five friends getting attacked by zombies in the woods? It's spoofed more often than it's done for real now.

BRYAN

That's what I'm talking about! It's uninspired.

KANSY

He knows what works. He's been studying film for years.

BRYAN

That's just it. It's too studied. Why not take a chance? Like, what if the zombies weren't actually dead and it was just like, a curable flu and we've been slaughtering people the whole time?

KANSY

Totally! Or what if it turns out that when people bite zombies, the zombies become human again? It'll be like a big game of bite tag.

Bryan looks at the new wounds on his face.

BRYAN

Hey man. You know you're really talented, right?

EXT. FOREST - HIDDEN LAKE - NIGHT (REALITY)

Full moon, majestic mountain view, water trickles into a tranquil pool. Ethan and Johanna step out onto a boulder.

JOHANNA

Wow.

ETHAN

I used to come here all the time.

JOHANNA

It's beautiful. I wish the others were here to see it.

ETHAN

Why don't you show them?

He turns on the camera and hands it to her. He backs out to the edge of the boulder.

ETHAN

Try it. Hit the record button.

She looks through the viewfinder.

ETHAN

What do you see?

EXT. FOREST - MOUNTAIN LAKE - (DOCUMENTARY, JOE'S CAMERA)

Through the camera, the forest is bathed in deep blue light. The shot is tight on a dark figure against the night sky.

JOHANNA

A geek on a rock.

ETHAN

Okay. That's the literal view. Behind the lens, you are a storyteller. Set the scene. When you show this to your friends, what do you want them to see?

She zooms out and walks back until the lake is in frame and Ethan is silhouetted against the moon.

JOHANNA

A remote mountain lake. A boy looks out across the water. It's beautiful, quiet. This was his retreat, a place of joy. But now he looks... lonely.

Ethan turns to her. After a brief moment she sets the camera down and walks out onto the boulder next to him. They sit and look out over the lake together.

Not touching, but close. Very close.

JOHANNA

How did you find this place?

ETHAN

My mom brought me here once when I was five.

JOHANNA

Does she still come up here?

ETHAN

She's not around anymore.

JOHANNA

Oh. What happened?

ETHAN

She wanted to be an actress and I guess having a kid was too much of a distraction.

JOHANNA

Oh. My dad left when I was young too. But he was just an asshole.

ETHAN

Wouldn't it be great to find someone who actually cared?

JOHANNA

It's overrated, we're all on our own. Let's head back.

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT (DOCUMENTARY)

Friday night. Everyone is busy preparing.

Ethan sets up lights around the cabin. Sam helps Kansy lay out masks and props. Johanna and Courtney run lines. Bryan talks on his cell phone.

BRYAN

Go right on the first road after the light. That's Millcreek. We're just a couple of minutes up.

Ethan checks his watch.

ETHAN

Who was that?

BRYAN

About fifteen zombies in a convoy.

KANSY

That seems a bit light for a horde.

COURTNEY

We're lucky we got that many. Everyone else stayed in town for Dustin's party tomorrow.

ETHAN

We'll work with it. Alright guys, this is it. We've got a lot to shoot tonight.

BRYAN

Hey. Before we start, I want to make a toast.

Ethan looks surprised. Bryan reaches into a huge cooler of ice and tosses cans of beer to everyone. He cracks one open.

In the distance, a row of headlights snakes up the road.

BRYAN

Being here with you guys tonight reminds me of middle school. Before all the bullshit. Before everything seemed to matter so fucking much. Kansy, you used to sleep over at my house and we'd run around the neighborhood playing "commies". Remember that shit? Sam and Courtney, you two were so close I thought you were sisters. And Ethan, you were always doing your movies, man. Always. Remember that time Johanna was a cowgirl, and you painted Mr. Dawson's dogs to look like cows? Those movies were so shitty, but fuck they were funny.

They look at each other, the memories return.

BRYAN

I know when high school hit, we kind of went our own directions. I just wanted to say, thanks for putting this together. It's great hanging with you guys again.

ALL

Cheers! Whooo!

Cars pull up. 18-year-olds in zombie clothes emerge and head straight for the beer.

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT (MOVIE FOOTAGE)

Kansy is overwhelmed. Zombies disembowel him. Ridiculously. Blood everywhere. Four zombies fight over his intestines.

Bryan blasts them away with a shotgun. Sam shoots arrows through heads. Johanna and Courtney join in a circle of defense around Kansy. Samantha drops to his side.

SAMANTHA

You're going to be okay!

Kansy looks at his detached bottom half.

KANSY

No... It's over. Listen, there's something you need to know.

He coughs, blood pours from his mouth.

SAMANTHA

Shhh. Try not to move.

KANSY

I... I just realized, I love you. Ever since I first saw you at the playground in the 3rd grade. I've always loved you.

Samantha closes her eyes to hold the tears back.

SAMANTHA

I'm not letting go, I love you too. So damn much. Don't you die on me now.

She opens her eyes, but he's already dead.

SAMANTHA

Noooooooooo!!!!!!

She takes the axe and rises in a rage. With a primal scream she runs through a crowd of zombies, chopping off HEADS.

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT (DOCUMENTARY)

Ethan shouts out directions as he runs through the scene with his camera.

ETHAN

I need zombies on the right!

Stumbling zombies surround Samantha. She knocks the head off a mannequin with her axe. Kansy sprays blood at her.

ETHAN

Okay, Sam, take out the next dummy! Red zombie, grab her arm! And cut!

Samantha bends over, panting. Zombie actors wander back to the beer bin.

Ethan is a ball of energy. He doesn't rest between takes.

ETHAN
Sam, keep it up.

SAMANTHA
I only kill to make you happy.

ETHAN
Kansy, get the dummies set up for the next scene. Johanna? Where's Johanna?!

Warner's camera pans over to Johanna who's just about to the sit at the picnic table with Courtney.

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS (REALITY)

JOHANNA
Can't I sit for two seconds?

Ethan runs up. Warner trails him with the camera.

ETHAN
Johanna, next scene. As the zombie horde gets worse you guys start to run out of ammo...

INT. SHED - NIGHT (MOVIE FOOTAGE)

JOHANNA
God damn it!

Johanna frantically sorts through tools in the shed, she shouts outside to Bryan.

JOHANNA
What am I looking for?!

BRYAN
Anything! I'm out of ammo!

She sees him club a zombie with the butt of his gun. She grabs a chainsaw from the wall and runs back outside.

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS (MOVIE FOOTAGE)

Tosses it to Bryan who starts it up. There's a groan behind her. She turns to look just as a zombie swipes at her.

His hand catches her SHIRT and RIPS it open!

The zombie stares in disbelief. Johanna looks down at her BARE BREASTS in embarrassment and turns to cover herself.

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT (DOCUMENTARY)

By now most of the zombies are pretty wasted. The sight of breasts brings a huge CHEER. Beers are raised in the air.

Ethan's jaw drops. He lowers his camera. She glares at him.

JOHANNA

You finally got the shot you wanted, are you happy now?!

ETHAN

It was an accident! I didn't plan that.

Ethan chases after her as she storms off.

Warner's camera follows from a distance.

JOHANNA

Admit it, you cast me because you think I'm hot, right? You're just another sex pest.

ETHAN

No, it's not like that.

JOHANNA

You do everything for all the wrong reasons. You haven't changed at all since middle school. You're still an anal nerd.

ETHAN

This is important to me. I just want to make a great movie!

JOHANNA

Good luck with that, because this one sucks! It's shit.

ETHAN

No it's not! It has to be great or my dad's sending me to business school.

JOHANNA

Oh grow a pair! You don't have to do everything he says.

ETHAN

You just don't get it, do you?

JOHANNA

Hah! See? People do say that!

ETHAN

I'm serious. It's just... What if he's right?

JOHANNA

Well, maybe he is.

Kansy shouts from the front of the cabin.

KANSY

Car! Someone's coming up the road!

JOHANNA

Don't even talk to me right now.

Samantha puts her arm around Ethan as Johanna stalks off.

ETHAN

Not now Sam. Johanna, wait!

KANSY

It's a cop! Cut the lights, everyone hide!

There's a mad scramble. Zombies run into the forest. The lights are killed.

Ethan grabs Samantha by the hand. They run to...

EXT. CABIN - FRONT PORCH - NIGHT (DOCUMENTARY)

Ethan, Samantha and Kansy scramble into casual positions just as the headlights sweep across the porch.

The Sheriff steps out of his cruiser and walks up. He shines his flashlight into Ethan's eyes. Then at Samantha.

ETHAN

Good evening sheriff.

SAMANTHA

Nice night.

He aims his flashlight at the camera.

SHERIFF

Turn that off.

The recording stops.

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT (REALITY)

SHERIFF

Want to tell me what's going on up here?

KANSY

We were just about to hit the hay.
(yawns)
Our friends are already asleep.

The Sheriff aims his light at several beer cans. He picks one up. It is half full.

SHERIFF

I'm guessing none of you are 21.

ETHAN

Oh, we... uh -

KANSY

Just graduated. We don't usually drink. It's kind of a special occasion.

SHERIFF

Why am I getting reports of yelling at one in the morning?

SAMANTHA

Well... We -

A branch SNAPS in the forest. The Sheriff scans the yard.

SHERIFF

What was that?

KANSY

I didn't hear anything.

He sweeps his flashlight across the trees. A shadow ducks into the brush.

SHERIFF

Stay here.

ETHAN

I really don't think there's -

SHERIFF

Shh!

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT (DOCUMENTARY)

Warner starts filming again. The Sheriff creeps through the trees. He hears movement behind a boulder. He jumps and shines his flashlight on - a ZOMBIE! It's Bryan.

SHERIFF

Agghhhh!

BRYAN

Don't shoot! Don't shoot!

SHERIFF

Are you crazy? What the hell are you doing out here!?

ETHAN

He's in our movie. We were shooting a scene.

SHERIFF

Who else is out there? Come out now! And turn that camera off or I'm confiscating it!

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT (REALITY)

Warner sheepishly lowers his camera.

More zombies emerge. Johanna steps out with her ripped shirt held closed.

SHERIFF

Looks more like a party. I should take you in for this. Underage drinking. Filming without a permit. I'm sure I can find more.

They wait tensely.

SHERIFF

You're lucky Joe's such an important member of this community. I want this shut down now. No one drives tonight. These mountain roads are dangerous enough without drunk drivers.

ETHAN

Thank you -

SHERIFF

Everyone is gone in the morning. And I'm calling your father.

ETHAN

No, please, you don't have to -

He shines his flashlight on the beer bin.

SHERIFF

Load that into my trunk.

INT. BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING (REALITY)

Sunlight shines through the window. Ethan wakes to a hand shaking him. Kansy hands him his cell phone.

KANSY

It's for you. Don't throw it.

Kansy leaves and shuts the door behind him.

ETHAN

Hi Dad -

JOE (V.O.)

What the hell is going on up there?

ETHAN

I just have a few friends up for the weekend -

JOE (V.O.)

We're on our third monkey here and PETA's all over my ass. Now I have the sheriff calling about you and your drunk buddies trashing my cabin?

ETHAN

We just had a couple -

JOE (V.O.)

He told me you were filming. Is that right?

ETHAN

We're almost finished.

JOE (V.O.)

We've already discussed this. You're flying to New York on Tuesday.

ETHAN

But we're so close!

JOE (V.O.)
 You should be preparing for your
 interview, not making videos. And
 you'd better not be using my gear.
 (beat)
 Are you?

Ethan's silence is his admission.

JOE (V.O.)
 That camera alone cost thirty
 thousand dollars!

ETHAN
 We just need it for one more day!

JOE (V.O.)
 That's it. No more equipment, no
 more money. You're done. You know I
 love you, but I've seen your
 movies...

ETHAN
 Just say it.

JOE (O.S.)
 ...and I think you're going to make
 a really good banker.

Ethan ends the call and glares at the phone.

EXT. CABIN - EARLY MORNING - DAY (REALITY)

SLAM! The screen door shuts behind Ethan as he steps onto
 the back porch. He has incredible bed hair and circles under
 his eyes. His bathrobe falls open, showing his "Friday the
 13th" boxer shorts.

He shivers in the cold morning air and surveys the wreckage
 of last night's shoot/party.

Makes his way across the yard between the tents, over passed
 out zombies. Pushes open the door to...

INT. CABIN - BUNK HOUSE EDIT ROOM - DAY (DOCUMENTARY)

Samantha and Kansy review last night's footage.

Warner pans over as Ethan enters.

ETHAN
 Please tell me it's not all shit.

SAMANTHA

I think we can make something of it. Just roughing a cut together.

KANSY

Check out this shot, Bryan did this awesome karate move on a zombie. We cut in a shot of a head flying off. It's fucking hilarious.

ETHAN

It's not supposed to be hilarious, it's supposed to be brutal.

SAMANTHA

The dialogue's pretty brutal.

ETHAN

What the hell? Courtney looks like she's about to crack up. They're supposed to be facing death.

KANSY

I still think at least one of them should survive in the end. If we ever get to finish it.

ETHAN

That defeats the whole point, it's about the futility of it all.

KANSY

The zombies look awesome.

ETHAN

(dejected)

That one's carrying a beer cup.

SAMANTHA

We'll cut around that. Movie magic.

ETHAN

We can't use any of this.

SAMANTHA

Actually, the zombies got better the more they drank. Check this out, they can barely walk.

She plays back the last bit of footage. A zombie stumbles toward Johanna. Ethan winces at her expression as her shirt gets ripped open.

ETHAN

Stop!

Samantha freezes the playback right as the zombie's face twists into a hilarious drunken expression of shock.

SAMANTHA

Uh... I'll cut that out.

Ethan stares at the screen, his face is unreadable.

ETHAN

Play it again.

SAMANTHA

I'm still working on the cut. I was just looking for a good gunshot -

ETHAN

No, play it just the way it is.

Samantha replays the shirt rip and the zombie reaction.

ETHAN

Grab a head explo and put it right after that last shot.

Samantha finds a zombie head exploding and places it after the reaction shot.

ETHAN

Play the scene from the beginning.

She hits the space bar and they watch.

Johanna tosses the chainsaw to Bryan. The zombie moans. She spins. Shirt rips. Bare breasts dominate the shot.

The zombie's face goes from a dead expression to one of shock, then BOOM! Its head blows up!

ETHAN

Fuck me.

KANSY

It doesn't have to be a masterpiece.

ETHAN

No. I know how to save it... You tried to tell me, but I was so focused on the details. Horror is supposed to be fun.

Kansy starts to understand. Nods.

KANSY

Tits.

SAMANTHA

I just don't get it, do I?

ETHAN

It's so simple. When the zombies see tits, their heads explode. We can pack in more gore and more nudity than any horror movie. Ever.

KANSY

This is the most brilliant concept I've ever heard.

ETHAN

Samantha, you okay with this?

SAMANTHA

You know what I think. Doesn't matter anyway, this is all we've got. I can't finish the cut.

ETHAN

We'll shoot the rest tonight. I'll keep the camera rolling, we can get it all in a couple of hours.

SAMANTHA

What about the sheriff?

KANSY

We'll need a distraction.

ETHAN

You know that abandoned house about 45 minutes down the old highway?

Kansy looks hopeful.

KANSY

I'll blow it up.

ETHAN

No. Just make an anonymous call about a fire. Even if the sheriff drives straight there and back, he'll be gone at least an hour and a half.

KANSY

Oh.

ETHAN

Let's do it.

Ethan flips back into battle mode and heads outside.

EXT. CABIN - DAY (DOCUMENTARY)

He points to the tree line.

ETHAN

We need a wall of bodies around the cabin, three feet high, and a lot more blood. Here's my dad's credit card, buy whatever you need.

KANSY

I'm all over it.

SAMANTHA

What are you going to do?

ETHAN

I'm going to go talk to our actresses.

SAMANTHA

Actresses? What am I?

KANSY

Are you going to open your hoodie for the camera?

SAMANTHA

Hell no.

ETHAN

You'll get a great death scene.

KANSY

That still leaves one problem. If we want to shoot this quickly, we'll need a real horde of zombies. We can't keep reusing the same fifteen kids.

ETHAN

I have an idea, but we are going to need a ton of alcohol. I already cleaned out my dad's stash.

WARNER

I'll do it. I'm twenty-one.

ETHAN

What? I thought you didn't get involved in your subjects.

WARNER

If you don't finish this, I've got nothing. This will be way more interesting.

ETHAN

Take the SUV, buy enough alcohol to get a couple hundred zombies wasted. There's two thousand bucks here, it's all I have left.

Ethan hands Warner a wad of cash.

Ethan puts on his BAD TASTE baseball cap, swigs his coffee and stretches, oblivious that his robe is still open.

ETHAN

This will work.

INT. CABIN - KITCHEN - DAY (DOCUMENTARY)

Bryan paces back and forth. Points to Courtney and Johanna.

BRYAN

No fucking way! You're lucky they even agreed to be in your film! Now you want to turn it into a sexploitation flick?

ETHAN

It's no worse than Game of Thrones -

BRYAN

Oh come on, everyone knows that's one tit from porn. It's not going to happen. Right Courtney?

COURTNEY

You know I'd do it.

BRYAN

What!?

COURTNEY

Uh, Lake Havasu? Spring break?

BRYAN

Oh yeah. Okay, I can see that, but there's no way Johanna'd ever...

Courtney smiles. Johanna concentrates on her breakfast.

BRYAN

She didn't...

COURTNEY

She's actually featured on TWO different "Girls Get Crunk" DVDs.

JOHANNA

What can I say, I like a good party.

ETHAN

Seriously? I thought you hated nudity.

JOHANNA

I hated this movie. It's been a hot piece of shit from the start. But this actually sounds fun.

ETHAN

You'll do it?

JOHANNA

To make the movie good? Let's go for it.

ETHAN

You're incredible! One more thing. We need a real horde this time.

BRYAN

Can't help you there, everyone's at Dustin's barbecue.

ETHAN

I just sent Warner out with two thousand dollars to buy as much alcohol as he can get. How about an after party?

BRYAN

They'll be here at dark.

Bryan pulls out his phone and texts.

EXT. MANSION - BACKYARD - DAY (REALITY)

Electronic dance music blasts over loudspeakers. Two hundred 18 and 19-year-olds in swimsuits dance by the pool, tossing beach balls in the air.

Dustin DJs on a stage. One hand in the air, the other works a turntable. He pulls out his cell phone and reads.

At the end of the song he grabs a mic.

DUSTIN
We've officially found our after-party! It's open bar!

The crowd CHEERS!

EXT. CABIN - DAY (DOCUMENTARY)

Ethan looks up from his sketch of the yard with the zombie attack plan. A U-Haul truck lumbers up the driveway.

Kansy pulls up and jumps out.

ETHAN
What's this? Where's my car?

KANSY
You wanted a wall of bodies...

They crowd around the U-Haul as Kansy opens the back door.

BRYAN
Whoa.

SAMANTHA
Holy...

The U-Haul is packed. Five gallon buckets of blood are strapped to the wall next to piles of mannequins and dummies.

ETHAN
How much did you spend?

KANSY
You said to get what I needed...

ETHAN
How much?

Kansy hands Ethan his dad's credit card back.

KANSY
Six thousand dollars.

ETHAN
What!?! Six grand on makeup and mannequins?

KANSY
Not just that, check this out.

Kansy jumps up into the truck. He tosses out dummies to clear a path. He strains to pull out a crate. Bryan helps. It's heavy.

KANSY
Careful, don't bump it.

They gather around as Kansy opens the lid.

SAMANTHA
You've got to be kidding.

Inside are several boxes marked "EXPLOSIVE".

BRYAN
Oh yeah.

Bryan hugs Kansy. Kansy blushes with pride.

ETHAN
How did you get this?

KANSY
I know a guy who works in pyrotechnics. Strictly under the table. You can't mention this to anyone.

ETHAN
No shit. Don't you need a license for this?

KANSY
Don't worry, I'm only going to use small amounts to blow up bodies.

ETHAN
Okay, fuck. We're all in now, aren't we?

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT (REALITY)

The cast and crew guide the arriving cars to park behind the cabin along the forest road. People line up at a table for Kansy's zombie makeup and a beer.

Dustin climbs down from a huge off-road 4x4. Gives Bryan a bro hug.

BRYAN

Thanks for coming man!

DUSTIN

No worries. Mind if I spin some tracks between takes?

ETHAN

Just keep the music going. We'll overdub the voices later.

EXT. CABIN - LATER (DOCUMENTARY)

Dustin spins at a DJ table in the bed of his truck. The crowd is already drinking and dancing.

At the end of a song, Ethan jumps up and Dustin hands him the microphone.

ETHAN

Hey everyone! Quiet down. I want to say something before we start.

After a few shouts for quiet, the crowd settles down.

ETHAN

I want to thank you all for coming out tonight.

Beers are raised. Shouts and whistles ring enthusiasm.

ETHAN

A week ago it was just three of us fucking around with a camera. Now you're all here shooting act three of a groundbreaking zombie flick!

More CHEERS from the crowd. Ethan paces, his passion grows.

ETHAN

Maybe once in a lifetime you'll come up with an idea so good it's a game changer. When you get that chance you have to take it.

Fuck the risk. You might never get another shot.

More shouts. Ethan motions for quiet.

ETHAN

And to all the girls out there, I just... I'm sorry. This idea is just too damn good. Someone has to make this movie, and it might as well be us. Let's get drunk until the sun comes up!

CROWD

Wooooo! Fuck yeah! (Etc.)

The music slams back into a heavy dance beat.

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT (MOVIE FOOTAGE)

A heavy action score pounds.

Courtney brains a zombie with her baseball bat, but another follows right behind.

COURTNEY

There are too many of them!

Johanna stabs the broken end of a BROOMSTICK into the chest of another zombie. It's wrenched out of her hands.

JOHANNA

I need another weapon!

Bryan slashes at a zombie with his SCREWDRIVER, trying to hold it back.

BRYAN

Find something! I'm busy here!

JOHANNA

There's nothing left!

The zombie lurches towards her and swipes.

We see the same shot from yesterday, now fully edited in the scene. Buttons fly off. Shirt opens. Breasts expose.

BAM!!! The zombie's head instantly explodes, spraying Johanna in blood and gore. Bryan embeds his screwdriver into a zombie's eye and looks back.

BRYAN

What the hell was that?!

Johanna turns, still in shock. Blood drips down her bare chest. Two more zombies stumble up behind her.

BRYAN

Look out!

She spins around. BOOM! BOOM! Their heads are blown clean off their bodies.

JOHANNA

What's happening?!

SAMANTHA

I have an idea!

Samantha runs over to Johanna. Another zombie approaches on the right. Samantha grabs Johanna by the shoulders and spins her to face the zombie. BLAM! Its head bursts.

SAMANTHA

It's her breasts! They're making the zombies explode!

Courtney looks at the bat in her hand, then at three zombies closing in on her. She tosses the bat to the ground. Pulls up her shirt, spring break-style.

Her breast are smaller, but they do the trick. B-B-BANG! The three heads partially blow out. Zombies drop instantly.

COURTNEY

It works!

BRYAN

That doesn't make any sense!

SAMANTHA

It must be a chemical reaction in their brains.

JOHANNA

What?

SAMANTHA

We're hardwired for sex. It's a primal instinct. That part of their brains must not have died. When they see tits, thy short circuit.

COURTNEY

How could you possibly know that?

SAMANTHA

I got an A in biology.

BRYAN

Shut up and keep flashing. We've got another wave coming in.

Waves of zombies climb over the writhing wall of bodies.

Bryan and Samantha retreat as Courtney and Johanna spin around back-to-back. Explosions rock the forest on all sides.

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT (DOCUMENTARY)

Everyone who isn't in the scene has their cell phones open and recording. A hundred glowing screens watch.

ETHAN

Cut! Great work. Everyone get a drink. You've got five minutes.

BOOM! Blood sprays the crowd. Kansy is covered head to toe. One of his explosives just ripped a hole in the body wall.

KANSY

Sorry!

Dustin cranks the music. Alcohol flows. Zombies dance.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT (MOVIE FOOTAGE)

The group fights their way back toward the bunkhouse. More zombies approach. The mass of writhing bodies on the forest floor is unbelievable.

SAMANTHA

Hold them off as long as you can, I have an idea!

INT. BUNKHOUSE - NIGHT (MOVIE FOOTAGE)

Samantha rummages through shelves of tools and junk, grabbing any aerosol can she can find.

She pulls a sheet off the bed and rips it into strips to tie around the cans.

She chucks the last of the cloth covered cans into a box and douses them in diesel. Drags the box outside.

EXT. BUNKHOUSE - NIGHT (MOVIE FOOTAGE)

Bryan, Courtney and Johanna streak across the yard, blowing minds, but they are growing tired.

COURTNEY

Behind you!

Courtney flashes past Samantha, blasting the head off an morbidly obese zombie. Gore splashes Sam from behind.

BRYAN

I hope you've got a good plan!

SAMANTHA

Take this!

She tosses a can to Bryan, then lights a strip of hanging cloth from it. Bryan tosses it into a crowd of zombies.

BOOM! A mushroom of flames takes out five, body parts rain.

Samantha lights more cans. Another volley flies.

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT (REALITY)

Samantha and Kansy chant as Ethan chugs an entire beer.

SAMANTHA AND KANSY

Go! Go! Go!...

Ethan slams the can down. They watch Warner run around with his camera, documenting the drunken revelry.

KANSY

This is fucking awesome.

ETHAN

Yeah, it's good.

KANSY

Good? Come on, this is sick! This is exactly what we needed.

Ethan surveys the set. Every tree and every rock is covered are blood and carnage. Drunken zombies stumble across the yard with their drinks.

ETHAN

What if it's not enough? What if it's just a B-movie with two girls' tits in it? That's not going to prove anything.

SAMANTHA

Stop. You're not the only one who needs this, you know. I couldn't afford to go to college if I wanted to. At least you've got a future.

KANSY

Hell, I barely even finished high school. You're the one always saying not to second guess things. There is no way this won't sell.

ETHAN

I hope you're right, because if not, this is our last weekend together.

SAMANTHA

Fuck it. Get the camera ready.

Ethan picks up his camera, confused.

SAMANTHA

Kansy, how many exploding heads do you have left?

KANSY

Plenty.

ETHAN

What are you going to do?

SAMANTHA

You want to go big, right?

Samantha walks up to a guy dressed as a massive brute-zombie.

SAMANTHA

Rolling?

ETHAN

Rolling.

In one swift motion Samantha pulls open her flannel hoodie, revealing a pair of surprisingly large and perfect breasts.

SAMANTHA

Feast on these!

CUT TO

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT (MOVIE FOOTAGE)

The massive brute-zombie's eyes go wide. Its head explodes so spectacularly that it takes a large portion of the torso with it. Samantha is showered with blood.

Bryan, Courtney and Johanna stare at the carnage, then erupt into cheers.

JOHANNA

Nice one!

The celebration is short-lived. A larger wave of zombies emerges from the forest. They crawl over a wall of bodies.

COURTNEY

Shit, they just keep coming!

She blows several more apart. Bryan stumbles as he fends off a zombie with a stick.

BRYAN

Get in a circle.

They move in close together, each facing a different direction. A protective shield of breasts.

COURTNEY

It's not working!

She shakes her breasts at a group of five zombies in cheerleader outfits. They keep coming.

SAMANTHA

It doesn't work on the girls!

BRYAN

I've had it with these mother fucking zombies!

Bryan pulls down his pants and takes aim. BOOM!! Five cheerleader heads blow at the same time.

BRYAN

Money Shot! Shit just got real!

Elated he runs around the group flashing every girl zombie he finds, POW-POW-POW!

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT (DOCUMENTARY)

ETHAN

Cut! Hell yeah!!

Ethan runs up to Samantha and gives her a huge hug.

ETHAN

Holy shit! That was... Wow!

SAMANTHA

Don't say I never did anything for you.

KANSY

Bryan! I hadn't even thought of that!

BRYAN

I saw cheerleaders and it just came to me.

ETHAN

Samantha. I don't know what to say. I've literally never seen that side of you.

Johanna steps up and takes Ethan's arm.

JOHANNA

Don't be shy, this is your baby.
(shouting to the crowd)
Give it up for my boy Ethan!

She pulls him close and gives him a huge kiss. Everyone cheers. Everyone except Samantha. Ethan stares into Johanna's eyes, relishing the moment.

ETHAN

Alright, let's finish this shit!

More cheers. Kansy opens up another box of explosives.

KANSY

Already on it.

EXT. FOREST (MOVIE FOOTAGE)

BLAMMO! KA-POW! Explosions light up the night.

The scene is awe-inspiring as four naked people blow holes in the horde of zombies.

It is glorious, bloody, nudity-filled cinematic chaos.

Over the noise of battle, a distant sound drifts through the forest. Sirens. Red and white lights bounce off the trees.

JOHANNA

The police are coming!

COURTNEY

We made it! We're saved!

BRYAN

(breaking character)
Oh, shit the police!

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT (REALITY)

Drunken 18-year-olds in zombie costumes flee in every direction. Fire rages in a tree.

Emergency lights light up the forest as fire trucks and police cars drive up the gravel driveway. They are blocked from the back of the house by parked cars and prop bodies.

Ethan runs over to Bryan's truck and sets the camera on the tailgate.

ETHAN

We can get out using the back roads. Wait here, I need to load up the equipment.

BRYAN

You'd better hurry.

Cars begin to tear off down the back dirt road. Johanna and Courtney run up and jump in the truck.

ETHAN

Where are Sam and Kansy?

COURTNEY

Trying to put out the fire.

ETHAN

I'll be right back. Wait for us.

BRYAN

Screw that, jump in!

JOHANNA

Let's go, I can't get arrested again!

It's chaos as cars race away on the dirt road. The smoke and dust glow orange from the fire.

The Sheriff manages to get his cruiser around the house. Lights flash. Sirens blare.

Bryan revs his engine.

BRYAN

We'll meet you down there!

ETHAN

No, wait!

Bryan peels away, Ethan's dad's CAMERA falls off the back of the truck onto the road. Ethan rushes to grab it, but another car rips by, knocking him back.

Dustin's 4X4 roars to life. Ethan looks at Dustin, then at the camera. He scrambles to his feet and waves frantically.

ETHAN

Hang on! Wait, the footage!

DUSTIN

Killer party, Ethan!

Dustin gives Ethan a thumbs up, then floors it. His massive tires roll over the camera, obliterating it.

ETHAN

Nooooo!!!

INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT (REALITY)

Sam, Kansy and Ethan sit on a bench, dejected. Ridiculously dirty. Covered in soot and fake blood. Warner watches with interest, but without his camera.

The Sheriff yells into a phone.

SHERIFF

No, I won't hold. Your son - God damnit!

He waits impatiently.

ETHAN

Even Johanna left.

SAMANTHA

What did you expect? She's never cared about anyone except herself.

ETHAN

I thought she had changed.

Kansy watches a video clip on his cell phone of Bryan flashing the zombies.

KANSY

You weren't the only one who was ditched. I thought Bryan and I were bros.

ETHAN

I wish I had backed up the footage before that titanic asshole ran it over.

(to Warner)

Did you get anything usable?

WARNER

My stuff's all behind the scenes. Besides, the sheriff has my camera.

Ethan slumps.

ETHAN

Don't worry. You'll get it back.

WARNER

Wish I had it now. This is a perfect tragic ending.

Ethan glares at Warner. Kansy deletes his video of Bryan.

KANSY

Here, use my phone.

Warner takes a video of the Sheriff's call.

INT. POLICE STATION - CONTINUOUS (DOCUMENTARY)

SHERIFF

Don't put me on hold again.

(beat)

I don't care what scene you're shooting, you need to deal with this now. Your son just held a rave with 200 underaged drunk kids at your cabin.

(beat)

It may be your property, but they almost lit up the whole forest!

(beat)

I know you've been a great supporter, but -

(beat)

I understand that, but we can't -

(beat)

No, our fire department responded just fine -

The Sheriff looks over at them, then turns away. Speaks quietly into the phone.

SHERIFF

Yes, a new fire hall would have helped...

Warner's cell phone view swings back to Kansy and Ethan.

KANSY

Dude, did your dad just bribe a cop?

Ethan hangs his head.

MONTAGE (REALITY)

EXT. JFK AIRPORT - DAY (REALITY)

Ethan steps out of the airport in a suit and tie. Rolls a small carry-on case behind him. Hails a cab.

INT. TAXI - TRAVELING - DAY (REALITY)

Ethan stares out the window as they drive through New York.

They pass a movie theatre. A horror movie is displayed on the marquee, people walk out smiling.

INT. ELEVATOR - DAY (REALITY)

Ethan steps into an elevator with several serious looking BROKERS. He slouches against the wall. Pulls out a new cell phone. His finger hovers over the button to call Samantha.

He looks at the brokers with their suits. Drops the phone in his pocket and stands taller. Adjusts his tie.

INT. MEETING ROOM - DAY (REALITY)

Ethan smiles and shakes hands with a banker and his assistant.

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY (REALITY)

Ethan rests his head against the window. He watches cops fight bad guys in an action flick on his neighbor's screen.

END MONTAGE

EXT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - DAY (REALITY)

Ethan steps out of a taxi with his bag.

He unbuttons his shirt as he heads for the front door. Pauses. Why is Kansy's old Datsun parked in the driveway?

INT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - DAY (REALITY)

Ethan drops his bag by the door. He calls up the stairs.

ETHAN

I'm home! Dad? Kansy? You here?

Ethan enters the kitchen. Checks the back yard. No one. He shrugs and grabs a cold soda from the fridge.

A loud BOOM from the basement draws him to the stairs.

BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

Ethan heads down. The soundtrack of an action movie pounds behind theatre-style double doors.

Gunshots. Screams. Big explosions. He peaks in.

Four people sit in the dark studio, silhouetted against the big screen.

A found footage-style zombie movie plays through the final climax. It looks and sounds great, with full post effects, sound design and score.

Samantha turns around and sees Ethan. She pops out of her seat. Whispers to Kansy who follows her out of the studio.

SAMANTHA

You're back!

ETHAN

What are you guys doing here?

KANSY

We finished it.

ETHAN

Where did you get those shots? We lost the last two hours of footage.

SAMANTHA

Remember all the cell phones?

KANSY

The cast felt terrible that we got left behind, so they got everyone to send us their videos.

SAMANTHA

It's all HD. I just added some color timing and grit, and it looks like film. It was great, every scene had at least fifty angles.

ETHAN

Nice. It doesn't matter though. The bankers loved me. I'm taking the internship.

SAMANTHA

But the movie's -

ETHAN

Just stop. It's over. My dad was right. And if he saw what we shot -

KANSY

He's watching it.

ETHAN

What? What are you showing it to him for?

(beat)

What does he think?

SAMANTHA

Why don't you ask him yourself?

She opens the door to the studio.

HOME STUDIO - CONTINUOUS

The credits have just started to roll. They walk in as their names are followed by an endless list of zombie actors. Joe stands up and comes over.

JOE

How was your interview?

ETHAN

They said out of all the candidates, I had the most creative responses. I start next week.

JOE

Hmm. You know, I was right in the middle of editing when Sam and Kansy came in and begged me to watch this.

ETHAN

Sorry. I told them to let it go.

JOE
That was quite a bit of gore.

ETHAN
We were just -

JOE
And nudity. Holy smokes that was a lot of nudity. Were they all 18?

ETHAN
Of course. We weren't planning to -

JOE
As soon as I saw it, I knew I had to show my buddy.

Ethan looks over at the back of last person, still seated and watching the credits in the dark.

SAMANTHA
Buddy? He's only Ethan's film hero.

ETHAN
You showed it to Roger Corman!?

KANSY
No dude, Mark Borchardt!

MARK stands up and turns around. Joe turns on the lights.

Ethan is shocked to see his hero approach.

MARK
Is this the man?

JOE
My one and only.

Mark shakes Ethan's hand.

MARK
That was some cool shit, man. You know that right?

Samantha and Kansy look at each other with surprised smiles.

ETHAN
You... liked it? Do you think we have a chance at Goreapaloozafest?

MARK
Fuck that nonsense. Contests are for fools, this is the real thing.

Audiences eat this shit up. It's classic. We'll be laughing all the way to the bank with this!

Ethan gives his dad an unsure look.

ETHAN

You're going to help us distribute our movie? Seriously?

JOE

Is this what you really want to do?

ETHAN

More than anything. But, what about Goldman?

JOE

Fuck Goldman. I think you just pulled an industrial sized rabbit out of your ass, but if you're serious about this I can get you guys P.A. jobs on set.

ETHAN

Hell yeah.

MARK

What's the title?

ETHAN

I was thinking "Puke Up Maggots".

MARK

Keep it simple, man. To the point.

ETHAN

How about "Cleavage"?

MARK

Kick fucking ass, I love Cleavage.

ETHAN

Samantha, I can't believe you did it. I owe everything to you. I've been an idiot not to notice -

SAMANTHA

Stop. We're not in some crappy teen-comedy. Do you really think you deserve to win the girl in the end?

ETHAN

No.

SAMANTHA

Then you are an idiot.

Samantha takes Ethan in her arms and gives him a huge conventional movie kiss.

SAMANTHA

By the way, Mark thinks Warner's doc is another "American Movie".

Warner emerges from the corner of the studio with his camera.

WARNER

And... CUT!

FADE OUT

UNDER CREDITS

A YouTube video plays. "Plinkett Reviews - Cleavage."

INT. TRASHED APARTMENT - HARRY PLINKET P.O.V

Clumsy hands jam a tape into a VCR. A classic-looking title screen displays on a tube TV:

"Mark Borchardt's CLEAVAGE".

Scenes from the movie play under the V.O.

HARRY PLINKET (V.O.)

Besides the "Phramton Menace", I thought "Cop Dog" was the worst movie ever made... Then I watched "Creavage." I had to watch it with one eye, because halfway through I stuck a fork in the other one to dull the pain of watching this garbage. I skull-forked myself...

FADE OUT