FOOTLOOSE, CUT LOOSE

by

ALEX COOPER

INT. PSYCHIATRIC OFFICE - DAY

RADIO PRESENTER (On Tape) Sorry folks, bad connection. Everybody, get ready to hear Footloose!

FOOTLOOSE by KENNY LOGGINS begins to play but is stopped with the sound of someone pushing a button, another button is pushed and a rewinding sound occurs, as this happens PAN around the psychiatric office. First thing revealed is a wall of books; to far away to see what books they are but close enough to notice their expensive hard binders. The next wall has a lit fireplace, above the fireplace is a bunch of awards and certificates.

A small tape recorder fills the view, the rewind button is pushed in and the tape is whizzing to an end. The tape stops rewinding and the rewind button clicks up back to level with all the other buttons. A hand comes into frame and hovers over the tape recorder for a moment and then pushes down the play button.

> DR HENLON (O.S.) We're going to listen to the tape again and then I want you and I to talk about it.

DR HENLON comes into view, he is sitting is a executive type reclining chair, he has a pad leaning on his left forearm while he holds a pen in his right hand ready to write.

GRETCH ABRAMS is lying on a lounge that's at DR HENLON'S knee level, he shakes his head, agreeing, with a cautious face.

The radio finally plays the recorded material.

RADIO PRESENTER (on tape) It's seven thirty five and I'm taking more calls requesting songs. Here's one right now, hello caller, you're on the air.

GRETCH'S very own voice comes from the tape recorder, he lies silently listening to it.

GRETCH

(on tape) Hello.

RADIO PRESENTER (on tape) For the interest of the listeners at home, who am I speaking with?

GRETCH (on tape) Gretch is speaking.

RADIO PRESENTER

(on tape) Gretch my friend, its request hour, do you have a song to req-

GRETCH

(on tape) Footloose!

GRETCH shift uneasily on the lounge.

RADIO PRESENTER (on tape) A very hot song at the moment, not to mention a very talked about movie, I am yet to see it. I'll wait till its out on video. Gretch before I go ahead and play your song, its there anyone you'd like to say hello to?

Silence. GRETCH'S eyes begin to water.

RADIO PRESENTER (on tape) Gretch are you there my friend?

All of a sudden screams and pleads for help burst out from the tape recorder. GRETCH'S face scrunches up and he puts his hands over in ears. The screaming is cut.

> RADIO PRESENTER (on tape) Uh. Sorry folks, bad connection. Everybody, get ready to hear Footloose!

Footloose begins to play and GRETCH cowers even more. DR HENLON doesn't push stop for a moment, he just watches GRETCH.

Turn it off!

DR HENLON quickly stops the tape and presses the rewind button. GRETCH removes his hands from his ears and wipes his eyes dry. DR HENLON writes something on his pad. A long silence occurs before DR HENLON speaks.

> DR HENLON Mr Abrams, was that you screaming?

GRETCH Yes, of course it was!

DR HENLON Why did you scream?

GRETCH doesn't move but looks around the room.

GRETCH I can't remember.

DR HENLON Then shall I play the tape again?

DR HENLON moves his hand towards the play button.

GRETCH No! no, I just don't know why I screamed, it was a long time ago.

DR HENLON Mr Abrams, I can't help you if you won't give me anything. I don't know how to help you.

GRETCH Just don't play the tape.

DR HENLON sits back in his chair and sighs.

CUT TO:

INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY

GRETCH is pushing his trolley down the supermarket isle, he is wearing ear muffs around his ears. He occasionally stops to grabs things from the shelves or look at his list. From his view the list only has one item on it that isn't crossed out, Peas. A girl wearing a supermarket nametag walks by. GRETCH lightly grabs her by the arm to get her attention.

GRETCH (cont'd) Can you please direct me to the peas? She says something but GRETCH can't hear a word. GRETCH (cont'd) I'm sorry I can't hear anything, could you please just take me to the peas. Again the girl doesn't take him to the peas, but continues to talk. GRETCH stops her talking by raising his hands. GRETCH (cont'd) Okay just wait a second. He puts his hand around his earmuffs, but pauses. GRETCH (cont'd) Is footloose playing? She looks at him confused. GRETCH (cont'd) Please, can you hear footloose playing? She shakes her head. GRETCH (cont'd) Are you sure? She nods her head. GRETCH slowly removes his earmuffs, he is relieved when he doesn't hear footloose playing. GRETCH (cont'd) Sorry about that, now can you tell me where the peas are? GIRL Fresh peas or Frozen peas. GRETCH Oh. Frozen. GIRL Freezer section, next to the ice cream.

Thanks.

Inside the freezer there is a loud hum that blocks out all other noises.

GRETCH walks to the freezer whistling along to the song playing over the supermarket's speakers. His earmuffs are still around his neck.

Inside the freezer we see GRETCH approach. His hand goes around the handle and he opens the freezer. He bends down to looks deeper in the freezer for the peas.

On the outside of the freezer the song GRETCH was whistling to ends and another begins. Footloose begins to play.

The freezer hum blocks out all other sounds as GRETCH searches for his peas, he picks up a packet and looks at it.

GRETCH stands up, closes the freezer door and juggles the packet of peas before he throws them in his trolley. He pauses. He suddenly notices Footloose playing and he quickly goes to grab his earmuffs but he fumbles with them and they fall off. He doesn't pick them up, instead he cups his ears with his hands and screams. The girl from before runs up to him as well as other people curious to what's happening.

## GRETCH (cont'd) Turn it off! Turn it off!

Flashbacks start to occur in small flicks with footloose playing over.

A younger GRETCH stand in a phone booth with the phone to his ear. He looks out the phone booth.

Just outside the phone booth is a man walking his dog. The man is approaching the phone booth.

GRETCH is still in the phone booth talking, a sudden light lights up the booth and GRETCH'S face.

His eyes widen and he puts his hands to the glass.

CUT TO BLACK:

FADE IN:

## INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

GRETCH lies in a hospital bed unconscious, to his left is DR HENLON. DR HENLON just looks at him in concern.

GRETCH slowly opens his eyes, he looks around the room in fright then sees DR HENLON.

GRETCH (cont'd) Doctor, you wouldn't believe what I saw, the things I'd forgotten.

#### DR HENLON

What do you mean?

# GRETCH

When it played, I felt the fear building up, but there was something else. I was standing in a phone booth on the phone to the radio station when a light came towards me and I don't know, there may have been someone else there.

DR HENLON thinks for a moment then reaches down to his briefcase and pulls out a piece of paper.

DR HENLON I'm going to read something to you and if you fell uncomfortable just tell me to stop.

### GRETCH

Okay.

DR HENLON clears his throat.

DR HENLON That time's just holding me down... I'll hit the ceiling... Or else I'll tear up this town... (beat) Anything?

### GRETCH

Nope.

DR HENLON Chorus... Loose, footloose, Kick off your Sunday shoes... Jack, get back c'mon before we crack.

DR HENLON looks up to GRETCH. GRETCH seems unaffected.

DR HENLON (cont'd) I think I know why you fear this song so much. This song works as a trigger to a memory you have suppressed long ago. DR HENLON I'm sorry to say this, but the only way to beat this is to listen to the entire song.

GRETCH Oh god no, I wouldn't survive.

DR HENLON jumps up and towers over GRETCH

DR HENLON Mr. Abrams you can't live like this, in fear of a song, you need to be free!

A NURSE enters the room and stares at the scene in front of her. GRETCH and DR HENLON both look back at her.

DR HENLON (cont'd) Well I ought to be heading off. Mr. Abrams, think about what I said.

DR HENLON picks up his briefcase and pulls out the tape recorder. He puts the tape recorder on the bedside table, and then exits the room nodding to the nurse as he leaves.

The NURSE approaches GRETCH.

NURSE And how are you feeling, Mr. Abrams?

GRETCH Fine thanks.

NURSE Do you want any lunch?

GRETCH

Yes please.

NURSE

Okay, I will just go get it.

The NURSE leaves the room. GRETCH draws his attention to the tape recorder. He stares at it and at the same time it stares up at him. Like in a trance he moves his finger towards the play button, but as he does the NURSE comes back with his meal. He immediately moves his finger away and accepts the meal the NURSE gives him.

DISSOLVE TO:

An old man with a walking stick limps down the dark hallway of the hospital. The hallway is fairly deserted; GRETCH sees this through a gap in the blinds of his hospital room window.

GRETCH grabs a chair and places it under the handle. He then runs to his bed, sits on the bed and places the tape recorder in front of his crossed legs. For a long while he just stares at it.

Eventually he moves his shaking hand forward and slowly presses the play button. The song begins. GRETCH quickly presses stop. GRETCH takes another deep breath and presses play again. The song plays, but only for a moment because GRETCH presses stop again. GRETCH lays his fists into the bed, looking frustrated.

GRETCH composes himself. He presses play. Someone attempts to open the door and GRETCH jumps with fright and in doing so he kicks the tape recorder off the bed and onto the floor. Footloose is playing.

GRETCH feels the terror build up and he cups his ears with his hands. He screams and kicks in his bed.

The orderly trying to open the door sees GRETCH on the bed looking as if he's convulsing. He runs to a nurse.

#### ORDERLY

Gets the doctor, I think Mr. Abrams is having an attack.

The nurse runs off down the hall while the orderly tries to open the door.

Inside the room GRETCH starts to see the flashbacks again, they occur in short bursts.

Flashback: A younger GRETCH is on the phone when lights illuminate the phone booth and GRETCH.

The orderly gets the door open and a crowd of people burst into the room.

Flashback: A man walking his dog is meters away from the phone booth.

The orderly and nurses try to hold GRETCH down while a doctor preps a needle.

Flashback: The light now illuminates the dog and the man as the cross the phone both, The man stares in terror at the light.

The doctor jabs the needle into GRETCH and almost instantly GRETCH calms down and goes all limp, he just stares up at the hospital ceiling.

Flashback: The light engulfs the man and his dog. Black fills the screen for a short moment.

Young GRETCH stands in the phone booth. He holds the phone to his ear. The other end of the phone can be heard but only lightly.

> RADIO PRESENTER (On Phone) Gretch my friend, its request hour, do you have a song to req-

> > GRETCH

Footloose!

RADIO PRESENTER (On Phone) A very hot song at the moment, not to mention a very talked about movie, I am yet to see it. I'll wait till its...

GRETCH doesn't hear the rest of what the RADIO PRESENTER has to say because he drops the phone. He looks out into the unseen surroundings of the phone booth.

A man is walking with his dog. He is about to pass the phone booth where GRETCH stands when the man sees GRETCH staring off into the distance he stands still and turns his head to also look. A light illuminates the man and he stares in terror.

The reflection is the glass of the phone booth shows a car hitting the man, the car now comes towards the booth.

GRETCH sees the car and the man on the bonnet coming towards him. The man is screaming.

The glass walls of the booth shatter as the car crashes into the booth. The force of the car doesn't crush the phone booth but instead violently shakes it. GRETCH hits one wall and falls the floor, unconscious. The phone receiver hangs by his ear. The light sound of Footloose can be heard on the receiver.

# DISSOLVE TO:

GRETCH lies on the hospital bed, unconscious as Footloose continues to play softly off screen.

BLACKOUT:

THE END.