

Viral

written by

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INT. DORM ROOM - DAY

VIDEO BOY (20) lays down on his small bed. He clutches his shirt, revealing bare skin.

CLOSE-UP on the guy's exposed stomach.

BRO (O.S.)
Are you sure about this?

Video Boy nods.

We see BRO (20), carrying a taser and a video camera. He looks worried.

BRO (CONT'D)
Okay...

Bro starts recording. He slowly walks towards Video Boy. His finger ever so hesitantly pushes the taser's switch, causing the shocking white electric filament to LIGHT UP and BUZZ.

Bro raises the taser up to Video Boy's skin, until it

Touches

His stomach and

Video Boy

SCREAMS

TITLE: VIRAL

INT. DORM ROOM - NEXT DAY

Video Boy sits in front of his laptop and opens the webcam application.

In the low-fidelity laptop video, we see Video Boy trying out various smiles.

He picks the one best fit for the camera, then pushes the RECORD button.

VIDEO BOY
Hey guys!! So something CRAZY
happened yesterday...

Video Boy stops talking, adjusts his position ever so slightly, then continues his delivery:

VIDEO BOY (CONT'D)
I got TASED!

Again, he stops talking, moves to the other side of the frame, then continues:

VIDEO BOY (CONT'D)
Now I know what you're thinking.

Another adjustment.

Now he uses a different, higher-pitched voice.

VIDEO BOY (CONT'D)
"Why on earth would you do that?
Are you doing this for the views?"

INT. DORM ROOM - LATER

Finally, we see Video Boy's edited monologue playing out on his laptop.

VIDEO BOY
(in monologue)
It might seem that way, but it was
actually my friend who PRANKED me!

We see Video Boy as he watches himself on the screen. His expression is completely blank.

Video Boy shuts his laptop.

EXT. GLADE - DAY

Video Boy and Bro do their homework on the grass. At least, Bro does, his nose deep in his book. Video Boy just scrolls through his phone.

VIDEO BOY
I have a good feeling about this
one.

BRO
(uninterested)
Mhmm.

VIDEO BOY
No one wants to watch a vlog
without someone freaking out.

Bro doesn't look up from his paper.

BRO
Did it hurt?

VIDEO BOY
Really badly for like a second. It
burned a little but... not as bad
as I expected.

Video Boy sees something on his phone and SITS UP.

VIDEO BOY (CONT'D)
Whoa.

Video Boy nudges Bro's arm.

BRO
What?

Video Boy shows Bro his phone screen.

VIDEO BOY
We're at twenty thousand views!

Bro's eyes widen.

BRO
Nice!

VIDEO BOY
I know what we need to do.

Bro looks... concerned.

BRO
...what...

EXT. STREAM

Water roars through the creek.

Light streams through the beautiful trees.

The grass is green as hell.

In the middle of this wondrous ecosystem stands Video Boy, in an awkward, almost squatting pose. In front of him is Bro, holding the camera and taser once again.

VIDEO BOY
You have to make it look
spontaneous. So, while I'm staring
at the water, you tase me from the
back!

(MORE)

VIDEO BOY (CONT'D)

And that causes me to
"accidentally" leap into the creek.
Got it?

BRO

I don't know if we should be doing
this...

VIDEO BOY

How do you expect us to reach a
million? Making vlogs about school?

BRO

I just think this is a little
overboard.

VIDEO BOY

Whatever. Stop being a bitch.

Bro shrugs.

Video Boy turns and faces the water.

Bro starts recording. He moves closer to Video Boy, but just
as he reaches him, Bro slips and DROPS the camera into the
stream.

BRO

Oh shit!

VIDEO BOY

NO!

Video Boy turns around.

VIDEO BOY (CONT'D)

Why'd you do that?

BRO

It was an accident-

Video Boy SHOVES Bro, and runs back to the stream.

BRO (CONT'D)

(angry)

Fuck you, dude!

EXT. STREAM - MINUTES LATER

Video Boy, now soaking wet, observes the broken camera in his
hand. He looks up at Bro, who's now a few hundred feet away,
walking with his pockets in his hands.

Video Boy THROWS the camera at the ground.

INT. DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Video Boy sits in front of his laptop and refreshes the page on his video continuously.

The view count goes up marginally.

Video Boy gets on his bed. He whips out his phone and tries to call Bro, only to be greeted by his voice message:

BRO
(voicemail greeting)
Uh, just leave a voicemail at the
beep I guess. Yeah.

BEEP

Video Boy hangs up.

He sits up in bed. Looks at the taser on his desk. He takes it, rolls it around in his hand a bit.

He TURNS IT ON.

Slowly, he brings it to his face.

BZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ-

INT. DORM HALL - LATER

Bro walks out of the elevator to hear some strange noises coming out of his room.

He slowly walks towards his door, unlocks it, and enters to see Video Boy SEIZING on his bed.

Bro quickly DROPS his bag and RUSHES over to Video Boy, holding his shoulder.

BRO
Hey! HEY!

Video Boy's seizure continues.

BRO (CONT'D)
Can you hear me!?

Video Boy is not responsive. Foam comes out of his mouth.

BRO (CONT'D)
Hold on, okay?!

Bro takes out his cellphone and dials 911.

Bro is extremely panicked.

BRO (CONT'D)
Hello? This is Murphy, I live on
campus in the Montgomery Building,
my roommate's having a seizure-

We see Video Boy's face as he looks up at the sky and he
drools out the side of his mouth.

EXT. STREAM

The water moves fast. Beautifully. Practically ROARS.

INT. DORM ROOM - CONT'D

BACK to Video Boy's face.

EXT. GLADE

A panning shot. The grass is greener than ever. The wind
gently flows through the tree leaves.

INT. DORM ROOM - CONT'D

Bro's voice is now incredibly panicked.

BRO
Okay. Thank you. Please get here as
soon as possible. Thank you-

Video Boy keeps shaking. His eyes looking up at the ceiling.

CUT TO BLACK.