Cabin Fever: Episode 1 - "A New Beginning"

Written by

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FADE IN:

1 INT.CAR - DAY

PAUL sits in the driver's seat of his car. He is wearing a black suit with a red tie with an intense look on his face.

SLOW ZOOM IN onto Paul as he grips onto the steering wheel tightly. He lets out a sigh and gets out.

CUT TO:

2 EXT.HOUSE - DAY

Outside of the car is a large, ominous looking house. Paul looks up at it with his hands on his hips.

OVERHEAD SHOT of Paul as he turns around and walks to the boot of the car. He opens it.

Paul grabs a suitcase and walks over to the front door, while looking for his keys in his pockets. He finds them in his blazer pocket and unlocks the door, entering.

CUT TO:

3 INT.HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Paul walks into the living room and drops his suitcase on the floor. WHIP PAN over to JOSH and NEIL sitting on the couch, playing video games.

> PAUL Hey. I'm back.

Josh and Neil pause their game.

JOSH

What?

PAUL I said I'm back.

JOSH

Oh. Cool.

Josh and Neil un-pause their game and go back to playing. Paul is silent for a moment.

> PAUL Aren't you going to ask how I'm doing?

Josh and Neil pause their game a second time.

### NEIL

What?

Paul sighs impatiently and slickly changes the subject.

PAUL I said I hope you didn't make a mess.

# NEIL

Oh. No.

They un-pause the game and go back to playing. Paul picks up his suitcase and walks out the room.

PAUL

I'm going to unpack.

Josh and Neil pause the game a third time.

JOSH

What-

Josh looks confused for a moment as to where Paul has gone. He sighs then goes back to playing.

The opening credit sequence plays.

CUT TO:

4 INT.HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

A SHOT FROM INSIDE THE FRIDGE. Josh opens it and grabs a block of cheese, closing the fridge behind him.

Josh turns to Paul and takes a bite out of his cheese.

JOSH (Mouth full of cheese) So, how was Rio?

PAUL

Ah! Let's see, well, I got robbed several times, the beaches were insanely polluted, the flat I stayed in stank of rotten eggs and had no air conditioning, I was arrested for literally no reason other than I didn't have enough money to bribe the cops and my prison buddy was let's just say "overly friendly". On my last day they threw me out in the dirt, I hopped on a plane and came home. JOSH How was the food?

PAUL Deloishous!

JOSH I see. Did you miss me?

PAUL

Nope.

JOSH Did you bring me anything back?

PAUL

Nope.

JOSH I love you too.

PAUL

You know, it's funny, I had what some would call the "holiday from hell" and yet...I didn't even think you while I was there.

Josh takes another bite of cheese and smiles at Paul. Paul rubs his eyes. Josh swallows the cheese.

JOSH Well you'll be glad to hear that while you were away, I started job hunting. You're always saying I'm a waste of space.

PAUL (Intrigued) Really? And?

JOSH And what?

PAUL Did you get a job?

JOSH Oh! No. Ironically enough, they all said that I had nothing to contribute to their company.

Neil smirks. Paul, once again, sighs then turns around to Neil.

PAUL So, Neil, have you done any more work on this infamous novel while I was away?

### NEIL

Err...

Neil stares off into space.

FLASHBACK TO:

5 INT.HOUSE - NEIL'S ROOM - DAY

Neil sits at a desk in his room in front of a laptop. What follows is a MONTAGE OF SHOTS as Neil procrastinates.

Neil taps his desk with a pencil, swings on his chair, surfs the net, plays solitaire, creates a beat, sings, plays with an action man and pretends to shoot things.

FLASH FORWARD TO:

6 INT.HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Neil snaps back into reality.

NEIL You could say that.

PAUL And by that you mean you've done nothing but stare at a blank page for the past two weeks.

Neil hangs his head in shame.

NEIL (Ashamed)

Yes.

PAUL (Sarcastic) I'm shocked.

Paul rubs his eyes.

JOSH Are you okay, man? You don't look too well.

PAUL I know. I think I caught a bug while I was in Rio. I feel like I'm gonna be sick.

JOSH Here, have an aspirin. Josh opens a drawer behind him, grabs some aspirins and throws them at Paul. Paul catches them without even looking up.

# PAUL

Thanks.

Paul stands up to pour himself a glass of water.

NEIL You know, Bruce Lee died from being allergic to aspirin.

JOSH No he didn't! Everybody knows he was shot. Someone "accidentally" put a real bullet in with a set of blanks.

NEIL That's not true.

JOSH

Yes it is!

NEIL Josh, it's fact. That's just a stupid conspiracy theory.

Paul pops a pill and goes to walk out the kitchen.

JOSH Where you going?

PAUL I'm going to bed. I'll see you guys later.

JOSH

Okay. (Goes back to the argument) You wanna look this up! Because I know you're wrong.

FOLLOW SHOT on Paul as he exits the kitchen. Josh and Neil's arguing fades away in the background.

7 INT.HOUSE - FRONT HALL - DAY

Continue FOLLOWING Paul as he enters the front hall then walks up the stairs. He rubs his eyes, looking pale.

FOLLOW SHOT continues as Paul gets to the top of the stairs. The CAMERA stops outside the bathroom door. Paul goes in.

SOUND of Paul peeing and flushing. He walks out the bathroom and into his bedroom.

#### CUT TO:

## 9 INT.HOUSE - PAUL'S ROOM - DAY

Paul now looks worse than ever, as if he is going to pass out. He goes to undress himself but does not make it and falls onto the bed in a heap.

OVERHEAD SHOT of Paul as he crawls under the covers, moaning and grumbling as sweat pours down his face.

CUT TO:

10 BLACK SCREEN

Music from "The Shining" plays.

TITLE CARD: TUESDAY

TITLE CARD: 18 HOURS LATER...

11 INT.HOUSE - PAUL'S ROOM - MORNING

Paul's feet enter the frame. He stands up and stumbles out his bedroom. His face remains unseen.

CUT TO:

12 INT.HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Josh sits at a laptop, Neil stands behind him.

NEIL (Reading off the screen) ...was killed after having an allergic reaction to an aspirin pill. (Excited) BOOM! I told you! You totally bought into all those stupid conspiracy theories. 6.

JOSH Hey, listen, you can't believe everything you read here. It is Wikipediea.

NEIL Josh, you're just saying that cause you're wrong.

JOSH No I'm not, you just can't trust Wikipediea, okay?

NEIL Shut up, man, you-

PAUL (O.S.) Morning.

Josh and Neil look up to see Paul. Josh's jaw drops. Neil faints.

JOSH (Shocked) Oh...my...God.

Revealed on Paul's face are three large, pus filled boils. Paul feels around then grabs a frying pan, looking at his reflection and screams in utter horror.

> PAUL (Shocked) Sweet Jesus!

Josh walks over.

JOSH I don't think that's normal.

PAUL (Sarcastic) Oh really, Josh! Thanks! Because up until you confirmed it I really wasn't too sure!

JOSH (Offended) All right! There's no need to get snippy at me!

PAUL (Panicking) What do I do?

JOSH Err...I don't know. Maybe we should...

Josh stands there, scratching his head.

PAUL Josh! Think faster!

JOSH Well, I don't know, do I?

PAUL We need a doctor.

JOSH Right, let's go.

PAUL Are you kidding? I'm not going outside like this.

JOSH

Yeah, probably not a good idea seeing as you look like a mad scientist's failed experiment.

PAUL Funny. Call the doctor, have him come to the house. I'm gonna go lie down, I think I'm gonna pass out.

JOSH

Okay.

The two of them part ways out of the kitchen. Neil stands up, rubbing his head, looking disoriented.

> NEIL (Dazed) Guys?

He stumbles out the kitchen.

CUT TO:

13 INT.HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Josh opens up a phone book.

CLOSE UP on the Phone book as he scrolls his finger down and taps it on the doctor's number.

8.

JOSH (O.S.) Bingo!

WIDE SHOT on Josh as he dials the number and waits. It begins ringing.

JOSH (On the phone) Hello, is that Townhead Practise?...Hi there, listen my friend isn't feeling very well, we need a doctor to come to our house as soon as possible....He's just woke up feeling very ill and has three massive boils on his face...Yeah...They're on his cheek....Today would be good...We live at number one, Marchburn House...Anyone that graduated medical school will do...

Josh begins writing down the name of his doctor on a post-it note.

JOSH ...Dr. Cranium, thank you. When will he get here?....

He writes down the time under the name.

JOSH Okay, thank you.

Josh hangs up and leaves the room.

CUT TO:

14 INT.HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Paul stares at himself in the mirror. He pokes at one of the boils and winces in pain.

PAUL (Muttering, full of himself) Such a pretty face, Paul.

Paul looks at himself for a moment, then walks out, disappointed.

CUT TO:

### 15 INT.HOUSE - PORCH - DAY

There is a knock at the door. Josh and Neil answer it.

Standing there is DR. RICHARD CRANIUM, holding a suitcase. He smiles at the two of them.

DR. CRANIUM Hello. Did you call for a doctor.

JOSH Yeah, come on in.

Dr. Cranium enters.

CUT TO:

16 INT.HOUSE - FRONT HALL - DAY

Dr. Cranium looks around the large house, looking impressed. Josh and Neil appear behind him.

NEIL Can I take your coat?

DR. CRANIUM Oh, yes, thank you.

Dr. Cranium takes off his coat and hands it to Neil. When he is not looking, Neil simply drops it on the floor.

> DR. CRANIUM This is a lovely home.

JOSH Oh, thank you.

DR. CRANIUM One question.

JOSH

Shoot.

DR. CRANIUM How can young people like yourselves afford a place like this?

JOSH Oh, it was my Grandfather's. After he died he left me pretty much everything he owned, including this house and a quarter of a million pounds. DR. CRANIUM

I see.

JOSH When I got the house I invited Paul and Neil to come stay with me.

DR. CRANIUM

Why?

JOSH (Embarrassed) I was a little scared.

DR. CRANIUM

Of what?

Josh goes silent.

NEIL (Chuckling) He thought his Grandfather's ghost was still here-

# JOSH

(Loud) No I didn't. Neil, shut up! I'll take you to Paul, Dr. Cranium.

Josh leads Dr. Cranium up the stairs, Neil follows behind.

CUT TO:

17 INT.HOUSE - UPSTAIRS - DAY

The three of them get to the top of the stairs. They walk up to Paul's bedroom door. Josh stops Dr. Cranium outside.

TWO SHOT on the two of them.

JOSH Stop. Before we go in, I must warn you...it's not pretty.

DR. CRANIUM Don't worry, I've seen a lot of pretty disgusting things in my time.

JOSH Really? Like what?

DR. CRANIUM I once had a patient with a parasitic leech which laid its eggs at the back of his eye. 11.

JOSH That's pretty gross.

DR. CRANIUM Yeah, he caught it in Africa.

They enter the bedroom.

CUT TO:

18

INT.HOUSE - PAUL'S ROOM - DAY

Dr. Cranium takes one look at Paul, who is lying in his bed, and his eyes widen. He turns to Josh and Neil.

JOSH

I told you.

Dr. Cranium turns back to Paul.

DR. CRANIUM (Casual) Hello, Paul.

PAUL (Ill)

Hey.

Dr. Cranium grabs a chair and sits down next to the bed. He takes out a notepad and begins writing. Paul turns on his side to speak to him.

DR. CRANIUM How are you feeling?

PAUL (Sarcastic) Just peachy.

Dr. Cranium turns to Neil and Josh.

DR. CRANIUM Sorry, but I forgot my surgical gloves. You guys don't have anything, do you?

Neil thinks for a moment.

NEIL

Wait here.

He runs out the room.

DR. CRANIUM I see why you called. You look awful. PAUL

Thanks.

DR. CRANIUM So when did these boils occur.

PAUL Just this morning.

DR. CRANIUM Okay and how were you feeling the night before.

PAUL I had just gotten back from the airport, I felt just as sick as I do now. I hung around for a little while and I went to bed around five o'clock.

DR. CRANIUM In the evening?

PAUL

Yes.

Neil appears again. He is holding a pink pair of rubber gloves with fluffy bits at the bottom.

JOSH Are you kidding?

DR. CRANIUM Those will do fine.

Neil hands them to Dr. Cranium and slips them on.

He takes out a stethoscope. Paul lifts up his shirt for him to feel his heartbeat.

DR. CRANIUM And these boils just appeared?

PAUL

As if from nowhere.

DR. CRANIUM

Okay.

Dr. Cranium puts away the stethoscope and write on his paper. He begins investigating the boils.

DR. CRANIUM Does it hurt when I touch them?

He touches one. Paul winces.

PAUL

Yes.

Dr. Cranium goes silent and begins looking over his notes. He looks back at Paul and stops for a moment.

> DR. CRANIUM Where were you on holiday?

> > PAUL

Brazil.

Dr. Cranium pauses.

DR. CRANIUM

Brazil?

PAUL Yeah...in Rio. Why? Would that have anything to do with this?

DR. CRANIUM Did you eat any strange foods while you were over there?

> PAUL (Uneasy)

Yes.

DR. CRANIUM Were you by any chance in the forests?

PAUL

Yes.

DR. CRANIUM

I see.

Dr. Cranium takes off his glasses and goes deep into thought for a few moments. Paul, Josh and Neil all watch him, waiting for a diagnosis.

> DR. CRANIUM I think I know what this is.

> > PAUL

You do?

DR. CRANIUM Well, from what I've gathered, there's a good chance you could have caught a disease called Incinaryisintosis. A rare disease in the blood which only exists in Rio. You're symptoms all point towards it.

PAUL It's not fatal, is it? DR. CRANIUM No. Not if we get you a shot for it. PAUL (Relieved) Thank God. DR. CRANIUM But, it is very contagious so you'll need to stay in Quarantine in your house while I get the shot shipped over. PAUL How long will that take? DR. CRANIUM Should be about a week. PAUL A week? But what about my job? DR. CRANIUM No chance. I can't have you infecting other people. NEIL Don't worry, Paul. It's only a week. We'll do the shopping and everything for you. DR. CRANIUM No you won't. NEIL Why? DR. CRANIUM Like I said, it's very contagious. You two will have to stay here with him. NEIL Oh. DR. CRANIUM Yes, sorry. Just don't leave your

house, it's only a week. I'll get the shot shipped over seas from Brazil. JOSH (Unsure) Err...okay.

Dr. Cranium stands up.

### DR. CRANIUM

Well, I'll be off. You should feel better in a couple of days but the disease will still be in your system. I'll be in touch.

# PAUL (Sarcastic) Awesome.

Josh leads Dr. Cranium out the room. Neil sits on the bed next to Paul.

CUT TO:

19 INT.HOUSE - PORCH - DAY

Dr. Cranium puts his coat on and turns around to Josh.

DR. CRANIUM Sorry about this. Just whatever you do, don't leave okay?

JOSH Got it. So does this mean Neil and me will get those boils too.

DR. CRANIUM Probably.

JOSH (Sarcastic) Yay!

DR. CRANIUM

Don't worry, as soon as you get the shot in you, you can go outside again. A week at the latest.

JOSH Okay. I just have one more question.

DR. CRANIUM What's that?

JOSH

If this disease is so contagious then doesn't that mean you need to stay in Quarantine too? DR. CRANIUM (Changing the subject) Well, I'll be off.

Dr. Cranium walks off at a power walk. Josh closes the door behind him.

CUT TO:

20 INT.HOUSE - PAUL'S ROOM - DAY

Josh walks back into Paul's room. Paul and Neil look at him.

JOSH So...what do you guys want to do for the rest of the week.

There is an awkward silence.

NEIL

How about...we play Monopoly?

Paul and Josh sigh.

CUT TO:

21 EXT.HOUSE - DAY

DRAMATIC WIDE SHOTS of the house are seen as the music from Martin Scorsese's "Shutter Island" plays.

to be continued...