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... Owww.

He pulls a shard from his foot. The floor is covered in blood. Not his. Red footprints lead from the room.

MAN
(worried)
Jenny?

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

INT. STAIRWAY - (MOVIE FOOTAGE)

Blood smears up the wall to the 2nd floor.

He considers the knife in his hands, then opens a door to the garage. Leans in, drops the knife and picks up a hatchet.

MAN (CONT’D)
Are you okay up there?

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

INT. BEDROOM - DAY - (MOVIE FOOTAGE)

He 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.

Before he can react, she lunges, pins him to the ground 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” 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 moustache, 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.

ETHAN
How’s the gore?

She replays the scene.

KANSY (18) watches closely. His sloppy physique and stained clothes suggest more time creating props than exercising.

KANSY
Don’t know. All I can see is the back of superstar’s head.

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 looks 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're now in "found footage-style" video. Ethan sits up taller, performing 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
(looking 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
It's good. 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
(defensive)
Hey now. I had to use dish soap. Do you know how much pro blood costs?

ETHAN
Fine, I'll pay for it. We have to nail the gore this time. Every detail has to be perfect. That blood on my neck isn't bad.

KANSY
Yeah, you're going to need more maple syrup, by the way.

SAMANTHA
Tasted good, at least.

Kansy points to the blood sprayed across the bed.

KANSY
Is your dad going to be pissed about his comforter?

ETHAN
I'll buy a new one.

SAMANTHA
Doesn't he 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 handled three last night.

Courtney gives Samantha the finger. Pours the coffee.

KANSY
Classic! Three lemon squares, large mocha.

JOHANNA
(to Ethan)
How about you?

ETHAN
You chose. I like everything you've got.

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... We're on a break...
(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?

He 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
She smiled at me.

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

SAMANTHA
Like a prostitute.

ETHAN
I love her smile.

He takes a sip of 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.

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.

SAMANTHA
Whoa!

ETHAN
Nice one!

Kansy pumps his shotgun and blows the rest of it away.

A row of various prop heads are spiked on posts. A mix of stuffed Halloween masks and watermelons in latex and wigs.

Ethan and Samantha watch the playback on their cameras.

SAMANTHA
I think we should make a movie about a jock who falls in love with a nerdy girl, so he dresses like a nerd to win her over. But in the end it was his cheerleader friend that was his true love all along.

Ethan and Kansy try to process this.

ETHAN
Uh, so which part would you play?

KANSY
She'd be the dude.

SAMANTHA
Kiss my hairy camel.

Kansy adjusts a head on a post. Blood oozes from its eye.

KANSY
This is going to be retarded cool.

ETHAN
Dude, you can't say that. Now Warner has to edit this part out.

KANSY
I said "cool". Who'd be offended?

ETHAN
Retarded people.

KANSY
Then they're idiots. Can I say "wicked cool", or will I piss off the witches?

SAMANTHA
That's the last thing you'd want.

KANSY
My movie's going to be about three best friends who want to lose their virginity before graduation. But then, they figure out they're all gay and end up doing each other.

ETHAN
And you made fun of Sam's movie.

SAMANTHA
He can't help it. He's missing the part of his brain that stops him spewing stupid ass shit. It's like idea-rrhea.

Kansy finishes spiking the last head.

KANSY
You bitches ready?

Ethan nods, 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.

KANSY
Don’t get too close. A couple of the heads have compressed air cans in them for an extra burst.

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.

CLOSE UP ON THE HEAD

BOOM! It explodes. Bloody chunks fly everywhere. Pretty convincing. Kansy pumps the shotgun and fires again.

KANSY
Die you rotting bastard!

BOOM! A 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! 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

JOE MILLER, 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 -

A beautiful ACTRESS stamps across the set. She screams as she tears off pieces of her clown costume. A PRODUCER wearing a suit and headset 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 thinking I might take senior summer off. We're-

JOE
Wait, what?! You begged me for this! 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 direct? You didn't go to college, and you -

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

ETHAN
You're still pretty successful.

JOE
Missing your graduation is not my idea of success.

ETHAN
It's just high school.

JOE
You're top of your class! Why are you wasting your time making YouTube videos?

ETHAN
They aren't YouTube videos! We're entering Goreapaloozafest.

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 easier. You are going to that interview, or I'm confiscating your camera.

ETHAN
Dad, you can't -

EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS - (REALITY)

More shouts and monkey screeches can be heard 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 walks up.

KANSY
How's your dad?

ETHAN
Fine.

He picks up his camera, angry.

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 the viewfinder.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT - (MOVIE FOOTAGE)

Kansy is in character as a young 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, highlighting the backyard with landscaping lights. 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 another switch, turning 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
(crying)
Not you too Dad... not you...

Ethan stumbles forward. Kansy slams a CHAIR over his head. Runs to the counter, grabs a KNIFE and throws it. It THUNKS into Ethan's chest. He throws another, and another.

The zombie keeps coming. Kansy 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 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 Ethan 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
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.

KANSY
What about graduation?

ETHAN
Doesn't matter.

Samantha hands the wound to Kansy, and continues cleaning Ethan's face.

SAMANTHA
You sure? You seemed a bit pissed.

ETHAN
What gave it away?

KANSY
The spoon in the eye. Or maybe the part where I yell "Why Dad, why?"

ETHAN
He's flying me to New York next week. He wants me to intern 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
Why do you really want to make movies?

KANSY
Special effects is the only thing I'm good at.

SAMANTHA
If we got that prize money I was going to buy my own equipment, start doing this for real.

ETHAN
My parents were never here. All I had was a wall of movies to keep me entertained. I was basically raised by Roger Corman. I know every movie rule there is. I can do this, but no one believes me. Even my dad doesn't take me seriously.

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

ETHAN
We almost kissed once, you know.

SAMANTHA
Yeah, almost. In 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 mines playing a trombone.

ETHAN
(looking ill)
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 fucking 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 fucking do it this time.

KANSY
Fuck yeah! I'm totally in.

INT. SCHOOL LUNCHROOM - DAY - (DOCUMENTARY)

Kansy pushes aside a tray filled with empty bags of chips and candy bars. He pulls out an envelope and dumps out a bunch of little colored cards on the table.

KANSY
Pick one of each color.

ETHAN
What's this?

They each take five pieces and arrange them on the table.

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".

KANSY
I've got "College kids", "in the
woods", "tormented by", "infected",
"hillbillies".

ETHAN
These have all been done like, 20
times.

KANSY
That just proves it works. There's
millions of plots here.

They dump their trays and head out to...

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - (DOCUMENTARY)

KANSY
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". This has to be dark. Not some cheesy B-movie.

KANSY
Filmmakers get attacked while making a horror movie. The entire thing will be one big pun.

ETHAN
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
Yeah, 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. We'll reboot the entire genre. It'll be the goriest horror movie ever.

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... What about the cast? 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
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. Pleaaaase?

She relents at his puppy dog eyes.

SAMANTHA
You’re going to owe me. Big time.

ETHAN
Deal.

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 gym clothes. Courtney approaches. SNAPS her ass with a towel.

COURTNEY
Hey girl.

JOHANNA
Ow. Hey ho.

Johanna bends down, drops her pants. Courtney glares over her at Samantha, whose eyes are locked on Johanna's bare ass.

COURTNEY
Scouting for your dyke-umentary?

Johanna straightens up and looks back, covering herself.

SAMANTHA
(embarrassed)
Uh... I, uh... Johanna -

COURTNEY
Well? See anything you like?

Samantha, red and speechless, does a 180 and heads straight for the door.

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

Warner plays back some footage on his camera for Ethan and Kansy. Samantha stamps up behind them.

SAMANTHA
No way I'm doing that again!

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
Wait, you're not?

SAMANTHA
Shut up Pansy.

KANSY
Don't call me that.

SAMANTHA
Oh I forgot, it's only offensive when someone talks about your sexuality.

ETHAN
Kansy has sexuality?

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

KANSY
Actually, 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.

ETHAN
She has the right personality. She's perfect.

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.

ETHAN
I can do this.

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. Tries to knock down his unruly hair.

ETHAN
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
Zombies 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 the film fest this year. Can you come by tomorrow after work?

JOHANNA
I guess. It's not like there's anything better to do.

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

ETHAN
Thanks!

EXT. COFFEE SHOP - EVENING (DOCUMENTARY)

Ethan runs across the street.

ETHAN
She's in!

KANSY
Nice!

SAMANTHA
You actually going to drink that?

ETHAN
Fuck no. This stuff jacks me up.

Ethan tosses his drink in the trash.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY - (DOCUMENTARY)

Kansy nudges Ethan as a couple of hot girls walk by.

KANSY
I get to cast the next ones.

ETHAN
Whoa. Check out Sam...

Ethan stares as Samantha walks past the two girls. She's wearing a schoolgirl skirt and her signature hoodie hangs open revealing a tight "Piranha" movie T-shirt.

A catcall grabs her attention. She looks back, self-conscious. Dustin and a group of laughing JOCKS point at her.

SAMANTHA
What the hell is with him?

KANSY
Dustin's just a pussy-ass dick.

ETHAN
It's like he doesn't know what he is. Screw him, you look... great.

Samantha smiles and turns around to flick Dustin off.

ETHAN
Uh... Samantha? You might want to take off your backpack...

SAMANTHA
What?

KANSY
Your ass is hanging out.

She feels the back of her skirt, then quickly pulls it down.

SAMANTHA
What?! Was it obvious?

DUSTIN
Nice thong!

The jocks laugh as they walk by.

ETHAN
Did you just walk the whole way to school like that?

SAMANTHA
Oh God... I was wondering why people were honking at me.

KANSY
At least the documentary will be worth watching now.

SAMANTHA
Fuck you guys! No. You are NOT putting this in!

WARNER (O.C.)
Hey, No don’t -

She reaches for the camera. The image shakes, then cuts.

INT. BOYS LOCKER ROOM - (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
Zombies? Lame. “Walking Dead” just drove those into the dirt. We could do dragons versus bikers.

Game of Thrones meets Sons of Anarchy. That's hot right now.

ETHAN
Zombies will never die. It’s a guiltless kill fantasy. They represent fundamental human fears... “We”?

BRYAN
How are zombies a fundamental fear?

ETHAN
They’re symbols. A. Fear of disease - you love your brother, but 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 when the shit hits the -

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

ETHAN
Well, fast zombies negate the -

BRYAN
Whatever, Courtney and I are in. We need it for our demo reels.

ETHAN
Actually, I was kind of looking for-

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?

He 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’re shooting a movie together.

DUSTIN
No shit?

BRYAN
We all used to hang out in middle school. My boy Ethan here is going to launch my career, right?

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
You’re not seriously letting Courtney in our movie are you?

ETHAN
She’ll be fine, you want the audience to root for some kills.

KANSY
Speaking of slasher bait...

Courtney strolls up.

SAMANTHA
What do you want?

COURTNEY
Whoa, what's with the attitude?

SAMANTHA
Aren't you here to rip on me?

COURTNEY
Oh, the locker room? I'm not really a bitch, that's just my style. I have a couple questions. Are we shooting at your place in Trailer Park? 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. You don't want me to do anything weird, do you? I mean, you're gay, and that's cool... hell, even I've been known to get beer-bi occasionally, but -

SAMANTHA
Okay, you know what? This isn't -

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.

KANSY
One movie and we're moving up.

ETHAN
I'll go update my status.

EXT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON - (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
We’re just setting up the shot. Give us a few more minutes.

Samantha pulls Ethan aside. Whispers...

SAMANTHA
Where is Kansy?

ETHAN
Genius forgot the scripts at home.

SAMANTHA
You let him write the scene? He barely even passed English.

ETHAN
I can’t do it all myself. I told him exactly what to write. All he had to do was to type it up.

Kansy pulls up in a crappy Datsun and gets out.

ETHAN
Where the hell have you been? We've got to be professional when our actors are on set.

KANSY
Actors? Like who, Bryan?

ETHAN
Yeah, like Bryan. And Johanna. Did you finish the scene?

KANSY
Check this shit out.

Kansy pulls a stack of papers from his backpack.

ETHAN
You wrote all this in one night?

KANSY
No, I downloaded the opening car ride scenes from about twenty different horror movies.

ETHAN
We can't use this! I basically told you what to write word for word.

KANSY
That shit was as dry as your mom. I was up all night working on this.

ETHAN
Bullshit.

KANSY
Maybe a little one handed typing.

Kansy makes a jerking off motion.

ETHAN
Dude. Not in front of the lady.

SAMANTHA
Lady? What, am I like 30?

KANSY
You dress like you are.

SAMANTHA
Well, shit then, I'd better go change. I'm probably tweaking your MILF fetish right now.

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

SAMANTHA
Whatever. Idiot.

ETHAN
I should have written it myself.

Kansy starts handing the pages out to the cast.

KANSY
Improv is way more authentic. We just pick a line and riff on it.

JOHANNA
What's our backstory?

KANSY
Doesn't matter, it's just character development. Talk about anything.

Courtney looks through the pages, baffled.

COURTNEY
Who are we supposed to be?

KANSY
Everyone uses their real names so we don't get confused. Bryan and Johanna are the cute couple.

Bryan fist bumps Johanna. Ethan winces. Courtney glares.

KANSY
Sam's the one who explains everything. I'm the cool funny guy, and Courtney's my girlfriend.

COURTNEY
Hah! Yeah. That's total bullshit.

KANSY
Don't worry, I'm only in a few scenes before I get my face chewed.

COURTNEY
Can't wait.

KANSY
Relax Ethan. Some of the best stuff comes from experimentation. Ready?

He jumps into the back seat next to Courtney.

Ethan looks worried. He starts the cameras recording, puts on a pair of headphones and climbs in the back hatch of the SUV.

ETHAN
Rolling!

INT. SUV - TRAVELING - (MOVIE FOOTAGE)

Bryan drives with Johanna next to him. The rest ride uncomfortably in the back.

The silence lasts a little too long.

KANSY
(whispering)
Johanna, pick a line.

JOHANNA
(looking down at a script)
Are you sure this is the right way to the beach?

COURTNEY
(confused)
I thought we were going to a cabin.

KANSY
It’s a cabin on a beach at a lake.

ETHAN (O.S.)
Cut!

EXT. SUV - ROADSIDE - DAY - (DOCUMENTARY)

The SUV rolls to a stop. Ethan jumps out of the back hatch. Pulls off his headphones. He drags Kansy to the side.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
This sucks. You told me you'd handle the script.

KANSY
Give it a chance. Just keep rolling until we get something good.

ETHAN
It had better be soon. We can’t spend the whole day on one scene.

INT. SUV - TRAVELING - (MOVIE FOOTAGE)

They drive in silence. Kansy puts his hand on Courtney’s leg. She shoves it off.

COURTNEY
Don’t touch me.

Samantha takes a stab at a line.

SAMANTHA
Hey Kansy, where are we going?

KANSY
My parents’ cabin, in the woods.

JOHANNA
Is it safe all the way out there?

BRYAN
Don’t worry baby, I’ll protect you. This spring break is going to rock!

He fist bumps Johanna.

ETHAN (O.S. RADIO)
Cut!

EXT. SUV - MOUNTAIN ROADSIDE - (DOCUMENTARY)

Ethan sits on a rock, furiously writing in a notebook while the cast eats their lunch. Kansy peels an orange.

KANSY
I thought it was great. I don't get what you're worried about.

ETHAN
You can't just wing a movie. First of all, your parents are zombies. You're not going to jaunt off to spring break like nothing happened. It makes no sense.

KANSY
Some of the best movies don't make -

ETHAN
And the relationships aren't working. Alright everyone, here's your character bios.

Ethan hands a 3 x 5 card to each actor as he talks.

ETHAN
Kansy, you're the annoying overweight kid, dating Sam, the shy, nerdy girl.

SAMANTHA
Oh, come on.

ETHAN
Bryan, you're the attention-craving jock, leader of the group. Dating Courtney, the slutty cheerleader.

BRYAN
Sounds visionary. Slutty's good.

He pinches Courtney, who ribs him back.

SAMANTHA
So who is Johanna? The loser friend who can't get laid?

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
Here's the script. Act two starts as they head into the mountains. We get into the meat of the conflict. Remember, this isn't a comedy.

INT. SUV - TRAVELING - (MOVIE FOOTAGE)

They speed up the 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 told you, I just need to get away for a while.

BRYAN
Get away from what?

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.

COURTNEY
You know what that means?

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

SAMANTHA
I think you hit someone!

EXT. FOREST - DAY - (MOVIE FOOTAGE)

All is quiet except for BLOOD dripping off the SUV. Courtney gets out and pukes. The rest emerge and stare at the ridiculous amount of gore streaked across the road.

JOHANNA
Where'd it go?

SAMANTHA
I think "it" was a person.

KANSY
It wasn't! Trust me.

JOHANNA
It's creepy out here.

BRYAN
A little too creepy.

Bryan walks back toward the impact spot. They follow him, scanning the ditch. He kneels where the skid marks begin. They examine the blood spray on the ground.

BRYAN
Whatever it was, you nailed it.

KANSY
Come on, let's get out of here.

SAMANTHA
Hey, over here.

The spray leads to a pile of gore in the grass. She points to a trail of blood leading off into the tree line.

KANSY
See, it walked away.

Bryan searches, but the trail disappears.

BRYAN
Or it was carried. Either way 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 go.

EXT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON - (DOCUMENTARY)

An OLD COUPLE walking by gives them an awful look as Kansy hoses the gore off the SUV. The others unpack the gear.

COURTNEY
So, what was it anyway?

SAMANTHA
It was a zombie, genius.

BRYAN
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 alright?

ETHAN
The camera loves you.

Samantha walks over, interrupting.

SAMANTHA
Speaking of finishing the movie, what about our zombie horde?

ETHAN
(irritated)
Can I just have a minute -

Bryan and Courtney approach, curious. Warner follows.

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

KANSY
We really only need about 25 people. We can shoot 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 still don't have zombies.

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

COURTNEY
So we need to find your cast for you? Oh, I forgot you only have two friends. And Warner.

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. It's going to be massive.

KANSY
We can barbecue.

BRYAN
You haven't heard about Dustin's parties then.

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
That would work. Fuckin' 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
We don't need a ton. Let's keep it low-key. 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, putting his equipment away.

He opens a cabinet. Inside is an impressive array of lighting and camera equipment. His dad's personal stash. On the middle shelf 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

Ethan's dad 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 in 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.

A gorgeous YOUNG WOMAN walks up to Joe and hands him a coffee. He winks. She smiles and walks away.

JOE
Okay then. Today I had to deal with an actress having a fit because she had poo flung on her, a monkey that bites people, and I swear... he and his 999 other monkey friends must have written this piece of shit. And somehow I have to turn it all into art.

ETHAN
So what are you trying to say?

JOE
Movies are a good hobby for you, but now you need to grow up. You're really smart, you're just...

ETHAN
What?

JOE
Not creative. I don't mean that in -

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

EXT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - BACKYARD (DOCUMENTARY)

Samantha and Kansy huddle over the laptop.

KANSY
This scene is actually really good.

SAMANTHA
I think he's better under stress.

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

SAMANTHA
Hey!

EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY - (REALITY)

Ethan and Samantha pull up in his SUV. He gets out dressed like a zombie. He grabs his camera bag as Johanna approaches.

JOHANNA
Cute couple.

SAMANTHA
(embarrassed)
Whaaaat? We're not -

ETHAN
Couple? No, we're just... that would be like dating my own sister.

Samantha laughs uncomfortably.

SAMANTHA
Haha, yeah... Well, not sister -

Ethan models his costume.

ETHAN
So, what do you think? I'm Kansy's dead dad. I actually show up at his graduation. Terrifying, right?

JOHANNA
You're the only one I know who'd come dressed as a zombie.

ETHAN
The robe covers it. How do I look?

ETHAN pulls on his graduation robe and models it.

JOHANNA
You actually look really good. Except for the blood on your neck.

ETHAN
It's showing?

JOHANNA
It's not bad. What do your parents think of this stuff?

ETHAN
My dad's out of town.

JOHANNA
What about your mom?

SAMANTHA
His mom would be proud. Let's go get this shot.

EXT. SCHOOL GROUNDS - DAY - (MOVIE FOOTAGE)

Kansy nervously adjusts his robe at the edge of the graduating class.

While students fill the seats, he scans the tree line. Movement catches his eye. It's his zombie-dad.

Ethan brings a bird up to his mouth, bites the head off and starts chewing. Kansy's attention shifts as a MOTHER and her five year old DAUGHTER walk up the path toward Zombie-Ethan.

KANSY
(breaking character)
Oh shit.

He tries to wave Ethan back into the trees, but it's too late. The Daughter shrieks as she notices the zombie lurking in the woods. The Mother screams and pulls her away.

A burly school SECURITY GUARD sprints toward the commotion.

Ethan panics and runs into the forest.

Warner gleefully documents it all. Finally some action.

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

Ethan's robe is torn and dirty. His face roughed up.

KANSY
You're lucky they still let you graduate. If it had been me, I'd be spending the summer there.

Kansy helps Ethan put the GoPro cameras into the cabinet. Ethan eyes his dad's camera, then carefully takes it down.

KANSY
I thought your dad would lose his shit if you touched that.

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... You're actually going to use it?

ETHAN
Fuck it. A few shots won't hurt.

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

EXT. BEAR MOUNTAIN BREWERY - (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. She 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 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 moustache.

ETHAN (COP)
You kids lost?

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

ETHAN (COP)
Who'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 - (DOCUMENTARY)

Kansy lowers Ethan’s dad’s camera. The SHERIFF pulls into the parking lot 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, that’s Warner, he’s doing a documentary for a student project.

SHERIFF
What about you?

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 he shot that movie by the lake, uh... Manic-

ETHAN
Mermaniac.

SHERIFF
Yeah, 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 - AFTERNOON - (DOCUMENTARY)

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

KANSY
That scene looked tits on your dad's camera. I wish you could use it for all the shots. I'm not saying our movie sucks ass, but we need to kick it up a notch.

ETHAN
So, we're a notch above ass sucking?

KANSY
Yeah, we're suckin' balls right now. But, with a little of my special sauce we can at least get it to dick level.

SAMANTHA
Oh God...

ETHAN
So dick is good then?

KANSY
The scale goes back to front. Ass, taint, balls, dick. So first, we load it up with swearing. And the characters HAVE to be 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 not necessary, and B. Why Johanna? Why not Courtney?

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

ETHAN
How is this re-defining the genre?

KANSY
Sorry, but we’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. The more you try to impress Johanna the more you look like a giant fucking douche. If we nail this movie and win Goreapoloozafest, she might actually respect you. 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’s peeling an orange.

KANSY
No, I’m fine.

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-ab 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? Got a problem?

Bryan and Courtney look over, curious.

ETHAN
Oh, no, no. Of course not. You’re doing a great job. I just wanted to talk to you 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. 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.

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
So this is why you cast me?

ETHAN
No, 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?

JOHANNA
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)
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
(whispering)
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. I fold.

Johanna gets up from the card game.

KANSY
Going to bed already?

JOHANNA
I think I'm disturbing the love vibe in here.

KANSY
Samantha left her love vibe in -

Samantha kicks Kansy under the table.

JOHANNA
I'm going to take a shower, anyone need the bathroom first?

COURTNEY
Nah, I'm going to crash.

Johanna heads into the bathroom. Bryan gets up.

BRYAN
The forest is my outhouse. Who wants a beer?
(beat)
Alright fine, go to sleep, pansies. More for me.

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT - (MOVIE FOOTAGE)

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

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

He hesitates. 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 is bent over, removing her pants. Bryan smiles. She's just wearing a thong.

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
(in a loud whisper)
Kansy, is that you?

A shadow moves behind a tree.

BRYAN
Quit fucking around...

Bryan follows the noise away from the house. 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.

BRYAN
(movie yell)
Nooooo!!!

He holds up his hands as the zombie falls onto him.

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT - (DOCUMENTARY)

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

BRYAN
Get off me.

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
I thought Kansy was first.

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

ETHAN
You're taking their side now?

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

BRYAN
Dude, you don't look so good.

Kansy waves him away.

KANSY
It's just the makeup.

ETHAN
We don't have time to reshoot the whole scene, and Kansy needs to be alive to explain about the zombies.

COURTNEY
Why don't you just have Bryan run in screaming like a girl?

JOHANNA
(fully clothed)
That totally works. Then kill Kansy when more zombies show up.

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? 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
(looking ill)
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. The camera looks at Bryan, who just shrugs and smiles.

BRYAN
This is kind of fun. Come on.

Bryan sneaks 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
So why do you dress like a dude?

SAMANTHA
Maybe I'm not comfortable showing
my shit to everyone like you do.

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 thought that picture would prove you were cool. Dustin was the idiot who posted it on Facebook. If anyone, blame him. Or Zuckerburg.

SAMANTHA
I was shy. That picture fucking ruined me. You don't know what it's like. The girls whispering 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
NOOOOOoooooo!!!

Samantha kneels down, cradling 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, yelling 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! Whyyyyy!!!!

Kansy pulls her close, pleading.

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

SAMANTHA
I can't... I told you, we're just friends.

KANSY
Not that. I need you to... to kill me. I don't want to be like that.

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
Wait! 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 - (DOCUMENTARY)

ETHAN
Cut! That fucking rocked!

BRYAN
I wasn't a bit over the top?

ETHAN
What do you mean? It was perfect.

Kansy moans.

BRYAN
You okay, Kansy?

KANSY
Yeah, I've just gotta -

He runs to the bathroom and slams the door.

BRYAN
(to the camera)
Come with me.

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 back 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:

REALITY - CONTINUOUS

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 video of them setting up shots.

Bryan gets up and heads to the back door, then pauses.

BRYAN
What story are you trying to tell? Just think about it.

Warner looks at the window.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT - (MOVIE FOOTAGE)

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

SAMANTHA
That's it?

BRYAN
You go look. The car's surrounded.

JOHANNA
We have to get out of here! Those things just keep coming!

KANSY
This is the safest place.

JOHANNA
We can get help. The police, the military -

KANSY
- are probably overwhelmed. Two days ago I locked my un-dead parents in the basement. If the infection's already spread this far, then LA's gone. We're fucked.

JOHANNA
We can move up the mountain.

KANSY
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 ever says "You just don't get it, do you?" in real life.

JOHANNA
I would.

ETHAN
No, you wouldn’t. It’s a movie cliche.

JOHANNA
This whole movie is nothing but a bunch of poorly executed cliches. 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
So every is every character you? Or did you just copy that from another movie. Why can’t you try writing your own words?

ETHAN
How about this, let’s run the next scene. Pretend I’m Bryan and you’re you. I want you to tell me that you’ve loved me all along. Alright?

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 others 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
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 I want?

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 been spoofed more often than it's done for real now.

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

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

BRYAN
It's like it's too studied. Why not take a chance? Like what if the zombies weren't actually dead? It was just like, a curable flu, but we've been slaughtering them 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, ETHAN'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. When you show this to your friends, what do you want them to see? Set the scene.

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 we watch her walk 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
I'm sorry. What happened?

ETHAN
Nothing happened. She wanted to be an actress. 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 into his cell phone.

BRYAN
Yeah, 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 zombie 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 deal with it. Alright guys, this is it. We've got a lot to shoot tonight.

BRYAN
Hey. Before we start, I just wanted to make a toast.

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

A row of headlights snakes up the road.

BRYAN
Being here with you guys tonight reminds me of when we were younger. 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 start to 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 love you. Ever since I first saw you at the playground in the 3rd grade. I have always loved you.

Samantha closes her eyes to hold the tears back.

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

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

SAMANTHA
Nooooooooo!!!!!!

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 - (DOCUMENTARY)

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

ETHAN
I need zombies on the right!

Samantha is surrounded by stumbling zombies. 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. Zombies 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?!

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

REALITY - CONTINUOUS

JOHANNA
Can't I sit for two seconds? He's kind of starting to piss me off.

Ethan runs up. Warner trailing him with the camera.

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

INT. SHED - (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!

He clubs a zombie with his gun. She grabs a chainsaw from the wall. Runs back out...

EXT. CABIN - CONTINUOUS - (MOVIE FOOTAGE)

And tosses it to Bryan who starts it up. Suddenly, there's a groan behind her. She turns to look just as a mangled 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 - (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 the camera. She glares at him.

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

ETHAN
No! It was an accident! I didn't plan that.

He chases her as she storms off. We follow from a distance.

JOHANNA
Admit it, this is why guys want to be directors, right? You're just another sex pest.

ETHAN
I'm trying to make a great movie!

JOHANNA
Good luck with that, because this one sucks! You haven't changed at all. You're still an anal nerd.

ETHAN
Don't say that. This is important to me.

JOHANNA
It's a shitty little movie.

ETHAN
No it's not! This 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 moves in to comfort 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 Kansy and Samantha. They run to...

EXT. CABIN - FRONT PORCH - (DOCUMENTARY)

...and 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 into the camera.

ETHAN
Good evening sheriff.

SAMANTHA
Nice night.

He swings his flashlight to Samantha.

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 gunshots at one in the morning?

SAMANTHA
Well... We -

A branch SNAPS in the forest. The Sheriff scans the yard. More beer cans litter the ground.

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. FOREST - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS - (DOCUMENTARY)

The camera follows the Sheriff as he creeps through the trees. He hears movement behind a boulder. He jumps and shines his flashlight on - a ZOMBIE!

SHERIFF
Agghhhh!

ZOMBIE
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!

More zombies emerge. Johanna steps out holding her shirt 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.

The three of them wait tensely.

SHERIFF
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)

Light 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.

He leaves and shuts the door.

ETHAN
Hi Dad -

JOE (V.O.)
The sheriff just called. What the hell is going on?

ETHAN
I just have a few friends up for the weekend -

JOE (V.O.)
Listen, we're on our third monkey here and PETA's all over my ass. Now I have to deal with you and your drunk buddies trashing my cabin?

ETHAN
We just had a couple -

JOE (V.O.)
He also told me you were filming. Is that right?

ETHAN
We only have a couple of days left, since you -

JOE (V.O.)
We've already discussed this. You're flying to New York on Tuesday.

ETHAN
You could at least let me finish it!

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! We're almost done!

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

ETHAN
Just say it.

JOE (O.S.)
I've seen your movies...
(beat)
I think you're going to make a really good banker.

Ethan ends the call and glares at the phone.

EXT. CABIN - EARLY MORNING - (REALITY)

SLAM! The screen door shuts behind Ethan as he steps onto the back porch. He surveys the wreckage of last night's shoot/party.

He has incredible bed hair, circles under his eyes and a hint of stubble. His bathrobe falls open, showing his "Friday the 13th" boxer shorts. He shivers in the cold morning air.

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

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

Samantha and Kansy are reviewing 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 is 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 some of the later stuff is great. The zombies got better the more they drank. Check this out, they can barely walk.

She plays back through 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 (CONT'D)
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.

SAMANTHA
Got it.

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 it.

KANSY
It's your first movie, 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. I forgot horror is supposed to be fun.

Kansy starts to understand.

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 it 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
What are you thinking?

KANSY
You know that abandoned house about 45 minutes down the old highway? I always thought that place was a fire hazard.

SAMANTHA
No way. You’ll start a forest fire.

KANSY
It’s in the middle of a dirt field. It’ll be fine. I’ll set a delayed trigger. Even if the sheriff drove straight there and back, he’d be gone a minimum of an hour and a half. Probably more like three.

ETHAN
Let's do it.

Ethan flips back into battle mode and heads outside.

EXT. CABIN - MORNING - (DOCUMENTARY)

He points to the tree line.

ETHAN
Kansy, 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
Didn’t think so. You’ll get a great death scene.

KANSY
That still leaves one problem.

ETHAN
I don’t need problems...

KANSY
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.

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

WARNER
If you don't finish this, I've got nothing but you setting up shots. This will be way more interesting.

ETHAN
Take the SUV, buy enough alcohol to get a couple hundred zombies wasted. There's 2000 bucks here, it's all I have left.

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 - (DOCUMENTARY)

Bryan paces back and forth. Pointing 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?

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? Johanna? I thought you hated nudity.

JOHANNA
I hated this movie. It's been a hot piece of shit from the start. But this idea...
(beat)
It could actually work.

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 in two hours.

Bryan pulls out his phone and texts.

EXT. MANSION - BACKYARD - (REALITY)

A Dada Life-like song 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 pounds the air while the other works a turntable.

With the music still pounding, Dustin pulls out his cell 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.

ETHAN
Who's that?

SAMANTHA
Looks like Kansy.

Kansy pulls up and jumps out.

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

KANSY
I had to leave it down the hill, I couldn't fit everything in.

ETHAN
You couldn't fit it in an SUV? How much did you get?

KANSY
You said a wall of bodies. Check it out.

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 credit card back.

KANSY
Six thousand dollars.

ETHAN
What!?! That was my dad's card! How am I going to pay back six grand for makeup and mannequins?

KANSY
Not just that, check this out.

Kansy pulls out the ramp and jumps up into the truck. He starts tossing out dummies to clear a path. He strains to pull out a crate. Bryan helps. It's heavy.

KANSY
Careful, try not to bump it.

They gather around as Kansy opens the lid.

SAMANTHA
You've got to be kidding.

BRYAN
Oh yeah.

Kansy pulls out padding to reveal several boxes marked "EXPLOSIVE".

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
What about the distraction?

KANSY
It's set to go up in flames around the time people start showing up.

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

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT - (DOCUMENTARY)

The cast and crew guide the arriving cars to park behind the cabin along the forest road.

People are lined up at a makeup table where Kansy slaps blood and gore onto their faces.

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.

Ethan jumps up and grabs the microphone.

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

The music is turned off. 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 here shooting act three of a groundbreaking zombie flick!

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

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's 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 the brain must not have died. When they see tits, it triggers something inside. It short circuits them.

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.

More and more 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 whole 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. Wave after wave of zombies approach. The mass of writhing bodies on the forest floor in 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.

After chucking the last of the cloth covered cans into a box she douses them in diesel. She 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, every rock is covered in 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.

SAMANTHA
Fuck it. You think it isn't enough? You want to go big? Get the camera.

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 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, then 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 a few 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
(teasing)
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
(smiling)
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.

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.

Cars begin to tear off down the back dirt road.

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, we need to load up the equipment.

Johanna and Courtney run up and jump in the truck.

BRYAN
Screw that, jump in!

JOHANNA
Let's go, we don't have time!

ETHAN
Where are Sam and Kansy?

COURTNEY
Trying to put out the fire.

ETHAN
I'll be right back. Wait for us.

It's chaos as cars race away on the dirt road. Fire lights up the smoke and dust. Ethan turns to leave.

JOHANNA
I can't get arrested again. Let's go!

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!

Dustin ignores him and floors it. His massive tires roll over the camera, obliterating it.

INT. POLICE STATION - (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
I can't believe 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...

WARNER
You don't need him, you know.

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
I wish I had it right now. This would make 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 out-of-control, 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, speaking quietly into the phone.

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

The camera swings to Kansy and Ethan.

KANSY
Dude, did your dad just bribe a cop?

Ethan hangs his head.

MONTAGE - (reality)

EXT. JFK AIRPORT

Ethan steps out of the airport. He's wearing a suit and tie and rolls a small carry-on case behind him. He hails a cab.

INT. TAXI - TRAVELING

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

Ethan rolls his carry-on bag 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, adjusting his tie.

INT. OFFICE

Through the glass of a meeting room we see Ethan smiling and shaking hands with a mature-looking banker and his assistant.

INT. AIRPLANE

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

EXT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Ethan steps out of a taxi with his bag. He unbuttons his shirt as he heads for the front door. He pauses. Why is Kansy's old Datsun is parked in the driveway?

END MONTAGE

INT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - DAY

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 from behind theatre-style double doors.

Gunshots. Screams. Big explosions. He peaks in.

HOME STUDIO - CONTINUOUS

Four silhouettes are seated in the dark studio, watching the zombie movie on the big screen.

It 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, whispering to Kansy who follows her out of the studio.

BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

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.

KANSY
Remember all the cell phones? Everyone sent us their videos.

SAMANTHA
It's all HD. Some color timing and grit, and it looks like film. It was great, every scene had at least 50 angles.

ETHAN
It doesn't matter now. They loved me. I'm taking the internship.

SAMANTHA
The movie's -

ETHAN
Just stop. It's over. My dad was right.

KANSY
He's watching it right now.

ETHAN
What are you showing it to him for?
(beat)
What does he think?

SAMANTHA
Why don't you ask him?

She opens the door to the studio. The credits have just started to roll. Their names are followed by and endless list of zombie actors. Joe stands up.

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.

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

ETHAN
You showed it to Roger Corman!?

KANSY
No dude, Mark Borchardt!

MARK walks out of the studio. Ethan is shocked to see his hero looking down at him.

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. The audience eats 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. What about Goldman?

JOE
Fuck Goldman.

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
I exposed myself for you, rescued the lost ending and found a producer. The whole time all you thought about was Johanna. Do you really think you can just get the girl in the end without earning it?

ETHAN
No.

SAMANTHA
Then you are an idiot. All you ever needed to do was take a chance and kiss me.

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 dark studio with his camera. He takes Kansy's hand in his and smiles.

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