

**PUSHED**

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FADE IN:

SUPER: SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS. 15 YEARS AGO.

EXT. DUNCAN HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT

Excess rain flows down a curb.

Orange cones and caution tape surround a gutter drain, the grate damaged from some past school prank.

INT. DUNCAN HIGH SCHOOL - SCIENCE ROOM - DAY

Two teen girls, RHONDA and ALISON, scuffle in. DANIELLE keeps watch at the door. Danielle, nervous, motions the other two to hurry up.

Rhonda and Alison beeline to a cabinet. Rhonda opens it. The noise gets another worried look from Danielle. Alison calms her down. Rhonda smiles as she reaches -

A glass jar with stacks of dead grasshoppers immersed in a yellowish liquid.

Squeamish, Alison gets a baggie out of her pants pocket. Rhonda frowns as she twists off the lid. Both girls nearly tip over the jar as they snatch up three bugs

And stuffs them in the Ziploc.

Alison hustles towards lookout Danielle. Rhonda gets halfway across the room when she sees the dissected grasshopper on the teacher's desk.

ALISON

Forget it. We got what we came for,  
Let's go!

RHONDA

That's one already opened up! It's  
perfect!

DANIELLE

(low)  
Want to get caught? Jesus Christ!

Rhonda pulls out a few pins out of the grasshopper. Alison tugs Rhonda's left arm.

ALISON

Forget about it. Got to go!

DANIELLE  
Put the jar back!

Rhonda breaks Alison's hold.

Rushes back. Puts the jar up. Closes the cabinet.

INT. DUNCAN HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

CARMEN, a petite 17 year old girl with wire frame glasses, spins her locker combination. In spite of her height and bookworm look, she could beat half of the other girls in any cheer leading tryout.

Alison, Rhonda and Danielle watch -

ALISON  
(giggle)  
Clueless Carmen.

DANIELLE  
"Look at me, I'm so cute Beauty  
Queen"

Carmen opens her locker.

A blown up condom filled with yogurt with a small slit at the end. On top of two small yellow balloons. All taped together.

On the inside of the locker door, in black marker

**DO YOU LIKE THAT?**

Carmen shakes as she reaches. Gets one of her textbooks. Between the cover and inside front page, a dirty tampon.

Disgusted, Carmen goes towards a trash can, ditches the tampon. A smudged lipstick message for her inside the book

**SLUT**

INT. DUNCAN HIGH SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - DAY

Carmen, seated alone, swoons when she spots DAVID, who has an entourage of friends.

CARMEN  
Hello, David.

David walks by, waves and smiles. JESSICA (16) close behind David, gives Carmen a angry glance.

Carmen takes a bite out of her sandwich.

She gags, spits it out.

Mayo. Tuna. Grasshoppers.

Alison, Rhonda and Danielle chuckle. They give each other hi-fives as Carmen bolts out of her seat.

BATHROOM - STALL

Carmen vomits over a toilet. She takes a breath. Looks down into the swirl of mayonnaise and half-eaten grasshopper.

Jessica smacks her in the back of the head. Cameron's glasses plop into the toilet.

JESSICA  
Feeling any better?

Jessica grabs Carmen's hair.

JESSICA  
Stay away from my boyfriend, skank,  
or you'll get what's coming to you.

Lets Carmen go.

CARMEN  
David's not your boyfriend.

Jessica shoves Carmen.

JESSICA  
What was that? What did you just  
say to me?

CARMEN  
Leave me alone!

Jessica flushes.

Carmen panics. Fishes her glasses out.

JESSICA  
No problem, bitch.

INT. DUNCAN HIGH SCHOOL - PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Carmen, teary eyed and pale, looks into the eyes of the PRINCIPAL (mid 40s) a heavy set man who doesn't carry a big bat for enforcement, but it wouldn't be a shocker if he had one somewhere close by.

PRINCIPAL

This has been going on for how long?

CARMEN

Couple of weeks. I thought they were my friends.

MONTAGE - INTERCUT

Jessica, Alison, Danielle and Rhonda speak to the Principal at different times in the day.

ALISON

I don't know what her problem is. We did haze her a little bit when she moved here at first, but nothing serious.

DANIELLE

That's gross, we didn't do it.

RHONDA

She's making that up.

PRINCIPAL

Well someone did it. And some specimens were taken from the classroom.

ALISON

"Specimens?"

DANIELLE

Wasn't us.

RHONDA

I know her family just moved here a month ago and all. Maybe she has a hard time adjusting.

PRINCIPAL

What do you mean?

RHONDA

She's kind of a loner.

DANIELLE

Maybe she took the bugs.

PRINCIPAL

Why would she do that?

ALISON

For attention.

PRINCIPAL

The bugs have traces of formaldehyde on them. She was nearly poisoned.

JESSICA

I never laid a hand on her. She's a liar.

PRINCIPAL

We went through her locker. Her books.

JESSICA

I had nothing to do with any of that. Maybe those other girls did, I don't know. Maybe she's making that up too.

PRINCIPAL

You had nothing to do with stuffing yogurt in a condom, taping it to the inside of her locker?

Jessica laughs a little.

JESSICA

Someone actually did that?

PRINCIPAL

This is serious.

BACK TO SCENE

PRINCIPAL

I'd like you to try to avoid these girls as much as possible.

CARMEN

You don't believe them, do you?

EXT. DUNCAN HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - DAY

Jessica, Rhonda, Alison and Danielle hang out around a partially rusted car.

JESSICA

Carmen Winst is so dead. Dumb skank nearly got me suspended.

DANIELLE

Slut ought to know when to close  
her hole and when to open it.

ALISON

I know the bitch's e-mail.

Rhonda stares at the battered storm grate.

RHONDA

How far does that go down?

INT. JESSICA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Seated in front of her computer, Jessica writes an e-mail. Rhonda and Alison look on. Danielle is more interested in Jessica's pictures and achievements that adorn the walls.

JESSICA

Mud on her cheerleading uniform? I  
can't write that. Someone will know  
it was us who did that, like an  
admission of guilt.

RHONDA

Write *shit*. *Dogshit* in her coat  
pocket.

JESSICA

Yeah. I like that.

DANIELLE

You didn't make the squad this  
year?

JESSICA

I was out, the skank got in.  
(to Rhonda)  
Who should I send this to?

RHONDA

Everyone.  
(beat)  
What are you doing?

JESSICA

"Carmen Winst is a dead rat"

RHONDA

Shorten it.

JESSICA

What?

RHONDA

She thinks just because she's new and Daddy has a good job, she thinks she's better than the rest of us. Carmen WinstDEAD.

JESSICA

Carmen Winstdead falls into the storm drain -

RHONDA

The sewer. Sleeping in shit.

INT. DUNCAN HIGH SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - DAY

Danielle cranks her neck over, spies on Carmen, who looks tired, eyes red, suffers from a bit of nausea. Rhonda taps Danielle on the shoulder.

RHONDA

Stop it.

DANIELLE

She doesn't look good. She alright?

Students eyeball the clock. Close books, notepads.

RHONDA

Who cares?

The FIRE ALARM roars out. Some students jump out of their chairs even though over half the class appear as if they were expecting it. MRS. SIMMONS (30s) speaks over the noise.

MRS. SIMMONS

I want everyone to go in a single file into the hallway, go to the east entrance. It's only a drill.

EXT. DUNCAN HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT

Students lined up as far as the eye can see. Teachers count heads. Danielle and Rhonda fail at hiding their smiles. Rhonda under Mrs. Simmons view, flips Carmen off.

Carmen spots them, weaves herself ahead and disappears into the crowd. A SCREAM.

DAVID

Oh my God! She fell!

MRS. SIMMONS

Who?

DAVID

Carmen Winst! She was just standing  
right there -

Students, Jessica among them, clear out of the way. Knelt  
down beside the open grate and toppled cones, David freaks.

DAVID

She slipped and fell right in!  
Someone call 9-1-1!

Jessica has her hands up, shakes.

DAVID

What did you do!

JESSICA

I didn't do anything! I never  
touched her! I swear to God!

Mrs. Simmons steps up, peers down.  
Her hand goes over her mouth.

INT. DUNCAN HIGH SCHOOL - PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Jessica, visibly shaken.

PRINCIPAL

Her parents have been called. So  
have yours.

JESSICA

It was an accident.

PRINCIPAL

She just walked right to it and  
fell in herself.

JESSICA

Ask anyone you want. I never  
touched her. Not after the other  
day!

PRINCIPAL

Think I'm a tough case, wait until  
the police ask questions. Then  
you'll see how tough it gets.

JESSICA

Nobody touched her.

INTERCUT

Rhonda, Alison and Danielle, in the same chair, different times of the day.

PRINCIPAL

You girls were harassing her. You expect me to believe you four had nothing to do with it?

ALISON

I was nowhere near her. I was on the other side of the school during the drill.

PRINCIPAL

Some students have talked about a chain letter e-mail they got last night, which we will be looking into.

RHONDA

Chain letter?

PRINCIPAL

So it was just coincidence.

DANIELLE

I have no idea what you're talking about. What e-mail?

PRINCIPAL

Don't play games with me, young lady. Don't take me for a fool.

BACK TO SCENE

JESSICA

Nobody pushed her. Nobody did anything. I didn't do anything.

INT. DUNCAN HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY

Jessica embraces David.

DAVID

She didn't make it.

JESSICA

She killed herself, didn't she?

DAVID  
She looked sick. Got dizzy. She  
tried to grab my arm.

INT. DUNCAN HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - LATE AFTERNOON

Danielle and Alison stare at a white car adorned with flowers  
and a cardboard message

**MISS YOU CARMEN**

INT. JESSICA'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

In a nightie, Jessica washes her face. She waits a few  
moments, stares into the sink's abyss.

BEDROOM

Jessica turns off the light, lies down.

COMPUTER  
You've got mail!

Jessica gets up, heads to her desk. Opens the e-mail.

INSERT MESSAGE

**SHE WAS PUSHED**

BACK TO SCENE

Jessica's eyes follow the message. In brief glimpses -

**BULLIED**

**THEY LIED**

**HER FACE RIPPED OFF**

**BODY LAID IN FILTHY SEWER**

INT. RHONDA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Rhonda's face turns pale as she reads her e-mail message.

RHONDA  
Pass this on to ten people or  
Carmen's ghost will kill you in the  
dark sewer where she died.

INT. ALISON'S HOUSE - MORNING

Visibly shaken, Alison puts on her jacket. Takes her backpack.

INT. DUNCAN HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY

Alison walks past Carmen's locker. Carnations taped to the door along with a note with a sad face.

She goes to her own locker.

Spins the combination.

Opens the door. The dissected grasshopper, crucified with tape on the inside door greets her over a partially torn N Sync pinup.

Down the hall, Rhonda screams, her locker open.

INT. COUNSELOR'S OFFICE - DAY

David, lethargic and withdrawn. The School COUNSELOR (male, 40s) seated across from him.

David shakes as he hands over a printed e-mail message.

DAVID

It's been making the rounds with my classmates.

COUNSELOR

I heard. Any idea how this started?

DAVID

I don't know. But I tried to save her. Nobody pushed her. She didn't kill herself. It was an accident.

COUNSELOR

That's what the police ruled. Oh, I see it. That's new.

DAVID

It says I'm going to die for not taking this seriously. I've been taking it seriously for the past six months. I been on pills, having nightmares, Had to break up with my girlfriend. Now this.

COUNSELOR

Just some kids being mean, playing  
a prank.

DAVID

Some prank, this is the fifth one I  
got this week. I'm supposed to be  
team basketball captain, and I can  
barely keep it together. I don't  
know who to talk to, who to see.

COUNSELOR

We are looking into this.

DAVID

She was nice to me. I never did a  
thing to her. Now I'm getting the  
blame for not saving her.

COUNSELOR

No one is blaming you.

COUNSELOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Rhonda, crazed, ready for medications herself...

RHONDA

They pushed her...

FADE OUT.