The Screenwriter

An Original Screenplay By

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VOICE

Fade in...

FADE IN

INT. STUDY - DAY

Purposeful eyes. This is TOM staring at his laptop. The laptop screen is empty. The words 'FADE IN' are written at the left hand corner in word processor.

TOM Fade into... interior.

He types 'INT.' into his laptop. Then follows that with 'STUDY - DAY', a SLUGLINE.

TOM (cont'd)

Study. Day.

He hits ENTER twice, settles back into his rollie chair, and looks intensively at the words.

After a moment of ponder. Tom leans forward and types some more.

He writes, 'Purposeful eyes'. And continues to write; 'Purposeful eyes, TOM'S that is, stare at a laptop screen.' and he hits ENTER twice.

> TOM (cont'd) Tom. Tom. Tom. Tom.

Tom pats his laptop, feels the heat coming from the battery. He goes over and turns a fan on. He faces the fan toward his laptop, and then suddenly, jumps around with excitement, typing rapidly on his keyboard.

> TOM (cont'd) That's it. That's it.

He looks at what he has written.

TOM (cont'd) No, no. That's not it.

He hits DELETE and stands back, thwarted.

The fan spins, and spins, and spins.

Tom now watches the propellers of the fan, bemused, dishevelled. The screen glares in the background.

Running his hands through his hair, Tom now leans hopelessly over the keyboard, the screen still blank bar that opening sentence.

TOM (cont'd) Tom's life sucks.

He hits DELETE. We're back at square one, the SLUGLINE.

Tom now reads a screenwriting handbook. He murmurs a passage.

TOM (cont'd) Your writing reflects life. Uh-huh. The audience must identify- okay.

Tom looks over at the empty screen.

TOM (cont'd) Everyone's boring sometimes.

He rolls over to his desk.

TOM (cont'd) Okay. A hook. A hook. How to hook an audience? Ah.

Tom writes the words, 'the man opens the door slowly.'

(TOM WRITES AS WE INTERCUT WITH ACTION.)

The study door opens slowly.

Tom types, 'and steps into the room without making a sound.'

A figure shrouded darkness steps into the room, soundlessly.

Tom types, 'creeps up behind Tom with a gun.'

The figure walks across the room, raising a gun. And presses it against the back of somebody's head.

Tom types, `and fires a shot.'

The darkened man fires a shot.

Tom's head bangs hard against the laptop, a gush of blood splashing everywhere, as his body flops to the floor.

The man holsters his gun, unhurried, and leaves.

The laptop glows.

On the word processor, at the end of the screenplay, some words are written, 'killing him'.

FADE OUT.

THE END