

TAINED LACTOSE

EXT. CORRAL - NIGHT

An ordinary fenced corral. A distance beside it is a small, run-down wooden farm house.

The mooing of the COWS are the only thing disturbing the silence of this bright, full-moon night.

Suddenly, four human SHADOWS tower over the cattle...one of the shadows moves away...

BLACK BOOTS calmly step on soil, walking towards the small house...

INT. FARM HOUSE - NIGHT

The boot-wearing male figure enters the house. The fragile screen door closes behind him...

The black boots advance, slowly, into a room where an OLD MAN peacefully sleeps on his bed. The click of a gun awakens him...

INT. FARM HOUSE (UPSTAIRS)

A loud bang makes a YOUNG MAN in his twenties bolt awake--he breathes heavily.

YOUNG MAN
What the hell...?

He gets out of bed and approaches his closet--he opens it to take out a rusted hunting rifle. He cocks it and warily heads downstairs...

He slowly walks through the hallway, past an open bathroom door, and into his father's bed room. He notices the thick dark-red liquid on the floor--blood.

He walks further in and, to his Horror, finds his Old Man dead and bloodied with a bullet hole in his head.

The young man gasps and hold back tears as he gets out of the room. He notices the entrance screen door...open.

He points the rifle in that direction as he walks toward it...ready to shoot...

Then behind him, coming from the bathroom door is the FIGURE--Black boots, black cloak, hidden face.

The young man hears the click of a gun...his eyes widen...

EXT. CORRAL - NIGHT

The other three shadowy figures hear a short scream followed by a gunshot.

Like on cue, one of them grabs a thick, black book and begins reciting something in Latin, while the remaining two figures go into the corral and begin throwing some sort of red powder on the cows.

The last figure comes out of the house with his smoking gun, and watches the ceremony with his arms crossed.

BLACKNESS.

EXT. HARGENSEN HOUSE - DAY

An average all-American house. Humble, yet cozy at the same time.

INT. HARGENSEN KITCHEN

WILL HARGENSEN (17) is having his morning eggs and milk while his mother MS. HARGENSEN (38) washes dishes. Will has short spiked hair dyed yellow and an athletic build.

DAN HARGENSEN (15) enters the kitchen and sits in front of Will. He's an average kid with messy brown hair and bored, stoner-like eyes.

Dan begins eating his breakfast. His mother notices he's not having anything to drink.

MS. HARGENSEN

Oh! Honey, would you like some milk with that?

DAN

Nah, I think I'd rather have some orange juice.

MS. HARGENSEN

Give me a second, dear. Here...

She takes the orange juice from the refrigerator and serves it on a glass. She gives it to her son then proceeds to keep washing dirty dishes.

DAN

Thank you.

Mrs. Hargensen tries washing a dish clean without much success...

MS. HARGENSEN

Ugh! Your father eats like such a pig.

Dan chuckles as he gulps down his orange juice. Will stares at him and grins.

WILL

You know, if you keep drinking orange juice every morning instead of milk, you'll end up shitting bricks in the afternoon.

MS. HARGENSEN

Theodore Hargensen! We don't use that kind of language in this house, remember?

WILL

Right, sorry Mom, just...Please, don't call me by my first name. It's insulting.

MS. HARGENSEN

Your grandma loved that name...

WILL

Yeah, and she also liked sniffing prunes. She was one weird old lady.

MS. HARGENSEN

Will!

WILL

All right, all right! I'm sorry.

MS. HARGENSEN

You two better get ready for school, you're gonna be late.

DAN

I'm ready. It's just Will is just so darn slow to eat.

WILL

Well Dan, you go to school five days a week in *my* car, so unless you wanna take that smelly, poop-stained, gum-infested yellow school bus, I suggest you shut the heck up and wait for me.

DAN
Whatever, just hurry up. I'll be up
in my room. Give me a shout when
you're ready.

Dan stands up and leaves the kitchen.

WILL
Will do.

INT. DAN'S ROOM

Dan enters his room. He turns on his stereo and lets himself
plop down on his bed. He simply lay there, thinking...

His room has Horror movie posters and other posters
depicting several "Emo" bands.

He closes his eyes for a couple of seconds...then...

WILL (O.S)
Hey yo Dan! Hurry down, we're
leaving!

Dan opens his eyes and quickly comes down...

As Dan walks past the kitchen, he notices his mother is
absent.

Will already stands by the doorway ready to leave.

DAN
Hey, where'd Mom go?

WILL
She...already left for work.

Dan notices the sink is suspiciously still shooting
water...he approaches and closes it.

DAN
And she left the sink running...?

WILL
She had some type of urgent phone
call or something. She was in a
hurry, and so are we! COME ON!

DAN
Okay! Don't get pissed.

Dan runs toward the doorway outside. Will takes a look at
the sink then closes the door.

INT. WILL'S CAR - DAY

Loud death Metal music blasts through the stereo speakers as Will drives while Dan rides shotgun.

DAN

How can you listen to that shit?

WILL

Better than the Emo crap you listen to. Just a bunch of fags in make-up wanting to be Goth and talking about slitting their wrists because the head cheerleader won't go out with them.

DAN

It's called music.

WILL

Actually it's called crap. It's not music, it's stupid.

DAN

Fuck you.

The car pulls to a stop.

WILL

Fuck me? A'ight, get out then. You can walk the rest of the way.

DAN

What?

WILL

Get out.

DAN

Dude, it's 30 fucking blocks.

WILL

The air will do you good. You need to go out, socialize.

DAN

Come on, man...

WILL

"Come on" what?

DAN

What the hell's wrong with you?

WILL

Nothing's wrong with me. Go on, get out.

Taking it as a joke, Dan grins. But that grin fades when he notices Will's serious expression. After a big silence, he gets off the car...

INT. SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - DAY

An ordinary high school classroom. There is no teacher nearby. Students chatter, fool around, play cards, etc.

STEPHEN PARKER (15), a lanky, nerdy, unimposing kid with grotesquely thick eyebrows writes on his notebook as he tries to ignore the small paper-balls being thrown at him by BRAD MEEKER.

Brad is a short, freckled redhead with the attitude of a six-foot tall jock.

STEPHEN

Brad, cut it out, please.

BRAD

I'm sorry, Eugene Levy.

Brad is smacked in the back of the head by TINA--a plain yet naturally attractive brunette--calming him down. She snickers.

TINA

Don't you have anything better to do than make fun of his eyebrows?

BRAD

(ponders)

I dunno...

He gets out of his seat and walks to the classroom's door, he opens it and takes out a permanent black marker. He starts painting the doorknob black. When he's finished, he closes the door and goes back to his seat

BRAD

Let's see what dumb-ass falls for that one.

TINA
You're so retarded.

The classroom door opens. Dan enters. It's pitifully notable that he's been crying, despite his attempts to hide it.

His gloominess silences the group.

To make things worse, he notices his ink-stained palm from grabbing the doorknob. He looks at Brad, then at the doorknob, then at Brad again.

Brad begins to crack up until he notices how serious everyone else is.

Dan sighs and takes his seat next to Tina. She inspects him curiously.

TINA
What's with you today?

DAN
Nothing.

EXT. SCHOOL COURTYARD - DAY

Dan, Brad, and Tina sit on a set of decorative pillars, eating their lunch while other students chatter, play friendly football, among other things.

Suddenly, one of the kids playing football JUMPS unusually violently at one of his schoolmates.

TINA
Holy shit.

A brawl ensues. A TEACHER separates them both--with much difficulty.

TINA
What the hell's the matter with everyone today? You wouldn't believe the fight my parents had this morning. I'm talking screaming and scratching.

BRAD
You oughtta admit your mom belongs in a mental institution.

TINA
Screw you.

BRAD

Kidding! I'm gonna take a leak,
I'll be right back.

Brad walks away as Tina and Dan look at the teacher taking the two students into the building for detention.

The remaining football players stop their game.

PLAYER #1

What do we do? We're two players
short.

(looks around for available
players)

Where the fuck are all the seniors?

INT. SENIOR CLASSROOM - SAME

Will cleans blood off of his hands with a piece of cloth.

Several other students are beside him--their gazes blank,
transfixed--the rest of the class is DEAD.

Will approaches a desk and grabs a pair of sharp scissors...

Tables have been turned upside-down, chairs have been
broken, the walls are splattered with blood. Corpses lie
everywhere!

INT. SCHOOL, MEN'S ROOM

Brad finishes urinating and proceeds to wash his hands.

He then looks at himself in the mirror, making cocky,
self-absorbed faces. He laughs and then begins to splash
water in his face, not noticing the door opening...

Will is sneaking up behind him silently, holding the
scissors. And with a single, strong thrust, he JAMS them
into the back of Brad's neck.

Blood sprays over Will and on the mirror.

INT. CLASSROOM - LATER

Back to class. Brad's seat is empty.

MR. ROBSON--an overweight man with a mustache--is grading
papers while students sit quietly.

Tina turns to Dan, whispering:

TINA
Where's Brad?

DAN
Dunno. Haven't seen him.

MR. ROBSON
Quiet down, you two!

DAN/TINA
Sorry, Mr. Robson.

Suddenly...there is a loud BANG! at the classroom door. And another, and another, until it BREAKS AWAY.

Will and the other murderous kids enter the classroom. Mr Robson starts to approach them--

MR. ROBSON
What the hell do you think you're doing this time, Mr. Har--

His sentence is cut off when Will stabs the scissors into his face.

There is a small, uncomfortable silence, everyone is in shock...then, as soon as the dead teacher falls to the ground with a sickening thud.

DAN
W-Will...?

Tina breaks the silence with a blood-curdling scream.

Chaos ensues. Will and his friends begin a violent attack on the smaller students, killing them mercilessly. Dan and Tina try to avoid the mayhem by hiding under a desk--bad idea.

One of the seniors grabs Dan and lifts him up by the neck, choking him. Tina musters the courage and, gagging, retrieves the scissors from Mr. Robson's corpse and stabs the senior on the back--through his heart.

She looks shocked at what she just did. Dan grabs her hand and urges her to go with him.

Panic-stricken, they run out of the classroom and down a set of stairs, bumping into Stephen. Without saying a word to him, they forcefully grab him with them.

STEPHEN
Hey, what're you doing?!

TINA

Shut up!

STEPHEN

Please don't hurt me! I can't skip class!

DAN

Shut your fucking mouth and come with us!

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

The pair runs through an eerily empty hallway, still forcefully dragging Stephen along with them.

STEPHEN

What the heck is happening?! I don't understand what's--

He is interrupted when a bloodied STUDENT'S CORPSE--the same that was fighting with another earlier at the courtyard--bursts through a door and slams against a locker.

STEPHEN

Sweet Jesus!

All of a sudden, DOZENS of students--both normal and crazed--burst from every single door in the hallway. Clawing at each other, biting each other, ripping each other's intestines....

Stephen yells like a girl while Tina bursts out crying--The trio makes a right to another hallway, leading to the entrance/exit doors of the building. They desperately run toward it.

Agonizing screams of the kids being killed are heard in the background.

Once they reach the exit, Tina tries to open it but Dan prevents her from doing so.

DAN

No! Wait...

STEPHEN

Wait? Why!

TINA

What the fuck, Dan!

DAN

Look...

Through the glass, beyond the school's gates, are the four cloaked figures...along with HALF THE TOWN'S POPULATION standing behind them.

Tina seemingly notices a face in the crowd.

TINA

(pure dread)

Oh, my God. I think...I think that's my mom over there.

STEPHEN

What the hell is going on in this place? Getting your head dipped in a toilet daily is one thing, but this...!

DAN

We can't leave...

They run back to the hallway they came from, this time making a left towards the cafeteria, avoiding the carnage behind them. The crazy people seem too focused on slaughtering the others to notice them.

INT. CAFETERIA - CONTINUOUS

The trio slams the big double doors behind them shut. They approach a buffet stand, checking out if there is anyone home...

TINA

How did this all happen?

DAN

I don't know...I noticed something was up with Will since morning but--

VOICE

What the hell are you kids doing here?

They turn around. Standing behind him is ERNIE (45), a cafeteria employee wielding a meat cleaver. He appears frightened.

TINA

Ernie!

ERNIE

This whole fucking school's gone insane. I don't get paid enough for this shit.

DAN

I know, Ernie. We're not like the others.

STEPHEN

I'm pretty darn thirsty.

Ernie throws him a small carton of milk. Stephen gulps it down in seconds.

ERNIE

Now, would somebody explain to me what the hell is going on in this God-forsaken school?

DAN

We don't know...Something is making people go insane, as if they're possessed or something, but we don't know what's causing it.

Dan is busy talking to Ernie.

Tina turns around to keep an eye on Stephen...who in a second CHARGES at her like a banshee from hell, clawing at her throat, blood splattering as her screams turn to bloody gurgles.

DAN

No!

Ernie rushes toward Stephen and cleavers him in the head--killing him instantly.

Dan falls on his knees, sobbing for Tina as Ernie removes the cleaver from Stephen's head with a lot of difficulty.

DAN

What caused him to...what...did he eat or drink something that...

Dan's teary eyes widen with realization...

DAN
Milk...Orange juice...I didn't--
Holy Christ. It's the milk!

ERNIE
The milk?

DAN
Yes, the milk! That's what's making
everyone go insane.

ERNIE (O.S)
...You...really think so?

DAN
Yes, I...

Dan notices another empty carton of milk on the floor, next to the one Stephen had drank.

DAN
Did you...

Dan turns to Ernie, and the last thing he sees is a cleaver closing on his face.

SMASH TO BLACK.

THE END!