

FRANKENSCRIBE

by

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EXT. BEVERLY HILLS - STREET -- DAY

A silver Volvo parks along the curb. RUFUS FRANKEN gets out, 30s, film snob with a Goth T-shirt and receding hair.

Hands in his pockets, he trots across the lawn of a beautiful brick house. Unlocks a side gate that leads to the

BACKYARD

Rufus approaches a jacuzzi. Inside, puffing on a cigar, is WALLY JACOBS, 40s, if asshole were a religion he'd be Pope.

Wally looks askance at Rufus as he sips a scorpion bowl.

WALLY

There he is... my favoritest,  
grumpiest screenwriter friend.

RUFUS

And good afternoon to you, Wally.  
You wouldn't have an extra one of  
those lying around, would you?

WALLY

Wouldn't I? Over on the table, along  
with your script. Snag it.

Rufus grabs his script and drink, sits at a nearby table.

RUFUS

So what'd you think?

WALLY

Have a look for yourself.

Rufus flips through the feature-length screenplay. Edits in RED riddle every page.

RUFUS

What the...? Holy Hell... is there  
anything you liked about it?

WALLY

Are you kidding? It's fabulous.

Rufus is befuddled.

WALLY

Except for one thing. Your monster.  
Not scary enough, Pal.

RUFUS

You don't think so?

WALLY

I know so. I been doing this for  
twenty years. Trust me.

He puffs a smoke ring Rufus' way.

WALLY

My grandmother's scarier when her  
Bundt cake comes out wrong.

RUFUS

So you didn't pitch it to Tom yet?

WALLY

Did you really want me to pitch shit?

RUFUS

I thought you said you liked it.

WALLY

I do like it. But a monster movie  
without a scary monster? Come on,  
now. You'd be better off writing a  
coming-of-age story about a hundred-  
year-old virgin. I need you to tweak  
it a bit. Give him brontosaurus  
balls or something. I don't really  
care. Then I'll go talk to Tom.

Rufus rifles through the remainder of the script. The red  
doesn't stop. Turns the script over. More red.

He drops the script onto his lap and downs his scorpion bowl.  
Wally proudly blows another smoke ring into the atmosphere.

INT. VOLVO -- DAY

Rufus screeches away from Wally's house. The script on the  
passenger seat beside him.

RUFUS

Asshole.

He flips on the radio as he barrels down the road. Nothing.

He PUNCHES the dashboard and the radio blares to life.

INT. RUFUS' APARTMENT - OFFICE -- NIGHT

Rufus slouches at his desk. His laptop glows blue in the  
dim light.

The script lies open beside the keyboard. Rufus reads Wally's  
note.

RUFUS

"Make your monster terrifying."  
Yeah, like you wouldn't be pissing  
yourself if a green scaly beast gnawed  
a hole in your ass...

He scowls as he reads from the computer screen.

RUFUS

The monster lunges through the screen  
and into the front row of the theater.

He looks down again at the hard copy. A flurry of typing.

RUFUS (V.O.)

The monster -- terrifyingly huge,  
dripping in RED INK... YES! Its  
jagged teeth clicking in anticipation  
of its next meal.

As Rufus continues to type, mumbling to himself and paging  
through the script, a shadow grows behind him.

At first formless, it solidifies as Rufus types faster.

RUFUS

...claws like razors...  
(backspaces)  
...scimitar claws...

The shadow has now assumed the shape and size of the MONSTER  
Rufus describes. Oozing red, jagged teeth, scimitar claws.

It drops one lethal-looking hand onto Rufus' shoulder. Rufus  
stiffens into stone.

MONSTER

Scooch over, will ya?

Rufus turns. SCREAMS! Scrambles to his feet, makes for the  
door.

MONSTER

Where ya goin'?

Rufus stops, looks perplexedly at the Monster.

MONSTER

We're not done yet. Let's show that  
jackass agent o' yours what Rufus  
Franken is made of. Scare the shit  
out of 'im.

Rufus gapes at the Monster, still poised for flight.

RUFUS

What's that?

MONSTER

Come on. Let's bang this sucker out tonight, so Wally can pitch it to Tom tomorrow. You know he's got the attention span of a three-year-old.

RUFUS

You're gonna *help* me?

MONSTER

You created me. It's the least I can do. Plus, I wanna make it to the big screen. Get my shot at the multiplex. My own action figure. Starring role in little Nancy's nightmares. The whole enchilada.

RUFUS

And you're not gonna... hurt me. I'm not sure I buy that.

MONSTER

Rufus... now why would I do that? I wouldn't even be here if it wasn't for you. Besides,  
(flashes claws)  
I'm not exactly a world-class typist. We make a great team, don't you think?

Rufus sidles back toward his computer.

RUFUS

So... what should I call you? Monster?

MONSTER

My friends call me Red.  
(glances down)  
Sorry about the stain.

A pool of red ink forms a circle around Red.

MONSTER

Hey, you sell this thing, and I think you'll be able to buy yourself a new carpet.

He smiles, Rufus steps back a pace when he gets a load of Red's jagged teeth.

MONSTER

Sorry. I don't exactly have an arresting smile.  
(lowers his head)

RUFUS

It's okay. I've got a bean bag chair  
in the other room you can use.

MONSTER

Then what are we waiting for?  
Parallel development? Let's get  
cracking!

Rufus skedaddles. He's back in a jiffy with the bean bag  
chair. Sets it down next to his ergonomic one.

Red doesn't waste any time making himself cozy.

MONSTER

So let's see what you got here.

He takes hold of the mouse, rolls back a few pages and reads.

MONSTER

Okay, so we got this big-ugly-ass  
red monster. Yours truly. I come  
out of the silver screen and devour  
the first row of moviegoers. Right?

RUFUS

Right.

MONSTER

Why?

RUFUS

Why *what*?

MONSTER

Why am I eating the nice people that  
make up the front row?

RUFUS

Whaddya mean? Because it's horror.

MONSTER

Rufus, Rufus, Rufus...

He shakes his head. Poor, naive, fledgling screenwriter.

MONSTER

Don't hide behind the genre. Invent  
it. Re-invent it. Create, my friend!  
That's what separates the elite from  
the hacks.

RUFUS

So what are you saying?

MONSTER

Give the monster a motive. He goes after the front row because he's got a quick getaway back through the screen. Yeah, I can see that. But why kill them in the first place?

RUFUS

Maybe... they snuck in without paying?

MONSTER

There ya go. See! That works. What could be scarier than a beast covered in red ink who knows the bottom line?

Rufus nods as he types away like mad on the laptop. A twinkle in his eye, a little grin.

RUFUS

Thanks, Red.

Red leans back in his chair, cradles his head in his hands.

MONSTER

Now we need to talk a little bit about your character arcs. But, think we can order a pizza first?

RUFUS

(picks up phone)  
You like mushroom?  
(off Red's look)  
Right. Meatlover's special.

LATER

Rufus polishes off a crust, claps his hands clean. He turns, watches in awe as Red devours a large pizza whole.

MONSTER

(wipes his mouth)  
I think it's time we made me scarier.

RUFUS

If you say so.

MONSTER

I mean, I like the red. I like the scimitars and the jagged teeth. But I still don't think it's enough. We need something fresh and entertaining.

RUFUS

(typing rapidly)  
How about, we give you spikes on your thighs and biceps?

MONSTER

Uh huh.

Spikes spring from Red's arms and legs.

MONSTER

Poison?

RUFUS

Sure, poison is good.

Green venom drips down from the spikes.

MONSTER

You know what? I think we might  
have something here.

Rufus gets caught up in the moment, high-fives Red. He cuts himself on a scimitar claw.

RUFUS

Ow! SHIT.

He waves his hand in pain, sucks on his pinky finger.

RUFUS

So. You like it?

Red is too bedazzled by the blood to respond.

RUFUS

Red!

MONSTER

Oh. Hey. What's up?

RUFUS

Should we print this sucker out?

MONSTER

Oh yeah sure.

MOMENTS LATER

Script is printed. Rufus hands Red a brass brad.

RUFUS

Here, help me with this.

They bind the script together. Rufus smiles at his completed work. He looks up to find Red staring at him.

RUFUS

What?

MONSTER

Nothing, nothing.



RUFUS

Am I forgetting something? Think I should use three brads? If I'm missing something, you can tell me. We're in this together, right?

MONSTER

Do you have an envelope big enough to stuff this in?

RUFUS

I dunno, I need to check.

He searches the bookcase for an envelope. His back to Red, the Monster begins to drool red ink. It pitter-patters on the carpet.

MONSTER

You're a bona fide writer, aren't you.

RUFUS

I'd like to think so.  
(snags an envelope)

As he turns around, Red takes hold of his right hand. He inspects the inside of Rufus' middle finger.

MONSTER

That's some callus you got there.

Almost casually, he BITES RUFUS' FINGER OFF.

RUFUS

AAAAAaaaaaaaaaaaa! What the FUCK...?!

He clutches his hand, blood gushes out.

MONSTER

Sorry 'bout that.

Red crunches down on the finger, swallows it.

MONSTER

(disheartened)  
Nobody makes meatlover's like they used to. Lemme see your hand.

He takes Rufus by the wrist, gazes at the wound, then BITES his hand off! Rufus SHRIEKS, collapses to the floor.

RUFUS

(writhing)  
Why are you doing this?! I made you. From scratch! Why, WHY?!

MONSTER

You write horror. How did you think  
this was gonna end?

Red crouches down and takes Rufus' head for dessert.

INT. RUFUS' APARTMENT - OFFICE -- DAY

Daylight seeps through the blinds. Red sits at the computer  
with a toothpick. The final draft rests on the desk.

ON THE COMPUTER

The Writers' Guild website.

Red types in the name of the script:

THE PROJECTIONIST

He ponders, backspaces. Instead types:

RED, THE MAGNIFICENT

MONSTER

Now we're talkin'.

He slices open Rufus' wallet with a claw. Hunts 'n pecks  
his credit card number, and his Social Security number off  
of his driver's license.

Satisfied, Red picks up the script. Grabs the car keys from  
a hook on the wall and bounds away.

INT. VOLVO -- DAY

Red zips down the street. Flicks on the radio. No response.

He BANGS the dashboard with his fist. MUSIC plays. He  
settles on a Classical station.

Red passes a group of CHILDREN in Halloween costumes on the  
sidewalk. One dressed up as FRANKENSTEIN waves at him.

FRANKENSTEIN

Cool costume, Rufus!

MONSTER

(waves back)

Thanks!

He taps his claws on the steering wheel.

EXT. BEVERLY HILLS - STREET -- DAY

Red pulls up in front of Wally's house.

He strides up the front walk and rings the bell.

WALLY (O.S.)  
Who is it?

MONSTER  
(brandishes script)  
Special Delivery.

Wally opens the door. Red stands with his arms outstretched.

MONSTER  
Scary enough for ya?

WALLY  
Now that's what I'm talking about!  
Come on in...

Red follows Wally inside.

WALLY (O.S.)  
Don't forget to wipe your feet.

Red smiles as he wipes his feet, shuts the door.

THE END