

(Printed with the demonstration version of Fade In)

Intersecting Lines

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FADE IN:

SUPER: "INTERSECTING LINES ARE TWO OR MORE LINES THAT ARE COPLANAR TO EACH OTHER AND MEET AT A COMMON POINT"

SUPER: "NOVEMBER 1968"

SUPER: "WASHINGTON, D.C."

EXT. A LARGE FIELD - MORNING

It's overcast and mild. The field is outside Washington D.C. It's packed with buses. An old school bus, pulls up and stops next to the others.

A sign on the side reads "Holy Cross Students Against the War." The bus empties out.

ESLIN and his friend TOM, photographers for the Holy Cross Yearbook and school newspaper, get off the bus.

They stand, looking around trying to get their bearings.

As they check their cameras, a fancy motor coach pulls up next to the HC bus. Eslin looks over, a sign on its side reads "Clark University for Peace."

Clark kids exit the bus. Eslin and Tom, bored, check out the girls as they come down the steps.

TOM

If HC had women, I think the place would be a lot more fun.

ESLIN

Yeah, I guess. You know a guy, Jack Hill?

TOM

No, who's he?

ESLIN

He's got a band at school. They've got a gig Friday someplace in Worcester. He's paying me to take some pictures of them. Wanna help?

FRANK, one of the organizers for the HC marchers yells over to Eslin and Tom.

TOM

Frank wants us. Time to go to work. I'll let you know about Friday.

Eslin and Tom walk over to where Frank is standing. He's talking to BRAD GARDINER from Clark. Neither Eslin or Tom knows the guy.

FRANK

Eslin, Tom, this is Brad Gardiner.  
He's the photo editor of the Clark  
Scarlet.

They shake hands.

FRANK (cont'd)

Brad's got a problem. His two  
photographers are no shows. He wants  
to borrow one of you guys to march  
along with the Clark people and take  
some pictures for them. Whatta you  
think?

TOM

(To Eslin)

I told Matt and Gundling I'd hang  
with them today, you wanna do this?

ESLIN

Yeah, sure. I'll go.

Frank and Tom walk over to the HC marchers. Eslin and Brad head towards the Clark people.

BRAD

I see Worcester is well represented  
today.

Eslin looks around at the crowd.

ESLIN

Sure is.

BRAD

My two guys, the no shows, got wasted  
last night. I almost got fucked on  
this. Lucky you're coming along with  
us.

ESLIN

Shit happens.

BRAD

You must be a photographer for the  
Crusader. Those are nice cameras.

ESLIN

Yeah, me and Tom both.

Finally they reach the Clark marchers. BOB, the Clark march organizer walks up to them.

BOB

You find someone, Brad. 'Cuz, we're locked and loaded. We gotta get going.

BRAD

Yeah, I got someone. This is Eslin, on loan from HC. We've our photographer for today, lets head out.

Bob yells for everyone to start heading towards the shuttle buses that will take them into D.C.

Brad and Eslin stand off to the side and watch the kids pass.

BRAD (cont'd)

Stick with me Eslin, when we need a group shot, I wanna know where you are. Don't wander off.

A girl, ZOE GARDINER, runs up to Brad. She's wearing a backpack, an old army jacket, jeans, and construction boots. She's also wearing an orange hardhat.

ZOE

(To Brad)

Trying to ditch me?

BRAD

(To Zoe)

No. I needed to find a photographer, the Twins didn't make it. So Eslin here is going to help me out. He's from Holy Cross. Eslin, this is my sister, Zoe.

Eslin and Zoe check one another out. They nod just a little to acknowledge each other.

ESLIN

(to Zoe)

Gonna be doing a little construction work today, are we?

Zoe is not amused.

ZOE

When the pigs show up, you'll wish you had one.

BRAD

(To Eslin)

You'll have to excuse my sister, Marx and Lenin are her heroes. And I don't mean Groucho or John.

Zoe starts to walk away with a group of people. She turns around to face Eslin and Brad.

ZOE

(Yelling)

I'll see you two on the barricades.

And then she's gone.

EXT. STANTON PARK - LATER

The shuttle buses drop off the marchers. Flags, posters, and banners are unfurled. A constant din of noise. Everyone prepares to march.

Eslin is with the Clark people, the Holy Cross contingent is in front of them, marching away. Eslin and Brad start to march.

EXT. CONSTITUTION AVENUE - DAY

A sea of humanity slowly moving along. Everyone is singing or chanting. Hundreds of banners and signs are on display. The march comes to a temporary halt. People mill around stretching their legs.

ESLIN

What's the route?

BRAD

We march down Constitution ave by the White House to the Lincoln Memorial. A lot of speeches I imagine, and some music. After things wind down, we'll get the shuttle buses around the Washington Monument.

ESLIN

Where's your sister?

BRAD

I dunno. She doesn't go to Clark. She's a junior at Bennington. She rode the Clark bus down here with some friends of hers from Bennington who're SDS.

ESLIN  
Your sister sounds hardcore.

BRAD  
Her friends are, I don't think she  
is.

The march starts moving again. As the Clark people come abreast of the the White House, Brad wants to use it as a backdrop for some group pictures.

Eslin and Brad line everybody up. He takes several pictures.

BRAD (cont'd)  
Eslin, I think that's all the  
pictures we need. Thanks for your  
help.

Eslin stands off to the side as the Clark marchers move on. He watches, trying to figure where to go to next.

Zoe and her SDS friends arrive.

ZOE  
My brother cut you loose?

ESLIN  
Yeah. I took all the pictures he said  
he wanted. They took off. Up ahead  
somewhere.

ZOE  
Don't just stand there um... shit, I  
forgot your name.

ESLIN  
It's Eslin.

ZOE  
Okay Eslin. You can take our pictures  
now.

Eslin gets them all to stand in front of the White House. After several shots, they fall back in with all the other marchers and are gone.

Zoe hangs back.

ZOE (cont'd)  
Eslin, take my picture alone. Okay?

She's wearing the hardhat and has the gas mask on.

ESLIN

Zoe, take off the mask. I can't see your face.

ZOE

That's kind of a male chauvinist thing to say. You're concerned about what I look like? What a woman's face looks like, is that an issue with you?

ESLIN

If it'll make you feel better, keep the fucking thing on. You'll look like a guy.

She pulls the mask down below her chin. Eslin takes the picture.

ZOE

How's that, Hef?

ESLIN

Much better. It could be the cover of the next month's issue of American Housewife.

ZOE

Fuck that. After this thing ends, watch yourself. There's going to be some payback for what happened in Chicago.

ESLIN

Chicago? Why? What happened there?

ZOE

Funny guy. Watch your ass. You've been warned.

And then she's gone, swallowed up in the crowd of marchers.

Eslin finds an opening, jumps in, and begins to move forward with everyone else.

EXT. THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL - AFTERNOON

The entire area around the Memorial is filled with marchers. In front of it, is a raised stage for the speakers and musicians.

EXT. THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT - LATER

Eslin has to walk all the way back near the Washington Monument. It's so crowded he can't find anyone from Holy Cross. He sits down.

GRASSY AREA - LATER

The time allocated for the march has run out. The police and Nation Guard start to line up in preparation to clear the area around the monument.

THE POLICE  
**CLEAR THE AREA YOU HAVE FIVE MINUTES.**

Most, but not all of the marchers start to move away.

GRASSY AREA - A FEW MINUTES LATER

The police and Guards are starting to get antsy playing with their batons.

THE POLICE  
**YOU HAVE ONE MINUTE. THIS IS YOUR  
LAST WARNING.**

Eslin stands, and gets his cameras ready. He sees several of the police officers taking off their badges.

GRASSY AREA - MOMENTS LATER

The police and Guard wearing gas masks and riot gear start to move forward.

THE POLICE  
**WE ARE CLEARING THE AREA. IF YOU DO  
NOT LEAVE YOU WILL BE ARRESTED.**

Eslin moves to find a safer spot, puts the telephoto up to his eye, and scans the crowd.

The hardcore SDS and Weathermen hold their ground and begin to throw rocks at the police. Eslin thinks he sees Zoe and her friends to his right.

The police respond with a barrage of teargas canisters. The entire area becomes covered in a shroud of gas. He loses sight of them.



And then, the police and Guard charge into the crowd swinging their riot batons. Marchers and police become mixed together, total mayhem.

His eyes start to burn, it's hard to breath. Eslin takes out a cloth mask from his backpack, soaks it in water and puts it on.

The marchers are getting the shit kicked out of them.

A guy wearing a bandana grabs Eslin. Eslin shoves back. Bandana Guy lowers it. It's Brad.

BRAD

I need your help. I'm trying to find my fucking sister. The last place I saw her was up there somewhere. Then the cops fired the tear gas.

ESLIN

Everybody has to come back this way. Go over to the left, I'll move over to the right.

Brad vanishes in a cloud of gas. Eslin moves forward and to the right trying to find Zoe. Taking pictures as he goes. A BLOODY HEAD GUY crashes into him and they both go down.

ESLIN

(To bloody head)

Hey, man, I'm trying to find some SDS guys. There's a girl with'em. She was wearing an orange hardhat. You seen them?

BLOODY HEAD GUY

I was with'em. Up that way.

Bloody head guy points in the general direction that Eslin is walking in.

BLOODY HEAD GUY (cont'd)

The pigs were all over us. We hadda scatter.

The air is so thick with gas, it's almost impossible to tell the cops from the marchers. Bloody head guy gets up and runs to the rear.

Eslin moves forward as best he can. He sees a girl wearing an orange hardhat run past. He can't tell if it's Zoe or not.

She tries to dodge a cop. But he nails her with his club and she goes down.

He starts to raise his club too really tee off on her. Eslin watches frozen.

A tear gas canister strikes the cop in the back stunning him. Eslin runs over, and drags the girl to her feet.

It's Zoe.

ESLIN

Can you run?

ZOE

Yeah. My head kinda hurts.

ESLIN

You're lucky you still got a fuckin' head.

Eslin looks at the back of head, there's a large bloody lump. The hardhat is gone.

ESLIN (cont'd)

We gotta get back to the buses.

Eslin drags her along next to him stumbling and falling as they go.

EXT. SHUTTLE BUS AREA - LATER

It starts to rain. Mobs of people trying to get on buses. Tear gas is still in the air.

Eslin passes a large table with first aid things. He grabs a few bottles of water, some gauze, some Instant Cold packs, and a roll of ace bandages.

Eslin sees a tent that has been setup so marchers can get out of the rain.

INT. THE REST TENT - LATE AFTERNOON

They hobble inside. Eslin is limping a little. They find an empty corner, and drop to the ground.

ZOE

I can't see. My fucking eyes are burning.

ESLIN

Lay back. Let me pour some water in them.

Zoe lays back, and he pours water from the bottles on her face and eyes.

ESLIN (cont'd)

Better?

ZOE

Yeah.

She sits up.

ESLIN

Lean forward, so I can see the back of your head.

He puts the gauze and ice pack on her head, and raps the ace bandage around it.

ESLIN (cont'd)

How'd you feel.

ZOE

Like shit.

Eslin is staring at her face.

ZOE (cont'd)

Whatta you staring at, Hef? Like what you see? The ideal face of American womanhood with a lumped up skull.

ESLIN

I'm making sure you still have all your teeth. Your eyes look okay. When you feel ready, we need to get on a bus. Right now, I gotta take a little break.

Eslin lies down on the muddy ground. He's exhausted. Zoe leans over him.

ZOE

Your eyes are all red.

She pours a bottle of water into his burning eyes, and starts wiping off his face and pours more water into his eyes.

ZOE (cont'd)

Stop squirming around. Hold still.

ESLIN  
I'm lucky I'm with Florence  
Nightingale.

ZOE  
Were you a Boy Scout?

ESLIN  
No, my mother's a nurse. Her first  
aid skills must've rubbed off on me.

ZOE  
I'm glad you remembered. Were you  
looking for me, before, out there?

ESLIN  
I ran into Brad. He asked me to help  
him find you. He was worried.

ZOE  
Were you worried?

ESLIN  
Male chauvinist pig that I am, I  
didn't want your face busted up.

ZOE  
You're honest.

Eslin sits up. Some of Zoe's SDS FRIENDS that she was with  
earlier walk into the tent.

SDS FRIENDS  
Zoe, you look okay. Glad you made it.  
C'mon over, we'll compare notes.

ZOE  
Those are some of my friends, I'm  
gonna go over and see them.

ESLIN  
Yeah, sure. Nice meeting you Zoe.

Eslin and Zoe both stand.

ZOE  
Thanks for helping me out today. I'll  
see ya around, Eslin.

Eslin heads for the exit flap in the tent. Zoe walks over to  
her friends. Eslin is limping as he leaves the tent.

EXT. SHUTTLE BUS AREA - CONTINUOUS

As Eslin walks out the flap, Zoe turns and sees him limping badly. The crowds of people have thinned out. There is a single bus waiting.

Eslin is dragging his ass towards the bus. Half way there, he stops to catch his breath and look around.

ESLIN  
(To himself)  
Fuck, that hurts.

He starts walking unsteadily towards the bus. He tries to adjust his backpack, but begins to lose his balance.

He feels like he's going down.

But someone grabs and steadies him.

It's Zoe.

ZOE  
What's with your leg?

ESLIN  
Running down here, I think I rolled my ankle. I'll live. It's nothing.

ZOE  
Bullshit, nothing. You can hardly walk. I've been watching.

SDS#1 stands in the entrance to the tent watching.

SDS#1  
(To Zoe)  
Yo, Zoe, c'mon we're taking off.  
Gonna get something to eat.

ZOE  
(To SDS#1)  
Yeah, wait a minute.

ESLIN  
How's your head?

ZOE  
It felt better before. Now, it's starting to hurt again.

ESLIN  
The bandage needs to be changed. It needs more ice.

ZOE

You can't walk, and my melon's a mess. The guys in there...

She motions to the tent.

ZOE (cont'd)

They've no clue what to do for my head. I think if we wanna get back to Worcester, we've gotta...

ESLIN

Gotta what?

ZOE

We, you and me... we gotta team up. I'll help you get on the bus --

ESLIN

-- and then I can work on your head.

ZOE

Yeah, that's the general idea.

ESLIN

How're we going to get this to work?

Zoe stands tight up against Eslin.

ZOE

I guess we put our arms around each other, and I help you to the bus.

Eslin and Zoe awkwardly put their arms on each other.

ESLIN

Lets try a few steps and see how this plays out.

They walk a few feet, things seem okay.

ZOE

Lets go for it.

ESLIN

What about your friends in the tent?

ZOE

Fuck them. You were the guy that dragged my ass back here. None of them did.

Zoe turns to the tent and the SDS guy still standing there.

ZOE (cont'd)

(To SDS#1)

I'm not gonna go. Me and Eslin, we're  
the walking wounded, we gotta keep an  
eye on each other.

And with Zoe and Eslin holding on to each other, they hobble  
over to the bus, up the steps, and inside.

The door closes, and the bus drives off.

FADE OUT.