

MANIAC

1X01: PILOT

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Homage to the *Scream* movies created by Kevin Williamson and Wes Craven and television series by Jill Blotevogel.

TEASER

1. EXT.: HALLOWEEN NIGHT - BRADFORD - 2008

Fade-in on a landscape shot of the sleepy fictional town of Bradford, British Columbia. Quiet, undisturbed.

2. EXT.: STREET

Cycling through a few shots of kids dressed in Halloween costumes walking down the street. It is dark out. Trick-Or-Treating is over. The decorations are turned off on the houses in the neighborhood. It's time to go home.

3. EXT.: POLICE CARS

Three police cars are rushing down a residential street, blaring their sirens and flashing their lights. No one is around. The sirens sound aggressively loud against the nearly perfect silence of the neighborhood.

4. EXT.: ABANDONED BUILDING - SEQUENCE SHOT

The same police cars stop in front of a creepy, decrepit, three-story abandoned building at the end of a long, empty street. The officers inside step out of their vehicles and walk toward the building's entrance. SUSPENSEFUL MUSIC is building up as we start hearing LABORED BREATHING. Then, a TEENAGE GIRL'S VOICE. Terrified. After a few seconds, she starts to speak.

TEENAGE GIRL

(O.S)

How could you do this?! How could you kill all my friends?!

No response. No sign of the police officers.

TEENAGE GIRL

(O.S)

You need to turn yourself in. Go to the police station, tell them everything. You can't hurt anyone else...

A gasp. *Horried*. The music reaches its peak. Then, a shrill scream. *Pure terror*. Suddenly, through one of the windows on the LAST FLOOR, we see a sharp spark of light, and a LOUD NOISE. *Gunshot*. At the same moment, we CUT-TO...

5. BLACK SCREEN:

...A BLACK SCREEN, as we hear a DEEP, HORRIBLE CRY from the teenage girl. The music and noises start to ECHO AWAY, as we CUT HARD TO...

6. EXT.: LEAH

A CLOSE-UP of a teenage girl's face. Uncomfortably close. She stares straight ahead. She is LEAH WILFRID (16). Pretty, innocent.

7. EXT.: RESTAURANT TERRACE - NIGHT

We realize she is sitting alone at a table, on the terrace of a restaurant. She is wearing a sweater, appropriate for a cool SEPTEMBER evening. She is still staring straight ahead, absent-minded.

8. INT.: OLD WOMAN - INSIDE

Leah seems to notice something ahead of her. Inside the restaurant, an OLD WOMAN is staring at her through a window. Leah looks at her, and smiles.

The old woman doesn't smile back.

Leah seems uncomfortable and looks away. She picks up her cellphone and opens a text conversation to **Matthew**. The last message, from Leah, says "**I'm at the restaurant. Text me when you get here.**". No response. She sighs.

MATTHEW (O.S)

Hey!

Leah looks up, and smiles in excitement.

9. EXT.: MATTHEW

MATTHEW SANTOS (16) is walking through the terrace toward Leah's table. Tall, handsome. He is smiling. He is tanned, and wearing a HAWAIIAN BUTTON-UP.

LEAH

Matthew, hey!

Leah gets up, and they hug.

MATTHEW

I missed you!

LEAH

Me too!

They separate and sit down at the table.

LEAH

So, did Cuba do you any good? Love your tan, and I'm especially loving this tropical look, by the way.

Matthew looks at her, puzzled.

MATTHEW

Is that sarcasm?

LEAH

No! You kinda look like a middle-aged man, but with some style.

MATTHEW

Well, you know, that's what I was going for.

Leah smiles, amused.

MATTHEW

Totally wasn't ready for this weather, though.

LEAH

I know, I tried to get a table inside, but there was no room!

MATTHEW

Oh, that sucks - But, yeah the trip was great, the resort was awesome. In the swimming pool, there was a bar hidden in a cave!

LEAH

Really?! Did you take a pic?

MATTHEW

Yes, I'll show you in a minute. It felt so good to finally unwind, you know?

LEAH

Totally! Plus, all the hot guys...

Leah smirks at her friend. He looks back at her.

MATTHEW

Meh...

Leah looks at him, confused.

LEAH

What? Oh, no, please tell me this isn't about Henry! Matthew, you broke up with him for a reason!

MATTHEW

I know, I know, it's just... I miss him.

LEAH

No, Matthew, we're not doing this again, okay? You need to move on!

MATTHEW

I know, but it's hard, Leah!

Leah seems compassionate.

LEAH

I know, I know it is, but listen, he's not the only guy on planet Earth! You'll find another one, and you'll love him so much more than you loved Henry. And, that guy won't cheat on you with his ex.

MATTHEW

Yeah, I guess you're right.

Leah looks at him, and smiles.

MATTHEW

What about you, did anything new happen between you and Mark?

LEAH

No, I can't figure out how he feels about me. Sometimes I think he might like me back, but other times he does things that scream the opposite. He's confusing, and I don't know if it's even worth it at this point...

MATTHEW

Yeah, I know what that's like. But don't give up, you guys are gonna be together, I can feel it.

LEAH

Well, if you feel it, then it *must be true*.

MATTHEW

Come on! Just give it time, I'm sure it'll work out.

Leah doesn't respond. She stares at her glass of water.

MATTHEW

Look, Leah. One thing you need to know about men is that we don't know how to give signals, and we can't spot 'em, either. We're confusing, that's just how we are.

LEAH

Yeah, well, then, you men suck.

MATTHEW

Well, we do suck, I'm not gonna argue with that.

Leah chuckles, and looks at her friend. Then, a WAITRESS comes over to the table.

WAITRESS

Hey, guys! Can I start you off with a drink?

Matthew looks at the waitress, and smiles.

MATTHEW

How could I say no?

10. EXT.: SIDEWALK - FRONT OF RESTAURANT

Leah and Matthew are walking together on the sidewalk, walking away from the restaurant, *Caliente*, laughing. There's no one around. The same sick feeling of silence. Leah and Matthew have taken a few drinks, and they're starting to kick in.

LEAH

No, cuz, seriously, that cheese they put on the pizza was so good, what's it called? I can't think of its name!

MATTHEW

Um...

They continue walking slowly, trying to think of the name.

MATTHEW

I can't remember the name.

Leah starts laughing next to Matthew.

MATTHEW

Why are you laughing?

LEAH

I just thought of it - Mozzarella.

They both start laughing out loud in the middle of the street.

MATTHEW

Wow, that's kind of embarrassing.

LEAH

Yeah, I guess those palomas were stronger than I thought...

MATTHEW

Yeah, that's probably it. And, can you believe they didn't ask us for our ID? Do we look 19?

LEAH

We might've, at first, at least! I came prepared anyway.

Leah pulls out her wallet and takes out a very clearly faked DRIVER'S LICENSE with the name "**LEAH JENNER**" on it. Matthew looks at it.

MATTHEW

Leah Jenner? Really?

They continue laughing. Then, they stop at the edge of the pavement.

(A PERSON DRESSED IN ALL-BLACK IS WATCHING THEM IN THE BACKGROUND, HARDLY NOTICEABLE).

Matthew turns to Leah.

MATTHEW

Hey, when I got to the restaurant, you looked kind of out of it, are you all right?

LEAH

What? - Oh, yeah, um, I'm fine, it's just, I've been thinking, and I realized that Halloween is two months away.

MATTHEW

Okay, and, that's concerning because...?

Leah looks at him, puzzled.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

You're scared of little kids in costumes?

LEAH

Yeah, you're right, Matthew, that's exactly what it is.

Matthew seems confused.

MATTHEW

What?!

LEAH

No, of course, that's not it, Matthew!

Matthew seems even more puzzled now.

MATTHEW

What is this, opposite day or something?!

LEAH

That's not why I'm freaked out - It's about Ryan Anderson.

MATTHEW

Ryan Anderson?

LEAH

Yeah, you know that guy, who killed a bunch of kids, and got shot down.

MATTHEW

Oh, yeah. And, you're scared because...?

LEAH

That story doesn't freak you out?

MATTHEW

Yeah, of course it does, but I'm not, like, *actively* scared! I mean, come on, Leah, that happened like, ten years ago!

LEAH

Yeah, ten years ago this year. I don't know, I just have this feeling that something's gonna happen...

MATTHEW

Yeah, you know what, you're right, that makes a lot of sense! Ten years later, Ryan comes back to life, grabs his black mask and butcher knife, comes back to Bradford and strikes again...

Matthew looks around, and suddenly seems terrified. He starts pointing at something.

MATTHEW

Oh, my God, there he is!!

Leah gasps, and looks too. Then, she looks at Matthew, upset. She hits him on the arm.

LEAH

That's not funny, you jerk!

MATTHEW

Hey! It was just a joke! Now, do you see how ridiculous you sound?! No one is out to get anyone, Leah. Ryan Anderson's dead, probably rotten out at this point, even.

Leah seems disgusted by Matthew's comment.

LEAH

Ew! And, you don't know that he's dead for sure, they never found his body.

MATTHEW

Oh, come on, Leah, you know that's just a legend. Come on, let's go.

They start walking away. Matthew puts his arm around Leah.

MATTHEW

And, besides, if there is a serial killer out there to get you, you know I'll protect you.

LEAH

Yeah, right!

MATTHEW

Hey, I'm tough!

Leah laughs.

11. EXT.: OUTSIDE - OTHER STREET

Leah and Matthew continue walking outside. Matthew stops in front of a narrow alley.

LEAH

What are you doing?

MATTHEW

Let's cut through there, it's a lot faster.

LEAH

Oh, hell no, I'm not going in there! Especially not at this time!

MATTHEW

Why not? Leah, this isn't New York City, there aren't any psychopaths lurking in alleys here!

LEAH

I'm not going in there, Matthew. You cut through there if you want, I'll take the other, *safe* way, thank you.

MATTHEW

Alright, fine. I'm gonna show you there's nothing to be afraid of.

Matthew steps into the alley and starts walking. Leah looks at him, nervous.

LEAH

Matthew, stop! Come back here, this is freaking me out!

He turns around.

MATTHEW

See, there's nothing in here, I told you! Now come on, this way is so much faster, I've done it hundreds of times!

Leah hesitates, scared.

MATTHEW

What? Are you scared Ryan Anderson's gonna get you?

Leah seems annoyed, and sighs before entering the alleyway. She joins Matthew and they start walking together.

MATTHEW

See, I told you there's nothing to be afraid of.

Leah looks around while walking, careful. Then, SOMETHING STARTS RUNNING ACROSS THE FLOOR. A MOUSE. Leah notices, and screams out in terror. Matthew looks down, and jumps.

MATTHEW

Calm down, it's just a mouse!

LEAH

Fuck, no! I'm out of here!

Leah walks away fast toward the street.

MATTHEW

No, Leah, come back!

LEAH

No way, Matthew!

Leah arrives on the sidewalk. She turns around, and looks at Matthew, standing in the middle of the alleyway.

LEAH

Come here, we're gonna take the other route!

Then, Leah's phone STARTS RINGING. She takes it out of her pocket, and looks at the ID. **UNKNOWN**. In the alleyway, Matthew sighs.

MATTHEW

All right, fine.

In the background, A FIGURE, HIDDEN BEHIND A BLUE RECYCLING BIN, STANDS UP AND STARTS WALKING TOWARD MATTHEW. Matthew doesn't notice, and continues walking as the hooded figure pulls out a KNIFE.

12. EXT.: LEAH

Leah answers the phone.

LEAH

Hello?!

No answer. Only strange noises in the background. Like someone walking.

LEAH

Hey, dumbass, you're not slick, I can hear you. Tell me who you are.

Still no answer.

LEAH

Look, I don't have the time or the energy for this. Ben, is that you?

13. EXT.: ALLEYWAY

The hooded figure approaches Matthew, who is still walking in the alley. Then, the man in all-black accidentally steps on the MOUSE from earlier, crushing it with a horrible sound, and a squeak from the mouse, as a small puddle of BLOOD forms.

MATTHEW

What the...

He turns around, and sees the HOODED FIGURE, A KNIFE IN HAND. He screams out in terror as the FIGURE CHARGES AT HIM.

14. EXT.: LEAH

Leah hears Matthew's horrifying scream through the phone, and jumps. Then, she turns around in shock and screams in pure terror.

15. EXT.: ALLEYWAY

The killer STABS Matthew a few times in the alleyway. He moans in pain as blood starts pouring out of his fresh wounds. Then, he lets out a deep, sharp, terrifying scream and starts spitting out blood.

Leah watches her friend being attacked, FROZEN. She cannot move, cannot breathe, mortified. The killer STABS Matthew one last time, this time deeper. He takes one final deep breath, and goes numb. The killer lets him fall on the floor, dead. Leah screams again, as tears start running down her face.

The killer looks up at her, and we can see they are wearing a black mesh mask exactly like Matthew described earlier. Leah looks at him, completely horror-stricken. Then, the killer turns around and walks away. Leah screams again and starts sobbing as she runs over to her friend.

LEAH

Matthew! MATTHEW!

She drops down on her knees in the alley next to her friend's DEAD BODY, as a puddle of BLOOD forms around him, touching her knees. She looks down at them and starts touching her friend. He isn't moving.

She manages to flip him around and sees his multiple stab wounds. His face frozen in terror, his eyes still wide open. She looks at him, still sobbing, and lets out the deepest, most horrifying SCREAM.

CUT TO BLACK.

16. EXT.: SERIES OPENING CREDITS

END OF TEASER.

ACT ONE**17. EXT.: LEAH - SLOW-MO**

Leah is running through the alley back to the street. It feels like time is frozen. Leah's sobs and labored breaths sound faint, overpowered by steady heartbeats, and an uncomfortable ringing noise.

CUT TO A BLACK SCREEN. All noise gone, complete silence.

Back to Leah running through the alley. All noises back. The ringing noise growing more aggravating.

BACK TO A BLACK SCREEN. Complete silence.

Back to Leah running through the alley. She is now close to the exit. The ringing noise and steady beats growing louder, aberrant.

BACK TO A BLACK SCREEN. Complete silence.

Back to Leah running. She is nearly out of the alley now, as the ringing noise grows even louder, unbearable.

18. EXT.: LEAH - SIDEWALK

Leah exits the alley and arrives on the sidewalk. She stops suddenly and looks all around her. Complete panic overcoming her body. She continues sobbing and starts running down the sidewalk.

19. EXT.: LEAH - RESTAURANT

Leah is still running down the street and stops. She is close to the restaurant where her and Matthew were eating earlier. *Safety*. She starts running towards it, even faster.

20. EXT-INT.: RESTAURANT

Leah runs towards the restaurant's GLASS DOOR. When she arrives, she starts violently banging on it. The restaurant is closed, no clients inside. No escape.

LEAH

Help! Help me, please!

Leah looks behind her, terrified, looking for the killer. Nowhere in sight. She turns back to the door. Inside, the WAITRESS from earlier is inside, and walks over to the door, confused.

LEAH

Please, let me in!

The waitress opens the door, and Leah enters in a hurry.

WAITRESS

What in the world is going on?!

Leah turns to the waitress. She seems to notice the blood on Leah's clothes.

WAITRESS (CONT'D)

Are you hurt, ma'am? Do you need us to call for help?

Leah looks down at herself.

LEAH

This isn't my blood... (PAUSE) My friend is dead! He was murdered, in the alley, right outside!

The waitress looks at her, shocked. *Oh, my God.*

WAITRESS

Oh, my God. Um, stay here, I'm calling the police, okay?

The waitress hurries behind the counter and picks up a cell phone. She dials **9-1-1**. Leah looks around and breaks down into tears of pure grief. It finally hit her. Matthew is dead. He isn't coming back.

21. EXT.: POLICE - MONTAGE

Police officers are in the alley. Faint siren noises. Examining everything.

Collecting a BLOOD SAMPLE.

The CORONER taking pictures of Matthew's DEAD BODY.

Other police cars arriving to the scene.

Blocking off the entry of the alley with yellow "**CRIME SCENE**" ribbon.

Matthew's body on a STRETCHER. A police officer zipping up the body bag over his frozen, cold, dead face.

22. EXT.: LEAH - INTERROGATION

Leah is standing in front of the restaurant, on the sidewalk. DETECTIVE MARTIN KING (mid 40s) is standing in front of her. Tall, imposing.

DETECTIVE KING

I need you to tell me everything that happened here tonight. Down to the very last detail.

LEAH

I really don't have a lot to tell you, Detective. It all happened so fast...

DETECTIVE KING

I must know everything you know.

Leah pauses for a moment and looks at him. Dry tears on her face.

LEAH

Well, we met up here at around nine PM, although I'd been here since about eight-thirty. He'd just come back from a two-week stay in Cuba, and we were both psyched to see each other again. We sat on the terrace, and had dinner.

Martin nods, and writes in his notepad as Leah continues talking.

LEAH (CONT'D)

So, then, once we were done, we left the restaurant and started walking together. We were gonna go to my house, and his parents were gonna pick him up there. So, we started walking and he stopped in front of that alley. He wanted to pass through there instead, saying it was much faster than going all around...

Leah pauses, and looks down the street where the alley is. Many police cars are parked in front of the alley, and a CORONER'S TRUCK. A few police officers pull out the STRETCHER from the alley, the BODY BAG on top. She notices, and seems shaken. Detective King notices, and pulls her aside, shielding her from the sight.

DETECTIVE KING

Let's talk over here - Continue.

LEAH

As I was saying, he wanted us to go through the alley. I didn't want to, but he kept telling me there was nothing to worry about. So, I went in with him, but then, I saw a mouse, and it freaked me out, so I ran out of there. Then, I heard a scream, and when I turned around, I saw him. He was stabbed to death, right before my eyes...

Leah sheds a single tear and looks at the Detective. He seems devastated.

DETECTIVE KING

I'm so sorry you had to see that, Leah.

Leah nods, and doesn't respond.

DETECTIVE KING

What happened next?

LEAH

I froze. I wanted to help him, *save him*, so bad, but I just stood there. I couldn't breathe, I couldn't *move...*

BEAT. Detective King seems to hesitate.

DETECTIVE KING

Did you get a good look at the killer?

LEAH

Well, no, at least, not at first. He was wearing all-black. But then, I started running toward Matthew's body, and I got a good look at him.

DETECTIVE KING

Did you see his face?

LEAH

That's the thing. He was wearing a mask, made of black mesh, just like the one Ryan Anderson wore 10 years ago!

Detective King seems shocked.

DETECTIVE KING

A black mesh mask?!

LEAH

Yes, I swear I saw it. He was there, right in front of me!

DETECTIVE KING

Are you sure?

LEAH

Yes, I'm sure! You don't believe me?! It was him!

DETECTIVE KING

No, I do believe you, but Ryan Anderson is dead, Leah. It wasn't him who killed your friend, but I promise, we *will* find out who did - Now, I've already called your parents, and they should be here any minute now. Do you have anything else to tell me? About Matthew, do you know anyone who could've possibly wanted to hurt him? Had he been acting weird these past few weeks?

LEAH

No, he seemed totally normal, and he was the sweetest guy ever, he'd never hurt a fly!

DETECTIVE KING

Alright, but did anything else happen before he died?

Leah seems to think and looks at him.

LEAH

Yes, something did. I think the killer called me, right before he died.

DETECTIVE KING

I'm sorry?

LEAH

Yes. Right before he was murdered, I got a weird phone call from an unknown number. All I could hear were these weird noises, but then, I heard Matthew's scream through the receiver.

DETECTIVE KING

Oh, My. Can I see your phone for a second?

Leah nods, and pulls out her phone. She gives it to Martin. In the Recent Calls page, there is a call from UNKNOWN at 23:01. He looks at it.

DETECTIVE KING

All right, well, we already have your phone number, so, I'll try to see if we can track the call. Again, I'm so terribly sorry for your loss.

Leah nods, teary eyed.

LEAH

Sir - Please, catch this killer.

DETECTIVE KING

We will, I promise.

23. EXT.: LEAH'S PARENTS

A CAR stops loudly at the other end of the street. A middle-aged woman (THERESE, late 40s) and man (HYRAM, late 40s) step out of the car and start running toward the restaurant, looking all around them. Looking for something. Their daughter.

THERESE

LEAH?! LEAH?!

HYRAM

LEAH!!

Leah sees them, and leaves Martin's side, and runs toward her parents. Her parents spot her.

THERESE

Leah...

Leah stops in front of them, and collapses into their arms. She starts crying uncontrollably, as her parents hold her. Inconsolable.

THERESE

It's okay, baby, we got you...

HYRAM

We're here, we're here...

Both of her parents are teary-eyed. Then, they look up and see Martin walking up to them. A strange, worried look crosses both their faces as Detective King stops in front of them.

DETECTIVE KING

Hi, before you go, I feel like it would be necessary for us to talk privately for a moment.

Her parents nod. Then, Leah gets back up on her feet.

HYRAM

Sweetie, go wait for us in the car, okay? We'll be there in a moment.

Leah nods, and wipes away her tears. She walks over to the car as her parents step aside with Martin. There is an awkward pause. They seem to recognize each other, but do not address it.

DETECTIVE KING

Matthew was murdered in the alley close to the restaurant. Leah is the only witness.

Leah's parents seem even more shocked.

THERESE

Oh, God, no, this can't be happening...

HYRAM

She saw everything?!

MARTIN

Yes, and, as you know, this will be a very difficult thing for her to process. I can refer you to some therapists that can help her deal with the trauma she just experienced.

THERESE

Oh, God, please, not again...

MARTIN

I know how hard this is. And, it won't just be hard for her, it'll be hard for you, too. But you need to stay strong, all of you, for her.

HYRAM

Yes, we will, sir.

MARTIN

If anything else comes up, please let me know as soon as possible. Here's my card -

Martin pulls a business card out of his pocket, and hands it to Leah's dad.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

Call me, anytime of the day.

HYRAM

Okay, we will.

MARTIN

Now, go be with your daughter, she needs you.

Leah's parents nod, but stay with the Detective. They seem to hesitate.

24. INT.: LEAH - CAR

Leah is sitting in the car, looking at her parents with the Officer. Their conversation is muffled. Inaudible. She is in the backseat. She opens her phone and looks at the lock screen. Her wallpaper is a selfie of her and MATTHEW. She looks at it and sheds another tear. She shuts off the phone.

He is gone. Forever.

25. INT.: LEAH - HOUSE

In Leah's living room, sitting on the couch, looking at her phone, is MEGAN (23), Leah's big sister. Cool, beautiful. The front door unlocks. She looks at it. Her parents and Leah walk into the house. She gets up in a hurry and walks over quickly.

MEGAN

What happened?! Why did you guys leave in a hurry? I was insanely worried!

The three others don't talk. Megan notices the blood on Leah's clothes. *Uh-oh*.

MEGAN

Oh, my God, Leah, what happened to you? Are you alright?!

Leah looks at her, tears running down her face. Megan walks over to her sister, but Leah dodges her and runs up the stairs, to her room, and shuts the door behind her. Megan looks at her parents in disbelief, and runs upstairs, too.

26. INT.: LEAH'S ROOM

Leah is on her bed, crying. *Pure grief*. The door swings open and Megan walks in. She immediately walks over and

sits next to Leah on her bed. She puts her arms around her little sister, and she starts bawling uncontrollably.

MEGAN

Leah, you're scaring me...

Leah looks up at Megan.

LEAH

It's Matthew... He was murdered in the alley next to *Caliente*... stabbed to death... I saw everything...

Megan seems completely shocked. She can't even answer.

MEGAN

Oh, my God, Leah, I...

Leah starts crying uncontrollably again as Megan holds her tighter, closer.

LEAH

It was awful...

Megan seems utterly disturbed. This isn't just grief and sadness. It's complete terror. She continues holding her sister, and starts stroking her hair, as her eyes start to water.

LEAH

So awful...

Megan continues holding Leah, as tears start running down her face.

This can't be happening again.

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF ACT ONE.

ACT TWO**27. INT.: KIDS AT SCHOOL**

We are at Bradford High School, it's been a few days since Matthew died, and everyone's still talking about it. We can hear many teenagers talking about his death: *Oh, My God, I can't believe it, it's crazy, it could've been us, etc.* as they pass by a big bench with five kids, MARK BAKER (16), ALEXANDER DUNCAN (16), JENNA FISHER (16), her boyfriend BEN MENDEL (16), and THOMAS REED (16).

JENNA

Leah's still not coming to school, is she?

A hint of sadness in her voice.

MARK

No, I don't think so. It's only been a week, she's not ready yet.

JENNA

Damn, I hope she's doing better...

Ben puts his arms around her.

BEN

I'm sure she is, and she'll be back soon, don't even worry.

JENNA

It's so awful, what happened to him. I just can't believe it...

THOMAS

I know, I can't imagine how she must be feeling, after seeing him like that...

ALEX

I know, it was her best friend...

MARK

Yeah, I just hope she's okay.

JENNA

Yes, we didn't know him that well, but I know how important he was to her...

BEN

Yeah...

They stop talking for a moment. All around them, people are talking. Whispering. Then, Jenna's phone starts ringing. She gets up, answers it, and walks away.

JENNA

Hello?

Jenna leaves. Then, Ben looks at his friends.

BEN

It's just... so eerie. To think there's a killer out there, she could've died too...

THOMAS

Yeah, everybody's freaked out. They're saying Ryan Anderson's back again to haunt the town...

ALEX

Wait, I thought Ryan Anderson was dead?

THOMAS

He is, it's just, there's this myth that his body was never found, and that he's still alive after this time, and he finally decided to strike again.

MARK

Why would someone make up something like that?

THOMAS

I have no idea; the whole thing is so crazy...

The boys continue talking as Jenna sits back down. Ben puts his arms around her.

ALEX

Yeah, it's fucked up. When it happened ten years ago, I remember how paranoid everyone was, and it's happening all over again...

BEN

Yeah, and did you hear about how Matthew died; he was stabbed five times!

The others seem mad.

JENNA

Shut up, Ben, that's not funny! He's dead, do you not even care?!

ALEX

Yeah, seriously dude, have some respect.

BEN

I never said it was funny, it's just... how can someone do that?!

MARK

You better not say anything like that in front of Leah, I'm serious.

BEN

I know, I know, I'm not an *idiot*.

THOMAS

(playful)

You're a *jerk*, though.

BEN

Hey!

Jenna seems to notice something, and looks at her friends.

JENNA

Ugh, look.

They look in the same direction as Jenna. Farther in the hallway is REBECCA GARRIS (16). Pretty, edgy. The popular-girl type. Next to her is JESSICA MASON (16). Classic mean-girl type. *Ugh*.

ALEX

Why are we looking at Rebecca?

Farther in the hallway, Rebecca tells Jessica something, and points in the other teenager's direction (INAUDIBLE). Then, Jessica walks away and Rebecca starts walking in their direction.

JENNA

What is she doing?

Rebecca starts walking up to them.

THOMAS

Why is she coming here?!

Rebecca arrives and stands in front of the bench awkwardly.

ALEX

Hey, Rebecca.

Rebecca looks at him, and smiles.

REBECCA

Hey guys, um, is Leah here?

MARK

No, she's not, and I don't think she's coming back to school for a while, why?

Rebecca looks at them, uncomfortable.

REBECCA

I just wanted to talk to her, and tell her that I'm so sorry about what happened to Matthew, and that - you know - I'm here, if she ever wants to reach out.

MARK

Okay, well, I'm passing by her house after school, to talk to her about everything, and I'll pass along the message, okay?

REBECCA

Okay, thank you.

She stands there for a moment, with everybody silent.

REBECCA

Well, okay, bye guys, I'll see you later.

ALEX

Bye, Rebecca.

JENNA

Yeah, see ya later.

She walks away. *Ouch.*

ALEX

Wow, that was a little harsh...

JENNA

Yeah, well...

They stay silent for a moment. Then, Mark gets up.

MARK

Well, I have to go, I'll catch you guys at lunch.

The others nod, and say goodbye. Mark walks away as the others stay on the bench. Then, we start hearing DETECTIVE KING'S VOICE as we cut hard to...

DETECTIVE KING (O.S)

Are you sure?

27. INT.: OFFICER KING - OFFICE

Detective King and DETECTIVE MOORE (early 30s) are talking in his office, at the police station.

DETECTIVE MOORE

Positive. We've tried all we can, the phone call was impossible to track. The killer probably made the call with a disposable cell phone.

DETECTIVE KING

Dammit...

Detective King sighs and presses a hand on his forehead.

DETECTIVE MOORE

But I want you to take a look at this.

Detective Moore is holding a YELLOW ENVELOPE. He hands it to Detective King. He picks it up and looks at it. It is labeled "**MATTHEW SAMPSON**".

DETECTIVE KING

Matthew's autopsy report?

DETECTIVE MOORE

Yes, I got it from the coroner's office this morning.

Detective King nods, and opens the file. The first page is the report. MATTHEW'S INFORMATION, DRAWING OF THE BODY, STAB WOUNDS. Detective King looks at it.

DETECTIVE KING

Stabbed five times, with a sharp object, suspected to be a knife, or perhaps a dagger - Exactly like Leah described.

DETECTIVE MOORE

Flip it over.

Detective King does as he is told. On the back, there is a section called "**NOTES**". Written in it is: *There are notable similarities between Matthew Sampson's murder and those of the victims of the Halloween Massacre, in 2008, committed by Ryan Anderson, in the same town as Matthew's murder was committed.*

DETECTIVE KING

There are notable similarities between Matthew Sampson's murder and those of the victims of the Halloween Massacre, in 2008, committed by Ryan Anderson, in the same town as Matthew's murder was committed - So, what you're saying that we should be worried about a copycat killer? That was my theory, too...

Detective Moore cuts him off.

DETECTIVE MOORE

Not exactly what I'm saying. Martin, what if...

DETECTIVE KING

No, Galen, that's impossible. *Ryan Anderson is dead.*

DETECTIVE MOORE

You know we don't know that for sure.

DETECTIVE KING

Yes, I know that for sure. I saw it with my own eyes. I know he couldn't have survived through the night with those wounds, let alone 10 years. So, yes, I know he is dead, even if we didn't find his stupid body...

Detective King seems upset. Then, he gets up, and leaves the office. *It was true, they never found his body.* NOT just a myth. Detective Moore sighs, and sets the file on his desk.

28. EXT.: MARK - SIDEWALK

Mark is walking on the sidewalk, holding a small brown bag and two iced coffees on a takeout tray.

(HE IS ON THE SAME STREET AS THE ALLEY WHERE MATTHEW WAS MURDERED.)

He walks around with wireless headphones in his ears. He passes by the alley, and a STRANGE NOISE is heard in there. He stops and takes out his headphones. He looks inside the alley. It is blocked off by a yellow "**CRIME SCENE**" ribbon. He looks inside. He seems dreadful. Complete silence, nothing except his sharp, shaky breathing. The silence suddenly sounds so... loud.

He stands there for a few moments, scared, and walks away rapidly.

29. EXT. MARK - LEAH'S HOUSE

Mark is on another street and stops in front of Leah's house. He walks up to the front door, and knocks. After a few moments, Leah opens the door, and smiles faintly. She seems exhausted, like she hasn't slept in days.

LEAH

Hey, Mark.

MARK

Hey, Leah. I brought you a coffee, and a donut.

LEAH

Aww, thank you!

She picks up the brown bag and drink.

MARK

You're welcome. I thought it could cheer you up.

Leah looks at him and smiles.

LEAH

Well, thank you, that's very sweet. Come in.

Mark nods, and enters the house.

30. INT.: LEAH AND MARK - LEAH'S HOUSE

Mark and Leah sit down on the couch. Close, but not too close. We sense a bit of hesitation from both of them.

MARK

So, how have you been holding up? We all really miss you!

LEAH

I mean, I haven't been doing great, but I'm a little better now. I know I haven't really been checking my messages, and I'm sorry, but I think it's been helping me to deal with this all on my own.

MARK

Oh, don't worry, we totally understand. But we're here for you if you need to talk, and I'm happy you're doing better. And I am so so sorry for what happened to Matthew, I can't even imagine how horrible it must've been...

LEAH

Thanks. When he died, I just felt so... destroyed. Like there was no way I could ever go on with my life after everything that went down. But the craziest thing happened.

MARK

What was it?

LEAH

Two days ago, I was taking off my clothes to get into the shower, and I forgot to lock the door. So, my mom walked in on me!

MARK

Oh, shit, really?!

LEAH

Yeah, she saw everything! It was so embarrassing!

MARK

Oh, my God, what did you do?!

LEAH

Well, I told her to get out and I locked the door as fast as I could. Then, I thought of how great it was gonna be when I get my own place in a few years, because something like that would never happen then - But then, I stopped myself. I was thinking about the future, and - more importantly, I was thinking about a version of my future where I was happy, and that's been helping a lot.

MARK

Wow, that's great, I'm really glad to hear you're doing better. Jenna, Ben, Thomas and Alex asked me to say they were sorry too, and that they're also here for you, if you need to talk.

LEAH

Okay, well, they'll be able to tell me in person, tomorrow.

Leah stands up, and Mark seems confused.

MARK

Tomorrow?

LEAH

Yes. I'm coming back to school.

MARK

Really? That's great!

LEAH

Yeah, I think it'll be good for me - you know, getting back to reality.

MARK

Great, well, we're all gonna be there to support you. And, by the way, Rebecca came by today.

Leah stops in her tracks.

LEAH

She did?

MARK

Yeah, she was looking for you. She said to tell you that she's sorry for your loss, and that she was here for you, if you ever wanted to reach out - I said I'd pass along the message.

Leah seems slightly uncomfortable.

LEAH

Wow, that must've been awkward...

MARK

Well, yeah, it kinda was. Are you gonna talk to her?

LEAH

I don't know...

(long pause).

But, anyway, I have to go to the bathroom really bad, I'll be back in a sec, okay?

Mark nods, and Leah walks away. He seems a little... disappointed.

31. EXT.: MARK - SIDEWALK

Mark is walking on the sidewalk of a residential street, after leaving LEAH'S HOUSE. It is nearly dark out. He looks around.

ding

Mark pulls out his phone. On the lock screen is a notification saying "**UNKNOWN: MESSAGE**". He seems confused, and unlocks the phone. He opens the *Messages* app, and reads the message from **UNKNOWN**.

It says: "**Matthew was my first. But, he certainly won't be my last...**"

Mark looks around him, terrified. *Was that... Matthew's killer?*

He starts walking faster. Suddenly, someone arrives fast from behind him and puts his hands on his shoulder.

Mark jumps and turns around, with a scream. He is shocked when he sees BEN behind him, laughing.

MARK

Ben, what the fuck?!

BEN

Gotcha!

MARK

What the hell is your problem?! This isn't funny!

BEN

Oh, come on, you have to admit that was pretty good!

MARK

No, you freaked the fuck out of me! There's a real-life killer out there!

BEN

I know, that's what makes it all the more fun! You know, for me, at least...

MARK

Are you the one that sent me that text?!

BEN

Yeah! It wouldn't have worked without it!

MARK

You're an ass.

BEN

I *am* aware of that.

Mark scoffs and walks away from his friend.

BEN

Oh, come on, don't leave me like that!

Mark continues walking away.

BEN

You break my heart, you know that?

Mark laughs and continues walking away. Ben looks at him and walks away too.

A PERSON DRESSED IN ALL BLACK HIDES BEHIND A HEDGE, STARING AT THEM.

Who would be his next?

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF ACT TWO.

ACT THREE**32. EXT.: GROUP - SCHOOL**

MARK, BEN, ALEX, THOMAS AND JENNA are hanging out on the lawn outside of their high school. They are all sitting on a big blanket with their backpacks, talking. It is morning.

THOMAS

Is she gonna be here soon?

MARK

Yeah, she's supposed to, she said she was coming to school today.

JENNA

Maybe she changed her mind...

BEN

Don't worry, I'm sure she'll be here soon.

Thomas opens his backpack and fumbles through it.

THOMAS

Hey, guys, check it.

The others look at him. They gasp as he pulls out a bag filled with JOINTS. He smiles.

JENNA

Thomas?!

He chuckles.

THOMAS

Nice right? Do you guys wanna light some up after school?

BEN

Totally!

Ben looks at the bag.

MARK

Thomas, what are you doing?! Put that away!

Mark looks around, nervous, as he reaches for the bag. Thomas puts them back in his backpack, as if it's nothing.

THOMAS

Why are you guys so stressed? Calm down, it's not like anyone will care anyway.

JENNA

You can't whip those out at school! If a teacher saw them, they could call the police and get you in deep trouble.

THOMAS

None of that's gonna happen, Jen!

As they continue talking, Alex looks around, and sees REBECCA, walking up to the school's ENTRANCE. He smiles, and waves at her. She notices him and does the same.

JENNA

Guys, she's here.

Alex turns around, as they all see LEAH walking on the sidewalk. They all get up from the blanket. Leah notices them, smiles, and starts walking up to them, at a faster pace.

LEAH

Hey, guys!

Jenna sticks her arms out and gives Leah a long, emotionally-charged hug.

JENNA

Leah, I am so sorry for what happened...

Leah nods, as they separate.

LEAH

Thanks, Jenna.

33. EXT.: REBECCA

Rebecca is standing outside the entrance, looking at the group. *With Leah.* She seems sad and walks into the school.

34. EXT.: GROUP

Alex and Leah hug.

ALEX

I'm so sorry, too.

LEAH

Thank you, Alex, it really means a lot.

They separate, and Thomas hugs her, too.

THOMAS

I'm sorry, Leah.

LEAH

Thanks, Thomas.

Then, Mark looks at her, and hugs her, too.

MARK

I'm really happy you're back now.

Her and Mark separate. Leah seems to be longing for something more.

LEAH

I'm happy to be back, too. I missed you guys a lot.

JENNA

Aww, we missed you too.

The others all agree.

BEN

Yeah.

THOMAS

Yeah.

MARK

We really did.

ALEX

Yes, we did.

Leah smiles.

JENNA

And we're here for you 100%, whatever you need.

LEAH

Thank you so much. You guys are the best.

The others smile. Jenna picks up her blanket as they start walking toward the school's entrance.

35.: INT.: REBECCA AND JESSICA

Rebecca is on her phone, leaning on a locker. Then, JESSICA joins her.

JESSICA

Hey, Rebecca!

REBECCA

Hey, Jess, what's up?

Jessica seems shocked.

JESSICA

Dude, *Leah Wilfrid's back in school!*

The mention of Leah seems to sting for Rebecca.

REBECCA

Yeah, I know, I saw her.

JESSICA

Her best friend straight up just *died*! Why is she coming back this early?!

REBECCA

I don't know, she *still* isn't talking to me.

JESSICA

Well, don't worry about it, she's a nutbag anyway.

REBECCA

Jessica, she's not a *NUTBAG*, her friend just passed away tragically, and she saw it all happen! You don't know how that feels, no one does. You don't know how you'd react. We all cope differently.

JESSICA

Yeah, but I know for damn sure it would take me more than a week to get over it!

REBECCA

She's probably not over it, she just - wants to get back to a normal life...

JESSICA

Well, I'm pretty sure her life won't be *normal* ever again.

REBECCA

Yeah, but that doesn't mean she shouldn't at least try to move on...

JESSICA

Poor thing. After seeing all that, she'll probably be fucked up for the rest of her life.

Rebecca seems annoyed at Jessica's comment.

REBECCA

Hey - Don't be so mean.

JESSICA

Oh, right, I forgot you used to be *gal-pals*. Anyway, come with? I gotta show you, I saw this chick wearing the *UGLIEST* dress I have ever seen in my life!

Jessica walks off. Rebecca reluctantly follows her, and sighs.

36.: INT - LEAH AND FRIENDS - HALLWAY

Leah and her friends are walking down a hallway in the school, with their backpacks. Everyone seems to be looking at Leah, and whispering. *I cannot believe she came to school today. What the hell? It's crazy, what happened to him...*

Leah seems uncomfortable, and Jenna puts her hand on Leah's shoulder. Leah turns around.

JENNA

Keep your head up high.

Leah nods, and continues walking. Then, she suddenly stops. Right next to her, is a LOCKER DECORATED WITH PHOTOS, FLOWERS AND NOTES. Leah looks at it, and the whole world seems to freeze. It is MATTHEW'S OLD LOCKER. Covered in photos of him with boys, and girls. Notes and poems

addressed to him, and flowers. Tears start to fill Leah's eyes as her friends look at her, concerned.

MARK

Leah, are you all right?

Leah doesn't look at her friends. *Don't cry at school, not in front of your friends, please...*

LEAH

Yeah, I'm fine, I have to go...

Leah starts walking away in a hurry.

JENNA

Leah...

LEAH

I'm okay, it's just... bathroom...

Leah enters the girl's bathroom, close by, in a hurry. The others look at her.

ALEX

Crap...

BEN

(to Jenna)

You should go in there, see if she's okay.

JENNA

No, I think she wants to be left alone. We'll talk to her when she gets out.

The others nod in agreement, as they stand in the middle of the hallway.

37.: INT.: LEAH - BATHROOM

Leah enters the girl's bathroom, and breaks down into tears. She wasn't ready for this...

REBECCA

(O.S - from stall)

Hello?

Leah stops, and swallows hard. *Crap.*

REBECCA

Are you all right?

Leah tries her hardest to keep her composure.

LEAH

I'm fine, I just...

REBECCA

Leah?

Rebecca opens the stall, and steps out. She sees Leah standing in the middle of the bathroom.

REBECCA

Oh, Leah...

Rebecca seems warm and compassionate. Leah still takes a step back when Rebecca tries to hug her.

REBECCA

Leah, I'm so sorry about what happened to Matthew. It's horrible, I can't even imagine it...

Leah doesn't respond but continues crying.

REBECCA

(CONT'D)

Did Mark talk to you about what I said?

LEAH

Yeah, he did.

REBECCA

Okay, well - It's true, you know. I know you've been avoiding me, and I don't blame you, but I am here for you, and I'd love it if things could go back to the way they were.

LEAH

Rebecca, *don't*. You know you can't use my friend's death as a way to pity your way back into my life like nothing happened.

Rebecca seems shocked.

REBECCA

I'm *NOT*! Leah, I just want...

LEAH

You hurt me, Rebecca! You hurt me really bad! You hurt all of us!

REBECCA

I know! I know I did, and I apologized time and time again! Why won't you forgive me?

Leah seems really upset and dries her tears.

LEAH

Oh, I forgive you. But I don't want you to be a part of my life anymore. Just - go be with your cooler friends and leave me alone.

Leah walks out of the bathroom. Rebecca stands alone.
Fuck.

38. INT.: OUTSIDE THE BATHROOM

Leah steps out of the bathroom. Her friends are all looking at her strangely. They heard it all.

THOMAS

Wow.

Leah looks at them.

LEAH

What? Guys, seriously, I'm okay.

They all nod without answering. Pretending they didn't hear her and Rebecca fighting.

MARK

Come on, let's go.

They all start walking away while Alex stays behind.

ALEX

I'll catch up with you guys later.

THE OTHERS

Alright.

THOMAS

I have to go to the bathroom, too, so...

The others nod as Thomas walks away. Alex stands next to the girl's bathroom. After a moment, Rebecca steps out of the bathroom.

ALEX

Hey...

She looks at him and tries to play it off.

REBECCA

Oh, hi!

They both start walking in the opposite direction as the group.

ALEX

You okay?

REBECCA

Yeah, I'm fine, don't worry. It's just...

ALEX

Yeah, I heard. That was way harsh, I'm sorry...

REBECCA

Oh, don't worry about it, it's not your fault. And, besides, I guess I deserved that.

ALEX

No, you didn't. You were just trying to help.

They continue walking without talking. Rebecca seems to hesitate.

REBECCA

Alex - Do you hate me?

Alex seems shocked.

ALEX

What?! No, of course not! Why would you think that?

REBECCA

Well, all the others do.

ALEX

No, I don't think they do. They just...

Alex trails off.

ALEX

(CONT'D)

I don't know.

REBECCA

I just want... for things to go back to the way they were. You know - Leah and I being friends, me being part of the group.

ALEX

Yeah, I understand. I'll talk to them, okay?

REBECCA

Okay...

Behind them, a voice calls out to Rebecca.

JESSICA

(O.S)

Rebecca!

She turns around. Jessica and three other girls (BECKY, LIVIA AND KATHERINE) are looking at them.

JESSICA

Come here!

Rebecca seems to hesitate, and looks at Alex.

REBECCA

Okay, well, I have to go. Thanks, Alex.

ALEX

No worries. I miss you a lot, and I want you to be part of our group, too.

They smile at each other.

LIVIA

Let's go!

Insistent. They both seem annoyed. Rebecca doesn't seem happy to see them.

REBECCA

(to Alex)

Alright, I'll see you later.

ALEX

Bye.

Rebecca walks away reluctantly. Alex looks at her as she leaves. He smiles and walks away.

39. INT.: THOMAS — BATHROOM

Thomas is walking through the hallway and enters the boys bathroom. He seems nervous.

40. INT.: THOMAS

Thomas enters the bathroom and looks at himself in the mirror. The audience suddenly notices as the focus is put on him that he doesn't look good. At all. Big, dark eyebags. He seems very sleep deprived. He looks all around him, nervous. *Trying not to be seen.* Then, he pulls out a plastic bag full of white pills and takes one. He takes a look at it, and we notice it is ecstasy. He looks around one last time, and swallows it without water, and looks at himself in the mirror.

41. INT.: LEAH, ALEX, THOMAS, JENNA — CLASS

Leah, Alex, Thomas and Jenna are sitting together in the back of the class. Jenna is in front of Leah, and next to Leah is Alex, and next to Jenna is Thomas. They're all talking. Leah is looking at a math problem involving the quadratic formula.

JENNA

I've tried everything. I can't figure it out.

LEAH

It's so easy, look! You already have everything you need; you just have to look. Once you figure it out, use the numbers you found and place them in the formula. Then, after that, use the number that gives you to find the missing y, and you're done.

Jenna looks at the problem, and squints.

JENNA

What? I don't get it...

LEAH

Oh, my God, look...

Leah seems exasperated. Then, a girl next to them turns to them, and shushes them. Jenna looks at her.

JENNA

What?! You shush!

The girl seems even more annoyed and turns to her paper. Leah tries to not burst out laughing. Then, Alex turns to them.

ALEX

I'm done, I can't do it either.

Leah turns to him.

LEAH

Oh, God, not you too...

Jenna and Alex laugh as Leah grabs her head with her hands, exasperated. Thomas seems light-headed. High.

THOMAS

I don't know about you guys, but I gave up understanding math a *loooong* time ago.

The others look at him and seems confused.

LEAH

Thomas... are you okay?

Thomas looks at her and widens his eyes.

THOMAS

What?! I'm *fineeee*.

JENNA

Are you high?!

THOMAS

Nooo...

ALEX

Dude, it's 10am.

LEAH

Yeah, and we're in class!

JENNA

What did you take?!

THOMAS

I didn't *take* anything, I'm not high!

LEAH

Thomas.

THOMAS

I swear, I didn't. *Just drop it.*

Thomas seems suddenly upset, and ashamed. The others seem uncomfortable and stop talking. After a moment, Alex says...

ALEX

Hey, um – I talked to Rebecca, after your little *bathroom incident...*

Jenna seems intrigued, while Leah acts disinterested.

LEAH

Really.

JENNA

What'd she say?

ALEX

Well, she acted like she was fine, but I could tell what you said really hurt her...

LEAH

Yeah, well, she'll get over it.

No sympathy. The others seem uncomfortable.

THOMAS

She really hurt you, huh?

LEAH

Well, yeah. She did.

ALEX

You know, I don't even understand what she did that was *so* horrible...

Leah turns to him and seems upset.

LEAH

Seriously, Alex? She was my best friend since elementary school. The girl I told everything to, the girl I trusted the most in the world; Then, suddenly, she starts being friends with my childhood bully! And then, as soon as *Jessica* came around and accepted her into her little *clique*, she totally dumped me! I was invisible to her from that moment on! In fact, she dumped all of us! I guess she was more important to me then I was to her...

Jenna and Alex silently agree.

LEAH
(CONT'D)

And you know what's worse? She thinks that she can just use Matthew's death as a way to suck up to me and become my friend again?! Isn't that disgusting?!

Alex jumps in.

ALEX

Well, I don't think that's what she's doing...

LEAH

Really?! I don't remember her being interested in being my friend again before he died!

ALEX

That's not true, she's been trying for a while now, you just haven't been receptive.

LEAH

Well, what does she expect me to do?! Does she just think I'm gonna be like *"Oh yeah, please become my friend again, and it's totally fine that you're still hanging out with the girl who made my life Hell all those years!"* Christ.

JENNA

Yeah, I'm with Leah on this.

ALEX

She told me she wants to be part of the group again, you know – like it used to be.

Jenna and Leah don't answer right away.

LEAH

Yeah, well – I'm not interested in being friends with someone who considers Jessica Mason a friend.

JENNA

Yeah, I agree.

Alex seems... disappointed. He sighs. Then, JENNA'S PHONE starts buzzing. She picks it up. She looks at it, and sighs, annoyed.

JENNA

Ugh...

LEAH

What?!

JENNA

Look at this.

She shows them her phone. On it is a news article from the "**Bradford Post**" with the title: **"Gruesome murder in Bradford: Is Ryan Anderson back?"**.

ALEX
(reading)

Gruesome murder in Bradford: Is Ryan Anderson back –
What the hell...

LEAH
Why can't they just let him rest in peace...

ALEX
I know...

JENNA
Wait – Who's Ryan Anderson?

The others seem stoked. *Is she kidding?*

LEAH
Wait – are you serious??
THOMAS
You don't know who Ryan Anderson is??

JENNA
No? Who is it? What did he do?!

ALEX
Ryan Anderson, the serial killer...

Jenna looks at them, still visibly confused.

ALEX
You know – That guy who killed a bunch of kids who
went to Evergreen High, ten years ago?!

Jenna seems to realize.

JENNA
Ohhhh, right... Well, why are they saying he's back?!
I thought that dude was dead.

LEAH
He *is* dead. It's just that, the guy who killed
Matthew was wearing a black mask with mesh on it,
and Ryan was wearing the same costume when he
committed his murders back then.

Jenna seems shocked.

JENNA
Shit, really?? I didn't know that...

THOMAS
Me neither.

LEAH
Yeah, I didn't feel like talking about it. And plus,
there's this "rumor" going around saying that he
didn't actually die that night, and that he's back.

JENNA
Wow.

(long pause)

Wait, but like – why *did* he kill all those people?
What was his motive?

ALEX

No one knows. But the thing is, the killings weren't random, he was targeting kids that were all part of the same friend group. Apparently, he had some kind of syndrome, and he was deformed. He was bullied a lot. And rumor has it that he started killing because he started having feelings for a girl, and she rejected him, and he didn't take it so well...

JENNA

Shit... All that, because a girl didn't wanna date him?

ALEX

Yeah, then he dragged her and all her friends to that creepy, old, abandoned building on 20th street and stabbed them all to death. The craziest part is that they were all only like, 13 or 14 years old...

JENNA

Jesus... So, he killed that girl first, and then killed all her friends?

ALEX

Actually, *no*. He didn't kill the girl. He tried to, but the cops shot him down at the very last moment.

Jenna seems even more stoked.

JENNA

What?! So, that girl is still alive?

ALEX

Yeah, I guess so, people call her the *final girl*.

JENNA

Final girl?

ALEX

Yeah.

THOMAS

You know, like in horror movies. The last girl standing, the sole survivor.

JENNA

Oh, right. Who is she?

ALEX

No one knows. We don't know where she is, either. She just kinda – disappeared.

LEAH

You know, my sister used to go to Evergreen when it happened. I remember, she was very shaken up about it. I think she knew one of the girls who died, and it really messed her up for a while.

JENNA

Shit, that's heavy...

LEAH

Yeah, I know. Eventually, it got so bad that she had to switch schools. I guess it was just... too much for her to handle.

The others seem shocked. They don't speak for a moment.

LEAH

Let me see the article.

Jenna hands Leah her phone. Leah starts looking at it. She scrolls for a minute and stops. On the screen, after a paragraph of text, is a grainy, low-quality image of a TEENAGE BOY.

RYAN ANDERSON.

Leah continues staring at the photo and seems freaked out. but continues staring at the photo. His face is severely deformed, almost like a... monster. Haunting.

CLOSE UP OF RYAN'S FACE.

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF ACT THREE.

ACT FOUR**40. EXT.: GANG – FRONT OF SCHOOL**

Leah, Mark, Jenna, Ben, Alex and Thomas all step out of the school, and start walking toward the sidewalk.

THOMAS

That's ridiculous!

BEN

Why?! It's totally possible!

THOMAS

It's impossible. Two people can't be friends if one has a crush on the other!

BEN

Yes, they can! If the other person has made it clear they're not interested, I don't see the problem. Especially if the two people are close!

THOMAS

That's even worse, it totally ruins the friendship dynamic!

As Thomas and Ben continue talking, Leah looks at Mark. He turns his head, and looks at her, too. Then, he looks down. He seems uncomfortable. Leah seems sad, and looks down, too.

BEN

Listen, Thomas, it's not ruined unless you let it get ruined!

Thomas scoffs.

BEN

What? It's true!

THOMAS

Doesn't work that way, but sure.

BEN

Sure, it does!

THOMAS

Sure, buddy. Anyway, I want boba. Do you guys wanna go after dinner?

MARK

BEN

JENNA

Sure.

Yeah.

I'm down.

THOMAS

Great. Leah, you in?

Leah looks at him.

LEAH

No, I can't. Sorry, I really gotta catch up on my studies, since I missed almost two weeks.

The others don't answer and seem uncomfortable.

THOMAS

Oh, that's okay, no worries!

LEAH

Okay.

They reach the sidewalk and continue talking.

BEN

I'm telling you, Thomas, it can work!

THOMAS

No, it can't!

JENNA

We're still on this?! Really?!

The others laugh, as we cut to...

41. INT.: LEAH — HOUSE

Leah opens the front door of her house, and steps inside.

LEAH

Hey, I'm home!

Leah's parents get up from the couch and walk up to her as she hangs her windbreaker on a hook.

THERESE

Hey, how was your first day back at school?

LEAH

It went well. It was nice to finally get back to the real world, and I really missed my friends.

THERESE

Oh, that's nice, honey!

Leah smiles at her parents.

HYRAM

Did anything... bad happen? Did someone say something?

LEAH

No, dad.

HYRAM

Are you sure?

LEAH

Yes, everything went okay, I promise.

HYRAM

Okay, good.

Then, Leah starts walking away. Her parents look at her. Then, Megan walks down the stairs and stands in the doorway.

MEGAN
Hey, Leah?
LEAH
Yeah?
MEGAN
I'm craving ice cream right now. Wanna go out for a drive?
LEAH
Yeah, sure!
THERESE
Um, Megan?
MEGAN
What?
THERESE
Ice cream before dinner?
MEGAN
Yeah, because I'm an adult, and I can do whatever I want. And I wanna spend time with my little sister.

Leah's mom sighs.

THERESE
Alright, fine. Your father and I are going out to eat tonight. Don't be out too late!
MEGAN
Yeah, yeah. Leah, let's go.

Leah grabs her jacket, and they both step out of the house.

42. INT.: REBECCA AND HER FRIENDS

Rebecca, Livia, Jessica, Becky and Katherine are hanging out in Jessica's bedroom. Pink and white, with a huge bed, LED lights, pictures on the wall of her and her friends.

KATHERINE
Don't worry about her.
REBECCA
I know, but it just... sucks. She's going through something traumatic, and I wanna be there for her, and she's not letting me...
LIVIA
Well, yeah, what she's going through is horrible, I agree, but it doesn't give her the right to talk to you like that. All you did was be nice to her!
KATHERINE
Exactly! I get that she's mad at you, but you apologized so many times, and tried so hard to get her to forgive you. At this point, you can't do anything more than that. It's her loss.
JESSICA
Totally. She's being such a bitch; I don't even understand why you continue trying...

REBECCA

Hey, she's not a bitch.

JESSICA

Sorry.

BECKY

Listen, Rebecca. I get that you guys were really close once, but you don't deserve to be treated like that. I'm telling you, you're better off without her.

Rebecca doesn't answer and seems sad. Then, Livia, looking at her phone, starts snickering.

LIVIA

Oh, my God, guys, look at what *Krystal* just posted!

The others (EXCEPT REBECCA) look at the phone and they all start laughing.

BECKY

Oh, hell no!

JESSICA

That's so bad, oh my God...

They continue laughing.

JESSICA

Shit, guys, now I gotta comment pretending she looks nice...

Rebecca looks at them and seems annoyed. She rolls her eyes and turns away. *Are these really my friends?*

JESSICA

(typing)

You look so pretty, babe...

43. INT.: MEGAN AND LEAH – CAR

Leah is sitting alone in the car, listening to the radio. Megan walks into the car with two ice cream cones.

MEGAN

There you go!

LEAH

Oh, thanks, Megan.

MEGAN

You're welcome.

They both start eating. After a moment, Megan turns down the volume.

MEGAN

So, how are you? You went to school today, that's a big step, I'm proud of you.

LEAH

Thanks, and I'm feeling better.

MEGAN

That's good. Mom and Dad were so worried, but you're strong. I knew you'd be okay.

Leah smiles at her sister. Megan smiles back.

LEAH

Hey, do you have a new funny college story for me?

MEGAN

Oh, I actually do have one! Today, during one of my classes, my professor was showing us a slideshow on the board as he was talking, and he accidentally put a picture of a woman wearing underwear – in the slideshow!

They both start laughing.

LEAH

Oh, my God! Really?!

MEGAN

Yes, and nobody said anything at first, the room just went silent! After a while, he noticed something was wrong, and...

44. INT.: LEAH – CAR – SLOW-MO

Leah suddenly stops laughing and seems uneasy. Saddened. Megan doesn't notice and continues laughing. Megan's voice echoes away until we cannot hear her talk anymore. Leah is overcome by a wave of sadness so intense that she starts shedding multiple tears, before breaking down.

45. INT.: LEAH AND MEGAN

Megan turns to her sister, and her mood brutally changes.

MEGAN

Oh, no, Leah...

LEAH

I'm sorry, it's just...

MEGAN

Come here...

Megan hugs her sister tightly. Leah continues crying.

MEGAN

It's okay, it's okay...

LEAH

I'm not dealing with this...

MEGAN

I know, I know, it's okay...

They continue hugging for a moment. Leah sits back in her seat, wipes her tears and sniffs.

LEAH

I can't process this. I keep thinking "this can't be real, Matthew can't be dead, I must be dreaming". The memory of that night, him being stabbed in the alley by that guy, it just keeps replaying in my mind non-stop. Every time I close my eyes, I see him, lying on the ground, covered in blood...

Megan seems saddened and worried for her sister.

MEGAN

I know, it's horrible, I'm so sorry that happened to you...

LEAH

And now, Matthew is just... gone. Forever. We don't know who did it, we don't even know *why*...

Leah stops talking and wipes fresh tears from her face.

LEAH (CONT'D)

I just keep wondering why. Why him? He never hurt anyone in his life!

MEGAN

I know, I know...

Megan hugs her sister again.

LEAH

Why him...

They stop hugging and Megan looks at her sister.

MEGAN

I promise you, the fucker who did this to him *will* be caught, and Matthew *will* get the justice he deserves.

Leah doesn't answer and wipes her tears again. Leah seems to hesitate for a moment and starts talking.

LEAH

How did you get through it?

Megan seems confused.

MEGAN

What?

LEAH

Well, you knew one of the girls who was killed by Ryan Anderson in 2008, right? I remember, you were devastated. So much that you had to switch schools!

Megan seems stoked and doesn't respond.

LEAH (CONT'D)

What did you do to move on?

MEGAN

Leah, I...

LEAH

I can't even believe how hard it must've been for that girl, who survived and lost all her friends...

Megan stops talking. She seems scared.

LEAH

Did you know her? Who was she?

MEGAN

Leah, I really don't wanna talk about this...

LEAH

Meg, I know it's difficult for you to talk about, just like it's hard for me to talk about Matthew, but I really need your help...

MEGAN

Leah, stop...

LEAH

Please, just...

MEGAN

No, Leah, stop!

End of discussion. Leah seems shocked and confused.

Megan sits back in her seat, and looks out the window, into her side mirror. In the reflection is a PERSON DRESSED IN ALL-BLACK standing in the middle of the parking lot.

He's wearing the SAME MASK as MATTHEW'S KILLER, AND RYAN ANDERSON.

Megan screams. Leah jumps and turns to her. Megan unbuckles her seat belt and opens the car door.

LEAH

Megan?!

45. EXT.: LEAH AND MEGAN

Megan steps out of the car and looks around frantically. Leah steps out of the car, too.

The killer is gone.

Leah seems confused. Megan continues to look around frantically.

LEAH

What the hell was that?!

Megan looks at her sister.

MEGAN

I thought... I thought I...

LEAH

What is it?

MEGAN

I thought I saw...

LEAH

Saw what?

Megan doesn't answer for a moment, then turns to Leah.

MEGAN

Never mind, it was nothing.

LEAH

Then why did you *scream*?

MEGAN

Don't worry, it was nothing.

Leah seems puzzled. *Doubtful*.

MEGAN

(CONT'D)

We should go back home. Come on, get in the car.

Leah still seems confused but does as she is told anyway. Megan looks around, one last time, still deeply terrified, but trying to hide it. She swallows hard.

Was that really... *him*?

CUT-TO-BLACK.

END OF ACT FOUR.

ACT FIVE**46. INT.: MEGAN AND LEAH - HOME**

Megan opens the front door and both girls step into the house.

MEGAN

What do you wanna eat for dinner? Do you wanna order a pizza?

LEAH

Um, I'm not really hungry right now. But you can order one, and save me a few slices, and I'll eat them later tonight.

MEGAN

Alright, I'll do that.

Megan enters the kitchen and picks up a flyer on the counter. It is a menu to a pizzeria called "**Bradford Pizza**". Leah starts going up the stairs. Megan turns to her.

MEGAN

Leah?

LEAH

Yeah?

MEGAN

I'm sorry I snapped at you before. It's just... talking about that - brings back a lot of bad memories.

LEAH

Oh, don't worry, I understand.

MEGAN

Okay...

Leah continues up the stairs.

MEGAN

But I am there for you, if you need me...

Leah stops and looks at her.

LEAH

I know, thanks Megan.

Leah walks up the rest of the stairs. Megan sighs. She seems sad.

47. EXT.: GROUP - PARKING LOT

Mark, Ben, Alex, Jenna and Thomas are all sitting together on the sidewalk in front of the boba tea shop. They are sitting in front of an empty parking lot. They are all passing each other a lit joint, each taking a drag.

MARK

I'm worried about Leah.

JENNA

I know, me too...

BEN

Yeah, especially after what happened today, when she saw Matthew's locker...

THOMAS

Maybe she wasn't ready to come back just yet...

JENNA

Yeah, I think so, too...

Ben takes a hit of the joint and turns to Jenna. He passes her the joint.

BEN

Did you talk to her about it?

JENNA

I tried to, but she kept dodging my questions. She just said stuff like "*I'm fine, it was just a moment of weakness*" and all that. I guess she didn't wanna tell me how she's really feeling...

ALEX

It just... sucks. We're trying to be there for her, and she won't let us.

MARK

Hey, don't be so hard on her. We don't know what she's going through, we don't know what it feels like. None of us do.

ALEX

I know, I wasn't trying to be rude, I just meant that I wished we could help her, you know...

MARK

I know, I wish I could help her, too.

The others silently agree. Then, Ben looks at Mark.

BEN

Okay, seriously, what are you guys doing?

Mark looks at him.

MARK

What?

BEN

You and Leah!

MARK

What about me and Leah?

BEN

Why don't you just get together already!

MARK

What?

The others look at him.

ALEX

Oh, come on, we all know you're into her!

MARK

What?! How do you know that?!

ALEX

Because it's so obvious! Every time we hang out, you're always talking to her, you're always trying to be with her, you guys text, like, every second of the day!

BEN

Plus, we've seen the way you look at her. Not really subtle, man.

JENNA

Yeah, and I'm sure she's into you, too.

Mark looks at her.

MARK

No, I don't think she is.

ALEX

Of course, she is! She does the same with you! So, why don't you just shoot your shot?

MARK

Well, for one, she could *totally* reject me. And besides, Matthew just died, the timing isn't right...

THOMAS

Yeah, you're right. You should probably wait a little.

The others nod in agreement. They are interrupted by a strange noise in the parking lot, like a knife. They all turn their heads toward the parking lot. They seem freaked out.

JENNA

What the hell was that?!

BEN

I don't know...

Then, Jenna gasps. Ben looks at her.

BEN

What is it??

JENNA

Look...

They look in the empty parking lot again. A PERSON DRESSED IN ALL BLACK IS STANDING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PARKING LOT.

Ben gets up.

BEN

Hey! Hey, you!

The others seem scared.

JENNA

Ben, what are you doing?!

Ben starts walking fast toward the person, who is still standing in the middle of the empty parking lot.

MARK

Ben, stop!

The killer pulls out a knife of his black jacket. They are still standing in the middle of the parking lot. They all stop walking, terrified.

MARK

Oh my God, you guys...

JENNA

Is that...

BEN

Hey! You think you scare me, you piece of shit?!

He starts walking up to the killer again, who runs away suddenly. The killer runs across the parking lot. Ben runs after him.

JENNA

Ben!

The killer is now out of sight. Ben stops, and looks around frantically, horrified.

BEN

What the fuck...

48. INT.: LEAH — ROOM

Leah is sitting at her desk, writing things on a paper. A bunch of school supplies and schoolbooks on her desk. She's listening to music in her headphones. Suddenly, someone rings the doorbell. Leah looks at her open door.

LEAH

(loud)

Megan! Someone's at the door!

No response from her sister. Then, the doorbell rings again. Leah sighs, takes out her headphones, gets up and leaves the room.

49. INT.: LEAH — FRONT DOOR

Leah walks down the stairs and looks through the peep-hole on the front door. No one is out there. Leah slowly opens the door and looks outside. No one is around anywhere in the neighborhood. She steps out on the porch and notices a package on the porch. She picks it up and seems confused. It is addressed to **LEAH**. She gets back inside the house.

50. INT.: LEAH — HOUSE

Leah arrives inside. Megan is standing in the hallway.

MEGAN

Who was it?

LEAH

I don't know. No one was there when I opened the door, but someone dropped this off.

She shows her sister the **LEAH** package.

MEGAN

What the heck...

Leah walks through the hallway and enters the kitchen. She takes a knife out of the drawer.

She sets the package on the counter, and opens it with the knife, as Megan looks over her shoulder. Leah gasps, and steps back when she sees there is **BLOOD** inside the package.

MEGAN

Oh, my God...

Leah looks inside the package, and sticks her hand inside. She pulls out a piece of paper. A **NOTE**. She unfolds it. On it, is written "**KEEP YOUR FRIENDS CLOSE**".

MEGAN

What the fuck...

LEAH

Oh, my God... Oh, my God!

Leah drops the note on the counter and runs out of the house.

MEGAN

Leah?!

Megan seems to hesitate and runs out after her.

51. EXT.: FRIENDS — PARKING LOT

All the friends are standing in the middle of the parking lot. They're all freaking out. The panic is settling in, and the pot is not helping.

JENNA

Oh, my God! Was that Matthew's killer?!

BEN

I don't know...

ALEX

We should get out of here...

JENNA

How?! None of us have a car, and there's no way I'm walking home after that!

BEN

Yeah, me neither.

MARK

Well, then, what should we do?!

BEN

Call your parents and try to get a ride.

THOMAS

You guys are all acting crazy! I'm sure it was just a dude playing a fucked-up prank!

JENNA

Well, what if it wasn't?! There's a real killer running around out there!

ALEX

Of course it was a prank! Why else would he run away as soon as I went for him! Wouldn't the killer have attacked us?

THOMAS

Exactly, it was just a prank! You guys need to chill...

Suddenly, a strange, shooting noise. Then, a STABBING NOISE. The others turn around, and notice Thomas has an ARROW STICKING OUT OF HIS SHOULDER, AND BLOOD IS POURING OUT. The others gasp in terror. Jenna screams in horror as Thomas screams too, in pain and terror.

MARK

Oh, my God, Thomas!!

THOMAS

He shot me...

Thomas collapses on the ground.

BEN

Thomas!

The others drop down on their knees next to Thomas, who on the floor, unconscious. They're all panicking and looking around in terror.

BEN

Thomas! Thomas, wake up!!

JENNA

Thomas!!

MARK

Call an ambulance!

Jenna pulls out her phone and dials 9-1-1. Mark gets up and looks in the direction where the ARROW came from. There is no one.

52. EXT.: LEAH AND MEGAN – PARKING LOT

A car drives through the parking lot at a high speed, and parks in the middle. Leah and Megan step out of the car and run toward the others.

LEAH

Oh, My God, Thomas!

Leah runs toward him. She gets down next to the others.

LEAH

What happened to him?!!

MARK

He was shot, look!

Leah notices the arrow.

LEAH

Is that an arrow?!

MARK

Yes, I think the killer maybe used a crossbow, or something! And now, he won't wake up!

Leah starts shaking him vigorously.

LEAH

Thomas! Thomas, wake up!!

Thomas doesn't wake up. Then, Leah looks at her hands. They are covered in THOMAS'S BLOOD. Behind them, Jenna is on the phone with the police.

Leah continues shaking him, and the bag full of MDMA pills falls out of his pocket. The others all seem shocked.

LEAH

Holy shit...

MARK

What the fuck...

BEN

Get rid of that!

Mark picks up the bag and puts it in his pocket. He looks around, making sure no one saw him.

JENNA

Send an ambulance, please!

(PAUSE)

He's unconscious!!

(PAUSE)

He was shot, with an arrow!

(PAUSE)

He's bleeding a lot!

Suddenly, LEAH'S PHONE STARTS RINGING. The caller ID says "**UNKNOWN**". Leah seems terrified. She gets up and answers it.

LEAH

Hello?! You need to help us!

A deep, gravelly voice answers.

MAN'S VOICE

[O.S)

Hello, Leah.

LEAH

Help us, please! Our friend was...

MAN'S VOICE

(O.S)

I can't help you.

LEAH

What?! Who is this?!

MAN'S VOICE

(O.S)

Wow, I got your friend pretty bad, huh?

Leah seems terrified.

LEAH

What?!

The others look at her, shocked.

MAN'S VOICE

(O.S)

Oh, come on! You didn't think I was gonna stop with Matthew, right?

LEAH

You killed him...

MAN'S VOICE

(O.S)

Yes, Leah. And that was just the beginning!

LEAH

Who is this?!

MAN'S VOICE

(O.S)

I can't tell you that yet. But what I can tell you, is that there's a lot more to come. Like I said, keep your friends close. See you soon.

The call cuts. Leah looks at her friends, tears in her eyes. Then, she drops down to her knees again, and starts shaking Thomas aggressively. *She doesn't have time to deal with this right now.*

LEAH

Thomas, Thomas!! Wake up, please!!

Megan is standing behind them, frozen in fear. Tears in her eyes.

We start to hear Detective Moore's voice off-screen as we cut to...

DETECTIVE MOORE

(O.S)

Do you think Leah knows?

53. INT.: OFFICER KING AND CORONER — HALLWAY

They're standing in the hallway, talking.

DETECTIVE KING

No, she doesn't. Her parents told me she doesn't, and they don't want her to know.

DETECTIVE MOORE

But we need to tell her about it, and we need to talk to her sister!

DETECTIVE KING

No, Galen, we don't. We need to respect her privacy. Besides, we don't have enough information to make any assumptions right now.

DETECTIVE MOORE

Yes, we do! The killer was wearing the same mask as Ryan Anderson wore when he killed Matthew! Even if it isn't him behind the mask, even if it is just a copycat killer, it's obvious that he's gonna go after her, given her history...

54. INT.: MEGAN

Back to Megan. She is crying in the parking lot, looking at her sister and her friends, as the faint sound of POLICE SIRENS starts to fill the cold, silent air. After a moment, Detective Moore speaks again (O.S).

DETECTIVE MOORE

(O.S)

You know who she is, Martin! She was there that night! She survived it all...

Megan's eyes continue to fill with tears as the audience realizes *she is the FINAL GIRL. And she's still haunted.*

CUT TO BLACK.

55. SERIES END CREDITS

THE END.

On the next MANIAC...

Season 1, Episode 2: Ripper

After Thomas's attack, Megan's secrets threaten to spill out; Leah and Rebecca's relationship deteriorates; An old friend of the gang comes back to town; A new murder is committed and leads to a shocking discovery.