

PSYCHotherapist

by
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FADE IN:

SUPER: TWENTY YEARS AGO

EXT. TALL BUILDING - DAY

Gray skies. A bleak, soulless block of concrete.

Slumped on a ledge, a SURFER DUDE, his hair and clothes dripping wet fiddles with a lighter as he stares at a crumpled photo of himself and a 'hot' babe smiling.

Next to him, an empty can of gasoline.

EXT. LEDGE - MOMENTS LATER

As the liquid drips off the boy's hair and bounces on to the photo, the images begin to distort then fade in to a glob of nothingness.

ON THE SIDEWALK, BELOW

A heavily pregnant woman, LINDA JEFFRIES, 30, clutches her lower back as she waddles along the sidewalk. She keeps a watchful eye on her son TOMMY JEFFRIES, 9, as he practises his soccer skills with an orange colored ball.

TOMMY

Watch this mom.

She smiles at his impressive ball control.

Linda watches as Tommy edges closer to the kerb, oblivious to the approaching car.

LINDA

Sweetie be careful.

Tommy moves away. Linda relaxes.

TOMMY

Look how high I can kick it mom.

Tommy gives the ball an almighty kick. It soars through the air.

He gazes up. A gamut of expressions quickly envelope his innocent little face --

Admiration ... Confusion ... sheer abject horror.

Seeing the terror on Tommy's face, Linda instinctively glances skyward --

An orange ball of flames plummets towards her.

She lets out an ear piercing scream.

LINDA

Aaargh!

Thud!

EXT. SIDEWALK - CONTINUOUS

Linda is out cold. The Surfer dude, engulfed in flames, pins her to the floor.

Tommy races over to her.

TOMMY

Mommy! Mommy! Mommy!

EXT. SIDEWALK - MOMENTS LATER

Linda begins to wake. She groans softly. Dazed, she tries to get up. Unable to move - she looks to see why.

Linda's POV -- A mass of burning human flesh writhes in agony on top of her huge bump.

LINDA

My baby! My baby! Somebody help me...

She flays at the Surfer dude and the scorching flames as they burn through her clothes to her soft skin.

Linda looks up at her young son with desperate, pleading eyes.

LINDA

Tommy! Help me! Help meeee...

Tommy froze with fear stays rooted to the spot.

Linda holds out her outstretched arm - burnt beyond recognition.

LINDA

Tommyyyyyyyyyy.....

SUPER: PRESENT DAY

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY

Stunning scenery. Pine trees for as far as the eye can see. A camper van winds up the long, twisting road.

INSIDE THE CAMPER VAN

Five suicidal TEENAGERS sit quietly. Three guys:

SKATER BOY a 'dude with tude'.

BLADE, tough and fearless but with a hint of vulnerability.

BULLET, the joker of the pack.

And two girls:

AQUA, self esteem issues.

POISON, hates her mom for hating her.

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - MOMENTS LATER

The camper van swerves to avoid a raccoon.

INSIDE THE CAMPER VAN - CONTINUOUS

Blade is thrown forward, almost lands in Aqua's lap. He makes the most of it. His hands all over her.

AQUA

Hey!

BLADE

Sorry 'bout that.

(Cheesy grin)

Hi, I'm Blade.

He leans back down in his seat.

AQUA

I'm Jessic...

BLADE

No, man. Not you're real name.

We're not supposed to use them remember? Just the name they gave you.

Blade holds up his name badge. It reads: BLADE

BLADE

See.

AQUA

Oh.

(Holds up her name badge)

Aqua. It's Aqua.

A Long pause.

AQUA (CONT'D)
So why'd they call you Bl--

Blade rolls up his sleeves reveals ugly scarring across both wrists.

AQUA (CONT'D)
--ade?
(re: the scars)
Ouch!

Blade smiles.

AQUA (CONT'D)
Think I'll stick to swimming
with my mouth open.

Everyone except the skater boy laughs. Bullet holds up his name badge.

BULLET
I'm Bullet.

He rolls up his trouser leg, reveals an ugly scar on his right knee. Blade and Aqua look puzzled. Bullet smiles.

Poison holds up her name badge.

POISON
I'm poison. Just ask my mom.

BULLET
When you say poison..?

POISON
Bleach... You know. The one that
says it kills 99% of all known
germs dead... Guess I'm the 1%.
Lucky ol' me.

Poison wipes away a tear. Aqua hands her a handkerchief.

POISON
Thanks.

Bullet shouts over to the skater boy who is sat on his own.

BULLET
Hey, man. What's your name?

The skater boy ignores him. Bullet shrugs. Blade glares at him.

BLADE
Pussy.

BULLET

Now that's a helluva way to go...
Death by pussy.

Blade and Bullet slap five.

BLADE

Amen to that.

EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY

The sun beams down on the camper van as it reaches the top of the winding road.

INSIDE THE CAMPER VAN

BULLET

So what d'you know about this place anyways?

AQUA

Not much. Therapist that runs it lost his mom to a jumper when he was a kid... Dedicated his life to saving suicidal kids.

BLADE

That's fucked up... Pity the fool that so much as touches a hair on my momma's head, time I'm finished with them.

POISON

Me. I'd give them a medal.

EXT. CAMP HOPE - LATE AFTERNOON

A wooden sign reads: CAMP HOPE. Scattered somewhat randomly are several cabins and in the centre a large lodge.

A beautiful lake with crystal clear water runs alongside the camp.

Wild mustangs drink from a trough on the edge of the woods.

INSIDE THE CAMPER VAN

Bullet looks out the window at the lake.

BULLET

(to Aqua)

Sure hope you brought a change of clothes!

INT. LODGE - DAY

A large, uncluttered room. A row of five empty chairs near the front, each with a name card on the seat.

A tall, powerfully built man with kind eyes, square jaw and hands as big as shovels looks deep in thought as he stares out of the window at the still waters. The door opens. A NURSE, late-thirties enters.

NURSE
 Doctor Jeffries... Tom...
 Tommy...

DOCTOR JEFFRIES
 Huh?

NURSE
 They're here.

DOCTOR JEFFRIES nods.

INT. LODGE - LATER

The nurse shows Blade, Bullet, Aqua and Poison in. The skater boy is missing.

Bullet limps heavily as he enters the lodge.

NURSE
 (points to the back)
 Your stuff goes over there.
 (Holds out a bag)
 Your cell phones in here.
 (Points to chairs)
 And your butts go there.

They take off their backpacks. Drop their cell phones in to the bag. Then amble to the front and slowly take the seat that has their name card on it. Blade sees 'Felix' written on the name card on the empty chair.

BLADE
 Shit, man. I told you that dude
 was a pussy.

NURSE
 'cept this cat's only got two
 lives left.

FELIX/ THE SKATER BOY (O.S.)
 It's one... Just don't like to
 brag.

BLADE
 Shit. Did I just hear that pussy
 meow?!

The others spin round. Felix bounces in. His face full of attitude as he plops down in the empty chair.

POISON

Eight attempts. Wow.

BULLET

Respect

Aqua flashes Felix a smile. Blade's face is consumed with jealousy.

Doctor Jeffries looks Felix up and down.

DOCTOR JEFFRIES

You're late.

FELIX

So shoot me.

The others snigger.

DOCTOR JEFFRIES

I'll leave that to you. Maybe you'll have more luck with a bullet.

Felix looks at him in disbelief.

BLADE

Shit. This dude ain't like any therapist I ever seen.

The others nod.

DOCTOR JEFFRIES

(to Felix)

I see you're travelling light.

FELIX

Yeah. I'm gonna be checking out soon... Real soon. Won't need it where I'm heading.

The rest of the group cheer him.

BLADE

I'm beginning to like this guy.

Aqua gazes at Felix.

AQUA

Me too.

DOCTOR JEFFRIES
 (to Felix)
 Let me get you a map for your
 journey. Make sure you don't come
 to a dead end.

Doctor Jeffries signals to the nurse.

INT. LODGE - MOMENTS LATER

The nurse wheels in what appears to be a dead body on a
 stretcher.

POISON
 Oh my God. Please tell me that
 isn't what I thi...

Doctor Jeffries whips back a white sheet to reveal the
 rotting corpse of a young man.

DOCTOR JEFFRIES
 This is Jacob. As you can see he
 'checked out' some time ago...

Doctor Jeffries grabs the dead boy's head and turns it to
 reveal that half his face has been blown away.

DOCTOR JEFFRIES (CONT'D)
 ... Used a 12 gauge to get where
 he was goin'... Ended up in a
 place called Limbo.

FELIX
 Jeez. Your methods really work
 huh?

DOCTOR JEFFRIES
 This fool's not one of mine.
 Truth is, I've never lost a
SINGLE SOUL.

Aqua retches.

AQUA
 The smell. I think I'm gonna
 be...

She throws her hand over her mouth. Manages to keep it in.

INT. LODGE - CONTINUOUS

Doctor Jeffries looks long and hard at the group.

DOCTOR JEFFRIES
 Take a good look guys...

Poison shakes her head. The others, apart from Felix, are too shocked to react.

FELIX

Least the guy's found peace.

Doctor Jeffries whips back the sheet to reveal maggots and various other horrible creepy crawlies devouring Jacob's rotting torso.

DOCTOR JEFFRIES

These guys all found peace too...

Doctor Jeffries holds up Jacob's maggot infested internal organs.

DOCTOR JEFFRIES (CONT'D)

A piece of his liver. A piece of his heart...

An earthworm slithers out of what is left of Jacob's right nostril.

Aqua balks only this time the contents of her stomach win the battle and end up all over the floor.

DOCTOR JEFFRIES (CONT'D)

Make sure you clean that up.

Embarrassed, Aqua turns to Poison.

AQUA

Don't suppose you packed any of that bleach you like so much?

Poison shakes her head. Uh-uh.

INT. LODGE - MOMENTS LATER

His point made, Doctor Jeffries casually tosses Jacob's liver back. Plop! It lands on what's left of his face.

FELIX

Christ, man. Have you no respect?

Doctor Jeffries looks heavenwards, then shakes his head in disbelief.

DOCTOR JEFFRIES

You still don't get it do you?
It's just a corpse. An empty shell. A vessel...

Doctor Jeffries glares at Felix as he throws the dead boy's heart like a basket ball. Plop!

It lands in his chest cavity. Doctor Jeffries punches the air like he just scored a basket.

DOCTOR JEFFRIES (CONT'D)
 ... What's left of him is stuck
 in limbo for all eternity with
 all the other tormented souls--

BLADE
 Why'd he do it?

Enraged, Doctor Jeffries screams at him...

DOCTOR JEFFRIES
 It doesn't matter why he did it.
 He's DEAD!

Doctor Jeffries looks in to Blade's eyes.

DOCTOR JEFFRIES (CONT'D)
 Who cares if you found the love
 of your life in bed with your
 best friend...

Blade's entire body tenses. Doctor Jeffries turns to Bullet.

DOCTOR JEFFRIES (CONT'D)
 Or that your daddy can't handle
 the fact that you like guys.

Bullet looks down at the floor.

DOCTOR JEFFRIES (CONT'D)
 ... Or your Mom's never loved
 you. Never will...

Poison's lower lip trembles. Doctor Jeffries glares at Felix.

DOCTOR JEFFRIES (CONT'D)
 ... Or your only living male
 relative sodomized you everyday
 and twice on Sundays 'til you
 were big enough and strong enough
 to make him stop.

Felix looks away. Ashamed. Blade cringes.

BLADE
 Shit.

Aqua grabs hold of Felix's hand.

DOCTOR JEFFRIES
 Get over it. Deal with it. Do
 whatever it is you have to...
 (MORE)

DOCTOR JEFFRIES (cont'd)
But don't use it as some sort of
an excuse to end up like Jacob
here.

Doctor Jeffries clasps his huge hands together.

DOCTOR JEFFRIES (CONT'D)
Do not. I beg you. Let what
another human being has done to
you, make you do that to
yourself...

Doctor Jeffries clenches his fists.

DOCTOR JEFFRIES (CONT'D)
You've let them bastards control
your lives... Don't let them
control your deaths too.

BLADE
Amen to that

Doctor Jeffries leaves.

The group are shell shocked. A long pause.

BULLET
That was um...

AQUA
Different?

Blade and Poison nod. Felix gives them a 'I can't believe
you're buying this crap' look.

INT. LODGE - MOMENTS LATER

AQUA
So what do we do now?

The nurse wheels in another stretcher.

BLADE
Enough already.

She whips off the sheet to reveal several six-packs of
beer.

NURSE
You get to live a little.

EXT. CAMP HOPE - NIGHT

A full moon. Felix, Blade, Bullet and Aqua are sat round the camp fire, toasting marshmallows, drinking beer.

BLADE

Makes you think though, huh?
Seeing that kid like that.

FELIX

That's what he wants. You, me,
us... to... to...
(swigs his beer)
Never lost a single soul huh?
Well, we'll soon see about that.

Aqua looks anxious.

BLADE

(laughs)
Shit, man. The way he was looking
at ya I thought he was gonna kill
you himself. Save you the job.

FELIX

Asshole's more screwed up than
his patients... er, not that you
guys are screwed up or anything.

BULLET

God, no. We're all just perfectly
normal guys who just happen to
want to kill ourselves in the
most gruesome ways imaginable...
Nothing wrong in that.

Aqua takes a swig of her beer.

AQUA

Yeah. Perfectly normal.

They all crack up.

BLADE

(to Bullet)
No offence man, but shooting
yourself in the kneecap ain't
that gruesome. Seems to me you
were just looking for some
attention.

An uncomfortable silence.

BULLET

Dude, I never pulled the trigger.
It was a cop... Course I had a
knife across his partner's throat
at the time.

Blade and Aqua look at each other as if to say 'how does that count as attempted suicide'?

Felix smiles.

FELIX

Death by cop.

Bullet Nods.

BULLET

Cop got a commendation and I got a permanent limp.

POISON (O.C.)

Hey, look what I found.

Poison grins. Holds up the board game 'Clue'.

INT. DOCTOR JEFFRIES'S OFFICE - LATER

Doctor Jeffries writes up his notes.

AQUA

I'm worried about Felix. I think he's going to...

Doctor Jeffries stops writing. Sighs.

DOCTOR JEFFRIES

It's okay. I'll take care of him.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Felix, Blade, Bullet and Poison are sat in a circle on the floor playing 'Clue'.

Aqua enters. Sits down opposite Felix.

BLADE

(to Aqua)

Girl, you're just in time to see my weapon. All you gotta do is ask.

AQUA

Sorry dawg.

(Smiles at Felix)

I only like pussy...
So why don't you be a good boy
and use that weapon of yours
where it was intended and go and
find a street light somewheres.

Blade snarls at her. Aqua shrugs. The others laugh.

BLADE
I'm gonna get me another beer.

INT KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Blade grabs a beer from the refrigerator.

INT. CABIN - SAME TIME

Aqua rolls the dice. Heads for the 'Library' on the board game. She turns and smiles at Felix.

AQUA
Time to show me what you got.

Felix grins, flashes Aqua one of his cards without the others seeing.

AQUA (CONT'D)
I've got it! I've got it! I know
who the killer is!

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Blade stands in front of a mirror on the wall. Admires his reflection.

BLADE
Dumb bitch. All that pussy's
gonna do is make you purr... Me,
I'd make you howl!

He howls like a wolf. Then bares his teeth GGGrrrr...

Doctor Jeffries reflection suddenly appears in the mirror.

Blade almost jumps out of his skin. Relaxes when he realizes who it is.

BLADE (CONT'D)
Shit, man. You tryin' to give me
a heart attack or what?

Doctor Jeffries smiles. Quick as a flash he throws his hand across Blade's mouth, and makes a thrusting motion with his other hand. Suddenly the tip of a Machete bursts out of Blade's abdomen.

Blade looks down in disbelief at the huge blade protruding from his stomach.

INT. CABIN, LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Aqua squeals with excitement as she reveals the killer's identity and modus operandi

AQUA
It was Miss Scarlet. In the
Library. With the...

Blade staggers in to the living room, the machete still sticking out of his stomach.

AQUA
... AAAAAHHHHH!!!

Poison screams. Felix and Bullet jump back about ten feet.

FELIX
Shit.

BULLET
What the fuck?

Blade slowly drops to his knees, then falls down dead, the machete still embedded in his lifeless body. Aqua and Poison are hysterical.

Doctor Jeffries bursts in to the room brandishing a gun.

Felix lunges at him. They struggle. Felix somehow knocks the gun out of his hand.

Enraged, Doctor Jeffries picks him up by the throat and launches him across the room.

Crash! Felix lands on the dinner table. Crockery shatters in to a million pieces.

Felix lies there motionless as Doctor Jeffries stoops down to pick up the gun.

Felix struggles to his feet. Jeffries aims the gun at him and slowly pulls the trigger. Nothing.

The safety is on--

Felix yells.

FELIX
Run!

Bullet gives him a look.

Bullet
Easy for you to say.

Felix grabs Aqua's hand and dashes out of the door. Poison is right behind them.

EXT. CAMP HOPE - NIGHT

Bullet hops like a demented, one-legged bunny to the next cabin.

BULLET

Last one there's a homo.

Felix, Aqua and Poison quickly pass him.

Bullet glances back over his shoulder.

Bullet's POV -- Doctor Jeffries crouched on one knee, gun in hand. He takes careful aim at Bullet.

Bullet screams.

BULLET

No.

BLAM. BLAM. BLAM. BLAM. BLAM. BLAM.

Bullet's chest explodes like popcorn out of a pan as the bullets strafe him. He hops a little further. Then slumps face down in the mud.

EXT. SECOND CABIN - CONTINUOUS

Felix pushes Aqua and Poison through the door. Then scrambles inside after them.

INT. SECOND CABIN - MOMENTS LATER

Felix's hands tremble as he hurriedly bolts the door.

INT. SECOND CABIN - CONTINUOUS

Aqua and Poison cling to each other as Felix shakes his head in disbelief.

FELIX

That crazy bastard. He's trying to kill us to avenge his mom.

AQUA

Our souls... He's trying to save our souls.

FELIX

What by butchering us?!

AQUA

Think about it. If he kills us before we do, its not suicide. Our souls aren't stuck in limbo.

POISON
'I've never lost a single soul'.
That's what he said.

FELIX
This is fucked up.

POISON
I need a drink.

She opens the refrigerator, takes out an almost empty bottle of Jack Daniels and takes a big swig.

INT. SECOND CABIN - MOMENTS LATER

Felix paces up and down.

FELIX
Think. Goddamn it. Think.

He suddenly has an idea.

FELIX (CONT'D)
The Lodge. Our cell's are there.
We can call for help.

POISON
And then what? There's no cops
for a hundred miles.

AQUA
There's a boat on the lake. We
could row out to the middle and
wait until help comes.

POISON
Good idea.

Aqua and Poison hi-five.

FELIX
No. You stay away from the water.
D'you hear?

Aqua gives him a look.

FELIX (CONT'D)
Think about it. Blade's dead from
a blade. Bullet's dead from a
bullet... Last thing you need to
be doing is going near the water.

Poison drains the last of the Jack Daniels.

POISON
I still think it's a good id...

Poison suddenly projectile vomits. Her eyes are filled with terror as she looks at the bottle of Jack Daniels, then keels over dead. White foam oozes out of her mouth.

Felix and Aqua look on in horror.

EXT. SECOND CABIN - CONTINUOUS

Doctor Jeffries has pure menace in his eye as he pounds on the door.

DOCTOR JEFFRIES
Let me in. Let me in--

INSIDE THE SECOND CABIN - SAME TIME

Aqua grabs hold of Felix.

AQUA
Your eight attempts. They all the same or different?

DOCTOR JEFFRIES (O.S.)
Or I'll huff and I'll puff--

FELIX
Different. 'bout the only thing I haven't tried is cutting myself... Can't stand the sight of blood. Especially my own.

OUTSIDE THE SECOND CABIN - CONTINUOUS

Doctor Jeffries has a Molotov cocktail in his hand and a demonic grin on his face.

DOCTOR JEFFRIES
And I'll burn your house down.

Felix sees Doctor Jeffries 'light' the petrol bomb through the window.

INT. SECOND CABIN - CONTINUOUS

FELIX
Run!

EXT. SECOND CABIN - MOMENTS LATER

Felix and Aqua burst out of the door holding hands and dash towards the woods.

Doctor Jeffries hurls the petrol bomb at them.

Whoosh! It soars through the night sky then plummets to earth like a meteorite.

Boom!

The cocktail of carnage explodes a few feet away from Felix and Aqua--

Felix's trouser leg ignites. He screams. Beats the flames out with his bare hands--

Doctor Jeffries close on their heels.

Felix stumbles over an exposed tree root, falls. Aqua stops.

FELIX

Run... Run!

Aqua goes back for him. Grabs his hand. Pulls him up.

Doctor Jeffries gains on them. Touching distance. He grabs Aqua by the hair. She screams. He pulls her back then throws her down.

Felix charges at Doctor Jeffries.

Doctor Jeffries picks a snapped tree branch up off the floor. Thwack! He knocks Felix out cold.

EXT. WOODS - LATER

Doctor Jeffries forces Aqua's head in to the same trough the mustangs were drinking from earlier. She struggles to break free. Fights for her life--

--Felix still out cold.

EXT. WOODS - MOMENTS LATER

Felix wakes. Sees Aqua drowned in the water trough. He screams.

FELIX

No.

We hear a twig snap. Felix turns, sees Doctor Jeffries stood with the blood stained machete in his hand. Pure evil in his eyes.

Doctor Jeffries slowly licks the blood off the lethal blade and moves towards Felix.

Felix throws up his hands. Cowers.

FELIX (CONT'D)
Don't kill me. Please. No.

Doctor Jeffries strides towards him. Felix sobs. Begs for his life.

FELIX (CONT'D)
No. Please. No. I don't wanna die!

Doctor Jeffries trips over the same tree root Felix stumbled over. Seeing his chance, Felix scrambles to his feet. Runs. Runs. Runs. Never once looking back.

Doctor Jeffries watches him go.

NURSE (O.S.)
D'you think he'll make it?

Doctor Jeffries spins round.

DOCTOR JEFFRIES
I sure hope so.
(Smiles)
Besides, I've never lost a 'single soul' remember?

Suddenly, Aqua stands up! Smiles.

AQUA
Sure saved me.

BULLET (O.S.)
You saved us all.

Doctor Jeffries smiles as the other 'victims' Blade, Bullet and Poison join them.

Blade throws his arm around Doctor Jeffries.

BULLET
Doc, you're the man.

They head back to the camp. Aqua shivers.

AQUA
Can I be Poison next time? That water's frickin' freezing.

BLADE
Girl, you should try wearing this Goddamn contraption... Talk about uncomfortable.

He takes off his 'prop' a heavy, padded vest, pushes a small button and the tip and handle of the spring-loaded machete retract back inside the vest.

BULLET

Or try lying facedown in cold,
wet, disgusting mud for hours.

He is covered head to toe in mud. Aqua suddenly grabs the
gun from Doctor Jeffries's waistband. Aims it at Blade.

AQUA

Go to hell.

Blam. Blam. Blam.

Blade rolls his eyes. The bullets are blanks - The gun,
like everything else, is just a prop!

DOCTOR JEFFRIES

Guys. Guys. Enough.

AQUA

Whatever.

Aqua shudders. Her teeth chatter.

AQUA (CONT'D)

Next time I'm bringing a frickin'
wet suit!

FADE OUT

,