Watching

Ву

Stephen Brown

FADE IN:

EXT. DERELICT HOUSE - NIGHT

Rain from a starless sky pelts an overgrown, expansive garden.

The sound of DIGGING.

SUPER:

THE FOLLOWING IS BASED ON A TRUE STORY.

A flash of LIGHTNING illuminates a shovel breaking the surface of dirt. Leather-gloved hands hold the handle, strong forearms...

SUPER:

ALTHOUGH NO-ONE WAS BROUGHT TO JUSTICE FOR THE CRIMES COMMITTED...

Another FLASH illuminates a huge building with boarded up windows and doors.

SUPER:

... VIDEO EVIDENCE FOUND AT THE CRIME SCENE SHOWS THE HORRIFIC EVENTS OF OCTOBER 31ST 2009.

A decapitated HEAD is thrown into a hole in the ground. In the b.g. a MASKED MAN walks towards the house.

INT. DERELICT HOUSE, BEDROOM - NIGHT

Black. Only the sound of a distant female SCREAM. Bloodcurdling.

The moldy, rotting room comes into view as RYAN (late 20s) opens his eyes.

Ryan lies on a dusty, Victorian four-poster bed. The SCREAMS continue. Louder.

Ryan sits up, eyes squinted in confusion, as he searches for the source of the noise. HIDDEN CAMERA P.O.V. - B&W

Ryan swings his legs out of bed to stand but --

BACK TO SCENE

His bloody, brutally battered kneecaps crumble and Ryan crashes to the floor.

His face winces in pain as he holds his knees.

RYAN

...Hello!

Those SCREAMS again.

Panic now in Ryan's eyes - what the FUCK is going on?

He glances down at his kneecaps and screws up his face.

INT. DERELICT HOUSE, BASEMENT - NIGHT

SAMANTHA (mid 30s) lies tied to a bench. Her once pretty face is smeared with blood. Her once pretty eyes are distorted by terror.

The Masked Man stands over her. Head tilted as he watches. He holds a rusted axe in his hands.

Behind him, a camera watches the scene.

The Masked Man raises the axe...

Samantha's mouth opens to...

INT. DERELICT HOUSE, STAIRWAY - NIGHT

...SCREAM -

SAMANTHA

Help!

Ryan lies on his front at the top of the stairs, looking down.

RYAN

Hello! Can you hear me? Where are you?

Nothing.

Ryan takes another look down the stairs - they don't look steady. Don't look steady at all.

He raises himself up by the banister with both hands. Sweat drips from his brow at the exertion.

Ryan places one tentative foot on the stair --

He falls... hard. Hits every step before he crashes on the wooden floor of the --

HALLWAY

Ryan can see an open door that leads to the outside world. It's the final thing he sees before everything goes...

BLACK.

INT. DERELICT HOUSE, BASEMENT - NIGHT

The Masked Man, wide crazy eyes the only 'human' element visible, stares at -

Ryan lies on the floor. The Masked Man, squatted down with his face inches from Ryan's. Ryan SCREAMS as he wakes.

The Masked Man lets out a LAUGH and rises to his feet. Walks over to -

Samantha lies unconscious on the bench. Her left arm has been hacked off and lies on the floor below her. Blood still pours from the wound.

The Masked Man looks at the camera on the wall. He talks as if he was born deaf.

MASKED MAN

Whaa now?

He tilts his head, as if listening to the camera.

WHISPERS. Barely audible.

The Masked Man LAUGHS again and shakes his head. Walks over to Samantha and slaps her cheek. No reaction. Again, harder.

Samantha's eyes flutter open. As soon as she sees him she SCREAMS. Screams as if the nightmare in her head stared back at her.

Ryan watches with wide, terrified eyes.

The sound of the axe on flesh and bone. SCREAMS, like a wild animal being tortured. Ryan averts his eyes. Tears well in them.

HIDDEN CAMERA P.O.V. - B&W

The Masked Man, his back to the camera, raises the axe again. Crashes it down on Samantha's thigh.

BACK TO SCENE

Ryan glances up some rickety, old, wooden stairs to the door out of the basement. He seems to contemplate the possible escape route when...

Another sickening sound from the axe. A THUD on the ground follows soon after.

Ryan's stares in disbelief at -

Samantha's decapitated head stares back at him from the floor. The Masked Man's leather-gloved hand snatches it up by the hair.

Ryan and The Masked Man's eyes meet. Both seem frozen for the briefest of moments...

... The Masked Man LAUGHS and climbs the stairs. Walks out the door.

Ryan breathes hard. Panic and shock setting in.

His eyes dart around the room. For another possible escape route maybe until his gaze falls on the camera. He crawls towards it.

Ryan SCREAMS into the lens of the camera.

LATER

The camera smashed on the floor.

Ryan lies next to it. Asleep.

His eyes flash open at the sound of a CAR ENGINE.

He crawls as fast as possible to the wall. Bangs on it with his fists.

RYAN

Hello!

He bangs harder.

RYAN

Can you hear me!? Hello!!

And harder.

EXT. DERELICT HOUSE, DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

The headlights go off on a beat-up car.

The driver's door opens. Heavy boots hit the ground, splashing a deep puddle.

A leather-gloved hand holds a mask as the person walks to the back of the car.

Opens the trunk...

The Masked Man stares inside at JOSH (mid 20s), unconscious and tied up.

He reaches inside and picks him up with ease. Puts him over his shoulder. Carries him towards the house.

INT. DERELICT HOUSE, BASEMENT - NIGHT

Ryan still pounds on the wall. The balls of his fists now covered in blood. Smears of blood on the wall.

RYAN

What the fuck do you want from me!?

The door behind Ryan opens and The Masked Man walks inside. On a mission. Eyes focused.

Ryan pounds harder and harder on the wall. Screams.

The Masked Man watches...

He lunges forward and lifts Ryan onto his shoulder.

INT. DERELICT HOUSE, BEDROOM - NIGHT

Josh wakes up in the same four-poster bed. His hand immediately goes to his head, as if hungover.

Distant SCREAMS.

Josh glances to the doorway.

INT. DERELICT HOUSE, BASEMENT - NIGHT

Ryan's face caught in a SCREAM.

He lies on the same bench as the girl did.

The Masked Man bends down towards Ryan's ear.

MASKED MAN

Ask... for help! Scream... for help!

Ryan, defiance in his eyes, shakes his head.

The Masked Man's eyes dart to the smashed up camera, now lying in a neat pile in a corner of the room, and GRUNTS.

He raises the axe and runs the blade gently along Ryan's cheek. Down his chest.

MASKED MAN

You... scream... FOR HELP!

He raises the axe with both hands and pounds it down towards Ryan's shoulder.

EXT. DERELICT HOUSE - NIGHT

Lightning FLASHES in the sky. Thunder ROARS.

RYAN (O.S.)

Help! Help me, fucking help me!!

Rain pounds the already sodden surface of weeds and mud.

SUPER:

NOBODY KNOWS WHY THE KILLINGS STARTED THAT NIGHT, OR WHY THEY STOPPED OR MORE IMPORTANTLY, IF THEY'LL START AGAIN...

FADE OUT.