

CABIN FEVER

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EXT. WOODS -- DAY

Thick, dense woods in a secluded mountain. We slowly start to move in, deeper into the brush, until we come to a MAKESHIFT SHACK. The shack is patched together with an odd assortment of plywood and rusted metal. In front of the shack a DOG lies on its side. The dog appears to be asleep.

A shadowed figure emerges from the woods. As he comes into the light we see it's a HERMIT. The Hermit holds a dead animal in one hand, and a bloody trap in the other.

HERMIT

Hey, boy.

No response from the dog, though its eyes are open. The Hermit waves the dead animal in front of the dog's nose. The dog still does not move.

The Hermit shakes the dog, gently at first, then a bit more roughly. He puts down the trap and rolls the dog over.

The dog splits apart like an open faced sandwich. We hear CRACKING and POPPING sounds as blood squirts across the Hermit's terrified face. The hermit, in horror, opens his mouth to scream and we

CUT TO:

EXT. JEEP -- DAY

A CLOSE UP of a girl's mouth screaming.

We move back to reveal that the mouth belongs to Marcy, 22, who screams at the top of her lungs, laughing.

MARCY

Whooooooo! No more fucking college!
Freedom!

We pull back a little further and see that Marcy rides shotgun in a Jeep that is stopped at a red light. Marcy leans out the window, yelling at someone we cannot see.

MARCY (CONT'D)

Don't do it. Don't go to college-
it's a fucking scam! It sucks!
Spend your parents' money on drugs!
Higher education's horse shit! Listen
to me! I know! I know!

We see that Marcy's yelling at TWO CHILDREN, age six, who stand by their banana seat bikes, drinking slush puppies.

The light turns green and the Jeep takes off. JEFF, a clean cut pre-law type in his early 20's, yanks Marcy back into the car and drives away.

EXT. ROAD -- DAY

Marcy playfully hits Jeff, who both tickles her and drives at the same time. Marcy is the type of girl who never had much trouble attracting men. Especially Jeff.

MARCY

Aaaaahhh! Quit it, you're gonna crash us.

JEFF

Come on, the toll's coming up. I think I dropped it...right...here...

Jeff reaches between Marcy's legs, laughing. PAUL sits in the back seat, squished between BERT and KAREN, all in their early 20's. Paul is a good looking guy, but not nearly aggressive enough to have gotten laid much in college. On one side of Paul, Karen sleeps with her head on his shoulder. She holds a map in her hands.

On Paul's other side, Bert plays a Gameboy. He has a goatee and wears a baseball hat low over his eyes. There are cheese doodle crumbs on his shirt. Had Bert gone to college, he surely would have been in a fraternity.

EXT. HIGHWAY -- DAY

The Jeep leaves a city. The kids drive through a suburb, then past a corn field. They are soon in the middle of nowhere.

MARCY

Hey Bert, you got any more smokes?

BERT

Nope.

Bert nudges Paul and shows him a full pack of cigarettes. Bert giggles to himself. Paul turns away and looks out the window.

PAUL

That's great, Bert.

The Jeep changes lanes and passes a very slow man on a motorcycle. Paul waves to the man, who gives him a thumb's up. Farms fly by.

Marcy begins to slyly walk her fingers up Jeff's thigh. Jeff pretends not to notice.

Once Marcy's fingers are just about to reach Jeff's crotch he quickly grabs them and kisses them. Paul watches closely.

Paul looks at Karen, who's still asleep on his shoulder. He puts his arm around her, and she snuggles a bit closer. Paul smiles and closes his eyes. Seconds later Paul wakes up when Bert rests his head on Paul's other shoulder, obviously mocking him.

EXT. HIGHWAY -- DAY

The Jeep exits off the highway and heads down a road.

EXT. ROAD -- DAY

The Jeep drives on a single lane road, surrounded by woods. Off in the distance they see a general store.

EXT. CADWELL'S GENERAL STORE -- DAY

The Jeep pulls into the gravel parking lot of CADWELL'S, a general store right out of a Countrytime Lemonade commercial.

Outside the store a SMALL BOY silently rocks on an old porch swing. He holds a soda between his legs. He couldn't be more than seven or eight. This is DENNIS.

The five kids lumber out of the Jeep, stretching. The swing CREAKS.

MARCY

Commere.

Marcy grabs Jeff and squeezes him hard. She picks him up off the ground, cracking his back. Bert and Karen light up cigarettes. Paul saunters up to the swing and sits next to Dennis.

PAUL

Put 'er there, sport!

Paul extends his hand. Dennis does not respond.

PAUL (CONT'D)

What's the matter, cat got your tongue?

Out of nowhere, the boy CHOMPS into Paul's hand like a rat trap. Paul struggles to get his hand free, but Dennis holds tight. Paul wants desperately to hit the kid, but he can't bring himself to.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Aaaaahhh! Christ!!!

A MAN wearing a soiled apron comes running out of the store and grabs the boy.

MAN

Dennis! Goddammit Dennis, no!

The man SWATS Dennis in the back of the head with a SOUP CAN. At once Dennis lets go and starts crying. Paul jumps off the swing, blood running down his hand.

PAUL

Dammit- ahh...it's...it's not his fault, don't hit him.

MAN

Everybody knows not to sit next to Dennis. That mongrel'll give you tetanus.

PAUL

Maybe you should make a sign.

MAN

There's a stream around back if you want to wash your hand. I'll get you a towel.

Paul leaves to wash his hand.

JEFF

Hey pal, you think it's a smart idea to leave your kid out here knowing he's a danger to people?

MAN

Just what are you saying, exactly?

JEFF

I'm just saying that for legal reasons, if such an incident were to bring about a lawsuit, you may be held-

MAN

I don't know nothin' about it.

MARCY

Forget it. Jeff, save it for law school. I'm hungry.

Jeff and Marcy walk into the store. Bert looks at the man.

BERT

Cute kid.

Bert walks into the store.

Karen stays outside, finishing her cigarette. She stands a safe distance away from the Man and Dennis.

EXT. YARD BEHIND CADWELL'S -- DAY

Paul surveys the scene. Rusted metal objects-- a large industrial motor, bicycle tires, and hubcaps litter the ground. Grass grows on them as if they've been rotting there for years. A few old faded magazines are scattered about.

A small stream rushes behind some trees.

EXT. STREAM -- DAY

Paul sticks his hand in the stream. His hand lightly bleeds into the water.

Paul dips his head in. He splashes some water across his face and the back of his neck.

Paul hears a DOG BARK. He freezes. The dog BARKS again. The barking sounds friendly, more inquisitive than aggressive.

PAUL

Hey sweetie.

Paul turns around to see a BLIND DOG. The dog looks as if its eyes have been removed, sewn shut, or both. The dog begins to sniff and lick Paul's bleeding hand. Paul doesn't move.

PAUL (CONT'D)

So...so what's your name? Huh, pooch?

EXT. CADWELL'S -- DAY

Karen studies a map by the Jeep, keeping an eye on the Man and Dennis.

The Man covers Dennis' mouth with one hand, while pressing his other hand into the back of Dennis' head. It looks as if Dennis is unable to breathe.

MAN

(quietly, but sternly)
You like that? You like how that feels? Now you shut it. Now you shut it good. Do you like that? Do you?

Dennis' face turns purple. He's trying to respond, but cannot since the Man smothers his mouth.

MAN (CONT'D)

I can't year you, Dennis. I can't hear you.

Karen watches, stunned. When it looks like Dennis is about to explode, the Man lets him go. Dennis takes off like a bullet down the street. The Man goes back inside.

INT. CADWELL'S -- DAY

Strange hunting tools line the walls. Bear traps, fox traps, different types of urines.

An elderly, grandfather type, around 70 or so, stands behind the counter. This is OLD MAN CADWELL.

CADWELL

Afternoon.

EVERYONE

Hello.

MARCY

(to Jeff)

We should get something for your mom here. To say thanks.

BERT

How about fox piss?

JEFF

She'd love that.

CADWELL

Careful with that, son. You break that bottle you'll have every fox in town as your new best friend.

Bert puts the bottle back on the shelf.

CADWELL (CONT'D)

You all here for a vacation?

JEFF

Yeah. We drove down from Ithaca.

CADWELL

Oh sure. How long you in town for?

Bert plunks down five cases of beer down next to the register.

BERT

A week.

Bert goes back to the refrigerator for more beer.

CADWELL

Well please enjoy our little slice of heaven. Just be careful if you're hiking in those woods.

Paul enters the store with Karen. Karen makes hand gestures, explaining to Paul how the Man suffocated Dennis.

MARCY

What's in the woods?

JEFF

Nothing we can't handle, I'm sure.

CADWELL

Well, Lyme's disease is pretty bad around these parts. The deer are cute but I wouldn't pet them. Also, make sure you check for ticks. A few hikers got real sick just last week.

MARCY

What happened?

CADWELL

Don't know. Doctors took care of them, I guess.

BERT

You guess?

The Man who suffocated Dennis comes out of the back room.

CADWELL

Hey Tommy, wanna carve these kids some meats?

Cadwell hands Tommy the list of sandwiches the kids ordered. Tommy glares at Jeff. He takes the list, not saying a word, and wanders to the back of the room.

JEFF

What's with him?

CADWELL

Tommy's a little sour, I'm afraid. Foster kids can be so much trouble.

A beat.

PAUL

What's that fox urine for?

CADWELL

For foxes.

Karen points to an old hunting rifle mounted on the back wall.

KAREN

What's that rifle for?

CADWELL

For the black people. They come in every now and then...

Cadwell turns around and starts to mumble to himself. Tommy comes out with the sliced meats. Cadwell rings up the register.

CADWELL (CONT'D)

Fifty-six dollars even. Anything else my friends?

JEFF

We're all set.

EXT. CADWELL'S -- DAY

The group quickly walks to the Jeep with their groceries. Tommy comes out on the porch and puts his hand on Bert's shoulder, stopping him in his tracks.

BERT

Hey...

TOMMY

Boy, I want you to give me one good reason why you would steal a Snicker's bar.

Everyone stops and looks at Bert. Looooooong pause. Bert shrugs.

BERT

The nougat?

Tommy extends his hand. Bert digs into his pocket and hands back the candy bar.

BERT (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. My bad.

Tommy gives him an approving nod.

TOMMY

Hurry along now, your friends are waitin'.

Tommy walks Bert over to the jeep.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

You know, we ain't had no stealing here since 1987. No murders in this area since 1992. I'm in the militia, you know.

BERT

I know.

Tommy nods and walks off. Bert jumps in the jeep. Marcy punches him in the arm. Everybody yells at Bert as they drive away.

EXT. ROAD -- DAY

The Jeep pulls up to a small rocky path. It's barely wide enough for the vehicle.

JEFF

You sure this is it?

KAREN

(looking at the map)
It's gotta be. I'm telling you, this is the road.

The Jeep starts up the road. Rocks spit out under the tires.

PAUL

Looks more like a bike path.

KAREN

We have too much weight in car. Bert, get out.

JEFF

Hang on.

The Jeep ROARS over some rough terrain, spitting up dirt. They drive up a long, rocky road to the top of the mountain. Once they clear the woods they come to an open field...

EXT. MOUNTAIN TOP -- DAY

They are high in the mountains, above the town. The Jeep slows down. Karen stands up in the back seat.

KAREN

Hey you guys, let's take a picture.

Everyone ignores her. Bert holds up his middle finger in front of Karen's camera, blocking her photo. Paul is caught between them.

As the Jeep climbs higher and higher the view gets more and more spectacular. At the top of the mountain they can see the entire valley, even Cadwell's, which is miles away.

Up ahead they see a quaint log Cabin nestled on the edge of the woods.

EXT. CABIN -- DAY

They enter. Inside the living room is a large stone fireplace and an old couch. The cabin looks a bit run down, but suitable for the purposes of five recent college graduates.

Everyone enters and drops their luggage. Karen bounces up and down on the sofa. Bert drinks a beer. Jeff picks up a note on the kitchen table.

JEFF

'Congratulations graduates!' And Bert. 'Enjoy your vacation, from all of us at Bunyan Mountain Getaways.'

Jeff looks around the room.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Fuckers could've told us there's no phone.

MARCY

Good. Now my Mom won't hassle me.

INT. BEDROOM -- DAY

Marcy runs in and flops down on the bed.

MARCY

Jeff, check it out.

Jeff enters the room and jumps on top of her.

MARCY (CONT'D)

Look at that view.

Jeff stares Marcy up and down.

JEFF

I like it.

MARCY

Do you? I meant the mountains.

JEFF

So did I. And by mountains I'm making reference to your breasts.

MARCY
You're too romantic.

They start kissing. Jeff starts to kiss her stomach, sliding her shirt higher and higher.

MARCY (CONT'D)
Jesus Jeff, do you wanna wait until we unpack?

JEFF
We have a whole week to unpack. A week without your mother. Nobody here to bother us-

KNOCK KNOCK. Paul opens their door.

PAUL
Who's up for a dip? Oh, I'm sorry, you guys...

Jeff and Marcy shoot Paul a look that could kill him.

PAUL (CONT'D)
We were gonna...um, yeah. We're gonna have a swim, and we'll be back later. Safe sex!

Paul shuts the door.

JEFF
Paul!

Paul opens the door slightly and peeks in.

PAUL
Yeah?

JEFF
Have fun.

Paul gives Jeff a thumb's up and closes the door. Paul's hands is wrapped in a bandage, his thumb is the only digit exposed.

Jeff and Marcy resume kissing, when Marcy looks the other way to see-

BERT in the window, watching them with a pair of BINOCULARS. Marcy and Jeff don't care. They go back to kissing.

EXT. CABIN -- DAY

Paul and Karen walk towards the woods wearing bathing suits. They see Bert ahead of them holding a 22 RIFLE.

KAREN

Bert, what the hell is that?

BERT

I'm gonna go nail some squirrels.

PAUL

Why would you want to kill squirrels?

BERT

'Cause they're gay.

Bert takes a swig from a beer bottle.

KAREN

Bert! I don't want you causing trouble.

BERT

Kidding! I'd never hunt animals based on their sexual orientation. I don't give a shit if they're gay or straight, I'll shoot 'em either way.

PAUL

Will you be careful with that thing?

BERT

Paul, relax, I'm perfectly responsible. It's only a BB gun.

BANG! Bert fires a shot well above Paul and Karen's heads, taking out a branch. Paul and Karen drop to the ground. Bert giggles and walks off into the woods.

BERT (CONT'D)

Sorry!

EXT. WOODS -- DAY

Paul and Karen walk along a path in the woods. Paul walks behind Karen, holding two towels.

PAUL

So, Karen, how long have we known each other?

KAREN

Seventh grade, I guess. Right?

PAUL

Yeah.

(MORE)

PAUL (CONT'D)

I was thinking... How should I say this... We've known each other since, seventh grade, and although we're really close friends, we've never actually-

They path ends and they come to the beach. In front of them is a beautiful, quiet lake with a floating wooden raft about a quarter of a mile from the shore.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Well, I always thought you were special, and I was wondering if...

Karen turns around and peels off her sweatshirt, revealing a bikini top. She kicks off her shorts. Paul stares at her, mesmerized.

KAREN

Race you to the raft!

Karen takes off for the water, leaving Paul with a handful of towels and an unfinished thought.

Paul kicks off his shoes and charges in after her.

EXT. WOODS -- DAY

Bert hikes through the woods with a beer bottle in one hand and his rifle in the other. He comes to a clearing in the woods. Off in the distance he spots a WOODCHUCK. Bert's eyes grow wide with excitement. He cracks open another beer.

Bert slowly approaches the animal, raising his rifle. He crouches down next to a berry patch. He puts down his beer and grabs a handful of berries. He pops a few in his mouth.

BERT

Berries. Tasty.

Bert sloooooowly rises and approaches the woodchuck, ready to fire. He stuffs a few more berries in his mouth.

BERT (CONT'D)

Come to papa.

BAM! Bert fires and misses. The woodchuck scurries behind a tree. Bert approaches the tree *very slowly*.

Cautiously, Bert keeps one hand on his rifle, and extends his other hand into the berry patch. Bert stuffs a few more berries into his mouth. Bert walks around the tree and sees the tiny creature. He steadies the rifle and takes aim.

Slowly, a sour look comes across his face. He spits into his hand and sees-

ANTS! Tiny black chewed up ants squiggling around in his palm.

BERT (CONT'D)

Ants! Ants! Ants! Ants!

Bert screams and spits the ants out of his mouth, scaring away every animal in sight. He fires his gun wildly at the ant-infested berry patch.

INT. CABIN -- DAY

Jeff and Marcy are having sex in their room.

JEFF

I love you baby...I love you so fucking much...

MARCY

Ah...fuck, I love you too, I love you, Jeff...

EXT. LAKE -- DAY

Paul and Karen lie on the wooden raft, relaxing in the sun. Karen has her eyes closed. Paul sits up a little, watching her.

KAREN

So you know Ken Webb?

PAUL

Yeah, short greasy Ken. The guy with the CDs.

KAREN

He tried to kiss me.

PAUL

He did?

KAREN

Yeah. Two days ago. This guy I've known for twelve years, this family friend, put his hands on my face, full on tongue. It was so gross.

PAUL

Well, was it gross because you've known him for so long, or because he's gross?

KAREN

No, it was definitely him. Sometimes you've known someone a long time and you just want to kiss them, to see if they're a good kisser or not. Nothing wrong with that.

PAUL

Yeah.

Paul looks up at the sky. A moment later, Karen leans over and starts kissing him. They kiss for a good thirty seconds.

KAREN

Mmm. Not bad.

Karen gets up and dives in the water.

PAUL

Wait- where are you going?

KAREN

What's it look like?

PAUL

I thought we were kissing.

KAREN

Yeah, we were.

PAUL

So, do you like me? Is this like a date now?

KAREN

(playfully)

Please, don't touch me.

Karen swims away. Paul stands on the raft, totally confused.

INT. CABIN -- DAY

Jeff and Marcy are now putting food away. They are clearly in a fight. Jeff takes the bread and puts it in the cup board. Marcy takes the bread out of the cup board and puts it in the fridge.

JEFF

It goes in the fuckin' cabinet!

MARCY

Bread goes in the fuckin' fridge!

JEFF

I don't like my fuckin' bread cold!

MARCY

Well I don't like my fuckin' bread moldy!

Jeff throws the bread in the fridge.

JEFF

Ahh, this is horse shit.

EXT. CABIN -- DAY

Bert sits in front of the cabin by a campfire. He's burning different things, like sticks and leaves. Noises of Jeff and Marcy arguing can be heard from where he sits.

Bert pours a ring of alcohol around the campfire and lights a match. The alcohol goes up in flames. Bert chuckles. Bert throws a log onto the fire. Then a cupcake.

Bert takes a bag of FLOUR and lights it on fire. He lobbs it high into the air. The bag lands in the distance, EXPLODING.

BERT

Ho ho. Shit.

EXT. WOODS -- DAY

A CRACKLING noise comes from the woods. Bert grabs his rifle.

BERT

Oh. Welcome back, mister woodchuck...

Bert creeps towards the woods, raising his rifle.

BERT (CONT'D)

Come on, chicken shit.

Bert hears the noise again. Something is running through the woods. Bert pans his rifle with the noise until BOOM! He fires.

VOICE

Aaaaah! My leg!

BERT

Fuck me.

Bert looks up. He's shot a human.

VOICE

Why!!!!!! Why!!!!!!

Bert runs towards the man.

BERT

Oh my God, I'm sorry, man, I'm so sorry.

Bert dashes into the woods and sees a MAN. We realize the man is the HERMIT from the first scene. His leg is bleeding.

VOICE

Why did you shoot me? I'm sick. I need help. Help me!

As Bert gets closer he realizes the man is sick- very, very sick. The Hermit's skin is bloody and sticky, and rotted in many patches. Bert reels back, almost puking.

BERT

Holy shit!

HERMIT

Please...water...I need water.

BERT

Okay, okay. Just... stay there, I'll get you some water.

The Hermit starts limping towards Bert. He's bleeding everywhere. Bert backs away, terrified.

HERMIT

Is that your cabin?

BERT

Please, stop, I'll get you help.

HERMIT

I'm very sick. I need to rest.

The Hermit continues towards Bert.

BERT

I said stop. Please, don't come near me. I'm serious.

The Hermit does not stop. Bert raises his rifle.

HERMIT

It burns...help me, I'm burning...

BERT

I said don't move! Back off!

Bert fires a WARNING SHOT near the Hermit. The Hermit stops. Bert raises his rifle and takes aim. The Hermit limps away. Bert watches him go, then runs back to the cabin.

EXT. CABIN -- DAY

Jeff and Marcy are putting out the fire with a hose. Bert walks by them, shaking.

JEFF

Where the fuck were you? You wanna burn this whole place down?

BERT

The fuck are you, Smoky the Clown?

JEFF

Don't you mean Smoky the Bear?

BERT

Ahh, screw you guys. This is horse shit.

MARCY

How fuckin' old are you? Can't you be responsible for anything? God damn, we can't leave you alone for five fucking minutes without you destroying something! What the fuck were you shooting at?

BERT

I...I heard a squirrel. I was looking for squirrels.

Bert walks inside.

JEFF

...to stick up his ass.

Marcy continues putting out the fire.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CAMPFIRE -- NIGHT

The fire now burns brightly. The group sits around the flame, roasting hot dogs on sticks, drinking beer. Bert carves a branch into a thick, sharp point with a knife.

PAUL

What are you gonna roast on that thing?

Bert pokes the stick through a large slab of beef and begins to cook it over the fire.

Marcy and Jeff share their hot dogs with each other. Karen is snuggled up next to Paul. She's had a few beers.

JEFF

Come on, Paul, tell them.

PAUL

No no, it's a traumatic experience.
I don't wanna talk about it.

KAREN

I like traumatic stories. I mean,
not about me, but you know.

MARCY

Paul, trauma bonds people, come on,
you can tell us.

PAUL

Trauma bonds the people who experience
it, not the people you tell it to.

BERT

Just tell the fuckin' story.

PAUL

Fine, fine. I used to go to this
bowling alley, Lenny Mead's Brighton
Bowl. You remember it?

KAREN

It was in Brighton, right?

PAUL

Yeah. So every weekend I would go
bowling there, either with my dad or
for a birthday party or something.
Anyway, one weekend, I asked my dad
if we were going, and he said no.
He said the alley was closed.

They sit still around the fire. Bert holds a flaming
marshmallow.

BERT

This marshmallow's so burnt.

PAUL

There had been a break in. All the
employees were held at gunpoint, and
then tied to chairs. The chairs
were sit in a circle. That way each
person was forced to watch everyone
else. Then, after they'd been gagged
and beaten, the robber, this sick
maniac, finds a ball-peen hammer.

(MORE)

PAUL (CONT'D)

One by one he smashed the backs of their heads open with the hammer. Each person had to watch their friends die... knowing that they would soon be next.

Paul cracks open a Coke.

BERT

Ball-peen.

Karen slides a little further away from Paul.

PAUL

But this guy doesn't stop. He breaks out the fire ax. The alarm sounds, but he doesn't care. He hacked off all their limbs. Dismembered them completely. The police found six bloody torsos tied to the colored bowling seats. Blood everywhere. The killer was some disgruntled employee. And that was my childhood playground.

JEFF

That's not even the best part.

PAUL

Now the place is an Acura dealership.

Bert, stuffing a smore into his mouth, starts to laugh. He spits graham cracker crumbs everywhere.

BERT

My boss is gonna fuckin' die. Word.

MARCY

Bert, you asshole, it's not funny.

Jeff starts to laugh, too.

JEFF

Tell them about the bald guy. The happy bald guy.

KAREN

Oh, no.

PAUL

He used to give us our shoes, and quarters for the video games.

(MORE)

PAUL (CONT'D)

There was this room with pool tables, but my dad would never let us go in there. The bald guy, he was always happy. But the killer got him, too. When the cops searched the end of the lanes they found the chopped up body parts. The killer had bowled people's organs. Legs, arms, everything thrown down the lane. They found the bald guy's head in the ball return. He was still smiling.

MARCY

Oh no!

Paul starts to giggle.

PAUL

Oh yeah.

KAREN

I knew you were full of shit.

PAUL

No, it was in the paper, I swear! I'm laughing because Jeff's an asshole and he's making me laugh.

Jeff is on his back laughing. Everyone is laughing now. Paul stands up.

PAUL (CONT'D)

I know I'll burn in hell for laughing at it. I can still hear those pins. The cracking and bouncing, the Q-bert machine, the way the shoes smelled, the-

Paul turns around and runs SMACK INTO A STRANGE FACE. The Man stands on the edge of the woods, hiding in the shadows.

PAUL (CONT'D)

AAAAHHHHH!!!! Christ! What are you doing?

The man leaps back, startled as much as Paul. His SIBERIAN HUSKY DOG barks. Everyone at the campfire moves back, away from the dog.

KAREN

A wolf!

The man steps out of the woods, closer to the light of the fire. He looks about 30. He wears climbing boots, camouflage pants, and a bandanna on his head. This is JUSTIN.

JUSTIN

Dude, I'm cool, I'm cool.

Bert stands up, pointing his stick at Justin.

BERT

You spyin' on us?

JUSTIN

No, no. Have you seen two guys,
like two HUGE guys out here?

Justin appears harmless, as does his dog, who has calmed down and joined the group at the fire.

JEFF

(sarcastic)

Not with guns, no.

JUSTIN

Whew. Check this out. I'm climbing
here this afternoon-

MARCY

You wanna call off the hounds?

Justin pulls back his dog, who's licking the marshmallow off Marcy's face. Bert lowers his stick and sits back down.

JUSTIN

Dude, he's cool. That's Dr. Mambo.

KAREN

He's a doctor? Like a physician, or
a professor?

JUSTIN

So check it. I'm almost at the top
of this nasty face I'm climbing, off
belay, and these dudes start shooting
at me from the ground. I'm like a
thousand feet off the ground, there's
no way I can climb down. I look up:
it's like fifty feet to the summit.

PAUL

Are you a fugitive or something?

JUSTIN

No way!

(MORE)

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

These dudes were pissed at me for what I did to their sister. So anyway, I know if I climb down I'm wasted. So I did a hand jam, hand jam, fingerhook, and a leg sweep, and I made it to the top. Guess who's waiting for me? Darlene, the sister I made it with. But this time she's got her daddy there. And guess who her daddy is.

BERT

Do we care?

JUSTIN

Captain Lou Albano. Swear to God. He's got a shotgun pointed, and he tells me to get on all fours. And I'm like, 'fuck this.' So check it, I did a crescent kick, and boom, knocked the rifle right out of his hand. I pulled out my boot knife, grabbed his gun, and punched him in the face. He was like 'boom.' I took off down the mountain, and these dudes have been looking for me ever since. Do you mind if I hide out here for a few?

Everyone looks at each other. Nobody quite wants to be the first to say no.

JEFF

Uh, we were just having a bit of a private conversation, if you don't mind.

JUSTIN

Oh, that's cool. I stole all this weed off those guys, I just wanted to smoke it off in case they caught me.

Justin holds up an enormous bag of pot. Everyone immediately changes their tune.

EVERYONE

Don't be silly, have a seat, please.

KAREN

Your name was...?

JUSTIN

Justin. But you can call me Grim.

MARCY

Like Grimace?

JUSTIN

Grim's my skating name. I got it out in Berkeley at this extreme games competition. I skated over this dude's face doing an Ollie Impossible in a salad bowl.

Justin lights up a bowl and hands it to Karen, sitting down next to her. Dr. Mambo sits down as well, taking up the last space at the campfire. Paul is left standing.

BERT

Hey, Karen went to school out in Berkeley.

JUSTIN

Duuuuuude.

Justin puts his arm around Karen. Paul stands alone, fuming. Everyone begins to smoke weed, except Paul.

KAREN

I love Berkeley. I think I'm moving back out there. I met these guys out there one spring break, we were fucked up for like five days straight. They wouldn't let me drink anything but beer.

JUSTIN

I've done that before, but I did it with J.D.

BERT

Hey, Karen's got a good idea. We should do that, only drink beer.

JEFF

I could probably do that, but I doubt you could.

BERT

Oh yeah? I'll bet you I can drink only beer for the rest of the trip. If you catch me drinking anything else you can have my supply.

JEFF

Fine, you're on. We only drink beer.

Jeff and Bert shake on it.

PAUL

So, you're a skater or something?

JUSTIN

I'm all about the extreme sports. I have a bunch of sponsors, I compete around the country. One time I was at this snowboarding tournament in Colorado and I was in the lodge playing video games. This dude was hogging the Asteroids machine, and I was like 'buddy, you suck, I will so kick your ass.' He turns around: Anthony Michael Hall. This was after he got huge.

Jeff leans over and blows smoke into Marcy's mouth, finishing with a kiss. Paul watches them.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

So, he's like 'hundred bucks a game.' I fuckin' smoked him, made like three grand. But he was cool. The guy's like a millionaire, right? Then we played Centipede, but that was for fun.

A THUNDER CLOUD BURSTS. Rain starts to drizzle.

MARCY

Party's over.

JEFF

Justin, you wanna come inside and hang for a few?

JUSTIN

That's cool, but I gotta get back to my tent. I left my climbing gear out and if gets soaked that's like four thousand dollars worth of gear pissed away.

KAREN

How far's your tent?

JUSTIN

It's like twenty minutes away. But if I book I can be back in half an hour.

KAREN

Cool. Hey, bring more weed.

The rain is coming down hard now. They head inside.

JUSTIN

Cool. Check you dudes later. Come on Dr. Mambo.

Justin leaves with the dog.

PAUL

Bye. If Captain Lou comes by we never saw you.

JEFF

What a freak.

KAREN

I thought he was funny.

INT. CABIN -- NIGHT

The gang lies on the living room floor. A fire burns brightly. Karen plays a guitar and everyone sings along. They are all very intoxicated- all except Paul, that is. Paul drinks soda.

Paul sits next to Karen, trying to nuzzle up to her. It isn't working.

BERT

So how did you do it?

KAREN

What do you mean how? It had different settings: pulse, power, stream, all kinds of speeds. And it was on this hose so it could reach when I lay down in the tub.

JEFF

And you came every time?

KAREN

Totally. You can imagine my disappointment the first time I had sex.

MARCY

Tell me about it.

JEFF

What's that supposed to mean?

BERT

I have a better story than that.

PAUL

I'm sorry, Bert, but nothing's better than stories about Karen and her parents' shower massage.

BERT

No, this is some sick shit. Seriously. I took a shit in a pizza box and sent it to my buddy. That's some sick shit.

BOOM BOOM BOOM. Someone knocks at the door.

JEFF

That guy better have more weed or I'm not letting him in.

BOOM BOOM BOOM. More pounding. Jeff walks to the door.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Relax, pal, we're coming.

MARCY

His name is Grim.

BOOM BOOM BOOM. Jeff opens the door to reveal-

THE HERMIT- rotting and decrepit. Standing in the doorway.

The Hermit's very appearance startles Jeff. He looks far worse than when we last saw him. His face is black and blue. His teeth are falling out. He does not look healthy. He is wet, shaking. Cold breath.

JEFF

Jesus Christ...

HERMIT

I'm sorry...help me...I'm burning...

The others come to the door. Everyone gasps. Bert steps back.

BERT

Oh shit.

HERMIT

Please...I need a doctor...

JEFF

Of course, my God, guys, someone grab a blanket-

HERMIT

(to Bert)

You...it's you! You shot me!

Bert SLAMS THE DOOR closed.

BERT

No no no no no. No way that
contagious fucker is coming near me.

Karen moves for the door. Bert blocks it.

KAREN

Bert, he's sick for Chrissake!

BERT

You want him touching your stuff?
Your soap?

The Hermit knocks at the door.

HERMIT

(from outside)

Please...help me...

PAUL

Christ, can't we throw him a blanket
or something?

BERT

...your douche?

MARCY

Well we can at least drive him to a
doctor. Or we'll go to town and get
him one.

Jeff is dialing a number on a cell phone.

JEFF

We're out of range. I can't get
anything.

CRACK. Everyone stops. There's a second CRACKING noise
coming from outside. Bert looks out the window.

BERT

He's in the car.

JEFF

What?

Jeff looks out the window. Outside, the Hermit has smashed
the car window and is crawling around inside Jeff's Jeep.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Motherfucker!

EXT. CABIN -- NIGHT

The Hermit crawls around inside the Jeep. He closes the door behind him. It appears as if he's trying to hot wire the car, very unsuccessfully.

INT. CABIN -- NIGHT

KAREN

Why is this guy fucking with us?

Jeff grabs a hot poker from the fireplace.

JEFF

Get your gun.

Bert grabs his rifle. Paul stumbles around looking for a weapon, and grabs a baseball bat. Karen grabs a butcher's knife. Marcy holds a flashlight.

EXT. CABIN -- NIGHT

Jeff leads the charge outside, followed closely by Bert and Paul. Karen stands on the porch with the knife. Marcy shines the flashlight on the car. They are plenty drunk and extremely high.

JEFF

Get out of the fuckin' Jeep! Get out! Out! Out!

The Hermit locks the doors. Jeff tugs at the handle. The Hermit looks at Jeff, putting up his hands as if to say 'stop.' Suddenly, the Hermit goes into a violent coughing fit, VOMITING BLOOD all over the interior of Jeff's Jeep.

JEFF (CONT'D)

NOOOO!!!!

Jeff smashes around inside the car with the fire poker in an insane rage. He swings around, swiping at the old man. About half of Jeff's blows make contact, the other half bang up the interior of the car and smash the front windshield. The Hermit screams in agony.

BERT

He's melting! He's melting all over the fucking car!

Everyone panics. Bert aims the rifle at the passenger side door and fires a shot. He SHATTERS the window.

MARCY

Paul, do something!

Paul stands by the passenger side door with the bat cocked.

JEFF

Nail him! He's going out!

The Hermit crawls out the shotgun door. Paul swings down the bat, but hits the top of the door, missing the Hermit completely.

Bert fires a shot at the old man, hitting the hood of the car, then a tire.

BERT

Fuck, stay still!

JEFF

Watch the fucking car, dufus!

The Hermit runs towards the house. Jeff and Paul swing at the Hermit but manage to smash out the Jeep's headlights. The Hermit limps towards the girls.

KAREN

Stop! I'll cut you! Stop!

The Hermit staggers towards Karen. Marcy grabs a can of BUG SPRAY from the porch and nails the Hermit IN THE EYES.

The Hermit screams, waving his arms blindly. The Hermit's coat falls open. We see his entire body is covered in a web of veins and rotted flesh. He looks like he's been skinned alive, yet he is somehow still walking.

Jeff runs inside and comes back out with a burning log.

JEFF

Back off, man. Off the fuckin' porch.

The Hermit moves towards him. Jeff defends himself with the log.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Don't touch me!

Jeff takes a swing at the Hermit with the burning log. At once the HERMIT'S ARM GOES UP IN FLAMES.

Everyone screams.

The Hermit stumbles around in front of the cabin, burning, spinning, screaming. He takes off into the woods, fire devouring his body.

The ~~guy~~ stops. Listens. The Hermit's screaming is drowned out by the sound of thunder. The torch burns in front of the ~~skin~~ in the mud.

~~Nobody~~ moves. Too stunned for words.

INT. CABIN -- LATER

Jeff and Bert are still drinking beer. Marcy, Karen and Paul drink tea.

JEFF

I know I know I know. But what was I gonna do? First he gets his shit all over the car, then I didn't want him to touch me, or you, or anybody. I think the rain'll put him out.

BERT

He's dead anyway. You saw that shit on him. He looked like he'd been skinned alive.

Paul squeezes some honey into his tea. Paul fixates on the gooey strands of honey between his fingers.

KAREN

We have to tell the police it wasn't our fault. I think we should tell them. Now. We should go right now.

BERT

Jesus, calm down. The headlights are busted, and I'm not about to drive in that car with that guy's fucking blood all over it. Tomorrow we'll clean it up, and then we'll go report the accident. The key word here is *accident*.

PAUL

That guy's skin...holy shit.

In close up, the honey resembles the Hermit's skin disease.

INT. PAUL'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Paul looks out the window. Lightning. Darkness.

INT. JEFF AND MARCY'S ROOM -- NIGHT

Marcy sits up in bed, staring out the window. Jeff sips a beer. He tries to coax Marcy into lying down, but she shrugs him off.

EXT. KAREN'S BATHROOM -- NIGHT

The door is closed, but we see the light is on inside. We can hear Karen THROWING UP.

INT. LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT

Bert sits in a chair by the window, asleep. He holds the rifle in his hand.

EXT. CABIN -- MORNING

The sun rises over the lake. All is still.

INT. SHOWER -- MORNING

Paul washes his face in the shower spray.

EXT. CABIN -- MORNING

The Jeep's front windshield is shattered white. The hood is dented. Flat tire. Broken headlights. There are bits of flesh and dried blood all over the dashboard and front seats. The steering wheel is bent.

Mud. Footprints from the Hermit on the porch. Beer cans around the campfire.

Jeff and Bert exit the cabin. Paul stands in the doorway. They are all bit edgy. They have not slept and it shows in their faces.

BERT

You should probably clean up some of this shit up while we're gone.

PAUL

Yeah. I'll be sure to save some for you guys.

JEFF

Just stick with the girls.

PAUL

What's what supposed to mean?

BERT

It means you're a pussy, that's what.

PAUL

Well that's fucked up.

JEFF

No, what's fucked up is you beating the shit out of my Jeep with that bat of yours.

PAUL

Hey, what about fatty over there and his 22 rifle? You forget about him?

BERT

We ALL fucked the car.

Marcy exits the house and walks past them.

MARCY

Morning, boys. You guys gonna kill each other now?

JEFF

Where are you going?

MARCY

To get help.

Marcy walks into the woods. Jeff and Bert walk off in a different direction, leaving Paul on the porch.

EXT. WOODS -- DAY

A rusted pipe runs along the leaves on the ground, deep in the woods. We follow the pipe to a large pool of water, about 30 feet around. Inside the water THE HERMIT floats face down, dead and rotting. His infected flesh dissolves into the water.

We move up to a sign by the water that reads: RESERVOIR. The reservoir feeds into the pipe that runs through the woods. We follow the pipe, out into a field, through some trees, and up to...

THE CABIN.

INT. CABIN -- DAY

Paul fills up a glass of water from the tap.

INT. KAREN'S ROOM -- DAY

Karen is packing her clothes. She's a wreck. Paul enters with the glass of water. Karen takes the glass and holds it.

PAUL

So, Jeff and Bert have-

KAREN

I know.

PAUL

I know you know. Look, last night-

KAREN

Paul, that guy asked us for help.
We lit him on fire. You'll understand
if I'm not in a particularly social
mood.

Karen puts down the water and continues packing. Paul reaches
for her.

PAUL

Karen...

Karen stops packing. Paul puts his hand on her shoulder.

PAUL (CONT'D)

It's not our fault. We didn't mean
to do it. It was an accident.

Karen starts to tear up. She turns and hugs Paul.

KAREN

I'm sorry... I see him, Paul. I saw
him all last night...every time I
close my eyes I see him.

PAUL

He was sick. He was dying. He was
going to die anyway. It was an
accident.

Paul hugs Karen hard. On the bed he sees her bra and panties.
He hugs her tighter. Paul pulls away to look Karen in the
eyes. He brushes her hair away from her forehead and wipes
her tears.

Karen drinks the glass of contaminated water.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Better?

Karen nods yes.

KAREN

Thanks, Paul.

EXT. FARM -- DAY

Jeff and Bert find a large FARM HOUSE in a clearing off in
the distance.

There is a broken down windmill, and an empty pen with no animals in it.

JEFF
No phone lines.

BERT
They must have a cellular.

They approach the house.

EXT. FARM HOUSE -- DAY

Faint country music can be heard from an old radio inside the house.

Jeff and Bert step onto the porch. The front door is open a crack. They lightly knock on the door, which creaks open.

JEFF
Hello? Hello? Anyone home?

No response. Jeff looks at Bert.

JEFF (CONT'D)
Well I'm not going inside.

BERT
Go in.

JEFF
You go in.

BERT
I'm not going in.

JEFF
Fine. So let's just fuckin' stand here until Gertrude comes out with the goddamn mashed potatoes.

BERT
Listen.

They stop. They hear a SAWING NOISE coming from around back.

EXT. FARM HOUSE -- DAY

Jeff and Bert creep around the side of the farm house. As they get closer to the back, the sawing noise GROWS LOUDER.

EXT. BACK YARD -- DAY

Jeff and Bert turn a corner to see a large WOMAN in overalls and protective eye wear TIGHTENING THE ROPES ON A HOG.

The woman hangs the hog by its feet from a tree. She wears yellow gloves.

JEFF

Go talk to her.

Bert shoots Jeff a look. The woman revs up an ABATTOIR SAW. She SLICES OPEN THE HOG.

On Jeff and Bert's horrified faces- as piles of entrails spill into several buckets under the hog.

BERT

Shit!

The woman reaches into a bucket and picks up some of the entrails. After examining them she throws them against the tree.

HOG LADY

GodDAMMIT! NO!

The Hog Lady goes berserk. She begins kicking the buckets everywhere, throwing the guts everywhere in a furious tantrum.

Jeff and Bert are too horrified to move. The Hog Lady looks up and, realizing they're watching her, calms down. She starts towards the boys with the saw in her hand. Jeff and Bert start to stumble away.

HOG LADY (CONT'D)

Hold it! You there!

Jeff and Bert freeze.

HOG LADY (CONT'D)

You see this? You see this shit?

JEFF

Um, we didn't mean to bother you, we were just-

HOG LADY

That's the third sick hog this month. You tell Murray I can't eat this. Some goddamn animal's been running around here infectin' everything. Now what am I supposed to do with a sick hog? Huh? Huh? I'm not about to eat that meat. Would you?

BERT

No, no I'm a vegetariah.

Hog Lady thinks this over. She removes her protective eye wear.

HOG LADY

Because you know none of this stuff is good. It's all sick. It's all gotta go back. I want me a new hog!

JEFF

No, we're just looking for a mechanic. We were wondering if-

HOG LADY

A mechanic? Won't find one around here, you have to go to town for that.

BERT

You see that's the thing, our car's busted. We need to find someone who can take us to town to get a mechanic.

HOG LADY

Oh. Well, I already been in town already today. Sorry.

Jeff and Bert start to back away.

JEFF

Well if you go into town again, please let us know. We're renting this cabin a few miles down the road. We don't know Murray.

The Hog Lady wipes her brow with the back of her glove, smearing a trail of blood across her forehead.

HOG LADY

Oh, I'm sorry. Yes, of course, of course. Oh heck, why didn't you just come right out and say that? Here I am prattling on about my hogs and you just need someone gonna find you a mechanic. Come on in, I got a radio inside. We'll call Ricky, he's got a tow truck.

Jeff and Bert breathe a sigh of relief. The Hog Lady starts to walk towards her house. Jeff and Bert follow closely.

BERT

We totally appreciate it.
(MORE)

BERT (CONT'D)

We're so sorry to bother you, but this crazy guy came out of the woods and trashed our car. He tried to steal it or something.

They enter the house.

INT. FARM HOUSE -- DAY

They enter the living room. The house is a mess-- piles of strange tools and torn furniture everywhere. There is a small T.V. buried under lots of cloth.

HOG LADY

Sounds terrible. I've got some juice. This person damaged your car?

JEFF

Yeah, he was this crazy old guy. Really dangerous. We had to chase him away with bats and everything.

Bert grabs Jeff's arm as tight as he can.

HOG LADY

An old guy. It wasn't Henry, was it? Oh shit no. Never.

The Hog Lady walks into her kitchenette. Jeff and Bert look at one another. Bert turns Jeff towards a table. Jeff's eyes follow. They both stare at...

A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE HERMIT!! It is framed, and looks fairly recent.

JEFF

Henry?

HOG LADY

Naw. My uncle Henry. Shit. But Henry knows better than that. He knows about the ordinance. Did you say you hit him with a bat?

JEFF AND BERT

No!

The Hog Lady stares at the guys. Why are they so tense?

BERT

No, he means no, it wasn't Henry. It was our friend. The old guy was our buddy Walter. Crazy old Walter. But he was drunk.

HOG LADY

Oh that's no good.

BERT

You know, why don't we forget about the tow truck? It's a beautiful day. We can hike to town. And fix it ourselves.

They begin to walk away.

HOG LADY

Are you sure? Ricky's awful handy.

JEFF

Nah, a little fresh air sounds good. Take care.

The Hog Lady watches them exit.

EXT. FARM HOUSE -- DAY

Instead of running away into the woods, Jeff and Bert start walking quickly. Soon they are skipping.

JEFF

I can't believe we burnt Henry. Fuck.

EXT. LAKE -- DAY

Marcy paddles a canoe across the lake.

EXT. BEACH HOUSE ACROSS THE LAKE -- DAY

A radio is half buried in the sand with music faintly coming from it. It looks as if someone left the radio out in the rain all night. There is a lawn chair turned over and a pair of sandals half buried in mud.

Marcy drifts towards the house in the canoe. She pulls up onto the beach. The house is surrounded by thick woods. The only other sound is the WIND rustling through the trees and woodsy bug noises. It is eerily quiet, except for the crackling sounds of the radio.

Marcy steps out of the canoe and drags the boat onto the beach. She picks up the radio.

MARCY

Hello?

No response. Marcy looks around. She sees nothing but woods.

Marcy sees a WATERSKI SHED next to the beach house. Marcy opens the shed and sees a few water skis inside. She starts to walk towards the beach house. The back door is slightly open.

MARCY (CONT'D)

There was an incident last night at our cabin. Hello? I'm looking for help.

Marcy puts her palm on the door and lightly pushes it open. The door creaks slowly until...it suddenly FLIES OPEN. Bert stands on the other side of the door, holding the handle.

MARCY (CONT'D)

Aaaaah!

BERT

Aaaaah!

Bert drops a bag of chips, scattering food everywhere. Jeff catches up next to him.

JEFF

What the hell--

The three of them look at each other and catch their breath.

MARCY

You find anybody?

JEFF

Nothing.

MARCY

I tried to follow the path the old guy ran, but I couldn't find him. He could still be alive.

JEFF

There's no way.

BERT

I'll need that cream soda-

Bert steps back inside. Jeff stops him. Bert stays.

MARCY

Do they have a phone?

JEFF

Nobody's home. I felt weird looking around. We tried another place, but...we didn't see anyone.

MARCY

I wonder if the police know about it yet.

BERT

I doubt it. If the police knew they'd be at the cabin already.

EXT. CABIN -- DAY

Someone KNOCKS at the front door. Paul walks through the living room. He opens the door to find-

A DEPUTY standing on the porch. He wears sunglasses and a large gun belt. He has a bowl haircut, and looks like he couldn't be more than 19. This is WINSTON.

WINSTON

Mornin' there, son, Deputy Winston, Bunyan County Police Department.

PAUL

Hi. What can I do for you?

WINSTON

Yeah, I'm out here patrolling. This is my jurisdiction. I understand there was a little commotion here last night. I was hoping you could tell me what the story was.

PAUL

Sure, sure.

They both walk onto the porch, and slowly out onto the grass.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Some guy tried to get into our cabin, and he looked sick. Really sick. I don't know what kind of disease he had, but he was a mess.

WINSTON

I'm gonna have to report this.

Winston takes out a note pad and begins to jot down details.

PAUL

Sure, of course. In fact my friends are looking for a neighbor right now so we could call you. We don't have a phone up here.

WINSTON

Most people got radios. That's what I use.

Winston notices the campfire and the beer cans.

WINSTON (CONT'D)

Say, looks like you guys were havin' some party.

PAUL

Yeah, you know, we were drinking. And then this guy came along and he tried to break into our cabin. We had no choice but to get rough. I feel awful, but he started going crazy, smashing our car. We couldn't get him out, so we had to hit him. We hurt him. We were terrified, I mean, all of us, we didn't know what to do. My friends went to find help, so we could tell someone-

WINSTON

Hey, don't worry. I said I'd report it. I'll take care of everything. You don't have to worry about him, he won't come back. Bet you scared him away pretty good. I won't let him ruin your fun.

PAUL

Thank you, because I'll tell you, my friend's inside, she's pretty upset about the whole thing. She wants to go home, we all kind of do-

WINSTON

A lady friend? Oh you guys can't go home. I bet you like to party...*with the ladies!*

Paul is a bit taken aback by this. Karen appears on the porch.

KAREN

Paul? Is everything okay?

Winston removes his hat.

WINSTON

Howdy, ma'am. Everything's fine. Don't you worry now, go have yourself a beer. Just party.

KAREN

Um, okay.

Paul motions that he's got it under control. Karen walks back inside, a bit puzzled.

WINSTON

Whoa daddy, you can't leave. You guys gotta stay and party!

PAUL

Well, you know, that's why we came here in the first place.

WINSTON

Let me tell you this is a MAJOR party town. You know how sometimes you got to a new town and think 'well, I'm gonna get laid because this is a new town? And if the girls see me they'll know that I'm fresh meat? And that I'm not interested in a commitment?'

PAUL

I'm familiar with that theory, yes.

WINSTON

Well this is the town where that happens, my friend. For instance, my cousin goes to school in Wombusaw. And whenever I visit him to party I think 'well, I'll definitely get laid because I'm in Wombusaw.!' You see, those girls don't know that I'm the deputy. So I figure they'll really party hard with me. But it rarely happens.

PAUL

That's too bad. I bet you used to rule this town.

WINSTON

Oh yeah, but that was before I got my badge. Badge'll make you grow up real quick.

Winston notices the Jeep.

WINSTON (CONT'D)

Say, that guy really did a number on your car. I should put out an A.P.B., make sure we catch him.

PAUL

Yeah. I mean, it wasn't totally him, we kinda hit it, too, but only because we were trying to scare him away. Do you think you could get someone up here to fix it?

WINSTON

Of course, I'm not an idiot. You're top priority, you're a party man. I can have someone here probably by tomorrow afternoon. Where was I?

PAUL

Uh, Wombusaw?

WINSTON

Yeah, so that's the thing: in Wombusaw I never got laid, even though it was a new town. But I'm telling you, now that you're in Bunyan County, this is THE town for action. This is a great party town! We're gonna have some great parties! Right? Right?

Paul nods.

WINSTON (CONT'D)

Super. I'm telling you, I know where all the best parties are. So don't forget- the name's Winston. You know where to find me.

PAUL

9-1-1.

WINSTON

That's right! Good to meet you, son.

They shake hands. Winston gets on his mountain bike and leaves. He rings the bell on his bike as he rides.

INT. KAREN'S ROOM -- DAY

Karen sleeps on her bed. The glass of water is empty.

INT. CABIN -- DAY

Bert and Paul open a trap door in the living room. It leads to the basement.

INT. BASEMENT -- DAY

Bert and Paul crawl down a flight of creaky, wooden steps. A dim lightbulb illuminates the basement. Bert searches around with a flashlight.

BERT

Here we go.

Bert shines the light on a dusty shelf full of cleaning supplies. We see a bucket, cleaning solvent, quick dry cement, lawn fertilizer, an old canteen, some rags.

PAUL

We should probably clean this stuff off before we use it to clean the car.

Bert and Paul grab the bucket, rags and cleaning solvent. Bert looks around.

BERT

This would be a great place to hide a body.

No response from Paul.

BERT (CONT'D)

I'm just saying.

They go back upstairs.

EXT. CABIN -- DAY

Paul hoses off the car while Bert works the interior, legs hanging out the driver's side.

BERT

So he said he's gonna report it, or he's not gonna report it?

PAUL

I think so, but he didn't make it seem like we did anything wrong. He said he'll get a tow truck up here by tomorrow.

BERT

Sounds weird.

PAUL

The guy was weird. Once he saw Karen he didn't want to leave.

BERT

Has she left her room yet?

PAUL

I think she's sleeping. I don't know what's up with her. She wants to get out of here as soon as possible.

BERT

Kind of fucks up your plan, doesn't it.

PAUL

What plan?

BERT

Come on. The plan you've been trying to execute since, what, eighth grade?

PAUL

There's no plan. Not anymore.

BERT

Well Karen's more than welcome to take off. I don't give a shit, I'm staying. I get one week of vacation a year, I'm not gonna let her fuck it up. She's a head case anyway.

PAUL

What makes you say that?

BERT

Just look at her. You like her because she's nice to you. She likes you because she can control you. And you're nice to her because-

PAUL

Bert.

Paul speaks quietly, but sternly. He stands frozen.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Don't move.

Bert sits up *sloooooowly*. Standing about ten feet from the car, just by the edge of the woods, is DR. MAMBO, Justin's dog.

BERT

Oh man, it's that freak's dog. Hey pooch. Hey Mr. Tango.

But something is not well with the Doctor. Its mouth is crusty, bleeding a bit, with a little foam. He is growling.

Bert freezes. Paul picks up a rock.

BERT (CONT'D)

Don't piss him off.

The dog starts to bark. Close in on its mouth. Barking. Foaming. Bleeding. Fire in its eyes.

BERT (CONT'D)

Where's that fuckin' mountain climber.

PAUL

Should I hit it?

BERT

If you do you better hit it hard.

Marcy comes out on the porch.

MARCY

Hey you guys, what do you wanna do about-

PAUL

(not moving)

Shhhhh. We have company.

Marcy sees the dog.

The dog begins to walk towards Bert. It walks slowly, staggered. Bert slinks back into the Jeep.

Paul steps towards the dog. The dog turns and snarls at Paul. Paul freezes.

BAM! Marcy fires the rifle from the porch. The dog is startled. BAM! Marcy fires again, in the air. The dog runs off.

Bert shoots the hose at the dog. Paul sprays Windex at it, but it doesn't travel far.

MARCY

Did you see that thing? It was rotting.

PAUL

So where's Grim?

They all look at one another and quickly run back inside the cabin.

INT. CABIN -- DAY

Paul, Bert, Jeff, Marcy and Karen sit at the kitchen table. Jeff and Bert drink beer, Marcy drinks tea. Karen drinks water.

JEFF

I'll tell you where he is: he's out there rotting. There's some shit out there in the woods and that Hermit's spreading it around. I'm not waiting for that deputy to come back, I say we get out of here right now.

KAREN

Should we say anything on the way out, like, we burned someone alive?

PAUL

Yes.

JEFF

No.

MARCY

Jeff-

JEFF

Fine, fuck it, we'll tell the cops. We'll tell them everything.

PAUL

They'll figure it out. The deputy knows something happened, we're the only outsiders, they'll trace it back to us.

KAREN

I feel nauseas.

Karen gets up and walks to her room.

PAUL

Karen-

Paul gets up to follow her. She closes the door to her room.

MARCY

How soon can you get us out of here?

BERT

I can't really fix the car, but I can get it driveable. Maybe.

(MORE)

BERT (CONT'D)

Then we can go to town and tell them what happened, and that'll be that. But you'll have to cover me with the gun. I'm not fucking with that dog.

Jeff and Bert get up. Marcy rubs her neck and rolls her head from side to side. Her neck cracks from stress.

MARCY

I need a bath.

Paul sits alone.

MARCY (CONT'D)

Jeff's mom has the stupidest ideas. "Let's get a cabin." So retarded.

INT. PAUL'S BEDROOM -- DAY

Paul does push ups. He checks himself out in the mirror.

INT. KAREN'S BEDROOM -- DAY

Paul stands in the doorway with another glass of water. Karen sleeps. Paul enters and kneels by her bed. Karen rolls over.

KAREN

Hey.

PAUL

Hey. Sorry, I didn't mean to wake you.

KAREN

It's okay.

Paul hands her the water.

PAUL

I think Marcy's making chili.

Karen drinks the water. She looks at Paul. Smiles.

KAREN

I'm not hungry.

PAUL

I'll let you get back to sleep.

Paul starts to get up. Karen takes his arm.

KAREN

No. You don't have to go.

Karen pulls Paul into bed with her. This could be the moment Paul has been waiting for. He pulls Karen closer into his arms. The window is right behind his head. Paul lowers the blinds.

EXT. CABIN -- LATER

Bert is fiddling with the engine. The windshield has been duct taped, as has much of the car. Most of the blood has been cleaned off.

Jeff stands on the back seat keeping watch. He holds the rifle. They both whisper.

JEFF

For someone who's been working at a gas station since high school you sure work pretty fuckin' slow.

BERT

You wanna get in here and fix this? Sorry if I'm not used to working on cars damaged by baseball bats. Try it again.

Jeff tries to start the car. It doesn't catch.

BERT (CONT'D)

You know, if we can't get this thing ready it'll be too dark to drive it.

JEFF

Please hurry up. I can't listen to Marcy whine for another-

Jeff sees DR. MAMBO about 40 yards off in the distance. The dog stays close to the edge of the woods, pacing back and forth. Jeff aims the rifle at it.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Shit.

BERT

What?

JEFF

Don't move. Don't turn around. Just keep working.

They hear the dog GROWL.

BERT

Fuck. Can you hit it from here?

Jeff takes aim at the dog. He fires a shot. He misses.
This time the dog does not go away.

JEFF

Why did you stop?

Bert looks up at the sky. It's getting darker. They watch the dog. It takes a step closer. It looks a bit more rotted than before, with foam covering its mouth.

BERT

Shoot it.

Jeff takes aim. The dog paces back and forth.

JEFF

Don't stop. If it comes any closer
I can get it.

BERT

Come on...

Bert gets back to work on the engine.

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

INT. KAREN'S BEDROOM -- EVENING

Paul slowly wakes up. He's lying back to back with Karen under the sheets. He sits up in bed.

Paul raises the blinds slightly. It's now dark outside. Paul looks at Karen in the evening light.

Karen rolls onto her back. Her t-shirt slides up just below her breasts, exposing her stomach.

Paul slowly raises his hand and waves it in front of Karen's face. She's fast asleep. He gently puts his hand on her stomach and gently touches it. Karen purrs and curls into him a bit more.

Paul slowly moves his hand to Karen's face. He lightly slides his fingers over her lips, gently caressing her face. Karen moves slightly, rubbing her cheek into his palm.

Paul moves his hand back to Karen's stomach. He slowly moves his hand up her torso, and gently glides his hand over her breasts. Karen breathes in deeply, still in a dreamlike state.

KAREN

Mmmmm...

Paul's hand lightly grazes over Karen's breasts. Karen responds with small moaning noises. She seems to be enjoying it. Her lips part slightly, her breathing intensifies.

Karen shifts her legs, exposing the top of her panties. Paul lowers his hand down past Karen's breasts, across her stomach. Lower...lower...

Paul's hand is now between Karen's legs, hidden UNDER THE COVERS. Paul watches Karen's face carefully. Her eyes are closed. She smiles a little.

Paul twists his arm slightly lower, moving his arm around a bit more aggressively. He never takes his eyes off Karen's face. Suddenly, Paul stops moving. Something doesn't feel quite right.

Paul pulls down the sheets to reveal-

HIS FINGERS DIGGING INTO THE ROTTED FLESH ON KAREN'S THIGHS.

A pus-filled, rotting, spider web virus covers Karen's legs. Paul's hand has been picking away at the dead flesh at the top of Karen's thighs. The disease looks similar to that on the old man.

Paul holds up his hand, dripping with Karen's blood and pus.

PAUL

Oh...oh my God.

Paul runs to the bathroom holding his moist, bloodied hand in the air.

INT. KAREN'S BATHROOM -- EVENING

Paul bursts into Karen's bathroom and sees:

BLOOD, splattered all over the mirror, sink and walls. It looks like it has been coughed there. Paul runs past Karen, who still has her eyes closed.

INT. PAUL'S BATHROOM -- EVENING

Paul vigorously scrubs his hand in the sink. Bits of Karen's flesh run down the drain. Paul vomits a little into the sink.

PAUL

Shit shit shit shit shit. Marcy!

Paul runs out of the bathroom.

INT. LIVING ROOM -- EVENING

Paul runs into the living room in a panic. Marcy is cooking in the kitchen.

PAUL

It's Karen.

Marcy runs to Karen's room.

EXT. CABIN -- EVENING

Paul bursts onto the porch.

PAUL

Bert!

Bert pops his head up, banging it on the hood of the Jeep.

BERT

Fuckit!

PAUL

Commere, now!

Jeff watches the dog in the woods. Dr. Mambo is still at the edge of the grass, watching them.

JEFF

We're coming.

Suddenly, they hear Marcy SCREAM from inside the cabin. They all run inside. Jeff holds the rifle behind them, aimed at the woods.

INT. KAREN'S ROOM -- NIGHT

Marcy is still screaming. She is turned away from Karen. Karen moans in bed, not really conscious.

Jeff, Paul and Bert run in. Marcy grabs Jeff and holds him tight.

MARCY

She's sick...she got it, she's sick.

Bert stumbles back.

BERT

Oh my God. Oh my God, she got it.

Karen begins to get out of bed. They all see her rotted leg.

KAREN

You guys, help me...Paul...

Bert steps in and SHOVES Karen back in bed.

BERT

Stay in your FUCKIN' BED. Don't fuckin' come near me!

Paul jumps between Bert and Karen.

PAUL

Jesus Bert, calm down, take it easy.

BERT

No!

Bert shoves Paul out of the room. He pushes everyone out.

BERT (CONT'D)

Everybody get the fuck out.

JEFF

Get the fuck off me, man.

BERT

No, no back, out out out.

Bert points at Karen.

BERT (CONT'D)

You. Stay in your bed. You're not goin' anywhere.

KAREN

Bert, help me!

PAUL

You fuckin' animal!

Bert pushes Paul out the door. Karen begins to get out of bed again.

KAREN

I'm bleeding-- it burns--somebody--

BERT

BACK IN BED!

Bert grabs Karen's suitcase and holds it between his chest and Karen. He fakes throwing it at her head. She cowers back under the sheets.

BERT (CONT'D)

Stay in the fuckin' bed, you hear?
You don't do anything until I tell
you. And don't fuckin' come near
me!

KAREN

Bert, Jesus Christ-

Paul pulls Bert back out of the room.

PAUL

Leave her alone, goddammit.

Bert SLAMS Karen's door shut.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE KAREN'S ROOM -- NIGHT

PAUL

WHAT THE FUCK IS YOUR PROBLEM?

BERT

She's your friend. She's fuckin'
sick, she's not coming near me. I'm
doing this for you, too. I'm doing
this for all of you.

We hear Karen moving furniture. Bert opens the door and
sees Karen standing up.

BERT (CONT'D)

You stay in your fuckin' bed! You
stay in your fuckin' bed!

Karen gets back in bed. She screams as Bert slams the door.

KAREN

Don't leave me! Don't leave me!

Bert opens the door and points at Karen.

BERT

The car's fuckin' busted! We can't
leave! Stay in the fuckin' bed until
we can get help! You're such a stupid
goddamn whore!

Bert slams the door. Paul puts his hands on Bert's shoulders.

PAUL

Bert. Bert. It's okay. Calm down.

They hear a TOILET FLUSH. Jeff steps into the hall. They
all stare at each other.

JEFF

What?

INT. LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT

Everyone wears t-shirts and boxers.

Jeff stands with a flashlight.

Karen's cries for help can be heard from her room.

Bert takes his shirt off. Jeff checks Bert's chest up and down, in and out, extremely carefully.

Jeff then drops to his knees and checks Bert's legs. Then Bert shows Jeff his ass and his front. All is clear.

Jeff starts checking Paul. He then does the same for Marcy. Marcy checks Jeff. Everyone looks okay. Karen continues to moan from her room.

CUT TO:

EXT. CABIN -- NIGHT

Jeff walks outside with a flashlight and sheets, followed by Bert, who carries the rifle. Paul and Marcy follow, carrying a mattress. Finally, once they are about 10 feet ahead, Karen stumbles out, wrapped in a blanket, with trash bags around her feet.

They walk until they arrive at the toolshed behind the cabin.

EXT. SHED -- NIGHT

Jeff holds open the door as Paul and Marcy walk inside and place the mattress on the ground. Once they exit, Karen takes her place in the shed.

Nobody says a word.

KAREN

Fuck you guys.

MARCY

Karen, I'm sorry, we just don't want to get it.

KAREN

I'm going to die.

PAUL

You're not. Please, Karen. We're going to get help now.

KAREN

What about that guy's dog?

BERT

We're watching you with the gun.

JEFF

We're gonna bolt the door shut.
Someone's gonna be right outside.
We're not gonna leave you.

MARCY

I'll be back with food.

Karen sits on the mattress, shaking. She holds a flashlight.

KAREN

I want to go home.

Jeff shuts the shed door and bolts it shut. The group steps away.

JEFF

I'll take the first shift.

Bert hands Jeff the gun. He goes back to working on the car.

Paul stands by the road leading down the mountain.

PAUL

Marcy? You coming?

Marcy looks at Jeff, then at Paul.

MARCY

Paul, who lives around here? Where are we gonna go?

PAUL

I don't give a shit- a neighbor, anyone-

MARCY

We trekked this whole area this morning. There's nobody for miles.

PAUL

I'll run down the fucking mountain if I have to. I'm getting her help.

MARCY

Well that dog--

PAUL

Fuck the dog, I'll take the bat with me.

Jeff hands Paul the flashlight.

JEFF

Take my cell. Maybe you'll get in range once you're down the mountain a bit.

Jeff goes inside and comes out with his cell phone. Paul puts the phone in his pocket and starts down the mountain.

EXT. WOODS -- NIGHT

Paul shines the light around looking for the road. The deeper he gets into the woods, the louder the cricket noises grow.

Paul hears a low GROWLING noise behind him. He turns off his light and holds the bat with two hands. Something moves near him, crashing through the trees.

PAUL

(trying to scare it away)

Aaaaaah. AAAAAAAAAAAH.

Paul swings the bat around. The animal runs around him a few more times. Paul turns on his light and starts to run down the mountain road.

EXT. CABIN -- NIGHT

Marcy stands outside Karen's shed with a plate of food.

MARCY

Karen. Come on, Karen, you gotta eat.

Karen doesn't respond. Marcy opens the door. She puts the food down at the edge of the door. Karen's hand slides out of the shadow and takes the tray.

MARCY (CONT'D)

Let me know if you need anything else, okay? Okay?

KAREN

Better close the door. I don't want to infect everyone.

Marcy closes the door.

EXT. WOODS -- NIGHT

Paul continues down the road. Off in the distance he sees a lake. At the other end of the lake is a light, and a house.

EXT. LAKE --- NIGHT

Paul walks around the edge of the lake, sometimes stepping in the water. There is no clear path. He comes to a grass back yard, in the back of someone's house. A light is on inside.

Paul walks up to the door. There is no doorbell. He knocks. No answer.

EXT. HOUSE -- NIGHT

Paul slowly walks around the side of the house, looking in. He follows the light until he sees two figures in the bedroom.

Paul peers in the window and sees a couple HAVING SEX. They are in their 40's, and look like more of a tourist couple than natives to the area. Paul stands mesmerized for a moment, embarrassed at what he's seeing.

The man climbs off the woman and leaves the room. Paul stands frozen, watching the naked woman on the bed.

Suddenly, the man puts his HAND ON PAUL'S SHOULDER BEHIND HIM.

Paul jumps around, startled.

MAN

What are you doing?!?

PAUL

Oh, God, I was...my friend, she's sick. She's very sick.

MAN

You're very sick.

PAUL

I'm...I'm sorry, I-

MAN

That's my WIFE.

Paul backs away. He starts to run out of the driveway. The man starts throwing rocks and branches at Paul.

PAUL

Please, I need a phone- my friend's dying, help me, please!

MAN
GET OFF MY PROPERTY!

The man throws more rocks at Paul, and starts after him.
Paul runs away into the woods.

EXT. WOODS -- NIGHT

Paul runs and runs and runs.

EXT. CABIN -- NIGHT

Paul emerges from the woods, soaked in sweat, panting. Bert, who was sleeping out on the porch with the rifle in his hand, wakes up.

BERT
Jesus, where've you been?

Paul pants, catching his breath.

BERT (CONT'D)
Did you find anyone?

Paul shakes his head no.

BERT (CONT'D)
Come on, Marcy made chili.

Paul nods and follows Bert inside.

INT. LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT

Everyone sits in the living room, far apart from each other. They eye each other suspiciously. There is food on the table that has barely been eaten.

MARCY
Nobody's hungry?

JEFF
What if Karen used those bowls?

MARCY
Jesus, Jeff I washed them.

BERT
He's right. I'm not eating a thing
until we get to town.

JEFF
Any of you could have it. I know we
checked, but I just don't want to
sleep near you guys.
(MORE)

JEFF (CONT'D)

I don't know what you've been doing,
I don't watch you 24 hours a day.

MARCY

So go sleep in the car, Jeff. Give
us all a break.

JEFF

The car? That thing's a germ factory.
I don't even want to ride in it.
I'll just make my parents buy me
another one.

BERT

I cleaned it. It's fine.

JEFF

So why don't you sleep in it?

BERT

Maybe I will.

Bert puts two marshmallows on a stick.

MARCY

You're right. We should probably
prepare our own meals.

PAUL

I'll sleep outside. I don't wanna
leave Karen.

BERT

Who am I?

Bert lights the marshmallows on fire.

BERT (CONT'D)

Aaaaah! Help me! I'm on fire, help
me!

Jeff stands up and kicks the stick out of Bert's hand, sending
it into the fireplace. Jeff starts to kick Bert violently.

JEFF

You fuckin' loser! You wanna burn
us the fuck down!?!

BERT

Paul! Get off your ass and fuckin'
help me!

Paul walks over to both of them, and THROWS Jeff onto the
couch.

He bends down, picks up Bert and throws him into a chair.

Bert, Jeff and Marcy are taken aback by Paul's assertiveness.

PAUL

Shut. The fuck. Up. CHRIST! I can't take it. I frankly don't wanna do this by myself. I don't think I can handle it. I'd prefer it if we didn't fucking argue about everything.

Bert, sulking, drinks a glass of water.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Bert, you just lost the bet.

Bert nods. Like he gives a shit.

Paul points to the shed.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Our friend is DYING out there. She's fucking dying. And we're acting like a bunch of fucking pussies. So for one second, forget about helping her- let's strap on some balls and help each other. Otherwise we're all fucking doomed.

MARCY

He's right.

JEFF

Of course he's right.

MARCY

I was just saying-

PAUL

GOOD! We're communicating. That's a fuckin' positive.

Outside the window, Paul sees Dr. Mambo sniffing around the tool shed. Paul remains calm. He squeezes his eyes shut as if he has a horrible headache.

PAUL (CONT'D)

I can't handle any yelling, alright? I can't take that. Let's not quarantine ourselves. Let's sleep together. In here.

BERT

I'll keep watch outside with you.

PAUL

Good. Now has anybody got anything else to say?

They don't. Paul relaxes his posture.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Okay. Now let me tell you a story about someone who needs your fuckin' help. You guys remember Ken Webb?

The dog BARKS WILDLY outside. They look out the window and see the dog jumping at the door of the toolshed.

Bert sees the food on the table.

EXT. CABIN -- NIGHT

Bert walks out to the shed with a bag of food in his hand. Jeff follows with the gun, Paul and Marcy follow with the flashlight.

The dog stops barking and looks up at the group. Bert takes the bag of food and spins it over his head, TOSSING IT INTO THE WOODS.

The dog runs into the woods, chasing after the food.

BERT

Karen, he's gone. We're gonna stay out all night with you. Karen?

No response from Karen.

EXT. SHED -- NIGHT

Bert sits in a chair outside the shed, sleeping with the rifle in his hands.

INT. PAUL'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Paul and Marcy sleep in Paul's bed, side by side, fully clothed.

INT. JEFF'S ROOM -- NIGHT

Jeff sleeps alone in his room. He has barricaded himself in with furniture.

EXT. LAKE -- NIGHT

The stars glitter on the water. The scenery is peaceful and beautiful.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. CABIN -- DAY

Bert revs the Jeep engine. It's running. He smiles.

INT. CABIN -- DAY

Bert runs inside, clapping his hands.

BERT

Let's go, let's go, let's go. The
Jeep's running, let's get moving.

Paul and Marcy step into the living room.

BERT (CONT'D)

Where's Jeff?

EXT. JEFF'S ROOM -- DAY

Bert knocks on Jeff's door.

BERT

Jeff, we're going, let's move.

Jeff sits up in bed, fully clothed.

JEFF

Is Karen getting in that car? I
don't wanna ride with her in there.

BERT

I don't know- come on, we need your
help.

EXT. TOOLSHED -- DAY

The door is scratched up from the dog. Paul and Marcy push
the door open to find

KAREN lying on the floor of the shed, off the mattress. Her
body is twisted, contorted.

Paul and Marcy rush over to Karen and try to sit her up,
without touching her legs.

MARCY

Karen, Karen sit up.

PAUL

Come on, Karen.

KAREN

I think I have a fever.

Karen is barely able to sit up. We see her legs- they are far more infected than before. Almost turned to mush. Flies hover around her open sores.

MARCY

Can you stand?

Karen leans on Marcy to stand up. Once she is up, she is able to walk out of the shed, leaning on Marcy and Paul. Paul wraps a blanket around her.

EXT. CABIN -- DAY

Bert walks to the driver's side door and starts to cough. He coughs a little at first, then a bit harder.

Bert walks over to the lawn and leans over, coughing more vigorously now.

BLOOD SPLATTERS ON THE FLOWERS AS BERT COUGHS.

Bert stops for a moment. He wipes his mouth. He looks at his arms. Bert scratches at his crotch. He lowers the waistband of his shorts slightly to reveal- THE INFECTION. The same infection Karen had the day before.

Bert looks up to see Karen limping towards the Jeep. He knows he's next.

BERT

Jeff, we're ready! Let's move it, now!

EXT. CABIN -- DAY

Jeff exits with a packed bag. Other bags are on the porch.

Karen limps to the passenger side door with Paul and Marcy's help.

BERT

Put her in the back.

JEFF

I don't think we should sit next to her.

BERT

Then put her in the front.

JEFF

I'm not driving with her next to me.

BERT

I'm driving.

Jeff shoots Bert a look. 'Fine.' Jeff opens the front door. Jeff covers the seat with trash bags.

Karen stops before stepping in the car.

PAUL

You okay? What is it?

Karen waves her hand in front of her face. She leans to step into the car when- SPLAT-

Karen begins to wildly cough BLOOD all over the shotgun side of the car.

Paul and Marcy instinctively let go. Karen leans against the Jeep for support, then crashes to the ground. Paul and Marcy grab Karen and lie her down. Bert runs around to see her.

Jeff throws up beside the cabin. Blood flows from Karen's mouth.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Holy fuck.

MARCY

Karen! Karen!

Marcy kneels by Karen.

MARCY (CONT'D)

She's gonna die...we've got to get her to town, she's gonna die...

PAUL

She's not going anywhere.

Bert starts to panic.

BERT

Come on, get in.

JEFF

Are you nuts? She just infected the car.

BERT

I'll take my chances. I'm gonna go get a doctor and come right back. Who's coming?

MARCY

I'm not leaving Karen. I can't.

PAUL

Bert, you don't look so hot.

The others look at Bert. He doesn't look well. Black and blue spots are forming on his arms.

BERT

Yeah well I don't feel so hot. And the longer we sit here arguing the more she rots.

JEFF

Just how sick are you, Bert? Did that old guy touch you?

BERT

This is horse shit.

Bert starts up the engine.

JEFF

Well DID HE OR DIDN'T HE?

Bert takes off in the Jeep. Jeff steps back. Paul and Marcy sit by Karen.

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD -- DAY

Bert drives the Jeep down the road.

EXT. CABIN -- DAY

Paul and Marcy hold Karen's head.

MARCY

We should move her back to the shed.

JEFF

Fuck that. Put her down and don't touch her.

MARCY

What is WRONG with you Jeff?

JEFF

What's wrong with you? I'm sorry, Marcy, as much as I like Karen I don't want to rot like a fucking pumpkin.

Jeff goes inside.

INT. KITCHEN -- DAY

Jeff vigorously wipes his hands on a dishtowel.

INT. TOOLSHED -- DAY

Marcy and Paul grab Karen's mattress. There's blood everywhere.

INT. KITCHEN -- DAY

Jeff reaches into the refrigerator and grabs two six packs of beer.

EXT. CABIN -- DAY

Paul and Marcy side Karen onto the mattress. Blood spills out of Karen's mouth.

MARCY

Oh God. She's bleeding again.

PAUL

Don't move her.

Paul dashes off into the cabin. He bumps into Jeff in the living room. Jeff is on his way out.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Going somewhere?

JEFF

Anywhere but here.

Paul grabs a handful of paper towels. He runs outside past Jeff.

EXT. CABIN -- DAY

Paul begins to blot the blood around Karen's face.

MARCY

Gimme some.

Paul and Marcy clean up Karen's face. Jeff walks past them, towards the woods, without saying a word.

MARCY (CONT'D)

Where the fuck do you think you're going?

PAUL

Let him go.

MARCY

Jeff! JEFF!

Marcy stands up. She starts towards Jeff.

JEFF

Don't come near me! I told you not to touch her! I don't want to get sick! I don't want any of us to get sick! But you fuckin' fuckers insist on moving her and now she's bleeding all over both you. So you two can fucking rot! Not me! No fucking way, not me!

Jeff walks off into the woods. Marcy is almost in tears.

MARCY

Asshole!

PAUL

Come on. Lift.

Marcy lifts up the mattress with Paul. They carry Karen back to the toolshed.

EXT. TOOLSHED -- DAY

Paul and Marcy struggle to move the mattress in the tiny door of the toolshed. They slide the mattress onto a work table and quickly leave.

EXT. SHED -- DAY

PAUL

We should throw out Karen's bloody shit. Pack the rest of her stuff in trash bags.

Marcy nods. They walk back inside.

EXT. JEEP -- DAY

Bert races the Jeep down the mountain. He scratches the back of his neck. He reaches for the stick shift and sees BLOOD ON HIS HANDS.

Bert pulls the car over and looks in the rear view mirror.

Bert begins to frantically scratch the back of his neck, spilling flesh and blood everywhere. Scratch scratch scratch.

Bert pulls back onto the road. Full speed ahead.

INT. CABIN -- DAY

Paul packs up Karen's clothes into bags and throws them onto the porch.

INT. SHOWER -- DAY

Paul scrubs his entire body with soap.

INT. LIVING ROOM -- DAY

Paul steps into the living room, freshly showered and changed. Nobody's there.

INT. MARCY'S ROOM -- DAY

Marcy sits on her bed, staring out the window. Paul enters.

MARCY

We're all gonna get it. We're all gonna get sick and Jeff's in the woods getting drunk.

Paul puts his hand on Marcy's shoulder.

PAUL

We're not gonna get it. Bert's gonna get help, and Karen will be fine. I promise.

MARCY

It's like being on a plane when you know you're going to crash. Everyone around you is panicking, screaming "we're going down, we're going down," and all you wanna do is grab the person next to you and fuck the shit out of them because you know you'll be dead soon anyway.

Marcy looks up at Paul. They stare at each other in silence until Marcy GRABS PAUL and pulls him on top of her, kissing him furiously. Paul kisses her back, roughly. She rips his shirt off. Then she rips hers off.

CUT TO:

EXT. WATERSKI SHED -- DAY

Jeff sits in the waterski shed at the house across the lake. There are empty beer cans around him. He's drinking a beer.

JEFF

If one of the bottles should happen to fall, 98 bottles of beer on the wall. 98 bottles of beer on the wall...

CUT BACK TO:

INT. MARCY'S ROOM -- DAY

Paul and Marcy are totally naked now. She's on top. He puts one of her breasts in his mouth.

They begin to have quick, rough sex.

PAUL

You don't use condoms?

MARCY

Don't worry, I'm healthy.

CUT BACK TO:

EXT. WATERSKI SHED -- DAY

JEFF

56 bottles of beer on the wall,
fuckity fuckity fuck. Karen's skin
is falling off, Bert's a piece of
shit on the wall. Bert-

CUT TO:

EXT. JEEP -- DAY

Bert pulls out onto the highway, ignoring the traffic. His head is soaked in blood.

INT. MARCY'S ROOM -- DAY

Paul and Marcy are still having sex.

We see Marcy's back. Paul sits up, his hands digging into her. Very slowly, his nails RIP DOWN MARCY'S BACK, leaving a trail of black and blue flesh. It's as if he's making skid marks down her spine. Marcy pumps away too hard to notice.

Paul finishes. Marcy climbs off. They both breathe heavily.

EXT. CADWELL'S -- DAY

Dennis sits on the swing outside. We see his EYES GO WIDE OPEN.

The Jeep roars into the parking lot, skidding out. Bert stumbles out of the jeep, dripping with blood.

There is a sign next to Dennis' swing. It reads: DO NOT SIT NEXT TO DENNIS.

Bert staggers towards the entrance.

As Bert gets closer, Tommy steps out.

BERT
Mr. Cadwell, Mr. Cadwell!

TOMMY
What the HELL happened to you?

BERT
My friend- she's sick.

TOMMY
Hold it, hold it right there.

Bert stops.

BERT
She's real sick. I need a doctor,
please-

TOMMY
Stop! You don't look so good.

BERT
I know. I think we're all getting
this disease...we can't stop it. Is
there a hospital near here?

TOMMY
Yes. Stay right there. Don't come
any closer. I'll call a doctor.

BERT
Thank you, thank you.

Bert crouches down, catching his breath.

As Tommy steps inside, Dennis start to yell.

DENNIS
Pancakes. Pancakes!

Dennis's face lights up. He gets more and more excited with
each breath.

DENNIS (CONT'D)
Pancakes! Pancakes!

Dennis CHARGES after Bert's pus-ridden hand.

Tommy turns to see Dennis charging at Bert.

Bert starts to run, but he's not quick enough.

TOMMY

(trying to be patient)
Now Dennis, I told you to stay on
the swing! DENNIS-

BERT

No pancakes! No pancakes!

Dennis jumps on Bert and CHOMP- he sinks his teeth into Bert's infected hand.

BERT (CONT'D)

Aaaaaaahhhh!

Bert wiggles his hand away. Dennis doesn't like the taste. His face turns sour. He releases his bite and starts to cry.

Dennis runs crying to Tommy, spitting out a mouthful of bloody crust.

Tommy turns to Bert, fire in his eyes.

TOMMY

Why? Why did you come here? Now looks what you done...look what you done to this poor boy. What's he done to you?

BERT

Sir, please, a doctor, we need a-

Tommy's anger increases as he speaks.

TOMMY

I already lost one boy, I ain't losing another. What if the doctors can't fix my boy? You get my boy sick it's the same as killing him. It's murder.

BERT

Pardon?

TOMMY

Before, you bein' sick, that's your problem. Now Dennis is sick, that's my problem. Then I get sick, that's Lucille's problem. We gotta stop the problem. We gotta stop the problem right now!

Bert starts to back away, stumbling towards the jeep.

TOMMY (CONT'D)
FENSTER! RIFLE!

Bert gets in the Jeep and starts to drive back towards the mountain.

A moment later, FENSTER lumbers out with a rifle. He is a hulking mass of stupidity, wearing a bloody apron that says "Kiss the Fenster."

Fenster holds a bloody meat cleaver in one hand. He hands Tommy the rifle.

Cadwell comes out and watches.

Tommy fires a shot at Bert. It hits the rear bumper. Bert drives away.

TOMMY (CONT'D)
There's some kids up in a cabin.
They've got a disease. They just
gave it to Dennis.

A beat. Fenster thinks this over.

FENSTER
We'll need the kit.

Fenster waddles off to get THE KIT, whatever that may be. Tommy cocks the rifle.

CADWELL
Gimme that rifle, tommy. Just take
'er easy, now.

TOMMY
If a cattle gets sick you gotta kill
it before it spreads to the rest of
the herd. Like a dying dog...let's
go put 'em down.

INT. PAUL'S BATHROOM -- DAY

Paul checks his face, arms and chest in the mirror. All is clear. He takes a bottle of LISTERINE from the medicine chest.

Paul stands over the toilet and drops his pants. He pours the Listerine all over his crotch.

PAUL
Aaaah...fuck.

INT. MARCY'S BATHROOM -- DAY

Marcy washes her face in the sink. As she's toweling off she turns slightly and notices the bruises on her back. Paul's finger marks have progressed into black and blue burns streaking down her back.

EXT. TOOLSHED -- DAY

We move slowly toward the toolshed. Slowly. A hand pushes the door open.

INT. TOOLSHED -- DAY

A figure stands in the doorway. It's Paul. He holds the rifle in one hand and a plate of food in the other.

PAUL

Karen.

No movement from Karen.

PAUL (CONT'D)

I brought some more food.

Paul walks closer, puts the food at the foot of the mattress. Karen is facing away.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Karen...

Karen's eyes are open. Her jaw moves slightly. She's breathing. Dried blood covers her lips.

Paul doesn't look at her face. He leaves and closes the door.

EXT. HIGHWAY -- DAY

Bert drives down the road like a maniac. He looks in the rear view mirror and sees-

A TRUCK following him.

BOOM. Shots from the truck. Bert steps on the gas.

INT. MARCY'S BEDROOM -- DAY

Marcy exits the bathroom wearing a bathrobe. Paul comes in fully dressed.

MARCY

Jesus, Paul, you really'did a number on my back.

PAUL

I'm gonna find Jeff then we're walking.

MARCY

What about Bert?

PAUL

I can't wait for him. I have to get out here. Now.

MARCY

Paul? What about Karen. Paul-

Paul leaves.

MARCY (CONT'D)

Fucking guys...all the goddamn same.

EXT. JEEP -- DAY

Bert drives as fast as he can. His condition is bad, but stable. Bert pulls into the oncoming lane to see-

A SCHOOL BUS- driving right at him.

Bert swerves back into his lane, narrowly avoiding the bus. The kids lean their heads out the windows and cheer.

A SHOTGUN BLAST shatters the back windshield of the Jeep.

INT. TOMMY'S TRUCK -- DAY

Tommy drives. Fenster sits in the middle, next to ANDY, a tall, lanky man who holds a shotgun in his hand. Andy leans out the window, his mouth is filled with Sunflower seeds.

ANDY

Missed him.

Andy stuffs more sunflower seeds into his mouth.

EXT. WOODS -- DAY

Paul hikes through the woods looking for Jeff. He holds the rifle, ready to shoot.

Paul comes to the beach. Jeff is nowhere to be found. Paul sees the house across the lake. He begins to walk on a path around the lake.

INT. BATHROOM -- DAY

Marcy steps into the shower. The marks on her back are now deep and fleshy. The infection is spreading at a rapid pace.

The shower spray hits Marcy's back and noises of pain escape from her lips. Marcy switches the water so it comes out of the tub faucet.

The streaks on Marcy's back begin to burn and bleed. She sits down in the tub, trembling and crying. She rubs the stubble on her legs. She leans grabs a can of shaving cream and begins to cover her legs in cream.

Marcy takes a razor and, extending one leg, begins to shave.

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD -- DAY

The Jeep roars up over a rocky path, but then sputters out. Bert frantically tries to start the Jeep, but it won't move. The car sits in the middle of the road, blocking all traffic.

Bert tries to start the car again. Nothing. He jumps out and starts running up the road.

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD -- DAY

Tommy's truck sees the Jeep up ahead. They pull up behind the vehicle and see that no one's in it.

Andy steps out and examines the inside of the Jeep. Bert and Karen's blood covers the interior.

Andy waves for Tommy to join him.

Tommy and Fenster jump out of the truck. They leave the lights of the truck on with the engine running. Andy holds a shotgun, Tommy has a pistol, and Fenster holds a small black tackle box. Fenster still wears his apron.

They look at the trail of blood coming from the Jeep, leading up the road.

TOMMY

Watch the blood. It's dirty.

Andy spits out a wad of seeds. They run off up the road.

INT. MARCY'S BATHROOM -- DAY

CLOSE ON THE RAZOR. As Marcy shaves away the cream, the razor takes away pieces of skin. Marcy does not notice.

EXT. RESERVOIR -- DAY

Paul walks along the path in the woods looking for Jeff. His foot snags on a PIPE buried under some leaves.

Paul follows the pipe to the RESERVOIR, which is hidden in the woods.

He walks up to the edge of the water and looks down to find:

THE HERMIT, face down, floating in the water.

Paul grabs a stick and leans down, trying to poke at the Hermit. The stick cannot reach.

Paul sees a rusted metal ladder leading down into the reservoir. He puts down the gun and grabs the stick.

Paul slowly climbs down the metal ladder rungs, closer to the water. The water level is about 10 feet below the top of the reservoir.

Paul holds on with one hand to a rusted metal rung, and with the other reaches towards the Hermit's body. The stick still does not reach.

Paul extends his arm all the way, hanging off the ladder. He pokes at the Hermit, slowly turning the body over. The Hermit spins over and Paul sees a ROTTED BURNT CORPSE. There are water bugs all over the Hermit's face. Chunks of flesh float in the water.

Paul jumps back and drops the stick. He lurches so hard that he SNAPS OFF THE METAL LADDER RUNG and falls into the reservoir, LANDING ON THE HERMIT.

Paul flails in the reservoir, spinning the Hermit's body. He kicks and screams and reaches for the ladder rungs. He grabs the bottom one- IT SNAPS OFF. Paul grabs another rungs- THE SECOND RUNG SNAPS OFF.

Paul has to STEP ON THE HERMIT'S CORPSE to reach the next ladder rung, which luckily does not break. Paul scrambles his way out of the well.

Paul reaches the top of the pool and sees the sign in front of him that reads: RESERVOIR.

Paul looks back in the water at the rotting man. He looks at the pipe that leads to the cabin.

PAUL

No...no...no...

Paul begins to spit out the water, but he's completely soaked in it. He runs to the lake and JUMPS IN.

PAUL (CONT'D)

JEFF! WHEREVER YOU ARE! DON'T DRINK
THE WATER! IT'S THE WATER! DON'T
DRINK THE FUCKING WATER!

EXT. WATERSKI SHED -- DAY

Paul's screams echo around the lake, barely discernable. No response from Jeff inside the shed.

EXT. MOUNTAINS -- DAY

BOOM. Gunshot.

Andy looks through his scope. Spits a few seeds.

ANDY

Nothin'.

TOMMY

Gimme some of them.

ANDY

I don't have no more.

Tommy looks at Andy suspiciously and continues on. Andy slyly stuffs more sunflower seeds into his mouth behind Tommy's back. Fenster takes note.

EXT. WOODS -- DAY

Bert hears the gunshot and cuts off the path into a wiry brush. As Bert runs through the thorny bushes, the branches RIP AWAY PIECES OF HIS FLESH.

It is as if Bert is running through a paper shredder.

EXT. MOUNTAINS -- DAY

Andy, Tommy, and Fenster follow the scraps of Bert's flesh through the brush.

EXT. WOODS -- DAY

Bert tears into the dead flesh on his left arm. He rips out a chunk of bloody matter and smears it on a white Birch tree. Bert then walks about ten feet into the brush and smears more blood, leaving a false trail.

Bert turns and runs in the opposite direction, trying his best to cover his bloody tracks.

EXT. WOODS -- DAY

Andy, Tommy and Fenster see Bert's bloody markings and follow them.

TOMMY

Up here.

ANDY

Mmm hmmm.

Andy nods, his mouth filled with sunflower seeds. Fenster makes the same noise. A sunflower seed spills out of his mouth. He looks up to make sure Tommy did not notice.

INT. MARCY'S BATHROOM -- DAY

Marcy shaves her legs.

In the tub, pieces of skin fall, staining the water with blood. The flesh peels off so easily that Marcy still does not notice. Finally, with one long peel from the top of her foot to her thigh, she slices off her skin with the razor. Like peeling the skin off a banana.

Marcy sits up and screams. She tries to wash the wound, but the stinging-only intensifies. Marcy tries to stand up, and propping herself up, turns on the shower.

The water spray TEARS INTO HER FLESH. Marcy screams louder.

INT. TOOLSHED -- DAY

Karen's twisted body lays half off the mattress.

KAREN'S FINGERS- crack and bleed as she flexes her hand.

EXT. WOODS -- DAY

BOOM. Andy fires a shot into the woods.

EXT. RESERVOIR -- DAY

Paul turns his head in the direction of the gunshot.

INT. SHOWER -- DAY

Marcy looks up from her bloody legs, towards the direction from where she heard the gunshot.

EXT. CABIN -- DAY

Marcy bursts from the front door of the cabin, screaming. She has a towel wrapped around her bloody, skinless legs.

In front of the cabin Marcy sees- JUSTIN'S DOG. Growling, snarling, about 20 feet from her.

Marcy turns to run back inside, but the dog CHARGES after her. It looks far more sick than before.

Marcy tries to run to the toolshed. The dog jumps on her and takes her down. He chomps at her leg.

MARCY
KAREN! KAREN!

EXT. WOODS -- DAY

Paul hears Marcy's screams coming from the cabin. He runs through the woods. Marcy's screams get louder and more horrifying.

EXT. CABIN -- DAY

Paul emerges from the path in the woods to find a bloody mess in front of the cabin.

PAUL
What the fuck...

A bloody trail leads to the toolshed. Paul drops the gun on the ground, stunned. He sees:

Marcy's body ripped to shreds.

PAUL (CONT'D)
No! Shit!

EXT. WATERSKI SHED -- DAY

Paul's cries can be heard from the waterski shed across the lake, where Jeff is. Jeff does not respond.

EXT. TOOLSHED -- DAY

Paul runs to the toolshed. The door is open a crack. There is blood all over the latch. Marcy's arm is on the ground.

INT. TOOLSHED -- DAY

Paul opens the door to find-

Karen, lying on the floor with JUSTIN'S DOG EATING THE FLESH OUT OF HER STOMACH.

The dog stops chewing. Looks up at Paul. Paul grabs a shovel off the wall. The dog growls.

Paul turns and tears ass out of the shed. The dog lunges after him.

Paul SMASHES the dog in the skull with the shovel. The dog lets out a wild YELP.

The dog goes after Paul's leg and bites into it. Paul screams, but continues to whack the dog. Finally he knocks the dog off him, and beats it down with the side of the shovel. Paul begins to CHOP into the dog.

HACK HACK HACK HACK. The guts jiggle and twitch.

The dog goes limp.

INT. TOOLSHED -- DAY

Paul limps over to Karen, using the shovel as a cane.

Karen lies on her side. Paul rolls her over. Her face is completely rotted away.

At once she OPENS HER EYES and makes a gasping noise. It appears as if she's trying to say something. Paul stands over her. He cannot stand to see her in so much pain.

Paul picks up the shovel and holds it over Karen's head. She is still alive. Paul closes his eyes and SMASHES Karen's skull in with the shovel, crushing her head like a rotted pumpkin. Paul picks up the shovel and hits her again, making sure she's dead. But Paul does not stop. He becomes more and more possessed with each blow, and begins to pummel Karen's corpse over and over until there's almost nothing left intact.

Paul stands over Karen's remains and throws the shovel down.

INT. MARCY'S BATHROOM -- DAY

Paul looks in Marcy's bathroom. Flesh and blood are everywhere.

Paul leaves.

INT. PAUL'S BATHROOM -- DAY

Paul wipes himself off with a towel. He sits in the tub, scrubbing his leg.

Paul looks in the mirror. He spot checks his entire body for the virus in a full length mirror.

All is clear. Paul stares in the mirror for a moment then runs out of his room.

INT. LIVING ROOM -- DAY

Paul rummages through his belongings, throwing a bag together. He grabs the rifle, a bag of chips, and a flashlight.

Paul opens the door to find-

BERT, on the porch, lying in a bloody heap.

PAUL

Bert...

Paul sits Bert up.

BERT

They're coming for you. They're going to kill you.

PAUL

Who? The deputy?

BERT

That guy...from the store...

Paul looks out into the woods. He doesn't see anything. Yet. Paul drags Bert inside the cabin.

INT. CABIN -- DUSK

Paul hurls the furniture out of the way. He rips out a kitchen drawer and dumps a collection of KNIVES on the table. Paul grabs a screwdriver from a drawer. He rips off a long piece of DUCT TAPE.

INT. BASEMENT -- DUSK

Paul opens the trap door that leads to the basement.

In the basement Paul scans the shelf. He finds the Plaster of Paris and grabs it. He picks up the rusty metal canteen.

EXT. WOODS -- DUSK

Tommy, Andy, and Fenster slowly amble up the mountain. They seem to be in no particular hurry.

TOMMY

He can't be too far. Let's see what his friends are up to.

INT. KITCHEN -- DUSK

Paul grabs a bag of FLOUR from the kitchen. Paul fills the canteen with water and dumps the Plaster of Paris in.

INT. CABIN -- DUSK

The living room is clear of furniture. Paul turns out the light and waits.

EXT. CABIN -- EVENING

Tommy and Andy make their way out of the woods, followed by Fenster. They see blood and guts splayed across the front lawn.

TOMMY

I knew those kids were trouble the minute they stole from Cad.

ANDY

Good God, they's doin' sacrifices or something. This ain't Christian.

EXT. CABIN PORCH -- EVENING

Andy raises the shotgun as the three men step onto the porch. Tommy and Fenster stand close behind. Fenster crouches down to one side of the door, Tommy to the other. Tommy knocks on the door and steps back.

No answer. Tommy knocks again. Still no answer.

TOMMY

On three.

Tommy gives Andy the signals: 1....2...3!

INT. CABIN -- EVENING

Andy kicks open the door to find-

BERT sitting in a chair facing him, holding the 22 rifle.

BERT

Goodnight, fucker.

Bert fires a shot, but it misses. BLAM. Andy blows off Bert's head.

ANDY

Got him.

And steps inside and WHACK! From behind the door Paul SWINGS THE CEMENT HARDENED CANTEEN into Andy's face. The metal canteen smashes Andy in the face, sending him back across the porch. Andy drops the shotgun and spits blood and sunflower seeds everywhere.

Tommy sticks his hand inside with the pistol raised. He looks up to see

PAUL, breathing heavily, a look of total desperation on his face. Paul hurls several KITCHEN KNIVES at Tommy, one of which sticks in Tommy's neck.

Tommy drops to the ground and pulls out the knife, spilling blood everywhere. He crawls outside.

EXT. CABIN -- EVENING

Paul steps over Andy and Tommy, and sees Fenster outside.

Fenster frantically attempts to open "The Kit", but not before Paul can nail him in the ear with a SCREWDRIVER. Paul pushes the screwdriver deep into Fenster's head.

Fenster drops to the ground screaming and bleeding. Blood runs down his "Kiss the Fenster" apron.

Paul grabs a sharp branch that Bert had carved up from the campfire.

Tommy crawls away across the lawn. Paul stabs Tommy through the back with the branch, pinning him to the ground. Tommy kicks and coughs blood until he dies.

EXT. PORCH -- EVENING

Paul runs back to the porch. He kicks Fenster, who's quite dead, but still clutches "the kit" tightly in his arms.

Andy rolls around, half conscious and gushing blood.

ANDY

You killed Tommy's boy...you killed his boy...

Paul grabs Andy's feet and drags him inside.

INT. CABIN -- EVENING

Paul drags Andy's body to the basement trap door. He opens the hatch and kicks Andy down the steps. Paul looks down the hatch.

PAUL

You tell them it wasn't our fault.
That disease...it was here before we were. It's not our fault.

Paul slams down the hatch and locks it shut.

Paul picks up Andy's shotgun. He walks to the front door, grabs his bag, and looks at Bert's corpse.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Thanks Bert.

EXT. CABIN -- EVENING

Paul yells into the woods in all directions.

PAUL
JEFF! RUN! GET THE FUCK OUT OF
HERE! RUN!

Paul takes off down the mountain road.

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD -- NIGHT

Paul charges down the mountain. Along the road he sees a CAVE. A light shines out of the cave.

EXT. CAVE -- NIGHT

Paul cautiously approaches the cave. There is definitely someone inside.

Paul peeks his head in.

INT. CAVE -- NIGHT

The entrance is tight, but Paul is able to crouch down and squeeze in. Paul shines his flashlight inside to see-

ANOTHER FLASHLIGHT. Paul picks it up. He shines his light further into the cave.

About fifteen feet away Paul sees TWO LEGS sticking out.

PAUL
Hey! Hey! Jeff...

Paul starts to walk towards the legs when he trips on something. Paul shines his light down to see the UPPER TORSO OF A BODY, RIGHT NEXT TO HIM.

It's JUSTIN, the mountain climber, his face and body rotted with the disease. He is ripped completely in half. It appears as if animals have been chewing at him. Spiders crawl in and out of his ear. Paul drops Justin's lamp, screaming.

EXT. CAVE -- NIGHT

Paul exits the cave, coughing and spitting. He continues down the path.

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD -- NIGHT

Paul comes to the battered Jeep, sitting in the middle of the road. Parked behind it, blocking the road, is Tommy's truck.

EXT. TRUCK -- NIGHT

Paul climbs in the truck. He sees a box of shells on the dashboard and re-loads the shotgun. He puts the box down by his side.

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD -- NIGHT

Paul barrels down the road in Tommy's truck.

INT. TOMMY'S TRUCK -- NIGHT

Paul adjusts the rear view mirror as he drives. When he raises his arm he notices THE VIRUS. Spreading up his forearm.

PAUL

Fuck me.

BAM! Paul smashes head on into a DEER.

Paul slams on the breaks, sending the truck skidding down the mountain with the DEER THROUGH THE FRONT WINDSHIELD.

The truck CRASHES into a tree. The deer is still alive, STOMPING AT PAUL.

The deer's hooves swipe at Paul's head, coming inches from his face. Paul tries to grab the shotgun, which has fallen under the seat, just out of reach.

Paul scrapes away at the floor of the truck with his fingers. The deer pounds and pounds, trying to wrench its neck from the shattered windshield. Paul finally grabs the gun.

Paul points the shotgun at the deer. BLAM BLAM BLAM!!!

Paul blasts the deer off the hood of the car. The deer goes flying off the mountain side. Paul sits still, heaving, covered head to toe in deer's blood.

Paul stumbles out of the car and kneels in front of the truck's headlights. Once Paul catches his breath he continues running down the road.

EXT. PATH -- NIGHT

Paul runs further down the road, into the black. He slows down when he hears VOICES.

Paul jumps back behind a few trees, hiding. The VOICES continue. Paul hears faint MUSIC.

Paul wanders towards the noise.

EXT. WOODS CLEARING -- NIGHT

Paul wanders through the trees and finds a-

PARTY in the middle of the woods. Sitting on a tree stump, drinking beer and clapping along with the music is DEPUTY WINSTON.

One kid, in his late teens, plays an acoustic guitar. Next to him another teen plays a harmonica. A couple kisses in a sleeping bag, while another couple lay in each other's arms.

They are all singing 1950's campfire songs.

GUITAR MAN

Michael row your boat ashore, hallelu-
oh God...

Paul wanders out of the woods and into the light of the fire. He is soaked head to toe in blood. Guitar Man stops playing. Harmonica Guy continues, softly.

WINSTON

Holy smokes son, what in tarnation
happened to you?

PAUL

The tow truck. What happened to the
tow truck, Winston? You told me
you'd take care of it.

WINSTON

Hey, you're the party man! Oh, lordy,
am I sorry! I am really, really,
sorry! Would you believe it, the
mechanic had car trouble? He got
stuck! I had to send a tow truck to
get his tow truck. You look like
you need a hand.

PAUL

Yeah. A ride would be good.

WINSTON

No problem. I got the truck tonight,
come on!

Winston gets up when-

CRACK. His WALKIE TALKIE goes off.

WALKIE

Winston! Winston? Do you copy?

WINSTON

I copy you, sir. Go ahead.

WALKIE

Winston, you broken up that underage drinking party near Pine Bear Pass yet?

Winston motions for Harmonica Guy to keep it down.

WINSTON

Uh, that's a negative, sir, I have not yet found the underage band of drinkers. I think I hear some music, though, I'm moving due west-

WALKIE

Never mind them. We got bigger problems. Some kids up in a cabin are on a killing spree. Two, possibly three casualties already. They are armed and hostile. Do not go anywhere near them. They have some skin virus that'll eat you alive, so if you see them do not hesitate to shoot them on sight. Do you copy?

WINSTON

Repeat that last part, sir?

WALKIE

I said if you see the kids SHOOT ON SIGHT. I want you to head up to the cabin and wait for us. We're on our way.

WINSTON

Yes sir. Then I'll shut down that party.

Winston puts down the walkie. Nobody moves. Guitar Man stands up.

PAUL

So how about that ride, Winston?

GUITAR MAN

Are you nuts? Shoot him!

WINSTON

I can't.

GUITAR MAN

Why not? You heard the sheriff, shoot him!

WINSTON

The gun's in my truck.

Paul walks towards the fire. People back away. Guitar Man raises his guitar threateningly.

PAUL

Get out of my way. I need to get to town.

GUITAR MAN

Come on, Winston, protect us! Kill him!

PAUL

Back off, pal.

GUITAR MAN

No sireee Bob, you ain't goin' nowhere!

Paul continues towards Guitar Man, who blocks the path back to the road.

WINSTON

Hey, come on, guys, please. Now hey, no rough housing. We can still party-

Paul CHARGES at Guitar Man.

Guitar Man SWINGS HIS GUITAR at Paul.

Paul ducks, and the guitar swings around and SMASHES HARMONICA MAN IN THE FACE.

Harmonica Man's harmonica JAMS DOWN HIS THROAT. Harmonica Man stumbles around, choking and coughing, all the while making musical gagging noises.

Paul tackles Guitar Man, whose head hits a rock. Guitar Man is knocked out cold.

From the sleeping bag, a guy PULLS OUT HIS RIFLE. His girlfriend pulls out HER RIFLE.

Paul spins around and SMASHES THE GUITAR on the couple in the sleeping bag. Down feathers fly everywhere.

Paul grabs a burning log from the fire and STICKS IT IN THE SLEEPING BAG.

The couple in the sleeping bag hop' around like a jumping bean. Paul takes an UNLIT LOG and beats the sleeping bag until it stops moving.

The other couple runs away. Paul lets them go.

EXT. WINSTON'S TRUCK -- NIGHT

Paul sees Winston nervously loading a rifle. Paul picks up Andy's rifle and points it at Winston.

Paul calmly approaches Winston. In the background we can faintly hear HARMONICA MAN wheezing. Harmonica Man's spits out blood through his harmonica-stuffed throat.

PAUL

Great party Winston.

WINSTON

Don't come any closer! You are evil and I will fire if attacked.

PAUL

Now you don't wanna do that, Winston. You're a good deputy. Hell, someday you may even become Sheriff. I have no problem with that. Your friends, they gave me trouble, so I had to take care of that problem. What I need now is a doctor.

WINSTON

I would like to help you but I have orders to kill you.

PAUL

You know, you're going to be in a lot of trouble when the Sheriff finds out you were at this party. Drinking. So let's make a deal. You go look for me at the cabin, and I go look for a doctor.

A beat.

WINSTON

Take the path. There's a shortcut, it's the fastest way down.

PAUL

I will, Winston. And don't touch anything up at that cabin. It's all infected. You hear me?

Winston nods. Paul starts running down the path.

WINSTON

Feel better.

Winston jumps in the truck and starts driving up the mountain.

EXT. PATH -- NIGHT

Paul scrambles through the brush. He sees the light of the road ahead.

EXT. HIGHWAY -- NIGHT

Paul steps out of the woods, right into the middle of the highway.

A few cars drive by. Paul tries to flag them down, but they swerve out of the way and drive by.

Finally, Paul stands in the middle of the road. An 18 Wheeler turns the corner and heads towards Paul. Paul collapses in the middle of the road. The truck slams on the brakes.

The Truck skids and stops inches from Paul's head. The driver jumps out of the cab. He stands over Paul. The driver looks around for help. There's nobody. The driver runs to his cab and comes back with a blanket.

The driver wraps Paul in a blanket and picks him up. He puts Paul in the cab and drives off.

EXT. CLINIC -- NIGHT

The truck pulls away from a small medical clinic, leaving Paul in a pile on the ground. A man with a spinal brace fused into his skull stands outside the clinic. He sees Paul on the ground. The man with the spinal brace walks inside.

Seconds later the spinal brace man returns with a nurse. The nurse runs back inside, calling for help. A few moments later two men come out and roll Paul onto a stretcher and carry him inside.

INT. CLINIC -- NIGHT

Paul lies on a bed, seemingly unconscious. Two doctors stand over him. Next to the doctor stands THE SHERIFF. He's a no bullshit guy.

It appears to be a few hours later. Paul looks at his stomach, which is now totally infected. The doctors and the sheriff wear masks and gloves, as if they are about to operate.

Paul slowly comes to.

PAUL

Where...stop it...it ate Karen...

SHERIFF

Son. We need you to start from the beginning. Where are your friends?

PAUL

Did you stop it? Is it safe? Where's Jeff?

The doctors look at the Sheriff. The Sheriff jots down some notes and looks back at Paul.

DOCTOR

You have a necrotizing streptococcal infection. It's like strep throat, but in your skin. Are you allergic to Penicillin?

Paul nods his head no. The doctor hands Paul two pills. Paul swallows them.

SHERIFF

Where did you come from? How did everyone get sick?

PAUL

Everybody's dead. Even that guy. That guy who played Asteroids. I saw his legs...they were broken off...

SHERIFF

We need to know. Where did you get the disease?!?

PAUL

It was that old guy...he looked like Bert's marshmallow. He said he'd get a tow truck. I should have killed him, too. Fuck that dog. Fuck Karen...

The Sheriff leaves the room with the two doctors. They talk amongst themselves and watch Paul.

INT. HALLWAY -- NIGHT

Two nurses wheel Paul down the hall. Paul sits up and looks around. In a room he sees a man in a BUNNY COSTUME holding a large hypodermic needle, standing over a boy in bed. The Bunny suit is dirty and frayed, showing many years of wear and tear.

Bunny Man looks up at Paul, then back at the boy. We see the boy is DENNIS.

Bunny Man injects the hypodermic into Dennis' arm. Paul is wheeled away.

CUT TO:

INT. PAUL'S HOSPITAL ROOM -- LATER

Paul wakes up from a deep sleep. He looks out the window. Nothing but woods and darkness.

The room is more like an infirmary than a hospital. There is an IV, a bookshelf, a ceiling fan. Not much else. Paul feels like he could be the only one there.

Paul looks up at the ceiling and notices a SPIDER. Paul watches the spider. He stands up to look at it more closely.

Paul walks to the bathroom. He stands over the toilet. He starts to urinate, but he pees BLOOD.

Paul grabs his stomach. Something is wrong. He leans over the sink and begins to cough up blood.

Paul goes for the door and tries to open it. It's locked. He pushes a CALL button.

EXT. PAUL'S HOSPITAL ROOM -- NIGHT

Paul pounds on the door. We hear the pounding echo around the empty clinic halls in the night.

INT. ADMITTING ROOM -- NIGHT

The doctors drink coffee with the Sheriff.

SHERIFF

If he says there's one more it means there's probably two or three. We got men on their way to take care of them now.

DOCTOR

He has a chance of surviving if we can get him to Cook County, but we need to put him in your car. We have to move now. You saw what happened to that boy-

SHERIFF

I don't wanna sit in a car with him. Do you?

DOCTOR #2

We're not equipped to handle a situation like this. The strep's ripping right through him. He's got hours to live.

SHERIFF

Can you get me a mask or something?

DOCTOR

Yes, we have-

SHERIFF

Fine. Put him in my car and I'll take care of it.

INT. PAUL'S HOSPITAL ROOM -- NIGHT

Paul lies on the bed, coughing and bleeding.

FADE OUT.

EXT. STREAM -- MORNING

Two kids, a boy and a girl, age six or seven, fill up a cooler with water.

The blind dog is licking them and playing with them. We realize they are in the back of Cadwell's.

CUT TO:

EXT. WATERSKI SHED -- MORNING

The lock on the door rattles. Suddenly, Jeff stumbles out, with a dozen beer cans falling out with him. His walkman is half on. It appears as if he was sleeping in a cramped up pile of beer cans this entire time.

Jeff stands up, then falls over, still a bit drunk and extremely hung over.

Jeff walks over to the lake and dunks his head in. He pulls up, shivering.

EXT. LAKE -- MORNING

Jeff looks around. He walks back on the path towards the cabin.

EXT. WOODS -- MORNING

Jeff emerges from the woods and finds garbage strewn all over the front of the house. As he gets closer he sees blood on the cabin.

INT. LIVING ROOM -- MORNING

The furniture is toppled over, with blood splattered everywhere. Even on the walls.

Jeff sees Bert's corpse.

JEFF

Holy shit.

Jeff opens the door to Marcy's room. It's empty.

Jeff checks around the other rooms in the cabin. They, too are empty.

Jeff drops to his knees on the living room floor, crying.

JEFF (CONT'D)

They're dead. They're all dead. I made it. I fucking made it.

Jeff's sobbing soon turns to chuckling of surreal disbelief. He starts to giggle, which turns into full blown laughter.

JEFF (CONT'D)

I made it! I made it!

EXT. CABIN -- DAY

Jeff exits the cabin, screaming, with a beer in his hand.

JEFF

I MADE IT! I FUCKING MADE IT!

BOOM! All of a sudden, Jeff is shot to pieces.

Five deputies in protective gear blast the shit out of Jeff.

EXT. CABIN -- MOMENTS LATER

The deputies move Jeff's body on top of Karen and Bert, in a pile of scrap wood.

SHERIFF

Okay boys, let's do this.

The deputies pour lighter fluid all over the bodies. Other items- clothes, sheets, anything they found with blood, are piled onto the corpses.

The Sheriff lights a cigarette and throws the match onto the bodies, sending them up in flames.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

You got rid of that other one, right?

The deputies nod yes. Winston approaches the Sheriff.

WINSTON

We got another one in the basement.

Everyone runs into the cabin.

INT. CABIN -- DAY

The deputies stand over the trap door entrance to the basement.

ANDY

(in the basement)

Get me out here, goddammit!

Andy pounds on the trap door from below.

The trap door is chained down with a thick lock.

WINSTON

Stand back, son, we're gonna blast you out.

ANDY

Wait! Wait. Okay.

The deputy breaks open the door with a crowbar. They peel back the hatch. Aim their guns.

Two bloody hands raised in the air come out of the hatch, followed by Andy's battered face. Once he sees the Sheriff, he breathes a sigh of relief.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Hell, Ozzie, why didn't you say it was you. You had me more scared n'
a-

BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM...

The deputies and the Sheriff BLAST ANDY TO BITS.

SHERIFF

Self defense.

EXT. CABIN -- DAY

Andy's body is tossed into the burning flame of Jeff, Karen and Bert's bodies.

The deputies burn the cabin to the ground.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CADWELL'S -- DAY

The officers pull into the parking lot. A few HEALTH OFFICIALS hand out fliers about the virus to passersby.

Old Man Cadwell steps out onto the porch.

Dennis' swing is noticeably empty. The sign reads "Do Not Sit Next to Dennis," except Dennis' name is scratched out.

CADWELL

Howdy boys. Tough morning.

SHERIFF

Some health people, they'll be coming by to ask a few questions. They want to know about the kids.

Cadwell nods.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

They were out of control up there. But we took care of them.

The two kids from the stream are now selling lemonade out of their cooler.

CADWELL

Any sign of Tommy and Fenster yet?

LITTLE BOY

Lemonade, mister?

SHERIFF

Why thank you, son, don't mind if I do.

LITTLE GIRL

That's five cents.

SHERIFF

Smart kids. Must take after their grandfather.

CADWELL

(bashful)

They're just stealing my customers, that's all.

The Sheriff sips the lemonade.

SHERIFF

Whew. This is mighty fine. Mi-t-fine! Grab yourselves a cup, boys, this round's on me.

The deputies promptly do.

A car pulls into the parking lot. Three BLACK MEN and one BLACK WOMAN get out of the car.

They enter the store. Cadwell follows them in.

INT. CADWELL'S -- DAY

Cadwell walks behind the counter.

The black woman browses the back of the store. The three men approach the counter.

CADWELL

Good day.

MAN #1

Good day.

Cadwell turns around to grab the rifle off the wall. He turns to the man and hands it to him.

CADWELL

Here you go, gentlemen, all polished and everything. Looks pretty nice, huh?

The men admire Cadwell's handywork. The woman comes to the counter and smiles. She gives Cadwell a kiss on the cheek.

WOMAN

Morning, sweetness.

CADWELL

Good morning Carla. Got your paper right here.

Cadwell hands Carla a newspaper.

MAN #2

Alright. Thanks Cadwell.

As the group walks out, Man #3 puts his arm around Cadwell.

MAN #3

You the man, Cadwell.

Man #3 and Cadwell exchange an elaborate handshake that ends with a snap. It's obvious they have done this before.

CADWELL

Okay. Peace out.

The four chuckle as they leave the smiling Cadwell and exit the store.

EXT. CADWELL'S -- DAY

As people filter in and out of the parking lot everyone buys a cup of lemonade. It sure is going to be a hot one today.

END CREDITS BEGIN TO ROLL.

People make friendly banter, chatting the morning away, having a grand old time.

The credits continue over people standing around drinking lemonade until they END.

LITTLE GIRL

We need more.

The girl and the boy drag their now empty cooler in back of Cadwell's, to the stream. The blind dog follows, sniffing for them.

EXT. STREAM -- DAY

The kids fill the cooler with water and exit frame.

We stay on the stream and move upward. Upward. More upstream, deeper into the woods. About twenty feet upstream we see a BODY.

We move in close on the BODY. It doesn't look like anyone discernable, but it is wearing Paul's clothes.

The face is rotted, and the flesh is melting away, floating in tiny chunks down the stream. A yellow, gooey liquid spills into the water.

We move in close on the skull, which has tiny bits of flesh still attached, and perhaps the remnants of an eyeball. The skull appears to be smiling.

CUT BACK TO:

EXT. CADWELL'S -- DAY

Back to the lemonade stand.

Crowds of people walk by the children, taking more and more cups of lemonade.

A LARGE MAN grabs a cup, and we MOVE WITH HIM.

The figure raises the cup to his lips, drinks the contaminated lemonade, and throws the cup away. He walks over to a truck.

Once the man climbs into the truck we realize it's the TRUCK DRIVER WHO TOOK PAUL TO THE HOSPITAL. He wears a backwards hat that says "Cadwell's."

The truck driver revs up his truck. He pulls out of the parking lot, revealing-

LICENSE PLATES FROM EVERY STATE, covering the back of his truck. This trucker drives everywhere. The rear of his truck is covered with bumper stickers showing all the places he's been.

The truck drives down the highway, off into the distance.

CUT TO:

INT. STRIP JOINT -- TIMELESS

In a smoky strip joint, three girls dance on a stage.

We move in closer to the back of a customer. A girl gives him a table dance.

As we get closer we realize the backwards hat reads "Cadwell's." It's the truck driver.

The trucker stuffs a bill into the stripper's g-string.

We move in on his fingers and see a patch of the virus beginning.

CUT TO BLACK.

THE END.