

SINKHOLE

Written by

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OVER BLACK:

**Title Card:** *Hydraulic Fracturing or 'fracking': a new and environmentally devastating process of extracting natural gas from rock beds deep in the ground, while injecting a combination of up to 600 kinds of chemicals into the Earth...*

*Over 40,000 gallons of this chemical fluid are used, per fracturing.*

*These chemical fluids are unregulated and do not require any kind of public disclosure.*

EXT. FRACKING SITE. NORTHERN PENNSYLVANIA -- DAY

The FRACKING SITE is set within once rich farmland, now barren. Angry chants and signs reading "*Fracking Kills Our Land*", as a small crowd of LOCALS protest, while SITE WORKERS prepare to set-off underground EXPLOSIVES.

**BOOOOOM!** The ground shakes, then settles; everything seems routine.

Across the site, a TECHNICIAN takes readings. Suddenly, he stumbles, finding the ground beneath his feet unexpectedly SOFT.

Bemused, his next step *sinks his foot even lower*-- a dawning realization as the technician's expression turns to *panic*...

He sprints as fast as he can as the *ground beneath him begins to give way*, the radius quickly rippling outward!

The technician LEAPS as the ground under his feet caves-in, narrowly landing on the cusp of firm ground; now behind him, a GIANT SINK-HOLE spanning a 50 yard circumference.

Moments later, bewildered workers stand on the edge of the precipice, the dark pit seems to swallow light, giving no indication of how deep it goes.

Further into the abyss, until we too are swallowed by the darkness...

MATCH CUT TO:

BLACKNESS.

POV: slowly FADE-UP to a vivid blue sky. TWO BLURRY FACES lean in, their mouths moving, but voices muted, as if underwater.

Then, vision sharpens, sound returns to normal. Yelling and cheers of a SMALL CROWD are heard.

BLAKE

(to POV)

Get up man, come on!

(lower)

This is embarrassing, bro! You can't start freshmen year like this!

LEAH

Come on, John! Kick his ass! This guy's a douche-hole!

EXT. PARKING LOT -- CONTINUOUS

ANGLE ON: JOHN HALLET(13), lying flat on his back; his left eye already turning purple. Blake and Leah hoist John to his feet, shoving him back into a...

RING OF KIDS: all graduated 8th graders, headed into their freshmen year of high school in the fall.

Waiting for John in the center of the ring is KEVIN RALSTON (13), pre-varsity jock. Knows he's hot shit.

Weaving throughout the crowd is TAKA IGUCHI (13), a small, feisty Asian boy, hustling his peers and taking bets; tongue as quick as it is sharp. Always wears a back-pack.

Back in the ring, John cowers, literally dwarfed by Kevin's enormous shadow. John is no match, but worse, has no confidence in himself.

The fight continues: John's friends cheer him on in vain, as the rest of the crowd screams for more blood. As Kevin pummels, John won't even try to fight back, just takes the blows.

The fight wraps up; Kevin kicks John's feet out from under him, sending him to the ground once again.

KEVIN

(sneering)

You're such a pussy, Hallet!

Kevin laughs and walks away toward applause and cheers. Once again, Leah and Blake lean over John.

LEAH

*Holy shit, man!* Look at your face!

LEAH VAN GALDER (13), smack in the middle of blossoming from awkward child into pretty young woman, though she is blissfully oblivious. The *Peter Pan* of tomboys.

BLAKE

John, you alright, buddy?

BLAKE WELLS (13), disproportionately confident, lovably obnoxious. A toothpick always behind his ear; never without his leather motorcycle jacket...even in summer.

John groans. Everything hurts.

JOHN

Just help me up.

EXT. PARKING LOT -- MOMENTS LATER

John begrudgingly watches Kevin Ralston walk away with an entourage of buddies and pretty girls, high-fives all around.

LEAH

Screw that guy. You'll show that ass-face next time.

BLAKE

Lady. Language!

LEAH

I ain't no lady.

BLAKE

Clearly.

JOHN

There's gonna be a 'next time'?

BLAKE

Guys like us, there's always gonna be a 'next time'.

John's shoulders sink. Nearby, Taka collects and pays out the gamblers in the crowd, then makes his way over to John, Blake, and Leah.

TAKA

(approaching)

*"One for the money, two for the bitches, three to get ready, and four to throw the--"*

(sees John)

Holy shit! Dude! Your face!

LEAH  
I know, right?!

JOHN  
Yeah, yeah...

John is in no mood for high spirits.

TAKA  
Sorry about your money maker,  
Johnny. But I come bearing gifts...

BLAKE  
Alright, what's our take?

Taka takes inventory of various items in hand.

TAKA  
Well, we got eleven dollars cash...  
a gift card to 'Everything Bagels',  
and one, very rare, near mint  
*Charizard Ex* with energy flame!

He holds up the Pokemon card, proudly.

JOHN  
'The Hell, guys?! You bet *against*  
me?

BLAKE  
Come on John, don't take it  
personally. I mean, blame physics;  
Kevin Ralston is like, the biggest  
person on the planet.

John huffs and begins walking away. The others follow.

BLAKE (CONT'D)  
Listen, don't sweat it, man. We're  
done with that middle-school shit.  
Monday, high school starts. No one  
will care you got your ass kicked.

JOHN  
Just leave me alone.

John picks up his step, leaving the others behind.

INT. JOHN'S HOUSE -- LATER

John walks in through the front door, still carrying his  
defeat. His home is middle-class, sterile, devoid of warmth.

INT. KITCHEN -- MOMENTS LATER

John enters, wordless. His father, RICHARD (45), quiet and meek, sits at the table, reading. A good, but oblivious man; a permanent somberness to him.

Richard finally notices Kevin's face.

RICHARD  
John, are you OK?

JOHN  
Yeah.

John grabs a pack of peas from the freezer.

RICHARD  
Is it the boys at school?

JOHN  
Nah. Fell off my bike.

RICHARD  
(smiling)  
Oh, ok then.

Richard goes back to his paper. John exits.

INT. JOHN'S ROOM -- LATER

John stares at a framed family photo: his dad, MOM, and John (10). His look says it all: mom isn't around anymore.

He presses the bag of peas to his face, and hangs his head. The quietness is heartbreaking.

**SMACK!** Something hits his window. John turns as-- **SMACK!**... there it is again. He opens his window, leaning out.

On his lawn below are Taka, Blake, and Leah-- Blake holds a bag of bagels.

JOHN  
Did you just throw a *bagel* at my window?

LEAH  
Come on, I got something that will cheer you up!

JOHN  
I don't wanna be cheered up.

Blake flings up another bagel, hitting John in head.

BLAKE  
Come on, dork! We're not doing this  
without you!

JOHN  
You bet against me.

LEAH  
This will make up for it, I swear!

John smiles: if nothing else, he has true friends.

INT. LEE'S PHARMACY -- LATER

Down the medicine aisle, in the old mom&pop pharmacy, Leah  
cleans John's eye using supplies right off the shelf.

JOHN  
OW!

Leah coarsely jabs small skin abrasions with a cotton swab.

LEAH  
God, you are a pussy.

JOHN  
Let's see YOU take a punch to the  
face.

LEAH  
(suddenly crestfallen)  
I have.

John struggles for words, when he is saved:

DEPUTY DAN WELLS (28), local law and Blake's brother, rounds  
the aisle, bee-lining straight for John. He sports a tan  
Stetson hat.

At the same time, Blake and Taka round the other end of the  
aisle-- both with arms full of junk food.

TAKA  
Well, howdy there, Sheriff.

JOHN  
I'm the deputy, Taka, you know  
that.

TAKA  
Oh right. *Just* the deputy.

Blake and Taka snicker; they don't take Wells too seriously.

BLAKE

Mom make you wear that hat?

WELLS

(sharp, to Blake)  
Lay off the hat.

WELLS (CONT'D)

(to John)  
Word is you were in a fight. I  
can't have fighting in my town.

Blake does a decent impression of *Alan Rickman*:

BLAKE

*Fighting? Fighting is the stuff of  
boorish thugs and riff-raff.*

JOHN

Please stop doing Alan Rickman.  
It's getting really weird now.

BLAKE

I can go back to my *Tony Montana*  
phase.

EVERYONE

NO!

JOHN

(turn to Wells)  
I don't think it was technically,  
'fighting'.

TAKA

He's right! Johnny got his *ass*  
handed to...  
(off John's look)  
Sorry.

WELLS

Don't get smart. I mean it,  
whatever you boys need to settle,  
you do it with words. There are  
other ways to stand up for  
yourself.

JOHN

But only one way anyone respects.

WELLS

You need to first respect yourself.



John's shoulders drop-- he definitely doesn't do that.

BLAKE

Come on, Dan, lay off. Stop trying  
so hard to be a dick.

Wells shoots Blake a glare, grabs his elbow, curbing him  
aside.

WELLS

I get what you're doing, you're  
thirteen, you wanna show off in  
front of your friends. But this is  
my job-- you know I wanna be  
sheriff someday. Outside of the  
house, you need to set an example  
to others and start taking me  
seriously.

BLAKE

You once farted in your hand and  
clamped it over my mouth.

WELLS

That was a long time ago.

BLAKE

That was Tuesday.

Beat. Wells turns looks at all the rest of the kids.

WELLS

No more fighting.

Wells walks off.

BLAKE

(after)

No more of that hat!

EXT. MAIN STREET -- LATER

The kids walk to a bike rack, un-hitch their bikes.

JOHN

So, where exactly are we going and  
what is this 'surprise'?

LEAH

You'll see.

Taka checks his iPhone.

TAKA

Hey, you guys get the Facebook invite for Jeni Bell's sister's party tonight?

LEAH

Jeni Bell's sister is going to be a senior, why would we be invited to that?

JOHN

Why would we be invited to anything?

BLAKE

We gotta get into that party!

LEAH

You gotta get in to see a therapist.

JOHN

How do you even remotely think they'll let four eighth-graders into a high school party?!

BLAKE

*Former* eighth-graders. We can reinvent ourselves in high school now... change who we are!

LEAH

I like us just fine.

TAKA

And I like you, baby.

Leah rolls her eyes.

JOHN

No one can change who they are.

John takes off on his bike, the rest follow.

EXT. TOWN OF ROSCOE -- DAY

Our gang weaves through the streets of ROSCOE: a modest, blue-collar town where the years have been hard.

EXT. TRAIN TRACKS -- LATER

Ditching their bikes by the tracks, the kids head into the woods.

JOHN

Are we going where I think we're going?

EXT. WOODS -- LATER

The gang come upon an old CLUB HOUSE, long since left to the elements.

TAKA

Haha! The house that *Pixy Stix* built. I lost my virginity in there.

LEAH

Maybe to your sock.

TAKA

What did you think I meant?

BLAKE

(re: club house)  
It looks smaller...

LEAH

We're just bigger.

JOHN

Man, I haven't been here since we were ten...

INT. CLUBHOUSE -- MOMENTS LATER

Cramming in, the four sit on the floor of their old haunt.

BLAKE

How were we ever this tiny?

LEAH

Remember when we used to think this was a mansion?

TAKA

(to Leah)  
Remember when I showed you my dick in here when we were eight?

LEAH  
I'm sure it hasn't gotten any  
bigger.

Taka moves to unzip his pants; Leah pulls back a fist.

LEAH (CONT'D)  
You want me to make it even  
smaller.

TAKA  
Chill, woman, chill...

JOHN  
This is great, but what are we  
doing here?

LEAH  
A little organic therapy for what  
ails you, my friend.

On that, Leah unfurls a zip-lock bag containing about 4oz of  
MARIJUANA. Taka and Blake cheer.

JOHN  
Holy shit!

BLAKE  
We're gonna be in high school,  
'better start acting like high  
schoolers.

LEAH  
We wanted to do it together!

JOHN  
I don't know...

TAKA  
First time for everything, Johnny!  
It's either with us, or in some  
creepy guy's van who picked you up,  
hitchhiking. At least ours won't be  
laced with PCP.

JOHN  
Why are *those* the only two  
scenarios?

Blake throws his arm around John.

BLAKE  
Come on, buddy. Let's forget all  
the shit that's bothering you.

John looks around at his eager friends-- *well, when in Rome!*

INT. CLUB HOUSE -- LATER

The world's worst rolled JOINT is timidly passed amongst the group. Blake attempts a weak drag, coughing immediately.

BLAKE  
Dude, I totally feel it.

LEAH  
No you don't. You're doing it wrong.

BLAKE  
How do YOU know?

JOHN  
Where did you even get this?

BLAKE  
...I swear, I feel something.

LEAH  
(answering John)  
Justin, my brother.

Leah is passed the joint.

BLAKE  
The 'pride of Roscoe'...

LEAH  
Hey! That's my brother.  
(Leah tries to inhale)  
But yeah, he's a total burnout.

Leah coughs badly. The joint goes to John.

JOHN  
How are you supposed to even do this?

Taka snatches the joint out of John's hand.

TAKA  
Watch and try to learn something.

Taka takes a deep drag, holding it in, suppressing the reflex to cough. Several seconds go by before he exhales.

BLAKE

Now that's some Obi-Wan shit right there!

TAKA

And that's how you do it, to it.

JOHN

I don't even wanna know...

TAKA

Rap music. Everything I know I learned from rap music.

Confidence renewed, the gang try hitting the joint again.

EXT/INT. CLUB HOUSE -- LATER

Various inserts of the circle of friends goofing off, laughing, and generally being high-as-balls.

INT. CLUB HOUSE -- LATER

John and Leah sit alone, devouring bags of chips and cookies. Blake and Taka are elsewhere.

JOHN

You know...

LEAH

What's that?

JOHN

'Funyons' are awesome.

LEAH

(laughs)  
You're high.

JOHN

Haha...yeah.

Beat.

JOHN (CONT'D)

I lied. When I said I hadn't been here since I was ten. I came here a lot... especially after the funeral. Just sit for hours. I...I just didn't want to be home. That place is a tomb.

LEAH  
I know you did.

JOHN  
What? You do?

LEAH  
Yeah. I'd come here for the same  
reason... to *not* be home. Sometimes  
I'd come and see you in here first.

JOHN  
Why didn't you ever say anything?

LEAH  
Dunno. Sometimes I wanted to...  
but, I guess I just didn't.

JOHN  
Oh...

LEAH  
Yeah.

Suddenly, Blake appears in the clubhouse window.

BLAKE  
HEY GUYS!!!

JOHN  
*Gahhh!* Why are you shouting?

BLAKE  
AM I SHOUTING? SORRY, EVERYTHING  
SOUNDS LIKE I'M UNDERWATER.

LEAH  
No more drugs for that guy.

JOHN  
Where's Taka?

BLAKE  
HE'S NOT WITH YOU?

John dryly looks around the eight foot by eight foot space.

JOHN  
Yeah. Doesn't seem to be here.

LEAH  
Shit, everyone have their socks?

BLAKE  
WELL, WHERE IS HE?

EXT. TREE LINE -- TWILIGHT

Taka wanders aimlessly through the woods in his own world. Suddenly, he HALTS, staring, disdain washing over him.

TAKA  
Son of a bitch...

Moments later, Blake, John, and Leah come running up.

JOHN  
Dude, where've you been?

TAKA  
Check it out...

ANGLE ON: the OMNI-TECH FRACTURE-DRILLING SITE (as seen in the opening). The workers have all gone home.

Equal looks of contempt mirror Taka's.

TAKA (CONT'D)  
These shitheads ruined everything.

BLAKE  
Dad's out of work 'cuz of these  
assholes.

JOHN  
Whole town is.

LEAH  
You know, red water comes out of my  
facet now because of them? *Red*. I  
have to shower at school.

JOHN  
You know what would be super  
awesome? Teaching them a lesson.

TAKA  
I'm liking where this is going.

BLAKE  
And what lesson is that?

JOHN  
*Don't screw with Roscoe...*



EXT. FRACKING SITE -- EVENING

As the evening sets in, the gang goes about childishy VANDALIZING the fracking site.

Blake and John push over a row of Port-a-Potties; Leah hurls mud-pies at office-trailer windows. Taka opens his backpack revealing cans of SPRAY-PAINT...

LATER

Blake and Taka stare at something off-screen, arms folded, extremely satisfied.

Leah joins them, looks at her muddy hands-- discreetly wipes them on Taka, then sees what they're both gazing at.

LEAH

Nice...

Taka smiles smugly. Spray-painted on the cab of a huge fracking drill, in large lettering: *Omnitech-- SUCK A PUBE!*

JOHN (O.S.)

Hey you guuuuys!

They turn in the direction of John's call from the far end of the site.

MOMENTS LATER

The rest join John by the mysterious SINK-HOLE (created in the opening).

BLAKE

Whoa...is that from the drilling?

JOHN

No, fracking is a surgical procedure. My dad learned all about it before they decided *not* to hire locals. This is something else...

LEAH

How deep do you think it goes?

BLAKE

Only one way to find out: throw Taka in.

TAKA

Har-har...

Taka moves forward, producing a large flashlight from his back-pack, but the powerful beam is swallowed by the dark.

TAKA (CONT'D)  
Hellooooooooooooooooooo...

Taka's voice echoes down. The kids stare into the abyss, transfixed... then,

TAKA (CONT'D)  
You guys hear that?

LEAH  
Hear what?

TAKA  
*Listen...*

The kids strain their ears. Suddenly, soft at first, then quickly growing louder, closer: a *scratching noise*.

JOHN  
W-What is that?

LEAH  
Something's coming.

TAKA  
It's getting closer...

The kids slowly back away from the edge of the pit, but their eyes remain glued, waiting...

Suddenly, a small shadow emerges on the cusp of the hole. Taka shines a light on:

A CREATURE, about the size of a large raccoon, but covered in short, translucent hair. By its wide-set eyes and small face, it's clear this is a youngling.

The creature freezes, milky wide-eyes caught in Taka's beam. It sniffs the air toward the gang.

BLAKE  
Uck, gross! What the shit is that?!

JOHN  
Is that, like, a mole or something?

TAKA  
Yeah, if a mole had sex with an old man's ball-sack!

LEAH  
It's kinda cute.

BLAKE  
Typical girl.

Leah STOMPS on Blake's foot-- he yelps. She then slowly begins moving towards the creature, hand outstretched.

LEAH  
Hey buddy...

JOHN  
Leah, what are you doing?! You're gonna get rabies!

LEAH  
It doesn't have rabies.

JOHN  
It doesn't NOT have rabies.

As Leah approaches, the small creature cowers, submissively.

LEAH  
Don't worry, I won't hurt you.

Leah reaches out to pet the creature; it pulls away, but then finally lets Leah pat its head.

LEAH (CONT'D)  
Hey there...see, it's ok.

JOHN/BLAKE/TAKA  
Awwwwwwww....

LEAH  
(turns to the guys)  
See...he's harmle--

*Suddenly, the creature CATAPULTS ONTO LEAH'S BACK! She screams, reeling around...but the guys scream even more girly/high-pitch than Leah!*

LEAH (CONT'D)  
Help me, assholes!

The boys fluster a few more seconds, then--

JOHN  
Ok, ok!

John gingerly attempts to help as the creature claws at Leah's hair; she wiggles out of her top-layer shirt; wraps it around the creature.

LEAH

Here!

Leah frantically jams the balled-up creature into John's arms. John yelps-- *on reflex, he heaves the creature into a nearby tree-trunk!*

**SMACK!** The creature hits hard, falling to the ground.

The gang cautiously approaches the bundle-- it's not moving.

TAKA

Is it dead?

John reaches out, peeling back the shirt, revealing: a BLOODY, PULPY MESS, the creature's head completely bashed in! The gang reels back in shock and disgust.

ALL

AWWWWWWWWWWWW!!!

LEAH

What did you do?

JOHN

Me?! I saved your life!

LEAH

Pfft, I hardly think so.

John turns to Taka and Blake for validation.

BLAKE

You didn't have to murder it, John.

Taka just shakes his head in disdain.

JOHN

Unbelievable.

The gang goes in for a second look.

TAKA

What the hell is it?

LEAH

We need to tell someone.

BLAKE

I should report this to my brother.

JOHN

Oh right. Your brother who needs a good bust to help towards that sheriff's badge? Like, busting the kids who trashed this place?

They look back at the vandalized site: *'oh right'*.

JOHN (CONT'D)

So we're agreed? None of this happened?

ALL

Yes/yup/totally.

LEAH

Well, I can't go home like this...

Leah is covered in dirt, scratches, and a little blood.

TAKA

I said I'd drop by Cameron's tonight for a little D&D-- he doesn't live far-- you can get cleaned up there.

LEAH

Oh god, "Cameron"...

TAKA

Whatever, you guys won't play D&D with me.

BLAKE

I wonder why?!

As gang begins to walk off, CAMERA PANS slowly back over to the gaping hole; as we approach the CUSP, another noise emanates from its depths, only MUCH bigger...

EXT. CAMERON'S FRONT STEP -- LATER

The door opens, geek-personified Cameron (13) grins widely, dressed in medieval cos-play, like something out of *LOTR*.

CAMERON

'What-up, Sir Rowan the Long-Penis!

TAKA

Greetings, Ulric the Motor-Boater!

John, Blake, and Leah raise an eyebrow at Taka.

TAKA (CONT'D)

What, they're our D&D names.

(to Cameron)

Hope you don't mind, I brought my boys--

(off Leah's glare)

...and one girl. Sort of.

Cameron grins slickly at Leah with misplaced confidence.

CAMERON

S'up, Van Galder, you need some rescuing?

TAKA

She actually needs to use your shower.

Cameron's jaw drops.

CAMERON

(voice cracks)

Oh...um...yeah, ahem. Totally cool. Come on in guys.

TAKA

(aside to Leah)

I'd check the shower for cameras.

INT. LIVING ROOM -- LATER

Taka, Cameron and two other friends, ANDY and BRIAN (13) all in cos-play attire, sit around the kitchen table, a D&D game in full-swing.

John and Blake dryly observe by the kitchen counter.

CAMERON

...no, no, no. It's a plus four to 'crit in that situation.

TAKA

Still a bullshit piece of loot. Doesn't fit your class either. You rolled a Mage!

CAMERON

You're going to end up rolling my Vorpal Blade from your elf-born corpse's face!

TAKA  
 (to Blake and John)  
 This is why you never DM...

JOHN  
 Aaaaaand I'm out.

BLAKE  
 Where are you going?

JOHN  
 Gonna check on Leah.

BLAKE  
 Please don't leave me.

John shrugs as he exits; Blake whips a handful of M&M's.

BLAKE (CONT'D)  
 Traitor!

INT. CAMERON'S BEDROOM -- LATER

John knocks, then enters the bedroom. Leah towels her damp hair, dressed in jeans and a t-shirt that says, "Good to Go", with a 'downward pointing arrow' beneath the words.

And suddenly John is looking at Leah in a whole new light: without the layers of boyish clothes and dirt washed away, for the first time, Leah looks like a girl!

JOHN  
 Uh... hi.

LEAH  
 Oh, hey.

JOHN  
 You look...better.

LEAH  
 Thanks.  
 (re: tshirt)  
 It's Cameron's. You do NOT want to know what he keeps in his sock drawer.

JOHN  
 (still dazed)  
 Uh-huh.

Awkward silence.

LEAH  
Sooooooo, what's up?

JOHN  
I was just, uh, making sure you  
were OK.

LEAH  
Oh...thanks.

Leah goes back to toweling her hair, as John tries to avoid  
staring-- but fails.

LEAH (CONT'D)  
Yeah?

JOHN  
Er, nothing.

LEAH  
You're acting weird.

JOHN  
(covering)  
It's probably the weed.

LEAH  
Oh, right...

INT. LIVING ROOM -- LATER

Blake has somehow gotten convinced to join the game; he  
reluctantly takes a growing interest, evening wears a cape!  
He absentmindedly spins a 20 sided die on the table.

BLAKE  
So I'll just make a...I don't know,  
power-mad thunder god. I can do  
that right?

CAMERON  
NO, you can't just "do" that.

BLAKE  
You said this game was awesome  
because you could do and be  
anything!

TAKA  
You need permission from the  
Dungeon Master and a whole lot of  
natural twenties to be a god.



BLAKE

I'm wearing a cape! That should be  
enough! KNEEL!

The boys start arguing the rules.

EXT. FRACKING SITE -- NIGHT

The vandalized site lays dark and quiet. CAMERA drifts over to the small creature's REMAINS lying in Leah's shirt.

FROM WITHIN THE HOLE

POV: rushing toward visible night sky. Moments later, the POV breaks up onto the--

SURFACE

POV rising abnormally high-- much taller than a grown human. SNIFFING SOUNDS as the POV "drops", as if going down onto four legs. The POV rushes toward the small creature...

WIDE SHOT of the fracking site-- too wide to discern anything specific, but what we HEAR is all too clear:

*A guttural, howling cry of ANGUISH no human could make...*

INT. LIVING ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

The boys are still arguing over D&D rules, when the faintest ECHO OF THE HOWL reaches Blake's ears, who sits closest to the patio door. Blake *cranes his head around*, not sure *if* he heard something...

TAKA (O.S.)

Hey-- hey douche-bag...

Blake turns back around.

TAKA (CONT'D)

Ha. You looked. It's your roll.

Blake hesitates, turns back to the patio door, *weary*... but hears nothing more; turns back to the game.

EXT. TRAIN TRACKS -- LATER

A lone Camaro sits parked next to the train tracks.

INT. JUSTIN'S CAMARO -- CONTINUOUS

Inside the Camaro, JUSTIN (19), Leah's older, stoner brother; his buddy, CHET (19), sits shotgun, currently blazing up.

Chet offers the joint to Justin, who turns it down, preoccupied with digging through a small tote-bag.

JUSTIN

Dude, how much money do I have?

Chet opens a brown paper sack, reaching in, thumbing a loose stack of bills.

CHET

Looks like \$350.

JUSTIN

I'm short on inventory. We should have \$400.

Justin casts an accusatory eye at Chet.

CHET

(re: his joint)

Don't look at me, man. This is my commission, not a stem more.

Justin thinks, something dawning on him.

JUSTIN

Shit! Leah...

CHET

Your sister? She's like, four years old.

JUSTIN

She's thirteen. I caught her coming out of my room this morning-- she said she was just borrowing a book.

CHET

You don't own any books.

JUSTIN

Yeah. I'm realizing that. When I find that little bitch and I'm going to--

**WHOOSH!** A enormous black SHAPE gallops by the car, but only Chet sees it.

CHET  
*HOLY CRAPPING SHIT!!!*

JUSTIN  
 (startled)  
 Jesus, what the Hell, man!

Chet begins to point out the window, but the black shape has melted into the night. Chet then looks at his joint.

CHET  
 Dude, this is some good shit!

INT. CAMERON'S BEDROOM -- LATER

Leah finishes cleaning up; she catches John checking out her butt; John quickly averts his gaze, covering up with a cough.

Leah pretends she didn't notice, but smiles to herself.

INT. KITCHEN -- LATER

The D&D game in full swing; Blake is completely immersed now.

BLAKE  
 Ok, bitches-- I invoke the 'Time Stop' spell. *BOOM! Hell yeah, I just dropped that shit!*

The rest of the table groans.

CAMERON  
 He catches on fast.

John and Leah enter.

TAKA  
 Oooooooh! Where have you two been?

JOHN  
 (aggressive)  
 Shut-it!

Blake rolls the dice. Lands on the number 20-- more cries from the table.

BLAKE  
 20! Eat it, you unicorn-sucking chumps! I am your god now...

As Blake prattles on, John and Leah suddenly notice SOMETHING beyond the patio door, behind Blake.

We do not see what they see. The two stare frozen, mouths agape. Blake finally notices their faces.

BLAKE (CONT'D)

What?

Blake turns, along with the rest of the table.

BLAKE (CONT'D)

(nonplussed)

Shit.

Then, Blake dodges out of the way just as--

**CRASH!!!!** A massive *SHAPE* shatters through the patio door, plowing through the kitchen table!

At first we only get glimpses of the *FORM* amidst the melee of scattering kids:

Easily the size of a grizzly bear; deep-set red eyes; pale, pinkish wrinkled skin covered in tufts of the same kind of translucent hair as the small creature earlier.

Then, a guttural *ROAR* that shakes the entire house-- *T-Rex ain't got shit on this thing!*

The beast swings its mighty head from side to side... and we realize its eyes are not searching, rather its *NOSE* sucks in the air through huge nostrils-- *it's searching for a scent!*

Meanwhile, the kids disperse through-out the house, fleeing from this new terror.

**SERIES:** *Visceral, gritty moments of individuals, pairs, or trios of the friends RUNNING, DUCKING, and JUMPING out of the path of the beast as it barrels through Cameron's house, utterly destroying everything in its path!!*

HALLWAY

The beast charges Andy and Brian as they dive around a corner into the

FRONT ROOM

...but instead following their path, the beast *BURSTS THROUGH THE DRYWALL* of the front room! But, its thick neck gets stuck in the wall's support frame...

Andy and Brian scream and instinctively start beating back the beast's snapping *MAW* with their cos-play prop swords!

HALLWAY

The beast's body juts out on the other side of the wall; from somewhere above, PAINTBALLS begin pelting the beast's torso.

ANGLE ON: Cameron perched mid-way on the staircase.

CAMERON  
HEY ASSHOLE!

The beast pulls back through the wall, craning its head up. Cameron suddenly realizes he's only pissed it off more.

CAMERON (CONT'D)  
Oh no.

Cameron drops the paintball gun and bombs up the steps as the beast forgets Andy and Brian and gives chase to Cameron.

As the beast ascends, the staircase COLLAPSES under its weight, entangling the beast in a mess of planks. Roaring in frustration, it flops and flounders, trying to gain footing.

ELSEWHERE

John, Blake, Taka, and Leah have re-grouped.

BLAKE  
What is that thing??!

TAKA  
It's looking for us!

LEAH  
Wha?! How--

TAKA  
Look familiar? Like a BIGGER  
version of that thing John killed  
earlier?!

JOHN  
Don't blame this on me!

LEAH  
Did we kill its baby?!!

BLAKE  
Oh, this is fan-TAS-tic!

LEAH  
We need to get out of here!

John gets an idea.

JOHN  
Come on! I have a plan.

John leads them back through the kitchen...

INT. HALLWAY -- MOMENTS LATER

The beast finally twists up-right in what's left of the staircase; no sooner, ACTION FIGURES bombard the creature from above!

ANGLE ON: Cameron, perched atop the upstairs floor. He hurls his designer action-figure collection at the beast.

ANGLE ON: a SUPERMAN figure in Cameron's hand.

CAMERON  
(to figure)  
For Krypton, Kal-El...

With a somber face, Cameron takes deadly aim and chucks the figure, sending 'Superman' *literally flying* toward the beast...

...and bouncing harmlessly off its thick hide.

The beast cranes its head up towards a flummoxed Cameron, then lets loose its loudest ROAR yet, sending Cameron flying backward.

INT. GARAGE -- MOMENTS LATER

John, Blake, Taka, and Leah fall over themselves, cramming into Cameron's parent's SUV.

INT. SUV -- CONTINUOUS

John settles into the driver's seat, Blake shotgun; Taka and Leah are a tangled mess in the back.

BLAKE  
Wait, what are we doing?

JOHN  
We pull up out front, honk like hell to get that thing's attention, and get it out of the house. No way it can catch us in this.

BLAKE

Yeah, but do you know how to drive?!

JOHN

Oh. Uh...

LEAH

(rolls her eyes)

Oh my god, we're going to die.

Taka starts climbing into the front seat.

JOHN

What are you--

TAKA

Move over, I can drive.

JOHN

No you can't!

BLAKE

Since when?

Taka's butt smacks Blake in the face. John tries to move around Taka, but it's a mess of bodies and seat-belts.

LEAH

Yup. We're dead.

JOHN

(to Taka)

Would you just let me move first!

TAKA

You go over my shoulder, I'll go here.

Several extended beats of this 'true achievement' in human coordination. Finally, Taka settles into the driver's seat, John in the back with Leah.

TAKA (CONT'D)

Ok. Where are the keys?

Beat. Everyone looks at each other...

INT. KITCHEN -- MOMENTS LATER

The door to the garage cracks open as Taka peers into Cameron's kitchen. He zeros-in on a set of CAR KEYS hanging from a hook next to the refrigerator.

Tip-toe'ing across the kitchen, Taka reaches the set of hooks and gently lifts the car keys off. Smiles to himself.

Then, he senses it before he looks up-- and into the RED EYES of the beast *now standing right in front of him!*

Suddenly, the beast hoists up on its back two legs, towering a good ten feet above Taka; his face drops as he stares back.

TAKA

I promise I will never touch weed again.

The beast roars, crashing back down on all fours, taking out the kitchen counter in the act as Taka bolts for the garage.

INT. GARAGE -- MOMENTS

*Taka flies out the door and DIVES through the passenger window!* He writhes across Blake's lap, managing to jam the key into the ignition, cranking it!

BLAKE

What are you doing?!

Still flat across Blake's lap, feet out the window, Taka slithers down to the gas-peddle, face-first.

TAKA

TAKE THE WHEEL!!

JOHN

Wha--

Taka jams transmission into REVERSE with one hand, then SLAMS the gas pedal down with other.

*The SUV peels back wildly as the beast CRASHES THROUGH the wall of the house and into the garage!*

The kids scream as the car plows back THROUGH the closed garage door and into the driveway. John reaches up from the backseat to steady the wheel as the car peels back into the street.

John cranks the wheel at the last second to prevent from going into the ditch, but takes out the neighbor's mailbox.

BLAKE/JOHN/LEAH

BRAKE!!!

Taka hits the brake with his other hand and the car jolts to a halt, throwing everyone around.

Taka finally manages to right-himself in the driver's seat.



TAKA  
 (suave)  
 I'll take it from here.

BLAKE/JOHN/LEAH  
 GO!!!

It's a stretch (re: his short legs), but Taka's foot slams down on the gas pedal and the car peels out--

-- barely getting out of the way in time to avoid being T-Boned by the charging beast! A near miss!

INT. SUV -- MOMENTS LATER

Taka adjusts the seat as far forward as it can go.

TAKA  
 So, this is driving...

Leah looks out the back window.

LEAH  
 How fast does this thing go?

TAKA  
 Why?

LEAH  
 You're going to need to go a lot faster...

Taka adjusts his rear-view mirror as everyone else turns back to see...

ANGLE ON: The beast charging down the street like a freight-train, moments away from--

**SLAM!!** The beast rams its head into the back of the SUV like a rhino, the force lifting the car off its back wheel. The kids SCREAM.

JOHN  
 PUNCH IT TAKA!

TAKA  
 HANG ON!

Taka slams on the gas, gripping the wheel as the SUV quickly pulls away. He hits the radio, blasting a POP SONG.

TAKA (CONT'D)  
 WHOO-HOOOO!!!!!!

The others join Taka in yelling, but out of sheer terror!

BLAKE  
We gotta lose it!

JOHN  
Yeah, 'ya think?!

VARIOUS: Taka takes a number of sharp turns down various neighborhood streets in attempt to out-run/lose the beast.

With each jolting, sloppy turn, the kids oddly seem to forget they are being pursued and instead, start to enjoy the ride as if it were a roller-coaster!

INT. SUV -- MOMENTS LATER

Through the rear window: the beast is no where in sight.

LEAH  
I think we lost it...

INT/EXT. SUV/CAR -- MOMENTS LATER

The SUV pulls up to an intersection next to another CAR.

The DRIVER (50's) glances over at the SUV to see tiny Taka behind the wheel. Taka turns his head, sees the other driver, and breaks into a wide grin, giving the 'thumbs up'.

Second later, Taka floors it through the intersection, to the bewilderment of the other driver.

INT. SUV -- MOMENTS LATER

Leah looks out through the front windshield.

LEAH  
Dude! Kevin Ralston's house is coming up...

JOHN  
So?

Leah just smiles...

EXT. FRONT LAWN -- NIGHT

Kevin Ralston (the bully from John's fight) and a FRIEND throw a football between each other.

Suddenly, the SUV blazes by-- and an empty SODA CAN pelts Kevin's face as the SUV *runs over his mailbox*.

Kevin barely gets a glimpse of Leah leaning out the window, giving him the double birdie as the car speeds past.

LEAH  
*SUCK IT, PENIS BREATH!*

Kevin is too stunned to react, only watches as the SUV's tail-lights turn the corner.

INT. SUV -- MOMENTS LATER

Blake and Taka high-five Leah.

BLAKE  
That was AWESOME!

JOHN  
Why did you do that?

LEAH  
'Cause that guy's an asshole. No one fucks with my friends.

John smiles, but knows a girl just stood up for him when he couldn't.

BLAKE  
(to Taka)  
Hey, you might want to slow down, I think we lost that thing a while ago.

Taka brings the SUV down to a manageable cruising speed.

LEAH  
So what now?

BLAKE  
Do we tell anyone about this one?

JOHN  
It's still all going to lead back to us vandalizing the fracking site.

LEAH  
It's Omni-Tech's fault! All their 'fracking around probably disturbed the thing to begin with!

TAKA

Well, since we already have a car,  
lets roll by Jeni Bell's place.  
Remember, her sister's having that  
big party.

LEAH

Yes, the one none of us were  
invited to.

JOHN

After all that's happened tonight,  
now you want to go to a party?!

TAKA

Clock's tickin', my friend: summer  
is over in thirty-six hours and  
being seen at this party will earn  
us some serious hallway 'cred. See,  
that's like 'street-cred', only,  
you know, because high school's  
have hallways...

JOHN

Yes, I got it. And that's assuming  
we'd even get in.

TAKA

We roll up in this sweet chariot,  
we'll be lookin' bad-ass! Chicks  
are gonna be all over our junk.

LEAH

Sounds magical.

TAKA

Be a team-player, Leah. You can be  
John's arm-candy...

JOHN

Dude!  
(sotto)  
*Not cool!*

TAKA

Pfft. Whatever, I'm rollin by that  
party. 'Just fought off a mutant  
bear thing, now I need me some  
champagne and ho's. Who's in?!

BLAKE

IN!

Taka and Blake high-five.

JOHN  
 (to Leah)  
 Wanna check it out?

LEAH  
 Whatever. I'm up for watching you  
 guys get tossed out on your asses.

JOHN  
 Er, I was actually thinking that  
 maybe you and I could go somewhe--

***SLAM!!!!*** *The car spins around a near 360 degrees as the BEAST clips the bumper of the car at full-speed! Inside, the kids scream as they're tossed around.*

The beast turns, heading for their car again!

BLAKE/JOHN/LEAH  
 (to Taka)  
 GOOOOOO!!!!

Taka yells as he slams on the gas again, the car burning rubber as it peels out of the neighborhood.

INT/EXT. SUV -- MOMENTS LATER

Leah looks out the back window, the beast coming up fast!

LEAH  
 Taka! Go faster!

TAKA  
 Do you think I'm joy-riding?!

EXT. STREET -- MOMENTS LATER

The SUV takes a sharp turn out of the neighborhood and onto a COUNTRY HIGHWAY.

Leah and John dare to look out the back window again... only to see the beast is gone...

BLAKE  
 Is it coming?!

JOHN  
 No... where did it...?

LEAH  
 It's gone...

BLAKE  
Did it give up?

TAKA  
Shit-yeah, it did! 'Cuz I got some  
Vin Diesel fast and furious shit up  
in here--

**CRUNCH!!** *The roof nearly CAVES IN as the beast lands on top of the SUV! All-out panic inside!*

The beast has a strong hold on the speeding SUV with one claw gripping the roof, it begins POUNDING DOWN with the other. The back windshield blows out under the force, pieces of safety glass flying everywhere!

**SMASH!** *A CLAW punctures through the roof over John's head!*

John LEAPS over onto Leah's side, falling into her and suddenly finds himself with his HAND ON HER BOOB.

John looks at his hand, then at Leah, then back to his hand... and quickly pulls his hand away.

JOHN  
Dude, I am SO sorr---

**SLAM!** The beast's meaty claw punches completely through the roof, tearing out most of the seat where John just was!

**Slam! Slam! Slam!** The gape in the roof gets wider with each hit-- glimpses of the beast's dripping, razor-filled maw snapping down at them.

John and Leah hold each other, screaming.

UP FRONT

TAKA  
(to Blake)  
Back-pack!!!!

BLAKE  
What?!

Taka points desperately to his BACK-PACK at Blake's feet.

TAKA  
Back-pack! In the back-pack!!!

Blake opens the back-pack, digging through; moments later, he pulls out a BAGEL. Holds it up.

TAKA (CONT'D)  
NO! The flare-gun!!!

Blake can barely hear Taka over the screams of John and Leah as the roaring beast continues swiping at them.

BLAKE  
WHAT?!

TAKA  
THE FLARE GUN!

Blake dives back into the back-pack, and produces a coast-guard issued FLARE GUN. He holds it up.

TAKA (CONT'D)  
(re: beast)  
*Shoot it!!*

BLAKE  
Why the *hell* do you have a flare gu-

***BANG!*** Blake accidentally discharges the flare gun in the car!

The red-hot FLARE bounces off the ceiling and onto the driver's side floor!

Blake and Taka scream! Taka begins SWERVING the car as he tries to avoid his feet/legs from touching the blazing flare.

EXT. SUV -- CONTINUOUS

The beast is whipped around by Taka's swerving, but manages to keep a grip with one claw...

INT. SUV -- MOMENTS LATER

TAKA  
YOU IDIOT!!!

In the back, John and Leah are tossed around like rag-dolls.

JOHN  
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!?!

***SLAM!*** The beast's claw swipes down through the hole in the roof-- *John pulls Leah out of the way at the last second*, but the beast rears back, preparing to strike again...

Up front, Blake looks out the windshield-- his eyes go WIDE.

BLAKE  
TAKA! LOOK OUT!!

Taka looks up from the floorboard to see he's drifted into the oncoming lane: A HUGE SEMI-TRUCK BARRELING DOWN ON THEM!

The semi blares its horn-- *the SUV only seconds away from head-on impact!*

At the last possible moment, Taka JERKS the wheel, swerving out of the semi's path!

THE SHARP MOMENTUM CATAPULTS THE BEAST OFF OF THE ROOF...

... and INTO THE FRONT GRILL OF THE SEMI-TRUCK! *The creature explodes, disintegrating into bloody, goey, gore by the sheer power of force-meets-weight!!!*

INT. SUV -- MOMENTS LATER

In the rear-view mirror, the semi slams on its brakes, but Taka has no intention of stopping himself.

TAKA  
Holy shit! Did you see that?!

John, Leah, and Blake can't believe it themselves; nervous laughter as relief slowly wash over them all.

BLAKE  
Holy shit...*HOLY SHIT! HA!*

John and Leah sigh/smile-- then John realizes he's still sitting in her lap. He quickly moves back to his side.

JOHN  
Sorry.

LEAH  
Thanks for saving me. I owe you.

JOHN  
No big deal.

Up front, Taka and Blake just roll their eyes.

BLAKE  
Taka, you saved me. You're so handsome and dreamy.



TAKA

Blake, your musk is intoxicating. I bet your balls smell like Christmas.

BLAKE

Ok dude, you're weird.

JOHN

I'm going to kill you both.

BLAKE

Relax buddy! We're alive!

TAKA

Yeah, thanks to me and my being absolutely awesome!

LEAH

Should we go back?

BLAKE

Nah... that thing's road-kill. Did you see it practically exploded? Some real 'Robocop' shit right there!

JOHN

Taka pull over...

TAKA

What? Why?

JOHN

Just pull over!

Taka pulls off to the side of the road.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Ok, state of the union: In the last three hours, we've vandalized a multi-million dollar fracking site, killed two 'whatever-those-things-were', destroyed Cameron's house and totaled his parent's car...

TAKA

Well, the last two were technically that thing's fault.

JOHN

This is all gonna catch up with us. And soon. We have to come up with some kind of story...

EXT. CAMERON'S HOUSE -- LATER

Flashing red and blue lights illuminate Cameron's front lawn.

Two SHERIFF'S CARS, an ambulance, a fire-truck, and a throng of neighborhood onlookers gather on the front lawn.

Cameron, Andy, and Brian, wrapped in blankets, excitedly recall their recent encounter... all at once.

ANDY	BRIAN
And then, it came <i>through</i> the wall and was like, "ROOOOOOAR"!!	But we were like, "Wrong day, wrong guys to mess with 'mutha 'fucka"! And we were all like, "Slice! Dice! Ninja!!"

CAMERON

And then it tried to come up the stairs, but I went all Gandalf with that shit, "*You Shall Not Pass, Bitch!!*"

ANGLE ON: Deputy Wells, looking completely bewildered at the three-man act unfolding in front of him.

Moments later, SHERIFF BRONSON (50's), gruff, *Michael Parks* type, strides up-- equal bemusement at the prattling kids.

BRONSON

(re: kids)

Jesus. We should just start charging for tickets. Tour the country with this act.

WELLS

I have no idea what's happening.  
(consults small note-pad)  
So far, I've only picked-up, 'Elder's Fire-Spell, 'Nards', 'Bitch-be-trippin', and 'Scourge of Carpathia'...

Cameron silences the other two.

CAMERON

(to Wells)

...I said, it LOOKED like 'The Scourge of Carpathia'.

Cameron holds up a *Magic The Gathering* card: an illustration of a monster, but shares similar features to our beast: size, build, and teeth/claws.

BRONSON

Son, you're telling me, *this* did  
*that* to your house?

CAMERON

Uh, *no*.

(waves card)

This isn't real, Officer. But  
something like it did.

BRONSON

(rubbing his face)

This is why I'm "pro-choice".

WELLS

I told you, what these kids are  
smoking these day is stronger.

CAMERON

You want answers? Find John  
Hallett.

WELLS

Who?

CAMERON

John Hallett, Blake Wells, Taka  
Iguchi, and Leah Van Galder. That  
thing went after them. Chased them  
right out of the house...

WELLS

*Blake* Wells?

BRONSON

Where do I find these kids?

EXT. FRACKING SITE -- NIGHT

The SUV-- or what's left of it-- pulls up to the edge of the  
fracking site. The kids get out.

LEAH

Ok, this is stupid. We've risked  
enough tonight.

John leads as the rest follow.

JOHN

No one's going to believe us; we  
get the smaller one to show as  
proof.

(MORE)

JOHN (CONT'D)

Hell, chances are its some big science-y discovery anyway. Probably some endangered species.

TAKA

Yeah, they'll give us all peace-prizes and forget that we trashed this place.

LEAH

I don't think they give you peace-prizes for that.

JOHN

Well, the other one is road-splatter, so this all we have.

BLAKE

Hey, do you think they'll give us money? Like a reward?

TAKA

DUDE! We should Ebay that shit to the highest bidder! Then we can buy a G6 and fly around the world with Jeni Bell and some other hot freshman bitches!"

BLAKE/TAKA

*"Like a G6, like-a-G-six...nah-nah-nah-now I'm feelin' so fly, like a G6!"*

Blake and Taka badly chant/dance to the 'Far East Movement' hit single, while John and Leah forge ahead.

INT. JUSTIN'S CAMARO -- LATER

Justin and Chet are parked on the side of the road, Sheriff Bronson's cruiser lights flashing behind them.

Bronson strides up to the driver's side window; as Justin rolls it down, Chet wafts out lingering marijuana smoke out.

JUSTIN

Uh, hey Sheriff. What can I do for--

BRONSON

Justin, do you know where your sister is?

JUSTIN

Um, no. But I wanna know the same thing.

BRONSON

Why is that? You know what she and her little friends have been up to?

JUSTIN

What do you mean?

Bronson's radio crackles.

WELLS (V.O.)

Chuck, do you read, over?

Bronson raises his radio.

BRONSON

Copy...

EXT. HIGHWAY -- SIMULTANEOUS

Another set of fire-trucks curtain off one lane of the highway; road-flares surround the semi-truck and what looks like the floor of a slaughter house, all over the asphalt.

WELLS

(into walkie)

I'm on highway 251, south of Belvedere road... Don't know what I'm looking at. A semi truck hit some kind of animal.

BRONSON (V.O.)

Like a deer?

Wells looks down at the ground with a grim face.

WELLS

I don't think so...

ANGLE ON: the only intact piece of what's left of the beast: a huge CLAWED APPENDAGE, covered in translucent fur.

EXT. JUSTIN'S CAMARO -- SIMULTANEOUS

WELLS (V.O.)

You find the kids yet?

BRONSON

Working on it. Keep me updated if your situation develops. Out.

Bronson leans back in through the driver's side window.

BRONSON (CONT'D)

So, take a guess as to where your sister could be. Think *real* hard.

EXT. FRACKING SITE -- NIGHT

The four kids stand, leaning in, staring down at "us".

BLAKE

Well, that settles that.

LEAH

Was it still alive?

JOHN

Maybe someone else took it?

TAKA

Is there a "plan B"? Or any other letter?

REVEAL: The four friends looking down, a FLASHLIGHT illuminating Leah's tattered shirt, **absent** of the small creature they killed earlier.

TAKA (CONT'D)

Is there another way that we can get rich quick? I'm all about that now.

JOHN

Taka, come on, focus. Who would've taken it?

BLAKE

Couldn't be the cops, they'd still be here and calling Omnitech.

LEAH

Maybe another animal ate it or something? Like a coyote.

John sweeps the surrounding area/ground with the flashlight while the others continue to debate; *suddenly, HIS EYES GO WIDE...*

JOHN

Uh, guys...

At the same time, the area lights up with flashing red&blue lights. All the kids turn as Sheriff Bronson pulls up.

BLAKE

Oh shit.

TAKA

So busted.

LEAH

Stop being pussies and act cool!

Leah composes herself, Blake and Taka follow suit. John's eyes remain on the ground.

JOHN

*Guys...*

Sheriff Bronson strolls up; he notices all the toilet-paper streaming across the site. He shines his own flashlight on the four guilty faces.

BRONSON

(to Leah)

Found your bikes near the train tracks.

TAKA

(whispers)

Shit, our bikes!

Blake elbows him.

BLAKE

Shhh!

BRONSON

And *this* was in one of your backpacks you left behind.

Bronson holds up the bag of weed. All the kids' faces go pale, but Leah plays it cool.

LEAH

Those aren't our bikes, Sheriff.

BRONSON

Really? Then *how* did you get out here?

Bronson then notices the destroyed SUV.

BRONSON (CONT'D)  
What's this, now?

LEAH  
Uh...

BRONSON  
And you're trespassing.  
(re: vandalism)  
That doesn't happen to be your  
handy work, now is it?

ALL  
NO!/no way/nigga please/no sir.

BRONSON  
You're all in a lot of trouble.

ON CUE: John glances at the ground again, trepidation  
starting to show on his face.

BRONSON (CONT'D)  
Now before we get into anything  
else, I need to know what happened  
at Cameron's house.

LEAH  
Cameron...?

Bronson shines his flashlight right in Leah's face.

BRONSON  
Start talking before you all dig  
yourselves into a deeper hole...

INSERT

POV from inside the giant sink-hole, only a few yards away.  
Deep, ominous breathing coming from within...

BACK TO SCENE

BRONSON (CONT'D)  
Cameron said something about some  
kind of animal attack. Said it went  
after you all. What was it?

The kids look between each other: *what's our story?!*

TAKA  
Listen, Sheriff Bronson...



BRONSON

Quiet, 'Short-Round'. I know the racquets you run at your school-- I don't want any fast-talk. I want the truth...

Bronson sizes up each of the kids, trying to spot the weakest; his flashlight settles on John, who nervously glances back and forth from the ground.

BRONSON (CONT'D)

Hallet, right?

JOHN

Um, yes sir.

John peeks at his friends:

- Blake gives him a reassuring nod and a thumbs-up.
- Leah's stern glare says, *'Don't admit anything!'*
- Taka mimes the 'blow-job' gesture, trying to get a laugh.

BRONSON

Son, I want you to tell me what happened. Everything.

JOHN

I...er...

Again, John glances at the ground.

BRONSON

The answers ain't written on your shoes, boy.

JOHN

W-What's going on...

John looks at his friends, an expression of panic.

JOHN (CONT'D)

What's going on, is there are **two** sets of tracks...

He shines his flashlight toward ground.

JOHN (CONT'D)

See, there's one set, then there's another...*bigger*.

ANGLE ON: Two sets of adult animal TRACKS covering the ground. One set, the size of a bear; the other, easily the size of a rhino.

BRONSON

'This that animal Cameron was jawing on about? Was it a mountain lion? Were you kids baiting a mountain lion, doing some Mtv shit? Gonna post it on Youtube to try to get famous?! Do you know how dangerous--

But the kids have stopped listening to Sheriff Bronson, their uniform gaze fixed above his head, mouths agape.

Off their looks-- Bronson stops talking, then he hears it: a heavy, wet breathing. His hand slowly goes for the GUN on his hip...

Bronson slowly turns his head around to see--

JOHN

It's "daddy"...

ANGLE ON: another beast, similar to the prior, but larger, bulkier, with harder, sharper features.

Suddenly, the beast rears up on its hind-legs-- easily twice the size of the first.

*This is **ALPHA BEAST**.*

Bronson's mouth falls open-- he already knows this hesitation has cost him his life.

BRONSON

Run.

*Bronson quickly tries to draw his gun as the Alpha drops, bearing its jaws right down on his head!*

But Bronson rolls out of the way, firing three times into the Alpha-- *but the bullets barely penetrate its thick hide!*

BRONSON (CONT'D)

*I SAID RUN!!!*

The kids scream and scatter as Bronson squares off with the Alpha.

WITH THE KIDS

John, Blake, Taka, and Leah sprint for the nearby TREELINE. More GUNSHOTS in the growing distance.

JOHN  
Don't look back, keep running!

BACK WITH BRONSON

The Alpha throws its head, knocking Bronson to the ground, his guns goes sailing. The Alpha closes in on Bronson, who stands up, defiantly.

BRONSON  
Eat shit.

The Alpha roars, swiping with its massive claw, sending Bronson's entrails flying out of him!

EXT. FOREST -- MOMENTS LATER

Lungs burn. Legs pump. Backward glances, eyes praying there is nothing else coming.

Leah drags behind, then stops. John sees her, goes back. He waves Blake and Taka onward.

JOHN  
Go! Get to the bikes!  
(turns to Leah)  
Come on! We can't stop.

Leah pants sharp, short breaths.

LEAH  
I...I...

JOHN  
What? I can't understand--

LEAH  
I--n...inhaler.

JOHN  
Inhaler? Ok, where's your inhaler?

Leah just shakes her head as she continues to hyper-ventilate.

JOHN (CONT'D)  
You don't have it?! Where-- *crap*--  
it's in your backpack.

Leah nods.

JOHN (CONT'D)  
We can't stay here, you have to--

**ROOOOOOARRRRRRRR!** A deafening roar shakes the forest. John grips Leah.

JOHN (CONT'D)  
Oh no...

EXT. FOREST -- MOMENTS LATER

*Thud...thud...thud...*

Heavy footsteps quake the forest floor. The Alpha beast dips in and out of the moonlit shadows of the forest canopy, its snout sucks in the night air, feverishly searching...

NEARBY

POV: the Alpha canvassing the area about fifty yards out.

EXT/INT. CLUB HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

John and Leah flatten themselves on the tiny floor of the clubhouse. They watch the Alpha through a split in the wall.

Leah tries to control her hyper-ventilating, but to little success. John moves closer, bringing her head to his chest.

LEAH  
(through gasps)  
What are you...

JOHN  
(whispers)  
Ssshhh... slow it down. Try to  
match my breathing...

LEAH  
(labored)  
What...are you...some kind of...  
doctor now?

JOHN  
(bittersweet)  
I used to have asthma too. My mom  
would do this with me when I was  
younger. It always worked.

Leah is hesitant, then lets herself sink into John's embrace; begins to match the rise and fall of his chest. After a few moments, she's back to normal.

LEAH  
Do you miss her?

Beat.

JOHN  
She made me feel invincible. She  
made me feel...big.

They look out through the split in the wall; the Alpha is slowly plodding away in the opposite direction.

The two friends smile, but then realize their gaze is lingering...

...and suddenly, that magical moment when you realize: *this is it, this is going to be your first kiss.* Then,

LEAH  
What is that?

JOHN  
Uh, what?

Leah looks down, then looks up at John, her face contorting from delicate to horrified.

LEAH  
Do you have... a *boner*?!

JOHN  
I-I-I...

LEAH  
Oh, gawd! You perv!

JOHN  
Oh, what?! Like, what do you expect? I'm frickin' thirteen, OK?! It's just a thing your body does, like when your nipples get hard...  
(instant mental image)  
*Oh damn it!*

LEAH  
Uck. You're so gross.

JOHN  
What do you think would happen when we're practically-

John stops himself.

LEAH  
UM, practically, *what?!*

JOHN  
Er, nothing, nothing. Ok. I'm  
sorry.  
(genuine)  
Please... I'm sorry.

Beat.

LEAH  
*I can still feel it!!*

JOHN  
*Well, what do you want me to do?!*

LEAH  
You can start by un-jamming your  
little buddy out of my--

Suddenly, Leah stops short, so does John.

*They both turn their heads to find the long, SNOUT of the Alpha pressed through the window of the clubhouse!*

Beat.

John and Leah scream!

The Alpha rears up, bearing down on the clubhouse *just* as John and Leah scramble out, the Alpha smashing their childhood clubhouse to splinters.

John clammers across the forest floor. *The Alpha charges, catching John under the legs with its snout like a bull, tossing him into the air!*

John yelps, crashing back onto the ground; he raises his head, coming face to face with the Alpha, thick ropes of saliva cascading from its black maw.

The Alpha inhales sharply, taking in John's scent; then, as if "confirming it's him", roars again, its slavering jaws open wide...

John squeezes his eyes tight, preparing for end--

**WHAM!** A club-sized tree BRANCH smashes into the Alpha's nose! The Alpha bellows, flailing back in pain.

John opens his eyes as he's yanked to his feet by Leah.

LEAH (CONT'D)

RUN!

The two kids tear through the forest, as the Alpha quickly recovers and pursues...

EXT. FOREST -- MOMENTS LATER

John and Leah weave among a thicket of small trees, but the Alpha-- hot on their heels-- plows right through everything.

The two kids reach the bottom of a steep BANK; the country ROAD at the top...

Scrambling on all-fours, they try to scale the incline, but the slippery leaves blanketing the slope offer no traction.

Halfway up, John and Leah both slip and slide back down the incline, right into the path of the charging Alpha, seconds away from trampling them!

*John clings to Leah, covering her as the Alpha takes a flying leap, diving straight down at them...*

SUDDENLY, FROM OUT OF NOWHERE, A RED-HOT FLARE SAILS THROUGH THE FOREST, CATCHING THE ALPHA IN ITS EXPOSED CHEST!

The Alpha writhes and howls, tumbling off its trajectory, smashing hard into the bank, missing John and Leah.

The two look upward: at the crest of the slope, Taka lowers his FLARE GUN, Blake by his side.

TAKA

Now *that's* how you do it, to it.

BLAKE

Please stop saying that.

(to John&Leah)

Hey love-birds! Let's go!

Not wasting a moment, John and Leah manage to clamor up the incline. Blake and Taka have John and Leah's bikes waiting; all four begin pedalling as fast as they can down the country road.

TAKA

(to Leah)

Did you let him touch a boob?

Leah reaches out, socking Taka in the arm.

Meanwhile, the Alpha recovers from the flare burn, charging up the hill with a snarl...

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD -- MOMENTS LATER

The kids come to a steep, long HILL-- a fortuitous break! Their bikes pick up speed as they catapult downhill.

Then, somewhere in the short distance, a long WHISTLE sounds.

TAKA  
(pointing)  
LOOK!

A FREIGHT TRAIN-- easily two miles long-- speeding its way across the basin; tracks running across the road ahead.

Suddenly, a *ROAR close behind them!* The kids glance backwards as the Alpha crests the top of the hill.

BLAKE  
OH SHIT!

The kids pedal as fast as they can: *IT'S A RACE TO THE BOTTOM:* *they need reach the base and cross the tracks before the train, or they'll be cut-off, left to face the Alpha!*

A frenetic blur of legs pumping and pedalling. Shaky wheels under stress. Faces, grit and determined.

JOHN  
COME ON! FASTER!

About a hundred yards behind them and gaining fast, the relentless Alpha starts closing in...

Without letting up, Taka blindly reaches into his backpack with one hand; he pulls out a full-deck of POKEMON CARDS, casting them into the eddy behind him.

The cards take to the eddy in a blinding swirl, several smacking the charging Alpha in the snout and face, causing momentary break in stride... but it might not be enough!

The train whistle sounds again, the Alpha roaring as if in response.

The kids reach the bottom of the hill, their momentum carrying them toward the train-tracks, *but the train has nearly reached the crossing: it's gonna be close!*

Another long, deep whistle-- deafening at this range; its single, powerful headlight makes night, day.



John dares to look back-- *the Alpha is only a few yards behind!*

**BWAAAAAAAAHHH!** The whistle blares again as Blake speeds across the tracks first, followed closely by Taka, then Leah...

...John looks behind him: the Alpha, so close, he can feel its huffing, hot stale breath on his neck!

*John stands up on his pedals, cranking as powerfully as he can...*

**BWAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAHHH!!!!**

With literally only a couple feet to spare, John speeds across the train-tracks, narrowly missing the ENGINE CAR as it barrels across the junction.

Back on the other side, the Alpha pulls up at the last possible moment; barely avoids getting hit by hundreds of thousands of tons of speeding steel.

Confused, it paces back and forth, trying to find a way across, but there is no end in sight for the train, yet.

EXT. TRAIN TRACKS -- MOMENTS LATER

Back on the other side of the speeding train, John throws up his arms in victory.

JOHN

Whohoo! That's right bitch!

The others cheer and quickly continue down the --

EXT. ROAD -- CONTINUOUS

John pays special attention to Leah, short of breath, again.

JOHN

You OK?

Her breathing is labored, but she does not hyperventilate.

LEAH

(smiles)

Yeah, thanks.

BLAKE

Dude, *nice* move with the cards back there!

TAKA  
I know, right? Like Jack Burton  
always says, 'It's all in the refle-

**SCREEEEEECH!!** A CAR comes from out of nowhere, skidding to a halt, right into their path! The others are able to brake in time, but...

**SLAM!** Taka barrels right into the front end of the car, catapulting him across the hood. He crash-lands a good twenty-feet out.

The driver's side window rolls down, indignant eyes meet bewildered gazes from the kids.

LEAH  
Justin!

Justin's face says he ain't messin' around.

JUSTIN  
Get. In.

LEAH  
Why--

JUSTIN  
You think you could get away with it?

LEAH  
Oh. The weed. Well... *kinda*.

JUSTIN  
Get in! Your little friends, too.

BLAKE  
But what about our bik--

Justin's icy death-glare is his answer.

BLAKE (CONT'D)  
(overly agreeable)  
And we can *totally* get these later.  
Come on guys, lets go!

The kids get in the backseat. Chet sticks his head out his window.

CHET  
(to Taka)  
Hey, Panda Express... you dead?

A short distance away, Taka grumbles as he pulls himself off the ground; fortunately, he landed on his back-pack.

TAKA  
I think I have a concussion,  
assholes.

CHEAT  
Good. Get in.

Taka staggers to the car, gets into the back with the others.

TAKA  
(groaning)  
Who needs a drink...

Moments later, the Camaro peels out, tail-light disappearing into the night.

EXT. FRACKING SITE -- NIGHT

The red&blue lights of Sheriff Bronson's car are still flashing as Deputy Wells pulls up.

Wells gets out, expecting to spot Bronson somewhere close-by, but scanning the area, Bronson is no where in sight.

WELLS  
(into walkie)  
Bronson, come back, over.

WELLS (CONT'D)  
*Bronson, come back, over...*

Wells hears his own voice as through a walkie; he spots Bronson's radio lying on the ground. His flashlight beam soon finds BULLET-CASING littering the area.

WELLS  
(into walkie)  
'424'...Deloris, you better get  
State on the radio.

DELORIS (V.O.)  
Copy that '424'... everything OK,  
Dan?

Wells' flashlight shines on large smears of BLOOD trailing off towards the sinkhole.

WELLS  
No. No, it's not...

INT. JUSTIN'S CAMARO -- LATER

Bad rock music blares as Justin and Chet bob their heads to the beat. Crammed in the back, John, Blake, Taka, and Leah are a mixture of bored, annoyed, and tired.

LEAH  
(over the noise)  
Can we please listen to something else? Or nothing?!

CHET  
Sorry we don't have any *One Direction* for you tweens.

JUSTIN  
(to Chet)  
How do you know the band, 'One Direction'?

CHET  
How do you?

John tries to whisper to Leah across Taka and Blake.

JOHN  
What are we doing?

JUSTIN  
You little shits are going to come with us on the rest of our runs tonight. Then you're all gonna find a way to come up with the \$50 you owe me, or none of you are going home.

BLAKE  
You take Discover?

JUSTIN  
Keep it up, smart-ass. You'll find out how serious I am.

JOHN  
Would it sway you in any way that we've been running from some kind of huge, rabid monsters all night?

Justin just turns up the volume on the stereo again, and the kids resign to their situation at the moment...

EXT. LOUELLA DR -- LATER

Justin's car turns onto 'Louella Drive', an idyllic, affluent suburban street. They pull up in front of...

EXT. JENI BELL'S HOUSE -- MOMENTS LATER

Blake and Taka instantly recognize the house.

BLAKE/TAKA  
OHMYGODOHMYGODOHMYGOD!!

Loud music pumps inside, a party in full-swing.

BLAKE  
Are you going to Jeni Bell's  
place?!

JUSTIN  
Yeah. Having some party. Big order.  
(to Chet)  
I got a few deliveries up the  
street, too. I'll be about twenty  
minutes, so watch these little  
shits...  
(indicates Taka)  
...and don't let 'noodles' talk.  
He's got a fast-mouth.

TAKA  
'Noodles'? That's not even *trying*.

Justin gets out. The kids watch him walk up to Jeni Bell's door, Taka and Blake especially envious.

BLAKE  
We gotta get into that party.

CHET  
Keep dreamin', shit-heads. You  
better start thinking about ways to  
get us our fifty-bucks.

A smug smile spreads across Taka's face.

TAKA  
Chet, we're both business men, so  
what would you say if I said I  
could *double* that fifty bucks in  
under twenty minutes and all it  
will take from you is an investment  
of one-hundred dollars up front?

EXT. JENI BELL'S HOUSE -- LATER

Justin walks away from Jeni Bell's front door, cutting across the lawn and continues down the street...

...simultaneously, John, Blake, Taka, and Leah, are sneaking around the far-side of the house, towards the backyard.

EXT. SIDE YARD -- MOMENTS LATER

The kids funnel into a single file, slipping between the side of Jeni's house and the neighbor's FENCE.

Taka brandishes a hundred dollar bill.

TAKA

Sometimes it's just 'toooooo easy.

JOHN

(dead-flat)

Uh, hey...just to jump back in the evening a bit: Does any one care about the fact we were relentlessly pursued by the aforementioned 'monsters' for the majority of the evening, and oh-my-god, monsters are real?

It is clear the group's concerns have moved on to the party.

TAKA

Old news.

BLAKE

I'm in heavy denial.

LEAH

Ok. They clearly weren't 'monsters'. Probably some kind of weird wild animal or something. Who knows, who cares. We got away.

JOHN

And what about Sheriff Bronson?

Beat. Everyone stops, stumped.

BLAKE

Ummmm... we find a phone in the house and call in an anonymous tip and hope he's OK?

Beat.

ALL  
Yeah/ok/sounds good to me/cool...

They continue on.

JOHN  
Taka, what are you gonna do with  
that hundred bucks?

TAKA  
Lose my virginity tonight, duh.

LEAH  
Are you serious?

TAKA  
Why? Wanna make a c-note?

BLAKE  
John, why do you look like you're  
going to your grandmother's anal  
bleaching?

JOHN  
We don't belong at this kind of  
thing.

BLAKE  
This is the dopest party of the  
summer. Didn't you want to be cool?

JOHN  
I mean, yeah... but I don't want to  
fake it.

The kids reach the backyard; all stop and stare, looks of awe  
on their faces. Taka throws his arm around John.

BLAKE  
...we're gonna be in high school,  
Johnny-boy. Everyone fakes it...

REVEAL--

EXT. BACKYARD -- CONTINUOUS

The party of the summer-- maybe even the decade.

Throngs of co-ed teens (all 17/18) engaged in every  
Republican parents' worst nightmare: music blasts, bikini-  
clad girls frolic, all manner of drinking games are well  
underway-- this is the party we all wanted to go to in high  
school, times a hundred!

Our esteemed group of social pariahs are confounded at the spectacle-- and clearly sticking out: four years younger than anyone else.

BLAKE

This. Is. *Awesome*.

Taka sees a SENIOR BOY yank the strings on a SENIOR GIRL'S bikini-- a quick flash of her breasts.

TAKA

Oh thank you God...

The group spots MRS BELL (late 40's)-- affluent house-wife who tries her best to emulate her daughters' appearance and style. She holds court with a group of Abercrombie jocks, martini in hand-- 'Real Housewife', indeed.

BLAKE

Dude, who's that old chick. She's hot.

LEAH

That's their mother.

As the kids begin to enter, they are blocked by two senior MEAT HEADS.

MEAT HEAD #1

'The Hell?! Where do you midgets think you're going?

BLAKE

Uh, I do not believe 'midgets' is the preferred nomenclature.

MEAT HEAD #2

You're real dumb, kid, you know that?

The Meat Heads prepare to bounce the gang, when--

TAKA

(holds up the \$100)

Gentlemen, gentlemen... I believe this should make things right.

Meat Head #1 snatches the bill, satisfied.

MEAT HEAD #1

Freshmen scum.



MEAT HEAD #2

Come on, let's go find an excuse to  
take off our shirts.

The jocks move on as our gang enters the revelry.

BLAKE

Nice work!

TAKA

And thank you, Chet!

They then spot JENI BELL (13) and a small group of her  
friends that her older sister has allowed in.

BLAKE

There's Jeni!

TAKA

We will see her boobs tonight. By  
this, I swear.

LEAH

Annnnnnd I'm out. Later douches...

Leah saunters off into the party.

JOHN

Nice going!

TAKA

She can show us her boobs, too!

BEGIN SERIES

The DJ drops a hot track and the party double-downs! The kids  
slowly separate and attempt to blend in.

POOLSIDE

Taka and Blake try beer for the first time; secretly hate it,  
but win 'cred with some of the girls, which they like!

KITCHEN

John waits in line for the keg. Two of Jeni's FRIENDS (13)  
approach...

GIRL #1

Hey, someone said you fought Kevin  
Ralston today.

By the looks on their faces, the girls don't know any of the  
details; John decides to capitalize on this.

JOHN

Uh...yeah. We had some beef, you know, 'guy stuff'. No big deal.

GIRL #2

But I heard you lost.

JOHN

(sotto)

"Recreate yourself, recreate yourself..."

(turns back to the girls)

Lost? That's cute. More like he got in a lucky punch. I saw his junk in the locker room once, and I just couldn't bring myself to hit a guy with a micro dick.

The girls' interest peek at this new bit of gossip.

JOHN (CONT'D)

He's just sad, really...

LIVING ROOM

Blake makes a phone call to the police station; he masks his voice by doing his same impression of *Alan Rickman*.

BLAKE

*Hello. This is... 'anonymous'. I believe I saw Sheriff Bronson out by the Omni-Tech site; he may have fallen into a rather large hole. So... yeah.*

(unheard response)

*Thank you, why yes, people do tell me that all the time!*

BACKYARD

- A break-dancing battle starts, ala 'Step Up'; Taka jumps in out of nowhere and brings the house down!

- John navigates the party (*Boogey Nights* style), soaking in being apart of the social elite. He finds Leah BICYCLE-BEER JOUSTING. She challenges him; he's reluctant at first, but then goes for it!

POOL

Taka sits on Blake's shoulders, playing chicken in the pool with two cute senior girls, but mid-fight, to Blake's horror, realizes that Taka has a boner, but can't get Taka off!

EXT. BALCONY -- LATER

Seeking a quiet break from the party, John and Leah sit on the second story balcony of Jeni's house, overlooking the crowd, legs dangle between the wood bars. Leah is slightly buzzed; John looks especially pensive.

LEAH

Hey, if you didn't notice, this is a party. Why do you look like peed your pants?

JOHN

This is the closest we'll ever get, you know.

LEAH

Huh? To what?

JOHN

(re: the party)  
To this. To them.

LEAH

Do you really care? Is 'this' what you want?

JOHN

I want to not be 'nobody'. The kid who always gets his ass kicked. Things are changing. You don't get it yet: in high school, everything, *everything* is more important. Everything is for real. Everything matters. The next four years will define who I am for the rest of my life. And that's what I'm afraid of.

Leah bursts out laughing.

LEAH

Oh my god, you're an idiot. Did you just hear yourself? No wonder Kevin wants to beat you up all the time, I feel like punching you now.

JOHN

Thanks.

LEAH

You're so fucking worried about what these people think of you, people you don't even like.

(MORE)

LEAH (CONT'D)

You define *yourself*, dumbass. Why do you think you need to be something else, for *them*?

JOHN

Because I don't want to be 'me', anymore.

LEAH

Then I was right. You are an idiot. You don't need to change. You just need confidence.

JOHN

(dismissive)  
Yeah, alright.

LEAH

Whatever.  
(pause)  
You haven't asked me about what almost happened back in the woods.

JOHN

When we almost got eaten by the horrible, horrible creature of the night?

LEAH

No. The *other* thing...

It takes John a moment.

JOHN

Like, when almost...

John suddenly gets embarrassed.

LEAH

Almost *what*? Come on man, this is what I mean: confidence.

John musters up the courage to scoot a bit closer.

JOHN

I just... tonight...with you...

Leah blinks softly.

LEAH

I know. Me, too.

There doesn't need to be anymore words; the two teenagers' faces drift closer, hanging precariously in that moment of anticipation.

Leah coyly bites her lip, a little scared; John holds his breath as he finally goes in for the kill; their lips *just* begin to brush, when--

VOICE(O.S.)  
HEY SHIT-FACE! GET YOUR PUSSY DICK  
DOWN HERE *RIGHT NOW!*

John freezes-- *he knows that voice*. Pulling away from Leah, he turns, looking down at

KEVIN RALSTON: the bully from earlier that day; fists clenched, teeth grit, a fierce gaze set on John.

The music has stopped: the entire party now stares at John, a deer caught in a hundred head-lights.

Turning to Leah, John is surprised at the oddly reassuring look in her eye.

LEAH  
I'm betting on you this time.

KEVIN  
Gonna hide up there all night with  
your little girlfriend, you  
dickless shit?

LEAH  
*SHUT YOUR HOLE BEFORE I COME OVER  
THERE AND FUCK-START YOUR HEAD!*

Kevin's cronies chortle, only pissing off Kevin more. John looks at Leah, dryly.

LEAH (CONT'D)  
Think of what else you fought  
today. Kevin's an ant.

JOHN  
I didn't fight. I ran.

**CLAMP!** The two Meatheads come out of no where, grabbing John, yanking him up.

MEATHEAD #1  
Come on tough guy, give us a show.

EXT. BACKYARD -- MOMENTS LATER

John is shoved into the circle that's formed around Kevin. Taka and Blake push their way to the front; Leah joins them.

TAKA

I got 15:1 on Johnny-boy, but no more bagel cards...

Leah elbows Taka in the ribs.

BLAKE

Dude! Not cool!

WITH JOHN AND KEVIN

KEVIN

Heard you were talking shit about me inside. Said you think I got 'lucky' when I beat your ass this morning?

John catches the eyes of the two girls he'd been bragging to earlier-- they avert their gaze quickly.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

So, is that what you think? You think I was 'lucky'?

JOHN

Um, I..er...

KEVIN

Ok, so maybe I got lucky...

Kevin takes off his hoodie, preparing to brawl.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

So, let's see if my luck runs out this time.

Blake steps out from the crowd.

BLAKE

Come on dude, don't be a dick!

Taka, following suit.

TAKA

Yeah! Pick on someone your own size...

(off John's glare)

Ok, poor phrasing, sorry.

Kevin and his friends laugh.

KEVIN

Got everyone standing up for you,  
except you. You're pathetic.

LINDSEY BELL (18), Jeni's older sister and hostess of this party steps out, irate.

LINDSEY

Oh my god, Jeni! I told you, you  
could invite a *couple* of your  
friends!

Jeni Bell points at Blake, Taka, and Leah.

JENI

I don't know them! Hey, I didn't  
invite you losers!

The crowd "boo's", turning on all of them-- *loudest of all, Jeni and Lindsey's drunk mother!*

Kevin notices glances from the older JOCKS: this is his test.  
Kevin puffs out his chest

KEVIN

Let me kick his ass, then I'll boot  
the rest of 'em out...  
(points to Leah)  
Starting with that mouthy bitch!

John *shoves* Kevin, hard.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Oooh! Looks like someone's balls  
finally dropped.

Everyone laughs. John holds his ground, as Kevin glares.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

(points to his chin)  
Tell you what, I'll *give* you the  
first shot. Come on.

John balls his fists, but then freezes up; cannot bring himself to raise them.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

What's a matter? I'm giving you a  
free shot!

LEAH

Hit him John!

But John is frozen, terrified.

KEVIN

Ooooooh, do you want your mommy?

On Leah, Blake, and Taka: Oh, he did not just say that!

On John: fear mixes with anger; tears begin to well-up.

LEAH

Kevin! You *asshole!*

Kevin has no clue about John's mother.

KEVIN

What?!

(turns to John)

Are you...*crying?* Holy shit! This is just pathetic. You're about to cry a whole lot harder...

Kevin begins to throw a punch, when he is *YANKED* back by his collar.

REVEAL: Justin, in no mood.

JUSTIN

(re: John)

If anyone kicking this kid's ass, it's going to be me.

Upon seeing the menacing Justin, Taka and Blake try to sneak off, but back directly into Chet: *busted!*

TAKA

Heya.

BACK IN THE CIRCLE

Justin moves toward John, grabbing him by the neck.

KEVIN

Yo, who the fuck are--

Justin whips a glare at Kevin.

JUSTIN

I'm the God-damn reaper you little bitch. Now shut up or you're next on my shit list.

Kevin shrinks on the spot: the bully is now the bullied.



LEAH

Justin, let him go! You'll get your stupid fifty dollars!

JUSTIN

This is not about money. You ripped me off. Then you tried to run. Twice. Now you need to learn the consequences that come with that.

LEAH

What are you, 'dad'?

JUSTIN

At least I stuck around.

LEAH

(tears)

You're such a prick.

JUSTIN

Well, I'm all you got. I'm your brother.

LEAH

No. You're a drug-dealing asshole.

(points to the guys)

These are my real brothers, they're my real family... and you're fucking with one of them!

Leah steps up in Justin's face.

LEAH (CONT'D)

Screw your fifty bucks. You want it, you come take it from me!

John is in awe of this fierce little warrior.

Justin feels the contempt in her eyes; it effects him, but only we sense it.

JUSTIN

I'm not dicking around here.

LEAH

Me neither...

Brother and sister stare each other down, John literally caught in the middle. Then,

WELLS (O.S.)

Neither am I...

Everyone turns to see Deputy Wells stroll-up.

JENI BELL

Oh shit.

JUSTIN

Ah, shit.

TAKA/BLAKE

OH, SHIT!

WELLS

(to Mrs. Bell)

You're lucky I got bigger things on my plate tonight. Get everyone out. Now.

The mother begins shooing party guest out. Taka and Blake try to slip away in the crowd.

WELLS (CONT'D)

Not you two. Justin, take your hands off the boy.

Justin releases John, throwing his hands up, mockingly.

JUSTIN

Whatever you say, 'deputy'.

WELLS

You been with these kids all night?

JUSTIN

(smarmy)

No, sir. Just picked 'em up off Atwood road 'bout an hour ago.

WELLS

Then hit the road.

Justin defiantly backs off, but shoots a look to the kids that says, '*Next time!*'. Justin and Chet exit.

WELLS (CONT'D)

Ok, you four...

John, Blake, Taka, and Leah 'gulp', collectively.

WELLS (CONT'D)

An anonymous phone call came from this house, claiming information on Sheriff Bronson. Deloris said he sounded a lot like, 'the bad guy from *Die Hard*'.

Wells turns his eyes on Blake. Everyone groans.

BLAKE

Well, how do you know it wasn't really Alan Rickman.

WELLS

I was at the Omni-Tech site. There was blood everywhere. Now I'm very serious, you need to tell me exactly what happened...

INT. LIVING ROOM -- SIMULTANEOUS

About a dozen of Lindsey and Jeni's friends still linger, including Kevin.

LINDSEY

This is bullshit. Those losers ruined my party!

KEVIN

Don't worry, I'll make sure they get what's coming to them...

**THUMP!** Suddenly, SOMETHING BIG AND HEAVY slams into Jeni's front door, startling everyone.

JENI

What the Hell is that?

**THUMP!** The entire door-frame almost separates from the wall.

KEVIN

Uh....

LINDSEY

Seriously, is someone fucking with me?!

Kevin warily approaches the door...

**THUMP!** Kevin stumbles back, the force almost knocking him over. Freaked-out, everyone waits for another impact...

EXT. BACKYARD -- SIMULTANEOUS

WELLS

Someone want to start talking? Beginning with what happened at Cameron's house.

BLAKE

I really don't think you'd believe  
us if we--

Off Wells's stern look.

BLAKE (CONT'D)

Pfft, alright. Ok, so there's this--

TAKA

(points, nonchalant)  
Oh dude, it's right there, see...

Wells looks over his shoulder in the direction Taka is pointing...

*By the driveway, crouching low, menacing as ever: THE ALPHA.*

Wells just stares, unable to process what he's seeing.

BLAKE

Uh, you maybe wanna use your gun,  
dumbass?

WELLS

Everyone, *slowly* get behind me.

LEAH

We're already behind you.

WELLS

Ok, then start walking to the  
house. SLOW...

Taka begins to take him literally, walking at a comedic snail pace. The creature growls.

WELLS (CONT'D)

Ok, less slow!

As the kids dash toward the house, the Alpha cranes its snout in their direction; a deep GROWL in its throat.

Wells draws his gun; fires into the air.

WELLS (CONT'D)

*HEY!*

The Alpha swivels its head back to Wells.

WELLS (CONT'D)

Oh crap.

With a snarl, the Alpha CHARGES. Wells takes aim, firing several times, but the Alpha is undeterred.

The Alpha LEAPS, claws extended, bearing down on Wells.

At the last second, Wells ROLLS out of the way-- the Alpha misses, CRASHING INTO THE POOL.

WELLS (CONT'D)

*RUN!*

Wells and the kids scramble toward Jeni's patio door, just as Jeni slides it open with a bitchy expression...

JENI

*What is going--*

**SPLOOOOOOSH!** AN ENORMOUS SHOWER OF WATER EXPLODES UP FROM THE POOL, THE ALPHA CATAPULTING OUT WITH A BELLOWING ROAR!

Jeni SCREAMS as she's pulled inside along with the others. We stay with our kids as they tear through Jeni's lavish house.

Sounds and backwards glimpses of the Alpha *crashing through the patio glass* in hot-pursuit, as lingering party-goers scream and scatter.

Jeni's mom takes little notice of the bedlam, more interested in finishing her martini.

Meanwhile, John leads the charge as they blow by a baffled Kevin. Confused, Kevin watches our kids as they fly out the front door; he looks back to see the stampeding Alpha...

Kevin screams like a 10 year old girl as the Alpha BUCKS ITS HEAD, *sending Kevin crashing into the far wall.*

The Alpha continues, bursting through the entire front wall of Jeni's house and out into the front yard...

EXT. JENI BELL'S HOUSE -- MOMENTS LATER

Only a few yards ahead of it, our kids and Wells run for his squad car. Taka reaches for the back door-- *locked!*

Wells fumbles for his keys

BLAKE

Shit, Dan, hurry!

Terrified, Wells accidentally drops his keys.

BLAKE (CONT'D)  
*SERIOUSLY?!!*

...but it's too late, the Alpha is upon them. Everyone flattens against the squad car, bracing for the end...

The Alpha roars, preparing to lunge when suddenly--

A cacophony of noise and lights: IT'S THE OMNI-TECH CALVARY!

Two black trucks roar up onto the lawn; a dozen Omni-Tech SECURITY PERSONAL rush out, armed with strange weapons.

The guards descend on the Alpha; confused by the lights and sounds, the Alpha bucks and roars (*think a hunting party of African tribesmen surrounding a lion*).

Wells and the kids watch in awe as the guards expertly use tranquilizers, nets, and cables to bring the Alpha down. It's all executed impressively fast.

EXT. JENI BELL'S HOUSE -- LATER

The soldiers begin loading the now sedated Alpha into a large covered truck bed.

The operations commander, LANG(50's), strides up, addressing Wells. The kids listen in.

LANG  
 You the Sheriff?

BLAKE  
 No, he's just the deput--

WELLS  
 And who are you?

LANG  
 I'm in charge of site-security for Omni-Tech.

WELLS  
 (leery)  
 Packing some heavy duty inventory for security.

LANG  
 Obviously, we're dealing with an extremely dangerous animal. We've--

WELLS  
 What the *hell* is it?

LANG

From the information I've been given, it is an endangered subterranean sub-species. Very rare.

WELLS

Information from *who*?

The commander clocks Wells's tone.

LANG

Neither of us are scientists, *deputy*... so, it's not your concern. However, what is, is getting these kids back to their homes and restoring order to your neighborhood.

WELLS

I thought Omni-Tech was just an energy company. What's with the private army?

LANG

The company takes its security very seriously, *deputy*.

Lang's tone alludes to something much bigger, but we may never know any more.

WELLS

I've got more questions, not to mention my superior, Sheriff Bronson, is missing and may be--

LANG

There will be a team of Omni-Tech representatives out here first thing in the morning. They will work closely with you and your town to answer your questions and rectify any damages.

WELLS

But the Sheriff might be--

LANG

Until then, all land and property owned and operated by Omni-Tech is strictly off-limits to local and state-authorities, barring a primary cooperative investigation between Omni-Tech and DOD's office.

WELLS

DOD? The Department of Defense?  
What do they--

LANG

You have your instructions, deputy.  
Now if you'll excuse me.

With a dismissive glance, Lang takes his leave as the rest of his garrison wraps-up.

BLAKE

That guy was a dick.

LEAH

Huge dick.

TAKA

Say that again, only slower.

JOHN

Something's not right...

Wells and John share a silent look of mutual understanding.

BLAKE

Yeah genius. A twelve foot raging  
'endangered subterranean species'  
chased us all night and just about  
made us its morning crap.

Moments later, the two Omni-Tech trucks drive off, one truck bed now containing the Alpha.

WELLS

Well, I suppose 'that's that',  
until morning.  
(turns to Jeni's house)  
I'm going to get the fire  
department out here to help with  
the house.

Jeni Bell stands, bitching hysterically in the gaping hollow of what used to be the front of her house. The rest of our kids can't help but grin.

WELLS (CONT'D)

You all better get on home.

BLAKE

We can't, our bikes are all out on  
Atwood road.



WELLS

(re: car)

Alright, hop in the back, I'll drive you to get them.

TAKA

Sweet! Shotgun!

WELLS

Oh, Hell no.

INT. SQUAD CAR -- LATER

In the front, Wells battles with Taka's curious hand reaching through the narrow partition, trying touch all the scanner and computer equipment.

John sits shotgun, staring out the window, despondent.

LEAH

(from the back)

What's the matter? Sad to be alive or something?

JOHN

The whole school watched Kevin humiliate me...*again*.

LEAH

After all that's happened tonight, you're thinking about *that*?! Dude, you were about to kick his ass until my loser brother broke it up.

JOHN

I'm just some chump; some small-sack everyone can just pick on.

LEAH

You're not a chump.

TAKA

She doesn't speak for all of us.

LEAH

God, shut up! Or you won't need a cookie to know your fortune!

TAKA

Yes! Finally: originality!

WELLS  
 (re: off-screen)  
 Oh my god...

The kids turn, looking out the windows.

ALL  
 Oh *shit*...

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD -- MOMENTS LATER

Wells halts the car, everyone staring out at

UTTER DECIMATION

Both Omni-Tech trucks have been over-turned, the bodies of the Omni-Tech security personal strewn across the entire area. It's a massacre. Wells gets out of the car.

WELLS  
 Stay inside.

BLAKE  
 Yeah, 'ya think?

Wells inspects the slaughter. It's gruesome-- several graphic eviscerations and decapitations.

Wells shines his flashlight in the back of the truck where the Alpha was placed: *Empty*...

INT. SQUAD CAR -- MOMENTS LATER

The kids peer out from all sides.

TAKA  
 Oh man, I see dead people.

JOHN  
 I think I see someone. Looks like he's alive!

John eagerly opens the front passenger door, hopping out.

LEAH  
 Are you insane?!

BLAKE  
 Dude, what the fuck are you doing?!

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD -- MOMENTS LATER

A bloody HAND raises into the air, signaling life. John runs up to it: it's Lang, badly wounded, his other hand is keeping his guts from falling out.

JOHN  
Hey, are you OK--

John sees the evisceration.

JOHN (CONT'D)  
Oh. Uh...shit, man.

LANG  
Don't be afraid.

JOHN  
I gotta say, this is freaking me out a little.

LANG  
The light... *it's the light...*

JOHN  
Huh? What's, 'the light'?

Lang's eyes glaze over and John sees death for the first time, Lang's final cryptic words resonating.

WELLS (O.S.)  
*Jesus!* JOHN, GET BACK IN THE CAR!

A short distance away, Wells shouts, waving frantically.

John stands up, his gaze shifting to the squad car, his friends wave at him. He waves back...

CLOSER: and John sees their faces, shouting in terror as they point/motion.

A sick realization settles in as John slowly turns around to see THE ALPHA MELTING OUT OF THE NIGHT, plodding toward him.

WITH WELLS

He sees the Alpha descending on John, but he's too far away! He draws his gun, takes aim -- *but it clicks empty!*

WELLS (CONT'D)  
No...

INT. SQUAD CAR -- SIMULTANEOUS

Stuck in the backseat, Taka, Blake, and Leah pound on the windows, watching in horror. They try to get out, but the back-seat doors of the squad car are locked from the *outside*.

BLAKE

*Run, you stupid asshole! RUN!*

LEAH

Oh shit! It's gonna get him!

TAKA

I can't watch!

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD -- CONTINUOUS

John is frozen to the spot. The Alpha reaches John, towering above him, a deep grunt uttering from its throat.

In the distance, Wells screams, trying to get the Alpha's attention as he dashes up the road.

John looks back at the squad car; locks eyes with Leah.

SLOW MO: John never takes his eyes off Leah, as behind him, the Alpha roars, opening his jaws wide, moving in...

INT. SQUAD CAR -- SIMULTANEOUS

SLO MO(cont'): Through the windshield, Leah and the others watch the Alpha chomp down on John. Leah mouth opens to scream...

We suddenly are jolted into REAL-TIME: Leah screams becomes piercing as Blake and Taka turn away.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD -- SIMULTANEOUS

We see the scene again from Wells's POV: the Alpha takes John into its mouth...

...but it does NOT snap down; instead, it picks up John--like a lioness picking up her cub-- turns, and runs off into the night, carrying John in its muzzle.

Wells slows, watching helplessly as John is carried off.

INT. SQUAD CAR -- MOMENTS LATER

Wells gets into the squad car.

TAKA	BLAKE
OHMYGOD IT ATE HIM! IT	HOLY SHIT MAN! HOLY SHIT!
FUCKING ATE HIM!	HOLY SHIT!

WELLS  
It didn't eat him.

Taka and Blake both stop wailing on a dime.

TAKA  
Wait, whaaa?

WELLS  
It didn't eat him-- it carried him  
off in its mouth.

LEAH  
Carried him off?! To where?!

WELLS  
I think I can guess.

BLAKE  
That huge hole!

TAKA  
Ah shit man, we gotta go after him!  
That's our boy!

WELLS  
'We're' not going anywhere. You're  
just kids. You're gonna wait here  
and I'll have Deloris come get you.

TAKA	BLAKE
What?! Bullshit, man!	No way in hell!

WELLS (CONT'D)  
This isn't up for discussion, it's  
an order.

LEAH  
And here's our order: we're going  
to get our friend back. 'You' are  
allowed to come along if you want.  
This isn't up for discussion.

Wells looks at the three sets of determined eyes glaring back at him. He knows he's already lost this fight.

WELLS

You stay close. You do everything I say...

BLAKE

Hell yeah! Now let's hit up your station and load us up on firepower!

WELLS

First off, I'm definitely not giving any of you guns. Christ. Secondly, Sheriff Bronson is the only one who has the key to the armory.

TAKA

Well, that was stupid.

WELLS

It'll take the state police at least forty-five minutes to get out here, assuming they'll even believe me.

BLAKE

John doesn't have that kind of time! What are we going to do?

ANGLE ON: Leah

LEAH

I know *exactly* what we're gonna do...

EXT. KEVIN RALTON'S HOUSE -- LATER

A bruised and banged-up Kevin Ralston opens the front door of his house to find Blake, Taka, and Leah standing on his front step, Deputy Wells behind them.

KEVIN

What the fuck do *you* want?

LEAH

(stone-cold)

John is in trouble. Big trouble. Get your dad to open his sports store. We need equipment.

KEVIN

Screw you! And my dad's not even here, he's out of town.

LEAH

Then you're going to come open it up for us.

KEVIN

Ha! What makes you think--

LEAH

Because you don't want to spend the rest of your life being a total dick, Kevin.

KEVIN

Huh?

LEAH

You have a choice: you can drop the shitty attitude and choose to help a kid who has never done anything to you, or you can see how far being a life-long asshole gets you. Believe me, I know how those guys turn out.

Kevin holds his ground, seemingly defiant...

EXT. RALSTON SPORTING GOODS. MAIN STREET -- LATER

Kevin slides back the collapsible metal gate covering his father's store front; unlocks the door. Wells, Blake, Taka, and Leah file in.

KEVIN

Figures that little dork would've gotten himself into something like this.

Blake's ears prick up.

BLAKE

Come again? Because I watched that 'little dork' stand right up to that thing. Just like he stood up to you, both times today.

KEVIN

Pfft. He didn't 'stand-up', he just 'stood there'.

BLAKE

He's thirteen, Kevin. His dad is six-foot-five, two-hundred-twenty pounds.

(MORE)

BLAKE (CONT'D)

What do you think John is going to look like by the time he's a senior? And who do you think he'll remember giving him shit when he was a freshmen? And PS: your little comment at the party? His mom died last year, dickhead.

Beat.

KEVIN

Let me show you where the baseball bats are...

Kevin eagerly jumps to help.

TAKA

(aside)

Dude, John's dad is barely taller than I am.

BLAKE

Yeah, I know!

MONTAGE

Classic 'gear-up' scene: make-shift weaponry made from a medley of sports equipment. It ain't no joke: they are able to make very durable, effective weapons and protection.

EXT. RALSTON SPORTING GOODS. MAIN STREET -- LATER

Armed to the teeth and ready for battle, the troops file out of the store toward Wells' squad car.

KEVIN

Hey, wait up...

Kevin jogs up, wearing a hockey mask and an umpire's chest-pad.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

I'm coming, too.

LEAH

I thought you didn't care.

KEVIN

(earnest)

I figured this is partially my fault.

(MORE)



KEVIN (CONT'D)

If I had beat him up enough earlier, he'd probably be in the hospital now and wouldn't have gotten 'nabbed by that thing.

Everyone raises an eyebrow. Kevin really believes his logic.

TAKA

Suuuuure.

Everyone piles into Wells's car. Leah is about to step in, when she's suddenly caught in a pair of headlights. She turns as Justin's Camaro pulls up.

LEAH

Oh God...

Leah walks over as Justin rolls down his window.

JUSTIN

(re: her get-up)

Ha! What are you, in some kinda lesbian roller-derby?

LEAH

What do you want?

JUSTIN

Driving by and saw you all. I don't give a shit that you're still riding along with Deputy Retard; just letting you know you're not off the hook, and when you finally come home, there's gonna be--

LEAH

I may not come home, Justin. In fact, I probably won't, because I'll most likely be dead in about an hour. One of my friends is in trouble and I'm going to go help him, and probably die trying. But that's what I do for my family.

JUSTIN

You...serious?

Leah storms away.

LEAH

Yeah! I am. And I'm sure your pal Chet there would do the same for you.

INT. JUSTIN'S CAMERO -- CONTINUOUS

Justin looks over to see Chet smoking out of an APPLE BONG.

CHET  
(exhaling)  
It's healthier, cause it filters  
through an apple.

Justin looks back, watching his sister get into the squad car, a conflicted look in his eye.

INT. SQUAD CAR -- MOMENTS LATER

Wells pulls out. Taka had overheard Leah's conversation.

TAKA  
Hey, no one mentioned anything  
about dying!

BLAKE  
Look at it this way: at least we  
won't have to deal with high  
school.

INT. SMALL CAVERN -- LATER

John's eyes blink open, finding himself in darkness. He pulls a LIGHTER out of his pocket. The small flame barely illuminates an UNDERGROUND CAVE.

He begins to cautiously explore. **SQUISH** -- steps in something slimy. Shines the light on the ground to see he's stepped in a small pile of POOP.

JOHN  
Shit!

John voice is unexpectedly loud in the cave. Suddenly, as if in response, a TINY GROWL... then another tiny growl coming from the opposite side. He puts two and two together.

JOHN (CONT'D)  
*Shit...*

EXT. FRACKING SITE -- LATER

Wells, Blake, Taka, Leah, and Kevin stand, peering down into the black sink-hole, a mixture of trepidation and dread.

BLAKE  
He's down there, huh?

WELLS  
Bronson's blood trail leads down  
there-- John's gotta be down there  
too.

TAKA  
Just a quick poll: we're all sure  
we like John enough that we're  
about to--

Leah turns and swiftly PUNCHES Taka in the nuts.

TAKA (CONT'D)  
(squelching in pain)  
She touched it!

WELLS  
Blake, get the rope. Everyone make  
sure you've got your flashlights  
handy.  
(dramatic beat)  
It's going to get a whole lot  
darker before the light.

BLAKE  
I feel you could've come up with  
something better. I know you have  
it in you.

WELLS  
Shut up, Blake.

INT. SMALL CAVERN -- MOMENTS LATER

Using the lighter, John searches for the source of the two  
smaller growls. Sounds of movement around him-- he knows  
something(s) are circling him.

JOHN  
Awesome. Exactly how I pictured  
today was gonna play out.

John's foot kicks a large rock, he immediately grabs it.

John catches glimpses of two fast moving FORMS scampering  
across the walls. The forms are maybe the size of baby  
gorillas, covered in translucent hair.

JOHN (CONT'D)  
Great. Siblings.

He raises the rock, his only means of defense.

Suddenly, John's heel hits something on the ground. He spins around to see: SHERIFF BRONSON'S BODY...or what's left of it, his major organs were tonight's appetizers.

John reels back, but then notices Bronson's UTILITY BELT, still in tact. He quickly grabs a flashlight, mace, and baton. He switches on the flashlight, its powerful beam searching the darkness for

THE TWO CREATURES

We see them in full-light now; creepy as hell and dangerous looking, each crouching behind rocks, ready to pounce. John raises the baton in his other hand.

JOHN (CONT'D)  
Ok, you can do this...

With a shrill roar, the first creature LEAPS toward John, jaws snapping...

INT. UNDERGROUND CAVERN -- ELSEWHERE

On the cavern FLOOR, Wells helps Taka down the final few feet of the rope. The rest have already descended and await the next move. Wells points his beam down a

LARGE TUNNEL

WELLS  
This way...

Wells leads, the rest follow, treading cautiously.

TAKA  
(to Blake)  
Well, this is both horrifying and awesome.

BLAKE  
Totally. This time yesterday, did you think you'd be doing something like this?

TAKA  
This time yesterday I was humping my pillow. The trick is you fold it over like a taco...

BLAKE

Dude, is there anything you *haven't* boned?

TAKA

What, you mean like a girl?

MOMENTS LATER: The tunnel splits-- *now what?*

WELLS

Shit, which way?

LEAH

We split up.

WELLS

That is NOT happening.

LEAH

It's not, *not* happening. You take Taka. Kevin and Blake, you're with me.

Leah heads down one of the tunnels; Blake and Kevin shrug, then follow.

WELLS

Leah! Get back here now!

LEAH

You sound like my father. I didn't listen to him, either.

Reluctantly, Wells lets her and the others go.

INT. SMALLER CAVERN -- MOMENTS LATER

**SCREEEEEECH!** John swats at the two small creatures as they trade off attacks. He dodges and weaves, his flashlight strobos erratically, giving us only terrifying glimpses of the assailing creatures.

One lands on his back, biting and clawing at his neck and shoulder. John yells in pain...

INT. TUNNEL #1 -- SIMULTANEOUS

John's scream echoes down the tunnel. Leah halts the others in their tracks-- *sounds close.*

LEAH

Hurry!

Leah, Blake, and Kevin dash further into the tunnel.

INT. SMALLER CAVERN -- MOMENTS LATER

John staggers, mid-battle between the two smaller creatures.

**THWACK!** He finally lands a solid hit with the baton, smashing one of the creatures to the ground. He immediately spins and BACKHANDS the second one in mid-air as it leaps for him, sending it crashing into the far wall.

The second creatures whimpers and scampers off down a small hole in the wall.

John turns his attention on the remaining stunned creature laying on the ground. Raises his baton for the death-blow...

...but then he begins to take pity on the creature as it lays whimpering on the ground. John relaxes his guard...

Wrong move. *The creature flips up, sinking its teeth into John's ankle!*

JOHN

*You little shit!!*

John brings down the baton HARD on the creature-- again and again and again, until a bloody pulp is all that remains. He looks at his ankle-- fortunately his high-tops sneaker took the brunt of the damage.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Damnit! These were new you asshe--

**ROOOOOOOOOOOOOOAR!!!!**

John knows that roar by now: the Alpha, *and he's close*. His flashlight finds the only way out: a large gape in the CAVERN CEILING-- it's high, but within jumping reach.

John tries jumping: it's pathetic, his fingers come up way short.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Why didn't I go out for more sports?

**ROOOOOOOOOOAR!**

Even closer now. John jumps again, fingers firmly catching and finally manages to hoist himself out.

On his feet, John can hear the loud thumps of the approaching Alpha-- he takes off down one of several tunnel-conduits...

INT. TUNNEL #1 -- MOMENTS LATER

John runs for his life; he shines the flashlight backwards, looking for signs of the Alpha, when suddenly he SLAMS into *something*...

The flashlight drops to the ground. A high-pitch scream is heard-- sounds like it's the other small creature!

In a flurry, John grabs the MACE and starts spraying wildly.

LEAH  
AHHHH! WHAT THE FUCK?!

BLAKE  
IT BURNS!

More shrill screaming... and we realize it had been *Kevin!*

In the tangle of flailing bodies, John accidentally sprays himself! *Now all four kids are writhing around the tunnel, blinded.*

JOHN  
Leah?!

LEAH  
Yeah, retard! You sprayed all of us!

JOHN  
Who's screaming?

BLAKE  
That's Kevin.

JOHN  
Gah!--

Instinctively, John starts to spray MORE!...except, instead of Kevin, he nails Blake.

BLAKE  
(screaming)  
It's me you asshole! STOP SPRAYING US!

JOHN  
Oh, sorry. What's *Kevin* doing here?

KEVIN  
Listen, I didn't have to come.

LEAH  
Guys, later, OK?

Leah produces a water bottle; quickly rinses everyone's eyes.

JOHN  
Sorry, I thought you were one of those things.

LEAH  
There's more?

JOHN  
Yeah, I think they're its babies. Mean little shits. We killed the first one earlier, which sent the mother after us, then the father. I just pulverized another one and there's one more left. Plus dad.

BLAKE  
Oh, wonderful.

LEAH  
We gotta get out of here, is everyone OK?

Leah shines her flashlight in the face of John and Blake: their eyes/area around their eyes is red, but otherwise fine.

JOHN/BLAKE  
Yeah.

She then shines the light on Kevin.

KEVIN  
I'm fine.

But Kevin doesn't look it: his face is red and *really* puffy.

KEVIN (CONT'D)  
(off their looks)  
What? What's wrong?

John, Blake, and Leah stifle their giggles, still very little sympathy for the bully.

BLAKE  
Nothing...you look great.

Suddenly, a low, guttural GROWL echoes in the tunnel.

The kids stop laughing, slowly turning their flashlights down the dark tunnel.



Two EYES catch the beam, popping out of the dark: the Alpha.

JOHN

RUN!

The group immediately sprints in the opposite direction!

INT. TUNNEL #2 -- SIMULTANEOUS

Wells and Taka quietly tread along, when a NOISE stops Taka: a high-pitch 'clicking', like something breathing.

TAKA

Did you fart?

WELLS

God, you're so weird.

TAKA

I'm serious. Did you hear that?

WELLS

No, I--

The clicking/breathing sounds again. Wells and Taka's flashlights sweep the area for the source.

...Taka then realizes they're looking in the wrong place, his head craning upward to see a small HOLE in the ceiling...

*The (second) small creature drops out of the hole, RIGHT ONTO TAKA, like the Alien 'Face-Hugger'. Taka reels back.*

TAKA

HOLY SHIT! HOLY SHIT!

Wells jumps into the action.

WELLS

Hold still!

Taka bucks and struggles with the creature while Wells tries to tear it away, only causing the creature to dig its tiny claws further into Taka's scalp.

TAKA

You're making it worse!

WELLS

I said hold still!

TAKA  
 AHHHHH! It's little dick is in my  
 mouth!

Taka purposefully runs full-speed, head-first into the cavern wall, smashing the creature. The creature yelps as Taka rams it again and again.

Suddenly, the creature lets go, and Taka's face smashes into the cavern wall instead.

TAKA (CONT'D)  
 (groaning)  
 Saw that coming.

The creature leaps at Wells, but Wells swats it with a TENNIS RACQUET, sending it flying through the air, right back at Taka, hitting him in the square in the stomach!

TAKA (CONT'D)  
 GAH!

WELLS  
 Sorry!

INT. TUNNEL #1 -- SIMULTANEOUS

Leah, Blake, Kevin dash back down the tunnel, with John bringing up the rear-- the Alpha only a few yards behind!

Another FORK in the tunnel ahead-- Leah and the others continue down the same tunnel; John makes the split-second decision to lead the Alpha down the other route.

JOHN  
 KEEP RUNNING!

John veers down the other tunnel; the Alpha takes the bait.

LEAH  
 JOHN! NO!

INT. TUNNEL #3 -- MOMENTS LATER

John hauls ass, with only endless darkness ahead, the Alpha barreling down after him.

JOHN  
 Damn it! Never listen to my  
 instincts!

INT. TUNNEL #2 -- MOMENTS LATER

Wells continues to swat at the smaller creature, but it is too quick. It leaps onto his face, now.

WELLS  
Ahh! Get it off!

Taka points and laughs.

TAKA  
How does it feel, now?!

WELLS  
*I'm serious!!*

Wells struggles to pry the creature off his face; Taka jumps in, snatching Wells' TASER off his belt.

TAKA  
(aiming)  
Hold still!

WELLS  
(blind)  
What are you doing?!

Taka fires the taser darts into the creature's back-- a direct hit! The creature screams, seizing; it drops off Wells' face, fried.

WELLS (CONT'D)  
Holy shit! Nice shot kid!

TAKA  
And *that's* how you do it, to --

Right then, John bolts PAST them via a connecting perpendicular tunnel they had not seen.

TAKA (CONT'D)  
Hey, was that--

**WHOOOOOSH!** The Alpha blows by, pursuing John, CRUSHING Wells' foot as it passes! Wells crumbles, cries out, clutching his shattered foot.

Taka, leans forward meekly, peering down the tunnel.

TAKA (CONT'D)  
...Johnny?

**SMACK!** The pursuing Leah, Blake, and Kevin collide with Taka and the whole group tumbles to the tunnel floor, onto Wells.

WELLS  
 (from under)  
 Ok, what the fu--

TAKA  
 Am I dead?

LEAH  
 I'm not that lucky.

TAKA  
 Oh, hey guys.

BLAKE  
 Someone's elbow is in my crotch.

KEVIN  
 That's not an elbow.

INT. LARGE CAVERN -- MOMENTS LATER

As John runs, the tunnel opens up into an ENORMOUS CAVERN. Water drips from huge stalactites; dozens of small&large POOLS collect on the cavern floor.

Kevin's flashlight sweeps across the cavern walls, searching for a way out; the flashlight begins to *flicker*.

JOHN  
 Oh shit, no... *come on!*

John shakes the flashlight in vain as the bulb slowly fades...then, darkness.

Seconds later, a low-growl fills the cavern.

John whips out his lighter; its tiny flame barely illuminates three feet in front of him...*and the dripping maw of the Alpha!*

The Alpha huffs, almost blowing the flame out. John slowly starts backing away, the Alpha moving forward in turn.

JOHN (CONT'D)  
 For what it's worth, I'm sorry. But your family were total dicks.

The Alpha snarls again, preparing to end this...

The lighter's reflection off a nearby POOL OF WATER catches the corner of John's eye...

INSERT: Lang, dying as John watches...

LANG  
*The light...it's the light.*

BACK TO SCENE: a realization in John's eyes.

JOHN  
 ...the light.

On that, John drops the lighter into the pool of water.

Instantly, FLAMES LEAP UP! The Alpha reels back, painfully blinded from the fire!

John scrambles to evade the Alpha, as the fire continues to spread from pool to pool.

The Alpha recovers and begins precariously leaping and weaving through pockets of flames after John, using its nose.

MOMENTS LATER

Leah, Taka, and Kevin enter the cavern; Blake helps a hobbling Wells. All stare at the firey blaze in the cavern.

TAKA  
 Whoa! Sick!

WELLS  
 What the Hell is this?

LEAH  
 It's the fracking! The gelling chemicals they use to drill contain all kinds of bad stuff like methane and formaldehyde! It's mixed with the water...

BLAKE  
 Frackin' sweet!

KEVIN  
 (pointing)  
 Look!

The group zeros-in on John, carefully navigating across the cavern, but the Alpha is gaining on him.

LEAH  
 We gotta help him!

Taka dramatically slings his Super-Soaker around his torso.

TAKA  
 Fill me up.

MOMENTS LATER

John reaches the far side of the cavern, dashing across a large pool of water that catches fire only seconds after.

A huge WALL OF FIRE bursts up; John is a bit relieved, as this will surely cut-off the Alpha's pursuit...

Wrong. John turns to see the Alpha bounding over the wall of fire into safe-territory with him. John scrambles backwards, bumping up against the cavern wall-- the snarling Alpha finally has him dead-to-rights...

TAKA (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
HEY, FUZZ-NUTS!!

The Alpha swivels its head; Taka on the other side of the flaming wall.

TAKA (CONT'D)  
Ha-ha. You looked.

Taka pulls the trigger on his Super-Soaker, sending a powerful stream of the toxic cavern water shooting out; as it passes through the wall of fire, it catches, *sending a firey spray onto the Alpha's hide.*

The Alpha bucks and roars, rolling on the ground.

LEAH  
(pointing)  
John-- get up there!

John looks to see a RIDGE above him, protruding over the cavern floor about 15 feet-- if it he can reach it, it'll be safe haven for sure.

With the Alpha distracted, John scrambles up the cavern wall.

CAVERN FLOOR

LEAH (CONT'D)  
JOHN! Stay there, we'll figure something out!

BLAKE  
We will?

TAKA  
I had the water-gun idea. Someone else's turn.

LEAH  
We gotta kill that thing!

BLAKE

Yeah, I don't think it likes to die very much.

RIDGE -- CROSS CUT

Having reached the ridge, John seems safe for the moment, watching the Alpha toss and roll on the cavern floor below him. He allows himself a moment of relief...

*Suddenly, the Alpha recovers, LEAPING onto the cavern wall, and to everyone's horror, easily scales up until, it too reaches the ridge.*

The beast steps out, as John backs away, nearing the cusp or the ridge, a pool of PURE FIRE below.

LEAH

JOHN!

The group is terrified, but is helpless to aid their friend. The Alpha truly has John cornered now. It stalks toward him as the group can only watch in horror.

WELLS

Guys, shut your eyes. Don't watch...

LEAH

NO!

Then suddenly--

KEVIN

Well, this one's not gonna be on me.

ALL

What?/Huh?

Kevin grabs Taka's hockey gauntlets; swipes Blake's HOCKEY STICK-- causing Wells's full weight to fall on Blake.

BLAKE

Oaf! Hey!

Kevin lowers his hockey mask over his face; this combined with his umpire's chest-padding and football shoulder pads makes for some decent protection from the fire.

KEVIN

(turning to Leah)

I'm not gonna be an asshole.

With that, Kevin turns and DASHES INTO THE FLAMES.

RIDGE -- MOMENTS LATER

John's heels touch the edge of the overhang-- the Alpha, almost upon him-- ROARS, shaking the entire cavern.

Something stirs in John, quickly building; staring down the last few moments of his life, **the boy is not facing the Alpha, rather, he faces himself.**

The Alpha roars again-- AND JOHN LETS OUT A BELLOWING, PRIMAL SCREAM-- so loud, so powerful, even the Alpha is flummoxed.

JOHN

I'M NOT BACKING DOWN! YOU HEAR ME!  
I'M NOT BACKING DOWN! YOU WANT ME??  
COME HERE! COME AND GET ME YOU  
PUSSY!

The Alpha grunts, as if out of respect. Then ducks its head, preparing to pounce. Suddenly, a shout from below...

KEVIN (O.S.)

*JOHN!!!*

John looks down to see Kevin standing below. As if throwing a shot-put, Kevin spins to gain momentum, then HEAVES the hockey stick upwards...

...John reaches out, almost tipping over the edge, but successfully snatches the hockey stick out of the air.

*The Alpha bears down on John, jaws widening to take him in!*

John sweeps around and JAMS THE HOCKEY STICK INTO THE ALPHA'S MOUTH, prying it open!

With the hockey stick stuck, the Alpha reels its head wildly, careless of its precarious footing on the cusp of the ridge.

LEAH

Hit him John! *HIT HIM!*

Leah's words echo in John's ears; glaring at the wild beast, John furrows his brow, gritting his teeth.

JOHN

I am done running from you.

*John unleashes a guttural cry, charging the Alpha, dropping his shoulder and ramming into its side, sending the Alpha toppling OFF the ridge, and into the large pool of fire below.*



## CAVERN FLOOR

The Alpha splashes down, engulfed in flame-- its painful bellows fill the cavern.

Leah, Taka, Blake, and Wells cheer.

LEAH

John, get down from there! Hurry!

John wastes no time in scrambling back down the cavern wall. Kevin meets him at the bottom.

KEVIN

Come on, stay behind me. And hey man, sorry about what I said about your mom.

JOHN

(hesitant, but then)  
Thanks. It's cool.

Kevin leads John through the wall of fire (his body/padding taking the brunt of it). Moments later, the group is reunited.

On the other side of the ridge, the Alpha flails in its death throws, but no one wants to stay around to watch.

Leah tackles John in the hug of his life.

LEAH

Holy shit! John, that was incredible! You did it! You beat that thing!

TAKA

That was AWESOME!

BLAKE

'Awesome'? That was fucking epic!

WELLS

Good work, John.

KEVIN

(to deaf ears)  
Hey, what about me?

JOHN

Come on, we gotta get out of here. This fire is going to spread fast.

Everyone hurries out of the cavern.

INT. PIT. GROUND FLOOR -- MOMENTS LATER

The group stares dauntingly up at the over 50 foot ascent, with only the single rope they came down on.

BLAKE

Going down was the easy part, huh.

TAKA

Did no one think we'd have to go back up?! I can't climb that, look at my arms, they're like hummingbirds' legs!

WELLS

(tries his walkie)

Shit, it's just static this far down.

INSERT: Elsewhere, flames from the cavern start to spread, trailing out into the tunnels.

BACK TO SCENE

Blake is the first to attempt climbing the rope; he only gets about ten feet up, before his arms give out.

BLAKE

This ain't happening. I'm too exhausted from lugging around Deputy Could-Lose-Ten-Pounds.

John peers down one of the tunnels, sees a glow growing in the distance-- THE FIRE IS HEADED TOWARD THEM!

JOHN

Guys, we're running out of time.

A sobering realization begins to set in...

BLAKE

Well, we got any more of that weed?

Then suddenly:

CAMERON (O.S.)

Hellloooooooooo?

Everyone looks up, seeing the tiny dot of Cameron's head against the moonlit sky. Andy and Brian are with him as well.

TAKA

Holy shit! Cameron, is that you?!

CAMERON  
Yo! Who's down there?

Everyone shouts at once.

CAMERON (CONT'D)  
Oh, hey you guys. Whatcha doing--

EVERYONE  
*GET US OUT OF HERE!!!*

SERIES

- Future engineering major Cameron improvises a pulley system with the rope.

- Succession of each of our group members being lifted out of the pit.

EXT. FRACKING SITE -- LATER

Exhausted, but thankful this horrible day is over, everyone congratulates each other.

WELLS  
How did you guys find us?

CAMERON  
You didn't think we'd just let the coolest thing ever to happen in my house just vanish into the night without any proof?

Cameron holds up a small camera.

TAKA  
(to Leah)  
See, I told you he had cameras.

CAMERON  
After the fire-department left, we snuck out and picked-up the trail of destruction and it lead us here.

LEAH  
Cameron, I could seriously kiss you.

Cameron eyes well-up with hope.

LEAH (CONT'D)  
But I'm not.

Cameron deflates.

LEAH (CONT'D)

I'm saving it for someone else.

She smiles and turns to John. Everyone childishly "Oooooo's".

LEAH (CONT'D)

You kicked that thing's ass!

JOHN

(smiles)

Not by myself.

LEAH

That's what we're here for. Don't ever think you're alone with anything this stupid world throws at you. And especially, because you have me...

Finally, the two slowly move in for their much delayed kiss...

**ROOOOARRRRRRRR!!!!**

*EVERYONE TURNS, WATCHING IN HORROR AS THE ALPHA CLIMBS OUT OF THE PIT, looking like a demon-dog from Hell!!*

The beast is horribly burned; its skin has melted away, revealing bloody, charred muscle and sinew. If it was scary looking before, it's a mother-fuckin' *nightmare* now!

Screams of terror. Cameron shrieks, pauses to take a picture, then continues shrieking.

The beast charges directly at John and Leah as the two cling to each other-- *this is really the end!*

**HONK HONK HONK!!!**

*From out of nowhere, Justin speeds through the group, ramming into the Alpha with his prize Camaro; the front end smashes in as the car catapults the beast back into the FIREY PIT!*

Justin and Chet open their doors and roll out of the car right before it, too, topples into the pit.

INSERT: The Alpha slams onto the pit floor; it's only able to let out a short bellow before the Camaro SMASHES DOWN ON IT.

BACK TO SCENE

An eruption of joy not seen since the celebration at the *Ewok Village*. Leah runs up to her brother and hugs him; Justin softens as he hugs his little sister back.

JUSTIN  
You are my family...

After a tender moment, Leah pulls away from her brother, beaming at him.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)  
But you still owe me fifty bucks.

CHET  
(re: his joint)  
Dude, I am telling you... best shit ever!

Back with group, Leah throws her arms around John's neck, the two pull close, *finally* sharing their first kiss.

Looking on, Taka throws his arm around Blake, smiling.

BLAKE  
I swear to God if you try to kiss me, I will punch your taint.

WELLS  
What the Hell am I going to tell all your parents?!

KEVIN  
Hey, who's gonna pay for all the equipment?

Cameron holds up his camera, triumphant.

CAMERON  
Don't worry, this photo is gonna make us rich!

WITH JOHN and LEAH

The two pull away just for a moment, smile, and kiss again.

TAKA  
Yeeeeeah...nice and slow, Johnny, just how she likes it!

Without looking or breaking from their lip-lock, Leah punches Taka in the face!

CUT TO:

**1st CODA** (as credits roll)

On TV:

NEW ANCHOR

A string of destruction last night that left a gruesome body count in its wake, is thought to be attributed to some kind of wild 'monster', that is, at least according to one area youth who snapped this photo of the alleged 'beast'.

A blurry PHOTO is shown; if you squint, you can kinda see the outline of the Alpha, but really, it could be anything.

On TV: cut to Cameron being interviewed in-studio.

CAMERON

(all one run-on sentence)

...Then, it climbed out of the pit and was like all, 'Rooooooooooooaar', but like I said, I personally fought it at my house earlier that night, so I was so not freaked out or scared, seriously, ask all my friends. I was awesome. I wish there were more, so I could find 'em all and kick more ass! That's right you \*bleep\*! You don't want to mess with this \*bleep-bleep-bleep\*...Yeah, I will \*bleep\* your mother too!

(beat)

So, when do I get paid?

On TV: cut to the News Anchor.

NEW ANCHOR

Among the victims is Roscoe Sheriff Chuck Bronson, who died bravely defending a group of local children. Deputy Daniel Wells was sworn in as Roscoe's new sheriff and had this to say about the incidents...

On TV: cut to Wells being interviewed at the Omni-Tech site.

WELLS

I want answers. We all do. If it means going all the way to the top of Omni-Tech, then that's how far I'm willing to take it. Needless to say, Omni-Tech is finished in this town!

The camera then pans down to Taka, who stands next to Wells.

TAKA

Jeni Bell, I love you. I'm so sorry we trashed your house. Please give me a second chance to see your boobs!

**2nd CODA** (after credit roll)

INT. NON-DESCRIPT OFFICE -- DAY

The back of an executive leather chair; an unseen figure speaks on the phone.

FIGURE (O.S.)

Yes, I can assure you sir, the situation has been completely contained; Omni-Tech remains the face of all operations.

(pause)

...no, all information leaks have been redirected through proper channels.

(pause)

Indeed. They are all just small town nobodies. It will all be lumped in with conspiracy theories and Big Foot sightings.

(pause)

Thank you sir. Thank you very much. There's just one more question that's been lingering, since the onset of the events...

The leather chair swivels around, revealing BRYAN CRANSTON, or some big actor cameo. He wears a general's uniform, four stars across the chest.

GENERAL

When will phase three begin?

**SMASH TO BLACK**