LOCKDOWN AT FRANKLIN HIGH

An original screenplay by

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EXT. LERNER HOUSE – MORNING

A dismal, all white winter sky. TILT DOWN TO--

A quiet, working class house. A rake beside a pile of dead leaves.

INT. LERNER HOUSE – MORNING


BETH LERNER, Kate’s mother, enters. Tying her pink robe. Squinting through a red wine hangover, adjusting tousled hair. Beth sits down at the table, holds her coffee with both hands.

Kate sets the plate of breakfast in front of her mother.

BETH
(pushing it away)
Thank you honey, but I can’t eat a thing.

Kate places two ASPIRIN and an ICE PACK on the table. Beth smiles at her daughter.

BETH
What would I do without you?

Beth gulps down the pills. Puts the ice pack over her eyes. Kate kisses her mother on the head. Walks down the hall.

BETH (O.S.)
Did you eat, Kate? Kate?

KATE
Yeah.

Kate knocks on a door.

KATE
Eric, let’s go!

No response. She tries the handle. Locked.

KATE
Eric? We’re going to be late.

Kate sighs. Removes a paperclip. Jams it in the lock. She’s done this before. Click. She opens the door...
INT. ERIC LERNER’S ROOM – MORNING

On the walls: Travis Bickle, Slipknot, a Buddhist monk on fire. The room is empty. Kate narrows her eyes... looks to the window. She climbs out.

EXT. LERNER HOUSE

Kate scrambles out of the window. Into the woods behind the house. Past vaulting trees. Sound of breaking glass.

INT. WOODS

An old computer monitor shatters as a pocket knife is hurled into it.

ERIC LERNER, 18, buzzed hair, pale skin, chipped-black paint on his fingernails picks up the knife. Steps back. Throws it again. Kate approaches.

KATE
We’re gonna be late.

ERIC
No. You’re gonna be late.

He hurls the knife. Cracks the monitor’s glass.

KATE
Did you take your happy pill?

ERIC
Did you take your bitchy pill?

KATE
You took it for me. So, what did you and dad talk about last night?

ERIC
Nothing.

KATE
Nothing? You were there for six hours.

Eric folds the knife. Pockets it.

ERIC
Maybe I will go to school with you.

KATE
Really?

He puts a joint between his lips. Lights it.
ERIC
Why the hell not.

KATE
Please don’t do that in front of me.

She grabs for it-- he backs up, easily avoiding her hand. He taunts her, leaning forward, laughing-- she swipes for it-- he’s too quick.

ERIC
Oooh, so close. Try again. Missed!

KATE
It’s not funny, Eric!

**INT. HONDA CIVIC - DRIVING**

Kate drives, coffee in hand. Eric pulls his black hoodie over his hazy eyes, shading them from the morning sun.

KATE
So what did he say?

ERIC
He’s moving to Chicago.

KATE
Chicago? As in the city?

ERIC
No, Chicago as in the state of mind.

KATE
When did he decide that?

ERIC
(shrugs)
He’s always wanted to live there.

KATE
But he can’t just-- why didn’t he tell me?

ERIC
Dunno.

KATE
He should have called--

ERIC
Maybe he knew you’d freak out and get angry.
KATE
Why would he move all the way out there?

ERIC
Because it’s cool.

KATE
When a man has a mid-life crisis he buys a sports car or has an affair, but he doesn’t move half way across the continent--

ERIC
Take a Xanax. You sound like mom. And you wonder why he doesn’t want to talk to you.

KATE
Wait-- what does that mean?

ERIC
WATCH IT!

Kate brakes hard, narrowly avoiding smashing into a stopped pick up truck in front of her. Kate’s hands are trembling.

KATE
... divorce... now Chicago..?

Eric watches her get herself together.

ERIC
He asked me to go with him. I’m... gonna go with him.

(confirming it)
I’m moving to Chicago with dad.

She looks at him.

EXT. FRANKLIN HIGH - CONTINUOUS

The Honda Civic pulls into the parking lot of a massive high school structure that resembles a modern, sprawling prison. The intimidating image of safety and structure. The windows are nothing but slits, high up on the second story.

KATE
Since when?

ERIC
Since I hate this place. This school is like a prison.
KATE
You don’t hate this place--

ERIC
Do you know what I daydream about when I sit in class? I daydream that someone blows up a bomb in the principal’s office and it melts everyone’s faces off.

KATE
That’s terrible.

ERIC
Now you see why I wanna go to Chicago.

KATE
I can’t believe you’d just... leave me.

ERIC
Don’t get all menstrual about it. It’s not about you.

KATE
You’re right, it’s not. It’s about us. Did you ever think that maybe, I don’t know, I need you? I need my older brother? My dad maybe? My family?

ERIC
Don’t be so co-dependent. You can take care of yourself. You’re way smart and you fit in with everyone. You’ll be fine.

Tears well up in Kate’s eyes.

KATE
Why didn’t dad ask me to come?

ERIC
It’s not like you guys get along. You always yell at him--

KATE
(yelling)
I don’t always yell at him--

ERIC
You’re always bossing him around, telling him what he should and shouldn’t do. I thought you’d be psyched.

(beat)
I mean, do you even want to go to Chicago?
KATE
No. I like it here. But still...

ERIC
It’s not that far away.

KATE
It’s two hundred miles away.

ERIC
Kate. It’s not like we hang out with each other.

KATE
Whatever. Go to Chicago with dad. Have fun.

ERIC
Katie...

KATE
No. My makeup’s ruined now. Thanks a lot.

She angrily exits the car. He watches her go.

EXT. PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Kate joins the herd moving toward the school. BRANDON, face of an Abercrombie & Fitch model, squeezes Kate from behind, startling her.

BRANDON
Ong-ki-yaen bulinga, baby!

She hugs him. TIGHT. Doesn’t let go.

BRANDON
Ong-ki-yaen bulinga! That means “Hi, how are you?” in Huaorini. Cool, huh?

KATE
I thought you didn’t get back until tomorrow.

He cuts her off with a kiss.

BRANDON
Got in late last night. Wanted to surprise you. Hey. What’s wrong?

KATE
Chicago.
BRANDON

Huh?

KATE

Nothing.

BRANDON

Parents?

She shakes her head. Yes.

BRANDON

Sorry, Katy. I’ve been praying for them.

KATE

Thanks.

He gives her an EXOTIC NECKLACE made of wooden beads.

KATE

It’s beautiful.

BRANDON

The natives gave us each one. I wanted you to have it. Check this out--

Brandon removes a fist-sized CHUNK OF BROWN CRYSTAL.

Inside the crystal is a PREHISTORIC FOSSIL. It resembles a large snail shell.

BRANDON

Cool, huh? I found it in the jungle.

She smiles at his excitement.

KATE

I’m glad you’re back.

He kisses her deeply. It turns passionate. He bites her neck, grabbing her butt. She blushes.

KATE

Brandon. You were on a mission trip.

BRANDON

(smiles)

Well, I’m back now.

Eric walks by. Mocking Brandon.

ERIC

Save a lot of heathens while you were gone?
BRANDON
Fifty two Huaroni tribesmen, Eric.

ERIC
You do know there’s a homeless shelter ten miles away from here, right?

KATE
Eric. Don’t start.

Kate takes Brandon’s hand, leading him toward school.

ERIC
I’m just saying, he didn’t have to travel across the world to turn them into polo shirt wearing Jesus-freaks.

Brandon smiles, he’s accustomed to Eric’s bullshit.

BRANDON
We brought the Huaorani food and vaccines and the word of God. Because of us, those people in the jungle know something enormous loves them. Have you ever gone that far for anyone? Even for your own sister?

Eric burns.

ERIC
Touch her ass again and I’ll get you to heaven real fast. I swear to God.

Eric moves into school.

INT. FRANKLIN HIGH - MAIN ENTRANCE

Large “NO CELL PHONES ALLOWED” SIGNS. OFFICER COLSON and OFFICER O’BRIEN, the school police officers, stand beside a METAL DETECTOR. A false sense of welcoming as they usher the kids through.

OFFICER O’BRIEN
Morning. Morning. Morning.

ERIC
Cattle to the slaughter.

Beep. Beep.

OFFICER COLSON
Whoa. No cell phones.
Colson picks a CELL PHONE out of a STUDENT’S pocket. Puts it in a PLASTIC CONTAINER.

OFFICER COLSON
Nice try. You know the rules. You get it back by the end of the week.

HILLMAN, 30, beefy, preppy white guy, used to play football but never went anywhere, white polo, walkie talkie, the head Assistant Principal, flirts with two HOT SENIOR VOLLEY BALL PLAYER GIRLS.

HILLMAN
You girls gonna go all the way to State this year? I bet you can.

The Volley Ball Girls giggle.

In the back of the line, Eric removes his POCKET KNIFE, hides it in a KID ON CRUTCHES’S BACKPACK. Kid on Crutches walks through-- metal detector goes off. Hillman lets Crutches pass. Hillman spots Eric.

HILLMAN
Look at this sad specimen. Don’t ever turn out like him. Lerner!

Eric looks away. He detests Hillman. Doesn’t want any trouble today.

ERIC
I’m going to be late for class, Hillman.

HILLMAN
Mr. Hillman. Step up to the plate.

Hillman pulls the hoodie down off Eric’s head. He pats him down. Eric flinches. Hillman looks up at him, hands on Eric’s THIGHS.

HILLMAN
Your eyes are looking a little glassy. What’d you bring for me today, huh? Little grass? Toke up on the roof? More of mommy’s pills? Whoa-- what’s this?

Hillman finds the bottle of Eric’s medication.

HILLMAN
You gotta doctor’s note for this?

Embarrassed, Eric pulls out a note from his doctor.

Hillman reads it aloud:
HILLMAN

For severe psychiatric trauma... Holy shit, Lerner. You better hang on to these.

Hillman shoves the pills and note back in Eric’s hands.

HILLMAN

Have a nice day, Lerner.

Eric smirks. Catches up to Kid on Crutches. Bumps into Crutches, grabbing his backpack to stabilize him.

ERIC

Sorry ‘bout that, man.

Eric walks off—slyly pocketing his knife.

MATCH CUT TO:

BLACK AND WHITE - SURVEILLANCE MONITOR POV

Eric walks down the hall, pulling his hoodie over his head. PULL BACK TO REVEAL:

INT. MAIN OFFICE

A WALL OF TWELVE SECURITY MONITORS show the vast layout of the school.

PRINCIPAL BURKE pours sugar in his NOTRE DAME coffee mug as he peruses the wall of monitors. He sips. Good coffee.

Burke moves past large pictures of past principals hanging on the faux-wood walls.

The Main Office is a HUB, like a control tower at an airport. Alive with everyday activity and chatter.

PRINCIPAL BURKE

Good coffee this morning, Phyllis. Extra strong.

PHYLISS

Extra strong. That’s right, Mr. Burke.

PHYLISS, plump, wrinkly, knit sweater vest, organizes the lunch list for the week. The phone rings.

PHYLISS

Good morning, Franklin High. Please hold.
INT. TEACHER’S LOUNGE

Florescent lights, coffee, and tired, overworked TEACHERS.

MR. WEBBER, a brilliant stoner, stubbly, young, the object of every high-school girl’s crush enters with a smile and a BOX OF DONUTS.

MR. WEBBER
Buenos tardes, teachers! I bring you highly processed breakfast treats loaded with all the monosaccharides and maltodextrins you need to kickstart your day.

Webber plants the donuts on the table, pours himself some coffee. MR. COPELAND, 60, skin and bones and thick glasses licks his lips at the donuts.

MR. COPELAND
I can’t. My wife has me on this cleanse.

MR. WEBBER
Live a little, Copeland. I won’t tell.

Copeland smiles, slyly takes a jelly donut.

INT. MAIN HALLWAY – SAME

SECURITY CAM POV: Thousands of teenagers cram down the main hallway. Timecode in the corner reads 07:29.

BIG BEAR (O.S.)
BRAN-DONE!

BIG BEAR, nicknamed for his bear-size runs toward Brandon.

BRANDON
No, no--

Big Bear grabs Brandon in a rib-crushing bear-hug.

BIG BEAR
Raaarg!

Kate laughs as he holds Brandon in the air.

BIG BEAR
I missed you, man! I LOVE THIS MAN!

PASSING GIRL
AND WE LOVE YOU, BIG BEAR!
BIG BEAR
(to passing girl)
You’re next, baby!

BRANDON
Okay. This is weird. Let me go.

Big Bear releases Brandon.

BIG BEAR
I looked after your girl while you were gone and I am proud to announce her chastity is still very much intact.

KATE
It’s true. He’s my bodyguard.

BRANDON
Thanks, Big Bear. You’re a gentleman.

BIG BEAR
Anything for you guys. Lotta love in this hallway right now. I love that! I love you two! Lotta love!

The bell rings. Big Bear runs off.

BIG BEAR
I want stories, you Bible-thumping bad ass!

BRANDON
I’ve got ‘em!

Big Bear happily HI-FIVES a JUNIOR down the hall with a SMACK.

Brandon gives Kate a kiss.

BRANDON
See you after first period.

He exits. Kate turns to see Eric leaning against the lockers, watching.

KATE
What.

ERIC
Walk me to shop class.

KATE
It’s completely out of my way-- I’ll be late.
ERIC
Fine. I’ll just skip.

KATE
No!

She rushes up beside him. He offers his arm to her-- his only form of apology for being such a dick. Even at his worst, Eric is a charmer.

INT. EAST HALLWAY

Kate and Eric walk around the corner, winding through the wide corridors.

LIZ joins their side. School girl mini with black tights, a vintage t-shirt under a jean jacket.

LIZ
Sup, siblings! I saw Braaaandon’s back.

Liz links arms with Kate as they move toward shop.

KATE
Yes, he is.

LIZ
Were you nice, Eric?

ERIC
Please. He banged every girl in his Bible Study.

KATE
Eric! Seriously-- if you’re going to talk like that about him--

ERIC
He is a fantastic human being. A gift from God.

They reach the entrance to SHOP CLASS...

JINGLING KEYS are heard behind them.

A PASSING SHOP KID, JOSE, a long white t-shirt, baggy jeans. LARGE SET OF JINGLING KEYS clipped to his belt, slaps Kate’s ass.

JOSE
Nice bounce, mama.
Jose walks into the SHOP CLASS. Eric tenses, watches Jose as he throws down his book bag. Eric briskly follows him.

KATE
 Eric... no.

INT. SHOP CLASS

Eric stalks past TWO SCHOOL BUSSES up on hydraulic lifts-- Toward JOSE who is pulling up a metal stool-- Kate watching--

KATE
 Eric-- don’t!

He spins Jose-- throws his fist into his jaw. A sickening crunch sends Jose over metal stools. His KEYS slide across the floor. Blood wells in his gums.

JOSE
 What the fuck, man??

Jose hurls a stool at Eric. Attacks him.

STUDENTS
 FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT!

INT. MAIN OFFICE

The fight is seen pouring into the hallway on the security monitors. MRS. LENIHAN, vice-principal, spots it, points--

MRS. LENIHAN
 Mr. Burke! There’s a-- a-- a--

Principal Burke studies the fight. He grabs the MICROPHONE for the loudspeaker.

PRINCIPAL BURKE
 (into intercom)
 Officer O’Brien and Officer Colson, please report to shop class. Code Ten.

INT. HALLWAY

THE PRINCIPAL’S VOICE sounds over the loudspeakers, calm and cool like an airline pilot.

PRINCIPAL BURKE (O.S.)
 (over loudspeakers)
 Code Ten in Shop Class. Thank you.
STUDENT
Code Ten? Fight! FIGHT!!!

A passing student runs anxiously toward the fight. The two Police Officers CHARGE through the students.

INT. SHOP CLASS HALLWAY

Hillman runs through the hallway--

HILLMAN
Move, move, move!

Hillman shoves past Kate and Liz.

KATE
ERIC, STOP IT!!!

Eric is pounding Jose.

Hillman quickly pulls Eric’s arm behind his head, pinning it behind him—Eric fights back, but Hillman tackles him onto the ground. Eric’s face slams into the floor. Hands zip-tied. Eric blinks. Sees his blood on the floor.

Jose, out of focus. Hillman, red, pulls Eric up off the ground. Eric’s cheek is cut. Hillman squeezes the back of Eric’s neck, slamming him against the lockers.

ERIC
This is police brutality--

HILLMAN
(whispers in Eric’s ear)
Good thing I’m not the police, little man.

ERIC
Yeah, you’re a glorified hall monitor. Where’s your little orange vest?

HILLMAN
I am the Assistant Principal, you jacked up loser.

ERIC
You’re dead, Hillman. Dead.

Eric is dragged past a STUNNED Kate and Liz. Jose wipes his bloody lip, picks up his keys, attaches them back to his belt.
HILLMAN
You too, Jose. Let’s go.

JOSE
For what? Getting punched?

HILLMAN
Tell it to Mr. Burke.

Hillman passes Eric into the hands of OFFICER O’BRIEN and OFFICER COLSON.

HILLMAN
Watch him. He’s making death threats.

ERIC
He practically raped me--

HILLMAN
Damn right I did.

KATE
I don’t believe it...

Eric shrugs at his sister. A sly smile.

ERIC
Chicago. Here I come.

The police drag Eric off.

INT. PRINCIPAL’S OFFICE

Eric is seated before Principle Burke, Kate seated beside him.

KATE
Please, Mr. Burke--

PRINCIPAL BURKE
Kate, I’m sorry. This is the last time. He’s out. He’s expelled.
(to Eric)
It’s a damn shame, young man.

KATE
We’ve been going through a lot. My parents are-- they’re-- divorcing-- my father’s moving away. Please...

PRINCIPAL BURKE
I’m sorry to hear that but it’s no excuse.
ERIC
Fine. Whatever. I’ll go.

KATE
Eric! No-- wait-- let me handle this--

PRINCIPAL BURKE
You’re done. You’re out. Hold him in inside suspension until his parents can come pick him up.

ERIC
Bullshit.

KATE
Eric, be quiet! Isn’t there anything I can do?

PRINCIPAL BURKE
Yes there is. You can go back to class.

INT. SCIENCE CLASS

Bunsen burners flaming, MR. WEBBER oversees the class.

MR. WEBBER
Take your seats and open your minds. Be with you in a second. After I welcome our adventurous friend back from the bush.

Webber sits with Brandon who shows the crystal-covered fossil to Mr. Webber.

MR. WEBBER
Looks Mesozoic.

BRANDON
What’s the crystal around it?

MR. WEBBER
Resinite-- really old plant ooze. Pretty cool. Ten points extra credit for sucking up to the teacher, Brandon.

BRANDON
I brought this from the jungles of South America-- just for you, Mr. Webber.

MR. WEBBER
Thirty points. But you look it up and tell me what it is after class.
INT. CLASSROOM - 1ST PERIOD

Kate and Liz sit in class. ABBY, red-head with dark eye-liner raccoon eyes, strokes Kate’s back.

KATE
Why can’t he just be normal? Why can’t he just-- be my brother, not my enemy?

ABBY
You have your sisters right here.

Kate smiles sadly.

KATE
You guys are the best.

Just as the bell rings-- Nick enters.

NICK. Moppy hair in his eyes. Geek-chic, always nervous around Kate.

NICK
Hi, Kate.

KATE
(wiping her eyes)
Another beautiful day in the exciting life of Kate Lerner, huh?

NICK
Y’know, when my parents got divorced I lit my couch on fire and told my father he could suck a goat.

LIZ
Suck a goat? That’s like not even that insulting.

NICK
It is for me.

KATE
(laughing)
You said that?

NICK
Not something I’m proud of.

KATE
But you’re so nice.
NICK
I have since matured.
(quiet)
It gets better.

This makes her smile. Nick is always a comfort.

KATE
Thanks, Nick.

NICK
You know, you can call me anytime--

The bell rings. Everyone takes their seats and faces forward. Nick’s chance is lost. He watches Kate brush the hair away from her face.

INT. IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION

Future criminals of America. Eric is seated in the back of the class. He looks a few rows down and sees Jose staring at him, pissed.

He pulls his hoodie down over his eyes and lays his head on his desk. The militant MONITOR snaps his fingers at Eric.

MONITOR
Head up. No sleeping. You got homework, you do it.

Eric removes a book from his bag. He looks over, sees a TWEAKER KID with glassy eyes secretly POPPING PILLS.

ERIC
Psst.

Tweaker looks over.

ERIC
(nods at the pills)
How much?

Tweaker grins.

INT. SCIENCE CLASS - DAY

Bell rings. Students exit. Webber walks past Brandon as he examines the fossil encased in brown resinite--

MR. WEBBER
I’m gonna go get some more rocket fuel. You cool in here for a second?
BRANDON

I got it.

Webber leaves Brandon alone in the classroom. Brandon examines the crystal-- reaches for a book on FOSSILS-- accidentally knocks the crystal off the desk--

IT SHATTERS ON THE FLOOR.

The fossil rolls across the ground and under the teacher’s desk.

BRANDON

Shit.

Brandon cleans up the shards of crystal-- Kneels down and reaches for the fossil underneath the desk. Can’t find it-- sticks his arm all the way in to search for it.

ANGLE UNDERNEATH DESK: Brandon’s hand searching in the darkness. Grips the fossil.

Brandon sits up and looks at the fossil: It’s moist and broken open. Movement from under the desk.

INT. HALLWAY

SECURITY CAMERA POV: Kate walks through the hall with Abby. Liz joins them. TIMECODE READS: 8:33 AM

Kate looks around the hall.

KATE

Have you seen Brandon?

LIZ

Nope.

Kate sighs. Waits a little longer. Walks to her next class.

INT. IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION

Eric’s jaw is tweaking. His knee bobs nervously. Eyes glassy. He leans over to the TWEAKER.

ERIC

What kind of pain killer was that?

TWEAKER

Pain killer? No, man. That was an upper. Zyrothan. It’s a horse stimulant. My dad’s a vet. You’ll be awake for like five days!
ERIC
What?! No-- I didn’t want that-- Now I gotta sit here and freak out? I wanted to chill out, you moron. Shit. I’m going out of my head now.

TWEAKER
(laughing)
Crazy, right?

Eric stands up.

MONITOR
SIT IT DOWN, LERNER.

ERIC
I gotta go to the bathroom.

MONITOR
You can go in fifteen minutes with everyone else.

ERIC
This is bullshit. I’ve been expelled. What the hell am I doing here?

Eric grabs his bookbag--

MONITOR
Get back here.

Eric bangs out of the door. Monitor swipes his walkie.

MONITOR
(into walkie)
Officer O’Brien. I have a Code Ninety. Repeat, Code Ninety in the east hallway.

INT. EAST HALLWAY

Eric briskly moves down the hall. Quickly moves to his locker. Opens it. He removes a POUCH OF WEED. He hears the crackle of a POLICE WALKIE TALKIE approaching, ducks into the bathroom--

INT. BOY’S BATHROOM

Eric slips into a stall. Closes the door just as OFFICER O’BRIEN enters. O’Brien looks around the bathroom. It’s empty. As the officer exits, we see ERIC’S BOOTS stepping off the toilet and onto the floor.

IN THE STALL - Eric waits for the footsteps to leave. He opens up his bookbag. Removes the weed.
ERIC

One last smoke to say fuck you.

He happily begins to roll a joint.

INT. SOCIAL STUDIES CLASSROOM - 2ND PERIOD - DAY

MR. COPELAND walks through rows of desks, handing out quiz books and Scantron sheets.

LIZ

We have a test today? No one told me.

KATE

I asked you if you wanted to study Friday night--

LIZ

Oh, please. Who studies on a Friday night?

(raising her hand)

Mr. Copeland, I’m sorry, but I can’t take this test right now-- I went to the doctor this weekend and they had to remove my thyroid.

MR. COPELAND

Surely, something as serious as a thyroid operation would merit some kind of note from your doctor?

LIZ

Whatever. Just give me the test.

Copeland smirks, hands her the test.

MR. COPELAND

Begin.

Liz hangs her head. She looks over to Kate, trying to get her attention. Makes eye contact-- PLEASE. Kate sighs, moves her arm so Liz can see the answers on her test. Liz quickly copies Kate’s answers.

PAN OVER TO REVEAL -- Abby is copying Liz’s answers.

Then, from out in the hallway:

A SCREAM.

Guttural, long. Frightening. Unholy.

Startled, Kate’s PENCIL scratches across her test.
Silence.

Students look up from their papers.

    MR. COPELAND
    Stay in your seats.

Mr. Copeland hesitantly crosses the room to the door. As Copeland grabs the door handle--

THUMP. Something slams against it. Students jump back in their desks. Chairs screeching.

    KATE
    What was that?

Students rush forward, trying to see--

    MR. COPELAND
    Finish your tests.

Students stay in their seats but keep watching Copeland as he squints out of the doorway window.

COPELAND’S POV – THE HALLWAY.


MR. COPELAND STARES, squinting....

He opens the door.

INT. WEST HALLWAY

Copeland moves toward Hillman.

    MR. COPELAND
    Mr. Hillman. Brad?

In the doorway, Kate, Liz, Abby, and the rest of the class get up from their desks and quietly watch.

    MR. COPELAND
    Mr. Hillman? Can you hear me?

    LIZ
    Oh my God.

OTHER CURIOUS TEACHERS

Open their doors, peer into the hallway.
Mr. Copeland gently shakes Hillman. Hillman is TREMBLING. GASPING. TRYING TO FIND HIS BREATH--

Hillman SCREAMS violently. Blood SHOOTING FROM HIS MOUTH, SPRAYING COPELAND’S FACE, STAINING HIS GIANT GLASSES.

Students gasp and close the door a little. Liz hides her face.

LIZ (CONT’D)
Fucking gross!

HILLMAN bares down, holding in his scream. Copeland has been struck silent watching as...

A PUDDLE OF BLOOD SLOWLY EMERGES FROM UNDER HILLMAN’S WHITE POLO.

MR. COPELAND
You’re bleeding.

HILLMAN
FFFFFFFUZZING RIGHT, COPELAND! KID SSSTABBED ME!

MR. COPELAND
What...

BLOSSOMS OF BLOOD bloom under Hillman’s white polo.

HILLMAN
AAAAH!!!! CALL FFFFUZZING COPS!!!!

MR. COPELAND
H-H-How?

MR. COPELAND (CONT’D)
(frantically pointing)
Waaalkie-- walkie-- asshole--

Hillman’s WALKIE-TALKIE is clipped to his belt-- under a GUSHING PUNCTURE WOUND. Blood plopping onto it. Copeland removes the gloopy walkie and clicks the button.

PEERING FROM THE DOORWAY - THE STUDENTS watch.

LIZ
Someone stabbed Mr. Hillman?

ABBY
Holy shit.
KATE
    He’s going to bleed to death. Mr. Copeland should be applying pressure to
    the wound--

ABBY
    Hillman could have AIDS.

IN THE HALL
Copeland’s hands tremble on the bloodied walkie.

MR. COPELAND
    Hello? Officer O’Brien? Hello?

INT. CAFETERIA
OFFICERS O’BRIEN and COLSON are drinking coffee and eating stale cafeteria eggs. Their walkies crackle:

    MR. COPELAND
    (crackling over walkie)
    There’s been a-- a-- a-- stabbing.
    Mr. Hillman is bleeding--

The cops are already running.

INT. MAIN OFFICE
The Principal’s command center, filled with STUDENT HELPERS. Principal Burke sits confidently at his desk, approving the yearbook layout. His walkie crackles:

    OFFICER O’BRIEN (O.S.)
    (over walkie)
    Mr. Burke we have reports of a stabbing
    in West Hall-- Colson and I are headed
    there now--

Burke takes this in. Moves to the SECURITY MONITORS.

A MONITOR MARKED “WEST HALL”. The view is from the opposite end of the long hall, far away from Hillman and Copeland.

Burke can barely make out Hillman’s BODY sprawled out on the ground, Copeland hunched over him.

    PRINCIPAL BURKE
    My God.

Burke switches his walkie’s CHANNEL:
PRINCIPAL BURKE
(into walkie)
Copeland. O’Brien and Colson are on their way.

Burke searches the security monitors for the attacker. Only sees the SCHOOL COPS running through the halls. He points to the West Hall monitor.

PRINCIPAL BURKE
Rewind this tape--

MRS. LENIHAN
It wasn’t recording--

PRINCIPAL BURKE
Then start recording.
(into walkie)
Copeland... Copeland!

INT. WEST HALLWAY

PRINCIPAL BURKE
(over walkie)
Ask Hillman who did this.

Kate, Liz, Abby, and the Students watch in silence.

HILLMAN
Uurrrrrk.... urrrrrrrrrk....

Hillman sees Kate watching from the doorway. His eyes go wide and he raises his dying hand-- pointing at Kate.

Kate shifts uncomfortably.

LIZ
Why is he pointing at you?

Hillman exhales.

KATE
Excuse me, Mr. Copeland, but, you should be applying pressure to the wound.

MR. COPELAND
What did you say?

KATE
To stop the bleeding. Apply pressure--

MR. COPELAND
He’s dead, Kate.
Kate is struck silent.

SOUND OF SOMETHING RUNNING toward them--

SLAM! All of the doors in the hallway slam shut at once, leaving Copeland ALONE.

The thing is running closer--

OFFICERS O’BRIEN AND COLSON, hands on their guns, round the corner--

OFFICER O’BRIEN
Back-- back!

OFFICER COLSON
He’s been stabbed numerous times, numerous times-- holy shit, Frank-- look at this--

OFFICER O’BRIEN
Hillman! Hillman! Come on, buddy--

Hillman’s dead eyes reflect in the massive puddle of lifeblood around him.

OFFICER O’BRIEN
Kid couldn’t have gotten far. Let’s move.

Colson breaks into a run down the hall.

MR. COPELAND
(re: Hillman)
What about him..?

OFFICER O’BRIEN
(running off)
Get him in the room. Call the janitor. And lock your doors!

Mr. Copeland nods, frightened. O’Brien sprints down the hall.

INT. HALLWAY


OFFICER COLSON
You take East Hall, I’ll take North Hall.

Colson runs down a SEPARATE HALLWAY-- splitting from O’Brien. Colson barks into his walkie as he runs:
OFFICER COLSON
Principal Burke-- we are in pursuit of a perp with a knife-- possibly a gun-- he is armed and dangerous.

INT. MAIN OFFICE

Principal Burke takes this in. Calmly says into the walkie:

PRINCIPAL BURKE
Lock it down. Lock the entire school down. Every entrance, exit, fire escape, garage door, window-- everything. This is not a drill. We are in full lockdown.

Burke punches in a KEY CODE to an alarm system.

THE LOCKDOWN SIREN BLARES THROUGH THE LOUD SPEAKERS.

A haunting, dreadful sound. Like the trumpets of hell.

INT. FRANKLIN HIGH - DAY

Flashes of the Lockdown procedures are executed with the terrifying RHYTHMIC THRUMMING OF THE SIREN:

Students duck under tables, lights turn off.

Classroom doors are shut and shades drawn over windows.

EMERGENCY KLAXON LIGHTS STROBE.

AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE - SHUTTERS LOWER DOWN OVER THE FRONT DOOR.

LARGE DOORS TO THE HALLWAYS AUTOMATICALLY CLOSE.

MECHANICAL LOCKS SNAP INTO PLACE.

INT. BOY'S BATHROOM

From behind the stall, we see a tiny trail of smoke rising up.

In the stall, Eric chokes on his joint when he hears the sirens. Thinking he set off the fire alarm, he waves the smoke away.

ERIC
Shit! Lerner, you idiot.
INT. EAST HALLWAY
Eric ducks out of the bathroom.

ERIC
(laughing)
Ho-- I am sooo stoned.

TILT UP TO SEE -- A SECURITY CAMERA WATCHING ERIC.

INT. MAIN OFFICE
Seeing Eric sneak around on the monitors, Burke clicks onto his walkie talkie.

PRINCIPAL BURKE
O’Brien! East Hallway. All black. He’s moving quick. I don’t see a gun, but he’s the only one in the halls. Go, go, go!

Burke taps the security monitor, the teenager in black under his finger.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. EAST ENTRANCE
Eric sneaks toward the exit. Locked.

INT. MAIN OFFICE
Principal Burke pats the sweat off of his face with a HANDKERCHIEF, pushes the TALK button on the SCHOOL’S PA SYSTEM MICROPHONE:

PRINCIPAL BURKE
Attention students and faculty--

INT. FRANKLIN HIGH – SECURITY CAM FOOTAGE
Different angles of school.

PRINCIPAL BURKE
(over PA System)
This is Principal Burke speaking. We are now in a building lockdown. This is not a drill.

INT. SOCIAL STUDIES CLASSROOM
Kate, Liz, and Abby huddle under their desks, listening.
Mr. Copeland enters, standing by the door, staring out with a dazed look at Hillman who is still on the hallway floor.

PRINCIPAL BURKE  
(over PA system)  
Please remain in your classrooms and under your desks until further instruction.

INT. MAIN OFFICE

Burke shuts off the mic. Rolls up his sleeves.

Vice Principal MRS. LENIHAN, on the phone.

MRS. LENIHAN  
Police will be here in ten minutes--

PRINCIPAL BURKE  
(nodding, assuring himself)  
This is why we have drills.

PHYLISS  
(holding up phone)  
There’s someone from channel four on line two--

PRINCIPAL BURKE  
No one talks to anyone on the outside. Not yet.

PHYLISS  
What about the parents?  
(beat)  
Mr. Burke?

PRINCIPAL BURKE  
Just tell them it’s all under control.

Burke watches the security monitors, where O’Brien is closing in on Eric--

INT. EAST HALLWAY

Eric runs down the hall-- hears Burke over the P.A.

PRINCIPAL BURKE  
(over speaker)  
Stop right there, boy-o.

Eric stops. Looks up at the security camera watching him. He gives it the finger. Picks up a trash can and HURLS it into the security camera.
SECURITY CAMERA CUTS TO BLACK.

OFFICER O’BRIEN
FREEZEEE!!!

O’Brien has a gun trained on Eric.

ERIC
Chill out, man, that was like that when I got here.

OFFICER O’BRIEN
Hands where I can see them.

Eric kneels, puts up his hands. Officer O’Brien puts a KNEE in Eric’s back, pinning him to the floor as he pats him down.

OFFICER O’BRIEN
(into walkie)
Colson! East Hall! Got ‘em!

OFFICER COLSON (O.S.)
(over walkie)
On my way!

Officer O’Brien reaches into his backpack, pulls out the pocket knife.

ERIC
Shit.

OFFICER O’BRIEN
Got it! Little fucker— you use this on Hillman?

ERIC
Hillman? What are you talking about?

O’Brien ZIP-TIES Eric’s hands behind his back.

OFFICER O’BRIEN
(into walkie)
Eric Lerner. Sonofabitch.

INT. SOCIAL STUDIES CLASSROOM

Kate hears O’Brien over Hillman’s walkie.

OFFICER O’BRIEN
(over walkie)
It was Eric Lerner! I should’ve known.
ABBY
Did he just say your brother-- ?

CLOSE ON - KATE. Mind reeling.

INT. EAST HALLWAY

Knee in Eric’s back, O’Brien rummages through Eric’s backpack.

ERIC
I didn’t do anything--

OFFICER O’BRIEN
(into walkie)
-- he’s got a knife, drugs--
(to Eric)
On your feet.

Eric burns as the cop drags him off--

A SCREAM FROM THE END OF THE HALLWAY.

O’Brien slows down...

VOICE (O.S.)
Heeeeeeelllllp!

OFFICER O’BRIEN
(to Eric)
What is that? You cut someone else?

ERIC
No-- !

Someone slowly walks around the other end of the hallway.

ERIC
Brandon?

BRANDON. Stumbling. Crying.

OFFICER O’BRIEN
Are you hurt? What’s wrong?

Brandon’s breath is fast and short, choking.

BRANDON
(can barely breath)
Something... is... inside me...

OFFICER O’BRIEN
(to Eric)
What did you do to him?
ERIC
Nothing...

OFFICER O’BRIEN
(to Eric)
On the ground.

O’Brien kicks Eric’s knees out, forcing Eric to the floor.

OFFICER O’BRIEN
(to Brandon)
Come here.

Officer O’Brien puts his hand on Brandon’s shoulder, trying to calm him down.

OFFICER O’BRIEN
It’s going to be alright, son. Just tell me where you’re hurt...

Sound of cracking from inside Brandon’s body.

That’s when O’Brien sees...

Brandon’s hand is BROKEN AT THE WRIST. TWISTED BACK. KNuckles TOUCHING HIS FOREARM. A SHARP BONE TWISTING, MUTATING OUT OF HIS ARM. POPPING NOISES as his bones break from the inside.

ERIC. On the ground. Trying to move his head to see.

OFFICER O’BRIEN
(to Eric)
Don’t you move.

ERIC’S POV — Tilted, O’Brien’s BOOT blocks half the frame.

A TROPHY CASE on the wall reflects Brandon and O’Brien, distorting our vision of what happens next. Brandon’s body snaps back, twisting, contorting.

BRANDON
AaaaarrrrRRRGGHHH!


OFFICER O’BRIEN
We’re going to get you help--

REFLECTED IN THE VOLLEY BALL TROPHY: SOMETHING SHOOTS OUT OF THE BACK OF BRANDON’S NECK--
O’BRIEN’S EYES GO WIDE. He reaches for his gun.

FOOTBALL TROPHY: A SPINY MAW-- CLAMPS DOWN ON O’BRIEN-- LIFTING HIM UP--

Fingers fumbling for the safety snap as--

REFLECTED IN THE GOLDEN STATE CHAMPION PLAQUE: Something RIPS INTO O’BRIEN.

OFFICER O’BRIEN

AAAAAGHHHH!

BANG! BANG! O’Brien fires wild shots-- hits the trophy case-- a thousand shattered reflections--

Gunshots echoing down the hall--

Eric’s eyes go wide. He gets up, RUNS LIKE HELL.

INT. CLASSROOM

Kate and the students react to the echoing gunshots. Abby screams, tucks her head into Kate’s shoulder.

INT. NORTH HALL

Officer Colson hears the echoing gunshots--

OFFICER COLSON

Gunshot. Holy shit.

Colson pulls his gun as he charges--

INT. MAIN OFFICE

Principal Burke has NO VIEW of the hallway, since Eric destroyed that camera.

PRINCIPAL BURKE

I can’t see shit--
(into walkie)
O’Brien! Talk to me!

INT. NORTH HALLWAY

Eric charges, hands zip-tied behind his back. WHAM! OFFICER COLSON tackles him to the ground. A knee in his back.

OFFICER COLSON

Lerner! Where’s O’Brien?
ERIC
Brandon-- he-- he-- he killed O’Brien--

OFFICER COLSON
Whose blood is that on you???

Colson drags Eric back down the hall.

ERIC
NO, NO, NO! Don’t go back there!

INT. EAST HALLWAY

Colson drags Eric around the corner-- sees O’Brien lying there. Eric is trying to pull away from Colson--

ERIC
We gotta get out of here--

Colson boils with rage, digging his fingers into Eric’s arm.

OFFICER COLSON
You do this?

Eric breaks away-- Colson snatches him by the shirt. Eric kicks, dirty, messy-- Colson spins him around-- cracks his nightstick against Eric’s legs, dropping him to the ground--

OFFICER COLSON
Stop resisting!!!

Colson brings down the nightstick again. Eric grunts in pain, beaten down as Colson drags him down the hall.

OFFICER COLSON
(into walkie)
Bringing suspect to Main Office.

INT. SOCIAL STUDIES CLASSROOM

Kate, Liz, and Abby are huddled under their desks watching as Mr. Copeland unhooks the American flag from above the door. Takes it into the hallway. Copeland quickly lays the flag over Hillman’s body.

LIZ
Remember what Eric told Hillman this morning?

KATE
Eric wouldn’t do that. He’s crazy, but not that crazy.
ABBY
Yes he is. No offense.

Kate looks at Hillman’s dead body.

KATE
He wouldn’t do that...

Liz and Abby exchange glances. Kate gets up-- moves toward the door--

MR. COPELAND
Kate. Sit down.

KATE
I have to go to the Main Office. My brother’s in trouble.

MR. COPELAND
Right now going we’re going to do what we’re supposed to do... And that is sit here and wait. We all wait.

KATE
I can’t. He’s in trouble.

MR. COPELAND
The authorities will-- they will-- they will be here-- now sit down!

She pushes past Mr. Copeland-- to the door--

Brandon’s face is visible through the door window. His face is twisted, distorted, strange, unnatural.

BRANDON
Kaaaaaate...

KATE
Brandon...?

She goes to open the door-- Copeland grabs her hand--

MR. COPELAND
Get back to your desk--

Brandon screams at the top of his lungs. As if fighting something inside himself. Trying to stop the beast from unleashing.

BRANDON
LET ME IN!!!!

He smashes into the door-- hinges buckle.
Everyone jumps. Huddles close.

SOUND OF CLAWING AND SCRATCHING DOWN THE DOOR.

Kate steps back--

Crack-- the door snaps off its hinges, toppling onto Kate.

WITH KATE - Pinned under the door, she pushes up on it--

EVERYTHING WE SEE IS FROM KATE’S POV THROUGH THE SLENDER WINDOW - Brandon crawls over the door and into the classroom. A GLIMPSE OF A GIANT MOUTH OF TEETH FORMED OVER HIS HEAD. FLESHY LIMBS SPROUTING FROM WITHIN HIS BODY, SPIDER-LIKE. A DEFORMED HUMAN-MONSTER.

Kate tries to push the door off of herself as--

Sneakers run to the opposite side of the classroom. Frantic attempts to crawl up and out of the SMALL WINDOW SLITS.

EXT. FRANKLIN HIGH - WINDOWS

Two kids are able to slide out, but they fall from the 2nd floor, breaking their legs. A THIRD KID is stuck in the window-- FEROCIOUSLY YANKED BACK INTO THE ROOM.

INT. SOCIAL STUDIES CLASSROOM

Everyone pours out of the classroom, running for their lives, almost crushing Kate.

COPELAND SCREAMS-- DRAGGED ACROSS THE FLOOR AND OUT INTO THE HALLWAY.

    LIZ
    It’s gone-- let’s go!

Liz helps Kate pull herself out from underneath the door.

INT. WEST HALLWAY

Kate, Liz, and Abby run off.

Liz slips on Hillman’s blood and slams into lockers. She gets to her feet, loses her shoes. Catches up with Kate, running barefoot.

Kate looks over her shoulder-- the creature is obscured by running kids. All that can be seen is A WAVE OF STUDENTS BEING KNOCKED ASIDE LIKE RAGDOLLS, TRAMPLED, GORED, TRAPPED. LIKE RUNNING WITH THE BULLS.
We don’t see the monster-- we hear it. Its roar is high-pitched, throaty shriek. Like a hungry vulture.

**INT. MAIN OFFICE**

Scared Teachers and Staff watch the stampede of students on the monitors.

**PRINCIPAL BURKE**

What are they running from?

**OFFICER COLSON**

Must be a second shooter.

**REVEAL** - Officer Colson is zip-tying Eric’s wrists to a chair.

**ERIC**

Let me go! I didn’t do anything!!!

**OFFICER COLSON**

I’ll go handle the students-- you keep an eye on him.

**PRINCIPAL BURKE**

What if he... gets violent?

Colson takes Burke ASIDE-- lifts up his pant cuff-- removes a GUN velcroed to his ankle. Hands it to Burke. Colson rushes off. Burke looks at the gun.

**MRS. LENIHAN**

Mr. Burke... the police are here.

**EXT. FRANKLIN HIGH - DAY**

FIVE PATROL CARS, SIRENS BLASTING, PARK OUT FRONT. TWO AMBULANCES ARE RIGHT BEHIND THEM.

Ten police officers exit and fall into formation. CAPTAIN MORELAND, 60s, calmly takes in the school, and the few cut up KIDS who escaped.

**CAPTAIN MORELAND**

Check those kids for weapons.

Three Officers point guns at the students.

**OFFICER**

ON THE GROUND!

The scared kids comply as Officers pat them down.
CAPTAIN MORELAND
Get me an uplink of the security cameras--
(to other officers)
I want three snipers there, there, and
there.

An OFFICER hands him a cell phone:

CAPTAIN MORELAND
This is Captain Moreland. With whom am I
speaking?

INTERCUT:

PRINCIPAL BURKE
Principal David Burke.

CAPTAIN MORELAND
Nice to meet you, Principal Burke.

PRINCIPAL BURKE
Nice to meet you. We have a second
shooter on the loose, I have one in
custody-- an officer is down--

CAPTAIN MORELAND
Calm down. What’s the name of the
suspect you have in custody?

PRINCIPAL BURKE
Eric Lerner.

CAPTAIN MORELAND
(aside to Officers)
Eric Lerner-- check his facebook,
myspace, twitter page, finds his parents,
I want to know what kind of weapons this
kid has access to.

The Officers nod and get to work.

CAPTAIN MORELAND
Have you confirmed how many shooters
there are?

PRINCIPAL BURKE
No.

CAPTAIN MORELAND
Can the suspect hear me?

PRINCIPAL BURKE
Just a moment--
An Officer shows Moreland his LAPTOP. A FACEBOOK page with ERIC LERNER’S PROFILE PICTURE.

Burke puts the phone on speaker. Places it beside Eric.

CAPTAIN MORELAND
Eric Lerner? This is Captain Moreland of the Franklin County Police Department-- you are in a world of trouble. Is that clear?

ERIC
Listen to me-- I didn’t do this--

CAPTAIN MORELAND
I’m doing the talking. Now I want to know how many more friends you have loose in that school and exactly where they’re located. NOW. Answer me, son.

ERIC
It’s not a shooter, sir. It’s a...

Eric shakes his head. Knows how this is going to sound.

ERIC
It’s something... I don’t know what it is.

CAPTAIN MORELAND
Well, until you’re ready to talk truth to me you’re just digging your hole deeper.

Moreland watches SNIPERS set up on distant rooftops.

CAPTAIN MORELAND
He’s useless. Don’t worry, Burke. Franklin High’s my Alma Mater. I’m going to make sure this runs as smoothly as possible for everyone.

INT. WEST HALLWAY

Kate, Liz and Abby flee with the 20 other survivors from their class.

KATE
What the hell is it? What’s happening to Brandon? It’s like something’s growing out of him...

LIZ
Looks like Brandon caught some fucked up swine flu disease in South America.
ABBY
Or something bit him.

KATE
That thing is not Brandon.

LIZ
Yes it is, Kate.

OFFICER COLSON stalks up, gun drawn. Colson weaves through the tidal wave of students heading in the opposite direction.

OFFICER COLSON
Where is he?!!

KATE
It went in there...

Colson sees-- the BASEMENT DOOR, torn off its hinges.

COLSON
(to Kate)
Go on. Get.

KATE
No-- don’t go down there!

Colson moves toward the basement.

INT. BASEMENT

Officer Colson flips the light switch, but the lights do not come on. He pulls his flashlight and aims his gun, moving down the stairs. He moves around ELECTRICAL BOXES and humming wires marked: CAUTION - ELECTRICAL.

A shadow crosses frame-- Colson spins, gun out. FIRES. PING! PING! He stares at the shadow, breathing heavily--not seeing the dark shifting, rising behind him.

INT. MAIN OFFICE

Principal Burke watches the SECURITY MONITORS where kids run down the hall in a terrible riot of madness.

MRS. LENIHAN
Should we... open the doors...?

Burke, frazzled. Stutters. Shakes his head.

PRINCIPAL BURKE
(into walkie)
Captain Moreland?
(MORE)
They’ve started to leave their classrooms. The students, I mean. What should I do? Captain Moreland?

INT. PARKING LOT

Moreland watches the LAPTOP feed of the security monitors.

CAPTAIN MORELAND
(into walkie)
Do not, repeat, do not open those doors. We gotta crowd forming out here and I’m not going to allow that sonofabitch come out here, guns blazing. At least in there we have the little fucker contained. If we open those doors and there is a second shooter outside waiting to pick off those kids... I will not let that happen. This is a lockdown. Everything stays locked. You just get on that PA system and tell them to get their butts back in class. We’ll make our way in there.

INT. MAIN OFFICE

Eric leans over, struggling against the zip-ties that hold his wrists to the chair, trying to watch the monitor. Burke grabs the PA mic:

PRINCIPAL BURKE
RETURN TO YOUR CLASSROOMS!

ON THE MONITORS - The silent riot rages. Someone gives the camera the middle finger.

PRINCIPAL BURKE
Why aren’t they returning to their classrooms?

ERIC
Because they’re scared shitless. Open the doors--!

Eric sees Kate, Liz and Abby run to the doors on the monitor.

ERIC
Dammit, my sister’s down there!

Click. BLINK. The Security Monitors suddenly cut off.
PRINCIPAL BURKE
What-- what happened?
(into walkie)
Colson? What’s going on?

INT. BASEMENT

Colson’s WALKIE falls to the ground. Colson is screaming, being slammed into ELECTRICAL BOXES that spit sparks-- IN THE FLASHING SPARKS WE SEE ONLY TWISTED SHADOWS AND BRIEF ILLUMINATIONS OF HORROR as Colson is bitten and HURLED into the electrical transformer which explodes in a hail of sparks. DARKNESS.

INT. MAIN OFFICE

Principal Burke looks up at the flickering lights above.

BOOM. THE SCHOOL GOES DARK.

Emergency Klaxon lights flash through the dimness.

PRINCIPAL BURKE
Sonofabitch. He cut the power. He cut the power!!!

CAPTAIN MORELAND (O.S.)
(over walkie talkie)
Where’s my eyes? WHERE’S MY EYES?!!!

PRINCIPAL BURKE
(into walkie)
HE CUT THE POWER--

CAPTAIN MORELAND
What about the remote doorlocks--

PRINCIPAL BURKE
(checking the control panel)
Malfunctioning...

CAPTAIN MORELAND
Godammit.

PRINCIPAL BURKE
But the PA system is still functioning.

ERIC
At least we can still tell everyone today is Meatloaf Monday.

Burke glares at Eric.
INT. WEST ENTRANCE

Students are trapped, BOTTLE-NECKING into each other in a crush of bodies. Like a dangerous riot in a soccer stadium.

KATE, LIZ AND ABBY are caught in the swell of PANICKED STUDENTS banging on the door.

LIZ
LET US OUT! LET US OUT!

STUDENT
All the exits are locked!

KATE
What about the doors next to Homeroom?

STUDENT
We just came from there.

ABBY
We’re trapped...? What do we do?! What do we do?!

Behind them, the sound of the Monster’s CHILLING SHRIEK.

ABBY
It’s coming!!!

Students PANIC.

BIG BEAR
OUT OF THE WAY!!!

BIG BEAR, the linebacker, charges in, wielding a CHAIR.

KATE
Big Bear, thank God--

BIG BEAR
Move, motherfuckers!

Big Bear SHOVES Kate out of his way-- HARD.

BIG BEAR
I said move!

He swings, hitting someone in the head with a chair-- he plows through the crowd-- kicking and shoving anyone in his way. He heaves the chair at the main door’s SAFETY GLASS. SMASH! Glass shatters over the kids.
Someone tries to crawl out through the hole. Big Bear throws the kid aside, tossing him--

FRIEND
Hey, dick!

Big Bear PUNCHES the FRIEND in the face-- while yet another student is trying to escape-- Big Bear wrenches that person away, throwing them to the ground and STOMPING ON THEM.

BIG BEAR
Everyone, back the fuck off! BACK OFF ME!

Everyone does. Big Bear squeezes himself out through the glass. Edges cutting into his hands as he pries himself out of the small opening, running to freedom--

The crowd gets violent, primal. Hair pulled. Frantic screams. Elbows swinging. Desperate to get out. Slipping, cutting themselves on the jagged glass, escaping slowly one at a time.

Among the writhing students, ABBY is knocked to the side--

KATE

ABBY!

Abby’s kicked to the ground. She freaks out as sneakers trample her.

Kate and Liz fight through the crowd to get to Abby. They pull her off the ground, knocked aside by a flood of horrified students.

Kate pulls away from the students pounding at the door. Liz sees Kate’s hesitation.

LIZ
Kate, c’mon-- where are you going?

KATE
(shakes her head)
My brother.

ABBY
Don’t be stupid! He can take care of himself. We need to go now.

KATE
I can’t leave without him.

ABBY
I can’t...
LIZ
Abby--!

ABBY
What? If she wants to stay, she can stay--

KATE
Go ahead.

Liz sighs.

LIZ
Fine. Let’s go get your brother.

KATE
No. You don’t have to. Go.

LIZ
Shut up before I change my mind.

Abby moves to the door, her thick eyeliner running.

ABBY
I’m... sorry. I can’t... I can’t do this.

KATE
It’s okay, Abby.

LIZ
Fuck that! She said we were sisters.

ABBY
(crying)
I’m sorry. I can’t do this.

LIZ
Fine. Go, cunt. We don’t need you.

ABBY
Fine!
(to Kate)
I’m sorry.

KATE
It’s alright. Go.

Abby moves back toward the rioting crowd, SWALLOWED UP.
Kate and Liz look at each other. They face the vast empty WEST HALLWAY.

LIZ
Main office?
KATE

Main office.

Liz puts a cigarette in her mouth, pulls out her LIGHTER.

KATE

Liz! You can’t smoke in school.

Liz lights it, takes a long drag.

LIZ

Bitch, please.

Kate smiles, at least she’s got Liz. They rush back up the main stairway and down the West Hall.

INT. MAIN OFFICE

Eric tries to stand, attached to the chair-- Burke studies the dead security monitors. Boiling mad.

PRINCIPAL BURKE

Where is the other shooter?!

ERIC

There is no shooter-- it’s that thing!

Principal Burke spins on Eric--

PRINCIPAL BURKE

Where is he?

ERIC

I told you--

Burke snaps and DRAGS Eric into his office. Chair screeching.

INT. PRINCIPAL’S OFFICE – CONTINUOUS

Burke slams the door closed. Leans into Eric’s face.

PRINCIPAL BURKE

Where is he???

ERIC

There is no shooter, you fucking dumbass!

Principal Burke raises his hand-- about to punch Eric--

ERIC

Go ahead, Burke. Hit a student.
PRINCIPAL BURKE
You’re not a student.

BAM. Burke punches Eric in the face. Eric is stunned, maybe even a little scared.

CUT TO:

INT. LERNER HOUSE - DAY

Beth Lerner, Kate and Eric’s MOTHER, is packing up things in a cardboard box. Half empty glass of red wine on the floor. The television is on in the background where a REPORTER is delivering the daytime news.

REPORTER
(on television)
-- five more casualties in the Korangal Valley in Afganistan as a helicopter was shot from the sky--

Beth writes on the box in thick black marker: DAVID. Beth looks around at her husband’s piles of clothes and things strewn about the house. A picture of her family, Eric, Kate, husband DAVID.

REPORTER
Five squad cars are surrounding Franklin High which we are told is under lockdown. This is just coming to us now-- Channel Five’s Richard Renaldo is on the scene.

ON TELEVISION - RICHARD RENALDO, reporter, stands before Franklin High, which is surrounded by POLICE TAPE.

RENALDO
Police have confirmed that at least four people have been killed. Uh, not clear yet as to how many shooters are inside but we have heard rumors that one of them is in custody while another is still loose--

Beth slowly moves toward the television... her mouth goes slack.

ON TELEVISION - BIG BEAR stands beside the Reporter.

BIG BEAR
I tried to help as many people out as I could... but all the doors were locked, we just barely got out...
RENALDO
Anything you’d like to say to the kids still inside?

BIG BEAR
I-- I love you guys.

Beth grabs the phone. Dials a number.

INT. DAVID’S OFFICE - SAME

DAVID LERNER, the father and soon to be ex-husband, rings under his eyes, trying to work in his cramped cubicle.

His cell phone rattles. Caller ID: BETH.

DAVID
Christ. Not now.

David hits CANCEL on the phone. Continues working...

REPORTER (O.S.)
You’re getting this information as it comes to us--

David sees at the end of the cubicles-- a GROUP OF WORKERS huddled outside of the BOSS’S OFFICE.

REPORTER (O.S.)
(on television)
We’ve had reports from several students about a stabbing and shooting...

David gets up, concern growing as he moves through cubicles-- inside the office, a television plays the news.

ON TELEVISION - Captain Moreland stands in front of Franklin High.

CAPTAIN MORELAND
(on television)
I’m hesitant to give out any more information in the fear that the shooter could be watching this broadcast right now--

David, his Coworkers and Boss stare, dumbstruck.

DAVID’S BOSS
My grand-kid goes to that school...
CAPTAIN MORELAND
(on television)
If you are a concerned parent you can call the precinct but please be patient as phone lines are very busy—under no circumstances should you come to the school.

As the other coworkers stand still, David dials his cell phone—CALLING BETH.

DAVID
Beth? Yeah, I’m watching the news right now—

He RUNS.

DAVID
I’ll meet you there.

SMASH TO:

INT. 911 CALL CENTER — DAY

Operators in front of massive switchboards—the phone lines are lit up.

911 OPERATOR
911, what’s your emergency?

DESPERATE MOTHER ON PHONE
I want to know about my son—he’s a sophomore at Franklin High—

SECOND 911 OPERATOR
The police are doing everything they can, ma’am—

ANGRY FATHER ON PHONE
I tried calling my son’s cell phone but it just keeps ringing—I want answers goddammit!!!

The Operators are overwhelmed. They can’t take the calls fast enough.

INT. PRINCIPAL’S OFFICE — DAY

Eric sits alone, tied to his chair.

The sound of several CELL PHONES RINGING and BUZZING and VIBRATING echoes from inside Burke’s desk...

Eric cringes at the maddening mash of electro-sounds.
Mrs. Lenihan barges in--

MRS. LENIHAN
I can’t hear myself think!!!

She opens the drawer in Burke’s desk--

THE PLASTIC CONTAINER OF CONFISCATED CELL PHONES.

All VIBRATING AND RINGING at once.

CLOSE ON - THE HUNDREDS OF CELL PHONES CALL ID’s: MOM CELL. MOM AND DAD HOME. SISTER CELL. HOME.

She answers the first one--

MRS. LENIHAN
Hello?

SHAKING VOICE
Ellie? Is that you, baby? Oh, thank God you’re alive--

MRS. LENIHAN
No, ma’am. This is Mrs. Lenihan... I... I don’t know where your daughter is... I’m sorry.

Tears down Mrs. Lenihan’s eyes. The cell phones SHRIEK. MRS. LENIHAN SNAPS.

MRS. LENIHAN
STOP IT, STOP IT!

She angrily shuts off the cell phones-- Glares at Eric.

MRS. LENIHAN
This is all your fault.

She take the container and leaves. Slamming the door.

Alone. Eric sits there. Overcome with emotion. He pulls at his zip-ties.

INT. WEST HALLWAY

Kate and Liz tip-toe through the quiet hallways where a few locker doors were left open in the middle of the chaos. A noise from within the GIRL’S BATHROOM. Kate grabs Liz before she crosses in front of the open doorway.
KATE
(whispering)
WAIT-- ! Look.

The creature’s streaked prints in blood track across the hall and up the walls...

Kate leans forward, listening--

A HAND SHOOTS OUT, GRABS HER NECK!

NICK is huddled inside the bathroom. A FRESHMAN is HIDING BEHIND HIM.

NICK
Kate! I was looking for you--

KATE
Nick??! You scared the shit out of us--

Nick brushes his moppy hair out of his eyes.

NICK
Sorry.

Nick and the Freshmen step out. They all take off down the dark hallway.

LIZ
Have a lot of experience sneaking in the girl’s bathroom, Nick?

NICK
I wish. All the other doors are locked.

Behind them the creature SQUEALS. At the end of the hall, the CREATURE’S SHADOW ACROSS THE LOCKERS-- a SIX-LEGGED BEAST CREEPING TOWARD THEM LIKE A SPIDER.

LIZ
We need to run.

Nick stops Liz.

NICK
It’s too fast; hallway’s too long.

Kate cleans out an open locker, shoving the books and a bookbag onto the floor.

KATE
Hide.
She slips inside. Liz, Nick, and the FRESHMAN hop into the discarded, open lockers.

**INT. LOCKER**

Pitch black, except for the SLATS in the locker door, illuminating Kate’s eyes.

**KATE’S POV:** Through the slats--

Listening for any sign of the beast. All she can hear is herself panting in the claustrophobic tin box, catching her breath. She swallows, trying to be as quiet as possible.

Silence. Then--

She hears a LOCKER DOOR GET RIPPED OPEN. THE FRESHMAN SCREAMS.

ANOTHER ONE, EVEN CLOSER.

Then she hears the LOCKER DOOR RIPPED OPEN NEXT TO HER.

She clamps her hand over her mouth, trying to not make a sound.

Through the slats, she watches as the beast faces her locker. *Sniffing.*

Its breathing is throaty and labored.

HER LOCKER DOOR IS RIPPED OPEN--

Kate sees the CREATURE’S FACE-- only a foot away.

NO EYES. Only giant nostrils. A skinny tongue flicks out of its drooling mouth, tasting the air.

Kate holds her breath. Remains very still.

SHE SEES ITS STRANGE FLESH. TINY HAIRS cover moist skin.

The hairs undulate, touching their surroundings...

feeling.

She watches, amazed as it doesn’t see her...

OFF SCREEN - A GROUP OF KIDS SCREAM, RUNNING DOWN THE HALLWAY.

The creature’s hairs VIBRATE and it ROARS.
The monster bolts after the off-screen students, leaving Kate in her locker.

Gone. Kate exhales, tries to calm herself down.

Listens...

Silence. Kate pokes her head out.

**INT. WEST HALLWAY**

She steps out of her locker to see Nick exiting his.

Nick is staring at the three lockers next to her. Metal ripped to shreds. Kate frantically looks inside the lockers.

**KATE**

Liz? Liz?!!

Kate swings open lockers... searching in panic.

Nick joins her.

**KATE**

Oh, God, no please...

Kate swings open a locker--

Liz is standing inside. Scared stiff. Shivering.

Kate embraces her best friend.

A locker behind them bangs open--

Liz, Nick, and Kate back against the wall.

The Freshman rushes out-- a giant gash across his body from his neck to his leg. The Freshman lets out a final scream, falls dead.

Sound of the creature roaring echoes down the hall...

**NICK**

It’s coming back.

They bolt down the hallway, ducking into--

**INT. TEACHER’S LOUNGE**

They slam the door behind them, locking it. Nick quickly wedges a desk under the door. Liz sees-- a PHONE. Tries it. DEAD. Nick tries a computer. No power.
Kate screams. Breaks down.

KATE
How could this happen? Brandon was always so positive, no matter how down I was about my parents or my brother, he could always make me smile. And now...

Her tears come. Choking on memories and emotion. Nick goes into the teacher’s lounge fridge, takes out a water. Hands it to Kate.

KATE
I thought I was going to marry him. Do you know that? We did everything together... I was the nerd. He was the adventurous one. It’s so unfair. So fucking unfair.

She sobs into Nick’s shoulder.

EXT. FRANKLIN HIGH - DAY

Beth, running through the crowd of nervous parents all shouting at TWO POLICE OFFICERS who are trying to hold back the tides.

PARENTS
My son’s name is Oscar Cabral, he’s a junior-- Gina Spirgel! Please she’s in there, my daughter-- what’s happening?!

OFFICER
Everyone please step back--

Beth searches the crowd, desperate.

BETH
Kate and Eric Lerner-- KATE AND ERIC LERNER!

She is drowned out by the cacophony.

DAVID (O.S.)
They’re not telling us anything.

David is by her side.

BETH
What-- what’s happened? They have to tell us something--

DAVID
They’re doing everything they can--
BETH
Are they still in there? Where are they?

DAVID
It’s okay--

BETH
NO IT’S NOT! HOW CAN YOU RELAX GODDAMIT!

DAVID
Please, Beth--

Beth breaks away from David. Sees an AMBULANCE PARKED NEARBY. Sees them treating students. Beth rushes to the paramedics.

ART STUDENT
You don’t understand... it’s not a kid, it’s some kind of animal--

PARAMEDIC
Calm down. You’re in shock.

BETH
Is my daughter here? Kate and Eric Lerner. Have you seen them?! Please--

PARAMEDIC
No, ma’am. Now please-- move over there with the others.

Beth spins around and around-- trying to think of something to do. She sees David in the distance, watching her through the crowd, helpless.

The Crowd Officer approaches her.

CROWD OFFICER
Mrs. Lerner?

Beth looks to the officer. It’s the worst thing a parent can hear... David rushes over to join her.

CROWD OFFICER
Come with me.

Beth reaches down. Holds David’s hand.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRANKLIN HIGH - POLICE TENT

An Information Officer rushes up to Moreland.
INFORMATION OFFICER
Captain. We found the parents.

EXT. FRANKLIN HIGH - POLICE TENT - MOMENTS LATER

Moreland sits in front of Beth and David. They are stunned.

CAPTAIN MORELAND
I need to know what kind of guns he had access to. How many friends he has-- any information you can provide me with before we break the door down.

Beth and David look to the TEAM OF POLICE who are gearing up to go inside.

BETH
He wouldn’t do this-- he was-- he was having trouble at school--

DAVID
We’re... separating-- it’s been hard on everyone.

CAPTAIN MORELAND
Is he on any medication?

BETH
Yes, but-- but he wouldn’t do this-- Eric. He’s my son, my baby--

CAPTAIN MORELAND
We have confirmation from the Principal.

BETH
-- there has to be a way-- maybe I can get on the PA system and talk to him-- there has to be a way you can wire me into the PA system, right? I’ll talk to him!

Moreland shakes his head.

CAPTAIN MORELAND
It’s too late for that, ma’am.

All the air is sucked from Beth’s lungs. Any ounce of hope she had is crushed. David tries to form words, but cannot think of any to say.

INT. TEACHER’S LOUNGE - DAY

Nick, Liz, and Kate watching the silent halls outside...
NICK
Think it saw us?

KATE
I don’t think so. It doesn’t have eyes. It was right in my face and it didn’t see me...

LIZ
So what, we just sit still and it won’t eat us?

KATE
I think so.

LIZ
What if you’re wrong?

Kate doesn’t have an answer for that.

NICK
Look. Uh. Nothing’s gonna happen to you guys as long as I’m around.
(shrug and a smile)
I’m an Eagle Scout.

LIZ
I feel safer already.

Nick moves to the SECOND DOOR on other side of the room, presses his face against the LARGE GLASS WINDOW on the door.

NICK
Look. Across the hallway. The Clinic. There’s a door that will lead us into the Main Office from there...
(beat)
I’ll go first, make sure it’s clear.

KATE
You’ll get a merit badge for this, Nick. Thanks for being here.

NICK
Nowhere else I’d rather be.

Nick looks through the glass window in the door. The empty hallway. The clinic only a few yards away. He rushes across the hallway-- moves into the clinic.

LIZ
He made it.
INT. CLINIC

Nick smiles at Kate—MOTIONS FOR THEM TO COME.

As Kate and Liz CROSS THE HALL—


Blood trickles from his mouth.

Liz and Kate stop—

Too shocked to scream, Nick just looks up—and is YANKED UPWARD BY THE UNSEEN MONSTER.

KATE

NICK!!

Blood rains from the ceiling.

INT. HALLWAY

Liz drags Kate away from the door. Kate fights to stay.

KATE

No!

EXT. FRANKLIN HIGH—POLICE TENT—DAY

Moreland moves to a map of the high-school.

CAPTAIN MORELAND (into walkie)
Reaping time, Burke. You get on the horn, tell your students to remain in their classrooms and under their desk--

PRINCIPAL BURKE (over walkie)
Right—okay. You sending in a SWAT team?

CAPTAIN MORELAND (into walkie)
We don’t have time to wait for SWAT.

Captain Moreland pulls aside the Information Officer and motions to Beth and David.

CAPTAIN MORELAND
Keep them away from the rest of the parents. We don’t need a bloodbath outside the school.
INT. MAIN OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Principal Burke lowers his walkie.

    PRINCIPAL BURKE
    They’re coming in.

EXT. FRANKLIN HIGH - CROWD

A PRAYER CIRCLE:

Teenagers holding hands so tight their knuckles are white, heads bowed, tears down their faces--

    YOUTH PASTOR
    -- you are stronger than the enemy,
    Jesus, your name alone can vanquish him--

    PRAYER CIRCLE TEENS
    Yes, Lord. Yes.

    YOUTH PASTOR
    Please, dear God, send your provision and
    your angels to watch over those still
    inside.

Behind them...

EXT. POLICE TENT


    YOUTH PASTOR   (O.S.)
    There is no obstacle you cannot overcome--
    though the enemy walks within those
    halls, so do you, oh, Lord...

Captain Moreland stands before EIGHT OFFICERS, guns drawn.

    CAPTAIN MORELAND
    We have an active shooter, that active
    shooter is your priority. There are no
    warning shots, you do what you have to do
    to neutralize the threat. Are we
    operating on the same sheet of music?

    OFFICERS
    Yes sir.

    CAPTAIN MORELAND
    (proud of his men)
    Move in.
The team of Officers hustle around the side of the school.

**INT. CLASSROOMS**

SERIES OF SHOTS - STUDENTS in different classrooms huddled under their desk. Hiding.

PRINCIPAL BURKE (O.S.)
(over PA system)
Students, please remain in your classrooms. I repeat, remain in your classrooms. The police are entering the building-- we don’t want any mistakes.

**EXT. FRANKLIN HIGH**

OVERHEAD NEWS HELICOPTER FOOTAGE: OFFICERS approaching the school.

NEWS REPORTER (O.S.)
We can see a team of Police making their way inside the high-school--

**EXT. POLICE TENT**

CLOSE ON - MORELAND. Watching his men go.

CAPTAIN MORELAND
(into walkie)
Okay, Burke. Open the South East Entrance.

**INT. MAIN OFFICE**

CLOSE ON - Burke’s hand passes over the lockdown controls. He flips a switch marked SOUTH EAST ENTRANCE.

**INT. SOUTH EAST HALLWAY**

CLOSE ON - The mechanical door LOCK opens.

The Police Officers race down the hallway. Diamond formation. Guns pointed, fingers hovering over triggers. Mechanical and swift.

LEAD OFFICER

Clear.

2 WOUNDED STUDENTS reach for the Officers.

WOUNDED STUDENT

Help-- !
LEAD OFFICER
MOVE ASIDE! MOVE! NOW!

The Police shove past the kids, continue to move down the hallway.

The Police turn a corner--

LEAD OFFICER
MOVEMENT! ON MY TWO!

All rifles point--

Kate and Liz running. BULLETS RING OUT! Kate and Liz SCREAM as the door frame is shattered.

KATE
STOP-- STOP!

LEAD OFFICER
Hold fire! Jesus Christ-- HANDS! LET ME SEE YOUR HANDS!

LIZ
Don’t shoot us!

OFFICERS
GET DOWN! NOW!

The girls drop to the ground as the Lead Officer pats them down for weapons.

KATE
It’s back there--

OFFICER
Get out of here. South East Entrance is open.

LIZ
LET’S GO!

KATE
My brother, Eric Lerner--

REAR OFFICER
MA’AM, MOVE ASIDE!!!!

THE GIRLS RUN DOWN THE HALL...

LIZ
South East Entrance--

Kate stops.
KATE
My brother.

LIZ
Fuck me, Kate. He’s probably out by now--

KATE
If Principal Burke is still here then so is Eric.

Decision time.

LIZ
You owe me, bitch. Big time.

KATE
I love you.

Kate and Liz run down the Administration Hallway.

WITH THE RIOT COPS - DOWN THE DARK HALLWAY

Lockers are smashed, ripped apart.

OFFICER
Holy shit.

The Lead Officer leans against a row of lockers. His gun trained down the hallway. Waiting.

He finds his arm is stuck to the locker.

LEAD OFFICER
Hold it. I’m stuck--

The cops freeze. They look at the locker to see a thick, clear FLUID moving down it.

He tries to pull his arm away, but the sticky substance won’t let him go.

SMOKE drifts off his arm. He yells in pain.

LEAD OFFICER
It’s eating through my jacket! Fucking burns--

The Rear Officer is picked off-- SCREAMS.

A gunshot-- FLASHES--

Illuminates a millisecond of the MONSTER swiping away an officer--
BANG-FLASH! CLAWS. Two more cops gone.

BANG-FLASH! ITS MOUTH. It swoops into us from the ceiling, rows of jagged, spiny teeth emerging from the darkness.

CAPTAIN MORELAND
(over walkie)
What is it? WILLIAMS!

BANG-FLASH. Reflected in the Lead Officer’s face-shield:

LEAD OFFICER
It’s --

It’s right on top of him.

Bang-FLASH. The Lead Officer’s DEAD FINGER INSTINCTIVELY CLENCHES THE TRIGGER. The rifle explodes into bullets...

Strafing the walls. Tearing through the classroom doors where--

INT. NEARBY CLASSROOM

A ROW OF STUDENTS HUDDLED TOGETHER... Bullets spray into the room. Students scream-- smoke rippling across the chalkboard which shatters-- Books shredded into feathers.

INT. NEARBY HALLWAY

Kate and Liz rushing, looking back-- THE WALLS SPLINTER WITH GUNFIRE, pinging off lockers--

EXT. FRANKLIN HIGH - POLICE TENT

CAPTAIN MORELAND
(into walkie)
Williams? Freeman?

Static.

INT. MAIN OFFICE

Everyone is listening to the walkie in horror...

EXT. FRANKLIN HIGH

HELICOPTER POV: The school. Silent from above. No movement.
NEWS REPORTER
We are still waiting to hear from Captain Moreland on just what the status is of the Team of Eight Officers who just entered the building--

CLOSE ON THE SCHOOL - OVER SNIPER’S SHOULDERS: Perched on top of a school bus. Watching the building.

EXT. PARKING LOT

Moreland wipes his mouth... works his jaw.

EXT. FRANKLIN HIGH - CROWD

Beth and David. Standing side by side.

Among the crowd of terrified parents. Watching the cops. Everyone holds their breaths. Waiting.

BETH
Oh, God, please... please...

INT. MAIN OFFICE

Burke stares for a long time, can’t believe this is happening. Looks over his shoulder-- He is stunned to see the huddle of Teachers and Students. All standing behind him. Looking to him.

Mr. Webber, the shaggy science teacher, the GYM COACH, the SHOP TEACHER, a GOTH LATINA STUDENT, makeup running with tears... and Eric in the corner, still zip-tied.

MRS. LENIHAN
What do we do?

Burke swallows.

CAPTAIN MORELAND (O.S.)
(over walkie)
Burke. You there?

Burke reaches for the walkie. His lifeline.

PRINCIPAL BURKE
(into walkie)
... please come get us.

CAPTAIN MORELAND (O.S.)
(over walkie)
We will. Just stay where you are.
EXT. PARKING LOT

As Moreland thinks, he hears a PACK OF INSISTENT STUDENTS yelling at the POLICE:

ABBY (O.S.)
You don’t understand-- it’s not a shooter, it’s a... a... something else.

Moreland looks over--

STUDENT
It’s not human!!!

INFORMATION OFFICER
Step back from the line, please.

CLOSE ON - Moreland. Ready to listen...

CAPTAIN MORELAND
Let those kids through.

INT. MAIN OFFICE

Burke faces the frightened masses behind him.

PRINCIPAL BURKE
We... need to stay calm. We need to stay calm.

MR. WEBBER
Those men just died-- and they had guns, Burke-- we need to open these doors and RUN.

PRINCIPAL BURKE
No, no, no.

MRS. LENIHAN
He’s probably coming right here.

BAM! Someone pounds on the hallway door-- everyone jumps. Wham! WHAM!!! The mechanical lock holds it closed.

KATE (O.S.)
Let us in!

Eric leans over... recognizes that voice.

EXT. MAIN OFFICE HALLWAY

BAM! Kate and Liz slam into the door from the other side-- but it’s LOCKED. Kate and Liz kick at the door.
KATE
Let us in!

LIZ
It’s us-- it’s Liz Rozen-- you gave me a tardy slip last week-- NOW OPEN THE DOOR, ASSHOLE!

Kate and Liz watch the hallway behind them. Empty. But the feeling of death and dread is present.

INT. MAIN OFFICE

PRINCIPAL BURKE (O.S.)
Don’t.

Webber steps forward--

MR. WEBBER
For God’s sakes, I know those kids out there-- they’re not killers-- let them in.

PRINCIPAL BURKE
Webber, I said no!

Webber hits the UNLOCK button. Kate and Liz dash inside-- shaken TEACHERS jump back. Slam the door shut behind them.

KATE
Eric?! Eric? Is Eric Lerner here?

ERIC (O.S.)
Kate!

Kate pushes through everyone to see-- Eric, zip-tied to the chair inside Burke’s office. She embraces him.

ERIC
You’re okay... what are you doing here?

KATE
I came to get you.

Eric smiles. Her eyes fall to his zip-ties. Eric’s wrists are bloody and chaffed under the plastic cuffs.

KATE
What did they do to you?

ERIC
They think it’s me--
PRINCIPAL BURKE
Step away from him!

KATE
He has nothing to do with this.

PRINCIPAL BURKE
Officers O’Brien and Colson both informed me your brother is one of the killers--

KATE
It was that thing-- there is some kind of-- I know this sounds crazy-- but there is some kind of creature in this school. That’s the only way I can describe it.

PRINCIPAL BURKE
Your brother--

KATE
(exasperated)
Go see for yourself!

PRINCIPAL BURKE
Your brother has been nothing but trouble this entire year-- fights, threats to the staff-- he has nothing to stand upon, no credibility. He is a killer. So sit down and shut up--
(Kate starts to object)
Now, young lady.

Kate reddens. Sits beside her brother.

ERIC
Nice try.

KATE
(quietly)
Not done yet.

Kate slyly grabs a pair of SCISSORS from a cup of pens on the principal’s desk-- snips Eric’s zip-ties.

ERIC
You little rebel.

Mr. Webber approaches Mr. Burke.

MR. WEBBER
I might have an idea of what we’re dealing with here.

Mr. Webber holds up the SPIRAL FOSSIL.
CLOSE ON - The fossil. Broken open.

MR. WEBBER
Brandon brought it to me. I thought this was a fossil, but something was inside of it... Some kind of prehistoric parasite that attaches itself to a host, then grows out from within its carrier.

PRINCIPAL BURKE
Are you high again, Mr. Webber?

MR. WEBBER
The tree resin it was trapped in was like tupperware, keeping it alive and preserved for millions of years...

Webber holds up the broken shards of resinite.

MR. WEBBER
Until someone opened the tupperware.

PRINCIPAL BURKE
That’s absurd. This is a very real, very deadly situation--

MR. WEBBER
Burke--

PRINCIPAL BURKE
Not another word.
   (turning to the staff)
We-- we are safe in here.

ERIC
   (whispers to Kate)
He’s losing it.

PRINCIPAL BURKE
And we are going to wait right here until Captain Moreland comes through that door.

KATE
If you wait that long we’ll all be dead!

PRINCIPAL BURKE
Sit down, young lady!

KATE
You have to open up the school and let everyone out--
PRINCIPAL BURKE

(sweating)
If we open those doors, whoever is out there will run free-- and I will not let that happen.

Kate reaches for the PA mic:

KATE

(onto mic)
Everyone, if you can find an exit, RUN, get out of here-- RUN!

Snap. Burke grabs the mic from her hand--

SLAPS Kate. Hard. She looks at him, stunned, hair in her face. Burke looks at her, surprised at himself. Everyone stares.

PRINCIPAL BURKE

Sit down. Please.

Crack. Eric breaks free from his chair-- lunges-- DECKS Burke. Burke and Eric go down in a tumble of arms and legs-- Staff grab Eric, trying to pry him off the Principal--

PRINCIPAL BURKE

Get him off me! Get him off me!

ERIC

Don’t you ever hit my sister-- !

Eric is smashing his fist into Burke’s face-- Burke desperately swinging his arms, hitting teachers, grabbing anything he can get his hands on--

Burke’s hands grab the GUN that Colson gave him. He aims it at Eric. Eric freezes. Burke’s hand trembles on the gun.

PRINCIPAL BURKE

Get back. Everyone-- everyone get back.

Everyone steps away from Burke, who is sweating and shaking. His eyes, like an animal caught in a trap.

PRINCIPAL BURKE

No one is going anywhere.

Webber gingerly touches Burke--

MR. WEBBER

Burke--
Startled, Burke spins, shooting Webber in the stomach.
The gunshot is deafening.
Webber crumbles. Grabs his seeping wound. Burke stares, stunned...

   PRINCIPAL BURKE
   I... I... I’m sorry. Webber?
Eric grabs Burke’s wrist, tackling him to the ground—
trying to wrench the gun from his grasp— Some of the
stunned Staff (The Coach and Shop Teacher) and Kate and
Liz pile on Burke, wrestling him to the ground—
The gun scatters across the floor...
Eric scrambles, picks it up.
The Staff reacts, terrified of what Eric might do.
Silence.

   ERIC
   Everyone be cool. Kate? Liz?
She’s a little scared of what Eric might do, too:

   KATE
   Yeah?

   ERIC
   Let’s get the fuck out of here.

   KATE
   Okay. Okay.
Kate and Liz scramble toward Eric.
Eric grabs a CELL PHONE from the plastic container of
confiscated cell phones.
Unsure what to do with the gun, Eric throws it in his
backpack. Flings the backpack over his shoulder.

   PRINCIPAL BURKE
   Don’t let him leave!
They back out of the boiling main office, leaving the
staff to contend with Principal Burke.
Webber weakly watches them go...
EXT. SOUTH EAST HALLWAY

Liz, Kate, and Eric, running down the hall.

LIZ
It’s still open! GO!

They charge down the hall toward the wide open door, sunlight streaming through it--

INT. MAIN OFFICE

As Burke is subdued, Mrs. Lenihan nervously snatches the walkie:

MRS. LENIHAN
(into walkie)
The shooter’s escaped-- they’re headed for the South East entrance--

Webber, weakly listening.

WEBBER
No... they’ll kill them...

EXT. PARKING LOT

Moreland snaps to attention:

CAPTAIN MORELAND
(into walkie)
I’m getting inconsistent stories here-- the kids out here are saying it’s not a shooter--

MRS. LENIHAN
(over walkie)
Three teenagers just ran out of the principal’s office with a gun. One of them is Eric Lerner.

ON MORELAND - Doesn’t know what to believe.

CAPTAIN MORELAND
Copy that.
(to Officers)
South East Entrance, NOW!

Moreland joins the officers, pulls his gun--

Police rush behind anything to take cover-- some signal surrounding crowd to duck-- as they train their guns on the DARK WIDE OPEN DOOR--
INT. SOUTH EAST ENTRANCE

Kate, Liz, and Eric—charging down the main stairway toward freedom. Unaware.

EXT. SOUTH EAST ENTRANCE

Police are ready. SNIPERS grip their rifles.

OFFICER
Waiting on visual.

Moreland stands his ground. Aims.

INT. SOUTH EAST ENTRANCE

Kate, Liz, Eric—the light hitting their faces from the exit, twenty yards away.

WEBBER (O.S.)
(over PA)
KATE—STOP!

Kate looks to the PA speaker on the wall—

INT. MAIN OFFICE

Webber has weakly grabbed the PA mic, shouting into it.

WEBBER
DON’T GO OUT THERE! DON’T GO THROUGH THAT DOOR!

INT. SOUTH EAST ENTRANCE

Kate grabs Eric and Liz—stopping short of the door.

KATE
Wait—

Kate peers outside, sees a dark figure aiming right for them—

Zzzzzzip! PING! Bullets spark around them.

Eric screams—closes the exit door—A BULLET HITS THE SAFETY GLASS RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIS FACE—

ERIC
Shit!

A SECOND BULLET SHATTERS THE GLASS.

Click-CLACK— the mechanical door lock snaps shut.
Kate, Liz, and Eric tear away-- sneakers squeaking over linoleum.

EXT. SOUTH EAST ENTRANCE

Police rush the doors-- locked.

CAPTAIN MORELAND
(into walkie)
OPEN THE DAMN DOOR!!!

INT. MAIN OFFICE

Mrs. Lenihan nervously searches the controls--

MRS. LENIHAN
I don’t know which one-- which one--

She flips a switch-- CA-CHUNK. The mechanical lock on the MAIN OFFICE DOOR snaps open. Silence as the door slowly creaks open behind her--

SHOP TEACHER
(quietly)
Close the door.

Principal Burke looks to the door--

Comes face to face with massive drooling jaws.

Burke’s mouth goes slack. Ready to believe.

Everyone in the office freezes. Webber closes his eyes.

The beast shrieks. Pounces on Burke.

PUSH IN ON THE P.A. MIC - Narrow focus on it. We can only see figures thrashing out of focus in the background-- as we hear the monster’s ROARING and the people’s SCREAMING.

INT. HALLWAY

OVER THE P.A. SYSTEM - The awful sound of the attack echoes through the hallway.

Eric, Kate, and Liz stop running... listening for a moment as the screams bounce around the vast, empty hall.

EXT. SOUTH EAST ENTRANCE

Moreland kicks at the door.
CAPTAIN MORELAND
(into walkie)
Burke?! Hello?

ONLY THE SOUND OF SCREAMING AND ROARING COMES FROM HIS WALKIE.

CAPTAIN MORELAND
Jesus, what is that...?

Moreland stares at the doors. Listening to the massacre-song over on the walkie.

Moreland’s eyes change...

CAPTAIN MORELAND
Fall back.

OFFICER
Sir?

CAPTAIN MORELAND
Fall back!

The Officers retreat. Moreland stares at the school.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Eric, Kate, and Liz crash inside, out of breath. Kate and Liz slide a bench against the closed door, leaning against it.

Eric weakly wanders off to the sink. Turns on the water.

KATE
Eric? You okay?

Liz sees a small trail of blood splattered on the tiles. The line of blood leads to Eric who is leaning over the sink. Steam rising.

Eric’s knees buckle. He slumps against the wall.

KATE
Eric!

Kate and Liz rush to him. Eric clutches his arm. Turning white as blood trickles from under his fingers.

KATE
You’re shot...

ERIC
More or less.
LIZ
Oh, Jesus, God...

She looks. Pieces of metal are embedded in Eric’s arm.

KATE
Okay. Um. Good news is-- it’s not a bullet. Looks like, um, shrapnel.

ERIC
Sweet.

KATE
Liz. Your belt. Give it to me.

Liz whips off her belt. Hands it to Kate. Kate wraps it around Eric’s upper arm and cinches it tight.

ERIC
OW, KATE, FUCK!

KATE
I’m sorry! We have to stop the bleeding. There should be an emergency kit around here somewhere-- Liz! Come on.

Liz searches the locker room for an emergency kit. Eric nods, inhales deep. Kate pulls the metal shrapnel from his arm with her fingers.

ERIC
OW!!! OW!! STOP-- STOP!

Liz finds a red emergency kit on the wall.

LIZ
GOT IT!

Liz opens it, removes all the stuff inside. Brings it to Kate and Eric. She holds up a bottle of RUBBING ALCOHOL.

ERIC
No way. GET THE FUCK AWAY FROM ME.

KATE
Do you have anything to numb the pain?

ERIC
Uh... there’s half a joint in my back pocket--

Kate reaches in his back pocket. Removes the roach. Puts it in his mouth. Lights it.
KATE
The only reason I condone this is because it’s for proper medical use.
(beat)
Don’t tell mom and dad.

She pours. He screams. The gash bubbles and sizzles. Eric slams his fist against the lockers as Kate dabs it with a paper towel. Wrapping GAUZE around it.

KATE
Breathe... breathe...


ERIC
Where’d you learn to do that?

KATE
(shrugs)
Biology Class. I want to be a doctor.

ERIC
Since when?

KATE
Since fifth grade.

ERIC
Smarty pants. Well, I should tell you... I don’t have health insurance.

KATE
You’re stoned.

ERIC
Your fault.

He watches Kate dress his wound. New respect.

ERIC
Thanks for coming to get me.

Eric grows weaker. Quieter.

ERIC
You’re such a smarty pants, Katy. You’re going to make it... I know you are.

KATE
We are. We’re going to make it.
ERIC

Right. We.

Eric holds up the cell phone he yanked from the main office.

ERIC

Maybe... we should call mom and dad...

Kate nods. Dials.

KATE

(into phone)
Mom? Mom!

INTERCUT:

EXT. PARKING LOT

Beth’s eyes light up— David joins her, listening—

BETH

Katie? It’s Katie! You’re alive—

ERIC

Heeeeey.

Beth and David are overcome.

DAVID

Eric?!

ERIC

... might be home a little late.

DAVID

-- they think you did this.

KATE

It’s not Eric-- it’s something else. It’s not a human.

DAVID

Honey, I know you’re scared, but--

KATE

Dad. There is a gigantic, scary fucking thing killing everyone-- get the police. Let me talk to them. Put them on the phone right now.

DAVID

Alright-- are you safe? If you’re safe, just stay where you are--
ERIC
We’re not safe.

KATE
No one’s coming to help us, dad. If we wait here, we die.

DAVID
Katy, no--

KATE
Tell them it wasn’t Eric. Tell them it’s some animal-- this... creature-- okay?

DAVID
A what?

KATE
Just tell them.

DAVID
Okay.

KATE
And... dad.

DAVID
Yes?

KATE
Please don’t go to Chicago.

David is silent. He looks to Beth. Holds her hand.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

The SWAT TEAM arrives in full pageantry. Captain Moreland shakes hands with the SWAT CAPTAIN.

SWAT CAPTAIN
We’re hot in thirty seconds.

CAPTAIN MORELAND
I’d like to come with.

SWAT CAPTAIN
Be honored to have you. LET’S ROLL.

SWAT and MORELAND march off. Moreland looks back to see-- BETH AND DAVID. Rushing to him-- holding up the phone.
DAVID & BETH
We have them on the phone-- it’s not Eric! Here!

Captain Moreland skeptically takes the phone.

CAPTAIN MORELAND
Eric Lerner?

INTERCUT:

INT. LOCKER ROOM

Kate holds the phone to Eric’s ear.

ERIC
It’s not me, sir... it’s a... a thing.
An animal. I swear on my life.

CAPTAIN MORELAND
Well, now that’s very difficult for me to believe, son. If this is true, then here’s what you need to do. You come on out with your hands held high, no guns, no surprises-- and then we’ll talk. But until I see it with my own eyes, I am left with no other choice.

Moreland hands David back the phone. Moves off with SWAT.

ERIC
Mom? Mom?

BETH
I’m here, sweetie--

ERIC
I... I love you.

BETH
I love you, too.

DAVID
Look, everything’s going to be okay. Wherever you are, just stay there. Do what the police say and you’ll be safe.

KATE
It’s not safe anywhere.
(beat)
Dad. I love you. Even if I hate you.
I love you, too, Katie.

Hug mom, tell her I love her. We have to go.

Kate hangs up. Liz tries the vending machine—power’s out. Liz leans into the vending machine, toppling it over. CRASH! Sodas spill out.

LIZ!

What? I’m thirsty.

Liz tosses them each a soda. Eric chugs his.

How are we going to get out of here? Everything’s locked.

Not everything. Shop Class. The garage door’s the only door not on a mechanical lock. I can open it.

How do you know that?

I’ve been sneaking out of it all year.

(smiling, maybe even a little proud at her brother)

Of course you have.

That’s on the other side of the school. How are we supposed to get there?

There’s a short cut through the cafeteria.

Can you walk?

No. But I can run.
INT. EAST STAIRWAY

They quickly climb the metal stairs--

INT. CAFETERIA

Kate, Eric and Liz slip inside... at first it seems empty.

Liz pulls up the shades, looks out of the window--

   LIZ

   Holy shit.

LIZ’S POV: POLICE gathered below. Guns pointed at the school.

Kate and Eric try to open the windows.

   ERIC

   Safety glass. Ironic.

Something stirs under the table. A chair moves.

Eric unzips his backpack-- reaching for the gun--

The TWEAKER KID with FOUR DERELICTS from in-school suspension poke their head out from under the long rows of lunch tables.

Eric sighs. Zips up the backpack.

He hears a set of JINGLING KEYS.

JOSE emerging from under the table. Pauses. Looks at Eric.

   JOSE

   Hey, hey, brothaman!

Jose PUNCHES Eric in the jaw.

Eric goes down, spilling into chairs.

Kate gets in his face--

   KATE

   Be quiet or that thing will hear us.

Jose stares down Kate. The Derelicts from In-school Suspension stand behind Jose.

   JOSE

   Let’s see that bounce.
ERIC

You fuck--!

Jose picks up a chair, swings it-- pinning it down on Eric’s neck-- slamming Eric to the ground under the chair.

JOSE

Watch the door, Tommy.

TOMMY, one of the overgrown Derelicts watches the door. Kate and Liz attack Jose, but the other Derelicts grab them, holding them down onto the floor--

TWEAKER

Get her legs.

Kate struggles, but the Derelicts hold her down.

KATE

Don’t-- it’s going to hear us--

JOSE

I ain’t scared...

The Tweaker presses his hand over Liz’s mouth, tears off her shirt, revealing her lacy bra underneath--

TWEAKER

If I’m gonna die, I’m going out with a bang.

Jose cackles. Liz’s cries are muffled. Eric can’t breathe. Windpipe crushing.

He reaches for his backpack-- just out of reach--

Eric, stuck, choking, as tears form in Kate’s eyes--

Kate. Writhing under the teenager’s hands.

Liz. Shirt shredded, Tweaker’s hand clamped over her mouth.

TOMMY. At the door. Watching the action with a big dumb grin on his face. Doesn’t notice the CREATURE’S SHADOW slowly crawling up the stairs through the door window behind him...

The shadow passes over him--

TOMMY

Jose! Guys! Guys!
The Derelicts look up--

    TWEAKER
    Oh, shit...

Jose and the Derelicts leave Kate, Liz, and Eric on the ground, bolting into the kitchen-- GONE TO SAFETY.

    KATE
    Don’t run.

Liz and Kate huddle together UNDER THE TABLE--

KATE’S POV - Blocked by tables and chairs, the creature’s giant feet enter the room.

    DERELICT
    Yo, wait up--

WHAM! The Derelict is pounced on, pulled on top of the table above Kate and Liz. All Liz and Kate can see is the rattling underside, the Derelict’s flailing arm over the side--

A CLAW pierces through the table, almost skewering Kate. Kate and Liz hold each other, trying to keep quiet. Under the table next to them, Eric desperately puts a finger over his lips.

The monster’s claw slowly removes itself from the table, resulting in an outpouring of blood.

Sound of scuttling, scraping, scratching on the table top, crunching across food trays and milk cartons.

The tables groan above. The raspy breathing of the beast as it slowly crawls across the long tables in search for more food.

Kate and Liz don’t move a muscle--

Under a nearby table, TOMMY remains still.

Eric checks to see if it’s clear-- then rolls out from under his table to join Kate and Liz.

Trays knock off the table-- the sound of the monster moving in his direction.

    KATE
    (whispers)
    Eric!
Eric FREEZES. A massive foot presses down on his shoulder, the creature stepping on him—completely unaware that Eric is there.

TIGHT ON ERIC’S FACE—As the unseen creature stops above him, drool spilling down onto his cheek. He holds his breath, lungs bursting.

Kate’s eyes are wide—watching—

KATE’S POV—Blocked by the table’s edge, she can barely make out CLEAR BUBBLES that have formed on the creature’s back. Something moving inside the bubbles.

One by one, the bubbles BURST, releasing liquid and birthing LONG THIN TAPEWORM SNAKES.

Wet CREAM-COLORED SNAKES drop around Eric. They slowly squirm to life...

Everyone watches in horror as the worms circle around Eric.

A CAN OF SODA—rolls off the table above TOMMY. CLINK!

The little worms snake quickly toward Tommy. Tommy backs away, crab-crawling toward the door—

TOMMY

No, no—

A tapeworm wiggles up his pant legs, burrowing itself into his upper thigh. He screams and jumps to his feet. Crashing into chairs. Tommy howls. His body jerking back and forth as the large worms circle him.

KATE’S POV—Under the table tops—they bend and slide as the massive creature lopes over them, moving toward Tommy.

THROUGH THE CRACKS OF THE JOINING TABLES—Kate watches the Monster as it stands still before Tommy, watching the kid fall to the ground, writhing on the ground as its worms take hold of his body.

Kate, Liz, and Eric wait a moment.

KATE

(quietly)
Kitchen.

Kate, Liz, and Eric (grabbing his backpack) sneak into—
INT. CAFETERIA KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Cooking supplies, metal cabinets. Tweaker, the remaining Derelicts, and Jose-- hiding in the corner.

JOSE
Get out. This is our hiding spot.

TWEAKER
(eyeing Liz)
Naw, man. Let them stay.

Tweaker takes a step toward Liz--

Liz snatches a KNIFE from the cutting board-- SHINK!

She slices open the Tweaker’s HAND.

LIZ
Get the fuck out!

Liz lunges at them-- they try to grab her arm, but she cuts them, carving up their hands and fingers--

JOSE
Bitch!

She goes manic, stabbing the air, throwing pots and pans at them, slicing across Jose’s face--

LIZ
GET AWAY FROM ME! GET AWAY FROM ME!

She stabs at them-- they back off-- the Derelicts, Tweaker, and Jose clutching their wounds rush from the kitchen.

Silence. Liz pants, clutching the knife.

Kate goes to hug Liz--

KATE
It’s okay, Liz--

LIZ
No, no, no it’s not okay! It’s not! It’s not okay!!!

SOUND OF JOSE AND THE DERELICTS IN THE CAFETERIA-- and the ungodly SHRIEKING.

JOSE (O.S.)
COME ON, MOTHAFUCKER! YOU WANT SOME! COME GET IT!!! I AIN’T SCARED OF SHIT!!!
Sound of Jose and the Derelicts being ripped to shreds.

**Liz smiles a small, creepy smile.**

**LIZ**

Now it’s okay.

Eric jumps onto the stove, reaches up and knocks out the CEILING TILE above him. Plants a CHAIR on the top like a step ladder.

**KATE**

What are you doing?

**ERIC**

This is the short cut.

**LIZ**

WHAT!?

**ERIC**

We can crawl anywhere in the school without that thing ever seeing us.

**KATE**

(impressed)

How do you know that?

**ERIC**

(shrugs)

Skipping Biology class.

UNDERNEATH THE DOOR-- the four foot long snakes slither into the room.

One crawls over Liz’s bare feet. She jumps onto the stove with Eric.

CLANG! Kate puts a METAL POT down around one of them, trapping it there.

TINK, TINK-- its little jaws banging against the inside the pot, as its tail flaps outside--

She turns-- a tapeworm strikes at Kate from the side--

THWACK! Liz brings the knife down on it. Severing its neck from its long tail.

As they pull themselves up-- MORE SNAKES SLIP UNDER THE DOOR-- UP ONTO THE WALLS AROUND THEM.
INT. CEILING

Kate, Eric and Liz crawl up into the ceiling tiles.

Shafts of light beam up through the ceiling vents, piercing the darkness.

   ERIC
   (pointing)
   That way.

Liz’s hand slips, punching through the ceiling tile, she stumbles--

Kate and Eric grabs her.

   KATE
   Eric! This ceiling can’t hold us.

   ERIC
   Put your weight only on the metal beams.

   LIZ
   Now you tell me.

THROUGH THE OPENING IN THE CEILING--

Kate can see in the cafeteria below-- the monster on top of Jose, feeding on him.

Kate looks away. Keeps moving.

EXT. FRANKLIN HIGH - MAIN ENTRANCE -DAY

SWAT and MORELAND unlock the main entrance.

Students pour out, move into police custody.

The Captain looks back at Beth and David one last time before entering the school...

INT. CEILING

Moving through total darkness-- until we find Kate, Eric, and Liz. Slowly moving along the metal beams.

   ERIC
   Hold up.

   KATE
   Please don’t tell me we’re lost... please don’t tell me we’re lost...
ERIC
We’re not lost. I can’t see which way we’re going--

LIZ
Great. Here, genius.

She removes a LIGHTER from her back pocket.

Click. Flash. Liz lights it. It dies. Sparks. Dies.

As she does this-- Kate hears something else.

Something soft and wet. Writhing all around them.

Click. Flash. Each flash illuminates the darkness around them-- the wet slapping noise approaching-- too dark to see--

Kate squints as Liz finally lights the lighter--

Revealing THREE TAPEWORMS creeping beside Eric--

Their spiked sucker-jaws puckered and hungry--

Eric punches down on the ceiling tile they’re slithering upon-- causing the ceiling tile and the skinny beasts to fall into an empty classroom below.

ON LIZ - One tapeworm winds itself into her HAIR-- Liz freaks, swats at it, flailing--

KATE
Liz!

Liz falls through the ceiling tiles--

INT. SCIENCE CLASSROOM

She falls through the ceiling-- violently slamming onto the desks, cracking down, sending stools scattering.

Liz lies on the floor, bent, groaning from the fall. Barely able to move from the impact. Tapeworms moving across her.

Kate and Eric watch from the ceiling.

KATE
We have to get her--

Without a thought, Kate leaps down, landing hard on the table of Bunsen burners. Eric stays up in the ceiling.
The tapeworms dig into Liz’s skin, piercing the soft side of her neck with the sharp spikes of their jaws—using their twisting tails to push themselves deep inside her skin—

Kate snatches it before it can get too deep—

Liz screaming as Kate wraps her fist around the thing’s sinewy tail, a tug-o-war, leaning back with all her strength to pull it out from her best friend’s neck—

   KATE
   No, no, no—

Kate falls back, the snake in her hand—it’s OUT—

It turns on Kate. Jagged sucker jaws snapping at her neck, longing for that warm flesh—

Kate holds it back as best she can, slippery with slime and sweat, gripping it as it thrashes in her hands—

Liz, groaning, unable to help—

Kate, stumbling back, fighting the tapeworm’s whip—

Sees a SCALPEL next to a DEAD FROG—reaches for it—

Eric jumps down—snatches the scalpel—

He slices its tail, sawing at it—it fights, turning on Eric now, biting at him—

   ERIC
   HOLD IT! HOLD IT!

THWICK! The scalpel cuts the snake in half. It dies.

Kate drops it. Looks thankfully at her brother.

Liz, on the ground, sweaty hair in her face, blocking her groaning expression. Eric and Kate sit Liz up—

   KATE
   Liz..?

Liz’s face is a mask of pain and horror...

   LIZ
   Oh, God... fuck, Kate, Kate...

She lets out a guttural howl. Eric’s eyes go wide—Liz lifts up the back of her shirt—
LIZ
Where’s the other one?

The last piece of a tapeworm’s tail slips inside her back, right near her spine.

KATE
No...

They can see the thing snaking under her skin, creating an unnatural bulge as it twists around her spinal cord--

Liz sits straight up, as if awakened--

KATE
Liz?

Liz turns her head to face Kate, her neck cracking and snapping as she does so-- Liz looks right into Kate’s eyes--

LIZ
Run.

Kate and Eric stand, slowly back away from Liz.

Thoom. Thoom. Sound of something else coming.

Pieces of the CEILING falls around them.

Eric and Kate look up to see--

THE CEILING TILES. THE CREATURE’S FEET PUNCHING THROUGH THEM AS IT STUMBLES ALONG, APPROACHING FAST--

Liz stands awkwardly, staring absently at Kate. Almost lobotomized.

Liz’s shaking hands reach out to Kate--

Then grab the knob of a BUNSEN BURNER--

TURNING ON THE GAS.

Liz struggles to turn on the other Bunsen Burners. Kate turns on other burners-- Eric grabs the FIRE EXTINGUISHER off the wall, SWINGS IT AGAINST THE BUNSEN BURNERS, KNOCKING THE BURNER TOPS OFF, THE GAS POURS OUT.

KATE
How are we gonna--

Liz holds up her LIGHTER.
Kate’s eyes water. Tears stream down Liz’s cheeks as gas ripples, quickly filling up the room-- Eric drags Kate into the hallway. Slams the door shut. One last look to her best friend through the window in the door.

Liz, arm extended, flicking the lighter-- as the Monster, out of focus, descends from the ceiling.

CLOSE ON THE LIGHTER - Click. Flash.

THE ROOM GOES WHITE.

INT. EAST HALLWAY

A roar of hellfire shakes the school. THE EXPLOSION BLASTS THE DOOR BACK-- KNOCKING KATE AND ERIC TO THE GROUND.

INT. MAIN HALLWAY

Moreland and the SWAT team feel the school shake. Their walkies come alive with chatter and intel from other officers.

SWAT CAPTAIN
Jesus, that was a bomb!

CAPTAIN MORELAND
(into walkie)
Sonofabitch! Where did that go off?

EXT. FRANKLIN HIGH

The crowd watches BLACK SMOKE pour into the white sky.

OFFICER
(into walkie)
East Wing! East wing!

INT. MAIN HALLWAY

Captain Moreland motions to his men.

CAPTAIN MORELAND
East Wing-- this way!

They crash through the locked doors--
INT. EAST HALLWAY

Eric holds his sister as they stare into the smoky science room.

Smoke pours into the hallway. SPRINKLERS activate, water rains down on them. FLASHING KLAXONS STROBE THE HALLS.

Then, a rustling from inside. Movement. Kate and Eric freeze.

They look into the doorway, smoke flooding out, obscuring their view inside... scramble to their feet. Running--

A GROWL echoes out of the room. They look back...


Kate and Eric turn a corner-- they limp down the MAIN STAIRWAY. Eric skids to a stop, grabs Kate.

Eric pulls Kate into--

INT. SHOP CLASS

Filled with black smoke from the explosion. Sprinklers going. They sprint to the GARAGE DOORS on the other side of the class.

Kate and Eric try to lift the garage doors manually. But there is a giant steel LOCK clamped down on it.

Eric runs to a toolbox next to a collapsible steel gate-- Holds up the BOLT CUTTERS.

OBSCURED BY THE SMOKE, THE CREATURE VAULTS FROM THE DARKNESS-- SLAMS INTO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GATE-- SNAPPING AT THEM THROUGH A SMALL OPENING. Bucks its weight against the gate--

Grabs Eric’s shirt.
Kate grabs a METAL PIPE-- STABS AT THE MONSTER through the diamond shape openings.

Eric grabs hold of the pipe with Kate, TOGETHER, they ram it into the beast-- it falls back, squealing.

Eric races back to the garage door, struggles to cut the lock--

The half-monster rips the gate down, pounces at Eric--
He spills to the floor... it claws at him, pulling itself toward him.

Kate unzips Eric’s backpack-- removes the GUN.

BRANDON
KaaaaAAATE....

Brandon’s face, twisted and deformed over the creature’s body. The boy’s eyes alive and pleading.

Eric looks up-- sees the LARGE BUS ON HYDRAULICS.
ERIC DIVES-- PUNCHES THE RELEASE BUTTON, PULLS THE LEVER--
THE CREATURE POUNCES AT KATE--
THE BUS DROPS TO THE GROUND--
CRUSHING THE CREATURE AS ITS CLAWS SCRATCH DOWN KATE’S FACE. It tears the NECKLACE Brandon gave her off her neck-- wooden beads scatter across the floor.

She screams--
Wooden beads tap against the concrete--
She aims the gun at the creature’s head--
BANG.
The Creature falls limp.
... the wooden beads roll to a stop...
Eric embraces his sister. They breathe in silence.

INT. EAST HALLWAY
Black boots down the foggy, water-soaked halls.
Flashlights on rifles.
A hand is held up-- SILENCE.

Swat Team Leader points. Next room...

They click off their flashlights. And move toward shop class, ghost-like...

**INT. SHOP CLASS**

Chunk. Eric snips the lock off the garage door.

Sunlight blinds Kate and Eric as the door lifts.

**EXT. FRANKLIN HIGH - CROWD**

Beth and David scramble to watch as--

The garage door lifts. Eric and Kate emerging into the light. Their first breath of fresh air.

They look at each other and smile.

Beth and David see their children. Alive. Alright. The nightmare is over.

**INT. SHOP CLASS**

Silently, the black boots enter the room..

Crouching behind shop class equipment...

MORELAND’S POV:

Eric and Kate, covered in blood--

Eric pointing something at Kate, smiling--

    CAPTAIN MORELAND
    That’s him...

EVERYTHING SLOWS.

Moreland raises his gun--

SWAT lifts their rifles--

Only now does Moreland see the Monster crushed under the hydraulics...

Moreland stares at the demonic beast--

Moreland SCREAMS-- lowers his gun-- throws his arm out to stop the Swat Captain--
They lower their rifles, confused until they see the monster--

        SWAT CAPTAIN
        Sweet Mother of God... what is that?

Eric and Kate turn around-- stunned to see they came within an inch of losing their lives. Eric drops the bolt cutters.

Swat pokes at the creature with their rifles...

        SNIPER POV:
        CROSSHAIRS LAND ON KATE. Finding the GUN in her hand.

        SNIPER
        (over walkie)
        I see the shooter--

Moreland hears this on his walkie.

        CAPTAIN MORELAND
        NO!!!!

Moreland reaches for his walkie-- rushing toward Kate--

A flash from the sniper’s rifle--

Silence.

Kate’s eyes shudder-- she DROPS.

Eric screams but nothing comes out.

        EXT. FRANKLIN HIGH - CROWD

Beth and David. Watching this...

They break through the police barrier, running--

        EXT. SHOP CLASS

Kate Lerner lies half in shadow, half in light. Eric rushes to her side. Moreland radios the PARAMEDICS.

CLOSE ON - Kate. Her eyes half-open.

        ERIC
        Please... please... Kate...

Beth and David drop to their knees at their daughter’s side, clutching her hand.
ERIC
Come on, Katie... please. Don’t leave me...

A hush falls over everyone. Beth holds her son close.

TIGHT ON KATE. She weakly opens her eyes. Trembling with life.

KATE’S POV – Her MOTHER, FATHER, AND BROTHER...

Their faces block out the sun, but she can still see them crying. David kisses her forehead.

KATE
... we made it.

As the family holds each other close, TILT UP into the white winter sky.

THE END