

**LOCKDOWN AT FRANKLIN HIGH**

An original screenplay by

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&

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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**

KATE LERNER, 16, ponytail. Neat, clean clothes. Making eggs and coffee.

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 Braaaaandon'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 BUSES 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.**

A BODY. On the floor. HILLMAN. THE HALL MONITOR.

Motionless. Body spread, bent in an awkward way.

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

FFFFFFFUCKING RIGHT, COPELAND! KID  
SSSTABBED ME!

MR. COPELAND

What...

BLOSSOMS OF BLOOD bloom under Hillman's white polo.

HILLMAN

AAAAH!!!! CALL FFFFUCKING 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  
 Uuurrrrrk.... 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**

TRUCKING WITH OFFICER O'BRIEN AS HE CATCHES UP WITH COLSON. Moving fast. Well-trained men.

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 soooo 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  
FREEZE!!!

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.)

Heeeeeellllp!

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  
AaaaarrrrrRRRGHHH!

REFLECTED IN THE SOCCER TROPHY: Brandon hunches over in pain. Head bowed. Crying.

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

*Kaaaaate...*

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)

PRINCIPAL BURKE (CONT'D)

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 mopyy 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--

Nick JERKS forward. Not quite sure what happened.

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**

POLICE OFFICERS PREPPING. Kevlar. Shields. Helmets.  
Bullets. Locked and loaded.

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

(into 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 calms down a little. Glassy-eyed. Breathing, exhausted. Watching his sister wrap his wound, impressed.

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.

DAVID

I love you, too, Katie.

KATE

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.

KATE

LIZ!

LIZ

What? I'm thirsty.

Liz tosses them each a soda. Eric chugs his.

LIZ

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

ERIC

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

KATE

How do you know that?

ERIC

I've been sneaking out of it all year.

KATE

(smiling, maybe even a little proud at her brother)  
Of course you have.

LIZ

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

ERIC

There's a short cut through the cafeteria.

KATE

Can you walk?

ERIC

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 lopez 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.

LIZ

...go...

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...

WITHIN THE SMOKE, THE MONSTER'S SILHOUETTE DRAGS ITSELF OUT OF THE ROOM. Torn in half. Missing its hind legs. Crawling after them.

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

ERIC

In here.

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

Shit.

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

ERIC

Got 'em!

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**

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