

THE FANDOM

Written by  
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INT. SUPERMARKET - NIGHT

Empty supermarket. Emergency lights.

LUCY (late-20s, buff) and her twin brother KEVIN (same age, lol, buff) are the stars of the supernatural web-series "Monster Assassins." They wear a fusion of military and gladiatorial clothing, and an embroidered "MA" logo on a patch. Lucy's weapon is a bow and arrow, Kevin's is a sword.

Footage for the show is recorded via Lucy and Kevin's head-mounted GoPros giving "Monster Assassins" a rough, 'found footage' feel.

Intercut Lucy and Kevin's GoPro footage as needed

Kevin's torchlight finds a LARGE FIGURE with GLOWING GREEN EYES at the end of an aisle. The figure scurries into darkness.

Kevin turns around to see Lucy. His grimace changes to a smile as soon as he sees her face.

LUCY  
(whispering)  
What is it? I couldn't see.

Kevin faces Lucy, his hand on her shoulder.

KEVIN (O.S.)  
(whispering)  
I got this.

LUCY  
(whisper)  
What is it?

KEVIN (O.S.)  
(whispers)  
Malus aranea.

Lucy shudders and pulls an arrow out of her quiver.

LUCY  
(whispers)  
A bad spider. OK.

KEVIN (O.S.)  
Oops, malum araneum.

LUCY  
(whispers)  
Plural. Two spiders?

KEVIN  
(whispers)  
Like I said, Lucy, I got this.

LUCY (O.S.)  
(stern whisper)  
How many spiders are in your plural,  
Kevin?

KEVIN  
(whispers)  
A couple. Some. There's a nest.

A full body shudder from Lucy.

LUCY (O.S.)  
(whispers)  
I hate spiders. And Latin.

Lucy trails Kevin as they strafe along the aisles.

At the deli section, Kevin holds up his fist to halt.

Kevin turns around to check on Lucy, her eyes BULGE.

She sees a MASSIVE BLACK SPIDER with GREEN EYES, grabbing meat out of the counter. Dozens of SMALLER BUT STILL QUITE LARGE SPIDERS scatter across the deli, eating. Eww.

We hear Lucy INHALE and EXHALE. Then, she nods to Kevin.

Lucy does a twirly thing with the arrow like a drummer with sticks before she loads the arrow on her bow.

Looking down the arrow via the GoPro, she counts

LUCY  
(whispers)  
One... two...

ON SCREEN:

A pause symbol. Top left we see the title of the video  
"MONSTER ASSASSINS EP 7 THE ONE WITH THE SPIDERS"

INT. THE GYM - EVENING

It's all so quiet.

The above image with the pause symbol on a laptop screen.

We can see that the laptop is on a bench. There's an archery target against the back wall.

PAULA (mid-30s, curvy and fit, glasses, hair in a braid, no makeup) in her work uniform (gym pants, shirt embroidered with "THE GYM" and "PAULA"), Sneakers with Lucy and Kevin hand-painted on.

With a bow and a Nerf-tipped arrow, Paula tries to copy Lucy's twirl but doesn't quite get it.

Paula FROWNS. Deep breath. Tries again.

She does the twirly thing YAY and loads the arrow.

We hear her BREATHING and the arrow string CREAKING.

She takes aim, she's about to fire when--

BZZZ the door buzzer breaks the spell. The arrow flops.

DOOF DOOF music fills the air along with the sounds of DES and TROY (dude bros, 20s, tans, tribal tats) CLINKING weights and GRUNTING. It's arm day.

PAULA  
Fudge sticks.

HARPER (O.S.)  
Fudge nothing, Auntie Paula, you did  
the twirly thing!

Paula laughs.

PAULA  
We are not doing the "Auntie" thing,  
Harper.

Harper pokes her tongue out. Paula pokes her tongue out.

DAVE (O.S.)  
That was awesome.

Paula picks up the laptop.

ON SCREEN: Paula clicks on a video chat box in the lower corner to make it bigger. We see HARPER (13, Monster Assassins shirt, different nationality to Dave, her adopted dad) and DAVE (late-30s, Paula's brother, looks like everyone called Dave) CLAPPING.

PAULA  
(now smiling)  
Yeah, I did do it.  
(beat)  
Gotta go, Van's here. You coming to  
the pub, Dave?

DAVE  
I'm on dad duty so Joe will be there.

Paula's smile fades a little.

DAVE (cont'd)  
Harper and I are making blood.

Dave moves the camera so we can see a tub of fake blood.  
Paulas' eyes light up again.

DAVE (cont'd)  
If Harper stops eating it, we should  
have a couple litres for tomorrow.

HARPER  
Red cordial and chocolate syrup. It's  
so sweet.

PAULA  
Don't go putting it on your ice-  
cream.

HARPER  
Now that's a great idea.

Paula gives Harper a pretend scowl.

DAVE  
Hey, try and get some sleep tonight.

PAULA  
Sleep? Pfft.

HARPER  
I can't believe it's tomorrow.

PAULA  
I know, right?!

Paula and Harper BEAM.

HARPER  
Byeeeeee.  
(beat)  
Auntie Paula.

Harper pokes her tongue out again.

PAULA  
Bye Harps. Bye bother, I mean  
brother.

Paula closes the video chat before Dave can respond.

Paula picks up the laptop in one hand and twirls the arrow in the other as we follow her to the front counter. As she walks, we see Lucy and Kevin tattoos on her calf muscles.

GYM FRONT COUNTER:

Merch on the counter with the gym logo ("THE GYM" with Paula as 'Rosie the Riveter'), a charity tin for Endometriosis.

VAN (early 30s, orange glitter eyeshadow, lipstick, and hair highlight, hairdresser blacks, name tag from 'Comb On, Eileen,' intricate tattoo on her left forearm) waits at the counter.

PAULA (cont'd)  
I did the twirly thing.

Paula does the twirly thing.

VAN  
Just in time for the competition tomorrow! That's handy.

PAULA  
Very handy.

Paula takes a closer look at Van's makeup.

PAULA (cont'd)  
Love the orange.

Van bats her eyelids and pouts.

Paula puts her stuff behind the counter, kills the music.

The CLINKING and GRUNTING from Des and Troy stops.

PAULA (cont'd)  
(yells)  
Arm day is officially over, chaps.

Des and Troy grab gym bags. As they walk to the front counter, they pat themselves dry with a towel. At the counter, they change into singlets with a tuxedo print.

Paula and Van shield their eyes.

PAULA (cont'd)  
I just reno-ed the change rooms.

Des flexes a bicep.

DES  
Think of it as free advertising.

PAULA  
Olive's still here, she'll probably  
have a heart attack. Think of that as  
manslaughter.

TROY  
Interesting legal argument.

Almost out the door, Des reaches in his bag and pulls out a  
can of body spray. Paula is quick to see this.

PAULA  
Des!

She points to a sign behind the counter that reads: "THOU  
SHALL NOT USE BODY SPRAY IN OR NEAR THIS GYM"

Below the sign is a clear Perspex box with a few cans of  
body spray. There's a padlock on the lid.

TROY  
Des, no.

Head down in shame, Des puts the can away.

PAULA  
Thank you, Troy. We don't want  
another slip up, mkay?

TROY  
You have a memory of a goldfinch.

DES  
Sorry, Paula.

Door goes BZZZ BZZZ as Des and Troy walk out.

Paula at the computer behind the counter. Desktop wallpaper  
is a photo of her, Dave, and their parents (both mid-50s)  
dressed in Monster Assassins and monster costumes.

Paula smiles at the picture, boops the screen then shuts the  
computer down, turns off the lights (they make a CLUNK sound  
like they do in movies), door buzzer, and pops her laptop  
and a Nerf arrow into her Monster Assassins tote.

Van hesitates a few times to speak. Finally, courage.

VAN  
Paula, we have to win this year.

Paula grabs a canvas bag from behind the counter.

VAN (cont'd)  
What's in the bag?

Van reaches out to the bag, but Paula snatches it away while cheekily raising her eyebrows. They both head out the door.

EXT. THE GYM - EVENING - CONTINUOUS

Paula rolls down the corrugated iron door and locks it. We see the gym's logo painted on the door.

A "LOST CATS" poster stuck to a telegraph pole right out front with a photo of three hairless cats, Wig, Toupee, Merkin, "CALL RIVER" and phone number underneath. Van and Paula gag a little at the sight of them.

PAULA  
I can't even look at them.

VAN  
Is it bad that the only reason I want them found is so I don't have to see these posters anymore?

Paula mouths SAME.

From the footpath we see the main street of a small Queensland town. Next to the gym is "coINKydINK" tattoo parlour. Across the street is a police station, pub "The Manky Turnip", and Van's salon, "Comb On, Eileen."

Between the pub and police station is an alley with locked metal gates at each end.

A light TAP TAP TAP from the other side of the gym door.

Van cocks her head.

TAP TAP TAP

Paula unlocks the door and rolls it up enough to see OLIVE (80s, so tiny, neon gym gear, long nails painted in a neon rainbow). She can't stand upright because there's something heavy in her bag.

PAULA  
I am so sorry, Olive. My brain is mush at the moment.

OLIVE  
I've been locked in far worse places for far longer, my dear.



Van starts to question this, but...

Paula notices Olive's bag is heavy. She knows what's up.

PAULA  
Remember I said the gym isn't a  
library?

Olive offers Paula her bag, but can't lift it. Paula puts her bags on the ground and takes Olive's. Olive stands up as straight as she can. Paula pulls a dumbbell out of the bag.

OLIVE  
Yes, dear.

PAULA  
You can't take these home with you.  
(beat)  
How about a trade?

Paula runs and grabs two stretchy bands from the counter, dumps the dumbbell, runs back.

Van tries to peek in Paula's mystery bag. A playful scowl from Paula.

PAULA (cont'd)  
You can keep these if you leave the  
weights here. Deal?

Paula puts the bands in Olive's bag and hands it back.

OLIVE  
Yes, dear. Thank you, dear. I'll  
bring these back tomorrow, dear.

PAULA  
Olive, these are yours to keep, OK?

OLIVE  
Yes, dear. Goodnight, Van, dear.

VAN  
Goodnight, Olive. I love your nails.

OLIVE  
(flashing her talons)  
Thank you, dear.

Olive shuffles away. Paula grabs her stuff.

PAULA  
You want a lift?

VAN

Sure.

Paula gives Van a bouncy piggyback across the road.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

Paula and Van don't see this: Inside the alleyway, we see River's three hairless cats, but they have GLOWING GREEN EYES. Two are fighting over what looks like a rat.

One cat laps liquid dripping from a pretty bottle with a logo which we will see a few times.

EXT. THE MANKY TURNIP PUB - NIGHT.

A sign on the wall reads "THE MANKY TURNIP" above a painting of a turnip, a manky one.

Paula lets Van off her back at the front door.

Van sees another "LOST CATS" poster on the outside wall and gags a little.

They go inside.

INT. THE MANKY TURNIP PUB - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Pub music. Busy night.

BAR:

A manky turnip in formaldehyde in a glass jar above the bar.

Bartender CHOPPERS (60s, teeth, tats, and smiles. One tattoo is recent, waiter's uniform, name tag) chats with Des and Troy at the bar.

DES

(to Choppers)

But it's made from potatoes.

Troy typing on his phone. He is surprised and nods.

TROY

No carbs. Vodka is keto.

DES

But it's made from potatoes.

Choppers smiles as he pours them two shots of vodka from a bottle, the same bottle as the one in the alley. Muscles flex as they drink. They nod.

Bartender PRAVAT (mid 20s, Gen Z hair, same uniform) hands a drink to CHIYO (late 20s, a walking Etsy store). Their hands touch briefly \*swoon\*

Paula and Van at the bar. Paula pulls a binder with a label "Monster Assassins Fan Film Competition Entry 2024" out of her bag.

VAN  
Two of your second cheapest beers,  
thanks, Choppers.

Choppers pours the beers, nods at the folder.

CHOPPERS  
Big day tomorrow, huh?

Paula, a bit wired, pats the binder a couple of times.

PAULA  
Yessireee.

Paula opens the folder. So many tabs and dividers. She flips to "CHOPPERS - SNACKS" which already has a tick.

PAULA (cont'd)  
Are you still OK for snacks tomorrow?

CHOPPERS  
Yup. Still. Nothing's changed.

PAULA  
Sorry, I shouldn't keep asking.

CHOPPERS  
Hey, I get it, but make sure you have  
some fun at the same time.

VAN  
This is fun for her.

Choppers smiles a sad smile, hands over two beers. Van pays.

CHOPPERS  
Speaking of segues, if you get tired  
of beer, I've got a new vodka  
supplier.

Choppers presents the bottle like it's an expensive wine.

PAULA  
Tired of beer? Blasphemer. Pretty  
bottle though.

VAN  
Yeah, ta but nah.

CHOPPERS  
Maybe next time.

PAULA  
Can I steal the mic for a sec?

CHOPPERS  
Sure.

Choppers turns off the pub music. Paula heads to the stage.  
Van takes the beers and heads to their table.

ON THE STAGE:

A banner reads "CARRIE-OKE SATURDAY NIGHTS!" A metal bucket  
balances on a rafter. A rope tied to the bucket, the other  
end is tied to a winch on the side of the stage.

A BZZZZ as Paula turns on the mic and TAP TAP TAPS it.

PAULA  
Hi, Everyone.

The crowd stops talking, faces Paula.

EVERYONE  
Hi, Paula.

PAULA  
Can I get a quick show of hands if  
you're dressing up as a monster for  
the video competition tomorrow--

Everyone raises their hands. Paula, a bit teary, puts her  
hand on heart.

PAULA (cont'd)  
Oh my gosh, thank you. Wow. We're on  
at twelve, can you be outside the gym  
by eleven-thirty? Please? Better make  
it eleven. Ten?

The crowd winces.

PAULA (cont'd)  
Eleven-thirty?

The crowd nods.

PAULA (cont'd)  
Awesome. Thank you!

Pub music turns back on. Paula turns off the mic and makes her way around the floor to her table. She passes Des and Troy.

DES AND TROY'S TABLE:

Des and Troy sit at a table with a tray of vodka shots.

PAULA'S TABLE:

Paula sits next to Van at a table for six. She puts her bags under the table.

Under the table Paula's right thumb taps her thigh. Nerves.

Paula takes a sip of her beer, then stands up.

PAULA (cont'd)  
I have to pee.

VAN  
Already?

Paula gets up and walks to the

BATHROOM DOOR:

There's a queue so Paula watches a video on her phone.

ON SCREEN:

INT. LUCY AND KEVIN'S SECRET HIDEOUT - DAY

All kitted out, Kevin and Lucy in front of a wall with a map of Australia pock-marked with red pins. She has her bow and arrow, he has his sword.

LUCY  
Hi everyone, I'm Lucy.

KEVIN  
More importantly, I'm Kevin. We are--

LUCY  
(inside voice)  
Monster Assassins.

KEVIN  
(outside voice)  
Monster Assassins!

LUCY

We are Monster Assassins and we--

KEVIN

--we really need a theme song.

(air guitar)

*Monster Assassins, oh yeah we  
assassinate monsters do doo do...*

LUCY

Later? We have an announcement.

Kevin keeps doing action poses. Lucy tolerates him.

KEVIN

Yes, we do have an announcement.

LUCY

Mirror, mirror, on the wall, who's  
the biggest fan of all?

KEVIN

That's not an announcement, that's a  
question.

LUCY

(to Kevin)

That's establishing a vibe, moron.

(to camera)

Usually on this day, we'd upload  
another webisode of the two of us  
fighting monsters--

KEVIN

--while looking super cool at the  
same time.

LUCY

Better fact check that one, bother, I  
mean brother.

KEVIN

(to Lucy)

Go fact yourself, sister, I mean  
sis--oh.

(quietly)

You're gonna cut that, right?

LUCY

(No)

Sure.

KEVIN  
 (to camera)  
 We are having another fan film  
 competition.  
 (to Lucy)  
 What's the prize, Luce?

LUCY  
 We will come to your place and hang  
 out with you for a whole day.

KEVIN  
 That is super cool.

LUCY  
 All you have to do is make a video of  
 yourselves fighting monsters, just  
 like we do each week.

KEVIN  
 It's gonna be livestreamed and we're  
 gonna watch them as you film them.

LUCY  
 Click on the link below to book a  
 time to livestream your video.

KEVIN  
 You've got two weeks to prepare,  
 fellow Monster Assassins!

LUCY  
 Until then...

KEVIN  
 To all you monsters out there...

LUCY AND KEVIN  
 You'd better check under your beds  
 for us!

KEVIN  
 Hey, next competition can be for a  
 theme song. What do--

Eyeroll as Lucy races to press the stop recording button.

INT. THE MANKY TURNIP PUB - NIGHT

BATHROOM DOOR:

The door opens, Chiyo walks out, REALLY STARTLES Paula.

PAULA  
Oh my gosh, Chiyo.

CHIYO  
Ooh, sorry!

Paula steadies herself.

PAULA  
No probs. People need to wear bells.  
Blank stare from Chiyo.

PAULA (cont'd)  
Like cats.  
Blanker stare.

PAULA (cont'd)  
For the birds?  
Chiyo fakes a laugh to end the conversation and walks away.  
Paula puts her phone away and walks inside.

BATHROOM:

Paula stands at the basin with her back to the mirror and takes a deep breath. We leave her and go back to

THE BAR:

BRIAN (late-30s, well-dressed, tattoos all over, one on his arm is new and flaking, fab beard) and STACIE (early-40s, 50s style dress, tattoos and victory rolls, name tag from coINKydINK tattoo) and Stacie has a walking stick for a bad left knee. It matches her accessories--the walking stick, not her bad left knee. She has a bit of a limp.

CHOPPERS  
Brian, Stacie. Usual?

Brian nods.

STACIE  
How is she tonight?

Choppers winces. Stacie grimaces.

CHOPPERS  
I'll bring your drinks over in a sec.

BRIAN  
Thanks, mate.



They both head to

PAULA'S TABLE:

Stacie stops a few meters away from the table. Brian looks like he's egging her on to do something. Stacie then stands a bit taller, nods her head, walks to the table.

BRIAN (cont'd)  
Evening, all.

Stacie sits opposite Paula's seat. Brian next to Stacie. Stacie hangs her walking stick over the back of her chair.

Paula sits and opens her folder to an attendance sheet. She ticks herself, Van, Brian, and Stacie, an X next to Dave.

PAULA  
Brian and Stacie, present.

STACIE  
And a very good evening to you too.

With no social graces, Paula smiles at Stacie.

PAULA  
And to you two, too.

Paula starts to open her folder.

PAULA (cont'd)  
Are you two still coming tomorrow?

Stacie reaches over the table and places her hand on Paula's hand, stopping Paula from opening it.

STACIE  
Yes, dear.

Paula STRUGGLES to open the folder but Stacie's hand lingers for a few uncomfortable seconds before she removes her hand.

TIM (late-20s, 100% cop. Name tag reads SERGEANT TIM, keys on his belt), and JOE (late-30s, jeans and a Nordacious t-shirt, distinctive hair) take seats at the table.

Joe looks at Stacie, raises his eyebrows in a questioning way. Stacie discretely nods. Joe discretely nods back.

TIM  
Evening, all.

JOE  
Howdy.

Brian lifts his head up and nods.

Brian picks at the flaky tattoo skin. Stacie taps his arm. Brian pouts. He gets his phone from his pocket and starts playing a game..

PAULA

Are you two still--

Tim JUMPS out of his chair, stands at attention.

TIM

--As part of the Queensland Police Service's community outreach program with the aim of bringing the Queensland Police Service, heretofore chiefly being comprised of Sergeant Joe and Sergeant Tim, heretofore chiefly being comprised of myself, and the community, heretofore chiefly being comprised of everyone in the community, it serves closer, that's an affirmative.

Tim sits down. Everyone looks puzzled. Joe translates.

JOE

Yes.

Paula nods and pushes up her glasses.

Stacie tenses her hands, she's about to say something to Paula, but is interrupted by Pravat with a tray of drinks. He hands drinks around the table. Stacie's hands relax.

PRAVAT

Evening, all. Vodka tonic for Joe.

JOE

Cheers, mate.

PRAVAT

A coke spider for Tim.

TIM

I love spiders.

PRAVAT

Vodka oranges for Stacie and Brian.

Brian's head up.

BRIAN AND STACIE

Thanks, Pravat.

Stacie taps his arm.

BRIAN  
I wasn't.

STACIE  
Well, good.

He plays his game again.

PRAVAT  
Enjoy your night, folks.

GANG  
Thanks, Pravat.

PAULA  
OK, let's begin.

Paula pushes up her glasses.

PAULA (cont'd)  
Thank you all for coming. Who is  
excited for tomorrow?

Tim and Van's hands shoot up. Stacie, Brian, Joe slower.

PAULA (cont'd)  
I got something really special...

Stacie and Joe share a subtle eye roll.

Paula reaches under the table about to grab the canvas bag.  
We see boxes with new GoPros.

Stacie rummages in her bag for something.

Joe puts his hand up.

BRIAN  
You don't have to put your hand up.

PAULA  
Yes, he does, Brian.

Paula nods towards Joe, she lets go of the canvas bag.

Stacie pulls out an in-progress embroidered patch. It's like  
Lucy's from the deli episode but there is a mark on it.

JOE  
Before we--

STACIE  
Before we--

Joe nods to let Stacie talk.

STACIE (cont'd)  
(to Paula)  
Before we--

PAULA  
--Before anyone "before we's." We are  
using the costumes from episode  
seventeen.

Paula points an accusatory finger at Stacie's patch.

PAULA (cont'd)  
That patch is from episode twenty.

Confirming, Van nods at Paula. Stacie locks eyes with Paula.

Paula opens her folder to "COSTUMES", then "EPISODE  
REFERENCES". A checklist with "EPISODE 17." A picture of the  
same patch, but Stacie's has a 'gash'.

Paula SPINS the folder around and PUSHES it towards Stacie.

PAULA (cont'd)  
See? In episode nineteen, Lucy and  
Kevin fight the slime serpent--

Stacie holds the patch up to Paula.

STACIE  
--Well, I like this one better.

Stacie SPINS the folder around and SHOVES it back to Paula.

PAULA  
It's not about liking things better.  
It's about consistency.

Joe puts his hand up.

JOE  
Does this really matter?

Van GASPS. Joe gives Van a 'Seriously?' look.

Tim slowly leans over to Brian

TIM  
(whispers)  
What is happening?

Brian, still playing on his phone, puts his index finger  
over his mouth like shhhh. Tim nods.

STACIE

I'm not calling you a dictator, but--

Paula is SHOOK.

PAULA

--You think I'm a dictator?

Joe pulls out his phone and pretends to read something.  
Brian puts his phone down and leans forward.

Air quotes aplenty.

BRIAN

She said "not."

VAN

She also said "but" which negates the  
"not." Like, "I'm not a racist but,"  
is going to be followed by something  
five hundred percent racist.

Brian SCOFFS then starts playing his game again.

STACIE

For the last three years, we did what  
you wanted for the competition, and  
we were shit. Pardon my French.

TIM

Is that French?

Stacie waves dismissively at Tim.

TIM (cont'd)

It was just a question.

Stacie ignores him. Glum, Tim pulls a small notepad and pen  
out of his pocket and jots something down.

Brian puts his hand up and catches Pravat's eye at the bar,  
signals for another round.

Joe sits up taller in his chair.

JOE

Stacie has a point, P.

Paula glares at Joe then flashes a sugared smile.

PAULA

Umm. OK. We can vote if you want to do something completely different for the competition which is tomorrow. Would a dictator say that?

STACIE

Yes. That's how dictators create the illusion of a democracy. They have an "election" and somehow get "ninety-seven percent" of the vote.

PAULA

I've worked so hard on this.

VAN

(whispers to Paula)

We.

STACIE

We all have, Paula. But this isn't--

JOE

--Fun.

Stacie waves at the folder.

STACIE

This is like having a pap smear from a first-year gynaecological student with a C-minus average.

Tim.exe has stopped working.

PAULA

Don't you want to win and meet Lucy and Kevin?

STACIE

Yes, but I'd rather have a fun and lose than have a shit time and win.

Tense, Stacie closes her eyes, inhales, exhales.

Paula searches the room for support. She looks to Des and Troy's table again. There's now a green tinge to their skin. Paula's gaze lingers for a moment, then looks away.

Choppers arrives with a tray of drinks.

STACIE (cont'd)

Ooh Choppers, almost forgot.

Stacie grabs a tube of tattoo after care from her bag and hands it to Choppers. Hand on his heart.

CHOPPERS  
Thanks, Stacie.

Stacie nods. Choppers leaves. Stacie sculls her drink.

STACIE  
I'm sorry--no, not sorry...

Paula holds her breath while her thumb TAP TAP TAPS the folder.

Stacie looms over Paula.

STACIE (cont'd)  
You are worse than an incorrectly  
used apostrophe group on Facebook.  
You have sucked all of the joy out of  
this.

Pravat appears with a tray and puts Stacie's empty glass on it, takes it away.

Stacie grabs her bag and walking stick.

STACIE (cont'd)  
I, we, will not be there tomorrow.

Paula grips the folder for strength.

PAULA  
Please... I'll-we'll use your design.

Paula holds the folder over the candle like a sacrifice.

PAULA (cont'd)  
I'll burn this.

Frowning, Tim tugs the folder from Paula.

TIM  
And release toxic fumes in an  
enclosed space? Not on my watch.

STACIE  
This does not have to be perfect.

PAULA  
Well... I want my--

Van, bit of a frown, senses a theme.

VAN

--our.

PAULA

--our competition entry to be perfect. This...

(strokes folder)

...is a declaration of how much I--

VAN

--we

Paula shoots Van a micro-glare.

PAULA

--we love Monster Assassins.

STACIE

(flat as)

Lucy doesn't wear glasses. Are you going to wear your glasses tomorrow?

PAULA

I can't see-

Paula has lost.

Stacie pats Brian's shoulder. He sculls his drink, gets up.

Pravat appears, puts Brian's glass on the tray, then leaves.

Paula stands firm, raises her voice so others can hear.

PAULA (cont'd)

At least I don't think it's real.

Stacie shrinks a little.

STACIE

(clenched jaw)

I... I told you that in private.

Van aims a mini scowl towards Paula. Paula doesn't see this.

PAULA

--Monster Assassins is not real, Stacie. It is a show with actors and makeup and special effects.

Stacie is about to speak but Paula strikes again.

PAULA (cont'd)

She read it on Reddit. Username "KevinIsASpunk6969."



Stacie sees people in the pub looking at her weirdly.

STACIE

Why aren't there any production companies or VFX companies or anyone connected to the web series then?

Paula keeps firing.

PAULA

So, instead of maybe these production company people have signed non-disclosure agreements and aren't legally allowed to talk about their involvement, means monsters are real?

Stacie holds her hand to the side of her head and rubs it like she's trying to excavate her brain.

STACIE

I love this fandom, but I can't--You and your little sycophant--

She nods to Van who clutches imaginary pearls. Tim is confused.

TIM

--Why would anyone be sick of Fanta?

VAN

What did I...?

Tim writes in his notepad. Stacie finds more courage.

STACIE

If you really were the massive fan that you claim to be, you would have worked all this out already. I hope that one day I will be there to see the look on your face when you find out Monster Assassins is real, and I get to say "I told you so."

Paula opens her mouth; Stacie puts her hand up to stop her.

Stacie and Brian's eyes FLASH GREEN as they leave the table. Paula sees this, and is about to ask a question when--

Joe finishes his drink. Pravat is back with a tray, puts the glass on it, then leaves. Joe looks at his bare wrist.

JOE

It's getting late.

VAN  
It's six-thirty.

JOE  
I have to take Harper to school early  
tomorrow.

VAN  
It's Friday.

JOE  
This is awkward so I'll just say that  
I'm out too.

A green glint in Joe's eyes as he nods and turns to leave.

They sit in silence until CLINK, Tim drops the spoon in his  
empty glass. Pravat pops over to take the glass away.

PAULA  
You two can quit if you want.

TIM  
Why would we quit?

PAULA  
There's no point now.

TIM  
I'm still in. And all these people  
are still in.

PAULA  
Really?

Van nods reluctantly.

PAULA (cont'd)  
Thanks, you two.  
(cranky)  
How dare she make me feel bad about  
my--

VAN  
(more assertive)  
--our.

PAULA  
--our fandom. Whatever. Boo-flippity-  
hoo to her.

Paula finishes her beer. Pravat appears, grabs the glass,  
and leaves.

Silence hangs until...

Paula TAPS her folder which startles Tim and Van.

PAULA (cont'd)  
Might call it a night, huh?

Van finishes her beer. Pravat with the tray again.

They all get their stuff, wave to Choppers on the way out.

EXT. THE MANKY TURNIP PUB - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The three walk out the door. Tim takes the keys off his belt and JINGLES them.

TIM  
Night. See you two tomorrow.

PAULA  
Night, Tim.

Van only nods.

Tim walks past the alleyway. It's dark in the alleyway but we can see three pairs of glowing green eyes.

He unlocks the front door of the station and heads in.

Paula and Van linger outside the pub.

VAN  
Why did you do that?

PAULA  
Do what?

VAN  
She told you that in private. You  
just told everyone in town.

Paula is surprised by that response and doubles down.

PAULA  
She believes in monsters.

Van avoids Paula's eyes.

VAN  
I'm beginning to believe in them too.

Paula tilts her head, not sure how to take this, so she doesn't.

PAULA  
Do you want a lift across the street?

Van takes a step back.

VAN  
Nah, I'll walk.

Paula furrows her brow in confusion.

PAULA  
See you tomorrow?

Van doesn't turn around.

VAN  
Sure.

INT. PAULA'S LOUNGE ROOM - NIGHT

Coastal aesthetic. Monster Assassins merch still in the box.

A Lucy costume (with the patch from episode seventeen!) hangs from a coat hanger on a bookcase. Old clothes smeared with red and green paint on a rack.

Paula (leggings and a worn Monster Assassins shirt), sits on a rug at a coffee table charging the GoPros and watching a video on her laptop. We see the video title "MONSTER ASSASSINS EP19 THE ONE WITH THE SLIME SERPENT"

ON SCREEN:

INT. TIERED CAR PARK - NIGHT

Intercut GoPro footage as needed

A poorly lit tiered car park. The back wall is lined with wheelie bins and dumpsters. A couple of empty crates with the vodka logo.

Lucy watches Kevin slowly put his hand on a dumpster bin.

He slowly lifts up the lid, peeks inside and nods at Lucy.

Kevin FLINGS open the lid, a CLANG as it hits the wall.

A LARGE GREEN SNAKE with GLOWING GREEN EYES slithers out of the wheelie bin onto the ground. It leaves a trail of oozing green goo, then stands up like a cobra but much taller and SPITS GREEN VENOM at Lucy.

FANGS BARED the snake LUNGES at Lucy. A tooth scrapes Lucy's MA logo patch leaving a gash.

Lucy jumps back, does her arrow twirly thing, takes aim at the snake's head.

TWANG

The snake is pinned to the wheelie bin.

Kevin SWOOSHES his sword and CUTS the snake's head off.

LUCY  
I hate snakes.

KEVIN  
You hate everything.

HANG ON A BROTHER-FLIPPING MINUTE the snake's body rejoins with the head. The healing wounds GLOWS GREEN. The snake is whole again. It wriggles its body until the arrow has been dislodged.

It lands SPLAT on the floor in a pool of goo.

LUCY  
Why won't you die?

Kevin presses a button on his sword. AWESOME SLO-MO MOMENT as flames shoot out of the hilt and WHOOSH up both sides of the blade. This is so cool.

Kevin WHOOSHES so quickly we only see the blur of fire.

Flaming pieces of the snake fall on the ground in the order in which they were sliced, like in a Japanese restaurant.

Then, POOF they all disappear in a puff of green smoke.

LUCY (cont'd)  
I don't hate everything. I do like the ones that clean up after themselves.

KEVIN  
Another one with green eyes. That's weird.

LUCY  
You're weird.

KEVIN  
It's genetic.

LUCY  
We have the same genes, so you are  
confirming the fact that you are  
weird.

Kevin SCOFFS.

ON SCREEN MESSAGE NOTIFICATION:

"NEW VIDEO FROM MONSTER ASSASSINS"

A cursor the message link.

INT. LUCY AND KEVIN'S SECRET HIDEOUT - DAY

The frame moves a little as Kevin presses record on the camera then stands next to Lucy. Both in their gear, in front of the map with a few more red pins than last time.

Lucy pretends that she's just seen Kevin.

LUCY  
Hi, Kevin, how are you doing?

KEVIN  
Oh, hi, Lucy. Fancy meeting you here  
in our secret hideout that only the  
two of us know about.

LUCY  
Are you doing anything tomorrow?

KEVIN  
Laundry, mowing, polishing my sword.

Kevin holds his sword up.

LUCY  
Please don't say those words.

KEVIN  
Oh, and I will be watching all our  
awesome fans filming their  
competition entries in real time.

LUCY  
I can't wait to see who is crowned  
the biggest fan of all.

KEVIN  
Do they get a crown?

LUCY  
No, but we will spend a day with  
them.

KEVIN  
That's way better than a crown.

LUCY  
It sure is.  
(to camera)  
See you tomorrow, fellow Monster  
Assassins. And don't forget--

KEVIN  
--to all you monsters out there

LUCY AND KEVIN  
You'd better check under your beds  
for us!

Lucy and Kevin wave to the camera. Kevin turns it off.

INT. PAULA'S LOUNGE - NIGHT

Paula sits up straighter.

PAULA  
There's no way that is real.

She clicks REPLAY.

INT. PAULA'S BEDROOM/INT. HARPER'S BEDROOM - SPLIT SCREEN -  
MORNING

PAULA'S BEDROOM: Signed Monster Assassins poster in a frame.  
Paula in bed, doona covering her body.

HARPER'S BEDROOM:

An explosion of Monster Assassins merch.

Harper (sleepy hair) in bed, doona covering her body.

Like a Busby Berkeley routine Paula and Harper open their  
eyes at the same time. They yawn, stretch, and both throw  
their doonas off to the side to reveal Paula slept in her  
Lucy costume and Harper slept in her Kevin costume.

PAULA/HARPER  
Competition day!

SUPER: COMPETITION DAY

They both spring out of bed. We stay with Harper.

HARPER'S BEDROOM:

Harper grabs her sword leaning against a bedside table.

Photos on a dresser of her with her MUM and DAD (late-30s), super happy. One with Harper, Joe, and Dave smiling around a cake that says, "WELCOME TO THE FAM, HARPER". Next to the photo of her parents is an old, brass Zippo lighter engraved "To Harriet, Love Cooper." The area around the text has been rubbed so many times, it's more polished than the rest of it. Harper picks up the Zippo, slowly runs her finger over the text, puts it in her pocket.

In a pretty frame is a gorgeous watercolour painting of Lucy and Kevin. A "FIRST PRIZE" blue ribbon with the Monster Assassins logo attached to the mirror.

Harper BOOPS the prize ribbon with her finger, then looks in the mirror and mimics Lucy.

HARPER

Mirror, mirror on the wall, who's the  
biggest fan of all?

She holds the sword up like Kevin's cardboard cut-out

HARPER (cont'd)

I am, bitches.

Harper walks out of the bedroom and down the

HALLWAY:

until she reaches the spare bedroom. The door is ajar. She hides behind the door and listens.

INT. DAVE AND JOE'S SPARE BEDROOM - MORNING

The curtains are drawn but we can see Scandinavian decor. A half-empty bottle of Chopper's vodka on the bedside table.

We only see Joe's hair sticking out from under the doona. Dave (mussed hair, jammies with a design from Nordacious), sits on the bed.



DAVE

Morning Joe. GI Joe. Do they JOE it's Christmas time? Ta much for sleeping in the spare room.

He leans over to kiss Joe, but RECOILS HOLY HECK STENCH!

DAVE (cont'd)

What in the name of Cate Blanchett is that smell? It's like... sausages made from dead feet.

Under the doona, Joe rolls away from Dave.

DAVE (cont'd)

Hey, it's competition day.

JOE

MRRRRRGHHH

DAVE

What do you mean you don't want to?

JOE

GGRRRRRGGGHHHHH

DAVE

For Harper? She's been like a coeliac in a gluten-free bakery all week.

JOE

AAGGGRHHRHGGGR

DAVE

Fine. Have it your way, stinky.

Dave GAGS, gets up from the bed.

DAVE (cont'd)

Brush your teeth soon, OK?

Dave walks out of the room into the

HALLWAY:

He closes the door when Harper pretends she was just passing by. She holds up her sword like Kevin.

HARPER

To all you monsters out there, you'd better check under your beds for us!

DAVE

Heck yeah, they'd better.

HARPER  
It's competition day.

DAVE  
Heck yeah it is.

HARPER  
What's up with Joe?

DAVE  
Too many drinks, methinks.

Harper slouches.

HARPER  
Is he going to be OK?

DAVE  
Eventually. But maybe not in time for  
the competition. Sorry, Harps.

HARPER  
He's supposed to help save the town  
from the monsters today.

DAVE  
Well, you can tell him how much of a  
monster he is when we get back.

HARPER  
Joe's not a monster.

DAVE  
He can be. When he hasn't had his  
coffee. When people on "Hard Quiz"  
don't know the answers to their own  
specialist subjects.

Harper CHUCKLES, this makes Dave smile.

DAVE (cont'd)  
Hey, we've got a lot to do this  
morning. It's competition day.

HARPER  
Heck yeah it is.

Harper smiles. Dave's about to walk away

HARPER (cont'd)  
Are you happy? With me here?

Dave turns around, bends down a little.

DAVE

Harper, you are the best thing that ever happened to me and Joe. You made us a family.

Harper beams.

DAVE (cont'd)

Now, let's find some organic vegan incense for that stinking heck hole.

Dave holds an invisible walkie talkie to his mouth.

DAVE (cont'd)

Ten-four, over, pssht.

So does Harper.

HARPER

Roger that, over and out, pssht.

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

A few dozen TOWNSFOLK in bloody and torn clothing, some with skin painted green, walk down the street to the gym.

EXT. THE GYM - DAY

Gym is closed. On a table close to the door are Paula's Lucy replica bow and some Nerf arrows, three Go-Pros in headbands, a bullhorn, and a tub of fake blood.

Paula in her Lucy costume hands out painted costumes to TOWNSFOLK who don't have their own. She fusses with everyone's outfit. No one is happy with this.

BARRY (early-20s, goth) and JANET (early-20s, goth), along with other TOWNSFOLK, dip their hands in the tub of fake blood and smear it over their clothes.

Harper joins Barry and Janet. They take turns swooshing Harper's sword. We see Harper dip a finger in the fake blood then lick it off. Barry and Janet wince. Harper eggs them on. Janet dips her fingertip in the blood and tastes it. Not bad. Barry gives it a go too. Mmm.

Dave pops over and gives them a playful frown.

Paula gives a real frown. Dave pretends to tell them off.

Paula looks across the road to Van's salon.

EXT. HAIR SALON "COMB ON, EILEEN" - DAY

A makeup station is set up outside the salon. Everyone wears some form of monster outfit.

A "LOST CATS" poster on the window.

Van sees Paula looking at her from across the street, she turns and faces the other way.

Van is doing makeup for RIVER (60s, boho). Chiyo, along with A BUNCH OF PEOPLE, sit in chairs while Van (monster outfit, green glitter eyeshadow, lipstick, green hair highlight) and a COUPLE OF MAKEUP ARTISTS paint people green, some have pustule prosthetics.

River is showing Van photos of her hairless cats on her phone. Van tries not to gag, but jeebus.

EXT. POLICE STATION - DAY - CONTINUOUS

In a SWAT-adjacent uniform, and carrying a super-soaker filled up with red cordial, Tim exits the police station and pulls the door closed. He DOES NOT have his keys on his belt.

A "LOST CATS" poster on the door.

As he steps away, we see a HOLE in the alley gate. Bits of bloody skin on the wire. The cats have gone.

INT. THE MANKY TURNIP PUB - DAY

Choppers and Pravat, both in monster outfits and makeup, are making sandwiches at the bar. A first-aid kit nearby.

INT. LUCY AND KEVIN'S SECRET HIDEOUT - DAY

Same room from an earlier video but we see more of it.

Art from fans and photos from conventions on a bookcase.

Lucy (messy hair, cat pjs and slippers) sits at one of two ergonomic chairs at a desk with a PC and large monitors. She has a cup of tea and vegemite on toast.

Lucy turns on the computer monitors. A browser window is open on Reddit's r/monster\_assassins page. If we look closely, we can see the username "KevinIsASpunk6969" next to some posts. Lucy sips her tea.

Kevin (PJs with his face on them, socks that look like gloves) yawning, carrying a cup of coffee with his face on it and a plate of Tim Tams.

LUCY  
You on Reddit again?

KEVIN  
It's called marketing. Why were these in the freezer?

LUCY  
They're better frozen.

KEVIN  
Weirdo.

LUCY  
Takes one to know one.

Kevin plops in the other chair. Puts his feet up on the desk. Lucy sees the socks and GAGS.

EXT. THE GYM - DAY

We can see some of the Fake Monsters who are in costumes walking down the street to wait.

Paula has her ring-binder and a list with names on it. No ticks next to Stacie, Brian, Joe, Des, or Troy. Her hand shakes a bit as her pen hovers over their names.

Tim, Dave, and Harper are chatting. Paula is not paying attention and searches the crowd.

TIM  
You two look great.

Dave puts his hand on his heart.

DAVE  
Anything for the fandom.

So does Harper.

HARPER  
For the fandom.

Dave searches the crowd.

DAVE  
Stacie and Brian?

Paula shakes her head. Dave raises a questioning eyebrow.

PAULA  
She... she thinks I'm way too  
obsessed with all this.

Dave doesn't not dispute this. Paula notices.

PAULA (cont'd)  
And she thinks it's real.

DAVE  
There are some compelling theories.

Paula squints at Dave.

In response, Dave quickly turns away from Paula and grabs a GoPro for himself and Harper. Tim puts his on.

HARPER  
I did a very complicated and highly  
technical thing that will  
automatically alternate whose footage  
gets livestreamed. It's way too  
complicated and technical to explain  
so just smile and nod.

Dave and Tim smile and nod.

Paula's pen still lingers over the names on the roll.

PAULA  
Has anyone seen Des and Troy?

Dave, Harper, and Tim shake their heads.

PAULA (cont'd)  
If Stacie said something to them--

Paula's hand goes to her forehead. She's not gonna cry.

Tim takes out his notepad, flips a few pages over.

TIM  
They had a few shots of that vodka--

DAVE  
--There's your answer. Joe was  
completely munted this morning.

INT. LUCY AND KEVIN'S SECRET HIDEOUT - DAY

Lucy and Kevin watching a clock on the computer countdown.

00:15

LUCY  
I really hope this doesn't end up  
like last year.

00:13

Kevin throws his hands up.

KEVIN  
Why did--? You jinxed it.

00:08

LUCY  
Oh, pfft.

KEVIN  
If anything bad happens, it's on you.

00:05

00:04

00:03

LUCY  
Fine.

00:02

Lucy and Kevin CLINK their cups together.

00:01

ON SCREEN:

"Welcome to the Monster Assassin's Video Competition!

We'll be judging your live videos and if we like yours the  
best, we're gonna come to your place for a whole day.

And for all you monsters out there, you'd better check  
underneath your beds for us! Let's go!"

VIDEO ONE

INT. COMPETITION ENTRANT'S KITCHEN - DAY

Just out of the camera's view, a MOTHER gently prods her  
FIVE-YEAR-OLD SON who is dressed up like Kevin.

MOTHER (O.S.)

OK, go.

INT. LUCY AND KEVIN'S SECRET HIDEOUT - DAY

KEVIN

Aww, it's me!

INT. COMPETITION ENTRANT'S KITCHEN - DAY

A hyperactive five-year old with a cardboard sword, chases a TALLER KID dressed in a dinosaur costume around the kitchen.

The five-year old stops and looks straight at the camera.

FIVE-YEAR OLD

Hey, monstersaurus, stop or I'll cut your head off and blood will gush out of your body and the floor will get red and Mum will have to clean it and she'll slip in the blood and she'll be all red and she'll say 'FUCK'--

The camera JOLTS.

MOTHER (O.S.)

Peter, did you tell your brother to say that? Get over here NOW!

The camera tilts over. It turns off.

INT. LUCY AND KEVIN'S SECRET HIDEOUT - DAY

KEVIN

Hah! That was brilliant.

LUCY

I wanna see what happens to Peter.

KEVIN

(to the screen)  
Turn the camera back on!

LUCY

They can't hear you.

KEVIN

Duh.



EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

Paula looks across the street again to the salon. Van still has her back to Paula. Paula grabs the loudspeaker and jogs over the road to the salon.

EXT. HAIR SALON "COMB ON, EILEEN" - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Van is working on the last FAKE MONSTER'S makeup. Paula admires her work.

PAULA

Wow.

Van pretends to not hear her.

PAULA (cont'd)

This is amazing.

Paula stands next to Van. Van can't ignore her now.

PAULA (cont'd)

So lifelike.

VAN

(short)

Thanks.

Paula is about to fiddle with the makeup.

VAN (cont'd)

(quietly)

Don't touch--

Paula pulls her hand back.

PAULA

I really think I'm going to win--

Van shakes her head with disbelief. Stops painting. She nods to the Fake Monster that she's finished; they jog away.

VAN

This isn't *your* competition, Paula.  
This is *our* competition. *Everyone's*.  
You have not done this on your own.  
*Everyone* here has helped you.

Paula steps back.

PAULA

Sorry, I misspoke.

VAN  
You do that a lot.

Van grips her makeup brush super tight. Paula sees this.

PAULA  
Hey, what's up?

Van takes a couple of seconds.

VAN  
I can't believe I'm going to say  
this, but Stacie is right.

PAULA  
You think monsters are real too?  
(checks her phone)  
Can we talk later?

VAN  
No, the obsessive bit. The sucking  
the fun out of everything bit. And  
this is the perfect time to have this  
conversation.

Anxious, Paula taps her thumb against her thigh.

PAULA  
What--? She called you a sycophant.

VAN  
And she was right.

PAULA  
Van, we really don't have time--

Van stands taller.

VAN  
The last few competitions, everything  
had to be perfect. Everything had to  
be okayed by you. You shut everyone  
out like these competitions are all  
that matter. I matter too.

PAULA  
Van, I--

VAN  
Stacie was right when she walked away  
from all of this, but I'm going to  
give you a choice. Our friendship or  
this competition?

Paula grabs her head like what is happening even. Van notices every nanosecond that passes.

INT. LUCY AND KEVIN'S SECRET HIDEOUT - DAY

Kevin takes a bite out of a Tim Tam. He can't hide how much he's enjoying it. Lucy sees his reaction and smiles.

LUCY  
I told you so.

ON SCREEN:

VIDEO TWO

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

At the end of a hallway is a cat dressed in Lucy's outfit. The cat sits on the floor, leg up, licking its butt.

CAT OWNER (O.C.)  
(softly)  
Pspspsp.

The cat looks up.

CAT OWNER (O.C.) (cont'd)  
(louder)  
Pspspspsp. Come here.

The cat goes back to licking.

The CAT OWNER (mid-50s, dressed in pyjamas with his cat's face) turns the camera on themselves.

CAT'S OWNER  
I'm so sorry. Love you, Lucy!

They blow a kiss and turn off the camera.

INT. LUCY AND KEVIN'S SECRET HIDEOUT - DAY

LUCY  
Adorbs. Winner so far.

KEVIN  
You're such a cat person.

LUCY  
You think that's an insult?

EXT. HAIR SALON "COMB ON, EILEEN" - DAY

Paula's phone BUZZES. Shaky hands pull it out of her pocket. Big disappointing look on Van's face. She drops her makeup brush on a table.

ON PAULA'S PHONE:

"GET READY, FELLOW MONSTER ASSASSINS!"

INT. LUCY AND KEVIN'S SECRET HIDEOUT - DAY

Lucy has a sip of tea. Kevin stuffs a Tim Tam in his mouth, chews a little bit, then opens his mouth to Lucy. Lucy tries to roll her eyes but ends up snorting tea out her nose.

ON SCREEN:

VIDEO FOUR

INT. A WHITE SPACE

A bit of movement behind a white sheet.

WHITE SHEET DUDE  
Wanna see my NFT?

The white sheet is pulled away to reveal... his butt.

INT. LUCY AND KEVIN'S SECRET HIDEOUT - DAY

LUCY  
Twat. Send that to his mum.

ON SCREEN:

VIDEO FIVE

EXT. HAIR SALON "COMB ON, EILEEN" - DAY

We hear a DING on Paula's phone. A notification reads

"LIVESTREAMING"

**Intercut footage from Paula, Tim, Dave, and Harper as needed until page 60**

Paula puts her phone back in her pocket. Through GoPro footage we see everyone in the street, all ready to go.

INT. LUCY AND KEVIN'S SECRET HIDEOUT - DAY

Lucy sits forward in her chair.

LUCY  
Ooh, points for costumes.

EXT. HAIR SALON "COMB ON, EILEEN" - DAY

Van sees Paula checking her phone as a loss. Her shoulders slump.

VAN  
I guess that's my answer.

PAULA  
I didn't, I was going to--Hang on.

Paula stands up straighter, stops tapping her thumb.

PAULA (cont'd)  
If you were my friend, you wouldn't make me choose. You know how much this means to me. Why can't I have both?

VAN  
I knew you'd-- You're not the little girl in the taco shell ad. You can't have both.

Paula shrinks. She looks around at all the people ready for the competition. Dave and Harper are tapping their bare wrists. Tim is doing a panicky dance.

The footage from Paula's GoPro tilts down as she slides her GoPro headband down. It hangs around her neck so we can still see. (We can see footage from Dave, Tim, Harper's).

Paula lifts the loudspeaker up to her mouth. She checks Van for a response. No response from Van. Paula squeezes the loudspeaker trigger SCREEEECH

PAULA  
(filtered)  
Hi everyone. We have to pull the plug on today. Extenuating circumstances. Thanks for coming. So sorry. Everyone gets a free PT session at The Gym. Tell me I sent you.

We see people in the crowd shrugging and walking off. Some stay where they are, chat to each other.

Van tries to hide that she's impressed with what Paula did.

PAULA (cont'd)  
You are my best friend. I thought you  
liked all this as much as I did.

VAN  
No one can like anything as much as  
you do.

Something at the end of the street catches Paula's eye.

VAN (cont'd)  
Are you even listening?

INT. LUCY AND KEVIN'S - DAY

KEVIN  
Are they quitting? Ooh, this a drama?  
Ooh, ooh, *cinéma vérité*.

LUCY  
Wow, film school finally paid off.

Lucy leans forward, a hint of a smile.

LUCY (cont'd)  
She's giving it all up for her  
friend. That's so lovely.

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

Dave, Harper and Tim jog over to Paula.

EXT. HAIR SALON "COMB ON, EILEEN" - DAY - CONTINUOUS

TIM  
What the what, P?

Paula is still looking towards the end of the street.

TIM (cont'd)  
You know we're still live streaming.

PAULA  
Is that--?

Paula, Tim, Dave, Harper, and Van look down the street where  
we see Stacie amid some FAKE MONSTERS. Is it Stacie tho?

The crowd of fake monsters part, all holding their noses. We see Stacie, but she's bigger. OMG SHE'S A GOSH DARN MONSTER.

MONSTER STACIE is in her dress from last night. Her victory rolls are matted, makeup is smudged. Green skin is covered with lesions that ooze pus and horrible stuff, but we still see her tattoos. Fingernails like CLAWS. Her eyes GLOW GREEN. No walking stick so she limps.

MONSTER STACIE  
GRRRRRRRRRGGGHHHHH

Fake monsters ogle at Monster Stacie's "costume."

INT. LUCY AND KEVIN'S SECRET HIDEOUT - DAY

Kevin opens his mouth, mid-Tim Tam.

KEVIN  
Ooh, plot twist.

Lucy's eyes are locked to the screen.

EXT. HAIR SALON "COMB ON, EILEEN" - DAY

Something clicks in Paula's head, she starts laughing.

PAULA  
Did you all plan this? Well done.

Van sees Stacie and shakes her head. Monster Stacie is getting closer to the salon.

VAN  
This wasn't planned.

Paula doesn't hear her.

PAULA  
Well, you got me, she looks amazing.  
Taller too. Stilts?

HARPER  
Must be.

Monster Stacie is a few meters away.

Paula remembers her headband, puts it on properly. She takes her phone out of her pocket. It's still LIVE STREAMING.

PAULA  
I guess we're still on.

Monster Stacie looks like a dog trying to understand French.

Monster Stacie STINKS. Everyone holds their nose.

Monster Stacie stands right next to Van. She starts tugging on Van's arm (the one with the tattoo). Van is trying to hold her nose.

VAN  
What do you want?

Monster Stacie tugs harder. Van tries to pull away.

A CRUNCH and a TEAR as Monster Stacie RIPS OFF Van's arm.

Van shocked, SCREAMS. BLOOD SPURTS from the wound.

Paula, Tim, Dave, and Harper gawk at the "special effects."

VAN (cont'd)  
WHAT THE FU--

Paula starts to play along. She picks up her bow and Nerf arrows off the ground. Paula does the twirly thing with the arrow, pulls back the string...

PAULA  
This monster needs assassinating.

TWANG the arrow bounces off Monster Stacie's torso.

Tim sprays Monster Stacie with his super soaker. Monster Stacie watches the red liquid on her dress spread like it's the most amazing thing ever.

Paula reloads and fires at the same time Monster Stacie bends down to pick up Paula's first arrow. Paula misses.

Monster Stacie drops Van's arm. Like an old doggo, Monster Stacie plods after Paula's arrow down the street.

VAN  
SOMEONE FUCKING HELP ME!

Van WRITHING on the ground, holding her bloody wound.

PAULA  
(whispers)  
That was great.

Van doesn't stop SCREAMING.

Harper and Dave are mesmerised.



Tim picks up the arm and has a closer look.

Shaking, Van struggles to say...

VAN  
Sta... Stacie...

PAULA  
(whispers)  
I can't believe she turned up after  
all that crap last night. She looks  
amazing, I'll give her that.

DAVE  
Holy guacamole.

Tim SNAPS out of his stupor, drops the arm, and clicks into  
COP MODE. Tim RIPS off his belt and ties it around what's  
left of Van's arm to stop bleeding.

TIM  
More like holy guacanopey. Paula, get  
Choppers. He's got a first-aid kit.

PAULA  
Huh?

Paula is in a daze; she picks the arm up from the ground.

PAULA (cont'd)  
You even drew your tattoo on it.

Van grabs at Tim's legs, smearing blood all over his pants.  
She gets hold of Tim's keys and pulls them off his belt. Tim  
doesn't notice.

Van passes out. Tim checks her pulse.

Tim grabs the arm from Paula and waves it around in her  
face. Blood spatters on her face.

TIM  
This is not a fake arm, Paula. Now  
get Choppers!

Paula sniffs the arm, smells it, puts her finger in the  
wound, examines the blood on her finger.

Frustrated, Tim yells towards the pub.

TIM  
CHOPPERS!

PAULA  
You could do this for movies, Van.

Van regains consciousness, SCREAMS, then passes out again.

TIM  
(to Van)  
It's going to be OK, OK?  
(yelling)  
CHOPPERS!

INT. LUCY AND KEVIN'S SECRET HIDEOUT - DAY

Kevin has his feet up on the desk, watching in wonder.

KEVIN  
These effects are amazeballs.

Lucy studies the screen closer. Something is off.

EXT. THE MANKY TURNIP PUB - DAY

Choppers pops his head out the door then walks like Frankenstein's monster to Tim, arms out, one hand holding the first-aid kit.

TIM  
Hurry up, she's hurt!

Tim SNATCHES the first-aid kit, grabs bandages.

Paula leans close to Tim. She whispers

PAULA  
You are a very good actor.

TIM  
I'm not acting.

Paula taps her finger to her nose a couple of times.

Choppers examines Van's wounds. HANG ON A GOSH DARN SEC.

CHOPPERS  
Is this... real blood?

PAULA  
Where would we get real blood from?  
And how can you tell the difference?

Paula pulls the arm out of her quiver. She dips her finger in the wound, blood drips down her finger.

PAULA (cont'd)  
It's red cordial and chocolate syrup.

Tim OGLES Paula as she's about to lick her finger.

TIM  
Paula, no!

Paula licks her finger. Blood on her lips. Hang on.

PAULA  
(to Harper)  
Isn't it supposed to be sweet?

Harper nods slowly. She tugs on Dave's arm, but Dave can't take his eyes away from what's happening.

Paula takes another lick.

PAULA (cont'd)  
Can't quite... Salty?

Choppers puts his fingers on Van's neck. He recoils.

CHOPPERS  
(to Tim)  
I don't think a bandage and some  
alcohol wipes will fix this.  
(to Van)  
A bandage and some alcohol wipes will  
definitely fix this.

Tim binds Van's wound with the bandages. He grabs Chopper's hand and puts it over the bandages.

TIM  
Hold this.

Van opens her eyes, they're bloodshot.

PAULA  
Love the contacts.

Tim grabs Paula by both shoulders to get her to focus.

TIM  
PAULA, STACIE IS A MONSTER.

PAULA  
Duh. After last night--

TIM  
This is really happening.

Paula motions to the fake monsters.

PAULA  
This is just dress ups. Cosplay. Fans  
being fans.

Tim almost pushes Van's arm in Paula's face.

TIM  
This isn't dress ups.

Harper is confused.

HARPER  
What are you talking about?

Dave grabs Van's arm and studies it closely. He bends the  
fingers.

Paula takes it off him and examines the arm again.

PAULA  
What? Nuh.

In a daze, she rubs the blood off her lips with one of her  
fingers. She looks at the blood. She looks at Van's body.

In the distance we hear SCREAMS and CRIES from the fake  
monster crowds from down the street.

Dave crouches down to have a closer look at where Van' arm  
used to be. His eyes BULGE. He stands up and pulls Harper  
closer to him.

Harper clings to Dave. He puts his arm around her.

DAVE  
I knew it was real.

Tim grabs the bullhorn. SQUAWK. Everyone winces.

TIM  
(filtered)  
Everyone into the police station.  
NOW.

Tim takes a step towards the station while he reaches for  
his keys which should be attached to his belt. Tim halts.

He also checks his pockets. Front and back. Shirt. Shit. All  
over again. Once more. FUUUUUCK.

TIM (cont'd)  
(filtered)  
Change of plans. Everyone into the  
gym. Please. Now. RUN.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Dave, Harper, and Tim run across the road to the gym. Tim GROANS as he tries to lift the door, but it's locked.

EXT. HAIR SALON "COMB ON, EILEEN" - DAY

Paula collapses on the ground next to Van's body. Paula shakes Van's leg to wake her up. Nothing.

PAULA  
Van?

From across the street, we hear Dave BANGING on the gym door.

DAVE (O.S.)  
Open the door, Paula.

Paula shakes Van's body.

PAULA  
Van?

Tim runs from the gym to where Paula is.

PAULA (cont'd)  
No no no no nuh-uh. Van?

Tim puts his arms under Paula's shoulders to lift her up. Paula's body tenses, she grips Van's legs.

When Tim drags Paula, Van's body follows.

PAULA (cont'd)  
I can't leave--Van??

TIM  
Come on.

Tim peels Paula's fingers off Van's body. He picks her up and guides her across the street. Paula's eyes are fixed on Van.

PAULA  
Stay there, I'll come back for you.  
(to Tim)  
We'll go back for her?

Tim starts to tear up as well. He lies to Paula.

TIM  
Yes.

EXT. THE GYM

Only a couple of townsfolk are outside the gym.

Harper looks down the street. There's a LARGER FIGURE behind Monster Stacie. Harper's eyes BULGE.

It's MONSTER BRIAN. Dressed in last night's clothes, all green and ewww, lumbering towards them. Monster Brian picks at his tattoo, Monster Stacie taps his arm, so he stops.

Monster Stacie and Monster Brian tear limbs and heads off people. SCREAMS cut short.

Harper tugs Dave's arm.

HARPER  
Dave. Dave. Dave.

DAVE  
Hang on, Harper.  
(beat)  
Paula, keys.

Tim now has Paula at the gym door.

Harper tugs harder on Dave's arm.

HARPER  
Dave. Dave. Dave.

Dave sees the fear on Harper's face. Dave follows Harper's line of sight until he sees Monster Brian as well.

Dave tugs on Paula's arm.

DAVE  
Paula. Paula. Paula.

Paula fumbles around her costume pockets for the gym key. A shaky hand pulls the keys out of her pocket. Tim's steady hand grabs them, unlocks the door, then lifts it up.

Dave pushes Harper inside while the door is still going up. She drops her sword on the pavement, annoyingly close to the door. No one notices.

Paula is about to go inside when she hears Choppers yelling. She starts mumbling something under her breath.

CHOPPERS (O.C.)

TIM!

PAULA

(audibly)

This is all my fault.

TIM

Choppers. I'm going back.

PAULA

(louder)

This is all my fault.

TIM

No, it's not.

PAULA

It's all... I'm coming with you.

TIM

No, you're not.

PAULA

I have to help--

Tim raises his eyebrows at Paula's bow and arrow. A painful dose of reality.

TIM

--With what? Nerf darts?

Paula raises her eyebrows at Tim's super-soaker.

Touché.

Bugger.

Choppers SCREAMS. Tim grabs Paula's arm.

TIM (cont'd)

Get everyone inside.

Tim runs towards Choppers.

Paula grabs Dave's arm.

PAULA  
Get everyone inside.

DAVE  
He just said that. Where are you--

PAULA  
--I have to help--

DAVE  
--With what? Nerf darts?

Paula starts to leave; Dave grabs her arm.

DAVE (cont'd)  
Paula. Stop.  
(grabs a Nerf arrow)  
This is not going to--

PAULA  
--but Tim--

DAVE  
--Tim is a trained police officer.  
You're just a fan with a toy weapon.

This stings Paula for a moment. Then she succumbs to it. Her shoulders slump.

EXT. DOWN THE STREET - DAY

Some FAKE MONSTERS lay dead, bloody, and missing limbs. Tim's hand shakes as he checks for a pulse on a BODY next to Choppers. Choppers is clutching a wound on his left leg. SO MUCH BLOOD.

Tim checks the pulse of a few bodies. They're all dead.

CHOPPERS  
Brian... he...

Tim picks up the first-aid kit, gives it to Choppers to hold, and helps Choppers to the gym.

MONSTER BRIAN  
RAAAWWWWRRRRR

Tim turns back. Monster Brian strokes his beard which is covered in green pus.

TIM  
Not the beard.



INT. LUCY AND KEVIN'S SECRET HIDEOUT - DAY

LUCY  
I don't like this.

KEVIN  
But it's the best one ever.

Lucy studies the screen close up.

LUCY  
I mean... It's not fake, it's real.

KEVIN  
They deserve a million awards for  
makeup and special effects.

LUCY  
(sternly)  
No one can do special effects like  
this live.

KEVIN  
(mocking)  
Lucy. It's not real. Settle, petal.

Lucy looms over Kevin.

LUCY  
Don't. Call. Me. Petal.

EXT. GYM - DAY

Paula watches as a fake monster SCREAMS running towards the gym. Monster Stacie grabs them, rips their head off. The body runs for a second longer.

Tim and Choppers are almost at the gym door.

Paula can see behind Monster Brian, a dozen of the pub customers who drank the vodka, all wearing last night's clothes, now MONSTER PUB PEEPS.

PANTING, Tim holds up Choppers while Paula drags the table just inside the gym entry.

INT. GYM - DAY

Choppers MOANS as they lay him on the table. Dave, Harper, Paula crowd around him.

Pravat saunters inside. He looks at his watch.

PRAVAT

That all looks amazing. Do you want the sandwiches yet? Oh, are we still live streaming?

TIM

There's more... Beard... I mean Brian... others... I need a weapon.

Pravat sees Choppers on the table, blood trickling steadily onto the ground below. Pravat marvelling at the effects.

PRAVAT

This is amazing.

Pravat leans closer. Hang on.

PRAVAT (cont'd)

Holy streaming shitballs, Batman.

Pravat faints on the floor. Harper pats Pravat's face.

HARPER

Pravat?

Pravat comes to, sees Choppers again, faints again.

Paula sees Tim has stopped in the doorway.

PAULA

Hurry up, Tim.

CHOPPERS

(breathy)

Tell--

HARPER

--Pravat? Wake up.

Harper pats Pravat's face again.

Paula leans closer to Choppers' mouth, squeezes his hand.

PAULA

Tell... What?

Tim unfreezes, grabs a bandage from the first aid kit and wraps it around Chopper's leg. The bandage seeps red.

CHOPPERS

Tell my--

PAULA

--Where are your weapons, Tim? Guns?

TIM

Keys.

PAULA

Is that an acronym for a weapon?

Tim stares at his feet.

TIM

I don't have my keys.

CHOPPERS

Tell my fam--

PAULA

--You what?

TIM

I lost them... Joe has a set.

DAVE

He's probably still at home. I'll give him a call.

PAULA

And how is he going to get here?

DAVE

We can cross that bridge after it's been built.

CHOPPERS

Tell my family I--

Dave gets his phone, calls Joe. It rings out.

Choppers stops moving. Paula checks his pulse. Pravat comes too, shakes his head in disbelief.

PRAVAT

What is happening?

PAULA

(panicking)

Choppers? Tell your family what?

She tries a few times to find a pulse. There isn't one.

Harper holds Chopper's hand.

Pravat steadies himself.

PRAVAT

What is happening?

DAVE  
Joe isn't answering.

PRAVAT  
No one is answering.

Paula has a brain spark. She grabs Harper by the shoulders and looks straight into her GoPro.

PAULA  
If you're watching please, please help us. I don't know what to do. Is this really real? Are you real? We're in Townsberg. Please hurry.

Paula at the gym door with the bullhorn, SQUAWK

PAULA  
Anyone who isn't a real monster, get in the gym.  
(beat)  
And anyone who is a real monster, go away? Please?

INT. LUCY AND KEVIN'S SECRET HIDEOUT - DAY

Kevin presses a button on a wall which slides to reveal a weapons locker. Bows, arrows, swords, knives, a flamethrower hang on a wall with silhouette paintings of each item.

KEVIN  
You jinxed it. This one is on you.

A glare from Lucy.

KEVIN (cont'd)  
We really should tell people.

LUCY  
You've met people, right?

Kevin takes a few weapons off the wall, gives them to Lucy who packs them in a heavy-duty bag.

Lucy smiles at a flamethrower with butterflies engraved on the barrel and kisses it.

EXT. THE GYM - DAY

We no longer see action via GoPros.

Paula looking down the street, she sees Monster Stacie, Monster Brian, and a couple of Monster Pub Peeps GROANING lumbering towards the gym.

Paula ushers River, Chiyo, Barry, and Janet inside.

Chiyo runs to Pravat, they have a big hug. They let go, Chiyo puts her hand up.

CHIYO  
So, I have some questions.

PRAVAT  
There's a queue.

Paula scans the street for life. So many DEAD BODIES on the ground. She holds a shaky hand to her forehead.

PAULA  
There's no one else?

Paula steps inside, rolls the door down, and locks it.

INT. THE GYM - DAY

It's dark except for some light coming from the back door.

Sounds of people BREATHING HEAVILY fill the gym.

Paula flips the light switch. The lights turn on with the CLUNK sound they make in movies.

PAULA  
Why is the back door open?

Paula motions to a fridge with drinks.

PAULA (cont'd)  
Help yourselves.

She runs to the back door, closes it, drags a metal weights frame to barricade the door and stacks weights on it.

Dave and Tim see her and jog over to help.

At the front, Harper hands out bottles from the fridge.

River finds a gym towel. With shaky hands she drapes it over Choppers' body. Blood seeping through the fibres.

Paula, Dave, Tim jog to the front of the gym. They all grab a bottle and have a drink.

Monsters BANGING on the other side of the door.

DAVE

OK. So, monsters are real.

RIVER

How?

PAULA

That doesn't matter anymore. They are real, and they're outside, and they killed my best friend, and everyone's favourite bartender.

TIM

(to Pravat)

I guess you're number one now?

PRAVAT

Only by default.

Dave finds a box of protein bars, puts them on the counter. Motions to people to come and grab one. They all do.

Paula looks at him like dude, that's my stuff. Dave looks at her like sorry, should have asked. Paula looks at Dave like, OK, fine. Dave looks at Paula, phew.

Chiyo grabs a bar and studies the label on the back.

CHIYO

Do these have dairy?

RIVER

Dearie me, Chiyo, there are monsters outside, does it really matter?

Chiyo saunters up to River, sticks her face in River's.

CHIYO

If you are going to be stuck in here with me and I eat something with dairy, then yeah, River, it's gonna matter. In about twenty minutes, it's really gonna matter.

RIVER

Well, so many people fake it.

CHIYO

How do you know? Don't be so lactose intolerance intolerant.

River SCOFFS.

PAULA  
No dairy, Chiyo.

Chiyo unwraps it, takes a bite. Yum.

Paula's phone VIBRATES. It's a video chat notification.  
Paula's shaky hand hits the OK button.

ON SCREEN:

It's Kevin in aviator sunnies and a headset. There's a LOUD  
RUMBLE. We can see he's in a helicopter.

INT. HELICOPTER - DAY/INT. GYM - DAY - SPLIT SCREEN

Kevin waves happily. Lifts his sunnies up.

KEVIN  
Paula! There you are.

Paula, hand on heart, can't help but fangirl and RAMBLE.

PAULA  
Holy fucking shit balls. This is  
really real? It's all shitting real.  
I've said real so many times today it  
should be a drinking game.

Harper gets her face in the video frame.

Harper sees Lucy on screen, fangirls and waves.

HARPER  
Hello-o-o-o-o-o-o-o.  
(to herself)  
Stop being an idiot.  
(to Lucy and Kevin)  
Howdy, ma'am and good day, sir.

Harper facepalms herself and retreats.

Kevin turns the camera a little to see Lucy in aviator  
sunnies and headset. Lucy nods hello.

Tim sticks his head in the frame.

TIM  
Ah, excuse me, hello, wow, it's  
really you. I can't believe it's--  
stop, Tim. Just letting you know it's  
an offence to operate a mobile phone  
while driving a vehicle.

PAULA  
They're in a helicopter.

TIM  
Ah, that's OK then.  
(beat)  
I love your show, but the way.

KEVIN  
Thank you, Sergeant Tim.

Tim's eyes grow wide.

TIM  
He knows my name.

Tim backs out of the frame.

KEVIN  
I gotta say, first up, your video was  
so kick-arse you were going to win.

PAULA  
It's our video.

Paula sobs. Lucy takes the phone from Kevin. Kevin scowls.

LUCY  
We can discuss that later. Paula, we  
have a lot to cover so focus.

PAULA  
You should tell people monsters are  
real.

Kevin leans into frame with a "that's what I said" look.

LUCY  
Have you met people? Anyway--

Dave gets his head in the frame.

DAVE  
Kevin, are you kevinisaspunk6969?

Kevin gives Dave a big wink. Dave internally combusts.

Lucy sighs like an impatient teacher.

LUCY  
Harper, can you take notes?

Harper pops back into the frame GIDDY AF and nods.



Tim hands Harper his notepad and pen. She flips it to a blank page.

LUCY (cont'd)  
It looks like you're in a safe place.

Paula holds the phone out to give Lucy a look at the gym. As people get in frame they WAVE to Lucy.

PAULA  
(rambling)  
It's my gym. I own a gym. It's mine.  
It's called 'The Gym' because you  
always say, "I'm going to the gym"  
and that's what this gym is called  
so--

LUCY  
--We can discuss that later as well.  
(beat)  
First, barricade all the doors and  
windows. Now, I will only say this  
four hundred and ninety-seven  
thousand times. Do not go outside. Do  
not be a hero. Everyone, repeat after  
me. I will not go outside.

Harper writes in the notepad as everyone in the gym says it.

EVERYONE  
I will not go outside.

LUCY  
I will not be a hero.

EVERYONE  
I will not be a hero.

Tim leans closer into frame for a moment. BIG SMILE.

TIM  
That's my notepad.

LUCY  
It's aptly fulfilling its purpose.

Tim pauses, translates in his brain, then TITTERS.

LUCY (cont'd)  
If either of you go outside or try to  
be a hero and you die, I will not be  
happy. Got it?

Kevin leans into frame.

KEVIN  
You're already heroes in my book.

PAULA, DAVE, TIM, HARPER  
Awwwww.

LUCY  
(to Kevin)  
I will kick you out.

HARPER  
Wow, it's just like in the series.

LUCY  
He is like this one hundred hours a day. Recap: Do not go outside. Do not be a hero. Next. In case you need to defend yourselves so see what you can use to cause a great deal of harm.  
(beat)  
One more thing. Don't walk backwards.

Everyone looks confused.

LUCY (cont'd)  
Whenever someone walks backwards in a horror movie, they trip over something, they fall down, they die.

Dave leans into frame holding his phone up for a selfie, lining up the camera shot so he is in the frame with Lucy on Paula's screen and takes a photo.

PAULA  
How long will you be?

We see Lucy lean forward to the cockpit where BERYL (50s, Top Gun cosplay) mouths something.

LUCY  
It's very convenient that you're only about thirty minutes away.

PAULA  
That is very convenient. Although, I was hoping for right now.

HARPER  
Why is this happening?

Lucy drops her coolness.

LUCY

Honestly, I have no idea. Maybe you can have a think while you're waiting for us? Anything odd happen recently? New people in town? Did someone pollute the town's water supply? Mix up in a laboratory?

(beat)

We will be there as fast as we can.

HARPER

Thank you.

PAULA

Thanks.

LUCY

Don't go outside. Don't be a hero.  
Don't walk backwards.

Paula and Harper nod. Lucy ends the call.

BACK TO:

INT. GYM - DAY.

Paula jumps up onto the counter and grabs a water bottle.

Harper gives Tim his notepad. He's like Gollum/Smeagol.

TIM

I can't believe it was them. This is the best day ever.

(beat)

No, people have died.

(beat)

But she liked my notepad.

(beat)

I'm so conflicted.

PAULA

OK, you heard her, we need things that will cause a great deal of harm.

CHIYO

Like inaction on climate change?

Nods and snickers.

PAULA

Hah, maybe not--

HARPER  
--Microplastics?

PAULA  
No--

RIVER  
--Opening new coal mines.

PAULA  
This isn't help--

RIVER  
--Not back burning before bushfire  
season.

Defeated, Paula lies down on the counter.

PRAVAT  
It's always bushfire season nowadays.

BARRY  
Yeah, it's only getting worse.

HARPER  
The wealth gap.

HMMMS in the crowd.

JANET  
Corporations not paying their fair  
share of tax.

BARRY  
First world countries exploiting  
workers in third world countries.

CHIYO  
They are the real monsters.

JANET  
That is the worst.

TIM  
Single-use plastics.

Paula sits up, KNOCKS on the counter. People stop talking.

PAULA  
Yes, we have a lot to work on as a  
society, but now, we have more  
immediate consequences outside.

River raises her hand slowly.

PAULA (cont'd)  
(gritted teeth)  
Wut.

RIVER  
We can tie kettlebells to resistance  
bands like those spinny hammer throw  
things at the Olympics.

Paula is AGOG, like AGOG AGOG.

PAULA  
That is brilliant.  
(to the crowd)  
Get cracking people. And anything  
else you can find here, physical, not  
ideological, please.

Everyone spreads around the gym finding things.

Barry gets some masking tape from a drawer behind the  
counter then joins Janet, standing in front of a wall that  
has exercise balls mounted in hoop-type-things.

Janet takes one and holds it to Barry's stomach.

Barry holds the ball in place as Janet sticks the beginning  
of the tape on the exercise ball then runs around with the  
tape clockwise, while Barry spins counterclockwise,  
strapping Barry and the exercise ball together.

Barry gives two thumbs up. Dave sees what they've done.

DAVE  
And then what?

Barry and Janet stand still for a moment.

Janet gets an exercise ball and gives Dave the masking tape.  
Dave tapes the exercise ball to her as well.

Barry and Janet run into each other like those sumo wrestler  
suits. They bounce off each other, land on their backs. They  
look like turtles. Dave helps them up.

DAVE (cont'd)  
And then what?

BARRY  
No monster is gonna eat us.

DAVE  
Not unless they get you from behind.

Barry thinks for a moment. Barry gets another exercise ball. There's no tape left.

DAVE (cont'd)  
(sarky)  
Awww darn, we're out of tape.

PAULA (O.S.)  
(yelling)  
More tape in the storeroom.

DAVE  
(not sarky)  
Awww darn.

Dave sees Harper with River. Harper is tying stretch bands to kettlebells.

Dave puts his arm around Harper's shoulder.

DAVE (cont'd)  
How are you doing? You OK?

HARPER  
We're being attacked by monsters and there are dead people all over the street and we still haven't seen Joe. Do you think he's one of--

DAVE  
--I don't know, Harps. I'm sorry.

Harper starts crying. Dave gives her a BIG hug. He lets go. He tries to make her laugh.

DAVE (cont'd)  
I have to get some tape for Tweedle Dumb and Tweedle Dumb as fuck.

Harper sniffles and chuckles.

HARPER  
What's a Tweedle Dumb?

Dave snorts.

DAVE  
We're watching "Alice in Wonderland" tomorrow.

Harper holds an invisible walkie talkie

HARPER  
Roger that, over pssht.

So does Dave

DAVE  
Roger. Over and out, pssht.

STOREROOM:

At the back of the gym, Dave studies the storeroom door.  
Crosses himself like a Catholic.

DAVE (cont'd)  
In the name of Chris, and of Liam,  
and of...  
(blank)  
the other Hemsworth, Amen.

He opens the swinging door slowly until we can see a dark storeroom, some tall shelves, and old equipment. A door at the back of the storeroom that leads outside is closed.

Dave's hand PATS the wall until CLICK, the lights turn on with a CLANK.

DAVE (cont'd)  
Why do they make that loud noise?  
They're lights.

He takes a small step inside, one foot lightly touching the floor. He puts the foot down. Holding his breath, he scans the room. The door closes behind him.

A SCRATCH SCRATCH SCRATCH GROWL. Dave FREEZES.

One of the alleyway cats, now BIGGER, pounces out of a box on a high shelf and lands on Dave's shoulder. GREEN EYES FLASH.

Dave JUMPS and KICKS the cat away. It runs under a shelf.

Just as Dave settles, ANOTHER CAT pounces out of the same box and lands on Dave's shoulder. It jumps to the floor and starts to CLAW its way up Dave's pants.

He KICKS his leg back and forth until the cat jumps off and runs under a shelf. Hand on his heart.

DAVE (cont'd)  
Jesus, Mary, and Joseph Gordon-Levitt.

Dave pauses. FLINCHES AT NOTHING.

Dave spots a box marked "PEN'S AND THING'S."

Dave WINCES. He pulls his phone out of his pocket, takes a photo of the box and posts it on the "Incorrectly Used Apostrophes" Facebook page with an upside down face emoji.

He sticks his hand in the box and rummages around until

DAVE (cont'd)

Ow!

He yanks his hand out. One finger has a ball of blood forming on the tip. He pulls out a Stanley knife from the box, its blade is out, blood on the tip.

With his other hand, he pulls two rolls of duct tape from the box. Blood from his finger drip drip drips on the floor.

Dave is about to turn walk out when ANOTHER FUCKING CAT pounces from the shelf. It lands on Dave's shoulder.

Dave SHAKES his whole body. The cat jumps down to the floor where Dave's blood has fallen. It LICKS Dave's blood.

DAVE (cont'd)

Ewww.

Dave SHOOS the cat away. It runs under a shelf.

He turns off the lights CLANK, walks out, the door closes.

BACK OF THE GYM:

He rolls the duct tape along the floor to Barry and Janet.

DAVE (cont'd)

Oi.

Barry and Janet can't bend so Harper picks up the tape and starts wrapping the other exercise balls to their backs.

Dave examines his bleeding finger and opens the bathroom door with his other hand.

The door swings open. It's dark inside. Dave is about to step inside, but he halts mid-step.

DAVE (cont'd)

Any cats in here? Monsters?

He feels around for the light switch. PAT PAT CLICK. Lights on CLANK. We see his bloody fingerprint around the light switch. There's a sink and three toilet stalls inside.

BATHROOM:



One by one, Dave kicks the stall doors open to see if there's anything inside.

Out of nowhere...

PAULA  
Why are you kicking my doors?

Dave JUMPS and OMG has a mini heart attack.

DAVE  
I had to check.

PAULA  
Yeah, well, you better check yourself  
before you wreck... my doors.  
(beat)  
That didn't work.

Dave's finger is dropping BLOOD on the floor. He runs his finger under a tap. Water and blood swirl down the drain.

PAULA (cont'd)  
Band-aids in the storeroom next to  
the box with the Stanley knives which  
I see you have already found.

DAVE  
Thanks.

Paula is about to leave when

DAVE (cont'd)  
Are you keeping cats in the  
storeroom?

PAULA  
Huh?

DAVE  
Three cats in the storeroom.

PAULA  
What kind of cats?

DAVE  
Like River's hairless ones but way  
bigger.

PAULA  
Have you seen Rivers' cats before?

DAVE  
Only the photo on the sign.

PAULA  
So, they could be big anyway?

DAVE  
Huh?

PAULA  
(to herself)  
No banana for scale.  
(beat)  
Can you barricade the storeroom so  
the cats don't get out?

Dave nods.

PAULA (cont'd)  
Don't tell River yet, she'll want to  
see them. Van will be happy she  
doesn't have to see those posters-

Paula chokes up.

Pravat waves to Paula from the front counter.

DAVE  
I'll block the door after I get band-  
aids and whatever else I can find.  
Look after Harper.

Paula gives Dave a quick hug.

PAULA  
Of course I will.

Dave goes into the storeroom. Paula nods and jogs to the  
FRONT OF THE GYM:

Tim and Chiyo are making a slingshot out of the frame of a  
bench press, a stretchy band, and small weights.

Paula reaches Pravat who is holding a Stanley knife.

PRAVAT  
What's your favourite scary movie?

PAULA  
This is not the time for quoting 90s  
slashers, Pravat.

PRAVAT

That's not, doesn't matter. Although  
Scream was a very important movie in  
the genre, doesn't matter, another  
one of my favourites is Pet Sematary.

Tim perks up.

TIM

Original or remake?

PRAVAT

Ori-

PAULA

Stop-

PRAVAT

Doesn't matter. One scene in that  
film is one of the most cringe-  
inducing scenes in the history of  
horror movies.

PAULA

No time for listicles either.

PRAVAT

Gage, he's four, brought back from--  
doesn't matter. He gets a scalpel and  
slices this guy's Achilles tendons,  
and he falls down because he can't  
walk with severed tendons.

Pravat holds up the Stanley knife.

PRAVAT (cont'd)

Can you roll the door up just a  
smidge for some tendon severing?

Paula is about to say no when

PRAVAT (cont'd)

We are not going "fully" outside.

Paula contemplates then nods.

There's still BANG BANG BANGING on the door from outside.

PAULA

There's more in the drawer.

Pravat grabs three, hands them to Harper, Chiyo, and Tim.

Like a Busby Berkley routine, Pravat pushes the blade up with his thumb.

Harper pushes the blade up with her thumb.

Chiyo pushes the blade up with her thumb.

Tim is trying to push up the blade with his thumb but it's locked.

TIM  
Safety lock. Sorry.

Paula holds the winch handle that rolls up the door.

Pravat, Harper, Tim, and Chiyo lay down on the ground.

Paula opens the door five centimetres. The GROANS and GRRRS from the monsters outside are LOUDER.

Pravat, Harper, Tim, and Chiyo try to get their hands with the knife under the door. Pravat shakes his head.

Paula opens it a bit more. Pravat nods. Paula locks the chain in place.

Paula lays flat on the floor next to Harper.

From where she lies, Paula sees DEAD TOWNSFOLK lying in the street. Limbs scattered. Blood e-ve-ry-where.

She sees Van.

EYES WIDE Paula holds a hand to her mouth to stop her from screaming. Tears roll down her cheeks.

Outside, Monsters Stacie and Brian, and a couple of Monster Pub Peeps pick at bodies and bones like vultures.

Harper GASPS. Paula takes the hand off her mouth and puts it on Harper's arm. Harper is silent.

Chiyo's jaw drops. She's about to scream when Pravat puts his hand on her arm. She stops. Pravat holds her arm tighter. Chiyo looks at Pravat, calms, nods her head.

Across the street, Paula can see The Manky Turnip. The windows have been smashed.

In the alleyway, Paula sees a PUB PATRON. Their eyes meet. The Pub Patron perks up and WAVES.

Paula also sees Monster Stacie watching the Pub Patron. Paula signals SHHH, but the Pub Patron keeps waving.

Monster Stacie CLOMPS over to the alleyway. She RIPS the gate off the hinges and enters the alleyway blocking our view. All we hear is

PUB PATRON  
AArrrrgggghhhhhhhh

Paula can't help but let out a WHIMPER. This alerts the other monsters. They plod to the gym door and BANG on it.

Pravat et al. extend their arms under the door a little. We see the blades SLASH and STAB at the monsters' feet. BLOOD GOES EVERYWHERE. SPURTS out of their ankles. Ouchie.

MONSTER STACIE  
ARRRRHRHRHHHGHGHGH

MONSTER BRIAN  
GGARRRRHHHRHHGHGHGH

THUD THUD as we see through the gap Monster Stacie and Monster Brian falling to the ground.

Other Monsters CLOMP over to the door, their ankles get sliced as well.

One problem tho...

The GASHES and CUTS are HEALING THEMSELVES. There's a GREEN TINGE in the wounds as they heal. HOLY SHIT STICKS.

Paula, Pravat, Harper, Tim, and Chiyo GAWK as Monster Stacie and Monster Brian's feet are now fully healed.

From her position, Paula sees the crate with the vodka logo.

The Monsters get back up, BANG on the door louder than before. Each BANG dents the iron door inwards.

The gang all get up and back away from the door.

Paula lowers the door again, locks the chain in place.

Paula's blank face. Then BRAIN SPARK!

Her shaky hands enter her pin on her phone. Wrong number. Darn it. Slow down. Again. Success. She hits play on a video app. It's the webisode in the alleyway with the demon cat.

Pravat sees Paula watching a video and is NOT HAPPY, JAN.

PRAVAT  
Now? Really?

Pravat tries to GRAB her phone, but Paula shoves him away with her palm like Iron Man.

Harper watches by her side.

PAULA  
SHUSHHHHHHHH

ON SCREEN:

EXT. TIERED CAR PARK - NIGHT

"MONSTER ASSASSINS EP19 THE ONE WITH THE SLIME SERPENT"

As before: A poorly lit tiered car park. The back wall is lined with wheelie bins and dumpsters. A couple of empty crates with the vodka logo.

A PAUSE SYMBOL ON SCREEN to see the crate logo.

A FAST FORWARD SYMBOL ON SCREEN then A PLAY SYMBOL

Kevin SWOOSHES his sword and CUTS the snake's head off.

LUCY  
I hate snakes.

KEVIN  
You hate everything.

HANG ON A BROTHER FLIPPING MINUTE the snake's body joins up with the head. The healing wound GLOWS GREEN. The snake is whole again. It wriggles its body until the arrow has been dislodged. This wound also glows green as it heals.

It lands SPLAT on the floor in a pool of goo.

LUCY  
Why won't you die?

Kevin presses a button on his sword. AWESOME SLO-MO MOMENT as flames shoot out of the hilt and WHOOSH up both sides of the blade. This is so cool.

Kevin WHOOSHES so quickly we only see the blur of fire.

Flaming pieces of the snake fall on the ground in the order in which they were sliced, like in a Japanese restaurant.

Once on the ground, the snake bits BURSTS into flames. Then POOF they all disappear in a puff of green smoke.

LUCY (cont'd)  
I don't hate everything. I do like  
the ones that clean up after  
themselves.

KEVIN  
Another one with green eyes. That's  
weird.

INT. GYM - DAY

Paula opens her phone's video chat, she calls Lucy and Kevin  
in the helicopter. Phone battery is half full. Harper leans  
over her shoulder.

INT. HELICOPTER. DAY/INT. GYM INTERCUT

LUCY  
How's--

PAULA  
--The monsters. Their wounds healed.

LUCY  
You went outside?

PAULA  
Just our hands. We sliced their feet  
with Stanley knives under the door.

KEVIN  
Pet Sematary.

Pravat sticks his head in frame.

PRAVAT  
How good is--

PAULA  
(to Pravat)  
--OHMYGODSHUTHEFUCKUP.

Pravat is PETRIFIED

HARPER  
Slime serpent in the car park, its  
eyes were

Green

PAULA AND HARPER

Green LUCY

PAULA  
Yes. Its wounds healed. It didn't die  
until you set it

PAULA AND HARPER                      KEVIN  
On fire.                      Alight.

KEVIN  
with my sword.

HARPER  
Yes.

Another puzzle piece clicks in place for Paula.

PAULA  
And the crate. The crate in the video  
has the same logo as Chopper's vodka.  
It must be connected.

Lucy processes this. Kevin puts his hand up.

KEVIN  
Uh, what's a Choppers?

PAULA  
He owns the pub. Owned.

KEVIN  
Oh. Sorry about that.

Lucy connects the dots.

LUCY  
Why didn't I thi--? How did you both  
figure all that out?

Paula has never been so gosh darn proud.

HARPER  
We're big fans.

KEVIN  
Well, you just saved the day.

Can they beam any beamier?

LUCY  
Green eyes, that also explains the

PAULA AND HARPER                      LUCY  
Spiders                      Spiders



PAULA  
in the

PAULA AND HARPER KEVIN  
Supermarket. Deli.

KEVIN (cont'd)  
Hey, I saw one of my swords in your  
video. It should light up like mine.

HARPER  
It's real?

KEVIN  
Hells yeah. Did you win last year's  
art comp? It's from my own  
collection.

Harper can't raise her eyebrows high enough. She pats her  
sheath; the sword isn't there. Dang.

HARPER  
It's not here.

PAULA  
What?

PRAVAT  
What?

Harper gets super teary and looks around her.

HARPER  
It must be outside.

LUCY KEVIN  
Do not go outside. Leave it.

PAULA  
OK. So, we make our own fire.

Tim shoots his hand up.

TIM  
There's a flamethrower in the  
station.

PAULA  
(with gritted teeth)  
How do we get in there, Tim?

Tim wishes he'd never been born.

Paula's eyes scan the counter. She sees the Perspex box with body spray cans. She is about to hand Tim her keys when she BALKS and gives them to Chiyo instead. Tim looks sad. Chiyo unlocks the box, pulls out cans of body spray, lines them up on the counter.

PAULA (cont'd)  
Does anyone have a lighter?

Everyone shakes their heads. Everyone except Harper.

Harper's hand slips in her pocket. She slowly puts out her Zippo. She holds it tight, then hands it to Paula. River sees this and SCOFFS.

RIVER  
Do you smoke? No wonder your generation can't afford to buy a house.

HARPER  
My gener--I'm thirteen.  
(defensive beat)  
Neither can yours.

CHIYO  
Not in this economy.

River begrudgingly nods her head in agreement.

Paula looks at the engraving, "To Harriet, Love Cooper" and holds her hand on her heart.

PAULA  
Your parents'?

Harper looks at her feet and nods.

HARPER  
Yup. That's the only thing of theirs that was found after the incident.

Paula puts her arm around Harper.

PAULA  
I just realised your name. Half Harriet, half Cooper.

HARPER  
Yeah, Cooriet didn't work.

Paula squeezes Harper in a hug.

PAULA  
You doing OK?

Harper ignores the question and looks around the gym searching for Dave.

HARPER  
Where's Dave?

Paula holds her phone in front of her face to see Kevin.

PAULA  
(to Harper)  
Barricading the storeroom door.  
(to Kevin)  
How much longer?

Harper looks towards the back of the gym. No Dave.

KEVIN  
Ten, fifteen tops.

Harper taps Paula's arm.

HARPER  
No, he's not.

PAULA  
(to Kevin)  
OK, we can hold out until--  
(to Harper)  
He was getting a band-aid then--

Paula looks to the back of the gym. No Dave.

PAULA (cont'd)  
(to Harper)  
He was just--  
(to Kevin)  
Can you please hurry up.

From inside the STOREROOM, we hear Dave HOWLING IN PAIN followed by an awfully loud CRUNCHCHCHCHCHCHCH

Paula et al. turn to see where the noise is coming from.

Eyes WIDE OPEN IN SHOCK as we see Dave's LIMP BODY tossed out of the storeroom like a broken doll.

Harper RUNS towards Dave.

Paula drops her phone and RUNS to stop Harper.

Harper LURCHES forward to reach out to Dave but Paula grabs her first, then River. Paula and River hold Harper close to their bodies. Harper SQUIRMS, they hold her tighter.

MONSTER DES and MONSTER TROY BURST out of the storeroom like Kool-Aid dudes breaking the doorway. They are MASSIVE with MUSCLES THE SIZE OF CORGIS, green skin, shiny pustules.

Blood DRIPPING from their hands like runny gloves. Tuxedo singlets from last night have been stretched tight over their bodies, stained with pus. Ewwwwwwww.

Pravat helps Dave to get up. Dave HOWLS in pain.

HARPER

He's still--

Harper breaks free from River and Paula's grip. She starts running towards Dave when out of the storeroom CLOMPS MONSTER JOE oh bummer.

Harper freezes.

Monster Joe SWIPES at Pravat, knocking him through the air back to the counter and lands with a THUD. Chiyo rushes to Pravat. He's OK but sore.

Monster Joe picks up Dave's body. Rips his head off with his spine like in Mortal Kombat. So much blood. Ewww.

PAULA

Holy shit balls.

TIM

What are they even doing here?

PAULA

It is leg day.

Tim tries the Crocodile Dundee hypnotising thing with Monster Joe. It seems to work, then Monster Joe flicks Dave's spine at Tim like a whip. Tim retreats.

Harper's eyes frozen on Monster Joe until she hears Paula

PAULA (cont'd)

Duck.

Harper ducks. A WHOOSH sound above her. Something hits Monster Joe hard in the gut OOOOF.

Harper turns around to see Tim and River using the self-made slingshot, firing dumbbells towards Monsters Joe, Des, and Troy. She dashes to safety behind them.

River picks up a stretchy band/kettlebell, whirls it around her head and FLINGS it towards the Monsters Des and Troy. SMACK it hits Monster Troy in the head. BLOOD gushes out of the wound which goes green and heals after a few seconds.

RIVER

Bugger.

Monster Des picks up Barry and throws him against the wall. He bounces off the wall and hits Monster Joe on the rebound. Monster Joe falls down, gets back up.

Monster Joe CRUSHES Barry's exercise balls until they POP.

Monster Joe then holds up Barry like a muesli bar and RIPS his head off with his teeth. CRUNCH CRUNCH CRUNCH.

Monster Joe tosses Barry's limp body aside.

JANET

I regret everything!

Janet tries to waddle away but Monster Troy picks her up and throws her against the wall. Like Barry, she bounces off the wall and hits Monster Joe on the rebound. Monster Joe falls down, gets back up.

Monster Joe CRUSHES Janet's exercise balls until they POP.

Monster Joe then holds up Janet like a muesli bar and RIPS her head off with his teeth. CRUNCH CRUNCH CRUNCH.

MEANWHILE:

Monster Stacie et al. Are still BANGING on the door.

From Paula's phone we hear Lucy yelling.

LUCY

Paula. Paula.

Paula picks up her phone. Battery is nearly dead.

PAULA

Where are you?

LUCY

Five minutes.

PAULA

We have to get out of here.

Tim, River, Chiyo keep firing weights at the monsters.

KEVIN

No, you don't know how many are outside.

PAULA

Stop being so inconveniently reasonable. Hurry up.

Paula tosses her phone aside, dashes to the counter. Gives the lighter to Harper.

Paula grabs a can of Lynx, POPS the lid off. Harper lights the Zippo. A flame dances for what seems like an eternity.

Paula pinches her nose with one hand and aims the Lynx spray nozzle just behind the flame.

PAULA (cont'd)

Heck this stinks. Watch your face.

Harper turns her face away. Paula presses the nozzle.

WHOOOFFFFF a GIANT AEROSOL FLAME reaches Monster Des.

Everyone GAGS on the smell of Lynx, pinching their noses.

HARPER

How does anyone like this smell?

PAULA

No one does. It's a lie perpetuated by men in suits from Big Deodorant.

Monster Des' skin catches on fire. Skin BUBBLES and POPS, pustules BOIL and BURST. Monster Des tries to wave his arms free of fire, but the action makes the flames bigger.

Monster Des runs around, arms flailing. Paula sighs.

PAULA

Those biceps.

River grabs another stretchy band kettlebell, swings it around her head and lets it go. It glides through the air until it lands SMACK in Monster Des' burning face. Blood pours out of a cracked skull.

Monster Des runs TOWARDS RIVER as she bends and reaches for another projectile.

Tim sees this.

TIM

River!

Tim RUSHES to River to push her out of the way but River is now building up inertia by swinging a stretchy band kettlebell around and around which goes

THWACK

into the side of Tim's head. River freezes.

RIVER

Tim, I... I...

PAULA

No no no no no!

Tim stops, pulls his notepad out of his pocket. He salutes, gives it to River, and falls down dead.

Paula starts to run towards Tim, this time, Harper is the one who holds her back.

HARPER

(to Paula)

You can't help him.

Pravat fires a dumbbell, hits Monster Des in the knee.

Monster Des falls down. Like a flaming Hungry Hungry Hippo, he reaches out for River's legs and pulls her towards him. Flames spread up River's legs, body, burning her clothes and hair. River SCREAMS until she stops screaming.

Chiyo and Pravat using the sling shot to hurl dumbbells at Monster Troy and Monster Joe.

Paula grabs the Lynx can and points it towards Monster Troy.

Harper FLICK FLICK FLICK FLICKING the lighter

PAULA

Come on.

A FLAME. Paula presses the nozzle. Another WHOOF of fire towards Monster Troy. His singlet catches fire. He tries to pat the fire out and rushes towards Paula and Harper.

Another FLAME another WHOOF. Monster Troy is FULLY LIT. Skin boils and ewww. Monster Troy falls down dead.

Only Monster Joe is left. Chiyo and Pravat only have a couple of dumbbells left. They FIRE one at Monster Joe. THWACK. Monster Joe falls down.

Paula grabs another can. Harper is trying to light the Zippo FLICK FLICK FLICK nothing. She starts SOBBING.

HARPER  
I can't...

PAULA  
Yes, you can.

HARPER  
I can't...

Paula rests her hand on Harper's shoulder.

PAULA  
Harper, it's not Joe anymore.

HARPER  
Duh. I can't get the lighter to work.

Paula takes the lighter, gives it a SHAKE and tries to light it again FLICK FLICK FLICK. Nothing.

PAULA  
When did you last fill this up?

HARPER  
Why would I fill up a lighter I never use? Why would I know lighters need to be filled in the first place?

Pravat looks in a drawer behind the counter, pulls out a small screwdriver.

PRAVAT  
Chuck it here.

Harper throws Pravat the lighter.

Paula and Chiyo slingshot weights again. Each HIT makes Monster Joe stumble, but he keeps getting back up.

Pravat takes the lighter out of the case, takes the cotton from the lighter, thins it out, stuffs it back in the part where the flame comes out. Puts the lighter back together.

Paula and Chiyo only have one dumbbell left.

PAULA  
Hurry.

PRAVAT  
Harper, where's the can?

Harper brings Pravat the can of body spray.



PRAVAT (cont'd)  
 We have to do this quickly. As soon  
 as you see a flame, press the nozzle.

Pravat runs the striker wheel of the Zippo along the counter. SPARKS but no flame.

Paula and Chiyo fire the last dumbbell. It knocks Monster Joe to the ground. He is much slower to get back up.

Paula jumps in front of the counter, picks up the charity tin, SHAKES THE COINS, and HURLS it at Monster Joe. It SMACKS him in the gut, and he falls down.

PAULA  
 That's what endometriosis feels like.

Pravat runs the striker wheel along the counter, FLAME.

Monster Joe is getting up, he is almost at the counter.

The flame next to the spray nozzle.

Harper's finger presses the nozzle on the can.

WHOOOOF a HUGE FLAME reaches Monster Joe. He catches fire all over, it's very gross. He GROANS heaps and then dies.

Harper looks at the body, half in triumph, half in shock.

Chiyo runs to Pravat. Big hugs. Lots of tears.

Silence hangs for a moment.

PRAVAT  
 They've stopped banging on the door.

The roller door is cratered, but no banging.

Pravat creeps towards the door. Chiyo reaches out and grabs his arm, shakes her head.

CHIYO  
 Pretty sure that lady's rules still  
 apply.

PRAVAT  
 Just to see if they're gone.

PAULA  
 Fine.  
 (to Harper)  
 Call Lucy back.

Harper gets Paula's phone. No battery. She shows Paula.

PAULA (cont'd)  
They have to be really close by now.

Paula unhooks the chain and rolls the door up a little bit.

Pravat crouches down, he can't see much. He motions to Paula to go a little higher. Paula rolls it up a little further.

Harper and Chiyo hold on to each other.

Pravat lies on the floor to get a better view, lays his hands flat just in front of him.

Harper's sword is on the ground, it's frustratingly close.

PRAVAT  
Oh, come on now.

Pravat shifts his body forward a couple more centimetres, fingers stretching for the sword.

Monster Brian's green, tattooed hand grabs Pravat's hand and tries to DRAG his body through the small gap.

CHIYO  
NO!

Chiyo and Harper trying to pull his legs back.

The bottom of the door SCRAPES the skin off Pravat's arms as he is being pulled. SCREAMING as tears pour down his face.

PRAVAT  
ROLL THE DOOR DOWN!

From the inside, we see Monster Stacie's hands grip the bottom of the door like a weightlifter gripping a bar.

Paula uses ALL OF HER STRENGTH to keep the chain in place, but Monster Stacie is WAY too strong.

The door lifts up a bit more. We see MONSTER BRIAN trying to pull Pravat's towards him.

PRAVAT (cont'd)  
PULL ME BACK!

Chiyo and Harper aren't strong enough. With a single YANK from Monster Brian, Pravat is gone.

CHIYO  
NOOOOOO!

A moment later, from under the door, we see Pravat's broken body tossed to the ground with a THUD, minus a limb or two.

Paula tries to wind the door down, but the handle is broken. She locks the chain in place where it is.

Paula, Harper, and Chiyo sit at the counter holding each other close, all tears and shaky hands.

A loud RUMBLE from outside. A BIG GUST OF WIND forces dirt and dust under the door into the gym.

Paula, Harper, and Chiyo shield their eyes.

CHIYO (cont'd)  
Is it them? What took them so long?

HARPER  
My guess is Newton's laws of motion.

THUD THUD outside. We then hear the helicopter take off.

A loud WHOOOOFFFFFFFFF followed by MONSTER GROANS AND  
AAARRRGHHHHSSSSSS and THUDS

Harper sniffs the air.

HARPER (cont'd)  
That bacon smells sad.

SWOOSH SWOOSH WHOOOF TING the sound of a sword, with fire, hitting monster bone. THUD THUD THUD

Paula, Harper, and Chiyo look underneath the door again.

A Monster Pub Peep falls to the ground with a THUD. Other Monster Pup Peeps lie dead on the ground, their skin green, crispy. FLAMES COVER their bodies, boiling pustules and all that yuck from before. Ewww.

Paula, Harper, and Chiyo see Lucy's legs walk towards them. Lucy crouches down and looks through the gap between the door and the ground.

LUCY  
I should have said charge your phone.  
I'll make a note for next time.

CHIYO  
Next time?

Paula, Chiyo, and Harper burst into happy tears.

Paula starts to roll the door up. Lucy holds it down.

LUCY (O.S.)  
Nuh-uh. Not until I say it's OK.

Lucy's legs walking away. A CLICK CLICK sound then

LUCY (O.S.) (cont'd)  
Empty. Fudge sticks.

THUD, her flamethrower drops to the ground.

Kevin's legs walk towards the door. He crouches down and slides Harper's sword under the door.

KEVIN  
Here you go.

Harper grabs her sword.

HARPER  
(crying)  
Thanks. Sorry I was so weird before.

KEVIN  
Hey, all the cool people are weird.

Harper GIGGLES like a schoolgirl. Kevin walks away.

LUCY (O.S.)  
Got a light?

KEVIN (O.S.)  
Sure.

Another WHOOOOF sound and a SLICE SLICE from Kevin's sword. A few TWANGS from Lucy's bow and arrow.

Under the door, Paula, Harper and Chiyo see Monster Brian fall to the ground with a loud THUD. Brian's BEARD BURNS.

KEVIN (O.S.) (cont'd)  
That was one majestic beard.

Chiyo rests her hand on Harper's.

CHIYO  
My parents both died when I was your age. It's gonna be tough for a while.

HARPER  
Oh, I know. This is the second time it's happened.

CHIYO  
(pretend sarky)  
This is not a competition.

Harper's hands grip her sword. Brain spark.

HARPER  
You wanna see it?

Paula smiles and nods, Chiyo shrugs.

Harper jumps up to face them, draws her sword, it catches a beam of light from somewhere, JJ Abrams lens flares. Paula and Chiyo marvel at it.

PAULA  
It's beautiful.

CHIYO  
What show is this from?

PAULA  
Monster Assassins. Do you watch it?

CHIYO  
Nope. Pravat does. Did.

Chiyo sobs. Paula puts her hand on her shoulder.

PAULA  
Oh no. I'm so sorry.

Harper presses the fire button. WHOOF flames from the hilt on each side travel up the blade until they meet in the tip.

Blinded by the flames in front of them, no one can see the GROWING SILHOUETTE of Monster Stacie as she approaches from behind Harper.

She looks like Medusa with snakes on her head. They aren't snakes, it's those FUCKING CATS. Their tails look like snakes, that's what I mean.

Harper stands in her Kevin pose, sword high and calls out

HARPER  
Mirror, mirror on the wall, who's the  
biggest fan of--

Three LARGE CATS HISSSSSSSS behind Harper. She SPINS around. An ARC OF FIRE lights the sword's path. So pretty!

Monster Stacie LUNGES at Harper.

PAULA

Harper!

Harper's flaming sword SWOOSHES at Monster Stacie who recoils at the flames. Monster Stacie FALLS DOWN with a THUD. She then rises up like COUNT FUCKING ORLOK.

The three cats POUNCE on Chiyo, SCRATCHING at her flesh leaving deep gashes.

CHIYO

Get them off meeeeeee!

Paula slaps them away with her hands. The cats scratch at Paula's hands leaving RED WELTS. She grabs a can of Lynx but it's empty. She throws it at the cat. The cat JUMPS away but goes back to scratching Chiyo.

One of the cat's claws CUTS DEEP into Chiyo's throat, severs her artery. Her SCREAMS turn to GURGLES and BLOOD PULSES out of her neck with each beat. Her hands go to her neck.

Paula tries to hold the wound as well, but the other cats keep scratching at her.

We see Lucy's hands try to lift up the door from the outside. It's stuck in place.

LUCY

Paula, the door.

Paula hesitates to leave Chiyo.

LUCY (cont'd)

Paula. Paula. Paula.

Paula jumps up, grabs the door winch and lets the chain go. The door quickly lifts up.

For a glorious slo-mo moment, haloed by sunlight pouring in from outside, we see silhouettes of Lucy and Kevin, both in superhero poses. They don't have their GoPros on.

Kevin lights his sword. WHOOOF as the flames engulf the blade. Lucy touches the tip of her arrow to Kevin's flame, the arrowhead lights up.

Instant desktop wallpaper. #MonsterAssassins #StacieWasRight #WeAreTheRealMonsters

PAULA

She has a bad knee. Left.

Lucy nods. TWANG she shoots an arrow at Monster Stacie's left knee. The arrow PIERCES Monster Stacie's dress. The fabric catches fire.

Monster Stacie flails. While flailing, she scratches the patch on Paula's costume, so it now looks like the one from episode twenty. Paula jumps back and SCOFFS.

PAULA (cont'd)  
You did that on purpose.

Kevin and Harper SWISH their swords around. Kevin SLICES off one of Monster Stacie's arms. Harper takes a SLICE at her leg but only scratches it. Flames follow the gashes.

MONSTER STACIE  
GGRRRRROOOUGHGHHGHGHHGHHGGGGGG

LUCY  
(to Paula)  
Move her.

Paula DRAGS Chiyo out of the way leaving a trail of blood.

Lucy SPINS around and fires a flaming arrow at a cat near Chiyo. The flaming arrow nails the cat to the gym wall. The cat MEOWS and BURSTS into flames.

LUCY (cont'd)  
Hi, kitty. Die, kitty.

With her remaining arm, Monster Stacie takes a SWIPE at Harper. Harper is KNOCKED to the ground, drops her sword.

Monster Stacie WHACKS Kevin in his gut and off his feet.

Lucy dips her arrow into the burning cat's flames and fires another flaming arrow at the second cat which scratches at Paula's legs. Paula kicks it away as it BURSTS into flames.

Flames race up the walls of the gym.

Monster Stacie looms over Harper. Kevin gets back up but he's winded.

Lucy is tracking the last cat as it dashes around Harper on the ground. The cat is moving too quickly for Lucy to aim.

Paula jumps up, grabs Harper's flaming sword. As if on autopilot, she points the blade towards Lucy who dips her arrow head in it and catches fire.

LUCY (cont'd)  
You are really good at this.

Paula shakes off the compliment.

Lucy tries to track the cat again.

The cat stops near a can of Lynx on the ground, it sniffs the can and recoils. Lucy fires her flaming arrow which PIERCES the can of Lynx. The can, then the cat, EXPLODE.

Gosh that smells.

Pumped with adrenalin Paula does a run and jump and LEAPS over Harper and with a massive SWOOSH she CUTS MONSTER STACIE'S FUCKING HEAD OFF. The head flies through the air and lands upright on the counter. So cool.

Blood GUSHES out of Monster Stacie's torso in SPURTS. Eww.

Paula spins around as Monster Stacie's body falls down.

Exhausted and emotional, she staggers to the counter, looks into Monster Stacie's eyes.

Monster Stacie's eyelids flutter. There's a spark of life. Blood bubbles burst around her mouth as she strains to say

MONSTER STACIE  
I told you so.

Paula pauses then nods in agreement.

PAULA  
Yes, you did. You got me there.

She then lifts the sword and with a vertical SWOOSH slices Monster Stacie's head, so the two halves fall to the side.

Flames everywhere. Paula remembers Chiyo and rushes to her. She tries to sit Chiyo up but she's dead. Paula goes to check her pulse, but her neck is scratched to hell and there's nowhere to put her fingers. Paula loses it.

PAULA (cont'd)  
I'm so sorry, Chiyo.

Kevin ushers Harper outside. Harper sees a SHINY THING on the ground. She bends down and picks up her Zippo lighter.

Lucy guides Paula by her arm to take her outside but Paula stands like a rock. Lucy is confused for a moment, she then takes Paula's hand.

LUCY  
It's OK, we can go outside.



Paula looks into Lucy's eyes and weeps. They both walk out.

EXT. GYM - ARVIE - CONTINUOUS

They walk outside to the sounds of Lynx cans EXPLODING.

Lucy notices Paula's tattoos.

LUCY  
Hey, great tats. Who did them?

PAULA  
Stacie.

LUCY  
Oh.

The carnage on the street hits Paula in the gut. The BODIES, the BLOOD. Everywhere she looks is someone she knows.

PAULA  
I have to find Van.

Lucy puts her hand on Paula's shoulder.

LUCY  
What you were willing to do for her, choosing her over what must have been hours and hours of work to produce this, that was the most amazing thing I've ever seen anyone do.

PAULA  
Amazing? She's--was my best friend, of course I would.

Paula switches from sad to mad with a CLENCHED FIST just like that meme.

PAULA (cont'd)  
You're going to find out how this happened, right? Someone did this. You have to find them.

KEVIN  
You bet. But--

Kevin raises his eyebrows at Lucy, she nods in return.

KEVIN (cont'd)  
--we will need some help, if you're interested.

Paula shakes her head in disbelief, and repeats Dave's line.

PAULA  
I'm just a fan with a toy weapon.

LUCY  
What you just did was a bit more than  
"just a fan."

KEVIN  
You are a real-life Monster Assassin.

Paula blushes.

PAULA  
Really?  
(beat)  
But, what about Harper?

HARPER  
Uh, they meant both of us.

PAULA  
I thought there might be an age  
limit.

LUCY  
We don't have a union.

HARPER  
Hey, show her your twirly thing,  
Auntie Paula.

Paula pretends to scowl.

PAULA  
I thought we agreed to drop the  
"Auntie" thing.

Paula reaches for Harper and holds her tight.

PAULA (cont'd)  
I'm sorry about your parent's Zippo  
lighter.

Harper shows it to Paula.

HARPER  
Oh, I found it. It was the only thing  
left after the flood. I guess they  
saved my life again.

Paula lets go of Harper to look at the flames engulfing the gym. She takes a step backwards, trips over something. She falls down, laughs, and shakes her head. Lucy laughs too.

LUCY  
Don't walk backwards.

Paula sees what she tripped over. Fuuuuck. It's Olive lying face down in the street. She's in her neon gym gear and cardigan, covered in ash and goop. An OPEN RED GASH on her back from being clawed. One of Olive's hands grips a bag.

Paula drags the bag towards her. Her hand trembles as she opens it. There's another cardigan and the stretchy bands she gave Olive yesterday. Paula SOBS.

PAULA  
It's not a library, Olive.

A RUMBLE and a gust of wind as the helicopter lands about fifty metres away. Lucy, with her arm around Harper, and Kevin behind them, start walking to the helicopter.

Harper, looking like a FRIKKEN WARRIOR, turns around.

HARPER  
P, you coming?

Paula is exhausted, everything aches.

PAULA  
Yeah, gimme a sec.

Paula puts her hands on the ground for support to get up. She bumps Olive's bag. It makes a CLUNK followed by the sound of liquid being poured out of a bottle.

Harper jogs to Paula. Paula lets out a tired CHUCKLE.

PAULA (cont'd)  
I swear, if this is a dumbbell...

Paula opens the bag again. Wrapped in the other cardigan is a bottle of vodka, the lid is off, and the liquid is seeping through the cardigan and the bag. Some of the vodka splashes around Olive's mouth. Ruh-roh.

Harper reaches out her hand to help Paula up.

The wound in Olive's back heals. Olive rolls over. Her face is turning green, mouth dripping with vodka.

Monster Olive's hand with her long, neon rainbow, fake nails SWIPE in Harper's direction.

Paula SHOVES Harper out of the way. Harper stumbles backwards but keeps her footing.

Harper sees Monster Olive SWIPING at Paula.

HARPER

Paula!

Lucy turns around to hurry them up

LUCY

Come on, you two.

This all happens so quickly.

Lucy sees Harper drawing her sword.

Paula kicks Monster Olive away from her but Monster Olive keeps slashing at her legs with her fingernails.

Harper hits the fire button WHOOOF flames around the blade.

Lucy takes an arrow out of the quiver. Kevin instinctually DRAWS his sword. Flames WHOOOF around the blade.

Lucy dips her arrow in the flames and FIRES towards Monster Olive. She misses.

Monster Olive takes another SWIPE at Paula. LONG FAKE NEON NAILS TEAR Paula's flesh at her throat. A neon pink nail embedded in Paula's wound. Blood GUSHES.

Lucy fires again.

EYES WIDE, Paula grabs her throat and tries to breathe but just GASPS. PANIC. Paula KICKS Monster Olive away from her.

Lucy's arrow HITS Monster Olive. FLAMES on her cardigan.

Harper SLICES the fingers off one of Monster Olive's hands.

Rainbow neon nails trailed by spurts of blood spin through the air in grotesque cartwheels. Gosh that's pretty.

Harper takes another swing and SLICES off Monster Olive's head. Blood SPURTS from the wound.

Kevin STABS his FLAMING sword down Monster Olive's open neck. She BURNS from the inside.

Harper tosses her sword away (something else catches fire) and grips Paula's neck with her two hands.

HARPER  
No, no, no, no, no.

LUCY  
Hang on, Paula.

Lucy grabs Olive's other cardigan from the bag.

Paula EYES WIDE, shakes her head with all her strength, tries to back away from Lucy. Paula mouths VODKA. She SHOVES Lucy with whatever strength she has left.

HARPER  
Let her help you.

Kevin holds Paula's hands together.

LUCY  
Paula, we need to stop the bleeding.

Paula mouths NO NO NO as she PLEADS with her eyes. Her gaze darts from Lucy to the cardigan and back again. After a long second, Lucy examines the cardigan. She SNIFFS it, RECOILS, and TOSSES it away. A brief smile from Paula.

HARPER  
What was--

LUCY  
--Vodka. It was soaked. She could have--

HARPER  
Turned into a monster.

LUCY  
Turned into a monster.

KEVIN  
Close call.

Kevin stands up, RIPS one leg of his pants off--they're Velcro like stripper pants.

Paula and Harper admire the ingenuity for a second.

KEVIN  
This happens a lot.

Kevin ties the pant leg around Paula's throat. The bleeding slows. Some colour in Paula's face. Lucy EXHALES.

LUCY  
Let's get her to the chopper.

Lucy and Kevin are about to lift her up, but Paula's face gets paler. Her eyes go distant. She's... not... gonna...

HARPER

What's hap--

KEVIN

--There must be another--

Kevin sees a HUGE GASH in Paula's thigh at her femoral artery with a hot pink fingernail wedged in the skin. BLOOD gushing out of the wound.

Lucy puts pressure on the wound.

Kevin RIPS the other leg of his pants off.

Lucy checks Paula's pulse. Paula's wrist slackens.

Kevin secures the wound. Paula's body sinks.

Harper pats Paula's face trying to wake her up.

HARPER

Come on, P. Please. You have to tell me what a Tweedle Dumb is.

Lucy lets go of Paula's hand and picks up Harper's. Harper pushes Lucy's hand away and grabs Paula's, squeezing it.

Kevin takes Harper's other hand and lifts her up.

Harper looks like a thirteen-year-old girl again. Small. Helpless. Sobbing. Her arms limp by her side.

Lucy holds her tight. Kevin puts his hand on her shoulder.

KEVIN

We should take comfort in the fact that she died doing what she loved.

HARPER

Bleeding out in the street surrounded by the charred and mutilated bodies of her friends?

KEVIN

I meant the--doesn't matter.

Lucy gives Kevin a 'seriously dude' look. The three walk towards the helicopter. Harper looks back at Paula.

Her fist is clenched like that meme.

HARPER  
I'll find them.  
(to Lucy)  
Who is going to--

LUCY  
We have a crew.

HARPER  
You really should tell people.

Lucy winces. Kevin nods his head melodramatically.

KEVIN  
I told you so.

CREDIT SEQUENCES

INT. SCIENCE COMPANY FOYER - DAY

TITLE: A FEW EPISODES LATER

LUCY'S GOPRO: We briefly see a few SCIENTISTS (specs, lab coats, clipboards) standing and chatting in a foyer.

The foyer lights FLICKER. That CLANK sound. DARKNESS.

Everyone in the foyer GASPS.

KEVIN (O.S.)  
(whispering)  
Why do lights make that sound in movies when they go on and off?

LUCY (O.S.)  
(whispering)  
Maybe it's the switch?

KEVIN (O.S.)  
(whispering)  
Do the lights at home make a clank when you turn them on? No.

LUCY (O.S.)  
(whispering)  
Can you not right now?

CLANK the lights turn back on.

KEVIN'S GOPRO:

RECEPTION DESK:

The hand of a RECEPTIONIST (20s, bubbly) REACHES for a telephone on the desk.

Lucy does the twirly thing and FIRES an arrow at the receptionist's hand, pins it to the desk. She SCREAMS IN RUSSIAN.

LUCY

Yeah, nah.

MYSTERY GOPRO POV:

We can see the backs of Lucy and Kevin standing right next to each other at the reception desk in the foyer.

They take a step away from each other so we can see a company logo on the wall behind the receptionist.

It's the frikken VODKA LOGO. Dun DUN DUN.

KEVIN'S POV:

Kevin turns around. Standing a few steps behind Lucy and Kevin is Harper, kitted out in her own Monster Assassins uniform. She is swinging a kettlebell tied to a stretchy band back and forth like a mace.

Harper walks up to Lucy and Kevin. She smiles at them, then looks at the receptionist.

LUCY'S POV:

Harper leans over the desk. The receptionist is trying to pull the arrow out of her hand. From this angle, we see the receptionist has a name badge. It reads "KAREN."

Harper CHUCKLES.

HARPER

Karen? No way.

(beat)

Karen, we'd like to speak to the manager.

The receptionist doesn't speak English.

KEVIN

(in Russian subtitled)

We wanna see the CCTV tapes.

Lucy raises an impressed eyebrow.

LUCY

Wow, Russian school finally paid off.



HARPER'S POV:

Karen WINCES.

INT. TOP SECRET RUSSIAN LAB.

CCTV AND BODY CAM FOOTAGE

A long, sterile concrete hallway.

ELENA (female, 40s, lab coat, science accessories) wears a body cam pinned to her lapel. She nervously wheels a trolley with one hand and holds a clipboard with the other. The trolley is stacked with silver canisters with biohazard symbol stickers and the logo from the vodka bottle.

She stands outside two doors. Door 7 is labelled, in Cyrillic (subtitled), "MONSTER RESEARCH". Door 9 is labelled "VODKA DISTILLERY".

A delivery docket on the clipboard. The numbers 7 and 9 look the same. She studies the docket intently. She looks around for help, but the hallway is empty.

A walkie talkie PSSSHHTS. Elena STARTLES, frantically pulls it out of her pocket and winces. She looks at a security camera on the wall as she talks.

ELENA

Y-yes, comrade?

CRANKY RUSSIAN (O.S.)

(filtered)

Comrade Elena? Have you finished? We need you immediately on level four.

ELENA

But... I don't know which--

CRANKY RUSSIAN (O.S.)

(filtered)

--Which what, comrade?

ELENA

Which number?

CRANKY RUSSIAN (O.S.)

(filtered)

Do you need help counting comrade? Do I need to get someone else to help you? Do I need to waste my time and someone else's time because you haven't learned how to count?

ELENA

No... no, of course not, I--

She holds the docket close to her body cam.

ELENA (cont'd)

Can you make it out?

CRANKY RUSSIAN (O.S.)

(filtered)

I...

(quietly)

Hmm.

(normal volume)

That's not my job. Now if you finish your job and come to level four you can see your family for ten whole minutes this weekend.

ELENA

Thank you, oh, thank you, sir,  
comrade, sir comrade.

Elena does a panicky dance. She KNOCKS on door 9 "VODKA DISTILLERY". The door opens. A green glow emanates from an unknown source inside. A SCIENTIST in a HAZMAT SUIT appears. They sign the docket and wheel the trolley inside.

The door SLAMS shut. Elena RUSHES down the corridor.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. SCIENCE COMPANY CCTV ROOM.

A dark room with a wall of screens showing live CCTV footage. One has the video we've just watched.

A panicky SECURITY GUARD is duct taped to a chair.

Lucy, Kevin, and Harper are in a state of disbelief. Shrugs and what the fudge looks all around.

HARPER

Is that it?

FADE TO BLACK