

THE FANDOM

Written by

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INT. SUPERMARKET - NIGHT

Empty supermarket. Emergency lights.

LUCY (late-20s, hair braided, athletic) and her twin brother KEVIN (same age, athletic) are the stars of "Monster Assassins." They wear a fusion of military and gladiatorial clothing, and a coat of arms on a patch. She has a bow and arrow, he has a sword. They both have GoPros on headbands. This is how we see their actions.

Intercut Lucy and Kevin's GoPro footage as needed

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

Lucy turns to face Kevin. His grimace changes to a smile when he realises Lucy is looking at him.

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)
An evil 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 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, gross.

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, the frame bounces slightly as she counts

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

ON SCREEN:

A pause symbol.

INT. THE GYM - EVENING

The above image with the pause symbol a laptop.

The laptop on a bench. An archery target at the back wall.

PAULA (early 30s, curvy and fit af, glasses, hair in a braid, no makeup) in her work uniform (black cropped leggings, a red polo shirt embroidered with "THE GYM" and "PAULA"), Converse with hand-painted Lucy and Kevin.

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.

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, you did it!

DAVE

That was fuc-nking awesome.

Paula picks up the laptop.

ON SCREEN: There's a video chat box in the lower corner with HARPER (13, scrappy) and DAVE (40s, looks like everyone called Dave) clapping.

PAULA

(now smiling)

Yeah, I did do it.

(beat)

Gotta run, Nash is here. You coming the pub, Dave?

DAVE

I'm on dad duty so I'm sending my emissary instead.

Paula tries to not drop her smile while she nods.

HARPER (O.S.)

Buh-byeeee.

PAULA

Buh-byeeee.

Paula closes the laptop. She twirls the arrow in her other hand 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 (Paula as 'Rosie the Riveter') bottles, towels, charity tin for Endometriosis.

NASH (early 30s, orange glitter eyeshadow, lipstick, and hair highlight, hairdresser blacks, name tag with 'Comb On, Eileen' logo, a mandala tattoo on her left forearm) waits at the counter.

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

NASH
Just in time for the competition tomorrow! That's convenient.

Paula takes a closer look at Nash's makeup.

PAULA
Love the orange.

Nash 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)
Arm day is 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 take off their gym singlets and put on singlets with a tuxedo print from their bags.

NASH
Dressing up for the pub?

DES
It's karaoke night.

PAULA
See you two over there.

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

PAULA (cont'd)
Oi!

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 perspex box with a few cans of body spray. There's a padlock on the lid.

TROY

Des, no.

Head down in shame, Des stows the can away.

PAULA

We don't want another slip up, mkay?

DES

Brain fart. 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, and her friends (We'll see them soon) dressed in Monster Assassins and monster costumes.

Shuffling towards the counter is OLIVE (80s, so tiny, fluoro gym gear, fake nails painted in a neon rainbow). She can't stand upright because there's something heavy in her bag.

Paula playfully strides to meet Olive. She knows what's up.

PAULA

(bit louder for Olive)

Good evening, Olive.

OLIVE

Good evening, Paula, dear.

NASH

I love your nails, Olive.

OLIVE

Thank you, Nash, dear.

PAULA

Remember I said this isn't a library?

Olive offers Paula her bag but it's too heavy. Paula takes the bag, Olive straightens herself as best she can. Paula puts the bag on the counter with a CLUNK. She pulls a dumbbell out of the bag and CLUNK puts it on the counter.

OLIVE

Yes, dear.

PAULA
 You can't take these home with you.
 (beat)
 I know, how about a trade?

Paula grabs two stretchy bands from the counter.

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

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

PAULA (cont'd)
 Much lighter, huh?

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

PAULA
 Olive, these are yours to keep, OK?

OLIVE
 Yes dear. Thank you, dear.

Paula lets Olive go. The BZZZ of the door startles Olive.

Back behind the counter, Paula shuts the computer down,
 turns off the lights (they make a CLANK sound like they do
 in movies), door buzzer, and pops her laptop and an arrow
 into her Monster Assassins tote.

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

NASH
 Paula, we have to win this year.

PAULA
 Nash, we will win this year.

Paula grabs a canvas bag from behind the counter and jiggles
 it in front of Nash.

NASH
 What's in the bag?

Nash 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

Paula rolls down the corrugated iron door and locks it. From the outside we see the door has "THE GYM" with Paula in a Rosie the Riveter pose and "You'll have to WEIGHT till we're open, you DUMBBELL!" painted on it.

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

Between the buildings is an alley with locked metal gates.

PAULA
You want a lift?

NASH
Sure.

Paula gives Nash a bouncy piggy back across the road.

EXT. THE MANKY TURNIP PUB - NIGHT

A swinging sign out front reads "THE MANKY TURNIP" above a painting of a turnip, a manky one.

Paula and Nash don't see this: Just inside the alleyway, we see THREE SMALL, HAIRLESS CATS with GLOWING GREEN EYES. Two are fighting over a severed arm. They HISS and GROWL at each other, tearing flesh off the limb.

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

At the pub door, Paula let's Nash off her back. They go in.

INT. THE MANKY TURNIP PUB - NIGHT

BAR:

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

Bartender CHOPPERS (60s, all teeth and smiles with a curly mo, arms covered with tattoos, one is recent, waiter's uniform) is chatting with Des and Troy at the bar.

DES
(to Choppers)
But it's made from potatoes.

TROY
I'm going to look that up.

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

CHOPPERS
Well?

TROY
No carbs. Vodka *is* keto.

CHOPPERS
Told you so.

DES
But it's made from potatoes.

Choppers pours them two shots of vodka from a bottle, the same bottle as the one in the alley. Des and Troy flex their biceps as they drink. They nod in unison. Choppers gets a tray with shot glasses, fills them with the vodka.

PRAVAT (mid 20s, Gen Z hair, same uniform as Choppers, name badge) is making a drink for CHIYO (late 20s, a walking Etsy store) sitting at the bar. He passes the drink to Chiyo. As she reaches out for it, their hands touch for a few seconds. They both smile at each other *swoon*

Paula and Nash lean on the bar. Choppers smiles and nods for their order. Paula pulls a three-ringed binder with a label "Monster Assassins Fan Film Competition Entry 2023" out of her bag even though there's not much room at the bar.

NASH
Two of your second cheapest beers,
thanks Choppers.

Choppers pours the beers. Nods towards the folder.

CHOPPERS
Big day tomorrow, huh?

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

PAULA
Yessireee.

Paula opens the folder to reveal many tabs and dividers. She opens "FOOD". There's a small checklist. The top entry reads "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. I just want tomorrow to be perfect.

CHOPPERS

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

NASH

This is fun for her.

Choppers smiles a sad smile. Hands over two beers. Nash taps the EFTPOS thing with her card.

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.

NASH

Yeah, ta but nah.

CHOPPERS

Maybe next time.

Paula grabs her folder, Nash takes the two beers and walks past the stage

ON THE STAGE:

A banner reads "CARRIE-OKE". Balancing on the rafters above the stage is a bucket. The bucket is tied to a rope, the other end of it is tied around a winch on the side of the stage. A large sheet of plastic covers the stage (or drainage system). Next to the winch is a mop and bucket. On hooks on the side of the stage are raincoats.

Singing on stage is RIVER (50s, Boho, radiates serenity) wearing a raincoat. The crowd LOVES her.

TABLES:

Paula and Nash walk around tables with a busy Friday night crowd, greeting everyone with a smile as they go by

DES AND TROY'S TABLE:

Des and Troy take a seat at a table with a tray of vodka shots. They flex their biceps as they have another drink.

PAULA'S TABLE:

Paula and Nash sit down at a table for six Paula puts the canvas bag under the table. Paula puts her folder on the table. She hangs her tote with the surprise over the chair. Nash sits next to her.

Under the table Paula's right thumb taps her thigh with nervous energy.

Paula takes a sip of her beer. She then gets back up.

PAULA

I have to pee.

NASH

You broke the seal? After one sip?

PAULA

Honey, I have no seal.

She gets up and walks past the stage

ON STAGE:

Paula stops and CLAPS with the crowd as River takes off the poncho and hat. River hands the mic to Des and the poncho to Troy. Troy puts the poncho on. Des grabs a poncho set off the hook and pops it on too.

DES

River, you are a goddess.

(to the crowd)

How is everyone this evening?

Crowd WHOOPS

TROY

Paula would kill us if we didn't remind you all--

DES

--She wouldn't kill us, Troy, she'd ban us from the gym.

TROY

Which is so much worse. Tomorrow is leg day.

Crowd LOLS

DES
 If you're dressing up as a monster
 for the video competition tomorrow,
 be outside the gym by eleven-thirty.

Crowd WHOOPS. Paula blows them both a kiss.

TROY
 (to Paula)
 You are welcome.

Des and Troy sing an Aussie song. They are great.

Paula heads 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

The frame moves as Kevin presses the record button on a camera on a tripod. He stands next to 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, brother.

KEVIN

(to Lucy)

Go fact yourself.

(to camera)

We are having another 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

That's what livestreamed means,
Kevin.

(MORE)

LUCY (cont'd)
 The best flick wins, so click on the
 link below to book a time to
 livestream your video.

KEVIN
 You've got two weeks to prepare,
 fellow Monster Assassins! We can't
 wait to see what you come up with.

LUCY
 Until then...

KEVIN
 To all you monsters out there...

LUCY AND KEVIN
 You'd better check under the bed for
 us!

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

Eye roll 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.

CHIYO
 Ooh, sorry!

Paula steadies herself.

PAULA
 No wucks. People need to wear bells,
 like cats.
 (beat)
 You singing tonight?

CHIYO
 Yeah, after Des and Troy.

PAULA
 Cool. Can't wait.

Paula puts her phone away and walks inside.

BATHROOM:

Paula doesn't have to pee. She does have to BREATHE and calm herself down. She runs a tap and pats cold water on the back of her neck. We leave her and go back to

THE BAR:

BRIAN (late-30s, well-dressed, tattoos all over, one of them is new, fab beard) and STACIE (mid-30s, 50s style dress, tattoos and victory rolls) at the bar chatting with Choppers. Brian uses a walking cane for a bung left knee, the cane matches Stacie's accessories.

CHOPPERS

Brian, Stacie. The usual?

BRIAN

Thanks, mate.

STACIE

How is she tonight?

CHOPPERS

I'd say an eleven, maybe twelve.

STACIE

Folder?

CHOPPERS

Folder. And two bags.

Stacie grimaces. Brian mirrors in response.

CHOPPERS (cont'd)

I'll bring your drinks over in a sec.

BRIAN

Thanks, Choppers.

They both head to

PAULA'S TABLE:

Nash watches Brian and Stacie, they don't see Nash watching them.

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.

NASH

Heya. What was all that about?

Ooh, Stacie's been sprung. Play it cool.

STACIE
What was what?

Stacie sits opposite Paula's seat. Brian next to Stacie.

Nash is about answer but Paula, now calmer, interrupts as she sits down.

PAULA
(to Brian)
Brian, I love it when you two
coordinate.

BRIAN
It's all Stacie.

Skin on Brian's arm tattoo is flaking. He picks at it. Stacie taps his arm. He stops. Grabs his phone and plays a game like an angsty teen.

STACIE
Thank you, and it is all me.

PAULA
Are you two still coming tomorrow?

Paula starts to open her folder when Stacie reaches over the table and places her hand on Paula's hand, stopping Paula from opening it, and PATS it like a condescending mother.

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, cop moustache, police uniform, name badge reads SERGEANT TIM, bunch of keys on his belt), and JOE (late-30s, jeans and cons, *Nordacious* t-shirt, buff, distinctive hair) take seats at the table. Joe has a bunch of keys hooked to a belt loop.

Like she's in a western, Nash squints her eyes, looking back and forth between Stacie and Joe. Nash sees Joe looking at Stacie and raising his eyebrows in a questioning way. Stacie discretely nodding to Joe. Joe discretely nodding back.

TIM
Evening, all.

JOE
Howdy.

Brian lifts his head up.

BRIAN

Fellas.

Brian picks his skin. Stacie taps his arm. Plays his game.

ALL

Hi, Tim. Hi, Joe.

PAULA

Are you two still--

Tim JUMPS out of his chair, stands at attention.

TIM

--As part of our community outreach program with the aim of bringing the 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. Still yes.
(beat, snarky)
Although...

Paula's body tenses, she grips the binder. Nash shoots Joe a 'dude seriously?' look.

NASH

(to Paula)
He's joking.
(to Joe)
Right?

JOE

(flat as)
Sure.

Paula fake relaxes and fake laughs. Pushes up her glasses.

PAULA

Before I forget, I have a couple of Monster Assassins posters for Harper if she wants them?

JOE
Thanks for the offer, but there is no
space left on her walls anymore.

PAULA
Understood.

Resolute, Stacie is about to say something to Paula, but is
interrupted by Pravat carrying a tray with drinks and the
vodka bottle. He hands drinks around the table.

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 head up.

BRIAN AND STACIE
Thanks, Pravat.

Stacie taps his arm.

BRIAN
I wasn't even.

STACIE
Well, good.

He plays his game again.

PRAVAT
Enjoy your night, folks.

GANG
Thanks, Pravat.

We follow Pravat as he leaves and walks past the stage

ON STAGE:

Des and Troy finish singing. The crowd CLAPS AND WHOOPS.

Des hangs his hat and poncho on the hook Troy hands his to Chiyo, she puts it on. Des then gives the mic to Chiyo.

DES
All yours, Chiyo.

Chiyo nods in thanks. The crowd APPLAUD Des and Troy. Chiyo blows a kiss to Pravat. Pravat floats back to the bar.

PAULA'S TABLE:

Paula watches them walk to their table. They lock eyes.

DES AND TROY'S EYES FLASH GREEN.

Paula takes off her glasses, pulls a cleaning cloth out of her pocket, and cleans her specs. Pops them back on and looks at Des and Troy again but they're not facing her. She dismisses it.

ON STAGE:

Chiyo sings an Aussie love song. She's so good.

AT THE BAR:

Pravat is in a trance as he listens to Chiyo. Choppers taps Pravat's shoulder. Pravat snaps to, pours drinks.

PAULA'S TABLE:

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 Nash's hands shoot up. Stacie, Brian, Joe slower.

PAULA (cont'd)
This morning I emailed an updated run
down of our video entry for tomorrow,
but Stacie, yours bounced. Do you
have a new email address?

Paula grabs her phone, ready to enter the email address.

STACIE
Yes.

PAULA

And it is?

STACIE

I'll look it up when I get home.

Paula looks at Stacie's phone then at Stacie.

Stacie looks at her phone then at Paula.

Paula looks at Stacie's phone then at Stacie.

Stacie looks at her phone then at Paula, tilts her head with a 'what you gonna do about it?' look.

Paula puts her phone down, opens up a "RUN DOWN" tab on her folder, takes a piece of paper from a plastic sleeve and hands it to Stacie. Paula gives Stacie a smug look and pushes up her glasses.

PAULA

Anyway, I had a new idea...

Paula reaches under the table about to grab the canvas bag.

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 embroidery patch. It's like Lucy's from the deli episode but there is a mark on it.

JOE

Before we--

Stacie's hand shoots up.

STACIE

(to Joe)

--Before you "before we", can I
"before we"?

Joe nods.

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

Paula sees Stacie's patch, horrified, shoots her hand up.

PAULA
 --Before any of you "before we"...

Paula points an accusatory finger at Stacie's patch.

PAULA (cont'd)
 We agreed to use the costumes from
 episode seventeen. That patch is from
 episode twenty.

Confirming that fact, Nash nods at Paula.

STACIE
 We didn't agree, you decreed.

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. Pushes up her glasses.

PAULA
 See? Yours is totally different. In
 episode nineteen, Lucy and Kevin
 fight the slime serpent and before
 they kill it, its tooth scrapes
 Lucy's patch and leaves a mark.

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.
 If we change one thing from episode
 seventeen to episode twenty...

Paula frantically flips through pages in her folder with images from the episode.

PAULA (cont'd)
 ... it's not just the patch, Lucy's
 hairstyle changed, Kevin's boots--

Stacie holds her palm up.

STACIE
--Your fansplaining is fannoying.

PAULA
(flustered)
I'll have to do up another outline.

STACIE
No, you won't, Paula.

Joe puts his hand up.

JOE
Does this really matter?

Nash GASPS. Joe gives Nash a 'dude seriously?' look.

Tim slowly leans over to Brian

TIM
(whispers)
What is happening?

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

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

Paula is taken aback.

PAULA
--You think I'm a dictator?

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

Air quotes aplenty.

BRIAN
She said "not."

NASH
She also said "but" which negates the "not." Like saying, "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.

ON STAGE:

Chiyo finishes her song. The crowd WHOOPS.

She takes off the poncho and hat and hands them to BARRY (20s, Goth lite, red/black hair, piercings, eyeliner) and the mic JANET (20s, Goth lite, black/red hair, piercings, eyeliner) as they walk on stage.

Barry hangs up the hat and poncho on the hook. Janet waits in the middle of the stage with the mic.

JANET
(filtered)
We're not gonna need them tonight.

CHIYO
You're game.

BARRY
Bring it on.

They murder an Aussie emo song.

PAULA'S TABLE:

Paula starts to speak but Stacie interrupts her.

STACIE
For the last two years, we did what
you wanted and our entries were shit.
Pardon my French.

TIM
Is that French?

Stacie waves dismissively at Tim.

TIM (cont'd)
Why would you say it's French?

Stacie ignores him. Glum, Tim writes in his notepad.

Brian puts his hand up and catches Pravat's eye at the bar, does the 'another round' signal. Pravat gives a thumbs up.

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 to-mor-row. 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 opens her mouth to respond but closes it.

NASH

Paula has worked hard on this.

Stacie is short with Nash.

STACIE

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

JOE

--Fun.

STACIE

Yes, fun. Fandoms are supposed to bring a whole bunch of people together who really like something and celebrate it.

Stacie waves at the folder.

STACIE (cont'd)

This is more like taking an exam.

PAULA

Don't you want to win for once?

STACIE

I would rather have a fun time and lose than have a shit time and win. You need to turn the obsessiveness down a few hundred notches.

She fires an accusatory look at the binder, then at Paula.

PAULA

This is common sense organisation.

Barry and Janet's singing irks Paula. She nervously taps the table with her thumb. She looks for Choppers.

THE PUB FLOOR:

TWO PATRONS
Pull the rope. Pull the rope.

PAULA'S TABLE:

PAULA
Is he going to pull the rope or what?

STACIE
This outline is the seventh in two weeks. You can't keep changing things because you saw a tiny detail in an episode that you hadn't seen before.

PAULA
Uh, that's exactly why. I--

NASH
--We.

PAULA
We can't have any mistakes.

Stacie closes her eyes, inhales, exhales.

ON THE STAGE:

Barry and Janet are singing even worse than before.

THE PUB FLOOR:

More patrons chanting

PUB CROWD
Pull the rope. Pull the rope.

AT THE BAR:

Choppers jogs from behind the bar to the side of the stage.

ON THE STAGE:

Choppers touches the winch handle. The crowd WHOOPS.

With one hard yank of the handle, the bucket tips over and litres of fake blood SLOP all over Barry and Janet.

Barry and Janet start laughing, dancing like they're in 'Singing in the Rain.' They're rubbing their faces and clothes with fake blood, sticking tongues out. Punk rock.

Laughing, Choppers grabs the mop and bucket, holds it out to Barry. Barry starts mopping.

BARRY
That was so worth it.

CHOPPERS
(to Barry and Janet)
Barry, Janet, always a pleasure.

Janet curtsies.

CHOPPERS (cont'd)
(to the crowd)
That's it for tonight's Carrie-Oke.
Remember, if you sing and you suck...

The whole crowd joins in channelling Piper Laurie

EVERYONE
We're all gonna laugh at you!

Much APPLAUSE and LAUGHTER.

Choppers heads to the bar. PUB MUSIC is turned on.

PAULA'S TABLE:

Everyone CLAPS except Paula. She looks over to Des and Troy's table, there's now a green tinge to their skin.

PAULA
Do they look green to you?

Her question is drowned out by Choppers arriving with a tray of drinks. Everyone has the same as before.

BRIAN
Nice rope-pulling there.

CHOPPERS
Why, thank you, Brian.

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

STACIE
For the new one.

CHOPPERS
Thanks, Stace.

At the same time, an embroidered patch (the one from episode seventeen!) falls out of her bag on to the table.

Choppers heads back to the bar.

Nash sees the other patch, snatches it. Nash holds the patch up to Paula. Paula studies it.

NASH

This is from episode seventeen.

PAULA

Why do you have the correct one if you're also making the one from episode twenty?

STACIE

I wanted to see how you'd react.

Paula raises an eyebrow. Stacie hunkers down.

STACIE (cont'd)

I'm sorry--no, not sorry. I am aware of the impact this will have on tomorrow's video entry, possibly our friendship...

Paula's face goes pale. She claws the folder for strength.

STACIE (cont'd)

... but, you have to know how soul-crushingly pedantic you are. You are worse than an incorrectly-used apostrophe group on Facebook.

Stacie sculls her drink, grabs her bag, then stands up.

Like magic, Pravat is at the table with a tray and puts Stacie's empty glass on it.

STACIE (cont'd)

Thanks, Pravat.

Stacie rests her hand on Brian's shoulder. Brian is startled, puts his phone away.

STACIE (cont'd)

I, we, will not be there tomorrow.

Paula panics. Hands shaking. Lips tremble.

Pravat lingers and listens in.

PAULA

Please stay. We'll use your design.

Paula holds the folder over the candle like a sacrifice.

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

Frowning, Tim tugs at the folder from Paula.

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

NASH
She did Lucy's twirly thing.

Paula takes the arrow out of her bag, tries to do the twirly thing but her hands are shaky. Stacie is unimpressed.

Paula grabs her other bag off the floor, unzips, shows a GoPro box to Stacie. Tim and Pravat's eyes light up.

PAULA
I got these so we can alternate whose
footage gets streamed. Harper has
programmed them to alternate footage
or something like that.
(to Joe)
She's so clever.

Joe doesn't look up from his phone.

PRAVAT
These are so cool!

Pravat picks up a GoPro box and examines it, he's impressed. He hands the box to Tim. He's impressed too.

Tim, Nash, Joe, Pravat, and Brian watch Paula and Stacie like they're watching a tennis match.

STACIE
Very cool. What brand?

PAULA
The same as Lucy and K--

Paula doesn't bother finishing the sentence.

STACIE
It does not have to be perfect.

PAULA
But the fandom will tear us to shreds
if it's not.

STACIE

If you think fans of Monster Assassins, heck, of any "thing", will tear people to shreds because of a slightly different patch, then I don't want to be in that fandom.

PAULA

That was a poor choice of words. It's not that bad.

STACIE

It may not be that bad, Paula, but you are.

Paula lays her hands on her folder like it's a bible.

PAULA

Well... this is how I show my appreciation to this fandom. I want our competition entry to be perfect. I want Lucy and Kevin to know that we do care about tiny details, that we do take notice. This...

(strokes folder)

...is a declaration of how much I love Monster Assassins.

An emotional and teary Nash pulls a tissue out of her pocket, dabs her eyes, puts her hand on her heart.

STACIE

You are loving it to death.

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

Pravat winces, puts Brian's glass on the tray then heads to the bar.

Paula finds some ammunition.

PAULA

Yeah... well at least I don't think it's real.

That blow hit Stacie's heart.

STACIE

(clenched jaw)

I can't believe you--I told you that in private.

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

STACIE
Cite your source.

PAULA
Uh, reality. Cite your source that
isn't on Reddit.

Stacie returns fire.

STACIE
Well... so did you, Paula.
(to the table)
She agreed with me.

PAULA
I was drunk. What was your excuse?

Stacie holds her hand to her head and rubs her scalp.

STACIE
I can't do this anymore. You and your
little sycophant--

Stacie gestures to Nash. Nash clutches imaginary pearls. Tim
is confused.

TIM
--Why would anyone be sick of Fanta?

NASH
Hang on. What did I...?

Stacie resists responding.

STACIE
If... nope.
(fuck it)
If you really were the massive fan
that you claim to be, you would have
worked that out already. I sincerely
hope you win tomorrow. I also 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 to talk but closes it.

Stacie and Brian's eyes FLASH GREEN as they leave the table. Paula sees this.

PAULA
What is that green thing?

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

JOE
It's getting late.

NASH
It's six-thirty.

JOE
Harper has school tomorrow.

NASH
It's Friday.

JOE
This has become really 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 go if you want.

TIM
Not if we're still entering the
competition tomorrow.

PAULA
There's no point now.

TIM
I'm still in. And these people are
gonna look pretty silly tomorrow
wearing monster costumes in the
middle of the street for nothing.

Tim leans closer to Paula.

TIM (cont'd)
If this show makes you as happy as
you said it does, you can't quit. No
one who has ever quit has ever won.

NASH
What about a quitting competition?

Paula SNORTS. Tim ponders.

NASH (cont'd)
Tim's right. Boo to Stacie.

Paula's lip trembles.

PAULA
Really?

NASH
What else am I going to do with all
the monster prosthetics and green
body paint I bought?

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

NASH
--Our.

PAULA
--our fandom. Boo indeed.

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

PAULA (cont'd)
Did their eyes look green to you? Des
and Troy? The others?

NASH
Like contact lenses? I can bring some
for tomorrow if you want?

PAULA
Nah. It's nothing.

They sit in silence for a moment.

Paula TAPS her folder which startles Tim and Nash.

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

Nash 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.

The three walk out the door.

TIM
Night, you two. See you tomorrow.

NASH AND PAULA
Night, Tim.

Tim heads to the station past the alleyway. All three cats, much larger now, HISS at him. Tim startles.

TIM
I'm calling the RSPCA tomorrow, you three. First thing.
(beat)
After the competition.

Paula and Nash linger for a moment.

NASH
It's not though, is it?

PAULA
Heck no. Stacie is a roll of Alfoil away from being a Flat Earther.
(beat)
Why, do you..?

NASH
Heck no. Lol. Night, lady.

PAULA
See ya, sweets.

Nash walks across the street, a trail of smoke follows. Paula walks past the alleyway. One of the cats SWIPES at Paula through the gate but misses. Paula doesn't see this.

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 shirt with a "RAZORBACK" poster on it), sits on a rug at a coffee table setting up GoPros and watching a video on her laptop.

ON SCREEN:

EXT. CITY ALLEY - NIGHT

Intercut GoPro footage as needed

A poorly-lit U-shaped alley lined with wheelie bins and dumpsters. A couple of empty crates with the vodka logo.

Lucy watches Kevin at the far end of the alley. He waits at a dumpster, hand on the lid.

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

LUCY (O.S.)
Here kitty, kitty.

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

A MUCH LARGER version of the cats from the pub's alley JUMPS out of the bin and lands on Lucy's shoulder.

LUCY
GET IT OFF ME GET IT OFF MEEEEEE

Lucy spins around, flailing, trying to shake it loose. She PUNCHES it in the face. It SQUEALS. It's eyes FLASH GREEN.

She grabs its tail, flings it around her head, lets it go.

It flies through the air with a throaty MEEEEOOOW.

Lucy raises her bow, does the twirly thing with the arrow and shoots TWANG nailing it to the wall.

It bleeds and HOWLS. It slumps. It looks dead.

LUCY (cont'd)
Another one with green eyes?

KEVIN
Huh. Weird.

Kevin's expression changes from confused to alarmed.

KEVIN (cont'd)
What the what?

The demon cat RIPS the arrows out of its body with its paws.

A GREENISH TINGE as the wound heals.

LUCY
Why won't you die, kitty?

Kevin draws his sword, presses a button which sets the blade on fire and--

A DING from a messaging app with a pop-up which reads

"NEW VIDEO FROM MONSTER ASSASSINS"

A cursor clicks STOP on the video, then on 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

Say, 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. Care to join me?

LUCY

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

KEVIN

Do they get a crown?

LUCY

Not literally, but we are going to 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 smiles the biggest smile ever.

She clicks LOOP, REPLAY.

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

PAULA'S BEDROOM: Coastal aesthetic. Framed Monster Assassins
poster signed by Kevin and Lucy.

Paula in bed, doonah covering her body.

HARPER'S BEDROOM:

Monster Assassins posters cover all the walls. A cardboard
cut-out of Lucy and Kevin in action poses.

Harper (sleepy hair) in bed, doonah 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 doonahs 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 Zippo lighter engraved "To Harriet, Love Cooper." Harper picks up the Zippo, slowly runs her finger over the text, puts it in her pocket.

She stands in front of a mirror and copies Lucy's speech.

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 doonah. Dave (mussed hair, taco jammies), sits on the bed.

DAVE

Morning Joe. GI Joe. Jon Bon JOEvi.
Do they JOE it's Christmas time?
Ta 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 Judy Davis is that smell? It's like... sausages made from dead feet.

Under the doonah, Joe rolls away from Dave.

DAVE (cont'd)

Hey, it's competition day.

JOE
MRRRRGGHHH

DAVE
What do you mean you don't want to?

JOE
GRRRRRRGGGHHHHH

DAVE
Not even for Harper? She's been like
a coeliac in a gluten-free bakery
this week.

JOE
AAGGGRHHRHGGR

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 the host of "QandA" talks over the guests. When people don't know the answers to their own specialist subject on "Hard Quiz."

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 vegan-friendly 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.

INT. LUCY AND KEVIN'S SECRET HIDEOUT - DAY

Same room from their video but we see a bit more of it.

Art and gifts from fans on a bookcase with photos of Lucy and Kevin with fans from conventions.

Lucy (messy hair, dinosaur jammies 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 a plate with vegemite on toast.

Lucy turns on the computer. The monitor BLINKS on followed by the START UP SOUND. She sips her tea.

Kevin (jammies with his face on them, those stupid socks that look like gloves) yawning, carrying a cup of coffee and a plate of Tim Tams. Kevin's cup also has his face on it. He puts the Tim Tams on the desk.

LUCY
Competition day!

KEVIN
Heck yeah it is.

KEVIN (cont'd)
Why do you put these in the freezer?

LUCY
Tim Tams taste 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.

LUCY (cont'd)
Take those off. They're... ugh.

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

Dozens of TOWNSFOLK wearing bloody and torn clothing, some with green painted skin, walk down the street to the gym.

EXT. THE GYM - DAY

Gym is closed. On a table very close to the door are Paula's bow and nerf arrows, three Go-Pros in headbands, a bullhorn.

Paula is in her Lucy costume.

She hands the painted costumes to TOWNSFOLK who don't have their own.

A tub of fake blood on the table. Barry, Janet and other TOWNSFOLK dip their hands in the tub and smear blood on their clothes and bodies. Barry and Janet take a long time.

Paula puts her hand on her heart as she thanks everyone.

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

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

River, Chiyo, along with A BUNCH OF PEOPLE, sit in chairs while Nash (monster outfit, green glitter eyeshadow, lipstick, green hair highlight) and a COUPLE OF MAKEUP ARTISTS paint people green, some with monster prosthetics.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

In the armoury, Tim, in uniform with a body-mounted camera, searches the "LOST AND FOUND" shelves and grabs a large super-soaker with a strap. He takes his gun out of its holster, pops it in a drawer and locks it.

TIM

Safety first.

He then puts his keys on the desk. Ruh-roh.

He closes the door, a BEEP and "LOCKED" in red on a keypad.

At a sink, Tim fills up the super-soaker then heads out.

EXT. POLICE STATION - DAY

As Tim walks outside, he sees a HOLE in the alley gate. Bits of skin and blood on the wire. The cats have gone.

TIM

Dang.

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 on the bar.

INT. LUCY AND KEVIN'S SECRET HIDEOUT - DAY

Lucy and Kevin watching a clock on the computer.

00:06

KEVIN

Place your bets. I reckon number two.

00:05

00:04

LUCY

I'm going with number four this year.

00:03

LUCY (cont'd)

Good luck.

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 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. THE GYM - DAY

Fake Monsters split in two groups, some walk down the street to wait there, others up the street. Barry, Janet, and Chiyo are in one group, River in the other.

Tim chatting with Paula. Paula is not paying attention and searches the crowd.

TIM

Great turnout.

PAULA

Have you seen Dave and Harper?

TIM

Negative. If they don't come, we are not going to panic. OK?

PAULA

(distant)

Yeah.

Tim clicks his fingers at Paula to get her focus.

TIM

OK?

Paula locks eyes with Tim, salutes.

PAULA

OK, yes, sir, officer, sir.

She then sees Dave, in a Kevin costume with a plastic sword, and Harper, in her Kevin costume and her real sword in a sheath, walking towards her.

Paula gets a bit teary and hugs them both.

PAULA (cont'd)

You two look incredible. Thank you.

Dave puts his hand on his heart.

DAVE

Anything for the fandom.

So does Harper.

HARPER
For the fandom.

Paula looks around for Joe.

PAULA
Is Joe? I mean it's fine if--

DAVE
--No go fo' Joe. Hangover. Smells too.

Copying Dave from earlier

HARPER
Too much to drinks, he thinks.

Dave searches the crowd.

DAVE
Stacie and Brian?

PAULA
They are not coming.

Dave raises a questioning eyebrow.

PAULA (cont'd)
She... she thinks I'm way too obsessed with all this.

Dave doesn't not rebut this. Paula notices.

PAULA (cont'd)
(whispers)
And, she thinks Monster Assassins is real. I mean...

Paula shrugs. Dave grimaces.

Harper hands Dave, Paula GoPros. They put them on.

HARPER
I did a very complicated and highly technical thing that will automatically alternate whose footage gets livestreamed, including your police-issued body-cam, Tim. It's way too complicated and technical to explain so just smile and nod.

Dave, Paula, and Tim smile and nod.

Panicked, Paula searches the crowd again.

PAULA
Has anyone seen Des and Troy?

Dave, Harper, and Tim shake their heads.

PAULA (cont'd)
Where could they--
(beat then a frown)
If Stacie said something to them I
swear--

TIM
They had a few shots of that vodka--

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

Paula's hand goes to her forehead. She's not gonna cry. Tim
distracts her by nudging her arm and pointing at Harper's
sword.

TIM
That looks just like Kevin's.

HARPER
Isn't it pretty?

Harper holds it up, a sunbeam hits the blade. Sparkles and
lens flares. Much wow. Everyone is mesmerised.

PAULA
It's very pretty.

Paula snaps out of her trance, grabs a bullhorn, jumps on
the table, points it at the crowd. The obligatory SQUAWK.
People cover their ears.

PAULA (cont'd)
(filtered)
I promise I will thank everyone
individually when this is over, but
for now, a blanket thank you to
everyone.

Paula gets teary, looks at a countdown clock on her phone.

PAULA (cont'd)
(filtered)
Oh wow. Five minutes, everyone! Let's
assassinate some monsters!
(MORE)

PAULA (cont'd)
 (beat)
 Metaphorically. We're not going to
 literally kill you if you're dressed
 like--

Dave tugs Paula's leg. Paula points the bullhorn at Dave. It goes SQUAWK. Dave recoils.

PAULA (cont'd)
 (filtered, to Dave)
 I have to clarify.

Dave blocks his ears. Shakes his head. Paula points the bullhorn to the crowd again.

PAULA (cont'd)
 We can discuss this later as well.
 You're all safe, it's all pretend.
 Although Harper does have a real
 sword so maybe keep clear of her. K?
 Just... be the best monster you can
 be. Lots of grrrs and arrrghs. We're
 gonna win this year, I can feel it.
 I'm going to stop now. Whew.

Paula jumps off table, puts the bullhorn down SQUAWK.

INT. LUCY AND KEVIN'S SECRET HIDEOUT - DAY

Kevin leans closer to the screen.

KEVIN
 It's gotta be this one.

ON SCREEN:

VIDEO TWO

INT. LONG 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 pajamas 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.
 (to Kevin)
 But you lost. Sorry.

Kevin pouts.

EXT. THE GYM - DAY

A big CROWD OF EXTRAS at each end of the street.

Paula sees Pravat walking across the street with bottles of water in a vodka crate with the logo. He puts the crate down just outside the gym door and puts the bottles on the table.

PRAVAT
 Sangas in the fridge when you're ready.

PAULA
 Thank you, thank you.

Pravat waves, heads back to the pub.

Tim gives Paula a thumbs up. Paula crosses her fingers. Tim does thumbs up and crosses his fingers and heads back to the station.

EXT. GYM - DAY

In the middle of the street, Paula, Dave, and Harper turn on their GoPros. Paula tapping her thumb against her thigh.

HARPER
 We can't wait for Joe, can we?

DAVE
Nah, sorry, Harps.

Nash rushes over from the salon. Paula rushes to meet her half way. They SQUEEE when they meet.

PAULA
Everyone looks amazing. Thank you.

NASH
You good?

PAULA
I am shittin' a kitten.

NASH
I hope it passes quickly.

Paula gives Nash the thumbs up. Nash runs back down the street. Paula rushes back to her mark.

She grabs Harper's hand and SQUEEZES it. Harper winces but SQUEEZES back even tighter. They both LAUGH.

Paula's phone BUZZES. Shaky hands pull it out of her pocket.

ON SCREEN:

TWO MINUTES, FELLOW MONSTER ASSASSIN

INT. LUCY AND KEVIN'S SECRET HIDEOUT - DAY

LUCY
It has to be this one.

Lucy crosses her fingers.

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 way to reveal... his butt.

INT. LUCY AND KEVIN'S SECRET HIDEOUT - DAY

Defeated, Kevin pushes the plate of Tim Tams over to Lucy. She pulls the plate closer to her like Gollum.

LUCY
 Winner winner, Tim Tam dinner.
 Thank you, number four.
 (to Kevin)
 Now send that video to his mum. What
 a wanker.

ON SCREEN:

VIDEO FIVE

EXT. GYM - DAY

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

"LIVESTREAMING"

Intercut footage from Paula, Tim, Dave, and Harper as needed

PAULA
 We're on.

Paula turns her head so we see Dave on Paula's right. She nods to him, he gives a thumbs up. She looks at Harper on her left, nods to her, Harper gives a thumbs up.

Dave turns his head so we see Paula on Dave's left, Harper on the other side of Paula.

INT. LUCY AND KEVIN'S SECRET HIDEOUT - DAY

LUCY
 Ooh, points for costumes.

EXT. MIDDLE OF THE STREET - DAY

Paula slowly spins around so we see hordes of FAKE MONSTERS at each end of the street lumbering towards the gym with GRUNTS and GROANS.

PAULA(CONT'D)
 (yelling)
 Fellow Monster Assassins, the
 monsters are coming!

HARPER
We're surrounded.

DAVE
We have to stop them.

HARPER
There's so many of them.

PAULA
We need help. I'll ask the friendly
local law enforcement officer.

DAVE
Hurry!

EXT. POLICE STATION - DAY

The camera shakes as Paula runs to the Police Station.

Paula's fist is about to knock on the door. Tim, with the
super-soaker, opens the door before she knocks.

Tim is a terrible actor and moves his arms way too much.

TIM
Is that Paula, I mean Lucy, the famed
Monster Assassin? How can I, Sergeant
Tim, be of assistance?

PAULA
Monsters are attacking the town.

TIM
Monsters, you say? But there's no
such thing as monsters.

PAULA
There is! You have to help us.

Tim steps out the door, looks straight into Paula's GoPro,
cocks the super-soaker like an action hero.

TIM
Luckily I'm already armed.
(whispers)
Was that OK?

PAULA
(whispers)
Great stuff, mate. Keep going.

The frame bounces as they jog towards Dave and Harper.

INT. LUCY AND KEVIN'S SECRET HIDEOUT - DAY

Lucy and Kevin leaning forward, engrossed.

EXT. MIDDLE OF THE STREET - DAY

Paula and Tim join Harper and Dave swishing and swooshing their swords. The fake monsters gets closer to the gym.

DAVE

There's so many of them.

PAULA

We have to split up. Sergeant Tim and I will go down the street, you two go up the street.

The camera moves when Tim NODS in agreement.

We stay with Dave and Harper.

Dave sees Tim holding his super-soaker like Rambo and Paula doing the twirly thing loading her bow with a nerf arrow as they tread cautiously down the street.

EXT. UP THE STREET - DAY

Dave starts prowling up the street, holding his sword in front of him. He looks at Harper holding her sword like a baseball bat. A DRAMATIC FAKE MONSTER staggers towards them.

Dave SWISH hits DRAMATIC FAKE MONSTER with his sword.

DRAMATIC FAKE MONSTER rolls around on the ground MOANING.

Dave HITS them a bit harder.

DRAMATIC FAKE MONSTER

Ow. Dick.

DAVE

You're supposed to die.

DRAMATIC FAKE MONSTER

You can't tell me what to do, it's a free country.

DAVE

(gestures to Harper)

Do you want to say that to Harper?
Her sword is really pointy.

Harper's sword dangling above Dramatic Fake Monster's belly.

DRAMATIC FAKE MONSTER

Oh.

(beat)

AGAGRGRHGHGHHHHHHHHH.

Dave starts to walk off. Then

DRAMATIC FAKE MONSTER (cont'd)

Ugggghhh.

Dave looks back at Dramatic Fake Monster. Tilts his head like, honey, please.

Dramatic Fake Monster stops. Until

DRAMATIC FAKE MONSTER (cont'd)

ERGH.

Dave looks back at Dramatic Fake Monster. Dave can't even. Dramatic Fake Monster stops. Dave starts to walk off again.

EXT. DOWN THE STREET - DAY

Paula looks over to Tim clutching his super-soaker, then to Nash and a bunch of FAKE MONSTERS lumbering towards them.

Nash smiles at Paula and does a little wave. She then goes back to monster mode, GROANING and monster walking.

TIM

Looks like we have a few monsters that need assassinating.

Paula loads her bow the twirly way.

PAULA

You can say that again.

TIM

Looks like we have a few monsters that need assassinating.

Tim looks at Paula, she's shaking her head and laughing.

Paula fires a nerf arrow at a FAKE MONSTER. The Fake Monster falls to the ground.

Paula scans the crowd again. There are a few fake monsters in the way but we see a TALL FIGURE way behind Nash.

The crowd of fake monsters part. We can now see Stacie, but bigger. HOLY CRAPPER she's a GOSH DARN MONSTER.

MONSTER STACIE is in her dress from last night. Her victory rolls are matted, makeup is smudged. Her 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.

MONSTER STACIE
GRRRRRRRRRRGGGHHHHH

Nash startles, looks behind her for the source of the noise.

Nash is confused to see Stacie at first, then she's admiring Monster Stacie's wardrobe and makeup.

Nash catches Paula's eye, big shrug like what is she doing here? Paula shrugs back.

Paula and Tim armed and ready to attack.

Nash LUNGES at Tim and pretends to munch on his arm.

TIM
Oh no! Help me! Help me!

Paula fires an arrow at Nash. It bounces off her chest.

NASH
AARRRGGGGGHHHHH.

PAULA
Die, monster scum!

Nash reaches into her pocket, when she pulls her hand out it's covered in fake blood which she smears on her front.

Nash slowly gets down on the ground, she's got bad knees.

TIM
You saved my life.

PAULA
Just doing my job, Sergeant Tim.

Paula tilts her head and looks at Monster Stacie.

PAULA
I did not think this monster would show her monster face here today.

Monster Stacie looks like a dog trying to understand French.

PAULA (cont'd)
(transfixed)
Even though Little Miss Reddit has
brilliant makeup and a fab costume.

Tim aims his super-soaker at Monster Stacie.

TIM
Freeze and I'll shoot.
(beat)
Freeze or I'll shoot.

Tim SQUIRTS water at Monster Stacie's dress.

Dazed, Monster Stacie studies the water stain on her dress
and touches it with her monster hand.

Monster Stacie sees Nash on the ground so Monster Stacie
gets on the ground and copies Nash's position.

Tim and Paula fight another fake monster but in the
background we see Monster Stacie sit up and tug at Nash's
left arm. Nash pushes Monster Stacie's arm away.

Monster Stacie tugs harder. Nash sits up, looks like she is
confronting Stacie about something.

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

Nash shocked, SCREAMS. BLOOD GUSHES from the wound.

EXT. UP THE STREET - DAY

Dave and Harper halt when they hear Nash's SCREAMS.

DAVE
Wow, Nash is really going for it.

They pretend kill the fake monsters near them.

EXT. DOWN THE STREET - DAY

Tim kills a fake monster, they lie on the ground.

He hears Nash CRYING AND SCREAMING, turns to looks at her.

Monster Stacie gets to her feet still holding Nash's left
arm (the one with the tattoo). She drops it on the ground
like a bit of rubbish. She then picks Nash up from the
ground, holding her like a doll. She bites into Nash's other
shoulder, tearing her flesh, then drops Nash on the ground.

Monster Stacie turns and trudges back down the street. Nash cries out again. So much bloooooood.

Paula also turns to see Nash.

NASH
SOMEONE FUCKING HELP ME!

Paula jogs to Nash WRITHING and holding an arm.

PAULA
(whispers)
That scream was great, but we've finished down here.

Paula takes a closer look at Nash's arm.

PAULA (cont'd)
Wow, you made that?

Nash doesn't stop SCREAMING.

Tim jogs over and sees a pool of blood around Nash.

Paula is mesmerised by what she thinks is effects makeup.

PAULA (cont'd)
(whispers)
This is amazing.

TIM
You OK, Nash? Lemme help you up.

Tim grabs hold of Nash's arm to pick her up but it's the severed one so he only picks up that arm.

TIM (cont'd)
Oops, sorry about that.

Tim goes to put the arm back on Nash's body like a Barbie doll but he stops, looks closer.

TIM (cont'd)
Hang on. Is this a real arm?

Shaking, Nash struggles to say...

NASH
Sta... Stacie...

PAULA
(whispers)
Right? I can't believe Stacie turned up after all that crap last night.
(MORE)

PAULA (cont'd)
Her makeup was excellent, I'll give
her that.

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 Nash's arm to stop bleeding. Nash is pale.

TIM
Paula, get Choppers. He's got the
first-aid kit.

PAULA
Huh?

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

PAULA (cont'd)
So life like. And, awww, you even
drew your tattoo on it.

TIM
(to Nash)
Stacie did this?

PAULA
(to Nash)
Stacie made this for you? I thought
you did it.

Nash has passed out. Tim checks her pulse.

TIM
Stacie did not make this 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 full-time, Nash.

Nash regains consciousness, SCREAMS, then passes out again.

TIM
(to Nash)
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. DOWN THE STREET - DAY

Choppers walking stiff like Frankenstein's monster to Tim, arms out, one hand holding the first-aid kit.

Paula takes an arrow from her quiver, puts Nash's arm in there. She sees a Fake Monster walking towards them, she fires an arrow, they drop dead on the ground.

PAULA

Die, monster scum!

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. Nash is hurt.

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

Choppers examines Nash'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 corn syrup and food colouring.

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

TIM

Paula, no!

Paula licks her finger. Huh?

PAULA

That's not corn syrup.

She takes another lick.

PAULA (cont'd)

Can't quite... Salty?

Choppers realises Nash is really hurt.

CHOPPERS

This isn't makeup?

(to Tim)

I don't think a bandage and some alcohol wipes will fix this.

(to Nash)

A bandage and some alcohol wipes will definitely fix this.

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

TIM

Hold this.

Nash opens her eyes, they're bloodshot.

PAULA

Love the contacts.

Paula bends down to get a closer look at Nash's wound.

PAULA (cont'd)

This is just like on All Saints.

(beat)

Crap, are we still in the scene?

(acting)

Sergeant Tim, this monster won't die.

We need a hand. Take this one.

Paula gives Tim the arm and looks around for Dave or Harper. She sees them near the gym and runs to them.

TIM

Paula, wait!

Tim, holding Nash's arm, follows Paula towards the gym.

EXT. THE GYM - DAY

Harper and Dave fake SWOOSH at the fake monsters just outside the gym. They fake die.

Dave sees Paula running towards him and Tim chasing after her. They both reach Dave and Harper at the same time.

PAULA
You must help us, fellow Monster
Assassins--

TIM
(out of breath)
--Dave!

DAVE
Is that an arm?

HARPER
(whispers)
Wow, Nash has done an amazing job.

PAULA
(whispers)
Right?
(outside voice)
Fellow Monster Assassins, we have a
monster that just won't die.

Tim shows Nash's arm to Dave.

TIM
It's real... it's Nash's arm...
Stacie ripped her bloody arm off!

HARPER
What?

Harper steps back, BUMPS into the table by the door, drops her sword. It CLANGS as it lands but no one notices it.

Dave takes Nash's arm and examines it until...

DAVE
Where does the General keep his
armies?
(beat)
Up his sleevies. You're supposed to
keep your armies up your sleevies.

He DROPS the arm on the ground in SHOCK but still confused. Paula picks it up, bends the fingers back and forth.

PAULA
Amazing, isn't it.

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

TIM
PAULA, STACIE IS A MONSTER.

PAULA
Duh. After last night--

TIM
--Stacie is right. This is really happening.

PAULA
There's no hecking way in hecking heck that hecking Stacie is hecking right.

Paula motions to the fake monsters.

PAULA (cont'd)
This is just dress-ups. Cosplay. Fans being fans.

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

TIM
This isn't dress-ups.

Harper is confused.

HARPER
What are you talking about?

Dave's face is pale. His hands shaking.

Paula examines the arm again.

PAULA
What? Nuh.

The penny drops. Spielberg Face. Then EWWWW she wipes her tongue with her arm, spitting.

PAULA (cont'd)
Oh noooo. No no no no nuh-uh.

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

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

HARPER
What is happening?

PAULA
Stacie was right? Reddit was right?
It's real?

Paula spins around in a daze. She is stopped by Dave KNOCK KNOCK KNOCKING on the gym door.

DAVE
Open the door, Paula.

Paula picks up the bullhorn to address the crowd SQUAWK

PAULA
(filtered)
Change of plans. Everyone in the gym
now please. Now. Please, now. Run.

A few townsfolk start running to the gym, others keep on monsterring like nothing is wrong.

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. Monster Brian isn't limping.

HARPER
Oh, his knee is better.

Harper tugs Dave's arm.

HARPER (cont'd)
Dave. Dave. Dave.

DAVE
Hang on, Harper.
(beat)
Paula, the door.

Harper tugs harder.

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. Paula gets keys from her pocket.

DAVE
Paula. Paula. Paula.

Paula unlocks the door, lifts it up like a weight lifter.
Dave pushes Harper inside while the door is still going up.
Paula is about to go inside when she hears Choppers yelling

CHOPPERS (O.C.)
TIM!

TIM
Choppers. I'm going back.

PAULA
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.

TIM
--With what? nerf darts?

Paula raises her eyebrows at Tim's super-soaker. Bugger.
He looks towards the police station, then to Choppers.
Choppers SCREAMS. Tim runs towards Choppers.
Paula grabs Dave's arm.

PAULA
Get everyone inside.

DAVE
Where are you--

PAULA
--I have to help--

DAVE
--With nerf darts?

Paula starts to leave, Dave grabs her arm.

DAVE (cont'd)

Paula, stop.
(grabs an arrow)
This is not going to--

PAULA

--But Tim--

DAVE

--Believe it or not, Tim is a trained police officer, he probably has a weapon on that belt of his. You are a fan of a web series with a toy.

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.

CHOPPERS

Brian... he...

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

MONSTER BRIAN

RAAAAWWWRRRRR

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

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

KEVIN

They deserve a million awards for
makeup and special effects.

LUCY

(sternly)

Kevin.

KEVIN

(mocking)

Lucy. It's not real. Settle, petal.

Lucy stands up, pushes her chair away. 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.

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, in 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. Dave has his arm around Harper, keeping her close.

Pravat saunters inside and looks at his watch.

PRAVAT

You want the sandwiches yet? Oh, are we still livestreaming?

TIM

There's more... Beard... I mean Brian... others... I need weapons.

Tim takes a step towards the door while he reaches for his keys. Tim halts.

He checks his pockets. Front and back. Shirt. Shit. Even the little one, twice. Once more. FUUUUUCK.

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

PRAVAT
This is amazing.

Pravat leans closer. Hang on a minute.

PRAVAT (cont'd)
Holy steaming 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?

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... 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?

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 pats Chopper's hand.

HARPER
He's just having a nap. A very
important business nap.

Pravat steadies himself.

PRAVAT
What is happening?

DAVE
Joe isn't answering.

PRAVAT
No one is answering.

Paula has a brain spark. She looks into Harper's 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

(filtered)

Anyone who isn't a real monster, come to the gym now.

(beat)

And anyone who is a real monster, go away. Please?

INT. LUCY AND KEVIN'S SECRET HIDEOUT - DAY

Fully dressed in MA attire, Kevin presses a button on a wall. The wall slides to reveal a weapons locker. Bows, arrows, swords, knives, a flamethrower hang on a wall with silhouette paintings of each item.

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

Is this everyone? It can't be.

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 PANICKING and BREATHING HEAVILY

PAULA

Why is the back door open?

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

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, Tim see her, 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 but the towel doesn't cover all of him. She manoeuvres it as best she can.

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

A BANG BANG BANG on the corrugated iron door from the Monsters outside. The door SHAKES with every BANG.

PAULA (cont'd)

OK. So monsters are real.

RIVER

How?

PAULA

I don't know. But they are, 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 ten 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. Yummo.

Paula's phone VIBRATES and RINGS. 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. Kevin pulls the phone back a bit from his face so 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. I mean, holy balls. This is really real? It's all shitting real. I've said real so many times today it's a drinking game.

Paula pulls Harper's arm so she's in the video frame.

PAULA (cont'd)

This is Harper. She's also a big fan.

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, if you're not the pilot, all OK.

(beat)

I love your show, but the way.

KEVIN

Thank you, Sergeant Tim.

Tim 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
I---oh wow. Nash would be so stoked.

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
Like how monsters are real? You
should tell people.

LUCY
Have you met people?

Paula nods, wipes her eyes with her hand. Harper gives Paula
a tissue.

LUCY (cont'd)
Harper, can you take notes?

Harper pops back into the frame GIDDY AF and nods.

Tim hands Harper his notepad and pen like a coronation.
Harper 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
(blushing)
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.
(MORE)

LUCY (cont'd)

(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 lovely.

Tim TITTERS.

LUCY (cont'd)

Excellent. 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 AND HARPER AND TIM

Awwwww.

LUCY

(to Kevin)

Shush or I will kick you out.

HARPER

Wow, it's just like in the series.

LUCY

He is like this one hundred hours a day. Anyway. Do not go outside. Do not be a hero. Next.

(MORE)

LUCY (cont'd)
 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)
 If someone walks backwards in a
 horror movie, they trip over
 something, fall down, and 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
 Twenty, thirty minutes tops.

PAULA
 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 lately?

(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.

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
 Ahh, 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 now days.

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.

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 is DONE.

PAULA (cont'd)
Wut.

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

Paula is blown away.

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 a wall that has
exercise balls mounted in hoop-type-things.

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

Barry holds 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 counter clockwise, 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, 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.

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 tying stretch bands to kettlebells. He walks over, arm around her shoulder.

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

HARPER
We're being attacked by monsters 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.

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

Harper snuffles as she 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, 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 noise?

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 swings closed 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 the 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)
Ewwww.

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 four toilet stalls inside.

BATHROOM:

Dave stands in front of stall one. KICKS the door open. Nothing.

Dave stands in front of stall two. KICKS the door open. Nothing.

Dave stands in front of stall three. KICKS the door open. Nothing.

Dave stands in front of stall four. KICKS the door open. Nothing.

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... mah doors.
(beat)
I'm sorry. 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

Cats. Three ugly-looking cats in the storeroom.

PAULA

What kind of cats?

DAVE

Those hairless ones but bigger.

Hmmm...

PAULA

Glowing green eyes--

DAVE

--like they're from Chernobyl.

PAULA

--like they're from Chernobyl.

PAULA (cont'd)

Like the one from that episode.

Paula lets this hang in the air for a moment. Then

PAULA (cont'd)

OK. We barricade the storeroom. And the bathroom. If anyone has to pee...

Paula shrugs her shoulders. She then starts to drag a mobile weights machine to the doors. Dave gets on the other end and pushes it. They put it in front of the bathroom door.

Paula and Dave start to drag another machine when Pravat starts waving to her from the front counter.

DAVE

I got this, you go. Look after Harper.

Dave slowly drags the other weights machine to the storeroom door.

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

I like that one.

PAULA

Same but--

PRAVAT

--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's thumb trying to push up the blade but it's locked.

TIM

Shit. Safety lock. Can we go again?

Tim undoes the safety lock.

Again... 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 pushes the blade up with his thumb.

TIM (cont'd)

That's better. Sorry.

Paula holds the winch handle connected to a chain that rolls up the door.

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

Paula looks over them one by one, they look back at her and nod. Her shaky hand turns the handle.

Paula opens the door five centimeters. 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.

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 limbs 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

Are you--? Wow. Stacie was right, you are way too obsessed. There are people dying and you're watching a video? Fancy a Kit-Kat as well?

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

PAULA

SHUSHHHHHHHH

ON SCREEN:

EXT. CITY ALLEY - NIGHT

Same footage as earlier.

A poorly-lit U-shaped alley lined with wheelie bins and those big dumpster ones. A couple of empty crates with a logo. The logo is the same as on the vodka bottle.

A PAUSE SYMBOL ON SCREEN to see the crate logo.

A PLAY SYMBOL

A CLANG is heard ahead of them.

A FAST FORWARD SYMBOL ON SCREEN then A PLAY SYMBOL

LUCY

GET IT OFF ME GET IT OFF MEEEEEE

She spins around, flailing, trying to shake the beast loose. She PUNCHES it in the face.

It SQUEALS. It's eyes FLASH GREEN.

A FAST FORWARD SYMBOL ON SCREEN then A PLAY SYMBOL

KEVIN
What the what?

The demon cat RIPS the arrows out of its body with its paws.
The here's a GREENISH TINGE as the wound heals.

LUCY
Why won't you die, kitty?

Kevin draws his sword, presses a flame button which sets the blade on fire and holds the tip of his sword to the cat's tail. It bursts into flames and doesn't heal.

INT. GYM

Paula opens her phone's video chat, she calls Lucy and Kevin in the helicopter. 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

PAULA (cont'd)
Demon cat in the alley, its eyes were

Green PAULA Green LUCY

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

On fire. PAULA Alight KEVIN

KEVIN
with my sword.

PAULA
Yes.

Another puzzle piece clicks in place for Paula.

PAULA (cont'd)
And the crate. The crate near the
dumpster 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, owned the pub.

KEVIN
Oh. Sorry about that.

Lucy has a brain spark.

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

Deadpan, Paula locks eyes with Pravat.

PAULA
I am way too obsessed.

Pravat hangs his head.

KEVIN
Well, you just saved the day.

A 'fuck you' smile at Pravat. Paula looks back at the phone.

LUCY
Green eyes, that also explains the

PAULA Spiders LUCY Spiders

PAULA
in the

PAULA Supermarket. KEVIN Deli.

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

Harper pats her sheath, the sword isn't there. Dang.

HARPER
It's outside.

PAULA
(to Harper)
What?

HARPER
When Choppers... It's outside.

LUCY Do not go outside. KEVIN Do not go outside.

PAULA
OK. So we make our own fire.

Tim shoots his hand up.

TIM
There's a flamethrower in the
station.

PAULA
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 but Harper shakes their heads.

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)
Well, neither can yours.

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 parent's?

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

Not the time nor the place, I just worked out your name. Half Harriet, half Cooper.

HARPER

Yeah, Cooriet didn't work.

Paula squeezes Harper in a hug.

Harper looks around the gym searching for Dave.

HARPER (cont'd)

Where's Dave?

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

PAULA

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

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

KEVIN
Ten, fifteen tops.

HARPER
No he's not.

PAULA
(to Kevin)
OK, we can hold out until--
(to Harper)
He was moving one of those--

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

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

From 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 run to Dave but River grabs her first. 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 with sweat, 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.

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.

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.

Harper stops hard. She collapses on the floor.

PAULA
Why was he in the storeroom?

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)
Get down.

Harper lies down. 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. Terrified, she gets up and dashes to safety behind Paula. She hugs Paula tightly.

HARPER
They... Dave...

PAULA
I know, honey. I know.

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 glows 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.

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)
 (to Harper)
 Watch your face.

Harper turns her face away. Paula presses the nozzle.

WHOOOFFFF 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 beautiful 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 building up inertia by swinging a stretchy band kettlebell around and around which goes

THWACK

into Tim's head. River freezes. Tim's face is blank.

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 but 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 drags her towards him. Flames spread up River's legs, body, burning her clothes and hair. River SCREAMS until she stops dead.

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

Paula grabs 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. Her body slumps, 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 lighter's 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. HITS 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 getting up, he is almost at the counter.

The small flame next to the spray nozzle.

Harper's finger press the nozzle on the can.

WHOOOOF a HUGE FLAME spurts towards Monster Joe. He catches fire, it's all very gross. He GROANS and then he's dead.

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 front door is cratered like the moon, but no banging.

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

PAULA

Pretty sure Lucy's rules still apply.

PRAVAT

Just to see if they're gone.

PAULA

Fine.

(to Harper)

Call Lucy back.

Harper gets Paula's phone. It's dead. 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 centimeters, 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.

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, minus a limb or two, tossed to the ground with a THUD.

Paula tries to wind the door down 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 shaking 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?

PAULA
Do you know someone else with a
helicopter?

CHIYO
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 of fire followed by MONSTER GROANS AND
AAARRRGHHHHSSSSSS and THUDS

Harper sniffs the air.

HARPER (cont'd)
That bacon smells sad.

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

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

Paula, Chiyo, and Harper burst into happy tears.

Paula starts to stand up.

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.

CLANK, 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 school girl. 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. She has an idea.

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, lens flares and sparkles. 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's 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 three snakes on her head. No, not snakes, it's those FUCKING CATS.

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.

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. Mirroring Lucy from earlier

CHIYO
Get them off meeeee!

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 cat's claws CUTS DEEP into Chiyo's throat, severs her carotid 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 leaving Chiyo.

LUCY (cont'd)
Paula. Paula. Paula.

Paula jumps up, unhooks the chain on the door. 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. WHOOF as the flames engulf the blade. Lucy touches the tip of her arrow to Kevin's flame, the arrow head lights up. Instant desktop wallpaper.
#MonsterAssassins #StacieWasRight #WeAreTheRealMonsters

TWANG as Lucy shoots an arrow at Monster Stacie. 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 19. Paula jumps back and SCOFFS.

PAULA
You did that on purpose.

In unison, 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
GRRRRROOUGHHGHGHGHGGGGGG

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 then WHACKS Kevin in his gut, 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.

PAULA
Nah, I'm just a fan.

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.

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.

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.

PAULA (cont'd)
I'm sorry I didn't believe you.

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

MONSTER STACIE
I... told... you... so.

Paula furrows her brow, opens her mouth to retort. Thinks about it for a second. Closes her mouth and concedes with a nod. She was right.

PAULA
Yep, that's fair.

Paula 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. A SHINY THING on the ground. Harper smiles as 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

They walk outside to the sounds of Lynx cans EXPLODING.

Lucy admires Paula's tattoos.

LUCY
Hey, they're great. 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 knew. A CLENCHED FIST just like that meme.

PAULA
You're going to find out how this happened, right?

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 can't comprehend what Kevin said.

PAULA
But, I'm just a fan. This is just dress-ups.

LUCY
What you just did was a bit more than dress-ups.

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.

Paula blushes. Her arm is pretty scratched up

PAULA

Maybe later.

Paula reaches for Harper and holds her tight.

PAULA (cont'd)

I'm sorry about Dave. And Joe. And everyone else we know. And the lighter.

Harper shows it to Paula.

HARPER

Oh, I found it. It was the only thing left after my parents were killed in that freak earthquake at the Coke and Mentos convention.

PAULA

Why on earth were those two conventions on in the same building at the same time?

HARPER

Right?! If they had gone outside for a cigarette, they would have survived. How ironic.

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

What did I say about walking backwards?

Paula sees what she tripped over. It's Olive lying face down in the street. She's in her fluoro 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.

Shaking her head, Paula drags the bag towards her and opens it. There's another cardigan and the stretchy bands she gave Olive yesterday. Paula's hand goes to her heart, she SOBS.

PAULA

It's not a library, Olive.

A RUMBLE and a gust of wind as the helicopter lands nearby. 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,
Olive.

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 glows green and 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. She thinks it's a joke.

HARPER
Uh, bitch much?

Harper sees Monster Olive SWIPING at Paula.

HARPER (cont'd)
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 WHOOF flames around the blade.

Lucy takes an arrow out of the quiver. Kevin instinctually DRAWS his sword. Flames WHOOF 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.

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 to stop the blood.

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 have velcro like male strippers' 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 piercing the skin. BLOOD gushing out of the wound.

KEVIN (cont'd)

Shit.

Lucy puts pressure on the wound.

Kevin RIPS 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. Don't leave me.

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

Dying 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.

INT. TOP SECRET RUSSIAN LAB.

TITLE: A FEW WEEKS EARLIER

A long, cold, concrete hallway.

ELENA (40s, lab coat, all the science accessories) nervously wheels a trolley with one hand and holds a clipboard with the other. The trolley is stacked with silver canisters with biohazard 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".

An invoice on the clipboard. She studies the invoice intently. A number looks like a seven AND a nine.

A walkie talkie PSSSHHTS. Elena STARTLES, frantically pulls it out of her pocket and winces. She looks into a security camera on the wall as she talks.

ELENA
Y-yes, comrade?

CRANKY RUSSIAN (O.S.)
(filtered)
Comrade Elena? Have you finished yet?
We need you on level four.

ELENA
But... I don't know which--

MALE RUSSIAN (O.S.)
(filtered)
--Which what, comrade?

ELENA
Which number? Is it a seven or a
nine?

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
because you haven't learned how to
count? Comrade Elena?

ELENA
No... no, of course not, I--

CRANKY RUSSIAN (O.S.)
(filtered)
--Good. Now if you finish your job
and come to level four you can see
your family for ten minutes this
weekend.

ELENA
Thank you, oh, thank you, sir,
comrade, sir comrade.

Elena does a panicky dance, KNOCKS on door "9" "VODKA
DISTILLERY". The steel door opens. A SCIENTIST in a lab coat
appears. They sign the docket and wheel the trolley inside.

The door SLAMS shut. Elena RUSHES down the corridor.

FADE TO BLACK.