

GOOD LOOKIN CORPSE

Written by

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EXT. TWO LANE ROAD - DUSK - 1997

A mangled yellow school bus lays upside down horizontally across the road.

Bodies dressed in green and gold cheerleading uniforms litter the scene. Some have been thrown from the bus, others are still inside it. It's been a horrible accident.

DANA (50s, bus driver, once quite beautiful) lays directly in the middle of the street, body along the double yellow line. Everything is still.

She begins to stir. Her eyes open and her tense face relaxes. The slightest hint of a grin passes over her face.

She sits up and gives her body a once over. She finds no visible injuries.

She turns her gaze to the scene laid out in front of her and takes in the bodies of young women, with gruesome injuries.

For a while, everything is still. Then, slowly, the bodies begin to move. Dana hurriedly lies back down and closes her eyes.

TITLE CARD - ONE WEEK EARLIER

EXT JENNIFER'S HOUSE - MORNING

A typical suburban McMansion, new build. The home sits in-between two others that look very similar.

INT. JENNIFER'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Music plays from the boombox on the desk in the corner. Boxes are everywhere. Some are emptied, broken down and sitting in a corner. Others are full and taped shut. A few boxes sit on her bed, opened and half full.

Books are scattered on her desk, sorted by author last name, but they haven't yet found their way to the built-in bookshelf across from her bed.

Small framed photos can be seen amongst the clutter; Jennifer with a group of friends in costume for The Nutcracker, Jennifer with a group of friends laughing outside of her old school in cheerleading uniforms, Jennifer with a cute boy with long brown hair, with their arms around each others waists.

In all of these images, she is the only person of color.

JENNIFER (17, Black, curvy but athletic) stands above her bed, rifling through one of the boxes. She pulls out a photo of herself in full SugarPlum Fairy costume and make-up. Jewels and a fluffy white tutu shine back through her eyes.

CHERIE (O.S)
Jennifer! You're going to be late!
Get down here.

Jennifer puts the photo back in its box. She turns to leave her room and picks up a gym bag on the way out the door.

INT. JENNIFER'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

The table is set for two. CHERIE (late 40s, slicked back hair, reading glasses) takes plates of breakfast off the counter and sets them on the table. Jennifer enters.

JENNIFER
Where's Dad?

CHERIE
He had to take a last minute trip,
he'll be back next week.

Jennifer sits at the table as Cherie sets down two glasses of orange juice. She sits in the chair across from Jennifer.

CHERIE (CONT'D)
I want to talk to you about
something though.

Jennifer looks up concerned.

CHERIE (CONT'D)
I have to head out for work
tomorrow as well. Just a couple
nights.

Jennifer pokes at her eggs.

Cherie watches her intently.

CHERIE (CONT'D)
Do you want to invite someone to
spend the night, so you won't be
alone?

JENNIFER
No.

Cherie hardens the line of her mouth.

CHERIE

You've gotta make some new friends
or these last couple years of
school will be real lonely for you.

Jennifer looks up from her plate and changes the subject.

JENNIFER

Have you seen my pointe shoes?

Cherie gets up from the table and walks out of the room. A moment later she returns, pointe shoes in hand.

CHERIE

I sewed on some new ribbons. They
were getting raggedy.

She hands the shoes to Jennifer who looks up at her in annoyance. Jennifer grabs the shoes, puts them in her lap.

JENNIFER

You did it wrong.

CHERIE

I did what wrong?

Jennifer mutters half to herself.

JENNIFER

The ribbons are too far back.

Cherie gets up from the table and heads back to the stove. Jennifer takes a bite of her breakfast.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD PARKING LOT - MORNING

A well maintained football field is outlined by a state of the art track. Bleachers around the field are empty.

The scoreboard is high tech and colored in green and gold. Underneath it is a bronze plaque with an image of the 1937 football team.

A yellow school bus sits alone. The doors open and Dana emerges.

Her eyes dart from side to side as she reaches into her pocket and pulls out a pack of cigarettes. She lights one and walks towards a fence behind the bleachers.

She peers through the wire and watches...

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL TRACK - CONTINUOUS

10 athletic girls run slowly in a single file line around the track, wearing adidas snap pants in an assortment of colors, and sports bras or tank tops.

The last runner sprints to the front of the line. They all slow down and pace each other. Again, the last runner sprints to the front. This continues.

The CHEER COACH (late 20s, red-head, perky) calls the girls to the front of the empty bleachers.

CHEER COACH

Bring it in! Quick announcements!

Try-Outs for Captain are in just a few days. We all know that Madison was captain of JV, but this is Varsity. That position is earned, not voted upon. So, practice if you want to compete for the job.

Alright! Time for herkie's. Hit it perfect once and you can go. Line up!

The girls form a line. MADISON (17, blonde, large-chested) steps up first and hits her herkie jump. It's perfect. She grins, and flips her hair before looking back at the rest of the girls.

MADISON

Beat that.

CHEER COACH

Ok, nice one Mad. You can head home.

Madison heads to the bleachers. She pulls on an oversized sweater before packing up her stuff and sitting down to watch.

ADDISON (17, brown hair, super thin) is up next. She tries her best but doesn't get enough height.

CHEER COACH (CONT'D)

Again!

Addison tries again. Her height is better but her front leg is bent.

CHEER COACH (CONT'D)

Almost....one more time.

Addison grimaces. Madison screams from the benches.

MADISON

Come on Ad! You got this, let's go.

Addison lights up. She tries one more time and hits a perfect herkie. She jogs towards the bleachers and joins Madison.

Jennifer is halfway down the line. She watches Addison and Madison point and whisper at their teammates as they perform their jumps. Sarah (17, super long hair, high pony-tail) leans in to talk to Jennifer.

SARAH

I hate that they're just sitting there watching us.

JENNIFER

I know. Just because you're "captain" doesn't mean you get to be horrible.

SARAH

Are you going to try out for captain? I think you could take it.

Jennifer smiles and shakes her head "no".

The line moves forward. KAILEY (18, Black, natural curly hair) is on her 4th attempt and finally sticks it. She runs over to join Addison and Madison and throws on a flannel, unbuttoned over her sports bra.

It's Jennifer's turn. Addison nudges Kailey and Madison and they all stop chatting to watch.

ADDISON

No way she get's this first try.

KAILEY

I don't know... she's actually pretty good.

Madison shoots Kailey dagger eyes.

KAILEY (CONT'D)

What?? I mean, she's not going to get captain, but she's better than most.

Madison says nothing and returns her gaze to Jennifer. Jennifer hits her herkie on the first try. Perfect.

CHEER COACH
Good job, Jennifer!

Jennifer smiles shyly at her and heads to pick up her bag as Sarah lines up to jump. As she approaches the bleachers, Madison follows her with her eyes.

MADISON (DRYLY)
Nice jump.

Jennifer looks up at her in surprise.

JENNIFER
Oh, yeah thanks.

MADISON
You must practice a lot, huh?

Jennifer shrugs and quickly gathers her belongings before the conversation can go much further.

ADDISON
Looks like she's gunning for your spot, Mad.

Addison moves uncomfortably close to Jennifer as she says this.

JENNIFER
Oh, no. No I'm not. I just... I don't know, I like herkies. Ok... bye.

Madison, Addison and Kailey all stare her down as she picks up her bag and walks quickly to the parking lot. In the background, Sarah still struggles to hit the perfect herkie.

INT. JENNIFER'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Jennifer is freshly out of the shower and in a robe. She sits at her desk, the top of which is covered in cut out images from rock magazines of long-haired, white-boy musicians.

She presses rewind on an oversized dual cassette boombox. She presses play and listens to the tail end of a grunge song. She waits a moment before pressing stop. She switches the output to radio and listens along.

A song ends on the radio and the disc jockey speaks:

DISC JOCKEY
Alright! That was The Freshman, by
The Verve Pipe!
(MORE)

DISC JOCKEY (CONT'D)

How many freshman we got listening along? Well, let's get you all the way to graduation with Bitch! By Meredith Brooks.

Jennifer hastily reaches over to the tape deck and presses record just in time to catch the opening notes of the song.

As the song plays, she heads to her closet, where she pulls out her cheerleading uniform and hangs it on the handle of her closet.

She sits on the floor in front of her cheerleading bag and empties it out before heading over to her dresser and pulling out a dark green leotard and pink tights. She throws them in her bag.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

Madison, Addison and Kailey wear green and gold cheerleading uniforms and strut down the hallway. They spread out to take up as much space as possible. They believe that they own this school. Just ask them.

Lesser female students look on. Some, with envy. Others, with hate.

The girls make a sharp turn, down a smaller hallway and walk into a...

INT. SCHOOL BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

A small bathroom with only 3 stalls and a miniature window which has been opened. Madison, Addison and Kailey stand in the middle of the room. Addison lights a cigarette, takes a hit and passes it to Madison.

ADDISON

Did you guys see the tights that Jennifer was wearing with her uni today? Like, it's Spirit Day, don't add weird shit to your uniform...

KAILEY

It's not even cold outside. Why do you have tights on?

MADISON

I still don't even understand how she made the squad.

KAILEY

I don't know if I'd go that far.

Madison finishes taking a drag off the cigarette and hands it to Kailey, who takes an immediate hit.

MADISON

What are you guys best friends now or something?

Madison looks to Addison and rolls her eyes. Addison laughs in agreement.

Faint footsteps can be heard approaching the door. The distinct "clip, clop" of teachers heels get closer.

The girls do not panic. Kailey takes a long drag and inhales while hiding the cigarette behind her back.

The door opens and in walks the HALL MONITOR (40s, petite, but tough).

HALL MONITOR

Ladies, I don't know how many times I'm going to have to bust you before you get the point. Stop smoking in the bathrooms!

MADISON

Um, we aren't smoking. Do you see a cigarette anywhere?

Kailey skillfully flicks the cigarette from behind her back and it lands in the toilet in one of the stalls.

ADDISON

Yeah, you use the term "bust" pretty loosely. Pretty sure you have never actually seen a cigarette in any of our hands.

The Hall Monitor winces at this. She turns to Kailey, expecting her to say something also. Kailey just smiles and holds up both her hands.

The Hall Monitor spins around on her thick heels and walks out the door.

Kailey lifts up her chin and exhales all the smoke she was holding in during the conversation. She turns to the other girls and smiles.

INT. HALLWAY - IN FRONT OF LOCKERS - CONTINUOUS

The girls switch out their books.

Jennifer approaches. She is also in her green and gold uniform, but she has added ripped black fishnet tights and Doc Martin's. A flannel is wrapped around her waist.

She stops at a nearby locker and opens it.

A group of 3 junior boys walk past, teasing each other and checking out the girls.

BOY 1
Nice legs, Mad.

Madison shoots him a provocative look.

MADISON
You'd love to have them wrapped
around your face, wouldn't you?

Boy 1 turns beet red and his friends hoot and holler, punching him and pushing him towards her.

MADISON (CONT'D)
Don't start something you can't
finish, asshole.

Madison turns around and looks at Kailey who rolls her eyes.

KAILEY
Fucking children. Wouldn't know
what to do with you anyway.

Addison continues to rifle around her locker, a little bit red and flustered.

Jennifer zips up her backpack and is about to head off. She hesitates for a moment but decides to stay put.

ADDISON
What time are we meeting up
tonight? I need to run home after
class. I forgot my flask. We want a
little sip before the show, yeah?

Jennifer's eyebrows raise.

KAILEY
Fuck yes we do.

MADISON

Show doesn't start til like 6.
You've got time. None of that
fruity shit you brought last time
though.

Kailey sees Jennifer hovering.

KAILEY

Jennifer, you interested?

Jennifer hesitates.

MADISON

Ha! Yeah right, her little "Primus
Club" would just love that.

Jennifer tightens her face.

JENNIFER

Actually, I am interested.

MADISON

Too bad you weren't invited.

Maddison shoots a withering look at Kailey, slams her locker
and storms off. Addison rushes after her. Kailey shrugs.

KAILEY

Don't worry about it.

Jennifer shoots her a half-hearted smile. They close their
lockers and head off in opposite directions.

INT. CLASSROOM - AFTERNOON

Kailey, Madison and Addison strut into the room.

Students take notice and make room for them to sit at desks
against the back wall.

The school announcements come thru an overhead speaker.

SCHOOL DJ (V.O.)

Monday is the big game versus
Lakefield. Tickets are five dollars
and one dollar of every ticket will
be donated to the foundation that
pays homage to our very own 1937
football team, that we lost in such
a tragic...

Madison flips her hair and talks over the announcement.

MADISON
You're driving to lunch today,
right?

ADDISON (EAGERLY)
Oh, yeah, sure if you want me to.
Where are we going?

Kailey rolls her eyes.

KAILEY
Same place we go every day, Add.
McDonalds. Only place we can smoke
without getting caught.

A SCHOOL TEACHER walks into the classroom, and the students slowly stop talking and find their way to their seats.

Just as the class settles, a BESPECTACLED STUDENT walks in and hands a note to the school teacher.

SCHOOL TEACHER
Madison, you are needed in the
front office.

All the students turn to look at her and "oooo". She shoots Addison a confused yet amused glance before picking up her bag and heading out of the room.

INT. SCHOOL FRONT OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Madison approaches the desk, annoyed.

MADISON
You called for me?

A FEMALE DESK ATTENDANT (30s) sits behind the desk. She barely looks up from her papers.

FEMALE DESK ATTENDANT
Yeah, Counselor Johnson needs to
talk to you.

A momentary flash of concern takes over Madison's face.

She quickens her pace as she heads to a nearby door.

INT. COUNSELOR JOHNSON'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

COUNSELOR JOHNSON (40s, black, female) sits behind a messy desk. Degrees hang on the wall.

Madison peeks her head in from behind the door wall.

MADISON

Mrs. Johnson, you asked for me.

COUNSELOR JOHNSON

Madison, yes. Come in, close the door.

Madison enters the room and closes the door behind her. She walks to the desk and sits down.

MADISON

Is everything ok.

COUNSELOR JOHNSON

Everything is fine, but there has been just a little trouble at home.

Madison sits up straighter and her breathing quickens.

MADISON

Is he ok? What happened.

COUNSELOR JOHNSON

He's ok, Madison calm down. Just a bit of confusion. It seems he had a small incident. Your neighbors found him two doors down without a shirt or shoes. He couldn't remember which house was yours.

Madison groans.

COUNSELOR JOHNSON (CONT'D)

But! Your neighbors saw him out there, and took him inside their house. He doesn't have his key though. Left it in the house.

Counselor Johnson reaches into her desk and pulls out a small pad of paper and begins writing.

Madison is red and tearing up. She does not however, let a single tear fall.

Counselor Johnson rips off a piece of the paper and hands it to Madison.

COUNSELOR JOHNSON (CONT'D)

Hall pass. You get this hour off, no penalty. I'll talk to your teacher.

Madison grabs the hall pass. She does not meet counselor Johnson's eyes as she does. She mutters her response.

MADISON

Thanks.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

The hallways are empty as Madison quickens her pace. She makes a fast turn to the main hallway and runs directly into Jennifer.

Jennifer drops the bathroom pass she was carrying and takes a few quick steps backwards to steady herself.

Madison stares at her in anticipation.

MADISON

I don't hear an apology.

Jennifer gawks at her in surprise.

JENNIFER

For what? You ran into me. Slow down!

Madison grits her teeth.

MADISON

Maybe you can catch me with those fucking hole-y fishnets you have on. What's wrong with you? Can't you afford full tights? Grunge is over. Deal with it.

With that Madison spins around and heads towards the buildings main doors.

Jennifer stands in shock for a moment, watching her walk away. She flicks Madison off with both hands when she is sure that she won't be seen before bending down to pick up her bathroom pass and continuing on her way.

INT. SECOND CLASSROOM - LATER

Jennifer sits at her desk as the ENGLISH TEACHER drones on about Dante's Inferno. She fiddles with her pen as she stares ahead, agitated.

In the seat behind her, Sarah sits in her uniform, watching Jennifer fidget. Sarah looks around before tapping Jennifer on the shoulder.

SARAH

You ok?

JENNIFER

I'm fine. I had a run in with Madison and she was just, unhinged.

SARAH

Oh my God, you did? What happened? I wish someone could knock her ego down. Even just a little.

Jennifer quietly considers this and turns back around to face the teacher. Sarah sits back in her chair.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - LATER

Jennifer and Sarah exit their classroom and walk with each other. They are a funny looking pair. Sarah, sweet and girlie and Jennifer, a bit more rough around the edges.

JENNIFER

Has Madison always been captain up until now?

SARAH

Yeah, both Freshman and Sophomore year. No one ever really runs against her.

Why? Are you thinking about trying out?

Sarah can't contain her excitement over this possibility. Her face flushes and her voice goes up an octave or two.

JENNIFER

I just hate how mean she is. It would be nice to bring her back down to reality a little bit, you know?

SARAH

You should so do it! We have all been watching you in practice since you got here. You could do it. You could beat her.

Jennifer stops walking and looks at Sarah.

JENNIFER

You guys are watching me?

SARAH

Not in like, a creepy way. Just kind of, you know, like, hopeful? The Ads and Kailey, or really, just the Ads make things pretty bad. And cheerleading should be fun, you know?

Jennifer looks at her watch. Kids are rushing past, out the front door of the school, headed home for the day.

JENNIFER

I've gotta go, I have dance, but, yeah. I think I'm going to.

SARAH

You dance too? Oooo ok that makes sense. Ok, well have fun!

Jennifer grimaces at her before taking off at a jog out the front door.

EXT. DANCE STUDIO IN SMALL STRIP MALL - AFTERNOON

In a crowded parking lot, Jennifer gets out of the drivers side of a parked car. Her Doc Martens and ripped jeans hide her leotard and tights. She runs into the dance studio.

INT. DANCE STUDIO - AFTERNOON

Crowded hallways and organized chaos as ballet students of all ages rush in and out of rooms in different states of dress. Some are in full class attire.

The younger kids struggle with their ballet flats while the older girls meticulously bang their pointe shoes on the ground crushing the toe boxes, and sew ribbons into the satin.

Jennifer waits in line with her classmates, all dressed the same in green leotards, tights and point shoes. One by one, each girl steps on a scale and has her weight said out loud by the TEACHER (impossibly thin, white, stoic).

Jennifer approaches the front of the line and steps on the scale.

TEACHER

145. This is the second week in a row Jennifer. This is not your old studio.

The teacher turns to the remaining students in line to be weighed.

TEACHER (CONT'D)
Ladies! What is the max acceptable weight for a ballerina at THIS school?

A chorus answers behind Jennifer.

CHORUS OF STUDENTS
125 ma'am!

Jennifer steps off the scale, her whole body shaking. The teacher looks at her.

TEACHER
Next week, I better see a loss.

Jennifer nods, fights back the coming tears and walks into the classroom.

INT. CLASSROOM - DANCE STUDIO - LATER

A large mirror covers the wall. The dancers are huddled in a corner. It is silent.

From the piano in an opposite corner begins a light upbeat waltz. The students separate and a group of 3 comes to the front. They take starting positions.

The teacher counts them in.

TEACHER
5,6,7 and...

On the 8 count, the three dancers jump into complicated choreography and glide across the floor.

TEACHER (CONT'D)
Tombe! Pas de Bourree! Glissade!
Pique Arabesque! 4th position!
Triple Pirouette! Tombe! Pas de
Bourree! Grand Jete! Good! Next
group get ready, and 5,6,7...

On the 8 count, the next group of three begins. Jennifer stands out against the two other dancers, who are both thin and sinewy.

As the group moves across the floor to the beat of the teacher, Jennifer's turns are cleaner, her leaps are higher, her extensions longer.

The knit warm-up Jennifer wears over her leotard covers her from chest to ankles and tucks into her neckline. As she continues through the choreography her warm-up slips and just as she finishes, she catches it as it hits her hips.

TEACHER (CONT'D)

Jennifer! What have I told you about your warm-ups! Find something that will stay on those ridiculous hips of yours!

Jennifer struggles with her warm-ups, pulling them back up and tucking them even tighter into the top of her leotard.

She tries her best to duck behind the rest of the class. As the only person of color and the tallest in the room, she does not succeed.

Around her, the class continues as the next group begins their choreography.

INT. DRESSING ROOM - DANCE STUDIO - LATER

Jennifer struggles with her warm ups as she pulls them down and shoves them in her dance bag. She sits down to begin the process of taking off her pointe shoes. A small stain at the top of the shoe makes her groan. ROBIN (teeny, built like the letter "i", blonde, super sweet) notices.

ROBIN

Oh noooo... you bled through?

Jennifer slowly removes her pointe shoe.

JENNIFER

Yeah, I ran out of second skin and just used some old lambs wool. I should've known better.

Jennifer pulls back her blood stained pink tights from her brown toes and picks the blood soaked lambs wool off of them. She looks around for the trash can.

Her classmate hands her some paper towel and box of band-aids.

ROBIN

Here you go.

Jennifer smiles sheepishly at her and takes the offering

JENNIFER

Thanks.

Her classmate turns to walk away, but hesitates. She turns back around.

ROBIN

I would kill for your body by the way. Let alone your strength. You were awesome in that combination. We all saw it.

Jennifer blushes.

JENNIFER

Oh...wow.. Um thank you. You were great too! I wish I had your arms.

Her classmate beams at her before walking away.

Jennifer bandages her bleeding toes and throws her jeans back on over her leotard.

EXT. DOWNTOWN BRICK AND MORTER - EVENING

Madison, Addison and Kailey stand in front of a bench in front of a shop eating ice cream and sneaking sips from a flask. They all have color coordinated beepers in the front pockets of their jeans, white tennis shoes and brightly colored t-shirts that have been tied in the back to create a crop top.

ADDISON

We missed you at lunch, Mad. Where'd you go?

MADISON

Remember that boy from this morning, told me he liked my legs?

ADDISON

Yeah?

MADISON

Well, I took pity on the kid. Let him feel them.

Madison shoots them a suggestive look and wiggles her hips. Addison laughs. Kailey looks suspicious.

KAILEY

I didn't see your car when we left for McDonalds though.

Madison hesitates for a split second.

MADISON

We left campus. Can't have any real fun there.

Kailey nods. Satisfied for now. Addison throws away the remaining half of her ice cream cone and plops down on the bench. She pulls a pack of cigarettes and a lighter from her pocket and lights up.

KAILEY

Gimme one.

Kailey reaches out her hand and Addison obliges. Madison checks her watch.

MADISON

Oh shit. Show's about to start. Come on.

Addison pops up from the bench, Kailey puts her unlit cigarette behind her ear and the three sprint over to the door to a coffee house.

INT. SMOKE-FILLED COFFEE HOUSE - EVENING

It's small and cloudy and filled with teenagers. Small circular chairs and two-top tables, worn couches, a few arm chairs.

The girls head to a couch towards the middle where only one other PERSON is sitting. They sit down, ignoring personal space. The person sighs and rolls their eyes before getting up and walking away, leaving the couch for them to use as they please.

A TEENAGE BAND is on a teeny stage in the back corner of the shop, playing singer/songwriter type songs. The girls watch momentarily before...

MADISON

So, have you guys heard anything about tryouts?

Addison and Kailey look at each other.

MADISON (CONT'D)

What? What's that look?

ADDISON

I overheard Sarah talking to some of the other girls, saying that Jennifer was going for the captain spot.

Madison throws her head back and laughs. Kailey rolls her eyes quietly. Addison looks concerned.

MADISON
Please. As if.

Addison gives a nervous chuckle. Kailey stays silent.

ADDISON
Yeah, she could never beat you.

MADISON
You know what I heard?

KAILEY
What?

MADISON
I heard that the reason she always wears tights, is because she's a cutter...and she goes in online chat rooms every night to have cybersex with other freaks.

KAILEY
WHAT??

ADDISON
Oh my God!!

MADISON
I know, right? No wonder she's so scared to show her legs.

Kailey thinks

KAILEY
Who did you hear this from?

MADISON
Oh, I don't know. Some internet nerd at school who was like all obsessed with her or something.

Addison finally is able to close her gaping mouth.

ADDISON
That is so gross. Someone like that can NOT represent us. We have to tell coach. Right Mad?

KAILEY
No, we are not telling coach.

Kailey gives Madison a suspicious glance.

KAILEY (CONT'D)
But if that's true, then...

MADISON
Of course it true! Like half the
school knows already, ask anyone.

Madison gestures to the ton of teenagers around her, notices Sarah standing in a dark corner with a friend. Addison does not need to be told twice, she hops over to the next table before Kailey can stop her and leans over to ask them in low tones.

The COUPLE at the table look shocked. They shake their head no but immediately turn around to ask their FRIENDS at the table behind them.

Kailey watches as person by person, this rumor spreads. Madison looks over it all and grins.

INT. SMALL INDEPENDENT VIDEO RENTAL SHOP - EVENING

Jennifer wanders through the narrow, cluttered aisles of movies. She moves slowly. Picking up dvd cases and reading the backs before putting them back down.

After a thorough reading of what seems like every film in the store, she approaches the counter with three dvd's and sets them down.

INT. JENNIFER'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Sitting on the counter are three rental dvd's: The Craft, Scream and The Long Kiss Goodnight.

Jennifer is at the stove, boiling water. She walks to the pantry and pulls out a packet of ramen noodles. She crushes it and dumps it in the boiling water.

She passes by the counter, picks up the dvd's and sits down at the table, reading the back of The Craft while waiting for her food.

The house is large and quiet around her.

The phone on the kitchen wall rings. Jennifer walks to it and picks it up.

JENNIFER
Hello?

INT. SARAH'S ROOM - NIGHT

In sharp contrast with Jennifer's room, Sarah's room is pristine. Decorated in whites and peach, very feminine.

SARAH

Hello? Is Jennifer home?

INT. JENNIFER'S KITCHEN / SARAH'S BEDROOM - INTERCUT

JENNIFER

This is?

SARAH

Oh! Hi Jennifer, it's Sarah.

Jennifer makes a faces. She is confused but intrigued.

JENNIFER

Hey, I'm surprised you have my number.

SARAH

Yeah...it was a little hard to find. Your number isn't listed but it's on the cheer roster. Your address too, we're neighbors!

JENNIFER

Oh?

SARAH

Yeah, just a few doors down! Anyway, I figured coach made sure she had it. I hope it's ok that I'm calling?

JENNIFER

Yeah, its ok. What's up?

SARAH

I was wondering, um... so are you on any internet chat rooms? We just got a second computer for the house, so I can finally use one and they sound... kind of interesting.

Jennifer furls her brow

JENNIFER

Um... no? I mean, I go online every once in a while to like...

(MORE)

JENNIFER (CONT'D)
 play a game or whatever but no, I'm
 not into chat rooms.

Sarah raises her eyebrows in surprise.

SARAH
 Oh! Ok, sorry to bother you then, I
 had heard...

Sarah trails off before suddenly...

SARAH (CONT'D)
 Oh shit.

Jennifer hears Sarah's line get muffled. Sarah covers the
 mouthpiece of the telephone.

SARAH (CONT'D)
 Sorry, Mom! Sorry, I'm hanging up
 now.

Jennifer hears Sarah's mom screaming. Her voice slurred.

SARAH'S MOM
 Why the fuck are you on the phone
 at 9pm! You dirty little whore,
 what did I tell you about talking
 to boys at night....

The line gets even more muffled and the voices become too
 difficult to make out. Sarah yelps and Jennifer's eyes widen
 and her jaw drops.

SARAH
 MOM!!

JENNIFER
 Sarah?

The line rustles.

SARAH
 Hi, sorry about that. My mom
 just...

JENNNIFER
 Hey, no its ok. But, are you ok?
 That sounded a bit.. Intense?

SARAH
 Yeah, no, no, I'm fine. I have to
 go though.

JENNIFER

Ok, well, goodnight. And hey... If you ever need to like...talk or anything...

Jennifer lets the last sentence trail off.

SARAH

Oh, um yea. Thanks. Bye.

Sarah hangs up the phone.

Jennifer hangs up the phone. She stares at it on the wall for second before remembering her boiling ramen noodles. She rushes over to the stove and pours them in a bowl. She grabs the dvd rentals and heads out of the kitchen.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD - AFTERNOON

Jennifer walks past a GROUP OF SKATER BOYS who are hanging out at the entrance to the field. She has her gym bag with her and is in track pants and a tank top.

SKATER BOY 1

Hey, what's your username?

Jennifer looks around confused. She realizes he is talking to her.

JENNIFER

My what?

SKATER BOY 1

Your username?

JENNIFER

Oh, uh I don't have one.

The group of boys laugh.

SKATER BOY 1

Alright, yeah...sure you don't.

Jennifer furrows her eyebrows at him, but she keeps walking past them and into the track where the rest of the squad is warming up. Sarah runs up to her.

SARAH

Hey!

JENNIFER

Hi.

SARAH

You ok?

JENNIFER

Yeah, I'm good. Just...that dude out there asked what my username is, and he's like the third person to ask me that today. How about you? Are you ok?

SARAH

Oh, um.. yeah

Sarah looks down at her feet and kicks at invisible rocks.

JENNIFER

What is it?

Sarah looks up.

SARAH

Huh, oh no. Nothing.

The coach claps her hands.

COACH

Alright, let's go! Everybody on the ground. Butterfly, let's stretch it out before we get started.

Jennifer and Sarah join the others on the ground. Sitting with their knees apart and the soles of their feet touching, they stretch.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD - LATER

The squad is in formation, practicing a new cheer. Coach is screaming from the sidelines.

COACH

Nice Jennifer! Nice!

Sarah, straighten your knees.

Madison, what are you doing with your arms?? Tension!

The squad moves into formation for a liberty chair stunt. Jennifer and Sarah nail theirs. Madison and Addison struggle just a little bit. It does not go unnoticed by the other girls on the squad.

COACH (CONT'D)

Ok, no worries guys. Shake it off.
Just a bad day. Jennifer, Sarah.
Good job.

Jennifer and Sarah high five each other and jog towards their water bottles for a quick break. Kailey is by the bags grabbing a drink as well. She gives them a quick nod of approval before running back out to the track.

Addison runs over for a drink as well. She and Kailey cross paths, but don't say anything to one another.

As Addison approaches, she stares directly at Jennifer.

ADDISON

Move freak. You're standing on my bag.

Jennifer is taken aback but moves, with shock apparent on her face.

Addison grabs her water bottle and runs away.

JENNIFER

Freak?

SARAH

Don't worry about it. You're killin' it today. She's just jealous.

Jennifer, walks back over to where the group is cooling down. She sits down for stretches with Sarah and a few others. Madison stage whispers for effect:

MADISON

Ugh, don't get too close to her.
Never know what kind of cyber-aids she's picked up.

Hey Jennifer...when are you gonna show us those Edward Scissorhands legs, huh?

Jennifer ignores her and turns to Sarah.

JENNIFER

Ok, what is going on?

Sarah nervously picks at her nails as she responds.

SARAH

There's a rumor...

JENNIFER

A rumor?

SARAH

Yeah... that.. Um.. That you cut yourself and that's why you always wear something to cover your legs.

Jennifer takes this in, in silence.

JENNIFER

Anything else?

SARAH

Yeah. Um... that you go on like, those internet sex chat rooms and you know... do stuff...cyber stuff with other people who..kind of...I don't know. Like that kind of stuff?

Jennifer looks over at the other group of girls stretching. They are all whispering and laughing and looking over at her. She covers her face with her hands. Her shoulders begin to heave.

The other group of girls are seated behind her, and notice her body language.

Sarah reaches out to console her. As her hand reaches Jennifer's shoulder, Jennifer looks up. She is holding back laughter, not tears. Her eyes just a little bit wild.

JENNIFER

Wow... just wow.

She shakes her head and stands to grab her bag.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Thanks for the info. I'll see you tomorrow.

Sarah watches her, mouth agape. The other group of girls watch as it seems that Jennifer runs off, upset.

As Jennifer leaves, she passes Dana, the bus driver who is smoking a cigarette and watching the girls practice.

EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT - AFTERNOON

Jennifer walks through the parking lot. The skater boys are still there.

As she walks past, they say lewd, suggestive things to her. She ignores them, and gets in the car and drives off.

EXT. WOODS - AFTERNOON

Madison, Addison and Kailey are sitting on tree stumps in the woods near the school, celebrating their success at spreading the rumor.

They have a small flask and are passing a joint around.

ADDISON

Did you see her bury her head in her hands?! It was perfect!

Madison laughs.

MADISON

I told you guys she was a freak! She wouldn't react that way if it wasn't true.

ADDISON

Right? So gross.

Kailey takes a hit from the joint and passes it to Addison.

KAILEY

What is like, your actual problem with her though?

Madison stops drinking mid drink and lowers the flask.

MADISON

What do you mean, what is my problem with her? She's a freak and I don't want a freak representing MY squad.

Addison looks back and forth between the two of them, wide-eyed.

KAILEY

She's a freak because she wears tights? That makes no sense Madison.

Madison's face gets red. She huffs.

MADISON

No! She's a freak because of the cutting, and the cyber sex.

KAILEY

I've known you my whole life, Mad.
I know when you are full of shit.
You made that up. On the spot.

Addison's jaw drops.

ADDISON

Oh my God! Kailey, no she didn't!
You saw how Jennifer reacted!

Kailey stands up and wipes the dirt off of her hands.

KAILEY

Look, I love fuckin' around and
having a good time as much as
anybody else. But you're wrong for
this Mad.

Kailey walks away from them, back towards the school.

Madison and Addison are left dumbfounded.

ADDISON

Whatever, she'll be begging for
your forgiveness tomorrow.

MADISON

Must be on the rag or something.
Getting all soft on us.

They laugh.

MADISON (CONT'D)

Speaking of the rag. I had an idea.
You know that old horror movie,
Carrie? With the bucket of blood.

Addison nods.

ADDISON

Yeah! Steven King I think, right?

Maddison grins.

MADISON

I want to dump a bucket on Jennifer
while she walks into school. The
day of captain tryouts and the
first game.

ADDISON

OF BLOOD???

Madison rolls her eyes

MADISON

Of course not, Add. Can you imagine? No, of like... Redpop. Or like... dyed water or something. All that time she spends straightening her hair... just gone. It'll be as wild and poofy as Kailey's.

Addison cackles.

ADDISON

Yessssss. I love it! How would we do it though?

MADISON

So I was thinking about it.. And I think we'd have to set it up the night before. Tomorrow, so we can dump it on her the day of try-outs.

INT. JENNIFER'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Jennifer gets ready for school. She pulls out her typical outfit. Bodysuit, jeans, flannel, and starts to get dressed. As she pulls on her jeans, she stops. Thinks. She takes them off.

She heads to the dresser and rummages around for a while before pulling out a pair of old, cut off jean shorts, from the 70s. Super short, but roomy. She pulls them on. Her smooth, shapely, scar-free dancers legs need lotion. She lathers some on, grabs her flannel, throws on her Dr. Martins and heads out the door.

INT/EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - FRONT DOOR / HALLWAY - MORNING

It is early enough that the hallways are still empty and the parking lot, which can be seen through the glass front doors, has not yet filled up. Madison and Addison are fiddling with a small rope hanging from the top of the open entrance. A large bucket is perched precariously on the ledge. Maddison moves to the side of the door and tucks herself out of view.

MADISON

How's this?

Addison stands on the outside of the entrance, looking in. Madison is not within her view. She walks back inside.

ADDISON

It's great. I can't see you at all.

MADISON

Awesome, ok so... you just make sure that you get her to come through THIS door. Catch her at her car maybe? Tell her you need to talk.

ADDISON

Yeah, for sure. I got it. No problem.

A slow yet steady stream of cars and school busses pull into the parking lot. Madison and Addison look at each other conspiratorially. Madison tucks herself back in the corner. Addison heads outside.

EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT - MORNING

Jennifer sits in the drivers seat of a parked car. She gathers her book bag and water bottle from the passenger seat. Flips down the mirror and checks her lipgloss before opening the car door and stepping out. Bare legs leading the way.

As she walks through the parking lot, heads turn and eyes follow her. Everyone takes in her flawless legs. Girls eyes get big as they turn to their friends to gossip. Boys elbow each other and take notice. A few look on, hungrily.

Jennifer notices the reaction and fights to keep her face straight, however she can't help the slight canary eating grin from hinting on her lips.

Kailey watches from a row of cars over. She smirks. She sees Addison approach Jennifer and the smirk vanishes. She watches from a distance and follows behind the two as they walk towards the school.

Jennifer is surprised as Addison approaches her.

ADDISON

Hi Jennifer!

JENNIFER

Why are you talking to me?

Addison looks down and sees Jennifer's shorts.

ADDISON

Oh wow. Your shorts are...pretty cool. Kinda short though, you might get in trouble.

Addison scans her legs, looking for any sort of scaring. The two are moving quickly towards the door.

Madison peeks out from the doorway and sees the pair approaching. She ducks back out of sight.

Addison gives up on her scanning and meets Jennifer's eyes as Jennifer responds.

JENNIFER

I'll take my chances.

ADDISON

Anyway, Coach is in the front office. They are looking for you. They asked me to find you.

Jennifer scrunches her face.

JENNIFER

For what?

The two are about to walk through the threshold.

Kailey is still walking behind them. She is entering through the other door. She looks back and forth from Addison to Jennifer, before looking around suspiciously.

Addison takes the first step over the doorway when Kailey calls out.

KAILEY

Hey, Jennifer!

Jennifer stops dead in her tracks and turns around to see Kailey.

INT/EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - FRONT DOOR / HALLWAY - MORNING

Addison continues to walk in, not realizing that Jennifer has stopped walking.

Madison sees Addison walk in and tugs on the string. The bucket tips over and Redpop falls to the floor in a cascade behind Addison.

The splash however, is not as contained and Addison gets soaked in the sticky red soda. She stands frozen with her mouth open in shock.

Madison looks up in horror and realizes that Jennifer is not there with Addison. She looks to the other side of the doorway and sees Jennifer standing out of harms way with Kailey. She takes it all in. Addison, covered in Redpop. Kailey and Jennifer, chummy. And Jennifer's bare, smooth legs.

MADISON

Addison you fucking idiot!

Addison looks at her, like a kicked puppy.

Jennifer notices the string, still being held by Madison, attached to the bucket. She looks to Kailey, who shakes her head and holds up her hands as if to say "don't ask me".

The surrounding students are laughing and pointing at the mess.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - PRINCIPALS OFFICE - MORNING

PRINCIPAL LATHRUP (50s, white, male) sits at an oversized wood desk. Counselor Johnson stands to the left of him. Madison is seated on the other side of the desk, facing both of them.

Principal Lathrup's face is flushed and his words exit his mouth louder than expected.

PRINCIPAL LATHRUP

We do NOT tolerate bullying at this school. This is a very serious infraction, Madison and one that is not taken lightly.

Madison looks straight ahead at Principal Lathrup, steel faced. Her eyes betray her, as they fight back moisture, but her jaw is set in a straight line.

PRINCIPAL LATHRUP (CONT'D)

I oughta remove you from the cheerleading squad. People look up to you. You have been captain of your squad since coming to school here. How do you think that looks?

Madison breaks a little bit.

MADISON

Remove me from the squad?! You can't do that!

PRINCIPAL LATHRUP

I will be having a conversation with your coach. She will have the ultimate decision in how to handle your membership on the squad.

In the meantime, I hear try-outs for captain are today.

Madison's pleading eyes shoot up to counselor Johnson. Wild concern passes over her face. Her eyes dart between the counselor and the principal. She waits for one of them to say something.

PRINCIPAL LATHRUP (CONT'D)

Counselor Johnson has made me aware of what you are dealing with at home. And because of that, ONLY because of that, we are not going to pull you out of try-outs, BUT you were this close young lady.

Principal Johnson creates an inch of space with his fingers.

PRINCIPAL LATHRUP (CONT'D)

So I suggest that you thank Counselor Johnson. Additionally, you will need to apologize to Addison, in writing by end of day. Otherwise, we WILL pull you from try-outs. Do you understand.

Madison sets her jaw again. She nods her head, but remains silent.

PRINCIPAL LATHRUP (CONT'D)

Do you have something you'd like to say to either Counselor Johnson or I.

With fire behind her eyes, Madison looks slowly to each of them. She swallows.

MADISON

Thank you.

Principal Lathrup grimaces.

PRINCIPAL LATHRUP

You are free to go.

Madison picks up her bag and walks out of the room. Principal Lathrup turns to Counselor Johnson and the two whisper quietly as Madison leaves the room.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - LATER

Jennifer and Kailey stand in front of a bench in the hallway, talking.

KAILEY

Look, I'm sorry for what happened today. It shouldn't have happened. But, I didn't know anything about it.

Jennifer considers Kailey. She gives her a partial grin.

JENNIFER

What do you see in those girls anyway? Like...why hang out with them? They make everything so shitty.

Kailey scrunches up her face as she prepares to answer.

KAILEY

I've known Madison all my life. Addison moved here before Freshman year so I don't know her as well so I don't know really know what her malfunction is but...Madison wasn't always like this. The last couple years have just... I don't know...changed.

We got into it after practice though. I knew when she spread that rumor about you cutting that she had kind of just.. gone mental, you know?

Jennifer nods and Kailey looks over her shoulder at Madison who has turned the corner and is primed to walk past them.

Madison is steel faced, walking briskly and plowing down people in her path. As she walks past Jennifer and Kailey she glares at the two of them, taking an extra moment to smirk at Kailey.

MADISON

I should've known you would sell me out for your own kind. Bitch.

Kailey's eyes widen and her chin retracts as if she's been hit.

Jennifer's jaw drops. The two stand in silence as they watch Madison stomp her way down the hall. Finally, Jennifer scoffs.

JENNIFER

Oh yeah...she must've just been a peach.

Kailey looks to Jennifer. Rage showing on her cheeks.

KAILEY

You know what? Fuck it, let's get you that captain spot. Here is what you need to know about coach....

The two girls walk the opposite direction down the hall.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - AFTERNOON

A folding table sits at one end of the gym, where coach sits. To her left, on the bleachers sits the cheer squad. Sprinkled throughout the remaining benches are a few other STUDENTS who have come to observe.

Madison and Jennifer sit on the bleachers to the right of Coach. Alone. Feet apart and not speaking to one another.

Coach stands from her seat and walks around the desk to stand in front of it and address the crowd.

COACH

Alright, listen up! We have two people trying out for the position of Captain today. As you know, the final decision will be mine and mine alone.

That being said, I will be accepting ballots from the cheer squad. Those students that are just here for the show, please do not vote. Votes will be considered however at the end of the day...whose decision is it?

Coach looks pointedly to the cheer squad and to Jennifer and Madison.

CHEER SQUAD (IN UNISON)

Yours!

COACH

Good. Results will be posted on Monday, AFTER the game. Do not ask me about them before that.

Ok, we are about to get started. Take 5 minutes. Jennifer and Madison, if you need water, final advice from friends, a trip to the bathroom... now is the time.

Coach walks back around to her chair, grabs her purse and heads out the side door, which opens to the parking lot. As the door swings shut, Dana lurks on the other side, peeking into the gym.

Madison hops up from the bleachers and jogs over to Addison who is seated with the rest of the squad. The other cheerleaders see her coming and retreat.

MADISON

Hey!

ADDISON

Hi.

Addison is in freshly changed clothes. Her hair is up in a messy bun and still looks damp.

MADISON

Can you believe they almost didn't let me try out? Like, what the fuck. Idiots!

Addison nods her head quietly.

MADISON (CONT'D)

Anyway, they want me to apologize to you or whatever. In writing. So, here.

Madison pulls a crumpled piece of paper from her waistband and hands it to Addison.

Addison looks at it momentarily before opening it and reading it. It doesn't take long to do so. She folds it up and puts it in her pocket.

ADDISON

Thanks. It really was a pain to get the pop out of my clothes. That red color stains, and....

Madison interrupts her.

MADISON

Can you believe they actually
thought I was trying to drench YOU?
Like, in what world.

Addison finally warms a bit at this and smiles a real smile.

ADDISON

Really? I wasn't....

Maddison interrupts her again.

MADISON

I'm so pissed we didn't get her
though. Oh well... just have to
beat her here and now.

Madison looks at Addison. Smiles at her for a moment. It is a
believable smile.

MADISON (CONT'D)

Wish me luck!

ADDISON

Good Luck, Mad.

Madison looks over to the other side of the bench where
Jennifer, Kailey and Sarah are huddled together. She rolls
her eyes and scoffs.

MADISON (UNDER HER BREATH)

Unbelievable.

At the other side of the bleachers Jennifer, Sarah and Kailey
chat.

KAILEY

So, you remember the things Coach
looks out for?

JENNIFER

Yes! Jumps are more important than
heel stretches. Sharp arms. Finish
every move before going to the
next. This is cake.

SARAH

I really don't think you have
anything to worry about. This is
yours. You're better than she is.
If coach is fair, it's not even a
question.

Jennifer hops up and down, boundless energy.

JENNIFER

Ok, I'm gonna run to the bathroom
before she gets back.

Jennifer sprints across the gym floor and through the double doors, out into the...

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYM - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Jennifer opens the restroom door and disappears inside. Dana rounds the corner into the hallway and looks around. Checks behind her and hovers around the bathroom door. She hears the toilet flush and the sink run. She takes a few steps back before walking forward, timing it perfectly so that as Jennifer exits the bathroom, the two of them bump into one another.

JENNIFER

Oh excuse me, sorry about that.

Jennifer continues to walk towards the gym entrance but Dana stops her.

DANA

Try-outs?

Jennifer looks back at her and turns around.

JENNIFER

Um..yeah. Cheerleading.

Dana nods her head.

DANA

Yeah, I've seen that blonde be
nothing but nasty for months. Don't
let her win.

Jennifer laughs.

JENNIFER

Wait, who are you?

DANA

Oh, nobody really. I drive a bus,
we see things...

Dana trails off and Jennifer looks at her watch.

JENNIFER

I'll do my best.

Jennifer runs off through the double doors and back into the...

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - LATER

Madison stands in front of the table where Coach sits. She begins a cheer.

MADISON
SPIRIT UP! KEEP THAT DRAGON SPIRIT
UP! PUSH EM BACK! GAIN THE YARDS!
MAKE EM' FEEL THAT DRAGON GUARD!

As she yells, she performs a series of complicated arm and leg movements. She stumbles a bit in the middle, trips over her own foot.

At the end of the cheer, she launches herself into a roundoff back handspring, however she does not land properly and tweaks her ankle. Madison grimaces in pain, but quickly replaces it with a cheer smile.

Coach holds up her hand to stop the cheering coming from the bleachers.

COACH
Ok thank you Madison. Last thing
for today, time for jumps. I would
like to see a toe touch, a herkie
and a pike.

Madison nods. She walks back to center with a slight limp. She looks over her shoulder at Addison who gives her a nod and a smile. She looks over her other shoulder to Jennifer who is watching intently. Madison sees Jennifer's eyes on her ankle. She squares up and faces front. She goes for her first jump.

The toe touch looks great while its in the air, but the moment Madison lands, she hops in pain and shuffles all the way to one foot, avoiding the pain in her ankle. She does not stick the landing.

Madison looks around in panic. She sees Jennifer grin. Her face flushes and her eyes tear but once again, not a single tear falls.

She pulls herself to center again. Coach looks at her expectantly. She prepares herself for the herkie. Concern takes over her face as she takes a deep breath. She jumps.

It's bad. Her legs are bent, her height is minuscule and her landing is even worse. She hops around on her good foot.

Coach holds up her hand.

COACH (CONT'D)

Madison, are you ok? What's going on with the ankle?

Madison tries to walk it off as she responds.

MADISON

No, no, it's ok. I just tweaked it. It'll be fine.

COACH

Ok. Take a second before this last jump. Stretch it out. Make sure you can do it without hurting yourself further.

Madison nods and rotates her ankle, stretching it. The cheer squad looks on, whispering to one another. Addison stands up and claps.

ADDISON

Come on Mad! This is yours! Take it!

A few CHEERLEADERS on the squad clap along with Addison. The majority do not.

Madison hops on her ankle. Tests it. Satisfied, she heads back to the center mark.

MADISON

Ok, I'm ready.

Coach looks up from her paper.

COACH

Go for it.

Maddison takes a breath and goes for the pike. She nails it.

Coach and Madison smile.

COACH (CONT'D)

Thank you Madison. You can join the others on the bleachers.

Jennifer, you are up!

Jennifer stands up and heads to the center of the room. Confidence radiates from her body. Sarah cheers. Kailey claps. Coach holds up her hand for silence.

Jennifer begins the same cheer that Madison did. It is flawless.

She hits the round-off back handspring without missing a single step.

She massacres the toe touch.

She destroys the herkie.

She eats the pike.

The cheer squad gets louder and more raucous with applause and "woo"s every step of the way.

Jennifer grins and looks to the crowd to find Sarah. Kailey sits next to her and they both raise their hands above their heads, applauding and screaming. It is clear who had the better try out.

EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT -EVENING

10 girls in cheerleading uniforms including Madison, Addison, Sarah and Jennifer, are milling around parked cars, talking to each other and primping.

A yellow school bus pulls into the parking lot and circles the girls before stopping and opening the door.

Dana exits the bus. She is a bit rough around the edges and dull in the eyes, however her natural beauty can't be denied.

She walks up to the cheer coach to chat.

Jennifer notices her and elbows Sarah, who is standing next to her.

JENNIFER

That's her!

SARAH

Who?

JENNIFER

That weird bus driver I was telling you about. The one that talked to me before my try-out.

Sarah looks to where Jennifer points. She laughs.

SARAH

Oh! Her. Yeah, she's so weird. She's been hanging around lately.

(MORE)

SARAH (CONT'D)

I see her here and there. She's harmless though.

Jennifer nods. She rummages through her bag and a pointe shoe falls to the ground. Sarah bends down to pick it up.

JENNIFER

Thanks. I didn't have time to empty all my dance shit before the game. I hope everything I need for today is here.

Jennifer keeps poking at things in her bag. Making sure she has everything.

At the front of the bus, the door opens and Dana climbs on. The cheer coach watches her before yelling to her squad.

CHEER COACH

Alright girls, I'll be following right behind you. See you at the game! Do as much stretching on the bus as you can.

Jennifer notices Kailey getting out of her car and heading towards the group. She motions her over to join them. Kailey runs up.

JENNIFER

You wanna sit with us?

Kailey nods yes and the three head towards the bus doors. One by one, the rest of the squad follows their lead.

INT/EXT. SCHOOL BUS - EVENING

The girls complain to each other about not being able to drive themselves to the game, all while chatting and putting on make-up.

Addison and Madison sit together near the front.

Jennifer, Sarah and Kailey are three rows behind them.

Dana pulls the bus out of the school parking lot and onto the main road. She takes a quick turn and heads down a two lane narrow road. She's going fast. Dana looks onto the road with determination, and white knuckles on the steering wheel.

Madison has her compact out and is touching up her make-up.

Dana presses down hard on the accelerator and the bus picks up speed. It shoots small rocks and debris from the dirt road off of its wheels.

Further back on the bus, Jennifer, Sarah and Kailey talk in hushed tones as they continue to primp for the game.

JENNIFER

I'm actually really excited for the game. This should be fun!

SARAH

Yeah, now that people don't think you are a cutter that ho's herself out in internet chat rooms... I would imagine you are having a better time.

Kailey looks up from her mirror to laugh. Her eyes dart over to Madison and Addison and she sees them watching her. In an effort to ignore them, she methodically brushes product into her natural coily hair and fastens it into a high coily puff with a satin ribbon.

Addison leans into Madison.

ADDISON

Since when are they friends?

Madison takes notice and stares. She reaches back into her bag and pulls out her lipgloss.

MADISON

The perfect fucking Oreo, huh?
Gross.

Dana hears her and she forces the bus into an aggressive swerve. She is straight faced, but ashen. She aggressively manhandles the oversized wheel of the school bus.

Madison's lipgloss misses her mouth and smears over her cheek. She looks up in alarm.

The bus overcorrects wildly and all of it's passengers slam to one side of it. Windows break as heads crash through them from the force of it.

The bus continues to skid at high speed. Dana still hasn't said a word. She makes one last purposeful maneuver and guides the back end of the bus into a small tree on the side of the road. The bus flips multiple times.

The girls fly through the air inside the bus, reaching out for each other or for the brown leather seats, desperately looking for something to hold on to.

Bodies fly through the broken windows at the front and back of the bus before it finally lands upside down.

EXT. NARROW TWO LANE STREET - EVENING

Silence.

Faint smoke billows.

The mangled yellow school bus is upside down, lying across both lanes of the street.

Amongst the rubble are scattered bodies, all wearing the same uniforms. And Dana, lying on her back, in the middle of the road.

EXT. AFTERWORLD MANSION - COVERED PORCH - EVENING

LILIA (ageless, angled, dark hair - think Angelina Jolie) stands stoically, looking out towards the billowing smoke and crashed bus. We don't see her face, only the back of her, and her shadowy profile provided by the covered porch.

LILIA

They're here.

Another darkly shadowed figure stands next to Lilia, obscured by her profile. This is DAMIAN (20 in human years, effortlessly sexy - think Felix Mallard).

DAMIAN

Dana?

Lilia nods. The two stare towards the crash for a beat in silence.

LILIA

Is everything ready to greet our guests?

Lilia grins an evil grin and Damian heads inside the house.

EXT. NARROW TWO LANE STREET - AFTERWORLD - EVENING

It is the same scene as before. But something is different.

The yellow of the bus is brighter. The smoke from the crash forms smooth coils, reminiscent of whipped cream.

Colorful birds are chirping and landing on the wreckage.

Slowly bodies begin to stir. One by one, the 10 cheerleaders stand up and test their limbs.

There is no screaming, no one seems to be in pain. Though, there are obvious injuries. They look at one another, confused. They take in their surroundings with wide eyes.

The grass in the field where they crashed is vibrant and sparkling. Blades that are overgrown trim themselves.

The flowers are so perfect that they look fake. Several of the girls reach out to touch them.

Dana calmly stands from her position on the street. She does not have a scratch on her. She looks in the distance and spots the mansion set far back from the road.

She walks towards the girls and surveys the damage from a slim distance.

Madison and Addison help each other up and slowly walk away from the road and onto the grass. No one speaks. Every few moments, Madison looks back at the bus remains. She gets more and more agitated with each glance behind her.

MADISON

Um, sooooo... is no one gonna say anything? What the fuck just happened??

Madison points to Jennifer who is struggling to walk away from the bus due to a broken and protruding bone in her leg.

MADISON (CONT'D)

Look at your leg! I can SEE the bone! How are you walking?

Jennifer takes note of her leg. She reaches down to touch the bone. Gently.

Madison points to Addison who is smelling one of the flowers. The side of her face melted off from skidding across the concrete.

MADISON (CONT'D)

Look at Addison's face!! What the FUCK is going on?!

The girls break from their daze and realize the extent of their injuries.

RACHEL, a brunette with entrails escaping her body, stares at her stomach and starts to scream and cry.

Sarah covers her mouth and points at LINDSEY who is missing an arm and crying.

In turn, Lindsey stares at Sarah, in shock because she has been partially scalped and her signature long, high ponytail is flopping around on loose skin, hanging from her skull.

In a domino effect, all of the girls freak out.

Finally Jennifer lets out a blood curdling scream as a shockingly bright cardinal lands on her protruding leg bone and begins to peck at it.

EXT. AFTERWORLD MANSION - COVERED PORCH - EVENING

Lilia hears Jennifer's scream. Her shoulders straighten as she takes a step off the porch and begins to walk towards the crash.

LILIA

Showtime.

END OF PILOT