

Lights, Cadaver, ACTION!

by

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**EXT. FOREST FILM SET - DAY**

A young woman (ELLIE) is running, panickedly looking behind them, before turning, holding a weapon, a baseball bat, followed by a relatively convincing zombie (ERIC) that speeds towards her. Offscreen is a director (MARK), CREW, CAMERA PERSON and SOUND RECORDIST.

She starts trying to get her phone out to call for help  
She fumbles the buttons.  
Not seeing a tree root, she trips.  
Falling down, the zombie bites her on the arm.  
She drops the phone as she dies.  
ELLIE screams weakly, then pretends to writhe in pain,  
increasing in volume.

MARK (O.S.)  
Ok, and CUT!

**INT. CAR - EVENING**

Pop music plays on the radio as Mark and Eric bop heads in the front seats of a car, covered in blood, but unphased. Light passes across the group from streetlights.

Eric gazes out the window, while Mark glances over at him nervously, they catch eyes for a second and blush before Mark goes back to focusing on the road.

On the middle back seat, Ellie sits trembling, staring forward, holding a tripod covered in blood.

**EXT. FOREST FILM SET - CONTINUOUS**

One man (PATIENT ZERO) eats at a small catering table, then seems to flop, face planting into a whole jelly platter.

Mark walks to Ellie, holding a coffee in one hand, wearing a beanie, unimpressed by something.

Ellie sits up from being splayed on the floor playing dead and yawns.

ELLIE  
Oh thanks-

Ellie reaches for the drink, and Mark drinks some of it not noticing, until afterwards, and looking guilty.

MARK  
Ok, um Ellie, I wasn't really convinced I need to really feel that virus in your blood ok?

He then lowers his voice, trying not to be heard by the camera. Ellie rolls her eyes

MARK

Also, um can you giving my hoodie back, it's been 2 weeks.

Right! Let's Reset!

Ellie looks blankly at him and SCREAMS, like in the scene, only much more convincingly, and Mark jumps, spilling the drink

ELLIE

Better?

Mark regains his composure, wiping the hot coffee off his hand to his shorts and gives a weak thumbs up before walking away, passing Eric, in full zombie attire, having a makeup touchup by one of the crew.

Ellie gives a nod to Eric, who gets in position once again. Mark claps his hands together.

MARK (O.S.)

OK! Camera?

CAMERA PERSON (O.S.)

Rolling

MARK (O.S.)

Sound?

SOUND RECORDIST (O.S.)

Spee- wait hang on

A MOANING sound comes from the right side. Everyone looks at Eric who shrugs. By a small table of food there is a ZOMBIE (PATIENT ZERO) eating shrimp off the platter, covered in Jelly before knocking it off. They continue MOANING

A Crewmember awkwardly walks over and offers them a bottle of water.

The sound recordist mouths "What the fuck" to the camera, which responds shrugging. The zombie bats away the water.

CREW 1

Actors...

Suddenly the zombie lurches for the crew, biting at their neck.

People scatter SCREAMING.

Ellie grabs a BASEBALL BAT with spikes through it off the floor and mark seeing this gestures to the Cameraman to follow. They go to follow, but get grabbed by a zombie, and get pulled back into the fray.

Mark looks back at them, reaching a hand out, grabs them, then sees the mass coming, and lets go to run.

More zombies surround the cameraman, and mark spots Ellie running, and takes off after.

**EXT. FOREST CLEARING - MOMENTS LATER**

Mark, and Ellie reaches a clearing and looks around, panting. Mark leans on Ellie.

She glares at his hand, picking it up and dropping it off, he frowns. They both continue to get their breath.

A twig SNAPS, someone (Eric) GROANS

Mark and Ellie step back, looking to see where it came from.

An even more dishevelled than before Eric stumbles, through the forest rubbing his head. He spots them and starts to move their way, limping slightly.

Ellie and Mark back up, Ellie begins to raise the bat in her hands. Mark goes to grab it off of her, they scuffle, and while they are busy doing so Eric reaches them. Closer he's clearly human even under the makeup.

Eric disapprovingly eyes up the bat, raising an eyebrow. Mark lets go of it, letting Ellie stumble. Eric catches her, just.

ERIC

You weren't going to use that on me were you..?

They shake their heads intensely

ERIC

Right... Anyway, what are you guys doing, pretty sure the only way out these woods is back past set.

They exchange glances. Eric begins walking back the way he came.

**EXT. DENSE FOREST - AFTERNOON**

Eric wanders ahead of Mark and Ellie, assured of himself. The others all look tired, trudging behind him dragging their feet. Ellie uses the baseball bat as a walking stick. The path starts to go uphill.

ELLIE

(whispering)

I swear this didn't take this long to get out here, we're lost aren't we?

MARK

Hey, give him a chance...

ELLIE

Uhuh? Since when were you someone to give lots of chances? Mark..?

Mark shrugs, as Eric ahead stops at the top of the hill, GASPING at the sight below.

The others look at each other and work to catch up.

**EXT. FOREST FILM SET - CONTINUOUS**

Below them they can see the film set, crew are zombies all over, a zombie walks carrying a boom pole, connected to another recording, a zombie with a wig on GROANS in front of a camera, the cameraman from before stands behind the camera GROANING

CAMERA PERSON

Fraaaaameeeee, Fraaaaameeeeeeeee

Eric, Ellie and Mark look down at the set, there is clear signs of destruction, some bodies have skulls cracked as zombies eat from their bodies on the catering table, behind the table, there is a car.

Mark points at the car.

MARK

A way out! Eric you were right!

ELLIE

If you want to get murdered, sure

MARK

Come on, we made it all this way..

Ellie looks at the bat and grips it.

ERIC

If we go round the edge, they might not even see us.

Ellie makes a practice swing, and stands a bit straighter, reassured.

ELLIE

Fine, But you're going first>

She nudges Mark with the bat, and he puts his hands up

MARK

Fine.

**EXT. FOREST FILM SET - MOMENTS LATER**

Mark begins to descend the hill, going from small bits of cover of rocks and stumps as temporary ledges to descend. He is closely followed by Eric.

Ellie follows up reluctantly. Mark looks back at them regularly, smiling at Eric, who blushes. On the third glance back, he loses his footing, and trips, beginning to fall, only to be caught by Eric's hand.

Eric pulls him back up, and Mark sheepishly mouths a thank you.

ERIC  
(whispering)  
I'll take the front from here...

Eric sidles past Mark, who blushes as Eric gets close. Eric continues down further, reaching the bottom, and waiting for the others behind a tree. Mark and Ellie gradually make it down, and eye up the situation. While both are looking around, Eric begins to walk out of cover towards the middle of the set.

ELLIE  
What are you doing?

Eric turns back and walks backwards

ERIC  
Get to the car, I'll find the keys!

He winks, before turning, and slumping, making his limp more pronounced, and slowly GRUNTING on the way towards the Cameraman zombie, and the middle of the set.

Ellie and Mark look at each other  
Ellie begins to walk towards the car.  
Eric reaches the middle of the set,  
Various zombies stop and turn to look at him.  
Mark frowns and goes to grab Ellie  
Ellie reluctantly turns back  
Eric takes a deep breath,  
MOANING Zombies move towards Eric

ERIC  
Brrrrains?

The zombies go silent,  
The Boom operator zombie smells Eric,  
Eric sweats.

Suddenly there is a CRASH as Mark pulls a cable, toppling a light.

Zombies turn to see Mark and Ellie by the camera and nearby area. They start to rush towards them.

Eric seeing this keeps pretending to be a zombie, but walks against the crowd, to a collection of bags near some of the kit, and drops character, rushing through the contents.

Ellie swings her baseball bat at one of the nearest zombies, hitting it square in the head, only for the bat to burst into pieces, revealing itself to be a foam prop.

Mark glances over, horrified.

Ellie drops the remains of the bat and scans for a new option,

She makes a run for a tripod,

Mark turns to see her

Ellie uses the tripod, smashing Zombies, spraying blood all over.

MARK

(muttering)

Thank fuck it was mutual.

Mark runs to Eric, still going through bags, as the zombies begin to spread out more. He gives a thankful nod to Mark, gesturing to a shut bag, as he opens a new one. Ellie, having taken out the nearest ones circles back towards them, continuing to fight more off.

As she nears, nervously looking at the others, Eric pulls the keys out a bag, and holds it up triumphantly, Mark throws the remaining bag towards Ellie. She ducks, and it misses her only to take out a lunging Zombie. She gives a nod of thanks, and drops the tripod.

The three bolt for the car, Mark and Eric run around the catering table, Eric tosses the keys to Mark, while running the long way round. Ellie vaults the table, showing bodies off, grabbing a single sandwich from the side of it, somehow not covered in blood, and stuffs it in her mouth.

They all pile into the car, and start it.

**EXT. FOREST FILM SET - NIGHT**

A single woman with a clipboard reaches the top of the hill panting, seeing the carnage below.

PRODUCER

Guys stop! This isn't on the risk assessment!

FADE TO BLACK:

THE END