

GOOSEBUMPS

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FADE IN:

EXT. CHICAGO - LAKESHORE DRIVE - LATE NIGHT

Rain comes down in buckets. A MOVING TRUCK is parked out front of a Gothic, pre-war APARTMENT BUILDING. Stone gargoyles sit perched above. Thunder crashes bringing us to-

INT. APARTMENT 313; LIVING ROOM

Dark wood. High ceilings. As charming as a haunted mansion.

The rooms are filled with over-stuffed MOVING BOXES.

As WE PAN ACROSS the boxes - we SEE strange artifacts from around the world. SHRUNKEN HEADS, TRIBAL MASKS, an EGYPTIAN SARCOPHAGUS.

LIGHTNING FLASHES to REVEAL - the last items still on the shelf. DOZENS of LEATHER-BOUND MANUSCRIPTS fitted with steal locks. A HAND reaches into frame...

A LANKY MOVER and pulls down an arm load of books and hands them over to a BURLY MOVER who...

...drops them unceremoniously onto a hand truck.

VOICE (O.S.)  
Careful, you imbeciles!

They both startle as we REVEAL...

...a mysterious figure in the shadows - we will know him later as SHIVERS.

SHIVERS  
Those books are more important than your lives.

The movers exchange curious glances as Shivers disappears into the darkness. They then notice...

...the apartment is badly damaged. Broken floors. Shattered walls.

BURLY MOVER  
Looks like a bulldozer went through this place and he's worried about dropping a book?

EXT. - STREET - MOMENTS LATER

The Lanky Mover stands on the truck's lift gate. The Burly Mover tosses a box in his direction. The Lanky Mover drops the box, spilling...

...THE MANUSCRIPTS onto the street.

BURLY MOVER  
Dude, wake up!

The Lanky Mover jumps down from the truck to help pick up the manuscripts.

He looks at a few of them - each bound with a sturdy, REINFORCED LOCK. Among the titles:

LANKY MOVER  
"Monster Blood", "Werewolf of Fever Swamp", "Haunted Mask". Hey, I read these when I was a kid.

The Lanky Mover grins with dumb nostalgia.

BURLY MOVER  
You can read?

The Burly Mover holds one of the books, "The Night of the Dummy" - its lock dangling open.

BURLY MOVE  
Great. Now look what you did. The lock's busted.

LANKY MOVER  
Should we tell him?

BURLY MOVE  
Hell, no. Dude's psycho.

The Burly Driver scans the scene for prying eyes then tosses the book back in the box, placing it in the truck.

He slides closed the truck's delivery door as LIGHTNING FLASHES bringing us to...

EXT. - ABANDONED COUNTRY ROAD - LATER THAT NIGHT

Rain falls harder. Thunder crashes louder. The moving truck follows the Apartment Owner's distant car.

LANKY MOVER (O.S.)  
It's weird, man. Really weird.

INT. MOVING TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

Lanky Mover drives while Burly Mover reads a magazine.

LANKY MOVER  
Who hires a moving company to move out in the middle of the night?

BURLY MOVER  
Same guy who puts dead bolts on some old books.

A LOUD, RUMBLING NOISE is heard from the back of the truck.

The two movers eye each other anxiously.

EXT. ABANDONED ROAD

The moving truck pulls over to the side of the road.

EXT. MOVING TRUCK

The back doors are pulled open as the movers peer inside. Darkness peers back. The Lanky Mover switches on his flashlight, revealing...

...a wall of boxes. One of them has fallen over.

LANKY MOVER  
Hello?! Somebody there?!

Silence. Flashlight pans off the box to the mess of books that poured out of it. Suddenly, catch a glimpse of...

A SMALL PERSON!

LANKY MOVER (CONT'D)  
(startled, freaked)  
Holy crap! There's a hobbit or a damn dwarf back there or somethin'!

BURLY MOVER  
Shut up. Prolly a cat snuck in.

LANKY MOVER  
A cat wearing pants?!

BURLY MOVE  
(disconcerted; peers in)  
Hello?!  
(silence)  
If you don't come out, we're coming in...

Beat. Nothing.

INT. MOVING TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

They enter the cab with their flashlights. The person is still not moving. They walk up to it as the Lanky Mover gulps nervously and they shine the flash light on...

A creepy VENTRILOQUIST DUMMY. He wears a red carnation. A mischievous grin is frozen on his face - like a naughty child with a secret.

Sigh of relief from both of them.

BURLY MOVER  
It's just some kind of ventriloquist dummy, Man.

Just then, the dummy's eyes OPEN. He turns and speaks in a sinister voice. THIS IS SLAPPY.

SLAPPY  
Who you calling dummy?

The Movers eyes widen. Their faces go white. Just as...

The truck's steel door suddenly SLAMS SHUT.

EXT. MOVING TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

SCREAMS of terror as the truck shakes, bringing us to...

TITLE CREDITS

As CREDITS roll a series of GOOSEBUMPS BOOK COVERS kaleidoscope across the screen. "The Haunted School", "It Came From Beneath the Sink", "The Girl Who Cried Monster"...Just to name a few. Endless tales of terror.

The titles spin and swirl... faster and faster... until-

TITLE CREDITS END

Legend reads: TWO YEARS LATER

EXT. MARYLAND - MORNING

Helicopter shots of rural countryside: farmland, live stock, green as far as the eye can see. CAMERA FINDS A DUSTY MINI-VAN, dragging a clanking U-Haul behind it.

INT. MINIVAN - CONTINUOUS

Meet the COOPERS. A forty-something mom, GALE and her two kids. MELISSA (3) sits in the back, in her car seat, engrossed in a movie playing on an Ipad.

ZACH (14) stares out the passenger window at the landmarks of his new hometown...

THROUGH PASSENGER WINDOW - TRAVELING

A sign reads: WELCOME TO NORMAL, POPULATION 28,245.

INSIDE CAR

Zach starts to look increasingly concerned.

EXT. MAIN STREET - ZACH'S POV - TRAVELING

It's a small, generic, sleepy town.

Zach gets a look at the TOWN HALL...

...THE INDOOR ICE SKATING RINK...

...and THE VILLAGE SQUARE. Even Norman Rockwell might die of boredom here.

INSIDE THE CAR

Zach is now completely alarmed. He turns to Gale.

GALE  
Isn't it cute?

ZACH  
Doesn't Miami need Vice-Principals?  
Or LA? Detroit? Anywhere?

EXT. MONROE STREET - DAY

A residential street lined with tall trees, homes and big yards. Mini-van pulls into the driveway of their new home.

EXT. COOPER HOUSE - DRIVEWAY

The Coopers climb out of the car and take in their new digs:

A typical cookie cutter suburban two-story house.

Gale sports a hopeful smile.

GALE  
Look, Zach - a house this size  
would cost millions in New York.

ZACH  
That's because people actually want  
to live in New York.

Zach studies the house with unease.

INT. - NEIGHBOR'S HOME

An UNSEEN FIGURE watches from above.

INT. - COOPER'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH

Not much better on the inside. Everything in various states of disrepair.

The Coopers step inside just as... a RACCOON rushes out the front door. Startled, Gale SCREAMS.

MELISSA  
Kitty cat!

Zach eyes his mother. Gale smiles, weakly.

GALE  
You always wanted a pet.

INT. - KITCHEN - LATER

Gale stands at the kitchen sink. She turns the faucet.

GALE  
Nope. Still nothing.

Under the sink, Zach is trying to work the pipes with a wrench.

Suddenly, a pipe bursts and he is drenched in dirty, brown water. He GROANS and leaps to his feet, wiping his face.

ZACH  
I told you I couldn't fix it.

GALE  
Well, you and your father fixed the leaky faucet in the bathroom all the time.

ZACH  
He fixed the faucet. I held the wrench.

GALE  
It's no big deal. We'll call a plumber tomorrow.

Zach nods - but she can see he is dispirited.

GALE  
We can save so much money living here. And we have family here.

Just then, as if on cue...

LORRAINE (O.S.)  
Oh my goshhhhhh! Look at you!

Zach and Gale follow the voice into the living room, where...

Gale's bubbly, fortysomething sister, LORRAINE is hugging little Melissa. Clearly the "country mouse" to Gale's "city mouse", Lorraine is overjoyed to the point of tears.

LORRAINE  
She's so big! And beautiful! She looks just like her Auntie!  
(to MELISSA)  
Here, sweetie, I made you a little denim handbag with rubies and sapphires. Don't you love it?!

Everything Lorraine owns is bedazzled to nauseam. She's an arts and crafts person with too much time on her hands.

Lorraine crosses and gives Gale an emotional hug.

LORRAINE  
I can't believe you're really here!  
(in tears; blubbering)  
I'm so happy!

GALE  
Well, it's all thanks to you.

LORRAINE  
(wiping her tears)  
I've sat through so many School Board meetings, it's the least they could do. You're going to turn that school upside down, I just know it.

Lorraine spots Zach.

LORRAINE  
Oh my goodness. Look how handsome!

ZACH  
Hey, Aunt Lorraine.

Lorraine gives Zach a welcoming hug.

LORRAINE  
You look just like your father.  
I mean, you're like a man. You're the man of the house.

She smiles sweetly at him, but Zach just shuffles uncomfortably at this notion, then-

ZACH  
I'll go unload the car.

Zach heads out, leaving Gale and Lorraine to catch up.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - DUSK

Zach is unloading boxes from the U-Haul when-

HANNAH (O.S.)  
Your house is haunted, you know.

Zach turns to see a fourteen year-old girl (HANNAH) in the upstairs window of the neighboring house. Dark-hair. Pretty.

HANNAH (CONT'D)  
The last owner was an escaped mental patient who chopped up his entire family with a rusty Cuisinart. On moonlit nights you can still hear the sounds of his victims being pureed.

Silence in the air.

HANNAH (CONT'D)  
I'm kidding. He was a florist.



Hannah smiles, warmly. Zach manages a smirk.

ZACH  
You got me.

HANNAH  
What's your name?

ZACH  
Zach... from New York.

HANNAH  
Hi Zach from New York. I'm Hannah.  
Welcome to the neighborhood. How  
do you like it so far?

ZACH  
(shrugs)  
It's all right, I guess.

HANNAH  
(playful)  
Oh, just all right?

ZACH  
Well... it's getting better.

SHIVERS (O.S.)  
Hannah.

Mr. Shivers appears beside Hannah - his dress is out-of-date, like a professor from a distant decade. There is a forboding air about him.

SHIVERS (CONT'D)  
Get back to your homework.

Hannah slinks away.

Shivers sticks his head out the window, addressing Zach, venomously.

SHIVERS (CONT'D)  
See that fence?

Zach eyes the WROUGHT-IRON fence that divides the property line. He nods.

SHIVERS (CONT'D)  
It's private property. So's  
everything on the other side of it.  
That includes my niece. Remember  
that and we won't have any  
problems.

Shivers retreats back inside, drawing the blinds as he goes. Zach exhales, disturbed.

EXT. PORCH - MOMENTS LATER

Zach returns with a box, passing Gale and Lorraine on his way.

ZACH  
Neighbor just bit my head off.  
(beat)  
And they say New Yorkers are rude.

Lorraine looks across the yard to Shivers's house.

LORRAINE  
Mr. Shivers? He's VERY good-looking, I think. But I have first dibs, Gale. I've been single a lot longer than you.

Gale LAUGHS as Zach enters the house.

INT. - ZACH'S ROOM - NIGHT

Filled with boxes. All still packed. One marked "DAD'S STUFF" is opened. Inside the box lies a slew of photos and awards, including a NYFD MEMORIAL PLAQUE dated the previous year.

We FIND a glum Zach, sitting against some boxes, watching an old home movie. A video camera is hooked up to his computer.

ON COMPUTER SCREEN - ZACH'S DAD, the fire chief, gives orders to a group of men.

ZACH'S DAD  
Joe, Danny, I want you to hit the fire head on. Go high in the ceiling and don't let up til you see the sky.  
(to CON ED WORKER)  
Frank, I need you to cut the power and gas to the entire block.  
(to a POLICE MAN)  
Sarge, let's clear the sidewalks.  
(to the CAMERA)  
Sorry, guys, that includes you.

The camera pans away to the asphalt and the movie ends.

Zach looks at an old photo...

ON PHOTO - Zach's Dad receiving a community medal. He is surrounded by BIG GROUP of grateful citizens. We can see young ZACH, looking proudly on.

Zach tosses the photo back in the box and slides the entire box under his bed.

EXT. - NORMAL HIGH SCHOOL - NEXT MORNING

Morning outside Normal High. SERIES OF SHOTS:

THREE HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS pass around a big can of HAIR SPRAY, spraying their hair, themselves, the sky.

TWO JOCKS in jeans compare biceps.

A TWERPY KID sits on the lawn, completely engrossed in a nose-picking session.

We FIND Zach, walking through the crowd, taking it all in.

He passes a PATROL CAR, parked outside the school. TWO COPS (BROOKS, STEVENS) are dead asleep, snoring in their vehicle.

ZACH  
(under his breath; wry)  
Well, I feel safe.

INT. CHEMISTRY CLASS - MORNING

The soporific Chemistry teacher, MR. CAMPBELL stands before a class of slack-jawed, sleepy students.

MR. CAMPBELL  
(in a drone)  
We all have different fears - snakes, rejection, final exams, babies. But they all have one thing in common? Who knows the chemical component of fear?

Zach looks around - all the students are zoning out - doodling, flossing, eating their hair.

Mr. Campbell picks up an ENERGY DRINK off his desk.

MR. CAMPBELL  
Here's a hint. It's the active ingredient in an energy drink.

ZACH  
(raises his hand)  
Epinephrine?

All the Students turn and stare at Zach.

MR. CAMPBELL  
That's right. Very good.  
(furrows brow)  
Who are you?

ZACH  
Oh, I'm Zach Cooper. It's my first day. I'm from New York.

Feeling everyone's eyes on him, Zach smiles, self-conscious.

Half the Students look amazed; the others confused.

MR. CAMPBELL

(sleepy)

I could use a little of this stuff  
right about now.

Mr. Campbell guzzles his drink. Zach is feeling increasingly out of place.

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Zach is at his locker, when a blond cheerleader, ALLISON, approaches.

ALLISON

You're from New York. What's that like?

(before he can answer)

I went to Baltimore once. I'm Allison. I'd like to go to New York one day - here it gets a little same ol' same ol'. Although last year, one of the barns burned down. It was crazy. It was a really big barn.

Suddenly, Allison's jock boyfriend, DAVIDSON, emerges from behind her. He gives Zach an angry stare.

DAVIDSON

You think you can just come into town and hit on our chicks, man?

ZACH

Excuse me?

DAVIDSON

(dumb imitation)

"Excuse me?"

Davidson's posse of JOCK BUDDIES, all meatheads and bulky, guffaw and join in.

JOCK #1

(another angry imitation)

Exceh-kuyou-es-meeee?

JOCK #2

(mouth dangling; hostile)

Excuuuuuse meh?

Jock #2 actually drools a little. Zach is baffled.

ZACH

I would say number one wins best imitation but number two gets points for originality and number three for drooling.

DAVIDSON

You think you're better than us?  
Well I got ten friends that say  
otherwise.

Davidson fans his ten fingers in front of Zach's face, then curls them into tight fists.

DAVIDSON

My friends want to give you a big  
WELCOME TO TOWN.

Davidson retracts both fists, looking to punch Zach.

Suddenly, a hulking African-American fourteen year old, DWAYNE, pushes between Zach and Davidson.

DWAYNE

I need to get to my locker.

Dwayne gives Davidson a severe look. Davidson and his boys immediately back down.

DAVIDSON

Hey, Dwayne. How's it hangin',  
Blind Side? You gonna come back to  
the football team or what?

DWAYNE

I'll think about it.  
(in his face)  
And don't call me, Blind Side.

DAVIDSON

Sure, no prob. Keep on, chill-axing  
and we'll catch you on the  
flipside, 'kay, brutha man?

Davidson and his posse head out with ingratiating grins. Allison lingers for a brief moment - she's mortified.

ALLISON

(to ZACH)  
Sorry about that.  
(to DWAYNE)  
Hey, Dwayne.

DWAYNE

(shy)  
Hi.

Allison heads out. Zach is left with Dwayne.

Dwayne gives Zach a reassuring smile. Zach grins back.

ZACH

Thanks for that.

DWAYNE

I moved here five years ago from  
Cleveland.

Everybody looked at me like I was an alien. They still do.

ZACH  
Why would they do that?

DWAYNE  
Only Freshman who weighs two hundred pounds.

ZACH  
(stunned)  
You're a Freshman? How old are you?

DWAYNE  
Fourteen.  
(off ZACH's shocked look)  
That's why they want me to play football.

ZACH  
Why don't you?

DWAYNE  
First day of practice, I think I almost killed a kid. I guess I don't know my own strength.

Zach nods. This is a good friend to have.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Zach and the imposing Dwayne sit together eating their lunches in the crowded cafeteria. Dwayne scarfs his food. Zach scans the cafeteria for Hannah.

ZACH  
Hey - you know a "Hannah" who goes here? Pretty, dark hair, morbid sense of humor?

DWAYNE  
There's an Anna - but she's blond - and cross-eyed - with a gimp leg.

ZACH  
Nah, that's not her.

DWAYNE  
You like this Hannah?

ZACH  
She seems pretty cool. It's weird she doesn't go here. It's the only high school in town. How about you? You got a girlfriend?  
(off DWAYNE's head shake)  
Anyone you're into?

Dwayne says nothing, but his eyes drift over to...

...Allison - she feigns amusement at Davidson and his buddies antics - but it's clear she's not having much fun.

DWAYNE

Yeah, but she's got a boyfriend.  
Anyway, I get nervous talking to girls.

ZACH

You nervous? If anyone's  
intimidating, it's you.  
(off DWAYNE's look)  
Just a little bit. A tad.

We HEAR LOUD FEEDBACK from a microphone. People GROAN, plugging their ears.

We SEE at the head of the cafeteria, PRINCIPAL GARRISON, holding the microphone.

PRINCIPAL GARRISON

(lifeless monotone)

A bunch of exciting news today.  
First, I'd like to introduce our  
new Vice-Principal. Her name is...  
uh, err...

We SEE Zach's Mom standing beside him. She whispers to him.

PRINCIPAL GARRISON

Ms. Cooper. Give her a big  
welcome, will ya?

A few lackluster claps.

PRINCIPAL GARRISON

Also, we will be burying our time  
capsule on Friday. Come down for  
the ceremony right before the Fall  
dance. We got a lot of great  
donations from our community - an  
antique typewriter, a recording of  
a Taylor Swift medley sung by our a  
cappella group and a Pomeranian dog  
- that is stuffed.

Zach looks around the cafeteria. Students mostly stare into space - no one seems to be listening, let alone care.

INT. COOPER HOUSE - DUSK

Gale is making dinner, when a distressed Zach approaches.

ZACH

Mom, I know we're all going through  
a lot - and I swear I'm trying to  
be positive... but we gotta get  
outta here. We can't live here. A  
barn burned down last year.

GALE

So what? That's not so bad.

ZACH

That's all that's EVER happened. A barn - burned down - last year.

GALE

Honey, of course this is gonna take some adjusting. But personally, after what we've been through, I'm glad we're out of New York - and the hectic pace...

(pointedly)

...and all the dangers. Here - you know your neighbors and you can leave your doors unlocked at night and yeah, maybe it's dull, but it's safe. And that means everything to me right now. Be patient. Work with me, okay?

ZACH

(nods; sweetly)

Okay.

GALE

Now can you take out this trash?

Zach dutifully takes the bag out. Gale watches him go.

EXT. SIDE OF COOPER HOUSE - NIGHT

Zach hauls the bags of trash around the house. Lifts the lids to the trash cans.

ANONYMOUS POV - stalking him through the slits in the fence as he stuffs the cans with garbage bags.

Zach stops, feeling like he's being watched.

ZACH

Hello?

He nervously grabs the cover of the trash can as he backpedals towards the house.

ZACH (CONT'D)

Someone there?

A branch SNAPS. Zach jumps, spins around to find...

...an amused Hannah squeezing through the fence.

HANNAH

You scare really easy.

ZACH

Well, yeah, when you creep up on me like that? What are you doing?



HANNAH

I saw you and I thought I'd sneak out and say hi.

ZACH

I'm flattered.

HANNAH

You should be. I had to disable the security system down in the cellar so I wouldn't trip the alarm.

(off his look)

My Uncle has me on lock down after nine.

ZACH

Seems like he has you on lock down twenty-four, seven.

HANNAH

(wry smile)

I have my share of fun.

(shrugs)

But being home schooled does get old after awhile.

ZACH

No wonder I didn't see you at school.

HANNAH

(grins playfully)

Aww, you were looking for me?

ZACH

(sheepish)

Maybe.

HANNAH

How was it?

ZACH

What, school?

(shrugs)

You're not missing much.

HANNAH

You don't like?

ZACH

This town's just kinda boring.

HANNAH

Boring? Hardly.

(off his look)

You just haven't had the right tour guide.

She gives him a sly wink, then takes his hand.

EXT. MONROE STREET - FEW BLOCKS AWAY - NIGHT

Hannah walks briskly. Zach keeps pace. Unsure.

HANNAH  
This way.  
(he hesitates)  
Come on.

She darts off the sidewalk and into...

EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS

They pass trees and over-grown shrubbery...

ZACH  
Where are we going?

HANNAH  
Stay close. I don't want get  
blamed if they have to send out a  
rescue party.

She disappears behind a tree.

Zach, momentarily alone, gets spooked.

ZACH  
Hannah?!

He starts to run toward the tree, then peers around it just in time to find...

An excited Hannah, slipping under a rusted fence...

HANNAH  
You can thank me later...

EXT. ABANDONED AMUSEMENT PARK - MOMENTS LATER

Zach and Hannah are now approaching an abandoned amusement park. Decrepit CARNIVAL RIDES litter the run-down scene. In the center - a broken-down FERRIS WHEEL.

ZACH  
(amazed)  
What is this place?

HANNAH  
They built it ten years ago to  
bring in tourism; then the  
recession hit. Now it just sits  
here. Awesome, right?

Hannah hops a turnstile and begins to climb the FERRIS WHEEL.

HANNAH  
Race you to the top...

ZACH

Wait, wait. You sure this is safe?

HANNAH

I come here all the time. What are you afraid of?

ZACH

Falling. Dying. Getting a tetanus shot.

She keeps climbing the Ferris wheel. He takes a deep breath, mustering his courage, then follows.

The two quickly make their way to the top of the rickety Ferris wheel.

EXT. FERRIS WHEEL - TOP CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Zach and Hannah settle in under the cloudy night sky. The entire town of Normal spreads out below them. Stars twinkle above as electric lights twinkle below.

HANNAH

I get claustrophobic in the house so I sneak out at night. I've walked every one of those streets. Isn't it beautiful?

He watches her soak in the view. He is clearly smitten.

ZACH

Yeah. It is beautiful.

She brightens, pleased.

HANNAH

What else could you ever need, you know?

ZACH

(smiles)

I dunno... maybe like, people who know me? Friends.

HANNAH

You'll make friends.

ZACH

Won't be the same...

(off her look)

I lost my dad last year - and now - moving away - I feel like I've lost my whole world.

HANNAH

(locks eyes with him)

I know what it's like to feel alone. But there's a whole new world - right here.

She points down at the town lights below.

HANNAH  
And it's more exciting than you  
think. Trust me.

She gives him another mischievous smile. They look out at the city. Zach is thoroughly enjoying this.

EXT. COOPER HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - LATER

Zach and Hannah have returned to the fence between their homes. She shimmies through the hole.

ZACH  
Hey, Hannah.  
(she turns back)  
I can take out the trash the same  
time tomorrow night... if, you  
know, you want to sneak out again.

HANNAH  
Are you asking me on a date?

ZACH  
(flummoxed)  
What? No, I mean... what?

HANNAH  
Zach. I'm kidding.  
(smiles)  
It's a plan.

A figure suddenly appears behind Hannah, grabbing her shoulder.

SHIVERS  
You! Where were you?!

Hannah GASPS, startled.

Shivers is furious, his gaze fixed on her.

HANNAH  
I'm sorry.

SHIVERS  
Get...in...the...house...now.

Hannah throws Zach a parting glance, then slinks away.

Through the fence, Shivers gives Zach a murderous look.

SHIVERS (CONT'D)  
I don't know what brought you here  
or where you're from, but my advice  
to you is - leave. Crawl back to  
the sewer from whence you came.  
You are not welcome here.

Even with the fence between them, Zach feels vulnerable.

GALE (O.S.)  
Zach, you out there?!

ZACH  
That's my mom. I'd invite you over  
to meet her, but you seem... tired.  
(gulps air)  
Maybe another night.

Zach takes a few steps backwards, still mesmerized by Shivers, then turns and runs.

EXT. NORMAL HIGH - ESTABLISHING

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - MORNING

Zach is at his locker, having just told the story of last night to Dwayne.

DWAYNE  
You've been in town two days and  
you already had a date?

Dwayne, glum, throws a look to...

Allison, passing by, laughing with her CHEERLEADER pals.

ZACH  
Nothing's ever gonna come of it.  
She's home schooled - in a prison  
with a security alarm and an Uncle  
Voldemort. Do you know anything  
about this guy? Shivers?

DWAYNE  
I'm not sure. He lives up on  
Crested Butte? Does he wear an old-  
timey Count Dracula coat?

ZACH  
Yes! That's him. What do you know  
about him?

DWAYNE  
Nothing.  
(ZACH deflates)  
Except I've seen him every Friday  
night at Roy's Diner. They have  
Filet Mignon Friday's. Guess he  
likes Filet Mignon. That help?

ZACH  
Yeah, not really, but, thanks.

Zach takes his books out of his locker, lost in thought.

EXT. COOPER HOUSE - THAT NIGHT

Leaves flutter as trees shake.

INT. COOPER HOUSE - KITCHEN

As Gale prepares to bring a garbage bag outside, Zach eagerly grabs it.

ZACH  
That's okay. I got it.

GALE  
I've never seen you so excited to  
take out the trash before.

Zach heads out.

EXT. SIDE YARD - MOMENTS LATER

Zach is at the trash cans, waiting. He peers into the darkness. All is quiet.

ZACH  
(hushed)  
Hannah? Hannah?

He waits a few more moments, before giving up. Disappointed, Zach stands and turns back toward the house.

Suddenly, A GIRL'S BLOOD-CURDLING SCREAM pierces the night.

Startled, Zach spins around. Did he really just hear that? And, then, as if on cue--

The SCREAM is heard again. Coming from next door.

As Zach scans Shivers house for the source of the SCREAMS, he sees...

...SHAPES and SHADOWS hurriedly move behind the curtains.

We HEAR glass BREAKING. Wood SNAPPING. And then...

A ROAR. Guttural. Primal. Ferocious.

Zach goes white. And then, as the strange, HORRIFYING ROAR reaches a fever pitch-

Silence resumes as the light in Shivers's house goes out.

Frozen, Zach stands in his driveway, in disbelief.

INT. COOPER KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Sitting in her high chair, Melissa makes a playful mess as Gale fixes the sink using a "Plumbing For Idiots" guide.

Suddenly, Zach rushes in, in a panicked frenzy.

ZACH  
Mom! Did you hear that??

GALE

Hear what?

Gale listens. Not so much as a cricket chirps.

GALE

Look, honey. I fixed it.

She turns the faucet - water is flowing.

ZACH

Mom! Someone's in trouble! I think it's Hannah!

Zach grabs the house phone. He dials 911.

GALE

Who's Hannah??

ZACH

(into phone)

Hi, this is Zach Cooper - I live on Crested Butte Lane...

GALE

Zach, you're scaring me. What is going on?!

EXT. SHIVERS HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - LATER

Knock. Knock. The front door opens to reveal Shivers, holding a glass of Scotch, looking annoyed.

Zach, Gale, and OFFICER BROOKS and STEVENS are on the porch.

OFFICER STEVENS

Uh, Mr. Shivers?

SHIVERS

Yes?

OFFICER STEVENS

I'm Officer Stevens and this is Officer Brooks. Your neighbors here seem concerned there might be some kind of a domestic disturbance.

Shivers gives Zach a quick, withering look.

SHIVERS

What in the world is a domestic disturbance?

OFFICER STEVENS

Umm, a domestic disturbance is... it's like a... it's domestic so it's inside the house and uh...

Officer Stevens turns to Officer Brooks for help.

OFFICER BROOKS

It's like basically there's something wrong going on inside your house. Your young neighbor man here said he heard a series of screams...

OFFICER STEVENS

From a girl or a woman or a lady.

SHIVERS

Well, there's no girl or woman here - not even a lady. I'm alone, watching TV so if you'll excuse me, Officers, I'm sure there's a cat in a tree somewhere that could use your help.

Suddenly, a WOMAN'S SCREAM echoes through the house.

The officers exchange looks. Zach appears vindicated.

Stine moves to close the door, but...

Officer Brooks blocks it with his foot.

OFFICER BROOKS

We'd like to take a look around the premises if you don't mind.

Shivers sighs, then ushers them inside the house.

INT. - SHIVERS HOME; LIVING ROOM

A WOMAN screams in terror as a half-shark/half-spider mutation (known as a SHARK-RANTULA) pursues her.

A MUTE button is hit as we realize that the images come from a TV screen. Shivers and the others stand inside.

SHIVERS

Surround sound. I just hooked it up this morning.

GALE

(sighs relieved)  
Mystery solved. Mr. Shivers. I'm Gale, your new neighbor next door.

SHIVERS

(sardonic)  
Thank you so much for stopping by - and bringing the police. How thoughtful.

GALE

I'm so embarrassed. I'm so sorry.

OFFICER BROOKS

We'll be outta your hair now, Mr. Shivers...



ZACH

Wait, he's lying. He's not here alone. He lives with Hannah. It wasn't a TV. It was her!

All eyes turn back to Shivers.

SHIVERS

Hannah is my niece. She was staying with me for a while until her parents got settled overseas. And I caught this boy on two occasions, sneaking over the fence to watch her undress in her room. He's a trespasser and a pervert.

OFFICER STEVENS

(to ZACH; severe)  
Son, you been peeping?

ZACH

No!

SHIVERS

(to the Officers)  
Anyway, she's no longer here. With all this unwanted attention from the neighborhood degenerate, I thought she'd be safer with her parents in Beirut.

OFFICER STEVENS

Beirut?

Zach scoffs in disbelief. Stevens turns to him.

OFFICER STEVENS

Hear that? You got some poor girl sent to Egypt.

Officer Brooks notices state of the art security system on the wall... the reinforced bars on the windows...

OFFICER BROOKS

Quite a security system you got.

SHIVERS

Still couldn't keep certain deviants at bay.

OFFICER BROOKS

Not to mention your home media set up. Ever have people over for the Super Bowl or March Madness or...?

SHIVERS

If I do, I'll be sure to send an invite your way.

Shivers sports a condescending smile. Officer Brooks brightens at the thought.

ZACH

(approaches the COPS)  
 Look, he's a liar! *She* snuck out to see *me*. And what I heard was not a TV. There was a scream and then a roar. Like a lion or a tiger or...

SHIVERS

(acid)  
 A lion? Fascinating. Do tell.

All eyes fall on Zach. Suddenly Zach is starting to sound as stupid as he feels.

GALE

You never mentioned anything about a lion, Zach.

SHIVERS

(exasperated)  
 Now I've been patient long enough - and if you don't leave my house, I will call the actual police.

OFFICER STEVENS

We are the actual police.

SHIVERS

For the sake of this community, I pray to God that's not true.

OFFICER BROOKS

So is the Super Bowl party off?

Zach takes this moment to make a Hail Mary play.

ZACH

Hannah! Hannah!

OFFICER STEVENS

Okay, kid, that's enough.

As the officers escort the struggling Zach to the door...

Shivers watches Zach get dragged off with a snide smirk.

INT. SHIVERS ENTRANCE - MOMENTS LATER

The Officers have escorted Zach to the door.

ZACH

He's lying! His niece isn't in Beirut - she's here!

OFFICER BROOKS

Right - and she's being fed to a lion...

OFFICER STEVENS  
You know we could arrest you for  
disorderly conduct, buddy...

ZACH  
Arrest *me*?! Someone's in danger!

An irate Gale steps between them.

GALE  
Zach! Go home!  
(off his look)  
I mean it.

Zach sighs, then exits the house.

Gale tries to smooth things over with the cops.

GALE  
You know, we just moved here and  
he's been through a lot...

OFFICER BROOKS  
I'm sure he's a good kid. Could he  
be inhaling stuff around the house?

OFFICER STEVENS  
Patio sealant, computer duster,  
bath salts...

OFFICER BROOKS  
Rubber cement, whipped cream...

GALE  
It's not drugs. I know what it is -  
and I'm going to take care of it.

She gives them an emphatic look.

INT. COOPER KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Gale returns to find Zach, aggravated, pacing the kitchen.

ZACH  
Mom - I know what I heard

GALE  
Zach, I'm not an idiot.  
(he stops cold)  
Yesterday I tell you the reason we  
came here was because I wanted to  
live somewhere safe - and the next  
day, this. We're not leaving, you  
know that, right? You need to  
accept that this is your home now.  
Please don't make more problems for  
us than we already have.

Gale gives him a meaningful look, then exits the kitchen.

Zach looks out the kitchen window. He quickly notices that...

Shivers is watching him from next door, in an upstairs window, lurking behind a drawn curtain.

Shivers locks eyes with Zach, then abruptly close the curtain.

EXT. NORMAL HIGH - CAFETERIA - AFTERNOON

Zach and Dwayne eat together in the cafeteria.

ZACH

He's more than overprotective, he's a psychopath. I tried Googling him yesterday - there's no Shivers in Maryland - there's nothing. I'm worried that Hannah could be in real danger, you know? We've got to help her.

DWAYNE

We?

ZACH

I need help - and you're the only friend I have.

DWAYNE

I hardly know you.

ZACH

Come on, Dwayne. We're gonna sneak into his house and we're gonna find out what's going on.

DWAYNE

What if he's there?

ZACH

You told me on Friday nights he goes to Ray's Diner and eats filets.

DWAYNE

Tonight's the school dance.

ZACH

So? You don't have a date.

DWAYNE

(frowns)  
Rub it in, dick.

ZACH

Look, I need someone like you - someone tough and intimidating...  
(buttering him up)  
...a real stud, you know - to back me up.

Dwayne sighs. Zach puts up his hand and Dwayne reluctantly high-fives him. Zach is pleased.

INT. COOPER HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Gale, holding Melissa, talks to Zach on the stairs.

GALE  
But honey, tonight's gonna be fun.  
They're having the ceremony to bury  
the time capsule...

ZACH  
(dry)  
They'll film it. And I can watch  
it over and over on YouTube.

GALE  
But then there's the school dance.  
Is it because I'm chaperoning? I  
will completely leave you alone. I  
won't even look in your direction.

ZACH  
It's not that...

GALE  
I even got Aunt Lorraine to babysit  
Melissa so you could go.

ZACH  
I'm gonna hang out at Dwayne's  
house. He's a guy I met at school.  
I think I actually made a friend,  
you know?

GALE  
(softens; pleased)  
Yeah? Good. And this Dwayne -  
he's a nice kid?

ZACH  
(selling it)  
Super nice. Really cool - a lot of  
fun - funny - and we just have a  
really good time together.

EXT. SHIVERS FENCE - DUSK

Dwayne and Zach hide in the dirt by Shivers's fence.

DWAYNE  
(not happy)  
This is the stupidest thing I ever  
did. What are we doing out here?!

Zach forcibly closes Dwayne's mouth.

ZACH  
Shh! Here he comes.

Across the lawn, we SEE... Shivers, exiting the house. He crosses to his car and gets in, starting the engine.

As Shivers's car pulls away...

...WE PAN ACROSS the lawn to SEE Zach and Dwayne, sneaking under the fence and scurrying across the lawn.

EXT. SHIVERS HOUSE - CELLAR DOOR - CONTINUOUS

Zach and Dwayne head toward the steel cellar doors.

Using a knife, Zach unfastens the latch on the door jamb.

DWAYNE

How do you know there's no alarm?

ZACH

Hannah told me she disconnected it.

With a hollow CLICK, the latch becomes unfastened.

Zach pockets the butter knife and slowly OPENS the creaking cellar doors.

Silence. Zach peers down into the darkness below.

ZACH

Now, all you have to do is stay here and watch the driveway.

DWAYNE

Wait here by myself?

ZACH

Yes, you're the look out. If Shivers comes back, just go...  
(cups his mouth)

Ha-hoo! Ha-hoo!

DWAYNE

Ha-hoo? How about...

(yells)

ZACH! GET THE HELL OUT THE HOUSE!

ZACH

Okay. That works, too.

Zach tries to muster his courage.

ZACH

I don't know why I'm so nervous. My Dad used to go into strange houses all the time and rescue people. And those houses were on fire. Piece of cake, right?

DWAYNE

(shrugs)

I wouldn't do it.

INT. SHIVERS'S HOUSE - BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

Lens flares as Zach turns on his flashlight. Reveal a musty cellar cluttered with junk. Cobwebs hang. Spiders scuttle.

A rattled Zach gets caught in some cobwebs. He swats them off, regains his composure, and continues on.

As Zach steps forward, he accidentally bumps into a broom. The broom falls to the floor when...

Snap! Snap! Snap! A series of BEAR TRAPS go off.

Zach looks down to see that the basement is filled with them.

Zach studies the steel minefield uneasily as-

--an OMINOUS FIGURE appears directly behind him in the darkness. Behind Zach now.

A HAND reaches out, grabs him on the shoulder. Zach spins around and SCREAMS.

We REVEAL the figure - it's Dwayne. He SHOUTS.

ZACH

What the hell, man?! You're supposed to be outside.

DWAYNE

Just because I'm big and black doesn't mean I'm not scared of the dark.

(off ZACH's look)

Look, I've never told anyone this - but the reason I quit the football team wasn't because I hurt a kid. First practice, I was on the field five minutes. I tackled this kid and yeah, I knocked him out - but it damn nearly broke my nose. And it hurt. I don't like pain, Zach!

ZACH

(sourcing)

You don't like pain?! You were supposed to be my body guard here. You're the worst bodyguard ever!

Suddenly, a noise is heard from upstairs.

DWAYNE

(wide-eyed)

Who's that?

ZACH

(hopeful)

It's Hannah.

Zach heads upstairs. Dwayne follows. As they climb the stairs, we notice...

...a concealed MOTION DETECTOR on the bottom of the staircase. As the two pass by, a RED LIGHT goes on.

INT. RAY'S DINER - NIGHT

Mr. Shivers sits alone in the back of the diner reading a book of Edgar Allan Poe poems. A WAITRESS appears.

WAITRESS  
What can I get you, hon?

Putting stink on the "hon"s, he glares at her, indicating the big "FILET MIGNON FRIDAY" sign over her head.

SHIVERS  
What do I always get on Friday,  
hon? The filet, hon.

He returns to his book as the Waitress huffs away.

Shivers's phone VIBRATES.

ON PHONE - display is flashing. Words read: ALARM #3  
ACTIVATED.

Shivers's brow furrows.

INT. SHIVERS'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Zach and Dwayne slowly enter the dark room. Silence.

Then more SOUNDS, coming from behind DOUBLE DOORS.

ZACH  
(whispers; to Duncan)  
In there.  
(turns, whisper yells)  
Hannah...

Zach pulls open the study doors to reveal...

A STUDY

Dusty, spacious, and stuffed with HUNDREDS OF LEATHER-BOUND MANUSCRIPTS fitted with steel locks (the same as we saw in the opening.) Bookcase after bookcase is filled with them.

Dwayne and Zach move into the dim study, taking it in.

DWAYNE  
(reading book covers)  
"The Scarecrow Walks at Midnight",  
"The Ghost Next Door", "Night of  
the Living Dummy". I know what  
these are. These are Goosebumps  
manuscripts.

ZACH  
You mean, those kids books?



DWAYNE

No, kids books help you fall asleep, not keep you up all night. They're scary, man.

ZACH

Why would Shivers be collecting the original manuscripts of a bunch of kids books?

DWAYNE

I dunno. But let's get out of here. I've got the creeps.

ZACH

Relax.

Zach tries to open a book, but it's LOCKED.

ZACH

They all have locks on 'em. Weird.  
(looks at spine)  
R.L. Stine.

DWAYNE

That's the guy who wrote 'em. He wrote like all of 'em and then, one day, just disappeared.

Zach fingers a GOLD KEY hanging on a mount beside the books.

ZACH

Disappeared? How?

DWAYNE

I dunno. Anyone writing books about homicidal gnomes, werewolves, man-eating plants and...  
(reads title)  
"The Abominable Snowman of Pasadena" - has gotta be a freak.

Zach then spots a framed diploma - embossed with the name R. L. Stine. He looks up.

There is a FIGURE standing right behind Dwayne.

ZACH

Get down!

Zach pushes Dwayne down as a BASEBALL BAT swings for their heads, barely missing. Then...

VOICE (O.S.)

Zach?

Lights flip on to reveal, Hannah, standing there, stunned.

ZACH

Hannah?!

HANNAH  
What's going on?!

Zach and Dwayne rise to their feet.

ZACH  
Dwayne, this is Hannah...

DWAYNE  
Your girl just tried to knock my  
head off with a bat!

ZACH  
(embarrassed)  
She's not my girl, but, uh...

HANNAH  
Zach, what are you doing in here?

ZACH  
I came to rescue you...

HANNAH  
From what?

ZACH  
Your uncle.

HANNAH  
Zach, you've got it all wrong,  
okay? No one's supposed to be in  
here. You have to leave.

Hannah kneels down to pick up the manuscripts Dwayne dropped.  
She stops, stunned, when she sees...

The lock on "The Abominable Snowman" is broken.

HANNAH  
(to DWAYNE)  
You broke open the lock?!

DWAYNE  
Well, you almost broke open my head  
- we'll call it even.

HANNAH  
You don't understand...

Dwayne snatches the book from her.

DWAYNE  
It's no big thing. I can fix it.

Dwayne opens the book so he can fiddle with the lock.

Upon seeing this, Hannah's eyes widen in livid horror-

HANNAH  
No! Don't open that!!

But it's too late. With a blast of hurricane wind, Zach and the others are hurled backwards...

...while a NEW FIGURE abruptly appears in the room as if out of thin air.

As Zach and the others regain their composure, a shadow grows over the scene... growing taller... taller...

Realizing they're no longer alone, Zach and the others slowly look up to see-

THE ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN OF PASADENA

Tangled hair. Crowded fangs. Fifteen feet tall. Three thousand pounds. Very real and very pissed off.

HANNAH  
(calm-whisper)  
Nobody move.

Ignoring her advice, Dwayne loses his shit and HOWLS.

The Snowman whirls on Dwayne and...

SNOWMAN  
(in response)  
ROAARRRRR!!!!

The room trembles. Bookshelves shake. Manuscripts dislodge as Dwayne scrambles to his feet and runs towards the back of the STUDY.

It dead ends at the BARRED-BAY WINDOW. Dwayne turns to see...

...the ROARING SNOWMAN bearing down on him like a man-eating freight train when-

Zach knocks Dwayne to the ground...

...as the Abominable Snowman of Pasadena BLASTS through the bay window...

...and into the night. Steel snaps. Glass SHATTERS. The burglar alarm WAILS.

Zach and Dwayne, on the floor, lean up to see a hole where the bay window used to be.

ZACH  
Was that real?!

Hannah appears, quickly silencing the burglar alarm and holding the ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN MANUSCRIPT under her arm.

HANNAH  
My Uncle's gonna kill me.

With that, Hannah quickly rushes into the study.

DWAYNE

Her Uncle's gonna kill her? What about that albino Bigfoot?

Zach goes after her, Dwayne gets to his feet and follows--

-- we hang back just long enough to notice ANOTHER MANUSCRIPT has fallen to the floor amidst the chaos. It's spine reads, "Night of the Living Dummy" and its lock is OPEN.

EXT. SHIVERS LAWN - NIGHT

Hannah moves briskly across the lawn, hurriedly following a trail of destruction....

...to the edge of the gate.

ZACH

(catching up)  
Hannah. Wait!

HANNAH

Go home, Zach. I appreciate your concern - I do - but you're in over your head.

ZACH

But where did that thing come from?

HANNAH

I can't explain now. I have to go.

She takes off, following the trail.

Zach starts after her, until stopped by a freaked out Dwayne.

DWAYNE

You heard the girl. She wants to be alone. So let's go get a burger or something.

Dwayne grimaces, hopefully.

ZACH

It was our fault that thing got loose in the first place.

DWAYNE

Our fault? All I did I was drop the book, break the lock and open it up and... there it was.

Dwayne grimaces, only now realizing what he's done.

ZACH

We can't just ditch her. You said you would help.

With that, Zach goes after Hannah.

DWAYNE  
 (calling after him)  
 Well, you didn't say anything about  
 an Abominable Snowmen!

Dwayne is left alone. Getting anxious, he starts to run.

EXT. STREETS - LATER

Car alarms BLARE. Smashed fences, crumpled mailboxes...  
 Perplexed NEIGHBORS stand outside their porch.

The Snowman's trail of destruction leads right through the  
 neighborhood towards...

EXT. ICE RINK - NIGHT

Zach and Dwayne run up to the Ice Rink. A section of fence  
 has been ripped from its hinges. The building's side window  
 is shattered. Spot Hannah climbing through.

DWAYNE  
 That chick's crazy. What's she  
 doing?! We should call the cops!

ZACH  
 Have you met the cops in this  
 town?!

Zach takes off for the ice rink.

DWAYNE  
 Fair enough.

INT. ICE SKATING RINK - NIGHT

Dark. Deserted. Light pours in from street through the  
 windows near the rafters. See overturned ARCADE GAMES...  
 CRUSHED BENCHES... but no Snowman.

Find Zach crossing this dimly lit scene. Broken glass on the  
 cement floor crunching under his sneakers.

DWAYNE  
 (catching up)  
 Where is she?

Zach points to the ice rink.

Standing dead center is Hannah, slowly scanning the  
 surroundings. She holds the book as if it were a weapon.

ON THE ICE

Zach and Dwayne walk/slip their way to the center of the ice,  
 joining Hannah who looks around like an owner who lost a pet.

ZACH

Hannah...  
 (off her look)  
 I'm not leaving you.

HANNAH

*She's in here.*  
 (gentle voice)  
 Abby?! Abby?!

DWAYNE

Abby? This isn't a poodle. And what are ya gonna do with that book? We need a gun!

HANNAH

No guns. They won't do anything anyway.

DWAYNE

Then a hatchet! Something!

HANNAH

Shhh!

A tiny pin drop sound calls Zach's attention to the ice floor. He kneels. Finds a small candy. Examines it.

ZACH

(confused)  
 It's an M & M.

Another M&M bounces off the ice.

Then another.

It starts to rain M&M's, followed by a stream of candy bars.

They all slowly look up to see...

The Snowman hanging from the rafters, holding a vending machine in one arm, digging through it with the other.

He lets go of the machine and it falls...

ZACH

Look out!

Zach pushes Hannah and Dwayne out of the way as...

SLAM! The vending machine crashes into the ice, cracking it.

They slide to a stop several yards away; get to their feet.

The Snowman jumps down, landing on the machine like a predator on its fallen prey and...

...continues digging junk food out of the vending machine.

DWAYNE  
Well, she looks happy. Eating her  
candy. Nice snow-beast.  
(loud whisper)  
Let's go.

HANNAH  
We have to get closer.

ZACH  
Can I just ask - what is the goal  
here?

HANNAH  
Look, the book can suck it back in,  
but we have to get very close.

DWAYNE  
Wait - we gotta get very close so  
the book can suck it back in?  
Screw that.

The Snowman turns and notices them.

Her eyes tighten angrily.

Beat. Then the snowman starts towards them, quick long  
steps, cutting the distance in seconds.

DWAYNE  
What is she doing?!

HANNAH  
Just wait.

ZACH  
Hannah, what are you doing?!

HANNAH  
Be quiet. Almost...

The Abominable Snowman is practically on top of her.

HANNAH  
NOW!

She opens the book, the magic starts.... but it's too late.

The snowman's elongated arms swat the book from her hands...

...sending it flying across the rink like a hockey puck.

Zach, Hannah, and Dwayne run/slide in different directions.

The snowman's temporarily unsure of who to chase after first.

Hannah reaches for the book. It's within her grasp.

The Snowman goes for Hannah.

With only seconds before Hannah is pulverized, Zach spies a pile of HOCKEY STICKS.

Grabbing one, he slides toward the book and...

...swats the book with a hockey stick-- sending it soaring back across the ice rink and into Dwayne's arms.

DWAYNE

I don't know what to do with this!

Zach grabs Hannah by the hand, yanking her to her feet.

ON DWAYNE. He drops the book, then stumbles, slides, and basically falls his way into the PENALTY BOX.

Across the rink, Zach and Hannah scramble across the ice, the Snowman hot on their heels.

DWAYNE

(waving)

In here!!!

Zach glances over his shoulder, sees the snowman swinging its monster arm at them.

Zach pulls Hannah down with him and they both do a baseball slide across the ice and into the...

PENALTY BOX.

Dwayne shuts the door as the--

--the snowman crashes into the plexiglass and--

SNOWMAN

(pounding the glass)

ARRRRR!!!!

They cower in fear as the snowman pounds on the plexiglass, spider cracking it, about to burst through when...

SHIVERS (O.S.)

STOP!!!

Shivers has stepped onto the ice. He has picked up the book and is waving his hands at the Snowman catching its attention, calling it towards him.

The snowman turns, charges at Shivers.

Shivers waits just the right amount of time before--

He opens the book...

...and like a portable black hole, A VACUUM OF HURRICANE-FORCE WIND violently erupts inside the rink, sucking the Snowman towards it.



Shivers struggles to hold the book as the snarling Snowman desperately buries its claws into the ice, furiously fighting against the vacuum's increasing pressure.

Then the Snowman's fur transforms into ink... then into letters...

Soon, only its slashing paw remains as the last of the Abominable Snow-Woman of Pasadena disappears back into the literary prison from where she came. Going...going...gone.

Shivers slams the book closed. Silence resumes.

PENALTY BOX

The three teens exhale in relief; then look up to see...

...Shivers glaring down on them.

DWAYNE  
(feeble smile)  
How was your filet mignon?

SHIVERS  
(through gritted teeth)  
Get - in - the - car.

We HEAR POLICE SIRENS in the distance.

INT. SHIVERS'S CAR - DRIVING - NIGHT

Silence as an angry Shivers drives. Hannah in the passenger seat. Zach and Dwayne in the back.

ZACH  
Mr. Shivers, I know you're angry - but, uh, I just have one question. What's going on? And what was that... thing? And why do you have all those Goosebumps manuscripts? And what's with the locks? And are you R.L. Stine?

Shivers spins around, annoyed.

SHIVERS  
You said one question. I counted fifteen.

ZACH  
(now convinced)  
You are R.L. Stine.

No response from Shivers.

DWAYNE  
(amazed)  
No way! That's you?! That's him?  
(erupting, excited)  
Dude, you're famous! Really?  
REALLY?! I read ALL your books.

The one about Dr. Maniac - bro,  
that gave me nightmares for days!  
R.L. Stine?! Oh, hell yea! Can I  
get a picture for my Instagram?  
Real quick.

Dwayne sticks his Iphone in front of Stine's face, then poses  
for a photo. The FLASH blinds Stine...

...who swerves the car violently.

STINE  
Get that thing out of my face!  
You're going to get us all killed.

DWAYNE  
(still excited)  
R.L. Stine's pissed. That's R.L.  
Stine!

EXT. STINE'S HOUSE - LATER

Stine's car parks haphazardly in the driveway.

INT. STINE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The front door BUSTS open and they all briskly walk inside.

STINE  
Hannah - go upstairs and pack your  
things. We're leaving.

HANNAH  
(crestfallen)  
No...

STINE  
We can't afford to stay here a  
minute longer.

HANNAH  
But Zach won't say anything. They  
won't tell anyone. Tell him, Zach.

Before Zach can speak...

STINE  
It's beyond that now - didn't you  
see that rink?! Go upstairs.

HANNAH  
I don't want to leave.

STINE

I know you've gotten attached to this po-dunk town, but I promise there's a hundred more we can go to just like it - populated with shuffling drones - going to their pep rallies and pie eating contests. I'm sure there'll even be a nosy adolescent you can flirt with from behind the fence. And a bumbling sidekick with a pituitary problem.

DWAYNE

Come again?

STINE

(locks eyes with her)  
Hannah, you created this situation - now we both have to face the consequences. I'm sorry.

HANNAH

I understand.

Hannah nods, then slinks up the stairs.

Stine then turns to Zach and Dwayne.

STINE

Well, I think you've done enough damage for one day. I hope you're pleased with yourself. If you'll excuse me, I have to go pack up the pieces of my life now.

Stine disappears deeper into another room.

Dwayne turns to Zach, musters a shrug.

DWAYNE

I got Netflix at my house.

Zach grimaces, contemplating his next move.

INT. STINE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Stine moves through the rubble and opens the Egyptian sarcophagus, revealing a PACKED SUITCASE. He grabs it.

Stine then opens the SHRUNKEN HEAD revealing cash, credit cards etc. He is clearly prepared for a quick exit.

As he turns for the study...

...he finds Zach, standing in front of him.

ZACH

Please - I promise I won't say anything - to anyone.

Stine tries to move past him, but Zach blocks him.

ZACH

Look, I don't like this place much either. I'd go back to New York right now if I could but I have no choice. And the only thing that makes me want to stay is Hannah. Please don't take her away.

Suddenly, Stine slightly softens.

STINE

My young friend, that's all very sweet and sentimental, but this is a very fraught situation here.

Stine continues to pack.

ZACH

I can help.

STINE

You can't help.

ZACH

I can't unless you tell me what's going on.

STINE

It's a long story. A long, unbelievable story.

ZACH

I have time. Try me. Please.

Zach gives Stine a plaintive look.

Stine contemplates for a moment. Then...

STINE

Once there was a young writer - who cared nothing for the real world - found it and the people who inhabit it - entirely foolish. All he cared about was creating stories - stories about monsters wreaking havoc on the tedious town he had the misfortune of living in. He put everything into his work. And one day - the writer became so single-minded and his writing so vivid - the monsters in his stories literally leapt off the page and come to life.

ZACH

(dumbfounded)  
No way.

STINE

Way. Every monster in every story waits eagerly to be freed from the manuscript that is their home. The writer can control them by keeping them locked up. But if he opens the book, the - beast - lives.

ZACH

This writer needs to stop writing.

STINE

He has stopped.

ZACH

Can't he just destroy the manuscripts? Wouldn't that put an end to it?

STINE

This is the writer's life work. His great pride.  
(a bit rueful)  
And besides, they may be monsters but they are also his only companions.

As Zach struggles to digest this...

...we REVEAL Dwayne is hovering in the doorway, unbeknownst to them. Having overheard everything, he blurts out...

DWAYNE

That is some messed up shit!

Seeing Dwayne, Stine hardens again.

STINE

(to ZACH)  
Now you see - this is above your grade level.

A solemn Hannah enters, carrying her suitcase.

STINE

Hannah, help me with the manuscripts...

Stine pulls open the double doors to the STUDY.

He stops cold as we REVEAL...

ALL OF THE MANUSCRIPTS ARE GONE.

STINE

(thunderstruck)  
No. No.

Zach, Hannah and Dwayne all join him in the doorway. They, too, are dumbfounded.

Stine, frantic now, rushes inside.

The others follow. Every shelf and bookcase is the same... empty!

STINE  
The manuscripts! Where are they?

HANNAH  
(stammering)  
I... they were just here...

Stine looks around the room, confused. He then sees...

...a RED CARNATION on the floor.

Stine picks up the carnation and stares at it.

Stine's face expresses his horror.

STINE  
Not him...

Just then OMINOUS LAUGHTER is heard. And then a creepy, child-like voice.

VOICE (V.O.)  
(imitating)  
Not him. Not him.

All eyes look up as a SHADOW falls upon them. Lightning FLARES across the stained-glass windows and we REVEAL...

SLAPPY - all two-foot, eight-inches of him. Hannibal Lecter meets Pinocchio. Slappy stands on top of the tallest bookcase, holding one of the MANUSCRIPTS and a GOLD KEY.

SLAPPY  
Slappy's so happy. And free.

Stine stares down Slappy as if trying to reason with a naughty child.

STINE  
(stern)  
You're not supposed to be out, Slappy. You're supposed to be on the shelf.

SLAPPY  
(giggles)  
Slappy's not going anywhere.

Slappy's head turns in a circle, mischievously.

SLAPPY  
Tonight is Slappy's night.

HANNAH  
What are you going to do, Slappy?

SLAPPY  
What I was born to do.

STINE

And what is that?

SLAPPY

You should know. You made me.

(laughs)

All your children are coming out to play.

STINE

No, Slappy...

SLAPPY

We're gonna rule this town - and everyone in it.

STINE

Where are the books, Slappy? Give me back the manuscripts.

SLAPPY

Tonight is gonna be the best story you've ever written. Too bad you won't be alive to read it. But with you gone, we can play forever.

Slappy takes out one of the manuscripts.

ON BOOK - the binding reads "Revenge of The Lawn Gnomes."  
Slappy puts a LIGHTER to the book.

STINE

No, Slappy!

SLAPPY

Bye, Poppa! I promise we'll make you proud.

Slappy tosses the FLAMING BOOK out the open window.

Another lightning FLASH. Thunder CRASHES.

And just like that - Slappy is gone.

Stine and the others look at each other.

DWAYNE

(scanning the room)

That's one quick midget.

STINE

We have to stop him. We have to get the manuscripts.

Stine and the others run toward the front door.

Stine tries to open the front door but it won't budge.

STINE (CONT'D)

It's locked from the outside.

ZACH  
 (trying a window)  
 Locked!

Clack. Clack. Clack. Something rushes past them in the dark.  
 Dwayne spins around.

DWAYNE  
 What was that?

Clack. Clack. Clack.

ZACH  
 (points left)  
 Something over there.

DWAYNE  
 (points right)  
 Nah, man. It was over there.

Clack. Clack. Clack.

HANNAH  
 (in dread)  
 You're both right...

Shadows rush across the floor. Across shelves. Small. Fast. A dozen. Maybe more. Clearly, our terrified heroes aren't alone in the dark library.

Tension mounting, Stine slowly and cautiously reaches forward and pulls...

...the pull-string on a nearby desk lamp to reveal...

...they're surrounded by a pack of ravenous, blood-thirsty...  
 PORCELAIN LAWN GNOMES.

Zach notices the other's horrified expressions. He doesn't quite get the cause for alarm.

ZACH  
 This is worse than it looks, right?

With that, the lawn gnomes' eyes turn red as they spring to life and attack.

Small, but fast, the lawn gnomes move like circus acrobats - stacking, soaring, and somersaulting through the air. Armed with GARDEN TOOLS, these gnomes mean business.

They quickly lasso Dwayne and Stine together with a GARDEN HOSE, sending them to the floor.

The Gnomes jump on to the back of Dwayne as he SHRIEKS!

DWAYNE  
 Get 'em off! Get 'em off!

Thinking fast, Zach grabs a nearby fireplace poker and...



...shatters the attacking lawn gnomes, turning them into dust.

Hannah does the same, knocking the lawn gnomes off her uncle. Whack! Smash!

Unfortunately, for every lawn gnome that's shattered, two more appear to take their place.

STINE

We have to find a way out! All the doors and windows are locked.

HANNAH

The cellar door! Follow me!

They race down the stairs and rush into the...

BASEMENT

ZACH

Watch out for the bear traps!

Hannah grabs on to Zach's hand as they hopscotch across the floor, avoiding the traps.

Dwayne tries to follow suit by grabbing on to Stine's hand.

Stine slaps him away as both of them glance behind at the--

-- platoon of lawn gnomes pouring down the stairs.

ZACH (CONT'D)

(waving)

C'mon!

Stine and Dwayne race across the basement floor with the lawn gnomes hot on their tail.

Unaware of the traps, the Lawn Gnomes run right into them.

The traps go off like popcorn, exploding the lawn gnomes into ceramic pieces.

EXT. STINE HOUSE - STREET - CONTINUOUS

PAN OFF the house to "THE HAUNTED CAR" idling in the street. Through the windshield we see the silhouette of Slappy sitting in the driver's seat.

Suddenly the car's headlights turn on.

INT. BLACK CAR - CONTINUOUS

Slappy's demented head is illuminated by the headlights. He looks down...

...all of the MANUSCRIPTS are in a pile on the passenger seat. Slappy holds up the KEY to all the locks.

SLAPPY  
Let the fun begin.

He laugh maniacally.

EXT. BLACK CAR - CONTINUOUS

Still hearing the laughter -- the car SPEEDS away from us.

EXT. SHIVERS HOUSE - CELLAR DOOR - MOMENTS LATER

Zach, Hannah, Stine and Dwayne quickly exit through the cellar door, slamming it shut behind them, just in time to SEE...

Slappy's Haunted Car TAIL LIGHTS hovering into the distance.

Hannah turns to Stine.

HANNAH  
Not him!

ZACH  
Why not him?

STINE  
Of all the monsters, Slappy's the most intelligent, most sadistic, most crafty...

DWAYNE  
So he's your favorite?

ZACH  
What do you think he'll do?

STINE  
I know what he'll do. I wrote the book. He's going to open all the manuscripts, then burn them. Once their books are destroyed, there's no way to get the monsters back inside. In minutes, this town is going to be complete mayhem. And it won't stop there. He'll turn this whole world into his own personal Horrorland.

They all take in the gravity of the moment, turning their heads toward the city center.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

The HAUNTED CAR speeds down the road with evil Slappy behind the wheel - it swerves wildly, sending other CARS careening off the road.

PEDESTRIANS dive out of its way.

The car slows down in front of...

EXT. CELL PHONE TOWER - CONTINUOUS

Slappy rolls down his window. He opens a manuscript...

Instantly, we SEE a HERD of angry, hideous MAN-EATING PLANT.

SLAPPY  
Take down the tower.

Its tendrils instantly start climbing up the cell phone tower...

SLAPPY  
Can't get a signal, hunh?

...Slappy GIGGLES as he sets fire to the book and tosses it.

The Haunted Car continues on.

EXT. ROAD - MOMENTS LATER

In front of an APARTMENT COMPLEX, the Haunted Car comes to a rolling stop.

Another burning manuscript is tossed. We REVEAL a pack of FRENCH POODLES.

SLAPPY  
Get them out of their houses!

The Haunted Car takes off, as the Poodles take off through the neighborhood.

INT. - LORRAINE'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Stenciled walls. Painted ceramics. Home-made frames. Lorraine's six cats lie lazily around the room as Lorraine bedazzles a cute dress for Melissa.

LORRAINE  
Everything is so much better when it sparkles, isn't it? I think it needs a little more red, don't you?

Lorraine crosses the room to her supplies.

The sounds of SCRATCHING are heard at the front door.

Melissa hears it. She takes a few steps to the front door and opens...

ON THE FRONT PORCH

An adorable FRENCH POODLE, panting. Melissa beams.

MELISSA

Doggie!

MOMENTS LATER

Lorraine crosses the room with some plastic gems and stops cold...

Melissa stands with the French poodle in the middle of the room.

Lorraine is STARTLED but quickly grins. She bends down before the white-haired pooch.

LORRAINE

You must be lost... Are you hungry, little fella?

And with that, the french poodle's eyes blaze red as it bears its vampiric fangs and levitates three feet off the ground.

Lorraine SCREAMS, hits the evil dog with her handbag, then scoops Melissa in her arms. She bolts from the house.

CUT TO:

INT. NORMAL POLICE STATION - MOMENTS LATER

Officer Stevens and Officer Brooks are getting into their patrol car.

OFFICER STEVENS

You want to pick up some Taco Bell or something?

OFFICER BROOKS

I feel more like something sweet. Maybe Krispy Kreme.

The engine starts and they take off, blissfully unaware of what's going on just under their noses.

Just as they pull out, the Haunted Car pulls in and comes to an abrupt halt.

Slappy opens a book and A CREW OF BUG-EYED ALIENS appear.

SLAPPY

You're the police here now!

The Aliens begin storming the Police Station as Slappy laughs.

INT. STINE'S CAR - TRAVELING - NIGHT

As Stine drives towards town, he witnesses evidence of the anarchy he has unleashed. He shakes his head.

STINE  
 Poor bastards.

In the back, Zach and Dwayne try their cell phones.

ZACH  
 I can't get reception.

DWAYNE  
 Neither can I.

STINE  
 Slappy's taken out the cell towers  
 by now. He's no dummy. Pardon the  
 pun.

HANNAH  
 (to STINE)  
 What are we going to do?

STINE  
 Without those manuscripts, there's  
 nothing I can do.

HANNAH  
 We have to think - there's gotta be  
 an answer.

A flash of hope registers on Stine's face, but then he shakes  
 it off.

STINE  
 (considers, then...)  
 No. It's impossible.

HANNAH  
 Wait, what? What were you  
 thinking?

STINE  
 Just that... well, if I wrote them  
off the page, then maybe there's a  
 way I could write them back on it.  
 Do you understand?

DWAYNE  
 I don't understand anything that's  
 happened all night!

ZACH  
 Yes, yes, that's it!

STINE  
 But it wouldn't work.

ZACH  
 Why not?

STINE  
 Do you know how many stories I'd  
 have to write to recapture every  
 monster I ever created?

Zach is stumped. But then...

HANNAH

Just one.  
(off their looks)  
One story to capture every monster.

ZACH

That's right. They do it in comic books all the time. "Legion of Doom"... "Sinister Six"...

STINE

This isn't a comic book. Look, it's too big a risk. And I would need time - and we have none.

HANNAH

We have to try.

Stine stands conflicted. After an extended moment...

STINE

Okay - let's try it.

The others brighten.

ZACH

You'll write it?

STINE

Yes, but I need my Smith Corona!

Zach indicates Stine's house...

ZACH

We can use my laptop. It'll be faster.

STINE

All my stories were written on that Smith Corona. I can't do it any other way. Every writer has his own unique process...!

ZACH

Okay, relax! Then where is it?

STINE

It's down at the high school.

Off their confused looks, we...

CUT TO:

INT. GYMNASIUM - CONTINUOUS

TEENS SCREAM at the top of their lungs. Not in horror, but in harmony with the thumping HOUSE MUSIC.

Gale stands in the corner, trying to make a call on her cell phone. No luck. Strange. Then a MENACING SHADOW falls over her. Gale spins around to see...

COACH CARR  
Tangerine Zima?

COACH CARR is barrel-chested blowhard in a track suit.

GALE  
No, thanks.

COACH CARR  
(bobbing his head)  
I love house music, don't you?  
That pulsating beat. Wanna dance?

GALE  
I haven't been able to get in touch  
with my son. Or my sister. And  
now I'm getting no reception on my  
phone. I have this feeling,  
something's very wrong.

COACH CARR  
Well, I'm looking at you and  
feeling, something's very right.

He seductively sips his tangerine Zima, eyeing her.

Gale is too anxious to be properly disgusted by him.

INT. - STINE'S CAR - TRAVELING - NIGHT

They are still driving.

ZACH  
Why is your typewriter at the high  
school?

STINE  
(defensive)  
I wanted it far away from me. So I  
gave it up to be buried - in a time  
capsule...

DWAYNE  
In the time capsule? What, so some  
future writer could find it and  
destroy the world with it?

Hannah silences them with an emphatic...

HANNAH  
You guys.

EXT. - MAIN STREET

Eerily deserted. Silent as the grave. Telephone lines are down. Street lights are shattered. Fire hydrants spew water. The STATUE of Normal's founder has been chewed in half.

INT. - STINE'S CAR

The car SLOWS to a crawl as the four eye the abandoned scene uneasily...

HANNAH

Oh my god.  
(pained)  
This is all my fault.

ZACH

(comforting her)  
Don't say that. No, it's not.  
(beat)  
It's Dwayne's fault. He broke the lock.

DWAYNE

Hey - I'm only here as a favor to you!

Hannah turns to Stine, remorse in her eyes. They share a private moment together.

HANNAH

I'm sorry, Uncle. You warned me so many times.

He reaches across and puts a consoling hand on her.

STINE

(tenderly)  
It was bound to happen eventually.  
I created this - not you. It's not your responsibility, Hannah.

She smiles back at him, somewhat comforted.

Just then, from the back...

DWAYNE

Look out!

All eyes turn ahead as we reveal TWO PEOPLE standing in the middle of the street.

Stine's car is heading right for them.

Stine hits the brakes as-

Wham! The car comes to a sudden halt as its front end slams into a tree.

Just then, the "people" walk into the MOONLIGHT, revealing themselves to be transparent GHOSTS.



HANNAH

Why is there a tree in the middle  
of the road?

They all look out the front window and up...

...Stine's car didn't hit a tree at all, but, instead, the  
leg of a fifty foot tall...

...PRAYING MANTIS. As the praying mantis lowers its head and  
peers in the front windshield-

STINE

I don't remember writing about a  
giant praying mantis.

Seeing them, the praying mantis HISSES with primal fury.

STINE

Right. Now, I remember.

Stine feverishly pounds the gas as he throws the car in  
REVERSE. They all SCREAM.

EXT. - STREET

Stine's station wagon races backwards down Main Street as the  
hungry praying mantis steadily charges after it.

Stine swerves to navigate the car through the giant legs of  
the mantis.

INT. - STINE'S CAR

The four continue SCREAMING as the advancing praying mantis  
gives chase.

EXT. SUPERMARKET PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Stine's car races up a curb, across a supermarket parking lot  
and crashes into a parked car. Wham!

SMOKE BILLOWS from the WRECKAGE.

Across the lot, the praying mantis spots the demolished car  
and descends upon it.

The mantis snatches the station wagon by the hood, lifts it  
up, and...

...tears off the roof to reveal...

Nothing. Its passengers are gone.

The enraged praying mantis drops the car and HISSES with  
frustration.

EXT. SUPERMARKET - CONTINUOUS

Behind the shrubs, Zach, Stine, Hannah and Dwayne have taken cover. They are panting, terrified.

DWAYNE  
(to STINE)  
Why'd you come up with something  
that freaky, hunh? Why would you  
go and do us like that, Stine?!

Zach and Hannah spot...

Cruising down Main Street is a PATROL CAR.

HANNAH  
The police! I can flag them down.

ZACH  
No - I'll do it. Stay here.

She grabs his shoulder. He gives her a reassuring look.

ZACH  
It'll be okay. I promise.

INT. PATROL CAR - TRAVELING - NIGHT

Officer Brooks and Officer Stevens are eating Taco Bell and listening to HIP-HOP. They are still completely oblivious to the insanity going on in Normal...

OFFICER BROOKS  
I think you got my burrito - and I  
got yours.

THROUGH FRONT WINDOW

Zach, on the road, frantically waving them down.

EXT. ROAD - CONTINUOUS

The POLICE CAR comes to a SCREECHING halt.

A relieved Zach quickly approaches the car.

ZACH  
HELP! HELP US!

OFFICER STEVENS  
Oh, it's you. Is there a lion  
eating a girl somewhere?

The Officers chuckle.

ZACH  
(all over the place)  
No. But a giant praying mantis  
just ripped apart our car!

The guy you met - he's not Shivers -  
 he's R. L. Stine - he wrote  
 Goosebumps. His monsters are  
 alive. They've taken over the  
 town. Homicidal lawn gnomes and an  
 evil wooden dummy!

OFFICER STEVENS  
 Jeez, kid - you been huffing?  
 Sniffing? Bagging? Dusting?

ZACH  
 What?!

Seeing the PRAYING MANTIS approaching, Zach gives up...  
 ...and bolts back toward the supermarket.

INSIDE THE PATROL CAR

Officer Stevens and Officer Brooks shake their heads.

OFFICER STEVENS  
 Poor kid. More messed up than I  
 thought.

OFFICER BROOKS  
 Yeah, this one's yours. It's got  
 chicken in it.

They switch burritos and drive off, still oblivious to the  
 GIANT PRAYING MANTIS, right behind them, destroying  
 everything in sight.

EXT. SUPERMARKET - NIGHT

Zach races to join the others behind the shrubs. They  
 watch...

...the PRAYING MANTIS having a field day, crushing CARS left  
 and right... Getting closer and closer.

ZACH  
 Let's get inside!

Zach and the crew retreat inside the supermarket for safety.

EXT. LYON'S DEN SUPERMARKET - MOMENTS LATER

Dim. Silent. A cartoon lion is the supermarket's mascot.

INT. SUPERMARKET - MOMENTS LATER

Fluorescent lights flicker as MUZAK plays over the store  
 speakers. The supermarket's front doors lie torn off their  
 hinges.

Zach and the others stand nervously in the darkened doorway.

ZACH

How are we gonna get to the school?  
We won't last twenty feet out  
there.

DWAYNE

I know a way.

All eyes on Dwayne.

DWAYNE

The back exit of this market leads  
right onto Springfield. Then we  
take Summit, then Myers farm.  
School's just on the other side.

ZACH

You're sure?

Dwayne nods with confidence.

DWAYNE

I stacked shelves here last Summer.  
The back exit is right past the  
deli counter.

The four move quickly and quietly down the aisle.

Hannah and Zach walk together. Hannah gives him a wry smile.

HANNAH

Are we having fun yet?

ZACH

Yeah - loads.  
(teasing her)  
If you'd just met me out by the  
trash cans the other night, none of  
this would have happened.

HANNAH

(sardonic frown)  
Don't make me beat you.

Dwayne, walking with Stine, pauses in front of the sodas.

DWAYNE

R.L. Stine, you got a dollar I  
could borrow?

STINE

What? No. Why?

DWAYNE

I'm parched! I need a soda.

STINE

Just take one. It's an emergency.  
I'm sure they'll understand.

DWAYNE

Really?

(looks at shelves)

I kinda want a Coke. Maybe a Gatorade though. Or maybe just a juice?

STINE

For God's sakes, just grab something.

Dwayne grabs a drink and they continue around the corner.

Suddenly, Stine grabs Dwayne and they all stop.

THEY SEE... milk all over the floor.

We FOLLOW THEIR EYES as further down the aisle, they SEE...

A PACK OF BROWN-HAIRED WEREWOLVES hungrily lapping up cases and cartons of milk in the dairy section.

Sensing intruders, the WEREWOLVES quickly spin around to see-

Nothing. Zach, Stine, and the others are nowhere to be found.

Senses reeling, the snarling werewolves bare their teeth and slowly move out to investigate.

FROZEN FOOD AISLE - MOMENTS LATER

The three werewolves scan the deserted scene. As they do we PULL BACK to reveal...

...that Zach and Hannah are pressed up against a display rack at the end of the aisle.

Nearby, Stine remains crouched down behind the ISLAND FREEZER that runs down the center of the frozen food aisle.

Dwayne lies still inside the island freezer... just below the werewolves line of sight.

Ears perked, the blood-thirsty werewolves slowly make their way down the frozen food aisle, nostrils flailing... paws pounding...

Wedged between the frozen fish sticks and tater tots, Dwayne cautiously peers out to see the werewolves' passing reflection in the glass doors of the adjacent freezers.

Dwayne quickly lies back down and remains still.

The first two werewolves move past Dwayne without so much as a glance. Then...

The third werewolf stops. Sniffs the air.

Zach and Hannah watch on helplessly. Stine tightens.

Dwayne closes his eyes. Doesn't dare move.

The werewolf moves on.

Zach and the others offers a silent sigh of relief when-

Dwayne's teeth suddenly begin to chatter from the cold. Dwayne quickly holds his mouth closed, but--

The damage is done. The werewolves stop.

Zach and Hannah watch in horror as the werewolves slowly turn, shifting their gazes toward the island freezer when-

Thinking fast, Zach grabs a nearby a SLAB OF BEEF from the refrigerator and...

...hurls it across the store.

Smelling the beef, the distracted werewolves take off back the way they came, racing toward the other side of the store.

Once the coast is clear, Zach, Hannah, and Stine rush out of hiding and pull the chilled Dwayne out of the freezer.

STINE

Go. Go. Go. Go.

With Stine leading the way, the four rush...

...out of the frozen food aisle, past the deli counter, and towards the emergency exit when...

...TWO MORE WEREWOLVES spring up from behind the DELI COUNTER.

Zach and the others SCREAM as the gray-haired werewolves fix their ravenous gazes on the "fresh meat" that stands before them.

The werewolves pounce as the four race into the...

STORAGE ROOM

Zach and the others charge toward the distant EMERGENCY EXIT as the two werewolves pursue.

As Zach and the others cut left past a pile of pallets, Zach strategically knocks over a nearby MOP BUCKET, sending the pursuing werewolves...

...sliding across the soapy floor.

As the furious werewolves regain their footing, our four heroes rush out the EMERGENCY EXIT, and into...

EXT. - ALLEY WAY

Zach SLAMS the steel door shut behind them.

ZACH

That oughta hold them.

But, just then, the fire door EXPLODES OUTWARD, as the ravenous werewolves continue to chase down their prey.

SCREAMING as they run, Zach and the others race down the narrow alley way - a brick wall on one side, a chain link fence on the other.

Navigating their way past GARBAGE CANS and PILES OF STACKED NEWSPAPERS, the four round the corner and stop dead before a LOCKED GATE.

As Zach pulls and pulls on the gate-

The sound of SNARLS is heard coming closer and closer.

Zach and the others turn to see...

...Two werewolves slowly closing in.

Stine moves protectively in front of Hannah as the werewolves prepare to pounce when-

HEADLIGHTS flood the scene. Zach and the others turn as-

CRASH! A MINI-VAN BLASTS THROUGH THE CHAIN-LINKED FENCE, crashing into the two werewolves like a six-cylinder battering ram. A bumper sticker reads: I BRAKE FOR MACRAME.

Once the dust, garbage, and newspapers settle, the DRIVER steps out of the mini-van and into the light as we reveal--

Lorraine. Glasses cracked. Hair, a mess. Poodle fur all over her dress. She looks absolutely fried.

LORRAINE

(whimpers)

Someone's been breeding killer poodles or something.

Melissa sits in the back of the mini-van, safely buckled in.

A relieved Zach unbuckles his sister and holds her tightly in his arms.

ZACH

Am I glad to see you.

Smoke pours out of the mini-van's cracked engine as noise is heard in the distance.

More monsters, alerted to the commotion.

STINE

We have to keep moving!

Lorraine looks Stine over and gives him a friendly smile, patting down her hair.

LORRAINE

I don't think we've met. My name's Lorraine.

ZACH

Come on!

As the others run, Zach pulls Lorraine. Leaving the smoldering mini-van behind, they race into the night.

EXT. MYERS FARM - CORNFIELD - LATER

The crew trudges through a jungle of six foot high cornstalks. Dwayne leads the way, muttering to himself.

DWAYNE

Snowman, nasty gnomes, praying mantis... I'm about to have a heart attack.

Dwayne puts his hand to his heart, checking its pulse.

Behind him walks Stine and Lorraine. She carries Melissa in her arms.

LORRAINE

I've seen you around the neighborhood. You live alone or...?

STINE

I live with my niece.

LORRAINE

Oh? Oh! This is *my* niece. Yeah. I don't have kids. Not married. Yep. Totally single.

Farther back we FIND Hannah and Zach.

HANNAH

So... if this is our first date, I can't imagine what you have planned for our second.

ZACH

TV and pizza. We're never leaving the house.

HANNAH

Works for me.

ZACH

You were right about one thing. Living here is a lot more exciting than I thought it'd be.

They walk for a moment in silence, then Hannah stops.

HANNAH

Listen, Zach, I know this is a weird time - because, you know, monsters are everywhere and the town is in chaos and we're running for our lives, but...



She locks eyes with him, then shakes her head.

HANNAH  
Never mind. Forget it.

ZACH  
No, tell me.

HANNAH  
No, this is NOT the right time...  
(goes for it)  
...to talk about feelings I may or  
may not be having for you.

Hannah is clearly self-conscious. Zach nods.

ZACH  
You're right. It's not the right  
time. And it's definitely not the  
right time for me to talk about the  
fact that I may or may not be  
having the same feelings for you.

A small, hopeful smile breaks on Hannah's face.

HANNAH  
Really?

ZACH  
Totally.

Zach tries to work up the nerve to kiss her.

ZACH  
Would it be okay if I, uh...?  
Would it be weird if I...?

Hannah knows what he's asking. She just smiles.

HANNAH  
It would be the least weird thing  
that's happened all night.

And with that, Hannah closes her eyes. Just as Zach moves in  
to kiss her...

...the moon peeks out from the behind the clouds and we  
reveal that Hannah is completely transparent in the  
moonlight... just like all of Stine's ghosts.

Startled, Zach jumps back. Hannah opens her eyes to see...

...Zach, looking at her, completely freaked out.

HANNAH  
(confused)  
What? What is it? Why are you  
looking at me like that?

ZACH  
 (stunned)  
 I... I... I think we should catch  
 up with the others. Sorry.

A discombobulated Zach bolts ahead.

Hannah, stung and baffled, watches him go.

INT. PATROL CAR - NIGHT

Officer Stevens and Officer Brooks, still totally unaware,  
 pull up in their patrol car to find...

THE POLICE STATION in total disarray. The other PATROL CARS  
 are on fire. BROKEN GLASS and ALARMS SOUNDING and not a COP  
 in sight.

Their faces fall.

OFFICER STEVENS  
 What the hell?!

They jump out of the patrol car - pulling out their guns.

EXT. POLICE STATION - CONTINUOUS

Stevens and Brooks approach the entrance to the station with  
 their guns drawn.

But the only thing they see as they reach the entrance is...  
 ...a ventriloquist dummy, perched at the front doors.

OFFICER BROOKS  
 What is it?

OFFICER STEVENS  
 I dunno. Some kind of dummy.

Slappy grins at them.

SLAPPY  
 Slappy's so happy.

The Officers and perplexed and scared.

OFFICER STEVENS  
 It's talking!

OFFICER BROOKS  
 Should we shoot it?!

OFFICER STEVENS  
 We can't shoot an unarmed doll!

OFFICER BROOKS

Then what?! Take out it  
batteries?? It's freaking me out,  
man!

The Officers don't see, right behind them...

...a PHALANX OF BUG-EYED ALIENS encroaching behind them.

SLAPPY

Officers, you've been relieved of  
your duties.

Stevens sees the reflection of the aliens in the glass door.  
He spins around...

...and SCREAMS when he sees the alien.

Instantly, an ALIEN shoots him with its FREEZE RAY GUN. He  
is frozen stiff.

Brooks looks on in horror, then SCREAMS.

As he surrounded by the approaching aliens, he FIRES his gun.  
BANG, BANG, BANG.

But to no avail. He is SHOT - frozen in place.

The ALIENS shatter the front door of the police station.  
Just as Slappy is about to triumphantly enter...

One of the LAWN GNOMES from Stine's house appears. It is  
chipped all over - its little pointy hat broken off.

Slappy's bravado fades when he sees the gnome.

SLAPPY

Don't tell me he's still alive.

The Gnome says nothing. Slappy frowns and we...

CUT TO:

EXT. - MYERS FARM - BARN - NIGHT

As Dwayne, Lorraine and Melissa catch their breaths beside a  
run-down BARN...

Stine stands on a nearby clearing, trying to get a better  
look...

...at the EXPLOSIONS and FIRES that pepper the downtown  
landscape, just a few blocks away.

Zach approaches, sidling up to Stine.

STINE

(stricken)

I may have never seen the appeal of this place - but I certainly didn't wish for this.

ZACH

Hannah doesn't know, does she?

Stine quickly turns to look at a devastated Zach.

STINE

Know what?

ZACH

That she's one of your monsters.

Stine locks eyes with Zach.

STINE

Hannah is no "monster" - she's an angel.

ZACH

(angry)

Well, she thinks she's a person - - a walking, talking human being - not a figment of your imagination! How could you lie to her?!

STINE

I was trying to protect her.

ZACH

Give me a break.

STINE

I love Hannah. I keep my monsters locked up, but I've let Hannah run free.

ZACH

She's a prisoner in your house.

STINE

But her mind is her own. Hannah is kind and wise and my greatest creation. The only beautiful thing I've ever made. I didn't tell her because... I wanted her to be real. She is real - to me.

Zach looks at him, pained.

ZACH

She was real to me, too.

(beat)

If you care about her, you can't let her go on believing she's something she's not. You have to tell her the truth.

HANNAH (O.S.)  
The truth about what?

Zach and Stine turn to see Hannah. Awkward silence...

BARN - BY DWAYNE, LORRAINE, AND MELISSA

As Dwayne takes a bathroom break...

Lorraine sits with Melissa - who suddenly begins to cry.

LORRAINE  
What's wrong, sweetie?

Melissa points to a nearby SCARECROW standing in the field.

LORRAINE  
Oh, that's just a scarecrow.

Lorraine moves to the scarecrow and shakes it.

LORRAINE  
See? Nothing to be afraid of. See?

Just then... the "harmless-looking" scarecrow comes to life, baring its jagged wooden teeth and lunging towards Lorraine.

BACK AT CLEARING

HANNAH  
(more insistent)  
Tell me about what?

But before Zach or Stine can answer, Lorraine's SCREAMS fill the air.

Alarmed, the three take off in the direction of the others.

As they race around the barn we reveal-

Dwayne struggling to pull the snapping scarecrow off of the shrieking Lorraine.

DWAYNE  
This thing's alive!

Spying a nearby SCYTHER, Zach shouts.

ZACH  
Aunt Lorraine - duck!

Zach swaps the scarecrow's head off.

As the scarecrow's snarling head goes rolling into the cornfield, Dwayne hurls the scarecrow's flailing body to the side like it was a straw zombie.

Suddenly, Two more SCARECROWS appear out of the cornfield. Then four. Six. Ten.

Zach and the others soon find themselves surrounded. As the burlap-skinned scarecrows turn their stitched gazes toward our heroes--

ZACH  
Run. Fast. Now!

With that, Zach grabs his crying sister as the six race through the cornfield...

...with the animated scarecrows shambling in pursuit.

As they do we CRANE up to see--

EXT. - NORMAL HIGH SCHOOL

Unaware of the situation unfolding across town, the high school's Halloween Dance remains in full swing.

EXT. GYMNASIUM

As TEENS dance and socialize inside...

A cluster of other STUDENTS linger outside the gym, gossiping and laughing. Also here is Gale, looking increasingly anxious.

Gale's eyes widen as she sees...

...six distant figures rushing across the school yard and towards the gym.

Taking a few steps toward the field, she recognizes Zach.

GALE  
Zach?!

Stine and the crew finally reach the school gymnasium.

A breathless Zach is first to arrive - intercepted by his mother at the door.

GALE  
What's happening?!

A horrified Lorraine races past and into the school. A bedazzled blur. Gale does a double take.

GALE  
Lorraine?!

Just then, she sees...

TWO SCARECROWS, who have managed to keep pace with them. They are rapidly crossing the field toward the gym.

The blood drains from Gale's face.

Zach, still holding the scythe, turns to face off with the pair of SCARECROWS.

The SCARECROWS quickly surround him. Just as they are about to pounce...

A few of the FEMALE STUDENTS by the gym, SCREAM.

Zach takes the scythe and retracts it and...

...with two precise swings, manages to behead the first SCARECROW...

...and then the other. They both fall, lifeless to the field.

Zach then grabs his stunned mother and leads her inside.

ZACH  
I told you we should have moved to Miami.

INT. GYMNASIUM - CONTINUOUS

Stine has approached Principal Garrison.

STINE  
Sir, where is the time capsule?!

But before the Principal can answer, Stine grabs him.

PRINCIPAL GARRISON  
The time capsule. Well, it's uh...

STINE  
Take us there - now!

Principal Garrison leads Stine and the others back outside.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL FIELD - MOMENTS LATER

A plaque commemorating the time capsule at the edge of the field. Fresh dirt has been placed over the freshly dug plot of land.

There is even a shovel still leaning beside the plaque.

Garrison has led Stine, Hannah, Dwayne, Zach and Gale to the sight.

PRINCIPAL GARRISON  
We just buried it a few hours ago.

Stine grabs a shovel and starts frantically digging.

GALE  
(to ZACH)  
Honey, what is happening?!

ZACH

It'll take too long to explain. Go back to the gym with Melissa - and make sure they lock all the doors!  
(off GALE's confused look)  
Mom, I know you think I've been making things up, but there really are monsters on the loose.

GALE

Well, shouldn't we call the police?

EXT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

We SEE COPS FROZEN in place or tied to a flagpole hanging upside down, writhing as VAMPIRIC FRENCH POODLES snarl below. They have all been neutralized.

INT. POLICE STATION - CONTINUOUS

Inside the chaos of the station, we FIND...

...SLAPPY, sitting in front of the CCTV monitors, watching the TOWN GETTING TURNED UPSIDE DOWN by monsters.

Each of the monitors is showing some part of town in peril:

...SHOPPERS in the parking lot of the mall getting frozen by the BUG-EYED ALIENS...

...MAN-EATING PLANTS grabbing PEDESTRIANS outside CITY HALL...

...VAMPIRE BATS attacking DINERS eating outside of a FAST FOOD RESTAURANT.

An agitated Slappy is searching the monitors for Stine.

SLAPPY

Where are you, Stine?

Switching feeds rapidly on one of the monitors, he finally spots what he has been looking for...

ON CCTV MONITOR - a camera filming the field outside the high school gym.

Stine and the kids can be seen, digging up the time capsule.

ON SLAPPY

Slappy smiles with devious pleasure.

SLAPPY

I see you.

We PUSH IN on Slappy's menacing sneer.



INT. POLICE STATION - MOMENTS LATER

We SEE through the window, the HAUNTED CAR SCREECHING out of the parking lot of the police station.

Then, we PAN BACK TO CCTV MONITOR where...

Stine and the kids continue to dig up the time capsule burial plot.

EXT. FIELD - CONTINUOUS

The monitor's image fades to the real scene on the field.

Dirt flies everywhere. Stine is now waist deep in the ground. Zach turns to Garrison.

ZACH

How deep did you bury this thing?!

Just then, a CLANK as Stine's shovel hits something metal.

Stine drops his shovel and using his hands, clears the dirt around...

...a stainless steel CONTAINER that reads: DO NOT OPEN UNTIL 2045. THE TIME CAPSULE.

Stine grabs the shovel again and breaks open the time capsule's lock with a forceful BANG.

He opens the time capsule and quickly rifles through the items - a stuffed Pomeranian dog, various yearbooks, GAME OF THRONES DVD.

He tosses it all to the others. Dwayne is soon holding a Taylor Swift CD.

DWAYNE

This is what we're saving for future generations?

Finally, Stine finds what he's been looking for...

Stine's old SMITH CORONA. Stine lifts the typewriter like a long lost child.

ZACH

We need to find a place where you can write!

INT. - THEATER - MOMENTS LATER

The set of the current play looks like a 19th Century English writer's office. Stine sits on the stage, at the desk...

Zach, Dwayne and Hannah gather around him.

Stine rolls up his sleeves, cracks his knuckles and prepares to type. He contemplates...

STINE

It was a sleepy town. It was a typical town. It was a dull as dirt town...

ZACH

Come on! "Monsters lose. Good guys win. The end!"

STINE

The only way to capture a Goosebumps monster is with a Goosebumps story. I can't just phone it in. It needs to be authentic.

DWAYNE

Well, by the time you figure out how to describe the town - it's not gonna be here.

HANNAH

"It was a wonderful town"?

STINE

Rings false.

HANNAH

Uncle, please...

Stine concentrates his mind.

STINE

I have it.

ON PAPER - he types: *"It was a town worth saving."*

With Stine actually writing, a glimmer of hope passes though the group. They exchange hopeful smiles.

ZACH

We gotta go back to the gym to check on the others.

Zach, Dwayne and Hannah head for the exit.

ZACH

(to STINE)

Good luck.

Stine throws a quick, tense smile, then returns to his typing.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Zach and Hannah hurry back to the gym.

HANNAH

You know, if you don't like me, you can just say so.

ZACH

What? I do like you.

HANNAH

Then why are you acting so weird with me?

ZACH

I'm not acting weird.

HANNAH

Yes, you are. I tell you I have feelings for you and all of a sudden you won't even look at me.

Zach stops and turns to her.

ZACH

Hannah, there's something you need to know, but I just... I don't know how to say it...

Hannah's face falls as she comes to the wrong conclusion.

HANNAH

You don't have to. It's obvious. You're not into me. It's okay, Zach. I'll survive. I'm not gonna jump off a bridge or anything.

Hannah heads off to the gym, leaving Zach in the hall.

ZACH

No, that's not... Wait, Hannah...!

INT. - GYMNASIUM

Zach arrives in the gym to find...

The music is off and fear has spread like wildfire.

Principal Garrison is at the podium. Gale stands beside him.

PRINCIPAL GARRISON

(into mic)

Everyone, please, I have an announcement which is, uh, there seem to be... monsters... of every kind... destroying the town.

Pandemonium in the gym as the STUDENTS REACT.

PRINCIPAL GARRISON

(into mic)

Please try to remain calm. Everyone, please. I'm sure the police will be here soon.

Zach watches the crowd become increasingly unhinged. Garrison is doing a terrible job trying to control the situation.

Zach crosses to the stage...

...standing on the podium, taking the mic from Garrison.

He addresses the crowd.

ZACH

I've been out there - and I know what's going on. And at this point, anyone who could help us can't even help themselves. The police are not coming.

More fearful SHOUTING from the crowd.

GALE

Zach!

ZACH

(cupping mic; to GALE)  
Trust me.  
(addresses crowd)  
There will be monsters here - it's just a matter of time. We need to barricade this gym so they can't get in. And arm ourselves with whatever weapons we can find! If we all work together, we'll be all right. But let's get going!

MOMENTS LATER - AT THE PODIUM

Zach gives orders to a GROUP OF TEACHERS, including Coach Carr, Principal Garrison, Mr. Campbell and Gale.

ZACH

(to WOOD SHOP TEACHER)  
Mr. Cross, you gotta have some extra plywood lying around.

MR. CROSS

Enough to build an ark.

GALE

And there's bicycle chains in the lost and found. We could use them to secure the fire exits.

ZACH

Great, Mom.  
(to MR. CAMPBELL)  
Those cannisters in the chem lab are marked hazardous for a reason. I think it's time we found out why.

COACH CARR

I got rackets, bats, medicine balls  
- enough makeshift weapons for an  
army.

JANITOR

We've got a lot we can use in the  
kitchen, too.

ZACH

Awesome. One last thing - is  
anyone an expert on Goosebumps?

Mr. Campbell raises his hand.

MR. CAMPBELL

I've read every one.

ZACH

We'll need your help then. All  
right, let's get going. We've got  
no time to waste.

With that, the TEACHERS spring into action.

Zach turns his attention to Principal Garrison.

ZACH

Principal, you're our leader, okay?  
So we need you to step up and lead.  
Do you understand?

PRINCIPAL GARRISON

Yes, yes. Okay! I'm on it!

Principal Garrison heads into the crowd.

Zach is left on the podium with Gale. She is staring at him,  
touched and proud, seeing the man in the boy.

ZACH

What?

GALE

(smiles)

You really are your father's son.

Zach smiles, pleased - before they both take off.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

INT. GYM - ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Anything that can be used as a weapon is grabbed by TEACHERS  
and STUDENTS. Coach Carr dispenses BATS, GOLF CLUBS, HOCKEY  
STICKS, TENNIS RACKETS to the various Students

INT. WOOD SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Supplies are gathered. Mr. Cross hands out WOODEN PLANKS, POWER DRILLS, NAIL GUNS...

INT. CAFETERIA KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

STEAK KNIVES are snatched. ROLLING PINS are grabbed.

Dwayne grabs a huge pot of MASHED POTATOES from the refrigerator.

INT. SCHOOL ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

The entrance to the gym is sealed with BIKE CHAINS and PADLOCKS from students' lockers.

Nearby, WOOD PLANKS are nailed across windows.

SCHOOL DESKS are being used to blockade the entrance.

Dwayne smears the mashed potatoes all over the windows. Zach looks at him, confused.

ZACH  
Mashed potatoes?

DWAYNE  
Garlic mashed potatoes. For the vampires.

Zach nods, impressed.

INT. CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mr. Campbell stands before a chalkboard. He's drawn a chart that connects the names of every Goosebumps monster with its weakness. He lectures with animation.

MR. CAMPBELL  
The Splatters are vulnerable to high-pitched noises, prune juice is like Kryptonite to the witches - and the werewolves hate silver...

Never have we seen a classroom of students so attentive, taking furious notes.

INT. GYMNASIUM - CONTINUOUS

The gym is like a fort under siege. TEACHERS and STUDENTS work in squadrons, each stationed at different entrances. Hockey and football gear is worn like armor.

Dwayne, Hannah and Gale are organizing the resistance. Lorraine is here, too, with Melissa, using her craft skills to fashion more weapons.

Zach approaches Principal Garrison.

ZACH  
Principal, there are blockades at all the entrances and all of the students are equipped to defend themselves.

Garrison looks around and sees a flank of STUDENTS with their unorthodox weapons of defense.

PRINCIPAL GARRISON  
Great work, Zach.

Zach takes a break from the frantic preparations. He turns to Dwayne.

ZACH  
I think we're gonna be okay.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

The Haunted Car speeds up and parks in front of the gymnasium.

The door opens and Slappy emerges. He has all the remaining Goosebumps manuscripts.

He has a crazed, determined grin on his face.

SLAPPY  
No getting away this time, Stine.

The manuscripts locks have all been broken - and he tosses them all into the road in front of him.

ON BOOKS - they are all open, pages fluttering in the breeze.

We HEAR the SOUNDS of MONSTERS materializing all around us - HISSES and THUMPS and POUNDS and SNARLS.

Snappy tosses a MATCH onto the stack of books and they ERUPT into flames.

Slappy's face is illuminated by the bonfire.

SLAPPY  
(grins)  
See ya, suckers!

And with that - every MONSTER of every GOOSEBUMPS STORY begins to materialize before our eyes. Gargoyles, vampires, werewolves, gnomes and scarecrows and every beast imaginable.

Slappy looks up at the army he's created with giddiness.

INT. GYMNASIUM - CONTINUOUS

Zach and Dwayne are where we left them. Suddenly, Zach HEARS the commotion coming from the field.

ZACH  
Do you hear that?

DWAYNE  
(nods)  
Yeah. What is it?

Zach and Dwayne cross to the makeshift blockade at the gymnasium entrance.

They peer past the wooden planks that bar the front door to see...

THE ARMY OF GOOSEBUMPS MONSTERS charging out of the mist and towards the school like a supernatural tidal wave. That's right--all of 'em. We've never seen this many monsters in one place before and it is truly a sight to behold. They are heading directly for the gym.

Dwayne and Zach are dumbfounded.

DWAYNE  
Are you seeing what I'm seeing?

ZACH  
Yep.

DWAYNE  
Damn. I was hoping I was hallucinating.

Zach gives a battle cry to the others.

ZACH  
This is it, people!!! Let's do this!!!

And, with that, the battle for Normal High begins.

Suddenly, the blockade behind them EXPLODES as the MONSTERS attempt to make their way inside the gym.

Monsters power their way into the gym, just to be met by an army of STUDENTS and TEACHERS.

INT. SCHOOL - VARIOUS HALLWAYS

Windows are shattered. Barricades are splintered as STINE'S MONSTERS invade Normal High.

INT. GYMNASIUM - CONTINUOUS

SERIES OF SHOTS



Zach, Dwayne and Hannah fight alongside other students - trying to keep the monsters at bay.

- Zach and Dwayne beat off GARGOYLES with baseball bats.
- Hannah fends off animated SCARECROWS with a BUNSEN BURNER.
- Principal Garrison leads a team of Students with tennis rackets - they swat KITCHEN MUTANT INSECTS out of the air.
- Invading SERPENTS are blown out of the air by GEEKS with CHERRY BOMBS.

EXT. GYMNASIUM - CONTINUOUS

On the roof the ARCHERY TEAM fires arrows at anything with fur, scales, or tails.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Davidson leads Allison away from the gym, down a hallway.

ALLISON  
We should be helping!

DAVIDSON  
Screw that! Let's hide in here.

He pulls her into a broom closet.

INT. GYMNASIUM - CONTINUOUS

Coach Carr uses a PITCHING MACHINE to fire off...

...baseballs at invading monsters like an assault rifle.

COACH CARR  
It's beautiful, man!!!

Coach Carr looks like an ARMY SNIPER gone berserk - he is having the time of his life, picking off monsters.

INT. SCHOOL LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Piled desks are sent flying as a PLATOON OF RAMPAGING GRAVEYARD GHOULS bursts through the school's entrance when-

A BLAST OF PRESSURIZED WATER fires at them.

Holding the fire hose is none other than... Gale. She yells to the Students around her.

GALE  
Get back to the gym!

Gale soon finds herself alone and the fire hose is just too much for her.

As the spray of water whips wildly in every direction, the graveyard ghouls continue to advance when-

A NEW PAIR OF HANDS grabs the hose.

Zach stands beside her, holding onto the hose. They work together to...

...knock the graveyard ghouls off their feet and out of the school. As the last of the ghouls are blasted outside-

Zach and Gale slam the doors closed and re-chain the handles.

Relieved and grateful, Gale attempts to hug Zach...

ZACH  
Mom, please - not at school.

GALE  
Right, right.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Davidson peers out of the broom closet to SEE...

The BUG-EYED ALIENS, searching the halls.

One of the ALIENS yanks open the broom closet, aiming its death ray directly at Davidson and Allison.

Allison and Davidson SCREAM.

Just before the Bug-Eyed Alien opens fire-

Boom! The Bug-Eyed Alien explodes into pieces as Dwayne appears on the scene.

Dwayne proudly holds a firework-firing rocket launcher.

DWAYNE  
Hurry! This hallway's not safe!

Davidson and Allison rise and the three take a few steps toward the gym.

They stops dead when they see...

A HERD of WEREWOLVES blocking their path, just a few yards away.

DWAYNE  
Not them again. Dang!

Davidson simply bolts, down the hall, in the opposite direction.

Allison realizes she's been ditched, left alone with Dwayne.

The Werewolves quickly move in for the kill.

Dwayne, thinking fast, grabs Allison and pulls her into a classroom.

EXT. PLAYING FIELD - NIGHT

Slappy watches with pleasure on the field as...

The MONSTERS continue to battle their way into the gym.

SLAPPY  
Bye bye, Poppa!

SLAPPY'S POV

Something in his field of vision causes Slappy to turn his binoculars in the direction of the THEATER, just adjacent to the gym.

ON SLAPPY - his smile begins to fade. He takes out a pair of small binoculars to get a better view.

SLAPPY'S POV - THROUGH BINOCULARS

There is a light on in the theater. Stine is barely visible, sitting on the stage, typing his story.

SLAPPY  
(grimaces)  
Stine.

A look of fierce determination on Slappy's face.

INT. GYM CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

Dwayne and Allison hide in awkward silence in the empty classroom.

DWAYNE  
(uncomfortable)  
Hi, uh, I'm Dwayne.

ALLISON  
I know who you are.

DWAYNE  
(tries to make small talk)  
So... how's it going?

ALLISON  
Not that great.

DWAYNE  
(just noticing)  
Where'd your boyfriend go?

ALLISON  
He's not my boyfriend anymore.

Suddenly, the biggest werewolf - the Werewolf of Fever Swamp, enters the classroom.

Seeing them, it HOWLS and SNARLS, moving toward them.

They are cornered - without weaponry.

DWAYNE

There, there. Nice, uh, werewolf.

The Werewolf moves toward Allison, threateningly.

ALLISON

(whimpering)

No. No, no, no...

It gnashes its teeth at her. It's ready to bite.

Just as the werewolf leaps at her...

Dwayne jumps on the back of the raging lycanthrope and buries his teeth into the werewolf's hide.

To Dwayne's surprise, the werewolf HOWLS in pain as...

...his flesh SMOKES and SIZZLES from Dwayne's bite.

Hurling Dwayne aside, the wounded werewolf leaps out the nearest window and into the night.

Spitting hair out of his mouth, Allison rushes to Dwayne's side.

ALLISON

Are you okay?

Dwayne nods and catches his breath, amazed at his own bravery. He pats down his body, relieved.

DWAYNE

I'm still all here. Both legs.

Both arms.

(feels his head)

Head.

Allison notices that Dwayne's arm has been badly cut by the werewolf.

ALISON

You're hurt.

DWAYNE

It's nothing. Just a scratch.

Dwayne rips a pennant from the wall and bandages his wound.

ALLISON

How did you do that?

Dwayne opens his mouth.

DWAYNE  
Silver fillings.

Just then, Zach and Hannah rush into the classroom.

ZACH  
Come on! We gotta get to Stine -  
before they do!

Dwayne nods - and rises to his feet.

INT. THEATER - CONTINUOUS

Stine, alone in the theater, has been typing feverishly - a substantial number of finished pages next to his typewriter.

STINE  
(talks as he types)  
"All the monsters had converged -  
The Beasts from the East, the  
vicious vampire bats, the gargoyles  
and the Bug-Eyed Aliens, the  
vicious gnomes and the praying  
mantis..."

We HEAR a VOICE in the dark auditorium.

SLAPPY (O.S.)  
Forgetting somebody?

Stine looks up. He can't see him, but he can recognize that creepy voice anywhere.

STINE  
Slappy?

Giggles echo through the big auditorium.

Stine finally spots Slappy in a front row seat.

STINE  
How did you find me?

SLAPPY  
I know you, Stine. I created you.  
Or is it the other way around? I  
always forget.  
(giggles)  
You're missing all the fun. All  
your children have come out to  
play. Don't you want to see them  
play?

STINE  
(plaintive)  
No, Slappy. All of this must end.

SLAPPY  
You don't care about this town,  
these people.

STINE  
Things have changed.

SLAPPY  
(annoyed)  
But why should they? I'll give you  
a choice, Stine. Work with us and  
you can live. Work against us and  
you can...

Slappy giggles.

The LIGHTS flash off. When they return, Slappy has  
disappeared.

STINE  
Slappy?! Slappy!

We HEAR giggling. Stine scans the room.

SLAPPY (O.S.)  
Hi.

Stine startles. Slappy is standing on the desk, just inches  
from Stine. Slappy looks down at the pages.

SLAPPY  
What's this?

STINE  
Just working on a little something.

SLAPPY  
(locks eyes with him)  
Don't get too creative, Stine.  
You'll regret it.

STINE  
No, you'll like this story. It's  
the best one I've ever written.

SLAPPY  
(angry)  
NO MORE STORIES!

Slappy reaches for the pages of the new story.

Stine quickly snatches them up and away.

Slappy GRIMACES - and he is just about to leap on Stine,  
when...

Zach, Hannah, Dwayne and Allison enter from the wings.

HANNAH  
Uncle?!

Stine turns his attention to the kids, then looks back...

Slappy has disappeared.

Stine is momentarily stunned.

STINE  
Slappy - where'd he go?

ZACH  
Did you finish?!

STINE  
A few more pages and I'm done.

ZACH  
You can't do it here. The monsters  
are everywhere. Come with us!

Stine grabs his pages and typewriter, still spooked by Slappy's appearance.

INT. GYMNASIUM - LATER

With nowhere left to hide, everyone has taken shelter in the gym. The SCHOOL NURSE is there to aid the wounded - it's like an improvised MASH unit. Gale is here with Melissa and Lorraine.

Stine, Zach, Hannah and Dwayne breathlessly enter. Principal Garrison intercepts them.

PRINCIPAL GARRISON  
We're surrounded on all sides!

Glass shatters. The walls quake as plaster falls.

DWAYNE  
So, now what do we do? The monsters  
are gonna be all over us in seconds  
and Stine still has to write the  
ending of the story.

Zach considers their dilemma long and hard, then-

ZACH  
The school buses. How many buses  
are here?

PRINCIPAL GARRISON  
Uh, three, I think.

ZACH  
We'll put everyone we can fit onto  
one bus, then we'll send the other  
two off in opposite directions. If  
the monsters take the bait, we'll  
have a one in three chance of  
getting out of here alive.

DWAYNE  
I don't like those odds.

ZACH  
If we stay here, our odds are zero.

DWAYNE

Let's go! In the buses, people!

STINE

(stops them)

No, no, that won't work. Monsters can smell fear. No matter how many decoy buses we use, they'll still be able to sniff us out.

Frustrated, Zach slams his hands against the refreshment table. As his eyes fall upon the stacks of soda-

ZACH

I think I have a really bad idea.

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Teens and teachers race down the abandoned hallways, fending off monsters as they go. Zach hurriedly ushers them along.

ZACH

C'mon! Go! Go! Go!

Smash! A TENTACLE blasts in through the window in front of Zach and Hannah.

Zach knocks Hannah out of the way as dust, glass, and rubble shower the scene. The tentacle retracts.

HANNAH

Thanks.

They share a quick smile and then...

ZACH

Listen, I didn't kiss you before because I was scared. But I swear to God - there's nothing I want to do more.

HANNAH

Then do it.

Zach grabs Hannah and kisses her full on the lips.

Hannah kisses him back. And, for that one brief moment it's like there's no one in the school but them.

Another TENTACLE BLASTS through the window.

Dwayne grabs them both and pulls them along with him.

DWAYNE

We don't have time for that!!

With the halls in chaos behind them, they all rush for the...



INT. SCHOOL GARAGE - NIGHT

THREE SCHOOL BUSES sit in a row. All of the STUDENTS and TEACHERS are being crammed into a single bus (we will call the THIRD BUS.)

INT. THIRD SCHOOL BUS - CONTINUOUS

Principal Garrison is at the wheel. Zach hurries the teens and teachers on board.

ZACH  
Let's go. Let's go.

As the last student gets on the bus, Zach addresses the group - packed like sardines, terrified teachers and teens tremble.

ZACH  
Remember, keep your heads down and stay calm. These things can smell fear, so the calmer you are, the safer you'll be.  
(to GARRISON)  
Principal, you know what to do.  
(to GALE)  
Mom, don't worry about me. I love you.

Zach bolts from the school bus.

Gale, holding Melissa, and sitting next to Lorraine, blanches.

GALE  
Wait, what? Where are you going?!  
Zach!

EXT. GARAGE - MOMENTS LATER

Slam! THREE SCHOOL BUSES blast out the garage doors. One after the other.

The FIRST BUS goes left.

The SECOND BUS goes right.

The THIRD BUS, with all the people, goes straight.

The monsters on the field *en masse* immediately give chase, galloping after the escaping buses.

NEARBY - THE HAUNTED CAR

Slappy, back in the haunted car, watches the buses leave with anger.

SLAPPY  
No! They can't get away!

The Haunted Car PEELS out at top speed.

INT. THE SECOND BUS - TRAVELING - CONTINUOUS

As Stine types in the back...

In the front, Zach drives the bus. Hannah stands above him.

HANNAH  
Should you be driving?

ZACH  
My dad taught me to drive on a fire truck so a school bus should be no problem. Wait, whoops...

The GEARS GRIND and there's a LOUD THUMP.

HANNAH  
(crossing herself)  
Oh, god.

EXT. ROAD

The FIRST BUS blasts down the highway...

INT. HAUNTED CAR - CONTINUOUS

Slappy smells the air. He gets a good whiff of fear.

SLAPPY  
Don't you just love the smell of fear?

He goes left, following the first bus.

EXT. ROAD - CONTINUOUS

The other MONSTERS, too, smell fear and chase the first bus.

Wham! The Haunted Car races beside the first bus and...

...BARRELS into its side.

It knocks the school bus out of the street and into the neighboring cornfield.

Losing control on the ragged terrain, the school bus FLIPS over on its side and comes to a stop.

Stampeding monsters arrive on the scene and invade the overturned bus.

As an orgy of all our hideous monsters - the gargoyles, the gnomes, the praying mantis, the bats, the wolves, the aliens - they all descend upon the bus.

We SOON SEE what they SEE...

INT. FIRST BUS - CONTINUOUS

The bus is empty.

A hockey stick holds down the gas pedal, while a leather belt binds the wheel in place.

Hundreds of empty cans of ENERGY DRINK lie spilled everywhere, giving off the scent of *epinephrine*---the chemical component of fear. A label on the can emphasizes this.

We SEE an EXPLOSIVE DEVICE has also been rigged.

INT. SECOND BUS - CONTINUOUS

In the back of the second bus, Dwayne and Allison hover over the DETONATOR. On Zach's order...

ZACH

Now!

Dwayne presses the detonator.

INT. FIRST BUS - CONTINUOUS

As the MONSTERS STOMP and SNARL with fury at being tricked, there is a SUDDEN, POWERFUL... BOOM!

EXT. ROAD - CONTINUOUS

THE SCHOOL BUS GOES UP IN A HUGE FIREBALL.

The explosion is massive and deafening.

EXT. ANOTHER PART OF HIGHWAY - CONTINUOUS

Slappy, standing beside the Haunted Car, watches, stunned.

Slappy's hair is singed and a can of energy drink is blown out of the sky and... lands on his head.

Slappy picks up the can - and realizes he's been had. He crumples the can, outraged.

EXT. ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Filled with teachers and students, the third bus, driven by Principal Garrison, races in the opposite direction, away from the school.

INSIDE THE THIRD BUS

Seeing the bomb cloud and realizing they are out of harm's way, everyone CHEERS.

We FIND a petrified Davidson, sitting near the back, hyperventilating. He turns to the GEEK sitting next to him.

DAVIDSON  
Please tell me it's over.

Davidson literally PISSES HIMSELF. The Geek is disgusted.

Near the front, a troubled Gale looks out the window...

...as the second school bus, with Zach and our heroes on it, disappears into the distance.

INT. THIRD SCHOOL BUS - CONTINUOUS

Stine types in the back.

STINE (V.O.)  
"Having taken the bait, the students and teachers of Normal High escape safely into the night."

Up in the front, Zach drives while Hannah stands behind him.

ZACH  
It worked! I can't believe it!

He and Hannah HIGH-FIVE.

BACK IN THE BUS

We FIND Dwayne, sitting next to Allison. Celebrating, she gives him a big hug.

ALLISON  
You did it! You killed them!

Dwayne can't believe his luck.

DWAYNE  
I guess I did.

Stine looks up from his typewriter.

STINE  
They're not dead. Nothing can get rid of the monsters except putting them back into a book. This just bought us some time. They'll be coming for us soon enough.

The others look back, their hopes crushed.

We CAN SEE the injured GOOSEBUMPS MONSTERS; some of them recovering; some of them already beginning to give chase.

DWAYNE  
 Turn left! We'll take the Bridge  
 right out of town and onto the main  
 highway.

As Zach turns to do just that-

HANNAH  
 Look out!

EXT. - BUS

Brakes screech. Rubber burns as the bus comes to a sudden, jarring halt.

The bridge has been completely destroyed. The bus hangs perilously close to the edge. Slappy has done everything in his power to keep Stine from escaping town.

INT. SECOND BUS - CONTINUOUS

Zach and the others take in the destroyed bridge.

HANNAH  
 So much for leaving town and  
 getting help...

ZACH  
 We have to get Stine somewhere he  
 can finish his story. Somewhere  
 with lots of places to hide - and  
 where there's absolutely no people.

Light bulb. They both turn to each other with the same idea.

Zach pulls on the steering wheel, making a sharp turn.

EXT. ABANDONED AMUSEMENT PARK - MOMENTS LATER

The bus pulls up and parks with a sudden HALT.

Zach, Hannah, Dwayne, Allison and Stine all pile out.

HANNAH  
 Uncle, you think Slappy will find  
 us here?

STINE  
 (approving)  
 Slappy knows me as well as I know  
 him. But this is probably the last  
 place he'd think I'd think he'd  
 think I'd go.

DWAYNE  
 (confused)  
 You two have a sick relationship,  
 you know that?!

They take off towards the park, running.

EXT. AMUSEMENT PARK ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

As our crew races through the turnstiles, Zach grabs one of the rusted KIDDIE STROLLERS.

ZACH  
Stine! Sit! You have to keep  
writing!

Dwayne forcibly shoves Stine down in the stroller.

EXT. AMUSEMENT PARK - MOMENTS LATER

Being pushed on a kiddie stroller by Zach, Stine types as he's rolled along.

STINE  
(typing)  
"It was clear that there was only  
one place in the park left to hide.  
The... arcade gallery."

The kids stop and look around for the arcade gallery.

HANNAH  
There is no arcade gallery.

Stine looks around himself. There is a FUN HOUSE nearby. He quickly goes back to typing.

STINE  
I mean, "The fun house."

INT. - FUN HOUSE

MECHANICAL GHOULS sneer as the fun house's doors burst open.

Stine is wheeled inside, still typing as he goes.

Zach and the others frantically bar the fun house doors with anything they can find.

STINE  
(typing)  
"But before Slappy and the monsters  
could find them, the story was  
finally completed...!"

As Stine types, the others are frightened by the weird monsters depicted inside the fun house.

One of them seems to SPRING TO LIFE, jumping out at Allison.

Allison SHRIEKS, holding onto Dwayne, tight.

ALISON  
 (panicking)  
 Oh my god. Hold me, Dwayne.

Dwayne can't believe his luck.

Even Zach and Hannah are startled when...

...A MECHANICAL GHOUL seems to leap out in their direction.

Stine shouts as he types - perhaps to ward off "evil spirits".

STINE  
 "And Slappy and all the rest of the  
 monsters disappeared back into the  
 world of paper and ink... NEVER TO  
 BE SEEN AGAIN. THE END!"

As Stine pulls the final page out of the typewriter-

ZACH  
 So that's it. It's done?!

STINE  
 Hand me the cover!

Zach grabs the manuscript cover from Stine's satchel.

Before he can assemble the manuscript inside its cover, we  
 HEAR...

SLAPPY (O.S.)  
 Slappy's not happy.

Everyone stops, frozen, for a moment. They see...

SLAPPY, standing in front of a HUGE FUN-HOUSE MIRROR.

SLAPPY  
 Trying to hide from Slappy, Stine?  
 That's like hiding from yourself.

HANNAH  
 Eat rocks, Slappy.

SLAPPY  
 (to HANNAH)  
 Shut up, you.  
 (turns to STINE)  
 Remember when it was just you and  
 me, Stine? I was your first story -  
 and your best.

STINE  
 That's the problem, Slappy. I was  
 living just with my fantasies - and  
 that's when it all went wrong. I  
 need people. Real living people.

SLAPPY

We could be together forever. I'll  
be your muse.

STINE

Never.

Slappy grimaces - angry he's been rejected.

SLAPPY

I'm gonna miss you, Poppa.

With that, Slappy withdraws a SINGLE MANUSCRIPT from under his coat. The one book that even he didn't dare open...

Its familiar title--"The Blob That Ate Everyone".

SLAPPY

I didn't want to have to do this.

STINE

No, no. Not him, Slappy...

SLAPPY

You have no one to blame but  
yourself.

Stine frantically tries to finish assembling his manuscript, while..

Slappy with Stine's key, unlocks the book...

And BOOM! A hurricane BLAST of PINK SLIME reveals...

--the two hundred foot-tall gelatinous mass - the BLOB, Stine's largest and most deadly monster. A sight as awesome as it is horrifying.

ALLISON

It's hideous!

DWAYNE

It's so fat and pink!

Suddenly, the rotted wood of the fun house implodes like cardboard as the Blob's gelatinous pink slime bursts through.

Zach, Hannah, Dwayne and Allison back away from the walls.

Wham! The fun house walls EXPLODE as the massive Blob Who Ate Everything shatters their hiding place.

The blast sends the group into the air and flying backwards.

EXT. AMUSEMENT PARK - NEAR FERRIS WHEEL - CONTINUOUS

Zach and the others rise and dust themselves off. They are now standing in the middle of the park, the Blob still threatening to engulf them.



ZACH

This way!

They all spin around and begin to run in the opposite direction of the Blob when they are faced with...

Slappy, sporting a fiendish grin.

DWAYNE

This is not good.

Just then, Zach realizes...

...the pages of Stine's story are fluttering into the wind.

ZACH

The story! The story!

The kids frantically try to grab the swirling, airborne pages...

SLAPPY

(emphatic)

No. No more stories. Real life is soooo much better.

Slappy giggles. We NOW SEE that the entire army of GOOSEBUMPS MONSTERS have found their way to the amusement park.

There is nowhere to run. The BLOB is behind them, quickly spreading their way. And Slappy and all the other ravenous monsters stand before them, ready to devour.

Stine just stares at Slappy.

STINE

He's right. No more stories.

The kids stop chasing the pages and turn to look at Stine.

STINE

I've run away from life my whole life. By turning away from the real world - I gave birth to them.

He points to Slappy and the Blob.

STINE

This is my fault. I made this. And if anyone should suffer for it, it's me. Not this town. Not these kids. You want blood, Slappy. Take mine.

HANNAH

No!

Stine walks over and presents himself to Slappy, as the BLOB creeps closer.

SLAPPY

Aww, isn't that sweet?! But Slappy  
could never hurt you...

But it's Stine who pounces on Slappy, grabbing him  
forcefully, then turns to the kids.

STINE

Get the pages! Hurry!

Slappy fights back, jumping on Stine, gnashing his sharp  
wooden teeth.

Zach and the others spring into action, grabbing up all the  
pages of the story and the leather cover.

Much struggling between Stine and Slappy. They are in a  
fierce battle of wills.

As they tussle, Stine and Slappy fall to the ground, right  
beside The Blob.

And just like that...

The Blob That Ate Everyone swallows Stine and Slappy whole.  
BELCH.

Zach and the others turn and look.

HANNAH

Uncle!

All that's left of Stine is his fallen satchel.

Hannah rushes toward the Blob, but Zach holds her back.

ZACH

Wait. He's still alive...

Zach notices the human form struggling within the Blob's  
translucent innards. Stine!

An AIR BUBBLE surrounds Stine's head like an oxygen helmet.

ZACH

Give me the pages!

The others hand over their pages and Zach assembles it into  
the manuscript.

The Blob and the other MONSTERS continues to encroach on  
them.

Zach places the pages between the manuscript's leather cover  
and closes the book.

The Blob seems to now have Allison, too.

She falls, her legs covered in pink slime.

Hannah manages to help her up and out of harm's way.

ON ZACH AND DWAYNE

With the book now complete, all Zach has to do is open it...and the monsters will be sucked inside.

Zach suddenly freezes, his face filled with dread.

DWAYNE  
It's ready to go. Come on! What are you waiting for? Open the book!

ZACH  
I can't.

DWAYNE  
What are you talking about?

ZACH  
Stine wrote that "all of his monsters" will be trapped. All of his monsters.

DWAYNE  
So what?

ZACH  
(under his breath)  
Hannah's one of Stine's monsters.

Dwayne looks over at Hannah, leading Allison away from the Blob.

DWAYNE  
That's a fine lookin' monster.

ZACH  
If they go, she goes. I don't think Stine realized...

DWAYNE  
You've gotta do this! Or else we ALL die.

But a conflicted Zach refuses to act.

DWAYNE  
If you don't do it, I will.

As Dwayne advances, Zach holds him off. The two struggle as the book falls to the ground.

Just then - a NEW SET OF HANDS picks up the book.

Zach and Dwayne look up to SEE...

Hannah, preparing to open the book.

ZACH  
Hannah, wait! Don't!

HANNAH  
Why not??

ZACH  
If you do...

Hannah finds the words that Zach can't.

HANNAH  
I'll wind up back on a bookshelf  
with the rest of my uncle's  
monsters?

ZACH  
(shocked)  
You knew?

HANNAH  
I've had my suspicions. How many  
fourteenth birthdays can one girl  
have?

ZACH  
Hannah, you don't understand. If  
you open that book...

Hannah gives him a sweet, sad smile.

HANNAH  
I know what will happen, Zach.  
(off his look)  
Don't be sad for me. I got to see  
this beautiful world. And meet  
you. And I'll always live in your  
imagination. Which is where I  
belong.

The Blob has them now totally cornered them against the wall.  
They have no escape and will soon be ingested.

DWAYNE  
Come on. We don't got all night!

Hannah raises the book toward the Blob, then looks back at  
Zach.

HANNAH  
I'm just sorry we never got to go  
on that second date.

ZACH  
Hannah, don't--

But before Zach can finish--

Hannah opens the book.

And, with that a VACUUM OF HURRICANE-FORCE WIND IS RELEASED  
upon the scene...

...pulling all the Goosebumps monsters out of our world and  
back into their own.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

One after the other, all the monsters are sucked back into a world of paper and ink. Scarecrows, werewolves, gargoyles, gnomes, the Abominable Snowman of Pasadena...

Unable to maintain her grip on the vacuum, the book is swept out of Hannah's hands, landing on the ground in the center of the midway.

A TORNADO OF GHOULS AND GOBLINS swirl through the air as monsters are forcefully yanked off their feet and down into the opened book.

As the humongous blob is sucked into the book...

...Stine tumbles out of the Blob's innards and onto the ground, gasping for air.

Slappy still has a stranglehold on his neck.

SLAPPY  
Slappy's REALLY not happy!

Then, Stine, using all his might, grabs the typewriter off the ground and...

...clobbers Slappy with it.

STINE  
Stupid dummy!

Slappy SCREAMS, then loses his grip on Stine.

He is sent tumbling into the vortex.

As Slappy is sucked away, his wooden fingers dig frantically into the ground.

SLAPPY  
I'll be back!

And, with that, Slappy disappears into the swirling void.

On Hannah - she prepares herself to join the others when...

Zach grabs her and holds on desperately, yelling over the paranormal HOWLS.

ZACH  
Maybe if I hold you tight  
enough...!

But it's pointless and they both know it. Hannah offers Zach a consoling smile.

HANNAH  
Zach... do you want to save the  
girl?  
(off ZACH's nod)  
Then let go.

But Zach just can't do it.

Smiling, Hannah leans forward and kisses Zach gently on the cheek.

And, with that, Zach slowly and reluctantly lets Hannah go. And then-

Whoosh! Hannah, along with the last of Stine's monsters, disappears right before Zach's eyes.

Dwayne quickly rushes forward, slams the book closed, and locks it... trapping all the monsters within.

And, just like that, the wind dies down as silence resumes.

Zach stands alone. Dwayne approaches and puts a comforting hand on Zach's shoulder.

DWAYNE

We had to, man.

Zach nods, elsewhere.

Stine composes himself, looking over the scene with relief.

STINE

(to himself)

It worked. It worked.

Stine rises and crosses to Zach.

STINE

Where's Hannah?

Stine follows Zach's solemn gaze to the book.

STINE

No...

As Stine grabs the book from Dwayne's hands-

Zach grabs the book's other end as he and Stine lock eyes. Zach's expression says it all. What's done can't be undone.

They stand in solemn silence and we...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. NORMAL HIGH - MONTHS LATER - DAY

We SEE the damage to the school has been repaired. Everything is freshly painted and new.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

The school is BUZZING. Something has changed - the near catastrophe has brought people together and jump-started them.

As Zach walks, he is greeted warmly by practically every PASSER-BY. Students, Teachers, Principal Garrison.

STUDENTS

Hey, Zach! / See you at practice.  
Call me later, bro.

PRINCIPAL GARRISON

Hey, Zach - how's my man?

ZACH

Hey! Hi! See ya!

Zach is intercepted by Gale at the front entrance.

GALE

Hey, honey, how was your day?

ZACH

Real good. Yours?

GALE

I just wanted you to know I got a job offer today. Vice-Principal at a good school.

ZACH

Yeah?

GALE

It's back in New York. So... what do you think?

ZACH

I dunno. Melissa's pretty happy here. And it's safe - we don't even have to lock our doors at night. I think it's a pass, don't you?

Gale reads between the lines - she is deeply pleased.

GALE

I think so, too.

They exchange smiles.

ZACH

I'll see you at home.

Zach exits the school - and runs into Dwayne. They exchange high-fives.

ZACH

Hey - you wanna get some grub?

DWAYNE

I can't. I got football practice.

ZACH

What? You're back on the team?

DWAYNE

If I can take on an army of  
paranormal beasts, what's a few  
tackles?

ZACH

(smiles)  
Good for you, man.

They high five and Dwayne takes off.

Zach smiles to himself as he crosses the street. He stops  
cold when he sees...

IN THE PARKING LOT

Stine, wearing more conventional clothing, talking to his  
Aunt Lorraine.

Stine sees Zach and waves him over.

Zach crosses to them.

LORRAINE

Hey, sweetie. It's a beautiful  
day. Look at the new bag I made -  
isn't it great?

ZACH

It's... colorful.

LORRAINE

Okay! I gotta go to my Board  
meeting. See you both later.

Lorraine leans in and gives Stine a kiss. Stine returns it.

Zach watches, stunned.

LORRAINE

Bye!

Lorraine walks off, leaving Zach and Stine alone.

ZACH

What was that?

STINE

Your Aunt Lorraine and I've been...

ZACH

Hanging out?

STINE

(grins)  
She's great. She got me a job,  
actually. You're looking at the  
new head of the English department  
right here at Normal High.

ZACH

No way. Amazing.



STINE

Come on. Get in the car. I want to take you somewhere.

Zach finds this curious, but dutifully moves to the car.

EXT. FERRY - DAY

Stine and Zach are on a commuter ferry, sailing across calm waters.

In Stine's hands is the manuscript for "The Long Halloween", bound together with chains, padlocks, and several more diary-style book locks.

Plunk! The chained and weighted book hits the water and disappears into the murky depths below. Stine tosses his stress ball in behind it.

Zach and Stine watch the book fade from sight--bonded in their loss.

STINE

Probably would've been my biggest seller

They exchange grins.

ZACH

So... a girlfriend, a job where you interact with actual people. You're almost like a real person.

STINE

Almost. How are you?

ZACH

I'm good. I wish I could say I didn't feel like something was missing. But...  
(shrugs)  
...it's all good.

STINE

I know how you feel.  
(beat)  
So... I wrote you a story.

ZACH

(face falls)  
I thought those days were over.

Stine smiles. He pulls out one last manuscript in a leather case and hands it to him.

STINE

Just one story. That's it. It's not even scary. I think you're gonna like it.

Zach gives Stine a long look. Zach looks down at the book.

ZACH

Are you sure I should open it?

STINE

You don't have to. I already did.

Stine smiles, then with a tilt of his head indicates...

Standing at the bow of the ferry...

A girl - the exact image of Hannah. She looks out on the water, the sun illuminating her from above.

Zach is stunned. He looks at the girl, then back at Stine.

STINE

Well, what are you waiting for?

Zach smiles, then crosses over to talk to the girl.

Seeing him, Hannah smiles from ear to ear, radiant as always.

As Zach and the girl chat from across the ferry...

...Stine looks on with satisfaction and we...

CUT TO:

EXT. LAKE - NIGHT

Allison and the other Cheerleaders are all hanging out.

Dwayne and Alison remain in the backseat of her friend's PARKED CAR while the others frolic on the shore.

INT. CAR - BACKSEAT

Romantic stuff. All the stars make an appearance. Dwayne is more confident than he's ever been with a girl. But still struggling to find things to say.

DWAYNE

So... those SATs will be here before you know it, huh?

ALLISON

Dwayne... are you nervous?

DWAYNE

Nervous. Me? After all I've been through. Please...

Allison smiles and snuggles closer when-

DWAYNE

Ow.

ALLISON

I'm sorry. Did I hurt you?

DWAYNE

(off his bandaged arm)  
No...it's just my stupid arm. I  
really gotta have that thing looked  
at.

ALLISON

Oh, poor baby. You want me to kiss  
the boo boo?

DWAYNE

Kiss the--? Uhm,...uh, yeah, yeah,  
sure. That'd be great.

As Allison gently kisses Dwayne's wounded wrist...

Dwayne looks up and silently mouths an excited "yes!". It's  
about this time that Dwayne notices...

...the FULL MOON above.

Allison suddenly stops kissing Dwayne's wrist as her eyes go  
wide with terror.

DWAYNE

What's wrong? Too much cologne.

Then, Dwayne sees what Allison sees...

Long WOLF-LIKE HAIR growing out of his wrist. As Dwayne's  
nails lengthen and his teeth sharpen-

Allison screams in horror and runs out of the car.

Dwayne sits alone. He somberly eyes his wolfen reflection in  
the rearview mirror.

DWAYNE

Damn... now, I'm never going to get  
a girlfriend.

Roll CREDITS. Then...

EXT. ROAD - DAY

Officer Stevens and Officer Brooks have walked from their  
PATROL CAR, parked along the highway, into a field where...

...the ill-fated MOVING TRUCK from the beginning of the movie  
has been totaled and abandoned. Its roof, still shattered.  
Its back doors, barely attached.

OFFICER STEVENS

Looks like this heap's been here  
for years.

OFFICER BROOKS

Indeed it do. Indeed it do.

INT. BACK OF TRUCK - MOMENTS LATER

The doors are opened to reveal the empty cargo space. Officer Stevens and Officer Brooks peer around.

OFFICER BROOKS  
It's empty. Dang.

Officer Stevens notices something stuck between the floorboards - a single, forgotten LEATHER-BOUND MANUSCRIPT.

OFFICER STEVENS  
Well, what do we have here?

OFFICER BROOKS  
Looks old. Might be worth something.

ON MANUSCRIPT -

We reveal the title of the book: "SLAPPY'S REVENGE BY R.L. STINE".

ON OFFICERS

OFFICER STEVENS  
Slappy - that sounds real familiar, don't it?

Officer Brooks snatches the book.

OFFICER BROOKS  
I heard these guys found a million dollars in an old storage facility. Then they got their own reality show, too. Maybe this is our ticket to the big time.

Brooks absently pulls the lock off the book and just before he opens it...

Officer Stevens has his eureka.

OFFICER STEVENS  
Wait! No, no, no, no!!!

Too late. Brooks opens the book and grimaces and we...

FADE TO BLACK.

BLACK