QWERTY THE MOVIE

Written by

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CHARACTER LIST:

FINN

Male, White, Sociable, kind person who seems carefree but is always distracted and thinking. Extroverted, curious, insecure, anxious, loving, stoner, vlogger

JACK

Male, White, Energetic, over the top, loud, hothead, depressed sometimes but covers it well, stoner

MAX

Male, Bangladeshi, Calm, collected, intellectual, reader, deeply insightful, doesn’t share much about emotions, stoner

ASH

Male, Nigerian, Lots of niche interests, takes things too personally, not great social skills but a joy to be around, stoner, vegetarian

GERALD

Male, White Camera man, poor social skills, misunderstood loner, generally a weirdo, hears his own voice in his head.

SQUEAKER

A white squirrel, a second voice in Gerald's head who only he and the audience see. He hates Gerald.

OLIVE

Female, White, Gerald’s temporary girlfriend. Understanding, empathetic yet aloof and removed.

PENELOPE

Female, White, Finn's girlfriend, funny, casual, usually not serious, not present much

ALEX

Female, Latina, Kind, emotionally intelligent, always knows when something is off with a friend, anxious

BEA

Female, White, Ambitious, quick to argue, judgy, kind to only her friends, selective with people, (trauma), vegetarian

SQUEAKER

A puppet white squirrel. Sarcastic, omnipresent, mythic.

EXT. OPEN FIELD ENCLOSED BY FOREST

SEVEN DEER WANDER ATOP A HILL. WIND BLOWS PLANTS AND FLOWERS. THE SUN IN HIGH IN THE SKY.

Finn and Max sit on different branches of a stout yet sturdy, easily climbable tree at the bottom of the hill.

They wear comfortable clothing. Finn's sweatshirt has a white squirrel on it.

Max has his nose in a book, sprawled out across multiple branches that form almost a couch.

Finn is letting his arms droop over a branch while standing on another lower down, watching a line of ants crawl over the rough bark.

He puts his finger in their path and the ants march right over it, paying no attention to their roadblock.

Finn gets bored and takes his hand away, and one ant that stayed on his finger bites him.

He squishes it between his fingers and frowns, flicking it off silently.

Max peers up from his book and looks at Finn. He juts his chin out as if to say "What's up?"

Finn smiles and readjusts himself to be sitting between two branches, hugging the tree like a Koala.

Sun beams through the leaves, illuminating Finn's face.

He closes his eyes, breathes deeply, and relaxes, sinking into the tree's embrace.

Finn is still for a moment, but hears faint talking below him.

Finn peeks down to see a couple, his age, walking directly beneath the tree he and Max occupy.

They look up at him and clearly make eye contact, but Finn quickly looks away, pretending not to notice them.

He catches sight of an eye-like bump in the tree's bark and begins to trace it. Struck with inspiration, he pulls out a small leather notebook and a pencil. He writes:

'I am an ant in a tree with eyes.

Am I projecting humanity?

Does it matter? It doesn’t matter.

The tree is still and I am still.

And Max is here too.'

Finn closes his notebook, puts it in his pocket, and closes his eyes again.

CAMERA SWITCHES TO A HAND HELD RECORDER SNEAKILY MOVING THROUGH BRUSH. CAMERAMAN SNEAKS UP AND POINTS CAMERA UP AT FINN AND MAX IN THE TREE.

MAX LOOKS DOWN AND FROWNS. CAMERA QUICKLY PANS DOWN THE TREE, ALONG A PATH THROUGH THE WOODS (AS IF THE CAMERA MAN IS RUNNING) TO THE TOP OF THE HILL WHICH IS JUST OUT OF SIGHT FOR MAX AND FINN.

CAMERA ZOOMS IN ON AN WOMAN PEOPLE WEARING FURS, LEATHER, AND VINES. SHE SITS AT A TEEPEE MADE OF STICKS, CROSS LEGGED WITH HER EYES CLOSED AND HEADS BOWED.

A 1-YEAR-OLD SITS IN THE CENTER OF THE TEEPEE, SILENT.

HE SEES THE CAMERA, AND WAVES. THE LADY OPENS HER EYES, LOOKS AT THE CHILD, AND WHIPS HER HEAD AROUND TO MAKE EYE CONTACT WITH THE CAMERA.

THE CAMERA DROPS AND FLIPS UP TO REVEAL GERALD LOOKING AT THE WOMAN FOR A MOMENT, THEN TURNS OFF.

INT. GERALD'S DORM ROOM

Gerald sits at his desk in front of a camera in a small dorm room. We see him talking on the camera's screen.

He is wearing an almost pee-colored yellow polo tee with a small green logo. There's some acne and scars along his cheeks.

GERALD
They said I'd never make it.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM

Jack is listening to RXK Nephew at full volume in the shared bathrooms while brushing his teeth, singing along. He is in a towel with another towel resting on his shoulders. He checks his phone- 11:21.

GERALD'S VOICEOVER

GERALD
They called me off-putting.

CUT TO:

EXT. CROWDED COFFEE SHOP

BARISTA
Alex?

Alex, wearing yoga clothes and holding a yoga mat, swiftly takes her coffee and bagel, tearing off too big of a piece and putting it in her mouth. She takes out her phone showing 11:27. Alex chews while she leaves in a semi-hurry.

GERALD'S VOICEOVER

GERALD
My therapist told me to be more introspective.

CUT TO:

EXT. GRASSY LAWN

Max is laying on the grass with his face covered by his green sweatshirt's hood. An alarm on his goes off. He uncovers his eyes, and checks the time. 11:42.

GERALD'S VOICEOVER

GERALD
I am introspective!

JACK
Fuck!

GERALD
I think a lot about myself, thank you very much.

CUT TO:

INT. BEA'S DORM ROOM

Bea is laying in bed on her phone with a skincare face mask on.

GERALD'S VOICEOVER

GERALD
I know they don't like me, even if they pretend they do.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING HALL

Ash is putting chickpeas onto his plate. All he gets are chickpeas and a banana.

CUT TO:

INT. GERALD DORM ROOM

GERALD
But today, everything changes. When people see my film, they're gonna lose their shit.

Squeaker stands right outside Gerald's window.

SQUEAKER
Sure they will, buddy.

Gerald holds his middle finger up to Squeaker.

GERALD
(pretending to be other people)
Ahh! Gerald!! Be our group leader!! Please!

CUT TO:

EXT. TABLE OUTSIDE LIBRARY

Finn talks to a similar yet distinct camera, filming himself.

FINN
Goooood morning qwerty! You know the drill. Today's word of the day is Awkward, or awko taco as the youth say. I'm tapped in. Anyway, we got the bonfire today. So. That's fun. And I'm not gonna tell you like this video or subscribe to my channel or whatever, but, like, you should. You know you should. Let's get it.

INT. DINING HALL

Ash sits at a round table, staring into space.

Finn walks from the drink station, eyes red, looking around and awkwardly scratching his nose, holding a drink that keeps spilling.

With his other hand he fumbles with his camera to open it. He walks into Alex and Bea, walking to a table, plates of food in hand, backpacks on.

Alex wears an athletics school sweatshirt with her name on it.

FINN
Do you guys have a table?

BEA
No, we just got here.

FINN
(rubbing his head)
Yea, you know, I could tell from how you're wearing your bags and haven't put them down yet.

Bea just looks at Finn. Finn looks back, silently, then looks at Alex who stares back silently.

FINN (CONT'D)
Wanna sit with us?

ALEX
Sure.

BEA
Yea.

They walk in a single file line to where Ash is sitting. Finn pauses in front of Ash and Alex and Bea stand behind him. Finn grabs a fry off Ash's plate.

FINN
Hey!

ASH
Hey.

FINN
Sup, dummy?

Jack appears behind Finn, tazing him in the side- Finn flinches.

FINN (CONT'D)
Fuck off.

Finn drops the half eaten fry.

JACK
(mocking Finn)
Sup dummy!

FINN
Hey big boy!

ASH
Are you just gonna stand there or are you gonna sit down?

FINN
Sit down, probably.

They all sit down. Finn sets up his camera facing the table, and Alex waves to the camera.

Everyone begins eating, no one says anything. Max walks up, sits down.

ALEX
Hey Max!

MAX
Hey Alex. How's it going, guys? Y'all hype for the fire?

FINN
Yea, you know, just mentally prepping.

Jack's burger drips ketchup onto his shirt.

ALEX
What’s tonight?

JACK
Fuck, this always happens.

ASH
We're hosting a bonfire at the arb at 10.

MAX
Same. I don't think I have a single piece of clothing without a stain on it.

FINN
Had to take matters into our own hands, ya feel me?

JACK
It really PISSES me off.

BEA
That's cool.

Jack side-eyes at Finn. Finn sinks in his chair, leaning his head back.

FINN
Ugh. This food is so butt. I could really go for some field mice right now, no repto.

JACK
Yeah, I'd be down for some tasty ass grubs and worms... No repto tho.

FINN
(rapping)
I’m eating on some field mice.

JACK
(rapping)
The way they fill me makes me feel nice.

FINN
Ayo!

JACK
Okay, chill, that came out wrong.

FINN
It WHAT?!

ASH
Straight munchin on human, bruh.

BEA
What the fuck are you talking about?

Awkward silence.

ASH
Ahhhaha. I'm playing.

FINN
Mannn.

Max taps Finn on the adams apple, a bit strong. Ash sits quietly, looking at his phone.

FINN
Alright bro.

ALEX
I'm worried about the ceremony tonight.

MAX
Who's getting drinks?

BEA
Why?

Max tries to tip Finn's chair back further.

FINN
I heard you're supposed to be doing that.

ALEX
I just don't want the whole thing to be about me.

MAX
I think we're ALL going.

JACK
Fireplace. Hit you with that drake you can't escape.

BEA
I mean, you carried the whole team.

ASH
So, I-

ALEX
Yeah, but like...

Max interrupts and Ash goes silent again.

FINN
Fireplace.

BEA
What'd you get, like, 4 goals?

JACK
Ain't no games.

ALEX
6.

MAX
Enough.

BEA
And what was the final score?

FINN
I'm gonna slime you out.

ALEX
Slime you out?

BEA
I don’t think I like how that sounds.

ASH
You gotta juug him too.

ALEX
What are you saying?

FINN
Well, first you juug someone and then you slime them out.

ALEX
You can’t use the words in the definition of said words.

JACK
You gotta slime them out and then juug them.

MAX
Juuging is robbing and sliming someone out means you murk them.

ALEX
You what?

MAX
You murk them.

FINN
All in they face.

JACK
I hate this fucking dining hall.

ALEX
(sighs)
Bea, how was your day?

BEA
Fine. I-

JACK
(singing)
I'm sliding on Merinda toniiiight!

ALEX
Who's Meridith?

FINN
Fuck yes. Let's go, big boy!

JACK
She works at the gas station. She's like, the most beautiful woman I've ever seen in my life.

Finn takes a sip of his drink which spills on his face and shirt. He quickly wipes it off and looks around.

BEA
How old is she?

JACK
Uhhh, I don't know.

FINN
Like 30, probably.

JACK
Yea, something like that.

ALEX
THIRTY?? Aren't you 18?

JACK
I'm like, unreasonably hype.

MAX
We got shit lined up tonight.

JACK
Alright. Y'all tryna spark?

Alex and Bea look at each other.

MAX
Yup.

ASH
Yeah.

FINN
Stupid fucking question.

ALEX
Bye!

FINN
See you guys later.

JACK
Peace.

The four boys get up and walk out in a single file line, plates in hand.

EXT. ARB- LATER

Penelope is standing next to a fire pit in the woods, collecting sticks.

She crouches to take a picture of a baby bunny with her Polaroid camera.

She goes back to collecting sticks when Gerald emerges from the forest.

PENELOPE
Um, hey.

GERALD
Hey. Is there a party tonight?

Penelope crosses her arms.

PENELOPE
It's small. Probably won't be that fun.

GERALD
Can I come?

PENELOPE
It's actually a birthday party... like, just friends.

GERALD
I like your shirt, by the way.

Gerald looks at his shoes. Penelope looks away.

PENELOPE
Yeah, uh, sorry.

GERALD
I can bring a gift.

PENELOPE
No, like... I'm sure you have other plans.

Gerald adjusts his camera strap.

GERALD
No, yea, for sure.

They look at each other in silence. Penelope shifts.

PENELOPE
Okay, well, see ya.

GERALD
Right.

Penelope turns around.

GERALD (CONT'D)
Yeah, okay.

CUT TO:

EXT. BENCH ON LAWN

Max is piercing his skin with a pencil. Ash is holding a smoky bong. Finn lays on his back on the bench, taking up one side. Homework lays open on the table. Jack walks over.

JACK
Move, bitch.

FINN
Me?

JACK
Yes you. Get your bummy ass up so I can sit down.

FINN
Chill, big boy. You're good.

JACK
I'm good? Alright bruh.

Finn doesn't move. Jack sits on his stomach.

FINN
Ugh, what the fuck dude!

Finn pushes Jack off of him and sits up.

MAX
That was your fault.

FINN
Yeah, Whatever. Gimme that.

Finn takes the bong and hits it while pensively looking out over the lawn.

FINN (CONT'D)
You know who I hate?

JACK
Yes.

FINN
Oh really? (scoffs) Who?

JACK
Hella heads, bro. You have a lot of hate in your heart.

FINN
I do not. People say I'm kind.

MAX
People who don't know you. Gimme that.

Finn hands the bong to Max.

FINN
I'm talking bout Gerald.

JACK
Oh yeah, fuck Gerald.

FINN
Don't get me wrong, I like recording too, but when I do it, it's funny, you know?

Silence, Finn looks around.

FINN (CONT'D)
Right, guys?

MAX
Yeah, sure.

JACK
Sure, buddy. Did you cash that bowl?

MAX
Nah, here.

Jack takes the bong, blows out a lot of smoke and starts coughing violently.

He puts the bong on the table and Max slides it over to himself. He taps the ash on the table and packs a new bowl.

FINN
Whatever. He's a stalker, I'm a vlogger. Plus, he doesn't ask for consent.

Ash takes the bong and finishes it. He blows out and coughs twice.

ASH
I'm recording you right now, actually.

JACK
Good one, shithead.

FINN
Okay, plan. We bring the speaker to Mickey, grab drinks, then slide to the arb.

JACK
We?

FINN
Yes, we.

JACK
I'm good.

FINN
Don't come, then.

JACK
Fuck off.

FINN
I'm deadass. You never help.

Gerald waves from too far away at the gang.

JACK
Speak of the devil, bro.

FINN
Oh yeah, I forgot, you can't say his name, or he'll appear.

Finn turns his back as Gerald walks up to the table, trying to ignore him. Finn quickly flips open his camera and inconspicuously starts filming.

FINN'S CAMERA

MAX
Hey, Gerald.

FINN
(under his breath)
There's no way.

GERALD
Hey guys. What's up?

MAX
Not much. Beautiful weather, huh?

GERALD
Uh, yea. Great day for some candids.

Gerald flips open his camera and starts filming the group. Shot through Gerald's camera. Squeaker sits on the table with the gang.

JACK
Yo, are you serious?

GERALD
What?

SQUEAKER
Did I not tell you be normal?

JACK
Why are you filming us?

GERALD
You guys mind?

JACK
I mind.

GERALD
Come on. You look cool.

SQUEAKER
Nice try.

Gerald moves closer to Jack.

JACK
Watch out, man.

MAX
Gerald, chill.

Gerald ignores them and moves uncomfortably close to Jack, almost face to face. Jack watches and waits. He then starts pointing the camera down Jack's body. The bench totters and Jack almost falls, dropping his joint.

JACK
Get that camera outta my face!

FINN'S CAMERA

Jack pushes Gerald who stumbles backwards.

Gerald stands a few feet away from them, looking offended and hurt.

FINN
Well?

GERALD
What?

Finn jersk his head.

FINN
Get the fuck outta here.

Finn closes his camera.

GERALD'S CAMERA, SHOT OF HIS FEET AND SQUEAKER NEXT TO THEM

GERALD
Whatever.

SQUEAKER
What's wrong with you?

Gerald stomps off. Squeaker waits and scampers after him a moment later.

SWITCH TO GERALD'S CAMERA THROUGH THE WINDOW OF A BUILDING ON THE EDGE OF THE LAWN.

Finn tackles Jack and they begin to wrestle, We see them exclaiming without sound.

CUT TO:

INT. SMALL LOUNGE OVERLOOKING FIELD

Gerald sits with his girlfriend Olive, watching and recording Jack and Finn.

MOVIE CAMERA

OLIVE
That's disgusting.

GERALD
Right?

OLIVE
I don't get how people stand those kids. I'm cringing just watching them.

GERALD
They're so weird.

OLIVE
You're weird.

GERALD
(flustered)
Why?

GERALD'S CAMERA

Jack, laying on the grass, has Finn in a headlock. Finn fights back while we listen to Olive and Gerald.

OLIVE
I'm just kidding.

SQUEAKER
No, she's not.

MOVIE CAM, GERALD'S FACE

GERALD
(under his breath)
Shut up.

OLIVE
What?

GERALD
Nothing.

OLIVE
I'm sorry.

GERALD
Don't apologize.

GERALD'S CAMERA

Finn and Jack sit in the grass, calmed down. Finn occasionally throws sticks and acorns at Jack while they talk, but all we hear is Gerald and Olive.

Gerald sits quietly, looking out the window. Olive scooches closer to him and leans her head on his shoulder.

OLIVE
(softer)
You know I care about you, G.

GERALD
Yeah. I know.

MOVIE CAMERA.

Olive puts her things in her bag.

OLIVE
Yeah, Okay, I, uh... I have to go.

GERALD
Okay.

SQUEAKER
Fucking of course.

OLIVE
Please don't be mad at me.

GERALD
I'm not. Don't worry.

OLIVE
Okay.

She looks at Gerald who hasn't moved.

OLIVE (CONT'D)
See you later!

Gerald crosses his legs and hugs his knees, casually. Olive walks away.

GERALD'S CAMERA

The field is empty. Squeaker is visible at the bottom right corner of Gerald's camera.

GERALD
(to the camera)
Why would she say that?

SQUEAKER
Internalize it, lil guy.

CUT TO:

EXT. SIDEWALK

Finn and his girlfriend Penelope walk side by side, their footsteps almost in sync.

FINN
Yeah, I don't know how I'd even respond in that situation.

PENELOPE
It was so weird.

FINN
Yeah, I'm sure.

PENELOPE
Cause like, everyone knows geckos don't even do stuff like that.

FINN
What?

PENELOPE
A gecko isn't smart enough to open my chips, let alone smoke my weed.

FINN
Oh, Josh is a gecko? I thought he lived at the apartment.

PENELOPE
He does. In his cage.

FINN
That's kinda depressing.

PENELOPE
It's more of a terrarium. He has everything his little lizard brain could ever need. I don't see why he would wanna get fried.

FINN
Seems like Alex was lying, no?

PENELOPE
No shit, but like... I don't get it.

FINN
Neither do I.

They walk up to a building and stop.

FINN (CONT'D)
Enjoy class. Let me know what Mr. Pants says today.

PENELOPE
Okay. See you later!

Penelope turns to leave.

FINN
(kind of whispering)
Love you.

PENELOPE
(double take)
Oh...I, I'm sorry. We should talk about this later.

FINN
Oh, uh, okay.

PENELOPE WALKS AWAY.

Finn stands there for a second, flips open his camera, and starts walking away.

FINN (CONT'D)
Looks like things took a turn for the worse today, gang. Classic. I finally worked up the courage to say that one forbidden phrase to my girlfriend, and I think it's safe to say it did not, in fact, go how I wanted it to. But that's life, I guess. Just gotta keep it pushin.

Finn smiles through tears brimming in his eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. BEA'S DORM ROOM

Bea is sitting on her bed and Penelope sits at at Bea's desk.

PENELOPE
I just don't think I'm ready for that. We've been dating for like 2 weeks.

BEA
Yeah, he's tweaking.

PENELOPE
I mean, if he said it that easily to me, I'm just thinking about all the other girls he's said it to.

BEA
Yeah. You can't really control the past though. Especially not his past.

PENELOPE
(sighs)
Yeah, you're right.

BEA
I told you not to wait to break up with him.

PENELOPE
I know, but I feel bad. He's so nice, and I can't do that to him.

BEA
So you're gonna make yourself suffer for his benefit?

PENELOPE
You make our relationship sound like the Titanic.

BEA
I'm just saying. You have to prioritize your mental health. Why do you think I'm so happy? I hate men.

PENELOPE
(scoffs)
You're not happy, Bea.

BEA
(joking)
You don't know me! You don't know how I feel. I'm exuberant!

PENELOPE
Sure you are.

END ACT 1.

ACT 2:

CUT TO:

EXT. SIDEWALK, NIGHT

THROUGH GERALD'S CAMERA:

Shot of a car driving by. Max, Finn, Jack, and Ash walk on the lefthand side of the road, yelling and laughing. Gerald walks behind them enough to be out of sight yet be able to see them through his camera. Squeaker hops around following in the grass next to the group of boys.

THROUGH FINN'S CAMERA:

Squeaker is no longer there.

JACK
It's not that far. Just chill.

ASH
It'll be worth it for the drinks.

FINN
I don't even drink like that, bruh.
(turns the camera to face him)
These kids are always peer pressuring me into making bad decisions.

MAX
Oh, really, you don't drink like that.

FINN
Alright, alright, fine. Not including the Lacrosse Party or drunk poetry or the frisbee party or the jazz house or that south pregame or the time you had to come get me from that girl's dorm or like, most of last weekend, I don't even drink like that.

JACK
Or tonight.

FINN
Yea.

Finn makes a funny, knowing face at the camera.

FINN (CONT'D)
I can't lie, I'm getting shitfaced tonight.

MAX
I love how the most relaxing part of our week is getting violently crossed and wandering campus.

ASH
You know, it would be one thing if there were good parties here.

FINN
(whining)
But everybody's so lame.

JACK
You're lame as shit, dude. I still hang out with you.

FINN
Shut the fuck up.

Finn shoulders Jack, and he stumbles a few steps.

JACK
Bro, it's finally time to slide on Meridith. I'm hype!

FINN
Lock in and get those digits king.

JACK
She's so bad, bro.

ASH
Yeah, she's pretty.

MAX
How old do you think she is?

JACK
Like, late twenties, early thirties.

FINN
Yeah, I'd say 27 to 33 probably.

MAX
You think you can handle all that?

JACK
Are you kidding? Of course I can handle it. I'm him.

Jack beats his chest twice.

FINN
I have to agree. If you get her number it'll be the biggest dub I've seen you catch in a while.

JACK
IF I get it? You're praying on my downfall, bruh.

FINN
Nah, you got that.

Finn sideeyes Max who starts laughing.

JACK
Alright bro, but I know when I get that number you gone be chirping a different tune.

FINN
I truly hope so.

MAX
You guys have your fakes?

JACK
Yur.

ASH
Yes sir.

FINN
Fuck.

JACK
What?

FINN
I don't have mine. And I have no idea where it is, cause it's always in my phone wallet thingy.

JACK
It's fine, just wait outside.

Max opens the door to the store and stands with Ash. Finn and Jack are a few steps away. Max starts talking to Ash overlapping with Finn and Jack.

MAX
I'm sure it'll go great.

FINN
Yeah, no, I didn't wanna go in anyway. Whatever. Can you get me a pack of smirnoff ice?

ASH
Oh yea, I guess the worst she can say is no... But I don't know.

JACK
Those are so butt.

MAX
She seems like a reasonable person. If she doesn't like you like that, it's not gonna turn into a fiasco.

FINN
Uh, they're delicious?

ASH
You're right. I'm tripping. I just haven't slid on a girl in so long.

JACK
I'm not getting you that shit.

FINN
Max, can you get me a pack of smirnoff ices please?

MAX
Sure.

FINN
(to the camera)
Now that, is a true friend.

MAX
Stop using me for alcohol.

FINN
Don't tell me what to do!

CUT TO GERALD'S CAMERA FROM ACROSS THE STREET.

Max, Jack, and Ash walk into the gas station. Finn stands outside, shuffling his feet. We see him talking to his camera, but hear nothing. A man turns the corner wearing the same cult garb, and grabs Finn's arm. Squeaker, next to them, jumps around.

INT. GAS STATION

Jack walks confidently towards the beer section. Ash and Max follow a few steps behind.

ASH
So, whatch'y'all tryna get?

JACK
Imma just go do my thing, man!

MAX
Alright, bet!

They grab beers from the beer cave. Jack is the last in line.

MERIDITH
Hi! How you guys doing tonight?

MAX
Absolutely splendid, how bout you?

MERIDITH
(smiling)
Oh,you know, living the dream!

ASH
That's great!

MERIDITH
Okay, I need IDs. They're making me check everyones now. I guess you guys are just too young and cute!

JACK
I don't know, I think I look pretty old.

MERIDITH
God, me too.

JACK
I don't think you look old. I think you look great.

MERIDITH
Oh, thank you!

Meridith checks out Max and Ash who go wait by the door, trying not to look like they're watching Jack.

MERIDITH (CONT'D)
Enjoy your night, guys!

Jack steps up to the counter.

JACK
So, what's your name?

MERIDITH
Meridith. What's your name?

JACK
I'm Jack. You look good, Meridith.
You should go on a date with me.

MERIDITH
Oh, that would be fun!

JACK
Here, can I get your number?

Jack hands Meridith his phone. Ash and Max turn away making surprised and excited faces.

MAX
(whispering)
Yoooo, no fucking way!

ASH
He's him bro. This is insane.

MAX
Alright, cmon, we should get the
fuck outta here.

EXT. GAS STATION PARKING LOT

FINN'S CAMERA SHOWING THE MAN'S HAND ON FINN'S ARM.

Finn yanks his arm back, but the guy won't let go. Squeaker is gone.

FINN
What the fuck, man?! Let me go!

DAVID(MAN)
(speaking in iambic
pentameter)
That which/ you seek/ will sure/ly
seem/ to be/ the cure-

Finn kicks him in the balls and he falls over.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Ahhhhhh, oh god! Sweet Marie!

FINN
The fuck did you expect to happen? Coming at me with that scary ass shit.

DAVID
Listen! Beware the wolves who feed on souls-

FINN
Dude, I swear to god. Shut up. I don't wanna have to kick you again.

DAVID
(sitting up)
The fire burns too bight to hold-

FINN
You better leave right the fuck now.

Ash and Max walk out of the store. David is incoherently rambling on the floor the whole time.

ASH
Who's this guy?

FINN
Oh, you know, my new friend.

MAX
Really?

FINN
No, bro, he came out of nowhere spitting some ominous shakespearean shit.

DAVID
(getting louder and more desperate)
The sheep who flock together surely die at the hands of firey flames-

Jack walks out of the store.

JACK
Yooo, I got the number!

Jack looks down.

JACK (CONT'D)
The fuck is wrong with this guy?

FINN
He's tweaking. I don't know.

DAVID
Heed my warning, you fools!

JACK
(condenscendingly)
Buddy, listen. You're tweaking, okay? You gotta chill. You're freaking me out.

DAVID
Have you not heard me?

MAX
We heard you.
(to Ash, Jack and Finn)
We should dip.

FINN
Yea, man, let's get the fuck outta here.

DAVID
In ev/ery soul/ there is/ a goal/ the fol/ly of/ their morals/ fold-
FINN!

Finn, Max, and Ash start walking away. Jack pulls out a joint and starts to light it, still standing close to David.

FINN
The fuck are you doing? Let's go.

JACK
Yeah, yeah, one sec.

Jack puffs his joint, and pulls a small baggie from his pocket as the boys cross the street.

JACK (CONT'D)
(smiling at Finn)
Aye bruh, you tryna get shroomy?

FINN
For sure.

JACK
(randomly getting overly excited)
Broooo, I GOT THAT SHIT THO!!!

FINN
YESSSIRRRR!

Finn and Jack dap each other up and jump around. Finn hugs Jack.

FINN (CONT'D)
Holy shit, let's fucking go, bro!

MAX
Yeah, it was crazy.

JACK
(cheesing)
Aye bruh, what can I say? You guys want some shrooms?

ASH
Honestly, I'm good. I feel like they would make me tweak right now.

FINN
Yea bro, I'm tryna tweak. Cause I'm a gremlin, rauagghhh.

JACK
(shaking his face while sticking out his tongue)
Bleehaughhh.

MAX
Fuck it, why not.

ASH
You don't wanna weight it out?

FINN
I'm gonna let the universe decide how much I take.

JACK
I'm like, ridiculously hyped right now, not gonna lie.

FINN
Piped up!

The three take one mushroom cap each, chewing it and chasing it with beers. Finn makes a disgusted face and gags. He throws up in his mouth, covers it with his hands, and whips around to throw up.

JACK
You're such a bum, bro.

FINN
Man, whatever, that shit tastes so ass.

ASH
Yo, you good tho? You need some water?

FINN
Yeah, nah, I'm chillin. Lowkey, slide me more.

JACK
You sure? Not gonna throw it up again, you shitter?

FINN
Just-

Finn swipes the bag out of Jack's hands.

FINN (CONT'D)
Gimme that shit!

JACK
(raising his eyebrows and shrugging)
It's your funeral, big boy.

Finn takes a bit more, gags again, and takes a big gulp of beer. Ash smacks him on the back.

ASH
Just breathe, bro.

MAX
Here, hit this.

Max holds out the joint. Finn shakes his head quickly, making a disgusted face. He takes the joint and puffs it twice.

FINN
Alright, bet, I'm good, I'm good. Can't wait to start TWEAkin.

CUT TO:

GERALD'S CAMERA FROM IN THE TREES, SHAKILY MOVING TO AVOID BEING SEEN.

Finn, Max, Ash, and Jack are walking out of Gerald's sight. Squeaker appears in Gerald's camera, taking up the whole screen momentarily.

GERALD
I don't understand why they love doing drugs. They think it's soo cool. Well, I don't think it's cool. I think it makes them look like idiots.

SQUEAKER
You're an idiot.

Another group of students walks on the sidewalk right next to where Gerald is hiding.

STUDENT 1
I can't believe we didn't bring bud. You think those guys would let me tap their J?

STUDENT 2
You should just ask. I'm sure they'd say yes.

STUDENT 2 (CONT'D)
I don't know...

STUDENT 3
Did you guys hear someone else talking just now?

STUDENT 2
I did, but I thought I was tripping.

STUDENT 1
Nah, I definitely heard that too.

GERALD
(under his breath)
Fuck.

SQUEAKER
Yeah, good idea. Make some more noise, you fucking shithead.

Gerald readjusts himself and makes noise in the brush. All three students stop and look at him. It's clear that someone is crouched in the brush but his face is hidden.

STUDENT 2
Um, hello?

Gerald doesn't respond.

STUDENT 3
You know we see you, right?

GERALD
(lowering his voice)
Go away.

STUDENT 1
What are you doing in there?

STUDENT 3
This is making me kind of uncomfortable. We should go.

STUDENT 2
Don't you want to see who it is?

STUDENT 3
Uh, no, not really. Not my business, not my problem.

GERALD
(even lower, more gravely voice)
Go! AWAY!

SQUEAKER
(sarcastically)
Ooooh, scary guy!

STUDENT 2
Okay, let's go.

STUDENT 2 (CONT'D)
So fucking weird.

Gerald films the three kids walking away until they turn the corner.

GERALD FACES THE CAMERA TOWARD HIMSELF.

GERALD
I hate everybody on this godforsaken campus. Why can't they just mind their fucking business? Maybe I'm looking for spores, what the fuck do they care?

SQUEAKER
Spores? Really?

GERALD
(gritting his teeth)
Leave me ALONE!

SQUEAKER
Do something about it then, bitch.

Gerald gets up and angrily breaks through the trees to get to the sidewalk. Squeaker runs between his feet and Gerald trips and twists his ankle, stumbling and falling into an awkward plank on the sidewalk.Gerald, paranoid, looks around to make sure no one saw him.

SQUEAKER (CONT'D)
Smooth moves, playa.

GERALD
Shut the FUCK UP!!

CUT TO:

EXT. ENTRANCE TO ARB

A couple of groups of 4 to 8 kids stand mingling in a field overlooking a lake surrounded by trees. Finn, Jack, Max, and Ash walk through them. Finn, camera in hand, fumbles in his pocket to pull out another joint.

FINN
(lighting the joint)
Life is good, you know?

ASH
Yeah, man. We're never gonna have this level of freedom again after college.

JACK
Better make good use of it!

Jack wanders off and starts talking to a girl surrounded by her friend group. Finn, Ash, and Max stand a few feet away. Finn casually records Jack walking up to Sophie before turning to film his friends.

JACK (CONT'D)
Hey Sophie!

SOPHIE
Hi Jack! How are you?

JACK
I'm great. It's so nice out tonight.

SOPHIE
I know! It feels like we've been waiting forever for it to get warmer.

We overhear Jack and Sophie's conversation in the background of Finn and Ash's.

FINN
How does this kid find a new girl every single time we go out?

ASH
It's impressive, honestly.

JACK
So, how are your classes going?

SOPHIE
Oh, you know. Midterms suck, but what can you do.

One of Sophies friends walk around the group to face Finn.

MAYA
Hi, uh, sorry to bother you, but could I hit that?

JACK
Yeah, mine have been pretty rough too. I think I need a tutor for Econ.

Finn side eyes Max and Ash, then turns the camera and makes a face to it. He passes the joint to Ash.

ASH
Sure, here you go.

SOPHIE
Oh, no way! I'm actually majoring in Econ. What class are you in right now?

Ash hands the joint to Maya while Finn turns away and rolls his eyes.

MAYA
Thank you so much. I just haven't smoked in a while and-

ASH
It's fine. People ask us all the time.

JACK
Well, it's kind of embarrassing., but I'm in Econ 101.

SOPHIE
Hahaha nooo! It's not embarrassing. It's a hard class, for sure. Are you a freshman?

FINN
(under his breath to camera)
Yea, I fucking know people ask us all the time.

JACK
I am. But I've been told I'm mature for my age

MAYA
You guys should meet my friend Nate. You'd love him.

SOPHIE
Oh really! They were probably just saying that to make you feel better..

Maya runs to grab Nate and pulls him over to the group.

FINN
(under his breath to camera)
She doesn't even know us oh my goddd.

JACK
Oh, okay, um, what the fuck!? I see how it is.

MAYA
So, guys, this is Nate. Say hi, Nate!

SOPHIE
Hahaha! I'm kidding, come on.

NATE
Sup guys.

MAX
(puffing the joint)
Hey man, how's it going?

NATE
Pretty good, man, can't complain.

Finn takes a deep breath and goes to introduce himself.

FINN
(extending his hand)
Hey, I'm Finn. Nice to meet you.

NATE
(looks at Finn's hand and ignores it)
Sup bud?

FINN
(getting frustrated)
Yo. Come on.

NATE
What?

FINN
Bud? Are you serious?

ASH
Chill, dude.

FINN
Why're you telling me to chill? I'm not the issue.

NATE
Chillll, man, it's all goood. Just vibe.

FINN
(pointing a finger in Nates face)
You're a fucking reptilian.

NATE
(to Max)
Does that have nic in it?

MAX
It's straight weed.

NATE
Bet, can I tap it?

FINN
(whispers to Ash)
You better not.

ASH
Sure man, knock yourself out.

FINN
God! Damnit!

Nate looks at Finn while smoking their joint.

NATE
What's this kid's problem?

FINN
(gesturing with his camera)
What's your fucking problem? Get outta here!

MAYA
Cmon, Nate, everyone's going to the fire.

NATE
Well boys, as much as I'd love to stay and chat, I have to go.

Nate hands the joint to Finn, makes a condescending face, and walks away.

FINN
(half yelling at Nate)
I curse your bloodline, heathen!

MAX
Ookay. You don't mean that.

FINN
You're right. I can't be spreading bad karma like that.

JACK
(appearing next to them)
What a repto.

FINN
Where the fuck did you come from?

JACK
I've been here the whole time.

ASH
So, uh... What's up with Sophie?

JACK
Who?

FINN
Bro.

JACK
(smiling)
OH! Yea, nah, she's good.

MAX
Just good?

JACK
Kind of dry, to be honest.

MAX
I don't know, she seemed pretty interested.

JACK
A man who cannot pass up what he doesn't desire is no man at all.

FINN
Where'd you read that?

JACK
I made it up. Just now.

ASH
No shot.

MAX
Pretty sure Camus said that, actually.

FINN
What the fuck do you know about Camus, Jack?

JACK
(Cheerfully)
I know he's a bad ass fucking kid!

A blood curdling scream rings through the field.

FINN
Yo, what the fuck was that?

MAX
Oh, that was The Creature. Don't worry about him.

FINN
(incredulously)
Don't worry about him??!

ASH
I am, in fact, quite worried about him.

JACK
For real though, what was that?

MAX
Probably just someone who likes screaming.

FINN
It sounded painful.

JACK
We should probably forget about it. Not my business, not my problem.

The same group of students who walked past Gerald now walk past Finn and friends. Squeaker scampers by with them.

STUDENT 3
I swear I said that like 15 minutes ago.

STUDENT 2
Huh. Weird.

They walk toward a path in the woods.

FINN
Should we relocate?

ASH
You tryna rotate party? I'm down.

JACK
Do we have more drinks?

FINN
(scoffs)
Do we have more drinks? Of course we have more drinks.

Max reaches into his bag and hands Jack a beer.

JACK
Mmmm. White trash American style lager. My favorite!

ASH
Ooh, lager. Good word!

JACK
Thanks man, I just learned it.

FINN
Alright, let's go.

JACK
Okay, okay.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST PATH

Bea, Alex, and Penelope walk through a dark path, Bea and Alex hold phone flashlights.

ALEX
I hate the woods at night.

BEA
Why? It's so serene.

ALEX
It's too quiet! My lizard brain trying to make sense of the shadows is making me see some Dementor looking shit.

PENELOPE
Oh, that's really creepy.

ALEX
I know. But it's whatever. Hashtag mental illness! This party should be fun, at least.

BEA
Should we put on music?

PENELOPE
I mean, I don't have a speaker but I could play it on my phone.

ALEX
That would be nice. A soundtrack accompanying our impending doom.

BEA
Don't say that, it's gonna be great.

Another blood curdling scream is heard, semi-close to the girls. They all stop.

PENELOPE
Oh!

ALEX
What the fuck was that?

BEA
I don't know.

ALEX
Turn your flashlight off, right now.

BEA
Don't you wanna-

ALEX
Turn it off!!

It is almost pitch black, the girls' outlines can be seen from the camera.

The camera glitches, and switches to Gerald's camera, who is close to them in the brush. Audience hears him breathing very slowly and deliberately.

PENELOPE
(semi-whispering)
What do we do? We're so close to the party.

ALEX
SHHH!

BEA
(whispering)
We should go home.

PENELOPE
But we're almost there!

ALEX
Penny, I'm sorry, but I need you to be quiet right now.

PENELOPE
(attitude)
Ueugh.

Silence. Gerald shifts his weight and a dry branch snaps, the sound slicing the silence.

BEA
Oh, shit!

ALEX
Run!!

The girls turn on their phone flashlights, and start to sprint through the woods. Penelope starts falling further behind, getting swallowed in the darkness.

PENELOPE
I can't see!

ALEX
Just run faster!

PENELOPE
I can't!

Penelope trips and lets out a yelp. Alex and Bea stop and whip around. Stressful dolly zoom onto Penelope sitting holding her bleeding knee. The shadows move ominously. Alex picks up a large stick and holds it like a weapon.

Squeaker suddenly appears on the edge of the shadows, in a fake jump scare.

ALEX
Oh, it's just a squirrel.

BEA
But what was that scream though?

They shine their lights behind Penelope and Gerald walks forward holding his hand in front of his eyes, squinting.

ALEX
Who the fuck is that?

BEA
Who are you?!

GERALD
Hey. Did you guys hear that scream?

ALEX
Who the fuck are you?

GERALD
I'm Gerald. We go to school together.

BEA
Then how come I've never seen you before?

GERALD
I'm a bit of a couch potato, I must admit. I don't go out much.

ALEX
Were you just following us?

GERALD
(cheeks flushing red)
What? No!

SQUEAKER
Yes.

ALEX
So that wasn't you in the bushes.

GERALD
What bushes?

PENELOPE
It wasn't him, Alex.

SQUEAKER
She must be in love with you.

Everyone looks down to see Penelope sitting, her leg soaked in blood from the knee down.

BEA
Holy shit, are you okay?

PENELOPE
Yeah, I'm fine, I just scraped my knee.

GERALD
That's a lot of blood for a scraped knee.

SQUEAKER
Looks delicious.

GERALD
(under his breath)
Fuck off.

ALEX
What?

GERALD
Nothing, sorry.

PENELOPE
I have hemophilia. I'm fine, I just need to go wash it off.

GERALD
(offers his hand to help her up)
Here.

ALEX
Don't you fucking touch her.

BEA
Alex!

ALEX
What, Bea? This guy came out of nowhere. Why should we trust him?

SQUEAKER
They're on to you, kid.

GERALD
I, um, I was just trying to be helpful.

ALEX
We don't need your help. Get lost.

GERALD
Oh, sorry, okay.

Pause.

SQUEAKER
What are you still doing here? Git!

Gerald takes a few steps backwards, stumbles, and runs away. Squeaker disappears into the shadows.

ALEX
What a fucking weirdo. Penny, how can I help you?

PENELOPE
(sniffling)
I don't, I don't know. I wanna leave.

BEA
(taking Penelope's hand)
Let's go home.

Bea and Alex pick Penelope up and start walking back to campus.

END ACT 2.

ACT 3.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIRE IN THE WOODS

Finn's camera, now in 0.5 fisheye lens mode.. Loud music, roaring fire. About 40 people are milling around, talking, smoking, laughing, and dancing.

Finn is following the dialogue with his camera, getting warped close ups of faces with rainbow lights glowing.

JACK
Dude, I'm fucking tweaking.

FINN
Ahahhh! I'm geeked!

ASH
Don't lose your heads, boys.

MAX
Why not? I'm ready to exit this meaty prison.

JACK
(rubbing his face)
Wow.

FINN
Why would you ever say such a thing?

JACK
(rubbing his cheeks between his fingers)
Bro. Bro. Touch your face, like, right now.

FINN
(stretching his cheeks up and down)
Oh, what the fuck?

MAX
Just flesh doing fleshy things.

FINN
This feels so nice.

JACK
Right?? Like, I've had this shit the whole time?

MAX
Had what, your skin?

Finn melts down to sit on the floor, resting against a tree, still playing with his face.

ASH
Wow, you guys are so normal!

MAX
Let them enjoy it.

Finn suddenly stops feeling his face and curls his knees tup, hugging his legs in. His head drops into his self-hug.

ASH
Hey man, are you okay?

JACK
Dude, I'm great. I feel like I was just reborn!

ASH
Not you, dickhead.

Max taps Finn.

MAX
You good?

Finn looks up, teary eyed.

ASH
Hey, hey, everything's fine, dude.

MAX
Do you want to talk about it?

FINN
It's too much. I just want it to stop.

MAX
Want what to stop?

FINN
Everything! I don't know. I hate feeling like this.

Ash and Max sit down next to Finn, leaning on either side of him. Ash speaks while he sits down.

ASH
Alllright. It's okay.

FINN
But it's not fair! I gave her everything. Why doesn't she love me?

Jack walks over, still touching his face. He laughs.

Max and Ash look at each other.

Finn starts furiously punching himself in the thigh.

ASH
Um...

FINN
(mutters)
I need to be alone.

Jack starts pinching his skin and pulling it away from his face.

JACK
Dude, I'm freaking out. I can't feel my face anymore. I think I touched it too much.

MAX
What?

FINN
Get the fuck outta here!

MAX
Fine, dude, fuck. Chill out.

Ash and Max get up. Jack grabs Max's arm.

JACK
Bro. Do something.

MAX
Maybe you're cold. Let's go warm up by the fire.

They walk over to the fire, leaving Finn sitting in the same position, head down.

JACK
The fire is like, the heart of this party. I'm feeling the energy change as the fire moves. It's lowkey dying though.

ASH
Yeah, for sure.

JACK
But do you feeeel it?

ASH
Yeah, man, I feel it.

Jack steps on a thick log near the fire. Jack's foot gets caught in a cord connecting the party's speaker and lights to a battery, and he falls forward into the fire.

The music stops, and the entire party turns to face Jack. All we hear is conversation.

In the background, Finn gets up and wanders into the woods.

JACK
AAAGHHHH!!

PARTY GOER 1
Oh damn.

ASH
Jack!

PARTY GOER 2
Is he okay?

MAX
Oh, shit!

PARTY GOER 3
How the fuck did that happen?

PARTY GOER 4
Where'd the music go?

The bottom half of Jack's shirt catches on fire, and he stands up.

JACK
I'm fine, I'm fine. Kind of hot, though.

MAX
You fucking idiot, you're still on fire!

Nate comes flying out of nowhere through the air and tackles Jack to the ground. They bump into a girl who falls next to a tree and hits her head.

Nates starts throwing dirt on Jack who has dirt all over his face and in his mouth. The girl who fell (Fern) is being tended to by her friend Madi and one partygoer (Jasmine). No one else notices.

JACK
(spitting out dirt)
Pthhbbbb! Get offa me!

MADI
(Fern's friend)
Fern? Can you hear me?

JASMINE
Oh my god, is she okay?

Nate gets up and wipes his hands off.

NATE
Don't worry, everyone. He's alright.

MADI
I don't know. Can you call 911?

JASMINE
Of course.

Nate is basking in the glory for a moment as party goers clap and yell. Madi kneels next to Fern and holds her head in her hands.

The music and lights turn back on, and everyone continues as if nothing happened.

JACK
Holy shit, that was insane.

MADI
It's gonna be okay.

ASH
Yeah, dude, you good?

JASMINE
They're asking if she lost consciousness.

MAX
That was gnarly.

FERN
(sitting up)
Ooohhhh. Oh, my god.

JACK
I'm chilling. This was one of my favorite shirts though. That fucking sucks.

MADI
Fern, don't move, okay?

MAX
Yeah, I'm sorry to hear that.

FERN
Oh-okay.

The boys look over at Fern laying on the ground.

JASMINE
(on the phone)
Just get here as quickly as you can, okay?

NATE
It's just a shirt, man.

JASMINE
We're deep in the woods of the Arboretum. No, I don't have an exact address.

JACK
(getting upset)
No dude, this really fucking sucks! My mom got me this shit at Epcot!

MADI
(waving at Jasmine)
Hey! Tell them to look for the fire.

ASH
I get you're upset, but like, chill.

JASMINE
Okay, look for a fire. You can't miss it..... They're saying have her lay down and keep her neck aligned.

CAMERA TURNS AWAY FROM JASMINE, MADI, AND FERN.

JACK
(looking around wildly)
I don't give a fuck, man! Who pushed me in the fire?

MAX
No man, no one pushed you. You tripped.

JACK
Fuck you guys! I'm leaving.

ASH
That's probably a good idea. Want us to come with you?

JACK
(calming down strangely fast)
Nah, nah, it's fine. Sorry for exploding like that. I feel things hella intensely when I'm tripping.

ASH
You sure you're good though?

JACK
I'm chilling. I feel like I'm in fight or flight mode right now.

MAX
You probably are. You want some water?

JACK
Yeah, that would be great.

Max takes a plastic water bottle out of his bag and hands it to Jack. Jack takes it and chugs the remaining 3/4 or the bottle, leaving a bit at the bottom.

He takes off his tattered shirt revealing a burn stretching from his waist up his side.

JACK (CONT'D)
(sucking through his teeth)
Schhhh.

ASH
God damn, that looks awful.

JACK
It's fine. I can barely feel it. Is that girl okay?

MAX
I didn't really see what happened. I was too locked in on watching you burn alive.

Jack pours the rest of the water on his burn, and grits his teeth.

NATE
Way to take that like a champ, man.

JACK
You didn't have to tackle me, but I appreciate it, I guess.

NATE
(grinning)
No worries!

Max looks around.

MAX
Where's Finn?

NATE
Who?

ASH
I dunno. You think he left?

MAX
Doubt it. We should go find him.

JACK
I'm gonna go home and change, probably shower. I might see you later, I'll let you know.

ASH
Alright bet bro. Be safe.

MAX
Call us if you need anything.

JACK
Thanks boys. Peace.

ASH
Peace, man.

Jack walks off toward a path.

NATE
Wrong way, Colombus.

Jack turns around, flips Nate off, and walks to a path leading to the exit, shirt in hand.

CUT TO:

EXT. HAUNTED CABIN IN WOODS

Finn sits with his back to a dilapidated small cabin close enough to the party to see the flickering fire but completely out of sight to everyone.

He turns his camera on and faces it toward himself.

FINN
So, a lot has happened so far tonight. I just had like, a midlife crisis or something. Still kind of tweaking, but I'm gathering my-

Finn's camera beeps and turns off, showing a low battery symbol. He taps it a few times and hits it with his palm.

FINN (CONT'D)
Aw, fuck man! No way!

Finn starts checking his pockets for a spare battery when he hears rustling inside the cabin. He turns his head around and looks up.

FINN (CONT'D)
Uh.. Hello?

GERALD'S CAMERA.

Finn is looking at the door when it suddenly opens inward, and gloved hands grab Finn, putting a rag in his mouth as he tries to scream. Squeaker stands next to the cabin, jumps up and down, then runs over to Gerald.

FINN (CONT'D)
HEL-

Finn's camera gets knocked out of his hands and lands a few feet outside the cabin in the dirt. Finn gets dragged inside. The door slams shut.

GERALD
(whispering)
He's fine.

SQUEAKER
This is some crazy content.

GERALD
(whispering)
I know, right?

SQUEAKER
A normal person would go help him.

GERALD
The fuck am I supposed to do?

SQUEAKER
I dunno. Probably nothing.

GERALD
Probably.

SQUEAKER
You slimy coward.

CUT TO:

EXT. MIDDLE OF THE WOODS

Jack is utterly lost, using his phone flashlight.

JACK
Bro, where the fuck am I?

He looks around, seeing pitch black all around. He turns back and sees the faint glow of the fire in the distance flickering on trees.

JACK (CONT'D)
Oh, thank god, bro.

Jack walks toward the fire, and after a few steps he stumbles on something. He looks down and picks up Finn's camera.

JACK (CONT'D)
The fuck?

Jack looks around. Squeaker stands in front of him.

SQUEAKER
Hey.

Jack's eyes widen, and he kicks Squeaker into a nearby tree trunk. Jack stands apprehensively, watching. Squeaker squeaks and hits the floor hard.

SQUEAKER (CONT'D)
What the fuck, dude?!

JACK
Shut up!!

Squeaker gets up.

SQUEAKER
That was unnecessary.

JACK
Nope. No, I'm losing my shit.

SQUEAKER
Well, that hurts.

JACK
What the fuck are you talking about? Why are you talking?

SQUEAKER
You started it.

Jack covers his face with his hands and rubs his head. Squeaker winks.

JACK
This is ridiculous.

SQUEAKER
You're dressed like a scarecrow.

JACK
Bro, are you fucking kidding me? You're literally a squirrel.

SQUEAKER
And you are a presumptuous scoundrel, young man.

Jack opens Finn's camera and tries to start filming Squeaker. The camera is dead, so he turns his phone camera on.

SQUEAKER (CONT'D)
Don't you know it's rude to film someone without their consent?

Jack's phone camera displays only the trees, no Squeaker.

JACK
What the fuck?

Jack looks away from the camera to where Squeaker was standing. Squeaker is at his feet.

Jack stumbles backwards, trips, and falls on his butt. Squeaker is gone.

He hastily gets up and runs toward the fire with Finn's camera in hand.

CUT TO:

INT. CABIN

Dim candlelight and a flashlight illuminate the room. Finn sits tied up with a rag in his mouth in the corner of the small cabin.

A sweet looking old lady wearing cult garb and old lady glasses on a beaded string sits on a rocking chair on the other side of the room, sipping tea.

The child from the cult's fire circle is in her lap, staring at Finn.

A small water heater sits on a desk next to her along with barbed wire, fishing string, rubber bands, a coffee mug with a squirrel on it, and some books about wilderness survival and spirituality.

GEN
Hello dear. Terribly sorry for manhandling you.

Finn squirms and exclaims through the rag, in a muffled yell.

GEN (CONT'D)
Mhm. Big feelings.

She adjusts her glasses.

I'm sure you have questions.

She looks through her glasses to make sure Finn isn't protesting. He hangs his head solemnly.

Gen sips her tea.

GEN (CONT'D)
So, I used to live in the old folks' home just up the hill. I had friends, bingo buddies, the whole nine yards. But I was bored!

She smiles.

(MORE)

GEN (CONT'D)
So I went after Perry. Wasn't he a doll?

She seems like she thinks Finn knows Perry.

We both wanted out. You get that.

Gen sighs. The baby stares harder.

GEN (CONT'D)
But we were weak. So we turned to prayer. Or, I did. Perry was unconvinced.

She rolls her eyes and makes airquotes.

GEN (CONT'D)
"Delusions of grandure."

She gently strokes the baby's hair, wistfully.

GEN (CONT'D)
One night, I stopped asking. But something spoke back.

She thinks.

A squirrel! Pure white.

The baby giggles but doesn't stop staring at Finn. Gen pauses.

He said:
"A soul for a soul."

Perry was dying, anyway. I just let him.

She pauses and chuckles.

Where are my manners? This is Jonny.

She takes the baby's arm and makes him wave at Finn. The baby clenches his fist.

GEN (CONT'D)
Say hi to Finn, Jonny!