

Writing Sample 04 by Scott Selden

' SITE ZERO ' screenplay

Synopsis

Three young hikers encounter a deadly contagion when they diverge from the trail. Alone and afraid, they try to survive what lurks in the shadows.

Sample contents

Two of those hikers (Ali and Peter) investigate an abandoned town for signs of life and discover a victim left behind, entombed in carnivorous fungal spores.

4 pages

VREEEEEEN their heads snap at a shuddering shriek-

EXT. LUMBER YARD - NIGHT

Construction lights spring to life, flooding a dusty square. Unseen GENERATORS loudly chug.

EXT. TOWN SIDEWALK

Peter and Ali stare awestruck.

ALI

Let's keep going.

PETER

That's the first movement we've seen so far, of course we gotta check it out.

The distant generators roar.

ALI

A tripped wire- maybe the breakers? There, problem solved.

PETER

And if that's the case then I'm sure that's all we'll find. (PAUSE) Please.

Ali remains nonplussed.

EXT. LUMBER YARD - NIGHT

Commercial lamps glow while power pulses and Peter and Ali approach the center of the main staging area. They advance, their boots treading over strange vegetation.

EXT. LUMBER YARD POWER SECTOR - NIGHT

Industrial generators rattle.

EXT. LUMBER YARD

Peter waits while Ali flicks on a flashlight and scans their surroundings, finding nothing of interest.

EXT. LUMBER YARD POWER SECTOR

Generators hum near a FEMALE VICTIM, 40s, half-cocooned in a FUNGAL BLOOM that covers the wall as well as her legs, her torso resting in slimy mutant growth, seething with respiration. Her upper half is actively decaying.

As Ali's flashlight peeks into the room, the victim's dead pupils peak open intrigued.

Ali and Peter enter seeking the roaring generators when they sight the victim's body and FREEZE-

ALI

Mmph.

Their noses crinkle.

PETER

It smells like the suit.

ALI

It does.

She focuses on the victim's ravaged limbs. Ali and Peter exchange rueful glances before approaching, hesitant but determined. As the flashlight inches closer it further illuminates the fungal bloom.

While the pair nears, the victim's face contorts, conflicted. Peter grimaces as they halt within reach, the victim stirs UPRIGHT and the duo recoils.

ALI

UH!

They peel back while the victim blinks.

PETER

Eogch.

The victim drools green-black sludge. The duo studies her disfigured form and the spores.

ALI

Hello?

VICTIM

(strained)

Yesss?

Peter gulps.

PETER

Is there any way we can help?

The victim considers it.

VICTIM
 No... No I don't think so I- I
 can't feel much but... What I do
 feel is...

The victim braces deteriorating forearms.

VICTIM
 Horrible... Like a fever-
 Red light FLASHES across the screen like an electric arc.

VICTIM
 Laced with visions.

CLOSE UP: BACTERIA SWARMING

VICTIM (O.S.)
 Phantoms.

EXT. LUMBER YARD POWER SECTOR - NIGHT

The victim's dead eyes drift upward.

VICTIM
 (reverent)
 But they are no dream... They
 whisper softly- like a song that
 swells around you.

CLOSE UP: VIOLENT CHEMICAL REACTIONS

VICTIM (O.S.)
 Lose yourself innit... Til you
 drown.

EXT. LUMBER YARD POWER SECTOR

Ali swivels the flashlight to flower buds breaching open
 within the infestation, pouring ooze.

VICTIM
 Actually you can help.

The victim hones in on their stance despite impairment.

VICTIM
 Kill me.

PETER
 What?

VICTIM

It doesn't spread by touch, it chooses... Trust me.

She looks like she'll deflate if they refuse.

VICTIM

Don't leave me, like the others did... Please.

Peter and Ali wince, already uneasy.

CUT TO:

Peter stares at infected flesh as he and Ali hold the victim by the armpits, positioning themselves to move. All three breath in sharply, tense.

ALI

Ready?

Peter nods and the victim closes their eyes.

ALI

Okay... One, two, three-

They pull and the victim's chest easily shifts but legs refuse to budge.

VICTIM

Euug-

Peter and Ali yank the victim out and their stomach **MELTS APART**, spilling guts everywhere.

VICTIM

Viiissssshnk-

Peter and Ali keep movinf forward, dragging the leaking torso. They soon discover their ensuing mess-

ALI

Oooooh.

Peter gulps back vomit while the victim expires, hissing and bubbling gore. The duo lays her down and withdraws, huffing and heaving, mutually disgusted.

EXT. BAKERY - NIGHT

Lit and functional despite lacking staff and patrons.