Blind Falls

by Christopher Soucy

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A gruesome crime scene. Blood and body parts strewn about. Detectives WINTERS and TORRENCE are trying to make sense of the carnage.

Torrence is awestruck by the sight of it.

TORRENCE You ever see anything like this?

WINTERS

No.

Torrence points to the ground a few feet away.

TORRENCE I don't even know what that is.

Winters squints at the mess.

WINTERS

It's... guts.

TORRENCE

Yeah? Are guts something specific? Or are they like... just a word for your insides...

Winters shrugs.

WINTERS Just a word for your insides.

TORRENCE Whose insides do you think those are?

Winters shakes his head.

WINTERS That's what we have to figure out. INT. POLICE DEPARTMENT - DAY

SIMON FRANKLIN, a tired looking investigator sits at his computer. He analyzes video evidence for the Blind Falls Police Department. He is trying to catch a solid glimpse of an armed robber's face in a convenience store's security camera footage. He is focusing so intently he doesn't notice Winters and Torrence walking up behind him with a box of phones and tablets.

Torrence drops the box on the desk causing Simon to jump in his seat.

TORRENCE You still working the robbery, Franklin?

Simon recovers. He rubs his eyes.

SIMON Yeah. I think I have a pretty good look at the robber.

Simon starts to pull up the footage on his computer.

WINTERS Great! But that needs to go on the back burner.

SIMON

Why?

TORRENCE You didn't hear the chatter on the radios?

Simon shrugs and looks confused.

SIMON I have been in here since 4 a.m.

Torrence and Winters look at one another.

TORRENCE There's been a mass murder.

Simon reels in shock.

SIMON What? Where? In Blind Falls?

WINTERS Yeah. Over on Pine Street.

SIMON What happened? Was it a shooting?

The two detectives are dumbfounded.

TORRENCE

(Looking to Winters) We don't know what it was... It was a birthday party for one of the victims. Here are phones, tablets, all found at the scene of the crime. There's gotta be photos, videos... whatever... evidence. We need it immediately.

Simon falls back into his chair. He hesitates to ask, but finally spits it out.

SIMON How many dead?

WINTERS At least 12.

SIMON

Jesus.

Torrence slides the box closer to Simon.

TORRENCE So you're on it, right?

CONTINUED: (2)

Simon nods emphatically and turns his attention to the box that Winters and Torrence brought with them.

> SIMON Yeah... of course... Are the Feds going to come in?

TORRENCE I don't know... It's not like we're equipped for this.

WINTERS It's our case until they do... if they do... so let's try to get as far ahead on this as possible.

SIMON

Got it.

Simon begins rummaging through the box. He grabs a cell phone and turns it on. He starts watching.

CUT-IN: CELL PHONE

PHONE VIDEO - EXT. POOL - NIGHT

The scene is a pool party. The guest of honor is an eighteen year old, GINNY POWELL. The guests are hooting and hollering. There is erratic camera moves. It is held out as a selfie by TOM. He is obviously wasted.

> TOM So Ginny's legal! All you old pervs out there! She's fair game! Hey Ginny! Go buy some porn! And cigarettes! WOOOO!

The camera shifts back onto the party in progress. A giant lumbering figure is seen in the background. At least 6'6" with a strange mechanical mask on. Glowing red eyes from within the mask. Simon pauses the video.

SIMON What the hell is that?

He wheels in his chair over to his computer. He gets a usb cable and runs the phone directly into the computer.

CUT TO:

FULL SCREEN PHONE VIDEO - EXT. POOL - NIGHT

The screen is the shape of the phone video.

A close up look at the lumbering form on the screen.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE DEPARTMENT - DAY

Simon looks at the figure. He takes a screen capture of it and slides it over to another monitor. He then turns his attention to the phone.

CUT TO:

BLANK SCREEN

DOWNLOAD BAR

VIDEO CONTROLS

FULL SCREEN PHONE VIDEO - EXT. GINNY'S HOUSE- NIGHT

The video shows a girl being thrown into the pool by a handsome jock. Everyone is laughing. The scene is a typical teen party. Turned to a selfie.

> TOM So I just found the booze! It was in this bag!

He holds up his bag and makes a silly face.

TOM (CONT'D) Hey! Sasha! Sasha!

CONTINUED: The camera turns as he hunts down SASHA. TOM (O.S.) (CONT'D) So... Sasha! What's it like to be the last one to turn 18? SASHA There are plenty of people who are 17 here! TOM (O.S.) I meant... in our gang... you know? SASHA I don't feel left out, thanks! Turning the camera back at himself. TOM There you have it, she doesn't feel left out. Out of the mouth of babes. CUT TO: BLACK SCREEN DOWNLOAD BAR VIDEO CONTROLS FULL SCREEN PHONE VIDEO - EXT. GINNY'S HOUSE-AFTERNOON The video comes on in late afternoon. Tom is walking up to PHIL TURNER in front of the house. TOM (O.S.) Hey Phil! PHIL

What's up, Tom?

Tom focuses on a camera on Phil's chest.

TOM (O.S.) What's that? PHIL The party cam! I am not going to miss a thing! I just have to hit it to turn it on! Phil smacks the camera. PHIL (CONT'D) See? Tom shakes his head. TOM (O.S.) That is so... lame! CUT TO: INT. POLICE DEPARTMENT - DAY Simon looks over at the box. He goes over and digs around. He finds the GO PRO camera. He looks at it for a port. He goes over and fishes out the appropriate cord. He plugs it in. CUT TO COMPUTER SCREEN - EXT. POOL - NIGHT The low battery symbol is first. The first video is the camera on it's side on the floor. A huge foot splattered with blood steps in frame and disappears. In the distance a twitching torso can be seen just outside a shattered sliding glass door.

7.

Fast forward. On to dawn and the battery dying. CUT TO: NEXT VIDEO - INT. CLOSET - NIGHT From Phil's POV.

He is hiding in a closet with Tom. There is screaming outside, Tom is crying.

TOM Fuck. Fuck. Fuck. Fuck. Fuck.

PHIL (O.S.) Shut up, man! Be quiet!

TOM What the fuck was that thing? It tore her fucking head off!

PHIL (O.S.) Shut up! You want him to hear us?

TOM Ripped her fucking head off!

PHIL (O.S.) Shhh! Listen!

They sit in silence. The screaming has stopped.

A sudden explosion of drywall and a large arm drags Phil through the wall.

The camera catches blood flying through the air.

CUT TO:

NEXT VIDEO - INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Phil has cornered Ginny.

PHIL (O.S.) No really... tell me why. GINNY Knock it off Phil. PHIL (O.S.) I want it on tape. GINNY Nothing has tape anymore... PHIL (O.S.) On film then... GINNY No one uses film either... look, we're done, ok? We are no longer a couple. I officially dumped you. You are not my boyfriend. PHIL (O.S.) Why? GINNY You know why... PHIL (O.S.) No I don't... GINNY You and your stupid camera... PHIL (O.S.) What? GINNY God only knows what you've put online... PHIL (O.S.) What? I would never...

CONTINUED: (2) Ginny smacks the camera. It shuts off. CUT TO: NEXT VIDEO EXT. HOUSE - EVENING Tom is looking at Phil. PHIL (O.S.) See? Tom shakes his head. TOM That is so... lame! Tom turns his phone off. TOM (CONT'D) So, is it true? You and Ginny are done? PHIL (O.S.) She thinks so. TOM Well, you can hardly blame her. PHIL (O.S.) What does that mean? TOM Forget it. PHIL (O.S.) No, tell me. TOM You kind of pulled a "Girls Gone Wild" on her. PHIL (O.S.) What?

TOM Come on... everyone has seen it. PHIL (O.S.) What are you saying? TOM You don't know? PHIL (O.S.) No. TOM Shit... I'm sorry man. PHIL (O.S.) What? TOM You'd better talk to her, man.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE DEPARTMENT - DAY

The last video. Simon sits back and sighs. He looks to the box. He tries to start a few pieces of electronics. Many of them are dead. He plugs a few of them in. He picks up the phone and dials.

> SIMON Hey. I need chargers. Phone chargers, tablet chargers, anything you can drum up.

He returns to the box.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Winters and Torrence are standing over Sasha who is wrapped in a blanket sitting in a wheelchair.

Her shaken parents are standing by.

WINTERS And he didn't attempt to harm you at all?

She shakes her head, dazed and confused.

TORRENCE You're not in this wheelchair because of the attack?

Winters looks at Torrence.

SASHA (Confused.) They just put me in this chair.

TORRENCE (Fixated.) All right... so you can walk?

Winters elbows Torrence in the side.

WINTERS Did the attacker see you? Were you hiding?

SASHA He was right in front of me. He looked right at me...

TORRENCE We've been getting spotty eye witness accounts at best. Can you describe him?

Sasha is awash with fear.

SASHA

He... he was big... Very big... He wore a mask. His eyes were glowing...

TORRENCE The mask had lights?

CONTINUED: (2)

SASHA Yes... and there were lights on him... all over... Little flashing lights... like... on a phone when the battery is charging...

WINTERS

Do you have any idea who it might have been?

SASHA

No... He had a weird hand. His left hand, I think... it was... weird... like mechanical looking.

WINTERS Like a prosthetic? A fake hand?

SASHA No... it was like a... claw. Like one of those machines that you try to get stuffed animals out of...

She mimics the claw opening and closing and she stares off into space.

WINTERS When you're feeling a little better, would you be able to sit down with one of our artists and describe the suspect in detail?

Sasha nods.

SASHA You're going to stop him right?

WINTERS Yes. We are going to stop him. Simon has plugged in a number of devices. They are all charging as he watches video on a tablet belonging to

CHELSEA SANDERS.

CUT TO:

CHELSEA'S TABLET SCREEN

The videos are in small boxes at the bottom of the screen. Simon's finger scrolls left. The boxes move to the left. The thumbnails show a handful of videos at the party. Then a few in a car, a few out and about, many of them at the school. Different classes are recorded. There is one of DR. FRED HAYNES, high school Chemistry teacher. Simon clicks on it.

TABLET VIDEO INT. CLASS ROOM - DAY

HAYNES

... and this is reason we have to monitor the reactions so closely...

Haynes opens his desk drawer and a puff of smoke escapes accompanied by a whoopie cushion sound. The students roar in laughter.

> TOM Damn Mr. Haynes, what did you eat?

Everyone laughs. And then they all start gagging a little.

HAYNES Clear out students! Tom... meet me in the principal's office!

TOM Mr. Haynes! I didn't do it!

HAYNES

"Doctor" Haynes. I realize that it's hard to believe, Tom, but you're not smarter than I am. To the principal's office, go! Everyone else, outside!

The person carrying the tablet gets up and moves toward the door.

Tom is walking out as everyone congratulates him.

CHELSEA'S TABLET SCREEN

The small thumbnails at the bottom are scrolled through until Simon sees Phil and Ginny sitting at a cafeteria table. He chooses that video.

TABLET VIDEO - CAFETERIA - DAY

Ginny is leaning against Phil.

PHIL So how is it that you don't get that taken away from you?

CHELSEA (V.O.) I have ADD.

PHIL Who doesn't?

GINNY So if I said I had ADD I could be playing on my IPAD all day long?

CHELSEA (V.O.) I guess so.

GINNY Honestly, how much candy crush do you play?

CHELSEA (V.O.) Sooooo much... GINNY So, you're coming to my party right? CHELSEA (V.O.) I don't think so... PHIL Come on Chelsea! You haven't been to a single party since you got here. CHELSEA (V.O.) I know. My parents are really overprotective. GINNY Tell them that nothing is going to happen to you, my house is super safe! CHELSEA (V.O.) I'll try. PHIL Do or do not... there is no try... GINNY That's a movie quote, right? PHIL Why do I date you, again? GINNY You like my ass? PHIL That is correct!

The video ends.

CHELSEA'S TABLET SCREEN

The thumbnails go by, including one of Chelsea crying. Simon goes past it.

The party videos start. Simon bypasses most of them. One is a blurred image. He clicks on that.

TABLET VIDEO - INT. GINNY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The tablet is falling to the ground. It hits the wall and is catching a diagonal shot across the room. Chelsea is seen cowering behind the door.

Tom runs by followed by Ginny. But before Ginny can get across the room she trips.

Tom wheels around and helps her up only to witness the killer pop her head off with his claw.

The blood sprays all over Tom and he retreats away.

The killer closes in on Chelsea. She is blubbering.

The killer reaches down and picks her up. He is holding her off the ground staring at her. He seems to be studying her.

He drops her and she scrambles away. He then stomps toward the corner wall and reaches through the wall and pulls Phil out. With a sudden jerk he rips Phil in half discarding his torso through the sliding glass window.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE DEPARTMENT - DAY

Simon jumps up and shakes off what he just witnessed. He paces a moment. He Leans against his desk.

After a few moments he gets mad. He grabs a stapler and throws it against the wall. He lets out a frustrated cry.

He looks at the tablet. It is still playing the video.

He walks over to it and looks at it.

He sits down.

The screaming from the tablet haunting him. He looks at the screen. He fast forwards to the end of the video with a slide of his finger.

He puts the tablet down.

He looks over to the phones and tablets left to review. He grabs a phone. He fiddles with it for a moment. An image comes up on the computer screen

> BLACK SCREEN Simon scrolls to the first of the videos.

PHONE VIDEO - INT. GINNY'S BEDROOM - DAY

The oblong video is obviously a phone video. The phone belongs to MADDIE. She is filming Ginny in her bedroom.

MADDIE (V.O.) So... "recent internet sensation" what are you up to?

GINNY Not funny, Maddie.

MADDIE (V.O.) Come on! You're a superstar!

GINNY Maddie! How would you like it if everyone saw you naked?

MADDIE (V.O.) I might like the attention. GINNY Oh my God! You are twisted!

MADDIE (V.O.) I'm just saying what's done is done.

GINNY No, what's done is me and Phil.

MADDIE (V.O.) You sure it was him?

GINNY Of course it was him! I'm not posing for anyone else!

MADDIE (V.O.) Have you actually seen the pictures?

GINNY

No.

MADDIE (V.O.) They are not exactly posed.

GINNY

What?

Ginny goes over to her computer and types. Ginny's face is flush with rage.

GINNY (CONT'D) Oh my God! When did Phil take these?

MADDIE (V.O.) I don't know. But it looks more candid to me.

GINNY Maddie... I swear to God... shut up! Video end.

BLACK SCREEN

Next video.

PHONE VIDEO - INT. MADDIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Maddie is doing a selfie. She is high and bitter.

MADDIE

So tomorrow is the big day! Ginny's party! I can't wait to watch the fireworks! Phil won't know what hit him! I can't wait to see that smug bitch fall apart. I swear, I thought she would know it was me when she saw the pictures. I mean, I'm sure Phil could sneak into the shower and snap some shots, but hell, I was in the bathroom with her when she got into the shower. That bitch. She thinks she's so perfect and her piece of shit boyfriend... I don't want to miss any of it.

End of video.

BLACK SCREEN Next video

PHONE VIDEO - INT. GINNY'S HOUSE HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

Maddie is walking through the house. She is shooting a selfie video.

MADDIE Well the fireworks were not all that... explosive. But I'm on to the next! (MORE)

MADDIE (CONT'D)

I think Tom and Sasha might have ducked out and might be in a compromising position in one of these rooms...

She turns the camera.

MADDIE (V.O.) How about Ginny's parent's room...

She opens the door. Sweeps the camera around. And then back on herself.

MADDIE Nothing here.

She turns the camera and goes down the hall.

MADDIE (V.O.) Where are you naughty, naughty ones? The bathroom? How nasty!

She opens another door and sees someone kneeling over the toilet.

PHONE VIDEO - INT. GINNY'S HOUSE -BATHROOM- AFTERNOON

Maddie turns the camera onto herself. As she does it is revealed in the mirror that the killer is behind her. But she is too occupied with the person on the toilet.

> MADDIE Oh, ho! Here we have a party goer who has done a little damage. Rick? Is that you?

She turns the camera on the body. She reaches over and sees the blood in the bowl.

> MADDIE (V.O.) Oh God! Rick? Are you okay?

She touches him tentatively. And then again more forcibly. He falls to the ground revealing that his face is gone.

She starts retching. But it is cut short. As the phone slowly moves toward her side we can see in the mirror how she has been impaled.

Video end.

INT. POLICE DEPARTMENT - DAY

Simon is rocking in his seat. He picks up the phone.

SIMON Can I get a list of survivors? Yes. Also... can we match these devices to their owners? I have a few that I am done with. Yes. Come get them.

Simon sits back and rubs his eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

MR. SANDERS is in the hall outside a hospital room keeping Winters and Torrence out.

MR. SANDERS Chelsea is resting right now.

WINTERS We understand. We just need to ask her a few questions.

MR. SANDERS Well, not right now.

WINTERS Maybe you can answer a few questions?

Mr. Sanders is very uncomfortable.

MR. SANDERS All right... WINTERS Did you know Ginny Powell at all? MR. SANDERS Not personally, no. I know that she was a good friend to Chelsea. I knew not let her go to that damned party! WINTERS You didn't want Chelsea to go to the party? MR. SANDERS No. We'd prefer her to focus on her studies. She has a hard enough time concentrating without her slut friends distracting her. TORRENCE That's a strong opinion, Mr. Sanders. MR. SANDERS Oh no, it's not an opinion. When Chelsea first told us that she wanted to go to Ginny's party we started an exhaustive search on the kids at this party. Hoodlums mostly, but

Ginny? She has pornographic images of her online.

WINTERS

Wait, what?

MR. SANDERS Oh yes! And my daughter wants to go over and party with them? I don't think so!

TORRENCE Why did you let her go.

MR. SANDERS I didn't! I didn't let her! She climbed out of her window!

Mr. Sanders punches the wall with a deep and frightening anger.

Torrence and Winters look at one another.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE DEPARTMENT - DAY

Simon is sitting at his desk. He is staring off into the distance, lost in thought. OFFICER DANA MOORE, a young, pleasant police woman comes in with a stack of papers and a plate of donuts.

> DANA Hey Franklin!

Simon snaps out of it.

SIMON Dana! Hi.

DANA I brought you a plate of stereotypes.

SIMON My favorite! Gazed stereotypes.

They share a halfhearted laugh.

DANA Here are the files you wanted. And uh... are you okay in here?

SIMON

Thanks and... thanks. It's really... No... I'm not all right at all. I just watched... I mean... It's all there... It's... horrible. Just... horrible.

DANA

It's so hard to believe. You know my sister goes to school with all of them.

SIMON

Yeah? Why wasn't she at the party?

DANA Oh, she's only 15. They were all 18 I think.

SIMON

Yeah... mostly. Welp, I gotta get back on it.

Dana turns to leave. She stops at the door and takes a deep breath.

She turns. And steps back into the room.

DANA

I always wanted to tell you...

Dana awkwardly pauses.

Simon waits a moment.

DANA (CONT'D) I went to school with Tina.

CONTINUED: (2)

Simon is struck by the out of the blue nature of the statement.

SIMON

Did you?

DANA

Yeah... I was a freshman when she was a senior. So... I didn't really know her all that well... but she was a star, you know?

SIMON I certainly got that impression.

DANA

She was... I mean, nobody ever gets out of Blind Falls. Much less to go on and join the CIA! No one in this town could stop talking about it.

SIMON She was... dynamic.

DANA

So are you.

SIMON

Me?

DANA

Well... yeah. I don't know any guy who would move to the middle of nowhere for their wife. I mean, leaving Washington DC for a place like this.

SIMON

You're pretty down on Blind Falls.

CONTINUED: (3)

DANA It's an armpit. There is nothing here.

SIMON

Actually, it's got a lot more going for it than my hometown.

DANA

Yeah?

SIMON

Definitely.

DANA Hard to believe.

SIMON

There are armpits everywhere.

DANA Still... You just dropped everything to come here with her.

SIMON

(Nodding sadly) She wanted to die at home.

Silence.

DANA I guess that makes sense.

SIMON

Yeah.

DANA But you stayed.

SIMON

I did.

CONTINUED: (4)

DANA You could go back to the CIA, couldn't you?

SIMON

I suppose. But... Tina's here.

Simon shrugs.

DANA

I understand. You know... Tina was the head cheerleader.

SIMON Yeah... it's been mentioned a few times.

DANA

And back then, everyone thought she'd date Trent, the captain of the football team.

SIMON The used car guy?

DANA

That's him. He was a local hero.

SIMON

Yeah?

DANA

But he wasn't Tina's type. She turned him down cold.

SIMON

Why are you telling me this?

DANA

Because... I thought you should know that she had high standards. She wouldn't settle for less than the absolute best. 28.

CONTINUED: (5)

Long pause.

SIMON Thanks. I... uh... I should get back to work.

DANA Right. Take care, Franklin.

SIMON Thanks, Dana.

Dana walks away.

Simon turns his attention to the remaining items in the box.

Rifling through he sees a strange looking electronic device. It seems almost like a piece of military equipment.

He looks for ports and cannot find any. He examines it closely. He flips a small door open. There is a flashing light.

He roots around and finds a port. He looks for different cables, evaluating the heads. Finally he thinks he has the right one. He plugs it in and goes to his computer.

CUT TO:

MILITARY CAMERA DRIVE - INT. GARAGE - DAY

The scene is a small garage. The camera flickers on. A long list of schematics are listed on the right side of the screen. A targeting system shows the various items around. Highlighting them and identifying them i.e.:

Shovel - 1.2 pounds - steel and wood - Decapitation - Impalement - Laceration

The camera flickers off.

CUT TO:

MILITARY CAMERA DRIVE - INT. GARAGE - DAY

The screen flickers on. The killer stands. The garage opens. The killer walks out into the daylight. He looks around. The schematics are picking up everything. A map to Ginny's house comes on screen. The screen pauses.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE DEPARTMENT - DAY

Simon is looking closely. He picks up the phone.

SIMON Winters? Winters I think I have the killer's camera or drive or something! I think I know where his house is!

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Winters is in the hall on the phone.

WINTERS Good work, Franklin!

He hangs up and dials.

WINTERS (CONT'D) Assemble a task force. Anyone with SWAT training. I know. Call in whatever we have, get State Troopers if need be. We have to mobilize now.

Torrence steps out of the room.

TORRENCE

What's up?