Horror Movies

By Kat Jensen

Characters:

Jen – shy girl who doesn’t really know how to act but wants to anyways, doesn’t know anyone beforehand, everyone else is friends with each other

Maria – outgoing and sexual and sort of wild,

Jake – usually very relaxed and happy but lately he and Bridget have been fighting about something and he’s more tense than usual, director of the movie

Shaun – laid back and older, calmer, sort of the boss of the student station that Jake is making the movie for, good friend of Jake and Bridget.

Bridget – easy going but slightly hard to please on a normal basis, Jake’s girlfriend, she is also more uptight than usual

Dan – funny guy, likes to have everyone get along, only speaks up to someone when he feels it’s an absolute necessity, otherwise he pretty much goes with the flow

Eric – has somewhat of a fling going on with Maria but he seems more into it than she does, very sensitive, just got out of a serious relationship

SCENE ONE

Lights Up

 *Jake is filming the scene where Eric kills Shaun and Jen runs away. There are lights up behind the three of them and they are walking out of a small yellow kitchen into a large open living room decorated with Halloween decorations galore. The whole thing is obviously a set in a community center. In the living room there is a couch, loveseat, and chair. Eric has a red splatter on his shirt presumably from blood. The whole thing is clearly a set and you can see a prop table off SR with a chair in front of it. On it there a knife that looks very similar to the knife in Eric’s hand. There are other assorted items. Bridget, Maria, and Dan are all sitting around the prop table watching. Bridget sits in the chair, Maria on the table, and Dan on the floor.*

JAKE

Places! *(Jen moves close to Shaun and they begin to walk into the living room)* And Action!

SHAUN

Wait…we don’t have any maraschino cherries*…(turns around and Eric stabs him in the stomach. Jen screams and runs to the door. She struggles with unlocking it then runs outside. Eric stabs Shaun once more and then runs after her close on her heels. Jen trips and starts crawling backward as Eric continues to advance)*

JEN

*(Poorly acted)* Please, please Kyle don’t do this!

JAKE

Cut! Cut! Cut! Jen, that was great except you sort of made me want to puke.

SHAUN

Come on Jake give her a break

ERIC

*(Puts the prop knife on the floor and sits next to it)* Yeah I mean we’ve been at this all night. Don’t you think we should call it quits for the night? I mean it’s not like this is for the Emmys or anything. This is just a small film contest.

JAKE

I don’t want to quit for the night until we get this scene right. Jen, I’m sorry I yelled at you it’s just this is probably one of the hardest scenes in the entire movie.

JEN

It’s okay I realize that everyone’s just a little cranky at this point. I don’t take it personally. Plus, I wasn’t really feeling that take. I don’t know maybe I’m not cut out for this role.

JAKE

No don’t take it that way, I didn’t mean it like that. Look, maybe we should take a small break, gets some water or something.

MARIA

Actually I think I know what will help us all. I have some uh, green, in my back seat…*(smiles mischieveously)*

DAN

*(Amused)* Ha, Maria do you think that’s very wise to get us all stoned while we’re filming a horror movie?

MARIA

I’m not saying get stoned but maybe a little buzz would loosen everyone up a little bit, especially Jen over there. It’ll help you trip for real… *(laughs)*

BRIDGET

Hey, I’m down.

JAKE

I don’t want anyone pressuring my actors into smoking on the set

JEN

No, you know I’m actually game for this.

JAKE

You sure?

JEN

Yeah no I think Maria’s right I think it might help

MARIA

Great! I’ll go get it!

*Maria jumps off the table and leaves SR. She returns shortly with a backpack. She digs through one of the compartments and pulls out a bag of pot. Everyone gathers around her in a semi circle as she loads the bowl and begins passing the pipe around. Everyone takes hits from the piece until Maria deems that it’s cashed (verbally or nonverbally). Everyone seems more relaxed.*

JAKE

Alright, now that everyone has had their break can we get on with filming? I do sort of want to get done in the next year or so.

BRIDGET

*(While putting the piece back in her backpack on the floor)* Oh come on Jake the point of the pot was to make you nicer. Where are your manners?

JAKE

Fine fine, thank you Maria for getting us high. Can we please take the scene again?

MARIA

Much better!

*The actors get in place but just then the lights go out. The stage is covered in complete darkness.*

JAKE

Shit! What now?

ERIC

I think we blew a fuse with all the lights

JAKE

Can anyone go fix it?

DAN

Don’t worry Jake I’m on it

BRIDGET

(Snidely) Nice of you to make someone else do it honey

JAKE

(Exasperated) If it offends you so much you could do it too

*The lights come back on and everyone but Dan is onstage. They’ve all shifted around a little while the lights are off. The prop knife is gone.*

MARIA
Ah Light! How I’ve missed you!

*Dan comes running on SL*

DAN

*(With mock grandeur)* And then Dan said let there be light! And he flipped the switch on the fuse box!

BRIDGET

At least someone knows how to do it.

ERIC

What is your problem?

JAKE

*(Dismissively)* She’s fine let’s just get on with the scene. Everybody places!

*Eric goes to the prop table and picks up the knife. The scene proceeds as usual. This time Jen is doing much better and Jake does not yell cut but lets the scene continue. Eric stabs Jen in the stomach and blood immediately starts to pool around her abdomen. Jen immediately gets panicked and starts to scream and cough up blood.*

JAKE

Cut! Jen that was great but you’re not supposed to scream here. *(Jen continues to struggle to breathe and blood continues to pour out of her stomach).*

Jen?

*(Jake realizes she’s not faking and begins freaking out, Maria screams)*

Oh my god Jen!

*Everyone runs to Jen’s side and Eric backs away shaking and drops the knife, trying to cope with the fact that he just stabbed someone for real*

ERIC

I swear I thought it was the prop knife!

JAKE

Someone get something to stop the bleeding!

*Dan runs off SR and returns with a sweatshirt. He tries to tie it around her middle and applies pressure but Jen has already lost a lot of blood. She stops coughing and breathing.*

MARIA

Oh my God is she?

*Dan checks her pulse and nods. Everyone begins to flip out.*

MARIA

Oh my God oh my God oh my God! What the hell? This was supposed to be fake! Oh my God this is not happening! Oh my God this is not fucking happening!

JAKE

Shit shit shit

ERIC

I killed her! I killed her!

BRIDGET

Everyone just calm down. Let’s figure this out. We have to figure out our story

JAKE

What the fuck are you talking about “our story”?! Jen’s dead we have to call the police!

ERIC

Oh my God I killed someone! I actually fucking killed someone! This isn’t fucking happening! Oh my God! I can’t handle this! I think I’m going to be sick!

DAN

Eric, shut up. I’m actually with Bridget here. We need to figure out what we’re going to do.

JAKE

I can’t believe you two right now! Jen is dead! There’s nothing TO do except to call the police! Maybe the ambulance can resuscitate her or something! Maybe she’s not really dead!

DAN

Jake nobody can bring Jen back she’s dead. We just have to face the fact that she’s gone and figure out what to do.

MARIA

You can’t seriously be suggesting that we hide this?

BRIDGET

What happened to Jen is a shame but if we call the police and tell them what happened Eric’s going to go to jail for the rest of his life for murder and we’re all going to get arrested for smoking pot. We have to look out for ourselves right now. It’s what Jen would have wanted.

ERIC

Murder? Oh my God I’m a murder! *(Runs off stage left)*

MARIA

I’m going after him. Bridget I cannot even fucking believe what you are saying right now. (*She runs after Eric)*

BRIDGET

(*Walks over to Jake*) Babe, you understand what I’m saying don’t you? You’ll stick by me right?

JAKE

*(Sits down at the table where the props were to think)* I don’t know right now. I can’t even think about this. I don’t feel like I know you at all right now

BRIDGET

*(Goes to kneel in front of him and grasps his hands in hers)* Baby you know me, we’ve been together over a year, you know me, I’m the same person, it’s just I’m scared and I’m trying to think about this rationally, I need you right now baby

JAKE

I just…I don’t know…*(looks at prop table and notices that the prop knife isn’t there)* the knife…

SHAUN

What?

JAKE

The knife…it’s gone

BRIDGET

What knife?

JAKE

The prop knife. Eric didn’t mix up the two knifes, someone switched it

DAN

Do you think Eric did this on purpose?

BRIDGET

Oh my God he’s alone with Maria right now

SHAUN

Eric would never do that. He’s a good guy and he was really worked up about Jen

BRIDGET

Yeah so worked up that he had to leave so that Maria would follow and he could get her alone!

SHAUN

Come on Bridget this isn’t Clue

JAKE

We shouldn’t split up right now. I don’t think this was an accident

DAN

What are you saying?

JAKE

I’m saying it’s all too convenient, the power outage? It was just enough time for someone to switch the knives!

SHAUN

You guys are being ridiculous!

BRIDGET

I’m going to find Maria! *(Runs off SL)*

JAKE

I’m going too! *(Follows off SL)*

SHAUN

You don’t think they’re right do you?

DAN

I don’t know but if there is a killer loose right now I don’t think I want to be alone

SHAUN

Me neither *(They both run off SL)*

SCENE TWO

*Everyone except Dan and Shaun are in a gym now, which is also a part of the community center. Maria is cradling Eric who is very emotional and Bridget is comforting Maria. Jake sits apart from the group and is watching Bridget. They are all on the bleachers. Dan comes running in off of SL but Shaun is not with him.*

JAKE

*(Looking up at him as he runs in)* Dan! *(Everybody else looks)* What’s up?

DAN

*(Slightly out of breath)* We didn’t want to be alone

MARIA

Who’s we?

DAN

*(Looking behind him)* Oh, Shaun was right behind me. I guess I ran faster than him.

BRIDGET

Oh. Well we had a thought about how we can figure this whole thing out. Jake’s camera has an automatic light that turns on in front of the lens so that it can capture footage without light. It’s not good footage but it comes in handy sometimes.

DAN

So what you’re saying is that if the camera was still rolling when the lights went off we could see who switched the prop knife?

BRIDGET

Exactly

MARIA

Actually we are not all in agreement that this is a good idea. I personally want to go home where I know no one is going to die and no one is going to kill me and I can drink until I forget that this night ever even happened.

BRIDGET

But if someone’s trying to hurt us I think it’s important we know who it is so that we can protect ourselves. If you go home you’re putting yourself in danger.

MARIA

If the killer only wanted Jen gone and we push to find out who they are then we’re putting ourselves in unnecessary danger.

*(Shaun comes running in from stage left)*

SHAUN

What are we talking about?

BRIDGET

We think we might have a way to find out who the killer is but Maria doesn’t think we should check it out.

JAKE

You know Eric if we caught the real killer it will prove you didn’t do it on purpose. I know that’s not a whole lot of consolation but it might help.

MARIA

*(Looking down at Eric who has buried his head in her lap)* What do you think?

ERIC

*(Looking up)* I wanna look at the tape. I wanna know who would do this shit.

JAKE

*(Looking to Maria)* Then we’re in agreement?

MARIA

Alright, but if this doesn’t work I’m giving up. I’m going to the police and I’m putting myself in protective custody and I’m taking a nap. I’m not a detective and we are not Scooby Doo and the Gang. I don’t care if we get in trouble for drugs this isn’t our job.

*(Everybody leaves SL. Dan and Shaun are the last two and they act sort of nervous)*

SCENE THREE

*(Same setting as first scene. Everything is just how they left it)*

MARIA

*(Noticing Jen’s body)* Oh God I wanna go back to the gym *(turns to leave but Jake catches her)*

JAKE

Let’s just get this over with and then we can all leave. *(He walks over to the camera to eject the tape but it’s gone.)* Shit! It’s gone. Someone must have taken it.

MARIA

That’s it! I’m calling the cops. We’ve waited long enough! *(Leaves SL to call cops on her cell phone)*

BRIDGET

Who could have taken the tape? We were all in the gym together!

DAN

Wrong! Shaun was the last to come into the gym! He lagged behind! He could have taken the tape!

SHAUN

What? Why would I take the tape?

ERIC

Why don’t you tell us Shaun?

SHAUN

Okay I took it but I didn’t take it because I did it. I took it because I thought Bridget did it and I didn’t want her to get in trouble because…well…

JAKE

Oh my God!

ERIC

What?

JAKE

Oh my God it’s worse isnt’ it?

ERIC

What?

JAKE

It’s so much worse than I fucking imagined!

BRIDGET

Jake calm down, please

JAKE

You want me to calm down?

ERIC

What? What is going on?

DAN

Jake and Bridget have been fighting because she kissed Shaun

ERIC

What?!

JAKE

I thought it was just an innocent drunk kiss but you two love each other don’t you?

BRIDGET

Jake it’s not like that…

JAKE

No no I don’t care anymore. We’re over. I’m done here. Tell the cops if they have any question they can find me at my house. *(Storms out SR)*

BRIDGET

Shit. Jake! *(Runs after him SR)*

DAN

Well if everyone is leaving now I think I want to leave too.

ERIC

But we haven’t figured out who did it yet!

SHAUN

Look Eric, I’m with Dan. I’m willing to just call this all an accident and go home. I’m tired of having to look at her and remember this night. I want to pretend like none of this ever happened.

ERIC

But let’s at least look at the tape! Now that we know where it is! At least let me see it. I want the closure.

SHAUN

Alright man, but I don’t want to stick around to see the results. If it was Bridget I don’t think I want to know anymore.

DAN

Why would it be Bridget?

SHAUN

She wanted Jen’s part really badly. I didn’t think she’d want it badly enough to kill her but I also didn’t think she’d follow after Jake when this all blew up. *(Hands over the tape to Eric)*. I just want to go home. *(Leaves sullenly off SR)*

ERIC

Well Dan, should we see who it was? *(Puts tape in the camera and rewinds it so that he can see watch what happened as he watches Dan slowly removes his own knife from his pocket and slits Eric’s throat. Eric falls to the ground with nothing more than a soft whimper releasing the camera. Dan catches the camera before it hits the ground and watches the past enfold before him on the small pull out screen. He notices then that Bridget and Jake were lying about the camera being able to record in the dark)*

DAN

*(Incredulously, to himself)* There’s no footage. It was all a trap. It was a trick to get me to make a move. They knew this camera couldn’t record in the dark. They just said it could so that I would do something. *(He looks down at Eric)*

MARIA

*(Calling from offstage)* Okay the cops are on their way…

*(Dan looks towards SL where Maria will soon appear and runs off SR, dropping the Camera. As soon as he’s offstage Maria walks on SL. She sees Eric lying dead on the floor)*

MARIA

*(Gasping)* ERIC! *(She runs to his side)*

*Lights out.*

*THE END*