

The Pumpkin Patch

Written by
Robert A. Palmer & Michael A. Weiss

SAMPLE

WGA #: 1058138

Robert A. Palmer
Michael A. Weiss
11151 Aqua Vista St. #230
North Hollywood, CA 91602
818-980-8110

FADE UP:

EST. LONG STRETCH OF INTERSTATE - NIGHT

It's a dark night, just after a heavy rain storm. The ground is slick. Street lamps line either side of the street, they intermittently flicker. No cars in site, just an empty two lane black top.

EXT. INTERSTATE - NIGHT

Off in the distance a light breaks the horizon. An old Dodge pickup truck SPEEDS along the highway crossing under the streetlights.

INT. TRUCK - NIGHT

A large MAN (42) drives the truck. His name patch on his shirt reads BUNKER.

Bunker is a heavysset man, bawling and scuffed. He is a typical *Joe six pack*. His hands are calloused and dirty on the steering wheel.

The pickup truck is a mess, papers and an open tool box are sprawled out on the floor. Family photos are secured by a rubber band on the dashboard visors. A large pumpkin rests on the passenger seat, bolted in.

Bunker fidgets with the knob on the radio. Tired, he rubs his eyes. He takes hold of his coffee and drinks it.

The commercial on the radio ends, the DJ starts his intro.

RADIO DJ (O.S.)

(Radio DJ Voice)

We've hit the midnight hour I got a special treat for all you truck drivers, insomniacs and your run of the mill night owl's... **The Midnight Special* by Creedence Clearwater Revival.

*Suggested song

The Midnight Special by Creedence Clearwater Revival resonates through the trucks speakers.

EXT. INTERSTATE - NIGHT

Street lights become scarce down this stretch of road. Moonlight and headlights light Bunkers path.

INT. TRUCK - NIGHT

Bunker taps the steering wheel and air drums to the song. He takes another sip of coffee and puts it back down in the cup holder. Bunker reaches out and taps the pumpkin in the passenger seat.

INSERT -

Yellow divider lines on the road rush by.

BACK TO SCENE

The truck RATTLES down the empty road.

EXT. INTERSTATE - MOMENTS LATER

The truck SPEEDS past a Round 9 sign, it waves in the wind.

INT. TRUCK - MOMENTS LATER

Bunker's eyes become heavy. He blinks frequently to keep himself awake.

Bunker puts his high beams on. He rolls the window down letting the cool night air hit his face. He raises the radio's volume and sings out loud.

His eyes continue to flutter but something catches his eye in the distance. He squints and tries to focus on the road ahead. He looks intently at the scene in front of him. It's too late!

BAM! SCREECH!

The truck plows into something. A RUMBLE is heard under the truck. He skids off the road to a complete stop.

A large Pumpkin Patch sign is off to the right in the b.g.

He composes himself and looks up the road. His high beams lit, there are a few dogs in front of him savagely RIPPING apart something.

He looks back at the dead carcass and then back to the dogs in a feeding frenzy.

BUNKER

Shit.

The dogs in front of him look like rabid possessed beasts. One dog looks up from the carcass and makes eyes with the him. His eyes give off an ominous glow.

He sits for a moment watching the dogs eat.

He slams on the trucks horn, the dogs don't react. Bunker reaches over the pumpkin and pulls out his work gloves and puts them on. He reaches to the floor of the truck and pulls out a crow bar. He steps out of the truck.

EXT. ROADSIDE INTERSTATE - MOMENTS LATER

He walks to the back of his truck and sees a dead dog lying in the middle of the road. Blood runs from the carcass to the edge of the road, pooling off into the grass. As he stares at the dog he hears the other dogs behind him GROWLING. He turns back around to see the dogs attention is now on him. The lead dog takes a few steps forward. Bunker holds out the large crow bar gripping tightly.

A few more of the dogs begin to growl at him. He takes the crow bar and SLAMS it to the ground causing SPARKS to rise. Again he SLAMS the crow bar to the ground. This time the lead dog backs up, causing the other dogs to do the same. He raises the crow bar one more time. Before he can slam it to the ground again the dogs run away into the darkness.

Bunker approaches the ravaged carcass. He can't make out what type of animal the dogs were eating. He leans down and turns the bloody mess over.

INSERT - BODY

A human torso, missing arms, legs and a head. Bloody, torn and chewed.

BACK TO SCENE

Bunker is stunned and horrified, he drops the crow bar and stumbles backwards. He becomes distraught and panicked.

BUNKER

(freaked)

Holy FUCK!

He loses his balance and falls onto the grass behind him, CRASHING into a pool of blood. He's covered in blood, he shoots up to his feet back peddling into his headlights beams.

He THROWS UP on the nearby grass then tries to compose himself.

The wind starts to pick up, HISSING from off in the distance. A strange SLITHERING sound approaches.

He turns and looks in the pumpkin fields where the noise comes from. He can see a light approaching fast. The strange sounds get louder, a BRINING CRACKLING sound, the light gets brighter and more intense. Bunker stands entranced. He makes no effort to run away, he's frozen and covered in vomit and blood. A dog BARKS behind him, he quickly turns around and sees nothing. He looks closer into the pumpkin patch as the light grows brighter. Something brushes by his leg turning him around.

The lights suddenly shut off. Bunker stands in darkness, scared, and alone.

MAN
(calm)
OH my god.

The SLITHERING sound engulfs him in the darkness leaving silence, no lights... nothing.

EXT. ROADSIDE OVERSTATE - MOMENTS LATER

The moon comes out from behind the clouds to reveal the top of an old house in the distance. The pick up truck sits off to the side barron. The house sits in the middle of a pumpkin patch.

The vines can be heard SLITHERING around.

CUT TO:

CREDIT SEQUENCE

"THE PUMPKIN PATCH"

EXT. TOWN - HAYFIELD MEADOWS - DAY

A tow truck tows the old Dodge pick-up into town passing a large yellow faded picket sign.

It's faded and hangs from one chain, the sign slowly ROCKS back and forth SQUEAKING in the breeze. It reads: "Hayfield Meadows: A Town Away From Fun"

The sun burns through the ominous clouds above. Behind the sign a town sits, dull, quiet, yet to open, color washed away. A Ghost town?

TOWN MONTAGE

- 1) Blinking Red Signal Light
- 2) Town Bank
- 3) Row of shops
- 4) Empty Gas Station
- 5) Church
- 6) Service window burger shop
- 7) Atop the Town
- 8) Bed & Breakfast
- 9) Park gazebo
- 10) Bus stop

EXT. TOWN - DAY

The town sits against the blazing heat of the sun. Nobody walks the town.

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY

Old and wood built, the convenience store was once a staple of the town. Now it's windows are unclean, the door is falling off. A dirty sign rest on the window reads OPEN.

A Black 1977 Firebird pulls in front of the store. ZANE and JENNY exit the car.

Zane (25) is the typical trendy, tall "cool" guy, with black spiked hair, leather wrist watch, Motley Crue T-shirt and attitude to match.

Jenny (24) is the all American girl. Blonde hair, tight body, out going personality.

JENNY
 (takes out her cell)
 I'm going to see how far ahead of
 us they are; get me a water.

ZANE
 Sure babe.

Jenny stands outside of the convenience store and makes a
 call on her cell phone.

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY

Zane walks into the store. The store is ratty, broken, dirty
 and dusty. The shelves are barely stocked. Zane goes down
 the one aisle of food till he reaches the drinks, laced by
 freezers.

The STORE OWNER calls out to Zane. The Store owner is short,
 fat and bald with a long ZZ - Top beard.

STORE OWNER
 Can I help you son?

Zane walks up to the counter with two waters and an ice pop.

ZANE
 Just this kind of a hot day, huh?

STORE OWNER
 It gets that way this time of year
 but nobody comes around these parts
 no more.

Zane goes through his pants pockets digging out dollar bills
 and change.

STORE OWNER
 Just passing through?

ZANE
 Something like that. Can I get a
 pack of smokes too.

The Store Owner turns to get the smokes.

STORE OWNER
 Sure.
 (beat)
 You don't want to stay around these
 parts, what with the curse and all.

ZANE
What? What curse?

The Store Owner SLAMS the pack of cigarettes on the counter.

STORE OWNER
Blood, and horror is all you'll
find with the curse, so you and
your friend best be on your way.

ZANE
(thinks the man is crazy)
OK, buddy, whatever you say.

Zane looks out the dirty window and sees Jenny in her cell.

The Store Owner grabs his shotgun from under the counter,
COCKS it and points it at Zane.

Zane stumbles back a bit raising his hands.

EXT. TOWN - DAY

Jenny talks on her phone, carelessly walking up the street.

JENNY
(talking on cell)
Where are you guys? Seriously? I
don't he'll want to. He's been in
a piss mood this whole drive.

Jenny walks off into the street. She stops and looks around.
STELLA is talking to her.

Up above the bank a WOMAN stares at her, then closes her
window. Jenny looks off to the Church, the bell is swings
back and forth yet it makes no sound.

Jenny turns back to the convenience store. She sees a COP
(45) putting out a cigarette with his boot. The Cop walks
into the convenience store.

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY

Zane struggles to keep his composure with a gun pointed at
him.

ZANE
Come on man, I didn't do anything,
put the gun down.

STORE OWNER

You'll smell burnt skin and hear
the cracking of fire, then you'll
know he's come!

The door to the convenience store CREEKS open. The Cop walks in, he sees the shotgun but pays no mind to it, he walks to the back and gets a cola.

ZANE

(looking to the cop)
Hey man you gonna do something
about this.

The Store Owner is more irate and irrational.

STORE OWNER

You should get outta here now!
LEAVE!

The Cop walks past Zane and up to the counter. He pushes the barrel of the gun away from his face.

COP

Whatchya doing here kid?

STORE OWNER

He needs to know he needs to be
warned!

COP

Why don't you put down the gun and
get me a pack of Golden Bears.

The Store Owner places the shotgun back under the counter and gets the Cop a pack of Golden Bear cigarettes.

The Cop uses his bottle opener to OPEN the cola. He takes a sip.

COP

(uncaring)
AHH, tastes great.

The Cop turns to Zane.

Zane looks at the Cop

COP (CONT'D)

This is where you leave.

Zane slowly backs out of the convenience store.

STORE OWNER

Don't go into the pumpkin patch,
don't go into the pumpkin patch!

The Cop grabs his cigarettes. Zane walks to his car.

STORE OWNER (O.S.)

Don't go into the Pumpkin patch!

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE - MOMENTS LATER

Jenny stands next to the passenger door.

Zane walks over to Jenny's door and OPENS it. He throws the
waters in the car and puts the ice pop in his mouth.

ZANE

(Angry)
Get in the car!

JENNY

What happened?

Zane turns back and looks to the convenience store, the Cop
stares at him from behind the screen door.

Jenny holds the cell phone away from her. We can faintly
hear Stella on the other end.

The Cop drinks his cola and watches them.

ZANE

We gotta to leave... NOW!

Zane pushes Jenny into the car.

JENNY

Billy and Stella want us to meet
them for a hayride a few miles
outside of town.

Zane closes the passenger door, walks around to the drivers
side and gets into the car.

INT. CAR - DAY

ZANE

(annoyed)
No, come on I wanna get home
already. This drive, this town, no
hayride.

Jenny smiles at Zane.

JENNY

Please, come on we never do what I want to do. I came along on your world tour of smoky music halls. It's just a hayride.

(Listening to Stella)

Stella says I should withhold sex.

ZANE

Just try too.

JENNY

Can we go?

Zane rests his head back, thinking.

ZANE

Yeah, we can go.

Zane looks back at the Cop one more time. The Cop walks away from the door.

JENNY

(Into cell)

OK, we're in. How do we get there?

Jenny continues talking to Stella. Zane drops the ice pop stick out of the car.

INT. CAR - DAY

Jenny picks up her cell phone.

JENNY

Lets go.

Zane holds his hands on the steering wheel. Jenny looks over at Zane and can see he's upset.

ZANE

The fucking store owner pulled a gun on me.

Jenny's face changes from happy to fearful.

ZANE (CONT'D)

The fucking Cop stood there and did nothing.