

FADE IN:

INT. BEAN CRASH PAD

L.L. Bean (aka BEANIE), a young college dropout, sits by this front window. He stares out of his binoculars, as though he's been watching something or someone for quite a while - like days. His forefinger appears to be recovering from an injury and has been splinted with popsicle sticks and scotch tape.

Beanie's girlfriend, LIZ FREEBRIDGE, roughly the same age and also a dropout, enters the room. She walks over to him.

BEANIE

Not now, baby. I'm busy.

LIZ

Ugh! Well, what are you doing that's sooo important? I'm getting bored doing nothing. Like, hello!

BEANIE

Cry me a river! Here, hand me that camera.

Liz hands him a small one-stepper.

Beanie gives her a Look.

BEANIE

The other camera, Liz.

Liz looks around, confused. Then, she picks up a camera with a long lense.

LIZ

This thing?

Beanie nods.

LIZ

Man, I've never seen one that big.

Liz hands Beanie the camera.

Beanie hands her the binoculars. He looks through the camera.

BEANIE

Oh, yeah! Strut it, Leerwell, you sexy bitch!

BEANIE'S POV

A shirtless THOR LEERWELL, late 20s to early 30s, stands in his living room and yawns.

LIZ'S POV

Various shots of trees, bushes, and Leerwell's roof.

LIZ

What am I supposed to be looking at?

Beanie moves the binoculars over.

LIZ

Oh.

(repulses)

Is he naked?

BEANIE

Thankfully, no.

LIZ

(sighs)

Well, I hope he does something soon, 'cause I'm sick of being bored!

Beanie rolls his eyes.

INT. LEERWELL'S LIVING ROOM

Thor stands at the window and stares out, apparently in the direction of his nosy neighbors' place across the street.

The front door opens behind him, and Thor's girlfriend, ELLEN PARKLAND, roughly the same age, enters. She coughs and walks over to him.

ELLEN

Hey, honey, whatcha doing?

Thor grumbles something inaudible.

ELLEN

Boy, are you in a mood!

Ellen notices the direction of Thor's gaze.

ELLEN  
What are you looking at?

THOR  
Those idiots across the street.

Ellen grabs the binoculars and looks through them for a few moments.

ELLEN  
Hon?

THOR  
Hum? -cross between huh & hmm-

ELLEN  
I think we're being watched. Here.

Thor takes the binoculars and looks through them.

THOR'S POV

He sees Beanie sitting by the window, looking too comfortable, and notices Liz looking around as well.

THOR  
I'll be goddamned!

ELLEN  
What are you going to do?

Thor puts down the binoculars.

THOR  
Well, we need to scare the shit out of them. I'm just not sure how.

He notices Ellen's expression.

THOR  
What?

ELLEN  
I've got an idea.

Ellen whispers into Thor's ear. They slowly back away from the window.

INT. BEAN CRASH PAD

LIZ  
(mocks)  
Thor, you big stud! Take me upstairs and make me yours!

BEANIE  
Uh, I don't think that's what she's saying.

LIZ  
How do you know? You're not over there.  
(sighs)  
I swear! Sometimes, you're so immature!

BEANIE  
Actually, babe, I think they're up to something.

LIZ  
Really? How can you tell?

BEANIE  
Because the guy looked right at me. He knows he's being watched.

LIZ  
Ooh...  
(ooh fades out)  
Now what?

BEANIE  
I'm working on it.

Beanie picks up the phone and dials.

BEANIE  
Hey, Dick?...Yeah, it's the Bean...Listen, I've got a hot story for ya...I can't tell ya over the phone....Just get your butt over here....Now!...Yeah, see ya!

Beanie hangs up the receiver.

Minutes later, DICK BOIL, Beanie's best friend and ever-prowling college journalist, arrives and enters the room.

DICK  
So, what's this 'hot story'? -uses quotation fingers-

BEANIE  
Here.

Beanie hands Dick the binoculars.

Dick looks through them.

DICK

What am I supposed to be looking at?

BEANIE

(points)

That house over there.

DICK

OK, I see a shirtless guy and some woman. How is that a 'hot story'?

Dick nearly drops the binoculars when he does his quotation fingers.

BEANIE

Hey, man! Easy on the equipment!

LIZ

(to Dick)

We think they're up to something.

DICK

Something? Like...

LIZ

How the hell should we know? But they know we're spying on them.

DICK

Well, then we just watch and wait.

LIZ

Wait? Oh, I hate waiting!

DICK

Oh, go paint your nails!

Liz appears baffled at first, then smiles like that's the best idea she's heard all day.

INT. LEERWELL'S LIVING ROOM

ELLEN

So, what do you think?

THOR

It might work, but we'll need some help.

Suddenly, the back door opens and closes. LEFTY BOIL, Thor's best friend and Dick's cousin, walks in and takes a seat at the kitchen table.

LEFTY

(jokingly)

You rang?

ELLEN

(to camera)

How convenient!

(to Lefty)

Hey, man, we need your help.

LEFTY

Sure thing. What's up?

ELLEN

We want to spook our nosy neighbors across the street. So, we need you to go down to the basement, and when you hear a knock on the basement door, kill all the electricity, except the lights in the living room. Then Thor will come down to get you. OK?

LEFTY

Alright, I guess.

Ellen nods.

THOR

Then, let's do it.

Lefty sneaks down into the basement.

Thor and Ellen put on a romantic facade: turning on soft lights, putting on music, opening a window, cueing up a movie, etc.

Thor leaves the room.

BEANIE & DICK'S POV

The house suddenly goes dark.

A shrill scream is heard.

The letters 'REDRUM' appear on a wall.

INT. BEAN CRASH PAD

Liz screams hysterically.

Beanie and Dick look at her.

DICK

What's with you?

LIZ

I thought I saw a black widow spider.

Dick rolls his eyes. He looks through the binoculars and mutters something inaudible.

DICK

Hey, Bean, check it out.

Beanie looks through his camera.

BEANIE

Whoa! Did he-

DICK

Yep. Looks like it.

LIZ

Like what?

Dick and Beanie just look at her a moment.

Beanie nods in the affirmative.

Dick reluctantly hands Liz the binoculars.

LIZ

Red-der-um. Red drum. I don't get it.

BEANIE

(sighs)

Spell it backwards, babe.

LIZ

Oh. M-U-R-D-E-R. Mur-der.

(surprised)

Murder

Liz screams hysterically.

Dick covers her mouth.

BEANIE

Man, ol' Leerwell killed his girlfriend.

(in disbelief)

I never knew he had it in him.

Beanie looks at Dick and Liz.

BEANIE

What should we do?

DICK

Let's find out for sure.

(to Liz)

You got it under control?

Liz nods reluctantly.

Dick removes his hand and takes the binoculars.

DICK

Hey, Bean! Look at the basement window!

BEANIE

Is that a flashlight?

DICK

There's only one way to find out.

Beanie and Dick look at Liz.

BEANIE

You comin', babe?

LIZ

Yeah! I'm definitely not bored now.

INT. LEERWELL'S LIVING ROOM

Lefty, Thor and Ellen hide, though in an obvious spot.

THOR

You think it worked?

LEFTY



Definitely. Did you hear that chick scream?

ELLEN

Yeah, she screamed twice.

THOR

Great idea, babe.

ELLEN

Thank you, thank you. El would take a bow, if she could.

LEFTY

Shh, here they come.

Lefty, Thor and Ellen hear window open further. A thud sounds as someone climbs in and hits the floor too roughly.

BEANIE (O.S.)

(whispers)

C'mon, Liz.

Sounds of Dick and Beanie helping Liz climb through the window.

LIZ (O.S.)

(loud whisper)

Ow!

(to Dick)

Get your hand off my ass!

DICK (O.S.)

(whispers)

Sorry, just trying to help.

Lefty, Thor and Ellen hear Dick climb in the window, less noisier than the previous two.

BEANIE (O.S.)

Where's the basement?

LIZ (O.S.)

Uh, it's under the floor. Hello!

BEANIE (O.S.)

I meant, how do we get down there?

LIZ (O.S.)

How should I know? I don't live here!

DICK (O.S.)

Let's try this door.

Dick opens the basement door.

He, Beanie and Liz see the stairs leading down into the dark basement.

DICK

See? What'd I tell you?

Dick notices a flashlight sitting just inside the door. He grabs it and turns it on.

LIZ

(to Dick)

You first.

Liz grabs Beanie's hand. They follow Dick down the stairs.

Moments later, Thor, Ellen and Lefty tiptoe out the back door.

EXT. LEERWELL'S HOUSE

Minutes later, Thor, Ellen and Lefty crouch below the front window.

LEFTY

They still in the basement?

THOR

Yeah.

ELLEN

Man, I can't believe they bought it.

LEFTY

So, what exactly did we do to them?

THOR

(chuckles)

Ask the genius.

ELLEN

Well, we made it look like he killed me.

LEFTY

And they bought it?

ELLEN

Hook, line and sinker...at least so far.

THOR

They bought it. Obviously, they're not bright enough to call the police when they suspect their neighbor's murdered someone.

Lefty shakes his head.

LEFTY

Man, how thick can you get?

Thor, Lefty and Ellen crawl past the window and duck behind a bush. Moments later, they hurry over to a parked car and crouch behind it. They peek over cautiously.

INT. LEERWELL'S KITCHEN

Beanie, Dick and Liz emerge slowly from the basement.

BEANIE

Hmm. Nothing. Nope. Natta.

DICK

I can't believe it was empty.

LIZ

Excepty for the door.

Dick rolls his eyes.

BEANIE

I suppose he could've hidden her in one of the bedrooms, then left through the basement.

DICK

(sighs)

Alright. Let's check the bedrooms.

(to Liz)

You coming?

LIZ

No thanks. I'm all red-drummed out.

Beanie and Dick disappear down the hallway.

Liz wanders into the living room.

INT. LEERWELL'S LIVING ROOM

Liz stares at 'REDRUM' like she's analyzing.

EXT. LEERWELL'S HOUSE

Thor, Ellen and Lefty run from their hiding place over to

EXT. BEAN CRASH PAD

Beanie's place and climb in the front window.

INT. BEAN CRASH PAD

Thor and Lefty pick up and admire the binoculars and camera with the big-ass lense.  
[improvised]

INT. LEERWELL'S LIVING ROOM

Beanie and Dick walk into the living room.

Liz still stares at 'REDRUM'.

Dick waves his hand in front of her face.

DICK

Hey! Is anybody home?

Liz blinks and turns her head slowly.

LIZ

It's not real. See?

She touches 'REDRUM'. Her nails make a tapping sound.

BEANIE

Yeah, babe. They tricked us.

LIZ

Hmm, well, that's just not fair.

DICK

Tell me about it.

Dick walks over to the window and picks up the binoculars.

DICK  
(continuing; surprised)  
Lefty! Sonofabitch!

LIZ  
(singing)  
Now you're messing with/the sono fabitch-

Liz notices Dick and Beanie's expressions.

LIZ  
Sorry.

Beanie walks to the window and takes the binoculars.

BEANIE'S POV

Lefty and Ellen look on while Thor stands with the binoculars. He looks directly at Beanie.

Beanie hits his forehead in frustration.

BEANIE  
Does anyone want to try to tell me what the hell is going on?!

Liz and Dick look at each other, then give Beanie befuddled expressions.

Beanie shakes his head and looks again through the binoculars.

INT. BEAN CRASH PAD

Thor and Lefty look through the camera and binoculars.

ELLEN  
They all there?

LEFTY  
Yep. Three little piggies all in a row.

Thor looks right at

THOR'S POV

Beanie, who looks back at him.

Thor shakes his head.

THOR

Well, this worked great.

Thor glances at Lefty and Ellen, who is cannot stifle her laughter. The three laugh hysterically.

INT. LEERWELL'S LIVING ROOM

BEANIE

What the hell are they laughing at?

DICK

Us, likely.

BEANIE

Do I wanna know why?

LIZ

'Cause we're stupid!

DICK

(sarcastically)

No? Ya think?

Liz laughs, then stops when she realizes it's not funny.

INT. BEAN CRASH PAD

Thor, Lefty and Ellen continue laughing.

TITLE:

The End

(Or is it...)

FADE OUT:

End Credits.