

FADE IN:

EXT. FRONT WINDOW - LEERWELL'S HOUSE - ESTABLISHING SHOT - DAY

LS WINDOW

Main titles begin.

TRACK: Look Through Any Window

The house looks deserted, quiet, and gives a serene feeling. Nobody can be seen inside or out.

Main titles end.

Fade out TRACK.

FADE TO:

INT. BEAN CRASH PAD

LS BEANIE

L.L. Bean (aka BEANIE), a young college dropout, sits by his front window.

Slow zoom to MS

Beanie 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.

INSERT

CU BEANIE'S FINGER

BACK TO SCENE

Footsteps OS. Beanie ignores them/doesn't pay attention.

AMERICAN 3/4 LIZ

Beanie's girlfriend, LIZ FREEBRIDGE, roughly the same age and also a dropout, enters the room.

REAR LS LIZ

She walks over to him.

MS BEANIE

BEANIE

Not now, baby. I'm busy.

AMERICAN 3/4 LIZ

LIZ

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

MS BEANIE

BEANIE

Cry me a river!

(half turns toward her)

Here, hand me that camera.

MS LIZ

She hands him a small one-stepper.

Beanie gives her a Look and hands the one-stepper back.

BEANIE

The other camera, Liz.

AMERICAN 3/4 LIZ

She puts the one-stepper back and looks around, confused. Then, Liz picks up a camera with a long lense and hands it to Beanie.

CU LIZ

LIZ

This thing?

CU BEANIE

Beanie nods.

LIZ

(continuing; looks at lense)

Man, I've never seen one that big.

MS LIZ

She hands Beanie the camera.

MS BEANIE

BEANIE
(mouthing/nearly inaudible)
Thank you.

Beanie hands her the binoculars.

REAR VIEW AMERICAN 3/4 BOTH

Beanie looks through the camera and adjusts the focus and focal length.

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

BEANIE'S POV

AMERICAN 3/4 THOR

A shirtless THOR LEERWELL, late 20s to early 30s, stands in his living room and yawns, FX: lion's roar.

BACK TO SCENE

Liz looks through the binoculars.

LIZ'S POV

CU VARIOUS EXTERIOR ITEMS

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

BACK TO SCENE

Beanie laughs out loud over and over.

BEANIE
(continuing; to himself?)
Smoother than a baby's bottom!

INSERT

MS LIZ

LIZ

What am I supposed to be looking at?

BACK TO SCENE

Beanie moves the binoculars over.

INSERT

MS LIZ

LIZ

Oh.

(repulses)

Is he naked?

CU BEANIE

BEANIE

(scoffs)

Thankfully, no.

AD LIB: an inquisitive look or gesture

BACK TO SCENE

LIZ

(sighs)

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

CU BEANIE

Beanie rolls his eyes.

INT. LEERWELL'S LIVING ROOM

SIDE VIEW MS THOR

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

REAR VIEW LS THOR (REVERSE ANGLE WINDOW)

Thor's girlfriend, ELLEN PARKLAND, roughly the same age, enters. She switches on a lamp and starts to walk over to him. She stops halfway and coughs for about five minutes, then finishes her walk to the window.

ELLEN

Hey, honey, whatcha doing?

INSERT

SIDE VIEW TWO-SHOT

Thor grumbles something inaudible.

ELLEN

Boy, are you in a mood!

Ellen realizes Thor is staring intently at something.

BACK TO SCENE

She stands closer to him, with her hands resting on his shoulders, and notices the direction of his gaze.

ELLEN

What are you looking at?

THOR

(grumbling)

Those idiots across the street.

SIDE VIEW TWO-SHOT

Ellen grabs the binoculars and looks through them for a few moments, then lowers the binoculars slowly.

ELLEN

(tentatively)

Hon?

THOR

(still grumbling)

Hum? - cross between huh & hmm-

ELLEN

I think we're being watched. Here.

She coughs again.

CU THOR

Thor takes the binoculars and looks through them.

THOR'S POV

LS BEANIE & LIZ

Beanie sits by the window, looking too comfortable, and Liz looks around rather scatterbrained.

BACK TO SCENE

THOR

I'll be goddamned!

SIDE VIEW TWO-SHOT

ELLEN

What are you going to do?

Thor puts down the binoculars and runs his fingers through his hair.

THOR

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

He turns his head

FRONT VIEW

and 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

SIDE VIEW MS LIZ

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

MS BEANIE

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

CU LIZ

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

CU BEANIE

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.

MS LIZ

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

MS BEANIE

BEANIE
I'm working on it.

Beanie picks up the phone and dials.

INSERT

CU BEANIE

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!

BACK TO SCENE

Beanie hangs up the receiver.

REAR VIEW LS BOTH

Beanie and Liz continue to look out the window.

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

SIDE VIEW AMERICAN 3/4 DICK

DICK

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

MS BEANIE

BEANIE

Here.

Beanie hands Dick the camera.

AMERICAN 3/4 DICK

Dick looks through it.

DICK

What am I supposed to be looking at?

TWO-SHOT BEANIE & DICK

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.

MS BEANIE

BEANIE

(grimacing)
Hey, man! Easy on the equipment!

CU LIZ

She peeks out from behind the binoculars.

LIZ
(to Dick)
We think they're up to something.

MS DICK

DICK
(half-turns toward her)
Something? Like...

MS LIZ

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

DICK
Well, then we just watch and wait.

CU LIZ

LIZ
Wait? Oh, I hate waiting!

CU DICK

DICK
Oh, go paint your nails!

AMERICAN 3/4 LIZ

Liz appears baffled at first, then smiles like that's the best idea she's heard all day. She puts down the binoculars and walks off.

INT. LEERWELL'S LIVING ROOM

AMERICAN 3/4 BOTH

Thor and Ellen stand across the room from the front window, though still in their neighbors' sights. They lean against opposite walls.

ELLEN
So, what do you think?

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

Ellen coughs loudly.

Suddenly, the back door opens and closes. LEFTY BOIL, Thor's best friend and Dick's cousin,

LS LEFTY

walks in and takes a seat at the kitchen table.

LEFTY
(jokingly)
You rang?

MS ELLEN

ELLEN
(to camera)
How convenient!
(to Lefty)
Hey, man, we need your help.

Unusual view of the three, with Thor and Ellen in f.g., Lefty in b.g.

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.

CU ELLEN

Ellen nods and coughs.

CU THOR

THOR
(smiles)
Then, let's do it.

MONTAGE (AD LIB action, romantic facade, etc.)

TRACK: Helter Skelter

AMERICAN 3/4 LEFTY

A) Lefty sneaks down into the basement.

ECU ELLEN'S HAND

B) Ellen's hand turns on the stereo.

MS THOR

C) Thor opens a nearby window.

INT. BEAN CRASH PAD

MS BEANIE

D) Beanie remains glued to his camera. He munches on some food item.

AMERICAN 3/4 DICK

E) Dick sits with the binoculars in his lap. He appears bored and looks away from the window.

ECU LIZ'S HANDS

F) Liz paints her fingernails.

MS LIZ

G) She looks at her nails, then blows them dry.

CU ELLEN

H) Ellen blows dust off the blinds/curtains and

SLOW ZOOM OUT TO MS

adjusts them. (AD LIB: if opened, close part way; if closed, open most of the way)

INT. LEERWEEL'S BASEMENT

MS LEFTY

I) Lefty opens the breaker box.

SLOW ZOOM IN TO ECU

Switch that won't be turned off

INT. LEERWELL'S LIVING ROOM

TWO-SHOT, MS THOR, MS ELLEN, CU THOR, CU ELLEN, etc.

J) Thor and Ellen light candles and switch off the lamp.

AMERICAN 3/4, LS THOR

K) Thor leaves the room

AMERICAN 3/4 ELLEN

L) Ellen cues up a VHS tape.

Fade out track.

END OF MONTAGE

INT. BEAN CRASH PAD

BEANIE & DICK'S POV

LS HOUSE

MUSIC plays in the distance: Shadows of the Night

The house suddenly goes dark.

A shrill scream is heard.

QUICK ZOOM IN TO (E)CU TV

The letters 'REDRUM' appear on a "wall."

BACK TO SCENE

MS LIZ

Liz screams hysterically.

REAR VIEW AMERICAN 3/4 BEANIE & DICK

Beanie and Dick turn their heads slowly to look at her.

DICK

What's with you?

LIZ

I thought I saw a black widow spider.

MS DICK

Dick rolls his eyes, then turns back to the window.

SIDE VIEW CU DICK

He looks through the binoculars and mutters something inaudible.

DICK

Hey, Bean, check it out.

SIDE VIEW TWO-SHOT BEANIE & DICK

Beanie looks through his camera.

BEANIE

Whoa! Did he-

DICK

Yep. Looks like it.

LIZ (O.S.)

Like what?

REAR VIEW AMERICAN 3/4 BEANIE & DICK

Dick and Beanie just look at her a moment.

MS BEANIE

Beanie nods in the affirmative.

Dick reluctantly hands Liz the binoculars.

CU LIZ

She steps up to the window and looks through the window.

LIZ

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

MS BEANIE

BEANIE

(sighs)

Spell it backwards, babe.

LIZ

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

(surprised)

Murder!

MS LIZ

Liz screams hysterically.

PULL BACK TO AMERICAN 3/4 ALL

Dick covers her mouth.

SIDE VIEW

BEANIE

Man, ol' Leerwell killed his girlfriend.

(in disbelief)

I never knew he had it in him.

FRONT VIEW

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

SIDE VIEW

and looks through them.

DICK
Hey, Bean! Look at the basement window!

BEANIE
Is that a flashlight?

DICK
There's only one way to find out.

REAR VIEW

Beanie and Dick look at Liz.

BEANIE
You comin', babe?

MS LIZ

LIZ
(nods)
Hell, yeah! I'm definitely not bored now.

INT. LEERWELL'S LIVING ROOM

THREE-SHOT

Lefty, Thor and Ellen hide scrunched together, 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, El.

ELLEN

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

LEFTY

Shh, here they come.

Lefty, Thor and Ellen hear the window open further.

A thud sounds as Beanie climbs in OS and hits the floor too roughly.

BEANIE (O.S.)

(whispers)

C'mon, Liz.

Dick and Beanie help Liz climb through the window OS.

LIZ (O.S.)

(loud whisper)

Ow!

(to Dick)

Get your hand off my ass!

DICK (O.S.)

(whispers)

Sorry, just trying to help.

INSERT

CU ELLEN

Ellen bites her lip and tries not to laugh.

CU LEFTY

Lefty sees her expression, cracks a smile and bites his finger in order to stifle his laughter.

BACK TO SCENE

Then, Dick climbs in the window OS, 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.

INT. KITCHEN/BASEMENT STAIRWELL

AMERICAN 3/4

Dick opens the basement door.

LOW ANGLE

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

DICK

See? What'd I tell you?

Dick notices a flashlight just inside the door. He grabs it and turns it on, points it down the stairs.

LIZ

(to Dick)

You first.

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

INT. LEERWELL'S LIVING ROOM

THREE-SHOT, AMERICAN 3/4, LS ALL

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.

MS ELLEN

Ellen releases muffled coughs.

MS LEFTY

LEFTY

They still in the basement?

MS THOR

THOR

Yeah.

ELLEN

Man, I can't believe they bought it.

LEFTY

So, what exactly did we do to them?

CU THOR

THOR

(chuckles)

Ask the genius.

CU ELLEN

ELLEN

Well, we made it look like he killed me.

CU LEFTY

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.

MS LEFTY

Lefty shakes his head.

LEFTY

Man, how thick can you get?

AMERICAN 3/4, LS ALL

Thor, Lefty and Ellen crawl past the window and duck behind a bush.

LS ALL

Moments later, they hurry over to a parked car and crouch behind it. They peek over cautiously.

INT. LEERWELL'S KITCHEN

AMERICAN 3/4

Beanie, Dick and Liz emerge slowly from the basement.

BEANIE

Hmm. Nothing. Nope. Nadda.

DICK

I can't believe it was empty.

LIZ

Excepty for the door.

INSERT

MS DICK

Dick rolls his eyes.

BACK TO SCENE

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.

TWO-SHOT BEANIE & DICK

Beanie and Dick disappear down the hallway.

TRACK: Think

Liz wanders into the living room.

INT. LEERWELL'S LIVING ROOM

MS LIZ

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

EXT. LEERWELL'S HOUSE

LS ALL

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

AMERICAN 3/4 THOR & LEFTY

AD LIB Thor and Lefty pick up and admire the binoculars and camera with the long lense.

INT. LEERWELL'S LIVING ROOM

TWO-SHOT BEANIE & DICK

Beanie and Dick walk into the living room.

MS LIZ

Liz still stares at 'REDRUM'.

END TRACK

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?

AMERICAN 3/4 ALL

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

MS BEANIE

BEANIE
Yeah, babe. They tricked us.

TWO-SHOT LIZ & DICK

LIZ
Hmm, well, that's just not fair.

DICK
Tell me about it.

REAR VIEW LS ALL

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

DICK
(continuing; surprised)
Lefty! Sonofabitch!

LIZ
(sings, dances badly, steps toward window)
Now you're messing with/the sono fabitch-

INSERT

STATIC MS DICK

Dick turns, gives her a scowling look.

TWO-SHOT BEANIE & LIZ

Beanie shakes his head.

CU LIZ'S FACE

LIZ

Sorry.

BACK TO SCENE

Beanie walks to the window and takes the binoculars from Dick.

Liz approaches them slowly and stands between them.

BEANIE'S POV

AMERICAN 3/4 ALL

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

BACK TO SCENE

Beanie hits his forehead in frustration.

BEANIE

(raises voice)

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

REVERSE ANGLE

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

SIDE VIEW THREE-SHOT

Thor and Lefty look through the camera and binoculars.

Ellen stands close and looks on.

ELLEN

They all there?

LEFTY

Yep. Three little piggies all in a row.

CU THOR

Thor looks right at

THOR'S POV

LS BEANIE

Beanie, who looks back at him.

BACK TO SCENE

Thor shakes his head.

THOR

Well, this worked great.

THREE-SHOT, FRONT VIEW AMERICAN 3/4

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

INT. LEERWELL'S LIVING ROOM

CU BEANIE

BEANIE

What the hell are they laughing at?

SIDE VIEW THREE-SHOT

DICK

Us, likely.

BEANIE

(turns to ward them)

Do I wanna know why?

FRONT VIEW

LIZ

'Cause we're stupid!

DICK

(sarcastically)

No? Ya think?

LIZ

Didja know that Subaru backward is Urabus? Get it? Ur-a-bus?

CU LIZ

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

INT. BEAN CRASH PAD

THREE-SHOT

Thor, Lefty and Ellen sit by the window, still laughing.

TITLE:

The End

(Or is it...)

FADE OUT:

End Credits.

TRACK: Bottle of Wine