

AN ORDINARY DAY

A Screenplay

by

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FADE IN:

INT. DANNY BOLZER'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

The lights are out. DANNY BOLZER, 22, is barely visible in the feeble glow of an old computer monitor. Shirtless, scrawny, strung out, and pissed off, he takes a swig from his beer bottle and scratches at the stubble on his chin.

The light from the monitor highlights the sweat on his face, and makes him look decidedly CREEPY.

He types the word

"BOMB"

into an Internet search engine, hits the ENTER key, and gets 4,810,237 hits.

THE CREEP

Damn, that's a lot.

INT./EXT. PATTI'S LEXUS, A HOUSTON STREET -- NIGHT

JENNIFER GOODSON and PATTI McCARTY, both 16, are sitting at a stop light in Patti's Lexus. They are obviously best friends. MUSIC is playing. They are having a great time. Life is good.

A car pulls up beside them, and Jennifer turns to see NORMAN COOPER, 17, waving to her. He may be a little nerdy-looking, but he's handsome enough behind his ordinary glasses, riding in his ordinary car. Jennifer pretends not to see him.

JENNIFER

Oh, no. Not him again.

The light changes and the girls drive off, leaving Norman still waving from his older model Chevy. He sighs. A car behind him HONKS. He starts to go, but his engine stalls, then stops dead.

INT. DANNY BOLZER'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

The Creep glances down the list of hits on the computer's monitor. There are links to websites about all kinds of things, the A-Bomb, the punk band Tsunami Bomb, the Population Bomb. The list goes on and on.

CREEP

Too much stuff.

PATTI
 (sarcastically)
 Oh, and that was for such a good
 reason.

JENNIFER
 Patti, Robert quit the football team.

PATTI
 So?

JENNIFER
 He quit in mid-season.
 (beat)
 He was the captain.

Patti shakes her head at her friend, unbelievably.

PATTI
 So, why did he quit?

JENNIFER
 I don't know. He said he had to.

PATTI
 Didn't you ask him why?

JENNIFER
 Would it have mattered?

PATTI
 Jennifer, Robert is a good guy. He
 must've had a reason.

JENNIFER
 Well, whatever.

They pass a movie theater. Patti points at the box office.

PATTI
 Is that Mr. Jennings?

Jennifer doesn't even look.

JENNIFER
 I guess.

EXT. MOVIE THEATER -- NIGHT

ALAN JENNINGS, 35, buys a ticket and looks around warily,
 hoping no one sees him. He goes inside the theater.

INT. DANNY BOLZER'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

The Creep scans through more of the Internet searches. One item in particular catches his eye.

CREEP

Whoa, wait a minute.

"...they caught the suspected terrorist trying to download instructions for making a bomb with the cooperation of his Internet Service Provider."

Damn, that's not so good.

He closes the web browser, then leans back in his chair. He scratches his unwashed head and takes another swig of beer.

CREEP (CONT'D)

There has to be another way.

INT. MOVIE THEATER -- MOMENTS LATER

Alan searches through the dark theater, illuminated only by the light from the already underway movie. Finally he spots RITA CAMPBELL, 32, and slips into the seat next to her.

JENNINGS

Hi, Rita.

He gives her a peck on the cheek, and grabs a handful of popcorn from her bag.

CAMPBELL

Hi, sweetie.

JENNINGS

I don't know why we need all this cloak and dagger stuff.

CAMPBELL

You know we would never hear the end of it if any of our students knew we were dating.

JENNINGS

I really don't think it would be that bad if they knew about us.

CAMPBELL

Alan, hush. Just watch the movie.
We'll talk about it later.

A few rows behind them, ROCHELLE DOTSON, 16, nudges another GIRL. They point to the two teachers and whisper and giggle.

INT. PUBLIC LIBRARY -- COMPUTER TERMINALS -- DAY

The Creep has cleaned up considerably, but soap and water can't hide the wildness in his eyes. He sits in front of a library computer, scrolling feverishly through Internet searches, taking notes, making sketches, some of which definitely look like bombs.

INT. DANNY BOLZER'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Several drawings are spread out on the desk, and a couple more are taped to the computer monitor. The drawings look like schematics for a bomb. The Creep scribbles something in a notebook, then flips to another page and crosses items off a list with a magic marker.

ANGLE ON NOTEBOOK

There are only two items not crossed out, "digital watch with alarm" and "box of metal screws".

BACK TO SCENE

The Creep stands up and tosses the notebook on the desk. He lies down on the bed, slugs down a few more swallows of beer, and smiles to himself before turning out the light.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FRONT ENTRANCE, BOWIE SR. HIGH SCHOOL -- MORNING

It's mid-October, an ordinary morning in Houston, Texas. The temperature is mild right now, around sixty degrees, but it will warm up considerably before the day is over.

Bowie High is an older school, built in the late 1940's, but the building and the grounds are well cared for. Students are scurrying across the lawn, bent under the weight of their backpacks, trying to beat the tardy bell. This looks like one of those perfect schools, where nothing ever goes seriously wrong -- until today, perhaps.