

"Rusty"

An Original Screenplay

Written By

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Rusty: An Original Screenplay

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RUSTY

INT. MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE CLASSROOM - DAY

We OPEN TO a shot of a student, RUSTY LAKE, sitting at his desk drawing a picture of a dragon on a piece of paper. He is not one of the popular kids for sure - its obvious by the way he is dressed and keeps his distance from other students.

Students begin filing into the classroom. Rusty looks up, then behind him, and stares at a cute young girl - SARAH FALLON. Sarah is sitting near the back of the classroom, close to the science lab. Sarah appears to be popular in the seventh grade.

Rusty shoots Sarah a smile, only for her to ignore it. Discouraged, Rusty continues his drawing. Two male students, ADAM CARVER and JUSTIN WILSON walk into the classroom - books and binders in hand. They are goofing off and laughing, as boys do. They pinpoint their seats right behind Rusty.

ADAM

Hey Rusty. What are drawing? More crap?

RUSTY

(quiet) No.

Adam steals the image.

ADAM

Funny, cause it looks like crap to me.
(shows Justin) Crap?

JUSTIN

Crap.

Adam and Justin laugh, and toss the paper onto the floor. Rusty stays quiet and shuts his eyes tight. He is obviously bothered by the two boys. Feeling alone and embarrassed, Rusty glances back at Sarah, who is feeling bad for him. Then another young girl enters the frame and sits by Sarah. This is BRITNEY TIMS, and friend of Sarah. They begin to chat.

Rusty's admiring of Sarah is quickly interrupted by Adam flicking his ear. Rusty flinches, and turns back around, facing forward.

ADAM

What were you looking at, the girls?

JUSTIN

That's weird; I didn't know you were attracted to girls.

The boys laugh again, and Adam continues flicking Rusty's ear. The bell rings to start class. The TEACHER enters the room with her books, and shuts the door behind her.

TEACHER

Okay guys, we have labs today. (sees Adam messing with Rusty) Adam Carver, how many times do I have to tell you to keep your hands to yourself?

Adam and Justin sit back in their seats.

ADAM

Sorry.

TEACHER

I need everyone to pair up. The solutions have been pre-measured; so don't touch them until I get back there.

The Teacher goes to her desk to gather her things. The students all stand up and grab a partner before heading back to the lab. Rusty is the last to stand up. When he arrives he glances around but can't find a partner.

The Teacher walks to the back with everyone, and notices Rusty standing alone.

TEACHER

Rusty, who are you pairing up with?

RUSTY

(quiet) There's no one.

TEACHER

Then join a group. Go pair up with Sarah and Britney.

Rusty nervously heads toward the two girls. Sarah gives him a smile, and he returns it. Britney however, is on a different page.

BRITNEY

I guess we're stuck with you, huh?

Rusty's smile disappears, as he stares at Britney.

SARAH

Come on Britney, leave him alone.

BRITNEY

Well, I guess we'll be fine. You're a nerd, right Rusty? You could probably get us an A or something.

RUSTY

(defensive) I'm not a nerd. I get C's and D's.

BRITNEY

Liar.

RUSTY

I don't lie.

BRITNEY

That's a lie right there. Everyone lies.

RUSTY

(frustrated) Not me.

SARAH

(changing the subject) Let's just get to work, guys.

The three pick up their protective goggles, which were laid out on the table. They strap them on, just as Adam and Justin are sneaking up behind Rusty in a comedic stealth walk. Sarah doesn't pay attention, but Britney notices the two boys and holds back a smile. Adam grabs the back of Rusty's goggles strap, pulls it back and lets it slap hard against his head. Rusty grabs the back of his head and turns around quickly, ripping the goggles off and throwing them across the room. Rusty, red with anger, stands up to his bullies. Adam, Justin and Britney are all laughing.

ADAM

What are you going to do about it?

Rusty begins to breathe heavily through his nose.

JUSTIN

Probably going to slap us.

Rusty breathes even heavier.

SARAH

Guys, leave him alone.

ADAM

Oh, what Sarah. Is Rusty your boyfriend now?

SARAH

No.

Rusty continues to steam.

ADAM

Ladies, did you know Rusty's dad was killed? (keeps eye contact with Rusty)

Rusty's eyes open wider with rage.

ADAM

That would make him a bastard. (to Rusty)
You're a dumb BASTARD.

Rusty loses it. He screams and forcefully shoves Adam in the chest. Adam stumbles backwards, but keeps his balance. Jumping to his buddies aid, Justin pushes Rusty right back. Adam then charges Rusty, tackling him to the floor.

ADAM

(to Justin) HOLD THE FREAK DOWN!

Justin falls onto Rusty, and pushes his knee down hard on Rusty's neck. Rusty can't breathe. He begins to choke, and grab onto Justin's knee, trying to shove it off. Adam then slams Rusty in the stomach a few times, before punching him square in the face.

The classroom is now is a state of panic. Students swarm the brawl, and the teacher rushes in.

TEACHER

ADAM! JUSTIN! LET HIM GO!

Adam continues punching Rusty in the gut and the face as Justin leans harder on his neck. Rusty glances up at Sarah and Britney while getting pummeled. They are both in shock, yet do nothing. Britney still snickers slightly.

RUSTY

(to Sarah)...help.

Sarah stands in shock. Rusty's hope is gone. Justin puts more pressure on his throat, as we hear a CRUNCHING sound. Blood then pours from Rusty mouth, as he coughs and panics.

Justin, realizing what happened, stands up fast. Adam sees the blood, and stands up too. The Teacher breaks through the crowd.

TEACHER

Everyone BACK AWAY NOW!!

Adam is in shock, and moves to the side bumping the science equipment on the lab table. A beaker full of a clear liquid knocks over and spills off the table, and splashes Rusty's face. Students begin screaming in terror and running away as the liquid begins to burn right through Rusty's face. He does all he can to scream, but can't. Rusty begins to violently thrash around on the floor, as the teacher tries to help him. Panic plagues the classroom.

FADE TO BLACK

OPEN TO:

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

A woman, SANDRA LAKE, sits in the hallway with her son, RANDY. Sandra - Rusty's mother - is horrified, and her face is wet from crying. Randy - two years younger than Rusty - sits in silence, close to his mother.

Down the hall, a door opens, and a doctor comes out. He walks down the hall, and stands before the Lake family. Sandra stands up and wipes the tears from her face.

DOCTOR

Ms. Lake, Rusty has suffered severe facial and throat damage. His vocal chords have been almost completely crushed. His face can be repaired with extensive plastic surgery. (check his notes) Your current insurance plan does not cover such an operation, but if you talk to my secretary, we can see if there is something that can be worked out.

SANDRA

He'll live then?

DOCTOR

He will live. But he will need 24/7 care. No more public school. His life is going to be a lot different now.

Sandra begins to cry. Randy stands up and holds on tightly to his mother.

DOCTOR

You may see him now. He wont be able to see or hear you though. We have him under heavy medication, and his face is completely wrapped right now.

The Doctor motions with his hands where to go. Sandra grabs Randy by the hand, and they walk to the door.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

A horrific sight blinds Sandra and Randy. Rusty is laying on the hospital bed, under the covers. His face is completely wrapped in gauze. A couple bloodstains are visible on his facial area. Sandra begins to cry more and Randy sheds a tear. Randy walks up to the bed and kneels down beside his brother. Sandra walks up behind him and looks down at her son.

SANDRA

What the heck is wrong with people?

The continuous beeping sounds from the machines echo.

FADE TO BLACK

CAPTION: 15 YEARS LATER...

OPEN TO:

INT. DARK ROOM - NIGHT

We OPEN TO a CLOSE UP on a woman's eye. It opens. We PULL OUT to reveal a woman in her late twenties laying in the middle of the floor of a very dark and cold room. The only light comes from the moonlight shining through a window with bars across it, high on the back wall.

The woman takes a deep breath, then glances around with her eyes only. Knowing something is not right, she sits up fast, and pushes herself to her knees. She looks around the dark room, not able to see much. This is BRITNEY TIMS - now 27 years old. Another woman's voice slices through the darkness.

FEMALE VOICE

It's about time you woke up.

BRITNEY

Who is that? (pause) Where am I?

FEMALE VOICE

I don't know where we are, and why would I tell you who I am?

BRITNEY

Because, obviously, you know something I don't. Where are you, I can't see.

Through the dull moonlight, Britney can see another woman around the same age walking closer to her. Defensive, Britney stands up and back away.

BRITNEY

Stay back.

The other woman stops and throws her arms up.

BRITNEY

Tell me how I got here.

WOMAN

I don't know how WE got here. I woke up here, just like you, about an hour ago.

BRITNEY

An hour ago? Why didn't you wake me up?

WOMAN

I tried. You were out cold. I tried waking all of you up.

Confused, Britney turns around and is able to make out two other people laying face down on the ground.

BRITNEY

Who are they?

WOMAN

How many times do I have to tell you? I have no idea what is going on, where we are, or who you all are. I want answers too.

BRITNEY

(giving in) My name is Britney. The last thing I remember was....(pause)..opening my front door. Someone was knocking on it. Then, nothing.

WOMAN

Yeah. I was locking up my office. I was the last one there. Then I felt a prick in my neck. I woke up here.

BRITNEY

What's your name?

Silence.

BRITNEY

Come on, I told you mine.

WOMAN

(hesitant) Sarah.

BRITNEY

Well then, Sarah, what are we going to do?
Are there any lights in here?

SARAH

I don't know. I couldn't find a switch.
It's too dark.

Britney looks up at the window. The
moonlight is blanketed by snowfall.

BRITNEY

Is it snowing?

SARAH

Yeah.

BRITNEY

It's freezing in here. (looks at the floor)
The floor is made out of stone.

SARAH

The walls too. Almost like a cellar.

One of the other people on the floor begins to moan. Britney and Sarah stand by each other cautiously and look down. It's a man. He slowly comes to, and gets to his knees. He looks over and can see the two woman in the dark. He holds his head.

MAN

What the heck is going on here? Who the heck are you?

SARAH

We were going to ask you the same thing.

MAN

Seriously, what's going on?

SARAH

We both woke up here, just like you.

The man stands up and faces the women.

MAN

Where is 'here'?

SARAH

That question is getting very old.

MAN

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