

"Webcam"

Screenplay by

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based on the step outline by Bernd Porr

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"Webcam"

FADE IN:

INT. STUDENT FLAT PARTY - NIGHT

We see DANIEL' eyes (19, awkward, poorly dressed and a bit geeky). There are sounds of porn. As shot widens, sound of a party fades in. A group of students including SIMON, well built with a tight T-shirt and very short hair , the typical macho rugby boy, and DANIEL, are sitting huddled on a sofa watching porn on a laptop. PORN DUDE is also with them. There other students in the messy living room. Bottles and ashtrays cover the table. Others are striking poses and taking photos. LAUREN, 20, attractive and stylish is sitting at a table, looking weary. Daniel looks around.

PORN DUDE

Look at her devour that thing!

SIMON

It just disappeared! Into her throat!

Simon and Porn Dude laugh. Daniel is not amused.

PORN DUDE

Gobble, gobble, gobble!

SIMON

She's not a turkey...even if she's being stuffed like one!

Porn Dude and Simon high five. Daniel sighs, looks over and sees Lauren. He moves to join her at the table.

SIMON

Where you going, ballbag?!

Simon punches Daniel in the arm. Daniel moans. The sound of porn reaches its climax. A man moans.

SIMON

Aww! She got it in her eye!

Simon and Porn Dude are laughing.

DANIEL

Good fun, eh?

LAUREN

No.

DANIEL

And I thought I was the only one.

PAUSE

DANIEL

Been up to much lately?

LAUREN

Na, nothing special.

DANIEL

What are we doing here again?

LAUREN

You were the one that was invited, remember? We just tagged along.

DANIEL

Oh yeah...sorry about that!

They laugh. GIRL HOST (F, 18), drunk, excited, blonde, brash and overdressed with a grating voice approaches them and breaks the silence.

GIRL HOST

Hey you's! Take a picture?

DANIEL

Alright.

Daniel gets up. Unknown Student positions him to one side and hoists up Lauren, swinging an arm around her shoulder. With her free arm she holds out her phone, pulls a vacant grin and snaps the shot.

GIRL HOST

Thanks guys!

Girl host leaves them alone again and wanders off, looking at the phone. They sit.

LAUREN

I don't even know her. Another photo on some random's profile.

DANIEL

Yup. She's the one that invited me...

LAUREN

Oh. (pause) Ooh...

DANIEL

What?

LAUREN

I see what she's up to!

DANIEL

Eh?

LAUREN

She's checking you out!

Daniel looks over his shoulder. Girl Host glances up from her phone and looks at him. He looks back and turns back to Lauren.

DANIEL

Who does that?

LAUREN

It's not as bad as what you guys were up to!

Lauren points to Simon and Porn Dude on the couch. They cheer.

DANIEL

(laughing)

Yeah, so wrong! There's a time and place for everything I say.

LAUREN

(laughs)

So you admit to it!

DANIEL

But I don't advertise it! It's best kept private, that's all.

They laugh.

LAUREN

He's probably just checking out the guys.

They laugh.

DANIEL

Probably!

Simon approaches.

SIMON

Alright, ballbag?

Simon ruffles Daniel's hair pecks Lauren on the cheek and sits next to her.

SIMON

What you's two been talking about?

Lauren glances at Daniel, ready to wind up Simon.

DANIEL

About your preference for male  
porn stars.

SIMON

Don't you call me gay or I'll fuck  
you up!

LAUREN

Calm down. He's only winding you  
up.

SIMON

Well it wasn't funny!

LAUREN

Seems like you've had too much to  
drink...

She stands and tugs Simon up.

LAUREN

(To Simon)

Come on.

As they turn to leave, she talks to Daniel over her  
shoulder.

LAUREN

See you later Daniel.

Lauren and Simon leave. Daniel sits alone at the  
table, not enjoying the party. The group watching porn

cheer. Unknown Students say "Cheese" and take another photo. Daniel gets up and leaves.

INT. DANIEL'S HALL - AFTER THE PARTY

Daniel enters his hallway. It is a typical student flat. Clothes are drying. Paper litters the floor. Several bin bags sit in the corner. Daniel sighs as he walks through the hall, he arrives in front of his bedroom door. He sighs. The bedroom door next to his opens. PETER stands in his doorway.

PETER

Good party?

DANIEL

It was alright, yeah.

PETER

Grab some beers and come through.  
Got something to show you.

INT. PETER'S ROOM - LATER

Enter Daniel with two beers. Peter is at his desk in front of his computer. There is a second chair in front of the desk, covered in Peter's clothes. The room is a mess.

DANIEL

Do you ever tidy up?

Daniel throws Peter's clothes off the chair onto the floor.

PETER

(Not looking at  
Daniel, fixated on  
the screen)

What you talking about? This IS  
tidy.

PAUSE

PETER

Talk to Lauren much tonight?

DANIEL

What's with your fixation on her?

PETER

What?

DANIEL

Nothing.

PETER

Anyway, check this out.

Daniel takes an interest in the screen for the first time. He leans in to have a look.

DANIEL

And tonight on pointless so-called information technology...

PETER

Shut up. Found this in the bowels of the tinternet. Lets me watch people through their webcams.

DANIEL

What's new there?

PETER

(With a grin)

They don't know I'm watching.

DANIEL

What's wrong with you?!

PETER

Nothing. Could be interesting, that's all. Waited for you to get back before firing it up.

DANIEL

(Sceptically)

Go on then...

Peter boots up the software and they settle down into their chairs.

FADE TO BLACK

FADE IN

INT. PETER'S ROOM - LATER

Peter and Daniel are sitting watching the screen. Peter sits with his head in his hand, leaning on the table. Daniel is sitting back in his chair. They are bored.

PETER

I can't believe I thought this  
would be fun.

DANIEL

What were you expecting?

PETER

(finishing his beer  
and crushing the  
can)

To catch people at their most  
intimate...They're just sitting  
there, watching their screens.

DANIEL

That guy getting mad at his game  
was the only funny thing.

Daniel grabs the mouse and starts thumping the table,  
making faces of someone shouting. They laugh.

DANIEL

Boring! Next!

Peter hits a key on his computer, switching to the  
next available webcam. Peter and Daniel recoil in  
shock.

DANIEL

Argh! Turn it off!

Peter quickly hits a key to change webcam.

PETER

Not like this is any better...

DANIEL

Next!

Peter hits a key to change webcam.

DANIEL

(laughs)  
No luck, eh?

PETER

(Standing up)  
Right! Screw this! I'm gonna crash!

Peter takes of his trousers.

DANIEL

There's you at your most  
intimate!

PETER

Ha!

Peter gets into bed.

DANIEL

Can I stay here till I finish  
this?

PETER

Mmm...

DANIEL

Oook.

Daniel hits the arrow to bring up the next webcam. It is Lauren. He looks over his shoulder, checking that Peter isn't watching. He watches her. She is watching the screen with glazed eyes. Simon is asleep on the bed behind her. This annoys Daniel, but his gaze focuses on Lauren.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

INT. CANTEEN - NEXT DAY - LUNCH

Daniel is sitting at the table with his friends, looking tired. He is sitting at the head of the table, between Simon and Jenny. Jenny is sitting alone on one side of the rectangular table, taking up a lot of space, reflecting her loudness. Lauren is sitting next to Simon, on the far side of Daniel. It seems Daniel is staring into space, but is looking at Lauren, simultaneously playing with an empty can, making noise. Lauren, Simon and Jenny, (19) self-absorbed, are having lunch. Daniel and doesn't have anything to eat. Jenny is ending a story.

JENNY

...and so that's when he leaned in, and I was like "what're you all about?!".

LAUREN

Oh my god!

JENNY

I know, right! Backtracking a bit here, anyway! So do you think he's really disabled?

SIMON

He must be, right?

JENNY

But then there was that episode where he dreamt he could dance...

Lauren laughs at the conversation and glances at Daniel. He smiles back.

SIMON

Might be CGI...

JENNY

That's likely. CGI for moving legs! Get real, Simon!

SIMON

(looking for backup)  
What? It's not like they don't have the money for it...

JENNY

Yeah, right... You try making it as a disabled actor.

SIMON

Well you'd have to break my legs  
first!

DANIEL

(looking at Lauren)  
I'd be up for that...

They laugh. Daniel's making noise with the can gets on  
Simon's nerves.

SIMON

Cut that out already.

Daniel does not respond, he is daydreaming.

SIMON

Hey, ballbag!

He smacks the can out of Daniel's hands. There is a  
moment of silence as Simon and Daniel confront each  
other through looks. Daniel's gaze wonders to Lauren  
again.

JENNY

Anyway, I got those GHD's the  
other day.

LAUREN

Oh right. Are they good?

SIMON

(sits up)  
Shut up Jenny...you hungover Dan?

DANIEL

(snaps out of his  
thoughts and  
staring)  
Hmm? Na.

SIMON

Why you not eating?

DANIEL

Not too hungry.

SIMON

What? You on a diet?

Simon chuckles to himself.

DANIEL

No need. With this fabulous body?

LAUREN

You look tired.

JENNY

What did you do all night? Baitin'!

They laugh.

DANIEL

Hung out with Peter a bit. Messed about on the internet...

SIMON

D'you make a film together?

LAUREN

You'd be the first to ask...

Daniel smiles at the joke.

DANIEL

So d'you guys get home alright?

LAUREN

It was tough getting Simon to walk in a straight line!

They laugh

SIMON

I was soo waasted!

LAUREN

Yeah, he just collapsed the moment we got back.

PAUSE

The dialogue fades into the background as Daniel resumes his looking at Lauren.

JENNY

Like a giant sack of crap!

JENNY

Imagine you were an actual giant sack of crap?

SIMON

You'd smell like crap!

JENNY

Plus you could only roll around,  
since you're a sack!

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

INT. DANIEL'S ROOM - THAT EVENING

Daniel is sitting at his computer. He is watching Lauren through the webcam. She is watching the screen. She smiles. Daniel smiles back. Simon enters Lauren's room. He looks at the screen. An argument erupts. Daniel sits up and leans forward.

The argument escalates. Simon is making threatening gestures. Simon closes/slams the laptop. Daniel's connection to the webcam is lost.

He leans back in his chair, clearly confused. He picks his phone up and goes through contacts to Lauren. He changes his mind and puts the phone down. He sits, motionless.

INT. CANTEEN - NEXT DAY - LUNCH

The group's seating arrangements have shifted. Daniel is sitting between Lauren and Simon, who is now at the head of the table. Jenny is still on her own in occupying an entire side of the table. Jenny is talking again. Simon doesn't have anything to eat but had a can he is fiddling with constantly. Daniel glances at Lauren, nonchalant, and back at Simon, fidgety.

JENNY

...and he was trying at it all night! I was like, "just get outta ma face", but he just wouldn't listen!

No-one reacts. Jenny is un-phased and continues.

JENNY

So figured I'd better tell her what he's up tae. Trying tae get me into bed and all...

SIMON

You sure he wasn't just being a bit of a chancer? Joking, like?

Simon glances at Lauren who glares back. Jenny is unimpressed and looks at Simon like he is a lost cause. Simon is embarrassed.

JENNY

Honestly! Men!

LAUREN

Scum.

DANIEL

Why are you not eating, Si?

SIMON

Just not too hungry...

DANIEL

Cavemen are always hungry...

SIMON

What?

DANIEL

Nothing.

Lauren and Simon glance at each other. Daniel is all too aware of this.

JENNY

You's two look tired! Make a film together last night?

DANIEL

Shut up, Jenny.

No one laughs. There is an awkward silence.

JENNY

(trying not to lose face)

Shall we go then?

SIMON

Yeah, just gonna get something for later.

Simon gets up to buy a chocolate bar. He leaves the empty can on the table.

JENNY

Aw'right. Catch you's outside.

Jenny is fast up and out the door. Lauren joins her. Daniel looks at Simon and moves to follow the girls.

SIMON

(beckoning Daniel  
over)

'Ere, Dan!

Daniel joins Simon at the counter/vending machine.

DANIEL

(under his breath)

What does woman-beater want now?

SIMON

Listen...I went ballistic last night, big time. Only Lauren was checking people out by webcam...

DANIEL

You've got nothing to jealous about.

SIMON

No, it's not like that. They weren't chatting or anything.

DANIEL

Oh?

SIMON

Looked like they didn't know she was there...like she was spying or something...

Daniel looks out the window at Lauren.

SIMON

So I said she should put it off and then we had a fight. But I don't know who's right. What do you think? Dan?

Daniel's attention switches back to Simon.

DANIEL

What?

SIMON

Was I right to get mad and make her stop?

PAUSE

SIMON

I'm asking you cos you're smart.

DANIEL

I dunno, Si. This whole thing is a bit weird.

Simon nods. He still looks distraught. They turn to go and join the girls. Girl Host is standing in front of them.

GIRL HOST

Hi, Dan!

DANIEL

Do you mind? This is private.

GIRL HOST

Oh...Sorry. I...Never mind.

Simon and Daniel walk towards the door.

DANIEL

I wouldn't worry about it, ok?

Simon nods, still looking glum. Girl Host takes out her phone and pines over the photo from the party.

SIMON

Who's that?

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Simon and Daniel come through the door, joining Jenny and Lauren.

JENNY

(giggly)

What was all that about?

DANIEL

Oh, nothing.

JENNY

Oh c'mon! Lauren already told me everything!

Daniel looks at Lauren.

DANIEL

About what?

JENNY

You know what!

Jenny winks at Daniel and starts walking with Simon.

DANIEL

(aside)

Everything?

LAUREN

Like you said. Some things are best kept private.

Lauren turns to Daniel. They share a smile.

CUT TO BLACK. ROLL CREDITS.

THE END