

Gut

By Orion Musti

1 INT. BEDROOM - DAY 1

We are staring directly up at a teenage boy named STEVE. We are his phone. He is clicking on the screen of the camera and scrolling and scrolling and scrolling. He looks completely out of it as he mindlessly looks at garbage.

TITLE OVER SCREEN: "GUT"

FADE TO:

2 INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT 2

We open up to the sounds of a kid feverishly walking back and forth in his basement. He is breathing heavily and crying a little.

CUT TO:

3 INT. BEDROOM - DAY 3

We see Steve laying on his bed and looking at his phone. He is looking at popular people's photos on Instagram and notices all of the likes they have.

CUT TO:

4 INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT 4

We follow Steve more as he paces back and forth. We get a sense of the basement through some establishing shots.

CUT TO:

5 INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY 5

Steve and three other boys are walking down a school hallway. Steve is being pushed and called gay. Steve pushes the kid that was pushing him into some lockers.

CUT TO:

6 INT. BASMEMENT - NIGHT 6

Steve is now laying on his back on the ground. We see his fidgeting body and irregular breathing. We get a closeup on his wrecked face.

CUT TO:

7 INT. BATHROOM - DAY 7

Steve posts a picture of himself that he took in the mirror of his bathroom. He looks at multiple photos to pick the best one. We see him keep checking his phone and refreshing it to see how many likes he has.

CUT TO:

8 INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT 8

We see Steve reach for a utility knife that he sees in a tool belt. We see a closeup of utility knife being opened and closed.

CUT TO:

9 INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY 9

Steve is at school in a hallway sitting down with a group of boys. They are all insecure.

BOY 1

I think Black Lives Matter started off good, but just turned into a joke.

BOY 2

Yeah they're the ones that are racist!

BOY 1

(smiling)

They're a bunch of fucking gorillas.

All of the boys laugh quietly and awkwardly.

BOY 3

Yeah.

BOY 2

It's black supremacy.

STEVE

How are Black people the racist ones?

BOY 1

Listen to this faggot...

CUT TO:

10 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT 10

Steve is sitting on the edge of his bed. His room is trashed. He looks at his picture and sees it only has 11 likes. He doesn't know who he is. He doesn't like who he is. He's ready to give up.

CUT TO:

11 INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT 11

We see a closeup of Steve's face. Then we see a closeup of the knife being dragged across his wrist and blood coming out. Then we get another shot of the blood dripping down his arm. This shot doesn't have much sound, it is a visual. We go back to his face.

Suddenly his phone rings. He takes it out of his pocket and looks at the number. He doesn't know it. He stares at it for a second and decides to answer it anyway.

ALEC

Hey Mark!

STEVE

... You have the wrong number.

ALEC

What's your name?

STEVE

Aren't you going to... (hang up)?

ALEC

I don't know... My name is Alec, how's it going?

STEVE

I hate everything and everyone.

ALEC

(laughs)

... I bet'd we be friends.

STEVE

You... fucking hate shit?

ALEC

Uh uh. (No)

STEVE

... Do you know that song "Not Dark Yet," by Dylan?

(CONTINUED)

ALEC
Yeah I like that one.

STEVE
What about "Styrofoam Boots?"

ALEC
Wait. Is that...

STEVE
Modest Mouse.

ALEC
Yeah.

STEVE
I like em. (Beat) Did you hear they found seven planets like kinda like Earth?

ALEC
No, that's cool.

STEVE
Yeah.

ALEC
So could there be life on them?

STEVE
They said it's possible to have water on them.

ALEC
Yeah that's cool.

STEVE
Yeah.

ALEC
Alright... You alright?

STEVE
Course. How (far do you live?)... wait where do you live?

ALEC
I live in Liberty.

STEVE
Is that in Pennsylvania?

(CONTINUED)

ALEC

Uh huh.

STEVE

How far is it from York?

ALEC

I dunno... probably a good amount of hours or something, like three or four.

STEVE

... Okay

ALEC

Alright.

STEVE

... Okay, well thanks.

ALEC

Yeah of course.

STEVE

Alright... bye.

ALEC

Bye.

Steve hangs up. He sat back up about half way through the conversation.

He looks down at his phone and looks at the number that called him. He's going to remember this number.

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EXT. FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

12

Steve goes outside through his front door and stands on his porch. He looks okay, content. Then he smiles.

ROLL CREDITS

Possible Credits: "They feel most comfortable in groups. Less guilt to swallow. They are us. This is what we have become. Afraid to respect the individual. A single person within a circumstance can move one to change. To love ourself. To evolve. -Erykah Badu"

"It feels so nice to know I'm gonna be alright."