

GNAW

by

J. Michael Lewis & Jerod Brennen

FADE IN:

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

TED (mid 20's) sits alone in the dark, his face illuminated by the light from the television set.

Another night, another ZOMBIE FLICK.

He snacks on CHIPS and SODA, absolutely absorbed.

Maybe that's why he doesn't notice SHARON (mid 20's) in the hallway, watching him.

She shuffles toward him, deathly silent.

Closer, closer, closer...

She stops, right behind him.

SHARON
(whisper)
Brains...

Ted doesn't have a clue.

Sharon opens her mouth, grabs Ted's ears, and starts to GNAW on his head.

Ted SCREAMS like a little girl. Chips and soda fly through the air. He jumps up, wipes at his head.

Sharon LAUGHS her ass off.

TED
Dammit, Sharon. Stop laughing.
That's not funny.

SHARON
Yes, it is. Every time.

TED
I'm not kidding. I hate that. Hate
it. I almost pissed my pants.

She laughs even harder.

TED
You do it again, and I am gonna
piss myself. All over the floor.
And I'm not gonna clean it up.

Ted crosses the line from frightened to angry. Sharon tries to stifle her laughter.

She moves close, wraps her arms around him.

SHARON

Okay, okay. I'm done. No more.

TED

Promise?

SHARON

You really think a zombie would want your brains? She'd starve.

He pushes her away, but she doesn't let go.

She kisses his neck. He tries to resist, fails miserably. They kiss on the lips.

Sharon pulls away, heads into the kitchen.

Ted watches her leave, makes sure she's not going to prank him again. When he's positive he's safe, he sits back down and loses himself in the movie.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Sharon busies herself with the dishes. She notices the garbage can, overflowing.

SHARON

Ted, I need you to take the trash out.

TED (O.S.)

I'll get right on that.

She continues washing dishes. Ted doesn't appear.

SHARON

Ted, I'm serious. It's gross.

No reply.

SHARON

Ted!

The sounds of Ted's horror movie stop. He appears in the doorway, wary.

SHARON

What?

TED

I'm not falling for it.

SHARON

Falling for what?

TED

I don't know.

He scans the kitchen, looking for her next prank. She picks up on his mood right away.

SHARON

Ted, I'm not pranking you. Look.

She points at the garbage can. Ted hesitates.

TED

I open the lid, and I find a severed head inside. Is that it?

Now she feels bad.

SHARON

I really scared you, didn't I?

TED

No.

Lying through his teeth.

Sharon walks over to him, pulls him close.

SHARON

What do you have to be scared of, huh? With that manly chest, and those big arms...

She caresses his arm.

TED

I just don't like surprises.

SHARON

(sultry)
Sure you do.

TED

No, I don't.

SHARON

Yes, you do.

Then he picks up on her tone, on what she's hinting at.

Sharon stretches, yawns.

SHARON

I'm tired. Think I'll turn in
early.

Ted plays along.

TED

Yeah, me too.

SHARON

After you take the garbage out.

Dammit. She's got him right where she wants him.

SHARON

Maybe I'll have a surprise for you
in the bedroom when you get back.

That's all he needed to hear.

Ted grabs the trash bag out of the trash can. He's out the
door before Sharon can say a word.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - NIGHT

Outside, Ted slows down a bit. Not so confident when he's
all alone in the dark.

Ted spies the DUMPSTER, illuminated by a pool of light.

The look on his face is hesitant.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Sharon stands before the bathroom mirror.

The look on her face is seductive.

She tousles her hair, adjusts her boobs.

She's going to give Ted the time of his life.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - NIGHT

Ted slows as he approaches the dumpster. A RUSTLING SOUND.

He stops cold.

The sound stops with him.

He stands still, listens.

The wind. His breathing. His heartbeat.

He relaxes. Just his imagination.

He takes a step.

The LIGHT above the dumpster FLICKERS, DIES. Darkness.

TED
(frightened)
Shit.

In the darkness, Ted debates whether or not he should approach the dumpster or go back the way he came.

He makes his choice, moves toward the dumpster.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sharon enters the bedroom, moves toward the bed.

She fluffs the sheets on the bed.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - NIGHT

Ted tosses the garbage bag into the open dumpster. It lands on a pile of garbage.

A MOAN escapes from beneath the bags.

Ted freezes. His blood runs cold.

Another moan.

TED
Oh, Jesus.

He resists the urge to run. Instead, he moves toward the dumpster.

TED

Hey. Is somebody in there? Are you okay?

He reaches into the dumpster, shifts the bags.

Something LUNGES at him.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sharon jumps into bed, bouncing as she lands. She reaches for the light beside the bed, kills it.

She giggles, excited.

Time passes. Her excitement fades, just a bit.

She hears the kitchen door open, close.

The excitement, the anticipation, returns. She watches the bedroom door.

The sound of FOOTSTEPS shuffling down the hallway.

A man appears in the doorway.

Sharon reaches under the covers, squirms. Her hand emerges from the covers, holding her PANTIES.

She holds them up, then lets them fall to the floor.

A soft MOAN from the man in the doorway.

Sharon replies with her own MOAN.

The man enters the room. Sharon lays back.

The man climbs into bed with her. She holds perfectly still, letting him do what he wants.

He runs his fingers through her hair.

She MOANS again.

Both hands in her hair. He pulls her close to him, his lips on her shoulder.

He nips at her, tasting her.

SHARON

Come on, Ted. Quit it.

His lips move to her ear. He nibbles on her earlobe, then BITES it.

SHARON

Ow! You're killing the mood.

His lips move to her forehead. He bites down, hard.

SHARON

Dammit, Ted. That's not funny. That really hurts.

Sharon pulls away, turns on the light.

Only then does she see the ZOMBIE that her lover has become. It lunges toward her, mouth gaping.

Sharon SCREAMS.

CUT TO BLACK