

THE CHASE

Written by

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SHOOTING SCRIPT
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FADE IN:

1 **EXT. HILLSIDE - DAY**

CLOSE ON: A FLOWER.

We hear a gentle BREEZE and birds TWITTER.

TITLE:

THE CHASE

We hear rhythmic THUMPS nearby. They crescendo, until...

WHOOSH! A blurry figure rushes by, bending the flower in its wake.

The CAMERA WHIPS RIGHT and we see THE RUNNER sprint downhill. He's swift, athletic, and carries a backpack.

He reaches the bottom and breaks left onto-

2 **EXT. RAILROAD TRACKS - CONTINUOUS**

THE RUNNER merges with the rails and continues running beside them.

TIME CUT:

The Runner shuffles to a stop and checks behind him. He appears anxious. He looks off, away from the tracks, then breaks away again.

CUT TO:

3 **EXT. OPEN FIELD/TREE LINE - DAY**

THE RUNNER makes a beeline for a large tree and slides behind it. He presses his back against the trunk, catching his breath. He looks at his watch. The seconds TICK in rhythm with the THUMPS of his heartbeat.

The Runner peers back through a gap in the branches.

IN THE FIELD

THE CHASER appears. He's tall and lean. His face is concealed under a black hoodie.

He scans the tree line...

3 CONTINUED:

BEHIND THE TREE

The Runner watches the Chaser, carefully, waiting for him to make a move, but he can't stand being this close.

The Runner quietly backs away. He takes a few steps, then turns. He weaves through the trees.

The Runner reaches the top of an embankment. He descends the slope and lands onto-

4 **EXT. A DRY CREEK BED - CONTINUOUS**

THE RUNNER lands in a crouch on the sand. We follow his eyes down the creek path and see it feed into A CONCRETE TUNNEL.

The Runner checks the top of the embankment, then starts toward the tunnel.

CUT TO:

5 **INT. TUNNEL - DAY**

THE RUNNER enters and takes a knee near the wall, just inside the shadows. He listens for movement outside, but hears nothing. He's safe...for now.

The Runner removes his pack and opens it. He starts searching for something inside...

We hear a SHUFFLE. The Runner freezes. He looks further into the tunnel, listening...but it's quiet again. He returns to his pack.

Another SHUFFLE. The Runner stops again, irritated. He stares into the darkness, listening once again. The silence is disturbing...

SUDDENLY, RUNNING FOOTSTEPS come from further inside.

The Runner jumps with a start and fumbles his pack. He recovers it and frantically digs inside. He can't find what he's looking for. The STEPS get closer...

Finally, the Runner pulls out a flashlight and shines it into the darkness. An indistinct figure passes through the beam.

THE LIGHT DIES. The Runner toys with the switch, but it won't turn back on. The STEPS are dangerously close...

The Runner gives the flashlight a WHACK. IT LIGHTS. He points it toward the footsteps, right into...

5 CONTINUED:

A YOUNG WOMAN'S EYES. She stops and shields them.

The Runner gives a sigh of relief and tilts the beam down. The Woman's eyes take a second to readjust.

Once settled, the Woman motions toward the outside. The Runner signs that the Chaser is there and points the other way, instead. The Woman doesn't appear happy to go back, but nods anyway.

The Woman turns and leads the way. The Runner picks up his pack and follows her, illuminating their path with the flashlight.

CUT TO:

6 **EXT. TUNNEL EXIT - DAY**

THE WOMAN waits at the tunnel's end. THE RUNNER joins her.

The Woman motions for them to split up. The Runner agrees.

The Runner offers his hand as a gesture of goodwill. The Woman takes it and they share a moment.

The Woman releases her hand and takes off left. The Runner watches her go as he puts the flashlight away, then slings his pack on and leaves right.

CUT TO:

7 **EXT. OLD CONSTRUCTION SITE - DAY**

THE RUNNER creeps through the quiet area. He looks about for any sign of company.

VOICE (O.S.)

Psst...

The Runner hunkers down. His eyes search for the source of the voice.

VOICE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Over here.

The Runner looks toward A DIRT MOUND. A man's head pokes out from behind it. He waves at the Runner, then ducks away.

The Runner's eyes narrow. He cautiously starts toward the man.

CONTINUED:

BEHIND THE MOUND

THE OTHER sits, leaning against the dirt. He appears less athletic than the Runner.

The Runner passes into sight and the Other beckons him over.

OTHER
Have you seen him?

The Runner presses a finger to his lips, urging quiet. He joins the Other, crouching behind the mound.

RUNNER
(nods)
I just lost him.

OTHER
(incredulous)
How?

RUNNER
The tunnel.

OTHER
(impressed)
Smart.

The Runner checks over the mound.

RUNNER
We should get moving - he can't be too far.
(looking off)
Which way do you want - left or right?

OTHER
(beat)
Why don't we stick together?

The Runner gives him a doubtful look-over.

RUNNER
I don't think so.

OTHER
Come on...you must be tired, and I know some good hiding spots.

The Runner reconsiders, but not for the Other's reasoning. Someone slower could bait the Chaser...

7 CONTINUED:

RUNNER

Fine.

The Other holds out his hand. The Runner just looks at it.

RUNNER (CONT'D)

We don't need to shake on it-

OTHER

No - help me up.

The Runner gives him a look, but doesn't protest. He takes the Other's hand and lifts him up.

As they stand, the CAMERA CRANES UP to reveal THE CHASER, waiting on the other side of the mound. The Runner and the Other share a look.

OTHER (CONT'D)

RUN!!

He takes off.

The Runner hesitates, frozen in shock. The Chaser remains still. The Runner gives him a puzzled look...

The Chaser makes a gesture as if to say, "Go ahead."

The Runner pauses, unsure what to make of it, but wastes no more time - he takes off after the Other. The Chaser's gaze stays fixed on the Runner as he goes.

CUT TO:

8 **EXT. DIRT PATHWAY - DAY**

THE OTHER runs with heavy steps. He PANTS irregularly. THE RUNNER catches up and overtakes him. The Other watches, in awe of his speed...

The Other then makes a realization. He looks back to see THE CHASER gaining on him. The Other GROANS - he's not fast enough to outrun him.

The Other looks for another way out. We follow his gaze to a HILLSIDE on his right. He calls ahead:

OTHER

CHANGE OF PLANS...I'll GO RIGHT!

The Runner slows and looks back. The Other breaks toward the hill and starts to climb it. The Runner watches in disbelief.

8 CONTINUED:

The Chaser stops a distance away and follows the Runner's gaze to the Other on the hill. The Runner's eyes shift to the Chaser. He watches carefully to see what he'll do.

The Chaser's head turns from the Other to the Runner - the decision is made. The Runner knows it.

RUNNER

(sotto)

You've got to be kidding me-

He takes off. Sure enough, the Chaser follows.

The Other hears the FOOTSTEPS moving away and turns back to see they've gone. He stops climbing and collapses onto his stomach.

CUT TO:

9 **EXT. ABANDONED STORAGE BIN - DAY**

LONG TRACKING SHOT:

THE RUNNER emerges from the behind a row of trees. He rests against the bin, fighting to catch his breath...

FOOTSTEPS approach. The Runner hides on the far side of the bin.

THE CHASER emerges. He stops and scans the area, then creeps toward the bin...

The Runner hears the STEPS getting closer. He looks to the ground and picks up a rock. He quietly chucks it toward the far end of the bin and it lands with a THUD.

The Chaser whips his head toward the sound and heads that way, disappearing behind the bin.

The Runner pauses, then checks the corner...it's clear. He relaxes a moment, then hears a CRUNCH at the far end. He whips his head right. We follow his gaze to see the Chaser emerge at the far end, looking the other way.

The Runner hides on the other side of the corner just as the Chaser turns his head to where the Runner was a moment ago. The Chaser pauses, then turns back, disappearing once again.

The Runner listens, but hears nothing. He checks the corner again and sees nothing. He backs away from the bin, making glances to either side. He pulls further away, until...

9 CONTINUED:

THE CHASER IS REVEALED - still at the far end, waiting. His eyes are locked on the Runner. He charges forward...

The Runner turns to bolt...

END TRACKING SHOT

The Runner trips on an EXPOSED ROOT. His face hits the dirt.

CUT TO BLACK.

10 **EXT. TREE LINE - DAY**

POV: A blurry object comes into focus - a TREE TRUNK.

THE RUNNER lets out a GROAN. He tries to push himself up, but he's too exhausted to carry his weight. He's finished.

Leaves CRUNCH nearby. The sound gets closer...

The Runner takes a deep breath, then uses the last of his energy to flip himself over. He rests on his elbow, then looks up. His face turns expressionless. The CRUNCHING stops.

The CAMERA PULLS BACK to reveal A PAIR OF LEGS, standing in front of him.

THE CHASER looks down on the Runner, victorious. He crouches down to the Runner's eye level. He pauses, then REMOVES HIS HOOD...

The Chaser is a young man with sharp features. A smug grin appears on his face.

The Runner spits, either to remove dirt from his mouth or to show his contempt - maybe both.

RUNNER

(beat)

Well...What are you waiting for?

The Chaser scoffs. He clasps a hand on the Runner's shoulder.

CHASER

(satisfied as hell)

You're it.

The Runner closes his eyes in defeat.

CUT TO BLACK.

11 **CREDITS**