

# The Psycho

TITLES AND CREDITS

Crude white-on-black spray paint.

FADE UP ON:

INT: BEDROOM -- MORNING

STRAIGHT-DOWN ANGLE ON the PSYCHO lying in bed staring at the ceiling. He is blond, handsome, tall, and muscular. He wears black briefs and LOVE is tattooed on his arm. WE HEAR the soft ticking of an alarm clock on the bedside table.

The alarm goes off. As he sits up and shuts it off, WE SEE pills scattered on the table.

The room is shabby and disordered. There is a hot plate, a few pieces of Goodwill furniture, torn shades without curtains. The walls are scrawled with quotations about love -- everything from the Beatles (ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE) to Robert Browning (O LYRIC LOVE, HALF ANGEL AND HALF BIRD, AND ALL A WONDER AND A WILD DESIRE!) WE SEE some of these in TILTED, TIGHT SHOTS. On one wall is a giant handmade calendar with days Xed out. It's mid-February.

The Psycho gets dressed in makeshift combat gear including dogtags and spit-polished army boots. Spotting an imperceptible fleck of dust on the gleaming toe of a boot, he carefully brushes it away.

He rips off a strip of bedsheet and ties it around his head.

He pulls an aluminum suitcase from under the bed. It is fitted with state-of-the-art guns. He tapes an automatic to his ankle, conceals a sawed-off twelve-gauge in his jacket, stuffs his pockets with ammo, and grabs an assault rifle.

The Psycho is ready to start his day.

INT: HALLWAY -- MORNING

While locking the door, the Psycho sees the MILKMAN down the hall, a milk carton in each hand. He whips out the shotgun and cuts loose. The milk cartons explode as the man goes down.

The Psycho steps over the body and heads for the street.

EXT: STREET -- MORNING

As he comes down his tenement steps, a pretty black HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT skates by, books slung over her shoulder. The Psycho squeezes off a burst that sends her crashing into the curbside garbage cans, scattering her schoolbooks on the sidewalk. The skate wheels spin to a stop.

The Psycho strolls past her, eyeing a tall office building across the street. He walks toward the entrance.

INT: OFFICE BLDG. LOBBY -- DAY

The Psycho crosses the lobby and steps into an empty elevator. A LITTLE BOY and GIRL get in after him. The Little Girl looks up at him and smiles. He smiles back. The doors close and WE SEE the floor indicator rise.

INT: TOP FLOOR -- DAY

The bell dings as the doors open. The Psycho exits without a backward glance. The children lie sprawled on the floor.

The Psycho disappears into a stairwell door marked ROOF.

EXT: ROOF -- DAY

The Psycho takes out a sniper scope and snaps it on the rifle. He braces against the building and sights on an elderly couple in the park.

Through the scope, WE SEE the OLD MAN in the crosshairs feeding PIGEONS. The rifle shot startles the pigeons, and the Old Man slumps on the bench.

The scope swings to sight on the OLD WOMAN.

EXT: STREET -- DAY

TWO COPS are taking a coffee break in the patrol car as the second shot rings out.

MALE COP

Let's roll!

He peels out as his female Partner hits the siren.

EXT: OFFICE BUILDING -- DAY

The cop car skids to a halt, and the Cops race into the building. WE HEAR sporadic rifle fire in the distance.

INT: LOBBY -- DAY

The Cops rush into the lobby. A badly shaken SECURITY GUARD meets them.

GUARD  
He's on the roof.

FEMALE COP  
How do we get up there?

GUARD  
(pointing the way)  
Take the back stairs.

INT: STAIRS -- DAY

The Cops run up the steps with drawn guns.

The sound of random gunfire gets louder. They reach the roof and, pressed against the wall, edge open the outside door.

EXT: ROOF -- DAY

Encircled by spent cartridges, the Psycho unloads round after round on the unsuspecting city below. He doesn't hear the Cops sneak up behind him.

MALE COP  
Freeze! Drop it!

The Psycho throws down the rifle.

As the Cop moves in to cuff him, the Psycho snakes out the ankle gun and blows him away. The other Cop fires but misses. The Psycho wings her. She tries to make it back to the stairs, but he nails her again and she tumbles down the steps.

INT: LOBBY -- DAY

The Psycho leaves, ignoring the cringing Guard.

EXT: OFFICE BUILDING -- DAY

He passes the abandoned cop car -- doors flung open, cherry top whirling.

EXT: STREET -- DAY

On his way home, he spies a pair of rabbits frolicking in a

pet store window. He sprays the window with bullets, shattering the glass.

EXT: TENEMENT -- DAY

He wearily mounts the front steps. It's been a long day.

INT: HALLWAY -- DAY

He steps over the Milkman, careful to avoid the pools of milk splattered on the linoleum.

INT: BEDROOM -- DAY

Unlocking the door, the Psycho enters his room, and tosses the guns aside. He picks up a can of spray paint and X's out the day on the calendar -- February 14.

Sweaty, exhausted, he throws himself on the bed. In the STRAIGHT-DOWN ANGLE, WE SEE him staring at the ceiling.

WE SLOWLY PUSH IN  
On the Psycho.

He shuts his eyes. Music begins -- a scratchy old version of "Funny Valentine."

INT: HALLWAY -- DAY

In a dreamy, drifting HAND-HELD ANGLE, WE SEE the Milkman twitch.

INT: OFFICE BLDG. STAIRS -- DAY

WE FLOAT toward the Cop. She jerks alive and tries to stand.

EXT: PARK -- DAY

The Elderly Couple start to move.

INT: BEDROOM -- DAY

WE PUSH IN TIGHTER on the Psycho.

INT: HALLWAY -- DAY

The Milkman gets to his feet. He presses the doorbell of the

NEIGHBOR'S apartment. She answers -- a saucy woman in her forties -- and gives him a big kiss.

EXT: STREET -- DAY

A good-looking black HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT in a varsity jacket picks up the roller skater's books. A little chagrined, she sits on the curb adjusting a skate.

BOY STUDENT

Are you okay?

GIRL STUDENT

I'm fine.

He helps her to her feet, still holding the schoolbooks.

BOY STUDENT

I'll carry these.

INT: OFFICE BLDG. LOBBY -- DAY

The elevator doors open, and the Little Boy and Girl exit holding hands.

EXT: PARK BENCH -- DAY

The Old Man gives his companion a hug. She nestles her head on his shoulder.

EXT: OFFICE BLDG. -- DAY

The Male Cop reaches under the car seat, pulls out a satin heart-shaped box of chocolates, and hands it to his Partner.

INT: BEDROOM -- DAY

WE PUSH IN TO HEAD SHOT of Psycho. He grins.

EXT: PET STORE -- DAY

Through the unbroken window, WE SEE, in addition to the pair of rabbits, dozens and dozens of baby bunnies.

INT: BEDROOM -- DAY

WE PAN DOWN to the dogtags around Psycho's neck and MOVE IN FOR ECU. They read: CUPID.

Music ends -- "Each day is Valentine's Day..."

FADE TO  
BLACK