

HOBO

(Feature horror screenplay – 93 pages)

*Fright Night Film Festival 2016 Official Selection
Dazed 4 Horror Film Festival 2016 Winner Best Vampire Screenplay
Chicago International Film Festival 2018 Official Selection
American Filmatic Arts Festival 2018 Winner Best Feature Horror Screenplay
Indies Vision Film Festival 2019 Semi-Finalist
Out of the Can Film Festival 2020 Finalist*

“The midnight express has more than a mountain storm to contend with.”

Set in the nineteenth century American West, the hustle and bustle of every day life in the town of Penterville is interrupted by the unexpected arrival of an unconscious woman, FREDA, in a row boat floating to the town dock. She is wounded, and upon waking, begins to scream for a man by the name of Thomas.

Freda relates her memories to a DOCTOR, telling him how THOMAS, a handsome and rugged, clad in cowboy gear, introduced himself on the midnight express to Penterville. Unfortunately, she is cold to his advances and he returns to sit with his friend JACOBI.

The train's conductor, ED, his apprentice, RAYMOND, passengers MAYOR BARNES of Penterville, his rebellious bodyguard WILLIAMS, two brothers, CHESTER and EARL and newly weds ELEANOR and RANDY depart the station at midnight. Mid journey, along the mountain pass, the train has to stop to allow a faster express to pass in the opposite direction.

FREDDY, the engineer, and JUNIOR the fireman, comment on how the train is running too fast. Ed sees a man jump from the passing train. He and Freddy investigate and find a HOBO under the train wearing ragged, blood stained clothes and an ashen face. The hobo lunges for them but Freddy knocks him down. When they turn their backs he is gone.

Confident that they have eliminated the free rider, they head back inside the train. Freda calls out to Raymond insisting she just saw a man jump from the ground to the roof of the train. They don't believe her but check it out, finding nothing.

In the mail car the hobo has revealed his true nature, attacking and brutally slaying the mail clerk, CARL. Back in the main car, Randy leaves Eleanor to go for a cigarette. As Eleanor gazes out of the window, the hobo appears outside the moving train. He entices her to open the window then pulls her from the car. Now everyone is aware of the danger surrounding them, especially when Ed finds Carl's body in the mail car. When the train starts to malfunction, the crew stop it inside a tunnel to get away from the weather and examine the boiler.

Thomas and Jacobi reveal they are Pinkerton detectives working on an unusual reports of several mutilated bodies turning up on rail property, then mysteriously disappearing. They inform everyone they are looking for a vampire, and those victims who have become hideous DEMONS now gathered in the tunnel. Led by Thomas, the passengers plan to move to the locomotive, unhook the rest of the cars and escape the tunnel. The demons continue to attack the passengers armed with a few handguns, fabricated crosses and stakes fending them off, but it seems they are only delaying the inevitable, losing one after another.

Eventually only Freddy, Thomas and Freda are left in the locomotive stopped at a washed out bridge a few miles from the tunnel. Freddy insists Thomas and Freda take a nearby tethered row boat down river to Penterville while he distracts the now airborne demons taking the locomotive back to the tunnel where he will explode the boiler collapsing the tunnel and entombing the demons. They are

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reluctant to leave but Freddy insists. Freda and Thomas leave in the boat and on the river they hear the locomotive explode just as Jacobi, now a demon attacks Thomas. They struggle on the small boat causing Freda to bump her head on the boat. Jacobi and Thomas fall overboard. Freda drifts to Penterville where she is found.

As her flashback ends the doctor begins to raise a search party and locate Thomas. Freda grins and states not to worry, Thomas will find them. Horror stricken the doctor notices the bite on her neck. Freda laughs evilly, her eyes hungrily glare at him.

The End

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