

THE MONEY BAG

Story and Screenplay

by Randall Oelerich

EXT. TRAIL - WOODS - DAY

BRIT and LAURA, two young women in their twenties, hike a trail in the woods. They come across a shady tree that stands out from the other trees.

Brit stretches her leg against the tree as Laura sits, sips from her water bottle. Spots a satchel in the grass next to the tree. She opens it, dumps its contents: money, a lot of money, and a note.

Brit looks shocked at the pile of cash.

On the ground, the note is easily visible, with writing on it done with letters cut out of magazines and newspapers.

Laura picks up the note.

CLOSE ON note: One of you can keep the money but only if the other dies, now. Or you both die. I am watching you.

As Laura reads the note, she stands, then looks at Brit who is busy putting the cash back into the satchel.

Laura drops the note to the ground. Shock on her face, she is speechless.

With her back to Laura, Brit picks up wads of money and puts much of it back in the satchel.

Suddenly Laura strikes Brit on the head with a fist-size rock, sends Brit to the ground.

BRIT'S POV (blurry): Laura stands over Brit, the bloodied rock still in her hand.

CLOSE ON Brit's hand: her fingers grip a wad of money.

Brit gets to knees, then runs for her life, still clutching a wad of money.

WOODS

Cat and mouse chase as Laura, still clutching the blood stained rock, pursues a dazed Brit.

Laura catches up to Brit, bashes her again with the rock, sending Brit once again to the ground.

POND

Laura drags Brit into the water's edge.

Brit's fingers release the wad of money to the water's surface.

Laura pushes Brit's face down below the surface. Brit struggles to keep her face above water.

Laura uses one hand to grasp Brit's hair, keep a still dazed Brit in the water. Laura uses her other hand to remove her belt, wrap it around Brit's neck, tighten it around Brit's throat.

Brit claws at the belt, claws at Laura's fingers, claws Laura's hair.

Moments later, the struggle ends. Brit's body goes limp, with lifeless doll eyes. Laura let's go of Brit, let's go of her grip on the belt around Brit's neck.

Tears fall from Laura's eyes, as she realizes she just murdered her friend. She let's go of Brit's corpse, grabs the now wet and muddied wad of money that moments earlier was in Brit's hand.

Laura climbs out of the water. She is muddied, wet, primal.

WOODS

Laura, exhausted and in shock, limps back towards the tree, towards the satchel of money, only to see...

A Male Hiker stands at the tree, holds the bag of money with one hand, holds the note with his other hand. He turns, looks at Laura, looks at the wad of muddied money in her hand.

Her eyes connect with his.

Terror in her eyes.

**SMASH CUT TO
BLACK SCREEN**

THE END