

Crusoe

By: Julian Nebreda-Bello

INT. CAVE

Shot of a small growth of barley in a corner fills the frame. A teenage Robinson Crusoe, fake beard and makeup stares at it in amazement. This is a crude reconstruction of Crusoes' cave, put together with cardboard, sheets, and poor lighting. The scenery is amateurish but elaborate. Faux-Crusoe moves close to the barley and touches it with his hand, however when the frame cuts he is clearly in a different position.

JACK (off-screen)  
Alright stop right there.

The footage stops.

INT. COMPUTER LAB

Daniel, a skinny kid with a patchy beard, is hunched over a large computer on a cheap editing software. He is working on a final scene for a school project on Robinson Crusoe. Jack, the director of the piece, is looking over his shoulder. They are both Seniors in high-school.

DANIEL  
Continuity? I saw that.

JACK  
Yeah, and you know the first shot of the barley?

DANIEL  
This one?

Cut to Shot of barley on pause.

Daniel (off-screen)  
Yeah, could you add lighting around that somehow?

JACK (off-screen)

What like around it? Something like this?

Editing software appears on the image of the barley, colour levels are manipulated until it has a strange yellow hue surrounding it.

DANIEL (off-screen)

I can't really do it without it looking very artificial

JACK (off-screen)

That's good though, looks sacred in a way.

DANIEL (off-screen)

It looks fake though.

JACK (off-screen)

That's not bad. Artificial is good.

DANIEL (off-screen)

hmmm (*disagreeing*)

JACK (off-screen)

It's just how I picture it really. I mean, it's a fake revelation. Crusoe knows it's not a gift from God, just some barley that fell off from the boat, onto the cave in precisely the right place. He says as much. Artificial like that is the right mood.

Cut back to room with Jack and Daniel looking over the computer.

DANIEL

Got it. I'll put that in then.

As they keep watching the footage the sound of the film can be heard.

CRUSOE (off-screen)  
It was our english barley..

DANIEL  
This is good pacing here.

JACK  
Yeah. Hey we've got fifteen minutes before they kick us out of here. Let's look at the Tobacco scene.

DANIEL  
Sure. Footage wasn't great for that one. I worked with what we had, it's a bit too much honestly.

JACK (moves close to screen)  
hmmm.. Daniel, by the way did you hear about Mary's party? A bunch of us are going you should come with.

DANIEL  
Oh wait a second.

Cut to shot of Crusoe in cave again, sick now, bringing a light towards tobacco put together in front of him. Daniel fixes a moment of continuity. Crusoe smells in the fumes - pause.

DANIEL (off-screen)  
I don't know. I'm probably going to be busy with something else.

JACK (off-screen)  
Friday night? Come on man you can come, you should. It's going to be fun. Anyway we're all going to be there,

I'll write down the address for  
you. It'll probably start around 10. Hey  
have we got another shot of this?

Daniel (off-screen)  
No, they're all off focus.

Unpause. Crusoe falls backwards. Cut to closeup of Crusoe's eye  
taking up the entire screen. It rolls back and his eyes close.

JACK (Off-screen)  
Shit, that's pretty cool. Cut it there.

Blackout.

DANIEL  
That's all we've got so far. Maybe I'll  
stop by later.

JACK  
Yeah, I'm happy with this. It ends with  
a punch.

EXT. OUTSIDE SCHOOL - Midafternoon

Jack and Daniel are sitting next to each other at a bus stop  
with their backpacks, waiting to make their way home.

JACK  
I think the projects going really well.

DANIEL  
Yeah it's alright.

JACK  
I mean what we've got so far works. The  
material is pretty difficult though.  
(pause) Are you going anywhere for

spring break?

DANIEL

I'm thinking about going somewhere.

JACK

Any ideas?

DANIEL

Maybe south.

JACK

South is good. Anyway man, here's my bus. I'll see you tonight then maybe. If not monday.

They shake hands as Jack boards his bus. Daniel sits alone for a minute. He looks at his watch, puts on his headphones gets up and starts walking home.

Daniel stops in front of his standard suburban home. He looks to the street on the left, there's a large group of people gathered in front of a car. He walks over.

NEIGHBOR (steps towards him)

You better turn around son. It's pretty ugly

Jack waves his neighbour off and gets slightly closer. A Labrador has been run over. His family is around him. The body is limp and lifeless.

DANIEL

Sorry, I'll go.

Daniel walks back home and goes in.

INT. HOME

DANIEL

Mom, Dad, I'm home I think the  
Robertson's dog died... Mom? Dad?

Daniel walks into different rooms calling for his parents the house is empty for some reason.

DANIEL

Hello?

Daniel makes his way to kitchen where he sees a note over the counter.

C/U note: "Dan, your grandfather is in the hospital. We're visiting right now, might stay overnight. PICK UP YOUR PHONE!  
-Mom"

Daniel puts note down. He opens the fridge. There's no food. He serves himself a glass of water, goes to his living room and sits on the couch. He calls his mother.

DANIEL

Hey it's me. Yeah. mh hm. Sure. Yeah. Alright  
sorry. not it's ok, I'm not hungry. yes. Bye.

Daniel drinks some water, and takes out Robinson Crusoe from his backpack. He starts to read.

INT. House - Nighttime

Daniel wakes up suddenly from dozing off. He looks at his watch. It's 9 PM. He opens his book again and notices the address for Mary's party. He looks at it for a second, keeps reading, and suddenly gets up and leaves the house.

EXT. MARY'S HOUSE - Nighttime

Daniel reaches a home that looks the exact same as his. There's music coming from inside and a few beers are on the porch. He

walks up to it.

NEIGHBOR 2 (from behind fence)  
You going in there?

DANIEL  
What? Oh sorry. Yes.

NEIGHBOR 2  
What's your business in there?

DANIEL  
ugh. I don't know. I've got a. I'm  
seeing Jack, he told me this was-

NEIGHBOR 2  
I don't know any Jack! Listen,  
tell whoever's throwing this  
little get together to keep it  
quiet. We need sleep and I'll call  
the cops if I have to, got it?  
There's going to be repercussions  
to this you understand?

DANIEL  
Got it.

DANIEL rings on the doorbell and a girl, Mary opens the door.  
She is very pretty and has bloodshot red eyes.

MARY  
Hey Daniel hahaha didn't expect to  
see you here hahahaha, sorry I'm  
laughing at this joke I just  
heard. Oh god. Ah! It's nice  
surprise hahahaha.

DANIEL  
Yeah uh.. Jack told me the

address. Is he around?

MARY

Yeah, he's just around there.

She points in the general direction of the party behind her and laughs. Daniel walks into the party. The room is lit darkly and music is playing in the background. A mountain of people are passed out on the couch and while two men independently move erratically to the music. Daniel sees Jack at the bar in the back.

DANIEL

Hey Jack! Jack, this place is kindof freaky

JACK

Hey who the fuck are you! Don't touch me.

DANIEL

Wait! It's me, I'm Daniel

JACK

Oh fuck. Fuck. Sorry Daniel. I thought you were one of those fucking... that. that guy mark. Came up to me earlier all big you know and said: hey give me your drink or I'll hit you. You know what I said? I said go ahead hahaha! I was thinking who's this guy you know. I'm the king here. Anyway man what's up?

DANIEL

Nothing really.

JACK

Alright then! Sounds great, have fun I'll see you.

Jack runs off to the dance floor and joins the two other men dancing. He looks at one of the other men and punches him in the face, they brawl and a group gathers around. Daniel turns away. He serves himself a drink, takes a long sip, and moves to another room.

INT. ANOTHER ROOM.

Daniel walks in to find a circle of people huddled in the dark. They've got a bowl filled with Tobacco leaves. They are all quiet and have their eyes closed. One of them (a girl) lights a match and lowers it into the fire slowly. They each come near it and inhale. Daniel sits in the circle. He looks at the fire and looks around. He tries to say something but doesn't. He inhales deeply and falls backwards on his head.

INT. ANOTHER ROOM. - MORNING

Daniel gets up. There is bright sunlight coming in from the window and he is alone. The room is completely deserted and there's almost no evidence that someone was there in the first place. He gets up and looks around. He is in a bedroom alone. He touches the back of his head, there is a bit of blood, not much. He leaves the room.

Outside in the main party area everything has been cleared out. The house is completely lit now, but looks desolate. Not only are there no people or evidence of a party around, but with the light he can tell that there's no decoration at all in the main room. No rug, nor TV, nor portraits. Just a couch and a big seat, alone where they were before.

Daniel goes up to the couch, there are seating marks on it. He moves into the kitchen, there's an empty beer can on the ground. He picks it up and looks at it.

Daniel looks at the fridge and realizes how hungry he is. He opens it. It is completely filled with all sorts of different

meats, vegetables, fruits, drinks and other products. He spots a pre-made sandwich, looks around and takes it. Behind it he sees the face of the dog he had seen earlier, ran over by a car. Wordless and stoic, Daniel closes the fridge. He walks out of Maria's house.

Daniel looks at the morning son, opens his sandwich takes a bite, and walks toward it.