

Pledge Education

A Screenplay by

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Black

The Credits dissolve slowly and movement can be seen on the screen.

1 Fraternity House - Night

We are seeing the room from a person's view and his vision is hazy. All the shots in this scene should be hazy. He is drunk. We hear a group of people chanting rambunctiously. After several moments the noise becomes audibly college men drinking.

John

Drink!

Multiple Men

Common! / Faster! / Pledge!

We continue to follow the person throughout the room. All the while their vision is getting worse. Multiple people in the room are going through an obstacle course. At each new obstacle the person grabs multiple cups and shot glasses.

Pledge Educator

3...2...1...GO!!!

We can see that they are drinking a lot by the number of cups they reach for. Finally we get to what looks like a flight of stairs. The screen fades in and out of black and the hazy until it hits a jolt. The person has fallen down the stairs.

Pledge Educator

Shit!

CUT.

The scene moves to slow motion. The men all scatter. Some run to the aid of Johnson. Others run out of the room.

CUT

Slow motion ends and the men asses the situation.

Multiple Men
What happened? / Oh god.

CUT.

We are now looking through the perspective of Johnson. The iris of the camera opens and closes a few times to simulated the person's eyes opening and closing. Finally the eyes shut off completely.

CUT.

2 Dean's Office - Day

Over the shoulder shot of the Dean. She is sitting across from two young men. By the looks of it we can tell there is tension in the room.

Dean Brown
Gentlemen.

CUT.

Over the shoulder shot looking at the two boys. The dean is tapping clicking her pen. She is reading a report that is in front of her on her desk.

Dean Brown (Cont'd)
How did we get here?

CUT.

Close up shot of Dean Brown. She is staring down the two men. The two men do not say a word.

CUT.

Profile view of the scene at hand. The young men still have not said a word. We can tell that they are nervous and have irregular breathing.

CUT.

Over $\frac{3}{4}$ shot at an angle over the shoulder of the men facing Dean Martin. Slow soon into a close up.

Dean Brown Cont'd)
What happened?

CUT.

3 Fraternity House - Night

Flash back to the night of the haze only this time everything can be seen perfectly. The new members are sitting in the living room listening to an older member speak.

Pledge educator
Gentlemen...Welcome to the Education.

CUT.

Pan around the fraternity house to an array of obstacle courses. Each obstacle is equipped with an assortment of alcohol and drinking games. Stationed at each obstacle are older members ready to engage in these challenges.

Pledge educator
You have 3 hours to complete the course.

The pledge educator pulls out his phone to show a timer.

Pledge educator
Are there any questions before we start?

CUT.

Camera panning around the room. A young man raises his hand.

Pledge educator
Johnson, whats up?

Mitchel Johnson, pledge, wearing a watch, stands up tall and asks his question.

Johnson
What happens if we don't complete
the course.

CUT.

Camera over the shoulder of Johnson facing the Pledge educator.

Pledge educator
I'm glad you asked Johnson.

CUT.

Wide shot showing other older members looking intimidating. The camera slowly zooms Close up on Pledge educator.

Pledge Educator (Cont'd)
Failure to complete the course will
result in immediate removal from this
organization.

CUT.

4 Outside of the Fraternity House - Night

Police lights flashing. Camera panning around to see 2 squad cars and an ambulance.

CUT.

Camera following medics running into the house with the stretcher.

CUT.

Camera following Stretcher being wheeled out of the house. A body can be seen on the stretcher partly covered. We see the watch that Johnson was wearing on the wrist of the body.

Medic

What happened?

Pledge Educator

We don't know, we were all just hanging out.

Medic

How much did he have to drink.

Pledge Educator

I don't know, he was fine an hour ago.

Officer

Come with me son.

CUT.

Pledge educator talking to police officer by the squad car. He isn't saying anything, only nodding to what the officer is saying.

CUT.

5 Dean's Office - Day

Back in the Dean's office we see that it is still the same day. Everything that was shown in the past two scenes are flashbacks. Camera over the shoulder of boys focused on Dean Martin. She continues to read through the files.

Dean Brown

Where were you the night of October 11th?

CUT.

Angle $\frac{3}{4}$ shot towards the Pledge educator. He hesitated a moment and then speaks.

Pledge Educator

I was in the chapter room with the pledges.

Dean Brown

Mr. Andrews?

CUT.

¾ shot of Mark Andrews President of the Fraternity. Andrews is visibly frustrated.

Michael Andrews

I was in my room studying for an Econ test.

Dean Brown

So neither of you saw what happened?

Michael Andrews

I can't speak for James. I was studying for Econ and then I went to sleep.

CUT.

Camera moves to an over the shoulder shot of James (Pledge Educator).

James (Pledge Educator)

He wasn't around. Why did you call him in here?

CUT.

Wide shot of the three of them.

Dean Brown

You are both in positions of leadership within Phi Kappa Kappa. Someone must have seen what happened and if they did not, that is negligent on your part.

CUT.

6 Johnson House - Night

We cut to a close up of a cell phone ringing. On the screen we can see that there are several missed calls.

Mr. Johnson

Honey, can you grab that for me.

On the screen we see a message saying "Call Now!!!"

CUT.

Mrs. Johnson picks up the cell phone and listens to the message.

Mrs. Johnson
Matthew.

We see a horrified look come upon Mrs. Johnson's face. She turns to Mr. Johnson.

Mr. Johnson
Who's calling me?

Mrs. Johnson
Mitch...he's hurt.

CUT.

Close up of Mr. Johnson reaching for his keys.

CUT.

Shot of the back of the car for a few moments.

CUT.

Shot of of the front of the car. Mrs. Johnson is on the phone, and Mr. Johnson is nervously driving.

CUT.

Back to the shot from scene 4. Police lights flashing. Camera panning around to see 2 squad cars and an ambulance. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson get out of their car as the stretcher comes out. Mrs. Johnson Shrieks

Mrs. Johnson
Mitch!!!

CUT.

Slow motion shot of Mrs. Johnson running to the stretcher. Mr. Johnson comes to stop her. The police also stop her from getting to the stretcher.

Police
Please stay back.

Mrs. Johnson is crying.

Mr. Johnson
Please, that's our son.

CUT.

7 Fraternity House - Night

The scene is lively. The gentlemen are moving through the obstacle course. We arrive on a flip cup table where Mitch is being forced to take a pull.

James (Pledge Educator)
Drink Johnson!

Johnson
Yes sir!

Johnson drinks so much that he ends up spitting up the vodka.

James
Drop and give me 20 for spilling
the drink.

Without hesitation Johnson gets down and gives him twenty.

CUT.

The camera cuts around the room in slow motion. Pledges are drinking, spitting up alcohol, doing wall sits, and doing pushups.

CUT.

8 Dean's Office - Day

Back to Dean Brown's office. Wide shot of Dean Brown, James, and Michael Andrews. The boys are still being quite. Dean Brown proceeds to move through the documents.

Dean Brown

If no one knows what happened then we will have to proceed with shutting down the chapter.

Michael Andrews

How is Mitch?

James

Yeah, is he feeling better?

CUT.

Over the shoulder between both boys facing Dean Brown. She looks up from her sheets.

Dean Brown

Unfortunately I cannot discuss his case until we have more information.

CUT.

Over the shoulder of Dean Brown capturing the boys discouraged look. Dean Brown notices this and softens.

CUT.

Camera to $\frac{3}{4}$ angle shot of Dean Brown.

Dean Brown (Cont'd)

Listen, I know you are worried about your friend, but you were negligent. The last thing we want is to shut down the chapter, but with no answers we can only assume that this problem will not fix itself.

CUT.

Over the shoulder of Dean Brown capturing the boys. They sit up.

Michael Andrew

If you don't need anything else from us, can we go? I have to study for my midterm.

CUT.

Dean Brown

We will call you if we need anything more.

The boys get up and walk out the door.

CUT.

9 Fraternity House - Night

The Pledge educator is in the chapter room with all of the pledges. The camera pans around the room as they all wait for instructions. The president, Michael Andrews comes in to address the group.

Michael Andrews

Gentlemen...we had an unacceptable thing happen. One of our new brothers had a few too many and now the administration is threatening to shut us down. If anyone has information on what happened that night, please give it to James.

James

Thank you Michael. I will keep you updated with what we find out.

CUT.

Michael walks out of the chapter room.

CUT.

Shot of the crowd of pledges with James in front of them.

James (Cont'd)

Did anybody see anything Friday night?

CUT.

The camera pans around the room as one at a time the new members shrug off the question. Finally, one pledge stands.

James (Cont'd)

Carter, what did you see?

Carter

Nothing sir. No one saw anything.

James

Good.

CUT.

Scene 10 Dean's Office - Day

Front shot of the Dean at her desk. She is scrolling through her email. She looks down at the files in front of her when there is an email ding sound.

CUT.

Over the shoulder of the Dean we see that she has a new email. She scrolls through it and sighs. We see pictures from the crime scene. The obstacle course destroyed, the body, and the general scene of the crime.

CUT.

Close up of the Dean. She rubs her temples, and opens up an email. She types the email and we hear the sound of an email sending.

Scene 11 Study room - Day

Over the shoulder shot of Johnson in the study room. He has airpods in and is studying for a test. A cell phone ding is heard.

CUT.

We see the screen of the phone as Johnson pulls it out. There is a message from Grace. Next to the contact name Grace we see a heart emoji. The following sequence is all over text.

Grace (Message)
Hey! Are you free tonight?

Johnson (Message)
I wish, we have a long meeting tonight.

Grace (Message)
Be safe please!

Johnson (Message)
Haha...I'll be fine. They told us it will be a rough night, but everyone goes through this to join the chapter.

Grace (Message)
Okay...well i'll miss you.

CUT.

Front shot of Johnson in the study room. He closes his phone and gets back to studying.

Scene 12 Dean's Office - Day

Shot over the shoulder of the two boys looking at the Dean.

Dean Brown

Thank you for coming back today.

The two boys do not talk. The Dean's expression indicates that the situation has worsened.

Dean Brown (Cont'd)

Gentlemen, the committee has come to a conclusion.

CUT.

The shot cuts to a ¾ angle shot of the two boys. They sit up in the seats and wait for the news.

Michael Andrews

What's the verdict Dean Brown?

CUT.

The shot moves back to Dean Brown. She hands the boys screenshots of the pictures from her email.

Dean Brown

We have received our full police report.

CUT.

Camera moves back to the boys. They flip through the sheets.

Dean Brown

Your chapter is being charged with being in violation of a dozen campus policies. They are detailed in the packets that have been handed to you.

The boys flip through the packets for a moment longer.

James
What does this mean for us?

CUT.

The camera goes back to Dean Brown

Dean Brown
Due to the nature of the situation, the brothers
of Phi Kappa Kappa are being charged with the
Hazing of Mitchel Johnson the University and the
Police will now begin their investigation.

CUT.

Scene 13 Dorm Room - Late Afternoon

The camera follows Johnson as he runs into Grace and gives her a
big hug and a kiss on the cheek.

Grace
I'm glad I caught you.

Johnson
Me too.

The pair lock hands and walk towards the fraternity house.

Grace
Are you nervous for tonight?

Johnson stays quiet and doesn't answer. They continue to walk
for a little.

CUT.

We are looking straight at the couple walking.

Grace
Hey what's up?

The pair stop walking as they talk.

Johnson

I just want to make sure I don't
lose control.

Grace

Just trust yourself, you will be
alright.

The pair kiss.

Johnson

Thank you.

They hug and Johnson walks into the house. The camera pans to
Johnson walk into the house.

CUT.

Scene 14 Dean's Office - Day

We come back to the same scene we left when the boys found out
the police would be taking over the situation.

Michael Andrews

Are we going to be arrested?

Dean Brown

That's up to what the investigation
turns out. For now, we really need
you to tell us what happened?

The boys sit back in their seats and contemplate what to say.

CUT.

The camera moves back to Dean Brown.

Dean Brown (Cont'd)

We are trying to help you. If you don't want our help there is nothing else we have to talk about.

Dean Brown proceeds to pack her things up.

Michael Andrews

Wait.

Dean Brown sits back down and pulls out a notepad.

Dean Brown

Start from the beginning.

CUT.

Scene 15 Fraternity House - Night

The scene is back to the fraternity house. All of the pledges are sitting in the room. James is talking to all of the pledges.

James

Gentlemen, welcome to your pledge education. Please take a few moments and find a buddy.

CUT.

Johnson turns to the guy next to him and they begin a conversation.

Johnson

Hey, I don't really drink.

Matt

Common, we'll be fine.

Johnson

It can't be that much, right?

Matt

Dude, this is Phi Kappa Kappa.
What do you think?

CUT.

Camera pans back over to the Pledge educator who is standing with upperclassmen who are looking intimidating.

James (Pledge educator)
You have 3 hours to complete
the course.

The pledge educator pulls out his phone to show a timer.

James (Pledge educator)
Are there any questions before
we start?

CUT.

Camera panning around the room. A young man raises his hand.

James (Pledge educator)
Johnson, whats up?

Mitchel Johnson, pledge, wearing a watch, stands up tall and asks his question.

James (Pledge educator)
What happens if we don't complete
the course.

CUT.

Camera over the shoulder of Johnson facing the Pledge educator.

Pledge James (Pledge educator)
I'm glad you asked Johnson.

CUT.

Close up on Pledge educator.

James (Pledge educator) (Cont'd)
Failure to complete the course will
result in immediate removal from this
organization.

CUT.

Scene 16 Hospital - Day

Shot opens on the Johnson's. They are in a hospital room standing over someone. Mr. Johnson turns away and we see Mitchel lying in the bed with a feeding tube.

CUT.

Birds eye view of the room. We see Mitchel lying motionless. Mrs. Johnson is now holding Mitchel's hand praying.

CUT.

Shot of the door as Mr. Johnson walks back in.

Mr. Johnson
Honey, do you need anything?

CUT.

Wide shot of the hospital room door from the corner of the room so that Mitchel, Mrs. Johnson, and Mr. Johnson can be scene. Mrs. Johnson is whispering under her breath.

Mrs. Johnson
Please wake up.

Mr. Johnson
Honey?

Mrs. Johnson

What?

Mr. Johnson

Do you need anything?

Mrs. Johnson

Not right now, thank you.

Mr. Johnson turns to leave

CUT.

Scene 17 Office - Day

Tight shot of the two boys and Dean Brown.

Dean Brown

Anything you can tell us will help.

Michael Andrews

Ok...Who's side are you on.

CUT.

Shot opens pans out to a wide shot revealing two men in official suits. These are university Lawyers. Next to them is a detective. We know he is a detective because he has a badge and a side arm.

Dean Brown

We just want to get to the truth.

James

If you want the truth, then why is Michael here?

Dean Brown

He is the president, and thus any verdict that comes down will directly

affect him. Now if you will, please follow Detective Smith to be questioned.

The boys stand up and leave the room.

CUT.

Scene 18 Conference room - Day

We are in a conference room. There is a tape recorder on the table and the detective has a legal pad. Both lawyers are also in the room.

Detective Smith
Gentlemen, what happened?

CUT.

Tight shot on the two boys. As one of them opens their mouth to speak we cut to the next scene.

CUT.

Scene 19 Fraternity House - Night

We see the obstacle course from Scene 1. This time, nothing is hazy. We see the scene as if he is not intoxicated. We are seeing the room from a person's view and his vision is hazy. All the shots in this scene should be hazy. He is drunk. We hear a group of people chanting rambunctiously. After several moments the noise becomes audibly college men drinking.

John
Drink!
Multiple Men
Common! / Faster! / Pledge!

We continue to follow the person throughout the room. All the while their vision is getting worse. Multiple people in the room are going through an obstacle course. At each new obstacle the person grabs multiple cups and shot glasses. The upperclassmen are taunting Mitch and getting him to drink more.

Pledge Educator
3...2...1...GO!!!

We can see that they are drinking a lot by the number of cups they reach for. Finally we get to what looks like a flight of stairs. The screen fades in and out of black and the hazy until it hits a jolt. The person has fallen down the stairs.

Pledge Educator
Shit!

CUT.

The scene moves to slow motion. The men all scatter. Some run to the aid of Johnson. Others run out of the room.

CUT

Slow motion ends and the men asses the situation.

Multiple Men
What happened? / Oh god.

CUT.

We are now looking through the perspective of Johnson. The iris of the camera opens and closes a few times to simulated the person's eyes opening and closing. Finally the eyes shut off completely.

CUT.

Scene 20 Coffee Shop - Day

We are in a coffee shop There is a tape recorder on the table and the detective has a legal pad. He is sitting across from Mitchel Johnson's Girlfriend Grace.

Detective Smith
Where were you the night of the incident.

CUT.

$\frac{3}{4}$ angle shot facing Grace.

Grace

I was in class and then I saw Mitchel
before he went into the house.

Detective Smith

In your own words, what happened?

Scene 21 Hospital - Night

Wide shot of Mrs. Johnson, and Mitchel in the hospital bed. We see that Mitchels hand starts to move. Mrs. Johnson runs to get help.

CUT.

Nurses take out the feeding and breathing tube.

Nurse

Alright, cough for me Mitch.

CUT.

Close up on Mitchel face. His eyes open up.

Johnson

What happened?

END