

"Voracious"

Screenplay by

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FADE IN:

EXT. KOMODO ISLAND - MELCHA - DAY

A lot of slopes, volcanic ridges, and one main mountain peak. Some areas are barren while others are coarse and grassy with lots of scrub brush.

Nestled near the sandy beach is a poor fishing village. Tattered structures built up on stilts crowd a small area. Dark-skinned INHABITANTS wander about, doing their daily chores.

A few outriggers float next to a ratty old dock. Another of the boats stands a hundred yards from shore. Men on board catch a few fish with a weathered net.

A large fenced-in area off to the side contains a couple dozen goats. Two village WOMEN tend to them. They chat in their native language of Bajo.

MONSTER'S VIEW

From the edge of jungle. A heavy BREATHING is quiet as something watches the appetizing goats so close-by. The women head around to the front. The view suddenly charges toward the pen.

BACK TO SCENE:

The goats panic, crowding together to the far side of the pen and BLEATING.

Suddenly, a goat is yanked to the ground and pulled through the lower opening. It struggles to free itself. Despite its desperate efforts, the predator drags the goat across the ground to the woods.

A long, grayish lizard tail is all that can be seen of the predator as it leaves a blood trail behind.

One of the women who had tended to the goats rushes back to the pen. She suddenly stops, her eyes wide in terror at the sight of the blood leading away from the pen.

EXT. INDONESIA - LABUHAN BAJO - HARBOR - DAY

Boats come and go in the busy port. Most are sightseeing craft. TOURISTS are abundant. LOCALS run the show, assisted by some AUSTRALIANS.

New arrivals are taken by bus to a nearby resort that towers over the beach.

A nice mid-sized tour boat, the "Buaya Darat" prepares for departure.

EXT. BUAYA DARAT - DOCKED - DECK - SAME TIME

Through a trap door in the deck, WILL LANDEN (30s), a native-born Australian, real wilderness expert, runs a last minute check on the engine.

SAL (25), a crewmate of Indonesian heritage, jogs up to him. He speaks with a slight Bajo accent.

SAL
Our guests arrive.

Will closes the trap door. A natural Australian accent enhances his charm.

WILL
And a beautiful day it is for a trip.

He grabs a clean towel, wipes his dirty hands on it.

SAL
When are we getting the big boat you keep talking about so we sail around the world?

WILL
In due time, Sal. Boats aren't cheap.

Both eye a group of young Americans that board the gantry, three MEN and three WOMEN.

WILL
Americans? They're always good for extra bucks.

They share a laugh.

The group of tourists waits patiently at the bow. BRENT RICHARDS (21), one who speaks before he thinks, is in charge. His girlfriend, MARLA LINTON (20), a wealthy socialite type, cuddles with him.

MARLA
This is so romantic.

BRENT
That's my middle name, doll.

MARLA
Your middle name's George.

Brent takes a nervous look around them to make sure no one heard. They haven't.

BRENT
That's our little secret, remember?

Marla cuddles closer with an amused smile.

MARLA
Maybe if you bribe me, it'll stay
that way.

Brent gives her a long kiss.

Nearby, RUSSELL ANDERS (22), jock-type, lower IQ than a rock, holds hands with JENNIFER KRAMER (21), an eternal cheerleader.

JENNIFER
I'm not so sure about this, Russell.
You know I'm not much of an outdoor
girl.

RUSSELL
Ever heard of the "mile high club"?

JENNIFER
Of course.
(proud)
I happen to be a member.

RUSSELL
You're about to become a member of
the "ocean tide" club, too. It's
very exclusive.

JENNIFER
Really? How many member are there?

Russell takes Jennifer into his arms.

RUSSELL
We'll be the first.

JENNIFER
(excited)
Can I be president?

RUSSELL
You can be anything you want.

Jennifer beams.

Next to them, CHARLIE ALEXANDER (21), complete nerd with glasses, leans back against the rail, his arms crossed. AMBER DENNING (21), well-dressed in a short skirt, stands alone further down the deck.

Marla removes a compact from her small purse and uses the mirror to check her face. She touches up spots of makeup with her fingers.

MARLA

God, I look a mess.

RUSSELL

What's the difference? Your makeup won't last underwater anyway.

MARLA

That shows how much you know. I bought waterproof make-up for this trip.

RUSSELL

Yeah, gotta look good for the fish.

Marla slams her compact closed and steps off to face him.

MARLA

You know what?

Brent pulls her back to him, holding Marla in his arms.

BRAD

He isn't worth it, babe. Concentrate on me here.

He plants a long kiss on Marla's lips.

RUSSELL

I think I'm going to toss the eggs I had for breakfast.

Jennifer presses up against him.

JENNIFER

It wouldn't hurt you to learn from Brent.

She kisses Russell, but he breaks out of it quickly.

RUSSELL

Not now, okay?

Jennifer steps back, disappointed.

Russell turns his attention to Charlie.

RUSSELL

Charlie, cat got your tongue?

CHARLIE

No.

RUSSELL

We know Amber doesn't have it.

Brent and Russell laugh, doing a high-five in the midst.

CHARLIE

You guys are a riot.

Russell places a friendly arm around his shoulders.

RUSSELL

You're our pal. If you can't razz a
bud--

He turns Charlie to face Amber.

RUSSELL

Just look at her. She likes you,
but you won't even give her a chance.

CHARLIE

She's out of my league.

BRENT

He's right, man. Amber's got a thing
for you. Maybe it's a geek fetish,
but whatever it is, you need to take
advantage.

MARLA

(to Charlie)

I'll talk to her about you when I
get the chance... see what she really
thinks.

CHARLIE

No, that isn't--

Will strides up to the group, interrupting Charlie in mid-speech.

WILL

Hello, everyone. I'm Will Landen,
your host for this excursion.

Jennifer passes a challenging glance back at Russell as she goes to Will.

JENNIFER

You're Australian.

WILL

Yes, ma'am.

Jennifer slips her arm around his.