

HUNGER

By

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Based on:

Hisashi Eguchi's "Fasting"

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EXT. STAIRCASE - MORNING

1

We see two CHUBBY LEGS stomping on the concrete of the stairs that lead up to a door.

We finally see OPHELIA's face, a sweaty blob of fat, who has taken a break from climbing up these five steps.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

2

We see a typical middle aged MOM, cleaning up in the kitchen. The years have not been kind to her.

Ophelia BURSTS in.

OPHELIA

Hey, mom

Ophelia continues to rampage through the apartment, paying no mind to her mother's surprise.

MOM

What's wrong? I thought you'd left for school already.

OPHELIA

My hair clip.

MOM

Wh-

OPHELIA

The clip that has the flower that's pink - that hair clip - where is it?

MOM

Your room?

Ophelia thinks for a second.

OPHELIA

Thanks!

MOM

Why do you need it? Aren't you going to be late?

OPHELIA

(O.S)

Because I forgot today was Tuesday!

(CONTINUED)

MOM  
...What's so special about Tuesday?

INT. OPHELIA'S ROOM - MORNING

3

Ophelia rummages through a pile of clothes. The dominant color in her room is pink, and it's decorated with all things Japan. Ophelia is a true otaku.

In a certain light, the dolls and posters look somewhat unnerving.

OPHELIA  
Tuesdays and Thursdays I have BIO class, and I always walk by Jacob before class, by the vending machines.

She finally pulls out a

PINK HAIR CLIP

from the pile of clothes

OPHELIA  
And so I always say hi to Jacob, and I wanna look my best.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

4

Ophelia re-appears in the living room, holding the hair clip.

MOM  
Jacob?

OPHELIA  
Yeah.

MOM  
...Oh! Is this the boy you were-

Ophelia fixes her hair in the living room mirror and snaps on the hair clip.

OPHELIA  
Uh-huh.

Mom goes to fix Ophelia's hair clip and Ophelia dodges her hand.

(CONTINUED)

OPHELIA

Eh, only look, no touchy.

She continues to fix herself in the mirror.

MOM

...Is he cute?

OPHELIA

Well, I think he's cute. He's nice to me.

MOM

Mmm... Are you gonna ask him out?

OPHELIA

Oh, I don't know, maybe, I really like him.

MOM

Well, hurry up now, you don't wanna be late for class.

OPHELIA

Okay, bye mom!

Ophelia kisses her mother on the cheek and reaches behind her to grab a donut.

She puts the donut in her mouth before she grabs her backpack and turns for the door.

OPHELIA

Love you!

The door

SLAMS

behind Ophelia.

INT. SAINT LAWRENCE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

5

Students in anime style uniforms rush the hallways, heading to their classes.

We see JACOB, a typical high school boy, not outstandingly pretty, and ETHAN, a more muscular and taller boy, by the vending machines.

Jacob tries to get the machine to take his dollar bill.

(CONTINUED)

ETHAN

It's too crumply, it's not gonna go  
in like that.

Jacob tries stretching it over the corner of the vending  
machine.

JACOB

Maybe it's fake. I always wondered  
how my dad could afford to give me  
my allowance.

Ophelia runs through the hallway, stops abruptly at the  
sight of Jacob. She tries to collect herself.

OPHELIA

(out of breath)

Hey...Jacob...I...Sorry, Just need  
to, um, how are you? What's up?

JACOB

Hey Ophi, just trying to buy some  
Twizzlers.

OPHELIA

You've got it backwards.

JACOB

Wh-

OPHELIA

The dollar bill, the face is  
supposed to be facing you.

Jacob tries it and the dollar bill goes in.

JACOB

Oh well, whaddya know? Awesome.

A long, awkward pause.

OPHELIA

So, urm, did you know there's a  
Lord of The Rings marathon on  
Friday?

JACOB

Urm, no, I hadn't heard.

OPHELIA

Well, it's just that, I know those  
are, like, your favorite movies...  
I guess what I'm trying to say is

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

OPHELIA (cont'd)  
that we could, like, get together  
and watch them?

JACOB  
Oh... Uh, when?

OPHELIA  
Well, Friday.

JACOB  
Oh, right. It's just that, I'm busy  
Friday.

ETHAN  
Yeah, we're gonna be in... baseball  
practice all day.

OPHELIA  
Oh... Well, maybe we can rent them  
and watch them another day, I just  
thought it would be really cool if  
we could-

JACOB  
Ophelia, I'm not, urm, looking for  
anything like that... like,  
girlfriend stuff I mean.

OPHELIA  
Oh... I mean, no, me neither! I  
just thought we could hang out..

JACOB  
Yeah no, and that's totally cool, I  
just don't want you to get the  
wrong impression.

OPHELIA  
Oh, I just, I thought, you know,  
because you said I was cool and all  
that maybe-

JACOB  
And you are! It's just, you're  
just... not my type.

OPHELIA  
Oh? What is your type then?

JACOB  
My type? My type...well, someone  
kinda like you, but, who's not,

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JACOB (cont'd)  
well like something like, you know,  
someone who's more...not so... big?

Ophelia's world comes crashing down, as if he had been the only person to have ever pointed out her defect. Her face is full of shock and pain.

OPHELIA  
Oh, okay, well, bye Jacob.

Ophelia runs past Jacob, trying to hold back tears.

ETHAN  
Dude....

JACOB  
Shit, I know. It just slipped out,  
I swear. Fuck.

ETHAN  
I mean, she could stand to lose a  
few pounds.

JACOB  
Or a lot.

Ethan looks at Jacob disapprovingly.

JACOB  
(Shrugging)  
Hey, it's the truth.

INT. SAINT LAWRENCE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

6

The hallways are empty. Everything is quiet except for the muffled sobs of Ophelia, who sits on the steps of a solitary staircase.

JASMINE, a strangely beautiful girl with a rough edge, walks down the steps and sits beside Ophelia.

JASMINE  
Hey, loser.

OPHELIA  
Go to hell, Jasmine.

JASMINE  
Woah, you can't talk to your big  
sis like that, you little runt...  
Okay, c'mon, Ophi, tell me what's  
wrong.

(CONTINUED)

Ophelia looks at her incredulously.

JASMINE

Tell me. I promise not to make fun of you.

OPHELIA

What are you even doing here?

JASMINE

I could ask you the same thing.

OPHELIA

I told Mr. Erikson I wasn't feeling well and that I was going to the nurse's office... You?

JASMINE

Oh, I always cut Mrs. Holifield's class. She's a bitch.

OPHELIA

You did sleep with her ex.

JASMINE

He was hot. Oh, so now I have to martyr myself? Fuck her for not knowing how to please a guy.

Jasmine picks her teeth with her tongue, picks up what looks like a piece of food with her hand and flicks it.

OPHELIA

Jacob said I was fat.

JASMINE

What?

OPHELIA

He said I was fat and that he wasn't going to go out with me... ever.

JASMINE

Because of your circumference?

OPHELIA

Basically.

JASMINE

Shit... I never liked him.

(CONTINUED)

OPHELIA

Yeah, I know.

JASMINE

So what are you gonna do?

OPHELIA

What am I supposed to do?

JASMINE

I don't know. Cut his dick off...  
Or, or, like, make him want you.  
Make him suffer.

OPHELIA

Yeah, that's never gonna happen.

JASMINE

Look, all you really need do is  
dress sexy, walk sexy, and, you  
know, think that you're the  
greatest fucking shit on Earth.  
Trust me, you'll have him begging  
for you to wrap your precious  
little tongue around his hot,  
bulging cock.

Jasmine mimes giving a blowjob, complete with gagging and slurping noises.

OPHELIA

Stop that! God, you're disgusting.

JASMINE

Or... you can, not listen to me  
and, I don't know, starve yourself  
to death... You'll definitely won't  
be fat anymore.

OPHELIA

Maybe I'll do that.

JASMINE

(Beat)

Hmm, you know what's funny?

OPHELIA

What?

JASMINE

Look at that.

Jasmine points to a big gory crucifix hanging on the wall opposite to them.

(CONTINUED)

JASMINE

It's fucking sick, you know? He looks all bloody and sad and shit and we use it for what? Inspiration? To, to scare us into joining the Sisters of St. Joseph? It's just fucking creepy.

OPHELIA

... Huh... He's ripped.

JASMINE

What?

OPHELIA

He's super skinny and he's, like, ripped. Look, look at his abs.

JASMINE

Oh fuck! Haha, I guess you're right! You know, he does look pretty hot.

OPHELIA

Is he hotter than Mrs. Holifield's ex?

Jasmine turns to face Ophelia, shocked. She tries to stifle a laughter, which turns into a burst of laughter. The two sisters join in a laughing fit that only seems to crescendo.

INT. OPHELIA'S ROOM - NIGHT

7

Ophelia stands in front of a full body mirror in only her underwear. There's a poster next to the mirror. She appreciates her figure in the mirror.

She GRABS a big love handle and flops it around.

She tries to SUCK her belly in as much as possible, comparing herself to the poster of a Japanese drawing, featuring a big breasted girl with a tiny waist.

To try and discredit her image, she takes a

SCALE out of her closet

SETS IT in front of the mirror.

STEPS on it. The scale tells us:

203 POUNDS.

Her face is filled with realization.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

8

Jasmine, still in her pajamas, sits at the kitchen table, slurps on some cereal.

Mom cooks some eggs in the pan when Ophelia

RUSHES by and grabs a granola bar, ready to head out.

OPHELIA

No time for breakfast! Bye, Mom!

Ophelia turns for the door.

MOM

Ophi, wait.

OPHELIA

No can do, Mom.

MOM

Ophelia!

Ophelia stops dead in her tracks. She turns around.

MOM

What's going on with you?

OPHELIA

Wh-what do you mean?

MOM

These past few weeks, all you've eaten for breakfast are granola bars, and last night you barely touched your dinner.

OPHELIA

I'm just not that hungry, mom.

MOM

I find that hard to believe.

OPHELIA

(Offended)

Mom-

MOM

I'm sorry, but... Ophelia, please, is something wrong?

(CONTINUED)

OPHELIA

No, Mom, I swear, I'm just trying out a new diet.

MOM

A diet? Well, you know have to be careful with those. They can be dangerous, Ophelia, and I don't want you to go and starve yourself.

OPHELIA

...I know, mom.

MOM

...Okay, well, have fun at school. I love you.

OPHELIA

Will do. Love you too.

Ophelia walks out.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

9

A TEACHER takes attendance. The STUDENTS sit at their desks.

TEACHER

Smith,

STUDENT 1

Here.

TEACHER

Rodriguez,

STUDENT 2

Here.

TEACHER

Umezu,

STUDENT 3

Here.

TEACHER

Colt,

OPHELIA

Here.

The teacher does a double take at Ophelia and stops taking attendance for a second.

(CONTINUED)

TEACHER

Oh, Ophelia, you look nice. Have you lost weight?

OPHELIA

Umm, yes.

TEACHER

Hmm, good for you. Williams,

STUDENT 4

Here.

The Teacher continues taking attendance.

We see a SMILE draw across Ophelia's face.

INT. DINING HALL - DAY

10

Ophelia walks in with her almost empty food tray in hand, except for

ONE APPLE.

She sits down by herself and takes a

BITE of her apple.

She looks around and sees

STUDENTS EATING

The more she watches them, the more like animals they become, stuffing their faces like pigs, salivating like dogs.

LAUGHING

SNORTING

CHEWING

SWALLOWING

SPITTING

BITING

Overwhelmed and disgusted, Ophelia pushes the food tray away from her, stands up, and walks away, leaving the solitary apple.

INT. OPHELIA'S ROOM - NIGHT 11

We see Ophelia's FEET stand on the scale.

A number appears.

187 POUNDS.

Ophelia smiles.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY 12

We hear a rumbling stomach.

A SKINNER looking Ophelia sits in a classroom, staring intensely at a

PRETTY GIRL talking to Jacob.

The sounds of Ophelia's stomach rumbling increase. We hear it crescendo throughout these next scenes.

INT. OPHELIA'S ROOM - NIGHT 13

Another number on the scale.

180.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY 14

A STUDENT looks at us.

STUDENT 5

Did you do something to your hair?

INT. OPHELIA'S ROOM - NIGHT 15

Another number.

164.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY 16

STUDENT 1

I like your necklace!

INT. OPHELIA'S ROOM - NIGHT 17

147.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY 18

STUDENT 4  
You look... nice!

INT. OPHELIA'S ROOM - NIGHT 19

133.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY 20

Jacob walks by, smiling at Ophelia

JACOB  
Hey, Ophelia.

INT. OPHELIA'S ROOM - NIGHT 21

115.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY 22

Ophelia's rumbling stomach is so loud that the Pretty Girl's voice is almost completely inaudible.

PRETTY GIRL  
I love your earrings, it really makes your eyes pop!

INT. OPHELIA'S ROOM - NIGHT 23

105.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY 24

We don't hear what Jasmine says. Our vision of Jasmine gets blurry.

JASMINE  
We need to talk... Ophelia? Ophelia are you listening to me?

FADE OUT

FADE IN

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 25

Jasmine walks down the stairs. It's the middle of the night.  
Jasmine yawns and subsequently feels a gust of cold air.  
She wraps her robe around her tightly.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT 26

The kitchen is in complete darkness, except for the light  
that comes from the open fridge.

We hear a heavy breathing and some distant mumbling.

JASMINE  
Hello? Mom? Ophi?

Jasmine walks around the open fridge door to see

A EMACIATED looking Ophelia sitting in front of the fridge,  
drooling, looking intensely at the food. Her eyes are sunken  
in and her face is dripping with sweat.

OPHELIA  
(Mumbling)  
Mmm, ice, cream, choc-chocolate  
chips.

JASMINE  
Ophi? What are you doing?

OPHELIA  
(Mumbling)  
Don't touch. Just look, can only  
look, only look, only look, only  
look.

Ophelia doesn't acknowledge Jasmine.

Jasmine is visibly distraught.

INT. OPHELIA'S ROOM - MORNING

27

Two ceiling fans spin

BLINK

The two fans become one.

A hand reaches for a glass of water that seems to be moving away from us.

Dry lips sip from the glass of water

Feet climb down from the bed onto the floor.

We follow Ophelia to her mirror. It's been covered by a large sheet.

She starts to take off her clothes until she's just in her underwear. She uncovers the mirror.

We see Ophelia's reflection in the mirror, next to the poster of the Japanese girl, winking at us.

She looks gaunt and emaciated.

Her face is full of sharp edges.

Her hair, dull and lifeless.

She's overwhelmed with happiness.

She cries with joy and twirls around, feeling her new body.

The room spins.

She feels dizzy and sits down on her bed. She puts her hand to her head.

Her stomach starts rumbling. She puts her hand to her stomach

INT. SAINT LAWRENCE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

28

Students in uniforms rush the hallways, heading to their classes.

We see Jacob and Ethan by the vending machines.

Jacob tries to get the machine to take his dollar bill.

(CONTINUED)

JACOB

Fuck me.

ETHAN

I'm pretty sure it just has a personal vendetta against you.

JACOB

I had to kick it.

Ethan throws him a look.

JACOB

(Shrugging)

It wouldn't give me my Doritos.

We see Ophelia strut calmly through the hallway towards Jacob. She has put in a lot of effort into looking flawless today. You can almost forget that she's on the verge of dying.

She wears her PINK HAIR CLIP.

OPHELIA

Hey, Jacob.

JACOB

Ophi? I almost didn't recognize you.

OPHELIA

(Smiling)

Good.

JACOB

Um, I haven't seen you in a while. I missed talking to you in math class.

OPHELIA

Do you wanna go out?

JACOB

What?

OPHELIA

Go out... With me?

JACOB

Oh... Urm, yeah, sure.

(CONTINUED)

OPHELIA

... So? Where are we going?

JACOB

Uh, well, I obviously haven't thought about it... We can hang out at my house if you want. My parents are gonna be out of town this weekend so we can... Oh! We can watch Lord of The Rings, like you wanted to?

OPHELIA

Sure, sounds good! I'll text you, okay? Bye, Jacob, I'll see you.

Ophelia struts past Jacob confidently.

ETHAN

Dude, what just happened?

JACOB

I'm... not sure?

INT. OPHELIA'S ROOM - NIGHT

29

Ophelia is standing in front of her mirror, applying makeup. We hear a knock on the door.

OPHELIA

Come in.

Jasmine walks in and closes the door behind her.

JASMINE

Hey, loser.

OPHELIA

Hey, asshole.

JASMINE

Ophi, I-

OPHELIA

What?

JASMINE

I'm worried about you.

OPHELIA

What for?

(CONTINUED)

JASMINE

Do I really have to say it?

OPHELIA

Look, it's not a big deal.

JASMINE

Ophi, you look terrible, really,  
I'm not joking around.

OPHELIA

I'm fine, it's fine, really, I feel  
great. Better than ever.

JASMINE

Have you been eating right? Like  
the doctor told you?

OPHELIA

Duh... I swear I am, Jasmine, I'm  
feeling a lot better.

JASMINE

Well, mom made chicken curry and  
mashed potatoes, you should eat  
some before you head out.

OPHELIA

Oh, I'm already having dinner at  
Jacob's... Don't worry so much,  
Jas. Geez, you're starting to sound  
like mom.

JASMINE

You know I love you, right?

OPHELIA

Ugh, you're definitely your mom's  
daughter.

Jasmine smiles, takes a bunch of dirty clothes and throws  
them at Ophelia's face.

OPHELIA

You suck.

JASMINE

You swallow.

Jasmine starts to head out.

(CONTINUED)

OPHELIA

Hey Jas,

Jasmine stands at the doorway

JASMINE

Mmm?

OPHELIA

I love you too. And thanks for worrying.

JASMINE

Hey... Fuck you.

Jasmine walks out the room.

INT. JACOB'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

30

Jacob and Ophelia are sitting close to each other on a sofa. There's an open soda can, a glass of water, and a pack of Twizzlers on the table. They're laughing.

JACOB

So I told him, wait, wait, I can't breathe, haha, okay, I told him, like, super seriously, I swear, I went:

(As Gandalf)

"YOU SHAL NOT PASS!"

OPHELIA

Hahaha, no fucking way!

JACOB

Haha, oh God, and he just looked at me, like "What is wrong with you?"

They start laughing furiously until the laughter dwindles down on its own. Ophelia takes a sip of her water. Jacob grabs a handful of Twizzlers and puts them in his mouth.

JACOB

(With his mouth full)

Mmm, want some Twizzlers?

Ophelia just looks at Jacob, trying to stifle a laughter. Twizzlers are hanging out of his mouth.

JACOB

What? Do I have something on my face? Tell me, I'm very self-conscious about it.

(CONTINUED)

OPHELIA

I know you are, you're a diva.

They both laugh and look at each other. A moment of true connection and recognition.

JACOB

You know, I'm having a really fun time with you.

OPHELIA

Yeah, I'm having fun too.

JACOB

You're, uh, you're pretty cool, you know that?

OPHELIA

You're pretty cool too.

Ophelia winces and GRABS her head. We hear her stomach rumbling.

JACOB

Are you okay?

OPHELIA

Urm, yeah, I just, I get a little lightheaded from time to time.

Jacob gets close to her to feel her temperature with his hand, as he's close to her he looks into her eyes.

They KISS.

As they separate, Ophelia BEAMS WITH JOY

And then COLLAPSES in Jacob's arms.

The screen goes BLACK.

We can only hear Jacob, the sound of Ophelia's breathing, and her stomach rumbling.

JACOB

(Fading out)

Ophi? Ophelia!

INT. JACOB'S LIVING ROOM - MORNING

31

From Ophelia's perspective, she wakes up. She's been lying on the floor.

OPHELIA

Jacob?

Ophelia goes towards Jacob, who sits motionless on the couch, with his back towards us.

OPHELIA

Jacob.

Ophelia PUTS her arm on Jacob's shoulder to turn him around. As she does so, he

FALLS to the floor and we see

JACOB'S FACE has been MAULED OFF.

It is now an incomprehensible mass of BLOOD and GNAWED MEAT.

Ophelia lets out a HORRIFYING SCREAM

and we see HER FACE, COVERED in BLOOD.

She TRIPS and

FALLS back against a wall.

She trembles with fear.

Turns her head to face a MIRROR, where she sees her bloodied face.

Finally, she takes a hand to her mouth and

PULLS OUT out a small piece of

SKIN.

She SCREAMS.

CUT TO BLACK