

BLACK.

THE FOLLOWING FILM IS A HIGHLY INACCURATE PORTRAYAL OF EVENTS WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE OCCURRED.

A tiny light flashes in the distance. Sudden rope jerks are heard.

As the following text scrolls, the blinking light grows.

On the Fifth of August 2010, 33 miners were trapped 2,300 feet below ground, when the San Jose Copper-Gold Mine near Copiapo, Chile collapsed.

On the twelfth day they were found alive and started to receive care packages from the surface.

As rescuers worked arduously to recover the trapped men, all they could do is wait.

On the twentieth day they received a unique package.

This is not their story.

THIRTY-THREE HYENAS

O.S

It's coming, it's coming, it is almost here!

O.S (CONT'D)

Get your head out the way Omar!

INT. MINE CENTRAL - DAY

OMAR is pulled from the tunnel chute as a metallic tube finds its way through. The Chilean flag is draped across the mine wall. The miners scatter around the tube, their helmet lamps flashing over their sweaty filthy bodies. They crack open the tube, unscrew the canisters and pull out the items. Amongst them rations and bottles of water which they douse their faces under. The leader-LUIS is trying to keep the situation orderly. Two miners, MANOLO & ARIEL wrestle over a bottle of water.

LUIS

Hey, hey stop! Equal share for everyone!

In a corner of the room, one miner-MARIO is recording a video diary. His attention is half with the group.

ESTEBAN

Come on Mario, you're gonna miss out!

Mario looks closely into the camera.

MARIO

That is all from the mine today,
back to you in the studio.

Mario gets up from his chair and rushes over to the group as more miners arriving from the tunnel join in.

One miner-CHRISTOBAL has not rushed to the package. He remains at a ledge which he has turned into a shrine, complete with candles, saintly statuettes and a dusty bible. Luis walks over to him and hands him a bottle of water.

LUIS

Here, for our luck, we do not
have to rely on just faith to
survive this.

CHRISTOBAL

Thankyou Luis, if it were not for
these gifts from above, I would
not wish to endure this oven any
longer

LUIS

No need for doubt anymore my
friend, everyday this place feels
less like a tomb, more like an
....

Christobal sips from the bottle as Luis cracks a smirk and returns to the group.

LUIS (CONT'D)

Be careful with the food, do not
become gluttons, we are to ration
what we are given!

PABLO

Hey, there are letters here, we
have word from our families!

DARIO takes out the envelopes from a canister, five in total.

PABLO (CONT'D)

One for you Jorge, for Ariel,
Pena, one for me, and last one
for you Manolo.

The miners open their letters quickly and begin reading.

OMAR

That can't be all, my mother has
not sent word for over a week
now!

PABLO

What can I tell you Omar, maybe
your letter got snagged on a rock
on the way down.

Dario and a few other miners laugh. Unhappy Omar picks up the canister. He holds it upside down and items dislodge onto the floor. Four porno magazines lie facing up, the gorgeous Latino cover girls stares into Omar's eyes.

OMAR

You are not my mother.

Other miner's notice the magazines and quickly crouch down next to Omar while the rest crowd around.

RAUL

Which saint of a relative has
blessed us with these?

They pick up some magazines, underneath a tiny plastic bag containing rolled cigarettes. PABLO opens the bag and takes one to his nose.

PABLO

It's cannabis! Cannabis! Cannabis
as well, oh what joy!

Pablo empties the bag over the magazines. 3 more joints and one lighter roll out.

Christobal still at his shrine looks unimpressed.

DARIO

Whoever is crafty enough to do
this for us, I want to meet him!

Dario picks up a joint and magazine and goes to leave. He is stopped by Raul. In the crowd of men Manolo is reading over his letter.

RAUL

Hey, what do you think you are
doing?

DARIO

What do you mean?

RAUL

Perhaps you did not notice, but
you are not the only one trapped
down here, you and no one else
don't get any privileges Dario!

The other miners murmur.....

DARIO

Fine then Raul genius, what is your solution?

RAUL

We do what we agreed to do, let Luis decide.

Luis is standing with his arms crossed thinking hard. The miners listen, some nibbling on rations.

LUIS

No question about it, we must share these spoils. We all remain here in this room and rotate. Equal time for everyone and no exceptions!

MANOLO

Hold it!

The miner's turn their attention to Manolo as he steps forward.

MANOLO (CONT'D)

Thank god I finished reading the letter from my little cousin. You want to know who's crafty enough for you to meet Dario? It's him. And the proof is here for anyone who can read, here Luis.

Manolo hands the letter to Luis. The miners look upset at him.

LUIS

(Reading) Oh and by the way, I know you'll enjoy the gifts I sent, I hid them when nobody was looking. I put a few in so the other guys would not get upset, but make sure to keep one of each for yourself. P.S We are all praying for you,

MANOLO

Well, there is an exception for the privilege now, don't you say Luis?

LUIS

I might say so.

The miners groan and murmur.

MANOLO

Hey, hey, if it weren't for me being here, you guys wouldn't even get a sniff at this stuff! It is only fair that I get what my little cousin wished for me.

LUIS

What do you think Christobal?

The group parts to look towards Christobal still at his shrine.

CHRISTOBAL

I think it is a terrible thing that a loved one would not stop and think how sending us these spoils would divide us, exactly what I perceive now, when what we truly need is the means to unite rather than cleave...

Some of the miners pout at Christobal's comments.

CHRISTOBAL (CONT'D)

But, Manolo's cousin has sent gifts to Manolo, the rest of you merely deserve the scraps and so it should be so.

Manolo is gleeful.

RAUL

That is not wisdom! Christobal is losing it, his...

LUIS

Quiet Raul! The decision is made. Manolo will take one magazine, one joint and the lighter with him to do what he wishes with them.

MANOLO

Thankyou Luis, I have never once doubted your leadership.

Manolo crouches down and gathers his winnings. Dario, Raul and the other miners look very disgruntled at the overjoyed Manolo.

JORGE

What about the rest of us?

LUIS

We will sit in a circle and pass the spoils around.

(MORE)

LUIS (CONT'D)

For each man, 30 seconds with the magazine and one puff of a joint each. No exceptions and no complaining!

PENA

Count me out, I'm not letting that stuff ruin my fitness, I'd rather go jogging.

EDISON

Me neither, that smoke will ravage my beautiful singing voice.

MANOLO

That's fine, you two can be stupid all you want.

Manolo laughs at his joke as he stands and walks away with his items. He pushes past the miners, they stare him down.

LUIS

10 minutes Manolo, then we all go back to work!

MANOLO

Ok, but all I need is five.

Manolo disappears down the mine.

LUIS

Forget about him and form the circle, Omar hand me what is left, Christobal may we borrow the flame from one of your candles please sir.

INT. MINE PASSAGE - CONTINUOUS

Manolo walks, his helmet lamp showing him the path. He finds a gap revealing a tiny branch of the mine. He enters and finds a ledge where he rests the magazine.

INT. MINE CENTRAL - CONTINUOUS

The miners have formed a circle, some holding the magazines and joints. LUIS is walking to each joint lighting them with the candle. He returns the candle to CHRISTOBAL.

LUIS

Thankyou Christobal. Allright you have 30 seconds each with the magazines.

ESTEBAN

You not joining us Christobal?

CHRISTOBAL

No thank you Esteban.

DARIO & RAUL give Christobal dirty looks as he returns to the shrine. The miners begin puffing on the joints and flipping through the mags. Some cough up the smoke.

RAUL

Luis, may I make an observation?

LUIS

If it's tasteful.

RAUL

Well I observe that the risk Manolo's little cousin took to do this for us, I mean he would have slipped past at least 5 officials to sneak all this into the tube. I really do thank god that someone up above has thought of what perils frustration, frustration, frustration, could await men in our position,

PABLO

It was a noble deed all right (laughs).

RAUL

But what I do not thank god, is for some of the men he allows to speak his will.

Miners listen and agree, some giggle. Raul stares directly at Christobal across the cave.

LUIS

Knock it off Raul. Time!

PABLO

Even so, Christobal has not even budged from his perch, maybe the mine has turned him soft, real soft...

More miners laugh.

DARIO

Soft for Manolo perhaps!

INT. MINE ARM - CONTINUOUS

Manolo lights the joint in his mouth. He flips through the mag slowly checking each page for his liking. He stops on page 28, stunning black haired nude. He rests the mag and lighter on the ledge, takes another drag and begins to unbuckle his trousers. He turns back to page 28.

INT. MINE CENTRAL - CONTINUOUS

CHRISTOBAL flips through his bible. There is now a lot of smoke in the room.

LUIS

Time!

The miners groan as they hand the mags on. JORGE flips through.

JORGE

Hey Pablo, page 28

PABLO flips to her. One of the joints comes to Luis who accepts.

RAUL

If anything Christobal has forced a wedge between us and Manolo, now when he returns, we will all treat him like shit on the floor and he will probably end up killing himself.

Miners are taken aback.

OMAR

And he tried to eat me.

RAUL

And he tried to eat Omar.

CHRISTOBAL

Ridiculous!

LUIS

Enough (coughs) Enough Raul.

PABLO

... Hey Christobal, sure you don't want to try and redeem yourself in the eyes of this beauty?

MARIO

We might feel a lot better about you Christobal

CHRISTOBAL

My family and my faith in God are
the only ones I need to prove
myself to.

DARIO

Add Manolo to that list.

Miners giggle at the snide comments. Omar is peering at the
page 28 girl in Jorge's mag.

OMAR

Oh, if only Manolo's little
cousin could send an inflatable
version of her.

Jorge stares blankly ahead.

INT. MINE ARM

MANOLO is masturbating hard over page 28 girl, panting and
breathing heavily. The lit joint rests on the ledge. Manolo
stops suddenly. He hears running. It is EDISON jogging.

MANOLO

Hey Edison, find another shaft to
run rings around, I'm trying to
sleep down here!

His head lamp goes out. He lets out a dull shriek.

INT. MINE CENTRAL - CONTINUOUS

ARIEL & CARLOS are arguing over batteries from the tube.

LUIS

Hey knock it off over there!

RAUL

Why don't we ask Christobal who
should get the batteries?

PABLO

It's becoming ridiculous now,
watch out for Christobal if you
find yourself in the deepest
corner of the mine, he might try
to... eat you.

The miners raise laughter.

RAUL

I was raised a Catholic too you
know, and what happened today was
not the word of God that I
remembered.

(MORE)

RAUL (CONT'D)

I remember he would have shared
the spoils equally amongst the
people,

LUIS

Raul...

RAUL raises his voice. CHRISTOBAL is standing in defence.
The miners are listening in, submissive to Raul.

RAUL

It was perversions of his will by
clowns like Christobal who seek
to reward those based on nothing
else but a sense of entitlement.

LUIS

Raul!

DARIO

And sucked his cock!

RAUL

And that is not what Jesus would
do!

LUIS

Enough, sit down shut up!

JOSE next to Raul, grabs his arm, sits him down, shows him
page 28.

JOSE

Raul, here sit, tell me what you
would to her.

RAUL

I would tear her down, part her
legs and tunnel my tongue through
and eat her...pussy.

The miners sound enamoured at Raul's description. Some
giggling. Christobal listens and turns his head slowly at
page 28 being held up by ESTEBAN in front of him. He
squints at it.

INT. MINE ARM - CONTINUOUS

MANOLO is masturbating harder, using the lighter to see
page 28. The joint dangles in his mouth. He is in an
uncomfortable position. He stops suddenly, hearing a noise.

It gets louder and proves to be PENA singing.

PENA O.S

(sing) "In the ghetto"

MANOLO

Hey Pena, find another shaft to
sing in, the acoustics are no
good down here!

The mumbled shout makes the joint ash fall onto Manolo's
erection. He lets out a shriek and moan which halts Pena.

INT. MINE CENTRAL - CONTINUOUS

CHRISTOBAL is walking slowly towards the mag with ESTEBAN,
page 28 coming clearer to him.

PABLO

Oh god, he is coming to join us
now?

LUIS

Time!

Christobal gets to Esteban and snatches the mag up before
he can pass it to ARIEL. He steps into the circle.

ARIEL

Hey!

CHRISTOBAL

It is my daughter, my daughter!

LUIS

What are you talking about
Christobal?

INT. MINE ARM - CONTINUOUS

Manolo has regained himself and is holding the lighter up
close to mag.

INT. MINE CENTRAL - CONTINUOUS

CHRISTOBAL

She is my baby daughter Elena,
posing like this for...

All the miners stare at CHRISTOBAL, back to the magazines.

CHRISTOBAL (CONT'D)

Oh why, why? Why, how can she do
this to me? My baby daughter, I
word so hard for you down here!

The stoned bewildered miners look blankly at one another.
Christobal continues to wail.

PABLO

Hey Christobal I'm sorry I made fun, perhaps one day when we get out of here, you can have me over for dinner one evening...

The miners give chuckles and smirks. Christobal looks petrified at the comment.

PABLO (CONT'D)

I've always wondered what the sounds of a Padre's daughter would make.

The group's laughter rises.

JORGE

We can only hope Christobal gives away his children as willing as he does porn and weed.

ARIEL

If only she could have been visiting the day of the collapse, then...

DARIO

We could send much more of her one by one around the circle.

Each joke the laughter rises. Christobal shoots each joker daggers. Miners with mags raise page 28.

OMAR

Even better, maybe Manolo's little cousin can slot her into the next shipment, somehow.

PABLO

You're thinking of the inflatable doll again, should not be hard to find one of a slut like her!

The entire circle of miners including Luis, erupt in laughter all directed at Christobal who spins around stricken with anxiety. He looks down at his daughter on page 28.

CHRISTOBAL

No, No! I will not let these jackals defile you my princess!

Christobal snatches the other two mags. He rips out the three pages, drops the mags and exits the circle. The miners continue the immense laughter.

Christobal takes his shrine candle and ignites the torn pages. They drop and burn up at his feet.

CHRISTOBAL (CONT'D)
Elena, I will liberate you from
this place!

RAUL
Hey Christobal, aren't you
forgetting Manolo, the one you
gifted your daughter to so
willing?

CHRISTOBAL
Manolo? Manolo!

Christobal grabs his helmet and runs out of mine central.
The miners are in a state of euphoria.

INT. MINE ARM - CONTINUOUS

MANOLO is masturbating very hard, trying to finish the job
after the interruptions.

CHRISTOBAL (O.S.)
Manolo!

Manolo beats harder. The mag's pages begin to turn and it
falls on the floor, page 28 facing up. Manolo ejaculates,
the semen landing on the page. He leans against the wall,
barely holding his trousers up.

CHRISTOBAL enters.

CHRISTOBAL (CONT'D)
Manolo!

Manolo faces the wall to hide himself.

MANOLO
What do you want old fool, don't
you have any manners at all?

Christobal looks at the mag on the floor, sees page 28 with
semen spilt on his daughter's face. Manolo is having
difficult with his trouser belt.

MANOLO (CONT'D)
Get out of here why don't you!

Christobal turns back to Manolo and lunges at him. The two
wrestle, Christobal trying to strangle him. Manolo's pants
are around his knees. He trips, his head hits a rock and
blood spits from his mouth.

Christobal stands, looking down on Manolo with his head
lamp. There are voices through the tunnel.

CHRISTOBAL
Manolo? Manolo?

OMAR & PABLO enter with more light. Christobal turns to them. They see Manolo on the ground.

OMAR
Manolo?

Omar & Pablo look closer.

OMAR (CONT'D)
Manolo dead.

Christobal looks back at them, wide-eyed.

PABLO
You killed Manolo...

Pablo erupts in laughter at his comment. Christobal stares at him petrified.

CUT TO BLACK.

To the courage and perseverance of the thirty-three.

CREDITS.