

SAVAGE CLUB

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FADE IN:

INT. DYLAN'S ROOM - DAY

DYLAN, a shy and sheltered eleven year old boy unpacks boxes in his new room.

He can hear his FATHER yell downstairs. A SLAM. It doesn't phase Dylan.

He opens a box and finds his old year book. He stares at it, narrows his eyes and forcefully throws it across the room. It hits the tin garbage can and makes a loud BANG.

His mother, MARY, a tall and proper older woman rushes into the room.

MARY
You okay, sweetie?

DYLAN
Fine, mom.

She laughs nervously.

MARY
I thought you were hurt or something.
(beat)Okay, well, I'm making your
favorite for dinner.

She looks down and sees the yearbook next to the garbage.

MARY (cont'd)
Don't worry, baby; things will be
better here.

DYLAN
How do you know?

MARY
Because I'm going to make sure of it.

She walks over and kisses him on the forehead and exits.

Dylan looks over at the yearbook with sadness in his eyes.

INT. LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - DAY

ALEC, a grumpy and rough looking man sits on the couch, watches TV and drinks a beer. There are empty beer cans on the floor next to him.

Mary cooks dinner in the kitchen, which runs into the living room. She looks into the living room at Alec. She hesitates to speak with him.

MARY
Alec? Would you mind setting the
table?

He doesn't look up from the TV. Mary rolls her eyes.

Dylan enters.

MARY (cont'd)
Sweetie?

She motions to the plates. He sets the table without question. Mary smiles, pleased.

They all sit down to eat. Alec watches a small TV on the kitchen counter as he chugs a beer. There are gunshots heard on the TV. Mary jumps up and turns it off.

ALEC
Hey! I was watching that!

MARY
You know how I feel about violence.

DYLAN
It's okay, mom. I'm old enough.

MARY
You most certainly are not!

DYLAN
I'm almost 12!

Frustrated, Alec SLAMS his fists down onto the table. Dylan and Mary GASP. Alec takes his plate, grabs another beer from the fridge and storms off. He huffs and puffs. He sits on the couch and turns on the TV.

Mary quickly changes the subject.

MARY
Sweetie, what do you think we should
do this week?

Dylan hears KIDS yell and play outside. He runs to the window, curious.

MARY (cont'd)
Lots of kids in this neighborhood.
You should go.

DYLAN
Now?

MARY
It's still light out. Be back by 7.

He hesitates.

MARY (cont'd)
Go on. Who wouldn't love you?

He looks down. She realizes she said something stupid.

MARY (cont'd)
They're gonna love you. Go on.

He' nervously opens the back door. Gathers his courage and walks outside.

Mary watches. She's hopeful but worried.

EXT. STREET - DAY

The group of BOYS laugh and joke and push each other around.

Dylan quickly walks up to them. He overhears them speak of a scavenger hunt.

DYLAN
I love scavenger hunts. Can I play?

The boys come to a halt. TOMMY, a scrawny 13 year old boy turns around.

TOMMY
Strict invite only.

DYLAN
Invited by who?

EJ, a dirty 13 year old boy scoffs.

EJ
It's a secret.

DYLAN
Then how can I be invited?

DARIEN, a heavy set 12 year old boy responds.

DARIEN
They come to you.

EJ
He def wont be invited!

The boys laugh. Dylan's face turns beat red.

JOSH
It's not up to you, is it?

The boys are dead silent.

EJ
Sorry, Josh.

JOSH, a tough kid, obviously the leader of the pack, respected but mostly feared faces Dylan.

JOSH
What's your name, kid?

DYLAN
Dylan.

JOSH
What's your deal?

He shrugs.

JOSH (cont'd)
Why'd you come to this dump?

Dylan notices blood on EJ's pants. He stares, curious. Josh notices Dylan's gaze.

JOSH (cont'd)
You'll be hearing from me.

Josh walks away. The boys follow. Dylan smiles. He watches them leave, intrigued.

INT. LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - NIGHT

Dylan walks into his house. His father sits on the couch. His mother washes dishes. She runs to him when he gets in.

MARY
So? Make any friends?

DYLAN

Maybe.

She hugs and kisses him.

MARY

Go get ready for bed.

She kisses his head repeatedly.

MARY (cont'd)

Love you! Love you! Love you!

DYLAN

Mom! Gross!

He wipes his face and leaves the room.

Mary walks over to the window. She looks out at the group of boys, hopeful.

INT. DYLAN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Dylan sits down at his desk and opens FaceBook on his laptop. He sees a lot of rude and mean messages and comments on his wall from various PEERS. "Loser!" "So glad you moved!" "Nerd!"

He tears up. He deletes his page and slams his laptop closed.

INT. DYLAN'S ROOM - LATER

In the middle of the night Dylan is woken up by a knock at the window. He gets out of bed to see what the noise is. He opens the window to find a sealed envelope.

Curious, he looks outside of the window and around the large tree beside his window but doesn't see anyone.

He closes the window and inspects the envelope and notices there is a bloody finger print on it.

He cautiously opens the envelope. There is a piece of paper titled "Savage Hunt" and a folded piece of paper. There is something in the paper...he unfolds it and finds a bone! He jumps back and throws it to the ground.

He reluctantly picks up the bone. He sniffs it.

Dylan reads the note.

INSERT:

Meet by the creek at midnight.

The creek is circled on the map. Dylan looks at the clock. It reads 11:40pm. Dylan hears footsteps. He quickly and quietly jumps into bed.

Mary peeks in to check on him. He pretends to be asleep. Mary smiles. She shuts the door.

Dylan gets up quickly and props his bed to pose like he's in it.

He puts on a hoodie and jeans and climbs out the window and down the tree.

EXT. CREEK - NIGHT

Dylan climbs through a hole in a fence that has "Private Property" and "Trespassing" signs.

The boys stand near the creek.

DARIEN

5 bucks!

EJ

Damn it!

JOSH

(impressed)

He's tougher than he looks.

Dylan smiles but tries to hide it.

DYLAN

What's going on?

JOSH

You want in?

DYLAN

In on what?

JOSH

Us.

Dylan nods. Josh hands him a list. Dylan looks at the paper in disbelief.

INSERT:

Savage Hunt List:

Pinky finger

Thumb

Ring finger

Middle finger

Pointer finger

DYLAN

What's this?

DARIEN

A list of things you need to find.

DYLAN

Are you for real?

TOMMY

Savage Club is top secret. It's not a joke.

DYLAN

This isn't funny.

Dylan turns to walk away. EJ grabs him.

EJ

Listen loser, you think we're messing around?

Dylan's eyes well up with tears.

EJ (cont'd)

Told you he was a baby. Forget him!

EJ shoves him. The boys walk away.

DYLAN

Wait...

Josh smiles a devious smile. He turns around and hands Dylan a bag.

JOSH

You have twenty minutes.

Josh sounds the horn. All the boys run off. Dylan stands, not knowing what to do.

JOSH (cont'd)

Come on!

The boys whistle and cheer and yell!

Dylan's scared. He's in the woods alone but hears the boys yelling in the distance.

Dylan looks around. Something splashes on his face. He wipes it. Its red!

He looks up. A bloody finger hangs above his head from a branch. He falls backwards. Hyperventilates.

Tommy runs over. Climbs the tree and cuts it down.

TOMMY

Thanks, loser!

Dylan tears up.

TOMMY (cont'd)

Wooooo!

Tommy runs off.

Dylan walks around in the dark, tries to make his way back and comes across a large, dark house. He sees Darien stuff a finger in his bag.

DYLAN

Who's house is this?

DARIEN

Josh's.

Dylan motions to the bag.

DYLAN

What is this game? Who are these people?

DARIEN

Josh's dad has scary friends with unique hobbies. Try not to ask too many questions and don't cross Josh.

A WHISTLE sounds.

EXT. CREEK - NIGHT

The boys all gather at the creek.

Dylan saunters over.

JOSH
Tonight's winner is...

The boys drum roll.

JOSH (cont'd)
Tommy!

The boys cheer.

JOSH (cont'd)
This was a hard one, those tiny
little suckers. Good job, Tommy.

Tommy throws his hand in the air and slaps Darien on the back.

JOSH (cont'd)
We are coming up to tournament.

Dylan gulps.

JOSH (cont'd)
Be ready for it. All right, get outta
here.

Josh walks over to Dylan, puts his arm around him.

JOSH (cont'd)
You did good today, buddy. You think
you can make it next time?

DYLAN
Oh yeah, for sure.

Josh pats Dylan's back in approval.

JOSH
Great.

INT. DYLAN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Dylan sneaks back into bed.

He opens his phone to texts that he's a "loser" and a "baby" from anonymous numbers. He quickly deletes them.

INT. DYLAN'S ROOM - DAY

Mary wakes up Dylan. She sees blood on his face.

MARY

Oh, my god! Dylan, you're hurt!

He jumps up and rushes to the-

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

DYLAN

I'm fine, I'm fine!

Dylan looks in the mirror. He turns on the sink and scrubs hard. His skin turns red.

INT. DYLAN'S ROOM - DAY

MARY

Baby, you scared me.

DYLAN

I must have just scratched myself in my sleep.

She kisses his head.

MARY

I made your favorite. Pancakes!

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

The family sits at the table to eat. Alec reads a newspaper. Doesn't acknowledge them.

Dylan's phone vibrates.

MARY

(hopeful)

Your new friends?

Dylan excitedly reads his texts. They're more mean texts. He looks down. Sad and disappointed.

ALEC

Son, you need to toughen up. What more can we do? We moved half way across the state for you!

MARY

Enough!

A basketball hits the back door! They all jump.

MARY (cont'd)
Oh, my word!

ALEC
Can't get any god damn peace around
here!

Dylan jumps up and runs to the back door, opens it.

JOSH
Sorry, Mrs. and Mr. Dylan. Can he
come play?

MARY
Be back by supper.

Excited, he runs out. Mary watches him, lovingly.

EXT. STREET - DAY

DYLAN
Last night was fun.

TOMMY
Last night?

DYLAN
Savage Hunt.

EJ
Hey!

EJ shoves him to the ground, hard. Tommy stands over him.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Mary gasps! She's about to open the back door but Alec GRABS
her arm.

ALEC
He needs to fight his own battles.

She tries to push past him. He SHOVES her back.

She sees Josh help Dylan up through the window. She lets out
a sigh of relief. She storms out of the room, upset with
Alec.

INT. STREET - DAY

JOSH
We don't talk about that.

DYLAN
Sorry.

JOSH
I know buddy. Just don't let it
happen again.

INT. BASKETBALL COURT - DAY

The seven boys play a few rounds of basketball. Dylan has a great time and feels like a part of the group.

A fight breaks out between Tommy and EJ. They fight over a pass.

EJ is about to PUNCH Tommy when Josh runs up to them, KNOCKS EJ to the ground and puts a knife to his throat.

JOSH
Touch him again. I dare you.

Dylan's stands frozen in place with fear.

EJ
(whispers)
Sorry.

JOSH
What? What was that? I can't hear
you!

EJ
Sorry, Josh.

JOSH
Damn straight you are.

Josh stands up, over EJ.

JOSH (cont'd)
You're benched.

EJ
What? Josh, come on man.

JOSH
 (points)
 Sit.

Everyone's quiet. The mood is tense.

EJ reluctantly walks over and sits on the curb.

Josh tosses the ball to Dylan.

JOSH (cont'd)
 Go on, shoot.

Dylan just stands there.

JOSH (cont'd)
 (more demanding)
 Shoot.

Dylan reluctantly obeys. He makes the basket!

Everyone cheers and jump on him. EJ stays seated, angry.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Dylan walks into his house. He glows with joy.

MARY
 Oh, my baby.

They hug tightly.

DYLAN
 I love it here, mom.

She squeezes him tightly.

INT. DYLAN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Dylan lies in bed when there is a knock on his window. He excitedly rushes over to the window.

He finds an envelope with blood on it.

EXT. CREEK - NIGHT

Josh hands out a list.

INSERT:

Savage Hunt List:

Thigh

Leg

Foot

Ear

Tongue

Dylan takes the list.

JOSH

Are you ready tonight?

Dylan nods. Josh hands him a bag.

JOSH (cont'd)

Lets do this!

He sounds the horn. The boys RUN!

Dylan runs to keep up. He's slower than the rest.

Dylan trips and falls hard. He hits his head on a rock. Blood drips down his face. Confused, he looks back and sees he tripped over a foot. He yells out and cries.

Dylan builds up the courage to pick up the foot.

DYLAN

I can do this. I can do this. I need
to do this!

Blood from the foot drips onto him. He cries out and tosses the foot.

The whistle sounds.

Dylan walks toward the creek empty handed.

ENT. CREEK - LATER

JOSH

And the winner is...

The boys drum roll.

JOSH (cont'd)

Darien!

They all cheer. Darien raises his arms up like a champion.

EJ shoves Dylan as he walks by him.

Josh walks over to Dylan and puts his arm around him in a less friendly way than before, more threatening.

JOSH (cont'd)

Listen, I invited you to be a part of our group. That's rare. I thought I saw something in you but I'm starting to think I was wrong. If you don't have what it takes I'm gonna have to cut you loose.

DYLAN

No, I can do it.

JOSH

Trust me when I say, if you come back empty handed, you will want to go crawling back to whatever shit hole you came from.

DYLAN

I wont let you down.

Josh smiles widely and pats Dylan's back.

JOSH

Good boy.

INT. DYLAN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Dylan sneaks into his bedroom window. His mother waits for him. She turns on the light. Dylan freezes in place.

Mary is shocked to see Dylan covered in blood. She rushes over to him.

MARY

Oh, my god. My baby! What happened?

DYLAN

Mom (beat)I only have one more shot. I'm so close.

MARY

To what?

He doesn't answer.

MARY (cont'd)

Baby, please tell me.

He cries. He sits across from his mother. He speaks but the words are unintelligible. She holds her hands to her mouth, wide eyed.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Dylan looks out the window for the boys but doesn't see them. His mother watches him, helpless.

She places a pancake with a smiley face on it on the table in front of him. He sulks.

DYLAN

Thanks, mom.

Dylan's phone vibrates from a text message. He and his mother both get excited. Her eyes light up with hope.

He opens it- a mean text. He closes it and tears well up in his eyes as well as his mother's.

MONTAGE:

Day after day, Dylan looks out the window for the boys.

Night after night, Dylan looks out his window. He lies in bed and jumps up at any slight noise.

Mary looks on, helpless.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Dylan watches TV next to his father but doesn't pay attention to it. His father is surrounded by beer bottles.

Mary walks over and hands Dylan a new phone.

MARY

It's a new number.

He smiles the first smile he has had in days. She kisses his head, pleased he is happy.

INT. DYLAN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Dylan sleeps restlessly in bed when he hears a tap at the window. He jumps up and urgently opens the window.

An envelope with blood on it. He opens it, excitedly.

EXT. CREEK - NIGHT

Josh hands out the lists and bags.

JOSH

This is it boys, the last Savage Hunt of the season. School starts up soon and depending on how tonight goes we might have a new member.

Dylan smiles hopefully.

Dylan looks at the list.

INSERT: LIST

Savage Hunt List:

Big toe

Arm

Two eye balls

An ear

A lock of hair

JOSH (cont'd)

Let's make it a good one.

Josh shoots a threatening look toward Dylan. Dylan gulps.

Josh sets off the horn. The boys all RUN!

Dylan runs into the woods. He runs and runs and runs as fast as he can. He's out of breath.

He STORMS into his house.

INT. LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - NIGHT

DYLAN

MOM!

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alec jumps up!

ALEC

What the hell!?

Mary is behind him with an ax. She HITS him! He falls to the ground.

She hits him repeatedly, passionately, desperately.

EXT. CREEK - NIGHT

The whistle sounds.

Dylan stands next to the creek with a bloodied bag. He is exasperated but hopeful.

JOSH
And the winner is...

The boys drum roll.

JOSH (cont'd)
Dylan!

The boys cheer and laugh and hug him. They welcome him to the group. EJ shakes his hand. Dylan glows with joy.

Josh puts his arm around his shoulder.

JOSH (cont'd)
I knew you had it in you.

They shake hands.

JOSH (cont'd)
Welcome to Savage Club.

FADE OUT