

TREATMENT - *Corpsewood Manor*

CORPSEWOOD MANOR is a surreal horror story which emulates St. Bernard of Clairvaux's quote, "The pathway to hell is paved with good intentions." This film will resemble qualities found in *Dracula* (1931), *Straw Dogs* (2011) and *Prisoners* (2013) where we follow an egotistical young lawyer who travels to the sticks of Georgia to buy a horse for his fiancé, but is trapped in a horrifying maze-like manor of satanic paintings, LSD laced wine, and an eccentric old man seeking to transfer his soul into another body.



A dense fog carpets a forest of dead standing trees. No existence of life is here. Suddenly the galloping of a horse becomes audible in the distance. The sound nears, closer and closer. The beast bursts through the horizon and maneuvers its way towards us. The white stallion rears up and collapses with a loud thud onto the dirt. It labors with breath as a tear of blood flows down from its hallowed out eye socket...

Cut to:

"Inspired by unfortunate events..."

"CORPSEWOOD MANOR"

Cut to:

In an Atlanta bar on Christmas Eve, DUSTIN (30s), a young lawyer celebrates with his associates and fiancée, JENNY (30s), after making partner in a prestigious law firm. During this excitement, Dustin's boss presents him with a mysterious challenge which is said to immediately

change his life. Jenny tells Dustin not to be sucked into getting hazed, but Dustin does not believe his new teammates would lead him wrong... He accepts the challenge and is tricked into drinking urine from a shot glass... His boss tells Dustin that moving forward with life – it is best to get rid of his gullible side and listen to his soon-to-be wife for she has his best intentions at heart. However, Dustin shrugs off the dangers of vanity and as they walk to their apartment in the city, he surprises Jenny with a gift... He has planned a trip to Jenny’s hometown: Summerville, Georgia and wants to spend Christmas with her father, HARPER (60s). Jenny wants nothing to do with her past and pleads to stay in the city, but after a night of romancing, Jenny ventures with her fiancé in his automatic sports car full of gifts to Summerville.

As they drive, Dustin learns that Jenny has not been home in years. He tries to figure out why, but Jenny tells him to promptly stop asking... the only reason why she decided to return was to tend to her family’s horses. As soon as they reach the dilapidated small-town, Dustin quickly finds himself out of his element. He hits a deer, gets sick while trying to drag it out of the road and is given assistance by Summerville’s deputy, STEVEN (30s), Jenny’s high school sweetheart. An acknowledgment of her mother’s mysterious disappearance is mentioned – When they arrive at her father’s ranch, Harper is nowhere to be found along with Jenny’s horses... Trying to maintain a positive attitude, Dustin makes dinner and finds a folded-up photograph of a younger Jenny with her mother wearing a blue dress. Dustin pockets the photo and Jenny enters the kitchen wanting to make love. Harper, returns home catching them in the act. The situation from here boils: Jenny inquiries about the missing horses, Harper brings up Jenny’s absence and during this senselessness Dustin ends up in a brawl with Harper. The father denies Dustin his blessing of marriage after giving the young man a black eye.

To appease Jenny, Dustin searches for Harper at the local bar. He spots a picture of Jenny’s mother on a wall of missing persons dating back 20 years... It is the same photo as the one in Dustin’s pocket. ROLLAND (late 30s), the bartender who knows all the best hunting spots, befriends Dustin, and provides him with Jenny’s history. They swig down beers and Rolland mentions knowing Dr. Schroeder, the man who owns Harper’s horses – he lives in a brick mansion out in the woods. The locals call it, “Corpsewood.” An impromptu idea sprouts and Dustin drunkenly declares his plan of returning Jenny’s horses. Rolland tells Dustin not to go, but the opportunistic lawyer tells him to lead him through a sea of dead standing trees anyway. Along the way, Dustin wrecks his car, rides in Rolland’s truck - blood splatter covers the bed and a shotgun hangs in the rack... Rolland says it is deer’s blood. Dustin inquiries about Dr. Schroeder. They stop at the gate and Dustin wearing his suit pushes it open for Rolland. They pull up to the front of the manor where Dustin finds Dr. Schroeder, an eccentric old man with oddly large dentures waiting outside for them. Dr. Schroeder takes a Polaroid of Dustin and tells him to take off his shoes before entering his home. Dustin removes his shoes.

During dinner and copious amounts of wine, Dustin explains his situation to the purple haired aristocrat who then informs the lawyer that all the horses expect for one have died of illness, but this perks the old man’s interest. He offers a deal: Not of money, but of a hunt – If Dustin will stay the night and help Dr. Schroeder the following morning kill a buck, he has been unsuccessful in catching, Dustin may have the last horse. Dustin agrees and becomes inebriated.

The remainder of the night is sleepless for Dustin. He restlessly roams the manor's labyrinth of hallways and discovers a series of unsettling paintings of other people. The last canvas at the end of the hall is veiled with a hammer lying on a table. Dustin reaches for the veil and steps on a nail. He pulls out the nail lodged in the bottom of his foot and his blood seeps in-between the floorboards... A woman's cry for him to go home is heard! Again, instead of adhering the advice, the young man pursues the voice seeking to save the woman in peril, but winds up beguiled by a volatile collection of erratic nightmarish visions. Dustin reaches a section of the manor called the Ultraviolet Room where he sees Dr. Schroeder eating a canvas and drinking paint... Dustin wakes up in a cold sweat. He checks his foot to find no wound. He readies himself for the hunt, but finds himself incredibly fatigued.

Though Dustin has dealt with a major hangover before, this one is something else entirely. He does everything he can to keep himself together while Dr. Schroeder drives his five-speed jeep to the hunting grounds. The quicker it is over, the sooner he can go home... Dr. Schroeder asks incredibly respectful questions about Dustin's life as he changes gears. They arrive at a particular location and travel on foot the rest of the way. Somehow, Dustin is suddenly lost and alone. While cleaning his glasses, the buck's silhouette appears through the dense fog. He panics, pulls the trigger and the buck collapses! Dustin runs towards it and discovers he has actually shot Jenny's horse... It labors in its breathing. Dr. Schroeder arrives instructing Dustin to put the horse out of its misery. Dustin's eyes itch as he shoots the stallion.

After dragging the horse back to the manor behind the jeep... Rolland is told by Dr. Schroeder to dispose of it – a normal job for him. In the manor, Dr. Schroeder pours wine and Dustin washes the blood off his face in the bathroom. He looks at himself in the mirror regretting not listening to Jenny and starts inspecting his teeth, they feel a bit sensitive... Dustin hears the woman's voice again. He follows it to a wardrobe full of clothes spanning color, style, and gender. He notices a blue dress... He removes the family photo from his pocket and compares the dress. Dr. Schroeder enters with two glasses of wine. He wants to propose a toast of luck to Dustin's return home. Dustin drinks clenches at a pain residing in his stomach and falls onto the floor. He asks Dr. Schroeder about the wine and is told directly it is made from the grapes in the field blended with LSD from the basement. He grasps the reality of his situation and crawls to the door...

Meanwhile, Jenny learns of Dustin's location from Harper, grabs the shotgun and puts his work truck into gear...

Dustin staggers through the warren of hallways in the manor as the drugs begin to take effect. The woman's voice tells him how to get out as the nightmares return. Dustin makes a wrong turn and sees the nail now affixed to the wall next to the veiled painting. He makes another turn to a room filled with Polaroid pictures of different people clipped to canvases, one of which is Jenny's mother wearing the blue dress... Dustin then sees an unfinished painting of him on an easel. The voice screams and Dustin escapes the manor.

He dashes through a grape vineyard, trips over a horse's stomach and notices Rolland cutting out the entrails of Jenny's dead horse. Ultimate hopelessness comes over Dustin as Rolland tackles him and severely thrashes the lawyer in the dirt. Rolland drags Dustin back into the manor.

Rolland says it is nothing personal. All he wants is the money. In fact, he found Dustin to be a good drinking buddy, but he has not been paid in a while. As for the horses, Schroeder needed away to dispose of the bodies who were not a good fit for him... Thankfully, nobody thinks twice if they see you burying a dead horse. Rolland brings Dustin into the ultraviolet room and strips him nude. The photo of Jenny and her mother falls out. Dr. Schroeder express his affection for her. Rolland straps Dustin in a chair and tells Schroeder he will be right back.

Dr. Schroeder shares a short story while tightening the straps. During the black plague, Schroeder made a deal with the devil making him immune, but soon found he was tricked with rapid age and having to prey on others to keep from death. If he dies, heaven will not be an option. So, to avoid eternal damnation, Schroeder has Rolland make a delivery when a suitable host is found. You are what you eat and Dustin is a perfect dish. As for the host, because they do not technically die, their soul is pulled out of the body and remains here wandering the grounds similar to how perceive a ghost which explains the woman's voice Dustin hears. It is the soul of Jenny's mother... Dustin fights to get out, Dr. Schroeder drinks some wine, cuts one of Dustin's eyelids and forces him to drink from the same glass. Dr. Schroeder says that the devil is always the one you trust the most. Dustin shakes and goes into a syncope state.

During this, Rolland lets Steven through the manor's back gate where they load their shotguns and proceed to toss each of room looking for money. Jenny rams her truck through the front gate and sees Dustin's wrecked sports car in a ditch. The robbers find no money and Jenny blows off the knob of the front door with the shotgun. She enters.

All in all, everyone ends up in the ultraviolet room. Rolland pommels the old man in the jaw dislodging his dentures. Jenny screams as she sees his pointed teeth and wakes Dustin up. He cannot see as his eyes puddle up with blood. Rolland points his gun at Dustin threatening Schroeder to tell him the location of the money as Jenny points her gun at Rolland. Schroeder takes Jenny hostage. Dustin propositions Schroeder to finish what they started to free Jenny. He tells Jenny that he loves her and how he should have listened... he drinks the wine. Interruption occurs when Schroeder kills the deputy and a shootout emerges. The engaged couple escape the room. Now though Dustin is blind, he tells Jenny which direction to go as he stops and listens.

Rolland gets ahold of Schroeder and is told the truth of there being no money in the manor. Rolland shoots Schroeder five times in the face, hears the truck pulling out of the driveway and makes a dash towards the door. Through the doorway, Rolland watches the truck speed off and sees the veiled frame on the wall. Rolland pulls away the veil and finds a painting of Dr. Schroeder shot in the face five times with a note reading, "Thank you, my dear Rolland." The manor sets itself on fire and Rolland makes his way out the back to his truck.

The truck speeds through the gate and Dustin in the passenger seat wipes his eyes as Jenny shifts gears gaining speed. Jenny looks out of the passenger window to sees a horse with bloody eyes galloping through the woods...

One year later, back in the city... Jenny and Dustin celebrate Christmas on their own. Jenny is making hot chocolate and calls for Dustin to start the tree... Dustin in the bathroom says he will

be right there. From behind, we see him facing the mirror doing something... the scraping of bone is heard... in closing we find Dustin scraping down his K9 tooth with a nailfile.

The end.