

THE FINGER

A Short Screenplay

By

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LOGLINE: A vile teen with a penchant for flipping the bird needs to change his ways before he annoys the wrong person.

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INT. RESTAURANT KITCHEN - DAY

Amidst hot ovens and deep fryers, a dumb-eyed and tangle-haired teenager spits a giant loogie onto a hamburger before putting the top bun on.

The teen is oblivious to the the clean-cut manager walking up from behind.

MANAGER

What the...? Hey!

LUCAS

WHAT, MAN!? WHAT?! WHAT?!

FREEZE FRAME

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Meet LUCAS AYERS, one of the most putrid and annoying seventeen and half year-old boy you've ever seen.

INT. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT - MOMENTS LATER

The police arrive, pushing through the crowd of patrons. Shirt off, Lucas stands in the middle of the restaurant making a scene.

OFFICER

Son, you need to calm down.

One of the officers, a lanky type, flanks Lucas--

LUCAS

I didn't do nothin'.What the hell man!!! FU- AHH!!

--The lanky officer tazes Lucas. He sprawls on the ground, twitching.

OPENING CREDITS ROLL over PHOTOS OF LUCAS THROUGH THE YEARS, all showing him with nasty faces or making lewd gestures.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Lucas Ayers is what we call a miserable little shit. I'm sure you've met folks that fit the title before. But Lucas manages to be exceptional.

INT. THE AYERS HOUSEHOLD/LIVING ROOM - PAST

A bewildered babysitter tries to stop Lucas, age 5, from hitting her with a stuffed animal.

The babysitter manages to shove him away and get some space.

NARRATOR (CONT.)

Lucas was a wunderkind in being what he was, getting an early start among his kind.

SITTER

LUCAS!!! For the last time, your parents said you couldn't have any ice cream! No ice cream!

YOUNG LUCAS

No. You. Stupid. Bitch.

Time seems to slow down. Lucas's words travel; riding invisibly on air currents across the room, rattling furniture and picture frames, before reaching the babysitter's ears.

The young sitter bursts into tears.

EXT. STORE PARKING LOT - DAY/PRESENT

LUCAS and some of his buddies loiter. They talk smack to each other. A woman passes by, the group cat calls her.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Over the years, Lucas's powers of crudeness grew exponentially. And worst of all, his was the kind that never got stopped or punished, no matter how much it was deserved. Most people thought Lucas was too much to deal with.

Goofing around with his buddies, Lucas accidentally breaks a car's headlight.

LUCAS

Aw, shi-yut. Let's get outta here.

INT. AYERS HOUSEHOLD/KITCHEN - DAY

Lucas's parents, STACY and HAROLD AYERS sit at the kitchen table. STACY twirls her spoon in her coffee cup. HAROLD reads his newspaper. Both are middle-class, simple looking, and have weary faces.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

"What about his parents?", you might be asking.

Stacy lets out a sigh. Harold looks sideways, coughs, and goes back to reading his paper.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Perhaps we should just leave them alone.

EXT. DOWNTOWN DRUGSTORE SIDEWALK - DAY

Lucas and his buddies stand outside, loitering. They yell and shout, smoke, and mess around on a skateboard.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Out of his vast arsenal of bullying, annoying behavior, Lucas's favorite tool was flipping people off.

A street jogger passes Lucas's crew. They giggle and make noises. The jogger turns around and gives a glare.

Lucas shoots the jogger the bird.

Noticing, the jogger slows down, then stops.

The jogger turns back and walks to Lucas. Lucas makes a stand for a brief moment, then chickens out and takes off running.

INSERT: A HAND COMES UP AND GIVES THE MIDDLE FINGER. THE HAND ROTATES 360-DEGREES LIKE A DISPLAY.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The finger. The bird. The one-finger salute. In my opinion, it is the most paradoxical of insults. If you think about it critically, logically, nothing seems horrid about extending the middle finger out from a closed fist.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Yet this simple gesture can send
the most unshakeable of us into a
state of disbelief and rage,
especially when done without
reasonable cause.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

And Lucas was anything but
reasonable...

SERIES OF SHOTS: LUCAS GIVES PEOPLE THE FINGER IN DIFFERENT
WAYS

- THE WIND-UP

- READ BETWEEN THE LINES

- LOOK INTO MY EYE

- THE TWO-HAND SALUTE

- THE QUICK DRAW

- THE INFLATABLE

- THE TRANSFER

- THE MAGIC TRICK

-LUCAS SPINS AROUND AND FLIPS THE BIRD AT A TV. THE TV SHOOTS
SPARKS AND SHORTS OUT.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Good God... This kid should really
stop,

EXT. TWO-LANE ROAD - DAY

Lucas drives down the road with his window open, texting,
MUSIC BLARING.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

If that boy isn't careful, he is going to learn the consequences of the destructive power he wields. Sooner or later, he might flip off the wrong person... Someone who's a little unstable or having a really bad day.

Lucas turns on a red light and intersects with the back end of a pick-up truck. Lucas twitches in his seat.

From the pick-up, an angry man peers out from the driver's side.

LUCAS

Hey! Okay. Okay. Calm down, big man. It's no big deal.

The angry man steps out of his truck, revealing his giant hulking frame.

ANGRY MAN

Oh, of course, your cell phone?!
You little ---!

LUCAS

The fuck, man! I was tryin' to be all nice. Y'know what? Fuck you!

Lucas gives Angry Man THE FINGER.

ANGRY MAN'S EYES TURN CRAZY. He gets out of his pick-up, slams the door, and walks towards LUCAS.

LUCAS nervously rolls up his window--

-- the Angry Man puts his hands on top of the window, and pushes it down.

Lucas yelps and crawls to the passenger door.

Angry Man opens the door and yanks Lucas out and onto the road.

He pulls out a wicked looking hunting knife from his belt.

The hunting knife gleams in the sunlight.

Lucas looks up and lets out the most GIRLISH SCREAM ever heard.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

A get-well card accompanies a bouquet of wilting flowers. The hospital bed is empty and unmade.

In the corner by the window, Lucas Ayers sits looking positively mournful.

Holding back tears, he looks down to his hands...

... wrapped in bandages and missing all its fingers.

Lucas snaps out of it. He breaks his gaze on his hands and begins to stare down intently, angrily, at his bare feet.

NARRATOR

For most people, such a tragedy would lead them to re-examine their life choices; to make a change for the better.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

But Lucas Ayers... is a vile, stupid, little shit...

Lucas concentrates harder on his feet.

Miraculously, impossibly, Lucas's toes on his feet curl downwards as the MIDDLE TOE POPS UP, GIVING THE BIRD.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

And vile little shits never die.

THE END