

THE BLACKOUT

Ricardo Molina Pérez

(Scriptwriting sample for a cartoon film)

THE BLACKOUT1 EXT. SCHOOLYARD - DAY

Sitting on a bench, some STUDENTS with their backpacks, books, handbags, etc. Up in the sky, a SUN in sunglasses watches.

GIRL 1

(to camera)

I don't know why, that day the Sun vanished, you couldn't even be sure you saw it!

The students nod in agreement.

BOY 1

(to Girl 1)

Yeah! It was strange, wasn't it? It got dark right away.

CLOSE-UP of the Sun in the sky (in sunglasses).

SUN

(to camera)

Hey, I was tired, right? That day I had so many solar storms- I wasn't feeling too well, so I went to rest. I don't think I did any harm, did I?

GIRL 1

(to camera)

So it was dark outside...

CUT TO

2 EXT. SCHOOLYARD - NIGHT

The schoolyard, some STUDENTS walking by, and beyond it, the building with the windows lit up.

GIRL 1 (O.S.) (CONT'D)

...and then came the blackout.

ALL

Yeah! That's it! Exactly! Yeah!

The lights in the windows and the street lamps suddenly GO OUT. Everything is now in darkness.

CUT TO

3 INT. SCHOOL PREMISES - SAME TIME

IN A CLASSROOM

Sitting STUDENTS in the middle of an exam. The TEACHER strolls vigilantly among the tables. Then, the LIGHTS GO OFF. The students mutter, whisper, shout in the gloom.

STUDENTS

Oh, God! What the hell? What's going on? ...

TEACHER

Oh! Ok, don't move, silence, leave your exams and stay in your place, watch your wallets, watch your hands- oh, and no phones! Let's wait for the light to come back, ok?

IN THE CORRIDORS

The usual activity: STUDENTS passing by, some at their lockers, and a couple, GIRL 2 and BOY 2, intimately talking in the background. LIGHTS GO OFF. In the gloom:

BOY 2

What was that?

GIRL 2

Oh, I don't know- what-? Hey, let's take the chance, come on, kiss me.

BOY 2

Are you sure?

GIRL 2

Of course, come, kiss me.

BOY 2

How do we do that?

GIRL 2

Oh, come!

Girl 2 kisses Boy 2.

GIRL 2 (CONT'D)

No! Use your tongue!

ON THE SPORTS COURT, THE GRANDSTANDS.

A group of GIRLS watch admiringly from the stands.

A GOOD-LOOKING BOY jumps hurdles on the athletics track.

GIRL 3

Oh, look at him! It's not like he's jumping, it's like he's doing ballet!

GIRL 4

Oh, yeah! It's not sport, it's musical!

BACK on the girls.

GIRL 5

I wish so much I was his pants!

GIRL 3

What!

LIGHTS GO OFF.

GIRL 3 (CONT'D)

Oh, my God!

ON THE ATHLETICS TRACK

The Good-looking Guy stumbles on the hurdles and, seconds later, YELLS in pain.

ON THE GRANDSTANDS

The Girls run to help him.

GIRL 3

Hey, I'll help you, don't move- you might have broken something!

Girl 4 grabs Girl 3 to stop her.

GIRL 4

No, I'll take care of him, you stay!

GIRL 5

No, it's me that he likes, I'll come!

The Girls fight in the gloom.

GIRL 3

What? He likes you? No way! It's me!

GIRL 4

No, he likes me!

GIRL 3

You! No, not you!

GIRL 5

Don't go crazy, it's me, he's been
staring at my boobs since school
started!

GIRL 3

No! That's not true!

ON THE ATHLETICS TRACK (while the Girls quarrel)

The Good-looking Guy YELLS.

CUT TO

4 EXT. SCHOOLYARD - DAY

The STUDENTS, seated on the bench, with their backpacks,
books, handbags, etc. The SUN, in sunglasses, watches from
the sky.

GOOD-LOOKING GUY

(to camera)

I'm handsome, so what? I might be
so but, look, I'm not iron made!

The Good-looking Guy shows his leg in plaster cast.

Girl 3, 4 and 5, seated next to him, show respectively a
black eye, an arm in a sling and a bump.

GIRL 3

Yeah, you're too handsome for us.

GIRL 4

Look what you did to us!

GIRL 5

Come on, girls, he's not to blame!

(to the boy)

Isn't it, honey?

The three girls start arguing and quarrelling on the
betrayal of the last.

Meanwhile, IN THE SKY

SUN

(to camera)

To me they are all equal. I spread
my light onto all creatures, no
matter whether they are beautiful

or ugly. But that day I had no energy for any of them.

BACK to the BENCH

GIRL 6
(to camera)
I was in the toilet.

CUT TO

5 INT. SCHOOL / TOILETTES - NIGHT

There is no one in the aisle, in front of the toilet doors. Except for...

GIRL 6
(from inside a toilet)
Help! Help!

No answer.

GIRL 6 (CONT'D)
I just dropped my phone down the WC! Help!

CUT TO

6 EXT. SCHOOLYARD - DAY

BOY 3
(to camera)
Luckily I had with me the night-vision goggles.

CUT TO

7 INT. SCHOOL PREMISES - SAME TIME

THE CLASSROOM

Students whisper in the dark. Suddenly...

GIRL 7
Hey, your hands off me, you bastard!

TEACHER
Come on, folks, be patient, it shouldn't be long for the power to be back on.

POV-- The night-vision goggles come on and we see the classroom in green through the eyes of Boy 3. Most of the BOYS and GIRLS are sitting at their desks. However, in a

corner, BOY 4 and GIRL 8 kiss and touch each other. Boy 3 walks past them and stops next to a nerdy-looking boy, BOY 5. Boy 3 looks around: the teacher leans on his table, while he picks snot out of his nose. Then Boy 3 looks at Boy 5's desk. There it is, his exam. He picks it up and runs to his desk. He sits and copies from Boy 5's the answers to the questions in his own exam.

MEANWHILE, IN THE TOILETS

GIRL 6

Help, please! I'm frightened by the dark! I'm nyctophobic! Help!

No answer.

GIRL 6 (CONT'D)

My phone is gone! Help!

BACK IN THE CLASSROOM

Suddenly, someone farts.

TEACHER

Hey, what was that? No, no-darkness doesn't allow this uncivil behavior! No!

GIRL and BOYS

Oh, my goodness! Holy shit! I'm gonna faint! Smells like shit, you son of a bitch! Hey, it wasn't me!

8 EXT. SCHOOLYARD - DAY

GIRL 1

(to camera)

It wasn't me.

BOY 1

(to camera)

Neither was I.

GOOD-LOOKING GUY

I can assure you it was not me.