

THE LAST BUCK HUNT

Written by

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A BLACK SCREEN

MAN'S VOICE

(whispers)

Oh my word, would ya look at her?

ANOTHER MAN'S VOICE

(whispers)

What's a pretty thing like that
doing all by herself?

MAN'S VOICE

Her big man's gotta' be 'round here
somewhere.

ANOTHER MAN'S VOICE

Those legs. Damn, she's got some
meat on 'em.

MAN'S VOICE

This is what it's all about folks.

ANOTHER MAN'S VOICE

You're tellin' me.

MAN'S VOICE

Wait. Over there, ya see him?

ANOTHER MAN'S VOICE

I see him.

MAN'S VOICE

The big dog's gone n' come home.

A GUN SHOT IS FIRED

ANOTHER MAN'S VOICE

And Elvis has left the building!
Yeeha!

2

EXT. WOODS - DAY

2

HANDHELD CAMERA:

KENNY, a young man decked out in cammo and sporting a hunting rifle, is laying on the ground with his arms perched on a mound. He can't contain a smile. JENKINS, an older man in similar attire, presses his face against a pair of binoculars. Jenkin's grin is taught.

KENNY

Well, did I get him?

Jenkins smile slowly fades.

JENKINS

Nope.

KENNY

No?

JENKINS

Her, ya shot her.

The camera pulls back to reveal WILLIAM, about Jenkin's age without all the camouflage. He is leaning against a tree, looks up from his outdoors book.

WILLIAM

He shot a doe?

JENKINS

Ya, the boy shot a doe. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

Kenny drops his head in the dirt, still laying face down.

The camera retreats from the action and catches ALEX, a 20-something sound man, in frame, who shakes his head.

ALEX

Oh snap.

WILLIAM

Holy smokes. That's bad.

JENKINS

Thanks Willy. I already know Kenny's a piss-poor shot.

WILLIAM

I mean...like with the game department n' stuff. It's bad. They're not gunna' like this. I told 'em I was gunna' watch you boys, make sure ya stick to the rules.

JENKINS

You're my liaison. Go liaise with 'em.

The camera looks to Alex.

CAMERAMAN

Should I turn off the camera?

Alex shakes his head.

ALEX

Nope. First rule of Big Game TV:
Always keep the camera rolling.

The cameraman turns back to see Kenny looking like an orphaned child, as Jenkins starts packing up around him.

Jenkins grabs Kenny by the shoulder.

JENKINS

I got some antlers in the back of
my truck. If we do it right, with
some Hollywood magic...we can still
pull an episode out of this.

KENNY

(ashamed)
Thanks Dad.

Jenkins looks over to the camera.

JENKINS

Camera boy! What's yer name?

CAMERAMAN

Steve.

JENKINS

Cameraman Steve, huh?

STEVE

Uh, yeah.

JENKINS

Time to work yer magic.

3

EXT. FIELD - DAY

3

STATIONARY CAMERA: Kenny sits proudly next to a dead deer--
the doe with antlers awkwardly attached.

KENNY

Big game hunting is all about
patience. About takin' the right
shot at the right moment. Tune in
next week, as we hit the rugged
terrain of the Pacific Northwest in
search of a legendary white tail.
Until then, who gives a buck?!

"WHO GIVES A BUCK?" SHOW MONTAGE: Country/Bluegrass music swells, as the words "Who gives a Buck?" hit the screen to the sound of gun shots. Video from Kenny's various hunts are shown.

4

EXT. RUGGED LANDSCAPE - DAY

4

The crew packs their gear into trucks and SUV's. Kenny, obviously feeling better about himself, spots Steve with the camera.

KENNY

Hey, you, come here.

STEVE

Yeah?

KENNY

Shoot me.

STEVE

What?

KENNY

Shoot me. With the camera.

STEVE

Already speeding.

Kenny doesn't understand.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Speeding...as in, the camera's rolling.

KENNY

Oh, then you already know the first rule of Big Game TV.

STEVEN AND KENNY

Always keep the camera rolling.

KENNY

Ok, get this.

Kenny preps himself for a close-up, grabs a duffel bag from Alex's hands.

KENNY (CONT'D)

The less glamorous side of the job.
As you can see, out here,
everybody's gotta' do their part.
(MORE)

KENNY (CONT'D)
Every good hunt needs a good
team...and having the right
equipment doesn't hurt one bit.

Kenny pulls a random item out of the duffel bag. It's a pair
of wool socks. Kenny looks at the item in his hands.

KENNY (CONT'D)
That didn't work did it?

STEVE
I think-

KENNY
Let's do it again. Lemme get
somethin' else.

STEVE
No man, it's cool.

KENNY
Really?

STEVE
Yeah. I'm sure they can cut around
it.

Kenny smirks.

KENNY
And that's why they pay you boys
the big bucks, while I bring home
the...bucks.

Kenny laughs hard at his own joke.

STEVE
Or doe.

KENNY
What?

STEVE
I know. Just said, "I know."

Kenny motions for Alex and gives the duffell bag back to him.

KENNY
What's yer name again?

STEVE
Steve.

KENNY

Ha! Cameraman Steve.

STEVE

Is that an inside joke or something?

KENNY

Huh?

STEVE

Nevermind.

KENNY

Look Steve. I don't wanna' scare you or nuthin', but the last cameraman...he quit.

STEVE

Yeah I heard.

KENNY

Did you hear why?

STEVE

The network really doesn't tell us those things. Privacy issues.

KENNY

Well, lemme tell ya somethin. Victor was real good with the videos n' all, but he was one of them film school kids from LA. Some of these hunts get real rough.

STEVE

I've worked with National Geographic, so--

KENNY

This ain't no boring geography show Steve. This is the bush. The nitty gritty.

STEVE

Right.

KENNY

Just be careful. Victor got hurt real bad, that's why he quit. This stuff aint for city boys.

JENKINS (O.S.)

Kenny! Get over here.

Kenny begins to wander away from the Steve and the camera.

STEVE
City boy? I'm from Nebraska.
(whispers)
Douche bag.

5 INT. SUV - DAY

5

Kenny drives down a rural highway. Steve sits with the camera in the front passenger seat, while Alex works sound in the back.

KENNY
Here we are in the dreary
Northwest. Land of Starbucks and
Bigfoot. The terrain here in Honey
Valley is cold, wet, and tough.
That's why we're gonna' stop in to
meet some locals to see exactly
what we're up against.

Alex is making a childish "ooooo, scary" face as he records sound.

6 DRIVING MONTAGE: SHOTS OF SMALL FARMS, CHEAP HOMES, FORESTED AREAS, AND MOUNTAINS.

7 EXT. FARM - DAY

7

Kenny and DAN, a middle-aged man in dirty jeans, rubber boots, and a classic flannel shirt, stand in front of a barn.

KENNY
This here is Dan Hill, one of the
local farmers. He tells me he's
seen the legendary buck of Honey
Valley. What did ya see Dan?

DAN
I already gone and told ya once.

The host tries not to giggle.

KENNY
I know Dan, but remember, we gotta'
record it with the camera now. Can
you tell me again?

DAN

How long this gunna take? Tractors don't fix themselves ya know.

STEVE

Dan, it'll only take a couple minutes, then we can give ya a hand with that tractor. I think I gotta wrench just the right size for that 3/4 inch bearing packer.

DAN

Ok then. Where do you want me to look?

STEVE

Just look right at Kenny, you can ignore me.

Kenny looks over to Steve and nods his head in approval.

KENNY

So have you seen the big buck here in Honey Valley?

DAN

Oh yeah, I seen it. Just over yonder in that clearing. Big sumbitch buck. Six pointer. I tell ya, I thought it was an elk 'er somethin, it was so damn big.

KENNY

How long ago was that?

DAN

Just last spring I seen it.

KENNY

Well Dan, we're gonna' go after that sonofabitch.

Dan looks directly into the camera.

DAN

This guy's a dumbass.

Kenny mouths the word "cut" and slices the air with is hand.

8

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

8

Kenny sits in a big arm chair with a dazed smile on his face. Across from him in another chair is TINA, wearing a conservative dress but looking lovely in it.

TINA

Could I get you boys anything else?

ALEX

The coffee's good. Thanks.

Alex smiles at Tina, then spits the coffee back in his cup when she looks away.

STEVE

I think we're ready to get started.

KENNY

You, uh, what did you call it? You speeding?

STEVE

Yup. Speeding.

KENNY

(laughing)
Speedin' like a blazin'
lamborghini, huh?

Kenny looks around the room, but no one laughs at his joke.

KENNY (CONT'D)

(puts on his serious face)
Anyway...Tina Schunamaker is here to tell us about her horrific encounter with the big buck everybody's talkin about. Go on, tell us Tina.

TINA

Well, I was just sitting out on the porch, drinking my coffee. Bruiser, my dog, was with me. I remember cause we was waitin' for my husband to come back.

KENNY

Husband?

TINA

Yeah. He's in the service.

KENNY

That's a shame.

TINA

Well, I wouldn't think servin'
one's country is shameful.

KENNY

Of course not, I meant a shame that
he's not here with you right now.

Tina shakes off Kenny's peculiar words.

TINA

Anyways, I was just gonna' go
inside to grab my phone in case he
called when I saw it standin by the
trees. Just staring at us.

CUT TO:

9

EXT. TINA'S YARD - DAY

9

KENNY

Is this where you saw him?

Kenny stands under a large tree next to Tina.

TINA

You see this branch here? His head
went up about this tall.

KENNY

No kidding. Woooweee.

CUT TO:

10

EXT. TINA'S PORCH - DAY

10

Kenny and Tina sit on her porch steps. She holds a tissue.

TINA

And that night, I come home and
find Bruiser all torn up.

KENNY

What kind of dog is Bruiser?

TINA

Bruiser was a German Shepard. A
real big one too.

KENNY
I'm so sorry Tina.

TINA
I know it was that buck. The way he was lookin' at me an' Bruiser. And the wounds on that poor dog, looked just like when my cousin got gored by a mule deer two huntin' seasons ago.

Kenny considers her story for a moment.

KENNY
Just like it, huh?

TINA
You boys gonna' kill that buck?

KENNY
Hell yes, ma'am.

Tina hugs Kenny, as she sniffles. Kenny looks straight into the camera and smiles, clearly proud of the crying woman in his shoulders.

CUT TO:

11 EXT. HOUSE - DAY

11

The crew is packing up gear into the SUV. Kenny is checking himself out in a rearview mirror.

ALEX
Anybody got some gum?

STEVE
No, sorry.

ALEX
Gotta get this ass taste outta my mouth.

Kenny spins around.

KENNY
Now why would ya have that taste in your mouth?

ALEX
That coffee. Jesus.

Kenny shrugs.

KENNY

I thought it was pretty good.

12 INT. OFFICE - DAY

12

DR. BRONSON, in glasses and a dress shirt, looks into the camera. Kenny reads over some paperwork next to him.

DR. BRONSON

Yeah, I've done a few of these interviews before. I know the drill.

STEVE

Great. This should go quickly then.

Kenny reads from his list of questions.

KENNY

Could you first explain who you are?

DR. BRONSON

I'm a nationally-renowned expert on large mammals of the Pacific Northwest, including a ten-year, ground-breaking study on animal husbandry and a Schmoller-prize-winning analysis of animal aggression.

Dr. Bronson's head is rather mobile, giving Steve's camerawork some trouble.

KENNY

Terrific. I dunno about you folks at home, but I dunno what the hell he just said.

Dr. Bronson laughs along with Kenny.

KENNY (CONT'D)

So tell me doctor, boy does it feel weird to call you that...like I'm gettin' a rash looked at or somethin.

Dr. Bronson shoots Steve a disgusted look.

STEVE

Uhh, yeah, Kenny, could we try that one again?

KENNY

Why?

Steve can't believe he's asking. Alex jumps in.

ALEX

Yeah, sound problem.

KENNY

Oh okay.

STEVE

Maybe just ask the question straight out. Timing issues and all.

KENNY

So tell me doctor, are deer known to be aggressive in these parts?

DR. BRONSON

No.

The crew pauses, waiting for him to continue.

STEVE

Dr. Bronson, could you elaborate a bit more and remember to rephrase the question?

DR. BRONSON

Yeah, I know. You didn't let me finish.

(beat)

Deer are not typically aggressive. However, under severe conditions, they have been known to attack humans.

Dr. Bronson's head bobs in and out of frame again.

STEVE

I'm sorry, could you hold on? Doctor, could you try to keep your head a little more...stable? So that it can stay in my frame?

DR. BRONSON

Of course, I told you I've done this before.

STEVE

Well, just try to limit your movement for me, okay?

DR. BRONSON
Whatever you say cameraman.

KENNY
Tell me about the deer attacks
right here in Honey Valley.

Dr. Bronson's head is unnaturally still, almost like a robot.

DR. BRONSON
Honey Valley is home to an
excessive population of deer, with
multiple sub-species. It is also
home to a large population of
hunters, with multiple sub-species
of redneck.

Dr. Bronson laughs at his joke, looking painfully awkward as
he tries to keep his head frozen in place.

DR. BRONSON (CONT'D)
With these two species colliding,
there have been multiple attacks,
primarily during hunting season.
Over the past two years, we have
recorded 27 deer-human attacks in
Honey Valley. Eight of those were
fatal...

Kenny is surprised.

DR. BRONSON (CONT'D)
Fatal for the deer.

Dr. Bronson and Kenny laugh at the bad joke.

KENNY

Has anyone actually been killed by
a Honey Valley deer?

DR. BRONSON
Unfortunately, yes, one incident
resulted in the death of a local
hunter. And another incident is..
well...to be determined, the poor
fellow is still in a coma.

KENNY
As a man of science, do you believe
in the legendary killer buck of
Honey Valley?

DR. BRONSON

There is no evidence to indicate that one particular deer is responsible for all of these incidents, but I would not be surprised if there were a large, renegade buck out there. So be careful gentlemen.