

Love Across Hades  
an original screenplay by  
Peter Roach

Logline: A researcher is on the verge of an artificial blood discovery to keep his dead girlfriend among the living must avoid the law and keep vengeful demons at bay.

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Peter Roach  
5450 Rumac Street SE  
Lacey, WA, 98513  
360-878-5282  
fotoeffex@yahoo.com

FADE IN:

INT. RESEARCH LAB - EVENING

JOEL CHRISTENSON, thirty three, Phd, Researcher is checking the numbers on lab equipment. He is diligent, checks each number twice. Enters the numbers in his computers, waits for results.

He shows a tiny strain of disappointment when the results are not what he wants. He shrugs and starts over again.

He is unshaven, his coat is a mess of tiny blood stains. There are a dozen empty cups of coffee laying around.

There is a knock on the door. He does not hear or want to answer.

The door opens. REBECCA PIRLO MD, hematologist, good looking woman in her early forties.

PIRLO

Jeez Joel, have you gone home this week?

JOEL

Maybe yesterday.

PIRLO

No Joel, you have not left this lab in four days. Go home, the problem will be here tomorrow, and next week.

JOEL

Close. Too damn close. Almost there.

PIRLO

What is driving you? There is no deadline, no investor is breathing down our necks.

JOEL

Maybe there is someone out there who needs this now. A month later might be too late.

Pirlo walks over stokes his hair. Joel does not respond.

PIRLO

Tired men lose interest in the good things around them. Go home or I will get the Med team to send you home.

JOEL

Ok, ten minutes, my last baseline is almost done.

INT. CONDO LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

There are two tables filled with lab equipment. There is a centrifuge spinning with vials of blood. Joel is checking the numbers on the lab equipment, carefully noting each result.

There is double beep from one of the test equipment. He looks at the number and gives himself a high five.

His clothes, books, equipment are strewn all over the room.

His watch beeps. He takes a second or two then looks at this. Runs to the bedroom in a hurry.

JOEL

Shit!

INT. CONDO BATHROOM - NIGHT

Joel is getting dressed. He is checking his hair, every strand is in place.

INT. CONDO LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Joel walks over to the lab equipment, takes two vials of blood and puts them the freezer. He takes one vial and puts in his suit pocket. He walks out the front door humming.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - NIGHT

Joel is walking briskly through the graveyard. Joel stops and leans on a headstone.

A ghostly figure rises silently out of a grave behind him.

The ghost slides over to Joel and envelops him and then backs off. He takes the vial of blood out his pocket and pushes his hand into the ghost.

The ghost takes form as a young woman. They embrace. The ghost CHRISTINE steps back. Christine looks twenty, pale, long dark hair.

CHRISTINE

You are late sweetness!

JOEL

Nah! You can't even tell time.

CHRISTINE  
True, but I know when you are not  
here. Been busy Mr Man?

JOEL  
Little bit.

Joel takes her face in his hands and kisses her on the forehead.

CHRISTINE  
Why do you still meet me here? I  
like surprising you.

JOEL  
Just romance, like the first time  
every time.

Joel reaches into his bag, takes out a coat and puts it on Christine.

CHRISTINE  
Sneaking me in your bedroom again?

JOEL  
We have been through this, you have  
to blend in.

Joel takes her arm, Christine hangs on to his neck as they walk out the grave yard.

INT. CONDO - NIGHT

Joel is tapping a response on his laptop. Christine is sitting on the couch with her feet in Joel's lap. He is trying to keep the laptop from falling over.

JOEL  
There done! See, told you five  
minutes. No sharing. Are you happy  
now?

CHRISTINE  
I am happy. When I am here, you are  
just mine.

Joel puts the laptop down, walks over and pushes open a closet door.

JOEL  
Here bought you some things. That  
dress is long out of style.

CHRISTINE

You bought me granny clothes again?  
Sugar Daddy.

JOEL

I do the best I can. You can't walk  
around in that old dead dress.

CHRISTINE

Aha! I am still a young woman my  
old man, it is you becoming grandpa.

JOEL

Wait another fifteen years.

CHRISTINE

Be quiet, you have every man's dreams,  
a girl friend that does not age,  
does not get fat.

JOEL

Sweet! Then you can watch me eat  
again?

CHRISTINE

Are you guilty of something?

JOEL

Damn, I forgot your oranges!

CHRISTINE

The one thing Mr Man, the one thing  
that I can taste. You forgot.

Joel walks overs and kisses her deeply.

JOEL

Start counting, be back before you  
get to five hundred.

CHRISTINE

Oooh that was nice!

JOEL

And you can pretend you don't look  
through my things.

CHRISTINE

I do. But you don't even try to  
cheat. Geez gimme something to get  
pissed about.

Joel touches her cheek and walks out the door.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Joel is hurrying back with a bag of fruit and batteries. TWO THUGS come out the shadows and start to follow. He does not notice. They come up quickly and push him against the wall next to a garbage container.

THUG1  
Give it, now!

JOEL  
Ok,Ok guy...hand ..pocket...wallet..Ok

THUG1 looks through Joel's wallet.

THUG1  
That is all dude, twenty four dollars!

THUG2  
Got a secret pocket bitch?

JOEL  
No pockets, day before payday man.

THUG1  
You must live close, whatcha got in your house?

JOEL  
Can't do that man, take the money, the cards, anything else.

THUG2 hits Joel in the face.

THUG2  
Nah, we go to your house, we take your shit.

JOEL  
No! Won't do that.

The two men start hitting Joel and kicking him until he is on the ground.

INT. CONDO - NIGHT

Christine picking Joel's clothes off the furniture. She stops, twists her head, drops the clothing.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

The men walk off leaving Joel on the ground. One is carrying the bag of fruit. A hand reaches out to touch Joel on the head. The men turn, show no fear, they laugh.

THUG1

So what are you going to do girl?

CHRISTINE

I am not that kind of girl sailor.

The two men turn to walk away. The sound of metal dragging on the pavement makes them turn around again.

The men look up and their expressions turn to abject fear. They turn to run, but die in a blur of bodies being dissected quickly and violently. Their bodies are in small pieces, with their heads rolled to the side on the ground. THUG2 eyes blink slowly and close.

INT. CONDO - NIGHT

Joel is laying on the couch. Christine has an ice pack on his head. The sounds of sirens get louder and louder. Joel tries to lift his head.

CHRISTINE

Easy sugar, You should sleep! You got a bumpy head.

JOEL

Whoa, what the hell happened?

CHRISTINE

You stumbled in, were you in a fight?

JOEL

Geez, that hurt. I was robbed.

CHRISTINE

You always say don't fight, give them the money.

JOEL

I did. They wanted to me to bring them here, I said no.

Christine leans forward and kisses him on the lips.

CHRISTINE

Sir Galahad. Were you protecting my honor?

JOEL

Avoiding complications.

CHRISTINE

Hear those sirens? I am sure the cops are picking up the pieces.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

The police have cordoned off the area. There are ambulances, police cars and many uniformed police. They have pushed everyone back down to the end of the block. A black detective comes out an unmarked car. He is in a hurry, and looking annoyed. He is Sergeant ANDREW NEX. He approaches a uniformed policeman CALLUM MCKAY.

NEX

Damn, McKay, I was off in five minutes. You did this on purpose, must be the Irish in you.

MCKAY

McKay, Highlands, Scottish, McKay. Yes I called, to pay you back for the hundred you took off me.

NEX

Can't call with a pair of nines dude. What we got?

MCKAY

Sliced and diced. You could stir fry those citizens.

NEX

Gangs?

McKay holds out a small plastic bag.

MCKAY

Nah. Better take a barf bag. These boys died hard.

NEX

Just what I need to see before going to bed. Goddamn Mac, five minutes.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Body parts are strewn down the street and some into the alley. Nex is standing to the side. He is looking away from the mayhem of body parts, looking around.

NEX

This is all forensics Mac. Nothing here, gotta sift through this like finding weevils in the flour.

McKay leaves the forensic teams and gives Nex an item. Nex takes it and drops it quickly. McKay laughs.

MCKAY  
Got a thumb. We may get an ID.

NEX  
You notice something?

MCKAY  
Just shish kebab.

NEX  
(Louder)  
There are no blood splatter patterns.

The Forensic TEAM LEADER looks around. Looks down at the body parts at his feet.

TEAM LEADER  
Unofficially something very sharp and very hot. Officially I don't know. Whatever it was, it was damn quick.

Nex turns to look up and down the street.

NEX  
Walk with me McKay. Take the right side of the street, See what you can and look for cameras.

INT. CONDO - NIGHT

Christine is peeling an orange in the kitchen. Joel is laying on the couch. He stands up, but quickly sits down again.

CHRISTINE  
Take it easy there.

JOEL  
Yeah, just need to wash the excitement off. Hot bath. No dancing tonight  
Ok.

CHRISTINE  
I don't mind. Not all of you hurt!

JOEL  
Orange?

CHRISTINE  
You were asleep.

Joel walks into the bathroom. Christine takes a bite of the orange and runs in after him.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Nex and McKay are looking into each shop of either side of the street checking for cameras. Nex steps into a Deli. McKay stops looks up sees an open window. McKay crosses the street and enters the building.

INT. CABANA DELI - NIGHT

Nex is standing at the door of a small office at the back of the Deli looking at video of the small screen. The Deli OWNER is attending to customers.

NEX

How come the time is ZERO ZERO?

OWNER

Time is broken, camera works though.  
I never fixed it.

NEX

(under his breath)  
Another damn idiot.  
(Louder)  
Hey, come back here!

The Owner locks the door put a back in five minutes sign on the door.

NEX (CONT'D)

What time is this? And who are these people?

OWNER

About 8:30. I know, the game ended.  
Just strangers buying. .... That  
guy, I know, local.

Nex backs up the video a minute, starts again.

OWNER (CONT'D)

Comes in often, nice guy, bought  
batteries and fruit.

NEX

What fruit?

OWNER

Oranges. He asked me how I was. He  
does that all the time.

NEX

Why?

OWNER

Why? I see him every week, Just  
being friendly.

NEX

So where does he live?

OWNER

I don't know. This man he walks in,  
he says hello, he buys, he asks how  
are you. I say Ok, he walks out.

NEX

He pays cash?

OWNER

Cash, always. Always alone though.  
He walks in, he walks out, never a  
car.

NEX

Thanks! You erase this I will give  
you a ticket for littering.