

Lab Coat

Written By

Matthew Robinson

Matt@NormalHill.com  
208-798-5335

EXT. STREET - SUNSET

We see a young woman walking down the street with white headphones sticking out of her ears. She's wearing a hoodie, and hat. She looks like a college student. We hear the music playing in her ears, it sounds upbeat. We see her looking at her phone while she's walking. She fumbles a bit with her psychology books in her hands.

We see a telephone pole with flyers on it. The College Kid walks by not noticing anything around her. The camera closes in on a flyer with large money symbols on it. All of a sudden the College Kid stops past the flyer. The flyer flaps gently in the wind, drawing our attention.

The College Kid sees the flyer, it reads:

Young Psychology Students  
Want to earn up to \$100  
for less than an hours work

Assist in social experiments for the college

Call to qualify, and make appointment"

We see the College Kid pull out her phone and begin to make a call as she walks away from the telephone pole.

CUT TO: TITLE CARD

INT. WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

We see the college kid walk from outside, into a waiting room. It's a small and older looking room. There are things you would normally see in a counselors office, all over the walls. There is a small sign on the desk that says:

"Please wait here until we come to get you. Thank you for your patience, we will be with you shortly."

The College Kid looks around the room a bit and sees somewhere to sit. She sits down.

She sits for a while, looking around awkwardly. Then she

sees a bowl of candy. In front of the bowl of candy there is a sign that reads:

"Would you like to have some of this candy?"

The College Kid pauses for a moment, confused (The score changes to something to assist the comedy for this moment). The College Kid looks around the room. Then the College Kid notices a camera in the room. A knowing smile rushes over her face. We see that she understands that this is the experiment.

She looks over at the bowl of candy again. She's still smiling when she reaches for a piece of candy... Then she stops herself. It looks like she is trying to figure out whether or not to grab the candy. She shrugs her shoulders as if to say, "Who cares, I want some candy." Then she has a look of defiance on her face, and reaches for the candy...

MAN IN LAB COAT

(In a cold monotone  
voice)

Are you Ms. Anderson?

COLLEGE KID

(Looks up with a guilty  
look on her face)

No... Smith.

The man in the lab coat looks at her clipboard for a moment. The college kid looks awkwardly at her feet. While the man in the lab coat looks at her paperwork.

MAN IN LAB COAT

OK, here you are. Come with me.

The man in the lab coat walks out of the room, the college kid walks out of the room immediately after the man in the lab coat. The camera dollies slowly into the candy bowl while they exit the waiting room.

INT. TEST CHAMBER - NIGHT

We see the man in the lab coat leading the college kid into a room with a large window, showing through it we only see darkness. The room is painted white, with nothing on the

walls. The only thing in the room is a large metal box on a table in front of the window. The metal box has 3 large red buttons on it. Above each button reads the numbers: 5, 10, & 30. There are some bottles of water, and another bowl of candy. The college Kid stares down at the bowl of candy (to comic effect).

The man in the lab coat makes some marks on his paperwork. After examining the table's contents for a moment the college kid asks:

COLLEGE KID  
 (She clears her throat a  
 bit before talking)  
 When do I get paid.

The man in the lab coat hands the college kid a bottled water, and answers very plainly.

MAN IN LAB COAT  
 You will receive payment after the  
 experiment is concluded.

The man in the lab coat walks out of the room and into the room with the window. As soon as he walks into the room he flips a switch. As the light turns on we see in the middle of the room a young unconscious man tied up in a chair. There is a gag in his mouth, and a large device strapped to his head. We see that there is electrical wire leading from his head toward the ground.

The man in the lab coat begins to examine the wires, after his inspection he opens a smelling salt in front of the person in the chair.

We see the college kid is looking shocked, and scared. We see the college kid look down at the metal box with the buttons, and we see the college kid begin to come to a realization.

COLLEGE KID  
 (As if to say, "I get it  
 now.")  
 Milgram... (Beat) It's not real.

The college kid opens her water bottle with a smug look on her face. The college kid watches as the man in the lab coat opens some smelling salts in front of the unconscious person

in the room. The person wakes up in the chair, and looks around woozily. We see that the man in the lab coat is saying something, very briefly, to the person in the chair.

The man in the lab coat walks out of the room behind the window, and then stands behind the college kid over her left shoulder (frame right as the college kid faces the window).

MAN IN LAB COAT

Press the button labeled "five."  
(He says in a monotone voice.)

COLLEGE KID

Sure.  
(She says with a smile as if to say, "Sure, it's not gonna do anything.")

The college kid presses the button, and as she does the person inside the room writhes around as if he's getting shocked. The light above the person flickers. It last for 5 seconds.

COLLEGE KID (CONT'D)

Wow, they're really good.  
(He looks back to say to the man in the lab coat)

In the other room we see the person in the chair trying to scream through his gag. We can barely hear him.

PERSON IN CHAIR

No, no don't do it again. No, no, it's real.

We see the college kid staring at the person in the chair intently. The college kid almost looks proud of this stranger in the chair. Their performance is stunning.

MAN IN LAB COAT

Press the button labeled "ten."

COLLEGE KID

Ok.  
(The kid presses the button again)

We see the person in the chair writhe and scream through their gag. Blood starts to pour out of his ear. It is

lasting longer, and we see the college kid begin to look uncomfortable. While it goes on, the college kid looks at the man in the lab coat. The man in the lab coat is expressionless. The shock is finally over.

We see the person in the chair is drenched in sweat, blood coming out of their ear, and is hunched over panting deeply. The person in the chair does not scream to stop, the person eventually catches his breath, and then begins to weep quietly.

Hearing the muffled cry of the person in the room, the college kid quickly turns her head to look at the man in the lab coat.

COLLEGE KID

Is this real?

MAN IN LAB COAT

Press the button labeled "thirty"

COLLEGE KID

(Trying to talk to the  
man in the lab coat and  
appeal to his humanity)

Come on... (beat) is this real?

(Beat) can you tell me?

The man in the lab coat says nothing. The college kid turns her attention back to the person in the chair. The college kid looks back at the man in the lab coat, and then down at the metal box. She looks at the man in the lab coat one last time and says to herself:

COLLEGE KID

There's no way it's real.

(She looks as if she has  
decided that there is no  
way that the person in  
the chair is anything  
except a great actor)

The college kid mashes down on the button labeled 30 seconds. The person in the chair begins to writh around more viciously than before. The lights flicker in the room that the college kid and the man in the coat are in.

It is definitely lasting longer. There is more blood coming from the person in the chairs's ears, smoke begins rising from their hair, and then foam begins coming out of their mouth in erupting spurts.

Finally the person in the chair stops twitching. The lights in both rooms are still flickering. Then the lights begin to glow normally.

The college kid looks uncomfortable. The camera zooms in on the college kid. She turns to the man in the lab coat and says:

COLLEGE KID

Do I get paid now?

(As the college kid turns he notices that the man in the lab coat has moved, and now he looks even more concerned)

The camera pans left as we see the man in the lab coat is behind the college kid lunging toward her with a syringe. We see the syringe shoved into her neck.

CUT TO BLACK

INT. TORTURE CHAMBER - NIGHT

We see through the eyes of the college kid. Her head slowly comes up, as she is drowsy. Her view is coming in and out of focus.

We turn to see the man in the lab coat smiling from ear to ear. Then the man in the lab coat exits the room, closing the door to the torture chamber behind him. The college kid sees another college kid on the other side of the glass. We hear the woman in the lab coat say in a muffled voice:

MAN IN LAB COAT

Press the button labeled "five"  
(He says in a monotone voice.)

SECOND COLLEGE KID

Sure.

The college kid screams, then the camera spins around and gyrates. The college kid is getting shocked. The electric shock lasts for a terrifying 5 seconds. And then the college kid finally drops down. We now see her lap. Her pants are suddenly flooded with urine. Then we hear the college kid finally start to weep, and say:

COLLEGE KID

No, no don't do it again. No, no,  
it's real.

The we see the college kid look up at the window. The second college kid is smiling, and we can see him mouth the words:

SECOND COLLEGE KID

(We hear muffled)

Wow, they're really good.

CUT TO BLACK