

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

DECEIVER



A PSYCHOLOGICAL HORROR SHORT FILM
BY IAN FRANCO

A WHAT IF FILMS PRESENTATION
PRODUCED IN PORTLAND, OR, USA

2025



Title: **Deceiver** Genre: **Psychological Horror** Country: **United States** Production Year: **2025** Language: **English (English.srt available)**

Logline

When a mysterious object infects her mind with violent impulses, a young woman spirals into blood-soaked visions and must face a terrifying truth: the horror may be entirely her own.

Synopsis

Terry Bridgewell spends her birthday gathered around a campfire with her sister and closest friends. The night is warm, playful, and familiar, until she opens a gift that brings everything to a halt. Inside the box is a strange, unsettling object, and from that moment on, Terry's sense of reality begins to unravel.

She soon finds herself trapped in a waking nightmare: her hands covered in blood, a knife at her feet, and no memory of how she got there. As she struggles to clean herself off, the world around her flickers and distorts, pulling her deeper into a series of hallucinations filled with violence, fear, and accusation.

A voice emerges from the object. It tells her that it hasn't forced her to do anything... only revealed what was already inside. As Terry resists, the object twists her memories, turning moments of love and connection into scenes of humiliation and betrayal. The voice offers her an escape: freedom from guilt, shame, and weakness. If she's willing to embrace the truth of who she is.

When Terry is finally pulled back to the campfire, everything appears normal. Her friends laugh, unaware. The object still rests in her hand. But Terry is no longer the same.

Her expression hardens. And this time, the choice may be hers.

Duration: **05:51** Aspect Ratio: **2.39:1** Frame Rate: **23.976 FPS** Shooting Format: **Blackmagic 6K RAW** Exhibition Format: **4K DCP, 4K ProRes** Sound: **5.1, Stereo**





Director's Statement

Deceiver was created during the inaugural 48 Hour Film Project Horror/Sci-Fi Edition in Portland, where a compressed timeline pushed our team to rely on instinct, trust, and atmosphere. At its core, the film is a psychological horror rooted in something personal: the quiet, corrosive power of negative self-talk and the way it can distort reality. The idea grew from my own experiences with isolation and self-doubt, moments when an internal voice insisted something was wrong even when nothing was.

Shaela Payne's performance as Terry grounds the film emotionally, translating that internal conflict into a descent that feels intimate rather than sensational. Rather than leaning on gore or overt scares, our goal was to sustain disorientation, never allowing the character or the audience to fully settle. I wanted the film to feel invasive, like something is crawling inside your thoughts, turning them against you. Deceiver is my first time writing and directing horror, and it reflects my interest in using the genre to externalize internal fears and explore how dangerous it can be when that voice is finally listened to.



CREDITS

Shaela Payne as Terry Bridgewell

Ash Johnson as Jean

Alexander Franco as Logan

Joyce Money as Laura

Written and Directed by Ian Franco

Cinematography by Renea Hisey

Edited by Ian Franco

