

Cascade: Early thirties but looks older; he's spiritually exhausted from his day job, which is cheap small-town murder for hire. He's killed hundreds over the last ten years, but he's starting to have bad dreams and is overmedicating with dangerous new designed drugs. He's a man of few words, descending into his own abyss.

Simone: Mid-thirties, attractive and conscious of it, a sharp strategic thinker with no moral compass whatsoever. She recruited Cascade when he was a warehouse worker at the fireplace store she inherited from her dad, along with the central valley's #1 cut-rate down-and-dirty wholesale hitman business. She easily charms Cascade; they've never slept together, but he's never been able to resist her until his recent decline began.

Dart: The new Young Gun, brought in by Simone because Cascade's balking at a full family execution and seems to be breaking down. His drug choices keep him clear-headed and disconnected, and his girlfriend rules his soul. He's read everything. A nerd, a gamer, a psychopath, an excellent killer. Happy.

Lacey: Sweet, smart, crazy and very cruel childhood-abuse victim who loves to watch Dart make human margaritas. She doesn't kill, but she thrills to the show. Her mind is a million places at once, but it always comes together the same way: bloodily. She lives in her own graphic novel, and sticks to the dangerous edge of modern pharmacology.

ON SCREEN: A DARK GREEN WASH BEGINS TO HEARTBEAT PULSE, CHANGING TO MULTIPLE SICKLY COLORS WITH EACH BEATING IMAGE --

Murder. Each pulse brings a new color and a half-seen image of P.O.V. ultraviolence -- people running, people being shot, people being stabbed and beaten, people pleading -- Cascade's gloved hand holding a gun or knife entering the frame occasionally, along with quick shots of Cascade's face in the bathroom mirror -- businessmen, secretaries, clerks, bartenders. Cascade kills small people.

The images speed to a blur -

CUT TO:

INT. CASCADE'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

Two black cats, DEIRDRE and LELAND, watch as --

INT. CASCADE'S BEDROOM, CASCADE'S P.O.V. - AFTERNOON

CASCADE wakes up and opens his eyes to look into the smiling eyes of LACEY lying in bed next to him on her side.

LACEY

He's having a terrible nightmare.

She smiles at Cascade, ever so sweetly.

LACEY (CONT'D)

Hullo.

CASCADE

Who are you?

She doesn't answer for a beat.

LACEY

I'm Laaaaaaa-ccccccceey.

CASCADE

I don't know you.

LACEY

Caaaasss-caaaaaaadian.

Off-camera -- DART speaks.

DART (O.S.)

Such a cool name.

INT. CASCADE'S BEDROOM

Cascade rolls over to see the source of the new voice. Dart is sitting in a chair next to the bed, smiling at him.

CASCADE

I don't know you either.

DART

And yet our atoms came from the same protostar. Not to mention the original Event. You and me and everything, we were the size of a baseball. That's just so, hehh?

Cascade sits up, rubs his eyes. Lacey sits up as well and leans against the wall.

LACEY

That's my Dart. Simone told us to come on in. She's parking.

CASCADE

Oh. Okay.

LACEY

Do you want to do a really scary
new ride? Super oopie doopie?

Cascade looks at her strangely.

CASCADE

I guess. Yeah, sure.

Lacey is thrilled to hear this answer. She stands up on the bed and steps over Cascade, hops down. She grabs a pack she has left leaning against Dart's chair, rifles through and emerges with a small white cylinder.

LACEY

I love your black kitties. I'm
going to steal your sweet little
black kitties. They're mine.

CASCADE

Deirdre might go, but Leland won't.
And he's a bastard.

LACEY

We'll see about that. Here.

She hands him the cylinder.

CASCADE

Just?

LACEY

Yeah. Gooooooooooooood.

Cascades shrugs and snorts at the cylinder.

His eyes open wide.

INT. CASCADE'S BEDROOM, CASCADE'S P.O.V.

BOOM. Everything is wild-assed magenta blooey. He can barely make out Lacey and Dart. It's a Serious Trip.

LACEY

Seeeeeeeeeeee?

CASCADE

That's. Not. Kansas.

Lacey loves this comment, claps her hands together and squeals.

DART

Man, you got the orgs. I can't get near that strobey jetthrust she bombs. Makes me all queirido.

LACEY

(clapping)

Peace! Peace! Peace! Peace!
Woooooooooooo!

Cascade just looks at them. It's too much. He leans back against the wall and tries to hold on.

INT. CASCADE'S BEDROOM

Dart and Lacey turn as SIMONE opens the door and enters. She strolls over and smiles at Cascade. When he doesn't respond she looks a little frustrated.

SIMONE

Aahh, he's Altered States. Why'd you have to go smash him? Now he can't drive.

CASCADE

I can drive.

LACEY

He can drive.

SIMONE

Really? How many colors am I holding up right now?

Cascade looks at her.

INT. CASCADE'S BEDROOM, CASCADE'S P.O.V.

Everything is blurry blue green and sick weird.

CASCADE

Six.

DART

I only see four, yer multiversing, man. Radishin'. He spicy.

Lacey giggles insanely.

CASCADE
I can drive.

LACEY
Six is enough, right?

Simone looks doubtful.

SIMONE
Give him some beespanker if he's
driving.

Lacey frowns. She's disappointed. She was having fun.

LACEY
Okaaaaaaayyyyyy.

She searches in her purse, pulls out a littl odd device,
reaches over and uses it to spray something on Cascade's
wrist.

INT. CASCADE'S CAR - AFTERNOON

The four of them are bouncing around as Cascade drives
wildly, crazily through matted suburban neighborhoods.

LACEY
I'm freeeeeeeeeeeeeeee!

SIMONE
Turn left.

Cascade turns left.

DART
So good. The best.

SIMONE
You have to try the
Porkpackveefacrackstickypan Penny
Wafers. Crunchy. So crunchy.

DART
I'm so hungry right now.

LACEY
(looks salaciously at Dart)
I'm hungry.

He smiles wickedly.

SIMONE
You have drug-filled lips.

LACEY

Which one of you bastards gave my
daughter the dope?

They all laugh except Cascade, who is driving like the Killer
Klown in a video game.

LACEY (CONT'D)

Casky needs morrrrrre.

SIMONE

Don't feed the bears.

DART

Cascade's not a bear, he's a
killin' machine.

LACEY

Sheeeeeeen!

SIMONE

Casky's growing a religion or
something. Doesn't want to do the
little ones anymore. 'It's wrong'.

DART

It's in the chip, man. Just comes
out. No one makes it to a thousand
on their ownsome. Yow, gotta be
grateful we get that even.

LACEY

Yay I get the kitties!

CASCADE

I can drive.

The other three look at him, perhaps a little judgmentally? --
or carnivorously.

EXT. CHEAP RESTAURANT PATIO AREA - EARLY EVENING

The four of them are sharing beers and cigarettes. Lacey
keeps passing her drugstick to Cascade -- he's clearly
getting voshed.

SIMONE

The way it was with my dad, people
would come in the store and order
the full Laap brick rebuild with a
triple damper and leave a name and
address on a piece of paper.

(MORE)

SIMONE (CONT'D)

Check clears the bank, 24 hours
later the bench clears the name.

(she shrugs)

Now it's all internetty. Nobody
knows anybody but the bench gets
everybody. Credit cards. Seamless
digital ends. No stories, no
romance. Factory.

She shakes her head and smiles at Cascade, who's looking at
her both oddly and blearily.

SIMONE (CONT'D)

When I found Cascade, he was a
Gary. In the warehouse.

DART

Wow! A Gary.

LACEY

What'd he -- how did -- you know --

SIMONE

I gave him his name.

DART

Cascadian Subduction Zone.

LACEY

That's gonna kill a million people!
And he didn't make it to a
thousand. You aimed high, though,
gotta aim high.

DART

Cascadian. Subduction. Zone.

Dart makes a nuclear mushroom cloud with his hands, and a
soft explosion sound.

SIMONE

He was so cute. Threw up the first
couple of times. He wanted out.

LACEY

Awww! He wanted out. No little
uns, just grups. It's sweet.

DART

I almost threw up the first time.

LACEY

That was so badass.

DART
 You know then I *used* it to go over
 the top, you know, just shine my
 light all over that house. It
 became -- art.

LACEY
 You're a beautiful monster, baby.

DART
 Thank you, Lacey.

He looks at Cascade, who appears lost in a morose haze.

DART (CONT'D)
 Gotta catch up to the Zone. Build
 my factory. Stars in the sky,
 right? Thousand means -- we've
 only just begun.

LACEY
 (sings)
 To liiiiive -- white lace and
 promises --

DART
 I'm taking you to heaven hell,
 baby. All the way up down.

LACEY
 Oh god, Dart, I just so want to
 blow you right now.

SIMONE
 (to Dart, ignoring Lacey)
 Mmmm. Well, you can count tonight.

The three of them glance at Cascade, who looks out of it.

DART
 Cascade! You drive?

CASCADE
 I can drive.

SIMONE
 He's not driving.

LACEY
 He's fine, he can drive. I'll
 spank him again.

DART

You want to take a drive out to the mountains, Mr. Zone? Drive up to the woods?

CASCADE

Okay.

SIMONE

He loves the woods. That's good.

Cascade looks at her. Is he high and sad, or sad and high?

CASCADE

I can drive.

INT. CASCADE'S CAR - NIGHT

Cascade is totally focused on Klown-driving up a shaky mountain road. Everyone else is getting high and laughing maniacally. The stereo is blasting out something new and weird.

EXT. MOUNTAINSIDE FOREST EDGE - NIGHT

Everyone has gotten out of the car. Cascade is standing off the road away from the car and staring up awestruck into the sky. Behind him, Simone gives Dart a little nod. Lacey gives a little silent burst of joy, almost-clapping her hands.

Dart pulls a pistol out from inside his jacket, walks up smoothly behind Cascade, and puts the silencer right behind Cascade's head.

Ready to fire --

EXT. MOUNTAINSIDE FOREST EDGE - NIGHT

Cascade is tamping down a pile of fresh dirt next to the trees on the side of the road with a shovel. Behind him, the car's trunk is open. He leans on the shovel and looks down at the dirt.

CASCADE

Can't take a man's kitties. Don't even know their food or meds.

He looks up into the sky and takes a deep breath.

CASCADE (CONT'D)
I'm freeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee.

INT. CASCADE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Cascade is looking at Leland the black cat oddly.

CASCADE
Nobody's going to take you.

He listens as if the cat is saying something.

CASCADE (CONT'D)
I know. But she's very pretty and
not so bright. That's why you have
to look out for her.

He listens again. He smiles.

CASCADE (CONT'D)
Yes, and me. And yes, I know it
was you.

EXT. CASCADE'S HOUSE -- EARLY MORNING

Cascade is dressed in painter's clothes as he walks up to an
old truck and tosses a bucket in the back.

His cellphone rings, and he answers.

CASCADE
Yah? Okay, I'll pick it up and
meet you at the job.

Before he gets in the truck, he looks up into the sky one
last time and nods.

CASCADE (CONT'D)
Someday we'll all be together in
the little hot baseball again,
right? All the Garys and Lelands
and Deirdres.

He's happy.

CASCADE (CONT'D)
I can drive.

MUSIC. ROLL CREDITS.