



The Mercy List

Is someone *you* love on the list?

Logline: A Peeping Tom unwisely befriends a mercy killer in order to learn the fate of his sister.

Synopsis: Tanner Zelinski is a pharmacist in a mid-size drug store with a morbid interest in serial killers, cults and poisons. He's friends with the store manager Brenda, but the other employees think he's a bit odd and keep their distance from him. After being forced to work with Tanner and seeing his charming and smart side, a young cashier, Lydia, develops crush on him. Little does she know about Tanner's voyeuristic tendencies. He's a textbook-case Peeping Tom.

One day Tanner recognizes a customer, Marty, as a "mercy killer" recently released from prison. Marty had boasted that by 'humanely' killing mentally ill homeless people he was doing God's work. Tanner awkwardly tries to befriend him. Aside from his gruesome fascination, Tanner has another reason for wanting to get close to Marty: Tanner's sister disappeared years ago and he wants to find out if Marty was responsible. Marty craves attention and eagerly takes Tanner as a friend and potential protégé. But Marty starts to get inside Tanner's head. Tanner craves answers in order to better understand his own shameful secret, but doesn't necessarily like what he hears. Without realizing the full implications, Tanner allows both Lydia and his store manager Brenda to be sucked into Marty's dangerous vortex of narcissism along with him.

Premise: Unflinching self-examination leads you to either embrace your true nature or try and defy it.

Questions: Can one change their true nature? Is it okay to do something bad if it's for "the greater good"?

Themes: Shame, inability to curb morbid curiosity, toxic narcissism, teenage crushes, patterns of denial.

Genre: Drama/Thriller

Rating: R for sexual situations, violence and language

Audience: Ages 18-45

Language: English

Budget: \$2-5 million USD

Location: Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA

Attachments:

- 1 **Terrance Zdunich** ("Tanner"), actor, fan favorite of cult classics *Repo! The Genetic Opera* and *The Devil's Carnival*. Has signed Letter of Intent.
- 1 **Michael Chieffo** ("Marty"), actor, 30-year veteran of dozens of movies of TV shows, including *Argo*, *L.A. Confidential* and *Better Call Saul*. Has signed Letter of Intent.
- 1 **Beth Grant** ("Brenda"), actress, veteran of over 70 TV shows and over 80 movies including *The Artist*, *Crazy Heart*, *No Country for Old Men*, *Little Miss Sunshine*, *Donnie Darko*, *The Mindy Project*.
- 1 **Jan Wilson**, producer, writer and director. Wrote *The Postman's Reign*.
- 1 **Scarlet Karimian**, producer, head of Escargo Productions.
- 1 **Scott Uhlfelder**, cinematographer, his work has appeared on screen at The LA Film Festival, AFI Fest, SXSW, Slamdance, and Sundance.
- 1 **Cameron Teisher**, editor, Emmy-nominated for Chaz Bono documentary *Becoming Chaz*.
- 1 **Adam Gorgoni**, composer, scored indie gems *The Dead Girl*, *Starting Out in the Evening*, *Blue Car* and the TV show *Necessary Roughness*.



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