

BOY ON A BICYCLE

Written by

Darwin Franks

16 Leopold Street  
Oxford  
OX4 1PS  
England

+44 (0)776 92 94 952

[Darwinfranks@highfivefilms.co.uk](mailto:Darwinfranks@highfivefilms.co.uk)

1 EXT. LAURENCE'S HOUSE. DAY 1

LAURENCE, a lithe young boy (16) with blond mop and striking good looks, takes the cover off his BICYCLE in the DRIVEWAY of a plush VICTORIAN SEMI-DETACHED. He unlocks it. Dressed in a smart, neatly ironed OXFORD-BLUE SCHOOL UNIFORM, he slowly, ritualistically inspects the gears and brakes of his bike. Afterwards, he puts on his RUCKSACK and HELMET and pushes his bike onto the street. He sets off down the hill, signalling a left turn.

2 EXT. TAI-HAU'S HOUSE. SAME 2

TAI-HAU, a rough-hewn, spiky haired teen (16) who exudes rebel cool, closes the front door of his TERRACED HOME behind him. He has adapted his GREEN SCHOOL UNIFORM to suit his tastes and wears a set of DJ HEADPHONES around his neck. An EMPTY REFUSE BIN has been left by the gate to his house. He moves it out of the way, and sashays down the street.

3 EXT. CYCLE PATH. DAY 3

Laurence speeds along a tree-lined cycle path, his face rosy with exhilaration. We hear the HUM and SOFT, RAPID CLICKING of his bicycle throughout. He takes in his surroundings. It's a beautiful day. Sunlight streams through the trees flitting by. Mums are out with babies in prams. Joggers are jogging. We pass by a group of almost-hip teenage boys also in GREEN SCHOOL UNIFORM. They huddle round a cigarette. Laurence turns nervously to look at them.

4 EXT. CYCLE PATH. DAY 4

Tai-Hau walks hand-in-hand with his trendy red-headed girlfriend, ZIA. They are walking in the opposite direction of Laurence and meet up with a group of friends, a motley crew of four COOL KIDS hanging out by a BENCH.

5 EXT. CYCLE PATH. DAY 5

Laurence speeds on as before but the expression on his face is different. He now has a 1000 mile stare. We stay with him like this for a few beats before his eyes refocus on something off-screen.

Time slows down as we move in on Tai-Hau and Zia. Tai-Hau looks directly at the camera, and seems to recognise Laurence.

Laurence tries to force a smile, but can't help staring at the couple. The sound of the bicycle changes to a TICKING BUZZ as Laurence freewheels towards them. It builds in intensity.

6 EXT. BEACH. DUSK (FLASHBACK). 6

Laurence and Tai-Hau are locked in a long, muscular kiss.

7 EXT. CYCLE PATH. DAY 7

We move slowly closer and closer towards Tai-Hau. Tai-Hau stares directly at the camera, suddenly consumed with fear.

8 EXT. BEACH. DUSK (FLASHBACK). 8

Tai-Hau stands beside a bonfire dressed in black BOARDIES and a red "My Bloody Valentine" T-SHIRT. Behind him, another group of BOYS AND GIRLS strip down to their underwear and run wildly towards the beach. He takes a big swig of alcohol from the bottle, and psyches himself up. He looks over at Laurence, who has also stayed behind, drying beside the fire in a red SPEEDO and white TOWEL. Laurence looks back at him, anticipating. Certain they are alone, Tai-Hau moves slowly towards the camera until his face is fully in frame. The ticking buzz reaches a peak. And then -- Silence. A beat.

TAI-HAU  
(whispering)  
Happy Valentine's.

Tai-Hau slings his arms around Laurence's neck, and pulls him tightly towards him. The towel drops. They kiss as before.

SFX: AN EMPHATIC BICYCLE BELL

10 EXT. CYCLE PATH. DAY 10

Laurence is shaken out his trance by the sound of another bicycle approaching. He swerves out of the way and comes crashing to the floor in front of the Cool Kids. Zia and the Cool Kids break out into laughter. After a few beats, Laurence gets onto his feet. He removes his helmet without taking his eyes off Tai-Hau. Tai-Hau quickly breaks eye contact and joins in the laughter. Laurence is visibly shaken but just about manages to hold on to his nerve.

Zia soon loses interest and tucks her arm in with Tai-Hau's. She leads him away from the scene. Laurence picks up his bike and walks away too. He looks back over his shoulder at Tai-Hau. By the time Tai-Hau turns back to look, Laurence has already set off - this time cycling without his helmet on (which dangles against the handle bar), and peddling with even greater effort.

We stay with him until he comes to the end of the tree-lined path and pushes hard as he rides up a steep incline. His eyes are full of intensity. Laurence rides off - up the hill and away from the camera - the path clear ahead of him.