

A COMPLETE LACK OF FORESIGHT

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EXT. FOREST - DAY

THE PIED PIPER OF HAMELIN (30s) blows a melodic TUNE on his magical pipe as he marches into a clearing in the forest; off in the distance behind him, the tiny village of Hamelin, Germany sits in a valley.

After a beat, HUNDREDS OF CHILDREN (ages 2 to 17) follow behind the Pied Piper in a long line. From the looks on their faces they are completely mesmerized by his song.

The Pied Piper moves to the center of the clearing, and then marches in place as he continues his tune; as he plays, the children gather around him in a large group.

Finally, with all the children in place and accounted for, the Pied Piper finishes his song. Pleased, he looks at the children gathered around him, and then CHUCKLES.

THE PIED PIPER

(to himself)

Perfect. This will teach those cheap bastards not to stiff me out of what's rightfully mine.

(to children)

Come, my children! Gather 'round!

Instantly, the children appear to snap out of their trance, which is immediately followed by--

THREE YEAR OLD

I gotta poop.

One CHILD starts CRYING, which causes a chain reaction of even MORE CRYING. Then, two CHILDREN start pushing each other back and forth as they argue.

CHILD #1

Stop pinching me!

CHILD #2

You pinched me first!

The ARGUING intensifies; more kids burst into TEARS.

An woozy-looking EIGHT YEAR OLD standing directly in front of the Pied Piper is holding his stomach as he mumbles--

EIGHT YEAR OLD

I don't feel good.

After a beat, he THROWS UP down the front of his own shirt; some of his barf SPLASHES across the Pied Piper's pants.

THE PIED PIPER

You've gotta be kidding me! I just washed these pants in the river not two days ago!

More CRYING and ARGUING starts up as the scene builds into a crescendo of complete and utter childhood chaos.

THE PIED PIPER (CONT'D)

(desperately)

Children, please, calm down. I'm--

TEENAGER

(interrupting)

You're not the boss of me!

THREE YEAR OLD

I pooped. You gotta wipe me.

THE PIED PIPER

(to himself)

I really didn't think this through.

THE END