

JUST YOUR AVERAGE MASS SHOOTING
Becca Anderson

INT. NEWS STUDIO. DAY.

A SENATOR sits at a desk with a POLITICO in a news studio mid-interview.

SENATOR
It's just dumb to fund healthcare.

CUT TO:

RODNEY, a daytime anchor, at another desk in torso shot. Station graphics of a busy news room in the background.

RODNEY
Senator, I'm sorry to interrupt you. We just got word that there is a shooting in progress. Our affiliate is on the scene live.

EXT. SHOPPING MALL. DAY.

JOANIE, a reporter, stands outside a mall with a microphone. The entrance to the mall can be seen behind her. Occasionally someone runs out the door. Gunshots in background.

CHYRON: "Thrilling North Side Mall shooting live!"

Joanie takes a selfie and then turns to the camera.

JOANIE
I'm here at the North Side Mall where emergency responders are helping the wounded and seeking the still at large shooter.

VERTICAL SPLIT SCREEN. I/E. STUDIO AND SHOPPING MALL.

RODNEY
Joanie, do you have any specifics on the situation?

CHYRON: "Potential dozens dead."

JOANIE
Well, Rodney, there is at least one confirmed death but it could be as many as twelve hundred people, the total capacity of the mall.
(MORE)

JOANIE (CONT'D)

I can hear shots being fired, and more ambulances are rolling in to care for the wounded.

RODNEY

Joanie, where will people do their shopping if they can't get in the mall?

JOANIE

Rodney, I'd recommend visiting one of our many fine sponsors like Cabela's, Bass Pro Shop, or AutomaticWeaponWarehouse.com.

As Joanie mentions the retailers, their logos appear on the screen. Beside each logo is a smiling white man holding a different semi-automatic weapon. The logos fade out during Rodney's line.

RODNEY

That's right. Today's shooting is brought to you by these fine sponsors. Joanie, do you have any information on the shooter?

CHYRON: "Who is mysterious, possibly handsome, killer?"

JOANIE

Well, I can't tell you if he's an entitled white male who is mad at either a woman or a minority group. What I do know for certain is that this is a lone wolf situation. One mentally ill person acting in a completely bizarre way that seems utterly unprecedented.

RODNEY

Good point, Joanie. Let's bring up some images of other lone wolves. As you said this is a truly unprecedented event.

GRAPHIC SCREEN

A blue background with a tiny Cabela's Logo and smiling man with gun in lower right corner.

Photos of mass shooters scroll slowly up the screen and then speed up ridiculously to fit everyone in.

Dylann Storm Roof, Elliot Rodger, Adam Lanza, Radcliffe Haughton, Andrew Engeldinger, Wade Michael Page, James Holmes, Jared Lee Loughner, Robert Hawkins, Charles Carl Roberts IV, Jeffrey Weise, etc. There are plenty to choose from.

JOANIE (V.O.)

That James Holmes is so cute.

RODNEY (V.O.)

Oh, don't I know it, Joanie?

VERTICAL SPLIT SCREEN. I/E. STUDIO AND SHOPPING MALL.

JOANIE

One thing they do have in common -
they're all satisfied arms
customers.

RODNEY

Certainly. Joanie, we just got word
that an injured woman is live
tweeting the shooting from within
the mall.

GRAPHIC SCREEN.

Web page showing Tweet from @SassySally7 which reads,
"Twisted ankle running from shooter. Hiding in Hallmark
store. Send help!" While Rodney speaks, reply tweets start
popping up underneath the original Tweet. @WABC "Follow me to
DM contact info for interview." @WKRK "We'd love to talk. Use
#wkrkcares to agree to exclusive interview." @KMYC4 "Sally,
call our studio to be on television! 866.555.3363" Etc.

RODNEY

Hopefully Sally will agree to be
interviewed. We'll check back in on
her when she's come to her senses.
Right now back to you, Joanie.

EXT. MALL. DAY.

Joanie is standing outside of mall with PETER.

JOANIE

Rodney, I'm here with a survivor
who has just escaped from the mall.
What's the situation like inside?

PETER

It's madness.

JOANIE

Now that you've made it out how are you feeling?

PETER

I'm still scared you know? The liberals are going to start using this to talk gun control. It's terrifying. The only thing that can stop a bad man with a gun is a good man with a gun. I just wish I'd had a weapon in there.

JOANIE

Agreed. Like the mall security staff and the police officers who were patrolling the exterior of the mall just prior to the shooting outbreak. Any idea how many people have been shot so far?

PETER

At least 20, but it could be more.

CHYRON: "Literally thousands of people getting shot LIVE!"

JOANIE

You heard it here first folks. Possibly thousands dead here at the North Side Mall.

INT. NEWS STUDIO. DAY.

Rodney sits at desk and occasionally touches his ear piece.

RODNEY

Joanie, here at the studio we've gotten the injured tweeter on the line.

CHYRON: "Live! Potential murder victim calling in from scene of her possible murder!"

There are gun shots heard throughout the call. They increase in volume.

SASSYSALLY7 (V.O.)
 Hello? Please! Send help. I'm
 behind the counter in the Hallmark
 store. Please send someone to help
 me!

RODNEY
 Sally, have you seen the shooter?

SASSYSALLY7 (V.O.)
 Yes.

RODNEY
 And what is he wearing? Did you
 catch the label?

SASSYSALLY7 (V.O.)
 What?

RODNEY
 Would you describe him as rugged
 and muscular? Or more clean cut?

SASSYSALLY7 (V.O.)
 I don't know. Please, just help me.
 The shots are getting closer.

RODNEY
 Sally, I have to cut you off. We
 just got word in the studio that
 Kristen Bell and Dax Shepard have
 filed for divorce.

GRAPHIC SCREEN

A photo of Dax Shepard and Kristen Bell in a heart appears on
 the screen. The heart rips apart in a jagged manner splitting
 Dax and Kristen.

SPLIT SCREEN. I/E. STUDIO AND MALL.

JOANIE
 No!

RODNEY
 I tell you, Joanie, no one is more
 disappointed than me.

JOANIE
 It almost makes you lose faith in
 humanity.

RODNEY

Ooh, speaking of, let's check back
in with our caller at the mall.
Sally? Sally are you there? Hmm.

Silence on the phone.

EXT. SHOPPING MALL. DAY.

JOANIE

That brings the estimated death
toll to at least 50 but possibly up
to 318.9 million.

CHYRON: "The United States of America's full population
potentially slaughtered in brutal mall shooting."

INT. STUDIO. DAY.

Balloons and confetti fall from the ceiling. Rodney pulls on
a paper hat.

Male and female newsroom interns in the background pop open a
bottle of champagne.

RODNEY

Joanie, exciting news here at the
studio. We've just exceeded our
ratings record. Get back here, you
knucklehead, and have a drink.

EXT. MALL DAY.

JOANIE

Ooh, on my way!

Joanie dashes out of frame. Camera stays on the mall. More
gunshots and cries of terror are heard. The entrance door
opens as a woman tries to run out. A single shot is heard and
she collapses on the ground at the door.

FADE OUT.

ENGLISH MASHING COMES TO CLASS
Becca Anderson

INT. CLASSROOM. DAY.

ENGLISH MASHING, a cheerful woman with a ridiculous accent (think if Mickey Mouse were from Estonia), stands at a desk in front of a classroom of middle school students, GINGER, ROBBIE, MAY, and SAM.

ENGLISH MASHING

Hell hole. I are here today for
make teaching you. Teacher sick and
America spend all money on the
basketball, so I teacher today. I
are must tell you... what word,
what word?

She looks down at a paper on the desk.

ENGLISH MASHING (CONT'D)

Ah, jah. I are (*reading from paper*)
"not qual-i-fied. Just play the
video for them." I no know this
word "video." Let's make learning,
jah?

GINGER raises her hand.

ENGLISH MASHING (CONT'D)

What you want?

GINGER

Aren't you the cleaning lady?

ENGLISH MASHING

I clean lady. I clean man. Is all
same in dark. Now, you doing
learning of sock shell study, jah?

ROBBIE raises his hand.

ENGLISH MASHING (CONT'D)

Jah. The ugly one.

ROBBIE

Do you mean social studies?

ENGLISH MASHING

Sure. So shell. Is what I say.
Moving on.

(MORE)

ENGLISH MASHING (CONT'D)

I know not much the so shell
because I from Estonia where no one
ever smile or feel floaty in heart.
But you America childs, so you must
be much so shell and joy, jah?

SAM raises his hand.

ENGLISH MASHING (CONT'D)

What want?

SAM

We're studying about the Americans
with Disabilities Act.

ENGLISH MASHING

I know this. I know this. For the
chair bound sads. Jah. You make
ramp where you want dispose of
chair bounds. Then say "we get
cream that is ice for you! Yay!"
Then little push, turn around so no
see, and go back to factory make
bricks! To hide from chair bounds,
go stairs. Is easy. On to numbers
class.

MAY

Math?

ENGLISH MASHING

Jah. I must now do asking all the
girl childs to leave room. Only men
may know the secrets of the maths.

ROBBIE

Then how are you going to teach it?

ENGLISH MASHING

You are wise beyond years, ugly
one. I never knowing maths. Or my
father.

Quick beat.

ENGLISH MASHING (CONT'D)

So we do fizzy call educating. How
many you knowing how to kill a man?

None of the students raise their hands.

ENGLISH MASHING (CONT'D)

Really? I seeing we have work
sliced up for us.

(MORE)

ENGLISH MASHING (CONT'D)

Many way exist for killing man.
 Simple way is cutting neck part. Do
 DEEP and do ALL way across! No
 change that is short! More way that
 is efficient is pipe bomb, but must
 make careful on Googling or FBI men
 chase you many cities and many
 schools. Sometimes new school
 already having cleaning lady and
 you must dispose. Now, if she are
 chair bound, is pretty easy to make
 look like accident.

SAM

Did you kill Miss Lydia?

ENGLISH MASHING

Ha! You very funny child and were
 you not valuable man child, I
 probably have to do something about
 you. Right. Maybe fizzy call
 educating not good for right now.
 What other learning you do?

MAY

World history.

ENGLISH MASHING

Shhhhh! You want all us be killed?
(loudly) There is no world. Only
 Union of Soviet Socialist
 Republics. *(creepy whisper)*
 Krushchev launch Sputnik for
 reason. They can always hear you.
 Some other learning type. Quick.

GINGER

English?

ENGLISH MASHING

Ah! Jah! This is favorite for me
 because I are so good at English.
 Teacher in Estonia tell me I
 English Mashing my English so very
 strong. Like well-fed bull or
 Chernobyl explosion. So. You are
 learn English even though born
 here?

ROBBIE

English like reading literature.

ENGLISH MASHING

I cleaning lady. I know everything of litter. Teaching so easy! No wonder they are make less money than the sport people. What litter you want know? Cigarette butt? Used tampon? Chicken bones? Chicken bones when you are finding you can take home. Make broth for soup. Do not use tampon for this.

MAY

Gross.

ENGLISH MASHING

You are learn much today, jah?

The bell rings. The kids get up and dash for the door.

ENGLISH MASHING (CONT'D)

We no say homeworking! For tomorrow everyone bring in one piece of an enemy!

BLACKOUT

ELEPHANTS™
Becca Anderson

INT. KITCHEN. DAY.

PAULA puts away a dish and then rubs her elbow.

PAULA (V.O.)
I wanted to live a normal life, but
my lupus was really holding me
back.

EXT. PARK. DAY.

Paula waves at an unseen friend. She wipes her brow and sits on a bench.

PAULA (V.O.)
And I never knew when fatigue would
strike.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE. DAY.

Paula sits on table. DR. GREGORY nods as she speaks to him.

PAULA (V.O.)
So I asked to my doctor, and he
told me about elephants.

Dr. Gregory shows Paula photos of elephants on his phone.

CHYRON: "In clinical trials elephants were really big."

PAULA (V.O.)
He said there were different types
of elephants, and that African
elephants are the largest land
mammals on the planet. He'd even
seen some on a recent safari
vacation to Namibia.

CHYRON: "See our ad in *Bloomberg Business Week*."

Paula does some squats and silently talks to Dr. Gregory. He silently responds and points back to table. Paula sits.

CHYRON: "Not an actual patient. Results may vary."

PAULA (V.O.)

I asked my doctor if staying active would help with pain and inflammation, and he told me that elephants don't really eat peanuts. That's just something made up for cartoons. He went on to let me know that elephants live in matriarchal societies and they have a twenty-two month gestation period.

Paula touches her chest, then her throat and silently talks to Dr. Gregory, who nods and pulls out a pamphlet. They look at the pamphlet together. It's full of elephants.

CHYRON: "Do not daydream about elephants while driving."

PAULA (V.O.)

When I asked about finding relief for shortness of breath, my doctor showed me a pamphlet for the International Elephant Foundation, which supports conservation, and research of elephants with a commitment to affect positive change through conservation and sound scientific investigation resulting in the protection of elephants for future generations.

INT. LIVING ROOM. DAY.

Dr. Gregory stands next to an African fertility statue. He passes a small elephant statue to Paula. They both wear large elephant t-shirts pulled on over their clothes.

DR. GREGORY (V.O.)

Elephants do not come with any side effects. They won't cause upset stomach, heartburn, drowsiness, headache, tarry stools, vomiting, severe nausea, fever lasting longer than three days, swelling, hearing problems, memory loss, or increased risk of heart attack, which could lead to death.

CHYRON: "Elephants have no risk of dependency. They are non-narcotic."

EXT. SUBURBAN SIDEWALK. DAY.

Paula walks down the street.

PAULA

Ask your doctor about elephants.
They can recognize themselves in
mirrors and they throw sand on
their backs to keep from getting
sunburned. They don't help with
lupus, but they're pretty cool.

CHYRON: "Elephants.™ (Loxodonta) Available in Asian and
African."

BLACKOUT

BRODY WELCOMES THE FRESHMAN
Becca Anderson

EXT. DORM. EARLY MORNING.

BRODY, in an Alpha Nu Omega wife beater and torn khaki shorts, and JEFF, in nice jeans and a "PSU Student Advisor" t-shirt, sit behind a table with a banner that reads "Welcome Freshman."

JEFF

Thanks for volunteering, Brody.

BRODY

No. Thank you, bro. I'm trying to stay awake for fifty-five hours.

JEFF

Wait. What?

BRODY

Some chick said she'd give me a handy-J if I stayed awake for fifty-five hours.

Brody pulls out a flask.

BRODY (CONT'D)

Wanna do a shot?

JEFF

It's 7:30 in the morning.

BRODY

Ten hours to go.

JEFF

You've been awake for forty-five hours?

BRODY

This chick has seriously hot, tiny-little hands. Like Asian nail salon hand model hands.

JEFF

Shhh. There are gonna be parents here any minute.

BRODY

You sure you don't want a shot? Cause I think I'm gonna have a tiny one. Baby shot.

JEFF

No! Put it away before we get in trouble.

BRODY

Sure thing, bro.

Brody swigs from the flask.

BRODY (CONT'D)

Whoops! My hand slipped, bro. Won't happen again.

JEFF

Just put it away.

BRODY

Okay okay. Don't want to get anyone in trouble.

Brody puts the flask away as CARRIE, a freshman, enters.

JEFF

Welcome to PSU.

BRODY

Sup?

JEFF

Name?

CARRIE

Carrie Maness.

JEFF

Great. Welcome Carrie. I'm Jeff. This is Brody.

BRODY

Wanna get high?

CARRIE

What?

JEFF

Ha! College humor. Marijuana is illegal in this state and considered contraband on campus.

BRODY

I know where you can score some contraband, Carrie.

JEFF

Here's your map and key. You're in Henderson room 908. That way.

Carrie exits.

JEFF (CONT'D)

What is wrong with you?

BRODY

You're right, bro. I'm sorry. I'm just a little weird right now. Been awake too long.

JEFF

Just hand out the maps, okay?

BRODY

You got it, bro.

STEVE, a freshman, enters.

JEFF

Welcome to PSU. What's your name?

STEVE

Steve Richards.

BRODY

Here's a map. If you stand right here by the gym, you can totally see into the women's locker room through this broken vent.

STEVE

Seriously?

JEFF

You're in Callahan room 310, Steve.

BRODY

Swear to god, bro.

JEFF

Here's your key.

STEVE

Awesome! Thanks!

Steve exits.

JEFF

You have to stop!

BRODY

I'm so A.D.D., bro. I'm sorry.
Here. This'll help me, okay?

Brody snorts some white powder from his oddly long pinkie nail.

JEFF

It is NOT okay. Oh my god.

BRODY

This'll even me out! Besides, I need stimulation. Ten more hours, bro, and I can get off with a tiny-hand chick. Help me out, bro. Come on.

Pause.

JEFF

How tiny are her hands?

BRODY

Like deformed.

JEFF

That's pretty hot.

BRODY

So just keep my stimulated man. I can almost taste my dick in those hands.

JEFF

Fine. Just be chill in front of the freshmen, though, okay?

BRODY

Fine.

CHAUNCY, a freshman, enters.

BRODY (CONT'D)

You ever seen a dead body?!

CHAUNCY runs off.

JEFF

What was that?

BRODY

I've been up forty-five hours, and I have seen some shit, bro.

(MORE)

BRODY (CONT'D)

But I am running out of things to keep me awake. I've done every drug on campus, had way too many sugarfree Red Bulls, taken like nineteen showers, I've shit eight times since I last slept, and I think I am approaching the wall. The one thing I haven't ever done, though, is kill a man with my bare hands.

JEFF

Yeah. We definitely can't do that.

BRODY

Aw. Well, wanna do a shot?

BLACKOUT