

Title: The Catacomb

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Logline: A group of high school students trapped in a catacomb fight for their lives against a mysterious killer.

Synopsis: Sicily. Ten years ago. A couple of archaeologists dig for ruins in an excavation site. One of them, ANGELO, 35, finds an early Christian tablet but it breaks and he falls into a dark grotto, where he hears a metallic screeching and sees a painting with a gold liquid coming from it. After finding the corpse of his colleague, Angelo falls into a trap and is murdered by an L-shaped hook-blade strapped to an arm.

Sicily. Present day. A group of high school students travel by minibus to the still-closed St. Lucius's Catacomb. They'll have the privilege of being its first visitors. MR. COLEMAN, 50, a widower teacher, leads the group; his son SCOTT, 18, and DENISE, 18, an overprotected girl whose father recently died in a car crash, are part of the expedition too.

The group arrives at the catacomb but there is no one at the entrance. Mr. Coleman heads downstairs and is startled by a security guard, PIETRO, 50, and MR. SIMONETTI, 50, the man in charge of the catacomb. Simonetti tells Coleman that there are still hidden parts of the catacomb and that there were some acts of sabotage in the past.

As the group travels into the catacomb, Simonetti explains that St. Lucius is an unknown figure, perhaps the leader of a Christian cult. Meanwhile, at the entrance, somebody drags an L-shaped hook-blade along the stone floor. The noise catches the attention of Pietro, who is brutally murdered. Before being also killed, PAOLO, 50, the minibus driver, finds Pietro's gun and fires a shot, which causes a rockfall on the entrance. Simonetti and Coleman go up to investigate and find traces of blood. A huge stone blocks the entrance now...

Pitch: "The Catacomb" is a fast-paced, scary, action-packed horror/slasher script in the vein "House of Wax" and "You're Next". It adds several supernatural elements which provides uniqueness and makes it stand out with respect to similar movies; its atmospheric and claustrophobic setting, together with its visual appeal and clever and loaded dialog, makes this award-winning script a potentially very profitable movie project.