

MONKEY WARFARE

Log line:

The lives of two ex-revolutionaries living underground and off the grid in Toronto are shaken up when an enigmatic, young woman enters their lives with her own urban-guerilla aspirations.

Monkey Warfare is a film about history, objects, love & revolution; and a cautionary tale about keeping up the fight.

Synopsis (short)

Dan and Linda are two ex-revolutionaries from Vancouver, now living underground and off the grid in Toronto. To survive they scavenge through garbage and cruise garage sales for buried treasures they can sell “cash-only” on the internet. Bound together by misdeeds of the past, the once passionate pair have become ambivalent about their political beliefs and feelings for each other. To numb the pain of past mistakes and hide from the sad reality of their current circumstances, Dan and Linda smoke weed – a lot of it – all day.

Dan and Linda’s lives are turned upside down when an enigmatic, young radical named Susan, who trades in ‘green beans’ enters the scene just as their dope-dealer is busted. As Dan and Linda grow closer to Susan, they come to learn about revolutionary activities she is involved with that could threaten them. As it turns out, Susan’s guerilla antics are nothing compared to what she eventually learns about the past Dan and Linda have been hiding from.

Synopsis (long)

Wanted in BC and living underground and off the grid in Toronto, Dan and Linda were once romantic, revolutionaries inspired by the music and politics of the 60’s and 70’s. Now the pair, who share a home but not a bedroom, have no phone, no bills, no passports, and they get by scavenging for garbage and cruising garage sales for ‘hidden treasures’ they can sell ‘cash-only’ on the internet. To numb the pain of past mistakes and hide from the sad reality of their current circumstances, Dan and Linda smoke weed – a lot of it – all day.

When Dan calls their dealer from a nearby payphone and finds the call answered by a cop, Dan and Linda are high and dry for a hook-up and the paranoia begins building as they wonder if the same cop that busted their dealer will come for them next.

Enter Susan, an enigmatic, young woman Dan meets while out cycling the streets of Parkdale – Susan awakens both Dan’s libido and his political consciousness, and she just happens to deal in BC organic.

Dan’s relationship with Susan soon begins to call attention to the unresolved feelings between Dan and Linda, and as Dan takes Susan on a tour of the 60’s through his collections of vintage vinyl and agit-prop paraphernalia, Susan’s own

interest in taking action against the establishment begins to burn.

When Susan forms her own urban-guerilla group, 'The Spoke Club', a pro-bicycle, anti-oil group that swarm and damage SUV's, Dan and Linda's safety is threatened and they are forced to confront her about the dangers of violent action. Under pressure, Susan accuses the two of being 'posers' and in their outrage Dan and Linda admit all – that at the start of the Gulf War they firebombed a car dealership in protest, but hesitancy on Dan's part resulted in Linda throwing the bomb and accidentally inflicting third degree burns to a security guard she imagines she caused lifetime disfigurement.

The revelation makes Susan feel ashamed about the pettiness of her political actions and reminds Dan and Linda of the burden they have shared together and of how long they have supported each other, reigniting their romantic feelings.

With a new-found respect for Dan and Linda, Susan takes to the streets, not to trash an SUV, but to show them how far she'll go to continue the fight.

Monkey Warfare features an inspired soundtrack edited by urban-legend DJ Hans Lucas, featuring songs by The Fugs, Weird War, Outrageous Cherry, Pink Mountaintops, and Leonard Cohen.

A film from the producer of *A Perfect Son* and *Childstar*, and the director of *A Girl is A Girl*, ***Monkey Warfare*** is a film about history, objects, love & revolution; and a cautionary tale about keeping up the fight.