

THE TERMINATOR (1984) BEATSHEET 11.15.2009

beated by Erik LeDrew

1. A nuclear wasteland. A chyron reads: "Los Angeles 2029 A.D.". A futuristic battle wages between men and machines. A second chyron reads: "The machines rose from the ashes of nuclear fire. Their war to exterminate mankind had raged for decades, but the final battle would not be fought in the future. It would be fought here, in our present. Tonight..." The battle DISSOLVES TO
2. TITLE CREDITS.
3. A garbage truck picks up a dumpster. Chryon reads: "Los Angeles 1984 1:52 a.m." The power of the truck dies. Wind picks up. Electricity arcs. A bright flash. Smoke clears, revealing a NAKED MAN kneeling on the ground. He stands, scans his surroundings. This is THE TERMINATOR.
4. Terminator approaches three street punks. They hassle him for being naked. Terminator asks them for their clothes. They pull knives and he kills two of them mercilessly. He turns to the third, who strips in panic.
5. A similar electrical storm forms in another alley. A bum watches as another NAKED MAN appears in mid-air and plummets to the earth. The naked man is scarred and in pain. He seems disoriented and makes his way down the alley to the bum. This is REESE.
6. A patrol car pulls up to the alley, catches Reese stealing the bum's pants. Reese makes a run for it and a cop pursues him.
7. Reese tackles the cop. He asks the cop what year it is. The cop doesn't know how to answer. Another patrol car pulls up and they chase Reese into a department store.
8. Reese runs through aisles of clothing, hiding like a pro, as the cops search for him. He clothes himself and escapes.
9. Outside the building, he steals a riot shotgun from one of the abandoned patrol cars.
10. Out on the street, he does his best to blend in as more police cars race past. He enters a phone booth and looks down a list of names in the phone book. He finds the one he's looking for -- "Sarah Conner" -- and tears the page out.

11. A YOUNG WOMAN rides a moped through L.A. streets. She pulls up to a Big Jeff's restaurant and walks inside.
12. She enters the kitchen, clocks in and we see her timecard: "SARAH CONNER".
13. The Terminator, wearing the punk's clothing now, hot-wires a car.
14. Sarah does her best to serve troublesome customers at the restaurant. The last straw: a kid dumps ice cream into Sarah's apron. Sarah, about to lose it, is told by one of her fellow waitresses: "Look at it this way, in a hundred years, who's gonna care?"
15. The Terminator enters a pawnshop. Inside, he exams various high-end assault weapons. Pawnshop owner: "So, which'll it be?" Terminator: "All." The owner is excited at the sale, but tells Terminator he'll have to wait to take the handguns. The Terminator loads the shotgun and blows away the owner.
16. Reese saws off the butt-stock of his riot gun. He slings his newly-sawed-off shotgun under his overcoat and walks out into daytime foot traffic.
17. The Terminator pulls up to a phone booth, throws a big guy on the phone out of the way. He scans the phone book and finds a listing of multiple "Sarah Conner"s. Like Reese, he rips the page out.
18. Kids' toys litter a suburban yard. A station wagon pulls up, crushing a toy truck. The Terminator steps out. He walks up to the house, asks the overweight, house-wife if she's Sarah Conner. "Yes". And he empties a clip of .45-caliber rounds into her.
19. Sarah takes her break at work and her waitress-friend from earlier tells her she's got to see something on T.V. "It's about you. Well, sort of."
20. In the employee lounge, a newscaster reports the shooting death of "Sarah Conner". Sarah's friend turns to her and jokes, "You're dead, honey."
21. Reese tries to relax in his car next to a construction work-yard. He watches the grinding machines and bright lights with visible unease and we CUT TO:
22. FLASHFORWARD: the future battleground. Machines roll over charred skulls. We find Reese in uniform, greasy and war-weary, trying to outrun the machines with his team member. They blow up one of the giant treaded machines but his team member is killed in the process. Reese

- jumps into an up-armored sedan, tries to outrun one of the aerial gunships. The car is shot-up, flips, and explodes into flames. Reese screams as flames engulf him.
23. Reese snaps awake, back in the present day. He realizes where he is, restarts his car, and drives off.
 24. Sarah and her roommate ready for a night out. Sarah answers the phone and listens to her roommate's boyfriend talk dirty. She jokes with him, before giving the phone to GINGER, her roommate.
 25. TRAXLER, a detective, walks through the police station. Another detective, VUKOVICH hands him a case file. VUKOVICH tells him they have two shooting deaths, both with the name "Sarah Conner." They both express their world-weary disgust with "one-day pattern killers".
 26. Sarah and Ginger are ready to go out for the night. Then Sarah's date bails on her. Sarah isn't surprised, takes comfort from her pet iguana.
 27. Sarah is now dressed-down, tells Ginger she's leaving to see a movie by herself. Exiting the front door, she runs into a muscular figure -- she realizes it's only MATT, Ginger's boyfriend whom Sarah earlier teased on the phone.
 28. Sarah walks through the parking garage to her moped. She senses someone watching her, but sees nothing. She starts the moped and drives off. A car starts and pulls out after her -- Reese.
 29. Traxler and Vukovich walk past to a mob of press asking for comment on the pattern killings. In their office, Traxler and Vukovich try to phone our Sarah Conner.
 30. The phone rings in Sarah's apartment. Ginger and Matt make-love there, but the music they play is too loud to hear the phone ring.
 31. Back in the police station, Traxler and Vukovich decide to talk to the press, hoping it will impel Sarah to get in touch with them.
 32. Sarah hears a newscast at a pizza parlour, relaying Traxler's revelation of the pattern killings. She freaks, looks for a phone. She pulls out the phone book and finds her name is next on the list. She tries to call someone but the phone is out of order. She exits.
 33. Out on the streets, she looks around, paranoid. She makes eye contact with Reese, who follows her. She notices him watching and ducks into a club called "Tech Noir".

34. Inside, she watches Reese walk past and breathes a sigh of relief. She makes her way across the dance floor to the phone. She calls the police but is put on hold. She hangs up.
35. A patrol car idles outside Sarah's apartment, receives a call, and drives off. The Terminator steps into F.G. and walks up to the apartment complex.
36. Ginger leaves her boyfriend post-coitus and heads to the kitchen with headphones on, music blasting. She gets food out of the fridge when Sarah's iguana startles her.
37. The Terminator enters the bedroom from the balcony and tries to kill Matt. Matt fights back but is tossed around like a rag-doll.
38. Ginger, in the kitchen, can't hear the commotion because of her headphones. She brings her food back to the bedroom when Matt's bloody body explodes out of the door, lifeless. The Terminator steps out, aims at the shocked Ginger, guns her down. She tries to crawl away but he methodically unloads his .45. Then the phone rings and Sarah's voice on the machine gets his attention.
39. Sarah asks Ginger and Matt to pick her up from the club, she's frightened.
40. The Terminator finds Sarah's student ID card -- he now knows what she looks like.
41. Sarah finally gets hold of Traxler, tells him she thinks someone is following her. Traxler tells her to stay put. The Terminator enters. Sarah sits oblivious to his entrance, but still anxious. Then she sees Reese at the bar, and they make eye contact. The Terminator finds Sarah, draws his pistol -- Reese pumps his shotgun -- and as the Terminator takes aim, Reese unloads. Sarah runs in a panic, as the Terminator rises and shoots the bar up. The Terminator guns down people as they exit. Sarah struggles to get up as the Terminator approaches her. He stands over her reloading and is about to gun her down when Reese again blows him away. The Terminator flies out of the window, surely dead. Reese: "Come with me if you want to live." Sarah doesn't move. Then the Terminator sits up, perfectly functional. And Sarah does go with Reese.
42. They sprint down an alley, chased by the Terminator. Reese shoots-out a car's gas tank. It explodes, slowing the Terminator. Reese and Sarah get into a car but the Terminator comes flying out of the flames and lands, on fire, on top of their car. They manage to get the Terminator off the hood and drive off. A patrol officer sees this, calls in a hit-and-run. The Terminator gets up, bludgeons the officer, steals his car.

43. Reese and Sarah race through downtown streets. She tries to jump out of the car, Reese stops her. While out-racing cops, he introduces himself, starts to explain things for her: "You've been targeted for termination."
44. The Terminator uses the patrol car's radio, mimics the officer's voice.
45. Reese tells Sarah she's being hunted by a cyborg. Various patrol cars chase them and Reese loses them in various ways.
46. Reese pulls into a parking garage and explains that this cyborg is a new model of killing machine. Reese explains that it's from the future and Sarah is incredulous, again tries to escape. Reese explains that she needs to stay with him. Reese: "It absolutely will not stop. Ever. Until you are dead."
47. The Terminator stalks them in his stolen patrol car. He hears a call identifying Reese's destroyed car.
48. Police cars patrol the parking garage. Reese and Sarah get into a new car. Sarah wants to know why the Terminator wants her. Reese does more explaining: Skynet, the future holocaust, etc. Most importantly, the leader of the human resistance -- her unborn son, JOHN CONNER.
49. The Terminator patrols the parking garage. He sees Reese starting the car and another gunfight/car chase begins.
50. Fight/chase continues out on LA streets. Reese crashes the Terminator's car but kills his own in the process. A fleet of patrol cars rush up and Sarah convinces Reese to turn himself in. The cops check the Terminator's patrol car -- but it's empty.
51. Sarah sits in Traxler's office, crying over the news of her roommate's death. She is introduced to DR. SILBERMAN, a criminal psychologist.
52. The Terminator returns to his motel room. He's in bad shape -- his arm malfunctions, his left eye is shot-out. So he goes to work on himself.
53. Silberman questions Reese about this future war. Silberman isn't buying any of it, but Traxler and Vukovich are loving every minute of Reese's apparent rantings. Reese explains how he was sent back in time, and that nobody else is coming through. R: "It's just him, and me."
54. The Terminator repairs his damaged eye -- by cutting it out. Then he puts on the Terminator's signature shades, grabs his assault rifles.

55. Sarah watches a taping of Reese's interrogation. Silberman points out that Reese's "delusions" require no proof. Reese freaks out at the end of the taping: "He'll reach down her throat...and pull her fucking heart out." And Silberman kills the tape. Traxler tries to reason away a lot of the Terminator's invincibility with body armor, PCP. Sarah wants to believe him. Traxler tells her to get some rest, she's perfectly safe there.
56. Silberman leaves the police station -- as the Terminator walks in. The night officer won't admit him so the Terminator says: "I'll be back." A beat, then a car smashes through the front doors, killing the night officer.
57. Sarah can hear the Terminator systematically shooting his way through the police station. Traxler tells her to stay put.
58. The Terminator kills the power.
59. Reese incapacitates the officer guarding him, unlocks his cuffs.
60. Sarah hides under Traxler's desk as the shooting continues.
61. Traxler and Vukovich are both gunned down.
62. A shadowy-figure breaks into Traxler's office -- it's Reese, and he takes Sarah with him.
63. As they drive off, the Terminator steps outside and fires a burst at their car. But then he's out of ammo, and they escape.
64. Reese and Sarah run out of gas outside L.A. They hide under an overpass, huddle together. She asks his first name: "Kyle". He talks about time travel. She dresses one of his wounds, as he tells her about her son: "I'd die for John Conner." S: "At least I know what to name him." Reese reveals he volunteered to be sent back, wanting to "meet the legend." Reese delivers Sarah a message John made him memorize. She asks him to tell her more about himself. This DISSOLVES TO:
65. FLASHFORWARD: Reese on the battlefield. He takes his team into an underground bunker. Life down there is grim. Kids sit in front of burning television sets, mothers grieve, rats roam, etc. Reese kicks back, tries to get some rest. He pulls out a photograph -- Sarah Conner. Then a Terminator breaks into the bunker and starts shooting the place up. Reese shoots back, but something explodes near him and he's thrown to the ground. Sarah's picture falls into a fire, Reese watches as it melts away.
66. Sarah wakes. She says she dreamt of dogs, which is what the future army used/will use to spot Terminators. They walk into the morning sun.

67. The Terminator flips through Sarah's address book. Flies buzz around his wounds. The manager knocks, asks if something is dying in the room. From a list of responses, Terminator picks: "Fuck you, asshole." The Terminator finds what he was looking for in the book, sets out.
68. Sarah and Reese check into a motel. Reese goes out for supplies, leaves Sarah the gun. She looks at it like it's a foreign object.
69. Sarah talks on the phone to her mother, but can't tell her mother where she is. The mother is persistent, so Sarah relents.
70. The conversation continues on the other end, revealing the Terminator mimicking Sarah's mother's voice.
71. Reese shows Sarah how to make Plastique...
72. ...the Terminator rolls-out on a motorcycle.
73. Sarah lies in bed, while Reese stands watch. She goes to him for comfort. S: "Look at me, I'm shaking. Some legend, huh? You must be pretty disappointed." Reese isn't. Sarah asks him if he had a woman in his time. Reese tells her he didn't. He tells her how John gave him a picture of her. Reese reveals that he loves her, always has. R: "I came across time for you, Sarah." He walks away, embarrassed by what he's said. She follows him and kisses him. They make love.
74. The Terminator rides.
75. Sarah and Reese dress post-coitus. Then a dog barks, and Reese's demeanor changes.
76. The Terminator approaches the hotel, kicks in the door and shoots the room up -- but no one's there.
77. Reese and Sarah escape in a truck and the Terminator chases them. Reese throws his pipe-bombs at the Terminator, but to no effect. Reese is shot, Sarah drives. She rams the Terminator and he flies off his motorcycle, skids down the road. Sarah and Reese crash. A semi-truck smashes into the still-moving Terminator.
78. Sarah watches as the Terminator kills the driver and climbs into the truck. She tries to get Reese up as the Terminator turns the truck around. They get out just as their pick-up is run-over. Sarah runs away from the truck as Reese throws a pipe-bomb into the truck. The truck explodes.

79. Sarah watches as a burning body climbs out of the truck's cab, stops, and falls to the ground. The Terminator appears dead. Reese walks out of the smoke. They run to each other and embrace. Then the Terminator's metal endoskeleton rises from the wreckage. Sarah and Reese despair, run to a nearby building.
80. They run down a hallway and onto a manufacturing floor, Terminator in tow. Reese is badly wounded, so now Sarah takes the lead. She pulls him across the floor and they hide among the various moving machines, while the Terminator stalks them. Sarah accidentally activates a metal press and the Terminator hears this. They run into a dead end and turn around -- but the Terminator is there. Sarah runs while Reese and the Terminator battle it out. Reese manages to light a pipe-bomb and lodges it in the Terminator's chassis. The metal beast is blown apart, sending shrapnel flying everywhere.
81. Sarah pulls a piece of shrapnel from her leg. She crawls to Reese, who lies dead, surrounded by pieces of the Terminator. As she begins to mourn, the upper-half of the Terminator's chassis rises yet again. She tries to crawl away but it continues to gain on her. She crawls through the metal press she earlier activated. It follows her. She climbs out the other side and pulls her legs clear. She activates the press and crushes the Terminator. Electricity arcs and the Terminator's red glowing eye ceases.
82. Sarah is put on a stretcher, watches as Reese's body is bagged. She's loaded into an ambulance and we CUT TO BLACK.
83. FADE-IN: Sarah drives a jeep across the Mexican desert, casually packing a .357 Magnum and narrating in V.O. to her unborn son.
84. She stops for gas, continues her narration, and reveals she is quite pregnant. She narrates to her future son about Reese, "his father." A boy takes her picture -- it is the one Reese carries in the future, given to him by John. The boy says in Spanish, a storm is coming. S: "I know." She drives off toward the thunderheads in her jeep and we

FADE TO BLACK