DEADPAN



LOGLINE

Robbed of her closing spot at a televised roast, a veteran comedy writer starts killing her way back to the microphone while the audience keeps mistaking her threats for punchlines.

THE STORY

Della Stinson wrote the roast. At a Texas ranch, the streamer gives her closing set to the male headliners and offers her a corset and round cards instead. When emcee Ned McCraw films her humiliation for content, she tells him she will hit him with a skillet. He laughs. She swings.

With Ned's body hidden behind the dais, Della uses the show to turn the room against its muscle-bound host. People applaud while he dies. Her injuries mount; her pulse stays at sixty. Then Tobin, the young comic she helped, takes a crew member hostage. Della helps free the worker. She has room to leave. She goes back to Tobin, and kills him when he attacks.

The streamer's CEO offers Della the live close. He needs a show; she wants her name and her work on camera. Their bargain becomes a hostage act, and her set gets real laughs. When he exposes Ned's body to force the feed off, the performance becomes a final, brutal struggle. Della kills him and is arrested. The streamer turns the murders into its next special, giving her top billing and cropping out the bodies.

THE FILM

An R-rated gonzo slasher comedy with a working live roast at its center. The service-industry fury of *The Menu* meets the blood-soaked survival farce of *Ready or Not*. Hot microphones turn threats into entertainment; backstage violence spills into the room. The writer gets her audience, and the people selling her work get a murder story.