



<http://www.allthingshorroronline.com/2010/03/quick-hit-reviews-penance-shortcut.html>



The Shortcut-Sometimes when reviewing a movie, it's hard to remember that I'm probably about twice as old as the intended target audience. If I were sixteen I'd probably like this film a bit more. As it was, it's not a bad 'It's Sunday night, I need to grab something from Redbox to toss on in the background while I catch up on emails' type of flick. Here's the story-Derek and his younger brother Tobey have just moved to a sleepy New England town after the death of their father. There's a shortcut that runs behind the school that the kids have avoided for years as it runs behind some crazy old coot's residence and there's rumors of dogs and pets that have gone missing throughout the years. Once a friend's dog has disappeared, it's off to investigate the old farmstead, and things take a turn for the disturbed. It relies a bit too much on fake scares but things pick up a bit at the end. Characters I thought would make it through the end get bumped off in the third act, and there one bit involving a sledgehammer and kids fingers that is pretty cringe worthy. Depending how alert you are while watching the hints about the ending either come off as subtle or dropped like hammers. The scariest thing about the film is William B Davis somehow looks ten years younger than he did during the X Files years, which ended a decade ago.