

PARASOMNIA

The background of the poster is a dark, grainy image. It shows a person's silhouette in the foreground, looking up at a large, pale, skeletal hand reaching down from above. The hand is positioned as if it's about to grab the person. The overall atmosphere is dark and ominous, with a blueish-grey color palette. The title 'PARASOMNIA' is written in a large, red, serif font at the top. The text 'a film by Ryan Shovey' is centered below the title. At the bottom, the website 'www.ParasomniaTheFilm.com' is written in a small, white, sans-serif font.

a film by
Ryan Shovey

www.ParasomniaTheFilm.com



Logline

A woman who's suffered night terrors all her life must unite with the ghosts that haunt her dreams in order to escape the house of a psychopath.

PARASOMNIA WAS BORN FROM REAL FEAR:

I've suffered night terrors since childhood: paralyzed in bed, convinced something was in the room with me. Waking up screaming. Even as an adult, those dreams make me question what was real... and what was a nightmare.

When I started writing this script, I asked myself: What kind of ghost story would actually scare me?

I knew I had to relive those nightmares through my characters to give them a something to overcome. A fear they could never truly explain. A painful sense of isolation that we only experience within our minds.

That's when Parasomnia became a story not just about ghosts, but about being trapped. About feeling invisible.

About confronting the demons that paralyze us: and finding strength in the very thing that once made us feel powerless.

In a time when more people than ever are struggling with anxiety, sleep disorders, isolation, and emotional burnout, Parasomnia speaks to a primal fear we all share:

What if the worst parts of ourselves are the hardest to escape? And what if we need that fear to push us to find the freedom we've been longing to embrace?

But this isn't just a story about fear. It's about transformation.

It's about a woman who starts as a victim... and becomes the thing the monster should fear most.

THE WORLD:

Present Day

Suburban House Turned Supernatural Prison

The story takes place almost entirely inside Patrick's house: a simple suburban home that hides something far more sinister beneath its surface. By day, it looks ordinary—quiet, lived-in, nothing unusual from the outside.

But inside... something is deadly.

After her death, Jayne wakes in a foggy, broken version of the house. The air is colder. Shadows crawl across the walls. Familiar rooms become empty and distant, like a memory slipping away. Patrick moves through the house as if nothing has changed, but Jayne and other trapped souls drift through a shadow world layered on top of his reality—cut off, unseen, desperate to escape.

The house becomes both a prison and a battlefield: a place where the rules of time and distance bend under the weight of grief, fear, and unfinished violence.

Jayne must find a way to break through the fog... or be lost to it forever.



The Story



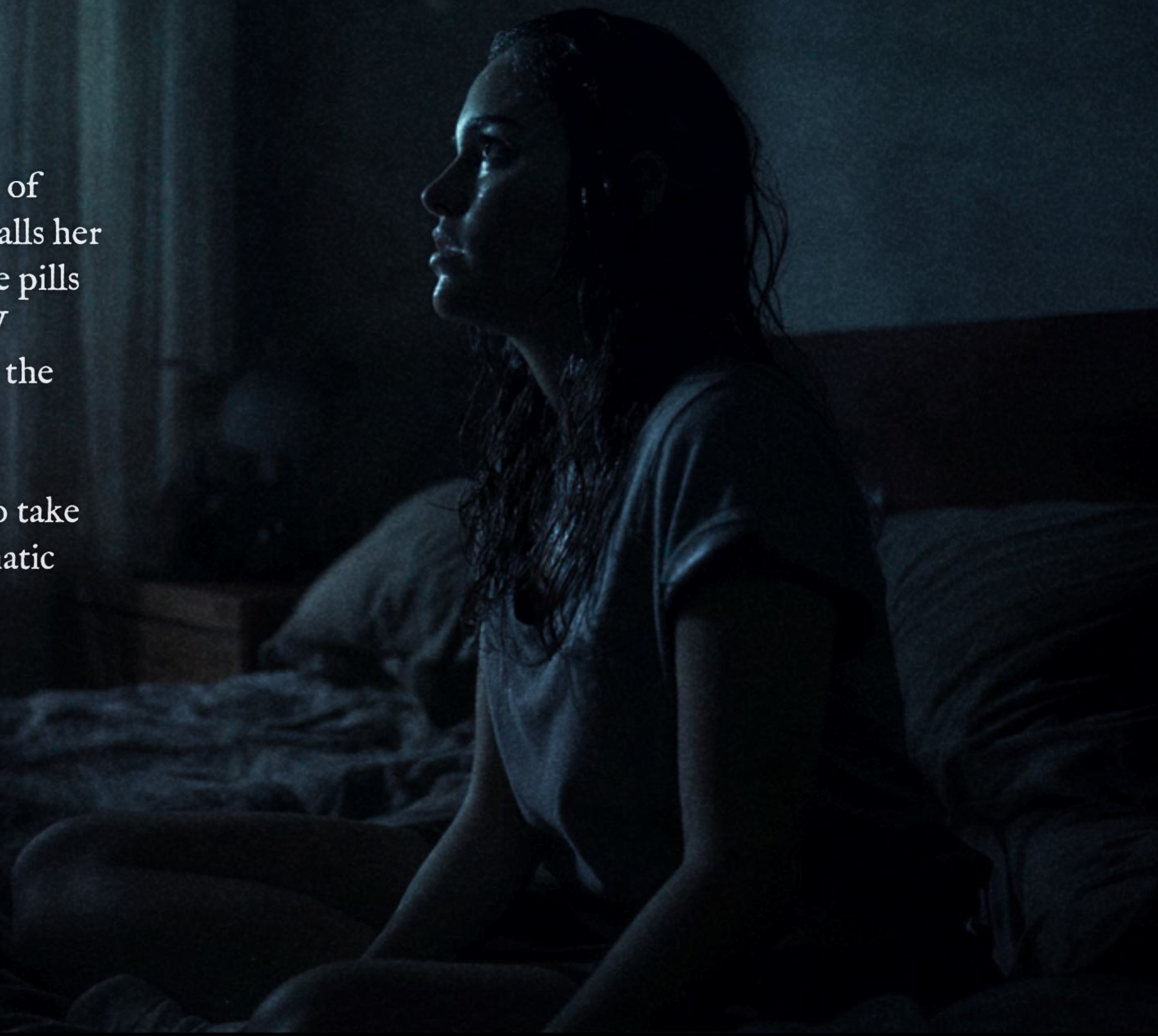
Act 1:

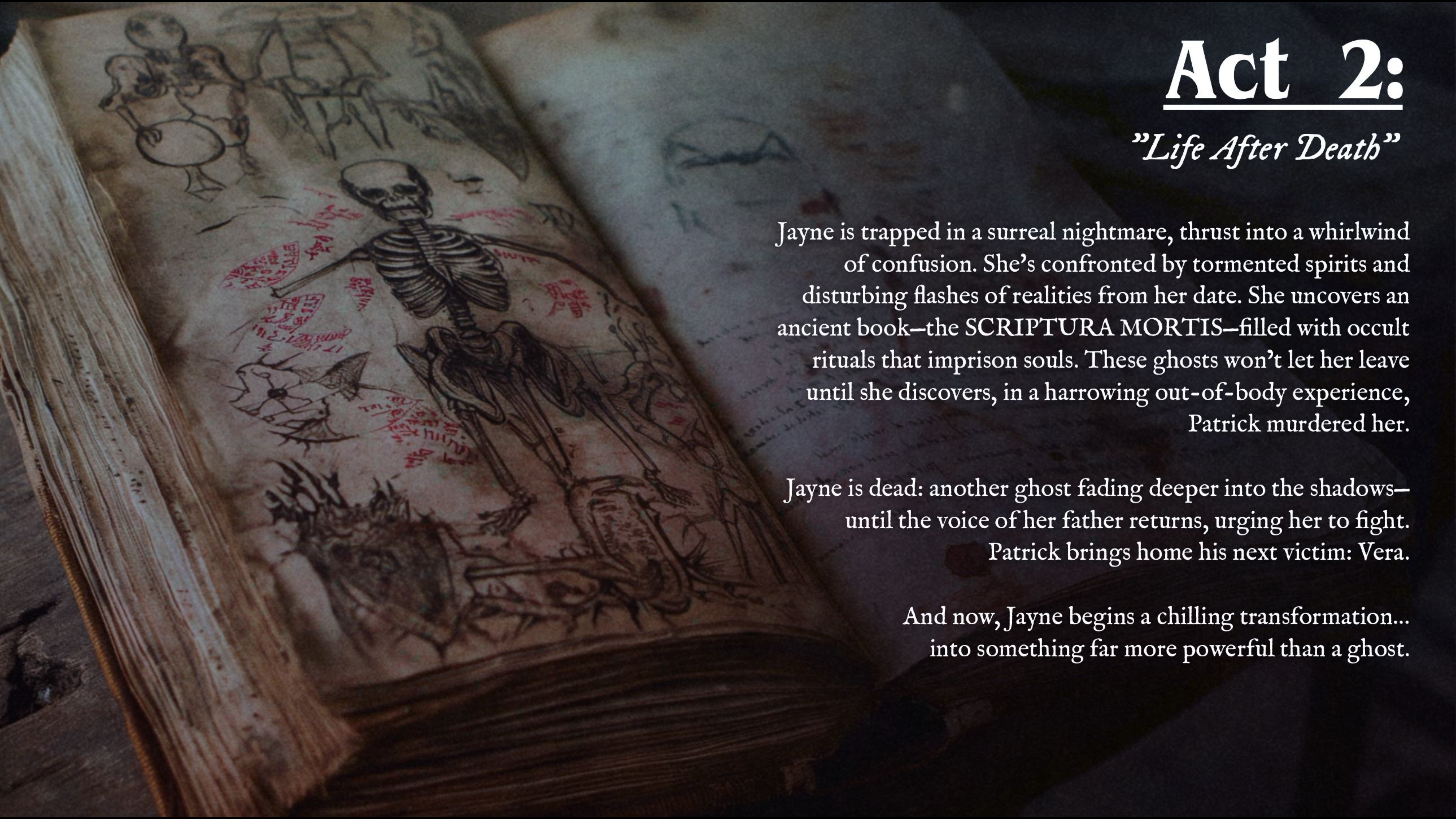
"The Ongoing Fear"

JAYNE SALGADO has been haunted by vivid night terrors of decrepit ghosts her entire life. Desperate to feel heard, she calls her skeptical mother, an ER doctor who merely urges her to take pills that suppress her dreams. Jayne spends days watching old TV interviews of her dad, a psychotherapist who helped her face the fears in her dreams when he was alive.

At her dead-end job, Jayne's friend VERA encourages her to take the night off and go on a fun date with PATRICK, a charismatic photographer who actually makes Jayne feel heard.

It's the perfect night... until she falls asleep.



The background of the image is an open, antique book. The left page features a detailed drawing of a human skeleton in a standing position, surrounded by various smaller sketches and handwritten text in red ink. The right page is mostly blank, showing the texture of the aged paper and some faint, illegible markings. The overall lighting is dim, creating a somber and mysterious atmosphere.

Act 2:

"Life After Death"

Jayne is trapped in a surreal nightmare, thrust into a whirlwind of confusion. She's confronted by tormented spirits and disturbing flashes of realities from her date. She uncovers an ancient book—the SCRIPTURA MORTIS—filled with occult rituals that imprison souls. These ghosts won't let her leave until she discovers, in a harrowing out-of-body experience, Patrick murdered her.

Jayne is dead: another ghost fading deeper into the shadows—until the voice of her father returns, urging her to fight.

Patrick brings home his next victim: Vera.

And now, Jayne begins a chilling transformation...
into something far more powerful than a ghost.

Act 3:

"The Vengeful Poltergeist"

In a battle between a sadistic killer who believes he's untouchable and the vengeful poltergeist who's finally learned to harness her power, Jayne launches a brutal assault to protect her friend. But when Patrick swallows one of his dream-blocking pills, she's cast into a supernatural void. Vera fights for her life, and just as Patrick moves in for the kill, Jayne intercepts the blow and gives Vera the chance to escape.

With her strength restored, Jayne unleashes the other trapped souls, and together, they rip Patrick apart.

One by one, the ghosts cross over. But as Jayne embraces her father, she hears the cry of a terrified child, lost in a nightmare. Jayne is no longer a lost soul, but a protector, and she chooses to stay and show the next frightened dreamer that she's stronger than she knows.





Cast of Characters

Jayne Salgado

A reclusive and deeply empathetic woman, Jayne is plagued by lifelong night terrors that leave her feeling isolated and misunderstood. As she confronts the haunting forces tied to her dreams, she must find the strength to face her fears and protect the people she loves.



Dianne Guerro

Melissa Fumero

Aimee Carrero



Patrick Bates

Patrick is a soft-spoken, charismatic photographer whose warm smile and gentle questions disarm even the most guarded souls—but behind his easy charm lies a predator who captures more than memories, using an ancient book and a blade to trap his victims in eternal nightmare.



Shawn Ashmore



Jake Johnson



Joshua Jackson

Vera Chic

Vera is Jayne's outspoken, ride-or-die work friend—a sarcastic, sharp-witted free spirit who masks deep loyalty beneath a punk-rock edge. She's the kind of person who laughs at horror movies but drops everything when someone she cares about is in trouble.



Liza Soberano



Nicole B. Dalton





Dr. Chandra Salgado

Jayne's mom. A sharp, overworked ER doctor in her late 50s. Skeptical, emotionally guarded, and perpetually exhausted, she approaches her daughter's night terrors with clinical detachment, masking concern with control.



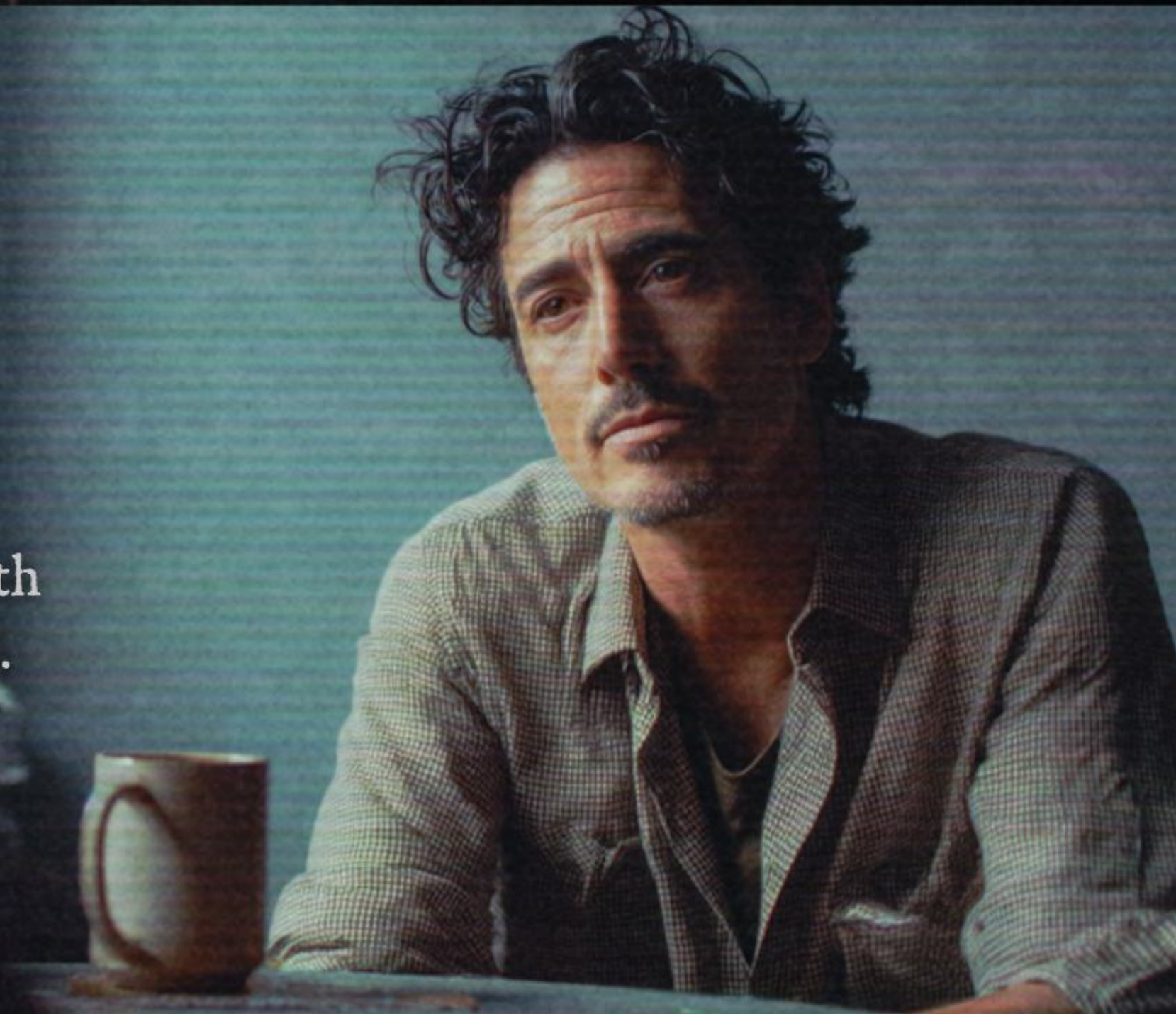
Heather
Langenkamp



Barbara
Crampton

Dr. Àngel Salgado

Jayne's dad. A respected psychotherapist and parasomnia expert in his early 40s. Calm, warm, and intellectually grounded, he was the only person who truly understood Jayne's dreams before his death—and continues to guide her from beyond.



Nick Gomez



Clayton Cardenas



The Ghosts



We Fear What We Don't Understand

The ghosts haunting Patrick's house are terrifying: broken, decaying souls who wail in the darkness. Some crawl without limbs, some claw at unseen walls, their faces twisted in agony. Their violent, brash instincts make them seem monstrous—lashing out without warning, fueled by fear and confusion.

But their terror is not hatred. It's instinct.

Like drowning victims thrashing for the surface, they lash out blindly, desperate to find something — anything — that will save them. They don't know why they're here. They don't know why Patrick passes through them, untouched. They don't know how long they've been lost in the fog.

A Spirit of Justice

For those cursed with parasomnia, their dreams emit a beacon—a vibrant light in the endless dark which attracts ghosts like moths to a flame. Jayne's light burns brighter than any they've ever seen.

At first, she's terrified of being haunted by these decaying spirits. But when she sees beyond their deadly screams to the souls still reaching for help, her empathy unlocks a power stronger than fear itself.

Jayne doesn't just survive the nightmare.

She becomes its reckoning.



Theme

Facing the Darkness Within

At its core, Parasomnia is about the terror of feeling unseen—and the power that comes from facing it head-on.

The ghosts haunting Jayne aren't just monsters; they are mirrors of unresolved fear, grief, and loss. Each spirit embodies the silent agony of being unseen—the pain of screaming for help and hearing nothing in return.

Through Jayne's journey, Parasomnia explores how fear can either imprison us or transform us.. It's not about vanquishing nightmares. It's about understanding them—and finding strength in the very darkness that once made us powerless.

**THIS IS A STORY OF SURVIVAL, BUT MORE THAN THAT...
IT'S A STORY OF RECLAMATION.**

MODERN. GOTHIC. HORROR.

Fear doesn't shout in this film. It lingers. It whispers. It waits.

This is emotional horror built on lived-in textures, surreal imagery, and the suffocating stillness of familiar spaces turned hostile. Not castles and gargoyles—but fog-drenched hallways, flickering lights, and the quiet dread that your own mind has turned against you.

Trauma becomes atmosphere. Ghosts don't haunt to harm—they haunt to be heard. Parasomnia is about more than survival. It's about transformation. A woman paralyzed by nightmares becomes the thing the monster should fear most.

TONAL INFLUENCES



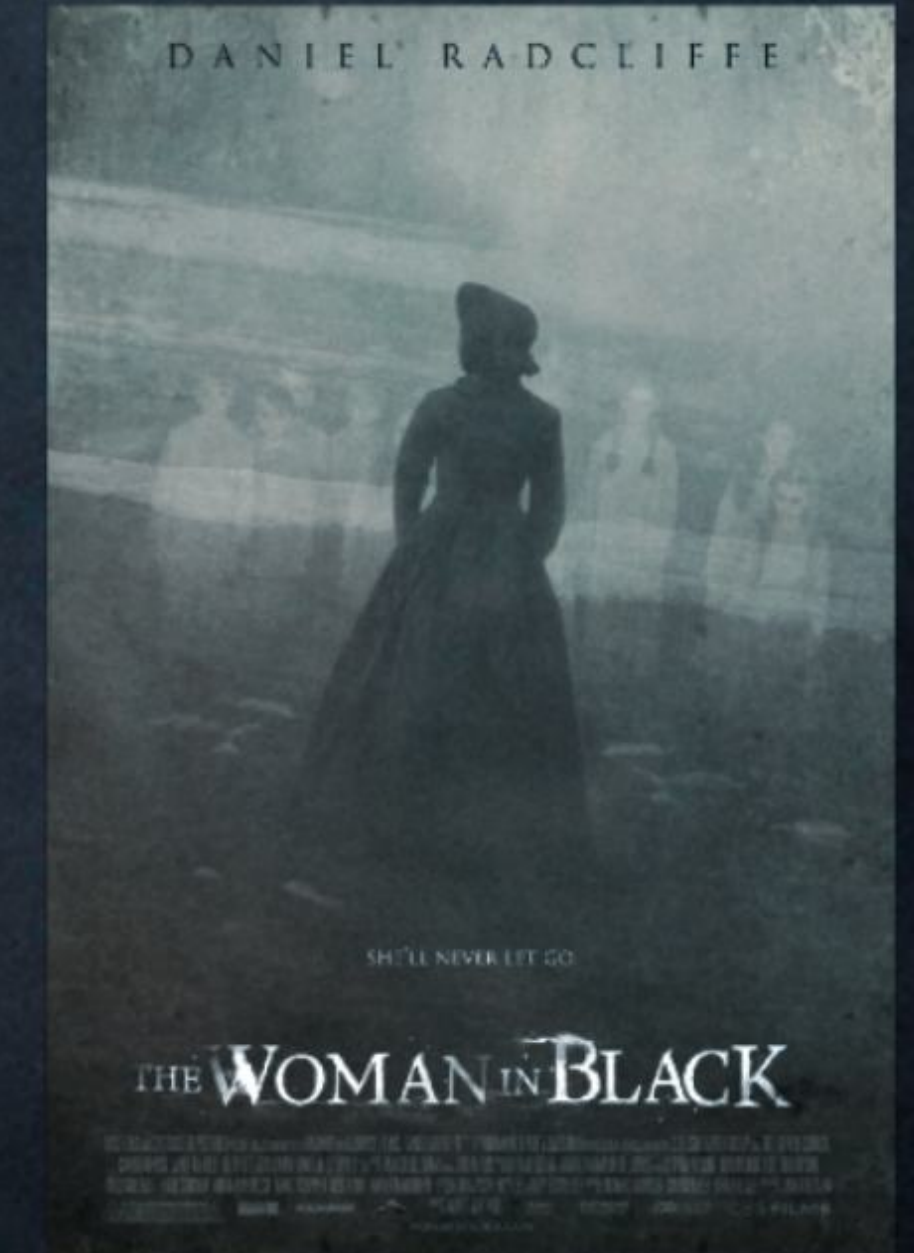
Slow-burn pacing and emotional unraveling inspire a haunting built on grief, regret, and personal transformation.



A visual blueprint: deep shadows, rain-soaked vengeance, and a heroine whose pale face and black-veined eyes mirror Eric Draven's iconic look.



Modern suburban horror where ghosts reveal trauma and possess power—mirrored in Jayne's rise as a supernatural force.



Isolation, gothic stillness, and sorrow-driven hauntings shape the dread and elegance of Parasomnia's ghost sequences.

Low Budget. High Impact.

PARASOMNIA sits confidently alongside recent successful horror films made for under \$5 million that turned emotional storytelling, contained settings, and a singular directorial vision into global box office wins.



Budget: \$4.5M | Box Office: \$90M+

An emotionally driven ghost story that uses grief, trauma, and a contained supernatural device to deliver a grounded, slow-burn horror experience.



Budget: \$1M | Box Office: \$15M+

Stylized, contained, and character-driven—this slow-burn horror thriller used visual craft and creeping dread to launch a successful theatrical franchise.



Budget: <\$2M | Box Office: \$10M+

Atmospheric and visually distinct, this indie horror turned a simple concept into a viral theatrical hit—proving there's an appetite for bold, horror storytelling with limited locations.



Budget: \$2M | Box Office: \$41M+

A fan-driven, unrated indie slasher that dominated the box office, showing how low-budget horror with a clear identity and audience appeal can break out without studio polish.

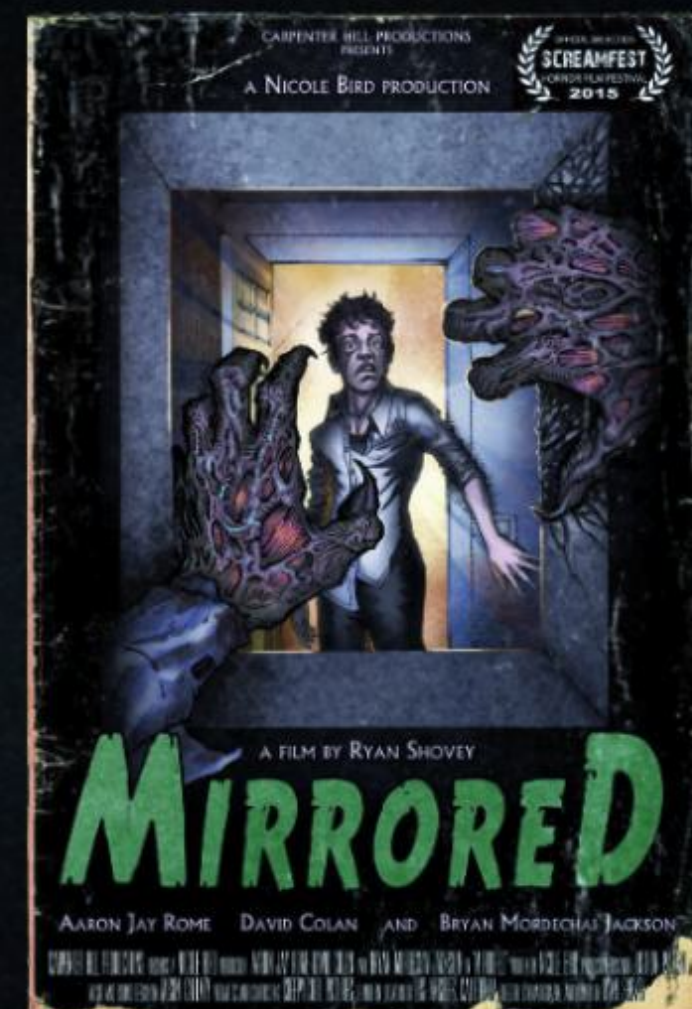
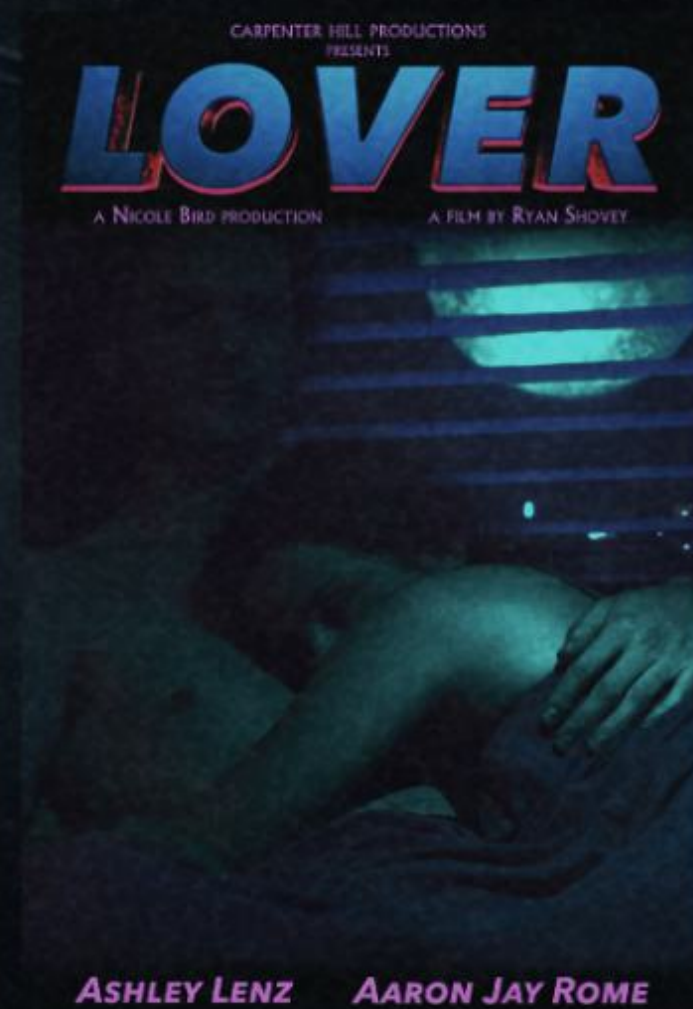
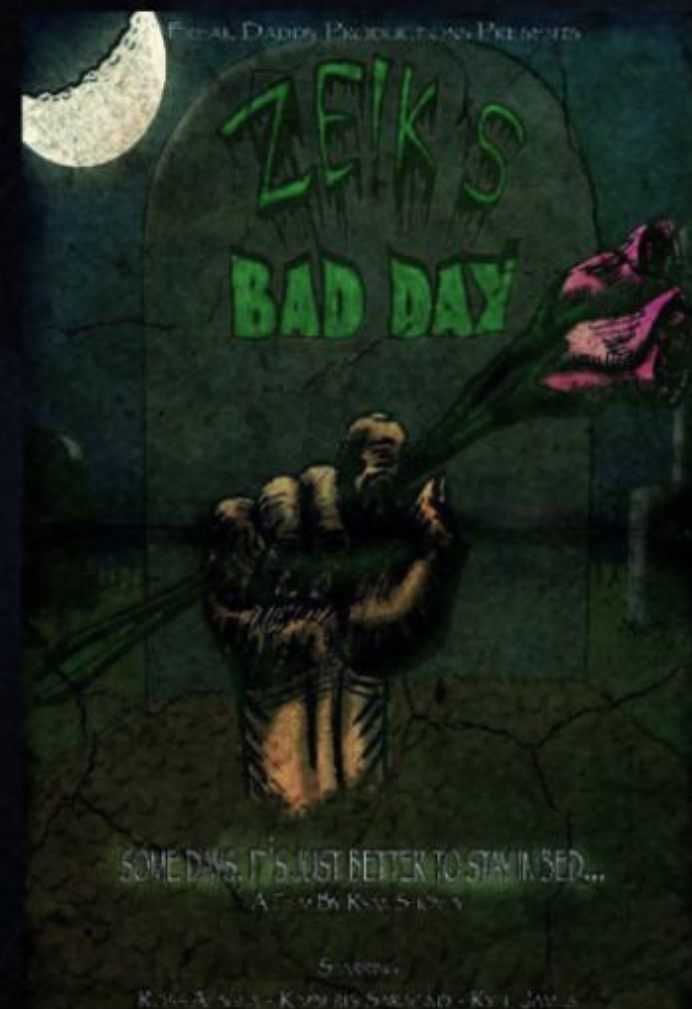
Writer/Director



Ryan Shovey is a Los Angeles-based writer and director known for crafting emotionally grounded horror stories that blend Gothic atmosphere with modern psychological dread. Originally from Ocala, Florida, Ryan grew up obsessed with classic Universal Monster films and drew early inspiration from Edgar Allan Poe, Charlie Chaplin, and John Carpenter — storytellers who used genre to explore deeply human fears.

His work has been recognized by the CINE Golden Eagle Awards, PAGE International Screenwriting Awards, and the ISA Fast Track Fellowship. In 2023, his latest short film screened at San Diego Comic-Con, and in 2024, two of his horror shorts were featured in the anthology Pulp Modern: Die Laughing.

Ryan's focus is always on the emotional truth beneath the horror — stories where outcasts must embrace their darkness in order to overcome their demons. www.RyanShovey.com



THANK YOU.

Contact

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Watch the proof of concept trailer here!

www.ParasomniaTheFilm.com

*Pitch Deck designed by
Ryan Shovey*

