

FILM SCRIPTS IN DEVELOPMENT

Oleander - feature film, psychological thriller - low budget (90 minutes)

Screenplay by Els Van Poppel and Vicki Englund

The screenplay was originally written by Els Van Poppel and was a quarterfinalist in the Page Awards, U.S.A. Els commissioned me to come on board to help rework the script and be co-writer. Els owns the copyright but initial enquiries can be made to me or Els (contact details below).

LOGLINE:

Journalist Andrew McGillis is irresistibly drawn on a dangerous physical and mental journey when he investigates the unsolved disappearance of a young woman after being convinced that photos of her are trying to tell him something.

SYNOPSIS:

Andrew McGillis, late 20s, is haunted by a childhood tragedy. At five, he struggled but failed to save his little sister, Lulu, from drowning. Consumed with grief and guilt ever since, Andrew gets through life but doesn't really seem to be living it. He works as a journalist for the arts page of a newspaper, but has a desperate need to sink his teeth into something grittier and more substantial.

Andrew is drawn to the case of the disappearance 10 years earlier of a young woman named Suzanne. Mesmerised by photos of her, he senses Suzanne might be trying to make a connection with him. Could she be alive somewhere? Andrew decides to look into it on his own time with the begrudging blessing of his section editor, Val.

Suzanne's heartbroken parents tell Andrew that the police botched the investigation into their daughter's disappearance. When Andrew discovers leads that propel him closer to solving the mystery, he receives a gruesome warning to stop nosing around. Someone very dangerous doesn't want Andrew following his line of investigation. But his belief that Suzanne could still be alive becomes almost obsessive, and when he receives vital clues from a mysterious source, his resolve is unbreakable.

Andrew's investigative journey leads down a dark and frightening path where he questions his sanity after a link emerges between his own childhood trauma and the missing Suzanne. How is it possible? But it's not until he comes face to face with murderous evil that the limits of his physical and mental endurance are tested and he must fight for his life.

Andrew's efforts, eventually aided by a reluctant Val, lead them

in a race against time to the ultimate shocking revelation about Suzanne's whereabouts. Only one question remains: how could the mysterious source have known?

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