

The background of the entire image is a dark, blue-toned photograph of a calm lake at night. In the background, a dense forest of tall, thin trees stands against a dark sky. The trees and the sky are reflected in the still water of the lake, creating a symmetrical effect. The overall mood is mysterious and somber.

HONEYMOON KILLER

A Contained Thriller Screenplay
by Joel McElvaney



LOGLINE

When an intruder crashes a newlywed couple's secluded honeymoon claiming the new husband murdered his sister five years ago -- on her honeymoon -- the new wife is faced with an impossible choice.

SCRIPT SYNOPSIS

On the second night of HALEY and STEFFEN'S secluded honeymoon, BOBBY knocks on their cabin door and claims to be a lost camper. Bobby stays the night without incident, but later sneaks in through a basement window. That night, Bobby knocks Steffen unconscious, and ties him up in the basement. Bobby tells Haley that Steffen's name is really Liam, a man he suspects murdered his sister on her honeymoon five years earlier. Bobby leaves Haley tied up in the basement with Steffen, who admits to lying about his earlier marriage, but insists that Bobby's sister's death was an accident. Steffen says he changed his name because Bobby and his family started harassing him.

Believing Steffen, Haley helps undo his bindings, and when Bobby comes to check on them, Steffen attacks Bobby. In the scuffle, Bobby's gun discharges, hitting Haley in the arm. In this midpoint reversal, Steffen ties up Bobby in the basement and administers first aid to Haley. Steffen explains Bobby's sister died of accidental drowning after a nerve-debilitating jellyfish sting. Haley remains skeptical of Steffen's explanation. The next day, Steffen saves Haley from drowning when she falls into the lake, leading Haley to conclude that Steffen is actually a good guy.

However, when Haley sneaks down to the basement to give Bobby a drink of water, he reveals to her that Steffen (Liam) met his sister the exact same (odd) way as Haley: Steffen helped change his sister's tire but then the spare was flat—so she had to get a ride in Steffen's car. As Haley absorbs this information, Steffen comes into the basement and Bobby, who has spent hours loosening his bindings, attacks him. They wrestle for control of Bobby's handgun. Steffen wins that battle, but Haley knocks Steffen out before he can shoot Bobby.

Instead of choosing one man to believe, Haley ties up both men, locks them in the basement and heads toward a nearby fire tower to radio for help. Bobby gets free, follows her there, after possibly killing Steffen, and later attacks Haley (the only witness to his crime) upon her return to the cabin. Bobby and Haley fight, and when Bobby gets the upper hand, a badly-injured Steffen appears and shoots Bobby, killing him. A rescue boat arrives, and Haley and Steffen are evacuated. One year later, as Haley and Steffen head off on Honeymoon 2.0, we see that Steffen may, in fact, be planning to murder Haley after all.

KEY CHARACTERS



Yvonne

Successful business woman newly in love. Conflicted about who to trust. Tough and resourceful, despite fears.



Steffen

Yvonne's new husband. Hid his previous marriage from Yvonne, and the death of his previous wife on their honeymoon! Earns Yvonne's trust by saving her at the lake.



Bobby

An earnest stranger claiming Steffen married his sister five years ago - and killed her on their honeymoon.

FILM TONE

- TENSE
- DRAMATIC
- MYSTERIOUS



FINAL WORD

FROM THE SCREENWRITER



After an earnest stranger interrupts her honeymoon with a wild, damning story about her new husband, the female lead of this taut, contained thriller must make an impossible choice. Believe the man she loves, who now admits to lying about his previous marriage, or the complete stranger who claims her husband killed his sister on their own honeymoon. Instead, she subverts expectations by tying up both men and escaping on her own. Refusing to be gullible or gaslit, she relies on her own skills and intuition to escape the difficult situation and save herself.

CONTACT

EMAIL

jdmcelvaney@gmail.com

MOBILE

678-314-0213

MAILING ADDRESS

**2337 29th Ave. South
Seattle, WA. 98144**

