Martin and Sira

By Julian Martin

## Logline:

Death claimed half of Sira's soul when she was a child, so she believes that in order to be whole again, her lover Martin must murder her, against his will — but his messianic student stirs dark, destabilizing forces.







# The World and the Tone

The late 1990s: The sunny optimism of the 80s is in twilight, capitalism is suspect, pre-millennium tension is peaking. Indie film and indie music are exploding...the cultural world is splintering. In peacetime and prosperity, people have grown restless for something primordial, guttural, and passionate. Corporations are enemy #1, and organized religion is viewed as insidious.

Martin and Sira is set in a non-descript city, where the sun is set and bars are still filled with smoke. It is set in a world where science dominates, but forces more mysterious, capricious, and sometimes cruel are lurking underneath. Souls can be depleted, spines can be healed, and not everything that walks on two legs and speaks is necessarily human.

The answers to what those other forces mean, however, is not so clear, and whether to interact with them or not isn't always a choice.

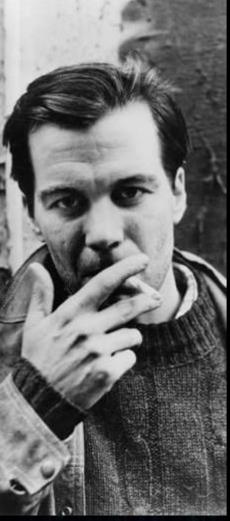
#### **SYNOPSIS**

Martin and Sira are the focus of the script, along with a third major player, Chris. Martin is a high-school English teacher who had a penchant for mental-illness as a child, but is an advocate of sanity as an adult. Chris is his student, a child prodigy destroyed on alcohol and drugs, reborn as a neo-Jesus Christ figure. Sira is a dark and sad soul, a beautiful young woman with cold hands and heart, obsessed with the desire to be killed, preferably by Martin. Martin's religious friend William, a youth counselor, seems to provide some stability but has his own challenges.

Martin and Sira begins with Sira already dead, apparently by Martin's hands. The script then goes back in time to when Martin is a balanced, yet alcoholic soul. He meets Sira, who is on a sleep-with-whoever-while-doing-drugs rollercoaster ride. They develop a cool yet passionate relationship, even while Martin is recoiling from Sira's incredibly disturbing request: She wants him to murder her. Sira is also peculiar in the sense that she has a guardian angel-type figure named David, who lurks throughout the film, observing her and offering her sympathy when she needs it. He also plays a part in guiding Martin's path.



Chris enters the story in the final stages of a powerful but destructive life philosophy: Reject love of the world. His message almost gets to break out to the world, but a biological flaw results in his early death; not, however, without shaking up Martin. He leaves Martin with an essay that unearths Martin's values just when he is made most vulnerable by Sira. Thus begins Martin's fall from grace. The last third of the script describes Martin's downfall in parallel to Sira's own ascent to Heaven. She grows in beauty and emotion, yet still sure that the only correct course of action is for Martin to kill her. Yet she may not know everything there is to know...



Martin Korper, English teacher, is jaded, cool, confident, and quick to swat down anyone imposing their ideology on him, whether it's a school administrator or his students. At night, he likes a cigarette and a beer, while teasing his conservative friend William. He's had several ladies before, and comes onto them smoothly, confidently, with dry humor.

What he's hiding is an extremely troubled youth, marked by indications that he might potentially become a serial killer. He's put it in the past, he believes.

Then Sira comes along asking him to murder her. It's everything he thought he'd escaped, and this beautiful woman is begging him to become the monster he'd avoided turning into.

When his student Chris magically heals his spine and rants against sanity, Martin grows increasingly unhinged, questioning everything he'd rested his sense of security on. Are these people accessing some deeper truth? Is it okay for him to kill again? Why stay sane when everyone is begging you to go mad?

Sira, a nurse in an elderly care home, goes through the motions of life without ever feeling like she belongs in the world of the living. Whether she dates man or woman, they never get a full sense of her heart, for she may not have all of one. She has a depressed, flat affect, and a string of broken relationships behind her. Nobody can reach her heart.

The root of it goes back to a severe childhood illness, when Sira saw Death come to her and leave with part of her soul. The color of life was snuffed out in that instant, and she's lived a life of grey since.

She finds solace and affirmation in her friend David, a somewhat unnatural being, but when she meets Martin, she sees salvation. He is The One, the man who will reunite her with the rest of her soul, and finish what was once started. Sira knows with all her heart that Martin must murder her.

As she pushes Martin closer and closer to doing this deadly favor, she feels her soul brightening in anticipation, but when Martin does murder her, she discovers that the answer to her dilemma may not have been as simple as she envisioned.



## Martin

## Chris

The soldier of madness. Sira's young cousin, Chris was a child prodigy who wrote his autobiography at age 5. Destined for world domination, with young Sira's assistance he got into alcohol, and his course was changed forever. His academics slipped, and at 17 he's still in high school. His academic disappointment, however, is shunted aside when, after a drug-related car accident paralyzes him, Chris uses the power of his mind to heal his spinal cord and walk again. He becomes a prophet of irrationality, chaos, and making the impossible real, but cannot escape his self-destructive energy, which begins seducing Martin as well. An essay he writes pushes Martin closer to fulfilling Sira's dream of being murdered.

### William

Martin's drinking friend and verbal sparring partner, although more often a punching bag, William is a conservative Christian with a weakness for alcohol, Martin's wing man in the bars. While he rejects Chris' rantings and consistently advocates for his religion, he has been far more private with his demons. Martin discovers that in his hour of need, William is not able to be the rock he needs.

### David

David is Sira's sometime companion, a mysterious friend who offers her emotional support and affirmation for her conviction that she must die to be whole again. At times he seems an angel, at other times a demon, it is unclear what he is and his motivation.







