



*Winter*

A SCREENPLAY by ARMAND AREKIAN

*Solstice*

The longest night of the year just got a little longer

## "WINTER SOLSTICE"

By: Armand Arekian  
Pages:80  
Genre: Horror/Thriller  
Budget: \$TBD

Dear Industry Professional,

I am pleased to submit to you the logline and summary for my one-location feature script, **WINTER SOLSTICE**. A limited-location horror feature with a small central cast of 7, WINTER SOLSTICE is "Freaky" (2020, starring Vince Vaughn) meets "Wrong Turn" (2003, starring Eliza Dushku) with the teen genre elements of "I Know What You Did Last Summer." In the event my query letter piques your interest, I'd love to send you the screenplay.

### **LOGLINE:**

During a snowstorm, two young gas station employees find themselves trapped at work and forced to confront a knife-wielding stranger. As they navigate this dangerous situation, they also discover their growing romantic feelings for each other.

### **SYNOPSIS:**

JESSIE (18) says good-bye to her boyfriend, SCOTT (18) as he drops her off at a remote convenience store and gas station for the night shift. The moment Scott is out of sight, Jessie begins to flirt with her boss, CHARLIE (20), despite his awkwardness around women. Her flirtation is cut short, though, by the arrival of a strange pick-up truck.

The mysterious driver sits in his seat, watching Jessie and Charlie, then slowly pulls away. At the same time, OFFICER JAMISON stops by the gas station, and promises to return a little later to check on them. The weather is getting worse, he says, and the roads are likely to be too dangerous to travel once the snow begins.

Later, Charlie takes out the garbage and sees the same pick-up truck pull into the station. This time, the driver, (MAN, 30s), gets out of the truck and insists the gas pump is broken. Charlie persuades him to come inside to pay for his gas, where the Man sees Jessie. After sexually harassing Jessie, Charlie throws the strange Man out.

The snow continues to fall in droves, and a lone car arrives at the gas station - this time, it's CINDY, Jessie's friend. At Officer Jamison's suggestion, Cindy decides to spend the night with Charlie

and Jessie at the gas station, rather than face the treacherous roads. To bide time, Cindy, Jessie, and Charlie play an impromptu game of Truth or Dare, and they learn that Charlie is still a virgin. Jessie, tired of Scott's antics and interested in Charlie, pursues him sexually in the back office.

Alone at the register, Cindy sees the pick-up truck arrive, and the Man enters the gas station looking for Charlie. Cindy tells him they are closed, but he refuses to leave. He grabs her, a fight ensues, and the Man slashes her throat. Flustered, he quickly leaves.

Jessie and Charlie return to the front in search of Cindy, only to find her lifeless body surrounded by a pool of blood. They try to call the police, but there is no reception. Suddenly, the front door chimes and OFFICER MCKAY returns to the gas station. He instructs a frightened Jessie and Charlie to go into the back and lock the door. As they do, the Man returns to the gas station again and Officer McKay confronts him. The Man slams his head with a beer bottle and slices his throat.

Still in pursuit of Charlie and Jessie, the Man now crosses paths with Scott, who has returned to pick up Jessie at the end of her shift. Scott tries to fend off the Man, but to no avail. After he kills Scott, he continues his search for Charlie and Jessie, finally finding Charlie as Jessie continues to hide.

With Charlie as his hostage, the Man searches for Jessie, while confessing to Charlie that he never intended to kill the three people he murdered. When he stops to snort some cocaine, Charlie discreetly steals his knife and makes a break for the exit.

The Man catches up with Charlie and wrestles the knife away. Just as he is about to slit Charlie's throat, he hears Jessie. He pulls her out and creepily looks her up and down - she spits at him, and he backhands her. Charlie attacks the Man, while Jessie retrieves Officer McKay's gun from his corpse. Charlie stabs the Man in the stomach and Jessie shoots him, just as Officer Jamison bursts through a broken window as the Man lays on the floor.

As he debriefs the events from the night with Charlie and Jessie, the Man slowly pulls himself up to the counter and grabs the gun Jessie used to shoot him. Officer Jamison draws his gun and shoots him in the chest, as Jessie clings to Charlie and sobs.

#### **CHARACTER PROFILES:**

**Jessie Mills** - Caucasian female, 18, and a high school senior. She is an honor roll student, and her family is somewhat affluent. She is a rebellious teen who would rather hang out with the burnouts than the

brains. She is outspoken, a bit abrasive, and sarcastic. She doesn't particularly like her boyfriend, Scott, but likes being with the pretty-boy jock type, and she has the tendency to be flirty with other guys. She has been friends with Charlie since childhood.

**Charlie Barber** - Caucasian male, 20, he is the assistant manager of the convenience store gas station. He is nerdy, shy, and mostly keeps to himself. He is inexperienced with relationships, as he hasn't had many girlfriends, though he does have an infatuation with Jessie that he rarely, if ever, speaks about. He has been friends with Jessie since childhood.

**Man** (Milo Stevens) - Caucasian male, 30s, skinny, with long, stringy hair, he is sloppy and unkept. He is a loner and comes across as a bit creepy, and he definitely has a nasty streak about him. He turns dark and sinister when using drugs and drinking.

**Officer (Andrew) Jamison** - African-American male, late 20s, big, strong, with a shaved head, and polite. He is today's modern cop, and he looks out for Jessie and Charlie when they work late nights.

**Cindy Grimes** - Caucasian female, 18, also a senior in high school. She would rather spend time out with friends than be at home with her mom. Cindy and Jessie are friends, but they haven't spent a lot of time together recently.

**Scott Robinson** - Caucasian male, 18, and a senior in high school. He is self-centered, obnoxious, and a stoner. He is a pretty boy athlete and Jessie's boyfriend, and he is more interested in partying than he is in being an athlete or a boyfriend.

**Officer McKay** - Caucasian male, late 50s, he is overweight, all in his belly. He is right out of the early 1970s South, with long, bushy sideburns. He is friendly and polite—a "good ol' boy" with just a hint of a southern twang.

#### **CLOSING:**

**"Winter Solstice"** has garnered many awards: Hollywood Blood Horror Festival - Winner, Best Original Screenplay - Vegas Movie Awards - Winner, Best Feature Screenplay - Los Angeles Motion Picture Festival - Winner, Best Feature Screenplay - Swedish International Film Festival - Winner, Best Feature Script - Edison International Film Festival - Winner, Best Feature Screenplay - Gold Star Movie Awards - Winner, Best Thriller Script - Filmmaker's Space Film Festival - Winner, Best Screenplay - ASAA Awards - Winner, Best Screenplay - Movie Play International Film Festival - Winner, Best Screenplay - Redwood Shorts & Scripts - Winner, Best Script - Critics' Choice

International Film Festival - Winner, Best Script. A larger list can be sent upon request.

I am a passionate and driven screenwriter that writes mostly crime/mystery and horror/thriller. I hold a two-year Associate's Degree in business.

Thanks so much for your reading time, and I hope to speak soon.

Sincerely,

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