

TEN SCRIPTS

short drama

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1. INT. BRIAN'S HOUSE - MORNING

SUPERIMPOSE: PART 1 - LAWYERS, GARBAGE, OSCARS

SUPERIMPOSE: BRIAN

A distant SOUND of a garbage truck leaving the neighborhood is fading away outside a small house in Orange county. BRIAN (48) average man with an average look, height and body opens his eyes. Slight stubble. He looks lost. BRIAN takes a glance at his watch. It's 4:34 in the morning. His house looks like he just moved in. Boxes still on the wooden floor, some unsealed. Clean peach walls, no paintings or nothing. He gets off the bed, walks to the kitchen area. Opens his fridge. Turns on a coffee machine.

CLOSE ON COFFEE MACHINE.

MATCH CUT TO:

2. INT. LAWYER'S OFFICE - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: 2 DAYS EARLIER

CLOSE ON COFFEE MACHINE. Somebody pours a coffee from the machine to a mug with a logo: JASON AND PARTNERS, DIVORCE ATTORNEYS. The coffee lady brings the mug to an office.

It's a small typical lawyer's office. Big wooden desk, diplomas and certificates on the back wall behind a MAN in his 50s. BRIAN is signing some documents.

- 1: LAWYER
 (uplifting)
 I'm glad you chose us for your
 divorce. I know that you are a
 divorce accountant yourself.
- 2: BRIAN
 Didn't want to hire anyone from my
 firm, if you know what I mean.
- 3: LAWYER
 Sure, sure. Right choices, right?
 Hey, there's life after divorce,
 buddy. You'll get used to it. Don't
 worry. Everybody does.

Shows the Annual Divorce Lawyers Award on his table.

- 4: LAWYER
 I was making 25\$ an hour ten years

ago. Look at me now. Third marriage, 280\$ an hour.

BRIAN signs the last page, flips and closes the documents. Binds it and slides back to the LAWYER.

5: BRIAN
Send it to my old office. I'll collect it. No more cases no more clients for me for the next 6 months.

6: LAWYER
Will mail it to you when it's court-filed along with the invoice.

LAWYER smiles at BRIAN.

7: LAWYER
Go to Vegas, get drunk, get a girl!

3. INT./EXT. GARBAGE TRUCK - MORNING

SUPERIMPOSE: KEEL

KEEL (24) is in the passenger seat of a garbage truck in his outfit. The truck is on the move. Driver, JOE (28) rolls the steering wheel. KEEL is reading a novel manuscript.

8: KEEL
Hey, listen. Listen to this. Katie was high enough to accept his invitation to a penthouse party on Fifth Avenue. She was ready to bend over and obey whatever the Grand Master commands. -- The Grand Master? - seriously?! This is so lame!

9: JOE
What is this?

10: KEEL
Picked it up at that porn-star mansion yesterday at Beverly Hills.

11: JOE
You work double shifts again?

12: KEEL
Yeah, man, I need money for my gig.

13: JOE
 I still don't get it, bro! Why do
 you have to read all the shit
 people throw away?

14: KEEL
 Cause I am the GCC, man!

15: JOE
 G..what?

16: KEEL
 Garbage Collector Critic, bro.

JOE laughs.

17: JOE
 It's called Rotten Tomatoes, man --
 and there are plenty in the back of
 this truck, stupid!

KEEL shoves the manuscript in the back of the cabin. Truck
 makes a U-turn on a roundabout somewhere in Orange county.

4. INT. RAY AND WINSTON'S OFFICE - MORNING

SUPERIMPOSE: WINSTON

Two gentlemen in expensive suits are in a big spacious office
 in Hollywood. Pictures of movie posters. Oscar's for best
 picture, photos of movie stars are all over the walls.

WINSTON (50) is in the chair, white shirt, no tie, reading a
 magazine. His business partner RAY, jacket off, whiskey on
 the table, sunglasses, balding hair, is behind a desk on a
 phone.

18: RAY
 Garry, Garry, listen to me -- Don't
 worry! Do you hear me? -- Don't
 worry! Let me read your horoscope
 aloud - it says: They'll sign it,
 I'll sign it, you'll sign it and
 FOX will write you a cheque, big
 enough you'd buy your little Miss
 Alabama queen-of-silicone-valley a
 new fucking diamond ring!

RAY gets up from his chair. Walks to the wide floor-to-
 ceiling windows.

19: RAY

I don't hear your excitement Garry,
I just don't hear it! -- That's my
boy! -- Let me handle this. Let me
do my job and we'll make you rich
as fuck or...or as king of Norway! --
Love you, bye!

Drops the line.

20: WINSTON
King of Norway?! That's your line?
Leave the old man alone. -- And by
the way, FOX will never sign a deal
with Garry -- too small, too local.
They need something they can bring
back to Moscow or Tokyo.

RAY turns to WINSTON, walks to a wall with a poster that says
"ABIGAIL'S DREAM, OSCAR NOMINATION". WINSTON is still in his
seat. He is calm.

21: RAY
Are you trying to work on me or on
finding a script? Find me something
I can sell! We're dry as baby
powder. Nothing since Abigail's
Dream. Bring me a script that will
arouse the whole town from Malibu
to Hills, so they bring their erect
checkbooks and start offering.

RAY comes back to his desk, lit a cigar.

22: WINSTON
I'll get you something. Don't
worry.

23: RAY
Hollywood Strike...Three Oscars
that's what it takes to become the
Michelin 3-star agency of the
filming industry.

He makes a big puff. Makes a sip of expensive cognac.

24: WINSTON
I'll get you your Michelin star.
I'm on it. Trust me.

5. EXT. WASTE DISPOSAL LANDFILLS - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: PART 2 - THE SCRIPTS

SUPERIMPOSE: FRIEND

KEEL AND JOE are outside their garbage truck on the LA landfill. KEEL is sitting on the steps. He is reading one of the scripts. JOE with a cigarette in his lips standing next to him.

25: JOE
Where did you get these scripts?

26: KEEL
Baldwin Hills the morning before.
Somebody just left in on the
driveway.

27: JOE
What's the name of this one?

28: KEEL
Ah, it's Book#4 - Death of Honor.

29: JOE
Ok. Read it.

30: KEEL
Close your eyes and feel it.
(dark voice)
You're in Tokyo!

JOE closes his eyes.

31: JOE
Tokyo? Some Chinese bullshit, man!?

32: KEEL
You wanna hear it or not?

33: JOE
Ok, okay, relax! Eyes shut; mouth
shut. All ears, man!

KEEL starts reading again.

34: KEEL
Ready!? Here we go: Markus, the
darkest and the fastest hitman the
Organization ever hired was about
to take out Khajima, who betrayed
the honor and his family. He was on
a rooftop one mile away from
Khajima's office building. His eyes
never flipped, heartbeat stopped
and the trigger was eagerly kissing

his finger. Pop-pop-pop. The bullet was so fast. Life was snatched out of Khajima's eyes, but the body was still alive as blood started pouring out of his chest and heart. Khajima kneeled and Markus exhaled with one word fall off his lips: "Honor.". The End

JOE opens his eyes, he's excited.

35: JOE
Oh my God 'Honor!', this is so cool! I could feel it on my skin, man -- Read it again, brother, read it again!

6. EXT. BRIAN'S WIFE HOUSE BALDWIN HILLS - EVENING

SUPERIMPOSE: EX-WIFE

BRIAN'S EX-WIFE is in the garage. It's open. Old things on the driveway. She goes through his stuff. She opens a box with piles of paper inside. They are formatted as feature movie scripts. Title says: "Book#10 - Khajima and Aya". No name no contact number, nothing on the title page.

BRIAN'S WIFE FLASHBACK:

Brian is writing the scripts, he has no time for his family, his life. Brian's wife has an argument with him over the girl in the scrip. Aya. She suspects he is in love with a Japanese girl.

BRIAN'S FLASHBACK:

He is in Japan. Meets a girl, she steals and breaks his heart. He writes ten scripts to fill his broken heart.

BACK TO BRIAN WIFE'S GARAGE:

She takes all scripts, the BBQ fluid, matches. Goes outside to an empty barrel. Then she stops. She reads one script. Another. Another. All of them. She cries as if she just fell in love again. She puts the scripts back into the box and pushes the box to the drive way.

36: WIFE
The landfills - will eat it!

The box just sits there.

TIME-LAPSE to 4 am.

LATER: Garbage collectors JOE AND KEEL get the box.

TIME-LAPSE to 11 am the same day.

BRIAN arrives at his wife's house. She opens the door. Gives him another box with some personal stuff he has left behind.

37: WIFE
 Kids love Jossey, so the damn dog
 stays with us. Period.

She slams the door shut in front of BRIAN's face.

7. INT./EXT. WINSTON'S HOUSE - MORNING

SUPERIMPOSE: WIFE

WINSTON is at home at his Beverly Hills mansion. Expensive big house.

38: WINSTON
 I'll get the paper, honey!

He walks to the front door, opens it in his thousand-dollar silk robe and super expensive slippers. Looks down on the porch. Sees the dirty greasy plastic box with scripts inside and a note on top.

39: WINSTON
 What the hell?

He picks up the note first. Reads it with amusement and disgust.

40: JOE (VOICE OVER)
 DEAR MR. WINSTON!!!
 WE KNOW THAT YOU ARE A VERY FAMOUS
 MAN IN HOLYWOOD -- THIS IS VERY
 GOOD SCRIPT, YOU NEED TO READ IT, I
 BET YOU MY WEEKLY SALARY YOU WILL
 LIKE IT -- IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS
 WE COLLECTED SO MANY TRASH FROM YOUR
 HOUSE AND IT WAS ALL CRAPPY
 SCREENPLAYS AND BAD MOVIES -- BUT
 THIS IS VERY GOOD AND YOU ARE GOING
 TO LIKE IT, BELIEVE US! -- YOURS
 TRULY -- JOE AND KEEL, GARBAGE
 COLLECTION CRITICS, READ US ONLINE
 SOON.

WINSTON looks around. No Garbage truck, nothing. His bins are empty though. He pushes the box with his leg inside the house without touching with hands. Closes the door.

41: WINSTON
 (shouts across the house)
 Maria, clean the front porch and
 get rid of the trash.

8. INT. WINSTON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

WINSTON on a sofa in the living room. He's in a tuxedo. drops the call, lifts his head and sees his WIFE (40s) beautiful, intelligent. She looks at him with a question and a smile in her eyes.

42: WINSTON
 What?

43: WINSTON'S WIFE
 Did you read it?

44: WINSTON
 Read what? Honey, I don't have time
 for this again, why are you still
 not dressed? We're late. You know
 how RAY is nervous about these
 presentations.

45: WINSTON'S WIFE
 Winston, honey, you should read it.
 It's your third star!

46: WINSTON
 What star, what are you talking
 about?

47: WINSTON'S WIFE
 The script - the one in front - all
 of them! Read it, I'll cancel your
 day.

She walks away to the kitchen. He follows. He sees the pile of scripts on the kitchen table. MARIA (55) the housekeeping lady is crying, wiping her tears.

48: WINSTON
 What the hell is going on in this
 house? And why is Maria crying?

His wife shoves him the script labeled as: "Book#1: The beginning of all times."

WINSTON reads the first page. He reads another page. And Another.

TIME-LAPSE SEQUENCE: He is on the kitchen table. Removes his bow-tie. Keeps reading, one script, another script, he is still in his tux. He sees in the background of the modern Japanese criminal underground world. 3 main characters appear in front of WINSTON's eyes: White knight (Markus), Dark Knight (Khajima), and Aya (the girl).

Now without the jacket. Still reading the scripts. It's night and the sun comes up again. TIME-LAPSE sequence ends. Wife comes into the kitchen. WINSTON is asleep at the kitchen table. Head on the counter-top. All scripts are read.

49: WINSTON'S WIFE
 Coffee?

WINSTON wakes up. He opens his eyes.

50: WINSTON
 Coffee, coffee. Honey, I love you.
 I love all of you.
 (to Maria)
 Maria, I love you.

51: WINSTON'S WIFE
 Did you like it?

52: WINSTON
 I loved it, I...I...

He starts searching for his phone.

53: WINSTON
 I...I need to find the genius who
 wrote these masterpieces. The Monet
 of scripts, Leonardo, Van Gogh of
 screenplays. Oh my God...

54: WINSTON'S WIFE
 Breathe, honey, breathe.

He dials a number. His wife pours him coffee.

55: WINSTON
 Hello...Hi...Can you speak to the
 Mayor's office, This is Winston
 Goldenthal. It's urgent...

SUPERIMPOSE: PART 3 - 5 YEARS LATER, 10 SCRIPTS, 15 DOLLARS A WORD

SUPERIMPOSE: BRIAN - A DIVORCE ACCOUNTANT FOR HIRE

BRIAN is on the sofa at his house. He is with a new wife. We see that his walls in the apartment are now filled with new pictures of his new adventures in different countries.

He is on the phone.

56: BRIAN
I would like to post an ad in the Services section, two months, eight issues, please

57: AD COMPANY GIRL (VOICE OVER)
It's 15 bucks a word for eight issues. Thicker frame for free for you. What's your text?

58: BRIAN
DIVORCE ACCOUNTANT FOR HIRE: YOUR LIFE IS HANGING ON A TRIGGER? YOUR WIFE IS LEAVING YOU WITH NOTHING? KISS THAT TRIGGER GOODBYE WITH THE BEST ACCOUNTANT IN TOWN!

59: AD COMPANY GIRL (VOICE OVER)
Alright mister, that will be 420\$ and we will charge your phone number. Thank you.

10. INT. WINSTON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: WINSTON - THE PRODUCER

WINSTON is in his living room on the same sofa. His wife brings him his coffee and his classified ads newspaper. He goes through PI for hire section and sees the ad in the next section that says: KISS THAT TRIGGER GOODBYE. This is highlighted. He sees a flashback of the script with exactly the same line in every script from the mysterious unknown writer.

BRIAN starts running in his living room, he is trying to locate the phone. He is excited. Finds the phone, reads the number on the ad, dials the number.

60: WINSTON
Hello!

61: BRIAN (VOICE OVER)
Yes! Who is speaking?

62: WINSTON
Khajima.

Long pause.

TO BRIAN'S HOUSE:

BRIAN with a phone next to his head. He takes a seat.

63: WINSTON (VOICE OVER)
Can I ask you a question?

64: BRIAN
Yes.

BACK TO WINSTON:

65: WINSTON
How did Aya die?

TO BRIAN:

66: BRIAN
She never died.
(pause)
She is immortal. She lives in
Marcus's heart.

BACK TO WINSTON:

67: WINSTON
Thank God, I thought I'd never find
you. Coffee?

11. EXT. SUNSET BOULEVARD PHONE BOOTH - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: KEEL - GOOD SAMARITAN

Garbage Collection truck is parked next to a phone booth on the sidewalk. KEEL is dialing the number with newspaper in his hand.

68: AD COMPANY GIRL (VOICE OVER)
Classified Ads, how may I help you?

69: KEEL
I wanna place an ad in Music
section.

70: AD COMPANY GIRL
That's 7 dollars a word. Your text?

71: KEEL
GARBAGE COLLECTION RECORDS, LOOKING
FOR TALENTS...

FADE OUT

THE END

Yale
H.S.
Books