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★ CHICAGO ★
SCREENPLAY AWARDS
BEST FEATURE SCRIPT

Becoming

OFFICIAL SELECTION
**Wiki: The World's
Fastest Screenplay
Contest!**
2022

OFFICIAL SELECTION
**New Creators
Film Awards**
2022

A Film by Matthew Parvin

Becoming is a new film project from the award-winning screenwriter/producer Matthew Parvin (*After the Deluge*, *Young Goodman Brown*).

It is a drama about a woman whose life is stuck in a conventional place by the things we all say we want - family, money and home. Until the romance she so craves leaps out of the pages of the books she escapes in and into her real life.



Synopsis

“The important thing is this: to be able at any moment to sacrifice what we are for what we could become.”

— Charles Du Bos

Cammie Holden is unhappy. Her arrival at Second Circle Books in the middle of a workday is unusual, but today is no ordinary day. In spite of her tense relationship with her sons and the loveless marriage she shares with her husband Arthur, Cammie has something akin to excitement waiting for her in this bookstore. Or rather, some **one**.

Aiden Rohm steals away from his new HR position, a nosy secretary and a complacent girlfriend because Second Circle Antique Books downtown means more than just salve for his bibliophile soul. Having met Cammie Holden at a conference some months ago, they've been texting and talking over what ignites both their passions: books. Here, surrounded by their favorite things, both Cammie and Aiden, separated by age and circumstance, fumble towards ecstasy.

Both have lives of their own. From kids who get caught skipping school, indifferent partners that don't seem to understand or care, to a torrential downpour that traps them in this converted warehouse in the middle of a city, Aiden and Cammie struggle between sensible, responsible decisions and living only for the moment.

Will they, or won't they?





Winona Ryder



Sarah Silverman



Madchen Amick



Janeane Garolfalo

Cammie Holden is within the winter of her discontent. She arrives at Second Circle Books with a strenuous job in human resources that demands an increasing amount of her time and energy. Her marriage to her husband Arthur is slipping away like raindrops through a sewer grate. The couple's two sons, Bruce (15) and Tyler (11) are crumbling under the onslaught of puberty. But Cammie is a bibliophile; her great passion is books. Worlds of literature she can escape to inhabit and find things she lacks in her waking life, passion, and adventure. On this day, Cammie approaches this emporium with something she's only ever had in her books: a **potential lover.**

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Donald Glover



Theo James



Hayden Christensen

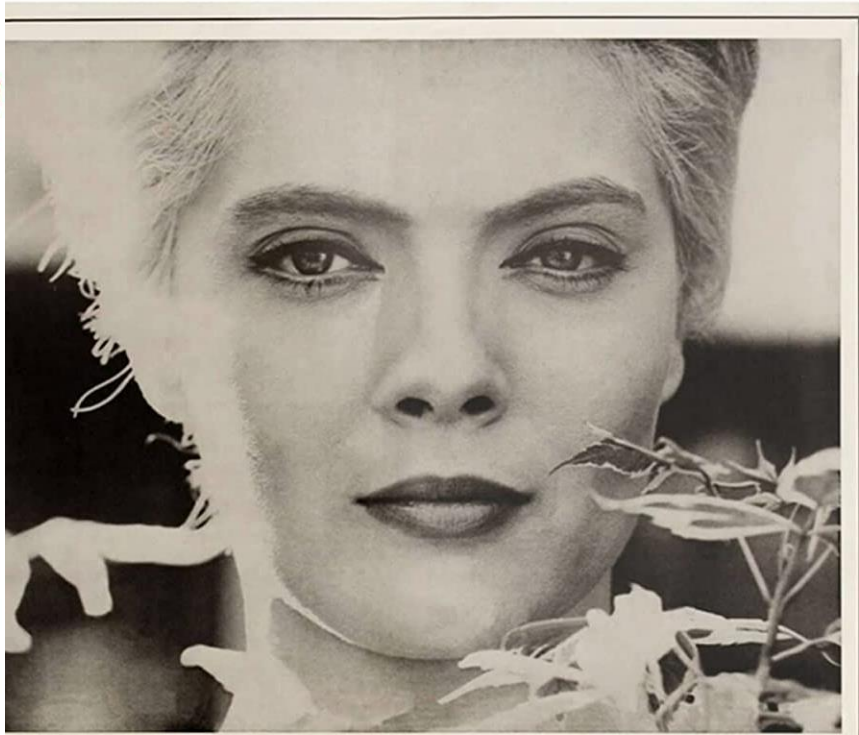


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Aiden Rohm is alone, surrounded by everyone in his life. A relationship to the younger Alizee was exciting and passionate but has now fallen into a dangerous malaise of comfort and resentment. His new promotion to the head of human resources at his job should be exciting but provides little relief from the monotony of his life. He only respite from the drudgery is the world of a bibliophile; his books add excitement, passion, and freedom to his mundane existence. But today, he pulls into the parking lot of Second Circle Antique Books with something else on his mind: another woman.



Thomas Felton



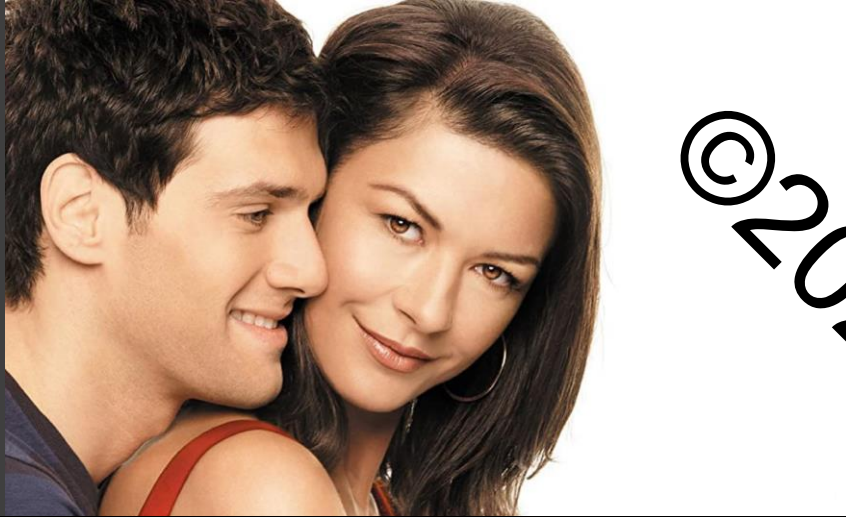
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Note from the Writer/Producer

Becoming is a small, character study that examines the discontentment everyone feels with the life they've chosen at one time or another. Despite conventionality and the perimeters society gives us, we all want passion, romance. Can a life become something new, or are all choices indelible?

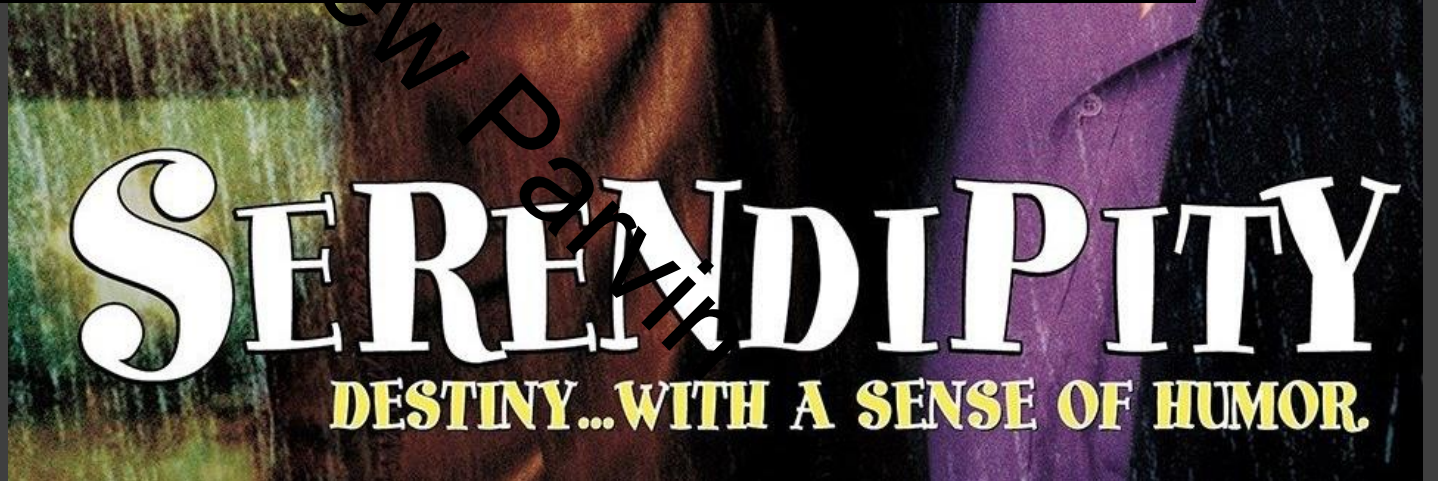
RODUCTION DE ROME-PARIS-FILMS DIFFUSÉE PAR CINÉ-TAMARIS et M.K.2.



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Despite the existential, Becoming looks at these complexities with a sense of humor. Whether arguing with your boss, trying to relate to your kids or asking what you want out of life, everything has a funny side. Finding it is the way our characters make it through their day and, in the best of circumstances, find hope in what our lives could be.



EXT. DETROIT - DAY

A gray spring sky overlooking the urban sprawl. Light clouds precede darker ones on the horizon.

EXT. SECOND CIRCLE BOOKS/PARKING LOT - DAY

A four-story brick building in the middle of the city.



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INT. SECOND CIRCLE/FIRST FLOOR

Fluorescent lights grumble to life with a hum.

Teardrop lights surround the outer walls.

A neon sign that says, "Open" ignites in a window.

HERMAN OST meanders about a cluttered vestibule. Bookshelves and alcoves come alive under artificial sunshine.

Top 40 music from the 1980's starts wafting through -

BEGIN MONTAGE

A) INT. SECOND FLOOR - a large display case filled with old Hollywood paraphernalia, surrounded by bookshelves.

B) INT. THIRD FLOOR - old offices converted to specialty rooms with antique artwork.

C) INT. FOURTH FLOOR - translucent tarps cover innumerable shelves and missing sections of the ceiling.

END MONTAGE

Matthew Parvin



Cammie smiles. She looks into Aiden's face.

CAMMIE HOLDEN

AIDEN ROHM

Emily Bronte.

Wuthering Heights.

She kisses him. He kisses her back.

They melt together like the words in Shakespeare.

Or Edna O'Brien.

Matthew Parvin (Writer)

A teacher, husband and father for twenty years. A writer for thirty-four. A Michigan native who has taught social studies and literature around the country, Matt has been creating screenplays since adolescence. It's about the stories; the characters, places and events that we tell each other in order to feel connected, less alone and understood. That's why he writes, and why he writes for the collective dream we all know as film.

"Dreams do come true, but they don't come for free"

The story of *Becoming* is born out of two personal passions: books and Detroit.

Detroit is a city of stories: not like L.A. or New York, Boston or Miami. Stories that come from here may not seem flashy; they're not. But they are universal. Tales of love, passion, disappointment, hope and survival are as countless in Detroit as the raindrops that fall on an early spring day. They deserve to be seen and heard.

The store depicted in the film exists; under a different name of course, but it stands in the heart of the city. I have spent many hours in that converted tire factory combing through treasures others have tossed aside, discovering everything from old diaries to antiquated photos. The space gives me what bookstores give to bibliophiles who inhabit them, a portal into another world, a literary world where everything is valuable.

That's what movies can do. Remind us that all stories are *our* stories, and all stories have value.



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