

Journey through the Storm

Collection of five Dramatic Stories of Conflict & Hope

Written by

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Rat's Bite

KITCHEN

A ball lamp hangs from the ceiling, brightly lights the room.

Peggy, cigarette in hand, sits at the table. She quietly drinks a glass of beer.

Roy sits next to Peggy. A glass of beer sits on the table in front of him.

Danny sits on the tiled kitchen floor playing with an old toy car, his mind completely absorbed, oblivious to the sounds outside.

The wind makes eerie swirling sounds through the courtyard outside.

The sound of ocean waves pound the jetties from a distance.

Thunder BOOMS in irregular intervals in the distance.

SUDDENLY

An ear splitting CRACK and BOOM.

The room goes black.

Black Cat Moon

The moon brightens a small field surrounded by dense forest.

After Ray and Barry finish digging a casket size hole, they plant an elongated wrapped object in the hole. Ray looks around stressed while catching his breath with heavy huffs.

Barry shovels dirt into the hole. His face wet with perspiration. Barry stops, stretches his tired back. He peers up at the Moon.

MOON

Dark clouds drift past the face of the moon.

FOREST EDGE

Shane watches from a massive oak tree. He clutches a special night camera and snaps pictures of Ray and Barry's activity.

EXT. FIELD - DAY - NEXT DAY

Several police vehicles dot the field. Lights flash from atop of the patrol cars. Police officers swarm the grounds. They enter and exit the forest.

The Pixie Detective

A little pixie girl, CAITLYN (7) tomboy, wears shorts and summer shirt, listens to the men in the shack. Caitlyn clutches a Sherlock Holmes size detectives magnifying glass, and wears a Sherlock Holmes hat that nearly covers her head.

A large sleek black cat, MISS BLACKY, sits along side Caitlyn. The cat watches Caitlyn with curious amusement.

The male voices from above, now audible, filter down under the dock.

TIGGY (O.S.)

Hey Boss. When those Asian girls
gonna get here?

BOSS (O.S.)

Soon Tiggy. Just hold your pants.
You get any skinnier, I'll have to
tie them up with a rope.

Tiggy gives out a retarded laugh.

TIGGY (O.S.)

How much we gettin for them young
girls des time.

Caitlyn looks through her magnifying glass up at the rafters of the dock. Miss Blacky meows.

CAITLYN

Quiet Miss Blacky.

The voices stop dead from above.

Lair of the Red Wolves

Sheri stands facing the bookshelf and inspects the titles. She grabs a book off the shelf. Sheri sits at the table and flips through the pages.

Sheri's eyes light up when she hears CREAKING sound.

One of the shelves moves outward.

Sheri freezes to the chair, eyes glued to the shelf.

The shelf swings farther open with a heavy SCRAPE.

Sheri stands up slowly. She creeps to the exit door, pass the open shelf. Sheri glances behind the open bookshelf and wall.

Saber-Toothed Cat

Bruiser now just inside the carport. He snarls at Misha and Louise, showing his huge canines.

Louise inches to the carriage and grabs hold of it, pulling back cautiously.

Bruiser's bark more vicious, saliva shoots from his mouth.

Misha cries. Bruiser's snarls louder. With each bark his teeth click.

Louise picks up a broom against the house close to the screen door. She holds the broom ready to strike the dog.

Bruiser backs up a few steps pass the edge of the carport where the roof overhangs. His growls grow nastier.

Louise grabs the handle of the carriage again. She pulls it back to her and to the steps of the screen door.

Bruiser inches back to the edge of the carport.

Louise's hands tremble as she struggles to lift the carriage up the short flight of concrete steps.

Bruiser positions himself to lung at the carriage.

Loglines to the five Story Screenplays

Rat's Bite: short story

Dark clouds follow a little orphan boy to a city by the ocean. There it unleashes a life threatening storm.

Black Cat Moon: feature story

A young independent spirited woman helps a stroke victim caught between the living and the dead bring his father's killer to justice with the aid of Halloween's favorite pet.

The Pixie Detective: short story

A pixie detective wannabe finds something quite unusual about her black cat when she stumbles on an illegal operation at the abandoned shipyard next door.

Lair of The Red Wolves: feature story

Remnants of the old Soviet penal colony menace an American family sent to manage Russia's new resort hotel in Siberia.

Saber-Toothed Cat: short story

A little tomboy's mother wants to rid the family of her daughter's beloved undomesticated cat until the mother faces the jaws of a vicious dog.

How to read a screenplay

FADE IN: this is where the story (screenplay) opens. in the movies it is usually a black screen opening into the first scene of the movie.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

INT means inside, like a house or an enclosure. **EXT** means outside, as in a field or yard

HOUSE means the location, as in where the scene is located, like a house, street, concert, ect.

NIGHT means the time of day, daylight, or is the scene in artificial light, such as a light bulb.

CASE WORKER

Danny may be slow, but he is a tough little survivor.

CASE WORKER is the character who is speaking.

Right under and centered is what that character is speaking.

BOARDWALK

The tubular pipe railing of a water soaked wooden boardwalk, stretching out north and south beyond sight.

BOARDWALK is a close up of the scene.

Right under **BOARDWALK** is the action or the narrative of the scene, this is what is happening in a particular scene.

(O.S.) & (V.O.) The first is Off Screen, the character speaking is heard but not seen, possibly in another room out of view. The other is Voice Over, the voice is heard, but is not in the scene at all, like on the other end of a phone line or doing a narrative in the story.

FADE TO:

FADE TO: this is a transition from one dramatic scene to another, it can be also, **FADE TO BLACK:** or **DISSOLVE TO:** ect.

FADE OUT: THE END. This closes the story (screenplay).

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	9
Rat's Bite.....	10
Black Cat Moon.....	36
The Pixie Detective.....	153
Lair of the Red Wolves...	180
Saber-Toothed Cat.....	303
The Author.....	317

Introduction

Journey through the Storm is a collection of five dramatic screenplays. These are the stories that made the rounds in national and international screenplay competitions as far as the finals. Saber-Toothed Cat was one of them that made it to the finals. Of these five screenplays, Rat's Bite was the first one written.

What is a Screenplay?

It is a movie in words specially formatted on paper.

A screenplay or script is a blueprint for producing a motion picture. It is more specifically targeted at the visual, narrative arts, such as film and television. The major components are action and dialogue. The "action" is written in the present tense. The "dialogue" are the lines the characters speak.

Screenplays usually include not only the dialogue spoken by the characters but also a shot-by-shot outline of the film's action. The format is then structured in a way that one page usually equates to one minute of screen time.

RAT'S BITE

FADE IN:

EXT. SEASHORE CITY INLET - DAY

ATLANTIC OCEAN

The immediate aftermath of a powerful hurricane.

Dark overcast stormy sky across a vast body of rough sea.

Seagulls noisily battle against blustery gusts of wind. One seagull sweeps over tighter to the sandy shore, drops and lands on,

BOARDWALK

The tubular pipe railing of a water soaked wooden boardwalk, stretching out north and south beyond sight.

Violent ocean waves thrash broad rock jetties protracting out from under the boardwalk, spraying water like enormous geysers through spaces between the rocks.

A battered wooden pavilion with rod iron benches overhangs the Oceanside edge of the boardwalk.

CITY SIDE OF BOARDWALK

Ocean waves relentlessly ram a four foot high creosote wall used as a sand barrier, directing immense columns of water up and over onto the city side street, flooding the road.

The boardwalk ramp extends down to the primary street passing through the city's center.

Old and new buildings line both sides of the street.

A grass blotted strip of sandy ground to the right of the ramp separates the creosote wall from the side entrance of a ten story red brick and block APARTMENT BUILDING.

An alley parts the two halves of the building opening into a sizable courtyard.

The concrete alley and courtyard buried under beach sand and seaweed.

SANDY BEACH

The beach lays to the south side, cut back by the encroaching turbulent ocean.

A wind damaged playground and fenced in TENNIS COURT sit on the city side of the beach.

STARK GRAY BACKGROUND

Tall brick and block buildings dot the city. Some of their walls torn away, exhibiting the interior apartments like jumbo doll houses.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY - CONTINUOUS

A child's bedroom of a lower middle class household.

A little boy DANNY KITMEN (7) frail, pale complexion, dressed in white underwear, lays on a small quilt covered bed gazing at the ceiling, daydreaming. His hands lay flat on his chest.

FADE TO:

EXT. SEASHORE CITY INLET - DAY

A few years earlier.

Same inlet before the hurricane strikes the city. The city is calm and serene.

Seagulls chatter in flight under a clear early spring sky.

APARTMENT BUILDING

The same building basks in the sunlight, its side entrance just fifteen feet from the creosote wall and boardwalk. The front entrance faces the main street.

The distant sound of waves quietly WASH up on the white sandy beach.

FRONT ENTRANCE

A sidewalk width away from the main street.