

# RELATIVE STATE



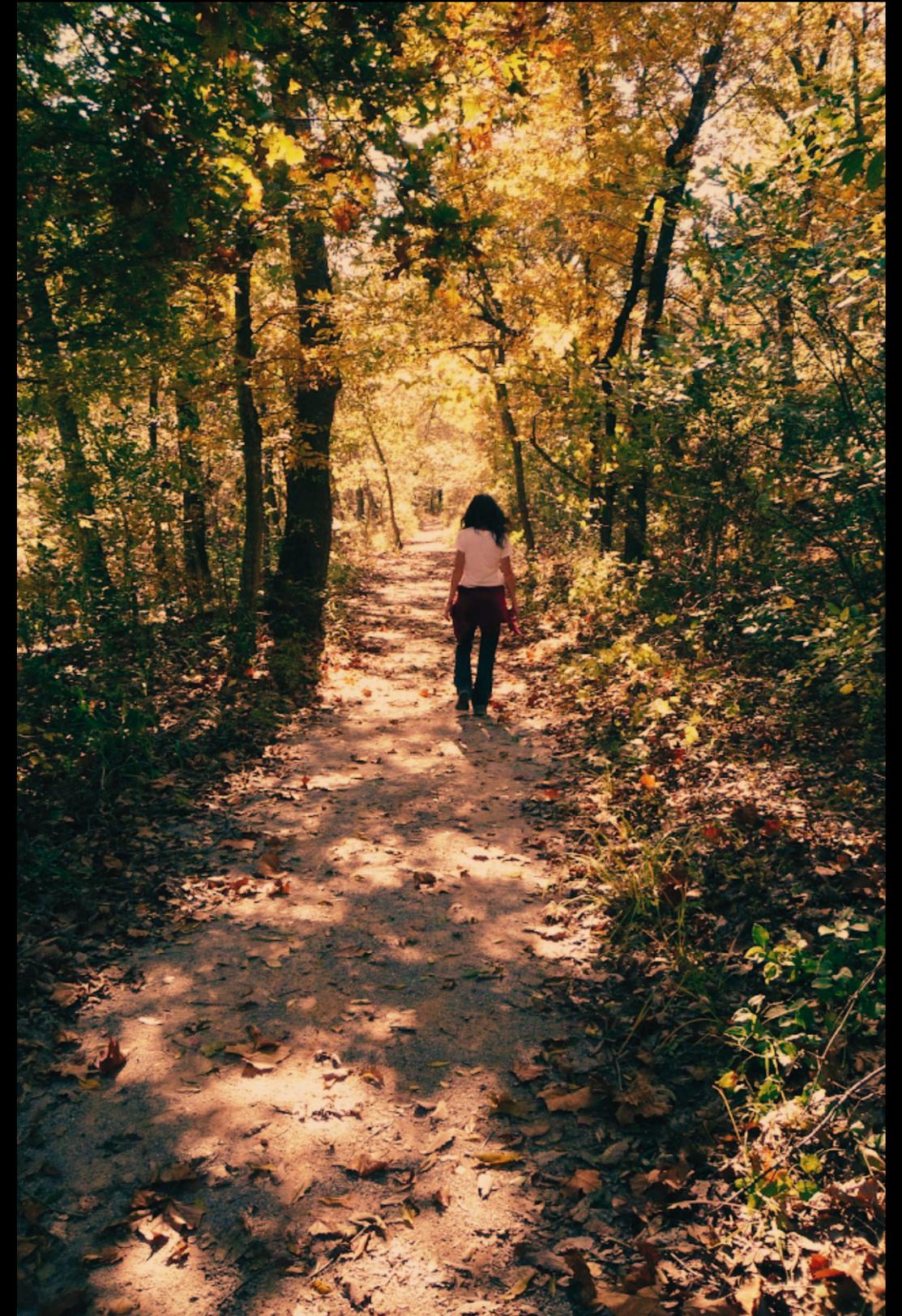
**A SCI-FI DRAMA**

WRITTEN BY DEANDRA STONE

STORY BY JEFF & DEANDRA STONE

# LOGLINE

*After news of another failed pregnancy and losing her husband in the same day, a grief-stricken woman discovers a portal to a universe where her husband is still alive. Given this second chance, she is determined to be with him despite the ticking clock that could destroy her and the universe itself.*



# SYNOPSIS

Marik's life with her husband Phillip seems idyllic - until tragedy strikes. After yet another failed fertility procedure, a car accident takes Phillip's life. Blaming herself, Marik retreats to a secluded home outside the city.

In the process of moving, Marik discovers old photos and newspaper clippings about the previous owner, Bauer. The strangest thing of all: a shed with a hidden trap door leading to a workroom with maps, notes, and a timeline of disasters and missing persons.

Upon returning home that same night, she discovers an intruder. It's Bauer, desperate to find something. He threatens her and she escapes to the shed. There, a mysterious blue light pours from a closet. She opens the door - and is sucked into darkness.

She wakes to find Bauer still there, insisting she doesn't belong. She leaves to seek help from trusted friends, but they've changed. Different from just the day before. Places and people seem wrong. Everything around her looks the same, but it all feels different. Confused and out of options, she returns to question Bauer. Obsessed with the Many Worlds Theory, he explains she's been transported to a parallel universe - where another version of her exists, and Phillip is still alive!

While Bauer works to send her back, she secretly connects with Phillip despite Bauer's warnings - which soon prove to be true. Natural disasters grow more frequent. Her encounters with Phillip become unsettling. Worse, she and her parallel self begin showing up in the same places at the same time.

Amidst the chaos, Bauer successfully engineers a way to get Marik home, but she protests - not without Phillip. Bauer warns the risk to both universes is too great. Marik listens, but changes her plan.

After one last night with Phillip and an intense encounter with her parallel self, Marik returns to Bauer's, intending to bring Phillip back with her. Bauer refuses.

Now, Marik must choose: obey the laws of reality, or break them for love.

“

*“The aching emotionality and possibility of films like ETERNAL SUNSHINE OF THE SPOTLESS MIND are intensified in this script, with the surreal mystery and intrigue of ANOTHER EARTH.”*

*“Confronting profound moral and emotional choices that pit [the heroine’s] own natural longing for [her husband] against the very stability of the universe, the script propels her toward a fascinating and startling final note.”*

– READER, THE BLACK LIST



# WRITER'S STATEMENT

Back in 2010, my husband and I watched the documentary *Parallel Worlds, Parallel Lives*. We talked about it for days, “in another world we’re still living in Los Angeles”, “in another world I got that acting gig and left writing behind”. The possibilities were endless, and so were the potential stories.

As the script morphed over the years, we saw the multiverse appear in more and more films, but in very supernatural, comic book-style ways. This deepened our desire to base our story in reality, bringing us to Marik and the depth and nuances of her character.

Much of my challenge as the scriptwriter was figuring out what was going on inside of her. What would it be like to have suffered these deep losses and then have a chance to reclaim them? I myself have suffered great loss. My mother was taken far too early, I also had a difficult time getting pregnant. When Marik would face these moments of seeing who or what she’d lost, I found myself crying at the keyboard. What if my mom had survived cancer, how different would my life be? If I had gotten pregnant sooner, would it really have been better?

When people see this film we want them to understand - just like my 13 year old says - *everything in life happens on purpose*. When they see Marik look into Phillip’s eyes and he’s not hers, we hope viewers are inspired to look within themselves and embrace all the ups and downs of life. That’s what makes them who they are, and who they are is beautiful.





## TARGET AUDIENCE

Ranked as #1 favorite in Wave Films' focus group assessment.

While having a female protagonist, it tested well with male audiences 50%+. (Wave Films)



## STATISTICS

Multiverse films are no longer “niche” or experimental – many are among top-earners in their years, ex. Doctor Strange In the Multiverse of Madness was among 2022's highest grossers globally.

The multiverse theme has spread in popular culture (podcast, social media, etc.), e.g. Everything Everywhere All at Once sparked TikTok discussions on gratitude for life and sense of self.

According to a 2023 Pew Research Center survey, 42% of U.S. adults say they've used fertility treatments or personally know someone who has.



## THEMES

Untapped mix of genres

Strong female protagonist

Love story with bittersweet ending

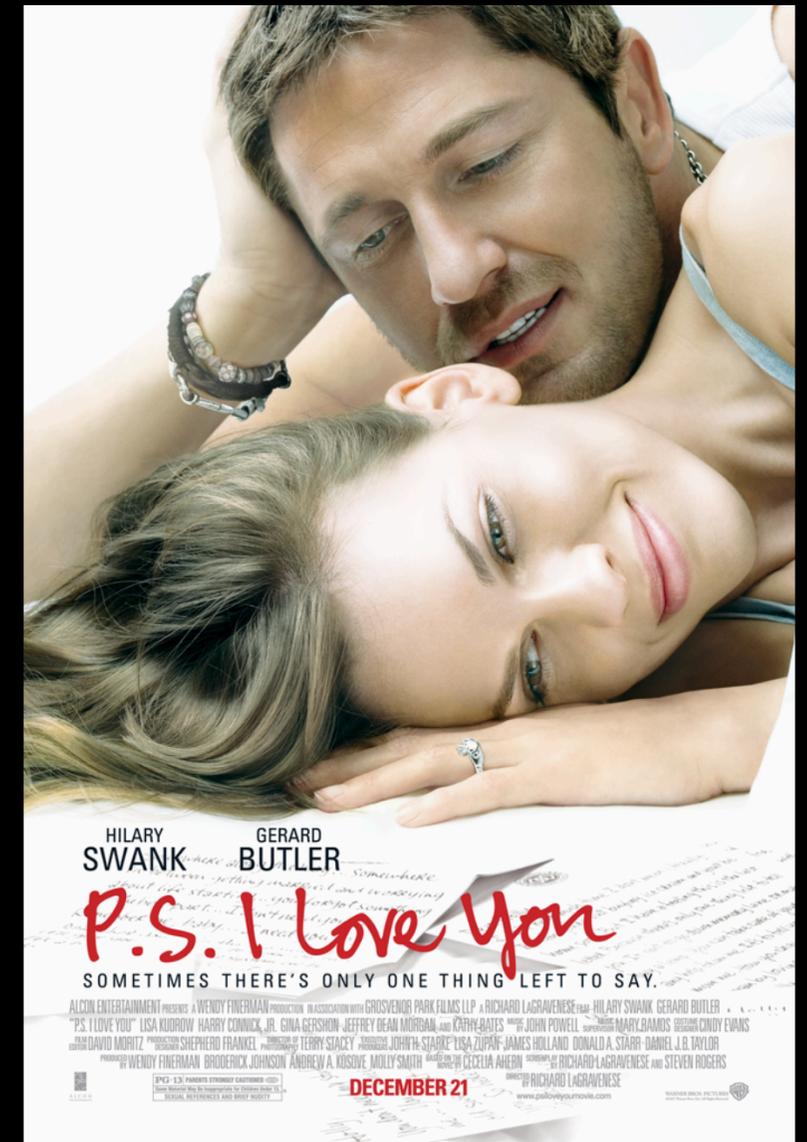
# WHY RELATIVE STATE

# COMPS



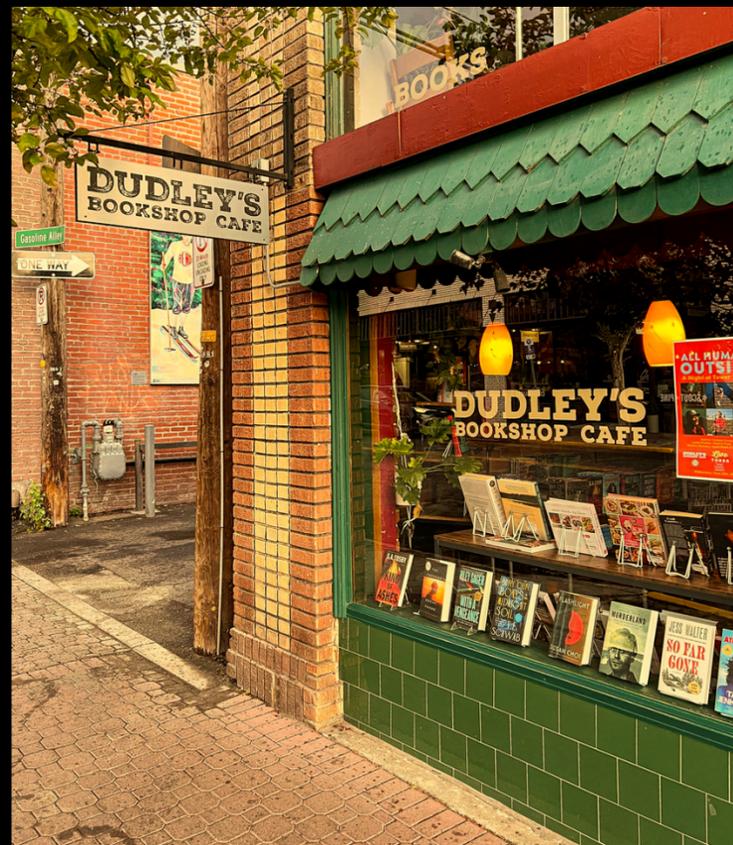
RELATIVE STATE is an intense character drama set against a sci-fi backdrop. Think Manchester by the Sea meets PS I Love You with a parallel world mixed in.

While it is about the multi-verse, our protagonist's journey through processing guilt and grief are at the forefront of our story. This makes RELATIVE STATE a mixed genre piece that could stand on its own.



# THE LOOK

## The Town



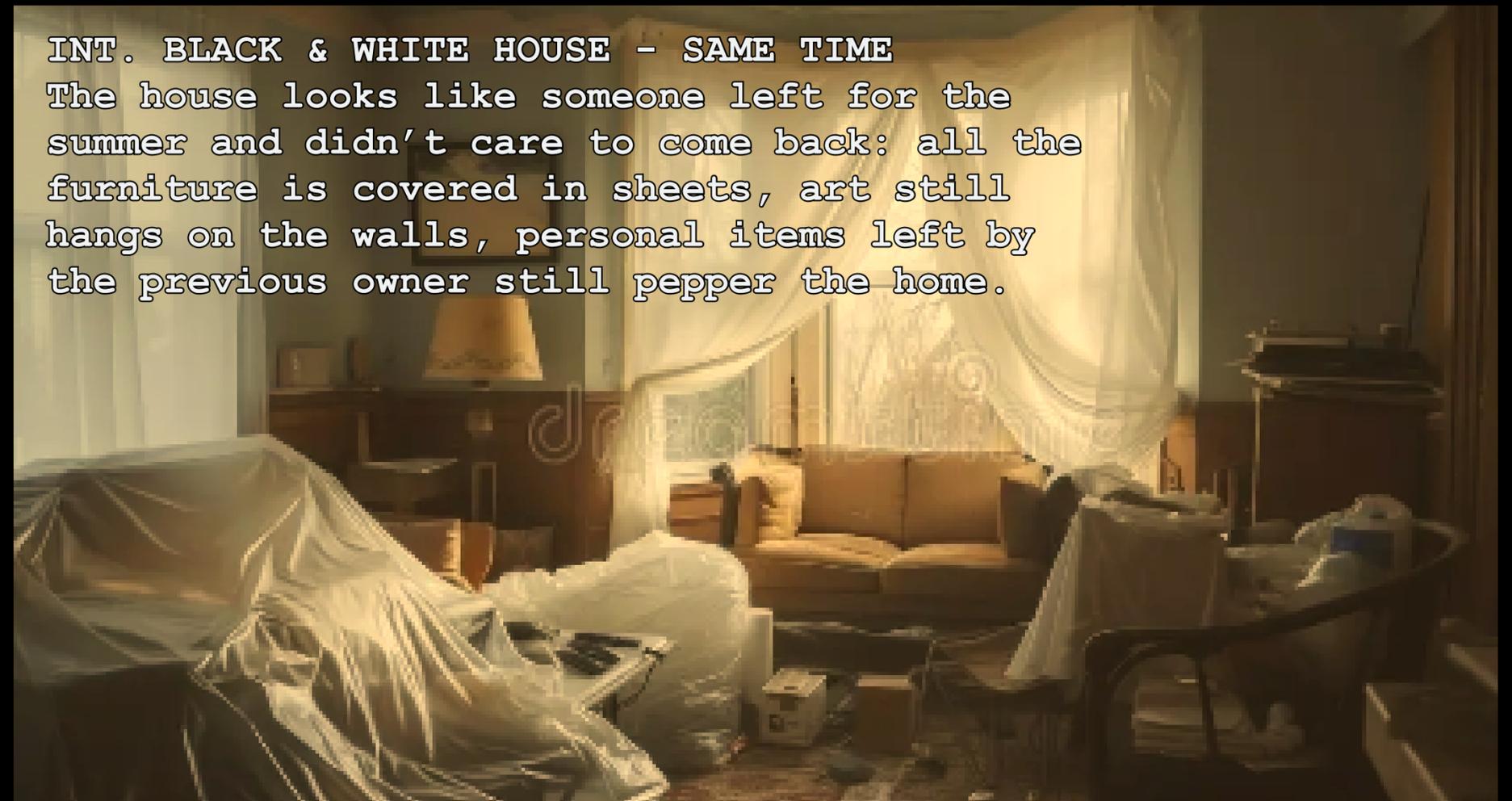
EXT. WOODS IN THE BOOKS BOOKSHOP - LATER  
Marik stands outside the window of a bookshop.  
She's staring at the book displays.  
Her mind wanders to the last time she stood at  
this window.



EXT. WALKING PATH - PLAZA - MOMENTS LATER  
Marik and Phillip are walking arm in arm. Lights  
twinkle in the trees. A STREET PERFORMER quietly  
plays the guitar. Marik and Phillip talk softly to  
each other.



# One House Two Worlds



INT. BLACK & WHITE HOUSE - SAME TIME

The house looks like someone left for the summer and didn't care to come back: all the furniture is covered in sheets, art still hangs on the walls, personal items left by the previous owner still pepper the home.

He motions for her to go into the study.

**BAUER**

You can sleep in here.

Marik walks past him into the doorway of the study.

**BAUER**

(humbly)

I'm Bauer, by the way.



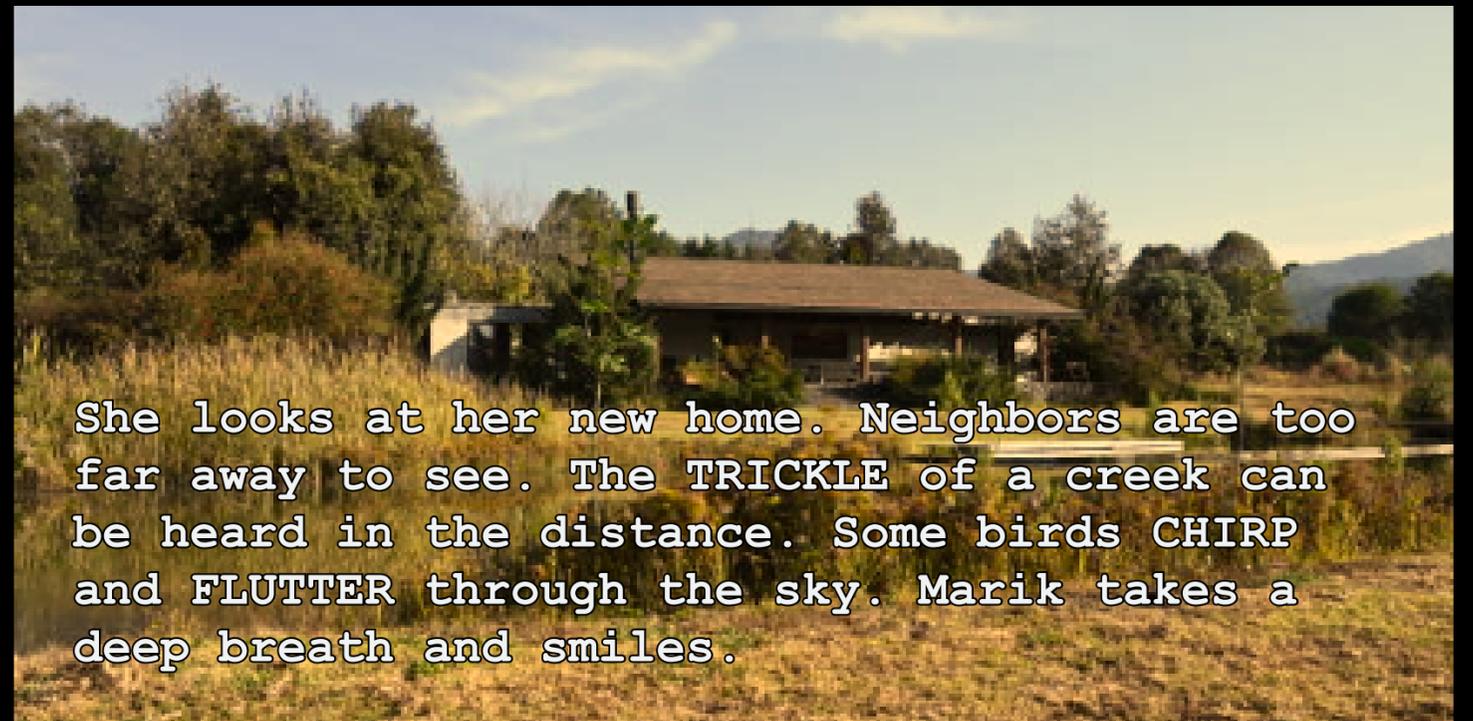
# The Property and Its Mysteries



She carefully opens the trapdoor to a staircase in a damp and cold black hole.

The more she inspects the space, the stranger it becomes.

There's a table covered with books, papers and pictures. Articles and photos of historical moments and natural disasters cover the walls.



She looks at her new home. Neighbors are too far away to see. The TRICKLE of a creek can be heard in the distance. Some birds CHIRP and FLUTTER through the sky. Marik takes a deep breath and smiles.



# Marik

In most situations Marik is a strong willed woman who can take care of herself. Her husband is the only one who can bring out her vulnerable side. Having raised herself, she is not quick to let others in, but her confidence and strength carry her.



**MARIK**

Um, I've been through a lot lately too. I've actually learned a lot, now that I think about it. I don't think we need to blame ourselves, I think we need to move forward.

# Phillip

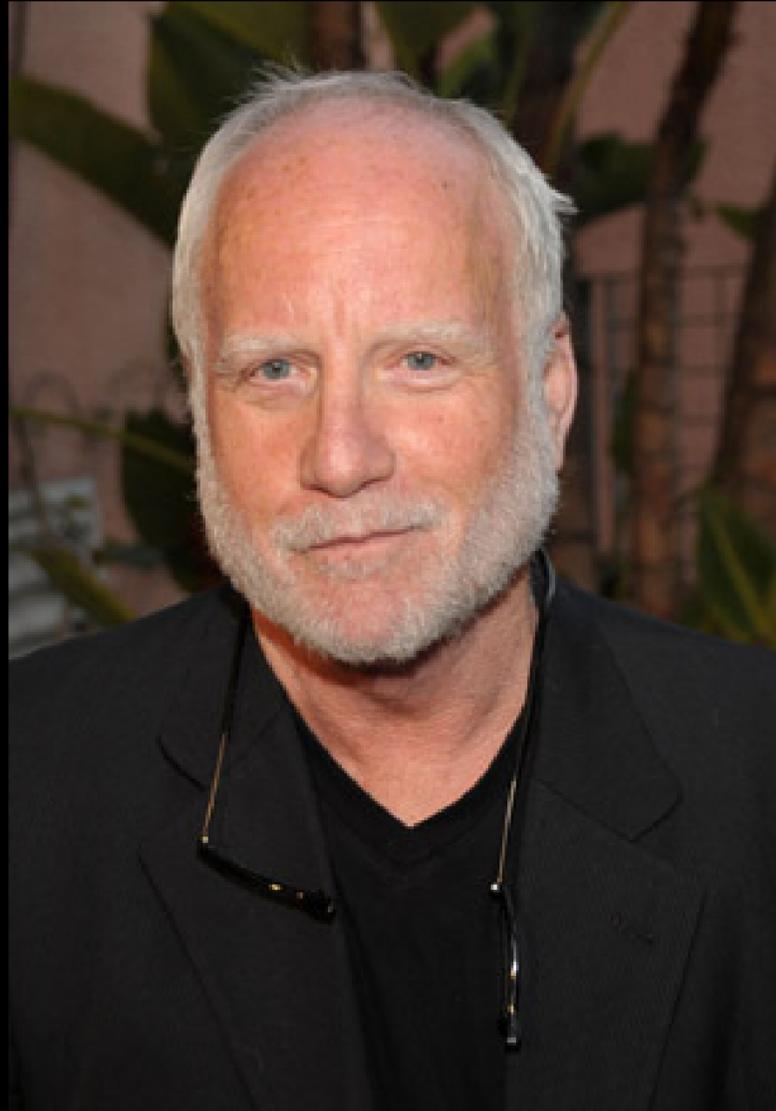
Phillip is as put together as they come. He loves his wife and his job, in that order most of the time. He strives to take care of his wife as well as he can, but sometimes that can prove to be very difficult for him.



PHILLIP  
I chose you. And  
everything about you. I  
wouldn't want to be on any  
other road with any other  
person.

# Bauer

Intelligent and reserved, Bauer had everything figured out in life. His methodical plan had a wrench thrown in it and he did not come out the same. He lives alone, estranged from all he holds dear as he is obsessed with answering one question.



**BAUER**  
(escalating into anger)  
Because I need my book.  
Not some other Bauer who  
didn't make the same  
decisions as me or come to  
the exact conclusions I  
did. My. Book.

# PRODUCTION

- page count: 110
- location: medium sized town
- approx shoot days: 30-35
- approx budget: \$4 million
- cast count: 15
- locations: 20



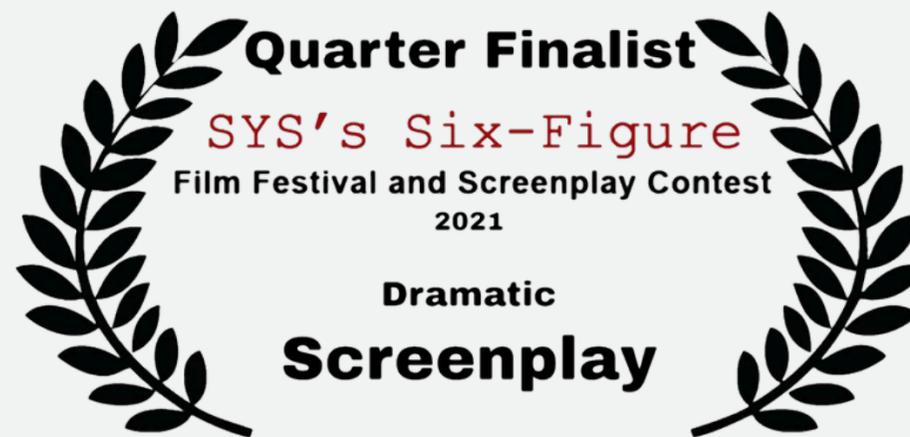
It's clear what Marik wants from the beginning... [I] didn't expect the dimension/timeline-hopping aspect, though the set up did rightly showcase the script... Great work. [Marik] got to this special world after a little suspense that had this reader quite excited.

-READER, STAGE 32 DRAMATIC SCREENPLAY CONTEST

Relative State is an emotionally gripping, beautifully written script that uses its sci-fi elements in a deeply personal and meaningful way. The blend of grief, mystery, and existential questions makes it stand out in the genre, and Marik's journey is one that feels both unique and universally resonant.

-READER, AUSTIN FILM FESTIVAL

# AGCOLADES



It is engaging because I think it targets a certain audience - not everyone can relate to miscarriages but a lot of us can relate to complex consequences of our "what if's".

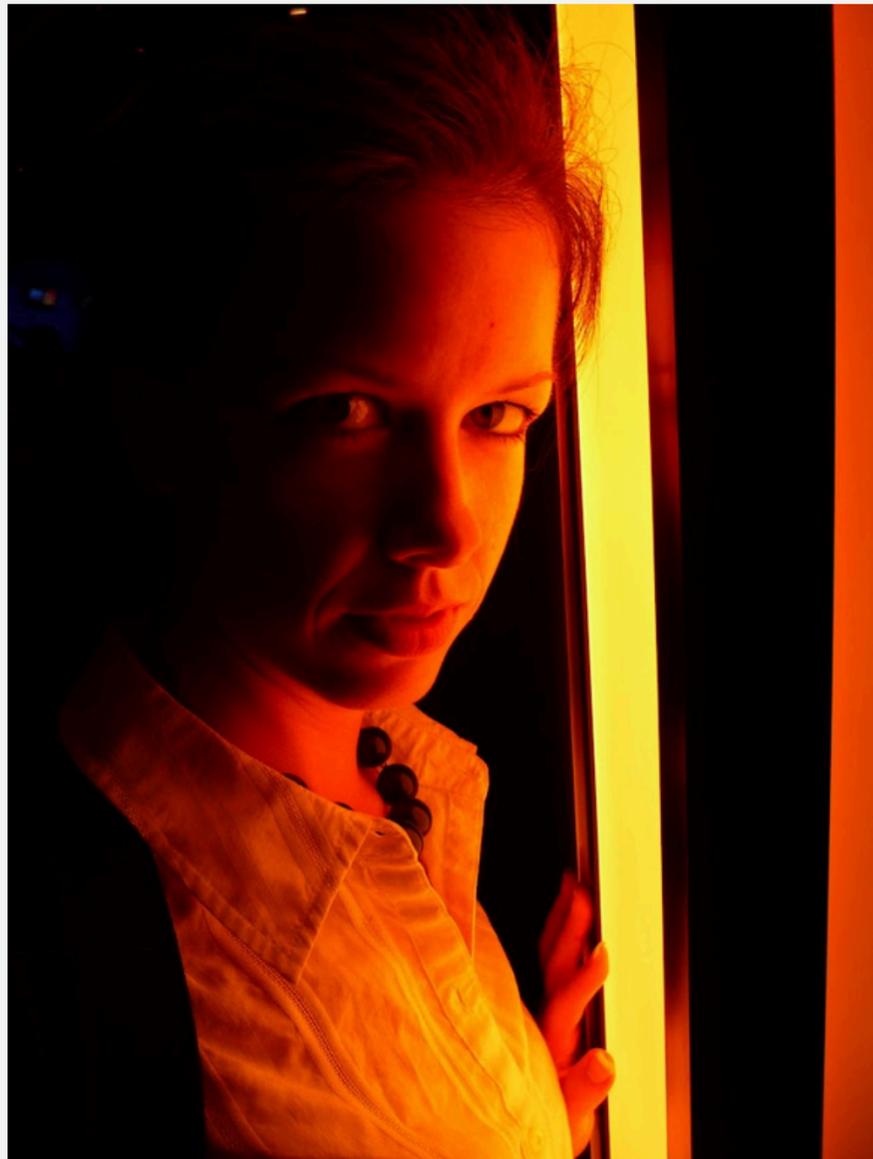
-FOCUS GROUP READER, WAVE FILMS

...the main character has a strong driving force that makes her a compelling persona. For sci-fi and philosophy enthusiasts the story is quite fascinating. It could raise the conversation about how we take things and our loved ones for granted, while there is a version of ourselves that has been grieving for their loss...

-READER, SYS SIX FIGURE SCREENPLAY CONTEST

# THE WRITER

After a single college assignment, I shifted my focus from acting to screenwriting — and never looked back. With over 25 years of experience, I've written original features, shorts, documentaries, corporate work, and recently completed a feature rewrite for Wave Films in Singapore. As a reader for Francis Ford Coppola's literary magazine *Zoetrope: All Story*, I deepened my knowledge of the narrative story. I also worked behind the scenes on major studio productions like *Flight*, *Looper*, *Star Trek*, and *Paranormal Activity*, with a deep understanding of both storytelling and visual effects. Now based in Oakland, CA, I enjoy life with my husband, two daughters, eight chickens, loads of rabbits, countless bees and one dog. As Stephen King once said, "Having someone believe in you makes a lot of difference. They don't have to make speeches. Just believing is usually enough." They believe in me. They are why I keep writing.



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION**



**RELATIVE STATE**