

***Twisted* by Jason Dry**

LOGLINE: After moving into an old farmhouse to escape an abusive past, a mother and her two children must face their own demons and unite to rid the house of an unseen terror.

Twisted is a female-driven paranormal horror screenplay for fans who seek an intelligent and terrifying ride. Similar in tone to *The Hills Have Eyes* and *Crimson Peak*, *Twisted* combines elements of body horror with grim Gothic overtones (including a gloomy house with secret passages, black magic spells and, of course, a hideous monster with supernatural strength).

Twisted depicts how children, who have no choice in the matter, must often suffer painful consequences for their parents' actions. Ultimately, it is about a broken family that must forgive each other for the past and come together in order to heal.

1975, somewhere in the United States of America:

MARNIE is a struggling single mother and recovering drug addict. She moves with her two children into an old farmhouse she inherited from a dead relative. She wants to start a new life on the farm, and to make up for her past mistakes by providing a safe and stable home for her children.

Her teenage daughter LAURA resents Marnie for uprooting them to the farmhouse without her consent. She is also still resentful of her mother because, back when Marnie was using, her stepfather sexually abused her right under Marnie's narcotized nose.

Marnie's son SETH, 9, is a sweet boy who is physically and mentally impaired. Laura blames Marnie, because she was at work when a car hit Seth and caused his disability. Laura, distrusting Marnie's parenting skills, tries to take over the role of parenting her brother, which causes further conflict between mother and daughter.

Immediately, strange things happen in the new house. Marnie and her children find bizarre symbols drawn on the walls in a mixture of grass and excrement. Raw meat goes missing from the fridge. Laura wakes up to find chunks of her hair missing. The next morning, she finds an ugly doll, made of her hair, on her pillow. Marnie and the kids find the kitchen covered in blood, with meat wrappers strewn on the floor.

Marnie does everything she can to keep her children safe. She calls the police multiple times, has the locks changed, and, finally, gets a motel room for her family. But the police convince Marnie that Laura has just been playing pranks to scare her into moving back to their hometown. Believing the cops, Marnie chooses to take the kids back to the old farmhouse.

Back in the house, Laura and Seth discover a hidden room with a box of old diaries that tell of GORAN, born severely deformed and twisted as the result of an incestuous relationship between brother and sister.

In flashback, Goran's father, a WWII refugee and Fringe Scientist, uses a powerful combination of black magic and traditional science to treat him. He boils a sacred mandrake root from the Fatherland in a potion of blood, eyeballs and other animal parts.

He removes the mandrake root, and injects the potion into Goran's arm. Then, he withdraws Goran's

blood and transfuses it into the mandrake root while chanting an ancient Coptic spell. This binds Goran to the power of the sacred mandrake, thus turning him into an immortal monster with superhuman strength and an insatiable lust for raw flesh.

This facet of the story is inspired by the Nazi Party's obsession with the occult. It is well documented that Hitler regularly consulted a prominent astrologer, clairvoyant and occultist named Erik Jan Hanussen, who gave Hitler a mandrake root. Hanussen assured Hitler that, as long as he possessed the mandrake, he would be invincible. Within just weeks of receiving the mandrake root, Hitler was appointed Chancellor of Germany.

By reading the diaries from the hidden room, Laura realizes Goran still lives somewhere in the house, but no one believes her. When the family finally discovers Goran's location, true terror besieges them. Goran puts a leash around Seth's neck, and forces Seth to eat raw flesh from a dog bowl. He attacks Laura and tries to violate her. Marnie fights viciously to stop Goran. She beats him over the head, and even sinks her teeth into his jugular to protect her daughter.

Working together, Marnie, Laura and Seth find the hidden mandrake root, which is the key to Goran's immortality. They destroy the mandrake root, and then kill Goran.

All the events in *Twisted* force the family to overcome their differences and unite to fight a real monster that is even bigger than the anger and resentments that kept them apart. By the end, the family has been put through Hell, and, through this Hell, they have found redemption.

FINALIST: ScreenCraft Screenwriting Fellowship, Filmmakers International Screenwriting Awards, Motor City Nightmares International Film Festival, and 13horror.com Film and Screenplay Contest

SEMIFINALIST: ScreenCraft Horror Screenplay Contest, Circus Road Screenplay Contest, and Burning Love (Edgar Allen Poe) Screenplay Contest

I would love to send you the script for *Twisted*.

Kind regards,

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