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**THE SCRIPT JOINT**

**Title:** \*\*\*  
**Author(s):** \*\*\*  
**Form:** script  
**Pages:** \*\*\*  
**Genres:** Horror  
**Elements:** \*\*\*  
**Time Period/Locale:** \*\*\* / \*\*\*

**Prepared By:** \*\*\*  
**Submitted To:** \*\*\*  
**Submission Date:** \*\*\*  
**Submitted By:** \*\*\*  
**Coverage Date:** \*\*\*

Overall Rating	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Character			X	
Concept		X		
Dialogue				X
Plot		X		
Structure		X		

**LOGLINE:**

A young couple vacationing at a family home are terrorized by a trio of masked killers.

**SYNOPSIS**

The story begins with a flash-forward. Voice-over from a DETECTIVE describes the weapons and victims in a crime scene. A charred sedan sits in the driveway of a one-story house in a rural neighborhood. The sedan's windows are broken, the tires are slashed and the car is running. \*\*\* Full Synopsis Redacted \*\*\*

**COMMENTS**

The script is a horror movie similar to The Cabin in the Woods. It immediately taps into a common fear: being watched by someone who wants to harm you. It's a fear that will resonate with audience members and cause them to quickly become invested in the fates of the protagonists.

The Detective's voice-over effectively sets the tone for the entire movie. The introduction of James and Kristen and their limited dialogue clearly establishes the tension in their relationship. The story forces its audience to need to know what went wrong in their relationship. But once the Young Woman appears, the story dives deep into cliché horror movie territory. For example, James leaves Kristen home alone right after the weird Young Woman leaves. Scared, Kristen runs to call James, but her cell phone is dead and the home phone doesn't have a dial tone. Despite the typical horror movie aspects of the story, it does have a few elements not often seen in many horror films: a group of childlike masked killers and a lot of waiting that creates great suspense.

The sadistic, playful nature of the Killers helps raise the tension. The Killers aren't interested in killing them quickly. Instead, they play with them, taunt them, and mock them. For example, when Kristen attempts to leave the house, the Woman doesn't attack her, but, instead, screams, "Shut the door!" There are sufficient jump scares to help the story remain exciting.

The flashbacks show James and Kristen's backstory. Unfortunately, the flashbacks only offer information that is already known and doesn't provide any new insight into the characters or their current melancholy relationship.

Midway through Act two, the action slows considerably. Once it's established that they are being victimized by three masked killers and are trapped in the house, the story falls back on redundant scenes of Kristen looking out windows and doors. The story follows Kristen's character when James' character is far more proactive and interesting. Towards the end, James comes back beaten and bloody with swollen lips and eyes and the story never shows what happened. This is a huge missed opportunity for added action and fright.

The ending is great and shocking. James and Kristen are defeated and left to die. Evil prevails. It's an interesting, realistic surprise many horror moviegoers will greatly appreciate.

James' character has an interesting arc. He begins his journey as a rejected man. That hurt soon turns to anger and the anger turns him into a murderer. Unfortunately, Kristen's character is one dimensional. She's sad and needy. They are distant towards each other from the beginning of the story. James is often annoyed by Kristen's whining and paranoia. Their romantic relationship is never truly felt or seen. Their relationship is closer to squabbling siblings than lovers. The Masked Killers are underdeveloped. Unfortunately, the story never attempts to offer an explanation for their murderous ways.

The dialogue is sparse. The script focuses on wistful side glances to communicate their melancholy and uncertainty. The dialogue is unrealistic and often repeats information the script has just shown. For example, James looks out a window and says, "They're out there watching us." Too often, James and Kristen state exactly what's being shown in the scene instead of expressing their feelings about what's happening to them.

The story is properly structured and contains all the needed elements and major plot points to effectively move the story forward. The Young Woman coming to the door is a great inciting incident that propels the story into its second act. The mid-point, when James shoots and kills the Old Man, is shocking and a major turning point for James' character. The ending, as mentioned above, is unexpected and leaves room for a sequel.

The story raises many questions about the couple's relationship and about the masked killers and answers none. The story never clearly states why Kristen didn't accept James' marriage proposal or why the neighborhood was practically deserted. These unanswered questions make the story slightly unsatisfying. The writer overwrites the narration and uses unnecessary scene headings to represent time progression.

The writer, also, tells information instead of showing it. For example, the narration says, "They are angry," but doesn't properly utilize the characters' body language and actions to show the anger. But, the script's concept is definitely on a par with other horror films, such as *The Cabin in the Woods*, *Scream*, and *House at the End of the Street*. It has limited locations and a minimal cast which help keep production costs low. It has a mass, albeit cliché, appeal that will absolutely entertain moviegoers everywhere.

**PROJECT:** Recommend\_\_ Consider X Consider with reservations\_\_ Pass\_\_

**WRITER:** Recommend\_\_ Consider\_\_ Consider with reservations\_\_ Pass X