

A CRIME OVER TIME

mystical thriller, horror

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Original script Draft #6

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1. INT - VICTORIAN SITTING ROOM - EVENING

A woman dressed in a Victorian outfit is dozing in an armchair in front of a fireplace. It's Elizabeth, the mistress of the house. A sudden sound of thunder is heard and a picture falls down on the floor. Elizabeth wakes up, slowly opens her eyes, looks at the picture, slowly stands up.

ELIZABETH(MYSTIC)

Maria!

Maria, the maid, enters. Elizabeth looks at Maria, then at the picture. Maria follows her glance, sees the picture on the floor, looks back at Elizabeth. Their eyes meet. Maria checks the back of the picture and the wall: there are no signs of damage. She puts the picture back on the wall and leaves.

We can see the picture: something like The Lady of Shalott by John William Waterhouse, 1888

Elizabeth approaches the window.

2. EXT - STREET FROM THE WINDOW (VICTORIAN)- EVENING

It is raining outside. Some vagabond enfolds his arm around the neck of a poorly dressed prostitute girl and gives her a kiss.

ELIZABETH(MYSTIC)(VO)

The thunder will roar and ramp. You
shouldn't have opened the door.
Your death has the hands of a tramp
and the eyes of an insolent whore.

3. INT - VICTORIAN SITTING ROOM - EVENING

Elizabeth pulls the curtain and turns around. Concern is written on her face.

4. INT - VICTORIAN ENTRANCE HALL - AFTERNOON

The door bell rings. Maria opens the door. She sees Sophie, a prostitute girl.

MARIA

(unkindly)

How can I help you, miss?

Sophie swiftly looks around the inside of the hall.

SOPHIE

(humbly)

Is madam seeing visitors today?

Maria silently looks at Sophie and is about to reject her. Sophie takes out a purse full of shilling coins and offers it to Maria. Maria after some hesitation takes the purse, opens it, then looks at Sophie.

MARIA

Follow me.

5. INT - VICTORIAN SITTING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Elizabeth sits in an armchair at a wooden coffee table. There are Tarot cards on the table. An open jewellery box is in front of her. Elizabeth takes a crystal ball out of the box. Maria knocks on the door. Elizabeth startles and quickly closes the jewellery box and puts it on the mantelpiece. The box is not fully closed and some jewellery can be seen. Maria opens the door and lets Sophie in.

SOPHIE

(with a curtsy)

Good afternoon, Madam.

Elizabeth turns around and looks silently at Sophie for a while, then with a gesture invites her to come up and sit down. Sophie goes to the table and sits down. Elizabeth lays out the cards. While Elizabeth arranges the cards Sophie looks around the room inquisitively. Her eyes fall onto the jewellery box full of purls and gold jewellery. Elizabeth intercepts her glance. She turns the cards and sees: the Devil, the Tower, the Death. A trace of panic flashes through her eyes.

ELIZABETH(MYSTIC)

Sorry, Miss...

SOPHIE

My name is Sophie...

ELIZABETH(MYSTIC)

(interrupting)

Sorry, I cannot continue.

Elizabeth grabs the cards and puts them back into the stack, then rings the bell. Maria enters.

ELIZABETH(MYSTIC)

Maria, will you please give the money back to the Miss... and see her off.

SOPHIE

(frightened)

What did you see? I am in danger?

Elizabeth smiles scornfully.

ELIZABETH(MYSTIC)
 You? You have nothing to worry
 about. Good bye.

Elizabeth stands up. Sophie stands up. Maria shows Sophie out. When the door closes Elizabeth lowers back into the armchair. She closes her eyes. After a moment she opens her eyes and looks at the jewellery box on the mantelpiece. She stands up, comes up to the fireplace, takes the box, closes it and leaves the room with the box in her hands.

6. INT - VICTORIAN BEDROOM - AFTERNOON.

Elizabeth hastily packs her trunks. She is very agitated and pale. She rings the bell. Maria enters.

ELIZABETH (MYSTIC)
 (almost shouting)
 Maria! Please, help me! We are
 leaving at dawn.

MARIA
 What's happened, milady?

ELIZABETH
 (nervously)
 I've got a bad omen...

7. INT - VICTORIAN TAVERN ROOM - LATE EVENING

Sophie is in bed with Steve, the vagabond from scene 2. They are making love.

SOPHIE
 I visited madam Huhn today...

STEVE
 Who?

SOPHIE
 Madam Elizabeth Huhn, the mystic, I
 told you, remember? People say she
 is a witch.

STEVE
 Why did you go there?

SOPHIE
 I wanted to know the future...

STEVE
 And what did the old witch tell
 you?

SOPHIE
Nothing. And she gave me my money
back. She is very strange... and as
rich as a devil...

8. INT - VICTORIAN BEDROOM - LATE EVENING.

Elizabeth, half-undressed, draws a circle with a dagger
around her bed chanting.

ELIZABETH (MYSTIC)
Let the sacred circle protect me
from any evil, in all shapes, at
all levels, at all times. So mote
it be!

She stands in the middle of the bed and draws the circle with
pentagrams at four sides of the bed in the air turning around
herself(from north to east, south, west and back to north).

9. INT - VICTORIAN TAVERN ROOM - LATE EVENING.

Steve grins and gets out of the bed. Gets dressed.

SOPHIE
Where are you going?

STEVE
Since when have you become
interested in my business? Am I
accountable to you?

Steve leaves.

10. EXT - ROAD - NIGHT

It showers with thunder and lightnings. Steve walks on the
road.

11. EXT - ROAD - MORNING

A constable walks on the road.

12. INT - VICTORIAN TAVERN ROOM - MORNING

Sophie is in front of a mirror. She tries on a pearl necklace.
Steve hugs her from behind. She smiles, then turns around and
kisses Steve.

13. EXT - FRONT DOOR OF THE VICTORIAN HOUSE - MORNING

The constable smokes a pipe in front of the door, then enters the house.

14. INT - VICTORIAN TAVERN ROOM - MORNING

Steve and Sophie make love.

15. INT - VICTORIAN BEDROOM - MORNING

Elizabeth is dead in her bed, a large stain of blood on the sheets and the pillows. The dagger is on the bed, covered in blood. The constable and the doctor stand by the bedside.

DOCTOR

Death came at around midnight as a result of a knife stab in the heart. Poor thing died immediately.

CONSTABLE

Where is the other body?

DOCTOR

The housemaid was found stabbed in her bedroom. I will show you.

The constable and the doctor leave.

16. INT - VICTORIAN BEDROOM - MORNING

A dreamlike scene. The dead Elizabeth lies in bed. Suddenly she slowly opens her eyes and sits up in her bed. She slowly stretches her arms forward and grabs the dagger.

17. INT - MODERN BEDROOM - NIGHT

Nowadays, Steve and Sophie, his wife, are in bed asleep, lit by the moonlight. A woman's hands appear from nowhere and clasp on Steve's throat. He wheezes and jerks and eventually wakes up from a nightmare, shattered. Sophie wakes up too.

SOPHIE

Are you all right? Did you have a bad dream? What time is it?

She grabs an iPhone to check the time, then switches on the light. They both see their little daughter Liz by their bedside.

SOPHIE

Liz, darling, what are you doing here?

Bewilderment is written on Steve's face.

Liz looks into his eyes and smiles silently. She stunningly resembles Elizabeth, the mystic.