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fog

a treatment

Genre:

Character Study, Drama, Psychological Horror

Logline

A man lives years inside his dream, then awakening from it, has to deal with reality in a shocking contrast along with the total loss of his loved ones who never existed to begin with.

Characters

- Caleb Miles (37)
- Jannet Miles (31)
- Melissa Miles (6)
- Juliet Miles (7)
- Aron Torrance (50)
- Psychologist Woman (57)

Story Summary

Caleb Miles has everything a man could dream of; a job he loves, a big house he owns, a family whom he can take care of with a loving wife and two little daughters.

That is, until one day he wakes up.

The story of *fog* tells the tale of a man who had lived a life that had never happened, with people who never existed in a world that was far more joyful and inviting than how it really is outside in the real world.

Caleb lived years in a dream that lasted no longer than 9 hours overnight; after his awakening he ends up in a mental institution, loses his sense of reality and throughout the story, struggles to regain his sanity and to find a new purpose and meaning in life, all the while he's trying to get over the memory of those who were the closest to him in his dream, but whom he knows that despite how real and lifelike they felt, he'll never ever see them again.

In the end Caleb aims to recreate a life like the one he had in his dream and succeeds on many points, manages to marry a woman and have two children, finds a job he enjoys and starts working on new hobbies and books, as his story gains massive popularity in the media.

The Aim of This Treatment

In this treatment we aim to detail one of the most crucial segments in *fog*, that is **showcasing the nature of Caleb's dream life he lived for years, followed by when Caleb abruptly wakes up from his dream that lasted no longer than 9 hours in reality, and suffers from the realization of his circumstances.**

In the beginning everything seems to be fine, he has a loving family, a meaningful job where he is appreciated, admirable hobbies and great achievements, when all of a sudden he finds himself under completely different circumstances: awake back in the real world, raw and dry, as it is.

He's anxiously looking for his loved ones, hates to see the loss of color of the world and the unfriendly nature of the strangers around him, and believes he's stuck in a nightmare from which he's desperately trying to wake up.

He ends up in a mental institution where he's being questioned of his experiences and how he sees the world currently around him. He doubts everyone and everything that doesn't align with how he lived in his dream and refuses to accept the possibility that the reality he's in right now is the actual world, with its actual people and its grim, cruel nature. He wants to find a way back to his wife and kids, and attempts multiple suicides, believing in that if he succeeds, he'll be with them again as he'll finally wake up from this nightmare.

After numerous attempts and spending months at the mental institution, he's finally beginning to come to his senses, despite his utmost disgust and repulsive attitude towards the idea that the real world might be the one that he is in right now... *and that every one of his loved ones were nothing but a mimicky trickery of his own mind and imagination.*

The Treatment, As Follows

A modern bedroom. Sunshine enters through the curtains. It is early morning.

Caleb Miles wakes up, looking all fresh and ready to roll after a good night's sleep. He's 37 years old and one of those tall, in-shape guys with a clean-shaven, handsome face, and a confident vibe. His house is clean, modern, elegant and shows wealth. Everything is in order, everything has its location. It's a place of warmth. It's a place that feels like home.

He heads downstairs, to join his family for breakfast. He shares a loving morning kiss with his wife, Jannet, age 31, whose shiny white teeth, curly brown hair and bright blue eyes greet him with warmth. After a satisfying breakfast, he plays with their two delightful daughters, Melissa and Juliet, ages 6 and 7, who resemble much of their mother in appearance already. They laugh loudly and run around their father in great excitement. They're all smiles, the picture of a perfect, happy family.

Caleb gets in his car, waves goodbye to his family and starts driving to work. The world around him is vivid and bright. The streets are full of folks smiling from ear to ear. The neighborhood and city are straight out of an idealistic postcard.

He arrives at work, where he is the resident office comedian, effortlessly lightening the mood with his playful humor and charm. Caleb shares a close-knit bond with his colleagues and boss that goes beyond the usual professional relationships. During one of these lighthearted exchanges, the topic of Caleb's much-anticipated musical performance at a famous restaurant takes center stage, and curiosity runs high. In the evening, at a famous local restaurant, a special event will be held to celebrate the success of Jannet's charity work. She has successfully raised funds for orphans and children in crisis. As if on cue, Caleb whips out a stack of free tickets for his colleagues, grinning as he anticipates the excited faces in the room when they realize they're all invited to the show.

After wrapping up his day at the office, Caleb, with a smile on his face, hops into the car and heads to the local school to pick up his two daughters. The car ride back home is filled with joyous laughter. The trio decides to get some sweet treats on their way home. After a bit of discussion, they collectively decide to treat themselves to some ice cream.

In the evening, Caleb, along with his wife, drives up to the restaurant. As a formality and means of celebration, they offer free tables for everyone and generous discounts on the food, accompanied by a musical performance in which it just so happens to be that Caleb gets the opportunity to showcase his musical talent as he joins the band for a memorable performance. As he is playing the piano, his eyes are locked onto Jannet's. She is in a bright, beautiful red dress that compliments her attractive shape and kind face. She stares back at Caleb with a loving gaze and a bright smile, while the band's romantic jazz fills up the room.

Everything seemed so perfect until, out of nowhere, Jannet's expression shifts dramatically, turning to one of pure terror. She doesn't speak nor does move, sending shockwaves through Caleb, who, in his distress, fumbles some of the chords in the song, casting a dissonant note on their otherwise harmonious evening. Jannet stands up and leaves the restaurant on her own. After a moment of hesitation, Caleb also stands up from the piano and walks off stage. Surprisingly, neither the band nor the audience seem to care.

He follows Jannet on the street several meters behind her without saying a word. They end up in an alleyway where Caleb loses sight of Jannet. A cold, harsh breeze enters the alleyway. Caleb feels sick and looks down in front of him, where the shadows seem to be moving at an abnormally hasty and swift pace. Jannet reappears and stares deeply into Caleb's eyes, which strikes panic in Caleb in an instant. She slowly closes her eyes, takes a deep breath, and turns her head towards the sky.

Caleb becomes increasingly puzzled as he witnesses swift changes occurring around him. The lighting in the area seems to shift rapidly, much like the shadows, creating a disorienting atmosphere. When he looks up at the sky, he's taken aback to see that even the and the Sun and the clouds move just as fast, if not faster than the shadows beneath him. He's shocked to witness his own face undergo an astonishing transformation. In mere seconds, he observes his facial

hair grow out of nowhere and wrinkles form on his forehead and cheeks, leaving him looking significantly older and in a much worsened shape.

The sudden physical changes leave him so overwhelmed that he eventually collapses onto the floor and loses consciousness.

Caleb abruptly opens his eyes. They appear bloodshot and tired. He has a shocking expression on his face. He is covered in sweat, dirt and vomit, and is lying on the concrete ground of the disgusting, trash-filled alleyway he collapsed at just minutes before.

The view spins around him as he tries to stand up with dizzy legs and painful gestures - he looks around and assumes it must be early morning, just after a raging thunderstorm as he can hear the rain pour down the gutter and distant thunders roaring goodbyes as they leave to find other places to taunt. The world around him is covered in fog and has a blue tone of color to it - one would assume this type of weather has to indicate mid-autumn or early winter, though that feels totally out of question. Caleb doesn't even contemplate it, though his confusion starts growing with every passing minute.

He walks out of the alleyway and makes his way towards the restaurant. He appears to be cold and his exhales push a steaming fog out of his lungs every time he takes a breath. At the restaurant, he stares in the fog-plagued windows and despite the red CLOSED sign, he opens its doors and walks inside, him being alone in the whole building along with the echo of the doorbell he rang by entering the building.

Empty chairs and tables hide in the back of the dining room, covered in shadows and vague reflections. Caleb asks if anyone is there with a slightly raised tone and volume, hoping his words would find eager ears.

But no answer. He walks up the stage he performed at last night with his band and shows signs of surprise and unexpectancy - he appears to be looking for the piano he played on, however he can't help but notice that both the piano and his performing chair are gone from their usual location.

The owner of the restaurant, Aron Torrance, appears. He is a bearded, muscular bald man, aged 50. He has an angry expression on his face as he recognizes Caleb.

Aron asks Caleb how he got in the restaurant with a furious tone, who first ignores the question and asks Aron where his piano is. When asked again, Caleb tells him that he knows he always arrives first in the morning before they open and that he never closes the door behind him. Aron pushes Caleb down to the floor and shouts at him that he has no place here and that he should leave before Aron calls the cops. Caleb is shocked and cannot say anything as he gets thrown out of the restaurant. Aron tells him that he is not welcome here and that he should not try to come back again.

Caleb is on the verge of crying. He runs to the parking lot of the restaurant and looks for his car, but to no avail - his car is not there. He tries to calm himself down and only now contemplates his appearance and clothing as he sees his reflection in a puddle of water - he looks nothing like the night before, and by a long shot.

He reaches for his phone in his pocket and pulls out one that also does not resemble his own phone. He opens his contacts list and scrolls through them, looking for his wife, Jannet's number. It is not there. What the hell is going on?

He makes his way onto the streets, eagerly trying to look for landmarks and recognizable buildings to guide him home. On his way, he sees numerous homeless people lying on the ground, among trash and smoke of cigarettes and burning barrels. His face dresses in disgust, horror and worry and his steps fasten the more he sees of his surroundings. People either ignore him or look at him with judgment and repulsiveness.

He arrives at a familiar neighborhood and starts running to his house. He arrives at the front door and tries to open it but it is locked. He screams the names of his wife and two daughters, as he runs towards the backyard. He trips and hurts himself, only then he finds his keys as they fall out of his pockets.

He unlocks the front door and slowly opens it. Entering the house, it looks nothing like it did before. There is a thick and dense atmosphere, dust particles and darkness all around. He explores the living room, the second floor, his bedroom and every hallway - none of which resemble "home." His eyes are watery and his face seems desperate and in shock.

He enters the dining room where he had breakfast with his family the day before, and it is covered in filth and dust. Caleb pulls out a chair and sits down on it, gazing far into the distance as his mind is far too occupied with thoughts to put even a slight bit of expression on his face. All of a sudden, he cries out loud and collapses onto the floor. He has a mental breakdown and screams in pain.

Hours, days, weeks go by. It feels like he has become a shell of who he used to be. When he finds himself in the interrogation room, everything is very white, so much so that it almost bothers the eyes. White walls, a bed or a stiff, uncomfortable-looking chair, cold lights from the ceiling. It's a clean, almost empty room, with darkened glass on one side, and doctors, security guards on the other side. Caleb and a doctor, age 57 with dark brown hair and menacing reading glasses are alone in the room as she starts asking questions to Caleb about his past experiences. Caleb answers slowly, albeit with a great delay between the doctor's questions and the deafening silence in the room.

The doctor feels very one-sided. She begins to doubt Caleb's answers. At first, the confusion and disheveledness are not visible in his eyes and on his face, he insists on the reality of his dreams. When the doctor confronts him with the falsity of his statements, the focus is on Caleb's eyes, which are darting back and forth, it seems that he is looking for answers, the sweat is visible on him as well as the rapid breathing, as he is getting better and better out of the state he believed to be true. He starts to become violent and shows tendencies towards self-harm so the aforementioned security guards come in and take him to another room, which looks more like a hospital ward than a bright interrogation room.

We are almost directly above the bed as spectators, we see Caleb lying straight on his back, in a hospital dress with red spots, covered with a white quilt, looking blankly at us (at the ceiling). Flashes of his past circle round and around in his head. We see slow, quiet details of him sitting alone in front of a piano in semi-darkness. The semi-darkness and zigzagging dust particles

visible in the air convey the passing away, Caleb's pain. He attempts to play the instrument but ultimately fails.

In the meantime, we see Caleb lying on the bed (the camera slowly approaches him). Finally, the continuously changing images stop and we see Caleb's face and eyes close enough to make out the tears that are rolling down.

He had only just begun to grasp the weight of his situation...

