

Levente Lukács
CONTOUR
A treatment

Genre

Drama, Romance, Animation

Stylization

- 3D animation
- Cel-shaded
- Low poly
- High light-shadow contrast
- Black and white (with occasional red and blue colors)

Summary

A man finds a woman in a cathedral whom he follows up its spiral stairs, on its cathedral wall, down a rocky passage and small garden all the way to a lighthouse, where they finally meet up at its top where we discover they know each other as they exchange words about love and how much the man loves her, which ultimately the woman does not believe as she pushes herself off the lighthouse into the abyss below.

Characters

- The Man (24)
- The Woman (22)

Treatment

A dimly lit cathedral. Dust particles are dwindling softly around the air. The cathedral doors open slowly wide, letting sunlight enter the area, along with *a man* (24). The man looks around the cathedral, taking in its emptiness and its grand space. Empty seats, an empty stage, quiet shadows and tucked in corners lay here. He makes his way further in, and as he does, he hears a noise from his right.

He glances over and sees *a woman* (22). A quiet, gentle melody begins playing. Behind her is a corridor ending in a spiral staircase going upwards. They both stop and glance at each other for a while. The man tries to get closer, raising his hand to wave and taking a few steps in the direction of the woman, who in turn faces the other way and starts walking down the corridor from whence she came. The man calmly peeks in and sees her take the spiral staircase. Soon after, he starts walking in her direction and goes up the staircase as well.

At the top of the stairs is a wooden door. The man opens it up and ahead sees a long passage – a path reminiscent of a castle wall or rampart, only longer than it would be reasonable. The woman is walking along the rampart, passing by a bastion, then staring back at the man as she continues walking forward. The man feels puzzled but continues following her. At the outer side of the wall is a pine tree forest, whilst the inner side gives a view of a hill and other ramparts, and further ahead waves of an ocean or sea.

The man makes it to the end of the rampart and reaches some brick steps alongside the rampant wall descending to a tight dirt road decorated with patches of grass and flowers. Following this dirt road, the man finds makeshift wooden plank bridges across gaps and even a longer skip between two parts of the road, where he stops to think whether it would be wise to jump across or not. After a while, he gathers the courage necessary to proceed and makes it to the other side of the dirt road, where he finds a brick wall covered in vines and a set of mossy brick steps escalating up to a small rose garden.

Down at the start of the stairs, the man notices the woman once more, atop at the rose garden, caressing and inspecting a rose and its petals. She notices the man and briefly looking at him, she seems unbothered and continues to inspect the rose. Only when a petal falls off it and the wind carry it all the way down to the man who, without effort, calmly catches it in his palm, does she get frightened and with the rose in her hand, she briefly disappears up ahead. The man walks up the brick steps and makes it to the garden, where he stops briefly to admire its beauty and finds the remains of a torn rose where next to it is another beautiful blue blooming flower. The man picks it and admires it, taking it with him as he walks forward and leaves the garden to step on another dirt path turning sharp behind the garden.

As he turns, he sees a lighthouse ahead of him down a set of another brick steps. Just as he does, he sees the woman close the lighthouse's door. The melody that began playing when he met her quiets down. Growing impatient, the man moves down the brick steps with a sense of urgency but as he gets to the lighthouse's entrance, he stops. Contemplating whether to proceed he grabs the door handle and makes it inside the lighthouse.

The interior of the lighthouse is dimly lit. Dust, dirt and sludge are lying across the ground. The man hears noises and echoes from above, along with a soft, gentle melody that started playing once he set foot inside the lighthouse. He starts climbing the spiral stairs of the lighthouse and as he does, at every level it becomes cleaner and cleaner, with more light entering through the windows, along with a mixture of butterflies, excitement, calmness, and nervousness. Climbing the lighthouse, the man recalls memories with the woman – he certainly knows her quite well and recalls past experiences and shared moments as he ascends.

The man makes it atop the lighthouse. In front of him is the woman, facing outward and staring down the ocean and rocks below. As she hears him arrive, she swiftly turns around.

- Stop! Why are you chasing me? – she asks.
- ... What?
- Why are you chasing me?
- I thought you wanted me to chase you.
- ... Is that all?
- I admire you. I adore you.
- No.
- I love you.
- No, you do not.

Her figure starts to dissolve into a mess of colors, shapes, contours, and inconsistency.

- I do.
- No. You know nothing about me. You think you do, but you don't. You love the picture that you painted of me. The melody you hear when you think about me. The words I say in your mind to you...
You love an idea. A contour.
- I don't.
- You are all the same.

The woman turns around and climbs atop the lighthouse's railing. The man quickly leaps forward and grabs her arm, pulling her back down and making her face him in proximity.

- I know you. And I adore you. Not an idea, not an expectation, not what you would one day become.
But you. Your *self*, your *soul* - the one who is *YOU*. I love *YOU*.
- Even I don't know who I am. How could you?
- You do. You need not try and impress. You need not to fit in. You need not to appeal.
You only need to be you.

The woman's figure slowly recollects herself and her shapes and character calm down and appear once more as it was before.

- ... How do you know?
- I don't have to know.

The man caresses the woman's face and gently hugs her close. They hold this embrace for a while, nothing around matters anymore. Only then, does she cry out and say to him:

- I don't believe you.

The woman tears herself from the man's arms and pushes herself over the lighthouse's railing. The man reaches out his with his arms but is unable to catch her before she falls to the unknown depths below.

Everything turns dark. In the middle, a white text appears slowly:

*If only you saw yourself as beautiful as other people do,
you would be more in love with yourself than anyone could ever be.*