

WHEN COVID CAME

Written by

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Throughout each Act, there is no audible dialogue other than the last line of the film. Only MUSIC will be heard = synchronized with the actions of the characters.

**ACT I - COVID ARRIVES**

FULL SCREEN TITLE: JANUARY 9, 2020 - WUHAN VIRUS - FIRST DEATH REPORTED

INT. SARAH'S LIVING ROOM/DINING AREA - DAY

SARAH SYMS (60-70) sits alone on the MIDDLE PILLOW of the couch eating CHIPS AND DIP as she watches TELEVISION in her first floor condominium. The TV screen is out of view. Sarah watches, snacks, watches, snacks, watches, snacks, makes a face of disgust, rises, TV remote, changes the channel from one channel to another.

Sarah turns off the television, walks to a picture of a young man in his forties. She dusts the picture off against her body, replaces it, looks at it for a bit, then rearranges the dried flowers in the vase beside the picture. Thereafter she straightens the picture, picks up a book, and sits and begins to read.

FULL SCREEN TITLE: MARCH 15, 2020 COVID CAUSES CDC TO RECOMMEND AGAINST GATHERINGS OF 50 OR MORE PEOPLE

MONTAGE

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

A gentleman (60-70) reads on his phone "March 17, 2020 - 5,145 people in the United States have been infected by COVID. 91 have died" then moves on to read his email.

EXT. FRONT DOOR/PORCH OF SINGLE FAMILY HOME - DAY

Medics take a woman (60-70) on a stretcher from her home and place her in an ambulance.

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY

A boy (9-13) sits at a table with paper and pencil in front of him and communicates by Google Class With his teacher(40-50) as his mother (35-40) hovers near.

END MONTAGE

FULL SCREEN TITLE: MARCH 18, 2020 - GOVERNOR NEWSOM ISSUES FIRST STATEWIDE STAY-AT-HOME ORDER

INT. SARAH'S COMPUTER AREA - DAY

Computer screen - Google search for MASKS WITH FILTERS. All results show SOLD OUT.

As none are to be found, Sarah orders double-layered masks without filters. Picking up her CELLPHONE, she texts Barbara Cayden.

Sarah grabs her CELL, sends a text to SANDRA.

TEXT: Couldn't find any with a filter. Ordered three with double layers. Better than nothing I suppose. Just staying in for now. Will shop for weekly needs online using home delivery.

INT. SARAH'S KITCHEN - DAY

Sarah looks out window. SARAH'S POV: A WOMAN (20s), wearing a mask, drops off several BAGS OF GROCERIES on the BACK PORCH beside Sarah's KITCHEN DOOR.

MONTAGE

Sarah:

Opens the door, brings in the bags, closes the door, unpacks the bags and wipes down the items with sanitizing wipes.

Puts food and dry goods in the kitchen cabinets/pantry.

Puts a bottle of HAND SANITIZER on the counter near the door.

Prepares to cook: takes out hamburger, forms a patty, fries it.

As it fries, puts some mashed potatoes and mixed vegetables from bowls in the refrigerator onto a plate.

Covers plate with plastic top and puts in the microwave which she sets for 2 1/2 minutes.

When the microwave timer stops/beeps and the time of day reappears on it, she removes the plate from the microwave.

Removes the plastic top from the dinner, and places the plate on the table.

Pours milk into a glass that she takes from the cabinet beside the sink.

Sits and begins to eat.

Sarah rises, picks up her glass, plate, napkin, and fork, throws the napkin in the garbage, rinses off the plate and glass, places them and the fork in the dishwasher. Cleans the cooking utensils in the sink and places frying pan with its lid on and the spatula within, in the oven.

Retreats to the bedroom.

Sarah emerges in robe and slippers, makeup-less, dressed for bedtime.

Looks at the clock which reads 6:00.

Sarah walks to the picture of the young man in his forties

Sarah dusts the picture off against her body, replaces it, looks at it for a bit.

Sarah rearranges the dried flowers in the vase beside the picture and straightens the picture.

Sarah picks up a book, sits and picks up her cellphone and begins a game of Solitaire on it.

**ACT II - BEST DEFENSE**

FULL SCREEN TITLE: MARCH 8, 2021, U.S. PASSES 29 MILLION COVID CASES. MORE THAN ONE IN EVERY 1,000 AMERICANS HAVE DIED FROM COVID-19.

INT. SARAH'S LIVING ROOM/DINING AREA - DAY

Under a St. Patrick's Day leprechaun attached to the door, MAIL pushed through the MAIL SLOT.

Sarah picks up the mail from the floor and opens the door to find a LARGE ENVELOPE lying between the SCREEN DOOR and the HOUSE DOOR.

Sarah picks up envelope, sits in a chair near the door, and opens it. Within it are THREE DOUBLE-THICKNESS CLOTH MASKS.

Sarah inspects a mask, tries it on with some difficulty making it comfortable.

Sarah rises, looks at herself with it on in the MIRROR on the wall, and sits down.

Sarah removes her mask and takes all three masks and hangs them on the metal part of the floor lamp near her chair.

Near the picture of the young man in his forties, she picks it up, dusts it off against her body, and replaces it. She looks at it for a bit then rearranges the dried flowers in the vase beside it. Then she straightens the picture.

The CELLPHONE rings. Sarah crosses to her dining room table and enters a facetime conversation with a woman (60s) who disappears from the screen after which a boy child (3-4) appears, laughs, and waves.

Sarah goes to the closet and brings out a CARD TABLE AND A JIG SAW PUZZLE. She sets up the card table near a chair in the living room, sits on the chair, opens the box, and begins to sort the pieces, placing all of the edge pieces on the table as she finds them.

**ACT III - ON COURSE WITH LITTLE RECOURSE**

FULL SCREEN TITLE: 2022: COVID INCIDENCE ROSE THEN DECREASED  
AND WORK-FROM-HOME STILL FAVORED

INT. SARAH'S LIVING ROOM/DINING AREA - DAY

An envelope is shoved through the mail slot on Sarah's front door. Sarah bends, picks it up, reads the return address, and opens it. Crossing the room, she sits, and dumps out five N-95 MASK FILTERS, picking up one to inspect.

Takes filter with her, opens a BOX on a wooden side CABINET, takes out THREE MASKS of double thickness.

Goes to kitchen for large pair of SCISSORS.

Returns to the table where the masks lie, sits, cuts across the back of one of the masks.

Slips a filter into the slit, pulls the material above the slit down over the exposed top half of the filter.

Smooths it out face up first.

Tries mask on, rises, checks how it looks in the mirror.

Returns to table and cuts across the backs of the remaining masks.

EXT. LARGE BRAND STORE - PARKING LOT - DAY

Sarah exits her car, glances at the clock in the car which reads 8:25, dons the mask with the N95 filter and plastic gloves and enters the store.

INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

Sarah fills her shopping cart. The store is near empty.

Sarah pushes her cart to the check out area where the male CASHIER (20's) is also masked.

INT. SARAH'S LIVING ROOM/DINING AREA - DAY

Sarah stands, looking out her living room window. Falling snow covers the area outside.

Sarah walks to the picture of the young man in his forties. Picking it up, she dusts it off against her body and replaces it and looks at it for a bit. Thereafter she rearranges the dried flowers in the vase beside it and straightens the picture.

Sarah removes the dried flowers from beside the picture of the young man and carefully places one of TWO TINY FAKE CHRISTMAS TREES made from red Christmas balls. The second one she places on the dining room table next to a bowl.

Sarah dials a number on the CELLPHONE on a cellphone stand and a woman (40's) appears on the screen.

LATER

Sarah remains by the phone which is now dark and begins to fold CLOTHES that she takes from a BASKET on the floor near her feet.

INT. HOSPITAL COVID VACCINATION SITE - DAY

Masked, Sarah enters the hospital, stops at a point where a STANDING THERMOMETER takes her temperature.

Sarah wipes her hands with ANTISEPTIC LOTION from a mounted DISPENSER.

Sarah joins a line, and, when it is her turn, moves to a SMALL STANDING TABLE along the wall, picks up and fills out a FORM.

When the form is completed, she joins another line.

Sarah moves forward and hands the form through the opening in the GLASS DIVIDER to one of the women seated behind it.

The woman enters the info from the form into her COMPUTER.

Everyone in the room is masked.

The woman indicates where Sarah is to go to sit to wait her turn. Sarah sits down.

AN AIDE comes and shows Sarah into a room where NURSES sit at TABLES IN AREAS DIVIDED BY HALF WALLS.

Sarah sits and takes off her sweater to expose her upper arm. A VACCINATION NEEDLE is placed and its contents unloaded into her upper arm.

Carrying her sweater, Sarah rises, leaves the room to again sit where the aide has suggested.



As she sits down, Sarah notes that the CLOCK on the wall reads 3:10.

When Sarah notes that the clock reads 3:25, she rises and leaves.

INT. SAME HOSPITAL ENVIRONMENT AS PREVIOUSLY SEEN - DAY

Sarah gets another shot in her upper arm.

**ACT IV - AND EVEN WITH VACCINATIONS**

FULL SCREEN TITLE: 2023 A NEW NORMAL

MONTAGE

INT. DRUGSTORE - DAY

Seated on a chair in the back of a drugstore near a glassed-in pharmaceutical area, Sarah gets another shot in her upper arm.

INT. A SEOCND DRUGSTORE -DAY

Seated in a small room off the pharmaceutical area, Sarah gets another shot in her upper arm.

END MONTAGE

EXT. ACQUAINTANCE'S FRONT PORCH - DAY

The day is warm and sunny. Coatless but wearing a mask, Sarah climbs the front porch stairs to join the masked (previously seen on cellphone) younger woman (60's) outside at a table on the porch for sodas. Once seated she and the younger woman remove their masks and drink their sodas and are seen to begin to converse.

MONTAGE OF IMAGES OF PEOPLE TESTING THEMSELVES FOR COVID

INT. DINING ROOM TABLE - DAY

Sarah tests herself for COVID. Results NEGATIVE.

INT. KITCHEN TABLE - DAY

Same younger woman from previous scene testing herself for COVID. Results NEGATIVE.

INT. DINING ROOM TABLE - DAY

Man (60's) with same younger woman testing himself for COVID. Results NEGATIVE.

## INT. DIFFERENT TABLES - DAY

Images of five others, their hands holding COVID test results: older couple (70s), woman and her partner (60s), the young man (20s) and his two friends, one male, one female (20s). All NEGATIVE.

## INT. SARAH'S LIVING ROOM AREA - DAY

Sarah is busy with dinner preparations. The table is set for eight. Stopping at a point, she walks to the picture of the young man in his forties, dusts it off against her body, replaces it, looks at it for a bit, then rearranges the dried flowers in the vase beside the picture, and straightens the picture.

The doorbell rings. Sarah answers the door.

As they arrive, the five observed to have tested negative, enter: the young and his two friends; the middle aged couple; and finally the older couple.

The generation of the man depicted in the picture that Sarah has regularly dusted is not among them.

## INT. SARAH'S LIVING ROOM/DINING AREA - DAY

Sarah gathers with persons previously depicted: woman and her partner (60s), the young man (20s) and his two friends (20s), and older couple (70s) seat themselves around the table and begin to help themselves and each other to the food that has been placed in bowls on the table, all talking amiably as they do so.

SARAH

So nice to see you all!