

"Shattered Melodies"

By Daniel Silvas

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Dear Andrea,

I am excited to share my script, 'Shattered Melodies,' with you. This heartfelt story explores themes of connection, personal growth, and acceptance, resonating with the emotional depth of films like '5 Feet Apart' and 'The Perks of Being a Wallflower meets 'Once'.

Logline: A teenage girl battling a life-threatening illness finds solace and connection with a troubled musician in a small mountain town, forcing them to confront their past traumas and fight for their futures.

A young family faces a life-altering diagnosis. Melodie, a gifted teenage songwriter, needs a transplant. Her songwriting rivals many contemporary artists and her lyrics are poignant, describing the depth of her struggle as she searches for independence. But this talent is hidden behind an angsty facade. The illness, however, sets off a chain reaction, challenging the family's life.

Isabella, Melodie's mother, battles stress and mental health. Her frailty is palpable as she fails to connect with Melodie as she once had.

James, a young guitarist set adrift by tragedy, unexpectedly enters their lives when he runs out of gas in their small Colorado town. His songwriting is an outlet that pierces his depression. Melodie and James find each other when he hears her music echoing through the thin air. They bond over music, and James encourages Judith to share her music online, gaining her some recognition.

Isabella connects with James when he visits her coffee shop to avoid the cold. She makes it her mission to help him as an excuse to hide from her own problems, a consistent comfort that her ex, Eric, disapproves of.

The tension between Melodie and Isabella grows, revealing Isabella's mental health struggles. James reluctantly becomes an ally for Melodie. Although, he hides secrets. James suffers from Asthma, and the suicide of his fiancée is still fresh in his memory. He has come to the small mountain town to end his life knowing the thin mountain air will make him hypoxic.

Melodie seeks support to intervene in Isabella's manic behavior. James believes he's the last one that should be involved and dodges her request. Melodie doesn't understand his mixed reactions as in one moment he brings a possible solution but won't be the voice she desperately needs to bring connection between her and her mother.

James is running out of time as the hypoxia filters through and complicates everything. He decides to help Melodie break through to Isabella. But Melodie's condition worsens leading to an eventful rush to the hospital to save her. Her final moments are pressing as it's now or never for her transplant. Her kidneys are failing.

Isabella discovers that James has been trying to kill himself in the thin air. The trip to the hospital has landed James attached to oxygen machines to treat his weak condition. This is when, of all people, Eric, Isabella's ex, lends a word to James about his mixed actions. James should have avoided this family, but he decided to help. Is he really someone that wants to give up?

James makes the ultimate decision to be the transplant that Melodie needs despite the risks but she will only accept it if he finds the strength to keep fighting. During the transplant, James flatlines and the doctors and nurses need to save him.

At the edge of a new chapter filled with hope and optimism, Melodie is adjusting to her changing life. The song she's posted online has become a success. Isabella mental health challenges are in a far better position and Melodie readies for a performance.

Melodie waits to appear on stage to perform. The packed small venue can be heard anxiously awaiting her. James, recovered from his experience, steps to her side to perform with her and asks if she's ready.

This isn't a soft teenage romance. This is about how we all struggle with demons and fight so hard to keep them at bay until they become so blistering that it filters through the cracks of our reality. It's not until someone becomes the mirror of our struggle that we can truly realize it. It's NOW that people, more than ever, need to believe that it's possible to change.

My personal Logline: A lonely soul, to reignite his life, pursues his dreams of becoming a film and television writer. Filled with passion, hard work, and determination, he strives to break down the doors found by only a chosen few. When he finds the barriers even harder than expected, he'll press to find the one connection that will see his talent to make his dream, a reality.

This script was originally written as a way for me to express my struggles with mental health and depression. My lived experiences have transferred into my writing. This script is an example of it. I've hoped to connect like my characters to find hope when it feels like there isn't any. In the days since COVID, with renewed perceptions of well being, this project has morphed into a catharsis of personal growth and acceptance by believing that hope, good will, and healing are achievable. I believe more people need to hear, see, and feel that it is possible.

I look forward to your response.

Thank you,

Daniel Silvas