GRETELS HANSEL

A FILM BY OSGOOD PERKINS







PRODUCTION DESIGN BY JEREMY REED

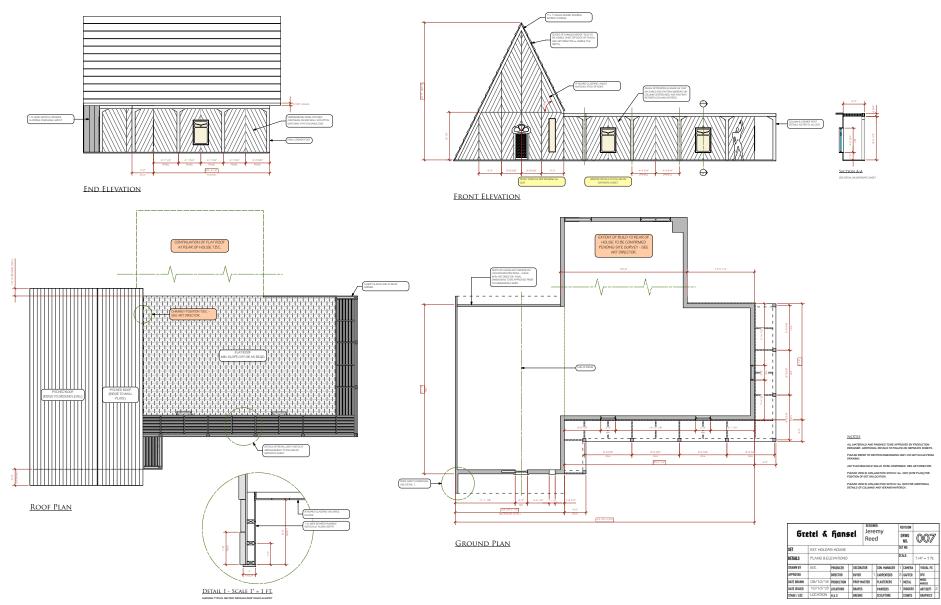


With complicated, aggressive antier-like norms. As a gate in the woods, it blocks nothing, but rather WARNS of something that can be approached only if one so chooses --Hansel flinches, a few feet back from Gretel. HANSEL Gretel? Is that... there? If it isn't, then neither are we. She reaches up to touch it, eyes working over its detail. She curls around behind it, seeing that it reads different on this side, the color gone a burnt BLACK negative of itealf bne curis around penind it, seeing that it reads different on this side: the color gone, a burnt BLACK negative of itself. Through a gap in the ironwork she can see the figure of her little brother, staring back at her from a distance. HANSEL Gretel turns and then keeps very still, her senses tuned, Greter turns and then keeps very stlir, her senses tuned, looking deep into the trees. And SLOWLY WE ARE PUSHING IN --And there, between crooked tree trunks: a tilted square of glowing yellow glass: a WINDOW. HANSEL (CONT'D) (off screen, but close) Gretel creeps forward, not daring to trust her eyes. Because Gretel. It smells of cake. there, standing all alone in a clearing... is a HOUSE. Nestled in a clearing that's ringed by WARPED TREES, a house completely unlike the simple cottages we've seen: Low-slung and horizontal and topped with an A-FRAME that LOW-SLUNG and norizontal and topped with an A-FRAME that points like a steeple, or a dagger. With yellowed windows and clad in midnight gray chapter natterned wood clate it a Clad in midnight gray chevron patterned wood slats, it's A thin brume of smoke curls up from a simple chimney and -severe and strangely... modern. Planted in the loose bramble of a front yard, a CRUDE SLIDE Fianted in the loose prample of a front yard, a CRUDE SLIDE made up of a long ladder and a length of flat, curved iron. HANSEL (CONT'D) (captivated) They've a slide.

Once RED BUT now faded and scaly, the topmost edge is tipped With complicated, aggressive antler-like horns. As a gate in



EXT. HOLDA'S HOUSE - PLAN & ELEVATIONS



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HOLDA (CONT'D) Very good. And once you've gotten the hang of it, you can move on to the others.

She nods to the shed. He looks over but its door is closed. He can feel her leaning in close, to get a good sniff at him.

HOLDA (CONT'D) And my, my. Aren't you handsome.

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INT. MAIN ROOM. DAY

Gretel SNIFFS as she dusts, scanning the carefully-curated collection of OBJECTS on the shelves and sills and walls: An intricate MAP crisscrossed with star paths, pentagrams. A hand-held mirror with a handle fashioned out of ... bone? Atop the fireplace mantle, a ratty, stuffed bust of a GOAT and a necklace of strung-together... baby teeth? She steps on a place in the floor that feels odd, looks down: a metal GRATE in the wood, slatted like A DRAIN OPENING...

Back to dusting: an ONYX-BLACK crystal pyramid, an IRON FIGURINE of a reclining NUDE. Gretel raises an eyebrow, looks more closely. She SNIFFS, SNEEZES and, as if on cue, Holda --

HOLDA

Nothing to sneeze at.

Gretel is surprised; she turns, blushing.

HOLDA (CONT'D) Even alongside the heat of your blushing, you have the onset of a chill. Here, come this way...

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INT. MAIN ROOM / APOTHECARY. CONTINUOUS Holda leads Gretel to an area teeming with PLANTS AND HERBS, creeping up walls and hanging from the ceiling. Gretel scans BOTTLES AND JARS over a worktable where Holda has a bucket with a tap connected to a hand press. Holda is collecting PLANT CLIPPINGS from around the room,

feeling and smelling and bringing them up to her milky eyes.

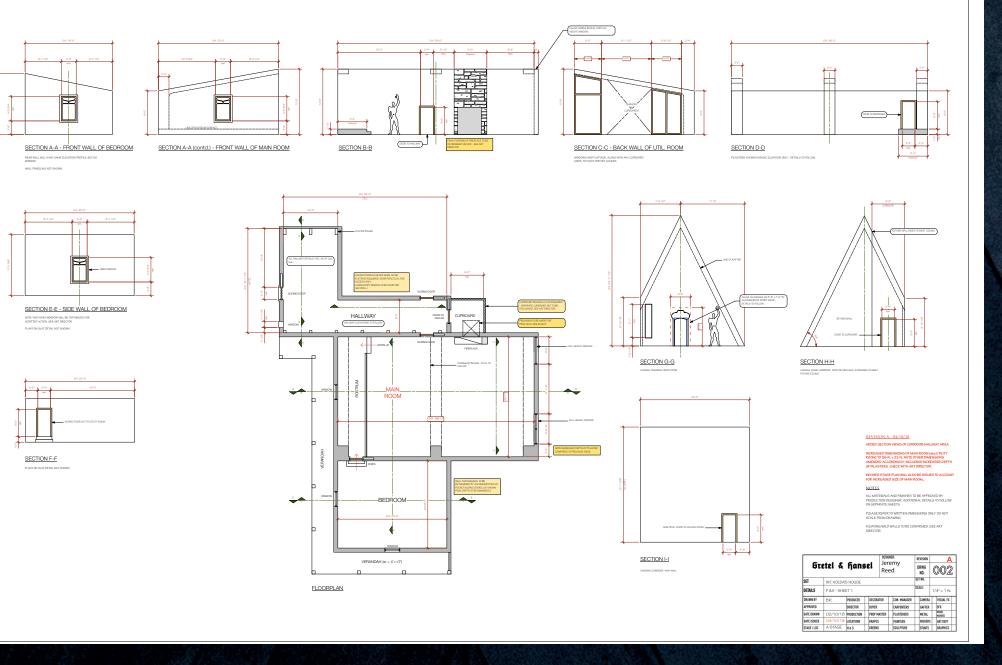
HOLDA Liquorice root. Calendula.



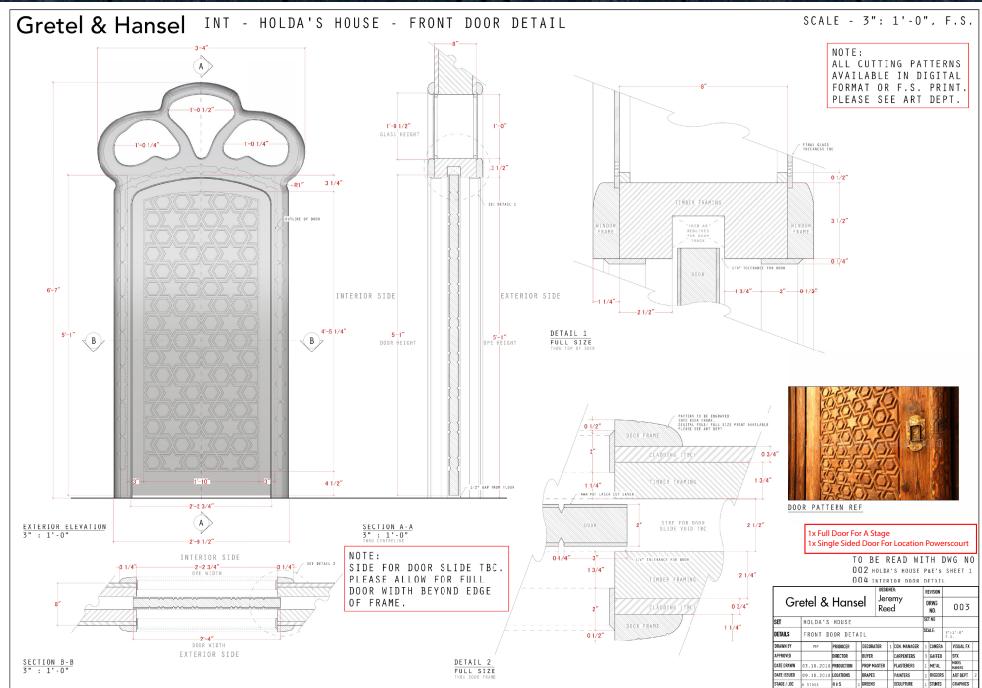


INT. HOLDA'S CABIN - PLAN & ELEVATIONS (SHEET 1)

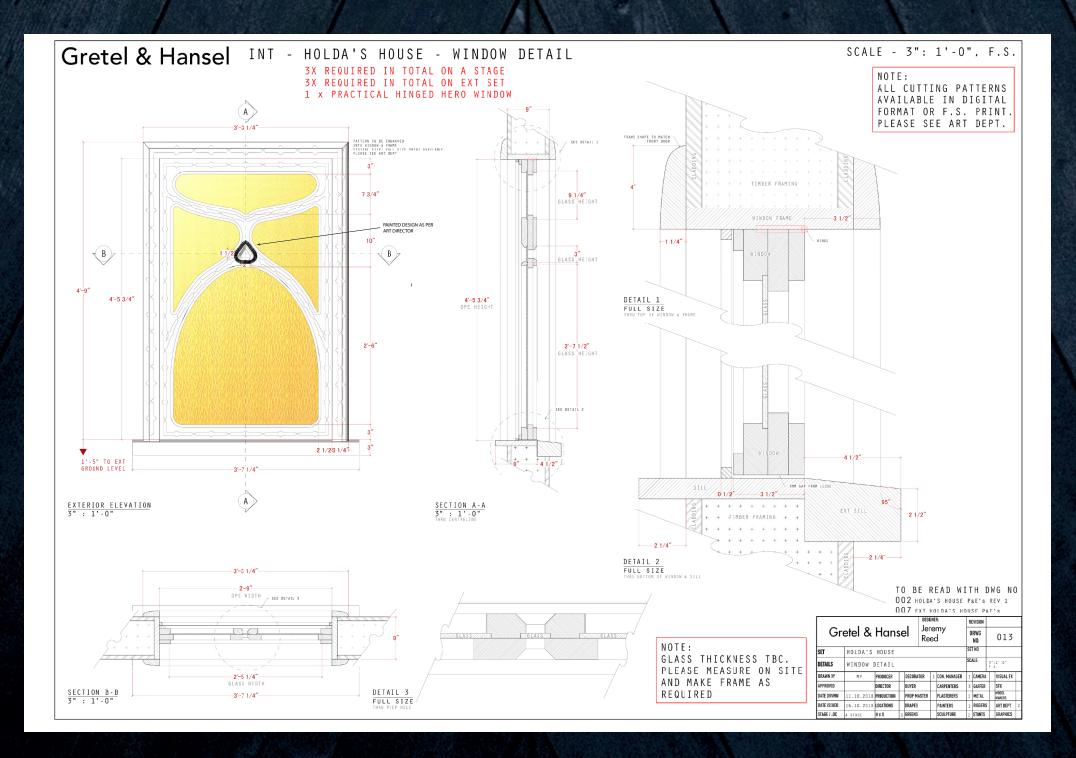
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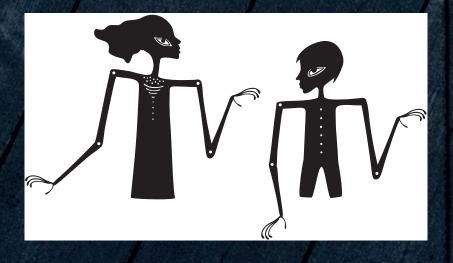
A miniature silver spoon, blackened with age. A bracelet. A silver RATTLE. A flimsy coil of metal not unlike a slinky. A miniature silver spoon, blackened with age. A bracelet. A silver RATTLE. A flimsy coil of metal not unlike a Slinky. she gling the strand of Hangel's hair into the chest silver RATTLE. A flimsy coil of metal not unlike a slin She slips the strand of Hansel's hair into the chest. Gretel scans the room: it's sparsely appointed with old wooden bowls and faded Pottery. Oversized pots and cauldrons. One wall is almost entirely a window of wavy yellow glass; on the other side, the shadows of the vast and dense woods. One wall is almost entirely a window of wavy Yellow glass the other side, the shadows of the vast and dense woods. Holda is suddenly at her elbow; will she check her hair, too? No, she's only nudging forward a huge GOBLET OF MILK. Gretel looks at her plate: too much glistening meat. But there's a plate of CAKES and COOKIES. Peeking up at Holda whose back is turned. Gretel nuts a ninch of cake into her But there's a plate of CAKES and COOKIES. Peeking up at Holda whose back is turned, Gretel puts a pinch of cake into her mouth. Her eyes close as she melts at the taste of it. Then She fits a whole wedge of wet cake into her mouth, pouring a thick cup of frothy milk. Dutting her head back for a long --She fits a whole wedge of wet cake into her mouth, pouring a thick cup of frothy milk, putting her head back for a long --Gretel and Hansel are asprawl on their beds, hands on their of the reneating nattern of the reneating nattern of the reneating nattern of the reneating nattern of the reneating the reneating nattern of the reneating the reneating nattern of the reneating the reneating the reneating nattern of the reneating th Gretel and Hansel are asprawl on their beds, hands on their stomachs, staring up at the ceiling: its repeating dearee. long wood slats are vertiginous to a Hitchcockian dearee. stomachs, staring up at the ceiling: its repeating pattern long wood slats are vertiginous to a Hitchcockian degree. INT. BEDROOM. EVENING 47 My eyes too big for my stomach, WIDENING OUT to see a quaint guest room; a pair of narrow beds, each with a hairless cat curled up on it and a cand WIDENING OUT to see a quaint guest room; a Pair of narrow beds, each with a hairless cat curled up on it, and a candle fixed to the wall over its head. peus, each with a nailless cal cu fixed to the wall over its head. And your mouth too big for your... 48 mouth. Obviously. A rich blanket of stars hangs heavy over the house; its A-frame roof not aligned with the longided bulk of the moon. A rich blanket of stars hangs heavy over the house; its A-frame roof not aligned with the lopsided bulb of the moon. EXT. HOUSE. NIGHT 48





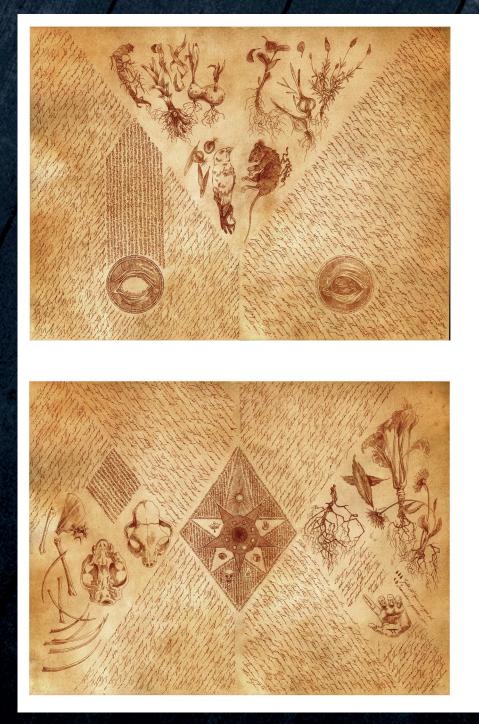


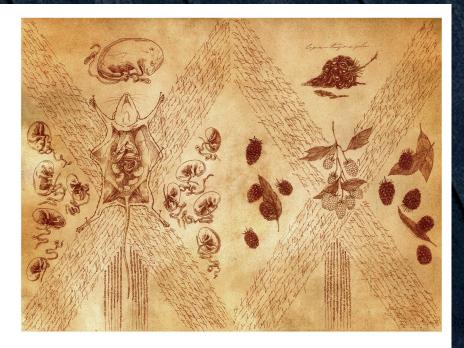


















Hansel is asleep but Gretel listens to we want Hansel is QUIET. TICKING and settling. After a moment, all is QUIET. Gretel props herself up on her elbows, looking over to the And then, a DARK GIGGLE. A dirty mustard yellow shoulder, the tip of a PINK CAP, and half of a mischievrous child's face: THE REALTTER, CHILD. A dirty mustard yellow shoulder, the tip of a PINK CAP, a half of a mischievous child's face: THE BEAUTIFUL CHILD. And then it pulls back, and gone. A little SCAMPER of feet. bedroom door, seeing --Gretel blinks, gets up to pad to the door, pausing at the threshold, stenning through, and stenning DOWN into --Gretel blinks, gets up to pad to the door, pausing at t threshold, stepping through, and stepping DOWN into --50 The stairs under her feet are covered in BLOOD RED threadbare fabric. Tattered holes exnose rotted wood steps, open wounded The stairs under her feet are covered in BLOOD RED threadbare fabric. Tattered holes expose rotted wood steps; open wounds. INT. A STAIRWELL. NIGHT / CONTINUOUS Coming from the walls, the faint tinkling of a BABY RATTLE. Gretel looks to the bottom of the stairs, just as the Beautiful Child reaches the end, and disappears out of sight. Gretel looks to the bottom of the stairs, just as the Resultiful child reaches the end, and disannears out of Gretel follows, landing herself at the bottom of the stairs, too, and now coming into --51 GLEVEL LOLLOWS, LANULING MELS too, and now coming into --The walls of the room are pale and clammy like corpse flesh; the back wall is concealed behind a dirty CURMAIN INT. A WHITE ROOM. CONTINUOUS No trace of the Beautiful Child --The walls of the room are pale and clammy fike corp the back wall is concealed behind a dirty CURTAIN. It's a large room, empty and BRIGHT. Gretel looks up for a light source: a long rectangular window out into the ceilin It's a large room, empty and BRIGHT. Gretel looks up for a light source: a long rectangular window cut into the ceiling. SUNLIGHT pours through. Sunlight? Gretel blinks at it. Light source: a long rectangular Window cut into the ce SUNLIGHT pours through. Sunlight? Gretel blinks at it. Looking down again, there's a long BENCH. It wasn't there before coing closer, the sees. A dirty white cloth with FOUR LITTLE BARE FEET exposed at its bottom edge. The feet and toes of CHITLDREN. Little niggies. A dirty white cloth with FOUR LITTLE BARE FEET exposed at it bottom edge. The feet and toes of CHILDREN. Little piggies. before. Going closer, she sees: Deep in the walls, very quiet, we hear a desperate SQUEAL. Gretel reaches out a shaky hand for the cloth, its Whiteness now blooming with PATCHES OF BLOOD. seening and spreading. Gretel reaches out a shaky hand for the CLOth, its whitenes now blooming with PATCHES OF BLOOD, seeping and spreading.

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INT. BEDROOM. SAME

















The VILLAGERS encircle the beautiful child and an OLD WIDOW. 8 (99) EXT. FIELD / TREE. DAY (FAIRYTALE) It came to be that the girl was touched with a second sight. Travelers came to hear tell of the pictures she saw, for they were visions of events yet to happen. she sometimes told of joys and Victories. Births. Promises kept. But the world is what the world is, and most of what she saw coming wasn't what anyone wanted to hear. The widow's milk-white eyes are wet with agonized tears, but The widow's milk-white eyes are wet with agonized tears, put the beautiful child is smirking. HER UNSEEN MOTHER is there behind her hand on her head proce processing her finder the beautiful child is *Smirking*. HER UNSEEN MOTHER is the behind her, hand on her head, BLACK RING on her finger. 9 The same skeletal black tree, black horse, black rope. EXT. AN OPEN FIELD. DAY (FAIRYTALE) Because some things are better left 9 The beautiful child - dirty mustard-yellow nightgown, pink THE DEAULTIUL CHILD - ULITY MUSTARD-YELLOW NIGNTGOWN, PINK nightcap - approaches the horse. It BRAYS and rears back. And the end comes for everyone soon The beautiful child raises her hand, her fingers splayed. IN THE WIDE SHOT, a beat, and the horse falls down STONE DEAD. 10 (100) 10 (100)INT. AN IRONSMITH'S WORKSHOP. MORNING (FAIRYTALE) The father works; the CLANG of a hammer on a cherry-red tip The latner works; the CLANG of a nammer on a cherry-rea tip of sharply-pointed steel. The beautiful child watches from of snarply-pointed steel. The peautiful child watches I the doorway, silhouetted, hair drifting in the breeze. The father compelled to lay aside his hammer, now considering The Lather competied to Lay aside his nammer, now considering the cherry-red tip, his EYES DULL as he opens his mouth wide.

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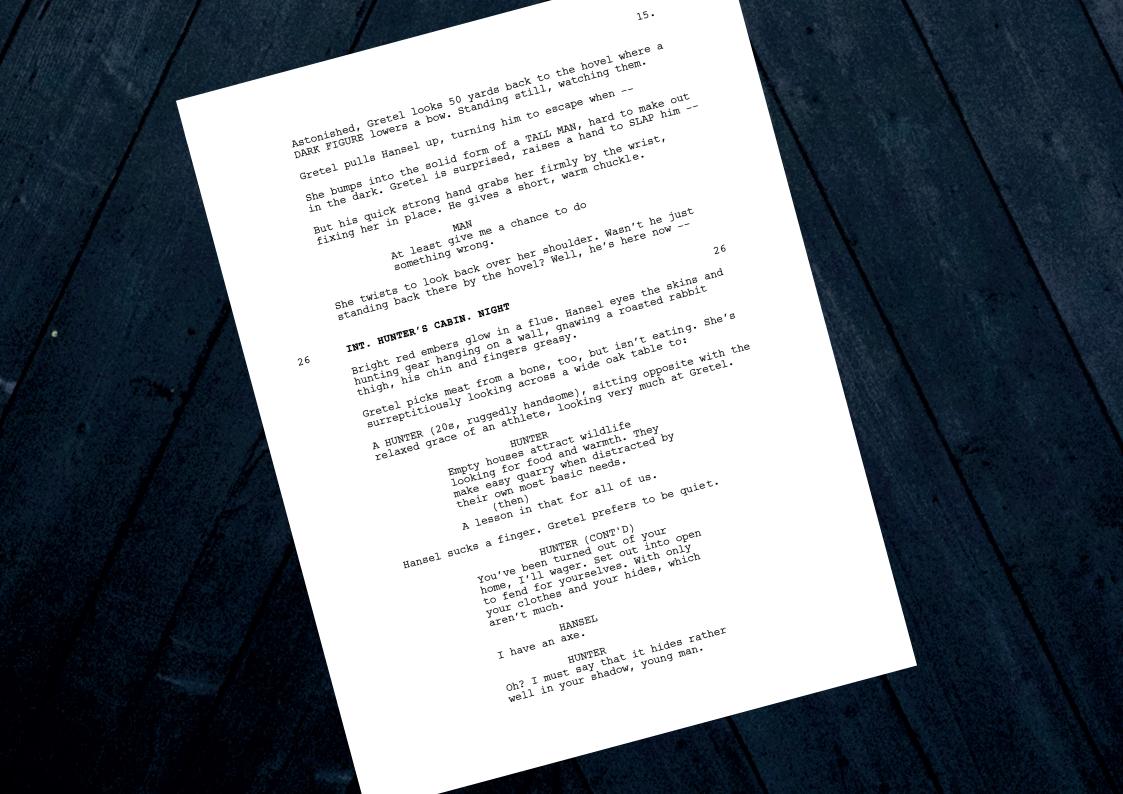


















TO BLACK

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But now - very slowly and with great care - the noble beast but now - very slowly and with great care - the nople peast LOWERS ITSELF onto its belly, its powerful legs folded under. The knight frowns at his loss of control, and looks back to Their horses, one by one, ALL LOWERING DOWN TO THEIR KNEES. his mates, only to see --The lead knight stumbles off the horse, drawing a blunt and The lead Knight Scumples Oll the norse, drawing a plunc literal-minded truncheon. He looks left, swings right. Forest all around. But what's that strange feeling --And that's when he sees HER. A figure in the trees: As far as this knight's concerned, she shouldn't be there, so all be can think to do is blink at the VICTON before him a AS IAT AS THIS KHIGHT'S CONCERNED, SHE SHOULAN'T DE THERE, S all he can think to do is blink at the VISION before him --Whoever she is, she wears a magnificent green dress, and a wnoever she is, she wears a magnillcent green dress, BLACK RING on the hand that holds a Y-shaped staff. Whoever she is, her feet are not touching the forest floor; <u>whoever sne 15, ner reet are not touching the rorest floor;</u> she floats over a puddle, her form doubled in the reflection. And we are on the back of Gretel's head as she gazes out into the woods that pour themselves out in front of her. Wide and wild, and deeper than any universe. once upon a time, a girl was born.

Moving into a clearing, they feel a subtle change in the atmosphere: a chilled breeze worries the leaves. The horses come to a stop. The knights don't love the feeling and they yank at their reigns. But the animals WON'T MOVE. The lead knight kicks at his horse impatiently, but it feels like he might as well be atop a statue.

