

THE SILENCE

an original short silent film script

by

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WGA Registration, Pending

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<EXCERPT>

1850'S - SOUTH - PLANTATION HOUSE PORCH - SUNSET

Under a canopy of moss-covered oak limbs, A WHITE SOUTHERN GENTLEMAN nudges a BLACK SLAVEWOMAN. She tucks her slightly askew hair under her kerchief. Though her back is turned away, she shivers with fear. She takes her leave as the Gentleman pushes her away, then straightens his starched cuff, making his way up the porch steps to his waiting WHITE SOUTHERN BELLES.

MIRROR - PLANTATION SLAVE QUARTERS - MOMENTS LATER

The Slavewoman stands before her small, corroding mirror. Her open shirt reveals the imprint of WHITE HANDS that had touched her without her consent. She buttons her shirt, covering her heart, which is BLEEDING. She straightens her hair and kerchief. Her voice is silenced by the TAPE across her mouth.

1950'S - TYPICAL HOUSE - LIVINGROOM - DAY

A HOUSEWIFE vacuums the carpet but pauses when she sees a TV ad for a debate between two MALE POLITICAL CANDIDATES. She glances down toward the vacuum, then back toward the TV.

(TV)

POLITICAL DEBATE

Knowing her voice will not be heard, the Housewife resumes vacuuming and sighs in defeat through the TAPE on her mouth.

1970'S - INDIAN RESERVATION - DAY

An AMERICAN INDIAN WOMAN plays a game with her three SMALL CHILDREN. She laughs as they dance around, her long black braids swaying with her movements. Suddenly, MEN IN SUITS grab the her and drag her away, kicking and screaming, as WOMEN IN SUITS take hold of her Children.

HOSPITAL - HALLWAY TO OPERATING ROOM

(DOOR)

STERILIZATION UNIT

MIRROR - HOSPITAL ROOM - BATHROOM - NIGHT

The American Indian Woman stands before the mirror. She opens the front of the hospital gown to reveal a BLACK HOLE where her uterus used to be. Her heart is BLEEDING. Her long braids have been cut off, and her mouth is covered with TAPE.

MODERN-DAY - CORPORATE OFFICE

The MALE BOSS pays four bills to a MALE EMPLOYEE, four bills to another MALE EMPLOYEE, and winks as he pays only three bills to the FEMALE EMPLOYEE. Her mouth is covered by TAPE.

MODERN-DAY - MILITARY BASE - NIGHT

A FEMALE ENLISTEE walks along a remote sidewalk, poorly lit by distant streetlamps. Twigs snap behind her. She turns to see FOUR SOLDIERS following her. She quickens her pace, but they jump her, dragging her into the thicket of trees and bushes.

MIRROR - MILITARY BASE - ENLISTEE'S ROOM - LATER

The Female Enlistee studies the imprints of boots and fists on her body. She stares into the mirror. Her heart BLEEDS beneath a tattoo of a reversed American flag, the soldier's signal for distress. Her mouth is covered with TAPE.

MODERN-DAY - EXPENSIVE HOUSE - DOWNSTAIRS - NIGHT

RICH MEN and RICH WOMEN socialize at a party. The Men carouse while the Women are stiff, robotic in movement, happy expressions fixed onto their carefully painted, happy faces. The HOSTESS places her drink on the bar and heads upstairs.

EXPENSIVE HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The Hostess cocoons herself in her bedroom, shutting out the party downstairs. She makes her way to the walk-in closet.

MIRROR - EXPENSIVE HOUSE - WALK-IN CLOSET - CONTINUOUS

She shuts the door, staring into the mirror hanging there. She pauses. The TAPE covers her mouth. She reaches up, then proceeds to pull the TAPE back. She inhales deeply.

She bows her head, then SCREAMS with all the years of pent-up anguish and silence rushing forth from her soul. She screams and screams, until her voice gives out and her body trembles.

She regains her composure and stares ahead into the mirror. Her hands caress her abdomen, which is distended from her third-trimester of pregnancy. Her heart is BLEEDING, and she knows what she has to do.

<END EXCEPRT>