

The Return of Melissa

Short Version (Festival Cut)

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Short Version (48 pages - Festival Cut)

A compact, high-tension adaptation of the original feature script. Designed for festival and short-format consideration.

Excerpt Selection: Pages 37-43 – *The Horror Revelation*

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Nathan sits on the sofa with his laptop opened.

NATHAN
(loudly)
Samuel 2:6.

LAPTOP READER(V.O.)
Prophet Samuel 2:6. The LORD brings
death and makes alive; he brings
down to the grave and raises up.

NATHAN
What is a prophet?

LAPTOP READER (V.O.)
A prophet is someone who speaks on
behalf of God.

NATHAN
Who was a Prophet Samuel?

LAPTOP READER (V.O.)
The prophet Samuel lived during the
time of Kings David and Saul: the
first two God-anointed kings of
Israel.

FLASHBACK - INT. CHILDHOOD HOME - DAY

NATHAN BOY (5) and his mom, with a bible in her hand, sit in
the living room.

TERESA
Nathan, I named you after someone
in this Holy Book.

She shows the bible to her son.

NATHAN BOY
The holy book?

TERESA
Yes. It's called the Old Testament.
One Nathan is the son of King
David, and the other is a prophet
who was replaced by the prophet
Samuel.

NATHAN BOY
Were they *real*?

Nathan's mom strokes Nathan's hair and kisses him on the forehead.

TERESA
Oh yeah. They were.

BACK TO:

EXT. LAB - CONTINUOUS

Nathan enters the door with a sign: NO ENTRY!

INT. LAB - MOMENTS LATER

Dark.

Nathan flips the switch. There is a CLICK, but no light comes on.

Nathan pulls a flashlight off the wall and descends the stairs in the direction of the aviaries with mice and plants.

MOMENTS LATER

His flashlight illuminates a HUMAN FIGURE.

NATHAN
Mel?

No answer.

Nathan comes closer.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
Mel, is that you?
(beat)
I've been looking for you
everywhere!

Silence.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
What are you doing over there?

MOMENT LATER

Nathan lights up Melissa's dirty face with a wry smile.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
Mel?

She raises her hand. A white mouse with a black mark sits on the palm - it's Rege.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

Rege?

Nathan lights up the mouse with his flashlight - Rege, sitting in Melissa's palm, sucks blood from her vein.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

What's the hell? Mel!

(beat)

What's he doing?

He almost SCREAMS.

Nathan lights up the mouse aviary and sees bloodstains on the walls.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

Hell!

Melissa makes an ODD SOUND and, opens her mouth, revealing two sharp fangs among uncleaned teeth.

The light from the flashlight drops down under Melissa's chair. Nathan sees gnawed bones, dry blood, and a baby's head with one eye opened, and the blood vessels are torn off.

MELISSA

This place is too quiet! It's like
a cemetery!

She LAUGHS.

Nathan, horrified, recoils from her.

NATHAN

Mel...

Melissa throws Rege into the cage. The mouse HITS the wall and SCREAMS. The surviving mice scatter.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

Mel?

(beat)

Why?

Melissa HISSES revealing her sharp fangs.

Nathan backs off.

She throws back her chair and wanders over to Nathan.

He steps back, stumbles and falls.

She LAUGHS and steps closer.

Backtracking, Nathan bangs against the wall. Melissa makes a threatening SOUND and grins. Nathan slowly rises along the wall.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

Mel...

(beat)

Don't!

She SCREAMS and throws herself at him stretching her hands out to his neck. Nathan defends himself, but he's not fast enough. Displaying her fangs, she locks her hands around his throat.

As Nathan begins to gasp he hits her in the stomach. She chokes and hits him solidly in the chest - and he flies back ten feet, landing badly on some plants.

Fumbling for any support Nathan spots his AX.

Melissa is close. She leaps on him, SNARLING. SHE'S GONNA RIP HIS THROAT OUT WITH HER TEETH.

He grabs the ax and in despair plants it into her HEAD!

THE HEARTBREAKING SCREAM.

She releases him and falls to the ground.

The golden chain with the medallion, hanging around her neck, breaks, and the heart, adorned with diamonds and rubies, falls to the floor, stained with her blood.

LATER

As exhausted Nathan palpates his throat, Melissa's EYES WIDE OPEN. She pulls the ax from her forehead and lunges at Nathan.

He notices movement and jumps away.

INT. UTILITY HALL - CONTINUOUS

Nathan locks the door and takes a breath.

Then: Peers out the door's window - a DEAFENING SOUND CRASHES into the door. Nathan barely avoids death as the blade of the ax CRACKS against the window.

INT. STORAGE ROOM - LATER

Nathan locks the next door behind him and madly barricades it with furniture.

The door handle RATTLES but the door doesn't open. Melissa SCREAMS and chops the door by her ax.

As a bookshelf swing from the hit, a book in brown cover with a gold engraving drops from the shelf.

On the opened page Nathan reads: "Prayer against evil forces". Nathan picks the book up.

MOMENTS LATER

Sitting on the floor Nathan reads the prayers loudly.

NATHAN
The light of God surrounds us!

THUMP!

NATHAN (CONT'D)
The love of God enfolds us!

THUMP!

NATHAN (CONT'D)
The power of God protects us!

Nathan pauses and listens - silence.

Then: THUMP!

FLASHBACK - INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Nathan and Melissa on their anniversary night. She's playing the piano, he's watching her, a smile on his face and love in her eyes.

BACK TO:

INT. STORAGE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Nathan prays.

NATHAN
As Father and guardian, please
protect me from all evil!

THUMP!

FLASHBACK - EXT. PARK - DAY

A beautiful summer day. Melissa and Nathan have an outside picnic. His arm around her. She happily laughs.

BACK TO:

INT. STORAGE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Nathan reads the prayers.

NATHAN
Grant me protection. Grant, O Lord,
Thy protection!

THUMP!

Nathan squeezes his eyes close.

FLASHBACK - INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Melissa cooks at the stove. Nathan comes up behind her and wraps his arms around her. She is melting in his hands.

BACK TO:

INT. STORAGE ROOM - NIGHT

Tears well up in Nathan's eyes. He continues.

NATHAN
And in protection, strength!

THUMP!

MOMENT LATER

The room is still. He takes a deep breath.

MOMENT LATER

Melissa SCREAMS and SCREECHES, throwing herself against the door. The door shakes.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
(louder)
And in strength, understanding!

KABOOM! CRASH! THUMP! SCREECH!