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FLM170.1 Storytelling for the Screen: Inheritance [Film]

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Inheritance


By Caela De Mesa





Logline

Inheritance is a supernatural modern film that follows the story of a young woman named Alice Oakspring, who unexpectedly inherits a creepy, old mansion from her estranged grandmother.






Synopsis

MICHAEL HAUGE'S TEMPLATE

Inheritance follows the story of Alice Oakspring, a young freelance writer who unexpectedly inherits her estranged grandmother's creepy mansion. But upon arrival she discovers that it holds dark secrets and supernatural forces that threaten her safety. As Alice begins to explore the mansion and uncover the truth about her family's past, she discovers that her grandmother was a powerful witch who had been practicing dark magic for decades. Along with the spirits who had been sacrificed in her rituals that seek revenge. When her best friends Sarah and Michael comes along to help with the cleanup, Alice is forced to embrace her newly discovered supernatural abilities, in order to make peace with the vengeful spirits without her friends noticing. After conjuring a ritual her friends find out, swiftly calling the church to exorcise the situation, however after a long back and forth argument Alice convinces the two of them that she's got everything under control. Thus Sarah and Michael help Alice set everything up for the ritual, which succeeds. However Sarah and Michael don't feel the same, and it's when they realize that their bodies aren't their own anymore, and Alice had pushed their souls out of their bodies, to make way for the once vengeful spirits who can now live the lives that were taken from them.



Why I chose to write about this topic.

- ✧ I wanted to explore the split opinions of society regarding the supernatural
- ✧ (Loosely) based off real life experiences and inspired by family/friends who are capable of observing spirits.
- ✧ Incorporation of the “plot twist” concept
- ✧ A kick off for more supernatural incorporation and variation into slice of life/modern day short film genres.
- ✧ *“You either die a hero, or you live long enough to see yourself become the villain.”*
- **Harvey Dent, the Dark Knight**

Character Bio

Anna Kendrick

Alice Oakspring is a 22-year-old female who finds herself unexpectedly inheriting a creepy old mansion from her estranged grandmother. She's portrayed as a strong, independent yet shy and reserved character with a sharp intellect and a tenacious spirit. Who is not afraid to confront any challenges that she encounters in life, and do what is righteous especially for those who have been treated with injustice. This is portrayed especially in the ending of "Inheritance" with the relationship between her and her two best friends. Throughout the film she goes through a dark transformation, however becomes more confident and self-assured while facing the challenges of the spirits trapped in the mansion. Overall, Alice Oakspring is a complex and intriguing character. A modern woman who represents strength, resilience, and the power of desire.





Alice Oakspring's Backstory

Alice Oakspring grew up in a small town in the mid-western United States. Her parents were both academics, and they inspired in Alice a love of learning and curiosity about the world around her. But despite her parents' influence, she struggled with her studies, particularly in math and science. She found solace in the arts and spent much of her free time writing stories and creating sketches based on psychological discoveries. At ten years old, her parents divorced, and a few years later her mother remarried. But Alice found it difficult to adjust to her new family, finding refuge in her creative pursuits up until high school. Soon enough graduating from a major in english literature and moving to Australia where she worked as a freelance writer and artist. Though she's independent, she still is self preserved and timid around strangers.




Wants and Needs: Alice

Wants:

- Solve the mystery of her more distant family tree.
- Prove that she can fulfil the expectations of her parents and those she cares for. No matter the cost.
- Do something extraordinary to gain the respect and appreciation of her distant relatives and close family.

Needs:

- To come to terms with not being able to meet the expectations of anyone else, and focus on her own self set goals.
- 



Character Transformation

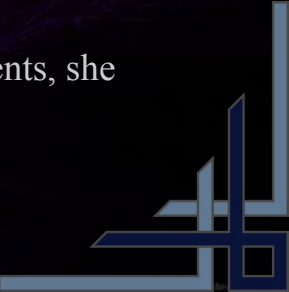
ACT 1:

- Alice is at a stagnant progression in her career of freelance writing and artistry, and feeling unaccomplished by her feats. Wanting to develop her publishes with something thrilling and fresh.

ACT 2:

- After being introduced to the mansion, she uncovers secrets about it that are spine chilling and exhilarating. Finding that this place was probably the best thing to happen to her for her career, especially after finding out she has hidden supernatural capabilities.

ACT 3:

- Having had a taste of power that she had never felt in any of her previous independent achievements, she decides to go her own path, and derails from heroic to the villainous protagonist.
- 



Other Characters

Alice - Protagonist.

Sarah - Force of transformation deviating from “heroic”.

Michael - Reason and force of antagonism.



Sarah Johnson

Sarah Johnson is Alice's best friend and confident woman with a warm and outgoing personality that makes her instantly likeable to those around her. She's a natural caretaker and nurturer, and has a way of putting people at ease with her calming presence. However she can overreact during times of crisis, especially when it involves endangerment of Alice in any way shape or form. She is not afraid to stand up for herself or her friends, and has a strong sense of justice and fairness. Her loyalty, courage, and generosity make her an essential part of Alice's Journey in "Inheritance".






Wants and Needs: Sarah

Wants:

- To show she'll always be a supportive agent towards Alice.
- Keep those whom she cares about safe.

Needs:

- To exercise more caution and open-mindedness to unexpected but likely possibilities.
- 



Michael Rodriguez

Michael Rodriguez is also one of Alice's close friends. He is a young man in his late twenties, with a laid back easygoing personality that belies his sharp intelligence and quick wit. He's known to be a very talented writer and poet, along with his passion for music, often performing at local coffee houses and bars. Despite his creative talents he's a pragmatic thinker and a problem solver, well known for his ability to come up with innovative solutions to complex problems. Always looking for ways to improve his skills and learn new things, and is an avid reader and student of philosophy and science.




Wants and Needs: Michael

Wants:

- To use this opportunity to develop more of his capabilities and acquire experience for his already diverse skill set.
- Impress Alice and especially Sarah by showing that he's incredibly dedicated to his goals.

Needs:

- Be more close-minded about the present situation, especially when Alice starts to display her shapeshifting motives.
- 

Archetypes

Alice

The Loner → The Seeker → The Shapeshifter

- Underestimated for her timid and reserved behaviour from her family.
- Struggles to connect.
- Quest for truth, regardless of the danger continues to search for answers and information.

Sarah

Average Girl → The Wise heroic → The Castaway

- Cheerfully average.
- Very headstrong in being the morale and support of the group, also a comedic element.
- Her wisdom blooms after her realization of Alice's goals, but it's too late.

Michael

Guy next door → The Cautious antagonist → The Castaway

- Maturely average.
- Wholesome nature, but maturity starts to show in progression with Alice's motives.




Genre - Horror Fiction

Horror

- World building
- Reason
- Development
- Archetypes

Fiction

- Balance
 - Structure
- 




Where to from here?

Where?

- Feedback from peers, lecturers and outside audiences.
- Conflict development especially mid-film.
- Focusing on development and resolution of the conflict.
- Broaden my creativity whilst keeping my creative interests close. (Fantasy, Medieval)
- Discuss setting and filming approach

Why?

- 100% engagement and entertainment.
 - Practice and repetition of relationships between conflict and resolution scenarios.
- 



Questions?

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