

## ILLE LACRIMAS - FILM TREATMENT

### GROUP 11

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“Ille lacrimas” from Latin: The Poet’s Tears. The title contains many aspects of the short film: the river of tears. Water. Poetic. Sadness. Mystery.

The short film develops two situations: one in the present and another in the past through flashback. In the story will find two characters:

**Daiva**, aged 32, has a deep passion for poetry which represents all his life. He can be described as a passionate and introverted person. He only surrounds himself with people he finds intellectually stimulating. He has no relationship with his parents. His deepest fear is losing his sister Eleanor, who is the most important person in his life. Daiva finds refuge in poetry and Chopin. He shares this passion with his sister. Chopin's music is simplicity and its harmonies gives him a fragile feeling. As a poet, he has a good relationship with words, despite this, he is not able to express himself to others, and does not seem to communicate much. However, he seems to be scarred by something happened in the past, something that really changed him.

**Eleanor**, aged 29, is tall and appears incredibly attractive. She works as switchboard operator for a company in Prague. Eleanor can be described as an intelligent and extroverted personality, but she is not able to show her true self. She spends her time reading and playing the piano. She hasn't got many acquaintances. Like the brother, Eleanor does not have any relationship with her parents; both of them have this dark side in common. Eleanor seems to be afflicted by an emptiness which can be described as a lack of affections. The only person in which she finds a refuge is Daiva.

Ripples run across the surface of the lake. A blanket of fog has descended, shrouding the far side of the water in mist. We hear a disturbance in the lake’s surface out of our line of sight. A man staggers into view. He is stranded. Alone. The boat he came from has sunk; we do not see it. He searches for answers; in the water, in the woodland, in the hills. He finds none. The nature dominates all around him. He looks completely bewildered, confused and overwhelmed. He walks from the shore into the woodland. After a few seconds he sees a page which is caught by the breeze. He tries to grab the page. His hand is now seen in a **flashback: the man touches a girl's hair**. His face clearly shows that he is lost and alienated. He is looking for any kind of signs. The warmth of the sun

touches his face. He stops and stares at the sun. His point of view is initially blurred, then it becomes clear. He touches his eyes. **A flashback shows the man sat down in his study area surrounded by books, the sound of paper being written on is blatantly heard.** Alone on the shore the man calls out her sister's name, then decides to walk through a forest behind him. As the protagonist wonders deeper into the forests, questioning his fate and destiny. It is night and the main character is lying down. Embers of a fire lit several hours earlier glisten in the foreground. He readjusts his body slightly, and is once again, still and silent in the night. **Through another memory, the man sees a bird trapped in the sister's room. They are trying to free the bird.**

Next morning; he hears a crow, and it wakes him. He goes to the tree roots, which bear puddles. He hesitates as he stares at his reflection, but then takes a cupful of water in his hand to drink. The crowing continues. **The flashback of the bird comes back to his memory again. Extreme close of the man's eye, we see the sister's reflection. We hear him writing and we see his eyes glancing down at the paper, his eyes alternates between what he is writing and his sister. The man and the sister come close together, an heavy breathing is heard, both of them immersing themselves in this intimate moment. A wave of birds flying off. Suddenly an out of focus close up shot inside of the bedsheets. Heavy sleep like breath is heard.** As time passes the character comes across a shack, he feels uplifted at the thought of shelter from exposure to the elements that he has become accustomed to. The shack is filled with dead crows all scattered across the floor. Inside the shack there is a desk. As the man enters he finds a pen and a book on the table. He begins to write down the date, first the month... he then realises he does not know the day. His lips are quivering. A scratching sound is heard. The man is scratching the paper with the pen, back and forth, damaging the pages. Suddenly he breaks down. The pen slams down on the desk, as he releases his emotion. Camera is right next the pen. The door is in focus. Everything else is out of focus. The man has left the shack. The door swings slowly back and forth in the wind. The focus changes to the pen, as slowly the wind forces the pen to roll on the desk, until it drops off on to the floor. This scene tries to symbolise the oscillation of the protagonist's mind - feeling trapped and closed - and yet, he has the entirety of the wilderness to explore, but he still feels trapped - just like the birds when they flew into the shack. With these scene the contrast between past and present is established. A wide establishing shot of the shore. Mist hangs over the surface of the water. A couple of insert shots of nature in the vicinity; the water, the clouds, the trees etc. The man looking hypnotised by the water. Feeble yet determined on reaching the water. He passes the last few trees, and walks down to the shoreline. The camera cuts to behind him. Shaky tracking shot; we see the footsteps of the cameraman affecting the stability of the camerawork. The man begins to stagger through the water. The camera jump cuts to a static shot, where only the water is visible, he wades through the water which is up to his chest. Cut to another shot from the side of him, as he wades through the water. Cut to a shot above the water. The camera glides over the water. The man is no visible. The shot is silent. The camera moves over the water slowly, tracking nothing; perhaps a ghost, a trace, a movement we cannot see. Cut back to the shoreline. The man has disappeared. Perhaps he has submerged. Perhaps he has transcended beyond, into another form.

Ille Lacrimas is an ambitious project that does not know limits. It wants to show the human nature, an introspective journey in search of the essence of the primordial human feelings. How the most beautiful things are often the most dangerous. How nature can overwhelm man. All character development is done through the scenarios themselves. A film that intertwines realism with mystery. A psychological drama focuses on the existential and phenomenological. A relentless reflection on the destiny, a ceaseless flow of memories. A

man overwhelmed by loss, the inability to believe what his mind knows to be true. The sublime grandeur of nature, in front of which we are insignificant. A journey into the past, a nostalgic secret that will accompany him throughout this tragic experience.