

FACE/OFF

written by

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FACE/OFF

FADE INTO -- SEPIA-TONE FOOTAGE OF ...

A PIG chasing a LION chasing a DINOSAUR chasing an ELEPHANT. Noah's Ark going ROUND ... AND ROUND ... AND ROUND ...

EXT. GRIFFITH PARK CAROUSEL -- DAY

Disjointed CALLIOPE music as the wheel of fate and fortune goes around until we PULL BACK TO REVEAL:

JON ARCHER (30) riding, winged Pegasus. On the adjacent Unicorn is his son MATTHEW (5). Clutching a balloon, Matty waves at his Dad. A happy moment, like so many certain to follow -- until we realize we are watching them through ...

A SNIPER'S RIFLE-SCOPE. The Sniper's EYES wait until the child clears his aim -- Archer is the target. They round the bend and disappear ...

MATTHEW loses his grip on the unicorn. ARCHER reaches over and pulls him into his lap. They happily ride together ...

As the horses SWEEP BACK INTO VIEW ... exposing ARCHER ...

Now we SEE the sniper. CASTOR TROY is cool, efficient, aggressive, sexual. His finger closes around the trigger.

BOOM! A BULLET rips into Archer's back. Bleeding ... he drops off his horse ... and sinks to the deck of the carousel. His eyes desperately searching ... searching ... searching ... until he sees --

MATTHEW lies on his back -- still. Slowly, Archer reaches out and takes Matthew's hand ... and NOW WE SEE COLOR for the first time ...

BLOOD RED ... as bleeding father touches bleeding son ...

TILT UP to the winged PEGASUS flying by -- now in full color and UP UP UP to Matthew's red balloon ... floating away.

HANDEL'S MESSIAH OVER A SERIES OF SHOTS:

FBI BRIEFING ROOM: Gazing out the window as DAWN breaks over the city below is JON ARCHER ... older ... unshaven ... fatigued ... his EYES reveal a man in the grip of obsession.

A CAROUSEL HORSE sweeps by, as if marking time itself ...

indicates a dream or another time w/o actually stating it.

We now know it's a crime movie and will possibly involve a battle bwt. m/c and nemesis. The sniper is cliché, but suspenseful and the possibility of the kid getting hurt adds more suspense.

Here's the murder... is it Archer or the boy?

We know from the balloon floating away that it's the boy.

Hook: established in one page. It's a murder, but it's a father losing his son to a bullet meant for him. He's haunted by the past memory and we understand his agony and possibility of his revenge.