



"The Catcher in the Stream"

(Inspired by J.D. Salinger's "The Catcher in the Rye")

GENRE: DRAMA / ADVENTURE

THEME: Going back to childhood tends to pose same adverse consequences as a process of maturity.

LOGLINE: Old friends try to find solution to the life deadlock in a quest to realize their childhood dream. Their spontaneous decision faces unexpectedly strong opposition from the Mother Nature making their survival unpredictable.

PLOT: Three childhood friends struggling with the tough life they have had for the last decades face dead-end situation each in its own way: depression, drug addiction, prostitution. They find each other thanks to their childhood dream they once pledged to stay devoted to. But the spontaneous decision to realize their dream make them face strong opposition from the Mother Nature where the critical decision-making and care about each other make them fight back to stay alive.

PITCH: Gino has been going through relationship difficulties and this appears to be not the first time as it is really hard to understand his complex nature and sturdy character. He ends up in loneliness traveling around the world and somehow healing his spiritual wounds.

Doug, the painter and a former drug addict plunges into the dangerous world of drug dealing. His addiction throws him into debts he cannot crawl out of and for him the suicide seems the only salvation.

Lola, being very attractive, sensual and sexy woman has been a call girl for quite a long time after unsuccessful marriages and relationships. She leads the posh lifestyle but begins to feel that the aging can bring her to a complete collapse of her so-called "career" where her youthful appearance has the biggest advantage. These duality brings her down to total loneliness.

All of these people once in childhood had a dream: to repeat the heroic voyage once undertaken by famous traveler and ethnographer Thor Heyerdahl across the Pacific. This dream has been warming their hearts and feeding their childhood memories all these decades as they pledged to stay as a crew forever.

It is the coincidence or the just a turn of a fate that one and the same time all three feel need to turn on a new leaf in their own way but have no clue how.

Lola makes an unexpected daring move and finds both of them in different parts of the world asking to meet each other in the same place where they pledged to stay as the crew. She motivates this decision by the upcoming school anniversary.

Being at the dead end both, Gino and Doug agree to the meeting as it seems a good reason to have a break in their sufferings from solitude and adverse life.

They meet at the riverbank where the old wooden boat dock is tied to the big oak tree but half-sunk due to being abandoned for years.

Doug shows up first and while Gino and Lola arrive he manages to somehow fix it so that the old boat doc stays afloat.

The three of them meet at the very place and spend time telling their stories and enjoying each other's company.

While talking of their dreams and life ups and downs, the dock rocking under the force of small waves somehow unties itself and sets itself adrift into the middle of the wide river leaving people on it stranded helpless without even any tool or support to sail the raft to the one of the banks or even make a phone call. Their belongings stay on the shore under the oak tree.

Although they are stuck in a difficult situation they accept this turn of a fate as realization of their dream and count on enjoying this sail until the river bumps them into the riverbank where it makes a sharp turn. However, they still do not realize that the sharp turn is caused by the strong, boisterous stream that joins the river and makes it change its direction.

Being in helpless situation and speculating about the survival each of them begin to have the vision of their childhood years what they have gone through: Gino lost his father in a war, Doug and Lola were victims of the war between Christians and Muslims.

Having her vision and in avoidance of these terrible memories of childhood Lola plunges into the stream. Gino, who could not help his father to stay alive once, dives into the stream to help Lola and manages to temporarily tie her to the rock. But he sees that Doug is still on the raft which touches one of the rocks and for seconds stops drifting. On the other hand, the raft is still moving pushed by the stream and is bound to "release" itself drifting along the river and towards the wild stream. Gino being a good swimmer manages to pull Doug down and out of the raft as Doug does not know how to swim, just seconds after the raft crashes into the stream and collapses into pieces.

A fisherman finds their belongings under the oak and picks up a sudden call from Doug's "bullies". He notifies them that all three friends drowned.

Returning to the place of accident, covered by the thick foliage the three friends seem to be alive and joking about the chance for a new start in life.

AGE FACTOR (optional): all ages above 12.

TARGET AUDIENCE: 12 and above all males and females. The concept is acceptable for all cultures regardless of religion and traits.

SIMILAR FILMS: "Rebel in the Rye" directed by Danny Strong (2017), "The Bucket List" directed by Rob Reiner (2007), "Wild Strawberries" directed by Ingmar Bergman (1958), "Nostalghia" and "The Mirror" both directed by Andrei Tarkovsky (1971, 1975),

LOCATION: Any location with a wide river or lake preferably in the mountainous regions.

ACTOR TYPES:

Kevin Costner



Sharon Stone



Nicolas Cage



CHARACTERS:

GINO:



Gino is in his 40s, well-built handsome with neat short hair and medium stubble beard style. Influential, self-centered, straightforward, thoughtful and daring. He counts only on himself and never takes advice from others. He is a Robinson Crusoe type of a person.

WANT/GOAL

Gino wants to end up with his lonesome pilgrimage and is tired of being a rolling stone of its kind. He has created nothing and has nothing in his possession. He comes to the point to admit that he is no one roaming the roads. He sees that only adventure lust cannot earn the peace of mind for him.

BACKSTORY

Being two times divorced the court took everything what he had ever possessed. Once a promising businessman his career was ruined as he beat up his boss - former father-in-law who reproached ironically throwing that he bought him as his daughter's "toy".

Some time of a drinking spree almost threw him into alcoholism but a lucky lottery winning helped him to escape from the turmoil of triviality by letting him to see the world. His vagabond lifestyle, constantly repeated process of adjustment to different cultures turns him into a "lone wolf". His relations with people around him fall apart due to the loss of senses of compromise, understanding and even honesty. Even this escape from the triviality turned to be nerve-racking and tiring and left him with nothing but emotional scars and distress.

NEED/FLAW

Withdrawn and enclosed in his own shell he feels abandoned, depressed and tired of conflicts. He comes to the point that he needs to change his attitude, morality and way of thinking. He needs to get out of the swamp of solitude and recover from devastating depression. At this state he realizes that he reaches the dead end and search for the ways out could be the last chance for him to overcome this heavy burden.

LOLA:



Lola in her 40s looks stunning, sexual and stylish. Beautiful childishly innocent face and big blue eyes would never tell of her age and predator nature. Being seductive she is used to always get anyone she wants and all ways are right for her. She is a good manipulator of people, like a spider entangling in her web a prey. Femme fatale type of a woman.

WANT/GOAL

Years of dissolute lifestyle as a highly paid call girl turned her into an insensitive vulture. She has to hide her true passionate nature and play the game her clients pay for. Inside she feels that it is impossible to endlessly live this way. She longs for crucial changes.

BACKSTORY

Several unsuccessful marriages, infertility to have a child and need for money threw her into prostitution as a casino call

girl. Her clients are very rich and powerful people. However, Gino has been her first flame she cannot forget since school. He has always been the one she could not own. She is passionate but prudently hides it everywhere. Only when she is alone, her eyes begin to fill with tears while flipping the pages of her school album. She sometimes visits the church and donates "fat" checks to orphanages.

NEED/FLAW

She begins to realize that she is tired of being so artificial and deceptive; that this world she lives in gave her nothing but constant humiliation and frustration drowning deeper and deeper into the pit of dirt and immorality. She cannot endure it anymore and the nostalgia for a true love she once felt turns out to be the only drive to get her life back.

DOUGLAS :



Douglas in his 40s is an artist, skinny and stooped, with a typical appearance: ponytail hair and long beard, always squinted deep eyes. His favorite attire style is hanging loose oversized garment and army boots. He tries to be original, thinking that this is the first step to reach heights of beau monde for which he is ready to compromise anything. He is timid and never risks,

hesitant and cautious in speech and actions. Only quality that feeds his miserable ego is that he is a daydreamer.

WANT/GOAL

His hesitant, indecisive nature made him a loser in his quest for artistic style. Constant lack of money drives him to frustration and misery. Only thing he can afford is exchange his paintings for drugs. Addiction becomes so strong that he cannot account for his actions most of the time. Not needed, abandoned by everyone he spends years going down the stream to the point that the suicide seems the only way out. Being a step away from death his cowardice makes him open his eyes.

BACKSTORY

Douglas has always wanted recognition as an artist but his mediocre paintings did not sell. Only thing he could do with them was exchanging them for food and mostly drugs. He served term in prison for drugs when his girlfriend set him up. Having been released from prison his timidity and addiction turned him into a snitch. Unbearable situation as a flow of misfortunes one

day arrives him to a suicide decision but accidentally he fails. This was the first beam of light at the end of the tunnel.

NEED/FLAW

Completely abandoned, blackmailed and humiliated, weak and distressed his existence becomes worthless. His talent is buried under the piles of canvases with distorted and colorless paintings. The luck of failed suicide gives him one last chance of a turning point to redeem himself and crawl out of miserable loneliness.

MOODBOARD



