

The Beast Within
(Feature thriller/horror screenplay – 98 pages)

North American Film Awards 2018 Best Screenplay
Changing Faces International Film Festival 2019 Finalist
So. California Screenplay Competition 2020 Semi-Finalist
New Orleans Horror Film Festival 2020 Semi-Finalist
Out of the Can Awards 2020 Official Selection
Best Scripts Awards 2020 Winner
Austin Spotlight Film Festival 2020 Official Selection

“London Doctor Paul Barnet's blossoming career ceases when a botched surgery and brazen attack nearly takes his life. He seeks vengeance for his downfall through an alter ego, a beast within... Jack the Ripper.”

On his way to London Hospital Doctor **PAUL BARNET** is accosted by a prostitute, **MARY JANE KELLY**, who stabs him through his hand. The injury is enough to cause loss of his surgical skills. While convalescing, Barnet learns his license is stripped because a patient he performed an unauthorized new procedure on died.

Barnet finds himself living in the squalor of the east end. To practice and retrain his skills, Barnet begins a campaign against prostitutes, mutilating them while practicing surgical skills and searching for the one who attacked him.

RICHARD MAPLEWOOD feels his passion is Art, even though he is the son of the Duke of Dover and destined for a political career. In order to conceal his intentions from an iron fisted father, Richard uses the alias of **LEO**. He hires a prostitute, Mary Jane Kelly, to model for him and proceeds to her apartment.

Mary Jane Kelly worries if she will ever be able to attract another John since she had become pregnant. A handsome man approaches and accepts her offer; they go to her place. She hopes to be finished before the artist she made the appointment with for later arrives. The handsome stranger murders her.

Leo arrives at Mary Jane Kelly's only to find her mutilated body. In the corner, a shadow holds a fetus in its hand. Leo passes out. When he awakens, he finds he is holding a long knife. At the door two men stand, one with a revolver. Leo tells them to hurry for the Ripper has just left. They feel confident they have captured the Ripper “red handed.”

Leo protest but the men arrest him, identifying themselves as Inspector **IAM MACDONALD** and Sergeant **MAURICE TOURAINE**, of the Canadian Mounted Police. They explain Queen Victoria has sought their discreet assistance in the search for the Ripper. Because of Leo's lineage, he is banished rather than put through an embarrassing trial for his sake and the Queen's. The Inspector and Sergeant will escort Leo aboard the ship Fort Providence.

The Queen has allowed the securing of a doctor for the post of personal physician to Leo, a doctor who will go with them and stay in Canada. Inspector MacDonald learns of Barnet, a destitute doctor, whom he visits. Barnet is at his wits end when the Inspector arrives, but is offered the position that includes the removal of all debts and his arrest record, also the return of his license. Barnet agrees to join the watch on the Fort Providence.

Before sailing, in discussion of the Ripper case, Barnet states he believes Leo guilty because he had the fetus in his hand. As the ship sails into the open sea, Barnet begins to vision the ghost of those women he has slain. They torture him relentlessly. The Inspector senses something is wrong and begins

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to doubt Leo's guilt. With the doctor's behavior growing steadily strange, the Inspector recalls the fetus remark and realizes only the murderer would have know of the fetus.

The Inspector and Sergeant begin a barrage of questions geared to force the doctor's hand. Barnet cannot stand the pressure and visions surrounding him, the pressure brings him to the brink of sanity where he admits to the murders. Barnet then strikes the sergeant with a knife fatally wounding him, then takes hold of Leo as a hostage. Tricked into turning, Barnet exposes his back to the ax of a cook, who strikes Barnet, killing him.

At the Port of Quebec, the Fort Providence unloads the coffin of the Sergeant and Barnet. The Inspector meets with Leo on deck overlooking the dock. The Inspector informs Leo because of the doctor's admission he is free to return to England. Leo state he will never go back to his father or a country so quick to banish him without trial. He decides to settle in San Francisco and become a painter. He takes the sergeants last name in honor of the man who gave his live for him. Barnet's body is turned over to Canadian medical students to further their medical education.

The End

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