

Heredity House
(Feature horror screenplay – 86 pages)

Orlando Urban Film Festival 2020 Finalist
Red Flight Pictures Screenplay Awards 2020 Semi-Finalist

“A woman brings a few friends to a house she inherited deep in the Everglades. They soon discover she inherited a whole lot more.”

SYD BURKE was arrested and charged with the murder of his wife and three teenage boys, received the death sentence and was duly executed. He left behind a young daughter named KAREN to be the ward of the state of Texas.

Eighteen years later, Karen sets out to avenge her father's death believing, as some speculated, there were three other boys involved that had left the house for the store. They claim it was Syd Burke standing over their friends bodies when they returned. Syd claims it was the boys who raped and killed his wife in the backyard of one of the boys homes. Karen sides with her father and is determined to revenge her parents by taking the boys lives. She locates one of them in Houston, cutting his throat.

Six months later, Karen is in Fort Lauderdale living with OZZIE, the owner of a small landscape company, and the son of one of the last two boys she seeks. On the first class of adult night school Karen hears the name JACK DOWNEY in roll call. She is thrilled the son of the other boy is found and near.

Karen befriends Jack, and girlfriend MARY ANN and after a few weeks mentions she has inherited a small house in the Everglades inviting Ozzie, Jack, and Mary Ann on a road trip to the house. They stop at an air boat service and cafe along the edge of the swamp run by CAPTAIN SAMMY. He informs them the house is actually an old fishing cabin in much need of repair. He agrees to bring them out to it.

They board the air boat and speed into the dense everglade swamp until Captain Sammy arrives at a rundown dock near the cabin. They see it is surrounded by undergrowth within a remote area dense with insects, wildlife, and alligators. They get off the air boat, Captain Sammy agrees to return the next day.

Karen, Ozzie, Jack, and Mary Ann enter the cabin to see its neglect and poor condition. They decided to stay and spend the night anyway. Ozzie and Karen take a dilapidated bedroom, Jack and Mary Ann make the best of the ruined living room.

Karen and Ozzie lie on a make-shift bed. She tells him about her dad and they were in the very cabin her father was hiding in when he was captured. Ozzie is amazed at her story and allows her to playfully straddle him. Karen removes a knife from her boot and cuts Ozzie's throat.

Jack and Mary Ann are becoming amorous in the living room when Karen enters. Jack asks where Ozzie was? Karen says she killed him because he was the son of a man who raped and killed my mother, as you are! She swings the knife cutting Jack's wrist deeply.

Mary Ann helps Jack run from the cabin to the dock. Jack's leg breaks through a board, dangling in the water. An alligator takes hold of Jack's leg pulling it off. Karen rolls Jack into the swamp and watches the alligators feed as Mary Ann flees into the swamp. Karen drags Ozzie's body onto the dock, rolling him into the water for the alligators.

Captain Sammy returns and senses something is wrong. He presses Karen to find out. Annoyed Karen holds up a knife demanding he take her back. Captain Sammy relates to her that he is her Uncle. Her father and he had a falling out years ago when the woman he loved, her mother, left him for Syd.

Years later, Sammy went back to Houston for business and dropped into see Syd. He noticed her mother walking home one night. Years of loneliness and memories stirred a tidal wave of pent up desire. He dragged her behind a house and raped her. She began to scream, frightening him so he strangled her. Three kids on a porch witnessed me so I ran to your dads house like nothing happened.

We chatted for a bit then the cops came, told him about your mom. He grabbed a baseball bat and headed to the house. I ran the side streets and got there first. I knew they'd describe me to Syd so I had no choice but to kill them. When I heard Syd pounding on the door I hid in a closet. He busted in, saw the kids just as three others walked in, took one look and bolted. A little later I found your dad at a local bar and offered this cabin to hide out in. We never figured the police would be eyeing balling me but they did, and came in full force, nabbing Syd.

Karen is outraged and angrily lunges at Captain Sammy, knocking him into the water where alligators attack him.

Mary Ann runs from the brush at Karen striking her with a stick, knocking her onto the dock. Karen raises a hand with the knife just as a large alligator jumps up and pulls Karen into the water. Mary Ann sets the cabin on fire then starts the air boat and leaves.

The End

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