

PITCH DECK PRESENTATION

PRESENTED BY: RITA HANNER-WARD

WHAT WE LEAVE UNSAID

A CINEMATIC DRAMA ABOUT THE TRUTHS WE BURY – AND THE LOVE THAT BRINGS THEM BACK TO LIGHT.



LOGLINE & SYNOPSIS

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Logline

Haunted by guilt and estranged from the father he never reconciled with, a former Marine returns home after the man's death and finds himself drawn to the hospice volunteer who cared for him – a woman whose honesty about his father's final weeks and his family's past leads him toward the forgiveness he's never allowed himself.

Synopsis

Alec Turro has spent years outrunning the silence between himself and his father. When he returns home after the man's death, expecting a brief and distant goodbye, he instead meets Neve Chandler – the hospice volunteer who sat with his father in the moments Alec wasn't there. Neve's calm insight unsettles him, not because she knew his father better, but because she sees the emotional terrain Alec has never dared to cross.

As Alec reconnects with his stepmother Helen and half-sister Lonni, small fractures in the family's story begin to surface. Memories don't line up. Tensions go unnamed. His growing bond with Neve becomes both a refuge and a catalyst, pushing him toward the questions he's avoided and the grief he's never allowed himself to feel.

When Alec uncovers a truth that reframes his father's final weeks, he must confront the emotional distance that shaped his life – and the secret Helen has been protecting – to decide whether he will continue burying the past or finally step into the vulnerability that could change his future.

MAIN CHARACTER

Praised for its strong, emotionally layered characters, authentic dialogue, and roles actors are eager to play.



ALEC TURRO

A man shaped by loss, guilt, and a lifetime of emotional distance. His return home forces him to confront buried truths about his family, his father, and himself, revealing a man struggling to reconcile the boy he was with the man he's fought to become.

Potential Casting: Nicholas Gonzalez, Jay Hernandez, Jessie Garcia



NEVE CHANDLER

A calm, intuitive hospice volunteer who becomes Alec's spiritual anchor, guiding him toward the path to self-forgiveness. Potential Casting: Diane Lane, Jennifer Connelly, Carrie Coon



LONNI TURRO

Alec's loyal, perceptive, and outspoken younger half-sister who serves as the emotional bridge in a fractured family. Potential Casting: Haley Lu Richardson, Kaitlyn Dever



HELEN TURRO

Alec's trusting and devoted stepmother whose warmth hides a deeper tension and a secret she's determined to protect. Potential Casting: Patricia Clarkson, Cherry Jones

SECONDARY SUPPORTING ROLES

Diego (Alec's bitter uncle denying past guilt) – Potential Casting: Joaquim de Almerida, Edward James Olmos, Esai Morales

Gianni – (Alec's stern father, driven by regret, as seen through flashbacks. Potential Casting: Jim Caviezel, Benjamin Bratt, Eddie Cibrian

Carol (Diego's wife, a quiet peacemaker caught between loyalties) – Potential Casting: Adriana Barraza, Alma Martinez, Veronica Falcón

SUPPORTING CHARACTERS

Supporting roles praised for emotional depth and authenticity.

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DIRECTOR'S VISION

An intimate exploration of the emotional cost of silence, told through natural light, unforced performances, and a camera that observes rather than intrudes. The vision is to create a film where stillness carries meaning, where landscapes echo inner conflict, and where truth emerges in the fragile spaces between words – a restrained, atmospheric experience that feels deeply human and quietly transformative.

SETTING & ATMOSPHERE

Set against the stark mid-summer beauty of Arizona, the film moves through sun-bleached cemeteries, quiet senior communities, and shimmering restaurant oases. Red rock formations, a serene Buddhist temple in Sedona, and the vast meteor crater create a landscape that mirrors Alec's isolation and his slow path toward connection and healing.

GENRE & TONE

Drama | Romance | Redemptive

A quiet, humanizing drama with a naturalistic indie sensibility. The emotional impact comes from truthful, understated moments – the tension between what's spoken and what's withheld – supported by warm, grounded visuals and lived-in performances. The tone is modern, intimate, and deeply personal, allowing humor and heartbreak to sit side by side.

Comparable to: *Manchester by the Sea*, *The Farewell*, *Ordinary People*.



THEMES

- Returning home
- Family estrangement and loss
- Unresolved guilt
- Memory and perspective

WHY THIS STORY NOW?

The script explores the emotional cost of silence within families – especially between parents and adult children – and the healing that becomes possible when truth finally surfaces. It speaks to audiences craving authentic, human stories about connection, forgiveness, and the complicated bonds that shape us.

Writer Statement

“I wrote *What We Leave Unsaid* to explore how grief rearranges the soul – and how connection, often in its most unexpected form, becomes the thing that saves us. This story grew from my fascination with the emotional spaces people occupy when they’re carrying guilt, longing, and unfinished conversations, and how forgiveness can emerge in the smallest, most human gestures.”

HYPE MEDIA

- The camera moves with quiet intention, lingering on faces and drifting through still desert spaces to capture the emotional weight of silence.
- Natural light defines the visual palette – mid-summer heat, monsoon shadows, and the soft glow of Sedona’s red rocks shaping the film’s atmosphere.
- The mood remains intimate and contemplative, blending grounded realism with moments of calm that feel almost spiritual.

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TARGET AUDIENCE

Primary Audience

Adults 30–65 Viewers drawn to emotionally grounded, character-driven drama. The film’s R rating (language) and mature themes of grief, loss, and reconciliation position it squarely within an adult audience seeking authentic, reflective storytelling.

Secondary Audience Segments

- LGBTQ+ Viewers Meaningful character representation and themes of chosen family, identity, and emotional truth create a natural pull for LGBTQ+ audiences who value intimate, human-centered narratives.
- Resonates with Latino/Hispanic and mixed-heritage audiences, along with anyone navigating blended cultural identities.
- Faith-Based & Values-Driven Audiences While not a religious film, its universal themes of forgiveness, redemption, and healing resonate strongly with viewers who seek stories about compassion, second chances, and emotional restoration.

Community Alignment

- Adult children navigating aging-parent relationships
- Veterans and military families
- Hospice, caregiving, and end-of-life support communities
- Readers and viewers of contemporary family drama and redemptive storytelling

Viewing Habits | Audiences Who Engage With:

- Prestige indie dramas
- Festival-driven character films
- Emotionally intimate streaming features
- Stories centered on reconciliation, grief, human connection

FESTIVAL STRATEGY

What We Leave Unsaid is positioned for a festival-driven release, beginning with character-focused programs that champion emotionally grounded, performance-driven storytelling. The screenplay has already gained traction across multiple festivals, informing a targeted submission strategy.

Top-Tier Festivals (Discovery & Prestige)

These festivals align with the film's intimate dramatic tone and redemptive themes.

- Slamdance
- Atlanta Film Festival
- Vail Film Festival
- Scriptation Showcase
- Golden Script Awards
- BlueCat Screenplay Competition

Mid-Tier Festivals (Strong Fit for Tone & Audience)

These festivals have already responded positively to the screenplay and represent ideal venues for premiere or early momentum.

- Palm Springs International Film Festival
- Santa Barbara International Film Festival
- Sedona International Film Festival
- Utah Film Festival
- Cambridge Film Festival
- Outstanding Screenplays Competition
- Finishline Script Competition
- Creative Worlds Film Festival

Specialty & Values-Driven Festivals

The film's themes of forgiveness, healing, and emotional transformation resonate strongly with values-driven audiences.

- FaithFest Film Festival

DISTRIBUTION STRATEGY

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The film is designed for the specialty market and the contemporary streaming landscape, where character-driven dramas perform strongly.

Primary Distribution Targets

- Streaming Platforms: Netflix, Amazon Prime Video, Hulu, Apple TV+
- Indie-Focused Buyers: A24, NEON, IFC Films, Bleecker Street, Magnolia Pictures
- Streaming-First Distributors: FilmRise, LevelK, Visit Films

Release Pathway

1. Festival Premiere at a mid-tier or top-tier festival to build critical momentum
2. Sales Agent Engagement following premiere (FilmNation, CAA Indie, UTA Independent Film Group)
3. Streaming or Limited Theatrical Release depending on buyer interest and festival response

Audience Alignment

The film's themes of grief, forgiveness, and emotional connection resonate with adult drama audiences, LGBTQ+ viewers, Hispanic/Latino and mixed-heritage audiences, veterans and military families, and values-driven communities seeking redemptive storytelling – all strong markets for specialty distributors.

FILM BUDGET

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Budget Range:

\$750,000 – \$1,200,000

A realistic independent feature budget for a character-driven drama with a small cast, limited cast allocations, and natural-light cinematography.

Use of Funds Breakdown

- Production (45%) – cast salaries, crew, equipment, locations, insurance
- Post-Production (20%) – editing, sound design, color grading, score
- Music & Licensing (10%) – original score, licensed tracks
- Marketing & Festival Run (10%) – festival submissions, publicity, deliverables
- Contingency (10%) – unforeseen production needs
- Legal & Administrative (5%) – contracts, accounting, permits

Production Footprint

- 90-minute feature
- Single-state shoot (Arizona)
- Small principal cast (4–6 roles)
- Lean indie crew (18–25 people)
- Minimal stunts/VFX
- Natural-light cinematography

Why This Budget Works

This range reflects the standard cost of producing a contemporary indie drama with strong performances, restrained visual style, and emotionally intimate storytelling – films like *Short Term 12*, *The Rider*, and *The Farewell* (scaled to a smaller footprint).

WRITER | CREATOR

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Rita Hanner-Ward is a screenwriter and contemporary American author whose work centers on emotionally grounded, character-driven storytelling. She writes drama and dark comedy with a focus on transformation, reconciliation, and the moments that define relationships. Her work is known for emotional clarity, intimate character arcs, and a restrained visual sensibility that honors the spaces between words.

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Screenwriting Recognition

Feature – What We Leave Unsaid

- Finalist – Wiki Screenplay Contest
- Semifinalist – Santa Barbara International Screenplay Awards
- Quarterfinalist – Palm Springs Diversity Screenplay Contest

Short – Six Degrees of Ted

- Finalist – Wiki Screenplay Contest
- Semifinalist – Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival
- Quarterfinalist Outstanding Screenplays Shorts Competition
- Official Selection – Oregon Short Film Festival



Writing as Kiva Wolfe™, Rita is the author of internationally set romantic-suspense novels, bringing a strong sense of voice, atmosphere, and narrative tension to her screenwriting.

THANK YOU

for your time and consideration.