

Quarterfinalist,  
The Script Lab

Quarterfinalist,  
Scriptapalooza

Quarterfinalist,  
Kay Snow  
Writing  
Competition



# Corked



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# LOGLINE

A disgraced career-driven L.A. woman, driven from her home by wildfires, must restore a Texas Hill Country winery to change her life, and save her inheritance.



# Synopsis

"Corked," draws us into the tumultuous journey of Catherine Rogers, a driven Los Angeles woman whose world is shattered when she loses her job and her family's once-stable foundation crumbles before her eyes. In the depths of despair, Catherine finds a glimmer of hope in an unexpected inheritance: Round Rock, a quaint Texas winery steeped in memories of her parents' legacy.

Anticipating solace and rejuvenation, Catherine instead discovers a vineyard in disarray, its once-grand vines choked by neglect and time. Undeterred by the daunting task ahead, Catherine resolves to breathe new life into the ailing estate, embarking on a transformative odyssey that will redefine her very existence.

As Catherine grapples with the challenges of rural living, she finds solace and unexpected camaraderie in the colorful denizens of Round Rock. From Imogene, the irrepressible real estate agent doubling as the town's undertaker, to Declan, the enigmatic monk-cum-contractor, and Father Dahl, the sage vine whisperer, each character imparts invaluable lessons on love, life, and the pursuit of one's dreams.

Armed with unwavering determination and a daring vision, Catherine sets out to resurrect the winery, meticulously crafting a business plan and courting potential investors. Yet just as her dreams begin to take root, a pivotal phone call presents Catherine with a momentous choice: return to the frenetic pace of Los Angeles or embrace the unforeseen joys and tribulations of her newfound home in Texas.

"Corked," weaves a spellbinding tapestry of resilience, redemption, and the inexorable pull of destiny. "Corked" invites audiences to savor the bittersweet symphony of life and love, reminding us that sometimes, the sweetest nectar is found amidst the vines of our own creation.







## Character Synopsis: The House

Like *Sex and the City*, *Parasite*, and *Brideshead Revisited*, the House is a central character in *Corked*. The character of the House develops and evolves over the course of the story. As Catherine restores the House, her nemesis becomes her source of comfort, hope, and pride.





## Character Synopsis: Catherine Rogers

It's not easy being Catherine. She is a tower of strength. In her early thirties, she wears custom-tailored black suits as a coat of armor, designed to keep an appropriate distance between herself and anyone who dares to get too close. She wasn't always this way.

In her twenties, she was warm, hopeful, and happy. Then, on what was supposed to be the happiest day of her life, everything changed and so did she. She's spent the last ten years building a successful career as an investment banker. She's left wreckage in her wake. Her assistant ANNA is afraid of her and works behind her back to win favor with her boss BERNARD, an arrogant man whose ideals about women in the workplace date back to the 1950's. Bernard envy's Catherine's success and her quick rise, which he credits to MATT DAVIS, Catherine's ex-fiancé, a wealthy real estate developer who doesn't like to lose.

To be successful, Catherine has let ideas of marriage, family, friends, and meaningful personal relationships, go. This has caused strife with her recently retired parents, ELOISE and NEIL. All they want for their only child is her happiness, and for her to understand and forgive human frailty. Catherine is uncompromising, and unforgiving of weakness in others. When her parents die in a sudden accident, and she's fired by Bernard, Catherine is forced to reassess who she is.

Stripped of her identity, Catherine's façade of strength crumples. Catherine is forced to go to Texas to settle her parent's estate. The people in Texas, IMOGENE, the owner of the funeral home, and real estate agent, DECLAN, the monk, and local contractor with a dark past, DEL, the hapless estate attorney and FATHER DAHL, the senile old vintner, don't know Catherine as anything but a new neighbor who has lost her parents, and needs help rebuilding. In Texas, they don't give her space to put her armor on. They put her to work.

## Character Synopsis: Imogene Thomson

Imogene is a kookie southern belle in her seventies. She's seen it all, done it all and has little regard for what other people may think of her.

In Round Rock she owns the local funeral home, it's a family business. She is also the most trusted real estate agent in town. There is more to Imogene than a sassy grandma who can kick your butt and cut you down to size with one look and a turn of phrase.

Over the years she's built a business empire and developed a network of strong and influential women. Imogene is smart, savvy, strong, self-sufficient, honest to a fault and passionate about her likes and dislikes.







## Character Synopsis: Declan Reeves

As they'd say in Texas, Declan was a hard dog to keep on the porch. A heavy drinking man in his youth, he lost his wife in a fire and turned his life over to the lord.

Now, in his early forties he's made peace with his past and splits his time between religious study and his secular life as volunteer fire chief and a local contractor.

Physical labor has kept him in great shape. He's strong, lean, and powerful.

Declan isn't a big talker, but there is a warmth, kindness and compassion that dances behind his eyes. He's someone people feel comfortable talking to and confiding in.



## Character Synopsis: Father Dahl

Father Dahl, is a charming and enigmatic figure who captivates all who cross his path. A perpetual twinkle dances in his bright eyes, hinting at the mischief that lies within his soul. His laughter echoes through the vineyards he calls home. His weathered hands, roughened by years of labor, bear testament to his tireless commitment to his calling, the vines.

Cloaked in flowing black robes, Father Dahl moves with an ethereal grace that hints at a deeper connection to the divine. As the resident winemaker he possesses an intimate knowledge of the vineyards. His relationship with the earth and its fruits is almost mystical, as if he shares an unspoken bond with every grape that graces his fingertips.

Father Dahl is eccentric, compassionate and unwaveringly empathetic. He knows Round Rock and is a testament to the transformative power of faith.







## Character Synopsis: Matt Davis

On the surface Matt is a golden boy. Always impeccably dressed, he's lean and handsome, smart, and witty, he's the kind of man women want to date, and men want as a friend.

Beneath the surface is a deviant who enjoys drinking, gambling and women. In his early thirties, Matt has gone into therapy. Working on himself, he's learned he's not self-obsessed or arrogant, he's misunderstood.





### Character Synopsis: Red, The Giant Jersey Red Rooster

Red is an awe-inspiring creature that commands attention wherever he goes. He's a majestic rooster. His vibrant plumage is a striking blend of deep scarlet and burnt sienna, reflecting its Jersey Red lineage. Red's head is crowned with a magnificent crimson comb, standing tall and regal. Its piercing, golden eyes radiate intelligence and confidence, revealing a strong will and an unwavering determination. With every stride, the ground trembles beneath its colossal feet, leaving no doubt about its immense strength. His voice echoes through the countryside, asserting his dominance. Red represents strength, courage, and the untamed spirit of the natural world. He's Catherine's best friend.



## Awards:

- Top 25% of all scripts, Coverfly, Dec. 2021
- Preliminary Finalist, Creative World Awards, 2021
- Honorable Mention, Wiki: Screenplay Contest, Jan. 2021
- Quarterfinalist, The Script LAB Screenplay Contest, 2020
- Quarterfinalists, Willamette Writers, Kay Snow Writing Competition, 2020
- Quarterfinalists, Scriptapalooza Screenplay Competition, 2019





# Feedback

**“The narrative is also strongly cinematic as it showcases some physical comedy and the contrast between Catherine’s luxury lifestyle in L.A. and the rustic farm/winery in Texas. “Corked” can target the same audience as the upcoming Amy Poehler comedy “Wine Country.”**

**--Emerging Screenwriters, 2018**

**“This is a piece with a solid premise good ideas and characters...”**

**--Screencraft Comedy Contest, 2019**

**“Corked starts out very strong with great character work, efficient dialogue, and strong intrigue. Catherine is a well written character who we can sympathize and get behind right away. The plot moves at a good pace, setting the tone and giving us a taste for what's to come.”**

**--GIMx/Film Freeway, 2021**



# Writer Bio



D. Nikki Wheeler is a writer, director, producer and actor. A corporate and crisis communications professional by day, Nikki writes at night, following a rigorous and disciplined schedule. Nikki has a passion for travel, a penchant for adventure and a never-ending sense of wonder. She lives in Colorado with, according to her niece, "A lotta pets."

She is in development with SIDEWAY on an original streaming web series, "FABULIST," and has optioned "THE ONE," a sexy thriller with Canadian-based Nasser Entertainment.

## **Nikki's awards and honors include:**

- Number 6, on the Capital Fund Hot 100 List, 2021
- Finalists, Wiki: The World's Fastest Screenplay Contest! 2021
- Semifinalist, ISA Genre Busting Screenplay Competition, 2021
- Semifinalist, Los Angeles International Screenplay Awards Spring 2020
- Quarterfinalist, The Script Lab - TSL Free Screenplay Contest 2020
- Quarterfinalist, ScreenCraft Drama Competition 2020
- Quarterfinalist, Emerging Screenwriters - Genre Screenplay Competition 2020
- Quarterfinalist, Willamette Writers - Kay Snow Writing Competition 2020
- Honorable Mention, Barnstorm Fest 2020
- Quarterfinalist, Scriptapalooza Screenplay Competition 2019

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