



Sample Script Notes — *EMBERS*

Script by Euan Macleod

Overview

Embers is a dark medieval revenge drama centred on James Fallon, a disgraced outlaw seeking redemption through loyalty, only to discover he has been manipulated by the very power structure he serves. The script blends political betrayal, class tension and symbolic imagery to drive a revenge narrative that ultimately resolves in sacrifice and moral awakening.

The story's strength lies in its thematic spine — revenge versus redemption — supported by recurring symbolic objects (embers, dagger, scarf) and a protagonist whose silence becomes both limitation and defining trait. The narrative builds toward a strong moral climax where Fallon chooses collective salvation over personal survival.

The piece demonstrates a clear understanding of mythic character structure and escalating stakes, with strong cinematic imagery throughout.

Strengths

Strong Protagonist Spine

Fallon's arc is clear and readable: revenge → revelation → redemption. His inability to speak functions as both character flaw and thematic metaphor, reinforcing his outsider status while heightening visual storytelling. His final decision to ring the bell provides a satisfying moral payoff that reframes his earlier motivations.

Symbolic Cohesion

Recurring imagery — embers, the silver dagger, Liza's scarf — creates a unified thematic language around identity, betrayal and time running out. These elements reinforce the narrative's emotional through-line without relying on exposition.

Immediate Narrative Hook

The inciting murder of Brax is visceral and cinematic, establishing stakes quickly and propelling Fallon into motion. The script wastes little time before introducing danger, betrayal and instability.

Thematic Clarity

Class tension, loyalty, power abuse and personal redemption are embedded in character interactions rather than delivered purely through exposition. The political environment feels purposeful rather than decorative.

These strengths align closely with the intentional arc and thematic framing identified in your original analysis — particularly Fallon's progression from self-serving want to moral need.

Development Areas

Emotional Access to Fallon

While Fallon's rage and determination are clear, moments of vulnerability are limited before the midpoint. Introducing an earlier beat that shows emotional conflict — particularly regarding his past or relationship with Liza — would deepen audience investment and make the redemption turn feel more inevitable rather than reactive.

Antagonist Differentiation

Brax, Ross and Kinaird all function effectively as obstacles, but their voices and motivations occasionally overlap in tone. Sharpening their ideological differences — ambition vs loyalty vs manipulation — would clarify Fallon's evolving moral landscape.

Dialogue Density

Some exchanges lean toward theatrical or formal phrasing, which suits the medieval tone but occasionally slows pacing. Selectively grounding key confrontations in more direct language could increase urgency without losing stylistic identity.

Transitional Momentum

The movement between key confrontations is strong visually, but emotional transitions could be clearer. Brief reflective beats — especially after Liza's death — would allow Fallon's psychological shift to register more fully.

Structural Notes

The script follows a recognisable three-act escalation:

- Act I: Loyalty, inciting betrayal, Fallon wounded
- Act II: Investigation, confrontation, emotional collapse
- Act III: Revelation, sacrifice, redemption

The midpoint — Liza's death — functions effectively as a moral fracture point. However, strengthening foreshadowing of Kinaird's manipulation earlier would make the climax feel less sudden and more tragic inevitability.

The pacing is generally strong, with escalating stakes. The final bell sequence is visually powerful and thematically resonant, tying together Fallon's internal journey with external consequence.

Suggested Next Draft Focus

- Introduce one early vulnerability beat to humanise Fallon before the revenge drive fully takes over
- Differentiate antagonists through clearer ideological or emotional stakes
- Tighten dialogue in high-conflict scenes to prioritise urgency
- Add subtle foreshadowing of Kinaird's betrayal
- Expand Fallon's emotional reaction following Liza's death to strengthen his transformation.

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