



**NO  
PLACE  
FOR A  
SPARK**

# LOGLINE

A hiker wearing an orange hooded jacket, dark pants, and a backpack is walking away from the camera on a dirt path through a dense forest. The path is surrounded by tall evergreen trees and green undergrowth. The lighting is soft, suggesting early morning or late afternoon.

On a hike where he only wants to be alone, a despondent hiker struggling to regain his care for humanity, finds an unlikely hiking partner in a man he suspects to be a murderous forest fire arsonist.

# WHAT IT IS

No Place For a Spark is first and foremost a compelling drama about a man who has lost the woman he loves and is so unwilling to let go of both the grief and the guilt he holds, that he has completely allowed his care for the world to atrophy - to the point where he is even ready to remove himself from the equation. The trauma of loss can reveal inner strength and inner weakness - for Mike it has only been weakness, but through this harrowing ordeal on the hiking trail, he will confront his demons and rediscover his will to live. This is a deeply emotional and transformative tale that can encourage anyone who has faced despair over loss or who struggles to get out from under the grip of self-absorbed guilt. It reminds us to find room for the spark of life that exists even in the face of sadness and loss.

Secondarily, No Place For a Spark is part Collateral and part Die Hard on a mountain hike. In this film, we will be transported to the pristine and wild mountain forests of Canada - seemingly the perfect place for quiet contemplation and reflection - and have it turn into a backdrop for an adrenaline filled battle of survival between an average outdoors-y everyman, and a cunning and dangerous sociopath whose own dark past has led him down the road of violence. We will see the battle unfold, slowly at first, starting as an awkward friendship, simmering to a subtle psychological battle of wits, and then growing into a conflagration - a tooth-and-nail physical battle that would make John McClane proud. The physical and psychological stakes are supported by tense action sequences, high-stakes confrontations, and breathtaking moments of peril. It's a complex and dramatic thriller that will keep audiences immersed and riveted.

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The screenplay unfolds with a gripping, steadily escalating pace, blending moments of introspection with sharp bursts of tension. The story moves from the quiet unease of a solo hike that is full of deeper implications, into an increasingly fraught journey as layers of mystery and danger are revealed, with tension increasing via both verbal exchanges and physically extreme situations. The mounting suspense reaches its peak in the final act, where emotional and physical stakes collide in the most extreme way possible, keeping the audience on a disquieting but engrossing edge all the way to the fiery resolution.

# VISUAL STYLE



The film's visual style is immersive and atmospheric, leveraging the natural beauty and inherent wildness of nature to create a setting that is both serene and menacing. There will be wide, sweeping shots of Canadian forest landscape, both pristine and rugged, contrasted with claustrophobic close-ups of characters grappling with their inner turmoil and external threats. The play of light and shadow in the dense forest amplifies the tension, while subtle visual cues hint at the psychological depth of the story.

# tone



The tone balances the intensity of a psychological thriller with moments of poignant, emotional impact. It captures the isolation and vulnerability of being alone in the wilderness while exploring the emotional weight of loss, guilt, and redemption. The story deftly shifts between suspenseful action and heartfelt character moments, maintaining a haunting, thought-provoking atmosphere throughout, and culminating in a furious, die-hard-esque final sequence.

# SHORT SYNOPSIS

After the passing of his wife, Mike Morgan has let despair consume him and has lost all care for humanity. He chooses to take the advice of his therapist and goes on a hike, only this is a hike he doesn't plan on coming back from. A wrench is thrown into this plan when he meets Alex, an enigmatic young hiker who's low on social self awareness and a little too enthusiastic and clingy for Mike to be able to carry out his plan. Mike tries to separate himself from Alex only to have fate keep bringing them right back together. Things take a dark turn when, unbeknownst to Alex, Mike sees inside of Alex' bag to discover what appears to be forest fire starting supplies. If Mike was in any other headspace he would turn back and inform the authorities, but armed with a death wish, morbid curiosity, and a plan he's still committed to, he goes on.

Mike nearly dies, only to have his life saved by Alex. Deeply shaken, Mike realizes he does want to live and that Alex deserves more credit than he was giving him... but then, just as their fledgling friendship is at it's most vulnerable, Mike realizes that Alex is subtly encouraging him towards suicide, confirming Mike's fears about Alex. Mike tries to play his hand, but is left tied to a tree and left to burn in Alex' coming fire. Mike must now decide whether to succumb to his original goal or rejoin humanity and go all the way to stop Alex.



# CHARACTERS

## Mike

Male, mid 30s, Software programmer, Widowed husband to Melody

## Alex

Male, mid 20s, Ethical hacker with a complicated past

## Melody

Female, mid 30s, Deceased wife to Mike who visits him as a reverie



# MIKE

Mike is a man burdened by grief and guilt following the loss of his wife, Melody, to cancer. Mike has so removed himself from society due to this pain, that he finds himself willing to let the world burn. During Melody's battle, he knew she was dealing with insurmountable pain, and yet he was too busy at work to answer a call from her – a call that was to be her final cry for help in her battle with suicidal thoughts. Unable to forgive himself for failing her in this way and struggling to process his despair over losing her, he embarks on a solo hike to their favourite remote camping spot – but not to heal, rather to end his own life. Intelligent, and outgoing in his essence, Mike has now become a sombre, introspective shell. Yet he still possesses an inner strength and resourcefulness that emerge as the stakes escalate. His interactions with Alex force him to confront his past and rediscover that life still has purpose, making his protagonist's journey one of catharsis and redemption.

# ALEX

Charismatic, enigmatic, but more than a little socially unaware and awkward (or is he just acting that way?), Alex is an outwardly friendly outdoorsman who quickly becomes overly clingy and then molts into an unsettling presence who may harbor sinister motives. Beneath his easygoing demeanor, he hides a darker nature, slowly revealed through unexpected violent outbursts, cryptic stories about his troubled family background, and his subtle verbal manipulations. However, Alex is also knowledgeable, resourceful, and physically capable – someone who thrives in the outdoors - a fitting match for Mike's own prowess. His unknown plans and unpredictable behavior, mixed with chilling revelations about his philosophy of life and death, make him a compelling antagonist.







# MELODY

Insightful, confident, and supportive, Melody appears as both a day-dreamed memory and also a manifestation of Mike's conscience, offering him guidance and strength during moments of crisis. Her recurring presence is tender yet haunting, serving as both a reminder of Mike's unresolved grief and a timely source of guidance and encouragement. Through her interactions with Mike, she lovingly nudges him toward healing, urging him to forgive himself and acts as a source of strength for him to move forward in the harrowing situation he finds himself in on this journey.



Mike, a reserved and grief-stricken software programmer, sits uncomfortably in his therapist's office. It's clear he hasn't been coping well with the death of his wife, Melody, who succumbed to cancer nearly a year ago. To help him confront his emotions, his therapist encourages him to take some time away in nature. Not fully convinced, Mike decides to do the hike – but on his terms...

At home, Mike packs his gear methodically, including all his hiking essentials, but he also packs a small bottle of Melody's leftover painkillers. Early in his hike, Mike enjoys the solitude and rugged beauty of the forest, however he soon encounters Alex, an affable yet oddly intense fellow hiker. Alex is talkative and eager to join Mike, despite Mike's clear preference to be alone. As they walk, Alex's charm and humor start to wear thin, and his overly personal questions unsettle Mike, who decides it's time to part ways.

At a rest point, Mike takes a nap behind a partially fallen tree oriented like a bench near the trail. With Mike still asleep and obscured by brush, Alex sits on the same log for a rest. Mike wakes with a direct view under the log to Alex's open backpack and glimpses several strange items, including a bottle of gasoline-colored liquid and a fire extinguisher. He remains hidden and chooses not to confront Alex but becomes increasingly wary as there have been reports of intentionally started fires in the region. To continue forward, Mike and Alex then must work together to create a log bridge over a stream - they succeed, bonding in the process but soon after Mike again decides to separate himself from Alex.

The hike takes a tense turn when Mike must traverse a perilous ledge. Distracted and overcome with emotion by a haunting vision of Melody, Mike nearly falls to his death but is saved at the last moment by Alex. This life-saving act awakens Mike to his desire to live and bonds the two even more significantly, with Mike saying it was "destiny".

As the two fledgling friends have their boots off, crossing a small river, they suddenly encounter a grizzly bear on the bank. Much to Mike's surprise and unease, Alex immediately pulls out a handgun and demonstrates a previously unseen level of volatility. Mike pleads with Alex not to take a shot at the bear, which will only be angered even if struck. Alex is convinced, barely, but this interaction rekindles Mike's unease with Alex.

At their next rest break, Alex begins steering their conversation toward themes of loss, hopelessness, and the inevitability of death – a psychological attack meant to make Mike feel justified in committing suicide. Mike is starting to piece things together about Alex but then Alex hands Mike his gun, encouraging him to "see how it feels". Mike accepts it but then sees another vision of Melody who tells him not to trust Alex at all. Moments later, Alex reveals his true colors, producing a crossbow, he shoots Mike in the chest, wounding him gravely. He then ties Mike to a log and plants the fire extinguisher in his pack, framing Mike for his own upcoming arson plan. With chilling detachment, Alex leaves him to die, saying it's "destiny".

# FULL SYNOPSIS

1/2



Injured and contemplating the release of death, Mike gets another visitation from Melody, who encourages him that there are other lives that need saving. Despite the excruciating pain caused by the arrow in his chest, Mike uses his resourcefulness to free himself. Now determined to stop Alex, Mike pursues him to the hilltop where Alex is preparing a massive pyre of dry logs and gasoline—part of a calculated plan to ignite a forest fire that will consume a town in the path that the wind will drive the flames.

Mike sneaks up and watches as Alex tests a remote ignition device, places it in the pyre, and then leaves. If only Mike could just take the device and escape, but of course this wouldn't stop Alex. No – Mike knows there is no resolution here without direct confrontation. Mike forms a plan and then grabs the device, drawing Alex to return to the Pyre. Mike gets the jump on Alex, but this only starts the vicious confrontation. Pinning Mike against a rock wall, Alex mocks him for trying to “be the hero” and begins to press on the arrow still lodged in Mike's chest. Activating a hidden ploy, Mike produces one of Alex's lighters and ignites a fireball by spitting liquid fuel into the flame, burning Alex and causing him to stumble onto the pyre and be impaled on a jagged branch. Though mortally wounded, he strikes a lighter and drops it onto the pyre, igniting it.

The fire spreads rapidly, consuming the clearing and threatening to ignite the surrounding forest. Mike, frantically tries to use the fire extinguisher to put out the flames but the fire has spread too quickly. He scrambles to retrieve Alex' SAT phone and makes an emergency call, Mike gets across his location but the phone dies mid-call. Exhausted and in immense pain, he collapses against a rock across from the burning pyre, feeling he has failed. Melody appears one final time, comforting him and telling him that he succeeded and saved the town, but Mike doesn't understand as he sees the flames grow higher.

Just as hope seems lost, a water bomber, diverted from its nearby run (which we saw before), soars overhead and dumps it's load, extinguishing the flames, saving the forest and Mike.

A helicopter arrives and the emergency workers tend to Mike. As he is airlifted away, Mike looks at the forest, originally a place intended for his untimely end, but now providing him with a sense of redemption and renewed purpose.

# THE HOOK

Part *Collateral* and part *Die Hard*, *No Place for a Spark* is a taut, psychological thriller set against the stunning and treacherous backdrop of the wilderness. It combines a survival drama with an intense battle of wits, while also exploring themes of grief, guilt, and redemption in a way that feels both deeply personal and universally resonant. The film's unique structure—rooted in the escalating tension between two flawed, complex men—keeps audiences guessing at every turn. With its emotionally charged story and minimalistic yet high-stakes setting, it's a fresh and compelling addition to the landscape of psychological thrillers.



# THE CASE

This story is a gripping exploration of human resilience and the choices we make in the face of loss, despair, and existential challenge. These are common experiences that people seek resolution for in their lives. Movies that can encourage people in these ways are especially valuable. No Place for a Spark not only delivers edge-of-your-seat tension and beautiful cinematography, but also offers meaningful encouragement in struggles of grief, guilt, trust, and the search for meaning when the good part of life has evaporated.

Moreover, its character-driven story allows for powerful performances that can connect deeply with audiences, making it both a critical and commercial contender.

In a time when audiences crave stories that blend action and emotional depth, this film strikes that perfect balance, offering an experience that's thrilling, moving, and unforgettable.



# THE FINANCIALS

No Place for a Spark is designed to be an efficient and cost-effective production. The remote wilderness setting largely eliminates the need for expensive sets or extensive production design, while the intimate two-character focus reduces the cast size and simplifies logistics. Practical effects and a grounded narrative minimize the need for costly visual effects, relying instead on the strong characters, and dramatic substance. As a bonus, the outdoor locations naturally provide breathtaking visuals without added expense. This streamlined approach ensures a compelling film that can be produced on a modest budget, making it an attractive option for producers and investors seeking strong returns.



# MEET THE WRITER



## **JASON PLETT** WRITER

Jason is a graduate of Vancouver Film School where he refined his personal brand of enigmatic storytelling.

A writer of five screenplays, and several short film scripts, Jason's feature-length screenplay Nomad's Spawn garnered the Best Fantasy Script award in the Oniros Film Awards in August 2023.

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