

THE CALLING

Supernatural Horror Thriller





LOGLINE

A Korean American medical resident accused of malpractice must embrace her birth mother's shaman calling when the ghosts of organ-harvesting victims lead her to a deadly medical conspiracy.

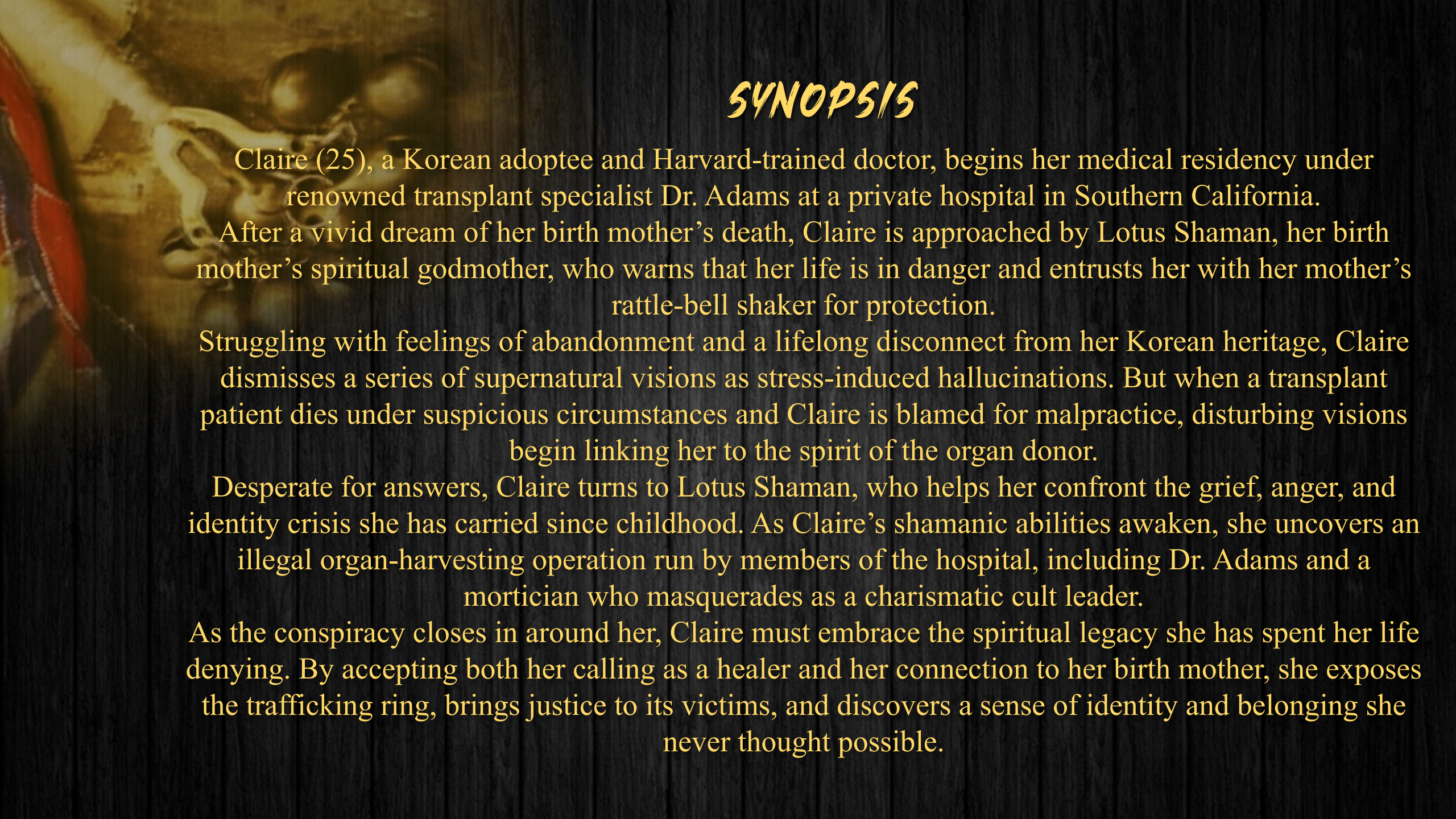


KOREAN SHAMANISM

Many ethnic traditions are increasingly endangered by global modernization, but Korean shamanism, mostly passed on by women, maintains its deeply rooted spiritual influences.

THE CALLING (SHYN-BYUNG)

The possession from a god that a chosen shaman candidate manifests symptoms of physical pain and psychosis which may only be cured through acceptance of and full communion (Na-rim gut), an initiation ritual with the spirit.



SYNOPSIS

Claire (25), a Korean adoptee and Harvard-trained doctor, begins her medical residency under renowned transplant specialist Dr. Adams at a private hospital in Southern California.

After a vivid dream of her birth mother's death, Claire is approached by Lotus Shaman, her birth mother's spiritual godmother, who warns that her life is in danger and entrusts her with her mother's rattle-bell shaker for protection.

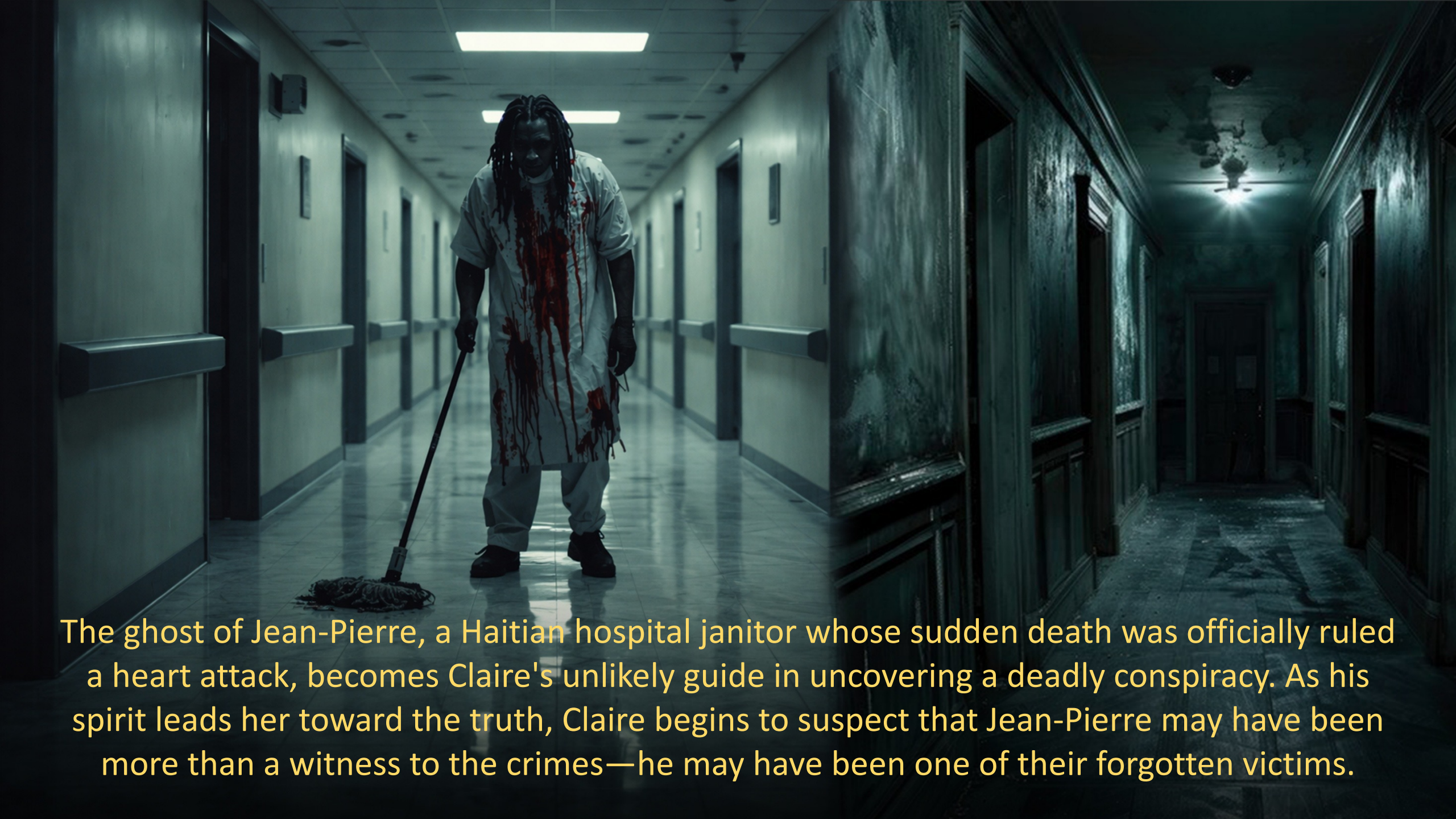
Struggling with feelings of abandonment and a lifelong disconnect from her Korean heritage, Claire dismisses a series of supernatural visions as stress-induced hallucinations. But when a transplant patient dies under suspicious circumstances and Claire is blamed for malpractice, disturbing visions begin linking her to the spirit of the organ donor.

Desperate for answers, Claire turns to Lotus Shaman, who helps her confront the grief, anger, and identity crisis she has carried since childhood. As Claire's shamanic abilities awaken, she uncovers an illegal organ-harvesting operation run by members of the hospital, including Dr. Adams and a mortician who masquerades as a charismatic cult leader.

As the conspiracy closes in around her, Claire must embrace the spiritual legacy she has spent her life denying. By accepting both her calling as a healer and her connection to her birth mother, she exposes the trafficking ring, brings justice to its victims, and discovers a sense of identity and belonging she never thought possible.



Shaman's Rattle-bell shaker



The ghost of Jean-Pierre, a Haitian hospital janitor whose sudden death was officially ruled a heart attack, becomes Claire's unlikely guide in uncovering a deadly conspiracy. As his spirit leads her toward the truth, Claire begins to suspect that Jean-Pierre may have been more than a witness to the crimes—he may have been one of their forgotten victims.

CLAIRE LOGAN. 27

A Harvard-trained medical resident who trusts science above all else. After becoming entangled in an illegal organ-harvesting operation, she is haunted by the spirits of its victims and forced to accept the shamanic gift inherited from the birth mother she has spent her life trying to forget.



NURSE KIM. 32

The respected head nurse of the surgical unit. Proud of her Korean roots and guided by a strong moral compass, she recognizes Claire's inherited shamanic gift and helps her navigate both the spirit world and the dangers lurking within the hospital.



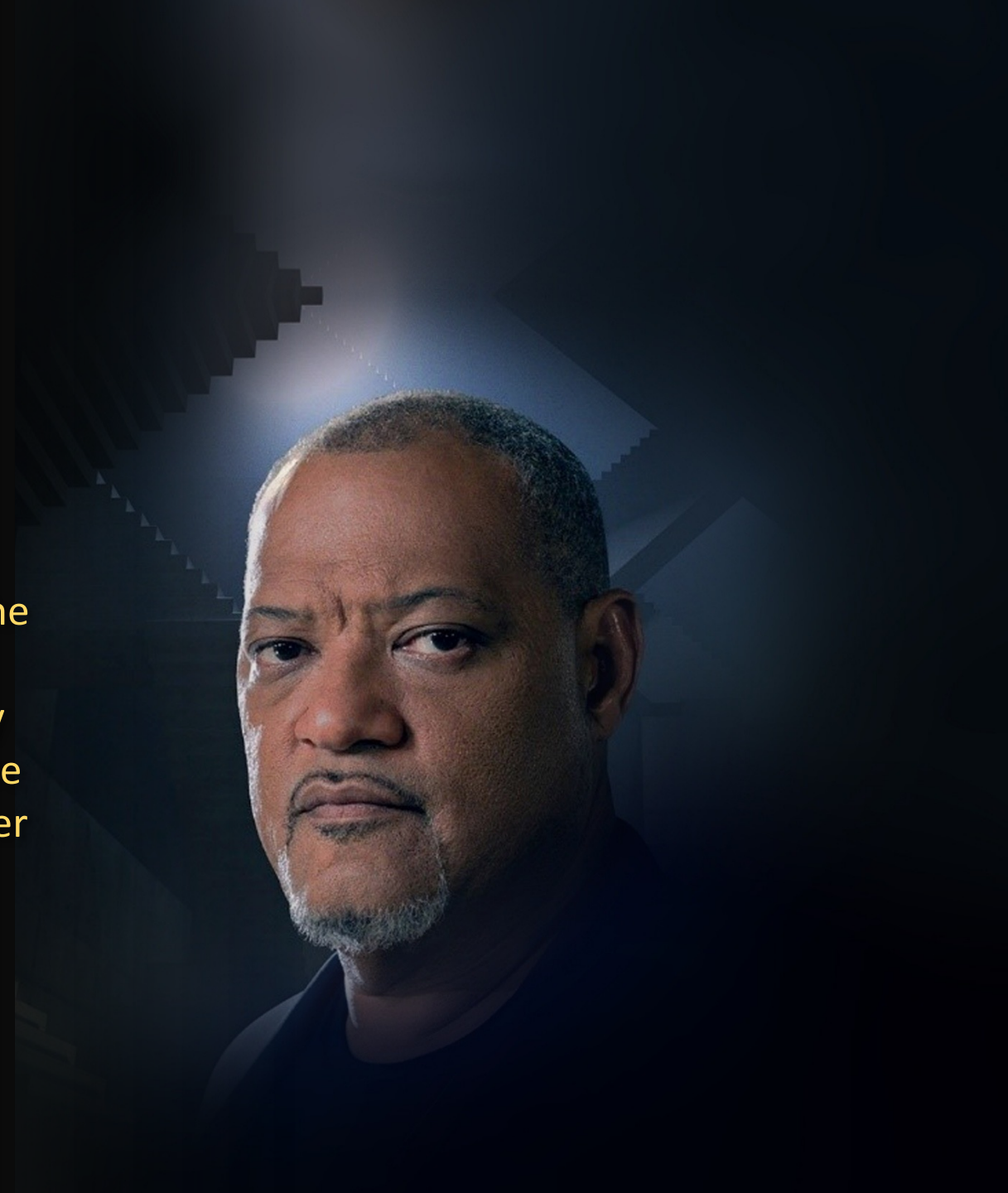


ENGEL KAISER. 48

A charismatic mortician who inspires unwavering devotion with his message that sacrificing one's life to save others guarantees a place in heaven. Revered by his followers as a spiritual guide, he sees himself as a savior of humanity. Yet his noble ideals mask his role in a sprawling illegal organ-harvesting scheme, forcing him to confront the moral cost of the lives he sacrifices in pursuit of a greater good.

DR. THOMAS ADAMS. 68

A world-renowned transplant surgeon facing the twilight of a distinguished career. Desperate to cement his legacy and overcome personal tragedy, he becomes entangled in a fanatical movement that promises salvation through sacrifice. Consumed by grief over his wife's miscarriage and convinced Claire is responsible, he transforms from a respected healer into one of the architects of the hospital's illegal organ-harvesting operation.



LOTUS SHAMAN. 07

A veteran Korean shaman in Koreatown whose failing health has not diminished her spiritual power. Having promised to watch over her late student's daughter, she guides Claire through a dangerous awakening, helping her bridge the worlds of medicine and spirituality before time runs out.



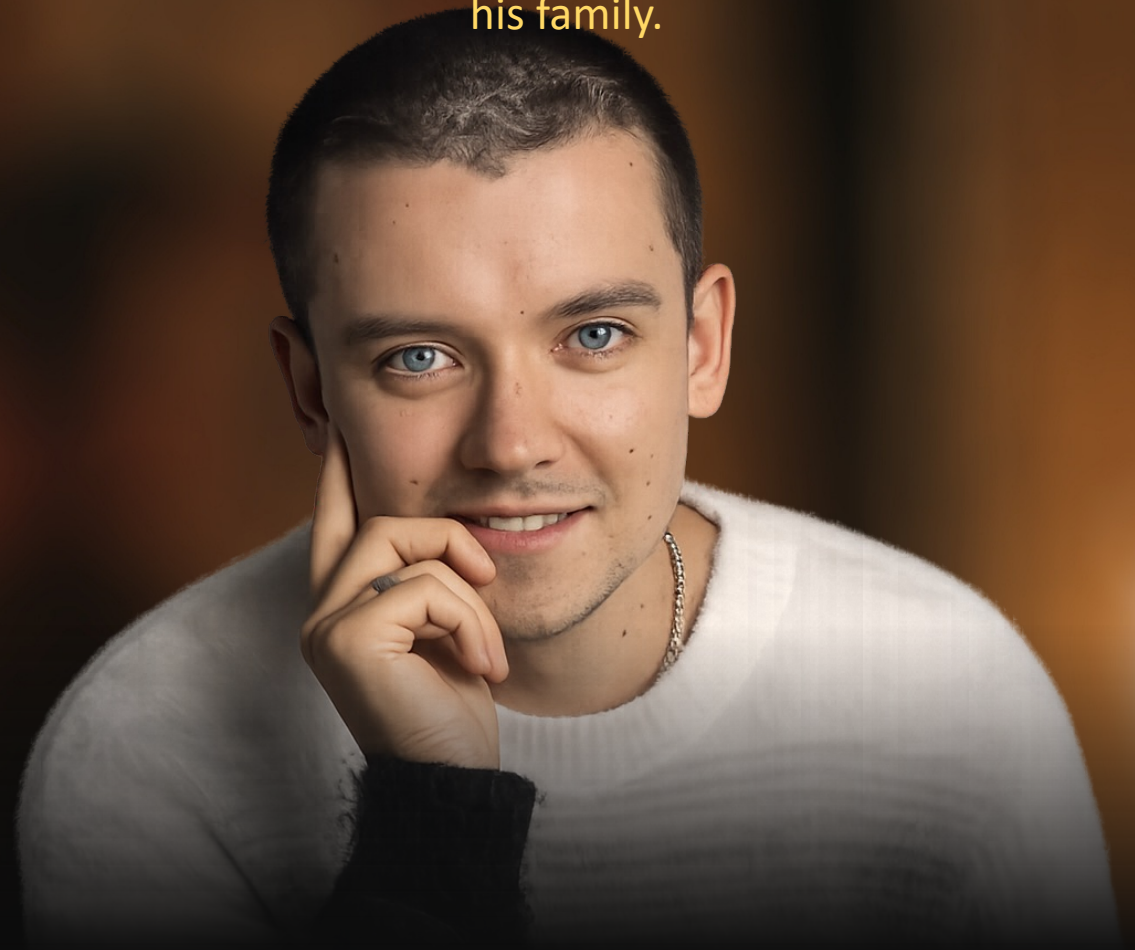
DIRECTOR WILSON. 60

The director of a financially struggling hospital who dreams of creating a cutting-edge surgical center capable of saving thousands of lives. Blinded by ambition and desperate to secure funding and prestige, he becomes the mastermind behind a systematic organ-harvesting scheme, convincing himself that a few sacrificed lives are justified by the many he hopes to save.



DOUG WILSON..28

The hospital director's troubled son, haunted by the childhood trauma of his mother's suicide. Dismissed by others as naïve and erratic, Doug deliberately cultivates that image to distance himself from his father's illegal organ-trafficking operation and the darkness surrounding his family.



COMPARABLES



WRITER STATEMENT

The *Calling* takes a unique approach, blending themes of cultural identity, alienation, and mysticism with horror and suspense. For many years, I have been fascinated by the intensity which offer healing and consolation to both the living and the dead.

These rituals possess not only profound dramatic power but also a striking visual language. One of their most extraordinary expressions involves a shaman dancing barefoot atop a pair of sharpened machete blades, demonstrating a connection to the spiritual world. The haunting mixture of beauty, danger, and faith found in this ritual captivated my imagination and inspired me to create a supernatural thriller infused with horror.

At its heart, *The Calling* is the story of a Korean adoptee who must reconcile two worlds that seem fundamentally at odds: modern medicine and ancient spirituality.

Through Claire's journey, I wanted to explore universal themes of identity, belonging, grief, and healing, while introducing audiences to a rarely depicted aspect of Korean culture. By combining supernatural horror with emotional and cultural authenticity, I hope to create a story that is both thrilling and deeply human.



KYUNG-JA (KJ) LEE

Writer/Producer

After graduating from AFI with an award-winning short, she pursued a career in filmmaking, earning numerous awards and honors, including the Rockefeller Foundation Asian Artist Fellowship, the Sundance Screenwriters Lab, and the Film Independent Project: Involve.

Over the past several years, she paused her filmmaking career to care for her gravely ill mother. After her mother's passing, Lee kept a personal promise and returned to filmmaking, writing and directing her fifth short, "Kang Blue," which won "Outstanding Female Director" at the KATRA Film Fall Series. (Lee's short films and upcoming projects are at kj-film.com)

Lee is also gaining recognition for her recent screenplays, including the Slamdance and Cinequest Best Short Screenplay Award for "The Comfort Woman Statue." Her feature screenplay, "Kim's Money Tree," a magical realism drama, was selected as a Page Turner and an ISA Emerging Screenwriters Finalist. Her supernatural horror feature, "The Calling," was chosen as part of the Producers' Showcase for the Producers Guild of America Diversity Project.

While working on her film projects and holding a Master's in psychology from Columbia University, Lee cares for people with histories of homelessness, severe mental illness, and substance abuse at a transition home.



CONTACT

kjlee1659@gmail.com

