

"SHUTTER MIND"

Story by
Melissa Sue Lopez

Screenplay by
Melissa Sue Lopez & P. L. George

MoonSue Productions, LLC.
5313 N. Macarthur
Oklahoma City, OK 73122
405-474-4469
moonsuecompany@yahoo.com

FADE IN:

EXT. OKLAHOMA CITY - NIGHT

SUPER: Oklahoma City

It sparkles in the dusk of Middle America's sky.

EXT./INT. MOMENTUM ART SHOW - NIGHT

THE annual social event of the local art world is happening at an historic three floor warehouse. Exhibition rooms are scattered everywhere full of paintings, sculptures, photography, performing art and music. Along with the smaller exhibition rooms, there are big open rooms that hold a lot of people.

The event is full of artists, buyers and sellers, hustlers. Everyone is visiting and drinks are flowing.

MADDY (V.O.)

While they bend their cocktails I bleed for them. And while they hide behind the shroud of them I bleed for them. And while they drag their cigarettes across concrete floors and throw smoke in raw energy, I bleed for them. These brilliant lights of angelic red, gather here at the hem of this city. These corners of the plains, this forgotten memory. Come. Have you met me? The poet under a canopy light who brings the angels in a broken pocket. Or the artist in the eyes of his colors and memory. Or the quiet sorrow, yet hope for a safe eternal. Swing this night where we all gather. To tip our glasses to the "flyover country." We've always been where we've always been. Tucked away in the stars forever. This invitation I sing with the camera raw and glowing. This pop of light across the sky electric. Eyes are the windows to the soul they tell me. And now I know. And now I know.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. OKLAHOMA LAKE - FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

SUPER: Lake Eufaula - 1978

It's a beautiful summer day. Several families are barbecuing near the shore. Maddy's father CARL, 30, tall handsome man is cooking on the grill.

CARL

Honey can you grab me a plate.

BARBARA, 27, Maddy's mom, gets a plate from the table and walks towards Carl and hands it to him. Barbara strokes Carl's back as he removes a hot dog from a grill and places it in a bun.

CARL (CONT'D)

Maddy your hot dog is ready! Come and eat.

MADDY, 10, runs towards Carl and he hands her the plate. Maddy takes one quick bite and puts the hot dog down and then runs off to the lake.

CARL (CONT'D)

It's that all you are going to eat!?

MADDY

I want to swim.

CARL

Put your life jacket on first.

Maddy runs far down the shore.

MADDY

It's okay. I'm not going out far.

Carl turns back to the grill and continues cooking. Maddy joins the other kids that are playing in the shallow water. PAT, a chubby 11 year old boy, approaches Maddy.

PAT

Come on Maddy I found a place it's just around those trees.

Pat runs off.

PAT (CONT'D)

Come on, come on.

Maddy follows him as Pat disappears around the trees. Maddy finds Pat climbing a rock off shore. Pat does a cannonball off the rock. Maddy runs to Pat in concern. Pat emerges from the water.

PAT (CONT'D)

Come on Maddy, jump!

Maddy stands on the rock and nervously looks down to the water below.

PAT (CONT'D)
Would you jump already!

Maddy gingerly moves closer to the edge of the rock.

PAT (CONT'D)
It's easy, come on Maddy.

MADDY
I'm going, don't rush me!

Maddy gets up the nerve and plunges in.

EXT. UNDERWATER - DAY

She slams her head on a rock. Rivers of blood spurt from her scalp. An unconscious Maddy does a deadman's float.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY - FLASH FORWARD

A WOMAN, 33, lays in bed. A easel stands in the corner with a blank painters canvas on it.

INT. MOMENTUM ART SHOW - NIGHT - FLASH FORWARD

PETER, 38, a white guy, approaches the camera. He takes a deep breath and looks directly into the camera.

PETER
You are the best thing that's ever
happened to me.

He gets down on one knee and reaches into his pocket.

PETER (CONT'D)
I want to make a life with you, marry me.

He opens a ring box exposing a glittery and shining diamond.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - FLASH FORWARD

A MAN, 30, with brown hair, places a gun to his temple and squeezes the trigger.

BACK TO SCENE

EXT. UNDERWATER - DAY

Maddy is floating in suspension. She opens her eyes under the water.

END FLASHBACK SEQUENCE**INT. MOMENTUM ART SHOW - BATHROOM - NIGHT**

MADDY, now in her 30's, splashes water in her face. She looks in the mirror at her blurry image. She splashes her face again, shaking her head as her eyes blink like the shutter of a camera.

MADDY'S SHUTTER VISIONS - A SERIES OF STILL PHOTOS

Progressive pictures of the sink in newer condition, with less and less rust.

INT. MOMENTUM ART SHOW - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Maddy gets a pill bottle from her pocket.

INT. MADDY'S HOME - MASTER BATHROOM - DAY - FLASHBACK

Barbara takes pills out of medication bottle. Maddy, 7, stands on door way looking at her mom.

MADDY
Mommy I'm hungry.

Barbara's eyes are heartbroken as she looks in to the mirror. She begins to well up with tears.

MADDY (CONT'D)
Mommy don't cry, daddy is in heaven.

BARBARA
I know sweetie. Did you get all of your things packed.

Maddy nods her head yes.

BARBARA (CONT'D)
Good girl.

MADDY
Can we take Jack with us?

BARBARA
I toll you honey, they don't aloud pets in the apartment. But I promise one day will have a big backyard.
(MORE)

BARBARA (CONT'D)
Then you can have all the puppies you want, okay? I promise.

MADDY
Okay, mommy.

BARBARA
That's my girl. Lets get you something to eat.

Barbara takes Maddy by the hand.

END FLASHBACK

INT. MOMENTUM ART SHOW - BATHROOM - NIGHT

CARISSA, 20, a Latina with wild curly hair grabs Maddy's hand.

CARISSA
Maddy...

Maddy keeps staring at the mirror, holding herself up with the sink, not paying attention to Carissa.

CARISSA (CONT'D)
Hey, Maddy.

Maddy turns to look at Carissa.

CARISSA (CONT'D)
What's wrong with you lately?

MADDY
I don't know, I keep seeing things, all of these people, I can't get them out of my mind, I can't take it anymore.

CARISSA
You're just stressed out. You are putting on the biggest art show in town.

MADDY
No, it's more than that. I have been dealing with this for years, but nobody gets it. It feels like everybody is pulling at me in a thousand ways.

CARISSA
Are you taking anything for it?

MADDY
Yea, but I think it's just making it worse.

CARISSA

Look, on Monday, I'll make you an appointment with my doctor, he's really good. Maybe you'll be better off getting a second opinion.

MADDY

Thanks, that sounds good.

CARISSA

Well lets get this show rolling. Come on, the mics are out again.

MADDY

Ok, lets go.

INT. MOMENTUM ART SHOW - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Maddy and Carissa walk down a dimly lit hallway and turn the corner.

INT. MOMENTUM ART SHOW - EXHIBITION ROOM #1 - NIGHT

A huge room filled with people, in the middle of the room is a gigantic sculpture, paintings are on the wall, a bar is in the right hand corner and the music stage sits in the opposite corner. Carissa and Maddy walk trough the crowd.

INT. MOMENTUM ART SHOW - BAR - NIGHT

PHIL, 27, stands next to his friend JOEY, 25, with a paper bag next to him. They are scanning the room for women with drinks in their hands.

JOEY

OK, buddy, which one looks good?

PHIL

Wait a minute, wait a minute.

Phil holds his hand out toward Joey as if to calm him down. Two hot, blonde girls, holding hands, walk past.

PHIL (CONT'D)

Ooh, do I dare? Let's see...

JOEY

What about her?

A brown haired, sophisticated, well dressed BEAUTIFUL GIRL in her 30's, is standing with three guys around her.

PHIL

Too high maintenance.

INTELLECTUAL WOMAN, 26, is standing nearby wearing glasses.

PHIL (CONT'D)

I can't have them smarter than me.

JOEY

How about her?

He points to YOUNG GIRL #1, maybe sixteen, talking to a friend of similar age, YOUNG GIRL #2.

PHIL

Do you want me to go to jail?

JOEY

Alright, alright. Let's see... What about her.

Masculine looking LEATHER JACKET WOMAN, 35, has a pierced nose and black dyed hair.

PHIL

I think she has more testosterone than I do.

A BLOND BEAUTIFUL WOMAN, 25, in a revealing dress walks directly in front of them.

PHIL (CONT'D)

Incoming two o'clock.

Both Phil and Joey ogle at her as she passes by.

PHIL (CONT'D)

Damn, I love this place.

Phil scans the crowd for women, inhaling deep.

PHIL (CONT'D)

Smell that opportunity!

Joey takes a drink of his beer.

JOEY

I love this place, but man, my mom is going to kill me for not going to the funeral.

PHIL

It's a fucking cat

JOEY

Yeah, but Mr. Wiskers was special. I used to hold him like a baby and when I talked to him, he always seem to understand.

PHIL
 What are you? Fuckin' eight? You want
 to see special? Have one of their honeys
 grinding on top of you. I'll show you
 Mr. Wiskers.

Phil doing a motion with his hips like sex. Joey looks down
 a little embarrassed as a hot GOTHIC GIRL, 24, walks by and
 gives Phil a dirty look. Phil chomps his gum towards her.

PHIL (CONT'D)
 How you doin'?

She walks by throwing them a disgusted look.

PHIL (CONT'D)
 I'll catch up with you later. Oh yeah,
 she wants me.

Phil turns around to the bar and gestures to the bartender
 for two more beers.

PHIL (CONT'D)
 Let's put this plan into motion. Did you
 get the stuff?

JOEY
 I got it, right here.

Joey pats the paper bag.

PHIL
 None of that cheap shit. You dealt with
 Diego right?

JOEY
 Yeah. Are you sure this is going to
 work?

PHIL
 Would you trust me?

Phil finishes his drink.

PHIL (CONT'D)
 Come on...

Joey takes the paper bag and follows him.

INT. MOMENTUM ART SHOW - MUSIC STAGE - NIGHT

The music group CHAMPAGNE is setting up their equipment.
 Maddy turns the mic switch on and off, while DANIEL, 26, the
 lead singer, talks into it.

Carissa flirts with JEREMY, 22, bass player, as he strums his guitar. Maddy looks at Carissa and rolls her eyes. Maddy bends down to make sure the cord is connected. She looks up at Daniel who is still testing the mic. MICHAEL, 30, Daniels brother, drummer, comes behind him and flicks his ear.

DANIEL
What are you doing?

MADDY'S SHUTTER VISIONS - A STILL PHOTO

Michael driving, riding shotgun is Daniel. In the back Jeremy smoking a cigarette and Justin playing guitar.

INT. VAN - DAY - FLASHBACK

Daniel looks over and sees the red light gas blinking.

DANIEL
How are we on gas?

MIKE
We're cool.

DANIEL
Yea.

MIKE
What?

Justin begins to imitate Mike.

JUSTIN
We're cool, we're cool.

He finishes imitating Mike.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)
Don't let it be like the last time in Vegas. I'm not walking ten miles for gas again.

They continue to drive on a desolate two lane highway. There is nothing around. Jeremy lights up another cigarette.

DANIEL
Damn, what's that smell.

Mike looks up in the rearview mirror at Jeremy smoking.

MIKE
It's the cigarette.

JEREMY
Ain't the cigarette.

DANIEL
Did you get the oil changed before we
left?

Mike doesn't say anything.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Damm it Mike, you don't do shit.

MIKE
I'm driving ain't I?

Smoke is curing out of the van. Mike pulls off to the side of the road. Everybody piles out. Mike pulls up the hood, burning his hand.

MIKE (CONT'D)
Call Dad, Daniel.

DANIEL
What Dad is going to do? It ain't like we
are in Norman.

JUSTIN
It's like the hills have eyes out here.

MIKE
And they're taking you first.

END FLASHBACK

INT. MOMENTUM ART SHOW - MUSIC STAGE - NIGHT

Daniel can now be heard talking into the mic., as the rest of the band continues setting up their equipment.

INT. MOMENTUM ART SHOW - EXHIBITION ROOM #2 - NIGHT

Very conservative, light art is in the walls (think Thomas Kincade). Joey and Phil check it out.

INT. MOMENTUM ART SHOW - EXHIBITION ROOM #3 - NIGHT

BALLET DANCER is performing gracefully as Phil and Joey pass by.

INT. MOMENTUM ART SHOW - MADDY'S PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION ROOM - NIGHT

Joey and Phil at the photography exhibit. The photos are of nature and landscapes. They turn the corner of the wall.

INT. MOMENTUM ART SHOW - EXHIBITION ROOM #4 - NIGHT

Phil and Joey find themselves in the middle of a sadomasochistic exhibit. Everyone is dressed in black leather. Men are whipping girls, girls have men on leashes. Phil and Joey are shocked at what they see.

They notice ROSE, 25, a Latino woman dressed in a red corset and wearing a carnival mask. She is looking around the cage in an agitated state.

INT. MOMENTUM ART SHOW - CAGE - NIGHT

Rose notices Phil and Joey backing slowly out of the room. Rose's breathing becomes more rapid as she continues to look at the cage and her body.

INT. MOMENTUM ART SHOW - EXHIBITION ROOM #4 - NIGHT

Rose grabs the bars and shakes them. The cage door flies open and she runs out of the exhibition room.

INT. MOMENTUM ART SHOW - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Rose bursts in and locks the door. She turns the faucet on, takes soap from the dispenser and begins washing her hands. A cockroach appears crawling across the sink. Rose notices it and washes her hands more furiously.

EXT. LAKE HEFNER - DAY - FLASHBACK

Super: Lake Hefner, 1988

Rose, 6, is playing on the beach sitting down with a pail shoveling sand into the pail. Rose is playing on a beach and legs come up behind her. Rose turns and becomes surprised by UNCLE FERNANDO, 26, then looks up at his face, recognizes him and she smiles. (Note: English subtitles)

ROSE
Me asustaste.

ROSE (CONT'D)
You scared me.

FERNANDO
No tengas miedo soy yo.

FERNANDO
Don't be scared, it's me.

He crouches down to her level.

FERNANDO (CONT'D)
Dejame te enseno a como
construir un castillo de
arena.

FERNANDO
Here, let me show you how to
build a sand castle.

He fills the pail with sand, turns it over and plots it on the shore. He removes the bucket leaving the sand mold.

FERNANDO (CONT'D)
Toma, quieres hacerlo.

FERNANDO
Here, you want to try.

Fernando hands the bucket to her. Rose nods and grabs it with a big smile.

ROSE
Si!

ROSE (CONT'D)
Yes!

Fernando goes behind her to help her shovel sand in to the bucket. With each turn of his forearm we see a tattoo of a cockroach. His hand is over Rose's who holds the shovel.

END FLASHBACK

INT. MOMENTUM ART SHOW - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Rose stands in the middle of the bathroom as cockroaches surround her. She notices a bottle of bleach under the sink. She steps over the cockroaches and grabs it. She splashes and pours the bleach onto the floor and the cockroaches.

INT. ROSE'S ROOM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

There is heavy breathing in the background. Fernando sits on the corner of the bed without a shirt. He gets up, fastens his belt and grabs his T-shirt from the floor.

Rose is in the other corner of the bed, near the wall, breathing heavily, embracing herself, and shivering. Fernando walks past a paper screen throwing off a huge silhouette.

END FLASHBACK

INT. MOMENTUM ART SHOW - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Rose flushes the toilet hysterically, then looks down at the cockroaches swirling down the drain. Rose continues to flush and with a toilet brush pushes cockroaches in to the toilet. All the cockroaches are flushed as her breathing slows down and she no longer sees them. Rose stands up and takes one long deep exhale as she walks to the sink to wash her hands.

INT. MOMENTUM ART SHOW - FRONT DOORS - NIGHT

Maddy arrives at the receiving table. At the receiving table there are five Momentum staff members handing out information on the art show. Maddy comes up to a Samuel, 50, an African American, who is opening boxes.

MADDY
Everything okay, Samuel?

SAMUEL
Yes! The programs are awesome. You did a great job.

MADDY
Don't give me the credit, it's all the volunteers.

Carissa shouts at Maddy and she turns around to face her.

CARISSA
Maddy, Frank is here from New York.
You've got to meet him.

MADDY
Would you excuse me?

Maddy follows Carissa towards the exhibition room.

CARISSA
He coordinates big shows in New York City, anything that comes in and out of New York.

INT. MOMENTUM ART SHOW - EXHIBITION ROOM #5 - NIGHT

Maddy looks straight ahead at FRANKLYN KENNEDY, 50, a white gay man dressed in a suit. He stands in a small group of people, some with drinks in their hands.

EXT./INT. ART MUSEUM LOBBY - DAY - FLASHBACK

Maddy looks up at the huge hanging banners advertising a new exhibit. She wanders inside and finds the admission prices.

INSERT: ADMISSION PRICES SIGN:

Adults \$12.00 - Seniors \$10.00 - Students \$10.00 - Children \$7.00

Maddy pulls out her wallet and discovers she only has a \$5.00 bill. She looks disappointed and heads towards the door. Curator Franklyn Kennedy's picture is framed on the wall with a name plate.

END FLASHBACK

INT. MOMENTUM ART SHOW - EXHIBITION ROOM #5 - NIGHT

Maddy stands with Carissa just outside the Franklyn Kennedy's circle of people.

CARISSA

Excuse me, Mr. Kennedy, this is Maddy Rose, she is the President of the Independent Artist Of Oklahoma.

FRANKLYN KENNEDY

Very nice to meet you.

He only slightly shakes her hand.

FRANKLYN KENNEDY (CONT'D)

I didn't think Oklahoma could ever come up with something like this.

MADDY

Yeah we have art now. We even have paved roads.

The rest of the circle ignores Maddy as Kennedy turns back to them.

FRANKLYN KENNEDY

As I was saying... The food was horrible, the service worse and the wine list, well, enough said.

The crowd laughs. DOLORES, 40, friend of Franklin Kennedy steps forward.

DOLORES

What are you doing next?

FRANKLYN KENNEDY

We are flying to Austin tonight, then Jeff and I are vacationing in Greece for three weeks.

Maddy turns to Carissa.

MADDY

I've got to go.

CARISSA

You need some help?

MADDY
No, I just have to take care of
something. Enjoy, it's going to be a
great night!

INT. MOMENTUM ART SHOW - FRONT DOORS - NIGHT

Maddy walks to the receiving table, where the cashier
CHRISTY, 30, a casually dressed Latino woman is taking money
from the people in line.

MADDY
Christy, don't take any more money.

CHRISTY
What?

MADDY
Let them in for free.

CHRISTY
For free! This is our chance to get in
the black finally.

MADDY
I don't care.

CHRISTY
So, what are you going to say to Brian?

MADDY
I'll deal with Brian, just let everyone
in for free.

CHRISTY
Whatever you say.

Christy begins waving people past the cashier stand. Maddy
walks to another table where artists are in line to get there
name tags for the show. PAUL, 24, gets in front of her.

MADDY
Name please.

PAUL
Paul Bryant.

Maddy searches for the name tag. She finds it and hands it to
him.

PAUL (CONT'D)
Thanks.

When Paul is about to walk away.

MADDY

Don't forget the sign in sheet.

Maddy gives him the clipboard to sign.

INT. OFFICE - DAY - FLASHBACK

ROBERT, 50, a psychiatrist, enters with a clipboard in his hand. Maddy, 10, sits directly across from an elegant desk. Robert places the clipboard on the desk and sits behind it.

ROBERT

Your teachers tell me you been having trouble in some of your classes.

Maddy doesn't respond. Robert writes on the paper.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

You can't keep this all bottled up inside you, it's not good.

MADDY

I just want to see my mom.

ROBERT

I know, but in time. She hasn't been responding to therapy. To introduce a family member now will just set her back.

Maddy doesn't respond and Robert continues writing.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Your aunt says you've taken up photography.

Maddy shakes her head.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

It must run in the family. I've seen your mothers work. We've try to introduce her back in to her painting. I think it will come back in time.

END FLASHBACK

INT. MOMENTUM ART SHOW - FRONT DOORS - NIGHT

SOL, 26, a painter tries to get her attention.

SOL

Maddy!

Maddy looks at Sol.

MADDY'S SHUTTER VISIONS - A STILL PHOTO

Sol throwing brushes.

INT. SOL'S GARAGE APARTMENT - MORNING - FLASHBACK

Sol throws brushes angrily. He grabs painted canvases and starts destroying them.

END FLASHBACK

INT. MOMENTUM ART SHOW - FRONT DOORS - NIGHT

Sol keeps trying to get her attention.

SOL

Maddy!

MADDY

Sol, how have you been.

SOL

Are you okay?

MADDY

Sorry, it's just been crazy!

SOL

I bet, but this place looks amazing!

MADDY

Thank you.

Maddy gives Sol his name tag. He signs the paper.

SOL

I'll catch up with you later.

Maddy continues giving name tags to artists. Sol walks up the stairs, passing PAT, 30, a poet. He is talking to his friend STEPHEN, 25, an African American.

STEPHEN

Who is showing up tonight?

PAT

Justin, Estela, Scott, Andrea, Sam...

STEPHEN

Amanda is coming?

PAT
That's what she said.

Stephen raises his eyebrows in excitement.

STEPHEN
I'd like to tap that.

PAT
Hey, I just got accepted in Underground
Voices that lit review.

STEPHEN
No shit. Do they pay?

PAT
Ten bucks for poetry, fifty for a short
story. Here I've got a CD in my bag you
can have.

He hands the CD to him and looks around the growing crowd.

PAT (CONT'D)
Daaaamn, look at all these people.

STEPHEN
What time are you reading?

PAT
Angela said I'm late, like eleven o'clock
or something like that. I'm getting
nervous

STEPHEN
Don't worry I brought some beer?

He gestures to his bag.

PAT
And I'm going to need it. I don't even
know why I signed up for this. I hate
reading in public.

STEPHEN
Well, how else are you going to get your
name out there.

PAT
I just hope my friends show up.

STEPHEN
Eleven o'clock right?

PAT
That's what they said.
paper towel by a paintbrush.