

Koan HUI



Genre: Action Thriller
Format: Red, 3D
Estimated Running Time: 100 min.

Budget:
US\$ 2,500,000 (HK\$ 19,500,000)

Producer:
FUKAZAWA Hiroshi

Writing Credit:
FUKAZAWA Hiroshi

Production Company:
Ghostsoup

HAF Goals:
Funds, Co-producers,
Sales agents, Pre-sales

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INTRODUCTION

The great psychologist Carl JUNG once said, "When an inner situation is not made conscious, it happens outside as fate. That is to say, when the individual remains undivided and does not become conscious of his inner opposite, the world must act out the conflict and be torn into opposing halves." *Written in Red* is a 3D, psychological thriller exploring the battle between our conscious reality and the hidden shadows of our unconscious minds. A novelist at the mercy of her unconsciousness and a detective interested only in "reality" cross paths, and because each is unaware of their suppressed shadows, they will ultimately destroy one another.

SYNOPSIS

At an abandoned hospital a cop discovers a bound and gagged nurse. He frees her and she leads him into the hospital, finally arriving at the old operating theater. He stops in shock when he sees a huge pile of dead bodies all in various stages of decay and the nurse suddenly turns on him and slides a syringe into the back of his neck and he feels his body growing colder and colder and colder...

...and a woman wakes up in front of her opened refrigerator. Shaken, she walks to her bedroom and finds a stack of papers in her own handwriting, already describing the dream she just had. She faxes them over to the newsroom. The woman is Scarlett, a writer of a popular thriller series in the paper. There's an office boy, Vin, in the newsroom whose only job is to decipher her terrible handwriting. All of Scarlett's stories come to her in vivid dreams she has been having since she was young. But now people are starting to die in ways she has described in her stories and dreams.

The police suspect that one of Scarlett's fans has become a copycat killer but the detective in charge, Dean, thinks Scarlett is the perpetrator. No one believes that this neurotic woman could commit murder, but Dean has solved so many bizarre cases, he takes no chances. He arrests Scarlett and finds that the lady not only sleepwalks but also has a borderline personality with schizophrenic symptoms. She could be committing crimes in her sleep with no memory of them after she wakes up. Convinced, Scarlett begs the police to lock her up.

But while she's in police custody, another murder takes place, this one resembling the dream that opened the film. Since that installment hasn't been published yet the police suspect someone in the newsroom and they quickly target Vin. They search his house, which is a shrine to Scarlett, decorated like the rooms in her novels, full of models of her most famous murder scenes. Vin claims he's just a fan but the police don't buy it and he runs. He reaches the elevator but begins to hallucinate and has a gruesome accident that sees him crushed to a pulp. Case closed. The police free Scarlett.

Still convinced that Scarlett somehow did it, Dean storms home, opens the door to his apartment, and another door appears. He opens that door only to find another door. Kicking down door after door he realizes that this must be a hallucination and he shakes it off just in time to find himself on the edge of the roof. One more door and he would have fallen to his death.

Racing to Scarlett's apartment he turns it inside out and finds a dream notebook under her pillow. In it is a description of Vin's bizarre death in the elevator. Dean demands to know who else has seen the notebook, Scarlett swears she's the only one and without a word Dean pulls his gun and shoots her. She dies, still protesting her innocence.

A few days pass and the case seems to be finished. A frumpy maid arrives at Scarlett's house to do her cleaning and after the cop on duty takes down her particulars he lets her retrieve her belongings and go. She rounds the corner and smiles to herself, cruelly. In her hand hides Scarlett's notebook. No one even noticed this woman before, but it's clear that the murders won't stop here.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Our Shadow is everything that we repress in our unconscious mind. It can be a source of inspiration when we are in touch with it, or the source of our destruction if we deny it. Scarlett accepts her unconscious as the wellspring of her creativity. For Dean, his Shadow is the source of the intuitive leaps that have let him solve his high profile cases. But he refuses to acknowledge his Shadow, and so his pride has curdled into arrogance and his eagerness to break big cases has decayed into an obsession that has blinded his judgment.

Everyone has a Shadow of some type, and I am excited to use cinematic language to express these abstract states that lie somewhere between reality and dreams. After all, film is kind of a dream itself, a mystery that hypnotizes us into believing that a lie is the truth.

DIRECTOR

Koan HUI started as an assistant director to Tsui HARK working on films like *Once upon a Time in China*, *Swordsmen II* and *Dragon Inn*. Over the years, he received extensive practical training from Tsui HARK, covering all areas of film production: scriptwriting (*The Blade*, *Black Mask*, *Time & Tide*), visual effects (*Legend of Zu*, *Era of the Vampires*), editing and art direction. In early 2000, he started the visual effect and animation company, Chibi (Digital Vision), which was responsible for the visual effects work on *2046*, *Sha Po Lang* and *Dragon Tiger Gate*. *Written in Red* is his directorial debut.

PRODUCER

FUKAZAWA Hiroshi started his film career working as a personal assistant to the legendary composer James WONG. His first short film, *Traffic Jam*, won the Distinguished Award of the Hong Kong Independent Short Film & Video Awards in 1996. After his documentary debut, *Development Hell*, premiered at the 31st Hong Kong International Film Festival he joined Media Asia, the studio responsible for internationally acclaimed films such as *The Warlords*, *The Assembly* and Andrew LAU's upcoming martial arts film, *Legend of Chen Zhen*.

PRODUCTION COMPANY

Established in 2004, GHOSTSOUP is a diversified production house founded by FUKAZAWA Hiroshi and focused on producing Asian-language film and documentaries. Its credits include the highly acclaimed documentary, *Development Hell*.