

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER: *Screenplay (Coursework)*

Format and content of a screenplay:

Single column with wide margins. Courier font size 12.

"THE SILENCE OF THE LAMBS"

by

Ted Tally

Based on the novel by

Thomas Harris

FADE IN:

INT. GRUBBY HOTEL CORRIDOR - DAY (DIMLY LIT)

A woman's face BACKS INTO SHOT, her head resting against grimy wallpaper. She is tense, sweaty, wide-eyed with concentration. This is CLARICE STARLING, ~~mid-20's, trim,~~ very pretty. She wears Kevlar body armor over a navy windbreaker, khaki pants. Her thick hair is piled under a navy baseball cap. A revolver, clutched in her right hand, hovers by her ear. She raises a speedloader, in her left hand, locks it into her cylinder, twists and reloads.

CLOSE ON

A guest room door, with a small, wired pack attached to its knob. Suddenly, with a sharp CRACK!, the knob explodes, and the door bursts open.

WITH CLARICE - MOVING SHOT

as she runs around a corner, through a cloud of smoke. She shoulders aside the shattered door and rushes inside, gun at the ready in both hands...

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

CLARICE'S POV - MOVING - as she first sees, sitting on the edge of a bed - a FEMALE HOSTAGE. Black, late 20's, gagged, hands behind her back. Then, SWIVELLING... she sees a startled MALE SUSPECT, white, mid-20's, standing by a window with a rifle in his hands. He is turning towards her...

Clarice drops into a combat crouch, gun extended, and shouts.

CLARICE
Freeze! FBI!

CLARICE'S POV - SLOW MOTION

all natural SOUND ~~suspended~~ as the Suspect faces her with a strange, pleading expression. The rifle is rising in his hands, but oddly enough, it is held across his chest, not

1 ← Page number. Top right

Each scene is numbered and has a slugline in upper case:

- Where the action takes place inside INT or outside EXT
- Location
- Lighting DAY / NIGHT / TIME

[1] ←

Character name. Upper case for first appearance only.

Scene / action description. Description when a character is introduced. Written in present tense.

Essential camera instructions. Upper case

Essential edit instructions. Upper case

[2]

Dialogue in the middle, with speaker's name in upper case.

Sound. Upper case

MF ←

MF (More Follows). Bottom right.