



HELLO DARKNESS

Change is coming whether you like it or not

Someone or some
thing is trying to kill
you.

Day and night, your
tormentor is
unrelenting.

You can't sleep.

You can't eat.

You are fucked.



Bloodthirsty

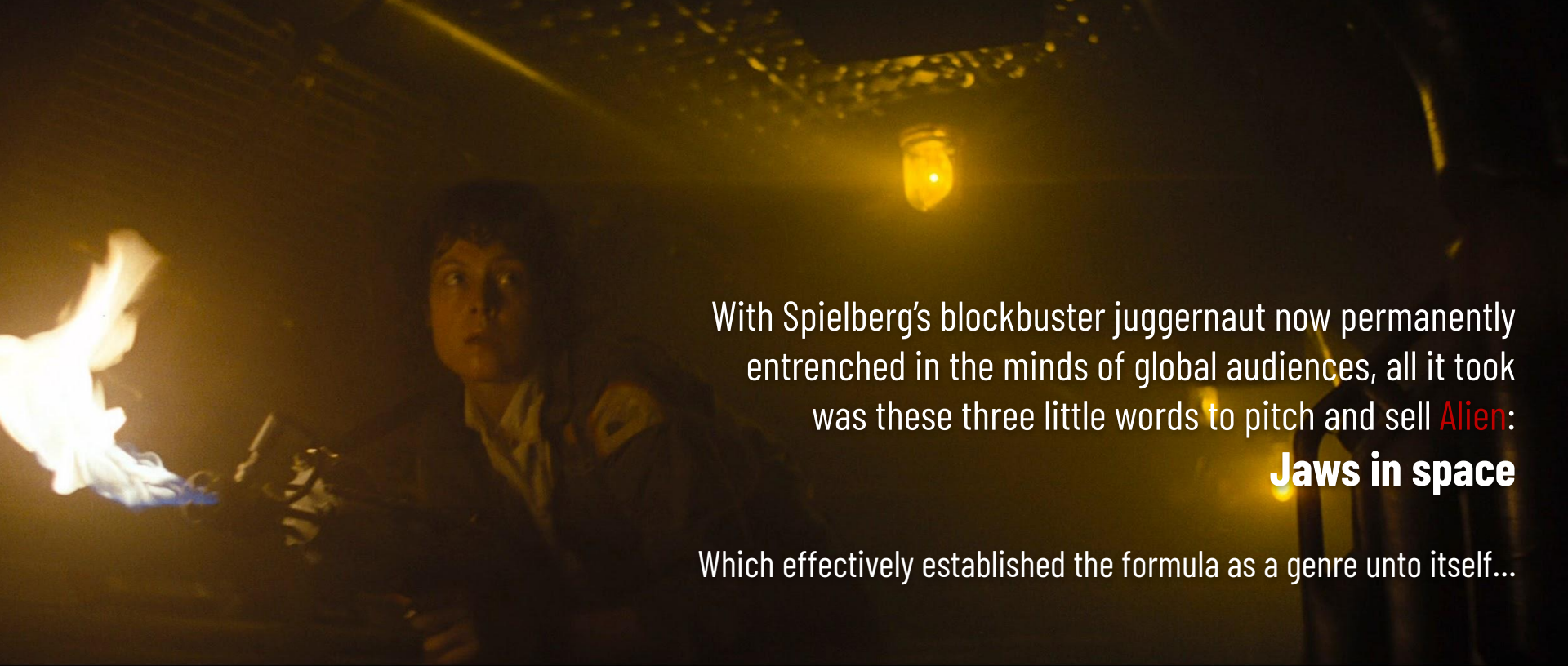
Merciless

It waits in the shadows

It is the hunter

You are the hunted

In 1975, Jaws utilized this formula to redefine HORROR
while simultaneously breaking the mold



With Spielberg's blockbuster juggernaut now permanently entrenched in the minds of global audiences, all it took was these three little words to pitch and sell **Alien**:

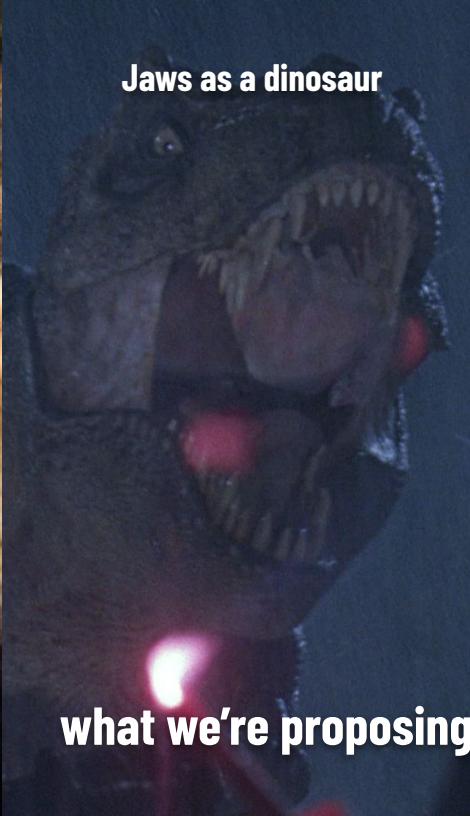
Jaws in space

Which effectively established the formula as a genre unto itself...

We've seen Jaws on safari



Jaws as a dinosaur



Jaws in the forest



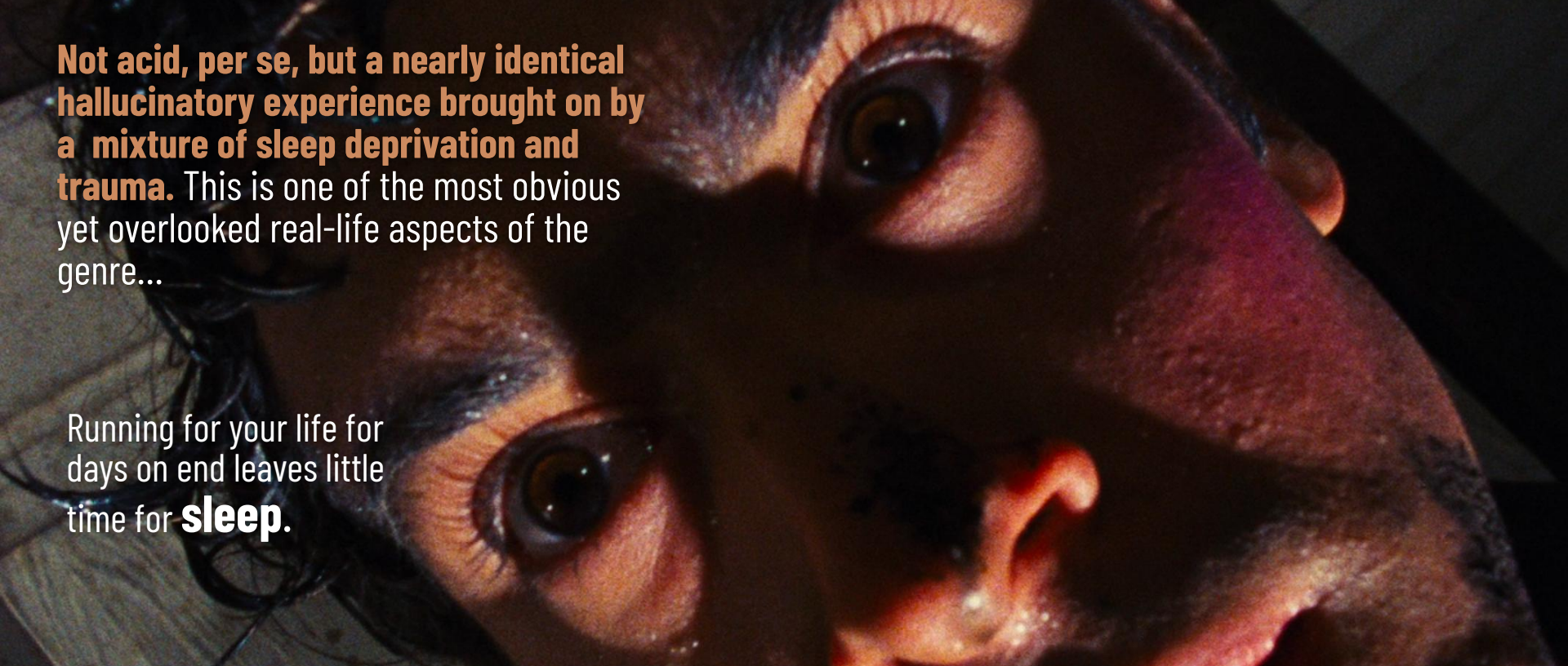
Jaws in the swamp



what we're proposing is a bit... different



**Jaws
on
ACID**



Not acid, per se, but a nearly identical hallucinatory experience brought on by a mixture of sleep deprivation and trauma. This is one of the most obvious yet overlooked real-life aspects of the genre...

Running for your life for days on end leaves little time for **sleep.**

How sleep deprivation affects the mind

After 36 hours

Memory becomes impaired as you experience waking dreams...

After 48 hours

You hallucinate: seeing, hearing, and feeling things that aren't there...

After 72 hours

Illusions and delusions are more frequent, becoming harder to differentiate from reality...

After 96 hours

Psychosis: Cognition is severely distorted, fully losing contact with your external reality.



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was directly inspired by these two real world events:

First, the inexperienced gold prospector who was kept awake for four days, fighting for survival.

Second, the super predator Polar Bear, forced into new hunting grounds as a result of manmade climate conditions.

The New York Times

A Grizzly Bear Terrorized a Man for Days in Alaska. The Coast Guard Saw His SOS.



A mining camp near Nome, Alaska, where a Coast Guard helicopter crew rescued a man who had been attacked by a bear that "kept coming back every night." United States Coast Guard

The Guardian

Alaskan mother and son killed in first fatal polar bear attack in 30 years

Reason for attack is unknown but scientists found in 2019 that changes in sea ice habitat coincided with polar bears' use of land



HELLO DARKNESS
story

A wide-angle landscape shot of a coastal Alaskan region. In the foreground, a two-lane asphalt road curves from the bottom left towards the center. A small, dark-colored car is driving away from the viewer on this road. The road is flanked by lush green vegetation, including bushes and tall evergreen trees. To the right of the road, a wide, braided river with multiple channels flows through a flat, green landscape. In the background, a range of large, rugged mountains is visible, their peaks and upper slopes covered in snow. The sky is a pale, overcast blue. The overall scene conveys a sense of a remote, natural environment.

It's present day.

An unnamed metropolitan man arrives at
an isolated coastal Alaskan gold mining village
under mysterious conditions.



Travel-weary and disoriented by the near-constant daylight of Alaska's summer, The Man ignores calls from distressed loved ones to return home.

Driven by cryptic circumstances concerning his wife, The Man strikes out on foot, forty miles west, to a small gold claim in the barren grassy tundra.

All we know is...

He's down to his last dollar
He's painfully underprepared
And he's never mined for gold
A day in his life



Upon arriving at a ramshackle mining camp consisting of a tool shed, a sleeping shack, and an outhouse, the bleak reality of The Man's situation quickly becomes apparent:

Wolves howl in the distance

Swarms of mosquitoes attack night and day

And much to The Man's frustration...
sluice mining in the nearby waterways yields
little to no return.



The Man gradually finds his bearings with life in the tundra and the mining process as the days pass—eventually unearthing a palm-sized...

chunk of
gold.



His moment of celebration is **shattered** by a
starving, bloodthirsty Polar Bear emerging
from a lake just meters away.



Hundreds of miles from
its arctic habitat, the
starving bear begins
hunting The Man in
what will become a
relentless and violent
game of cat...
and mouse.





The Man goes without sleep for four days
as The Bear destroys the camp's flimsy
wooden structures - piece by piece.

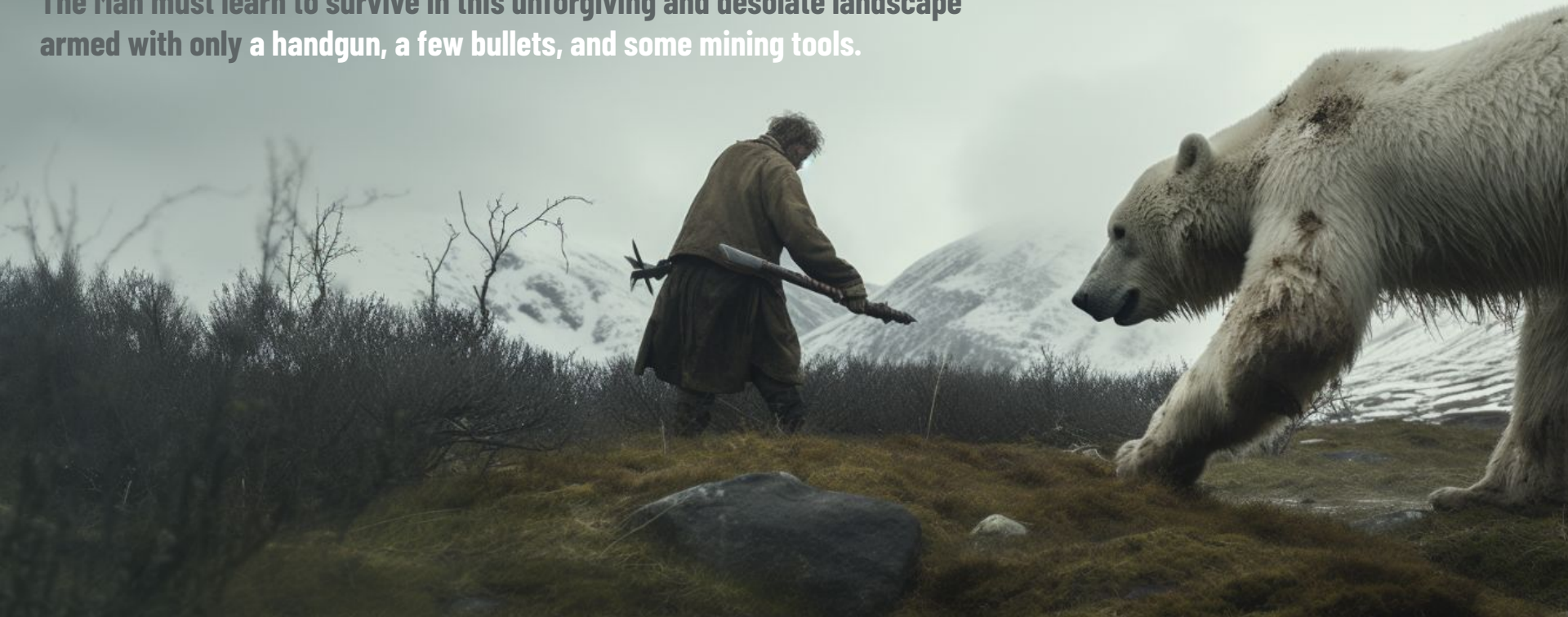
As the days pass...

The Man enters an adrenaline fueled **psychedelic state** due to sleep deprivation and the ever-present sun.

With no means of escape
**and nowhere to
hide...**



**The Man must learn to survive in this unforgiving and desolate landscape
armed with only a handgun, a few bullets, and some mining tools.**



Soon, we are witness to hallucinatory
visions of The Man's wife:

How they met

The business they started

The pregnancy of their firstborn.

These cherished memories are seemingly all
that keeps The Man going.

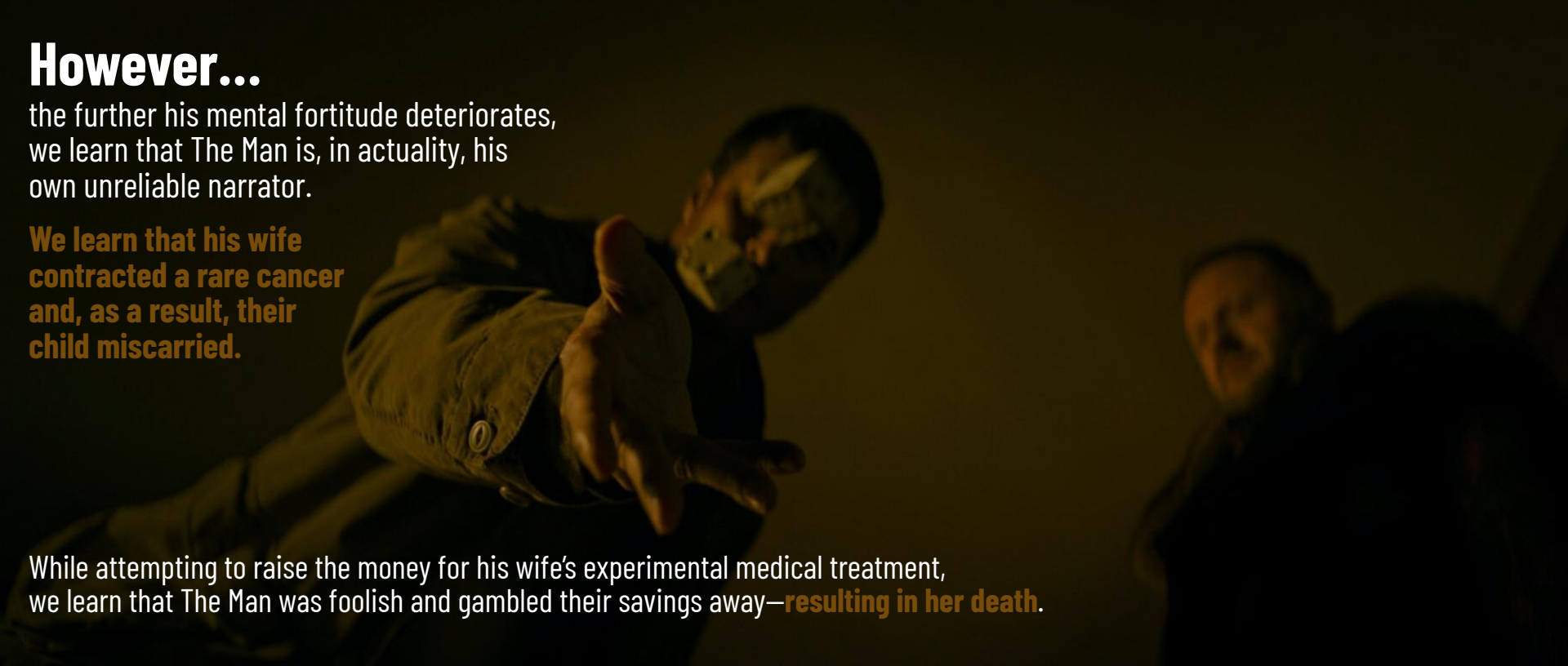


However...

the further his mental fortitude deteriorates, we learn that The Man is, in actuality, his own unreliable narrator.

We learn that his wife contracted a rare cancer and, as a result, their child miscarried.

While attempting to raise the money for his wife's experimental medical treatment, we learn that The Man was foolish and gambled their savings away—**resulting in her death.**



In the wake of these traumatic events, it becomes clear that The Man suffered a psychotic break.



Now...
tormented by guilt, The Man remains hellbent on a symbolic mission to raise the money that once was needed for his wife's treatment.

This new revelation of The Man juxtaposes
our perception of The Bear.

Like The Man...
The Bear was driven to leave its home in a
hopeless, last-ditch chance at survival.



Several days into hunting The Man,
The Bear is weak, wounded, and dying.

This is where our empathy
shifts from Man to Bear.



Defeated and down to his last bullet...

The Man finally comes to terms with the truth of his place in his wife's death.



With nothing left to live for...

The Man must make the heart wrenching decision to either kill The Bear or kill himself.

In their final bloody moments, Man and Bear dig deep to muster the energy for a final stand.



The gun slips from The Man's weak, shaky grasp.

The Bear falls to its knees, unable to support its weight.



Man and Bear collapse
unconscious.

Black

The sound of a helicopter fades in from silence.

From The Man's bleary POV, we see a coast guard
approaching to provide emergency medical care.

As The Man is helped into the helicopter...





...he witnesses another coast guard shoot The Bear in the head at point-blank range, putting it out of its misery.



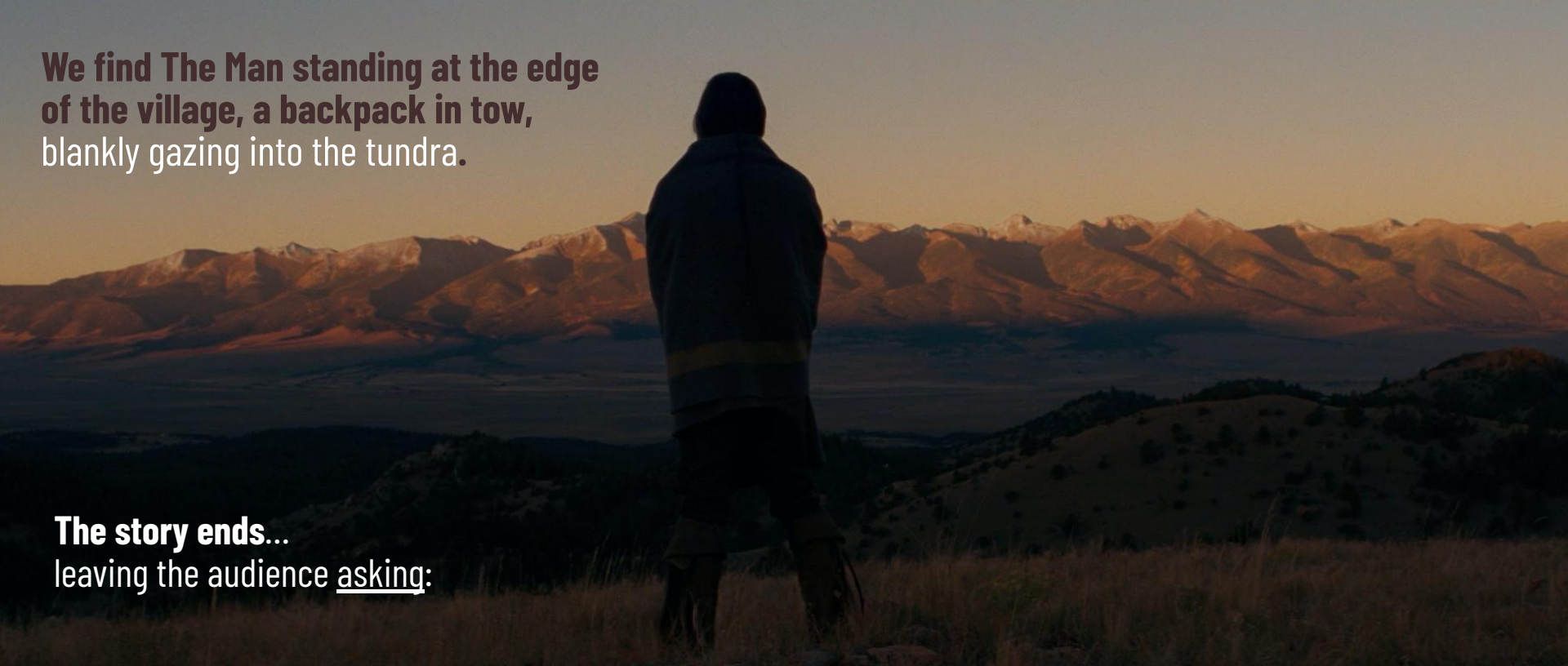
The Man wakes in a hospital weeks later.

Overhearing a call from a concerned friend, we're made to believe that The Man intends on returning home.

However, as the conversation ends...

**We find The Man standing at the edge
of the village, a backpack in tow,
blankly gazing into the tundra.**

The story ends...
leaving the audience asking:





Has The Man learned anything from his
experience, or, like mankind itself, is he doomed
to **repeat his mistakes?**

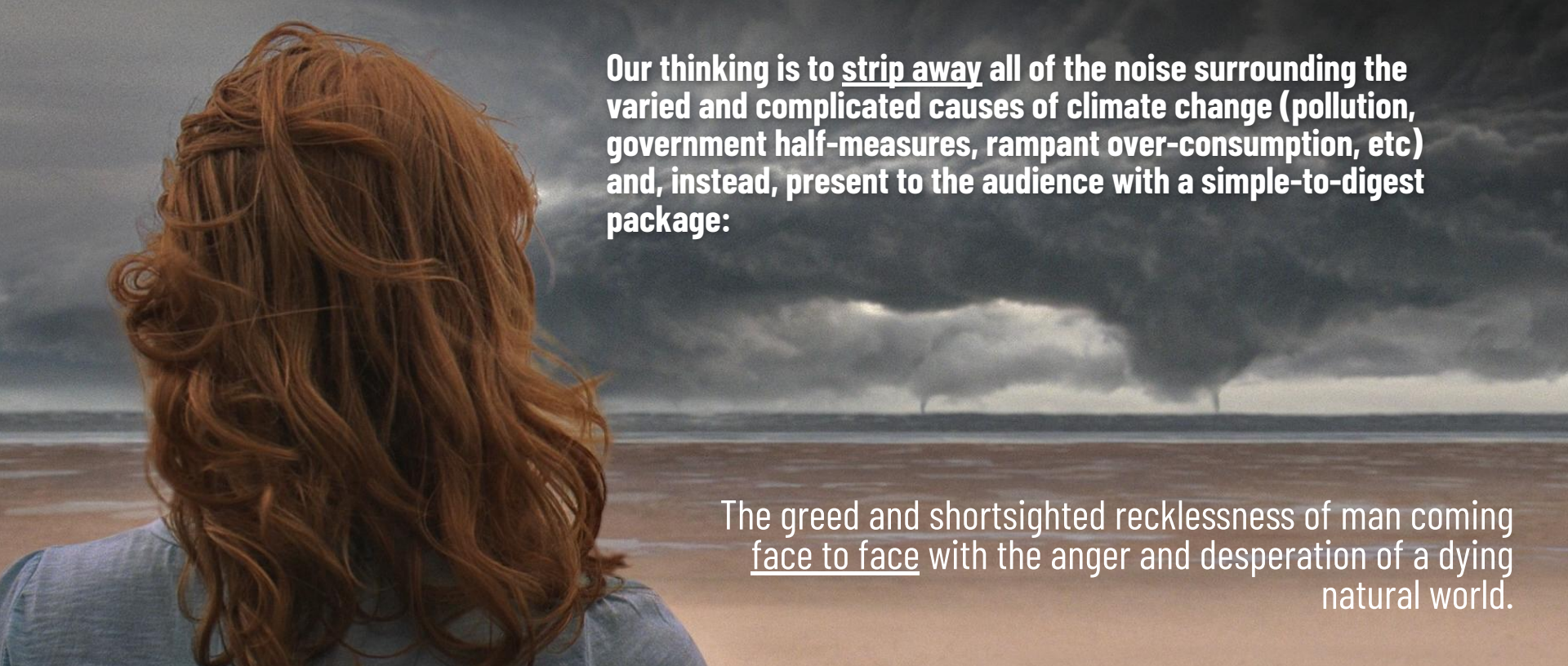
A silhouette of a person with long, wind-blown hair stands in the center-right of the frame, looking out over a vast, flat landscape under a bright, orange-hued sky. The person is facing left, and their shadow is cast onto the ground. The horizon line is low, and the sky is a uniform, warm orange color. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

HELLO DARKNESS

Themes & points of interest



At its core...
Hello Darkness is a fable.
Although the moral of our
story surrounds the cause
and effect of the climate
crisis, the goal is not to
finger-wag or pretend to
offer solutions.



Our thinking is to strip away all of the noise surrounding the varied and complicated causes of climate change (pollution, government half-measures, rampant over-consumption, etc) and, instead, present to the audience with a simple-to-digest package:

The greed and shortsighted recklessness of man coming face to face with the anger and desperation of a dying natural world.

Unlike other psychedelic horrors, our story isn't about drug use, which can alienate some audiences.

With Hello Darkness, we get the freedom and excitement of playing in visually-wild, hallucinatory sandboxes without the negative associations that come with onscreen drug abuse.

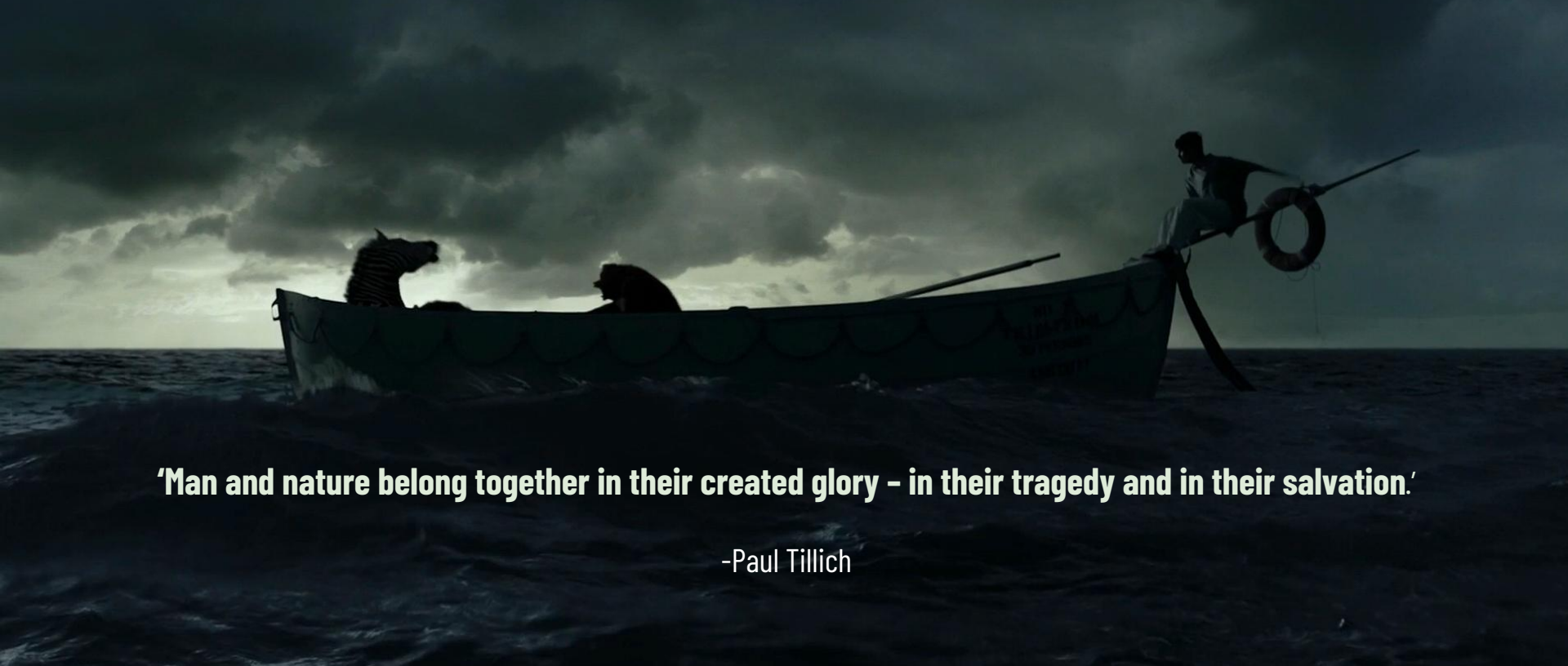


With international markets in mind...

the dialogue in Hello Darkness is kept to a minimum, and its themes universal: greed, love, loss, guilt, atonement, and survival.

Our ultimate vision for Hello Darkness is to tell a story so visually lean and relatable that it could play nearly as easily as a silent film.





'Man and nature belong together in their created glory – in their tragedy and in their salvation.'

-Paul Tillich



Thank you for your time

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Download the script [HERE](#)

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Inspiration



