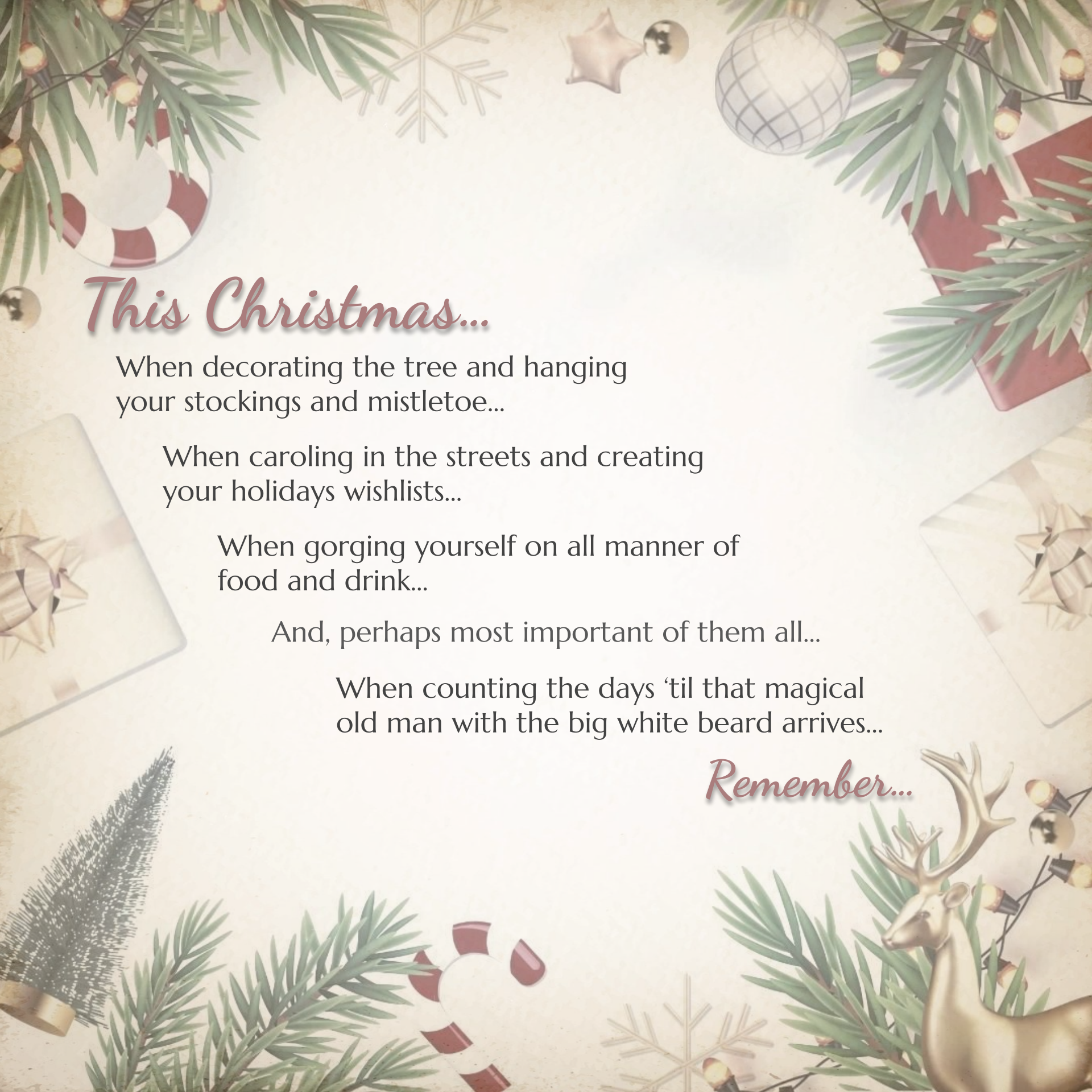




Them Old Ways

CHRISTMAS IS CANCELLED



This Christmas...

When decorating the tree and hanging
your stockings and mistletoe...

When caroling in the streets and creating
your holidays wishlists...

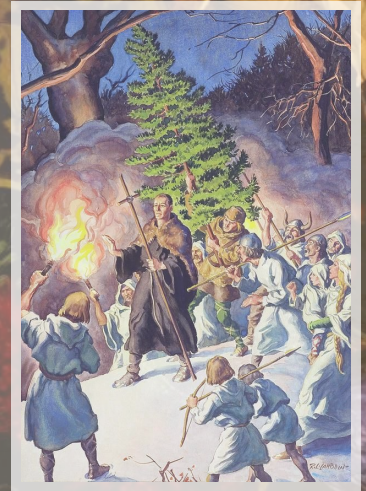
When gorging yourself on all manner of
food and drink...

And, perhaps most important of them all...

When counting the days 'til that magical
old man with the big white beard arrives...

Remember...

*...you're participating in
ancient winter solstice
pagan rituals.*





What does any of the aforementioned Christmas traditions have to do with the birth of Jesus Christ?

Nothing.

What they have everything to do with is **Saturnalia** – an old world pagan ritual of gluttony, sexual depravity, and human sacrifice which just so happened to take place from the 17th to the 25th of December.

This isn't fiction...
This is history.

One of the most egregious lies in human history that continues to hide in plain site to this day.

This is the bedrock of our Christmas folk-horror feature script, **Them Old Ways**.



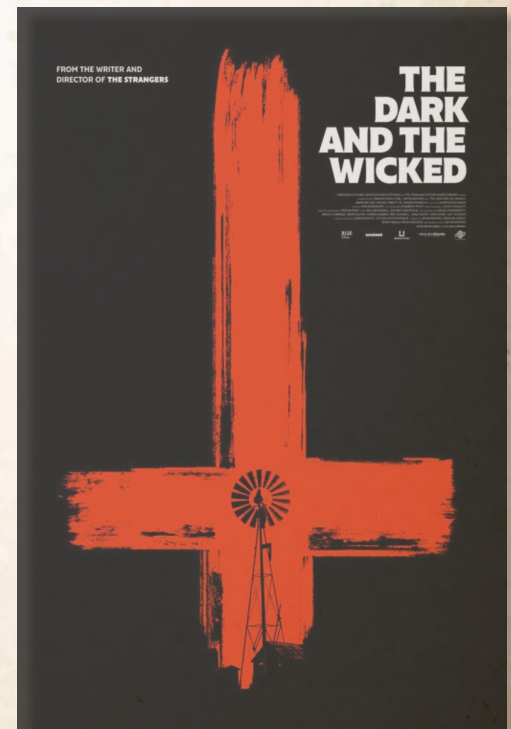
Learn more about Christmas' pagan origins [HERE](#)

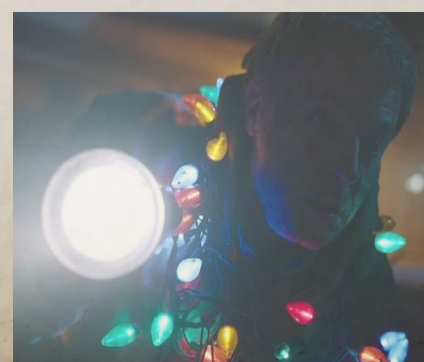
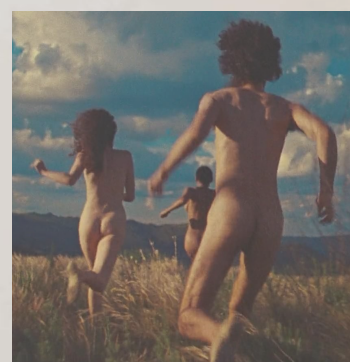


logline

Needing a change from city life, a family relocates to rural Appalachia. As their picturesque mountain setting approaches the holiday season, things turn not-so-jolly when a neighboring off-grid community's festivities reveal themselves to be of a darkly twisted pagan origin.

story cross







Story

Twelve-year-old Brighton Chandler is having a hard time.

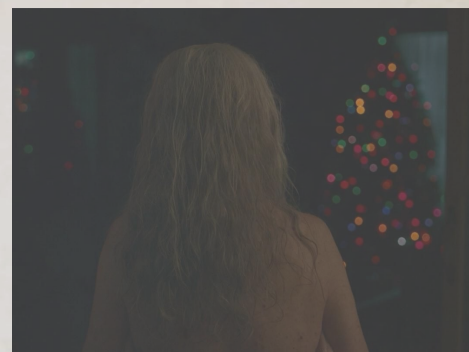
His issues with sensory sensitivity have only grown worse as he approaches puberty. His teachers urge that he receive special care and medication—a concept that his new age influencer and pregnant mother, Jess, rejects. Since Brighton is having difficulties with the noise and stresses of city life, she'll move the family to the country, where she's long fantasized about giving birth to her second child.

Husband and father, struggling copywriter Eric, hates the idea. However, since Jess is the primary breadwinner, he begrudgingly accepts. To the middle of nowhere West Virginia, it is.

While adjusting to life in the scenic isolation of their new Appalachian Mountain homestead, the Chandlers meet peculiar members of Owl Farm: a small, idyllic, off-grid community in the neighboring valley. A one-time coal mining camp of European immigrants, the location is now home to a Christmas tree farm, with its inhabitants keeping their old-world dress and customs intact.

As Owl Farm's winter celebration approaches, Jess and Brighton's curiosity grows. After a formal invitation slips under their door, the Chandlers decide to attend—much to Eric's reluctance. What begins as seemingly innocuous holiday merriment and indulgence quickly devolves into a shocking abomination of old-world pagan ceremony and monstrous costumes, twisting the Chandler's winter wonderland into a cacophony of dread and terror.

After his parents vanish, Brighton enters a manic state of confusion, fear, and sensory overload. With his survival instincts taking hold, Brighton begins committing atrocities himself, ultimately poisoning the entire farm. We bear witness to Brighton, apathetic and unphased by the gruesome display of writhing bodies all around him.





Brighton (12)

Timid but also has an aggressive side that's hard for him to manage. Feels Jess and Eric are so busy being good parents they forget to actually listen to him. Has taken interest in an older girl from Owl Farm, whose wild and carefree spirit, for better or worse, helps Brighton break free of his shell.

Jess (35)

Although Jess teaches online seminars on, as she calls it, return-to-nature mothering arts, the truth is, she's barely stepped foot outside big cities. Noticing Owl Farm's live off the land lifestyle, Jess becomes mystified – so much so that she begins losing sight of her better judgement.



Eric (39)

A one-time in demand copywriter for top tech companies, Eric now gets work wherever he can find it due to the advent of AI technology. Between Jess bossing him around and barely making a living wage, Eric feels pushed around by life. Things get only more exasperated when Jess and Brighton take interest in Owl Farm – whom he's been weary of since day one.

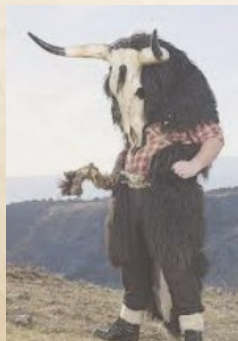
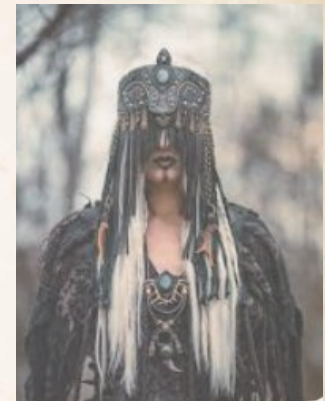
Owl Farm

Little has changed since the Owl Creek mining disaster of 1908: residents make clothes, crafts, and grow their own food. Despite being viewed as strange, locals still buy their wares at market, especially an herbal elixir that treats symptoms of opioid addiction. Their top customer is the local sheriff, with whom they have a special alliance. In secret, he receives elixirs for his addict daughter, and in return, he turns a blind eye to the happenings at Owl Farm.





Inspiration for Owl Farm's ceremonial costuming





Approach to horror

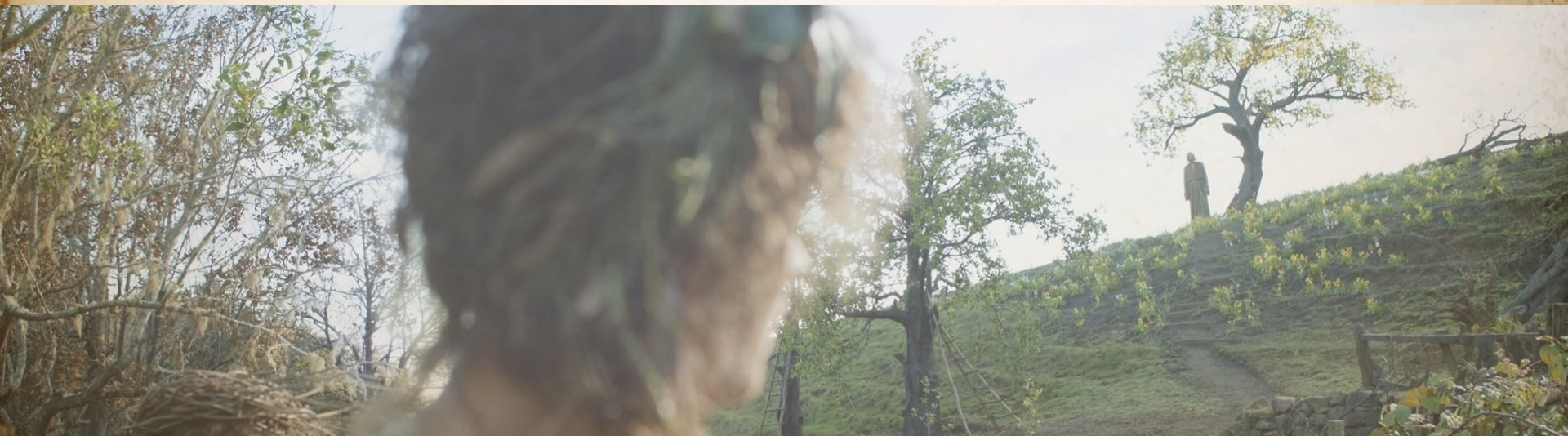
Until the Chandlers physically enter Owl Farm, the residents of the farm will largely be obscured, hidden by darkness, kept at a distance, or having stepped behind a tree at just the perfect moment—thus making the farm's residence all the more terrifying when we finally see them up close in their bizarre pagan costumes.

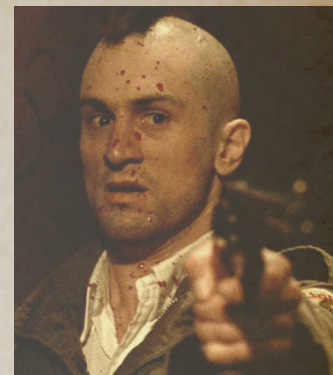
In addition to the usual trappings of the genre, our approach to horror in *Them Old Ways* is an examination of the real-world lie that much of us have been indoctrinated to since birth and the life-shattering effect on one's reality upon learning the truth (acting in many ways as a parable to revealing the Santa myth to children).

Using the societal preciousness of the holidays, the aim is to juxtapose horrific aspects of our story via iconic Christmas symbolism with its true perverse pagan origins. The goal is to pull back the curtain for audiences on a global scale, nudging them to question the basis of their belief systems and their participation in seemingly nonsensical traditions.

Them Old Ways works to avoid pitfalls of the camp and wackiness of common Christmas horror films, such as *Krampus*, *Silent Night*, *Deadly Night*, and other schlocky B-movie slashers by rooting itself in a real life travesty: the lie—thus elevating the horror while giving itself a unique footprint in the genre.

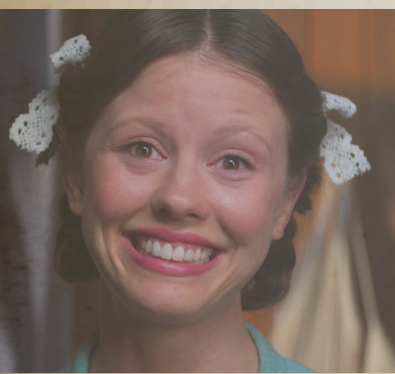
Ultimately, *Them Old Ways* is a script designed to reflect the loss of innocence, the raging out of being lied to, and the crushing realization that things have forever changed, all against the backdrop of the world's most universally cherished holiday.





“What’s important about horror stories is to look at what’s actually horrifying about humanity, instead of shining a flashlight on it and running away giggling.”

—Robert Eggers—





*Thank you
for your time...*
and Merry Christmas!

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