



CORPSEWOOD

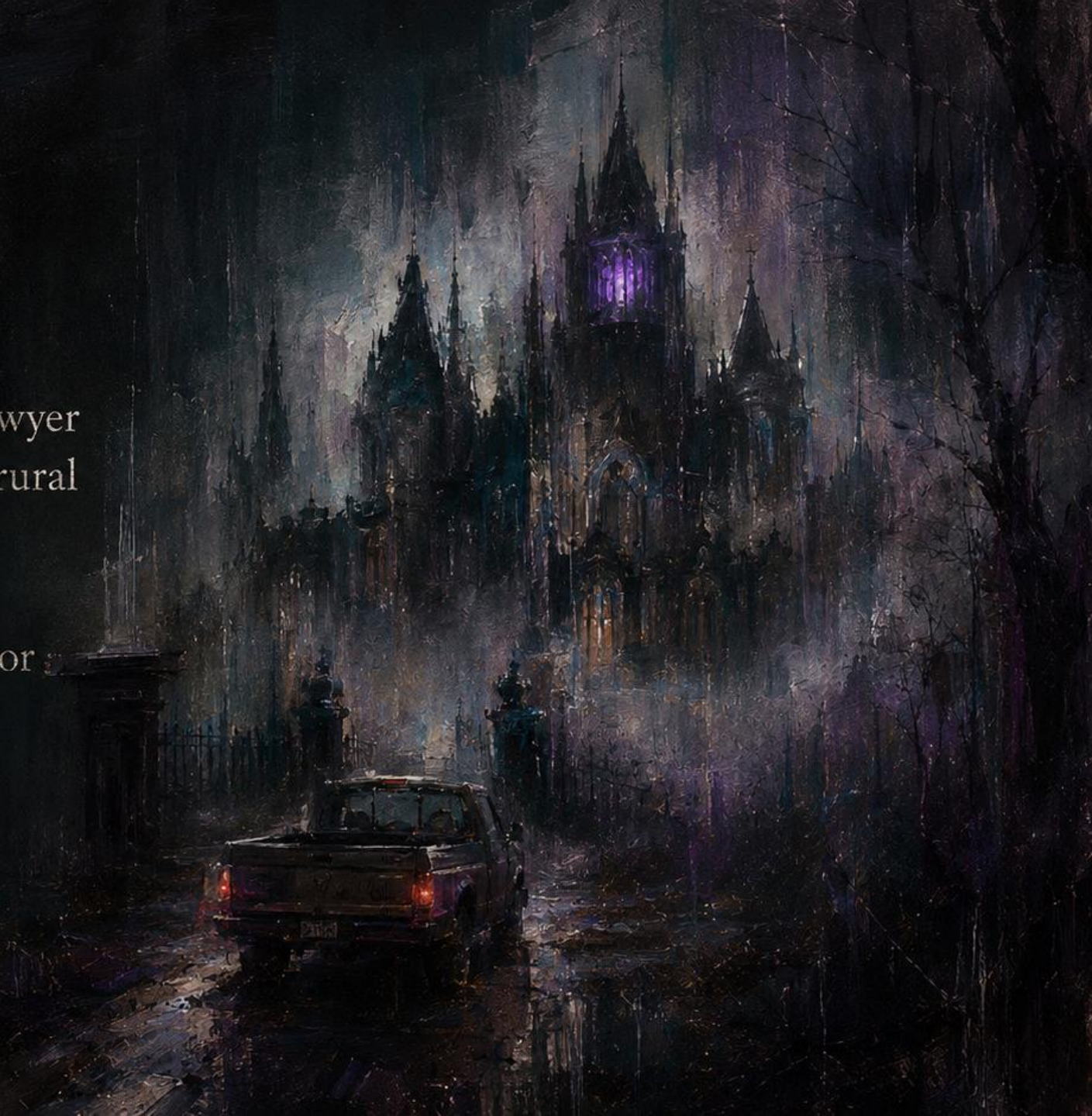
MANOR



Written by C. Neil Davenport

LOGLINE

When a status hungry young Atlanta lawyer drags his reluctant fiancée back to her rural Georgia hometown for Christmas, his attempt to retrieve her mother's last surviving horse leads him into the manor of a dying occult aristocrat who hides failed soul-transfer victims inside dead horse carcasses whose unfinished portrait may become the doorway into his body.



SYNOPSIS



Corpsewood Manor follows Dustin Wheeland, a young Atlanta lawyer newly elevated at his firm and desperate for paternal approval. Engaged to Jenny, an artist from rural Summerville, Georgia, Dustin arranges a Christmas trip to meet her estranged father, Harper, and obtain his blessing. Jenny does not want to go home. Her mother, Caroline, vanished years ago, Harper never told her the truth, and the family's horses remain the last emotional trace of the life she escaped.

As Dustin and Jenny travel from Atlanta into rural Georgia, reality becomes progressively stranger in grounded ways: gray weather, religious billboards, dead roads, local stares, old nicknames, buried grief, and the resurfacing of Jenny's Southern identity. At Harper's ranch, Jenny discovers that her father sold the horses to Dr. Elias Schroeder, an eccentric recluse who lives deep in the woods at a place locals call Corpsewood Manor. One horse may remain: Snowflake, the last horse Caroline helped birth.

Humiliated by Harper and eager to prove himself, Dustin ignores Jenny's warnings and follows Rolland, a charming local ferryman figure, toward Corpsewood. Once inside the manor, the film crosses into full surreal psychological horror. Schroeder serves Dustin hallucinogenic wine, strips him of his shoes, bargains with him, and begins spiritually preparing him as a vessel. The manor speaks through trapped voices. Blood activates the house. Portraits behave like living thresholds. Dustin discovers that Schroeder's failed soul-transfer victims are buried inside horse carcasses across the property because nobody questions a buried horse in the country.

Jenny, aided by Harper as the Half-Man who once survived partial contact with the manor, enters Corpsewood to save Dustin. Harper dies after following a false voice of Caroline, proving that knowing the house's rules is not enough if guilt chooses the wrong voice. Jenny reaches Dustin during Schroeder's ritual, and Dustin survives only by finally listening to Caroline's true voice through the burning manor. But the transfer is incomplete, not defeated. Back in Atlanta, Dustin begins painting his own unfinished portrait despite never having painted before, while Jenny watches in terror as voices whisper from the apartment walls.



CORPSEWOOD MANOR

SETTINGS

WHEELAND & ASSOCIATES
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

WORLD A

ATLANTA

POLISHED PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE

LAW-FIRM CHRISTMAS PARTY

APARTMENT

STATUS, AMBITION, CHARM

SOCIAL HIERARCHY

URBAN CONTROL

REPENT
THE END
IS NEAR
ARE YOU READY?

SUMMERVILLE

EST. 1847

GOD · FAMILY · TRUTH

WORLD B

SUMMERVILLE

GROUNDLED SOUTHERN UNCANNY

RURAL ROADS

RELIGIOUS SIGNAGE

DEER IN THE ROAD

LOCAL BAR

HARPER'S RANCH

HORSE GRAVES

MISSING-PERSON FOLKLORE

OLD WOUNDS

WORLD C

CORPSEWOOD MANOR

SURREAL PSYCHOLOGICAL HORROR

THE MANOR

PORTRAIT HALL

ULTRA VIOLET ROOM

WINE ROOM

BURIAL FIELD

VOICES

FALSE DOORS

SOUL-TRANSFER RITUAL

BURNING MAZE

CORPSEWOOD MANOR

COMPS

DRACULA



Civilized young man enters the remote estate of an old aristocratic predator who weaponizes hospitality, seduction, and bodily invasion.

EYES WIDE SHUT



Hidden ritual society, eroticized dread, class secrecy, slow-burn surrealism, masks, desire, and private ceremony.

STRAW DOGS



Outsider masculinity, rural hostility, humiliation, territorial violence, and the collapse of civility.

CORPSEWOOD MANOR

CHARACTERS



DUSTIN WHEELAND

(think Robert Pattinson)



JENNY

(think Jennifer Lawrence)



DR. ELIAS SCHROEDER

(think Christoph Waltz)



ROLLAND

(think Alan Ritchson)



STORY STRUCTURE

CORPSEWOOD M A N O R

ACT I


A horse collapses in the mud, bleeding from hollowed eyes, as unseen pursuit closes in—establishing the film’s world. In Atlanta, newly promoted lawyer Dustin Wheeland seeks his father’s approval and plans a Christmas trip to Summerville to meet his estranged father Harper. Jenny urges him to listen and stay away. Steven reveals Harper sold the horses to Dr. Schroeder at Corpsewood Manor and that Snowflake may still live there. Torn between love and pride, Dustin chooses to prove himself and retrieves what he thinks he lost.

ACT II

Dustin and Jenny’s love is tested by the ritual “What do you see?” and the cost of his pride. Dustin follows Rolland to Corpsewood, where Schroeder offers hospitality and Caroline offers fragmented truth. Dustin drinks the wine, accepts a bargain, hears voices, and bleeds into the floor. Believing he shoots the buck, he kills Snowflake instead—false failure becomes true catastrophe. The house tightens its grip. Rolland reveals the disposal system. Dustin is beaten and dragged back, Snowflake is dead, Caroline’s fate is confirmed, and Dustin’s unfinished portrait reveals he has been chosen for soul transfer.

ACT III

Jenny learns Dustin is missing. Harper confesses his guilt and joins her as the Half-Man, offering rules and warning that the house lies through voices. They enter Corpsewood and follow Caroline’s true voice. Dustin is strapped in the Ultra Violet Room as the ritual begins. Rolland interrupts; violence erupts. Harper follows the wrong voice and dies. Schroeder’s body is killed, but the ritual has already entered Dustin. Harper sacrifices himself, and Jenny frees Dustin. They escape the burning house. Back in Atlanta, Dustin paints his unfinished portrait—one eye blank, one eye alive—while Jenny watches as voices whisper from the apartment walls.



PRODUCTION, MARKETING & DISTRIBUTION

CORPSEWOOD MANOR

PRODUCTION:

Georgia-based production. Seek strong manor location/build. Use practical effects where possible. Maintain controlled VFX for portraits, voices, eyes, fire, and surreal geography.

MARKETING:

Lead with the hollow-eyed horse, title image, and logline. Position as elevated Southern Gothic psychological horror. Sell the unique mythology: 'Nobody asks questions when you bury a horse in the country.'

DISTRIBUTION:

Target prestige genre distributors and horror-forward companies with track records in elevated theatrical/streaming hybrids.



CORPSEWOOD MANOR

B U D G E T

\$5M–\$12M

with \$7M–\$9.5M
as the practical target range
for a Georgia-produced
elevated horror feature.

THANK YOU

Thank you for your time, consideration,
and belief in Corpsewood Manor.

Let's make this psychological
horror feature happen!

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