

EXAMPLE TREATMENT

TITLE: The Ten Steps.

LOGLINE: During a blackout teenager Katie must confront her darkest fears as she descends the ten steps into the haunted basement.

TREATMENT: Teenager Katie sits at her kitchen table talking to her friend. She is babysitting her little brother Steven while her parents are at a dinner to impress her father's new boss. She explains how she has just moved into a new house with her family due to her father's new job. She doesn't like the new house and tells her friend that it gives her the creeps. Meanwhile, Steven sneaks up on Katie and gives her a big scare. Steven is defiant so Katie phones her parents, disrupting the dinner. Somewhat embarrassed Katie's mother tells Steven He'd better behave.

Suddenly, there is a blackout. Katie is afraid and calls her parents again. Her mother answers and Katie explains the situation. Her mother wants to abandon the dinner however Katie's father needs to stay to impress his boss. He takes the phone and explains to Katie that she must go into the basement to check the fuse. Katie's mother tells the dinner party that Katie is afraid of the basement as she suffered a panic attack there when they first moved in. One of the dinner guests skeptically mentions that their house was rumoured to be haunted and that the devil was supposedly seen in there.

Lighting a candle and mustering all her courage Katie descends the stairs into the basement. She takes each step one at a time in the pitch-black. Her father counts the steps for her, guiding her down. As she reaches the ninth step she summons all her courage to take the final step. When she finally does her parents cheer on the other end of the phone. However Katie doesn't stop counting. Her voice changes to a frightening monotone and she counts on and on as the credits roll.