

SPLIT ROCK LIGHT by Andy Froemke

andy@andyfroemke.com 612.741.2816

Genre: Romance/Mystery

Logline: When a small town police detective mourning the death of his wife fishes a woman with amnesia out of Lake Superior, he discovers they're linked to a tragic turn-of-the-century romance replaying itself in the present day.

Tagline: "Love is a light that never goes out."

The tone is a cross between THE NOTEBOOK and SOMEWHERE IN TIME. This is a story about love, loss, letting go, and living in the present. It's about the transformative power of tragedy.

Elias Pedersen (40's) is a single parent and small town Deputy on Minnesota's North Shore, who has recently lost his wife to the lake when she commits suicide. His daughter, Chloe (12), unable to come to terms with the death, keeps tabs on her father by police scanner. One stormy night, Elias is summoned to Lake Superior near Split Rock Lighthouse where he helps rescue a woman from the water. Her incoherent responses and cries for someone called Magnus lead to a scouring of the lake for additional victims, but no one is found. When it's discovered the woman has no memories at all of who she is or how she got in the water, Elias begins an investigation into her identity.

Eventually, an overturned sailboat is recovered and traced to a resort. Elias has a name... Mary Wieland, but no one immediately comes forward to claim her and exhaustive searches don't turn up anything further. Chloe, becoming increasingly curious about the newcomer, begins to question her father about the case. He rebuffs her, but starts to uncover parallels between Mary and his dead wife. He finds himself spending more and more time with her.

Mary, stranded in the hospital and trying to piece together her past, begins to sketch the fleeting images that haunt her sleep. There is the face of a man (Magnus), a landscape, and a lighthouse. The drawings reveal an artistic talent, and add to the mystery surrounding her arrival. When Elias recognizes one of her drawings as Split Rock Light, she begs him to take her there. Touring the grounds, Mary discovers a turn of the century photograph depicting the family of the first lighthouse keeper. She is hypnotized by the image. There... looking out of the grainy black and white print is a young woman by the name of Mary Wieland... a mirror reflection of her modern day counterpart. It's a match... only Mary Wieland's been dead for one hundred years.

With no further leads on her identity, Mary is adrift, alone, and slated to be sent to the County Hospital. Interceding, Elias gets her released into his care and brings her home to Chloe and his mother, Virginia. With each passing day, Mary becomes more and more a part of the family, slowly slipping into a dead woman's shoes. As Chloe bonds to her and Elias begins to fall in love with her, Mary doesn't realize the psychological minefield she's stepped into. She's too busy trying to come to terms with flashes of memories she believes belong to a turn-of-the-century woman from the lighthouse. As Elias searches for a more plausible explanation, his Mother warns him of the dangers to Chloe if this "new mother" suddenly rediscovers her identity and leaves. Elias dismisses her concerns.

When Mary discovers Elias' wife's medication in the back of a cabinet and realizes she's been cast as a ghost in the house, she confronts Elias. Not wanting to be a memory, she tries to pull back, but she feels herself coming unraveled. At that moment, a man shows up and identifies "Mary" as Sarah Lawton... his sister. Thrust back to a painful past, Elias and Chloe are forced to relive their loss as Sarah is taken back to her home and reintroduced to a life she can't remember.

The jolt of losing Sarah finally helps Elias let go of his dead wife, and he begins to reestablish the close bond he once shared with his daughter. Still, he can't forget Sarah and her eerie resemblance to the girl in the lighthouse photograph. When his mother gives him an old scrapbook, Elias unearths an old family secret that binds he and Sarah together... a tragic love story of a fisherman (Magnus) and a lightkeeper's daughter torn apart by their love. Seeing the parallels, Elias makes a journey to reclaim Sarah and assure their love story will have a different ending. Simultaneously, Sarah discovers Mary's journal, which she had gotten as a child. The discovery helps her inch toward the memory of a car crash that claimed the lives of her husband and unborn child... the shattering tragedy responsible for her amnesia. It comes like a wave, but she weathers it. A new life is brewing inside her... a new life that will bind Sarah and Elias together and fulfill a promise made over one hundred years ago.

Gold Medal Winner - Talentville - Top Rated Screenplay
Semi-Finalist - Table Read My Screenplay

Link to Rip Reel (mock trailer from found footage to convey look and feel of the film)

*Not available on mobile devices

<http://www.andyfroemke.com/Split-Rock-Light.html>

About me: Andy Froemke hails from the Deep South but began his storytelling career in the mountains of Montana. Starting out in Montana State University's fledgling film program, he quickly distinguished himself with two award-winning short films. After graduation, he spent a summer following Robert Redford around the rivers of Montana, co-producing/co-directing *Shadowcasting: The Making of A River Runs Through It*. The documentary aired on PBS and French cable, garnered a Regional Emmy nomination, and won a Gold Hugo at the Chicago Film Festival. Mr. Froemke made his feature film directorial debut with the psychological thriller *Parasite* in 1995. Shot in 13 days in the Arizona desert for \$40,000, the film would eventually sell to both Asian and North American video markets.

Moving to Minnesota, he turned his focus from production to screenwriting. Over the years, he's optioned several spec scripts, done rewrites and consultant work for indie production companies, been accepted to the Public Reading Series at the Minneapolis Playwright Center, and has been a four-time McKnight Screenwriting Fellowship Finalist.

In 2014, he provided scripted material for the ABC series *IN AN INSTANT*, optioned a psychological thriller to Movierockets Entertainment, and won an unprecedented 5 gold medals (script of the month) on Talentville.com. He was named a Finalist in the 2015 Beverly Hills Screenplay Competition and a Semi-Finalist in Table Read My Screenplay Sundance.

A member of IFP Minnesota and the Screenwriter's Workshop, he enjoys supporting local filmmakers and mentoring young writers. When he's not sitting in a theater, you'll find him in a library archive, indulging his passion for history and finding forgotten stories.