

Melina Townsend

Screenplay Treatment- Shattered

Type of Screenplay:

The screenplay, "Shattered," will be classified as a psychological drama and nonfiction. Due to the mature content, language, and subject matter, it will have a MA rating. This would be set up in an episodic style. The total length would be about forty-five minutes per episode. This would be the pilot episode, and then more episodes and seasons would come afterward with flashbacks and present-day events.

Target Audience:

The target audience is people of any gender, race, or ethnicity. Most viewers will fall between the ages of 15-65. This show will attract most people who have gone through abuse themselves because they will be able to relate to the main character, Melanie. This show will also appeal to people who are sensitive and untrusting of the world. Since this is a show, it will follow a young girl who is in her early 20s and working on fully figuring out how to get out of the control of her mom and be her own person. She has finally tasted freedom and does not want to return to the life she was forced to have for so long.

Characters:

There will be three main characters in this screenplay episode. The first main character is Melanie Hester. Melanie looks skinny, brunette, and seems put together on the outside. Melanie always tries to dress her best and look the part as best she can. Melanie is the third oldest of her five siblings but has two cousins who lived with her while growing up, and one is the same age

as her. Melanie as a person is sensitive, caring, and scared. She is always trying to please her mom and doing everything she can to protect her feelings. She is trying to give her mother everything she wants, even if it is not in Melanie's best interest. Jenna Ortega will play Melanie. The second main character is Theresa. Theresa has a legal last name but prefers to constantly be telling people that it is her maiden name, or to some, she will say she kept her married name when she got divorced for her girls, or she even likes to just go by her middle name. Always faking what her true life looks like. Theresa is Melanie's mom, and she is full of herself, two-faced, and willing to lie to everyone and anyone to paint a picture that is not real. She is self-absorbed and selfish to the point where Melanie thinks her mom does believe what she says to people is true. Roseanne Barr will play Theresa.

The third main character is Branson Towns. Branson is Melanie's serious boyfriend. Branson comes with way less baggage and trauma than Melanie-granted he still has some, but his family is considered normal compared to hers. He is a hard worker who has been introduced to Melanie's life in the past and is slowly learning the extent of what his girlfriend's mother is like and the many horrendous and distasteful things she has put her kids through. Branson does not care to form a relationship with this woman and has done things as carefully as possible, including encouraging therapy for Melanie to help her deal with everything that her mother, Theresa, has done in the past to her. He is slowly trying to get her to understand she can stand in this world without her mother and the world will not crumble when she has finally had enough. Brandon Sklenar will play Branson.

**** Some side characters would come later in the many series if it ended up getting made!**

Characters that would be added later: Melanie's sisters, boyfriend/ex-fiance/cousins/extended family

Setting:

The screenplay occurs in Corning, New York, starting in March 2021. The place they live in feels like home, it's a 2 bedroom apartment that is clean, has lots of windows that the light shines through. The apartment has an old time feel to it with the radiators around the apartment. This apartment is bigger than most places Melanie has ever lived before. The street they live on is quiet and friendly. Corning is a family town, this is where you settle down, this is where all your ghosts and burdens can't enter because of the caring nature of the town.

Plot Structure:

In March 2021, Melanie woke up to a routine she created with her serious boyfriend. There are no surprises at all because Melanie cannot stand change. They wake up and make breakfast, and each proceeds to prepare themselves for the day. During Melanie's days, she often receives calls and texts from her mom, either shaming her or guilt-tripping her into anything the mom decides she wants or needs. This could be things such as asking for money, not getting her way on certain matters, etc. Melanie continues to push down that awful feeling she always gets when anything is connected to her mom. Melanie works all day, and she works hard. Then Branson and Melanie get home to make dinner, usually watching movies. One day Melanie fell on black ice while working and had to rest up from the injury, thinking it would go away in a couple of days and everything would return to normal.

A few days pass, and the pain continues to get worse to where she can barely walk. Melanie did everything she could to get better with heating pads, ice, medications and eventually emergency room visits. So that she could try and at least function on a semi normally. Melanie is doing everything she can to improve because she knows her mother Theresa's flower shop opening is happening in about three days. Melanie sees her doctor because she needs to make

sure she will be okay to sit in a car for two and a half hours. The doctor advises against it since she cannot even sit down usually without excruciating pain. This becomes a big deal as Melanie understands that not going to this flower shop opening means the wrath of fury her mother Theresa will bring down on her because it's easier for Theresa to lie about her daughter's absence to make people feel bad for her but also to make Melanie look bad. Theresa is all about image and making it look like she is the perfect everything and what questions would raise if Melanie wasn't there to gloat all over her mother would be a huge betrayal. Melanie drives to the closest grocery store and buys a full apple pie. She proceeds to eat the entire pie as soon as she gets home. Then she hides it in the garbage can so Branson does not notice and asks questions. Melanie is drained when she is done and tries to sleep but can't because she can barely walk or lie down without excruciating pain.

Two days until the flower shop opens, and Melanie's mom has no idea that she is hurt, but for good reasons. Melanie has tried everything, but it just will not go away. While Branson is home, she finally decides to message her mom and let her know what has happened, and she probably will not be making it to the opening. An opening that Melanie felt would never succeed in the long run anyway. Instantly, Theresa's name flashes on her phone. Melanie is shaking, breaking down, looking to see where Branson is. Seeing that he is in the kitchen she answers the call, and Theresa immediately spirals on her daughter with accusations that she does not believe her daughter is hurt and demands proof. Melanie at first caves, and Branson hears this conversation, and as an outside person in this mess, he says, "No mother is supposed to act like this." Theresa says Melanie is being very selfish and says, "I will never forgive you for this." Melanie repeats it right back to her and says, "You know what, I am done-Fuck You"!

Melanie hangs up the phone, and Theresa tries calling back, but Melanie refuses to answer at this point. Melanie is at her wits' end with her mother. Theresa is a monster who only cares about herself and her needs.

That very next morning, Melanie cannot go to the bathroom and is rushed into emergency surgery because of an infection, ending with her off of work for three months and a wound vac machine that had to be changed by a stranger three times a week. Melanie finally gets home from the hospital after about a week in the hospital to find mail notices from a collection agency. This collection agency notes that several thousand dollars of electricity bills have not been paid in Melanie's name while COVID-19 was happening and she would have thirty days to respond. Once again Theresa has used her daughter's social security number to take out bills in her name and never paid the money back. Melanie comes to realize the actual ending of her and her mother's story would take a dark, life-altering turn for the better and the worse.

Production Techniques:

Some shots would be wide-angle shots that capture Melanie and Branson's everyday life, which would be the beginning shots. Some tracking shots that follow the car and close-up shots of Melanie sending the text to her mom would also be included. These would include wide and close-up shots of the whole phone conversation that plays out. Also, there would be one specific close-up shot of Melanie when she realizes this piece of mail with tears in her eyes. Sad music would start to play to feel more of Melanie's devastation and loss for words.