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TO THE READER:

This is a tale of witchcraft based on the life and execution of Dorcas Stuart Kelly for being a witch, brothel keeper and the first Irish serial killer, told as an eighteen century Ireland might have believed to be, along with various stories of secret societies and real rituals and religious beliefs.

It was inspired by Irish folktales, mythology and recorded diaries, journals, and historical events of witch's persecutions as well as a country stained by war, the conflicts of a divided Ireland and the need for national identity, who grow a common fear in its people who which supernatural was still a part of life.

To effectively portray this world, it is essential that all aspects are carried with utter realism and maturity, without making any political or religious sides as just evil or good. Without making pagans the enemy nor the victims, instead, shall this offer them dignity, as much was already taken from them.

Shall this be a piece of their darkest truth, a mystic dream from the past.

INTRODUCTION

Darkest Kelly is a dark period drama set in 1722 Ireland. The pilot was written to be a mystic dream from the past, with the intent to return the dignity that was taken from pagan religions, forgotten many years ago, as well as empowering women who lived as second-class citizens. Paranormal themes grow with the characters and it's approached with utter realism.

I have spent more than three years studying and researching to better explore her world, and her time period in order to write all the episodes for the first season, TV bible and pilot which are now concluded.

Even though, some people have questioned 'why is she writing about something happening in Ireland when she's not even Irish?', and while it might be easy to criticize based on me being a Portuguese woman writing about Ireland, I would like to point out that this is probably why Darkest Kelly is so important to read, as it is about spirituality and our connection with things we cannot yet understand.

I wrote this script because I fell in love with Ireland, its culture and folklore, which is the same reason why I write about Dorcas Stuart Kelly, who is known only by her real death, and nothing was written about her past. Therefore, I portrayed her as a fearlessly independent young woman and fictionalize her life after feeling a deep connection with her as a misunderstood woman, unfairly condemned by others.

Darkest Kelly is essentially about an obstinate girl who rejects other people's opinions, overcomes a traumatic past and her fear of being alone so she can save 13 women accused of witchcraft by providing them with a brothel to live and work, and eventually become their leader against the real murderer - The secret Society Hellfire Club.

Later in the next episodes, it becomes clear that the main message is focused on the importance of letting go of the past in order to live for a better present and future, as the Hellfire Club members have the opportunity to choose to reincarnate after death and remember their past lives, among other great power they achieve which, as always, comes with terrible consequences.

It is also focused on strong relatable female characters, each of them with different core wounds who teach us about surviving as second class citizens in the eighteenth century, and national identity.

AUTHOR STATEMENT

Back in 2018, one year after being paid to write a feature script and completing my master degree in Film/TV Production and Management, I found myself wandering in Irish streets while pursuing more career opportunities, where I immediately fell in love with the culture, the people and their History. As any writer living the adventures of being in a new country, something was changing inside me. I got inspired by the short stories of secret societies, and women falsely accused of witchcraft and murder, and consequently, Darkest Kelly emerged inside me as a story that was crawling inside me, yelling to be told, like a truth that must be known.

Since then, I took up the challenge of extensive research of Irish History, mythology, and occultism, and wrote 8 episodes including the TV pilot, built up this pitch deck, wrote and rewrote every script according to the different feedback I gathered over the year from professionals, non-professionals, teachers and recent PhD graduates in Irish Medieval History.

Although Dorcas' execution was a real event, nothing is known about her or her life. Therefore, it fictionalized in 9 episodes and mixed with real Irish history, rebellions and secret societies. The dialogues were written in archaic English instead of Irish to facilitate the reading. Accent and specific words were included. You will find out that real characters have surnames the first time they are introduced, such as "Jonathan Swift", "William Conolly" and "Dorcas Stuart Kelly", unlike the fictional characters which are introduced by their name only, such as Agnes, Seamus, Nolan, Father Redmond, and so on.

With Dorcas, I delve into the darkest recesses of my imagination and unravel the same core wounds as an unlovable young woman seeking her own identity in a small country that has also fought for its independence and national identity from its big neighbour.

Darkest Kelly is a dark period drama inspired by real events and Irish Folktale, such as the real execution of Dorcas Stuart Kelly in 1761. Her death was real but nothing else is known about her life or childhood, as well as the lives of most lower-class women in the eighteenth century. Therefore, everything you will read on this screenplay in regards to her personal life is pure fiction and rumours. In this screenplay, our reality is mixed with Irish mythology.

All of their folkloric, spells, rituals and religious beliefs are true. Some of the dialogues were obtained from historical records (journals and court records) and written in archaic English.

When I wrote about Dorcas, I throw into the page an extension of myself. We both lived our lives "trapped" in a small town with small-minded people; felt powerless with few or non-existing opportunities to thrive; and share the same beliefs that are judged, misunderstood and taboo, even nowadays.

This period brings us to a stygian world where horror and death are commonplace. Emotional themes. Rebellions. Politics. Temptation, sexual freedom and, deep relationships meet in the house of sins. A balance between paranormal and psyche. Those in power abuse it. Survival is tough as any woman, at any time, could be accused of witchcraft and suffer a cruel death for crimes they did not commit. Imprisonment, persecution, torture, sexual harassment, and a very thin barrier between good and evil. The resurrection of forgotten old folklore, myths and prophecies of Gods, curses, ghosts and demons that lurk there, and perhaps in all of us... All of this with a transdimensional twist in the end.

How far will a person go for their beliefs? How much will they endure to resist?

I wrote this TV Series, as well as eight episodes (40-55 min each) when I came back from my trip to Ireland, in 2018. After falling in love with its culture and history, I wrote the series with 4 intentions in mind:

☞ Approach Witchcraft themes with more realism and a different perspective.

☞ Portray a medieval Ireland with a vibrant Celtic atmosphere, the need for its National identity;

☞ To bring more strong female characters to the screen, each of them with different core wounds that teach us about human condition and resilience while living in a time of silent wars, where women were second-class citizens and the high classes take over the underclass, torments and tear them apart for their beliefs.

☞ Create a TV period-drama where Surrealism is found in the form of dreams, hallucinations, and psychological trauma, with scenes that allow a powerful and more experimental cinematography, outside of the usual Fantasy genre.

Darkest Kelly will be unlike any other period Drama out there. It is original for the nature of its strong female characters, double-faced villains, multi-layered structure inside Dorcas' fractured state of mind, and a mixture of genres like any other period TV series are.

Darkest Kelly is the story I always wanted to write and the TV show that the audience currently needs.

LOGLINE:

An 18th-century mystic life-story of an unlovable pagan woman who thrives as a brothel keeper, in a politically unstable Ireland, threatened by death and secret societies.

SYNOPSIS

In 1761, Ireland, a woman is accused of being a Witch, Brothel keeper and the first Irish serial killer. This is her story! A mixed of fiction with reality about an unlovable pagan woman who runs away from a prison-like nuns' abbey where she was being tormented, to start a new life in Dublin. There she will engage in dangerous relationships, rise in nobility, start her own business as a brothel-keeper and try to find and save other pagans from the scaffold, while the town is threatened by mysterious deaths during a tense period of political instability and Masonic secret societies, which members are rich, powerful, and fanatic with the occult.

Description:

Darkest Kelly is essentially about an obstinate girl who rejects other people's opinions, overcomes a traumatic past and with that her fear of being alone and her own egocentrism so she can save 13 women accused of witchcraft by providing them with a brothel to live and work, and eventually become their leader against the real murderer - The secret Society Hellfire Club. Later in the next episodes, it becomes clear that the main message is focused on the importance of letting go of the past in order to live for a better present and future, as the Hellfire Club members have the opportunity to choose to reincarnate after death and remember their past lives, among other great power they achieve which, as always, comes with terrible consequences. It is also focused on strong relatable female characters, each of them

with different core wounds who teach us about surviving as second-class citizens in the eighteen centuries.

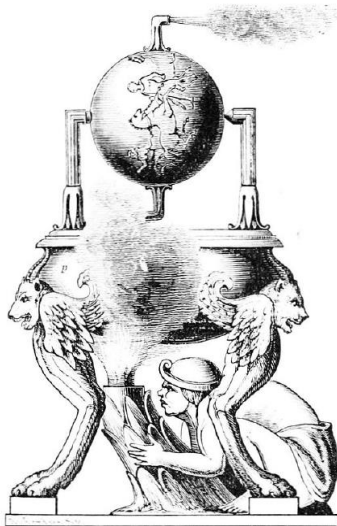
SERIES OVERVIEW:

Darkest Kelly is a historical/fantasy TV drama based on true events and Irish folktales about Dorcas Stuart Kelly (Darkest Kelly), who was publicly hanged and burned in 1761 for being a witch, brothel keeper and the first Irish serial killer! The series portrays real events and embellishes the Irish culture matched with a fast-paced, thrilling murder mystery and fight for human rights. The series are meant to give a more realistic and mature approach about witchcraft, different than all the others. It goes into psychological and philosophical thinking which takes a critical stand on social, political, and even existential themes.

RESEARCH

Steam / Fog machine from XVIII century
(used in William party - Last scene)

[@Hero Of Alexandria spin whirl](#)



Dublin's Cathedral = Christ Church

"During the 16th and 17th centuries, Christ Church's crypt was used as a market, a meeting place for business, and at one stage even a pub as a letter of 1633 shows: "the vaults from one end of the minister to the other are made into tipping houses for beer, wine and tobacco."

<https://christchurchcathedral.ie/about/history/>

- **Irish Myths:**

Dagda - "A God with two sides" Source: Lebor Gabála Érenn (The book of the taking of Ireland)

Cúchulainn - National hero. Source: Táin Bó Cúailnge (The Cattle Raid of Cooley)

Fionn Mac Cumhail - Warring Giant. Source: Tales and Sketches, William Carleton 1845.

Wolves in Ireland: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Werewolves_of_Ossory

- **Character's Biography:**

William Conolly Mansion - Castletown

<https://www.dochara.com/places-to-visit/castles/castletown-house/>

Thomas Sheridan: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Sheridan_\(divine\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Sheridan_(divine))

Jonathan Swift Bio

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/people/literature-and-arts/english-literature-1500-1799-biographies/jonathan-swift>

Henry Luttrell and his son Simon Luttrell bio:

https://theodora.com/encyclopedia/l2/henry_luttrell.html

- **Subplot : The Rebellion:**

Rory Quote: "to die or conquer."

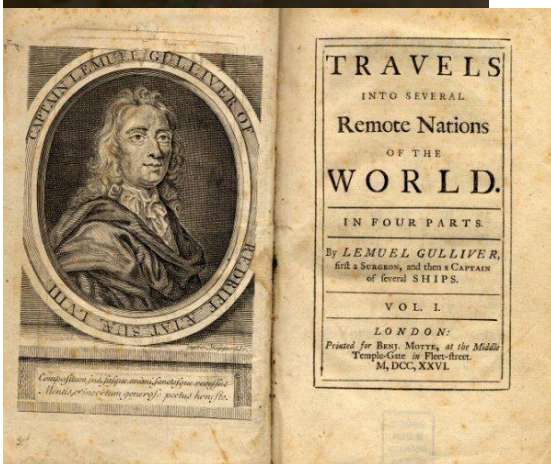
"No two armies in ancient days could have felt more glowing spirit, inveterate hatred, or obstinate resolution, to die or conquer than those two parties of brutal combatants; and they could give no reason for their abominable destructive aversion to each other; but that of the Ormond should not subdue the Liberty, and vice versa with the other party."

- J.D Herbert **Irish Varieties, for the Last Fifty Years: Written from Recollections.**

ATTACHMENTS



William Conolly and his Mansion in Castletown



**Jonathan Swift
Travel Book.**