

If you're reading this,
you can't say
you didn't know



My Dirty Secrets

a story of brothers alone

Don't pass out!
I need you
AWAKE
for this!

The Dragon keeps his DIRTY SECRETS

When they're
ATRAID!

Forture Table
WELCOME TO TED'S PLAYROOM!
Ted BURNS BOYS WITH THIS

My Dirty Secrets

After his mother vanishes, a teenage boy falls into the dark world of internet exploitation by a manipulative predator, to keep himself and his younger brother together.

Thriller/Psychological
Drama/Coming-of-Age

- Resonant story
- Powerful breakout youth roles
- Topical & provocative subject
- Festival buzz ready



My Dirty Secrets

What happens
when help never comes.

This story is about two brothers, left alone. No adults. No safety.

Predators didn't need to break down doors — they slipped through a screen.

Boys are victims, too — and the silence around that truth is what keeps predators hidden.

My Dirty Secrets is about a boy's fight to survive — and the courage to seek justice when shame says, "stay quiet."



Oliver usually follows Sport, but tonight — he's the leader.

My Dirty Secrets

It starts here, with a family.



Sport McAdams

A poetic, resourceful teen (14) who sacrifices innocence to protect his brother. His journey from victim to whistleblower is the film's emotional backbone.



Oliver McAdams

Sport's younger brother (8). Epileptic, dependent, and emotionally intuitive, Oliver understands Sport, his pain and his purpose more deeply than anyone.



Laura McAdams

An artistic mother (30s). Overwhelmed yet loving, her quiet strength remains a guiding light for her boys — even as she lies comatose and unidentified in an ICU hospital bed.

My Dirty Secrets

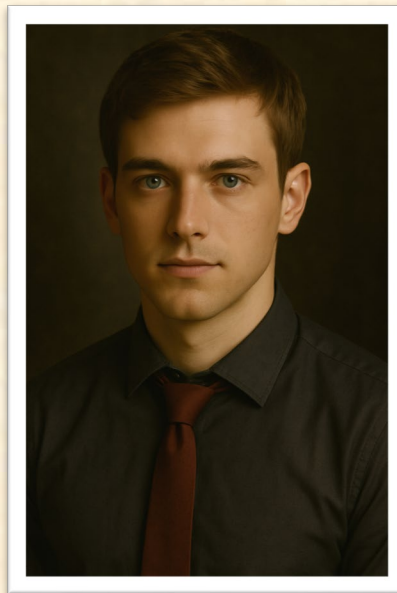
Danger...

... and Hope



Ted Harrison

A charming but sadistic predator (30s) who hides behind a respectable public persona. Ted is the evil that won't reveal itself until it's too late to run.



Sid Harrison

Ted's younger brother (20s). A morally conflicted accomplice and former victim, Sid is caught between fear of his brother and guilt over his own role and culpability.



Miriam and Dan Spitzer

A grieving social worker and her police officer husband (40s). Miriam is Sport's rock; she's the lifeline he needs. Dan is the father figure Sport's never had. Both surrogate parents provide the boys with a path toward healing.

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Supporting Cast

Nurse Loretta Cole (40s): Loyal ICU nurse, warm and comforting, stays late.

Maria (28): Sharp assistant bank manager, protective but professional under stress.

Richard (14): Sport's nerdy, chubby, loyal best friend. Secure homelife.

Mr. Wasserman (50s): Richard's Dad; looks like Richard, just older.

Louie (30s): Muscle for Ted — chubby, armed, no-nonsense bank guard.

Officer Morgan (30s): Senior officer, steady presence, quick to act decisively.

Officer Durnell (20s): Younger cop, edgy and jumpy, reacts under pressure.

Jorge (20): Reckless young driver, greasy petty thug, hit-and-runner.

Juanita (18): Trashy girlfriend, impulsive, drags Jorge deeper into trouble.

Paramedic Bob (28): Young paramedic, blunt, focused, keeps calm.

Paramedic Al (25): Rookie medic, quiet, does what's needed fast.

Mike (30s): "Krazy8s," opportunist pedophile and Sport's 2nd "Client".

Nurse Smith (40s): Practical hospital nurse, calls shots, backs Nurse Cole.

Hood (18): Steals Laura's wallet and her identity after a hit-and-run.

Ms. White (60s): Bank customer

Mr. Black (20s): Bank customer

Miscellaneous Bank and Java Shop Employees,
Customers, Hit-and-Run Witnesses



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ACT ONE ~ Exposure + The Bind

Setup: Sport McAdams (14) and his little brother **Oliver (8)** survive in a cramped apartment with their exhausted, unemployed mother, **Laura (30s)**. Bills pile up. Oliver's epilepsy meds run out. Sport dreams of playing street hockey — but there's no money for rent, let alone skates. All Sport wants is to be “a normal kid” like his friend **Richard (14)**, not burdened by adult roles.

Inciting Incident: Laura vanishes after a brutal fight with Sport — leaving behind a dead phone, unpaid bills, and two hungry boys alone. Sport believes she abandoned them. But in truth, she lies in a coma, struck by a car in a hit-and-run, nameless in a hospital ICU ward. **Miriam** and **Dan (40s)** mourn their deceased son, **Kevin (16)** in a boy's bedroom adorned with street hockey trophies.

Key Turning Point: Desperate to keep Oliver safe, Sport meets **Sid (20s)**, an abused boy turned grooming adult. Sid offers to mentor Sport in making “easy” money using hookup apps — a rabbit hole into underage sex work. Sport agrees and his spiral begins. He draws a “**BILLS TO PAY**” grid on Laura's bedroom wall, trying to impose logic on survival.

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ACT TWO ~ The Monsters + The Walls

Rising Action: Sport's hustle pulls him into the orbit of **Ted (30s)** — Sid's older brother and serial predator. Ted uses Sid to supply fresh victims. Sport builds a second grid — "**CLIENTS**" — on Laura's wall, listing names, addresses, car plates... evidence in a map of danger he can't yet escape.

Midpoint: Miriam, a Child Services worker, bonds with Sport anonymously over street hockey slang in intimate cell phone conversations. She reveals her teenage son recently died of cancer. Both she and Dan, a cop, yearn for a connection with the mysterious boy on the phone. In ICU, Laura dreamily utters words to **Nurse Cole (40s)** about her boys being alone, which spurs Cole's quest to find two children who may be in danger.

Second Turning Point: Sid betrays Sport to Ted. Posing as another "Client", Ted creates a nightmare of bondage, fear, and recorded blackmail. Sport survives but carries welts and trauma. He scrawls a frenetic **MURAL**: a yellow moon, a blue sea, and a black sky crammed full of words, all telling Sport's story. This is his confession and weapon. When both Ted and Sid threaten to pull Oliver into their 'Enterprise,' Sport finds the strength to fight back... first with his baseball bat. He spares Sid's life, but almost losing Oliver sears one truth into him — he'll burn their empire down to keep his brother safe.

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ACT THREE ~ Revelation + Reckoning

Pre-Climax: Sport risks it all. He breaks into Ted's apartment, photographs Ted's torture table and trophies — then rigs a final trap: exposing Ted's dirty secrets in his own bank office. Sport intimidates Sid to help him lure Ted into the open. Guilt-ridden, Sid agrees.

Climax: At the bank, Sport's intense collage of photos, chat logs, and wall-sized evidence traps Ted in front of police and staff. Sid provokes Ted into drawing his inhaler like a weapon — triggering a fatal police shooting. Ted dies and Sid will spend many years in jail.

Resolution: Sport collapses into Miriam's arms, finally letting go of adult responsibility. Ted's and Sid's crimes are exposed. Laura never recovers — but her boys are saved as Miriam and Dan take them in for good. At her grave, Sport and Oliver stand together as always — leaving behind truths that can't be ignored once the walls come down.

My Dirty Secrets

What's Unique: Communication as a Bridge



Sport: **“One two three, eyes on me.”**
Oliver answers: **“One two, eyes on you.”**
An anchor for focus and trust.

“I own you” in the brothers’ language means, **“I protect you, and I won’t ever leave.”** It’s not about power — it’s a solemn promise.

Miriam earns Sport’s trust through street hockey lingo — **“Duster,” “Sniper,”** and **“Five-hole.”** She knows these terms because her late son Kevin played street hockey, too. It’s a shared language that forms a bridge.



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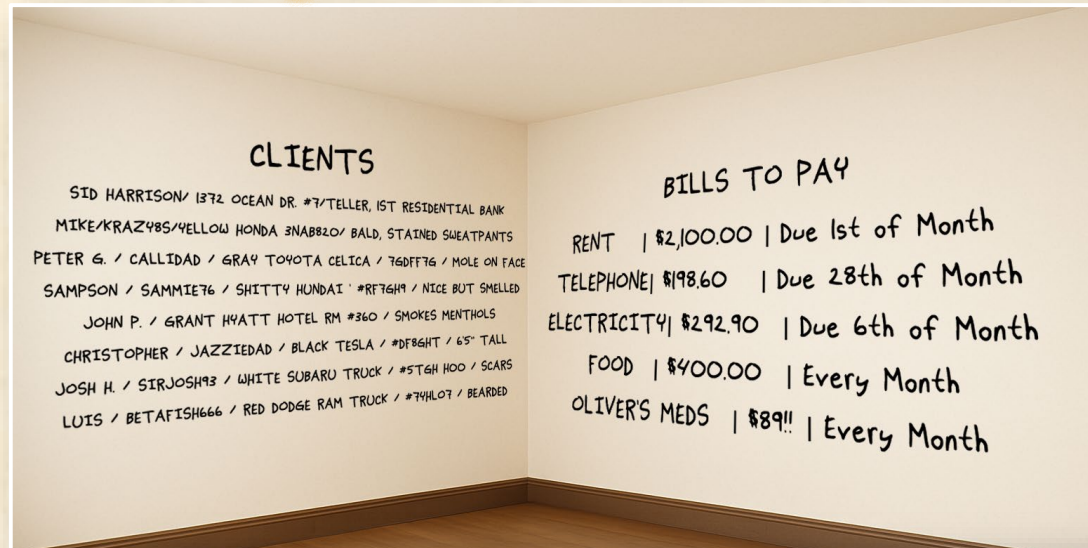
SET PIECES

Sport's Wall Charts & Mural

Sport's apartment walls show debt, predators, and truth.

BILLS TO PAY lists overdue bills. Another wall shows **CLIENTS** — men who've bought him — with details that can speak if Sport someday cannot.

The third wall explodes into a **MURAL** of *Walt Whitman's sagging moon, sea, and sky* — scrawled, intimate confessions from a boy on the brink. Together this artwork is proof... ink and color say what this bruised boy can't. They make silence *impossible*.



My Dirty Secrets

SET PIECES

Ted's Torture Table & Dragon Cabinet

Ted's dining table doubles as a torture rack, metal hand cuffs at each corner. The dragon cabinet hides wire hangers, a propane torch to make them sear flesh, and photos of captured boys in utter terror.

It is horror disguised as luxury: a serial predator's shrines of wood and gold. When Sport cracks it open, the torture table and the carved dragon cabinet bleed secrets Ted can't ever bury.



My Dirty Secrets

SET PIECES

Park Chase and Cliff Rescue

Oliver's rebellion explodes in the storm — a break for freedom from the brother who always leaves. Mud, rain, a slip near the ravine: but Sport's hand finds his. Fingers dig in, a desperate grasp forged in terror and defiance. It's not just rescue — it's the moment Sport changes forever.

Sport's grip on Oliver says:

***When you run,
I will always follow.***

Soaked and breathless, it's Oliver, the little brother, who leads them home through the dark. This reversal catapults to the final act. Their bond is sealed in mud and rain — brothers forever.



My Dirty Secrets

SET PIECES

Sport's Collage of Abuse Evidence

Sport final artwork pins up chat logs, photos and signs in Ted's office — turning shame into proof.

His huge collage is wall-to-wall exposure: victim faces, tools of torture, digital chatlogs. It flips blackmail into justice.

One brave boy's photos take Ted's sex empire and blow it wide open. Paper, a digital camera and pure grit become Sport's weapons.



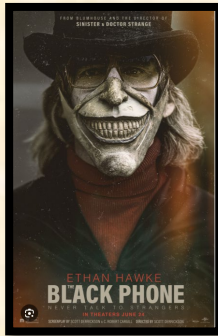
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Comparable Films



HARD CANDY (2005)

A Sundance-premiered psychological thriller about a resourceful 14-year-old who turns the tables on a sexual predator.



THE BLACK PHONE (2021)

A hugely successful, recent thriller featuring a child abduction by a masked predator, and the child's fight to survive.



TRUST (2010)

A drama directed by David Schwimmer about a 14-year-old girl groomed online by an adult.



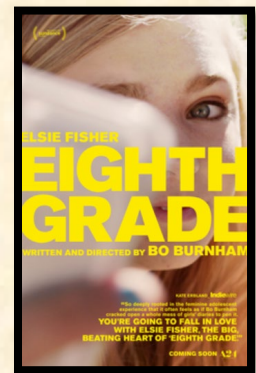
ROOM (2015)

An acclaimed indie film about a young woman and her child escaping captivity after years of imprisonment by an abuser.



PRISONERS (2013)

A darker studio thriller where a father takes matters into his own hands when his child is abducted.



EIGHTH GRADE (2018)

Bo Burnham's indie darling about a teenage girl's struggles online and in life captures the authentic youth perspective in the internet age.

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Path to Success

- Gritty, timely story primed for festival awards
- Breakout young lead draws press and jury buzz (“Adolescence” meets *Hard Candy*)
- Prestige roles for acclaimed actors
- Premiere at top festivals (Sundance, Toronto, SXSW)
- Festival acclaim triggers deals with A24, Neon, IFC, or streamers
- Rave reviews and word-of-mouth fuel limited theatrical run
- Conversation-starting topic drives interviews and advocacy
- Festival run builds long-tail VOD/streaming success
- Elevates cast, director, and writer for future projects



My Dirty Secrets

About the Writer

James Tuveson is a multiple award-winning screenwriter with four completed features and numerous produced short films. His work spans psychological thrillers, grounded dramas, absurdist comedies, and animated adventures—always anchored in bold, emotionally honest storytelling with strong character journeys and provocative themes.

With over a decade of screenwriting experience, his clear vision and collaborative style have made him a trusted partner for directors and producers alike.



Ugly stories like mine aren't easy to tell
they're not easy to watch
But someone has to
Someone's gotta be brave enough
for the next kid
to keep him safe, so he can hold on
to being a boy
just a little longer.

~ Sport McAdams

