

A FILM BY JACEK KADAJ

# THE THRESHOLD

SOME DOORS ARE HARDER  
TO OPEN THAN OTHERS

GENERATIVE AI SHORT FILM

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# FILM SUMMARY

In *The Threshold*, a transgender mother, Eva, opens her door to Sophie, the daughter she hasn't seen in years. Set almost entirely inside a small attic apartment in Warsaw, Poland the film quietly explores whether fractured love can find its way back after long silence and profound change.

Told through glances, pauses, and the weight of words unsaid, *The Threshold* draws the viewer into a fragile emotional space where two people confront not only each other, but everything that still lingers between them. Created entirely with AI tools, the film uses technology not as spectacle, but as a subtle lens to capture what is often invisible: hesitation, tenderness, and unspoken tension.



# SCRIPT SYNOPSIS

After years of silence, Sophie, a 35-year-old woman from modern Warsaw in Poland, decides to visit the person who was once her father and now lives as Eva. Their reunion takes place in Eva's small attic apartment, a space heavy with memories, hesitation, and words that remain unspoken.

As their emotional encounter unfolds through quiet gestures and fragile dialogue, old wounds resurface. But just when the distance between them seems ready to close, the arrival of an unexpected visitor shifts the fragile balance, forcing both women to face a truth far more painful and complex than either had anticipated.

# KEY CHARACTERS

## EVA (55)

A transgender woman, both strong and fragile at the same time. She lives a solitary life, haunted by the past but clinging to the hope of reconciliation. Her entire world is confined to her small attic apartment, which serves as a sanctuary and a prison.



### Hidden Motivation:

To be seen and loved for who she truly is now, not for the person she was forced to be. She wants to prove that her love as a parent never faded, even when she did.

### Core Fear:

That her transformation will always be seen as an act of selfish abandonment, and that she will die completely alone, misunderstood by the one person who matters most.

## Sophie (35)

Eva's daughter, torn between longing, anger, and fear. Her modern appearance, with pink-gold hair and a nose piercing, contrasts sharply with the decaying world of her parent. She represents a contemporary generation forced to confront a deeply complicated family history.



### Hidden Motivation:

To finally get an answer to the question that has silently shaped her entire life: "Why wasn't I enough?". She is looking not just for a parent, but for a missing piece of her own identity.

### Core Fear:

That the meeting will confirm her deepest insecurity—that she was abandoned for a reason, that there is no love left, and that opening this door will only lead to being hurt all over again. She fears the truth might be more painful than the twenty years of silence.

KEY CHARACTERS



# THE APARTMENT

The small attic apartment in Warsaw's Praga district — a historically working-class neighborhood on the city's east side — becomes a character in itself. Its cracked walls, worn-out 1980s Eastern Bloc furniture, and faded linoleum floors quietly reflect Eva's solitude and hope. Every object carries traces of the years they spent apart.





"*The Threshold* is about that single, terrifying moment of hesitation before a door opens. It's about the silent space between past and future, where forgiveness is possible, but not guaranteed."

**- Jacek Kadaj**

# FILM TONE

- Intimate
- Suspenseful
- Emotional
- Poignant
- Mysterious
- Minimalist
- Introspective
- Raw



"*The Threshold* is not a film about transition; it is a film about connection. It explores the universal longing for acceptance from those we love. We deliberately chose the most synthetic tool available—Artificial Intelligence—to tell the most deeply human story possible.

The AI becomes our camera into the soul. It allows us to capture the micro-expressions, the weight of silence, and the textures of memory with a unique, almost poetic precision. This project aims to prove that technology is not a barrier to emotion but a new doorway to understanding it. We are crossing a threshold not only in the story but also in the art of filmmaking itself."

**- Jacek Kadaj**



# VISUAL REFERENCE



A film driven by atmosphere and unspoken tension, where the visual language draws from the intimate realism and chiaroscuro of Caravaggio's paintings.

## SELECTED SCENE: SOPHIE'S ARRIVAL AND FIRST CONTACT



### 1 Sophie Arrives — Wide Exterior

Wide shot: Sophie stands in front of the decaying apartment building, holding an old photograph.



### 2 Approaching the Entrance — POV Medium Shot

Medium POV shot: Sophie looks up nervously at the entrance, hesitation in her eyes.



### 3 Climbing the Staircase — Tracking Shot

Tracking shot: Sophie ascends the dark, peeling staircase, lit by soft daylight filtering from above.



### 4 The Threshold — Over-the-Shoulder

Over-the-shoulder shot: Sophie pauses at the doorway, facing her mother for the first time.



### 5 Eva Waits Inside — Wide Interior

Wide shot: Eva stands next to the table, set for two, framed by the worn attic and sunflowers in the background.



### 6 Sophie's Face — Close-Up

Close-up: Sophie's face, tense but hopeful, illuminated by chiaroscuro lighting.

# STILLS VISUAL SHOTS



# A WORD FROM THE WRITER

*The Threshold* is a story about the complex nature of family and identity. It explores parental love that transcends transformation and the profound struggle to rebuild bonds after years of distance and silence. It challenges the audience to ask: what does it truly mean to forgive, and can we ever really know the people we love?

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