

UNCERTAIN EYES

A TRUE-LIFE SURVIVAL DRAMA

Written by Gary B. Haley • Feature Screenplay • Drama / Coming of Age / Adventure

“The best day of your life is probably still in your future.”

LOGLINE

A freak bicycle crash drives an axle into a fearless fifteen-year-old’s brain and leaves him with almost no chance to survive. He does—and launches a fifty-year fight against every doctor, bully, battlefield, and doubting gaze that insists his extraordinary life should be smaller.

ACCOLADES

Uncertain Eyes was a Finalist in the 2026 Cannes World Film Festival and a Quarter Finalist in the Page Turner Screenplays Genre Competition (2026), the Wiki Screenplay Contest (May 2026), and the 2026 Outstanding Screenplays Shorts Competition.

THE STORY

Fort Worth, 1975. Gary Haley is a swaggering teenage daredevil who lives to clear one more tire on his bicycle. Then his front wheel comes off in midair. The crash is savage: the rear axle pierces his skull, brain tissue is lost, and a renowned surgeon races across the country to save him. Gary awakens to a terrifying prognosis—and to the first of countless uncertain eyes. The world sees a broken boy. Gary sees a life that has barely started.

Sent into high school with a shaved head, a protective helmet, seizures, and no guarantee of tomorrow, Gary refuses to become anyone’s tragedy. Humor and nerve carry him through cruelty, first love, wilderness, rejection, and an adulthood no one predicted. He helps build the F-16, then takes dangerous assignments from Panama to the Middle East—where technical brilliance and moral courage collide with the human cost of war.

Across five extraordinary decades, the boy expected to die becomes an engineer, husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, author, and indispensable problem-solver. He outlives the prognosis and outworks the skeptics. Yet his hardest battle remains intimate: resisting people who see the injury before they see the man. By the time Gary raises a coffee cup and urges us to “be the cream that enriches the rest of the cup,” his survival has become something larger—a funny, bruising, triumphant argument for living on your own terms.

WHY IT CONNECTS

UNCERTAIN EYES turns an unbelievable medical survival story into an emotionally accessible portrait of resilience. It speaks to anyone ever underestimated, stigmatized, bullied, disabled, or made to feel different—without reducing its hero to a diagnosis. The humor is candid, the danger visceral, and every victory earned.

THE FILMMAKING OPPORTUNITY

This is a role actors chase: Gary evolves from reckless teenager to battle-tested survivor without losing his mischief, intelligence, or vulnerability. For a director, it offers a muscular visual journey—from a sun-blasted dirt-bike track and brain surgery to high-school humiliation, roaring aircraft lines, covert danger, desert warfare, and a mountaintop wedding. The scale expands, but the gripping question stays intimate: will Gary let other people’s fear define him?

CINEMATIC PROMISE A shocking opening set piece • a vivid 1970s Texas coming-of-age world • aviation and military spectacle • intimate family stakes • an unforgettable, life-spanning payoff

tone & audience Sweeping, suspenseful, funny, and ultimately uplifting—combining the life-journey appeal of Forrest Gump with the blue-collar ambition of October Sky and the true-life resilience of Soul Surfer. Built for adult audiences, families, and anyone who loves an impossible true story.

THE TAKEAWAY A showcase lead role, generational reach, awards potential, and a stirring final message: the future still belongs to you.