

# SCARECROWS

The Manta webcomic, THE SCARECROWS is an eerie, ghostly horror, perfect for an elevated supernatural thriller feature length film.



# The Scarecrows

STORY: Myeongeun Bae ART: Jem

- *A new signature horror*

Mr. Kim has lived alone ever since his wife mysteriously fell off a cliff. Her body was never found, and Mr. Kim believes that she is still out there. On a dark, pouring day, Mr. Kim revisits the site of her presumed death. On his search for her, he comes across an old man that creates scarecrows for "souls".

GENRE:  
**THRILLER**

COMPLETED  
COMIC

7  
CHAPTERS

PERFECT FOR A:  
**FEATURE FILM**

TONE:  
**SUSPENSEFUL**

ADULTS  
**18-34**

RIGHTS  
**MANTA/RIDI**



READ ON THE  
**Manta**  
APP

**STATS:** ~1M Views

COMPS  
*Talk to Me, Wicker Man*

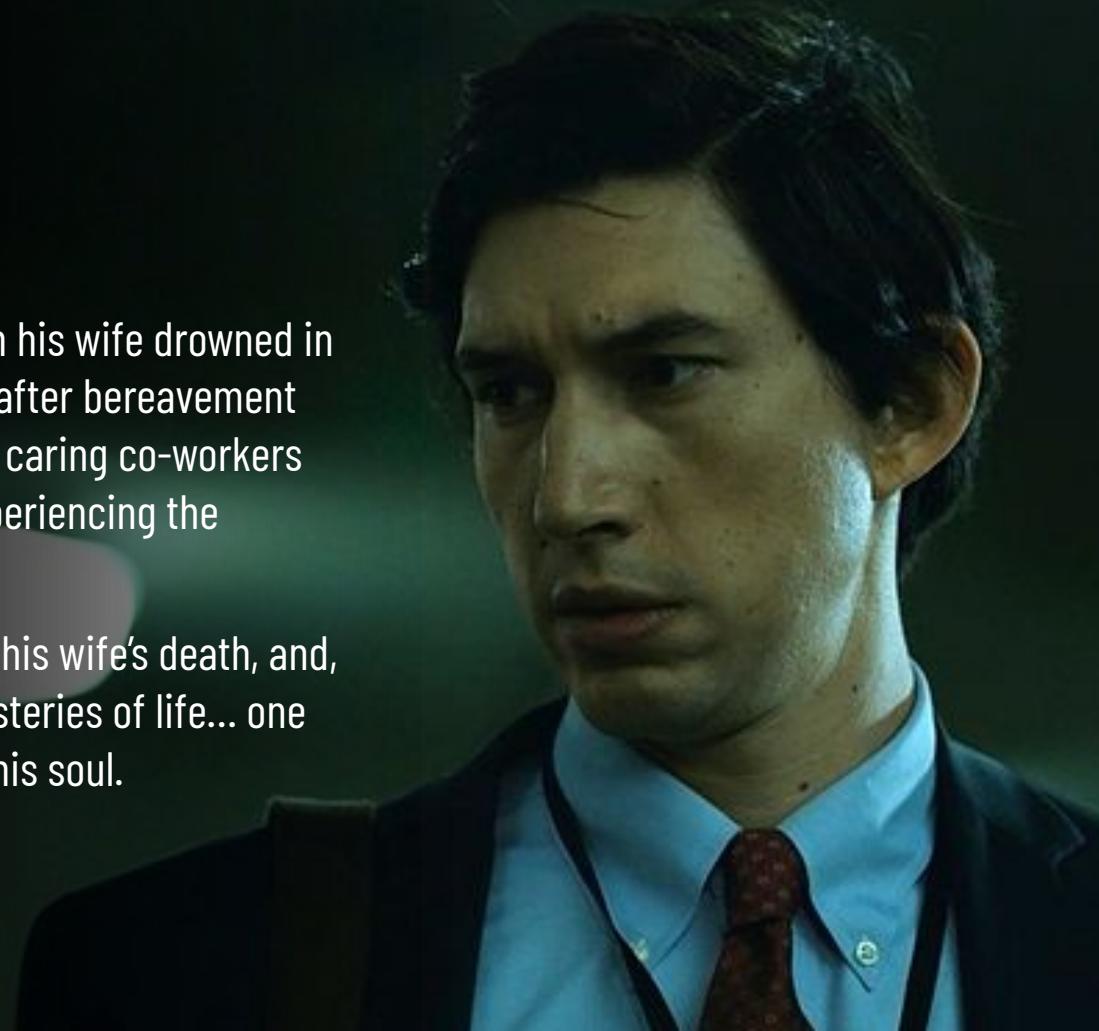
# CHARACTERS



# KIM

Kim is a reporter, tragically widowed when his wife drowned in a nearby river. His first assignment back, after bereavement leave, is a fluff "human interest" story, his caring co-workers hoping he can regain a spark of joy by experiencing the mysteries life has to offer.

A freak storm leads him to the location of his wife's death, and, indeed, a powerful encounter with the mysteries of life... one that will unearth mysteries still hidden in his soul.



# CHOI

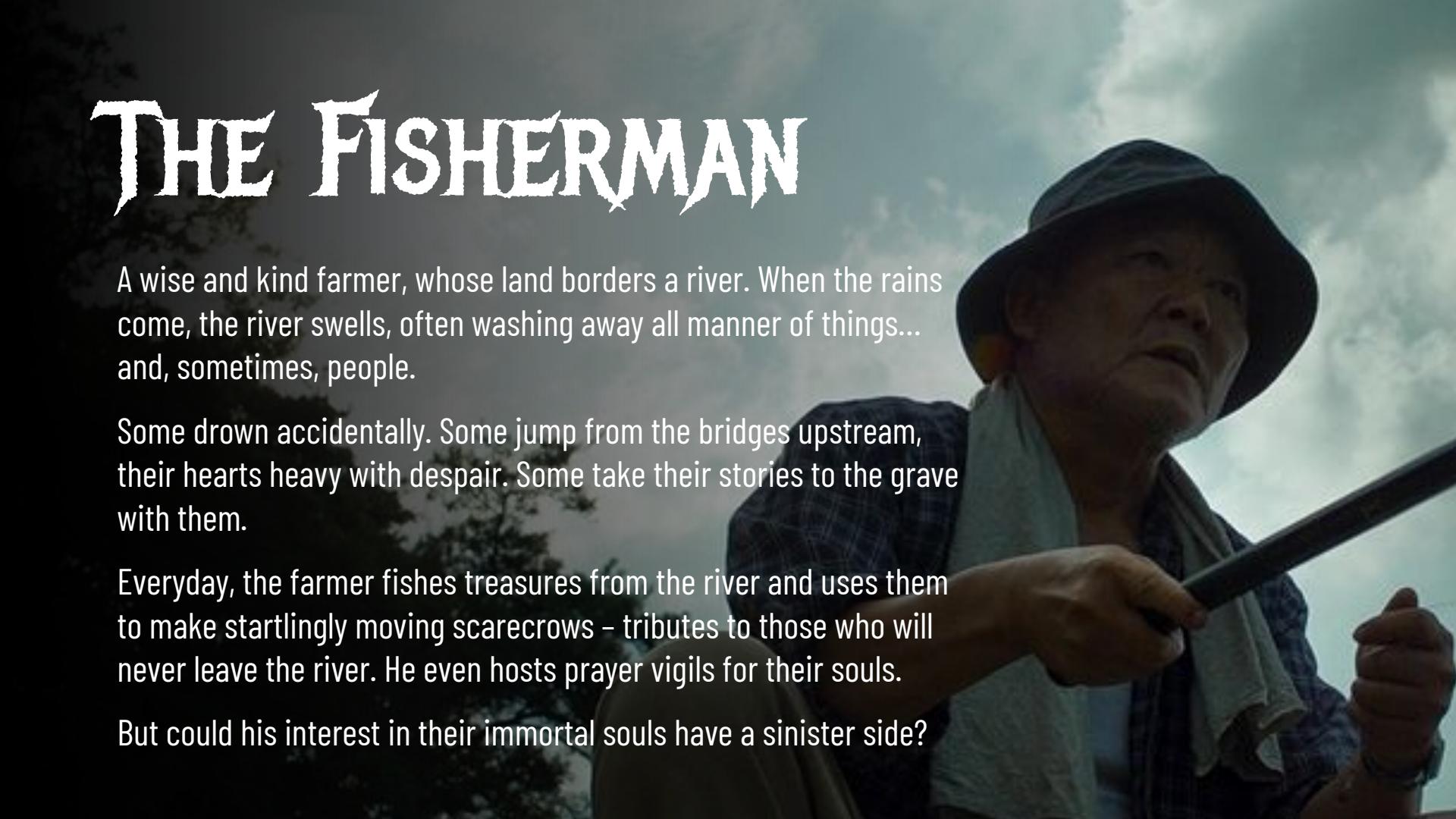
Choi is Kim's cameraman and field producer, who has little interest in this assignment or babysitting Kim.

Choi is young, hungry and ready to make his mark. He resents having to make something out of nothing in this rural patch of nowheresville when he could be in the heat of the action, elsewhere.

Choi should be careful what he wishes for.



# THE FISHERMAN

A dark, atmospheric photograph of a man wearing a wide-brimmed hat and a dark shirt. He is holding a long fishing rod and looking upwards and to the right with a somber expression. The background is a bright, cloudy sky.

A wise and kind farmer, whose land borders a river. When the rains come, the river swells, often washing away all manner of things... and, sometimes, people.

Some drown accidentally. Some jump from the bridges upstream, their hearts heavy with despair. Some take their stories to the grave with them.

Everyday, the farmer fishes treasures from the river and uses them to make startlingly moving scarecrows - tributes to those who will never leave the river. He even hosts prayer vigils for their souls.

But could his interest in their immortal souls have a sinister side?

# SORA'S MOTHER

Some of the scarecrows are smaller than others.

The river doesn't spare children. Eight year old Sora entered the river, never to be seen again.

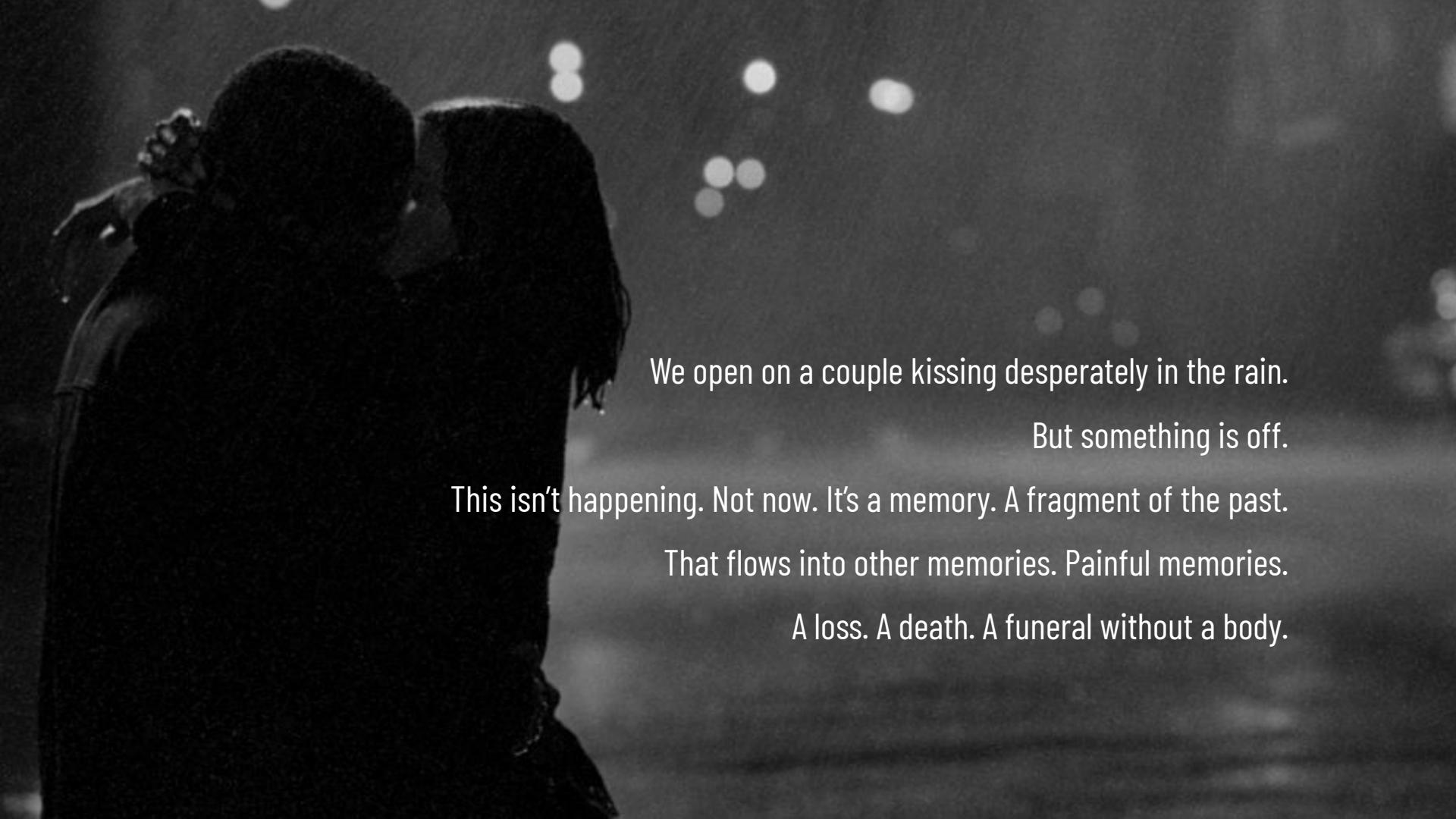
The tragedy broke her mother, who now haunts the farm and the riverbanks, wailing to her daughter and accusing the kindly farmer of murder.

Is she pitiable or precinct?



# THE STORY





We open on a couple kissing desperately in the rain.

But something is off.

This isn't happening. Not now. It's a memory. A fragment of the past.

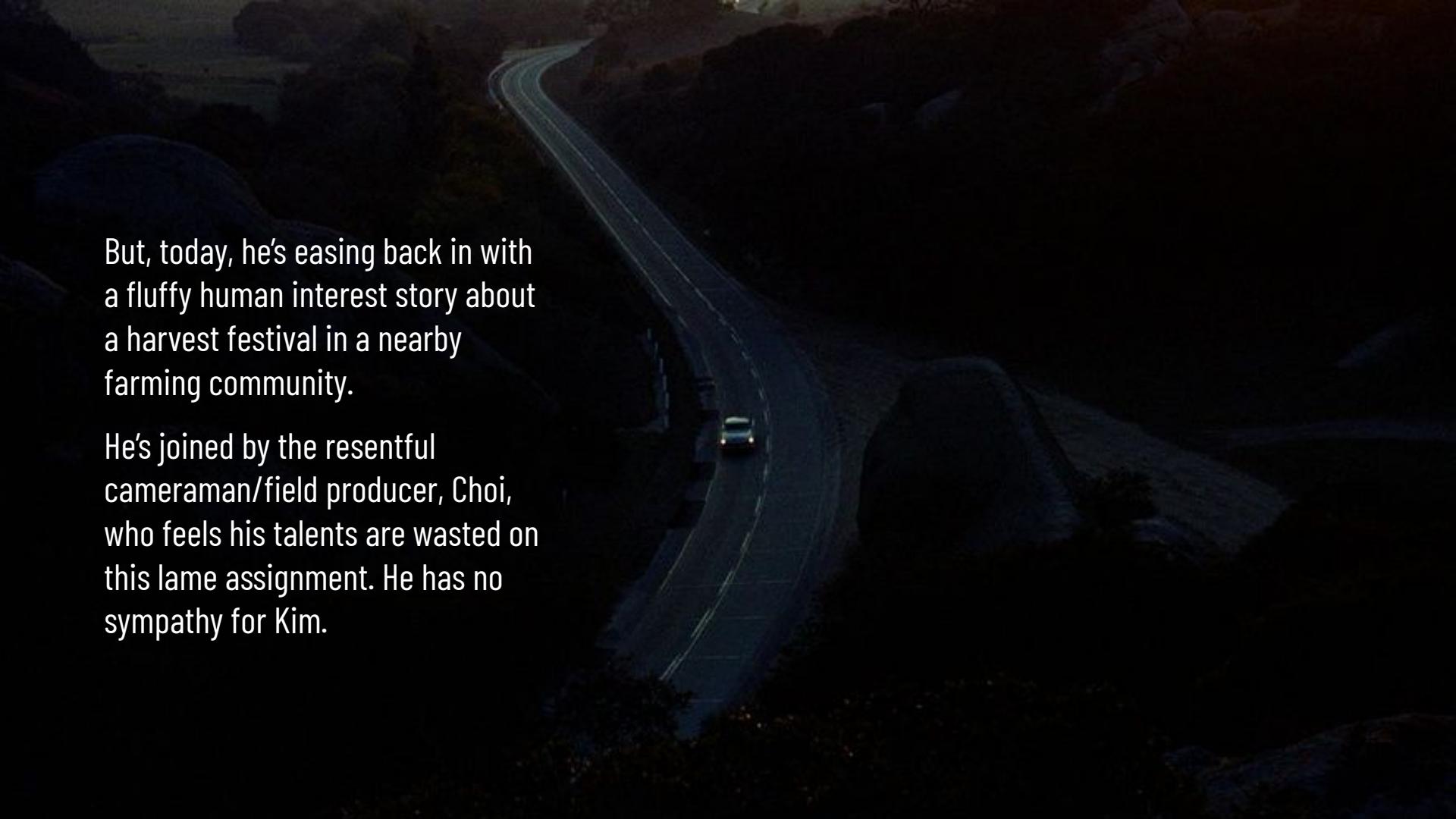
That flows into other memories. Painful memories.

A loss. A death. A funeral without a body.

Today is Kim's first day back  
to work following the painful  
loss of his wife.

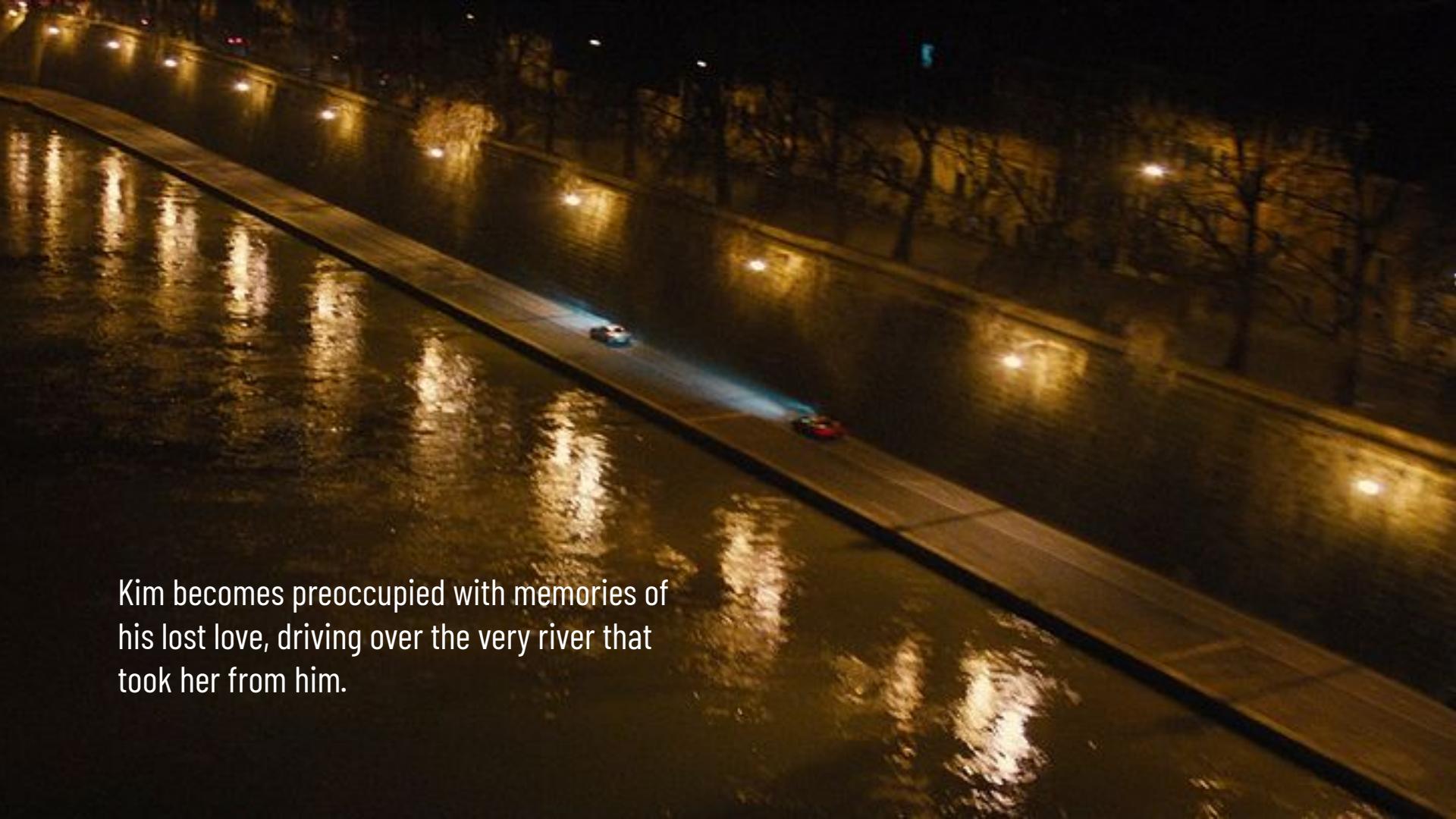
He's a handsome,  
charismatic man, a field  
reporter for the city's top  
evening news program. He  
does honest, hard-hitting  
investigative journalism.



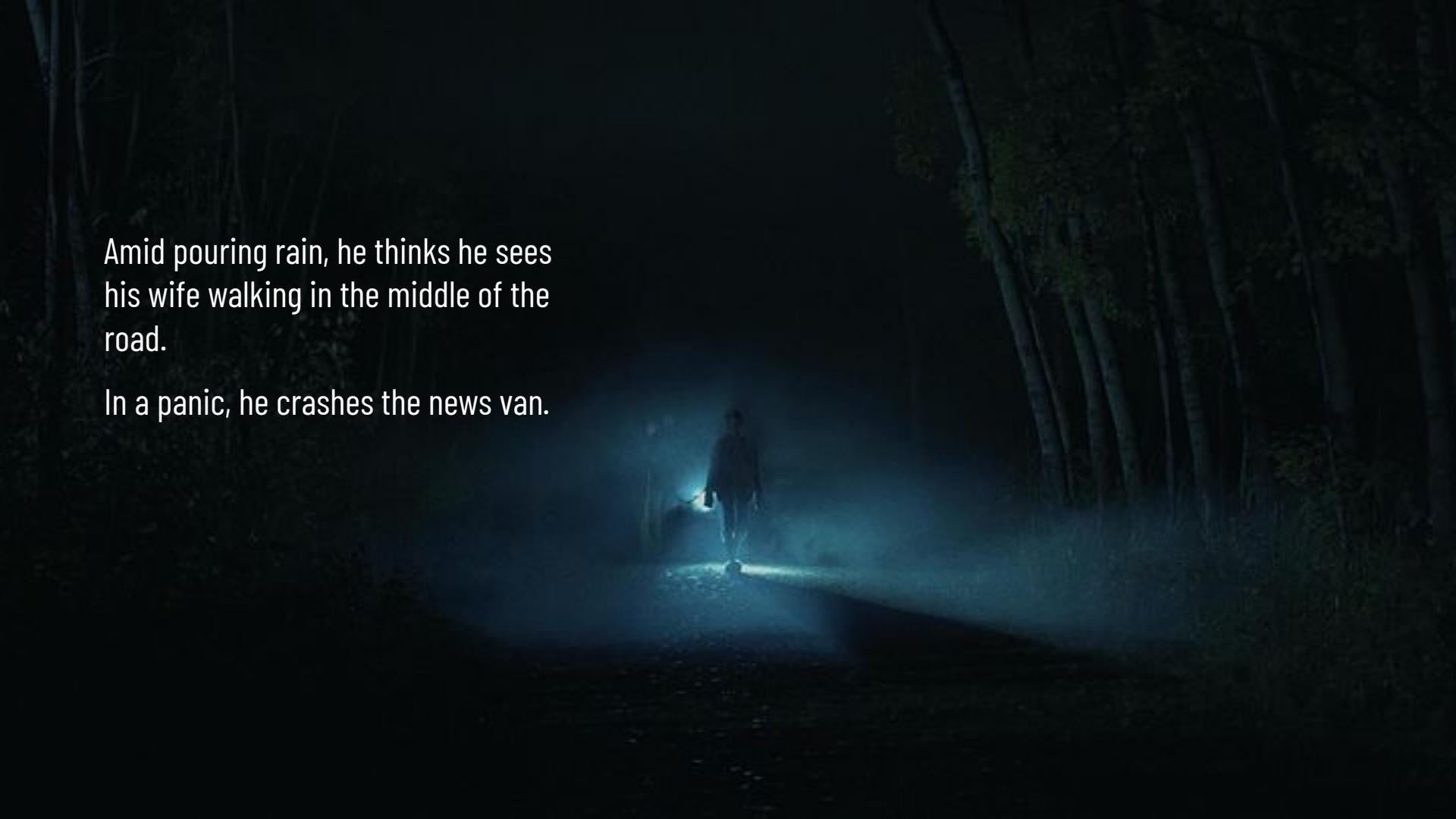


But, today, he's easing back in with a fluffy human interest story about a harvest festival in a nearby farming community.

He's joined by the resentful cameraman/field producer, Choi, who feels his talents are wasted on this lame assignment. He has no sympathy for Kim.

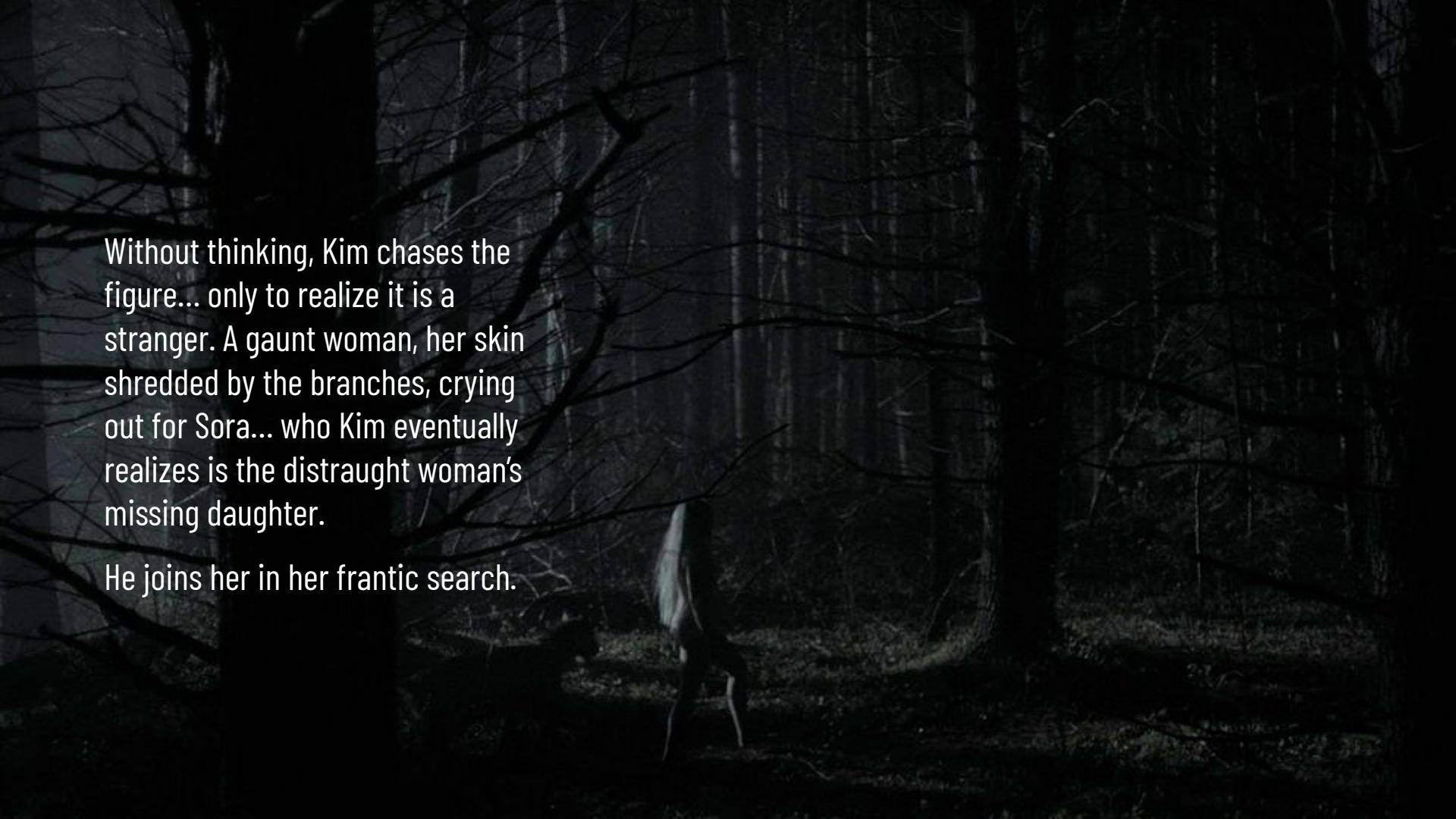


Kim becomes preoccupied with memories of his lost love, driving over the very river that took her from him.

A dark, atmospheric scene of a person walking in the rain at night. The person is silhouetted against a bright, blue-tinted light source, possibly a car's headlights or street lamp, which illuminates the wet ground and creates a long, dark shadow. The background is dark and indistinct, suggesting a wooded or urban environment.

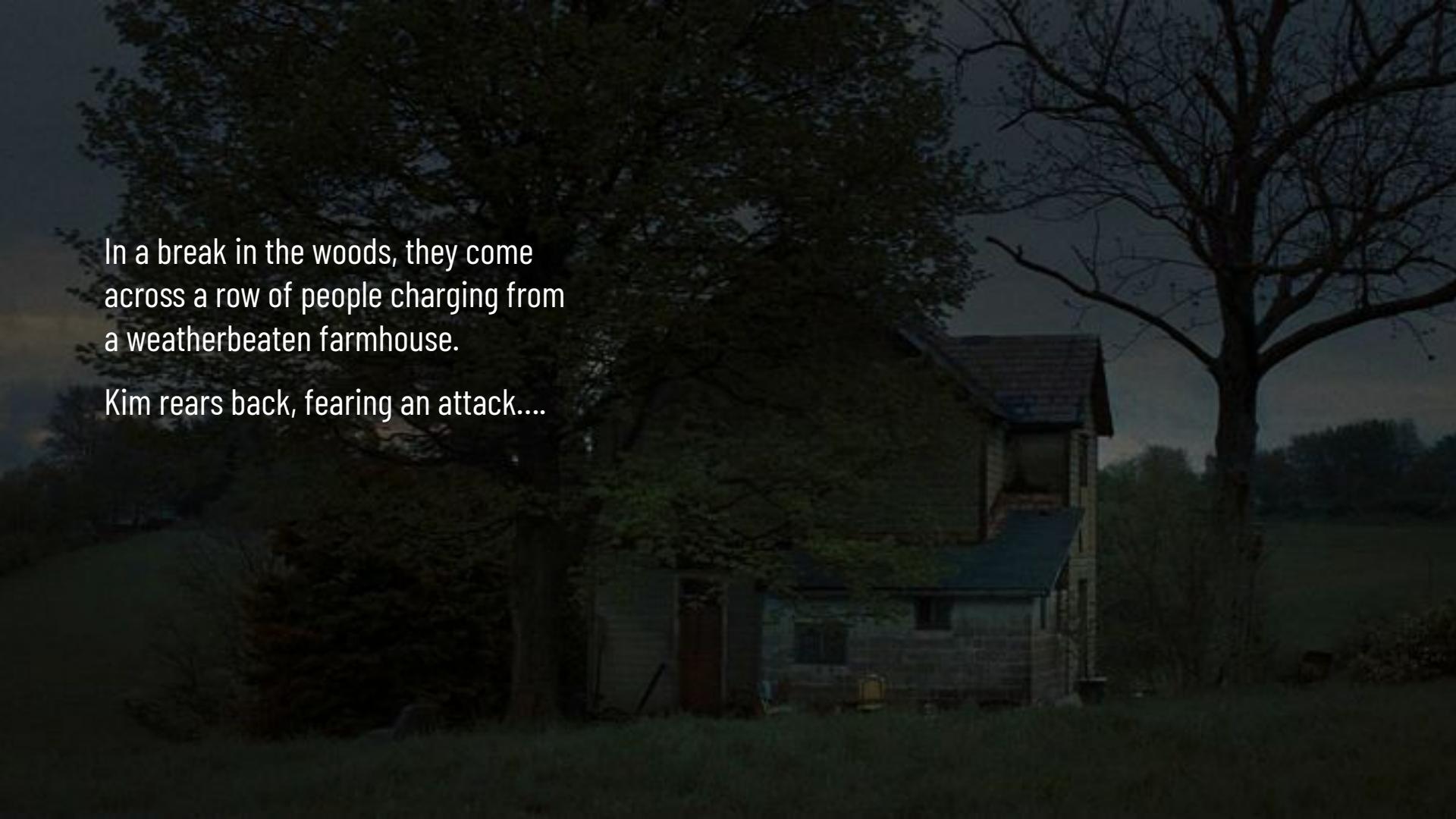
Amid pouring rain, he thinks he sees  
his wife walking in the middle of the  
road.

In a panic, he crashes the news van.

A dark, atmospheric forest scene. Bare tree branches reach out from the left and right sides of the frame against a dark background. A faint, vertical light source, possibly a street lamp or a window, creates a thin beam of light through the branches. The overall mood is mysterious and somber.

Without thinking, Kim chases the figure... only to realize it is a stranger. A gaunt woman, her skin shredded by the branches, crying out for Sora... who Kim eventually realizes is the distraught woman's missing daughter.

He joins her in her frantic search.

A dark, atmospheric scene showing a weatherbeaten farmhouse at night. The house is a two-story structure with a gabled roof and a chimney, partially obscured by dense foliage and trees. Bare branches of a large tree are visible on the right side of the frame. The overall mood is mysterious and foreboding.

In a break in the woods, they come  
across a row of people charging from  
a weatherbeaten farmhouse.

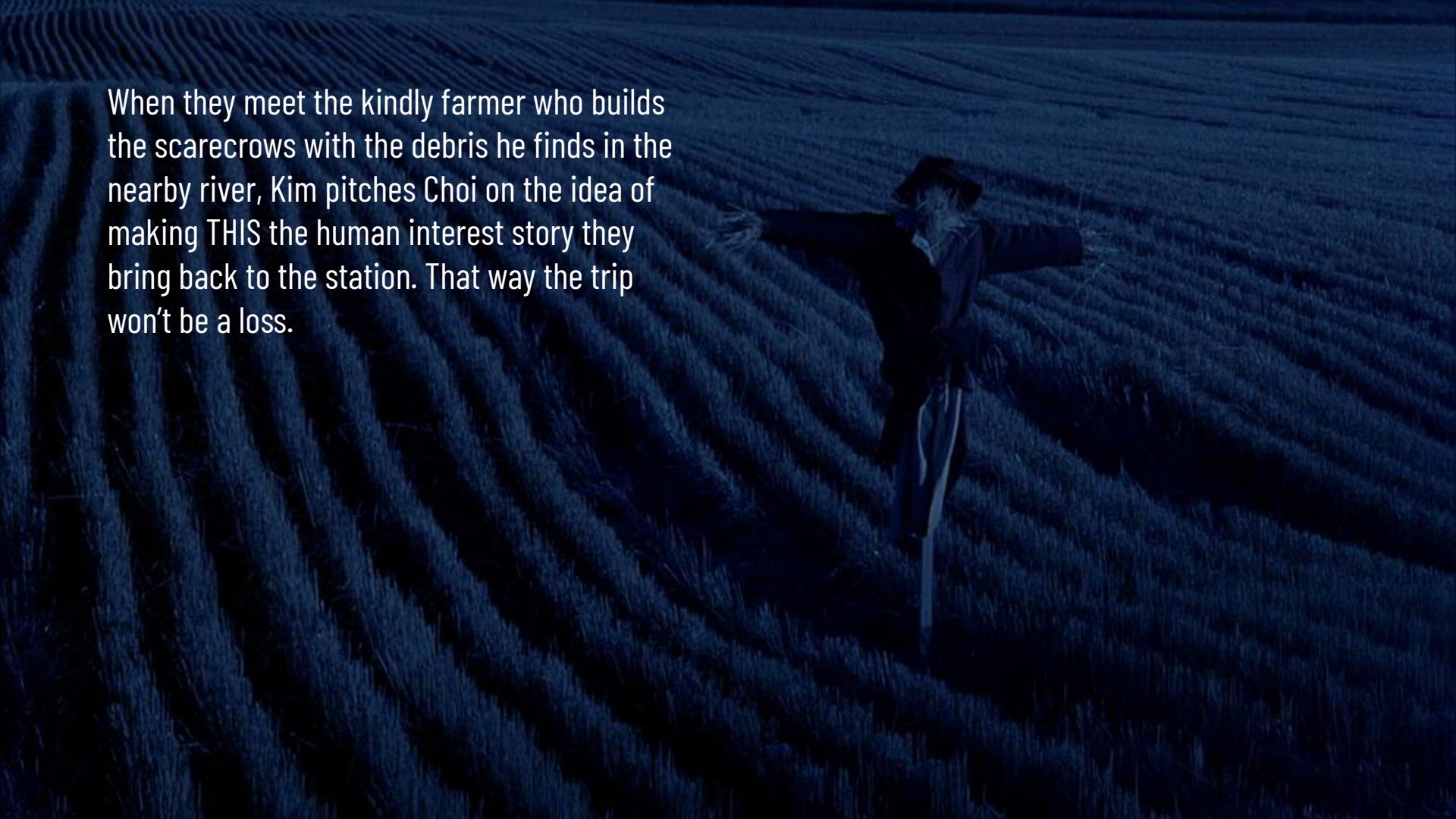
Kim rears back, fearing an attack....



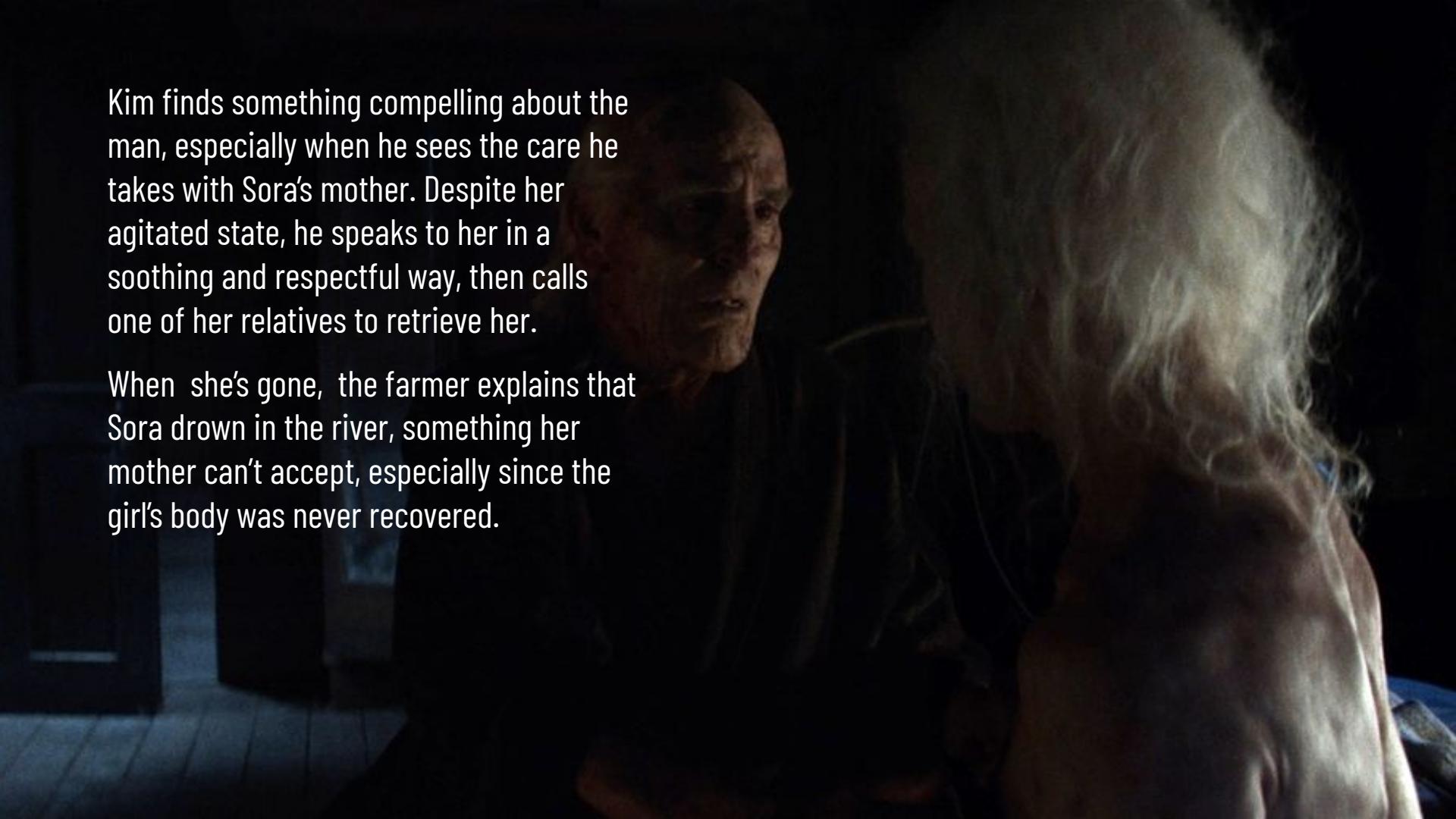
But when Choi finally catches up to Kim and the woman, Kim realizes the assailants are actually SCARECROWS.

Choi thinks Kim is losing it.

Kim can't argue.



When they meet the kindly farmer who builds the scarecrows with the debris he finds in the nearby river, Kim pitches Choi on the idea of making THIS the human interest story they bring back to the station. That way the trip won't be a loss.

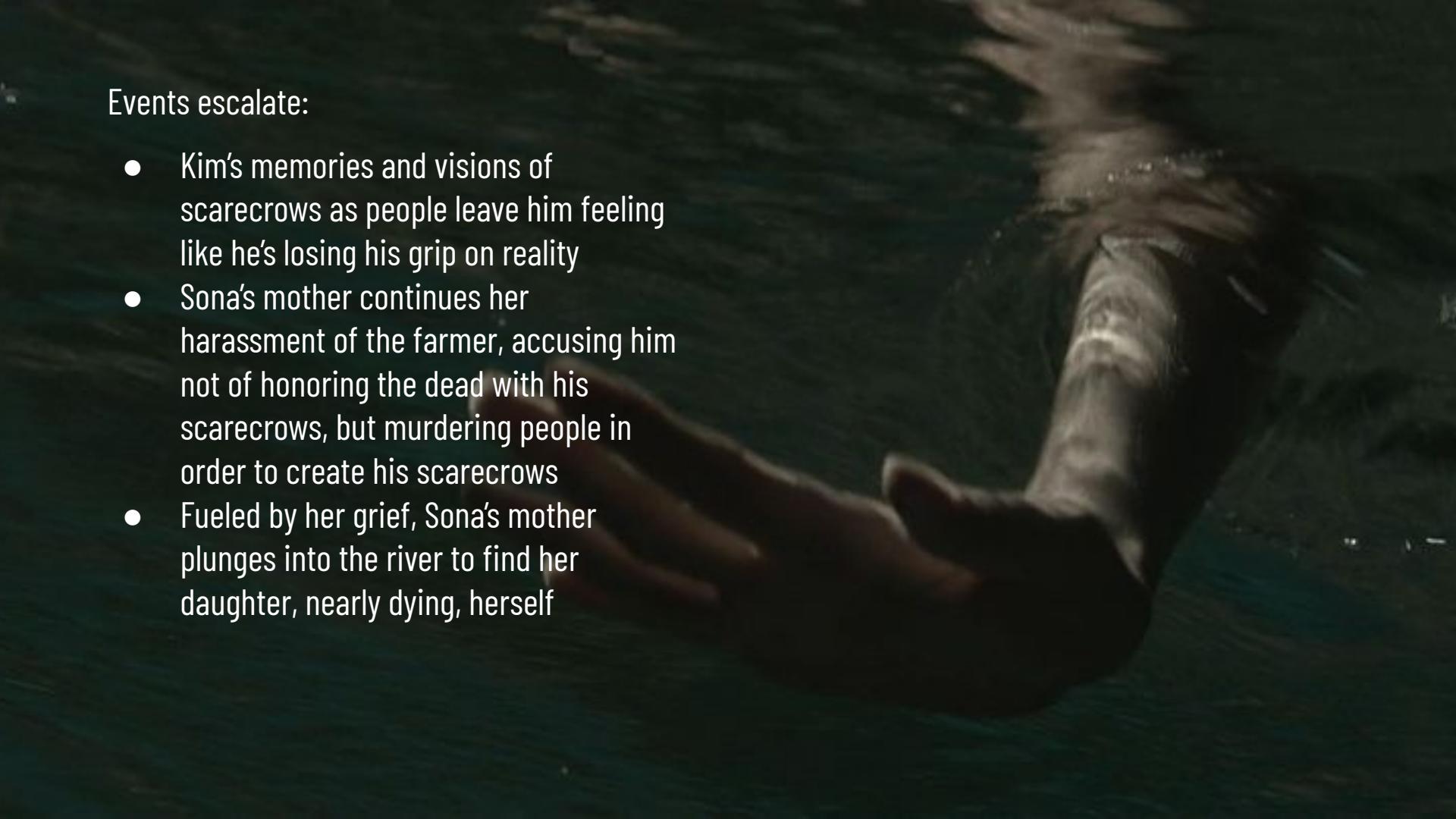


Kim finds something compelling about the man, especially when he sees the care he takes with Sora's mother. Despite her agitated state, he speaks to her in a soothing and respectful way, then calls one of her relatives to retrieve her.

When she's gone, the farmer explains that Sora drown in the river, something her mother can't accept, especially since the girl's body was never recovered.

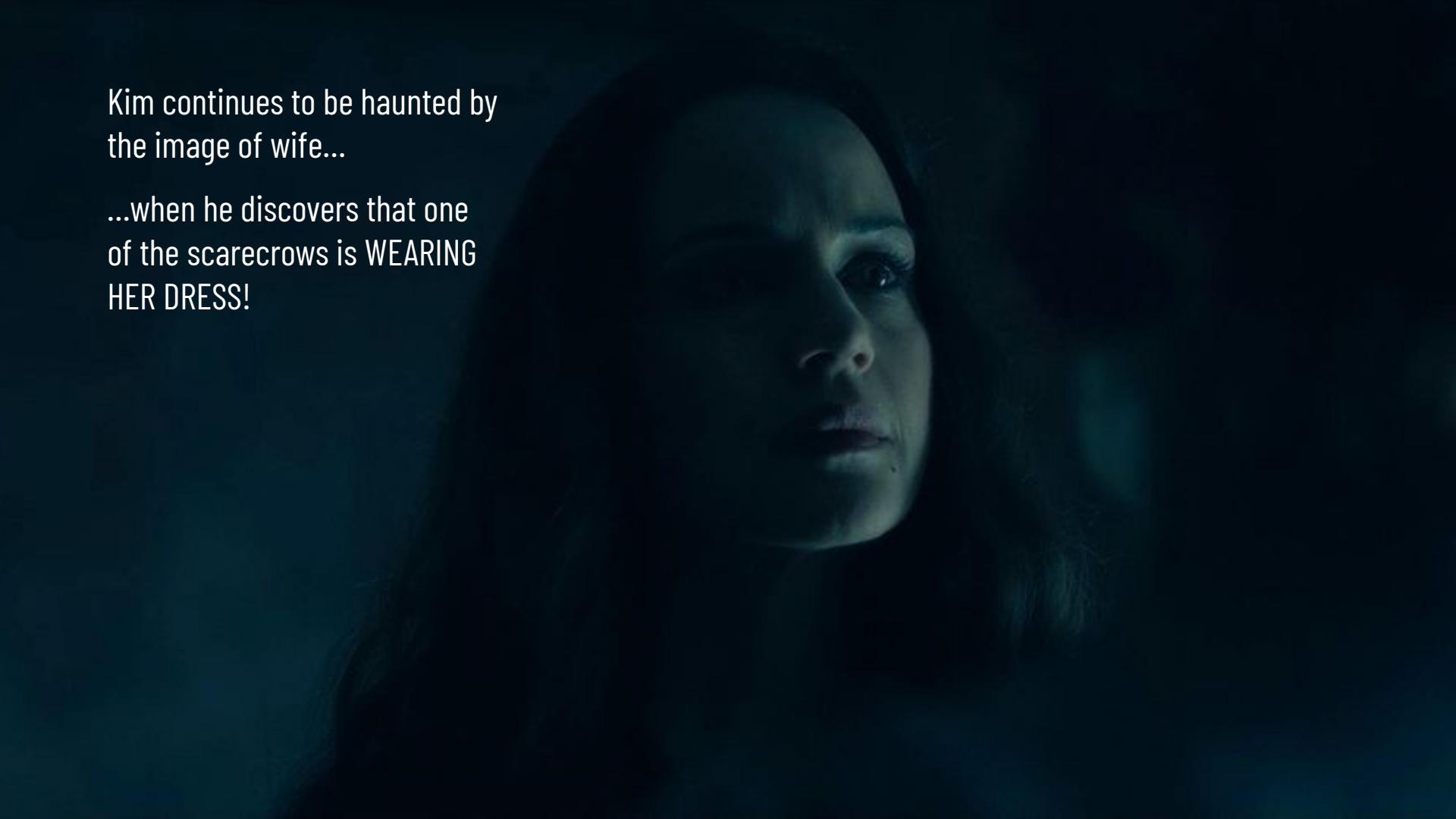
The next day, they shoot their field piece, watching the farmer pray over the souls lost to the river, fish for cast off debris - a baseball hat, a pair of work boots, a t-shirt - and, then, dry out this trash and turn it into a treasure, making a scarecrow in honor of a lost soul.



A dark, atmospheric photograph showing a person's lower body submerged in water. The person's legs and feet are visible, with their hands reaching out towards the surface. The lighting is low, creating a somber and tragic atmosphere.

## Events escalate:

- Kim's memories and visions of scarecrows as people leave him feeling like he's losing his grip on reality
- Sona's mother continues her harassment of the farmer, accusing him not of honoring the dead with his scarecrows, but murdering people in order to create his scarecrows
- Fueled by her grief, Sona's mother plunges into the river to find her daughter, nearly dying, herself



Kim continues to be haunted by  
the image of wife...

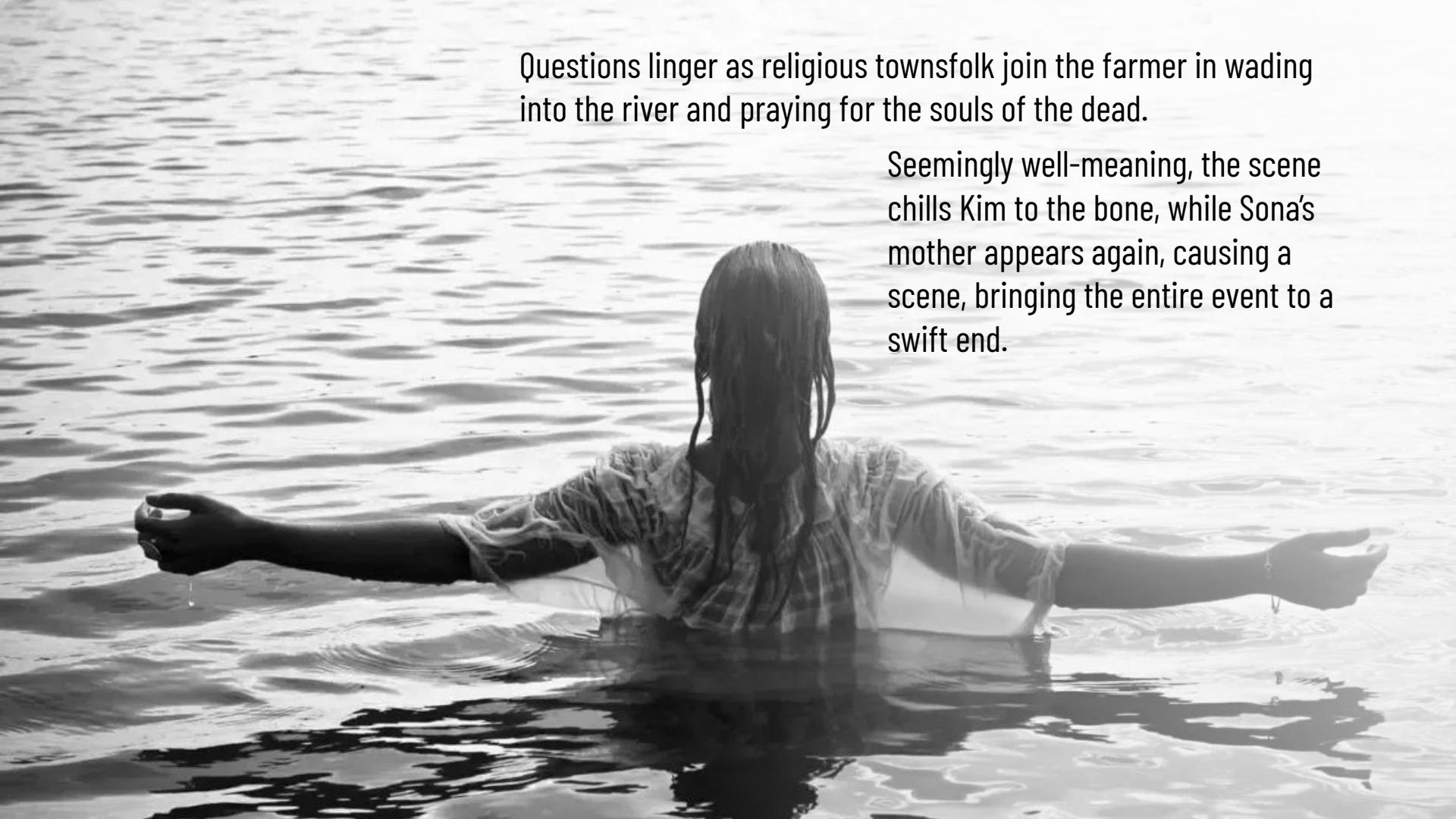
...when he discovers that one  
of the scarecrows is WEARING  
HER DRESS!

Suddenly, Sona's mother  
doesn't seem so mad...

...or she's lost in a  
paranoid delusion that Kim  
is swiftly joining.

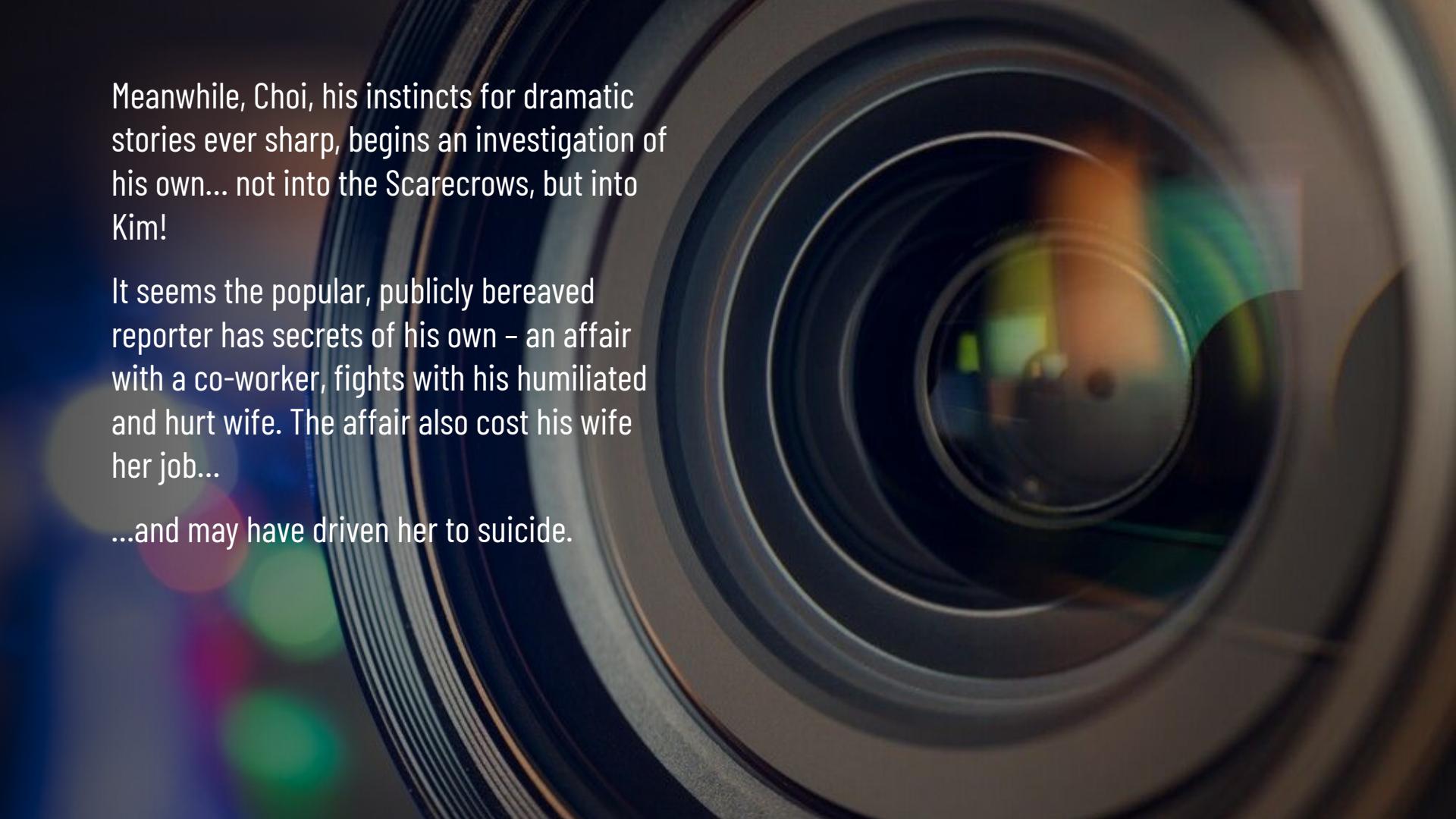
Is there something much  
more sinister about this  
farmer's passion project,  
or is it really a mission of  
mercy, as he claims?





Questions linger as religious townsfolk join the farmer in wading into the river and praying for the souls of the dead.

Seemingly well-meaning, the scene chills Kim to the bone, while Sona's mother appears again, causing a scene, bringing the entire event to a swift end.



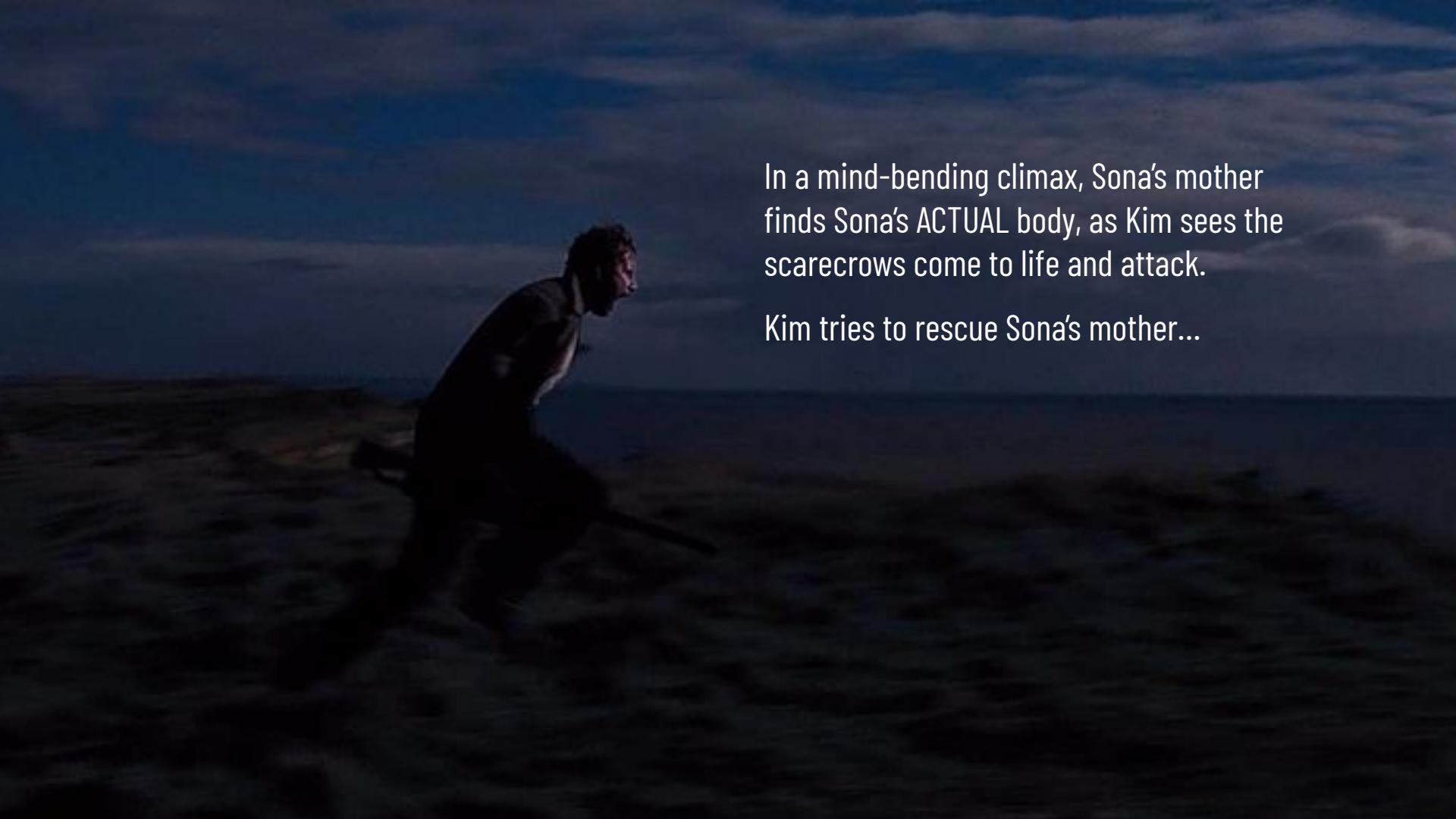
Meanwhile, Choi, his instincts for dramatic stories ever sharp, begins an investigation of his own... not into the Scarecrows, but into Kim!

It seems the popular, publicly bereaved reporter has secrets of his own - an affair with a co-worker, fights with his humiliated and hurt wife. The affair also cost his wife her job...

...and may have driven her to suicide.

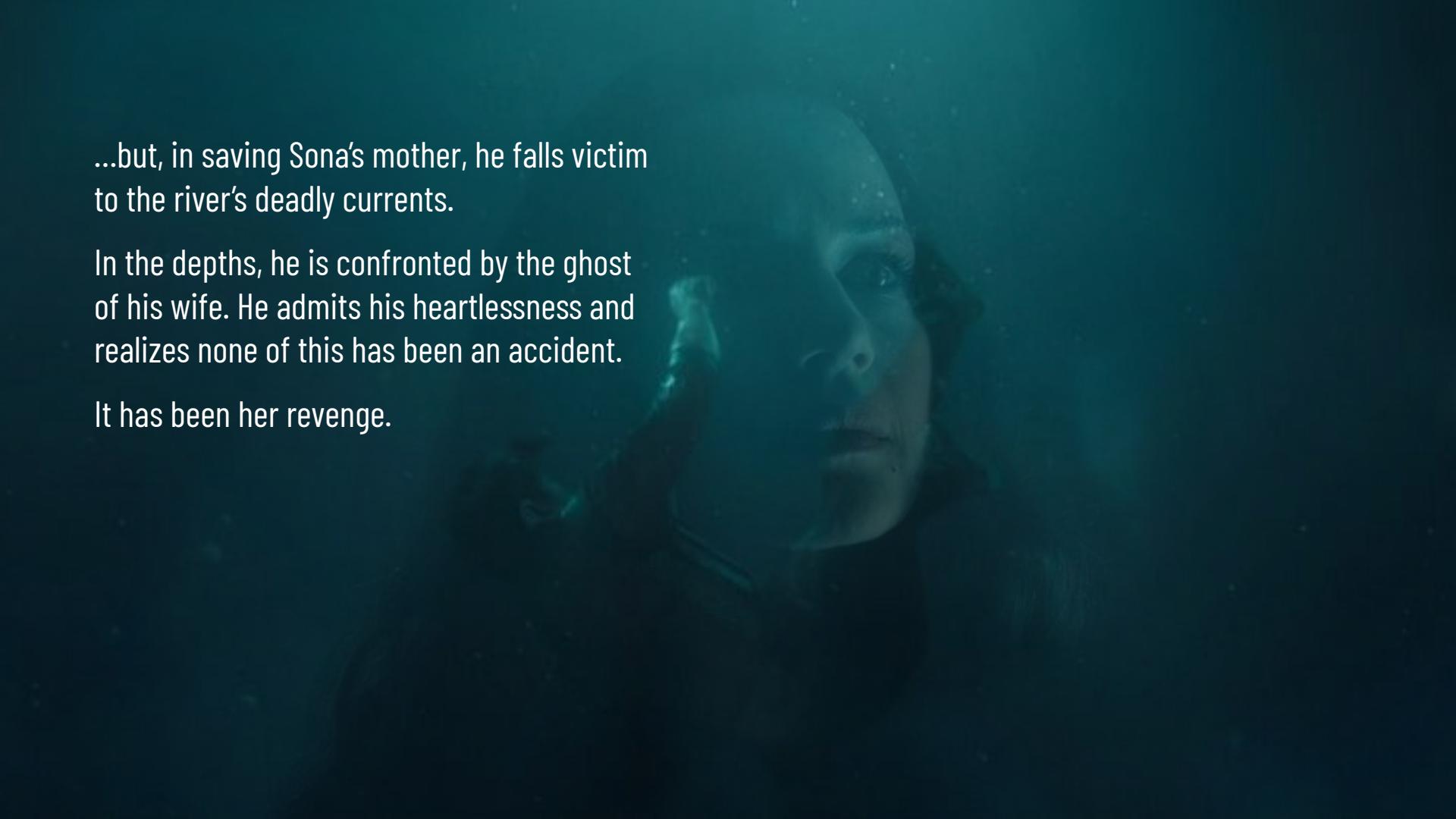


What appears to be grief may be guilt.

A dark, atmospheric scene showing a person's silhouette against a bright sky, possibly a sunset or sunrise, with a field in the foreground.

In a mind-bending climax, Sona's mother finds Sona's ACTUAL body, as Kim sees the scarecrows come to life and attack.

Kim tries to rescue Sona's mother...

A dark, atmospheric scene with a woman's face partially submerged in water, looking intensely at the viewer.

...but, in saving Sona's mother, he falls victim  
to the river's deadly currents.

In the depths, he is confronted by the ghost  
of his wife. He admits his heartlessness and  
realizes none of this has been an accident.

It has been her revenge.



Leaving him a scarecrow, a lost soul in the hands of the  
sadistic farmer, hungry for his next victim.



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