

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

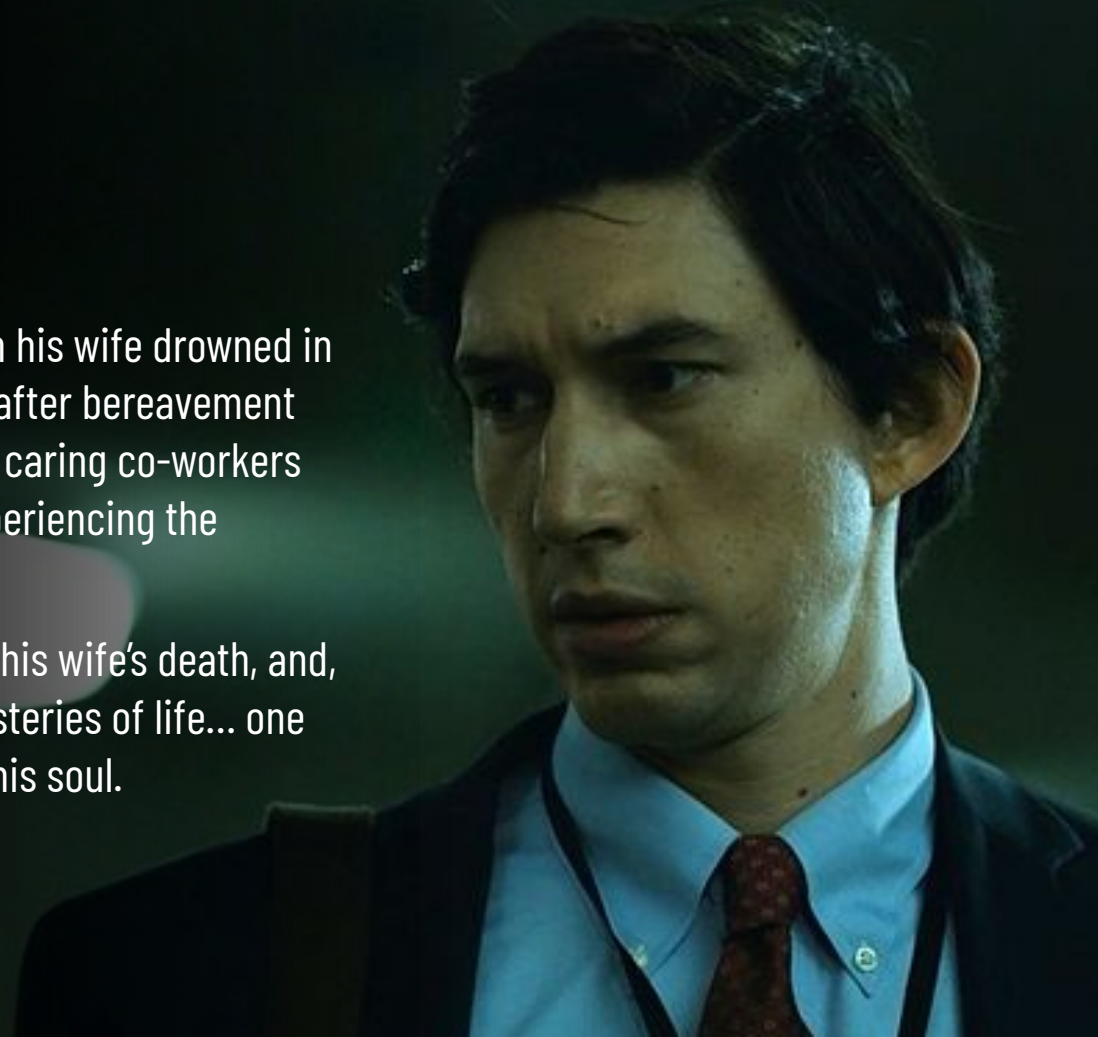
CHARACTERS



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.

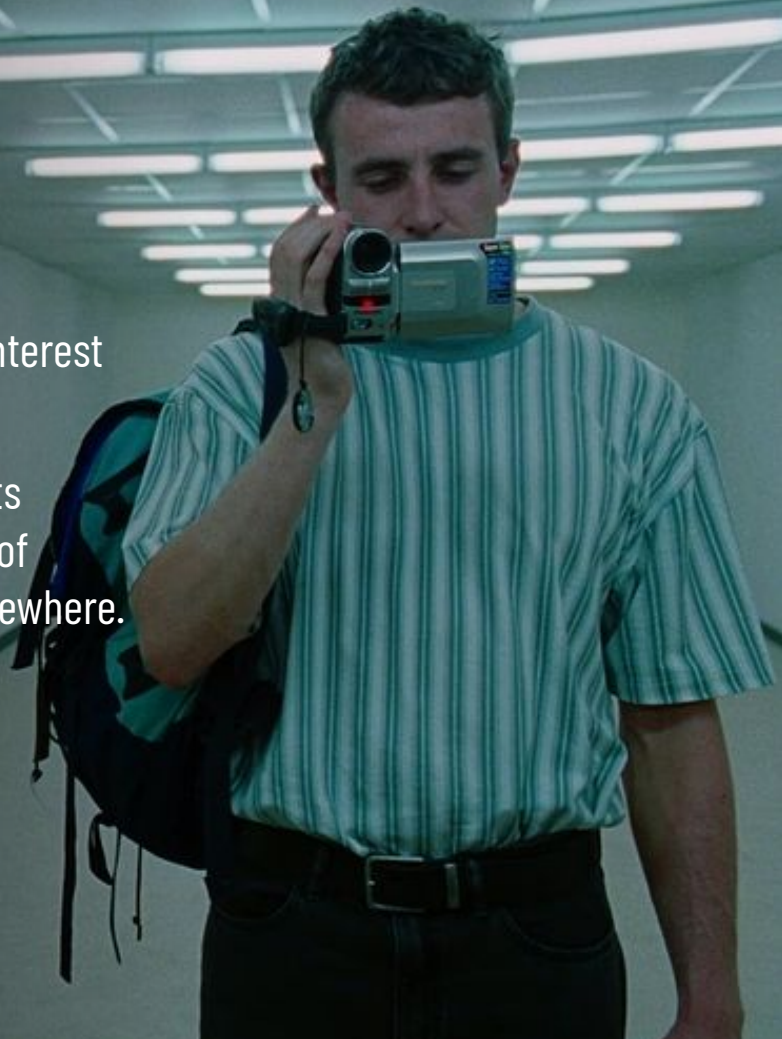


CHOI

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 nowhere when he could be in the heat of the action, elsewhere.

Choi should be careful what he wishes for.



THE FISHERMAN

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.

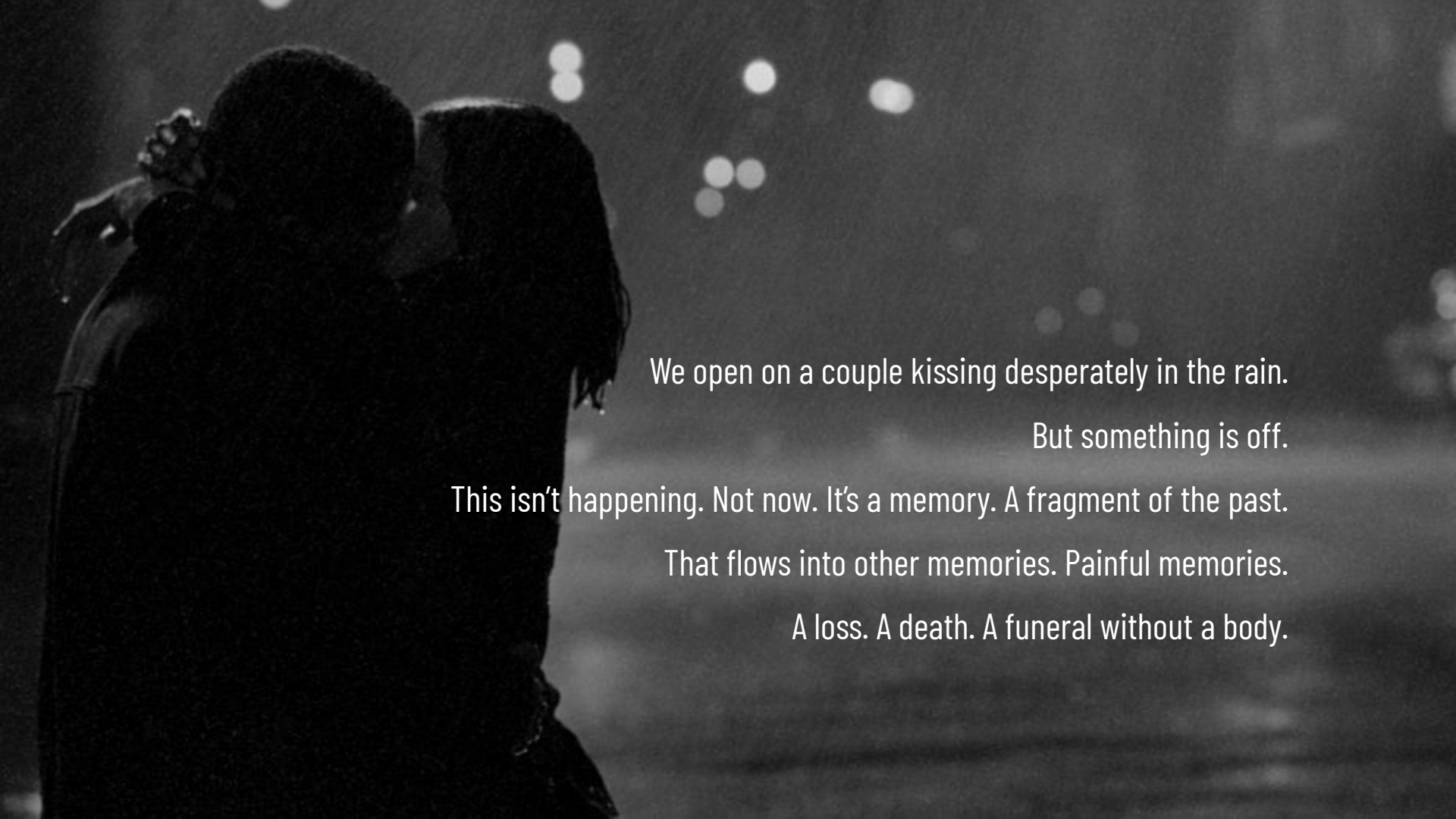
The tragedy broke her mother, who now haunts the farm and the riverbanks, wailing to her daughter and accusing the kindly farmer of murder.

Is she pitiable or precinct?



THE STORY



A black and white photograph of a couple kissing passionately in the rain at night. The couple is in the foreground, their forms silhouetted against a dark background. The man is on the left, and the woman is on the right, her head tilted back. Rain is visible as white streaks around them. In the background, there are out-of-focus city lights, creating a bokeh effect. The overall mood is romantic yet melancholic.

We open on a couple kissing desperately in the rain.

But something is off.

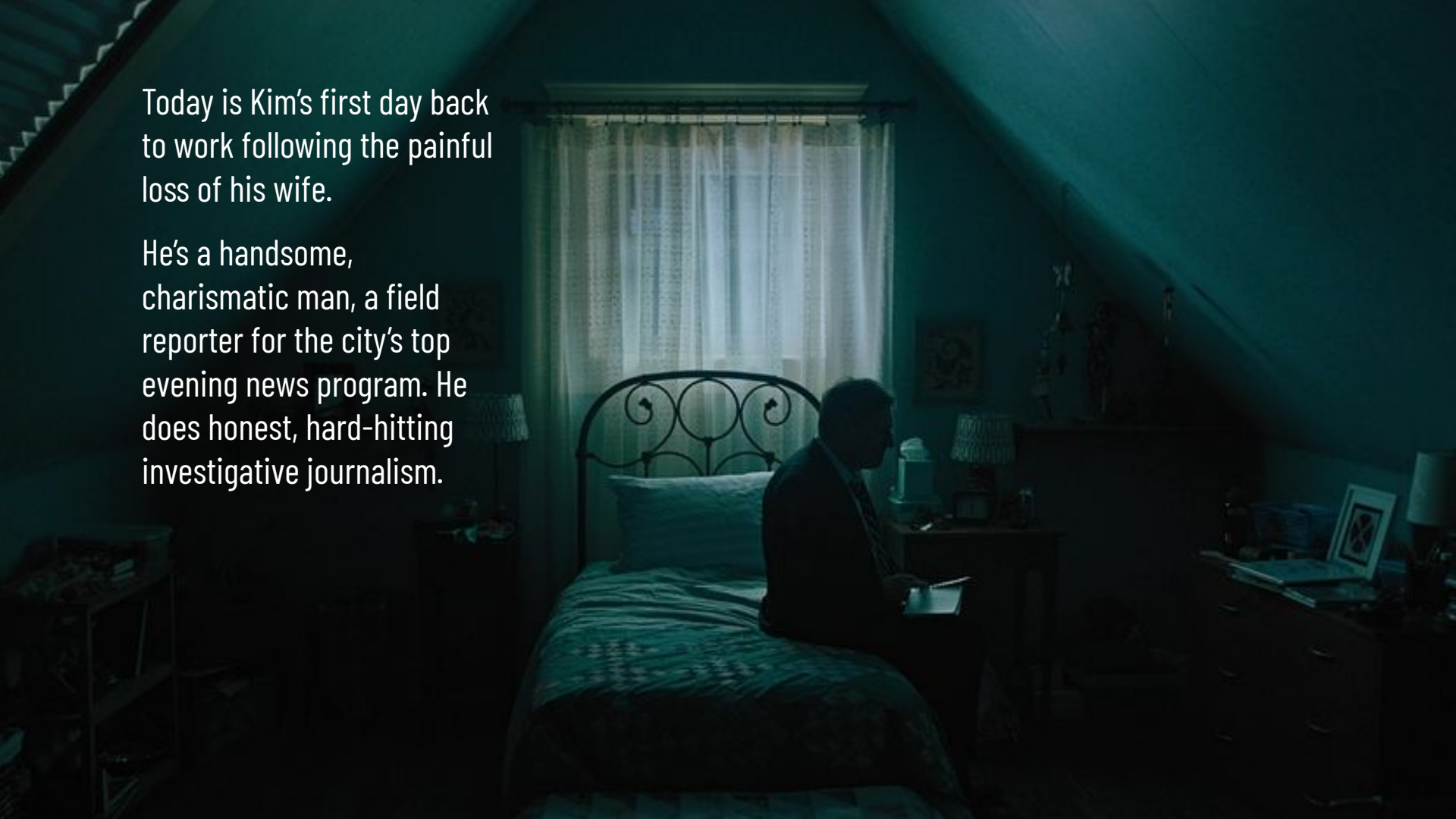
This isn't happening. Not now. It's a memory. A fragment of the past.

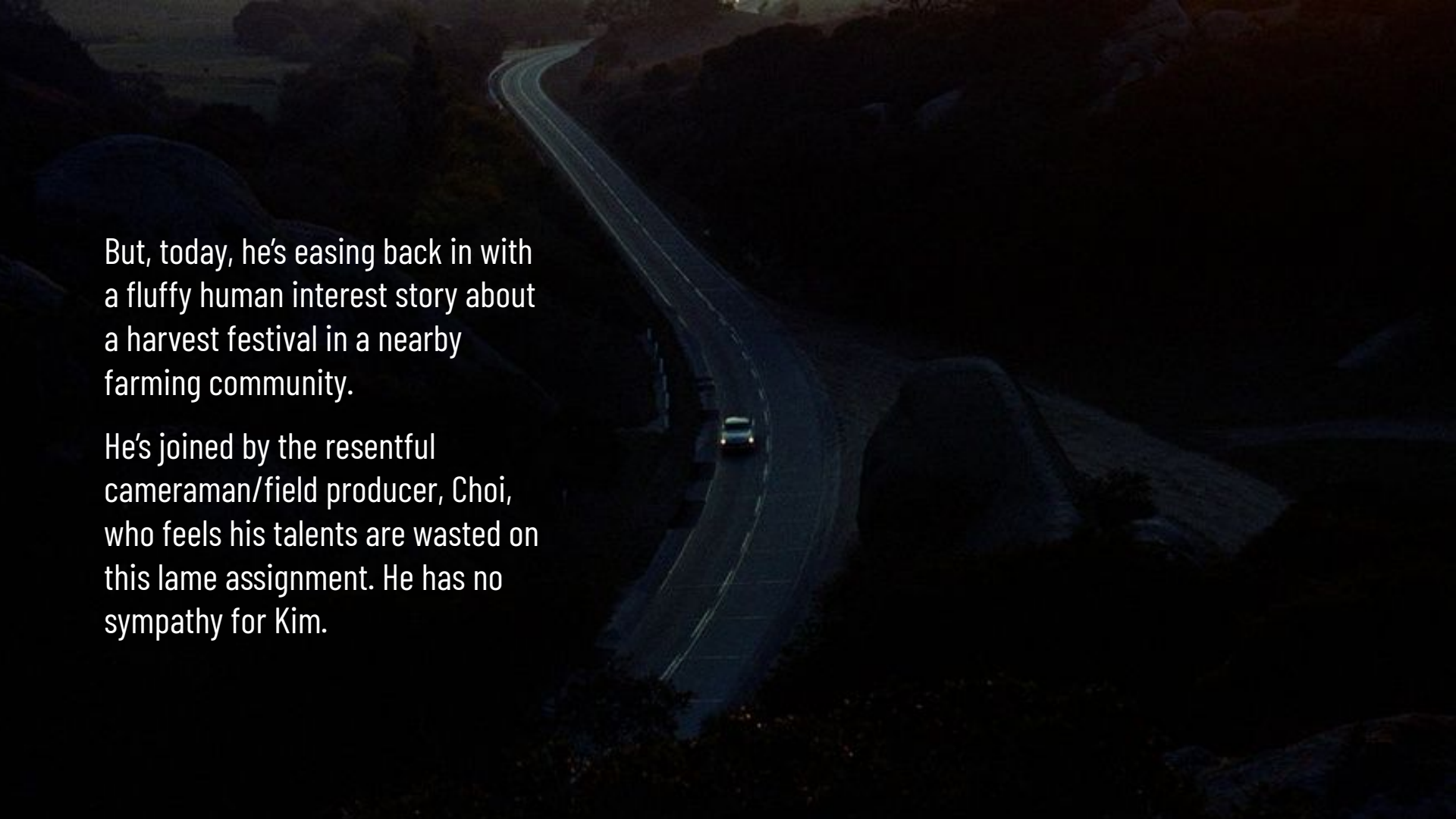
That flows into other memories. Painful memories.

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.

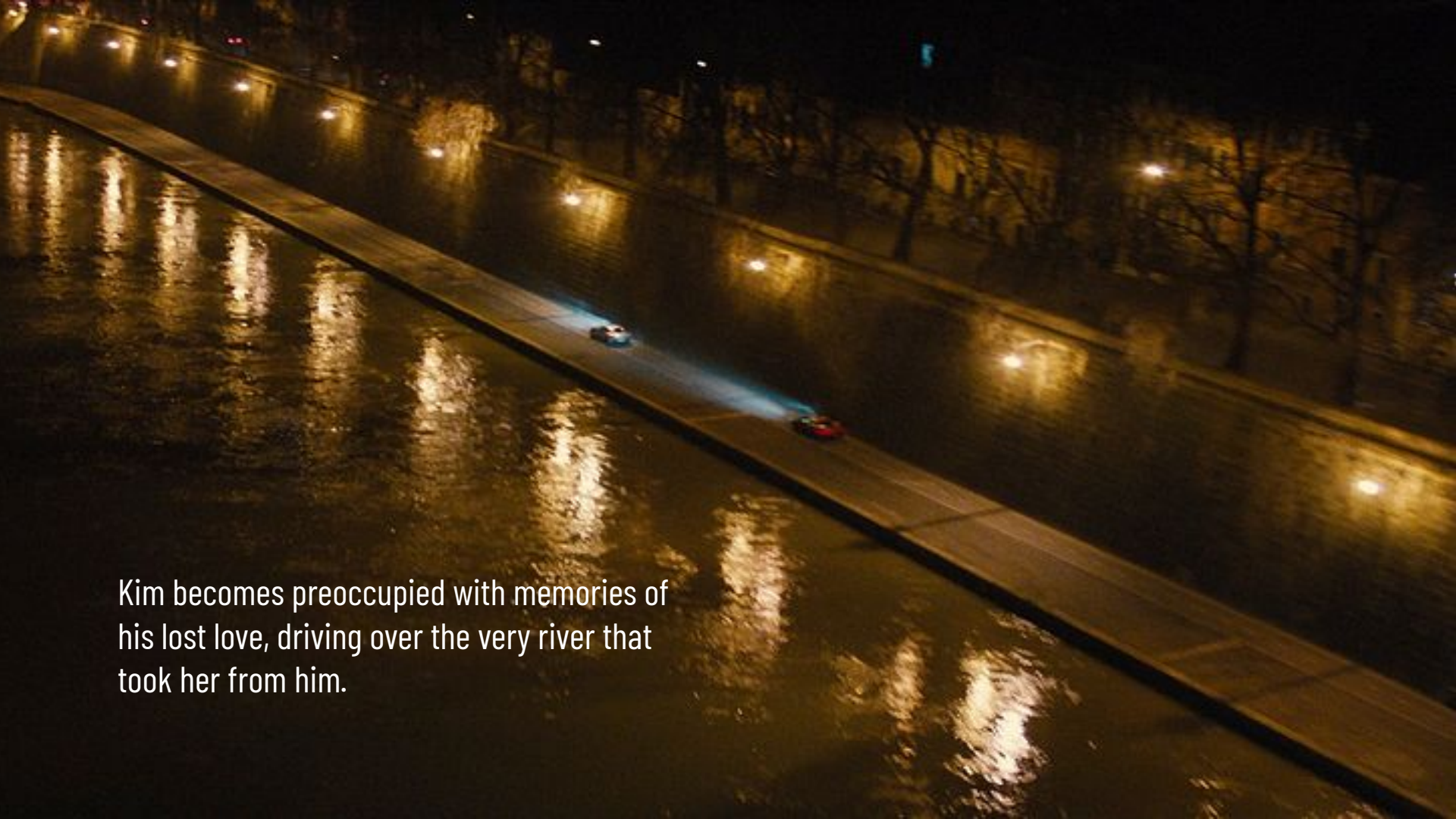
He's a handsome, charismatic man, a field reporter for the city's top evening news program. He does honest, hard-hitting investigative journalism.



An aerial, high-angle shot of a two-lane asphalt road that curves through a dark, wooded landscape at night. A single car with its headlights on is visible on the road, moving away from the viewer. The surrounding terrain is dark and silhouetted, with some distant lights visible in the background.

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

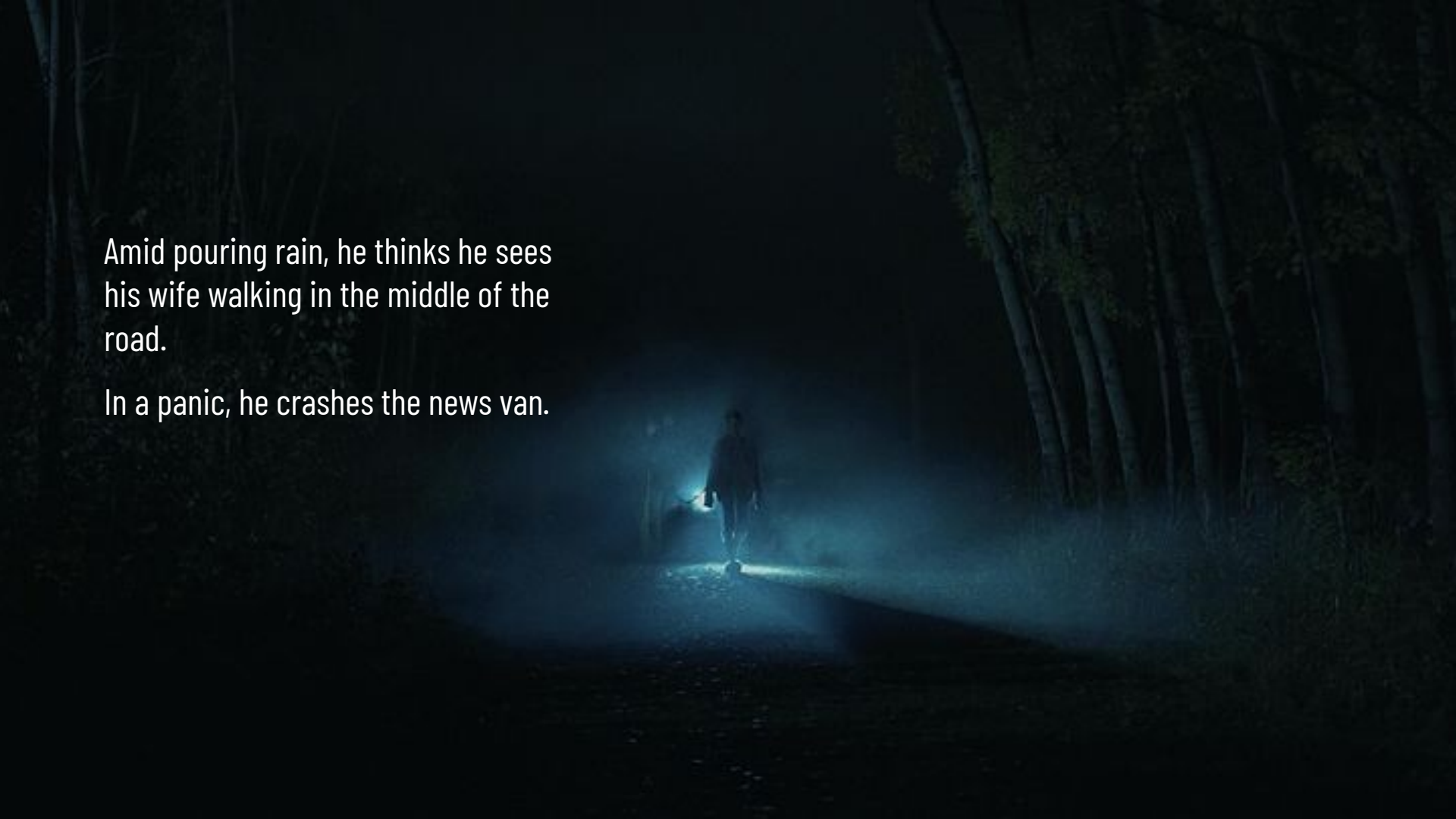
He's joined by the resentful cameraman/field producer, Choi, who feels his talents are wasted on this lame assignment. He has no sympathy for Kim.

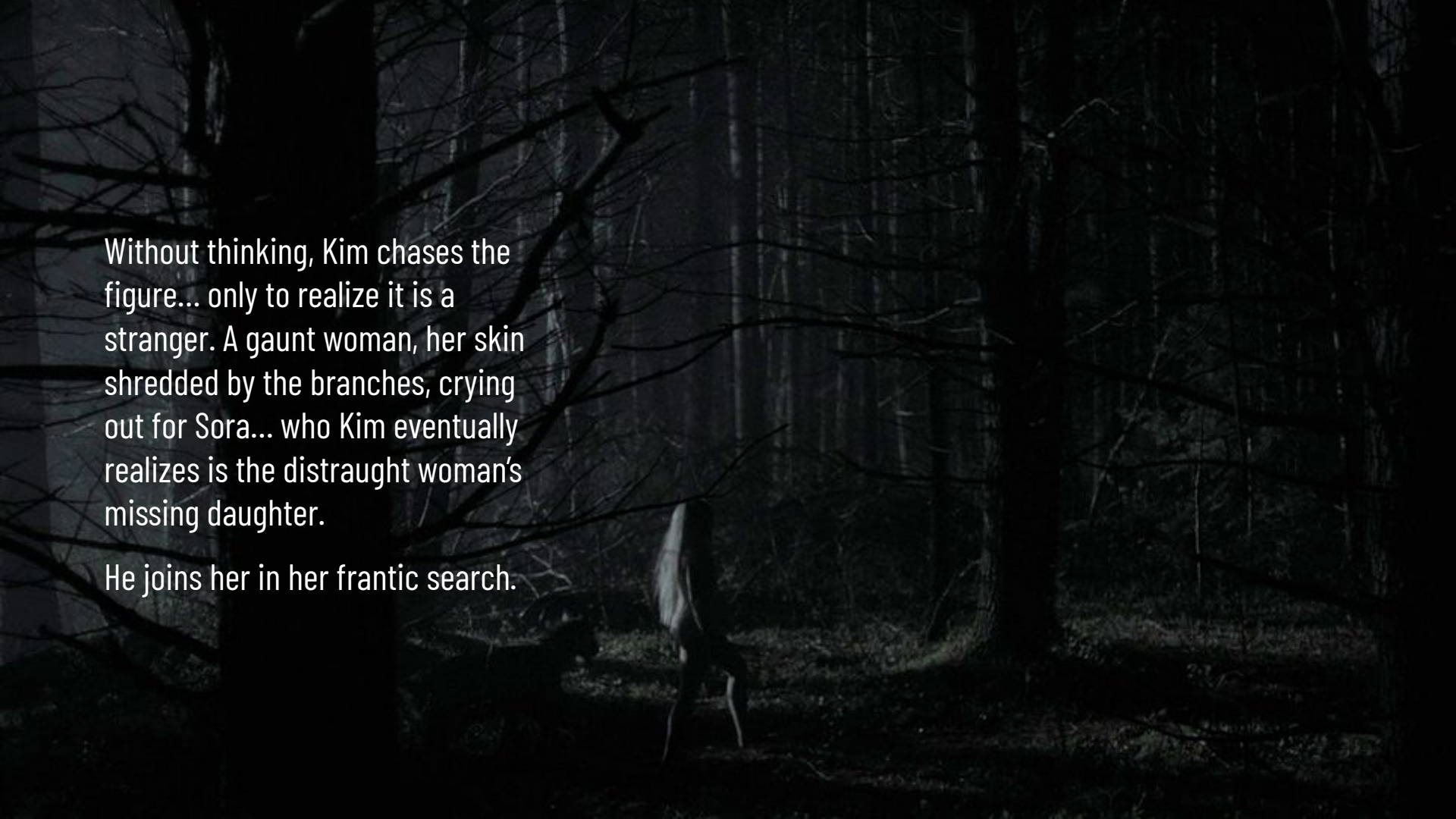
An aerial, high-angle shot of a car driving on a bridge at night. The bridge spans a wide river, and its surface is wet, reflecting the warm yellow light of the street lamps. The car, a small dark silhouette, is positioned in the lower-middle part of the frame, moving towards the right. Its headlights cast a bright, elongated beam of light onto the road ahead. The river's surface is dark, with the bridge's reflection creating a clear, shimmering path. On the far bank, the silhouettes of bare trees are visible against the dark sky, and more streetlights are scattered along the shoreline. The overall atmosphere is quiet and contemplative.

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

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

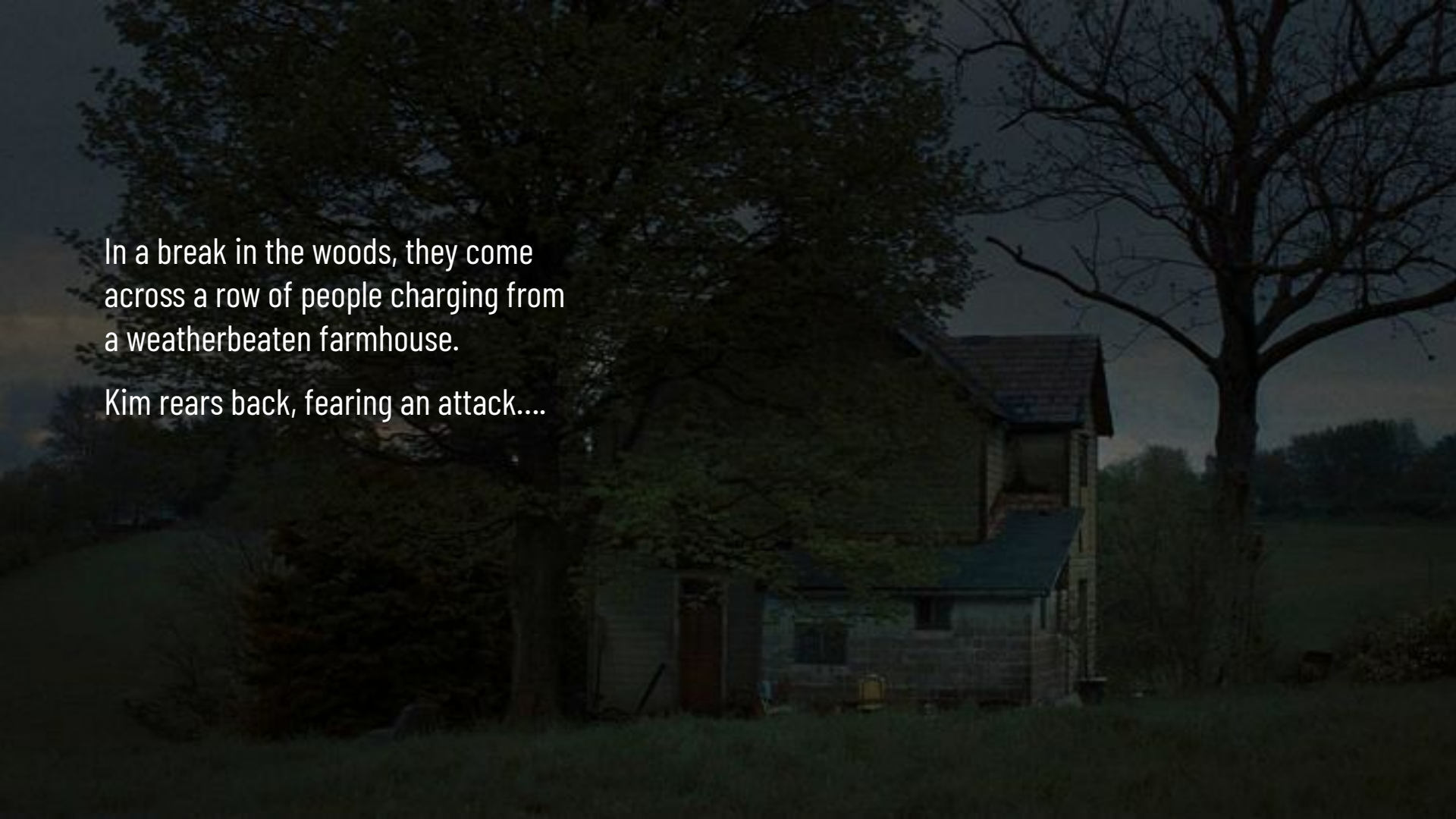
In a panic, he crashes the news van.



A dark, atmospheric forest scene with tall, thin trees and bare branches. A pale, gaunt figure stands in the center, looking away from the viewer. The lighting is dim, creating a sense of mystery and horror.

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 of a weathered farmhouse at night. The house is partially obscured by large, leafy trees in the foreground. The sky is dark and cloudy. The overall mood is mysterious and suspenseful.

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.

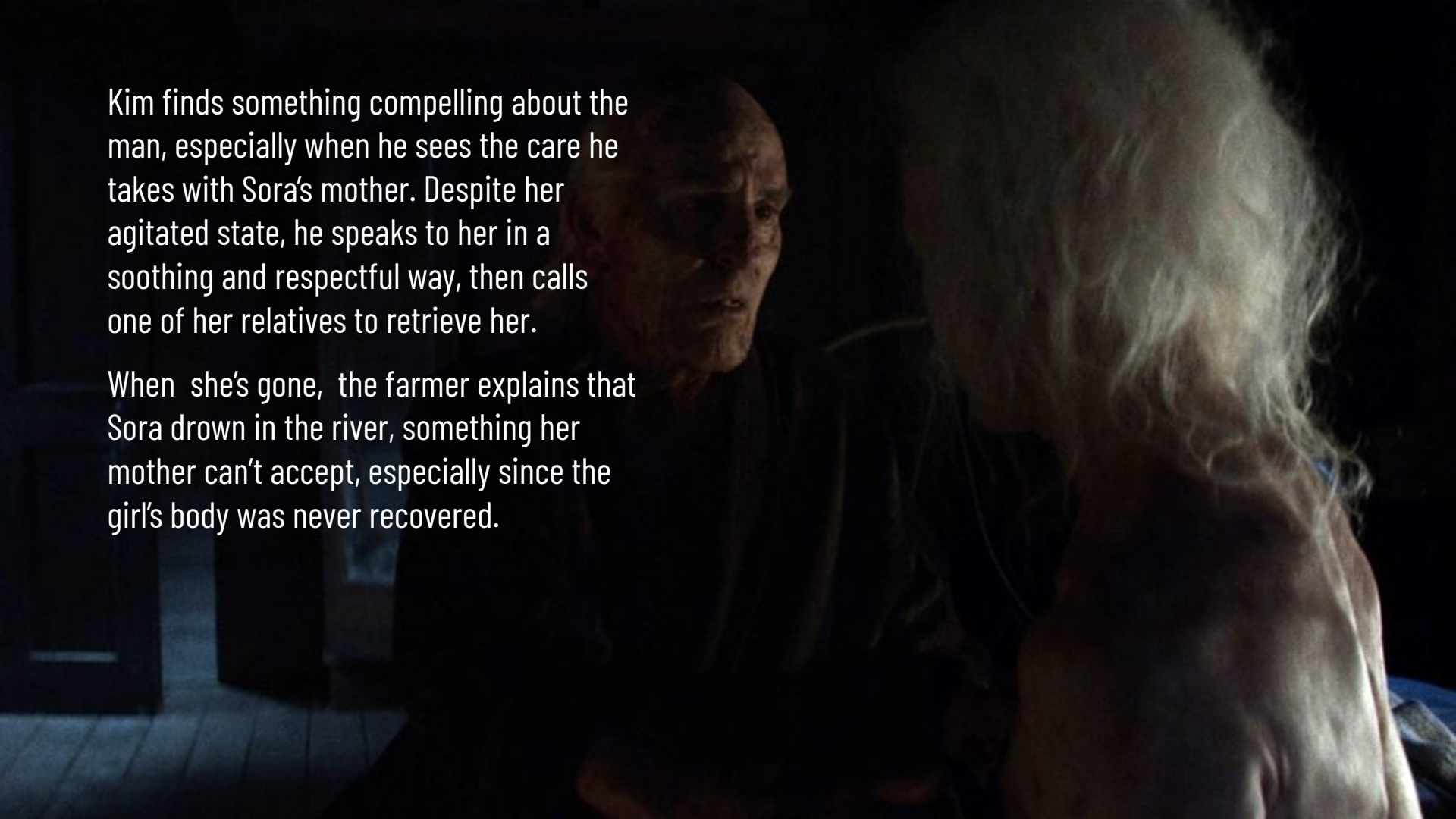


When they meet the kindly farmer who builds the scarecrows with the debris he finds in the nearby river, Kim pitches Choi on the idea of making THIS the human interest story they bring back to the station. That way the trip won't be a loss.



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.

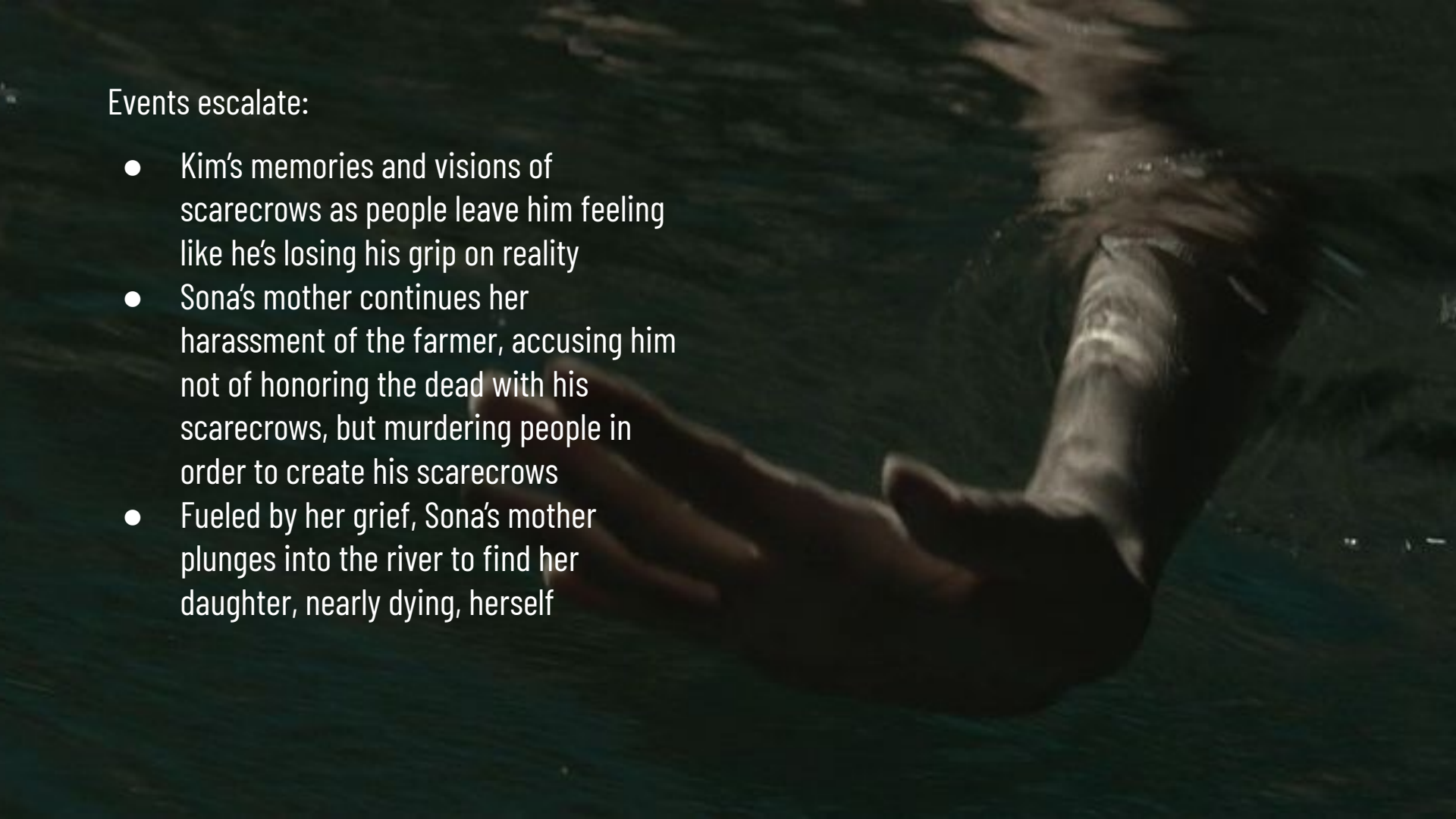


The next day, they shoot their field piece, watching the farmer pray over the souls lost to the river, fish for cast off debris – a baseball hat, a pair of work boots, a t-shirt – and, then, dry out this trash and turn it into a treasure, making a scarecrow in honor of a lost soul.



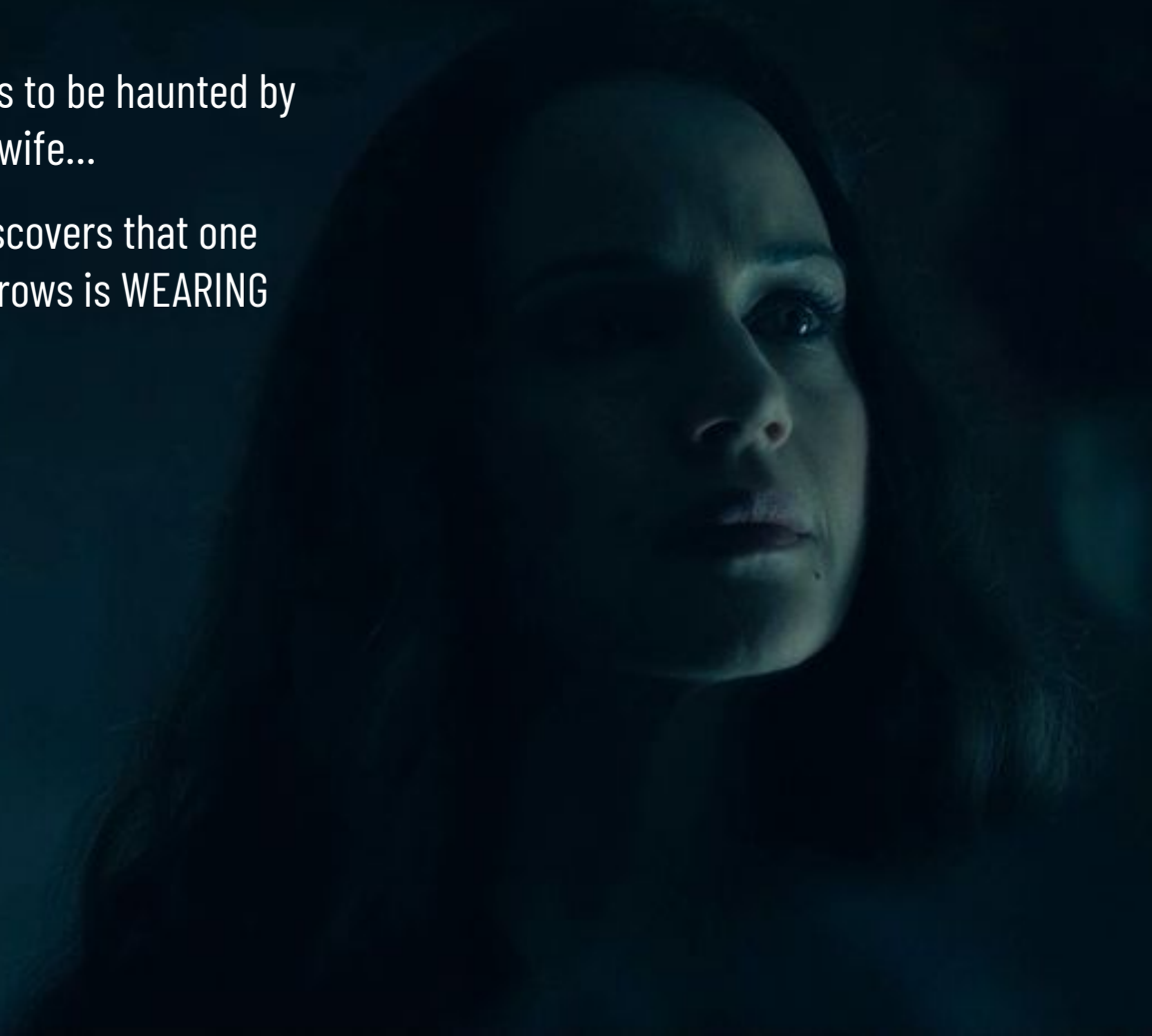
Events escalate:

- 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.

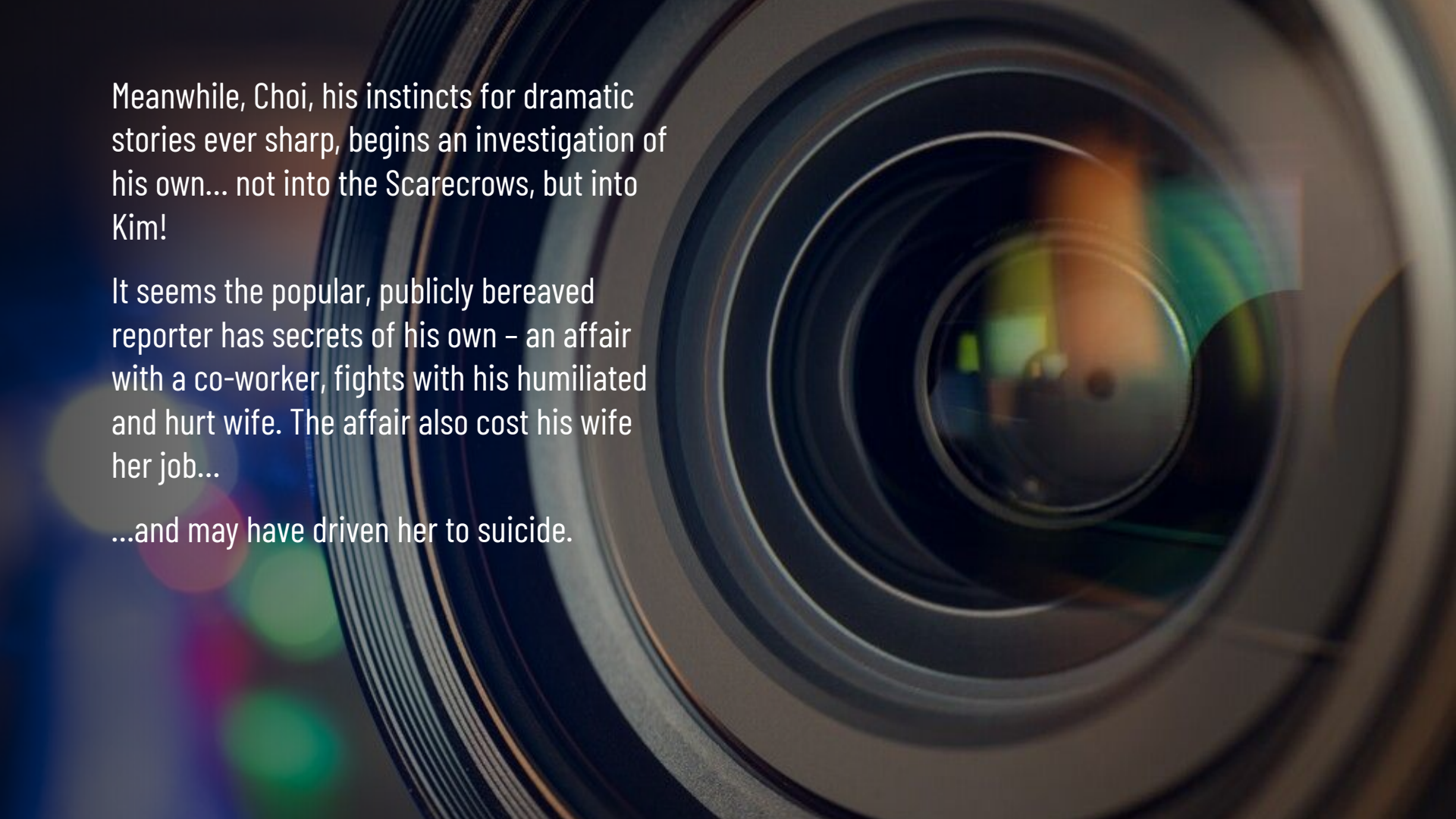
Is there something much
more sinister about this
farmer's passion project,
or is it really a mission of
mercy, as he claims?



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.





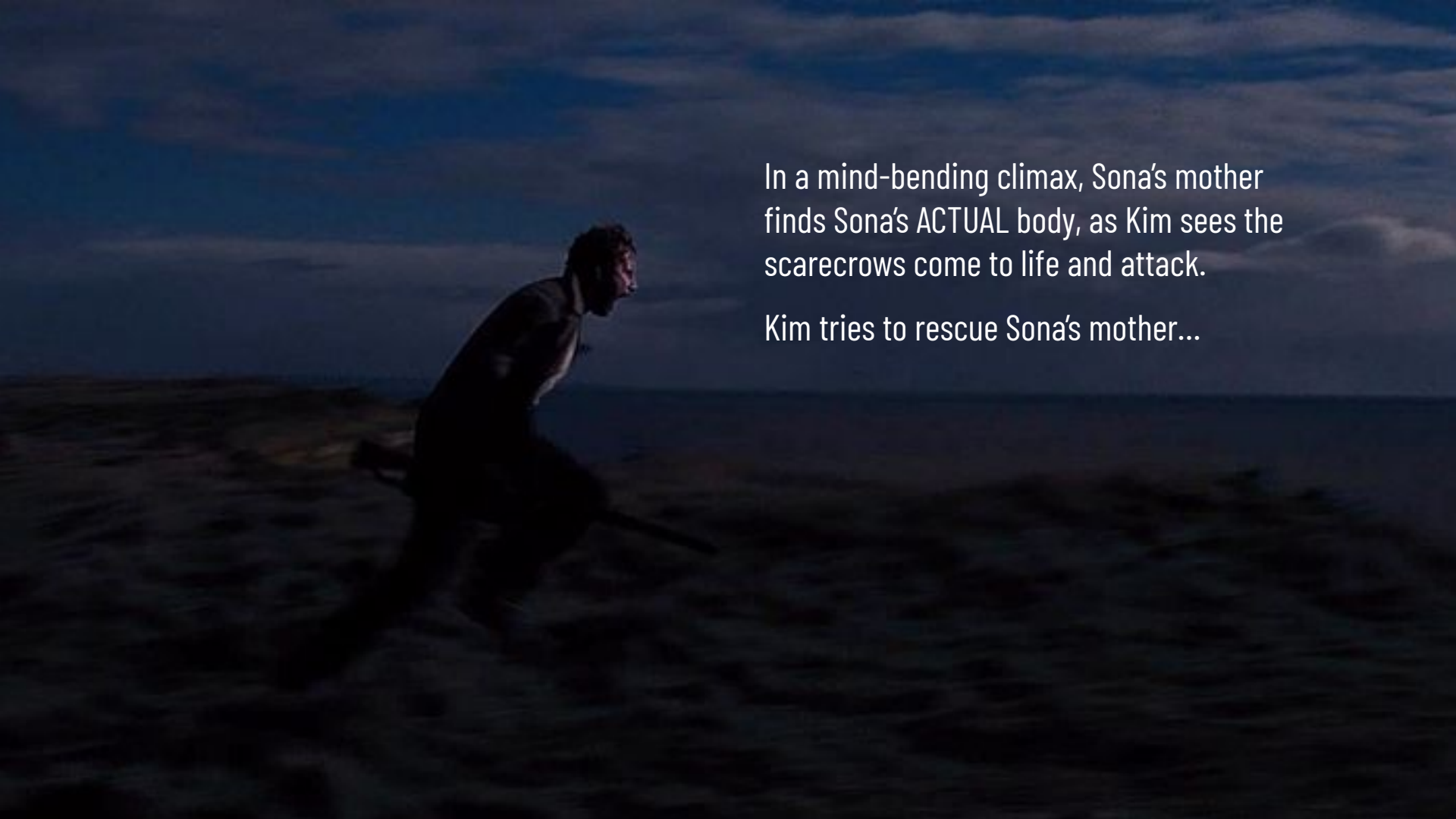
Meanwhile, Choi, his instincts for dramatic stories ever sharp, begins an investigation of his own... not into the Scarecrows, but into Kim!

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.

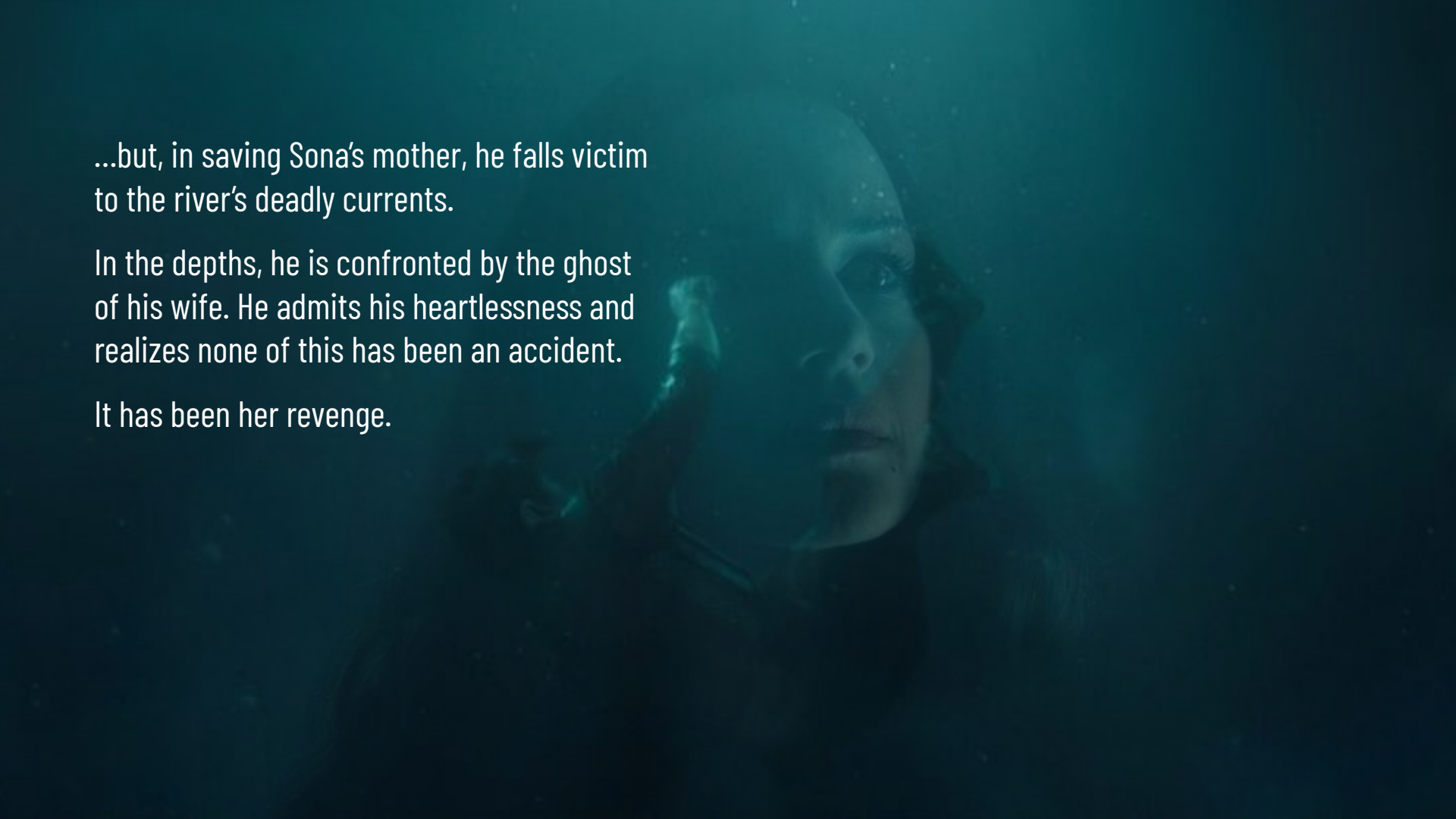


What appears to be grief may be guilt.

A man in a dark shirt and pants is running across a beach at dusk. The sky is a deep blue with some clouds, and the ocean is visible in the background. The man is in the foreground, slightly to the left, running towards the right. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

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 woman is shown underwater, her face appearing pale and ghostly. She has a look of shock or fear, with wide eyes and an open mouth. The water is dark blue and murky, with some light reflecting off her face and hair. The overall mood is eerie and suspenseful.

...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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