ELECTRIC ENTERTAINMENT COVERAGE REPORT

**TITLE**: MOTH

**FORMAT:** Feature Script

**WRITTEN BY:** DW MEDOFF

**GENRE:** Psychological Horror,

**ANAYLIST:** Oscar Gervet

**DATE:** 07/02/21 **LOGLINE:** During a blackout, a man with OCD and nyctophobia (fear of the dark) steals a Yahrzeit candle from hiselderly neighbor to stave off the dark but finds himself

tormented by a lost soul.

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|  | **Excellent** | **Good** | **Fair** | **Poor** |
| **CHARACTERIZATION** |  | **X** |  |  |
| **PACING** |  | **X** |  |  |
| **STRUCTURE** |  |  | **X** |  |
| **DIALOGUE** |  | **X** |  |  |
| **STORY** |  |  | **X** |  |
| **RECOMMENDATION** | **PASS** | | | |

**SYNOPSIS:** DANIEL lives alone in a blue-collar suburban house with OCD and his phobia of the dark. He obsessively controls every minute aspect of his life, especially the light. When the regional power goes out because of a storm, he steals Yahrzeit candles from his kind Jewish neighbor MEL (75). Daniel lights the candles at home but hears eerie sounds and sees a skeletal human in rags in the darkness. He hears his PARENTS coming in downstairs, but they are not here. The next day, his sister JILL (35) comes by and highlights their parents have been dead for years, but Mel does not want to admit it. At night, Daniel gets pulled by a hand under his bed. He frees himself in panic and flees outside to PUBLIC WORKERS. Daniel coughs so hard that he vomits and collapses. The workers call 911, which assesses a simple panic attack, and give him a flashlight. Back at home, Daniel hears hissing from the bathtub drain and sees a blinking eye. Daniel’s hearings and visions continue up to a shape that comes from the darkness: the BURLAP GHOST with a gaunt face and sunken black pits for eyes. The power comes back, and the ghost disappears. Daniel regains confidence until the lights turn off one by one and the spirit comes back. Daniel relives through his trauma at seven when a MURDERER stabbed his parents coming in downstairs. He goes to Mel’s to give him back new candles but sees him dying next to the ghost. Daniel faces his fear and takes Mel to the hospital. Daniel learns that his persistent cough is advanced lung cancer and admits his sister died from it two years ago. Mel reassures him about his fear of the darkness of death. But a NURSE tells him Mel has passed on. Daniel is not in control of anything but ready to face whatever comes next.

**COMMENTS:** This psychological horror is well-written with great use of the fear of the unknown. The writer renders a sensorial trip with eerie sounds and visuals and efficiently setups thrilling sequences. The characters are simple but feel authentic with distinct voices. Daniel’s obsession with control and fear of the dark works well and feels organic to his childhood trauma. However, this feature script is 72 pages and feels rushed. While the film is thrilling, it fails to escalate impactfully and feels anticlimactic. Daniel facing the ghost to save Mel is the closest thing to a climax and feels rushed. The writer could develop more the spirit through this climax as well as Daniel’s childhood trauma. Ultimately, this film currently feels a bit more like a thrilling self-contained episode than a satisfying feature story.