



crybaby bridge

a #metoo-era ghost story

story by valerie grant & david a. armstrong

screenplay by valerie grant

director: david a. armstrong



the legend

crybaby bridge

Belker Bridge is an old iron-girder bridge in picturesque southeast Texas where, so the story goes, a mother and her baby tragically drowned long ago.

Since then it's rumored that late at night the mother haunts the bridge and a baby's ghostly cries echo over the river, earning the nickname "Crybaby Bridge."

It's the kind of spooky local legend everybody's heard of but nobody seems to have actually witnessed... until now.



the story

crybaby bridge

The granddaughter of a respected evangelist, small town Texas high school senior Amanda chafes under her close-knit community, dreaming of a different life. When she reluctantly surrenders her virginity to her boyfriend on legendarily haunted Crybaby Bridge, she first hears the baby's ghostly cry — a harbinger of what's to come.

Soon the eerie specter of a young woman from another era begins appearing to Amanda. And she learns her regretted tryst has yielded more than one unexpected result: she's pregnant. Plagued by increasingly visceral phenomena, dreams, and visions as her pregnancy progresses, Amanda realizes the two are somehow linked.

With no one to confide in she befriends Kelby, the offbeat new girl in school, and the pair try to unravel the mystery of the ghost. Amanda grows empathetic to the ghost's earthly plight as her pregnancy and her budding romantic feelings for Kelby upend her own world, especially with her beloved but rigid minister grandfather.

As the ghost's malevolence grows more threatening, Amanda and Kelby must ultimately risk their lives to confront it, learn the horrific truth behind its untimely fate, and attempt to free its tortured soul.



the haunting

crybaby bridge

A long-rumored supernatural entity makes its presence known when Amanda loses her virginity on legendary Crybaby Bridge. It manifests through terrifying appearances, eerie dreams and waking visions, and physical phenomena of growing malevolence, seeking retribution for past wrongs.

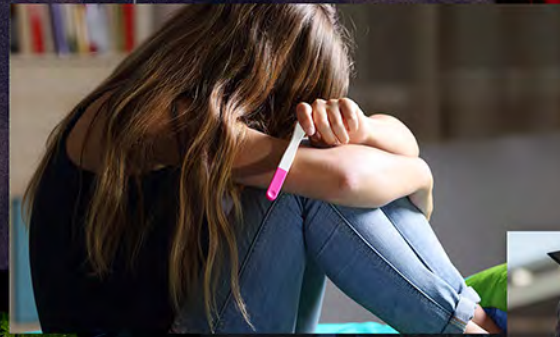
The increasingly visceral hauntings that compel Amanda to unravel the mystery behind them are a manifestation of guilt and hidden secrets, an angry voice demanding justice – extracting its pound of flesh if not from its wrongdoer, then from her.

the conversation

crybaby bridge

"Crybaby Bridge" sensitively explores the landscape of today's #MeToo era front-page discussions – sexual pressure and teen pregnancy, reproductive choice, sexual orientation, and the patriarchy.

Amanda's journey ultimately focuses not on the choices she makes, but on her freedom to make them.



the town

crybaby bridge

Fictional Marquette, Texas is a quaint town near the Louisiana border. The center of town life is the church, where Amanda's grandfather is the venerable minister.

It's a close-knit community of potluck dinners and sharing gossip on Main Street, and there's a certain way things are done. Where everybody knows your name — and your business.



characters

crybaby bridge



Amanda Duncan

Texas high school senior and minister's granddaughter Amanda is torn between her personal dreams and her sense of duty to her family, boyfriend, and church. She grapples with discovering and expressing her true self at the risk of losing the people she holds most dear.



Thomas Duncan

A renowned church minister, Thomas is Amanda's grandfather and the only father she has ever known. His stoic demeanor and strict religious adherence mask a widower's grief and a deep love for his granddaughter.



Kelby Occam

The enigmatic new big-city transplant, Kelby is a self-assured free spirit who offers Amanda non-judgmental friendship, opening her eyes to self-realization and unimagined alternatives to her seemingly predetermined fate.



characters

crybaby bridge



Steve Calder

Amanda's handsome boyfriend Steve is the catch of the town, born into privilege as the grandson of state senator Gerald. The upheaval in Amanda's life threatens his ambitions, but also awakens him to the effects of his entitlement.



Senator Gerald Calder

Steve's grandfather Gerald is Thomas's oldest friend, a Texas state senator, and town royalty. His ideological zeal is tempered by practicality – he's not above personally bending the rules he advocates for others.



Paige Mason

Paige has grown up with her bestie Amanda in the church. Her brittle reception of the unknown reflects a fear of losing what matters most to her.



Marybeth Calhoun

Warm and motherly, Marybeth is a longtime family friend of the Duncans. The proprietress of a quirky antique shop, her penchant for gifting casseroles is matched by her sense of nostalgia.



the filmmakers

crybaby bridge

management:
Markus Goerg,
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David A. Armstrong – co-story, director
www.davidaarmstrong.com

David is a DGA director and film industry veteran. An AFI alumnus who rose up through the camera ranks to cinematographer, David served as Director of Photography for director James Wan on the SAW film franchise (SAW I-VI), creating the distinctive terrifying visuals of the Guinness Book of World Records' highest-grossing horror film franchise in history.

Armstrong's decades of industry experience inform a unique perspective and extraordinary resourcefulness. He directed and co-produced his latest feature, THE ASSASSIN'S CODE (2018) starring Peter Stormare and Justin Chatwin.

His 2013 directorial debut PAWN starred Forest Whitaker, Ray Liotta, Common, Stephen Lang, Michael Chiklis, Nikki Reed, and Marton Csokas.

For CRYBABY BRIDGE, David envisions a uniquely character-driven supernatural horror/thriller exploring relationship and identity amid today's challenging #metoo environment, ultimately crafting a visually stunning, compelling story of self-acceptance and redemption.



Valerie Grant – co-story, screenplay
www.valeriegrantwriter.com

David's story partner Valerie co-wrote THE ASSASSIN'S CODE, their first produced feature collaboration. CRYBABY BRIDGE, their fifth story collaboration, was inspired by a legendarily haunted local site near her Midwestern childhood hometown.

Both fascinated and terrified by ghosts, Valerie intends to watch the finished film while peering through her fingers with the lights on.