



CEMETERY *Girl*

A FEATURE FILM



References:
Garden State
The Farewell
Palo Alto
Lady Bird





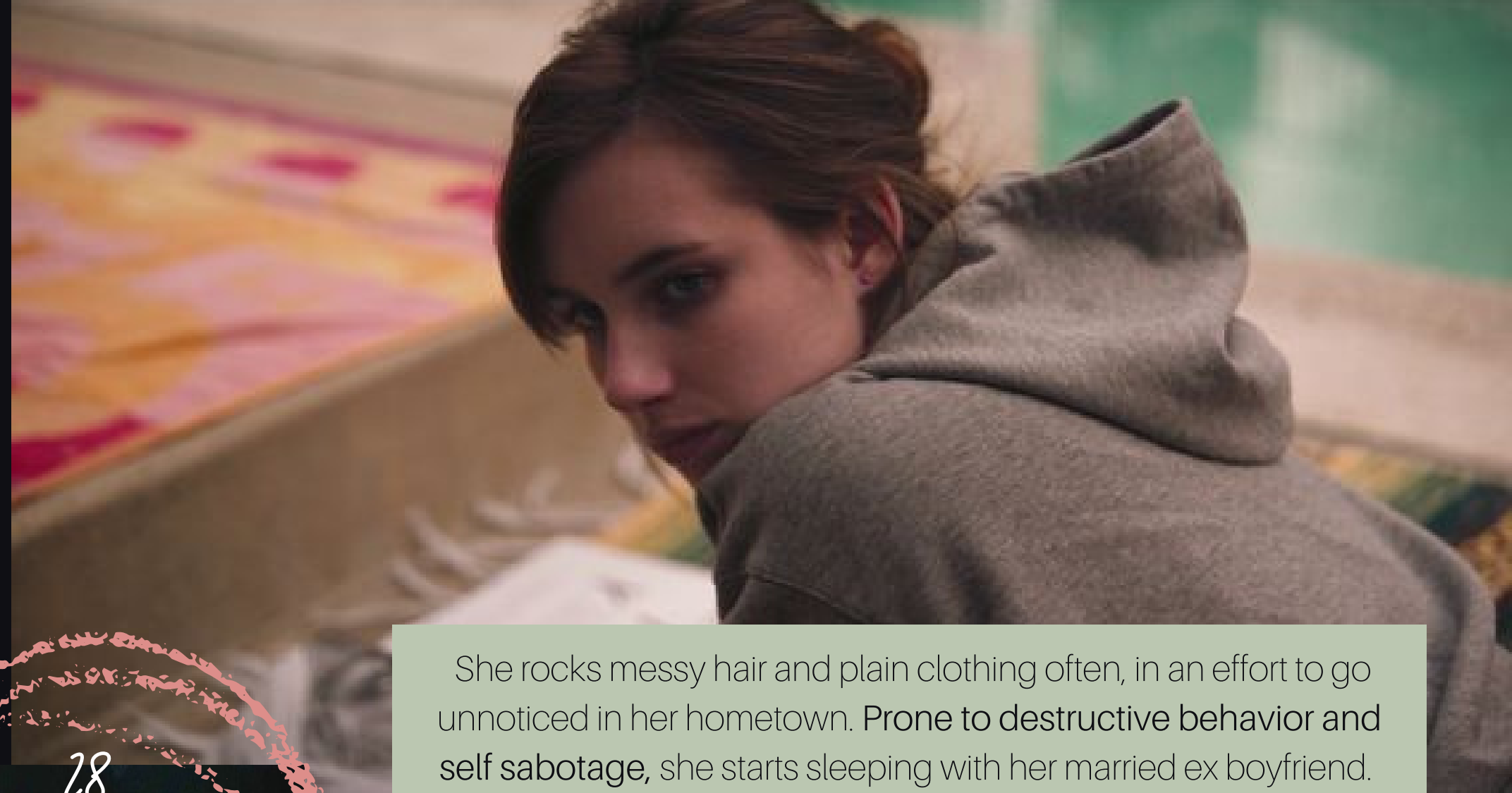
After a mysterious meltdown in Los Angeles, 28 year old Cori Vitale is out of money and out of options. She returns to her small New Jersey hometown where she must decide whether or not to leave her visual artist dreams in LA or take over the family business: a cemetery.

Old patterns are tested, the front lines of loss are examined, and the question of whether or not evolving equates to failure are explored in this feature film seen through the eyes of an almost 30 year old woman who thought she already had it all figured out.



Cori Vitale

is delicate like a bomb.



28.

Lost soul.

An Artist.

She rocks messy hair and plain clothing often, in an effort to go unnoticed in her hometown. **Prone to destructive behavior and self sabotage**, she starts sleeping with her married ex boyfriend. Petrified of not making a mark on the world, she struggles to move on from what she left behind, but she's starting to realize that what the cemetery offers goes much deeper than an interim paycheck.



Vernon Vitale

loves his job.



Meadow Brook Cemetery Superintendent

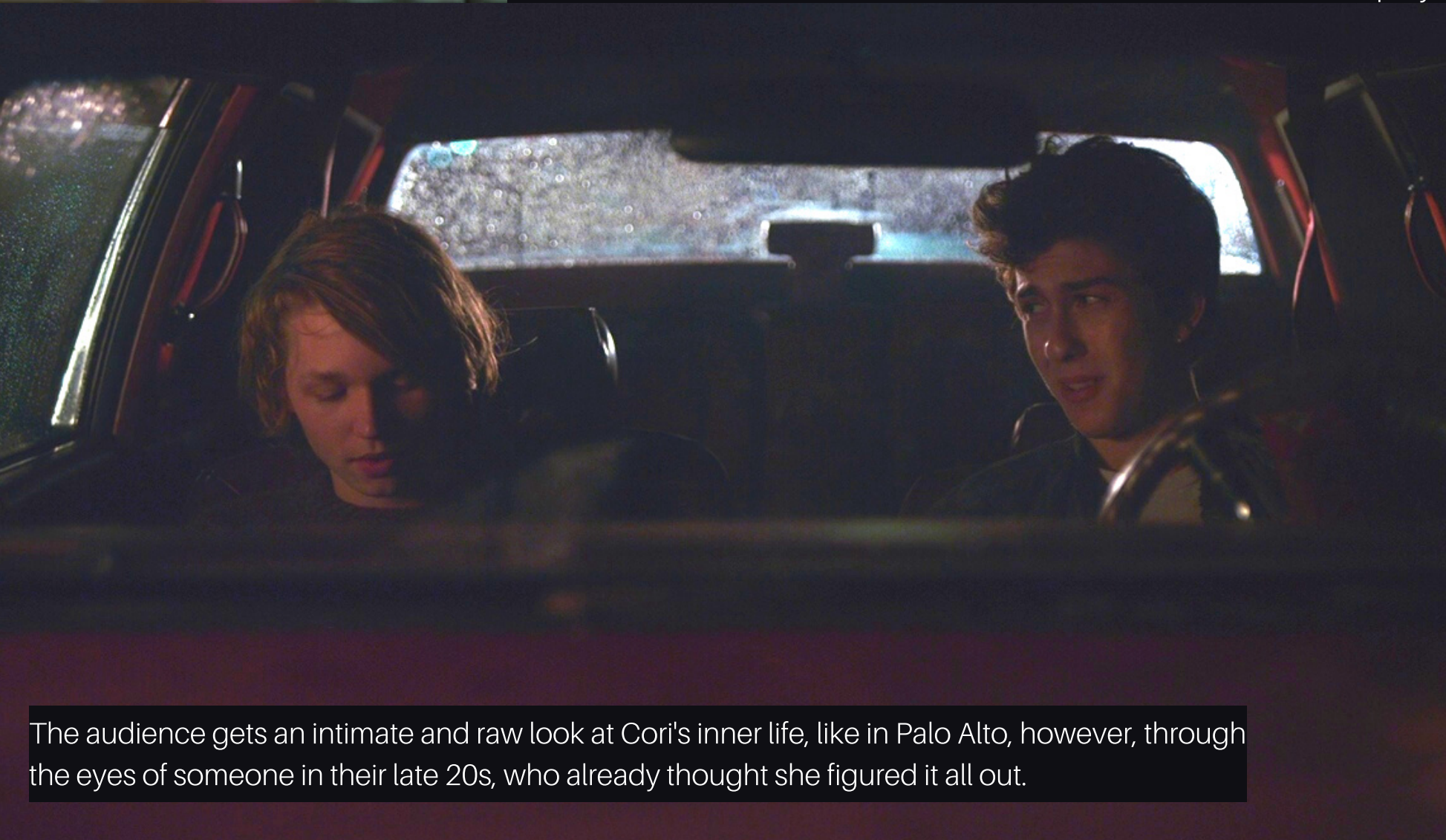
of 31 years. Now at age 62, he's begrudgingly starting to think about retirement. He's an Italian American with a Jersey accent. The cemetery is his pride and joy, second only to his family. He's trustworthy, kind, patient, which is at odds with his tougher looking exterior. He came from nothing and has worked hard for the life he has built.

He's the best judge of character around and he think's his daughter, Cori, is the best person's hands to leave the cemetery in.





Cemetery Girl deals with balancing familial responsibility & relationships in the face of figuring out who you are, like Ladybird & The Farewell does, but in our film, we see that play out against the rich backdrop of a cemetery.



The audience gets an intimate and raw look at Cori's inner life, like in Palo Alto, however, through the eyes of someone in their late 20s, who already thought she figured it all out.

The look of the film will be vivid with bright pops of color because people die even when it's a beautiful day out, which is never how death is portrayed on screen.

Cemetery Girl is a **second coming of age** story inspired by the astrological idea, "Return to Saturn". Between ages 27-30, you have an awakening that causes you to reevaluate your life and make big changes. To see an almost 30 year old deal with re-figuring out who they are is not the usual for coming of age stories.



People hide from their Return to Saturn. I hope they leave the film feeling emboldened to embrace it.



Why Now?

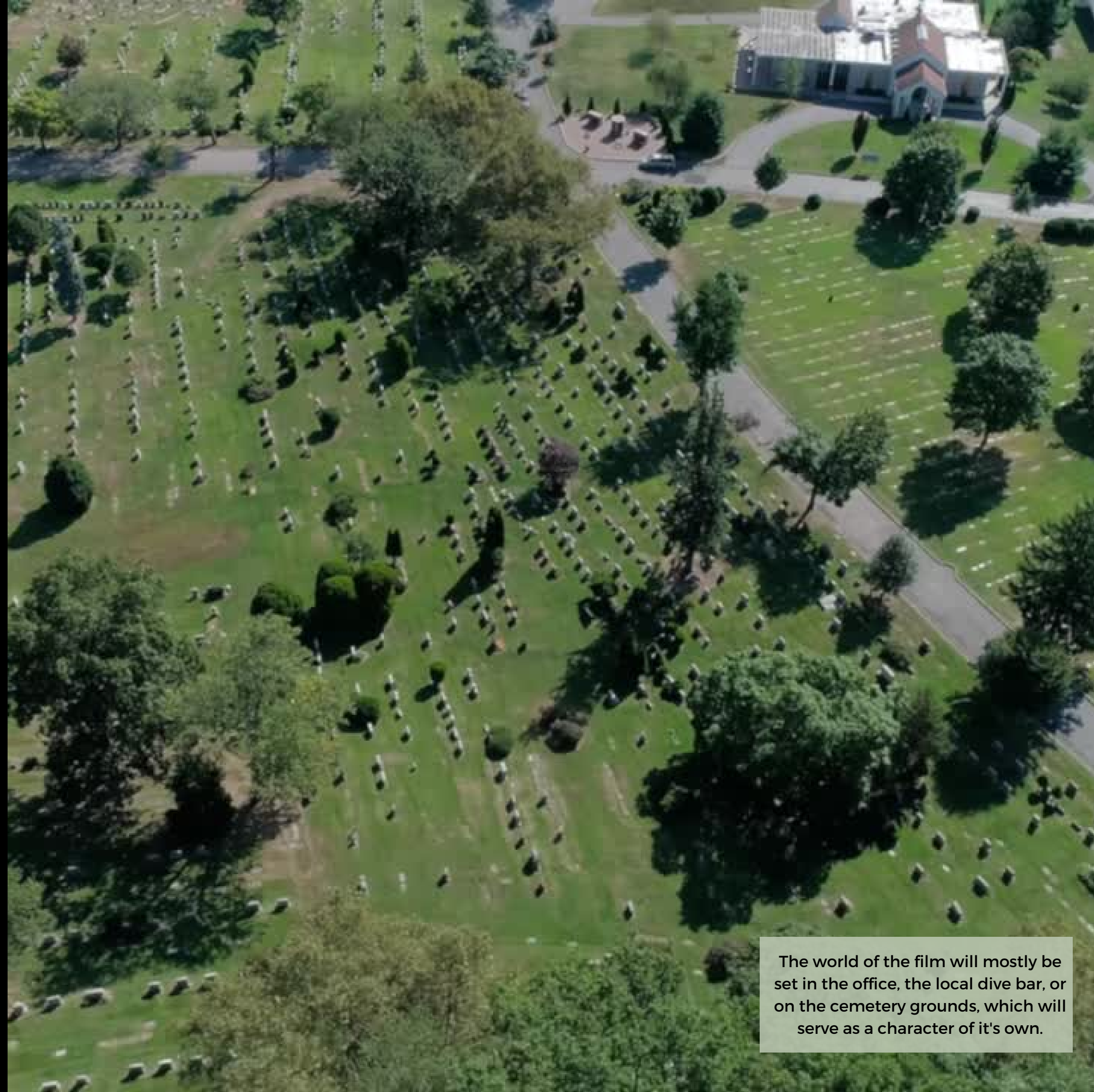
This film is not about the COVID-19 pandemic, but the global trauma and seemingly endless death we experienced as a human race certainly inspired me to write a story set in a cemetery.



The struggle of purpose and crisis of meaning currently being experienced, especially by those ages 17-35, is why this is the time to tell this story,



None of our lives look like we thought they would, especially after the last year and a half, and Cori is no exception.



The world of the film will mostly be set in the office, the local dive bar, or on the cemetery grounds, which will serve as a character of it's own.

[*Click Here*](#)

Writer's Statement

"Like Cori, my dad is the superintendent of a cemetery and so my family and I have lived in the house through the gates my entire life. I've worked here, in the office, either part time or full time for the last 10 years. This place is so much a part of me; it's like it's been written into my DNA.



Cemeteries, funeral homes, crematories, and the like, are a world entirely of their own. On screen, they are so often only portrayed through teary eyes on the worst day of a person's life, but there's so much more to it all. I know that I have the experience and care to authentically create a fictionalized story set here in both a delicate and engaging way. "

A portrait of Paige Sciarrino, a young woman with long, wavy, light brown hair and blue eyes. She is wearing a dark grey tank top and a small gold hoop earring. The background is a soft-focus indoor setting with a window and some greenery.

Paige Sciarrino

Creator Bio

is a screenwriter, actor, and filmmaker located in Northern New Jersey. She grew up living with her family inside the gates of a cemetery because, like Cori, her dad is the superintendent of one. She graduated Magna Cum Laude in 2015 with her BFA in Acting from Montclair State University and went on to found Non Profit theater company, Normal Ave, based in NYC, as well as Writer in the Dark, a film collective based in NJ.

She has three previously produced screenplays, *Where the Light Enters*, *Rolling*, and *the blue light stays on*. The latter, dealing with similar subject matter to Cemetery Girl, won "Best Original Idea" at the Reale Film Festival and her work on screen in the film was nominated for "Best Actress" at the New Jersey Film Awards. The film also took home awards for "Best Female Filmmaker" and "Best Supporting Actress" after premiering at the Big Apple Film & Screenplay Competition.

She focuses on creating complex female characters, with New Jersey usually as the backdrop.

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