

Section 1: Television Series Information

Group Members:



Title:

- *The Black Book*
- The title of this series reflects the book the main character Ben finds in his local mom and pop bookstore. When he is desperate for motivation he collects a box of unused books for the store, which includes *the black book*. This book turns out to be possessed by the devil, and physically abuses Ben. At first, he is unaware why he is having changing thoughts and actions, but in the end it all comes back to the book.

Genre:

- Horror/ Drama
- This series is meant to disturb the audience with it's unknowingness and mystery. In this series we intend to show the struggles of a writer while also dealing the main character deals with a horrific event.

Synopsis

- Ben is a writer who is currently stuck on a book he must have done in the next week. He is becoming desperate, so Ben decides to take a walk over to the bookstore. When he arrives Selina, Ben's friend and bookkeeper informs Ben that she doesn't have any new books for him, except for a box of novels she just got in and hasn't looked through yet. Ben decides to take the books nonetheless. Once Ben gets back to his motel room he dives into the box of books at first not noticing the creepy black book with a devilish symbol on it. He stays up day in and day out reading in search for motivation. Ben begins to feel different in the upcoming days. At first he thinks it is a lack of sleep, but later realizes the black book is doing things to him. Ben finds writing in the book that was originally blank and he didn't write. This creates a downwards spiral for Ben who is not sure if his lack of sleep is making him go crazy or if the book is possessed. At this point he decides to bury the book in hopes that all will return to normal.

Section 2: Character Biography

Character Name: Ben Higgins

Physical:

- Ben Higgins is a 24 year old, white man who is 6' and has a thin build. Ben has blue eyes, short unkempt brown hair, and appears as if he hasn't slept right in years. He is seen wearing denim and a trench coat, which he doesn't wash frequently and wears for days in a row. Ben has also picked up the habit of drinking and smoking to curb his stress which at this point is a lost cause.

Personality:

- Ben grew up like a regular teenager who was passionate about storytelling. He spent all of his time in high school and college reading and writing. Ben lived a normal life with close friends and family which he would share his writing with. Everyone around him was supportive, which filled Ben with nothing but happiness and motivation. At this point in his life he only wrote for himself, and about things that interested him. At the current point of Ben's life in which this television series takes place, Ben only has contact with one person. He has shut everyone and everything out due to his life spiraling out of control. He is too afraid to go back to his friends and family because he thinks they believe he has failed as a writer.

Life Experiences:

- **Experience A:** The first time Ben became interested in reading was during his fifth grade book fair. That morning Ben begged his mother Susan for fifteen dollars in which he intended to spend on colored pens and new erasers. That morning as Ben was about to pay for his new classroom accessories he glances and a brand new paperback book entitled *Magic Tree House Haunted Castle on Hallows Eve* by Mary Pope Osborne. The shiny cover attracted his attention, and Ben no longer cared about the pens and erasers he originally planned on purchasing that morning.
- **Experience B:** On April 14th, 2015 Ben was accepted to the University of Pittsburgh with a declared major in creative writing. That day Ben promised himself he was going to publish a book one day. With his family and friends around Ben could not be more excited to be taking the next step in being a professional writer.
- **Experience C:** After Ben graduated college his parents let him move back in rent free for six months to help him get on his feet. Ben didn't have a typical 9-5 job and decided to spend his time writing his first book. After the six months were up Ben's parents invited him to stay but asked Ben to start paying rent as they were having money problems. This caused a fight as Ben felt he should be able to live there for free. Ben left his house and told his parents he'd be staying with his friends. This situation later lead to Ben and his parents losing touch.

Current Situation:

- Two years after graduating college Ben doesn't have much going for him. He's living in a motel and has lost connection with his family. Ben spends all day cooped up in his motel room struggling to write. He's under a lot of pressure by his publisher who is now threatening Ben because they both have money on the line. Ben is unsure if he can complete the book in the time he was given. Now Ben has come into contact with a hellish book that is creating even more conflict in his life.

Section 3: Character Inspiration

Character Inspiration 1:

- Joey Tribbiani: *Friends*
- We selected to use Joey Tribbiani as motivation for our main character Ben because both characters are struggling artists. Joey is a work driven character but has trouble finding steady work that pays well enough in order to support himself financially. This leads Joey to borrowing money from Chandler, which we also had our main character Ben borrow money from his friends to be able to afford living. Joey also gathers a lot of internal stress from not working, which we took motivation from. Both characters also refuse to work other jobs while chasing their dream. In *Friends* Joey does work at the coffee shop but puts acting in front of any other job which is also what Ben does with writing.

Character Inspiration 2:

- Cricket: *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*
- We also took inspiration from Cricket who starts off as a very level headed character just as Ben was in his past. Throughout the series Cricket loses touch with himself and begins to drink alcohol and do drugs. Ben is in the same boat and has lost touch with what is important to him in his family and friends. Ben doesn't turn to hard drugs to deal with his choices but he does drink and smoke cigarettes because he is unhappy. Cricket will do anything for his vices, and in this series we have scenes with Ben planned where he steals money to support his drinking habit. Both characters are somewhat secretive and don't share much with the people around them. Cricket ends up being homeless and doesn't ask anyone for much help. We took this as motivation for Ben and chose to make him independent in his struggle.

Character Inspiration 3:

- Don Draper: *Mad Men*
- Don Draper is one of the lead advertisers at Sterling Cooper Draper Pryce Advertising Agency. Draper is portrayed as a money man, who doesn't care what he spends. In our story Ben Higgins is poor, but still spends the money he gets without caring just as Don Draper. Ben doesn't think twice about the money he spends on booze or cigarettes just as Don doesn't care what he spends on a new car. Draper also puts on an act that he doesn't care about the people around him. We took this as motivation for Ben to act like he doesn't care that he pushed his family and friends away even though deep down he does. Don may also be on top at his firm but he also doesn't have all the ideas or answers for his clients. This is the last piece of motivation we took for Ben as he has no idea what to add to his book which his publisher is impatiently waiting for.

Section 4: Filming Techniques & Explanation

Technique 1: Symbolism 4,17,22 seconds

- For Symbolism we choose to focus on what was called “ the book”. The book featured a black flesh leather cover with a satanic star emblem on the front. The book radiates an energy that we thought would be perfect to use for Ben's downfall. The book comes into Ben's life in a time of need so we use it a temptation for ben to use and the suffers the consequences that come along with using the almost haunted book. The reappearance of the satanic symbol on the book leads ben to clues as to explain his downfall.

Technique 2: Extreme close up 12 seconds

- We choose to shoot an extreme close up on Ben's face in a very dark and somber way. We shot to foreshadow the how the book was going to cause him hell. It's almost the calm before the storm for ben as he smokes a cigarette alone. The way the shot shows Bens emotions that you can see in his mannerism and his eyes. He is stressed and not feeling like the best version of himself and having the audience strictly focus on his facial features gave the point that we wanted.

Technique 3: Light and Dark: A contrast between light and dark. 11,19, 34 seconds

- We played heavily on the light and dark contrast for this story. Darkness plays a huge role in this piece and almost envelopes ben towards the end. Darkness gives the audience a sense of fear or death. That is exactly what the book and the symbol is doing to ben it's taking of his life leading him to death. We wanted to use as little light as possible to convey a somber tone and keep the colors to a minimum to highlight the negative energy.