Feature film

Master Bedroom

Thriller Horror

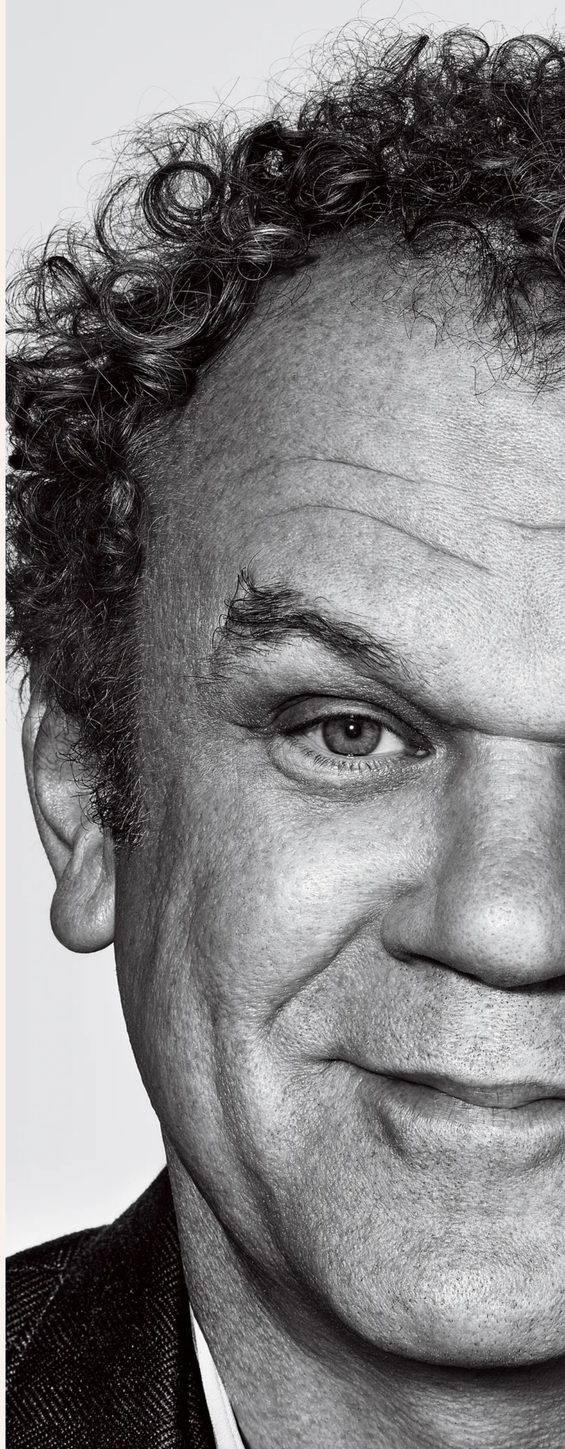
"Master Bedroom" is a **horror thriller** that delves into themes of identity and sibling rivalry.

"*The Talented Mr Ripley*" meets "*The Invisible Man*"

Pitch

Eric and Charlie were born as conjoined twins, and fought from the moment they could.

Separated at the age of six, the two men married twin sisters and settled down, but the rivalry turns a family reunion into a brutal nightmare.



Family is important

Success is everything

Summary - 1/2

Charlie and his twin brother Eric are married to twin sisters, Veronica and Marilyn (all 40). Their daughters, Joy and Skye (both 11), were born on the same day and bear a striking resemblance to each other. Charlie often jokes that if he and Veronica were to pass away, their daughter Joy would have "spare" parents in Eric and Marilyn.

The two families gather for a weekend at a luxurious lakeside house, recently purchased by Eric to celebrate his financial success in cryptocurrency investments. The brothers have always been fiercely competitive, and Charlie struggles with envy, especially as he faces financial difficulties while Eric thrives.

During their stay, Joy and Skye entertain themselves by sharing horror stories in the dark basement. Skye ups the ante by revealing a family secret: their fathers were born conjoined twins, joined at the skull, and were separated at the age of four. She even shows Joy gruesome pictures as proof.

One night, Eric's wife, Marilyn, accidentally falls from the wooden pontoon into the lake. She disappears beneath the dark water for a tense moment before Eric rescues her. Fortunately, Marilyn recovers well, sustaining only a bruised back from the fall.

The sleeping arrangements add to Charlie's humiliation. He and Veronica are relegated to the stuffy guest bedroom, while Eric and Marilyn enjoy the luxurious master bedroom with its stunning lake view.

Charlie is awakened in the middle of the night by his wife, Veronica, who initiates sex while he lies on his back. Suddenly, Charlie notices their niece, Skye, lurking in a dark corner of the room. Skye had been sleepwalking, and Veronica escorts her back to her bedroom. As Veronica turns to leave, Charlie spots a bruise on her back—the same bruise Marilyn, Eric's wife, had sustained from her fall. A chilling realisation dawns on him: he might have just made love to his brother's wife.

The next day, Charlie optimistically pitches an "exciting investment opportunity" while driving with his wealthy brother. For just £150,000, Eric could acquire significant equity in Charlie's startup, an online application ready to launch. However, Eric flatly refuses and dismisses Charlie as a "loser." Their argument escalates into a heated fight, resulting in a horrifying car accident.

Charlie loses consciousness and experiences a delirious vision: surgeons stitch the brothers back together, side by side. Each controlling one leg and one arm, they panic and tear apart their conjoined body. Charlie awakens from this nightmare, his body sore but intact.

He learns that Eric is in a deep coma at the hospital, while Charlie is back home, recuperating in the luxurious master bedroom. A mix-up following the accident has led everyone to believe that Charlie is Eric. Seizing this opportunity, Charlie decides to embrace his new identity, which instantly makes him wealthy. After all, if the wives can swap, why shouldn't he?

Charlie quickly adapts to his lavish lifestyle, feigning mild amnesia to explain any mistakes he makes. However, stepping into Eric's shoes comes at a high cost. Charlie discovers that his brother's seemingly perfect life was far from it. Eric and Marilyn had stopped being intimate some time ago, possibly due to Eric's violent behaviour.

Summary - 2/2

Charlie sneaks a peek into his niece Skye's diary and discovers disturbing drawings that reveal a toxic relationship with her father, Eric. This explains Skye's hostile attitude towards him, "her father." Additionally, Joy blames "Eric" for the car accident that left her own father in a coma. Horrified, Charlie wishes he could reveal his true identity, but he is trapped in his own web of lies.

As the two girls practise archery in the garden, their intense focus and serious demeanour heighten Charlie's paranoia. He can't help but wonder: what if Eric wakes up? Unless Eric suffers from severe memory loss, he will reclaim his identity and expose Charlie's deception.

Eric's best friend, Vince (40), pays a visit while the women and girls are out. Vince is an irritating and vile man who quickly gets under Charlie's skin. Their argument escalates, and Charlie passionately defends his brother... "Charlie." This seems out of character for Eric. Vince begins to suspect the truth about the identity swap. In a panic, Charlie kills Vince to prevent him from exposing the secret.

Vince's words have deeply hurt Charlie. It appears that mocking "Charlie" was a frequent source of amusement for Vince and Eric. Determined to clear his own name and not be remembered as a loser, Charlie invests £150,000 of Eric's money into the online application he had created. With this investment, the application can finally be launched.

Vince had warned Charlie about an impending "crypto winter." Most of Eric's assets are stored in a cryptocurrency online wallet, and Charlie had struggled to crack the password. When he finally gains access, he discovers that the value has plummeted to zero. He is now broke and will lose the house.

Veronica and Marilyn leave the property for 24 hours to meet with business acquaintances and bankers, hoping to find a solution to keep the house.

Left alone with the two girls, Charlie begins to feel feverish and prone to hallucinations. He realises he has been poisoned by the girls. Ghastly flashbacks from his childhood as a conjoined twin haunt him. He must stay awake and alert, especially as the girls begin a hunting game with their bows and arrows.

Charlie is wounded but manages to lock the girls in the basement. Puzzled by their violence, he revisits Skye's secret diary. It reveals the behaviour of Eric as a toxic father and husband, turning violent against his wife after taking drugs.

Charlie is enraged at his brother and cannot bear to live with Eric's persona any longer. He decides to regain his own identity.

When the police arrive, they find a dead body, pierced by arrows, and another man sleeping in the guest bedroom. Charlie has swapped identities once again. The sleeping man awakens the following morning, surrounded by a loving family celebrating the end of his coma. They share devastating news with Charlie: his brother Eric died in a mysterious "home invasion," but the girls managed to hide and are safe.

During his coma, the application Charlie created finally went online and became an immediate hit. A multinational company has made an offer to purchase it, putting Charlie in a position to buy back the house and keep the extended family together under one roof. He has won, but more importantly, his brother has lost.

Berty Cadilhac is a French, British and Australian filmmaker based in London. He created three feature films in English ("Art Ache", "Roller Squad" and "Tide"), a play in French ("Cuisine Diplomatique"), a stand up comedy show and he is currently shooting a web series in London.

Writer-Director statement

While jump scares can be effective, I believe the most impactful horror films are built on a foundation of strong drama and memorable characters. Compelling drama arises from conflict, and in this case the source of the conflict is a toxic brotherhood.

We tend to appreciate people who have similarities with us, but this can also be a source of bitterness. If we see a genius get rich, an outstanding athlete win trophies, we admire their triumph. But if we witness our friend from high school become much more successful than we are, we can't help but feel like an under achiever. If they could do it, why can't we?

Charlie is struggling when his brother Eric gets immensely rich, and jealousy kicks in. This deep-seated conflict forms the basis of an engaging and entertaining drama.

I am particularly intrigued by questions of identity. In The Talented Mr Ripley, Matt Damon's character steals Jude Law's identity not simply to access his wealth, but to become someone else entirely.

As former conjoined twins, Charlie and Eric share a complex and unusual relationship. They were, in a sense, "one", yet they are profoundly different. Spending time with someone you dislike can be challenging, but these brothers experienced something far more extreme: being physically bound to someone they often wanted to fight. Although they are now physically separated, they remain prisoners of an inescapable bond.

Much like The Shining, the entire film takes place in an isolated location, where family relationships gradually unravel. Kubrick's film is a key reference for me in terms of tone. It is frightening without relying on artificial tricks, creating fear through the exploration of human secrets, madness, and the monsters within us.

Thank you

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Full script
available on request