

THE REINCARNATION OF MARIE

Screenplay by Henry Woodman · Based on the novel by Jim Woodman

LOGLINE

Bound for war, a French soldier falls for an artist he knows only through her journal — dead seventy years. Then he meets her — or thinks he does: a pianist who refuses to be anyone's ghost, until the journal starts to echo her own life.

THE STORY

Paris, 1953. Nineteen-year-old Yann Roussel is charming, social and certain of one thing: *we have one life; better enjoy it*. Then he buys the published journal of Marie Bashkirtseff, a brilliant Ukrainian-born artist who died of tuberculosis in Paris in 1884 at twenty-five.

Marie is funny, furious, ambitious and terrified of being forgotten. Yann becomes consumed by her. Over four years he follows her writing through Paris, visits the places she lived, enters her tomb at Passy, and gradually convinces himself she is writing to him.

Then Marya appears.

On the eve of Yann's deployment to Algeria, his sister introduces him to Marya Courventin, nineteen, an extraordinary young pianist with tuberculosis and dreams of performing in Paris, Vienna, London and New York. She's never read Marie's journal—yet she speaks phrases Marie wrote seventy-three years earlier, shares her fierce ambition and even her fear of being forgotten.

Yann thinks he has found Marie. Marya is intrigued but not convinced.

“You know everything about the woman you think I was. You know almost nothing about the woman I am. If you want me, Yann, you'll have to learn me.”

Over one weekend in Paris and the autumn countryside of Burgundy, Yann stops trying to prove who Marya was and begins discovering who she is. For the first time in his life, he wants something beyond the next experience or the next obsession.

He wants time.

They fall in love. They imagine a flat in Paris—bookshelves for him, a piano for her, morning light.

Yann entrusts the story to his friend Jim, an American Korean War veteran who has already seen what war does to young men. “If anything happens,” Yann tells him, “I want you to be the one to tell her. Not a telegram. You.” Then Yann leaves for Algeria.

Eighteen days later, after his driver misses a turnoff, the truck hits a land mine on the needless backtrack. Yann dies instantly.

Jim, the keeper of the story, carries the scarlet journal to Paris and meets Marya's mother. He learns Marya has died two days before his arrival and hears her last letter to Yann. Ultimately the two families decide to bury them side by side in the forest.

The supernatural mystery is never resolved. The emotional one is. Marie's greatest terror was oblivion. Jim's act of remembering and memorializing her becomes the answer.

THE REINCARNATION OF MARIE

PRINCIPAL CHARACTERS

YANN ROUSSEL — 19–23. Charming, skeptical, intellectually curious. A young man who goes from consuming life, to withdrawing into the memory of a dead woman, to finally choosing a real future with a living one.

MARYA COURVENTIN — 19. Gifted, funny, stubborn and fiercely ambitious. She is dying, knows it, and nevertheless refuses to “rest through” her own life. She may carry Marie's spirit— but she insists on being loved as Marya.

JIM WOODMAN — mid-20s. Korean War veteran, friend, witness and ultimately keeper of the story. What begins as listening becomes an obligation to remember.

COMPARABLE WORKS — TONE & REGISTER

- **Birth** — reincarnation treated seriously but never comfortably resolved
- **Atonement** — memory, witness and storytelling transform the final movement
- **Portrait of a Lady on Fire** — intimate period romance and restrained visuals
- **Somewhere in Time** — romantic yearning across time

Format	Feature Film • 105-page screenplay
Development Status	Screenplay complete • WGA registered: #2356491 Package Complete: Treatment • Bible • Budget • Step Outline
Setting	Paris 1953–57 • Yonne and Burgundy • Geneva and the Swiss border • one night in the Algerian desert
Genre & Tone	Tragic Romance • Historical Drama • Supernatural Mystery The kind of love story that stays with you long after it ends.
Budget	Approx. \$9M • Lean and premium models available
Seeking	Producer • Director • Lead Cast • French Co-Production Partner
Teasers available	2:15 - https://youtu.be/tqJrls64w5w 1:29 - https://youtu.be/BHogu7RoqBA