

## **PANIC! Bursaries**

**Nikta Mohammadi *Windcatcher & Gargoyles***

### **Video Transcription**

**Timestamps are given. Descriptions are written in normal text, audio & sounds are in square brackets.**

#### **Film overview:**

This film was shot in Hebden Bridge and the surrounding woodland and moors. It is made up of still photographs, video footage and charcoal drawn animations.

0:00

The screen starts black, then fades to light to show the views looking outside from a window. The view outside is suburban, with hills in the distance. The weather looks overcast. There is no sound at first. There are no people or figures, just buildings and countryside.

0:12

Birds chirp in the background. A figure cloaked in black appears outside the fence to the house and walks from left to right, pauses to look at the window, then disappears out of sight.

0:35

[A whooshing sound starts to building, becoming louder and layered this the sound of running water.]

0:49

[It was almost twilight when you arrived]

Our protagonist runs into shot from the same direction the figure before disappeared, and runs up some steps into the house. She wears a red jacket.

[Sound in the background continues to build and becomes drone-like]

1:05

[But when you left earlier, the valley was filled with sunshine.]

Abrupt cut to black screen.

[The drone sound cuts into abrupt silence]

1:10

[Single note of bell chimes, birds chirp in the distance]

Title screen appears, 'Windcatcher & Gargoyles' written in Farsi and English in white, on a black background. As the title appears, a bell chime sounds.

1:15

[These moors are hard to resist...]

View of woodland on a hill, with moorland in the background. The sky is brooding with clouds, the sun shines strongly.

[sound of birds and a faint sound of river]

1:27

[especially when it's a sunny autumn day]

Photograph from inside the woods, the sun through the trees make long shadows on the ground.

Sun backlights the leaves which makes them appear to glow.

1:34

[Like your friends called your name to come out and play when you were a child]

Photograph showing two shadows from a bridge on the surface of the water.

1:39

[Sound of children playing]

Stop motion of photographs showing water running in a woodland stream under dappled sunlight.

1:44

[Strange... You had walked this path many times but every time you ended up in a new place]

Photograph of a wayfinding sign on a woodland path, then photograph of the sun through the trees which fades to black.

1:53

[Sound builds and intensifies, with a bell chiming]

Photographs shows the woods flash in quick succession. They show different views of trees, trunks, roots, leaves on the ground, and a bell charm.

The photographs change faster, and we see other images including a church tower over some trees, a man dressed in black standing between tall rocks with a mirror, stone built walls, a cat, grassland.

1:58

[One of the benefits of living in a valley is that you're always coming up]

The camera zooms in and out on still images: birds in flight, the sky, the view of the hill with the sun shining strongly.

2:08

[The weight of the hills was gradually building in your lungs. The trees were breathing and the denser they got, the more air they swallowed]

Still photographs showing the sun through the trees, the tops of trees illuminated by the sun against a blue sky, trees in the woods.

[background sounds from the woods, birds chirping]

2:33

[But it felt good to look across the valley from up there once in a while]

2:39

[You could imagine yourself flying up and forward through the hills...]

Moving motion on a still photograph showing the valley, hills in the distance. The motion moved down then up.

2:46

[I was saying the trees... the trees and the birds were whispering to each other when you came across something odd]

Photographs of the woods with light changing rapidly, then a photograph of a tree stump.

2:55

[A tree stump covered in metal scars]

Photographs with the view getting closer to the tree stump. The stump has many coins slotted into its bark and its top.

3:01

[Some of them were really old, some newer...]

Close up, motion blurred photographs of the coins packed into the stump. A hand pulls one of the coins out of the tree and examines it.

3:12

[Did you hear someone calling your name from afar? Or was it the sound of the wind? You were used to his chatters since you were a child.]

Photographs move in quick succession of a bell charm shaped like a milkmaid, giving the appearance that the bell is being rung.

3:21

[Suddenly you felt a sharp pain in your shoulder]

Photograph of the large, exposed roots of a tree.

3:25

[You remembered when you woke up, you felt like something's dried up inside...]

Photographs from inside the woods: leaves on the ground, trees, dappled sunlight.

3:33

[...along your shoulder blades towards the bottom of your spine]

A knife cutting a black pomegranate in half

3:39

[Like a hollow forming inside a tree.]

Panning down a photograph of a dead tree, fading to black.

3:34

[The houses in the forest become one with the trees. The leaves separate the false paths from the true ones.]

Stone on the ground, surrounded by leaves, with a house drawn on its front.

Photograph of a path leading to a house in the woods.

3:55

[The windows continue the sky. The doors don't fear the outside much. You thought, when was the last time someone opened this door?

Or stood behind this window...]

Photographs of the house in the woods, close ups of the windows, door handle, door frame.

The house looks empty, nature has taken over.

A reflection in a mirror, showing an owl below a chandelier.

4:12

[You saw a path shining in the sun a little further away. You thought, up there the trees will let you breathe easier.]

Photograph of a woodland path, the sun reflecting off the surface.

4:20

[When you live in a valley, you're always coming up.]

Moving motion on a still photograph showing the valley again, the same hills in the distance.

The motion moved down then up.

4:25

Photographs of stone steps which seem to lead into the sky. The figure in red from the beginning of the film appears and climbs the steps.

[Have you ever noticed sometimes you can hear the sunshine?

Like a thousand windows breaking at the same time!]

4:45

Silhouette of the figure in red in a landscape, out of focus, with a rock formation closeby.

Panning shots of the rocks, then photographs in quick succession showing the clouds moving above the rocks. The figure in red moves towards the rocks and into a gap they create.

[These rocks are peculiar. At first, you thought you saw one walk. The wind was talking faster now.]

5:18

A tall man in a black cloak with gold cuffs stands between the rocks, he holds a cane. A mirror in the background reflects his figure. He leans towards the protagonist from above.

[You had never met a man this tall. He said “I’ve been informed that you have something in your pocket that doesn’t belong to you”.]

5:32

[Suddenly, your heart froze. You clenched the coin hard in your pocket and told him you don’t know what he’s talking about.]

The protagonist reaches into her pocket and holds the coin taken from the tree stump.

5:41

[He asked “are you going to see the woman who writes?” You asked which one? He said “the one that baked her head in the oven for the last supper.” His voice was echoing in your head, as if it came from all directions. [echo]. You couldn’t really follow what he was saying. But a voice was telling you to go with him.]

The man and the protagonist are seen conversing between the rocks.

6:13

The two walk out of the rock formation into the light, turning them into silhouette. The mirror is left behind. The man holds out his hand to help the protagonist outside.

6:35

The two embark on a journey through the moorland, walking to the distance.

[He told you he’s from the south and can be your guide.]

6:43

[He said “you don’t remember me but we know each other from a long time ago]

Panning shot of their shadows on a rock.

The two continue through the moorland landscape, with the protagonist following the man

6:55

[He said “It’s very easy to get lost here, you can get trapped behind the mirror, if you’re not careful.”]

View across a rock formation. The man stands at the left of the image, a mirror on the rock beside him reflects the blue sky.

7:09

Crossfade into image of the protagonist with the mirror by a woodland stream, her back to the camera, she moves to look into the mirror. The camera zooms into the reflection, where a beam of light hits her eye.

7:27

[Little by little, the path with the tall man became harder]

The two are in woodland now, the trees are very high, she continues to follow the man.

[He told you “the church we’re going to is made with stones from hell. He laughed “I’m not joking, it was built with stones from a quarry around here called Hell Hole”; funnily enough, when you look at the church tower from above the quarry, you’ll see a demon’s head.]

Zoomed pan of a silhouette of a church at dusk, the tower appears to have two horns.

7:52

Back in the woods, the protagonist looks upwards to the tops of the trees.  
[The trees' chatter was now deafening.]

8:05

The protagonist struggles to keep up with the man, she slows.  
[The man's steps were twice yours, you were almost running after him. You could hardly breathe.]  
A figure cloaked in black appears in the background, unseen by the protagonist.

[Suddenly, he stopped. "Are you tired?" He asked. Close your eyes.]

8:41

View of protagonist's face, the sun bright in her eyes.  
[You didn't know how long it took but when you opened your eyes, you were in a cemetery.]

Frames fade in and out with various shots of a church, its windows, gargoyles and gravestones, as well as the main protagonist within the space.

[Your guide had vanished]

9:13

The protagonist takes out a camera from a pouch, and starts to photograph her surroundings in the graveyard and church.

[The cemetery was in a churchyard. Mirroring the church was the ruin of another.]

10:25

[voice whisper in the background as a drone sound builds]  
The some of the creatures and gargoyles that adorn the architecture begin to distort and move, their faces change and move.  
One of the eagles develops a painterly quality as a stop motion animation shows the chalky bird fly away - its wings leaving smears across the screen.

[O northern star! O clouds visible and disguised! And you wind, rusty and vengeful!  
My hands don't reach you but your voice reaches me. Where are you hiding that you can see me but I can't you?  
I have dreamt of you since I was a child... of your transparent and mysterious faces and your long ropey hair. When I asked the sun about you, she said you will appear to me on the wuthering heights of a foreign land.  
Then, the mirror will break in two and the shadows will rise from the underworld.  
Now the stones are dancing with the wind and the hills are singing.  
Broken dance of the wind up doll accelerates,  
And then that moment arrives!]

11:24

Sudden cut to black for 2 seconds, then we see the camera falling to the ground.  
[The moment of weightlessness...]

11:28

The figure in a dark costume dances and poses in front of a mirror. Their movements are staggered and the

12:51

[drumming sounds begin, bells and clapping then are heard too as a rhythm develops]  
Another figure joins the other person in black and they dance together with their movements overlapped with varying transparency within the frame.

13:55

The figures appear to turn into a crow. Footage of them encircling and chasing the main protagonist is spliced with images of a cut pomegranate and the gargoyles

14:39

Water is washed on a grave by three cloaked figures, the protagonist watches them. This is spliced with footage of previous. The figures clap their hands which creates a rhythm for the music.

15:25

[A gong sounds, the intense music ends and changes to a relaxing piano track]

The protagonist leaves the church site and runs away back home across roads, through forests, down steps. Still photographs are spliced together with images of video. The crow animation continues to cut through.

[piano track intensifies as protagonist runs down the hills]

16:59

[Piano track finishes, silence apart from narration]

Interior shot, we see the protagonist coming through a front door into a dark hallway. This is shot as video, no longer photographs.

[The air thickens in the eeriness of twilight... you're not certain if someone's standing in the dark or if it's just your imagination. Our bodies turn to shadows. The shadows slip into our bodies...]

The protagonist turns in a room lit only by candles. There is a figure sitting by the window, smoking and looking out at the same view we saw at the beginning of the film, but now it is dark outside. The protagonist moves towards the figure and they look at each other.

[What a day!]

The figure speaks, and it startles the protagonist. She turns to look out of the window. We realise that the figure at the window is the mirror image of the protagonist. They share a moment of silence, looking out of the window.

End credits roll, white text on a black screen.

[music plays]