

## SCRIPT FORMAT Part II -- SCRIPT EXAMPLE

**First Review The Lesson  
'WHAT IS SCRIPT FORMAT ?'  
Before Proceeding !**

**THEN**



# **BILLIE' S SONG**

## **An Urban Fairy Tale**

By  
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**NOTE: This is Information You Never Put On A Script Cover !!!**

### **BILLIE'S SONG, An Urban Fairy Tale:**

**SETTING:** Brooklyn, New York (1995)

**TAGLINE:** Her Toto Is *Not* A Friendly Little Dog !

**LOGLINE:** A cynical outcast who thrives on antagonizing others ends up leading the charge to save the childhood home she turned her back on.

**SYNOPSIS:** BILLIE, an angry 38 year old Black actress who is scraping by to survive, has an unexpected encounter with the self-doubting BENJAMIN, a wealthy 41 year old white man. When Billie challenges Ben to a witty verbal sparring match it surprises him --- and takes his mind off his confusions about being drafted as the new leader of a powerful organization by a controlling businessman. When Billie and Ben, two black sheep with secrets, later accidentally run into each other again they resume their high-spirited verbal sparring, and fall into an unexpectedly comfortable relationship. But as Billie starts to open up and depend on Ben, he withdraws as he realizes he's being used as a front for corruption that threatens the childhood home Billie fled. When Billie finds out Ben is involved she turns avenger on Thanksgiving Day and she leads a motley crew of enraged locals in a dangerous confrontation between their worlds.

**INFLUENCES:** BILLIE'S SONG is infused with homages to the mythologies of two classic films -- THE WIZARD OF OZ (1939) and THE GRADUATE (1967). It's as though their lead characters, DOROTHY and BENJAMIN, wake up in Brooklyn in 1995, twenty years older (and one of them now Black), still battling their youthful fears and confusions. The inclusion of animated sequences humorously imagine the characters' inner worlds, adding a playful, fable-like charm to the story.

FADE IN:

ANIMATED IN THE BRIGHT TECHNICOLOR STYLE OF 1950s CARTOONS

A big fat baby-blue FAIRY TALES book lies flat. The cover flips open to:

TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE POOR LITTLE MATCH GIRL...page 1

SLEEPING BEAUTY...page 35

RAPUNZEL...page 90

CINDERELLA...page 140

THE PAGES START TO FLIP UNTIL THEY STOP ON:

BILLIE'S SONG...page 210

Once upon a time....

FEMALE NARRATOR (V.O.)

Once upon a time there was a fiery woman, not young and not old, named Billie. Billie had run a long way from home without knowing where to go, as she was cursed not to know until she could find her own voice.

WHIRRRLLLLLLLL!!! THE SOUND OF THE WIND.....

**TO BE CONTINUED !**

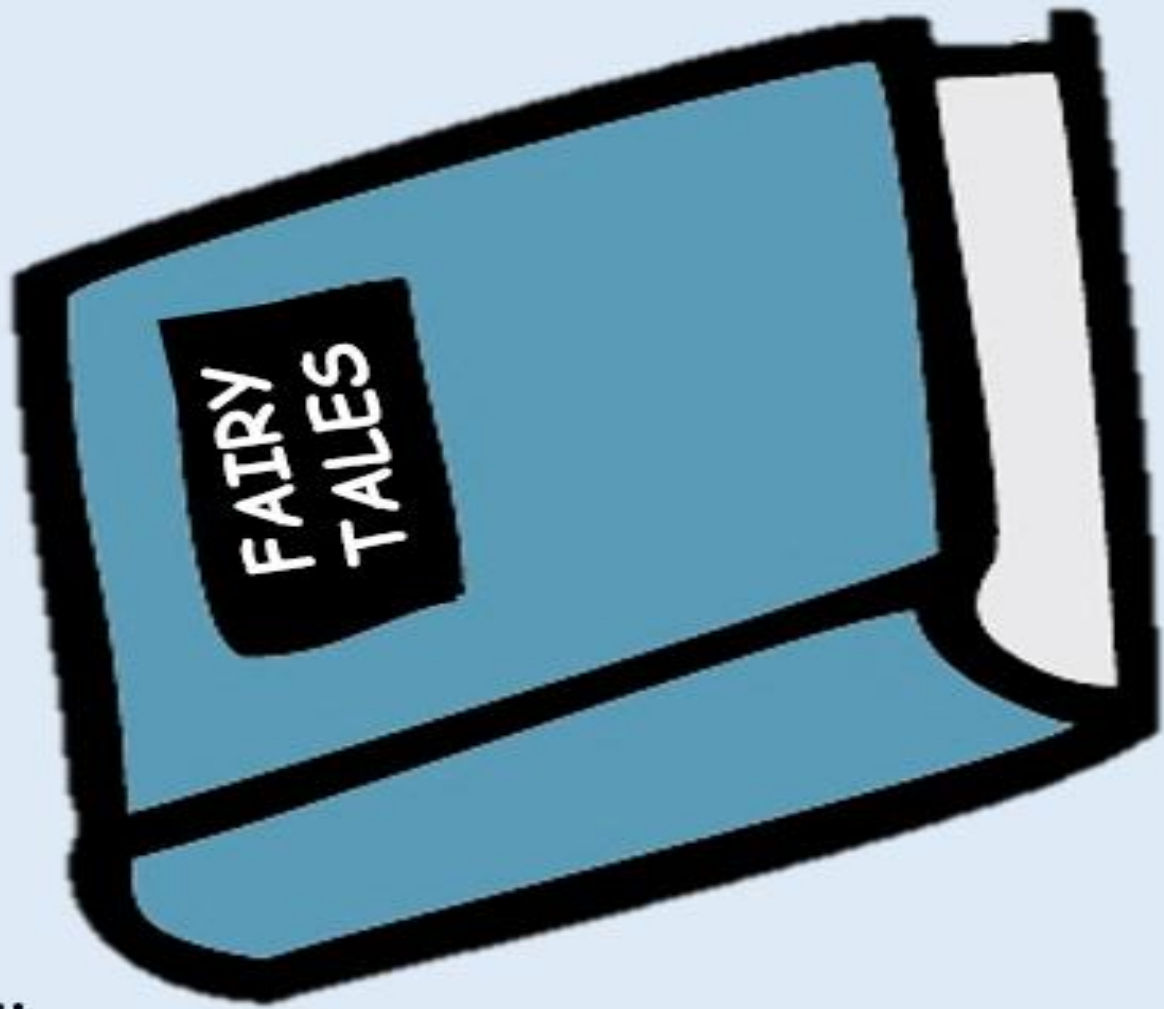
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### FROM SCRIPT TO STORYBOARDS

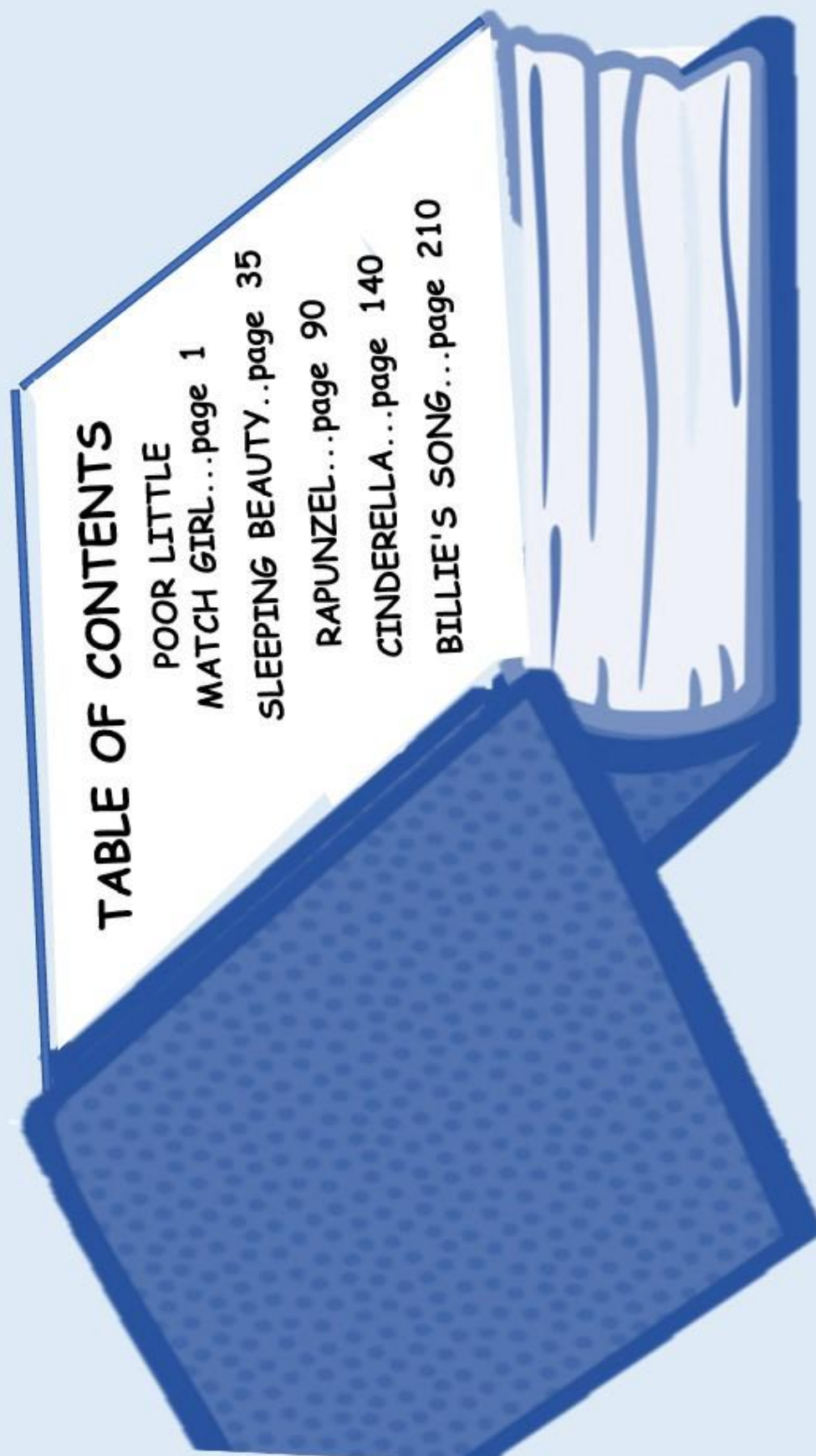
To share the mood and movement I imagine from my writing, I create storyboards. Being limited in my drawing abilities, I compose picture collages — cutting and pasting images to build a visual scene. Turn the page to see how I transformed the script excerpt above into images !

NOTE: Traditional film storyboards highlight distinct camera positions, each frame showing a new angle or placement. For teaching purposes, I've taken a different approach—using multiple boards to show how what happens to a single image (a book) subtly changes over time, just as described in the script, to help you better visualize the unfolding story.

**FADE IN:**

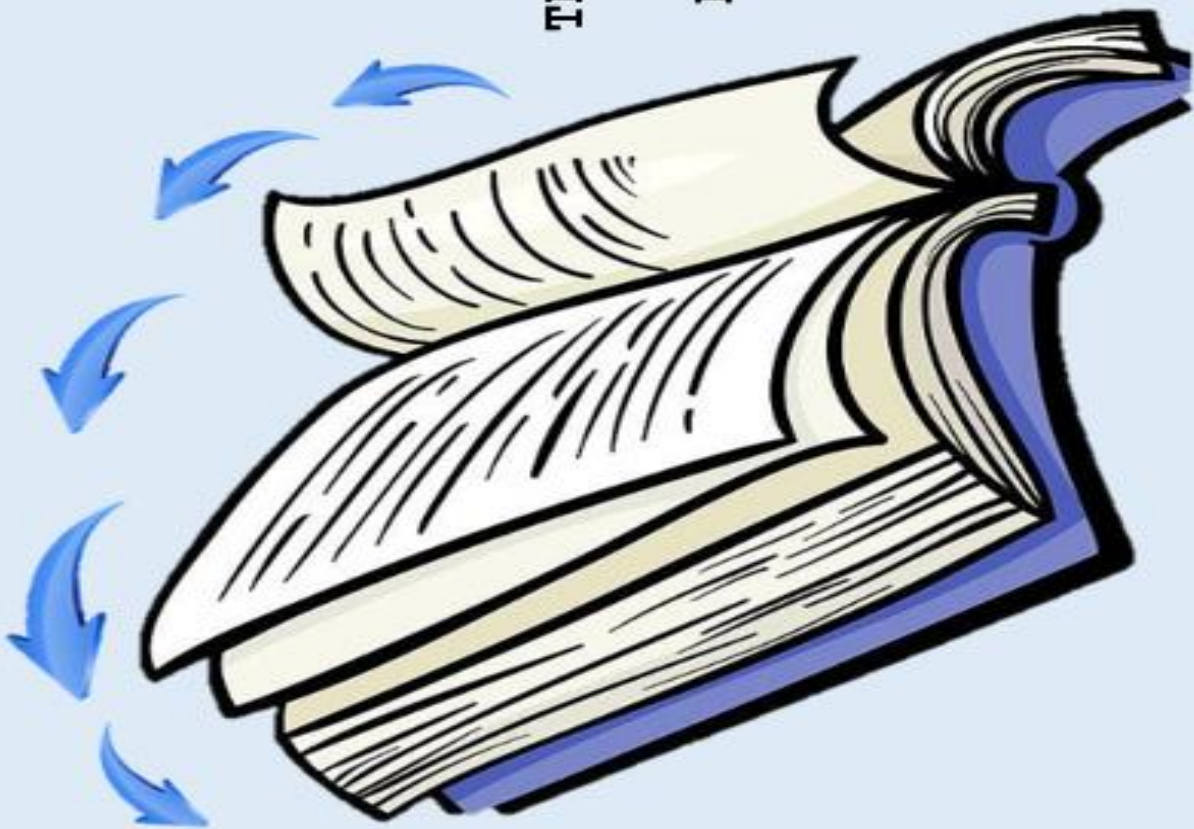








THE PAGES  
FLIP  
RAPIDLY



UNTIL THEY STOP ON...



SOUND: whirrlll...





## WHAT DID YOU SEE ?

### **You've read the 1st Half Page Of The Feature Script BILLIE'S SONG. WHAT DID YOU 'SEE' ?!**

(\*You can 'SEE' with all your senses, including your intuition !)

**You might say, 'Hey, I Haven't Been Given Enough Story To Make Any Guesses !'**

Well imagine you are part of the CSI (Crime Scene Investigation) team from your (or your mom's) favorite TV crime show. When your team arrives at the scene you'll immediately start trying to profile 'who-done-it' by studying every detail at the scene, and sharing your own deductions as to the potential motive, method, as well as the character of the doer.

The purpose of these StoryTelling Lessons is not to rush you into writing your own stories. (You may already be doing so, or you might never do so.) Rather the purpose of these Lessons is to slow you down and encourage you to study the little details and patterns in stories, so that you'll come up with your own ideas of what they might mean or where they are heading. Ultimately when you learn the whole of a story you might discover your interpretations were wrong. The fact is stories can be written different ways – and maybe your interpretations could work, but would make it a different story. Or you might learn your interpretations overlooked a lot of important details from the story, giving you a lot to think about.

In the Beyonce-inspired Lessons (pgs. 2-10) I drew a lot of interpretations about what was going on in her stories from just a few lines of lyrics. Now you can do the same with the half page of BILLIE'S SONG script (pg. 16). **THREE QUESTIONS TO ANSWER:**

- 1) BILLIE'S SONG is listed as a story among a group of well-known fairy tales.  
Are there any similarities among the well-known stories ?
- 2) What information does the FEMALE NARRATOR (V.O.)\* give you about Billie ?
- 3) What do you imagine the 'Theme(s)' of BILLIE'S SONG is (are) ?

### **STAY TUNED FOR LESSON #2 AND MY ANSWERS (INTERPRETATIONS) !**

\*(V.O.) Voice Over: Speech of a character who's voice is heard but they are not physically part of a scene.

#### **RE-SEEING THE STORIES YOU KNOW**

**EXERCISE:** The scripts for many classic films (and TV shows) are available online for free download. See if you can find the script for a film you love. Then watch the film again. Don't feel up to reading a whole feature script ? That's OK. Just pick one of your favorite scenes and find it in the script, then compare the film scene to its script pages (don't be surprised if there are significant differences). Why do you think that scene is important to the story?

**FREE DOWNLOAD OF WELL-KNOWN SCRIPTS :** [www.simplyscripts.com/movie-scripts.html](http://www.simplyscripts.com/movie-scripts.html)  
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[www.sites.google.com/site/tvwriting/us-comedy/show-collections?authuser=0](http://www.sites.google.com/site/tvwriting/us-comedy/show-collections?authuser=0) (TV scripts)