

A dimly lit room with a window, a vase of calla lilies, and a lamp. The scene is moody and atmospheric, with soft light coming from the window and a lamp. The text is overlaid on the image.

*Mourning  
Dove*

A SCAD  
SENIOR THESIS

PRODUCTION PACK

# TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

**Title:** Mourning Dove

**Genre:** Drama

**Runtime:** 16 minutes

**Completion Date:** October 25, 2025

**Production Budget:** \$8,000

**Country of Origin:** USA

**Country of Filming:** USA

**Language:** English

**Shooting Format:** ProRes 4444 XQ 4K UHD

**Aspect Ratio:** 1.66:1

**Film Color:** Color

*Mourning Dove*

## LOGLINE

“Mourning Dove” is a family drama about a little girl named “Hound” and her relationship with her alcoholic father through hunting and butchering deer.

## SHORT SYNOPSIS

“Mourning Dove” is about a young girl named Hound who lives in the woods with her gruff but loving father, Papa. The film follows them through one day of hunting: setting out feed, sitting in the stand, shooting, gutting a deer, and butchering it. Hound is a smart and observant girl who is used to this routine but is curious about the world around her, and specifically her father. It becomes more and more difficult for Hound to understand him when Papa’s drinking tendencies cause mishaps and tension between the two. The events of the day ultimately lead to a tender but temporary heart-to-heart between the two that reveals the love but toxicity in their relationship.

## DIRECTORS STATEMENT

Filmmaking is something that’s been a certainty for me for as long as I can remember. Ever since I was a kid, I knew that writing and directing films was what I was meant to do. As a director, I often take inspiration from personal experiences for my films. This is my most intimate project yet. This story captures the feeling of loving someone who isn’t necessarily good for you and how, when you care for someone, it’s easy to forgive them, no matter what they’ve done. It’s about childhood innocence and how a kid’s naivety shouldn’t be used against them. I want people to see the complex relationship of loving someone you also hate. I gave my all with this film and created a piece of art that I’m proud to share and look back on.

# CREDITS

**Written and Directed** by Tessa Morell

**Produced by** Kaylin Ambrose

**Produced by** Mikki Pisani

**Executive Producers**

Steve Nerangis

Ian Aberle

Jenna Morell

**Associate Producer**

Karen Pisani

**Line Producer**

Leo Frank

**Starring**

Fallon Metz and Charlie McMullins

**Director of Photography**

Nellie

**Edited by**

Elizabeth Housey

**Music by**

Emma Humble

**Production Designer**

Mia Barnett

**First Assistant Director**

Rodrigo Sacca

**Special Thanks**

Jennifer Morell

Greg Morell

Scott Morell

Riley Scarbrough

Marnix Hollebrandse

Ashlynn Prentice

Laura Barnett

Gail & Steven Feuer

Thomas Austin

**Company Support**

NBC Universal

Women Empowering Women

Vermont Electronics

Performance Brokerage Services

SCAD

ARRI

AVID

*Mourning Dove*

# CREDITS

## Script Supervisor

Gabrielle Weber

## UPM

Autumn Bishop

## Camera

1st AC: Carlotta Walser

2nd Unit 1st AC: Zoë Elaina

2nd AC: Ashley Ralph

Camera Utility: Zoë Elaina

DIT: Karma Redman

## G&E

Gaffer: Juan Lizárraga

Best Boy Electric: Marie-Sophie Roell

Key Grip: Ava Briody

Best Boy Grip: Dan Costigan

Dolly Grip: Edmund Chua

Electrician: Savannah Newborn

Swing: Prisca Derighetti

Swing: Juan Carlos Bernal

## Production Sound

Location Sound Mixer: Chase Wainscott

Boom Operator: Jacob Mains

## Art Department

Prop Master: Samantha Abadie

Set Dresser: Varvara Kutsova

Deer Prop Specialist: Quinn Dowell

SFX Makeup: Sean Griffith

Wardrobe: Maya Brady

Wardrobe Assistant: Alex Senior

## Postproduction

Post Sound Supervisor: Anthony Staples

Dialogue Editor: Hayden Blocker

Foley Engineer: Anthony Staples

Foley Artist: Cara Pielow

Sound Effects: Anthony Staples

Sound Effects: Arissa Nelson

Rerecording Mixer: Anthony Staples

Rerecording Mixer: Arissa Nelson

Sound Effects Editor: Anthony Staples

Sound Effects Editor: Arissa Nelson

Colorist: Dylan Fontenet

Motion Media Artist: Sammie Surnitsky

VFX Artists: Andrew Asher

Wren Pellant

## Media

Graphic Designer: Mikki Pisani

BTS Photographer: Clara Ann Brown

BTS Videographer: Hewitt Grissom

## Production Assistants

Victoria Loret De Mola

Karissa Castro

**Armorer:** Lawrence Pritchard

**Child Labor Coordinator:** Jennifer Morell

**Environmental Concept Artist:** Autumn Elaine

**Poster Artist:** Autumn Elaine

**Storyboard Artist:** Meeghan Snyder

# BIOS

**TESSA MORELL:** Tessa Morell is a multi-award-winning director and producer based in Savannah, Georgia. Her passion for filmmaking has been present for as long as she can remember, but it was in 2021 that she created her videography business and started making a name for herself. Tessa is constantly working to make the industry a more equal environment and provide positive representation for minority creatives. Having recently finished her B.F.A. in Film & Television at the Savannah College of Art and Design, and now starting her M.F.A., Tessa works towards creating passionate and meaningful art that will launch her into the professional realm.

**KAYLIN AMBROSE:** With an unwavering commitment to authenticity and honesty, Kaylin Ambrose (they/them) has a profound passion for storytelling in all aspects. Through their lens, Kaylin embarks on a cinematic journey to illuminate the multifaceted experiences of women, Black individuals and LGBTQ+ folks with the hopes of resonating with audiences worldwide.

**MIKKI PISANI:** Mikki Pisani is a queer filmmaker from Massachusetts, specializing in writing, directing, and casting. She loves bringing complex, heartfelt stories to life, especially those that uplift female and queer voices in script or behind the camera. A lover of narrative films, Mikki is very excited to be a co-producer on the Mourning Dove team and help bring Tessa's story to fruition!

**NELLI SAFINA:** Nelli Safina is a sophomore at SCAD, majoring in Film & TV with a minor in Cinematography. Originally from Russia, she moved to the U.S. at 15 to pursue her passion for filmmaking. Since then, she has contributed to 40+ productions worldwide, with her work showcased at prestigious venues such as AMC Theaters, Los Angeles Fashion Week, and the Chinese Theatre. At SCAD, Nelli founded and leads the Cinematography Club, supervised by acclaimed cinematographer Alan Caso, ASC. Under her guidance, the club has flourished, attracting 500+ members and hosting events with some of the industry's most prominent cinematographers. Nelli is drawn to stories that challenge her and feel deeply personal—projects where she can bring a fresh perspective and make a meaningful impact. She is excited to develop a distinctive visual language for Mourning Dove and is dedicated to telling its story with the respect and care it deserves.

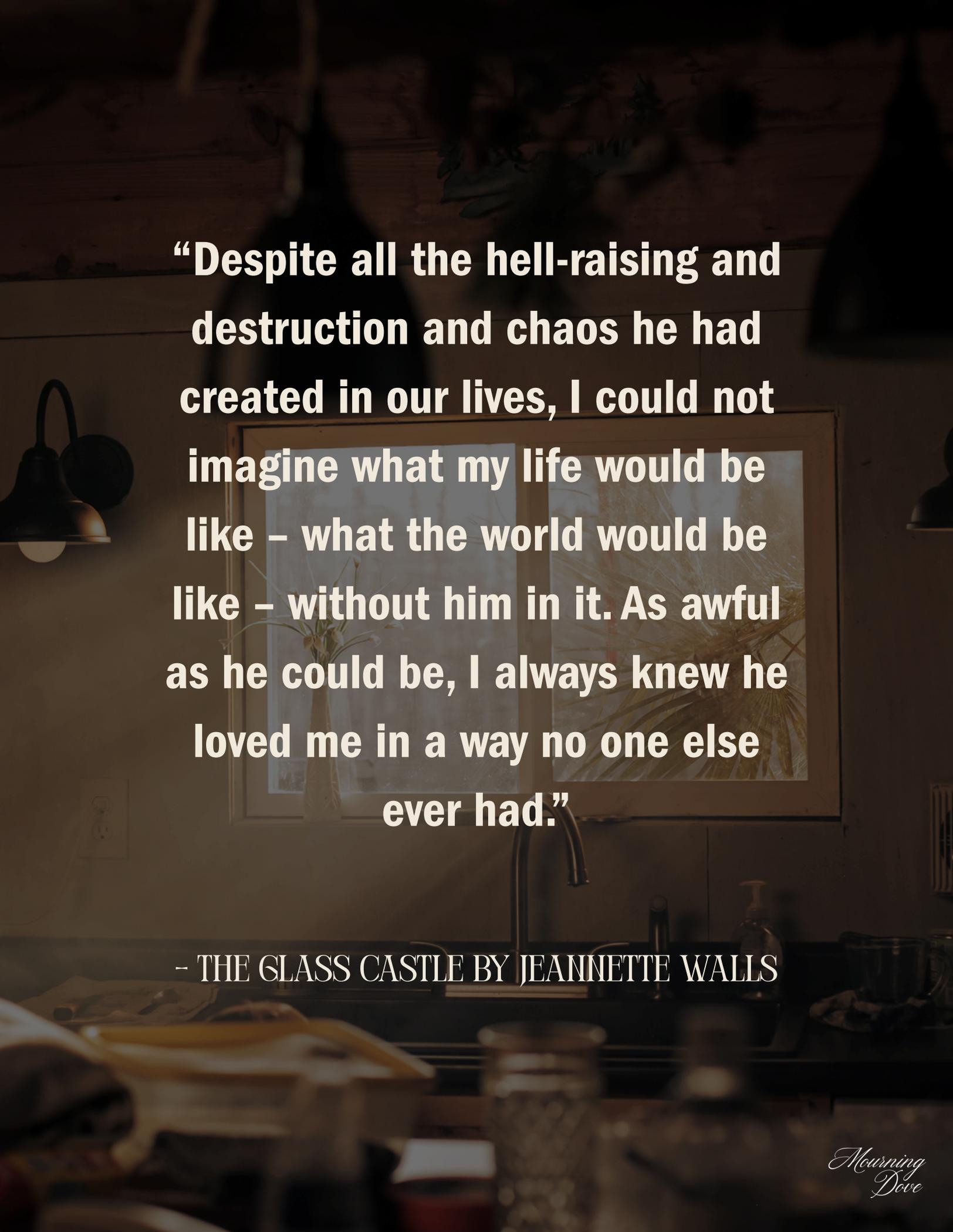
# BIOS

**JUAN CARLOS:** Juan Lizarraga is from Mazatlan, Mexico, and moved to the US when he was young to pursue his dream of studying film in high school. He has been in love with it ever since. Juan has been able to participate in many different projects, and gaffing stood out to him a lot. Juan operated as the 1<sup>st</sup> AD for a Netflix documentary in Mexico about the topical food of his state. He also gaffed a documentary thesis at SCAD that won “Best Documentary Short” at the SCAD Savannah Film Festival.

**MIA BARNETT:** Mia Barnett is a junior at Savannah college of art and design. Majoring in production design with a concentration on set and art direction. She has worked on over 20 student films, as well as a short film in France, and now am a set decorator in a feature film. Mia came to SCAD as a painting major but changed it after helping with my friend’s film. Since then she has thoroughly enjoyed meeting so many wonderful people and helping with so many wonderful films. One of her favorites being Mourning Dove.

**FALLON METZ:** Fallon is a fun-loving 9-year-old who started her acting journey just ten months ago and is already loving the spotlight! When she’s not performing, she’s busy playing with her two dogs, Tilda and Tuff, or taking care of her tortoises, Freckles and Sweet Potato. Fallon enjoys swimming, tumbling, dancing, and spending time outside with friends. Her favorite subject in school is science—she loves exploring how the world works! Fallon’s future goals are to continue pursuing her acting career and also become a dermatologist.

**CHARLIE MCMULLINS:** Charlie McMullins is from Athens, Alabama. He is thrilled to be part of the production of Mourning Dove! Recent credits include a leading role in the short film “Five Minutes by Car.” He is passionate about writing, music & has a deep appreciation for cinema as an art form. He is currently attending acting classes & workshops to improve his skills & further showcase his natural ability to connect with characters & audiences.



**“Despite all the hell-raising and destruction and chaos he had created in our lives, I could not imagine what my life would be like – what the world would be like – without him in it. As awful as he could be, I always knew he loved me in a way no one else ever had.”**

**- THE GLASS CASTLE BY JEANNETTE WALLS**



## CONTACT INFO

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