

Silence in the Forest

A young woman doing everything she can to support her sister through hospital.

A man with a past that he has run from for years.

In a remote Alaskan cabin, these two meet – only one can leave.

Written & produced by James Smith

Story

The story of *Silence in the Forest* pits Sakura against Jack - putting Sakura's refined methods and deliberate actions to the test against Jack's paranoia and desire to be left alone. Sakura, desperate and willing to do whatever it takes to save her sister Ai, must prepare for her strike against Jack. She must then execute that strike and then dispose of evidence, all so that Ai may be protected and funded for her operations. This is a story that can be put to film in many ways, such as a character driven suspense-type story focused more on Sakura, or as a horror story focused more on Jack and his past.

Silence in the Forest touches on themes of morality, survivalism, and retribution. Morality arises from the actions Sakura takes in order to save one life, survivalism comes from both Sakura and Jack's takes on what "survival" even means, and retribution is shown through Jack finally facing consequence for his previous actions. It takes a protagonist from the vein of *The Villainess*, puts her into the setting of *A Quiet Place*, with a background from *The Fault in our Stars*, to create a new character-driven experience based in the thriller genre.

[Script](#)



Characters

Sakura

Sakura is a 22 year old Asian-American woman who is having to cope with her life being put on hold. With her sister Ai stuck in hospital waiting for a transplant and their parents washing their hands of the situation, Sakura is in the position of having to single-handedly fund Ai's stay in hospital, and the way that she does this is through contract killing. She is thorough, discreet and methodical, but her emotions have suffered for this. She can keep a front up for Ai - who is unaware of the methods by which Sakura is raising funds - but when alone, she is resentful, angry, does not get enough sleep, and only rarely takes moments for herself, usually only concentrating on her sister, her current job, or her next one.



Jack

Jack is a 40-or-so year old white man who lives in a dry cabin in Alaska with his dog Coco. He has a past, and an ex-wife, that he has chosen to run away from, and while he is genuinely remorseful of the events leading to their split, he is also aware that he did things that he could not take back. He lives a survivalist lifestyle, surrounded by long-lasting food and weapons and having little contact with others. While he hopes his exile is enough to placate his ex-wife, he lives on guard, expecting some attempt at revenge to come his way.



Ai

Ai is a 25 year old Asian-American woman and hospitalised. Born with diabetes, she managed most of her life but now faces her kidneys and pancreas shutting down. She is therefore stuck in hospital, and without help from her parents she is reliant on a internet fundraising and her sister Sakura's help to stay afloat. She stays in good spirits and finds a bright side for everything, and looks forward to being discharged and returning to her ambitions of restauranteering with Sakura.



Sheet #: 20 1/8 pgs	Scenes: 15	INT Day	Gas station/Gas station toilets Sakura again washes hands, buys coffee.	1	Est. Time :30
Sheet #: 2 1/8 pgs	Scenes: 2	INT Evening	Gas station toilets Sakura washes her hands	1	Est. Time :30
Sheet #: 3 1/8 pgs	Scenes: 3	INT Evening	Gas station Sakura buys food.	1	Est. Time :30
Sheet #: 4 4/8 pgs	Scenes: 4	EXT Evening	Gas station Sakura watches Ai's vlog		Est. Time 2:00

End of Shooting Day 1 -- Monday, 6 September 2021 -- 7/8 Pages -- Time Estimate: 3:30

Sheet #: 17 1/8 pgs	Scenes: 14A	EXT Morning	Forest Sakura completes filling in hole.	1	Est. Time :30
Sheet #: 1 4/8 pgs	Scenes: 1	EXT Day	Forest Sakura digs her disposal hole.	1	Est. Time 2:00
Sheet #: 16 3/8 pgs	Scenes: 14	EXT Night	Forest Sakura dismembers corpse, throws in pit, bums	1	Est. Time 1:30

End of Shooting Day 2 -- Tuesday, 7 September 2021 -- 1 Pages -- Time Estimate: 4:00

Sheet #: 18 1 1/8 pgs	Scenes: 16	INT/E Day	Car/Highway Sakura returns to Anchorage, video calling with Ai	1	Est. Time 3:30
Sheet #: 6 4/8 pgs	Scenes: 5	EXT Evening	Highway Montage: Sakura passes time through sundown	1	Est. Time 3:00
Sheet #: 7 4/8 pgs	Scenes: 6	EXT Night	Highway Sakura turns off the highway and towards Jack's c	1	Est. Time 2:00

End of Shooting Day 3 -- Wednesday, 8 September 2021 -- 2 1/8 Pages -- Time Estimate: 8:30

Sheet #: 10 1/8 pgs	Scenes: 9	INT/E Night	Cabin Sakura enters the cabin, makes food for Coco	1	Est. Time 1:00
Sheet #: 14 1/8 pgs	Scenes: 12A	INT Night	Cabin Coco eating obliviously		Est. Time :30
Sheet #: 8 5/8 pgs	Scenes: 7	INT Night	Cabin Jack wakes up, sees Sakura's car	2	Est. Time 2:30
Sheet #: 13 1 1/8 pgs	Scenes: 12	INT/E Night	Cabin Jack enters bedroom, Brief fight	1, 2	Est. Time 4:30
Sheet #: 15 3/8 pgs	Scenes: 13	EXT Night	Cabin Sakura takes the blood test while Jack is dying, th	1, 2	Est. Time 1:30

End of Shooting Day 4 -- Thursday, 9 September 2021 -- 2 3/8 Pages -- Time Estimate: 10:00

Sheet #: 12 1 7/8 pgs	Scenes: 11	INT Night	Cabin Jack becomes alerted to Sakura's presence, freak	2	Est. Time 7:30
Sheet #: 9 6/8 pgs	Scenes: 8	EXT Night	Cabin Jack approaches and opens Sakura's car.	2	Est. Time 3:00
Sheet #: 11 2/8 pgs	Scenes: 10	EXT Night	Cabin Jack completes sweep, goes into cabin.	2	Est. Time 1:00

End of Shooting Day 5 -- Friday, 10 September 2021 -- 2 7/8 Pages -- Time Estimate: 11:30

Sheet #: 5 1/8 pgs	Scenes: 4-1	INT Day	Hospital bed Ai's Instagram vlog	3	Est. Time :30
Sheet #: 19 7/8 pgs	Scenes: 16-1	INT Day	Hospital bed Ai's side of the call with Sakura	3	Est. Time 3:30

End of Shooting Day 6 -- Monday, 13 September 2021 -- 1 Pages -- Time Estimate: 4:00

Schedule/Locations

This shoot will require six days, and can be done entirely on location. The script will require thawed ground and both day and night scenes, so an Alaska shoot would be restricted to late spring or early autumn - British Columbia could stand in if time and tax incentives make it more attractive.

Principle locations will include a cabin in the woods, a gas station and a forest highway. Much of the plot takes place at night, hence low-light cameras or day-for-night shooting will be necessary.

[Stripboard](#)

[Full shooting schedule](#)

Silence in the Forest

Days Location - 6
Total Days - 6

Producer: James Smith

Acct#	Category Description	Page	Total
1000	Story and Rights	1	\$130
1100	Producers	1	\$2,000
1200	Directors	1	\$2,000
1300	Cast	1	\$3,025
Total Above-The-Line			\$7,155
1500	Production Staff	3	\$1,750
1700	Art Department	3	\$1,750
1800	Set Dressing	3	\$3,500
1900	Set Operation	3	\$2,350
2000	Props	4	\$4,150
2200	Wardrobe	4	\$2,500
2500	Set Lighting	4	\$1,750
2600	Camera	5	\$5,840
2800	Locations	5	\$12,350
2900	Transportation	6	\$3,100
Total Production			\$39,040
3400	Editing	7	\$2,000
3500	Music	7	\$1,500
3600	Post Production Sound	7	\$3,250
Total Post Production			\$6,750
3900	Insurance	8	\$3,000
Total Other			\$3,000
4300	Margin of Error	9	\$5,595
Total Above-The-Line			\$7,155
Total Below-The-Line			\$48,790
Total Above and Below-The-Line			\$55,945
Total Fringes			\$0
Grand Total			\$61,540

Budget

The budget for the proposed schedule, allowing four days either side of the actual shoot for preparation and wrap-up, comes to a grand total of \$61,540. This includes a 10% margin of error plus multiple allowances, so a round figure of \$50,000 could quite easily be achievable.

[Full budget](#)

Animatic

This animatic demonstrates the writer's vision for what a final version of this film may look and "feel" like.

Art and editing: James Smith

