ROMAN

Trust Teddy.



OFFICIAL SELECTION
TRIBECA FILM FESTIVAL
2025

NEON PICTURES PRESENTS A HIDDEN LIGHT PRODUCTION "ROMAN"

JOSEPH QUINN JODIE COMER OSCAR ISAAC

MUSIC BY BEN SALISBURY & GEOFF BARROW PRODUCTION DESIGNER JOANNA JOHNSTON

CINEMATOGRAPHY LOL CRAWLEY EDITED BY DAVE HAMILTON

WRITTEN BY ADAM KROLOFF DIRECTED BY DAVID LOWERY

COMING SOON

NEON

THE STORY

A soldier is captured behind enemy lines. While unconscious, enemy forces implant a neural symbiont at the base of his skull — a biological weapon that links infected hosts into a networked killing system, narrowing human consciousness into pure target fixation and aggression.

When he is recovered by his own forces, he has no memory of what was done to him. Or what he did.

He wakes in a remote military medical facility with fragments of a life he can barely reconstruct. He is monitored by DR. ALAN MERCER, a military physician running a classified recovery program, and cared for by TEDDY — a decommissioned therapeutic robot designed to bond permanently with traumatized patients and never leave their side. In a facility built on surveillance and control, Teddy is the only presence that doesn't lie.

Alan believes his patient may be unprecedented: the first infected host capable of retaining his humanity. As the memories return, Roman witnesses the horror of the symbiont firsthand through REX — another infected soldier, lucid enough to understand what is happening to him, deteriorating toward a procedure that removes the symbiont but leaves the patient cognitively devastated.

The more Roman remembers, the more he understands: memory is the key. Emotional attachment, grief, guilt — these interrupt the symbiont's compulsive behavior. What begins as a medical experiment slowly becomes a potential military breakthrough.

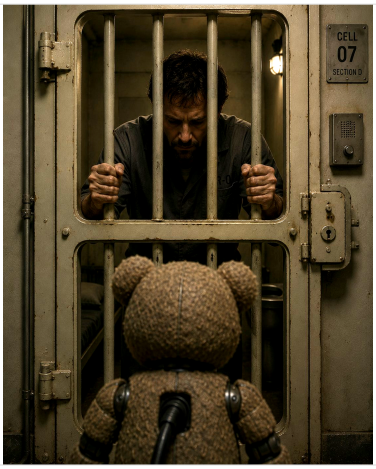
But Roman's recovered memories reveal something far worse.

Among the dead in the massacre that brought him to this facility were Alan Mercer's wife and two daughters.

Alan has known Roman's identity from the beginning.

When Roman finally recovers the full truth, Alan enters his room with a gun. What follows is not a confrontation. It is a reckoning.

Roman is deployed. Teddy goes with him. Whether Roman has preserved his humanity — or evolved into something the network has never encountered — remains unresolved.



THE WORLD



Roman — Apprehended



The Symbiont



Kyle



Teddy — Taking Roman's Vitals



Teddy and Rex

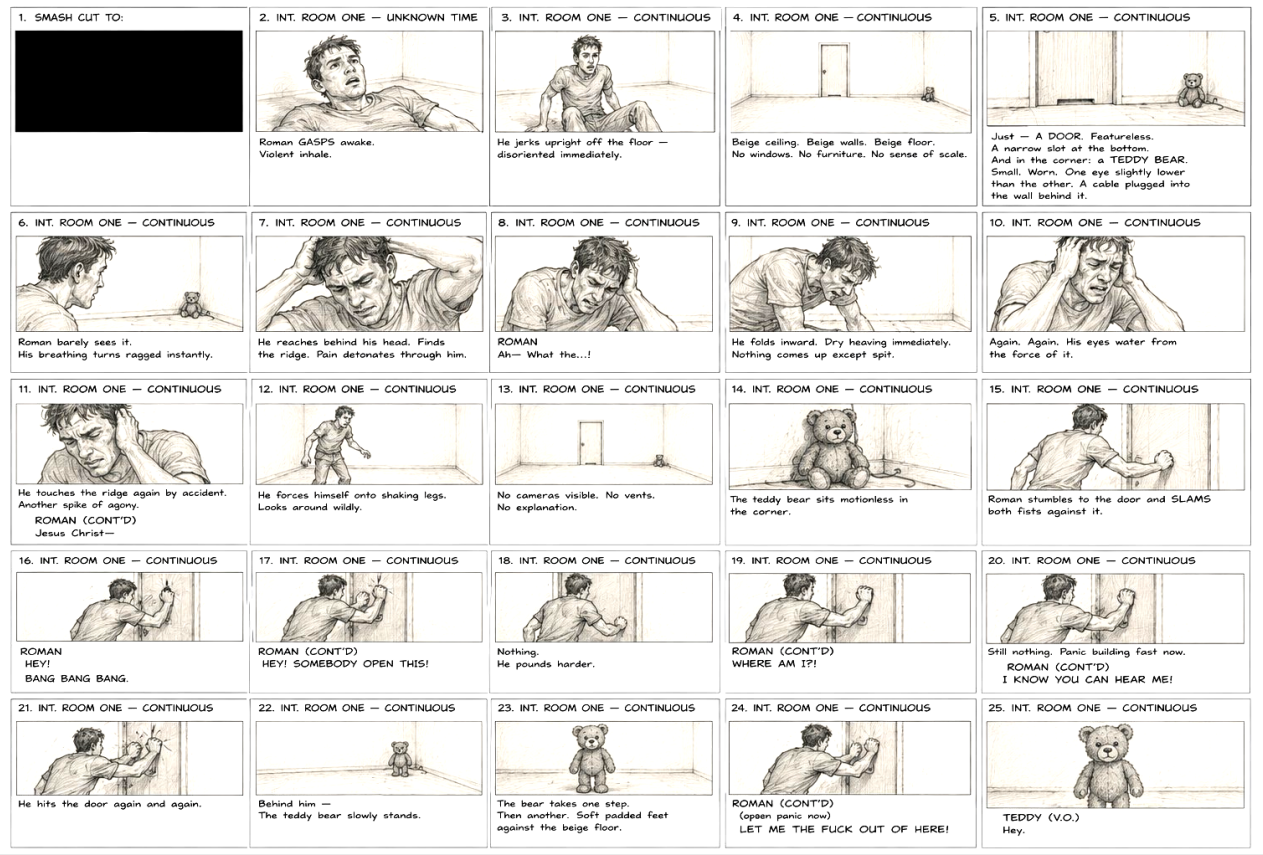


Alan Confronts Roman

STORYBOARDS



Opening Sequence — The World Before



Roman Wakes — Room One

THE PITCH

FORMAT

ROMAN is a contained psychological science fiction drama. Single primary location. Small principal cast. Intimate in scale, cinematic in ambition.

WHY IT'S PRODUCIBLE

No CGI armies. No exterior battle sequences. The market massacre exists in fragments and memory — felt, not staged. The symbiont effects are practical and intimate. Budget range: $25M–$40M for a prestige production. The contained format means the money goes into craft and performance, not scale.

COMPARABLES

MOON (Duncan Jones, 2009) · THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE (John Frankenheimer, 1962) · ARRIVAL (Denis Villeneuve, 2016)

For audiences who found Annihilation unforgettable and most science fiction too loud.

NOTIONAL CAST

ROMAN	Joseph Quinn
DR. ALAN MERCER	Eddie Redmayne
AMANDA	Jodie Comer
MICHAEL	Oscar Isaac
TEDDY (V.O.)	Richard Ayoade

THE LOGLINE

A man does something terrible he can't remember.
The person trying to save him lost everything in that moment.
Can either of them survive what the truth costs?

ROMAN — Written by Adam Kroloff

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