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# DEAR FRIEND, I CAN NO LONGER HEAR YOUR VOICE – STORYBOARD



SHOOTING STORYBOARD 16:9 ASPECT RATIO TEMPLATE (1.77:1)

A FILM BY ANNE-MARIE CREAMER

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INTRO

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"Dear Friend, I can no longer hear your voice\*", is scheduled for exhibition at the Sir John Soane's Museum, London from January - February 2021. The exhibition has site specific resonance, presenting a phantom room that once existed within the Museum: the lost bedchamber of Soanes wife, Eliza, who died suddenly and tragically in 1815. John Soane preserved the room for nearly 20 years, gutting it three years before his death in order to protect the legacy of his museum.

The single channel animation will feature two parallel journeys through the room, one a virtual camera moving in surprising, feral ways through & inside objects and another a long slow zoom through the room - influenced by artist Michael Snow's landmark avant-garde film *Wavelength* (1967) – presenting a narrowing of vision that resonates with Eliza's death & Soane's mourning.

The animation will make use of duration, taking place over one evening as dusk approaches. This gives me the chance to explore Soane's interest in 'lumière mystérieuse' and my own on-going fascination with light and shadow.

This will be accompanied by poly-vocal choral soundtrack, written by me and developed by composer Verity Standen that draws on three varying account of the hours/ days/ months around Eliza Soane's death. The soundtrack is divided into three acts and will convey a sense of longing, contrasting exquisite rhythmic precision against underlying feral, keening voice.

In addition, a sound designer will develop subtle sounds of the room itself, intended to give a sense of physical weight to the room.

I am interested in harnessing the uncanny relationship animation has to reality, and am interested in how this corresponds to the ways processes like photogrammetry - employed within the project - are currently used to recreate digital versions of lost objects and sites. The presence of Eliza Soane's bedchamber will likely offer a vertiginous, fascinating if unsettling encounter. As well as abstract elements, close-ups of objects and details, and virtual journeys through the room, I intend to track the silhouette of a Caryatid statue seen through the bedroom window as it casts its shadow across the room.

I am not intending hyper-realism is used for the entire duration of the animation. Instead, counter-pointing this, I would like to make reference to the level of abstraction and topography inherent in the 3D model, at times using ZDepth images of my subject-matter, and using fragmentation and abstraction as well as the black void the 3d model is held within to expressive effect.

As well as working with staff with the Sir John Soane Museum, I am working with producer Gary Thomas (co-Director of Animate Projects).

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Time line  
START

10 seconds

30 secs



### Act 1 - the Murmuring

#### Camera 1

Fade up:  
Mid-afternoon light.

1. Wide locked shot of a domestic 18<sup>th</sup> cent bedchamber. Camera p.o.v.; standing in doorway, bed to left, window to right unseen, looking diagonally across the room. Colour slowly subtly fades and rises.

#### Sound effect

Clock ticking.

The voice soundtrack has a series of voices coming into breath.

Clock mirrors breath – heart beat rhythm

#### Voice - singing

(Softer, hesitant becoming angry)  
Singing repeatedly, Dear Friend...I can no longer hear your voice!

Underneath this, deep murmuring, repeating over and over: "Eliza, my sorrow, and my loss")

Time line  
START

1 min



**Act 1 - the Murmuring**

**Camera 1**

2. Cut to reverse wide locked shot in the opposite corner, standing beside dressing table looking at bed.

Colour continues to slowly subtly fades and rise.

**Sound effect**

Faint sound of fire in grate.

**Voice - singing**

Pleading, beckoning, gradually becoming more resigned) repeatedly, *Dear Friend...I can no longer hear your voice!*

Underneath this, deep murmuring, repeating over and over: *"Eliza, my sorrow, and my loss")*

Time line



**Act 1 - the Murmuring**

**Sound effect**

**Voice - singing**

**Camera 1**

Faint sound of fire in grate.

(resigned becoming exhausted))  
repeatedly, Dear Friend...I can no  
longer hear your voice!

3. Cut to reverse wide locked shot in the  
opposite corner, standing beside dressing table  
looking at bed

Underneath this, deep murmuring,  
repeating over and over: "Eliza, my  
sorrow, and my loss")

Brief silence

Brief silence

Brief silence

1 min 30

**Time line**



2 mins

**Act 1 - the Murmuring**

**Camera 1**

4. Cut to reverse wide locked shot in the North-West corner, standing beside bed, looking across to the wash-stand.

**Sound effect**

Distant sound of someone walking down the stairs, rear left

Clock ticking.

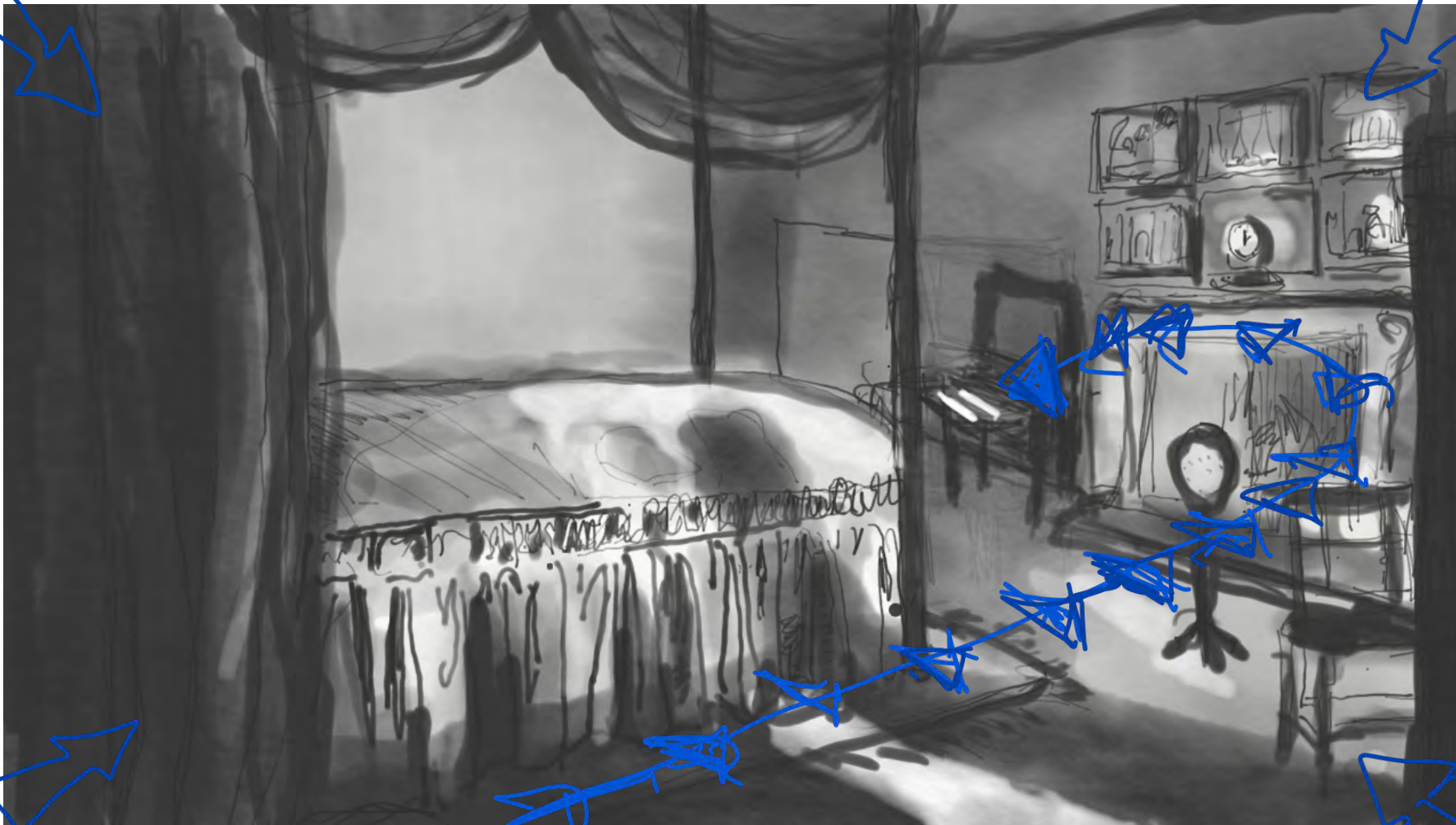
**Voice - singing**

(finally gentler)  
Dear Friend...I can no longer hear your voice!

Underneath this, deep murmuring, repeating over and over: "Eliza, my sorrow, and my loss")

Time line

2 mins



(Act 1  
approx 3  
mins)

3 mins

**ACT 2 - The Dirge**

**Camera 1**

Camera p.o.v. returns to its initial position. Slowly, long slow tracking shot and slow zoom begins. Over a duration of **4 minutes** the camera tracks a route through the room towards the kid leather embroidered gloves on the small mahogany dressing table in the opposition corner of the room.

**Camera 2**

Parallel cut:  
Close-up shot: close fast tracking shot along the side of the bed, surveying the fabric and tassels, moving also from a low to eye level encounter as camera finally turns back to look at the bed and stops.

**Sound effect**

Clock ticking. Fire crackles in grate. Low sounds perceptible, establishing sense of force & rhythm

**Voice - singing**

Male voice. **Tuesday, November 21st. Spasm! Her hands cold and moist.**

Male & female voices: **Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Female voice: **Spasm!**  
Female feral Voice: Repeated guttural song, no distinct words... repeats, rising and falling throughout, underlying all song by other characters.

Time line

3mins



## ACT 2 - The Dirge

### Camera 1

Cut back to shot of wider room, tracking shot: Colour fades suddenly from room, to **ZDepth** image of greyscale scaffolding underneath of rendered image.

### Sound effect

Thinner, higher frequency tone.  
Glass/

### Voice - singing

**All voices:** Thursday November 23<sup>rd</sup>

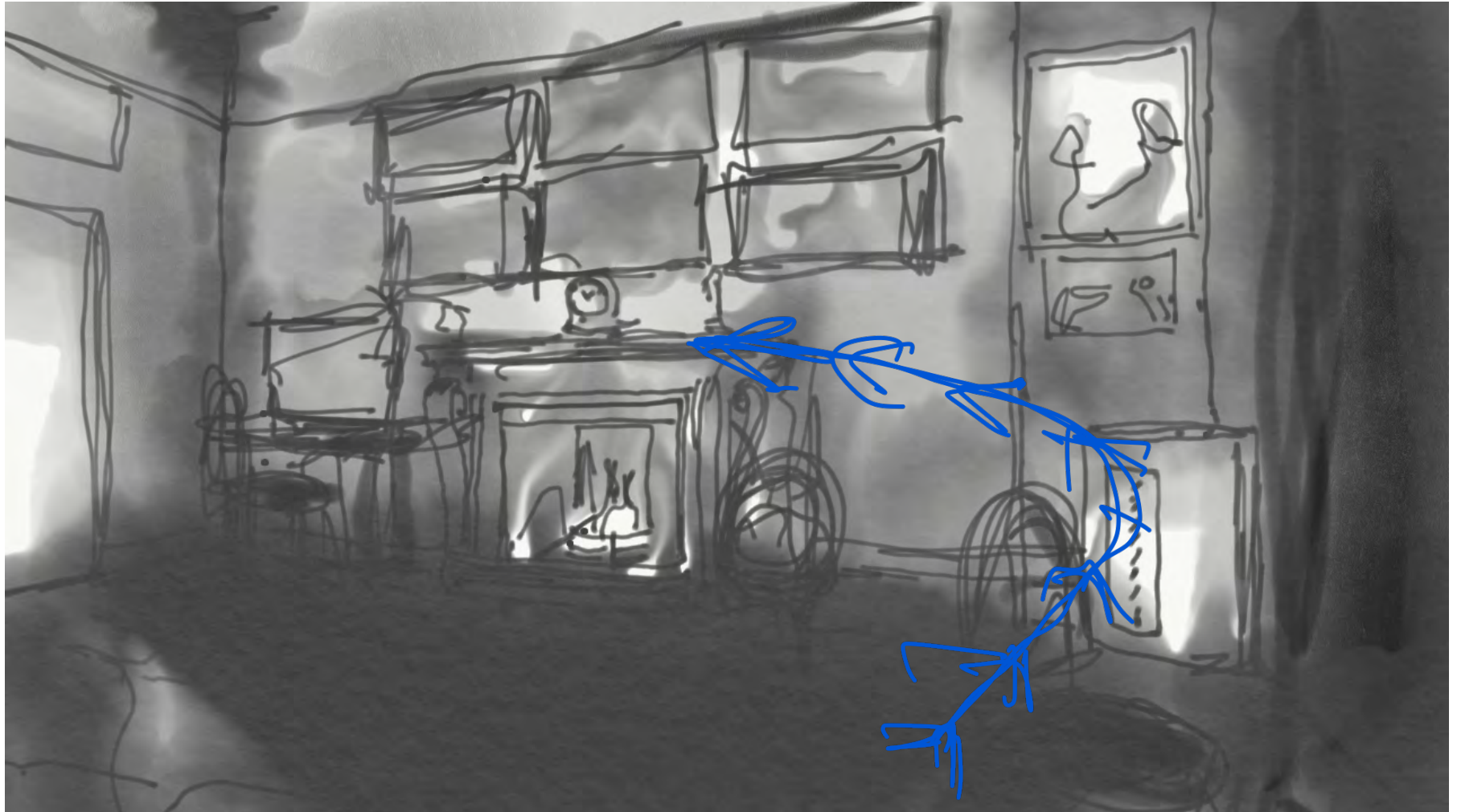
**Female voice:** I cannot now tell you details - but Mrs Soane is dead -- suddenly dead!

3 mins 30



**Time line**

**3 mins 30**



**ACT 2 - The Dirge**

**Camera 1:**

Flash cut: back to full colour  
Camera continues to move in slow tracking zoom, nearer to window & wash-stand.  
Camera begins to turn in gentle curve nearing corner of mantelpiece.  
Camera continues to move in slow tracking zoom.

**Camera 2:**

Camera moves or cuts to another image on

the beat of the word 'his 'loss' and also 'kind'.

**Cut:** close up, one of Piranesi prints, seeing a very small movement of light. **Cut:** Again, close up, seeing a very small movement of light again, adjacent area, fire-screen, or another Piranesi.

**Sound effect**

Low background sound return, just perceptible, establishing renewed sense of force & rhythm

**Voice - singing**

**Female voice 1:**(Singing in the background quietly, repeated details of who attended):

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>

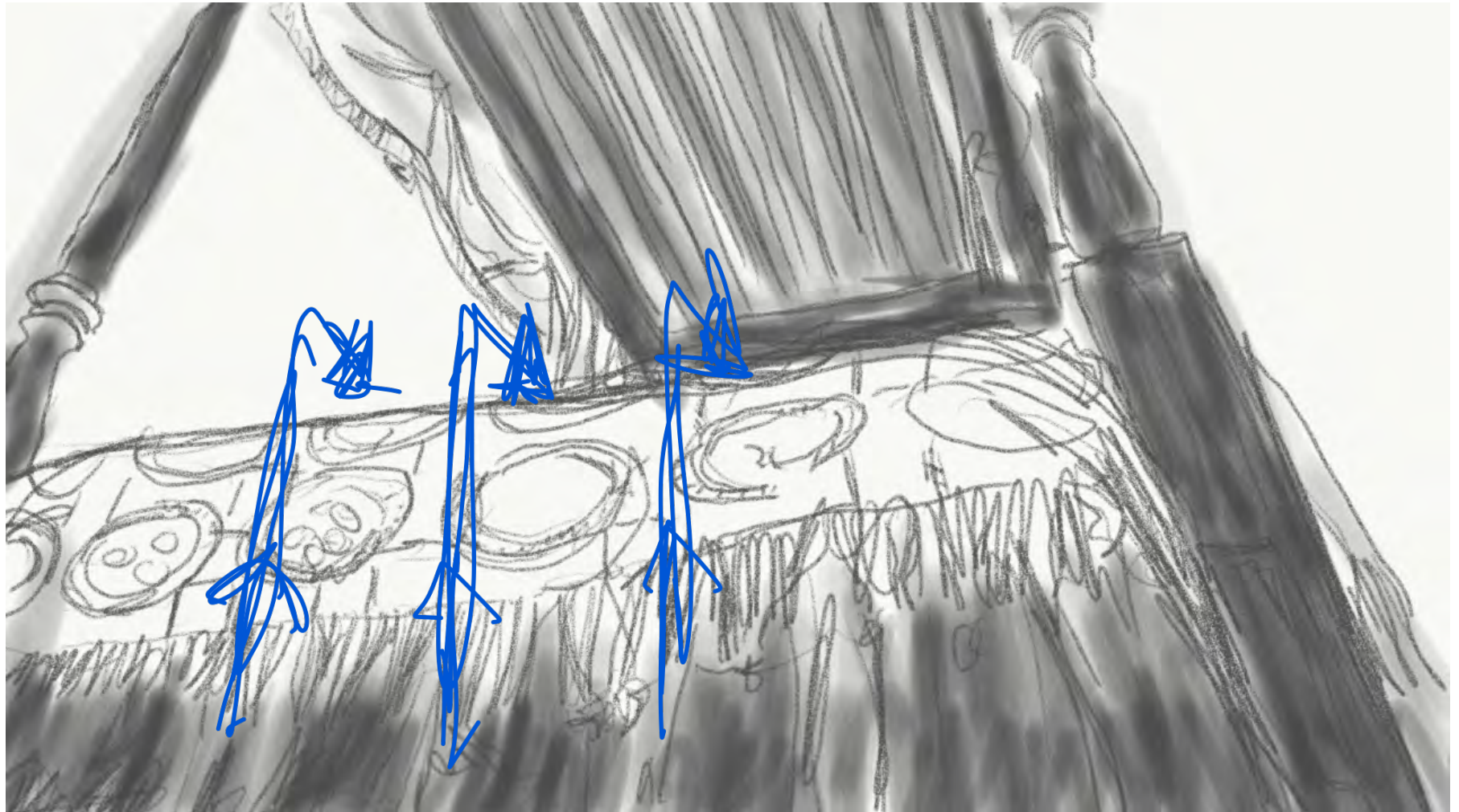
Mr Spiller to dinner. Mr J Soane. Mr Pennington called. Mr Keate, Mr Pennington, called. Sunday 26 Mr J S, called.

**Female voice 2:** simultaneously, repeatedly: **We can do nothing but talk of his loss.**

**4 mins**

**Time line**

4 mins



**ACT 2 - The Dirge**

**Camera 2:**

Parallel cut:  
Cut to Work-basket, medium shot. Camera pulls backwards and moves over bedspread, stopping on opened book with inscription, which falls or fades away.

**Camera 1:**

Parallel cut:  
Camera continues to move in slow tracking zoom, nearing corner of mantelpiece,

looking straight-on, nearing fire-screen and north wall in distance.

**Sound effect**

Higher frequency glassy tones

**Voice - singing**

**Female voice 1:** Mr Soane, sad the whole day. Mr Turner, called. Mr Spiller, to dinner. Mr Pennington, called. Monday 27<sup>th</sup>. Mrs J S called.

**Female voice 2:** simultaneously:  
She was kind.... to her children... Kind.... content to live in his talents ...his comforts...Kind.

**Time line**

**4 mins 30**



**5 mins**

**ACT 2 - The Dirge**

**Camera 2:**

Parallel cut:  
Cut to Medium shot of east wall, focussing on wall beside the wash-stand, the picture Werther & Charlotte. Pan down to picture of 'Play Bill', and then pan left to along the mantelpiece, seeing all objects as light moves over them. Objects fade to grey/ ZDepth as camera passes them by.

**Camera 1:**

Parallel cut:  
Camera continues to move in slow tracking zoom towards the fire-screen.

**Sound effect**

Higher frequency glassy tones

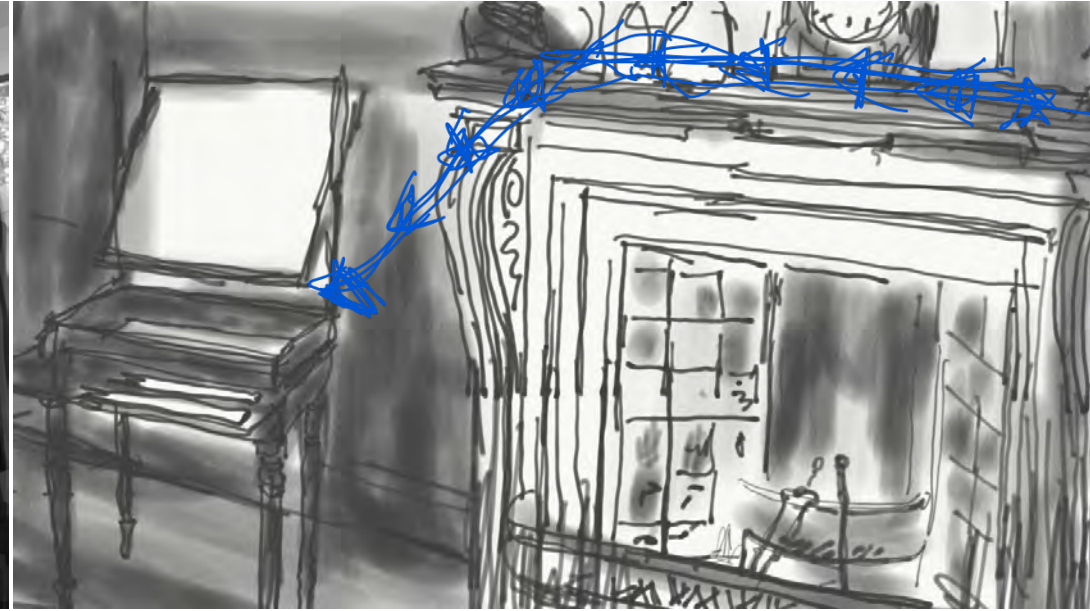
**Voice - singing**

**Female voice 1:** Ms Rudd... saw the last of her friend. Miss Woodmeston called. Mr Foxall, called. Mr Spiller, to dinner. Mrs Britton called...Mrs Hofland, Mr Pennington called.

**Female voice 2:** simultaneously: Kind. (repeatedly)

**Time line**

**5 mins**



**(Act 2:5 mins)**

**ACT 3 – Cry**

**Camera 1:**

Camera continues to move in slow tracking zoom. Past the fire-screen, continuing to move in slow tracking zoom. It passes below the mantelpiece, near to fire-grate and moves closer and closer to embroidered kid gloves on the mahogany dressing table, but camera stops a few steps away from them and stops, lingering.

**Sound effect**

Clock chimes on the hour.  
sound of fire in grate.

**Voice - singing**

**Female voices together:** The last sad remains of the of the best of friends brought into the library...the servants sat up all night in the room. Mr Soane taken ill.

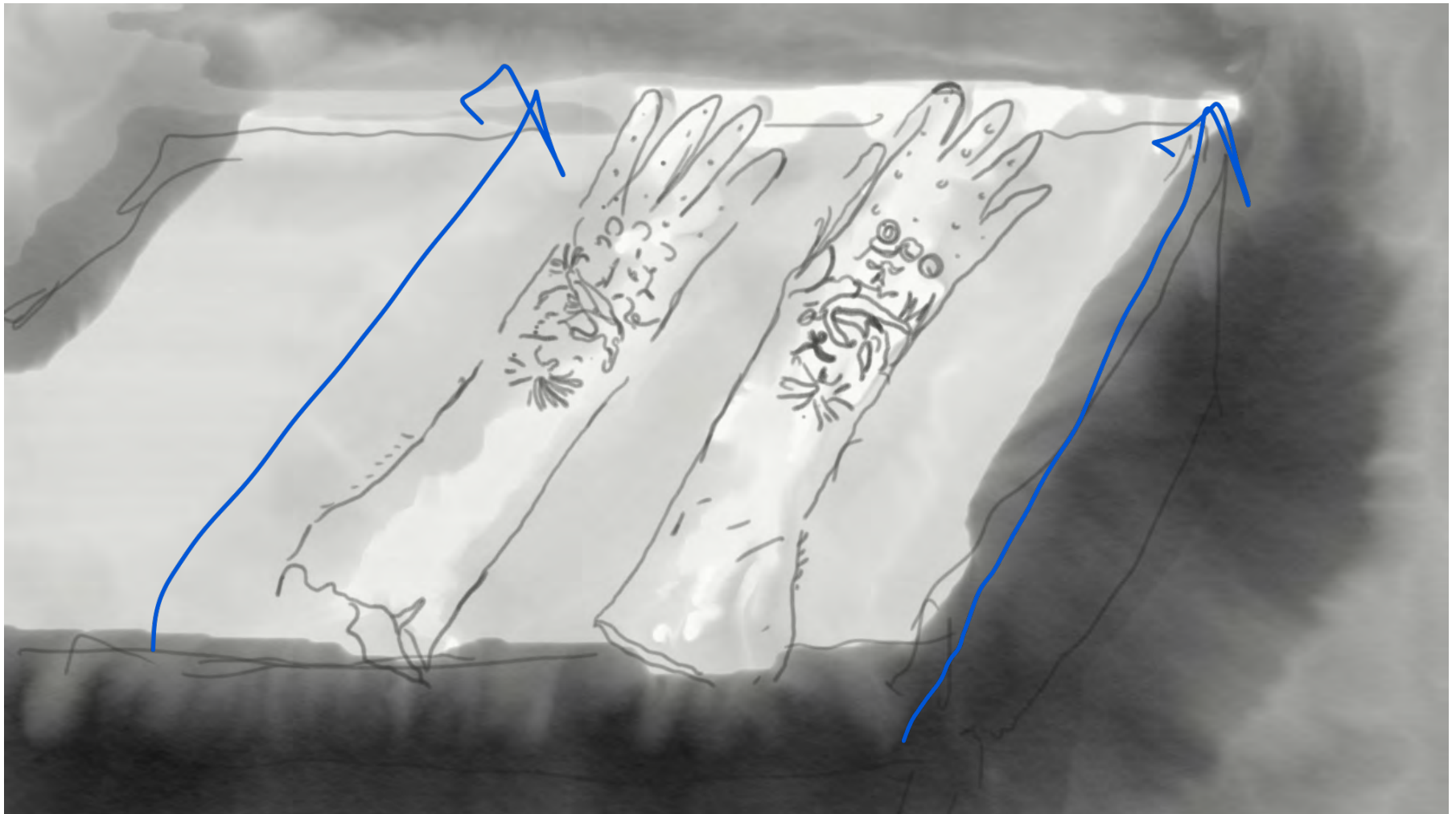
**Voice - singing**

**Male voice:** December 1, Friday. The burial of all that is dear to me in this world, all I wish to live for!

**Female voices together:** The funeral procession: Mr and Mrs J Soane, Junior, Spiller, Shee, Taylor, Perry, Basevi, Parke, Foxhall, Tyrell, Thei, Pennington, Mr Bayley, Mr Parker, Mr Payne, Joseph and Mary

**Time line**

**5 mins 30**



**ACT 3 – Cry**

**Camera 2:**

**Cut to:** close up slowly moving pan of the embroidered kid gloves on the mahogany dressing table.

**6 mins**

**Sound effect**

Clock ticking- heart beat

**Voice – singing**

**All voices together:** Silence prevails; it is an awful silence.

**Female voices together:** 6 months to this day!

**Male voice:** Raining, very dark – Oh Eliza!

**Voice – singing**

**Female voices together:** Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept.

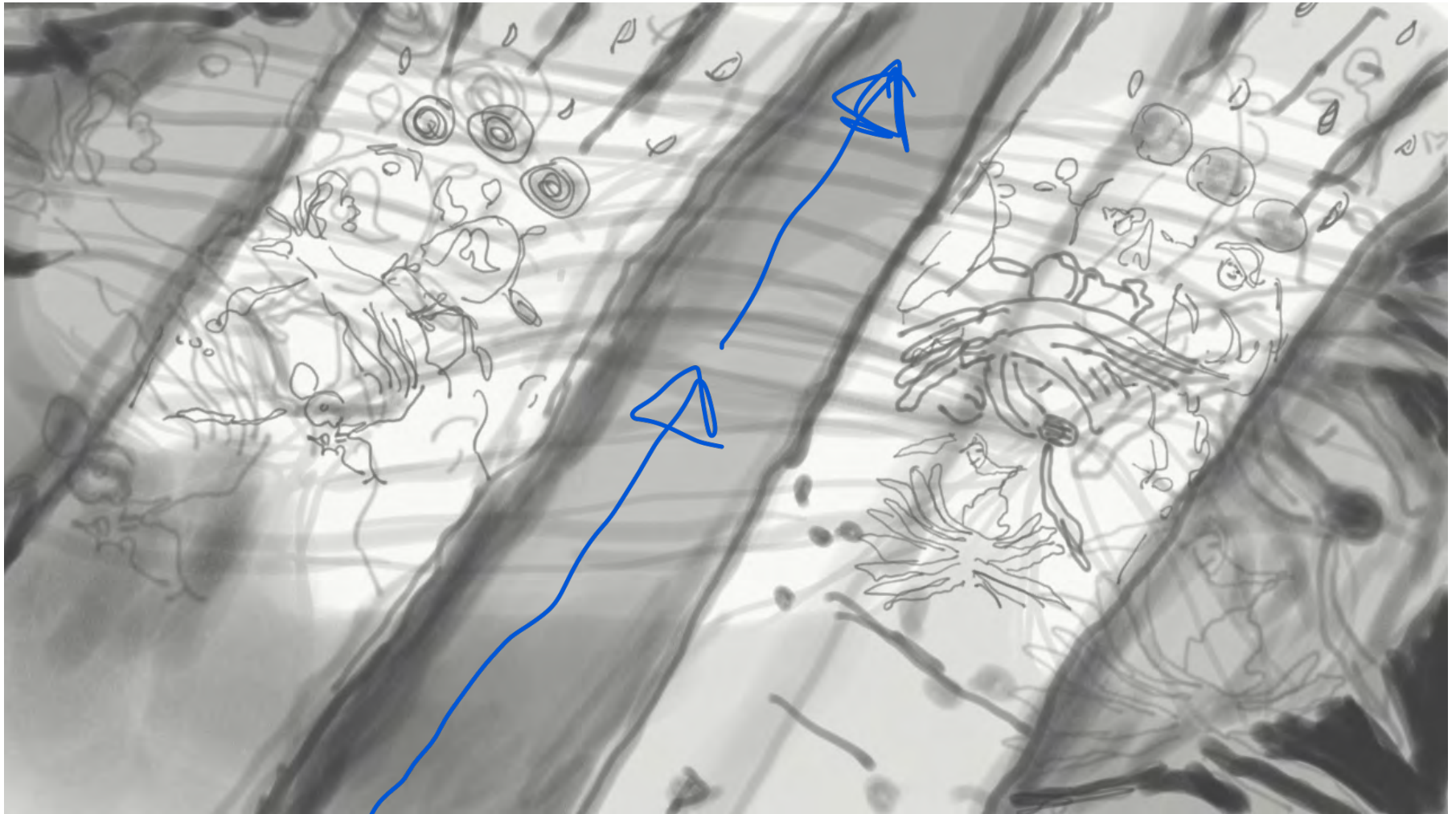
**Male voice:** The 10<sup>th</sup> month. Raining, very dark – Oh Eliza!

**All voices together:**

Silence prevails; it is an awful silence.  
1816

Time line

6 mins



**ACT 3 – Cry**

**Camera 2:**

Slow pan over, close to the embroidered kid gloves. Camera seems to move closer/ inside the kid gloves, into a more abstract space, a black void and coloured shapes that slowly form the room again.

6 mins 30

**Sound effect**

Clock ticking- heart beat

**Voice - singing**

**Female voices together:** Adieu  
(repeatedly)

**Male voice:** (simultaneously) Go to  
St Pancras! I am bleeding apart.  
(Angry)

**Female voices together:** Saturday  
10<sup>th</sup> Feb

**Male voice:** saw the monument, my  
never to be forgotten friend.

**Female voices together:** Friday 26<sup>th</sup>  
April

**All voices together:** Silence  
prevails; it is an awful silence.  
9<sup>th</sup> May

**Male voice:** Raining, very dark – Oh  
Eliza!

Time line

6 mins 30



**ACT 3 – Cry**

Camera 2:

The room is again seen by the same opening shot, from the doorway looking across the room to the dressing table in the opposite corner of the room. Returns to a locked shot.

7 mins

**Sound effect**

Clock ticking- heart beat

**Voice - singing**

Female voices together: Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June

Male voice: 19 months

Female voices together: Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept

Male voice: 22 months. Fourth miserable Xmas day.

**Voice - singing**

level of FERAL FEMALE VOICE is last voice heard

**All voices together:**

Silence prevails; it is an awful silence

Time line

7 mins



**FINALE- The Murmuring closes**

**Camera 1:**

Returns to a locked shot, same p.o.v. as opening sequence. Locked shot.

Room is increasingly blanketed by shadow. Just barely the shadow of the Caryatid statue moves towards the fireplace. Light fades to black. .

**Sound effect**

FERAL FEMALE VOICE is last voice heard merges into sound of ticking clock.

Clock mirrors breath – heart beat rhythm

The sound of breath, continuing

**Voice - singing** (All voices together. More resigned, gentle)  
As night falls: Dear Friend, I can no longer hear your voice

Tell me what I must do to fulfil your wishes

Dear Friend, I can no longer hear your voice

Dear Friend... Dear Friend! Dear Friend!

(Act 3: 2.5 mins)