

The Reunion

A Psychological Thriller Duology



Two feature films. Same night, same location, same ensemble – but two opposing perspectives.
Designed for both maximum dramatic impact **and** efficient back-to-back production

The duology concept

Final Reunion and *The Reckoning* take place during the same winter night on an isolated island in the Stockholm archipelago. The story covers the same ensemble, the same timeline, and the same closed environment, but from two completely different perspectives.

In the first film, we experience how a group of former classmates slowly slides into destructive mistrust inside the cabin.

In the second film, we follow the events outside and behind what initially seemed like coincidence – where motive, consequence, and causality become clear.

The two films do not mirror each other scene by scene. They exist within the same time frame – but tell two emotionally and morally different stories.

For producers – in short

- **Logline:** Two films. One night. Two truths.
- Developed as two complete feature films that work independently, yet together form a deeper and more powerful narrative experience.
- Screenplays completed in Swedish and English
- Defined back-to-back production model
- Indicative budget range (both films): SEK 40–60 million
- International recognition and selection in prestigious competitions
- The material is currently being read by an agent with a client in a central role
- Ongoing dialogue with international partners (NL/UK)
- Developed as a Nordic/European co-production
- **Director:**
Seeking a director with a strong feel for psychological tension and ensemble work, who can carry the film's darkness and tone.



Unique narrative structure

The project introduces an unusual storytelling format: two complete feature films taking place during the same night, with the same ensemble, but from two opposing perspectives.

Both films function fully as standalone works, yet together form a unique narrative structure where the viewing order affects the audience experience.

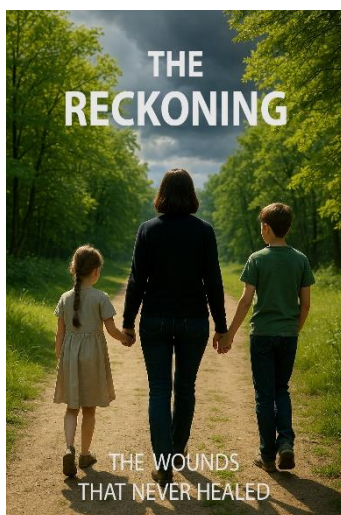
The format has received international response, with the films assessed separately, and represents an opportunity to be first with a narrative approach that combines artistic weight with clear audience potential.

[Further reading: The unique narrative structure \(PDF\)](#)



[Film 1 – Final Reunion](#)

A contained, ensemble-driven Nordic noir whodunit: guilt, group dynamics, and the return of old roles..



[Film 2 – The Reckoning](#)

The same night, seen from an opposing POV – deepening motives, causality, and moral consequence.

Story overview (A–Z)

Producer-tailored narrative arc in eight beats.

1. **The invitation**

Thirteen former classmates receive an anonymous invitation to a winter reunion on an isolated island.

2. **Arrival & isolation**

The boat leaves them for the night. No signal, no way out until the scheduled pickup: the island becomes a closed system.

3. **Old roles return**

Polite small talk gives way to friction. Flashbacks reveal systematic humiliations and a shame that never faded.

4. **The first crack**

An incident shatters the illusion of safety. Attempts at order fail; mistrust accelerates.

5. **Escalation & group dynamics breaking down**

Deaths appear as “accidents”. Alliances form and collapse. The cabin becomes a tribunal where guilt outruns truth.

6. **The hidden thread**

In the sister film, movements and “coincidences” reveal a hidden plan and a deeper motive behind the reunion.

7. **Collision of perspectives**

Both narratives converge: what looked random becomes cause; what looked like guilt becomes complicity.

8. **Final silence**

No catharsis – only consequence. The story culminates in an inevitable moral collapse, and the full truth exists only across both films.



Production logic

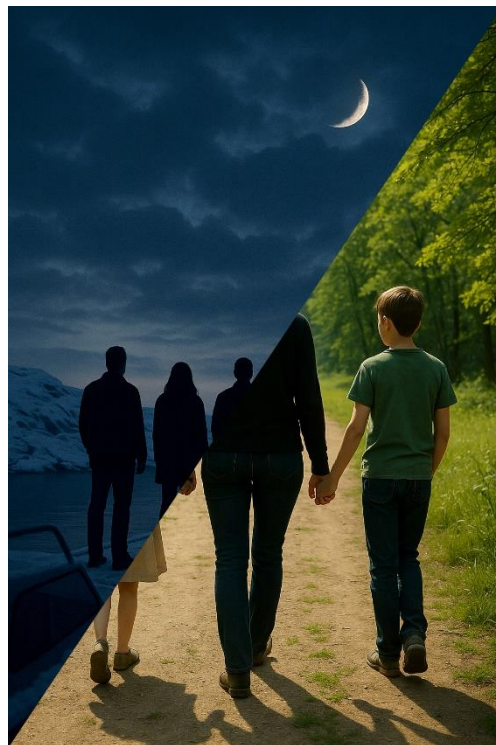
Contained scale

- One island, one night, one timeline as a closed system
- Primary locations: cabin interior, shore/cliffs, sauna/outbuilding
- Ensemble tension built through behaviour and shifting alliances

Back-to-back-potential

- Same ensemble, locations, and planning across two feature films
- A core crew with controlled night shoots and winter atmosphere
- Two deliveries from one cohesive, controlled footprint

The production model enables a concentrated shooting schedule, reduced resets, and maximum use of ensemble, location, and winter environment – without compromising the story's complexity.



Material

- Both screenplays completed (Swedish & English)
- [Full synopsis \(A–Z\) - Final Reunion](#)
- [Full synopsis \(A–Z\) - The Reckoning](#)
- U.S. cut of Film 1 available: No Way Back
- Novel adaptations in development
- (Initial interest expressed by Norstedts)
- [Lookbook for central role: Inger \(PDF\)](#)

Recognition

The projects have received international attention through selection in established screenplay competitions, confirming the material's viability beyond the Nordic market.

- *Final Reunion* – Finalist, Palm Springs International Screenplay Awards 2025
- *No Way Back (US Cut of Final Reunion)* – Nominee, Med Screen Arts Screenwriting Competition 2026
- *The Reckoning* – In selection, Santa Barbara Screenplay Awards 2026
- *The Reckoning* – In selection, Palm Springs International Screenplay Awards 2026

Selected feedback from international screenplay competitions

Independent third-party feedback highlighting emotional impact, craft execution, and market viability.

"Overall, the human ache sustains the genre machinery. That balance is rare and lovely. My kid's asleep and I'm tearing up over a cafeteria from 1989. That's a win."

– Palm Springs International Screenplay Awards, Jury Feedback (Finalist, 2025)

[View official feedback \(PDF\)](#)

"On a craft level, the script is cinematic and controlled."

– Santa Barbara Screenplay Awards, Jury Feedback (2026)

[View official feedback \(PDF\)](#)

"The core premise is commercial for a contained thriller."

– Palm Springs International Screenplay Awards, Jury Feedback (2026)

[View official feedback \(PDF\)](#)

About the writer

Staffan von Zeipel is a screenwriter focused on contained psychological thrillers and grounded, character-driven genre films. His stories centre on moral pressure, group dynamics, and the quiet violence of complicity – tension shaped by characters' choices, not by spectacle.

He is the creator of the Nordic noir duology [Final Reunion / The Reckoning](#), developed as a two-film structure designed for international co-production. His English-language slate also includes [The Nevada Battle](#).

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