

# MASKING

A Short Screenplay  
by Joel McElvaney



# LOGLINE

A withdrawn young woman with a facial birthmark discovers an unexpected joy and freedom when a global pandemic hits and everyone is masked. Then mask requirements end, testing her newfound happiness.



# SCRIPT SYNOPSIS

MINA, a young Asian-American woman whose facial birthmark has made her guarded and withdrawn, lives an isolated, unhappy life. She moves through her days trying to cover (or “mask”) what she and others see as a defect. Then Covid hits, everyone masks up, and her workplace goes remote. During lockdown, she experiences a friendlier world where people treat her like a normal person. She even goes on a date, but the man ghosts her after seeing her birthmark. When lockdown and masking end, she dreads returning to her previous sad existence, but at work KAYLA, a new employee, seeks her friendship and seems not to be bothered by her birthmark. Before Mina meets Kayla at a club, she chooses not to cover her birthmark with makeup--a significant choice that reveals her changing self-perception. At the end of the night, Kayla kisses Mina, marking the beginning of a romance and perhaps a happier life for Mina.

# KEY CHARACTERS



## MINA

A young woman whose facial birthmark has made her withdrawn and unhappy. She finds unexpected joy in her life when everyone is masked during Covid, and she doesn't have to worry about people's reactions to her.



## KAYLA

Mina's new colleague at work. Optimistic and friendly. She makes a genuine effort to get to know Mina.



# FILM TONE

- Quiet
- Realistic
- Romantic





# CONTACT

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