



## **The Duchess of Malfi**

Film script by Alice de Sousa

(Inspired by John Webster's stage play of the same title)

### **Synopsis**

Following the death of the media mogul - 'the Duke of Malfi', his daughter 'Duchess of Malfi' inherits the family's considerable fortune. Her elder brother, 'the Cardinal', is intent on securing control over the family's Empire, which he has all his life presumed himself to be the natural heir to.

Secretly, the Duchess of Malfi weds Antonio; who her father engaged before his death, to provide constant film footage of his off spring to a Council, also appointed by the Duke to over see his children's future management of the family's wealth, after he has died. The marriage between the Duchess and Antonio is concealed until her brothers employ Bosola, recently freed from prison for a crime which the Cardinal and not he committed, to spy on her.

Bosola secures evidence that the Duchess has had a child. This causes the Duchess' incestuously jealous twin brother Ferdinand, to violently confront her and threaten to kill the lover and their child. The Duchess, confident that her brothers will never harm her, sends Antonio with their child into hiding.

Meanwhile, the Cardinal orders Bosola to imprison the Duchess, psychologically torture and finally kill her. Following her murder, the remaining characters brutally turn on each other to avenge suffered wrongs and the plot resolves itself with a climatic blood bath and cinematically thrilling fire.

Whereas, the film concludes as intriguingly as it commenced; with the audience left wondering whether the recently repentant Bosola will continue his journey into the unknown with only his guilt and tortured thoughts for company; or whether he will actually fulfil his original purpose and kill the Duchess' and Antonio's child.

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