

# TILLIE

Screenplay by David Chester & Blake Pinter, © 2018

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## WRITER'S STATEMENT (David Chester)

When my co-writer Blake Pinter and I read TILLIE, a long forgotten American novel\*, we realized that the story — of an 1890's Pennsylvania Dutch girl struggling to pursue her dream of getting an education in a day and age where women were little more than a man's property — still reverberated today.

We loved Tillie's spirit, grit and determination and the unique characters that inhabited her world and her time in history. We felt compelled to write it to show how this courageous young girl with extremely limited options takes a chance to do the most powerful thing she could — educate herself — knowing that her tyrannical father would brutally punish her.

Although Tillie's story is from another era, it still deserves to be told now, because girls and women all over the world continue to be denied the opportunities to further themselves through education.

The vitality of the human spirit shone brightly in the book, and we hope and believe we have brought that vitality to our script. We are very driven to see this become a film.

\**"Tillie, a Mennonite Maid; A Story of the Pennsylvania Dutch"* by H.R. Martin, 1904