

HEADLIGHTS

Night Drive

Created by
Chrystal Giambastiani



Project Purpose

“Headlights” is a personal project intended to be a printed comic however, it can take other forms- illustrations, animation, etc.

Story Brief: After a recent loss, April Henderson takes a vacation hoping to clear her head until she meets a ghost who inadvertently binds himself to her soul. A 90s slice of life story about loss, love, and learning to let go.

“Night Drive” is an animated scene featuring the two main characters going on a “dreamy” night drive through a 90s suburban neighborhood.





Story Context

This scene revolves around a night drive cheering up the characters after a low point. It is the first time Luke, the ghost, rides in a convertible with the top down. He's never seen the world from this view before and we follow his perspective: looking up at the passing street lights against the twilight sky and for a moment, everything is peaceful with a glimmer of hope.



Visual Inspiration

“Dreamy” best describes this scene. Transition from sunset to midnight with blues, purples, and pinks for a twilight palette. Soft lens flares create moving elements. Environment parallaxing and blurred backgrounds add depth and atmosphere.





Musical Influences

The Synthwave and Retrowave genres are major musical influences. Capture nostalgic, dreamy, and melancholic vibes of the 80s/90s. “These are the days that we will return to one day in the future only in memories.” - The Midnight

The score should feature a melody and droning “humming” synths that carry throughout. A dreamy prelude, melodic chorus, moody bridge, second chorus, and melancholic outro are a good structure. Incorporate 80s echoing percussions, bassy droning and “worn out” synths, repetitive melodies, a slower BPM (85-110), and a “4, 5-note” (leit)motif.





Music Examples

Melancholic, Dreamy:

[The Midnight - Los Angeles](#) Main Inspiration, melancholic melody and outro- A3, E4, D4, A3, C#4

[Timecop1983 - Forever](#) Main Inspiration

[Kiile & Marvel83' - Forever You](#) “Sparkly” Prelude, droning synths underscore

[Ollie Wride & Sunglasses Kid - Stranger Love](#) 80s Percussion

[Tokyo \(Instrumental\)](#) Dreamy, twinkling chimes/bells

[Jon Bellion- 80's Films \(The Midnight Remix\)](#) Synth “Chimes”

[Timecop1983 - Lonely Nights](#) Melancholic, “worn out” synths

[Sunglasses Kid - Key To My Heart](#) Melancholic, too slow BPM

Upbeat, Bright:

[The Midnight - Sunset \(Official Audio\)](#) 5 note motif- C5, E5, F5, C6, G5

[Lightyears \(feat. September 87\)](#) Too upbeat but very 80s vibes



1 HEADLIGHTS

Thank you!