

XXXXXX by XXXXXXX

105 Pages

LOCATIONS(S): Colorado Mountainside; Los Angeles, California

BUDGET: Medium

CIRCA: Present

DATE: 2012

LOGLINE: When his adorable young fiancé Michelle, suffers terminal injuries from a car accident, audacious protagonist Mark embarks on a ruthless pursuit, driven by his vicious thirst for revenge.

CONTENT SUMMARY: Though the script is drenched with beaming potential to lift off into a high-action thrill ride, the expectations are tragically defeated by a dithering protagonist, willing to encounter only intermediate-stakes, and an irritating utterance of dialogue most-likely derived from a low budget TV-movie.

RECCOMENDATION: Consider:

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Premise:				X
Story Line:			X	
Structure:		X		
Characterization:			X	
Dialogue:				X

Script breakdown:

Audacious young MARK KAINAM, is just barely breaching his mid 20s, and beginning the initial ascent into adulthood. For a number of months out of the year, Mark works long, laborious, workdays as a fish cutter, off in the midst of the Colorado Mountains. Fortunately, Mark has dutifully given his time, and at the end of this season, will have rendered up enough savings, to settle down with his adorable fiancé MICHELLE, and eventually relocate to their fantasized Colorado Cabin.

Meanwhile, back on the California spectrum, a group of women cheer joyfully as a birthday celebration commences. It is for none other than the beautiful Michelle. As she anxiously unwraps her gifts, Michelle finds burrowed under a pile of boxes, two passes sent out from her soon to be husband, for a pre-wedding, tropical cruise. An opportunity for drinks relaxation, and plenty of romance. With a steamy vacation ahead, and their

much-anticipated “I do’s”, things are looking nowhere but up for this Cupid struck couple.

Before embarking on an evening of mayhem, Michelle slips quietly in her room and grieves over an aged Newspaper article, ‘*THEY NEVER HAD A CHANCE, DAUGHTER SURVIVES*’. Michelle’s subtle, heart-wrenching tears clearly render the assumption that these are her parents, whom she still strongly mourns. Eager to maintain optimism, Michelle cleans herself up, masks on a stoic smile, and prepares for a night on the town. Unfortunately, fate was not watching her back on this tragic evening.

The cheery girls plod through traffic, sharing laughs, singing to the radio without a care in the world. *VRROOOMMMMM!* A roaring motorcycle zooms to the right of Michelle’s car, when a questionably mental Harley rider attempts to impress the befuddled ladies by laying stomach flat on his fancy chrome bike. *SCREECH!* He barely prevents a savage fall, and zooms into the dusk. More chaos ensues as the rest of his grimy biker crew weave around Michelle’s car, wanting nothing more than to torment the innocent birthday crowd. They finally reach a red light, and the scumbag Harley hogs ride off, giving the distraught ladies a moment to breath. At not a moment to soon, the red light fades to green, and the first biker mysteriously appears from the blue. *CRASHH!*

A destroyed chrome motorcycle glides weightless through the air. The innocent girls are jerked in all directions, as glass shatters everywhere, and the car is demolished into shingles. The flying biker smashes onto the ground, staining a gory skid on the pavement. The world lies silent, as the impact of the crash bathes in carbon grey moonlight. The severely injured Harley hog finds the strength to limp over to the totaled car, where his fast decaying trophy awaits: Michelle. He looms in close.....

(Portions of story summary deleted to protect storylines)

..... dead body is carried away. The wise and observant, DETECTIVE KERR, shows his sorrow, and explains that John Cast has disappeared, leaving no trace of his whereabouts. With the love of his life ripped selfishly away from the world, and the evil culprit disappearing from existence, Mark has no desire to live.

A couple of days go by, and no one has heard from Mark. His concerned, mentoring, neighbor, JACK, finally convinces the landlord to whip out the master key. Inside, our defeated protagonist lies motionless in a blood red bathtub. The paramedics rush in rigorously to revive him.

Mark survives the senseless suicide attempt, and is being transported to the local loony house. Passing over a bridge, he notices a familiar handicapped individual, easing himself over the edge. He leaps out of the car, mistaken that this is John Bernard, his old high school buddy. The wheelchair slips, Mark grasps the edge right on time. With a better look at the face, Mark realizes that it is John Cast, his life literally dangling in Mark's hand.

John pleads for his life, no longer wanting to die. The recent pain suffered, suddenly flashes back to Mark, and he lets go of the chair, no regret.

The storm has finally subsided, and Mark rests comfortably in the beautiful Colorado mountainside. Detective Kerr reads a white picket sign reads, *Kainam*. A healthy, replenished Mark appears from inside. A brief conversation takes place, catching up on past events. Kerr leave Mark with one last observation. "An eye for an eye. A tooth for a tooth."

Comments:

The immediate thought to strike after reading this script is that it needs A LOT of work. Pages 1-10 unwraps a plot with the potential to embark on a variety of different paths: Cheerful romantic comedy, life altering drama, gut-wrenching horror, etc. Though after that, the story just plods along, with failed efforts to make any kind of movement. A major contributor to this is the messy premise. What was the true message read between the lines? Don't strike vengeance on your fiancé's crippler? Don't take life for granted? Dwelling anger leads to conflict? The script's definition is unclear, and the concept is not relatable.

Though the script gives immense description, and paints a beautiful picture, it reads too much like a novel. The immense detail, on the character's feelings, and why they feel this way, is not necessary. As long as the reader understands what is going on, than you can minimize the actions paragraph's to sentence fragments. Ultimately, only the actions, and reactions of the character's conflicts, will transmit to screen, not the background explaining why they feel a certain way.

The main problem found in the script, is the generic undertone. Nothing felt real! For starters, all of the random tie-ins, (the two strikingly similar handicapped John's) and

close calls (Mark escaping out of sight when chunked off the porch by John) are way too convenient. Each character has a cliché personality role, and seems as if they were inspired from a Hallmark channel original movie. (Anita: motherly African American, Jack: Aging Mentor) There is a difference in bending logic, and completely contradicting it; “Give me the same, only different” – Blake Snyder.

On the flipside, the script does have decent structure. From 1-10 we’re introduced to the characters and set up of the plot, but nowhere was the theme clearly stated, 10-25, sets up the remainder of the story. Page 13, the catalyst is shown, when Mark discovers what happens to Michelle. Up to page 30, we see Mark and Michelle struggle with their unfortunate circumstances, following the break into act two on page 33, when Mark discovers that John will most likely walk away from this a free man. Pages 33 – 55, we see Mark ponder on with his fate, and decide to find John. He travels to the mid city slums, and enters a grungy bar where he manages to get his ass beat by a group of bikers. Now we officially enter the midpoint.

Mark purchases all of the supplies needed to sever off some legs, and successfully conducts his revenge. The bad guys close in on page 68, when Mark is questioned by a couple of suspicious cops days later, and Michelle’s struggle in the real world as a handicapped. We break into act 3 with Michelle committing suicide, and Mark attempting to do the same. While being transported to a hospital, he spots John leaning over a bridge, and decides to take seal his fate once and for all. The final image is on page 103, reflecting the first few pages, when Mark is shown at the beautiful cabin, he and Michelle wanted to purchase before the accident. He seems happy, refreshed, and ready to move forward with his life.

Ultimately, the script has potential to voyage down a successful path, just a few immobilizing kinks need to be wrenched out. If the action is buffed up, the premise is clearly stated, a twist is added to the dialogue, and perhaps somewhere a sub story is inserted, the script will be well on its ascent to reaching its fullest potential.