



Team Philadelphia USA

Hey Jo,

Tuesday, March 14, 2017

Sentient USA – 3rd Draft review

Congrats on the improved draft.

There are significant improvements.

This review will focus you on the master issues with the work.

Formula

Kick-in with your A-story: **Your protagonist pursues their external goal based on their interpretation of the Day One event.** ([Reference – Formula guide](#)).

JJ has no interpretation of the day one event. Nor does he define a course of action except to see his girl. Even that does not present as a driving force in JJ.

Consider this example of a compelling case.

JJ believes the storm was X. He believes Y is coming soon and that he and his partner must get to safety. To do that he must get to his girl.

In the third draft, JJ believes the dam will break but this is not linked to the storm.

Note: The dam bust is a new threat coming but it should not be the compelling reason for JJ to race to his girl.

Kick-in with your B-story: Your nemesis, will interpret the event completely differently and frustrate the plans of the protagonist

Sentient USA features sequential or multiple adversaries.

For the threat of Sal to be real, he has to believe fanatically in the course of action required by all 'good men.'

For there to be genuine conflict between JJ and Sal, JJ must have a specific interpretation of what has happened and be compelled to act.

It is when those two worlds collide, we get sparks.

We do not have sparks.

Intro C through D stories, featuring A the most and D with the least screentime

Reese and Lena don't seem to have any perspective on what has happened. There is little compelling them to do anything.

Damian and Carolyn have a plan to release the animals but as per all the characters, a major event, an unseen event has taken place and there is no speculation whatsoever re the event that is compelling them.

The word speculation is inappropriate. Call it, 'resolute belief that compels action.'

Conclusion

The formula challenge must be addressed before we can progress to the rest of the review.

If you are like most writers, (we're all pretty much the same in this respect) as soon as you receive a review like this, you grab your BB gun and start chasing the dog. By now, the dog is so used to this he has learned the signs and has disappeared, (or is already buried in the backyard).

Let's work together to find solutions.

Step one: Think upon JJ's and Sal's resolute belief.

Sal is almost ready to go, just add some religion or whatever and he's ready to go to where we need to go. JJ needs work. That work will give him the spine we need to start rooting for him as the hero.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David". The letters are cursive and stylized, with a small flourish at the end.

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