

Sentient - USA pilot review

by

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REVIEW ON THE SENTIENT - USA PILOT

Overall rating: 3 stars out of 5

Brief summary:

A well-written and tight pilot of a story with good characters and interesting locations, but should be re-thought in terms of motivation and logic of some characters throughout the story.

Positive moments:

1. The story is interesting, the set of characters chosen is good. The introduction of the pilot is really impressive
2. The description of the storm and the way the characters intersect with it
3. Some locations are very interesting to explore (the prison), but it could have been used much better.
4. Some upcoming conflicts between the characters - Lena and Reeze (different social background) and JJ and Sal (the conflict about the prisoners)

Negative moments:

1. Some locations and storylines - the zoo keepers - probably could have worked, but their complete ignorance of the apocalypse and absence of men doesn't fit the story at all
2. Lack of logic in some character's behaviour - Sal is the best example. A guy who went shooting the prisoners-psychos the very next day when humanity has nearly gone is really weird. How did the prison get broken? It has thick stone walls and we see some of them are nearly destroyed. Hence, this storyline can be improved greatly, cause showing several dangerous prisoners and intersecting them with the other survivors (JJ) could be awesome.
3. Too many antagonists for the pilot - miners on the horse (look quite unusual, very unusual, considering the fact they just got back from the mines), Dallas - could be interesting, but introducing his evil nature is too quick and too inaccurate, Sal - could be a really great guy to explore, but should be changed a little and the militaries. As I understood the idea was to create an antagonist for each group of the survivors + some mutual enemy. Far too many bad guys for the pilot
4. Sentients are shown very very briefly. At least one scene demonstrating their alien nature could have been added

ACT 1

Scenes with Reese - good. From my POV he's the best character of this show. I would have add some reaction of him to the destroyed world. He could have seen some Sentients at the airport but they fled. Lena introduction is ok. The meeting of Lena and Reese occurred quite quick in terms of pages (despite it's been all day in the story). Some feeling of the passed time is needed.

JJ - the meeting with Sal and Sal's patient and cold behaviour looked really weird to me. His (Sal's) goals in the circumstances are very hard to understand. If keep the killing of a prisoner, would be better to make it from the short distance, like he sees JJ and starts talking and Sal shoots him. This storyline is the richest one of all, and i think it should be carefully revised. Cliffhanger in the end of Act 1 is in the right position.

ACT 2

The sympathy between Reese and Lena works too fast (from my POV). The idea that she's the country girl and knows a lot of things Reese doesn't is good and works in a proper way. Their discovery of the consequences of the storm works in the right way too.

The conflict between Sal and JJ is slightly emotionless. Sal doesn't give any proves of his words, nor he explains his intentions but to kill somehow survived prisoners. They should explore the prison instead and search for the survivors and stuff there, not in the wild nature.

ACT 3

The chemistry between Reese and Lena is ok. Their actions are ok, but see no goal at the moment. What are they going to do and where are they driving? Also, if Lena talks about evil nature of human beings in the moments of disaster, a scene where they get something to use as weapons to protect themselves should be added.

The Zoo group is quite unusual. I don't have much to say about them. It gives a lot of cool action scenes (wolves, pumas, other animals) but as characters i don't see them well at the moment.

ACT 4

The section with girl, JJ and miners is like from post-apocalypse thing. It's good but the behaviour of miners is beyond my reasons. What are they doing and what are they going to do? According to the dried blood on the axe they've killed or fought with Sentients already. It's good but not enough at the moment to act like they do. Jenny - JJ pair has big potential, but they should be slowed down a little bit. Another moment - JJ shoots several rounds into the air - first, as i got from the script, he has the revolver. Second, shooting in the air in the lack of ammo situation is a stupidity. This should be removed.

ACT 5

Arrival of the militaries is ok (but it seems in the majority of the pilots they will appear in the end)). The final reveal of Sentients is fine.

The meeting of Dallas, Reese, Lena, JJ and the girl is obvious. Dallas reveals himself as the villain too quickly. Should not be done this way. It's better for JJ to have suspicious about him and the others as the cliffhanger instead of watching him Dallas trying to cut Lena's throat.

VERDICT

From my POV, the story has interesting characters and potential storilines, but they should be revised in a proper way. The overall speed pf the script should be slowed down a little.