**Sentient USA**

**Overall 4 stars**

I definitely found the characters engaging (at least the ones we are supposed to like are immediately likeable! And the ones we are supposed to dislike – the `baddies` - are immediately dislikeable!)

I also found the pacing of the scenes generally appropriate and the points where we cut away seem to flow well with nice mini-cliff-hangers making us want to know what happens next. Generally, tension between scenes is good. Eg pages 56/57

CAROLYN (V.O.)

Damian!

Still distracted, he doesn’t pick up on the disconnect right

away.

DAMIAN

Carolyn! Hey, Carolyn!

CAROLYN (V.O.)

Damian!

DAMIAN

Come look at this!

CAROLYN (V.O.)

For Christ’s sake! Get down here

now!

He looks over the edge and peers down at Carolyn who appears

to be in a state of sheer panic.

EXT. FOREST TRAIL - DAY

JJ and Jenny are walking slowly along a narrow trail. They

stop and sit across from one another.

Also, I thought there were several instances where the setting of the mood and/or the introduction of some gentle humour was appropriate and convincing. Best shown in the relationship between Reese and Lena. Examples below…

**Page 30**

LENA

Well, go right ahead then. I’m

waiting here.

Reese hesitates. He swings the door open and starts out.

After a moment, he reappears.

REESE

Maybe it would appear less

threatening if a girl was next to

me.

Lena rolls her eyes and joins him.

**Page 32**

REESE

Where did you go to school?

LENA

**I’m between universities at the**

moment.

He picks up the sarcasm and returns to his meal.

**Page 43**

REESE

You have a gun?

LENA

No. I couldn’t find any.

Reese looks relieved. She gives him an odd look.

LENA (CONT’D)

That wasn’t supposed to be good

news. Let’s get going.

On the other hand, there were one or two occasions where weaknesses crept in. For example (Page 50) Syd`s ghost scene was not particularly convincing and felt anti-climactic. Also, at the very end where the army arrived and seemed to be taking charge did not feel authentic, though I cannot articulate quite why.

My final `immediate` thought is to question whether it follows the brief quite well enough. I am left with the feeling that it is not clear who the main protagonist is meant to be or will turn out to be. It may be that JJ will turn out to be the hero who saves the day, but not sure if he has been set up clearly enough to be the main protagonist (that may not be a bad thing if it is to become an ensemble piece – perhaps `casting` will show us he`s the main man if it is a `star` playing the part, though Game of Thrones apparently has succeeded partly by killing off main characters earlier than expected?!)

**Typos**

I wasn`t looking out for typos and may well have missed some, but thought it may be helpful to mention the ones I did see…..

Intro – ? “own” not “on” – missing “w”

P12 …the plane wreck – mssing “t”

P45 > “She shakes her.” … I presume the word “head” is missing!?