

## Sentient Australia – Draft Two – Review questions

Help review the work by commenting on or answering these questions.

1. Would you like to see this on screen? YES
2. What elements are working and what's not ALL WORKING JUST A BIT CONFUSING ON THE PAGE AT ONE POINT WHEN A LOT OF NEW CHARACTERS APPEAR AT THE BASE
3. Comment on craft FINE
  - Structure FINE
  - Theme of leadership NOT OVERT BUT GROUNDWORK PROBABLY THERE OR FUTURE EPISODES
  - Characters, unique, clear in your mind? Motivated? Authentic or lacking in character depth? ALL GOOD EXCEPT AS ABOVE A BUNCH OF IRATE MILITARY PERSONNEL WERE HARD TO DISTINGUISH ON FIRST READ
  - The World GOOD
  - Originality GOOD
  - Dialogue GOOD
1. Comment on the use of withholding information. The Author withholds information and answers but then provides those solutions later. Does this work for you? IT FEELS LIKE A MYSTERY
4. The conflict – Is it engaging? WHEN CLEAR, YES
5. The survivors do not know this is an alien invasion until the end. Does this make them look stupid? Does the reader switch off from the story because they would rather just get straight to the alien conflict? NO
6. Are there cliché elements? If so, what? MAYBE THE MILITARY ETHOS BEHAVIOUR MINDSET FEELS A BIT OVER FAMILIAR
7. After reading the whole script, how would you describe the character of Dr. Amon Teicher? What do you know about him? CRAFTY CALCULATING MYSTERIOUS KNOWS MORE THAN LET N, LOOKING AFTER NUMBER ONE BUT NOT EVIL
8. Should the Commodore follow through to pursue Lt. Commander Dowd at the end of the story? Does he lose his sting because he goes to rescue his dying son? MAYBE BT WE ASSUME THAT CONFLICT WILL BE REJOINED LATER?
9. The Lt. Aiden Frank line. Aiden Frank is Lt. Commander Dowd's Ghost. He is Frank's mentor just like Admiral Frank was his. He dies under the care of Dowd. He takes his own life. This story is fed, NON-LINEAR into the timeline. It takes us away from the world of the red storm and falling ash. It tells us of Dowd's history and his commitment to the Admiral. It establishes Dowd's military family. It allows the Commodore to use it to pursue his grudge. It is a central tenant of the work. That said, it may not work. As the reader, were you willing to take that journey and can you see a bigger picture evolving OR was it distracting, of little interest etc? TOO EARLY TO BE OF REAL INTEREST BUT WE ASSUME THERES MORE TO COME ABOUT ALL THAT
10. Navy talk – The Author DE-Jargoned the work for easy reading. Does that take away from the authenticity of a military Sci-fi? NO

11. The Author sells the Biological warfare angle hard hoping the 'magic' of storytelling doesn't allow the reader to think too much about how this being traditional biological warfare is a ridiculous proposition. Did you find yourself questioning this during the read or were you happy to take the journey and didn't care about the science? IT SEEMED AN UNAVOIDABLE CONSIDERATION BUT THERE WAS OBVIOUSLY MORE TO WHAT WAS GOING ON. WE KNOW IT ALIENS AND THEY SHOULD KNOW BIO WARS DONT INVOLVE WEIRD STORMS SO MAYBE THERE SHOULD BE A BIT OF 'YEAH BUT" IN VERY BIO WAR DISCUSSION.