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?
2. What elements are working and what’s not
3. Comment on craft
* Structure
* Theme of leadership
* Characters, unique, clear in your mind? Motivated? Authentic or lacking in character depth?
* The World
* Originality
* Dialogue
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?
2. The conflict – Is it engaging?
3. 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?
4. Are there cliché elements? If so, what?
5. After reading the whole script, how would you describe the character of Dr. Amon Teicher? What do you know about him?
6. 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?
7. 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?
8. Navy talk – The Author DE-Jargoned the work for easy reading. Does that take away from the authenticity of a military Sci-fi?
9. 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?