

## **Sentient Australia review – By Joseph DiFrancesco**

**Wednesday, 21 August 2019**

### **Hook**

Opens well with great pace and energy. However, in my opinion, showing a Sentient being up front is a risk. Half of your audience cannot wait to see your “monster.” If its visual is not up to expectations, you will lose half of them right off. Keep that card up your sleeve for a while.

### **ACT I**

Watch lines like this: (there are many)

*Teicher carries the specimen like he was carrying the most dangerous biological weapon ever created, which it is.*

Only write what you can see. Example: *He carries the specimen as if it were a ticking time bomb.*

I like Heidi but the soliloquies are a bit overdone. Consider giving her a companion to bounce off of earlier on.

### **ACT II**

Dowd and Teicher’s interaction is wrought with tension, unspoken mistrust and animosity. Really works well.

### **FLASHBACKS**

Perhaps too many?

### **ACT III et al**

All dialogue is tight, strong and realistic throughout!

### **ACT IV, V and IN CLOSING**

Not buying the “Acolyte.” Confusing to me. Will confuse audience. Either not yet, or not at all.

Overall the human infighting seems to usurp the actual alien threat. There is a lack of “Who am I rooting for here?” There’s no team. Everyone appears to be an island already.

\*Character development has overrun plot development.

Plot should come first, peppered with interesting character basics with room to grow. Don't answer all the questions. You have all season to draw these guys out. Too much exposition up front bogs down actual Sentient story. You don't want it to read like a soap. Should be more like a shot to the gut.

All in all, a tremendous accomplishment in storytelling!!

Joe