

Ans 1. Yes, the visuals are strong, compelling and undeniable. Seeing the Sentient taking a life-form for the first time was really amazing, wonderful and spectacular to behold.

Ans 2. My suggestion: How about China and North Korea bonding and the USA feels uncomfortable with their ties. The US President tries to warn off the Chinese Premier; otherwise they would be forced to place an embargo on China. Refusing to comply with the US, the President imposes strict measures to the Chinese in America and refusing to grant Visas to the Chinese, thus cutting off both economic and diplomatic ties.

AND

To further escalate the matter, a Chinese ship alongside the Pacific is accidentally hit by an American testing missile. Furious about the incident, the Premier sees that as an act of war despite the US President tendering an apology, he rallies and prepares his military for war. This eventually never happened.

Note: Don't know if you could make a thing out of it Dave.

Ans 3. I think the change to a female character and rivalry, Commodore Freisler is a unique way of presenting a strong, formidable female antagonist rivaling against the male protagonist Lt. Dowd. And this particular line "...Can't tell if they want to kill each other, fuck each other or both" got me looking at the duo from another angle as if there is something underneath the surface each wanted from each other but couldn't have it and now it has taken a form of superiority, betrayal, hatred, angst etc.

Ans 4. That was very nice. The transition/contrast/fall/rise of Dowd creates a rhythmic flow, tempo and pacing from the Teaser Act to Act 1. Yes, it worked.

Act 5. I am suggesting we don't see him call out for help but rather helpless and lost in wonderment with everything around him still trying to figure it out.

Act 6. Sure! It was intense, gripping and scary for the visual.

Act 7. Yeah! That underlines and explains his motivation, wheeling the story as we follow him for this expedition. Very okay!

Act 8. Sure, she's a fascinating character; tough, sleek and determined. Still have to watch out for her in subsequent episodes.

Act 9. Action fuels a story such as Sentient. Each moment in each scene contains action. This makes it better than the previous draft. I as a reader am thrilled. I was on the edge.

Act 10. I wouldn't know for other readers, but personally. I got it. It depicted a sub-textual diagnosis not just on the Vice Admiral J. Deakin Frank but on the scene itself and everyone in it. The building up of a once formidable and cocky Admiral reduced to a disheveled old-man going psycho. Through the constant banging of his shoe on the door, we feel for him.

ACT 11. Yes, the interaction between Dowd and Hunt worked. How they choose to address each archetypically to me generates a sense of humour, comic reliefs and it was aptly utilized.

ACT 12. Well, partially I felt a bit confused given that I am familiar with the previous draft but after a second read/thought I came to understand why the author chose to portrayed them at that particular scene in the pilot almost building to a climax, so that through their individual characters, subsequent episodes will be spin around them more elaborately giving depth to the story.