



REVIEW OF SENTIENT- UK- DRAFT #1 PILOT

Name of Reviewer: Ebuka Okparauzoma

Date: 19th Nov, 2019

Name of Author: Geoff Dupuy-Holder

No of Pages: 65

Story rate: 5

-
- The intro- TEASER ACT is not just captivating but is compelling, raveling and neurotic as well. The building up of the life-form arrival. The elements put together – rising winds, shaky trees, red haze, etc. then followed by the double homicide by JACK amidst the horrors.
 - The intensity is well articulated and personally got me on edge. Strong pace, tempo and mood blended.
 - Proceeding to ACT 1, Marley and Dillon waking up from their experiences to witness an entire world red lighted, isolated and terrifying. Both suffering from pains, bleeding from their faces – ears, noses, mouths etc. offers the reader a horrific picture of what not is to be expected and the fear of the unknown.
 - Not excluding the Pile of dead bodies.
 - The EMP effects activated: all gadgets affected i.e. phones, computers, cars, bikes, switches etc. further sets the story's tone.
 - **Note: the blood flowing out from the survivors at the slightest recovery from the event, is it supposed to be a fresh or dried, congealed, stained and droplets?** There should be consistency.
 - Pg. 15, Re Power Station – is it Gavin working away or “walking?” a typos I presumed.

- Act 1 mostly of Marley's flashbacks exposes more of who she used to be before the incident - self-destructive, sturdy, dubious, smart (through the people that came in contact with her or she came in contact with) now what is left with some are ashes, memories. I find it intriguing but save some part of the revelation for subsequent episodes. Don't show us all about her previous past.
- Her goals are well defined: find the mum and dad, find Sam, find who is in charge and know what happened – thus we're prepared to journey with Marley as far as she can go. Plays the role of a big sister to Dillon. Shielding and sheltering her. Marley's character arc is concise and excellent.
- ACT 2 intro to new survivors with Marley bumping in on Fitz, the new emerged conflicts between the characters in the hospital ward spin the story a bit more, building up faction, tension and action on either side. Over agreeing or disagreeing and who's in charge or control.
- ACT3 Dillon's interpretation of her sister as a killer in her drooling pad exposes us with the fact that all these while, she is not with her sister. Her silence, lack of commitment, faith, and trust for her sister makes her character a bit intrigued and beguiled and somebody to watch out for. Give her character a greater goal and she will come out stronger and sinister.
- Everyone sees Marley as bad, evil except for Sam. I am eager to know what's with Sam since after the incident.
- ACT 4 takes in another spin with intro to CHARLIE, the religious tout. With his family. This gives the story another fresh and dazzling direction.
- Pg 49 intro to LAINE (30s) and her kids ALF (7) and ZETA (9). Alf cowers in his mother's arms. Followed by Alf's dialogue. Then u said Maggie hugs the children. Is Lanie different from Maggie? I think there is an error. Correct it.
- Pg 52. Fourth line, "Eventually, only Bock and Will are lift. Do you mean to say "left?"
- In conclusion I like the air of suspense filled in the story. It keeps the reader engaged and eager to know what's next.
- There are lots of clues that seem interesting for the reader to uncover/discover. I personally as the reader find it mind-blowing at the same time puzzling.
- The author did a great job! Thumbs up Geoff.

SUGGESTIONS

- ✓ I admire and cherish the story from the end to the start; however we did not get to see the first look of the sentient. That's missing. Ok, sorry I think I saw that at the ending of ACT 5. But it wasn't terrifying or catchy. I still see the same JACK from the beginning trying to kill Marley nothing exceptional.
- ✓ I suggest we should have the first appearance if not at the beginning then someplace between middle and end and it should appear in a way that's mesmerizing, horrific and ghostly then vanishes.

- ✓ If possible, let Marley be the first to be aware of them. Acknowledge their presence. Maybe through the mother AMY or father JACK now turned Sentient. If it is JACK, there is no need him holding a shotgun, Sentient don't hold weapon. Have you forgotten? Go research more about them, **"Everything you need to know about the alien life form" on the site.** And he shouldn't jet at her instantly. Even if there's going to be an attack, let it come later not in this pilot. Let's leave the vacuum.
- ✓ The story of Marley and Jack (Sentient) as a matter of fact if I am the author wouldn't make Jack the enemy but an ally. It will intensify father and daughter's conflict then a later reconciliation that might led to Jack dying to save Marley that's just an iceberg for in/later episodes.
- ✓ More of the new characters or some scenes should play-out in later episodes; it's making the story kind of busy, teeming and cramped. You can take a cue from the draft #3 of the Australia Pilot.
- ✓ It will make the story not to be overloaded but simple, spontaneous and fluidic.
- ✓ So far, so good, all I can get is that everyone is running away from the Radioactivity/radiation about to happen than stay true to finding what really happened. And that's not the primary goal given the Story formula guide.
- ✓ At this point I suggest the author to overhaul the story. Placing more priority on what has happened, the arrival of the life forms, the manifestation of itself or themselves (Sentient), the doubts/uncertainties arguably among the survivors with each to misunderstand, speculate and interpret the incident differently. Even though the radioactivity is equally an imminent danger. Better still; let's see it underplay or never happened but misinformed news.