

## Sentient pilot – Hugh O'Brien review

- I think starting with ACT 1 would work better... the hero waking up in the RCC works really well (ie: 28 days later) we could go back from here in flash-back to tell the story of the mine/diving incident that lead us here

1. Yes the picture is clear but there is a lot of unseen body language and non-verbal communication that will need to be worked out between the actors and director, as in the military (between operators) a lot of stuff is either 'unsaid' or just assumed due to shared knowledge, eg: a look here or there, a raised eyebrow, short hand conversation in laconic/slang/colloquial language

2. I have two good ideas about the US/china "flash point"

1) the Chinese are building 'sand islands' in the south china sea in order to claim the zone as theirs and the US is constantly sending ships in there to disrupt the situation. It's a real world issue between the two countries that could conceivably result in mines being laid by the Chinese

2) The other idea is better, as it involves Australian forces. I'm sure you are aware that Australia and the USA have a thing called the ANZUS treaty, that effectively means we are joined at the hip for any conflicts that arise, we fight their wars and they ours. So, a very plausible way for Australia to be involved in a conflict between china and America is if the current cold war between Indonesia and Australia flared up.

This could happen because Australia has controversial oil and gas rights in the East Timor sea (its part of the reason for our involvement in the war there) it's been a contentious issue for years.... East Timor (and by extension Indonesia) lays claim to this area which is the reason some say they supported the rebels in East Timor... if it were to escalate, china would take their side (Indonesia) and America our side.... Indonesia with China's help, could lay mines to deny us access to this area. This is one of the only ways I see of a conflict between china and America (that involves sea mines) and involves us, could happen.

3. I think her being a woman (and his ex) works well... her being the senior officer is wiser because that makes the power dynamic work on a professional and private level as well as gives them legitimate tension on both levels
4. As I mentioned I think we should open with the 'wake in fright' of him in the recompression chamber as his confusion matches that of the audience and the feeling of "what's going on!"
5. He should call for help in more casual way when using voice: eg: "hey! Anybody there?... hey!" then call for help via any comms system in a more formal way using RAY-TEL which is like official radio speak eg: "bravo delta this is eight two, comms check.. how do you read?" if radio not working he would try the phones or the personal radio (motoroller) attached to each person. This is the comms system you have on your kit to talk to your own team
6. Yes... but I would even have the alien less visible.. it darts past a corridor out of sight or disappears around a corner or can be seen moving out of frame into the darkness ie: the first ALIEN/PREDATOR movies
7. No, not really... it seems too specific an objective at this stage.... His first priority would be to get himself sorted (getting clothes weapons radio etc etc), then find out what's going on via radio, phone, internet, looking around... then

as he finds people they would start looking after each other... only when they have an idea of what's happened would they come up with a plan to save other people who they have no knowledge of at this point

8. I like this plot point... a person who wants to be in the hero's unit prior to the invasion and now because of said invasion she will never get that chance.. so in the action of the story going forward she ends up proving to the hero that she would have made it into the unit given the chance
9. I just didn't quite understand the scene where they arrive at the 'dive pool' and see an alien.. then pause... then someone throws a flash bang and they start shooting?????
10. Yeh I found this good... it escalates well..... it will be down to good editing to make it work.... But the characters motivation seems right to me.... There would be a slight power struggle as to who's in command and what the group will do etc etc
11. Its totally fine!!! Amongst mates in the military way worse shit gets said then this... it's completely realistic to be giving each other a hard time and saying the worst shit to each other.... That's how it go's
12. Yes I agree... a few too many characters... maybe meeting two on the beach at this stage... you need people to kill along the way... so you have to add some... after one or two die.. the intro some more

#### Notes:

- What dive gear are they diving on: this will affect their communication and dive procedures... if they are diving on a known mine contact, found by a mine hunter.. they would be diving on a nitrox re-breather called an A5800, there are no comms between diver or the surface... it's all done with 'rope signals' (I can explain further)
- Where about's is the mine found and why was the mine hunter searching for it.. are we in a conflict? Or just found it by luck whilst doing exercises?
- Note: any explosion or overpressure (even a tiny one) would kill a diver very easily
- Comms chatter needs to be more accurate to how commercial divers and CD's talk on comms..... they would only have comms to the surface and to each other if they were on helmets (MK 17, MK18) for example... eg: "topside, diver one" "diver one, topside, send"
- We use meters not fathoms
- Normally AB's, LS's dive in the water and the PO/CPO run the dive on the panel and comms on top side.. the officers just oversea the whole plan.... But I guess if the admiral wants the LT to get eyes on the device... then maybe.. ha ha
- Where about's is the mine and the dive site?? Is it an old mine from the war? If so. It would be Japanese not Chinese... or if the Chinese have just laid it recently... how did they manage that and why?
- Surface decompression: (using and chamber) this is very rarely done... it can be planned as part of a dive, where you do your dive underwater breathing a certain gas mix and at a certain depth for a certain time... then you do no 'in-water' deco... but come straight to the surface and get put in chamber where you get 'blown down' to and equivalent depth and breath pure O2 in order to decompress.... Or are you saying that he had to be brought up fast due to the mine actuating? In which case, he is doing a medical chamber dive to prevent the bends,
- This brings us to another point.... Did he finish his deco? Or did the incident happen mid treatment and the underwater medicine staff brought him to the surface in the chamber before his time.... Presumably so... as he can get the door open... if he has finished his deco he would be in a world of hurt!

- Also, who doesn't get zapped by aliens, who gets zapped to become undead and who gets vaporised? It seems a bit arbitrary?
- Pg 35 "every hardbodied" not something they would say. A better line would be: "Every meat eater" (that's SEAL slang for killer)  
"Every underwater basket weaver" what the navy calls CD's as crazy people are called 'basket weavers'  
"Every web-footed door kicker" (my favourite) as that's what they called us
- When the group is clearing rooms the divers would know how to do this like a SWAT team etc etc.... they would need to give a quick brief to the normal navy people on how to do this.. this type of quick brief is called 'a solders 5'.... I can show the actors how to move and clear rooms how to hold weapons and what to say
- Why are the coxswains trying to arrest Dowd in an apocalypse? Priorities..

conclusion:

- It's all very good.... Just needs the dialogue to be a bit more blue collar
- The look of the kitt and uniforms will need to be on point (more than likely a slight mis-match of stuff ie: various cam configurations etc etc... like you see private military contractors wear
- The hero's goals need to be defined a little more.... Is he trying to save himself, his CD team mates, any navy people, any civilian, his family? Or is he just trying to find out what happened before he gets to a main goal?
- We need to establish (if not their full motive) at least a basic immediate intention of the alien's....
- Are they a physical threat straight away ie: on sight.
- Are they a threat to the planet but are benign when encountered.
- What are their abilities and how does that effect our use of human weapons? Can we just shoot them?
- The mine was at garden island? If an enemy wanted to mine an area to prevent Australia's navy from deploying it more than likely would just be outs north head where the shelf drops of half way (as the crow fly's) between manly and Watsons bay.
- You seem to have the dive school at HMAS Penguin (Balmoral) and AUSCDT1 in the same place... 'TEAM ONE' is at HMAS waterhen in Waverton.
- The weapons will need to be set up right, ie: if fighting at night, the will need night aiming devices called PEQ-2 and NVG's to see....
- The conflict between the naval COXSWAIN and the CD's is perfect... as that exists in real life.... When the diver disarms the MP is perfect.. as that's what would happen!
- Divers would be wearing the green DCPU in multicam.. and normal navy would have blue camo on.... I can show you how their body armour and webbing would be set up