SCREENCRAFT

Gunfire Reef by Dennis F Stevens	Contest: ScreenCraft Action & Adventure Screenplay Competition (2021) Package: Entry with Feedback Date: 08/26/2020 Page Count: 129 Genre: Adventure Analyst: 89865 Rating: N/A Score: 7.70/10

CATEGORY	SCORE
Voice	8.00/10
Concept	9.50/10
Story	9.00/10
Structure	9.00/10
Characters	6.00/10
Dialogue	5.00/10
Genre Conventions	7.50/10
Final Score	7.70/10

Logline

A former conman hiding from Interpol at a tropical Island is faced with the past when his treach- erous ex-partner tries to kill him while looking for a long-lost treasure.

Feedback

"Gunfire Reef" is a compelling story that stands out with its complex plot and unique concept. The characters are another one of its chief strengths, and this is primarily because Harry Fletcher makes for an excellent protagonist. He provides us with a clear and consistent perspective throughout the narrative. At the same time, he has a clear objective in the story, and he actively pursues it while he adequately adapts to overcome the obstacles he faces on his way.

As a wanted man, living under the protection of the Isle of Mauritius' non extradition laws, the last thing Harry wants is to get involved in his ex-partner's treasure hunt scheme; as to do so could jeopardize his extradition status. But once his ex-partner's hired thugs show up on the Isle and charter his fishing boat in an attempt to find the treasure Harry, like it or not, has no choice but to play the hand he is dealt.

The rest of the cast have evident archetypal functions, like Sherry as the ever-changing shadow, and their presence in the narrative is significant. The cast is also dimensional and has depth, and because if this, there is an emotional response when the loyal Chubby nearly faces death.

The plot is bulletproof. The story boils down to a dingle dramatic question, and it helps the premise rise to the surface, as we see in the opening sequence. The conflict here is also fore-shadowed very well when we see Guthrie's gun. This makes the conflict of the story steadily ris- ing, rather than drastic and abrupt, which helps the dramatic moments to be climactically impact- ful. One element of the story where this is done successfully is when we find out that Sherry is not who she claims to be but actually a police woman. The clues are subtle and easy to miss but there are enough of them to give pause. For instance, Sherry is supposed to be a good cook but this Sherry is not. She's supposed to be a skilled underwater diver but doesn't recognize fire coral. Although we're not made aware until later in the story, Harry picked up on these clues from the get-go and makes adjustments to force the fake Sherry and her supposed father into revealing themselves as police officers out to arrest Harry for a gold heist that occurred many years ago.

Another strong suit of the plot is that the character's decisions are organic to their personas and justified for the audience,

The story is overall well-structured as it follows the classic three-act paradigm. The crucial turning points are all present and correctly timed, while the pace is consistent, and there are not many scenes that pause the story from its progression.

Final Thoughts

On the submission form the number of script pages is listed as 129. The version I read was copyrighted in 1991 and contained only 123 pages; a far more manageable length, probably a typo. Even though written 29 years ago, the material holds up as if written yesterday.

While some of the dialogue is spot on, especially that of Chubby, Angelo, Guthrie and Materson, what keeps "Gunfire Reef" from becoming the near perfect screenplay is that many of the remaining characters all sound alike. Instead of relying upon the actors to establish their character's personalities, a dialogue polish giving each main character an individual voice would go a long way in achieving a near perfect score.

Nevertheless, a good read and I would encourage you to continue developing this project.

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