



SEAN DALE

COVERAGE REPORT

Title: Preacher

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Logline: A struggling Pastor, searching to find the meaning in her work, wrestles with the impending collapse of her personal and professional relationships.

Recommendation: Recommend Consider Pass

Comments Summary: The story's main protagonist is a compelling character and her journey is clear, however the Narrator could be less present or cut and the other characters developed more.

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Needs Work
Premise			X	
Storyline			X	
Characterization				X
Dialogue			X	
Structure				X
Writing			X	
Originality		X		

STORY/SYNOPSIS:

Pastor SAM JOHNSON (late 20s) in PREACHER is the Interim Senior Pastor of the struggling Greenleaf Community Church. The NARRATOR, an omnipresent voice or presence, explains Sam's current predicament with her recent promotion.

Sam receives voicemail notifications from her husband JOSH (30s), elderly church member SISTER CRUMP (70s), worship leader ZACH, a concerned MOTHER, and the wealthy patron MR. RICHARD (60s). She decides to ignore the messages and go about her business, but she is interrupted by a phone call from Mr. Richard, who threatens to withdraw his membership if things don't go his way.

Board member ELDER BRIAN calls Sam and informs her about the complaints he received about her last sermon. Elder Brian asks if she is overwhelmed and informs Sam that soon-to-be-baptized JEFF might have cold feet. The next day, she gets a call from an old "friend," BEVERLY, reminding her about their livestream debate, which irritates Sam. Josh calls Sam and reveals that he read her private journal which includes a confession about her suicidal ideations. They argue but Josh decides to leave her.

After several moments of reflection, worship leader CASSIDY (30s) calls her complaining about Zach. Sam tries to provide a solution to appease both sides, but Cassidy ultimately asserts that her expert opinion is best and hangs up. On the way back to her office, she discovers an exclusive group chat amongst the church board members. To her horror, various members express their distaste for Sam and Elder Brian eventually agrees to oust Sam from leadership.

Pulling herself away from the group chat, Sam continues her work, even declining another call from Sister Crump. But moments later another call from Jeff breaks her flow. He expresses to Sam that he changed his mind about being baptized, accusing Sam of being fake and unavailable. Sam explains her reason for being absent, and Jeff, feeling immediately guilty for having jumped to conclusions, has a change of heart.

An hour later, Sam engages in the heated livestream debate with Beverly, but is blindsided by personal questions, leaving her reeling. Sam lays on one of the pews in the sanctuary, balled up in the fetal position. She's an emotional mess. In a moment of despair, she cries out to her late father, and eventually turns her focus and frustration toward God. Moments later a representative from Christway Community Church FIN GARCIA, lifts Sam's spirits by telling her that the opportunity is hers to lose.

Later that evening, praise team member DANNY (20s) calls and informs Sam that Sister Crump has passed away. Taken aback, she accidentally drops her phone in the pool. Sam, defeated, immerses her whole body in the baptismal pool. She hears a muffled voice and after reemerging from the water, she hears the Narrator say, "And then, Sam remembered, grace..." Her phone rings with two notifications: a text from Fin about the interview and a call from Josh. She chooses Josh.

The Narrator then highlights all of Sam's incredible life achievements. She drains the water in the baptismal pool, turns off all the church lights, and leaves in a renewed state of mind.

COMMENTS:

Present day Religious Dramedy, *PREACHER*, follows a day in the life of Interim Senior Pastor of Greenleaf Community Church, Sam Johnson. Yet on this day, it seems like the life she is trying to build is collapsing.

The script is broken down into ten chapters all conveniently set in the same location. Sam's internal flaws are nicely introduced within the first couple pages. Throughout the script she is stretched more and more thin and there is a continuous undercurrent of her being overwhelmed.

The story has sufficient conflict for Sam to overcome. Her quirky humor and conflict resolution make for some delightfully cringeworthy conversations. Her tendency to prioritize work before family creates a believability in the tension between her and her husband Josh. Her use of pet names nicely illustrates her denial about the state of their marriage.

Choosing to make Sam a female presenting character creates relatability to the challenges she faces throughout the story, and sets up the conflict between Mr. Richard and Sam. The writer creates a clear, unlikable villain in Richards which at times contrasts well with the benevolence of Elder Brian.

Fun and relatable subplots are interlaced throughout the script especially with her quirky Praise and Worship team. They provide some quippy conversations that add levity to the story. These moments allow us to see Sam's humorous approach to stressful situations. There is a funny moment where she envisions herself as the Late-Night host of her own TV show, providing amusing commentary about her collapsing life. Sam's need to overcome the legacy of her father also works very well.

This story would benefit from a live read. The actors can give valuable insight into playing the characters, moments where they may have been confused and/or able to guess what is coming next. Bringing actors together to read the screenplay can be an invaluable experience for everyone.

Formatting and scene transitions throughout the script need work. Proper formatting will help the producers and the writer have a clear idea how long the actual film will be. Details like locations, capitalized names, brief character descriptions on their first introduction, and reconciling all typos will show producers that there was an attention to detail when writing this script. Lastly, there were minor inconsistencies in scenes 29 & 30 where there was a name change from Josh to "HUSBAND."

Oftentimes, it was unclear as to who was helping Sam along her journey. Although there is a beautiful glimpse of this support in Elder Brian, it is still inconsistent and unclear what his function is. Although there are moments of strong dialogue, some subplots and characters detract from the overall story i.e., Narrator and Linda. Certain

scenes slowed the momentum making dialogue feel forced and awkward. This led to the ending feeling a bit rushed and storylines resolved in haste.

Tension between Sam and Josh needs a bit more justification. Josh's is often repetitive and his frustration toward her at times seemed unbelievable which made him unrelatable. It is a good exercise to highlight just that character's lines and read them out loud to determine how many times the character repeats different versions of the same sentiment.

Although the script has a compelling protagonist and interesting conflict, the storyline has some revisions to consider for good storytelling. Moreover, formatting and grammatical errors need to be fixed before consideration of this script.