

THE SURFSTAR

An original screenplay by Douglas Page

Synopsis:

Hawaii surfer Tom Clark and his longtime surf buddy Jack Cole (now in their 60s), watch the waves at the north shore's iconic Banzai Pipeline as 75 surfers crowd the lineup. They reminisce about their youth – and flashback to a perfect day in the '70s when they surfed here with just a few friends. At that time, Tom was a super-hot young surfer who was considering going pro – but chose instead a career and family.

As they watch the surfing from the beach, Jack proposes a novel idea to Tom (still a hot surfer in great shape) that he enter that upcoming Pipeline Open Contest for the opportunity to surf Pipeline again with only 3 other guys. After first rejecting the idea, Tom finally caves-in to Jack's prodding and enters the qualifying event.

To everyone's amazement, Tom wins the qualifying event to secure the wildcard slot in the main Pipeline Open event, where he competes against top pro surfers young enough to be his grandsons.

When Tom's remarkable story is covered by the local TV news and then goes viral online, reporters and media correspondents from around the world descend upon the contest venue – all clamoring for an interview with the latest media sensation, Tom Clark.

That flashback day in the 70's was also the day Tom met his future wife, Sydney, who was killed 5 years ago by a drunk driver. Tom wonders if he'll ever find love again or if he'll spend the rest of his life alone. Jack encourages him to try online dating, but Tom is skeptical. When his online dates do not go well, his belief that he'll never find love again is confirmed.

At the same time, 5,000 miles away in New York, Jennifer Stone, a beautiful writer for Aging Well Magazine, longs for a family. She is fed up with sleazy, cheating men and the NYC rat-race. When she tells her editor she's ready to quit, he offers her an assignment to go to Hawaii and cover Tom's amazing story.

Early in the Pipeline Open, Tom surfs against rising star and media sensation, Joey Lubrano. Joey easily wins the heat. Tom comes in 2nd and also advances. When all the media attention focuses on Tom and Joey is ignored, Joey's mafioso father, Joseph, confronts Tom and tries to bribe him to quit. When Tom refuses, Joseph sends his thugs to 'convince' Tom. But, with help from his martial-arts neighbors, the thugs are quickly subdued.

As the contest continues, Tom draws upon his vast 50 years of surfing experience and wave knowledge, and uncanny luck, to avoid elimination all the way through to the quarterfinals.

Between heats, Tom does multiple media interviews. in which he elaborates his profound insights on life, surfing and aging. In his interview with Jennifer, she is awed by his charisma and wisdom, and a powerful attraction between them begins. He invites her to a beach party that evening, but she is reluctant, citing the 5,000 miles between them and their very different lives.

The beach party is in full swing around a blazing bonfire in the full moonlight – when Jennifer shows up – looking stunning. She connects with Tom and their romance ignites. Tom asks her to stay, but she is leaving the next morning to fly back to her life in New York.

The next morning, Tom and Joey face off again in the quarterfinals at Pipeline. At the same time, Jennifer flies back to New York. As she transfers at LAX, she realizes what she's left behind and makes a life-changing choice between the New York rat race and life in Hawaii with Tom.

Early in their quarterfinal heat, Tom distracts and flusters Joey by telling him about his father's bribe attempt, causing Joey to misjudge a wave, get injured and eliminate himself from the contest. Tom's dream is now reality as he surfs perfect Pipeline alone, while the commentators marvel at his surfing skill and physical condition for a man his age.

In the previous weeks, Tom's carpentry business has been badly hurt by cancellations. The evening before the semifinal, a wealthy client calls offering Tom a huge project. But, early the next morning, Tom learns that the meeting has been rescheduled to the same time as his semifinal heat. Tom now faces a huge dilemma – to meet the client and save his business – or lose it all by surfing in the semifinals. Tom decides he must quit the contest to go meet the client, but Jack convinces him that he'll regret it for the rest of his life if he abandons all the people he has inspired – who are now counting on him. Jack goes instead and saves the deal.

In his semifinal heat, Tom surfs against a hot young Hawaiian, Koa Kealoha. In the final seconds it appears that Tom might make an amazing comeback to win, but his hopes are dashed at the last moment, and he nearly drowns as the crowd looks on in disbelief and stunned silence. After being held underwater for what seems like several minutes, Tom finally bursts from the water unhurt, and the crowd erupts in cheers.

Although he lost, Tom receives a hero's welcome on the beach and is deluged by media. As he pushes through the crowd, Tom is surprised and overjoyed to see Jennifer. He pulls her out of the crowd and kisses her passionately.

Three weeks later, Tom and Jennifer are on the beach at sunrise as an out-of-shape woman (in her 60s) trudges by. She recognizes Tom and stops to explain how his powerful example has changed her life and has inspired a whole generation of others like her, who had lost their passion for living. She tearfully thanks him and tells him, "you're my hero".

After the woman jogs away, Tom turns to Jennifer who is beaming at him proudly. In a tender moment, she leans up and whispers in his ear, "you're my hero too".

The story ends as Jennifer stands on the beach – joyfully watching Tom paddle out to surf.