

Title:	Eli
Author:	David Chirchirillo
Type/pp:	SP/98
Genre:	Horror
Locale:	Colorado
Circa:	Modern Day
Budget:	Medium

Logline:

An ill eleven year old boy must convince the adults that the medical facility he's trapped in is haunted before the ghosts kill him.

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Premise	X			
Storyline		X		
Characterizations		X		
Dialogue		X		
Plot/Structure		X		
Production Values	X			

RECOMMENDATION:	Project: CONSIDER
	Writer: RECOMMEND

Summary:

ELI, an eleven year old boy, wakes up from a fiery nightmare in his plastic tent that protects him from the outside world that is the motel room his PARENT and him are sleeping in. He's sick, allergic to the world, and dresses in a hazmat suit to leave the motel room and get in

the car as they head towards an isolated house in the middle of nowhere. It's a medical facility run by DR. ISABELLA HORN, who's trying to cure him of his disease. The house is completely clean and he doesn't need to wear his hazmat while he's locked inside.

Eli goes through the first treatment. He sees HALEY, a neighboring girl, outside his bedroom window and talks with her. Eli has another nightmare, which he swears is real but the adults pass off as sleepwalking. During one of them, Eli ends up almost breaking out of the house and has an allergic reaction to the outside. The adults believe Eli is hallucinating, but he insists the house is haunted. Dr. Horn says none of her past patients saw any ghosts. Later, Haley tells him PERRY, the boy before him, said the same thing, making Dr. Horn a liar.

The next night, ghosts throw Eli's bed on him, revealing a number. He realizes it's the code to get into Dr. Horn's office and he uses it to sneak in. He finds files of the other patients and realizes they're the ghosts he's been seeing. Later, Eli waits for the ghosts to do something and they move the bookcase. He takes this as a hint and searches in the library. His parents and Dr. Horn catch him. Dr. Horn decides to do the final treatment, the one that killed the other patients. Eli fights it, breaking the syringe and the container of solution.

Dr. Horn leaves the house for the night to get more solution. Eli sneaks into her office and the ghosts lead him to a hidden, dusty room. Eli finds the bodies of the other patients, then his mom locks him in the room. Eli faints, but comes to breathing just fine. He isn't sick. When Dr. Horn comes to talk to him, he plays dead in order to escape the room. Dr. Horn and his parents eventually tie him down and Dr. Horn throws holy water on her, which sizzles his skin. She then attempts to stab him with a dagger, but Eli's half demon powers awaken and he stops her. He kills them all and meets Haley outside the burning house. She's like him, a spawn of satan.

Comments:

ELI by David Chirchirillo is an original concept and the twist at the end puts it through the roof. While the aspects of horror could be improved upon throughout the script, it has a solid foundation to build on. As a character, Eli is likeable and compelling. The audience sympathizes with his struggles and even though he murders everyone in the end, a bit of the sympathy lingers. He gets angrier and more frustrated throughout the story, rapidly morphing into someone inhuman by the end. Having Eli kill his whole family and lose all sense of humanity by the end might be going too far due to how human he is throughout the script. Eli's nature could use a bit more foreshadowing as he acts very normal throughout most of the script. The sudden twist of the parents being in on it is also unexpected.

The script touches on how fear drives people to do outlandish things and cause the suffering of others. Eli's parents are driven by fear to lie to him and make him afraid of the world. It causes Eli to lash out drastically at the end of the script, angered by his suffering. It's unclear for most of the script if what Eli sees is real or fictional, which works well. Dr. Horn's uncanniness adds some much needed tension and it would serve the script well to embed more uncanniness into the story.

The script could use some added tension in the first and second acts, but with a few adjustments I'd consider this script for production.

CONSIDER