



All scripts are read, critiqued, and scored based on the current experience of the read. All analysis is performed in accordance with the standards of current film investment agencies, producers, agents, managers, and script development firms currently working in connection with the Screenplay Awards Network. All comments, critiques, and recommendations are intended to increase the odds of the script's financial viability, but make no guarantee.

Overview

Title: The K Factor

Writer: L.J. Martin

Format (Feature, TV, Short): Feature

Can the core concept be discerned and summarized quickly? Does the concept contain novel elements (setting, goals, tone, etc.) that make the script stand out from others in the genre? Does it make a good pitch?

This is a genre piece through and through, containing a number of the staples audiences will come to expect. There are nuclear threats, shifting character dynamics and motivations, international intrigue, and life or death consequences. All of this leaves no confusion about what type of film a reader is getting into, with the writer exposing the tone and genre right away. With so much inherent action and conflict in the premise the script has an obvious direction to take as well. The script then sees it's biggest selling point not through one truly novel idea that pushes the genre forward in great leaps, but through interesting character dynamics and motivations. Though there's not a shining x-factor to point to that really makes the script stand out from other and thrillers, a bombastic plot and unique characters grant this concept distinction.

Was the script formatted per industry standards? Did the action description add or detract from the reading experience? Was there a satisfying balance between action and dialogue?

Formatting is professional looking at a glance. Font choice, spacing, and margins all indicate that this script has gone through screenwriting software with their adherence to screenwriting

best practices. The only real nitpick is with some of the parentheticals which often contain info better suited to the action description. Even small movements like "glancing around" or "shaking hands" would be better suited to the action description and can shift over to the left. Scene headings will neglect the time of day in some cases, but again, this is a equivocation.

The action description itself is well realized. The writer uses concise sentences with deliberate language to quickly and clearly deliver crucial information. It does this without dipping into non-visual language ensuring every relevant plot detail is communicated through observable means and not through an omniscient narrator found in the action description. However, the action often appears in lengthy blocks of text which need to be broken up on every shift in focus or else pared down to three lines or less. With solid technical skill on display, the formatting and action allowed the pages to turn quickly and without distraction.

Is dialogue nuanced? Do characters speak economically or is dialogue overwritten?

While not hyper-realistic dialogue matches the tone of the script and provides a number of memorable lines. This is a script where characters can spit out one-liners and cool quips without impacting the internal reality of the script. There's plenty of military jargon and foul language to give the dialogue a sense of authenticity too. That's not to say that characters all sound the same. There is a great differentiation in voices with notable verbal quirks giving each speaker distinction. Jinny's bilingual dialogue is an obvious example, but all characters inject their lines with personality and unique motivations. While exposition is inevitable, dialogue isn't used solely to move the plot forward. It also reveals character and establishes an emotional connection between reader and the speaker.

What was the overall ease of the read? Do scenes flow from one to the next within the scope of a logical action/reaction? Was the script easy to comprehend?

Scenes do connect logically to one another, building on previous information to lead to a satisfying conclusion. The writer is good at escalation, constantly upping the stakes and giving characters new obstacles to overcome that force their characters to change. This works because the central goal remains in focus throughout. With a guiding objective appearing early on, the script has direction and a definitive outcome that all the scene are working towards. It gives the script direction and clues audiences in as to what would make for a happy ending or a bitter defeat. This clarity serves the script well, and when combined with formatting free of major errors and distractions, causes the pages to fly by.

What is one of the script's most attractive qualities? Are there any aspects of the script that hold it back from financial viability?

The script has a lot of positive qualities. Chief among them are top notch dialogue and character dynamics. Though watching bullets whiz across the page gets the blood pumping, conversations could be just as exciting and filled with conflict. With characters and plotting firmly in place this script is really just in need of some housekeeping. Action description could use some trimming/breaking up and proper formatting calls for some of the parentheticals to shift over to the action. A couple typos here and there also need addressing. If these all sound like nitpicks – they are. The script has a great pace and flow and characters are memorable. Perhaps the script leans a little heavy on established action film tropes and archetypes, but it amounts to a genre film that knows its audience and feeds them what they want.

Resources

Script Formatting Tutorial: This is a comprehensive video tutorial that covers all the elements of screenplay formatting, including how to write visual action/description. It also covers formatting theory (why format is the way it is) which will help the writer understand formatting on a deeper level and eliminate all future formatting errors:

<https://screenplayawardsnetwork.com/screenplay-formatting-video-tutorial/>

Script Development Masterclass: This is a complete package that will help the writer master the concepts that will help elevate the screenplay and overall craft. This masterclass includes formatting and how to write visual action/description, but also delves into character development techniques used by professional developers including punching up character, punching up dialogue, scene structure, story structure, and case studies to help the writer understand the concepts that will elevate the writer's craft instantly. With 50 high quality lessons, tutorials, and resources (constantly growing), this will definitely resolve the weaknesses in the writer's current draft and equip the writer with lifelong tools for their screenwriting journey:

<https://screenplayawardsnetwork.com/script-development-masterclass/>

The Ultimate Screenwriter Mentorship: The resources in the USM will provide the writer with everything they need to fully grasp the concepts and execute the suggestion outline above. It contains high level script development techniques for punching up all elements of a script, and also introduces an exclusive business approach for attracting producers and investors to projects. Additionally, the USM provides access to live meetings with producers, investors, and developers who cover topics, answer live questions, and enrich the screenwriting community in the pursuit of financial viability. It's also the best overall value.

<https://screenplayawardsnetwork.com/ultimate-screenwriter-mentorship/>