

THE BLACK LIST

THE HOMEWRECKERS

Evaluation

Overall	Premise	Plot	Character	Dialogue	Setting
7	6	7	7	8	6

Era	Present Day
Locations	Los Angeles
Budget	Low
Genre	Comedy,Family Comedy,Sex Comedy
Logline	Three generations of a dysfunctional family struggle to remember what really matters as their ill-devised plans come in conflict and threaten to tear them apart.
Pages	120

Strengths

HOMEWRECKERS stands out for its fantastic dialogue which makes the characters pop. A great example is when we first meet Harrison and Eleanor - the argument as he's fixing the sculpture while she's stuck on the toilet is snappy, sarcastic, and smart, showcasing some laugh-out-loud moments between characters who are being downright mean to each other. These two pop as the script's most engaging characters as their stories have the most heart. The aging couple bickers as they struggle with disease and blindness - and the dual 'suicide' plot points work well within this framework. It's also great to see that despite all this outward hate, they love each other deeply in the end. While these two stand out, there's generally a strong balance between all the storylines which are nicely interwoven in this script. It's difficult to juggle six main characters but we get to know everyone here and the transitions from one plot to another are smooth and help keep the script moving along at a good pace.

Weaknesses

Jeremy's storyline is a bit over complicated. The focus centers on him losing his virginity to an older, married woman so it feels like a big shift when he gets angry with Ethan's mom - while justified, his anger doesn't feel earned or connected to his core character issues (or the other plots, for that matter). Katie too suffers from an underdeveloped storyline, especially its conclusion. While it's clear that she likes meddling (helping) others, it isn't clear early on that this is the only basis for her interest in Colin. Thus, the entire section in which she's upset at Colin for his smarts and suddenly he is having sex with the Princeton interviewer is disorienting and confusing. The weakest characters are Warren and Barbara. These two are bland and manipulated by those around them - while that makes sense at the beginning, neither character ever gets particularly invested (and therefore enlivened) by either the infidelity or the reconciliation. Giving the audience a bit more insight into what they could become should they rediscover their spark could help them emerge from the shadow of the stronger, more dynamic personalities - like Harrison and Eleanor - that surround them.

Prospects

HOMEWRECKERS is a fun and snarky sex comedy likely to appeal to fans of the genre. It's a fairly low budget production (though the car sequence adds a bit of cost here) that could attract both studios as well as independent producers. While there could perhaps be a little more development/clarification in a couple of the storylines, it should at the very least serve as a great writing sample that shows strong character/dialogue skills and the ability to handle a large cast without losing track of anyone.