

SAMPLE COVERAGE NOTES:

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## SAMPLE STORY

Written by [Anonymous Author](#)

118 pages + title page

submitted: [April 9, 2012](#)

Purpose of Submission: [Writer seeks evaluation](#)

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Reader: [Tammy Gross ProofMySpec.com](#)

Reading completed: [April 14, 2012](#)

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**GENRE:** [dramedy](#)

**SETTING:** [Los Angeles / modern day](#)

**BUDGET:** [low \(under \\$8m\)](#)

**LOGLINE by Reader:** [An Asian-American woman with a dark past helps a suicidal man find hope.](#)

## **SUMMARY COMMENTS:**

### **STRENGTHS/WEAKNESSES:**

SAMPLE STORY endeavors to blend the serious with the sassy in a very heartfelt, genuine way. Because it is such a blend of extremes, it's hard to know whether the intent is to be comedic or dramatic. Sometimes the humor's irreverent timing seems to fuel the dramatic moments by contrast, but the author's intent is mostly unclear: comedy or drama?

### **ELEMENT SPECIFICS:**

#### **Concept:**

The subject matter of SAMPLE STORY is not for all audiences. It does cross into controversial subjects that will make some audiences uncomfortable, especially with a tone of intolerance. But this should appeal to a niche audience.

#### **Stakes:**

Tension is usually kept quite high as the stakes involve sanity and suicide.

#### **Tone:**

Clarity from the writer will help a reader to know how to pitch this to higher-ups. Is it a comedy with serious overtones? Is it a drama with humorous characters? The use of sarcasm almost seems an inside joke amongst the two main characters where the audience can only observe - not allowed to join in. Thus it does maintain a bit more of a dramatic feel for the audience, which is good if that is the intention.

#### **Story/Structure:**

Emotional story beats seem to fall into place well. When Hannah is taken to wherever she is to be evaluated, it is never defined what the place is. A psych ward? Hospital? Asylum?

#### **Character:**

Hannah's passive personality seems adrift in the opening until she is suddenly placed in a situation where most people would become more meek. Instead, she blossoms instantly into a bombastic wise-cracker with anger and self-righteousness. The transformation is a bit puzzling with no hint to this side of her in the timid opening. Having two characters with similar last names is confusing for a reader (& viewer): Wallace & Walter.

#### **Dialogue:**

Don often speaks as if he's much younger than a 52-year-old brainiac professional, which is somewhat believable when he's high, but not when he's sober. Hannah reverts quite often into non-native speech patterns that do not always match the professional demeanor intended. There seems no difference in her accent whether under stress, relaxed, in court, at home, etc.

### **PRIORITY SUGGESTIONS:**

Because English is a second language, there are a few cultural and linguistic nuances that affect the reader's experience. These need to be polished before sending to Hollywood readers.

Overall, the story seems solid, so it's the tone, dialogue and Hannah's personality at the beginning that really need the most attention in a small rewrite.

Because format is so important for spec writers, and Word is terribly inadequate as evidenced by the problems with font changes and skewed margins, it is strongly recommended that this script be transferred into Celtx (free), Final Draft or Movie Magic Screenwriter.

### CONCLUSION:

With some tweaks to some of the items mentioned, and some reworking of the dialogue, SAMPLE STORY has the potential to do well in many venues, such as Sundance.

It is recommended that after a polish, this script be entered into contests for further feedback and possible placement that will win the author some bragging rights as the story is eventually pitched to Hollywood.

### GRID:

	A = excellent	B = good	C = fair	D = poor	F = fail
CONCEPT		X			
STORY		X			
STRUCTURE		X			
CHARACTER		X			
DIALOGUE			X		
FORMAT			X		
WRITING/PROSE			X		

### GRADE:

STORY:  
B- = CONSIDER

WRITER:  
B = CONSIDER