

Characters

There is a clear protagonist, Hanna, who is thrust into a story she does not yet understand. There are also initial antagonists; Nescio and his fedora henchmen. Within the first few pages, we learn that they will stop at nothing to get the mysterious box which puts Hanna in immediate danger. One note would be that Hanna's motivation for keeping the box, even if she is risking her own life, could be more developed. This may well be explored later in the script, but in the first ten pages, her motivations are not as clear as could be. If it is pure greed that drives her to flee the country with this box, it may be more understandable if she believed it was worth millions, rather than a few hundred bucks.

Through simple but effective character choices, we learn about Hanna's personality and her priorities, and we start to form an image of what her life may have been like up until this point. We get to know some of her weaknesses, such as her selfishness, but also some of her strengths, such as her survival instincts and ability to improvise to get out of sticky situations. Already, the beginnings of a character arc are starting to form as she is confronted with things beyond her imagination.

Dialogue/Sound

The use of multiple languages in the dialogue provides texture and gives the impression that this is a story with global implications, a story about humanity rather than something told from the perspective of one nation/culture. This is further supported by the fact that Venice is only the starting point – Hanna will have to go on a journey that is both physical and psychological. The dialogue is generally simple but effective, telling a story without relying on exposition. If the ultimate goal is to present the script for sale in an English-speaking sector, then it may be a consideration to think about using English translations and indicating where dialogue is spoken in another language, but this is ultimately a stylistic choice and the current choice does not impact our understanding of the story.

Production/Representation/Presentation

This script promises to be whimsical and exciting. The distinct elements of the story all support the theme, tone, and genre in a way that feels well-balanced and considered. For example, Nescio and his fedora men fit seamlessly into this magical premise. One thing to consider is what age group(s) this is intended for and make potential changes accordingly. For example, if Hanna was a teenager, it could be more readily marketable as a young adult fantasy film. Looking at the budget, the major set pieces must be well-motivated by the story to avoid being considered needless costs, but so far any setting and action in the first ten pages seem necessary and justified.

Conclusion

The first ten pages of this script beautifully establish a delightful premise and protagonist. Straight away, there is a concrete goal, the stakes are clear, and Hanna becomes a fugitive. Perhaps Hanna's motivation for holding on to the mysterious box could be stronger to justify her actions. Furthermore, while this promises to be a wonderful story, it may be worth considering the target audience, for example when deciding on Hanna's age.

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