

# SHORE SCRIPTS

## SHORE SCRIPTS COVERAGE REPORT

**Title:** [REDACTED]

**Length:** [REDACTED]

**Format:** Treatment

**Genre:** Horror

**Location:** Las Vegas/Woods

**Circa:** Present/Near Future

**Budget:** Medium

**Coverage Date:** [REDACTED]

**Writers:** [REDACTED]

### Logline

*In a tumultuous world, a disenfranchised young woman attempts to escape modern society by taking a job at a remote fire lookout tower. In her newfound solitude, chilling events force her to question her own sanity and reality itself.*

The use of the word “disenfranchised” could be confusing to some. It provokes one to imagine a future *Handmaid’s Tale* scenario, where the protagonist has lost her voting rights, or other human rights, which ultimately has nothing to do with this story. “Disillusioned” might be a better fit.

### Content

The treatment provides all the essential information in a clear, concise layout. From the style and visuals that are presented, it’s obvious that the writer/director and writer have a clear tone in mind for the film. The background characters, wild beasts, and visuals all support the wilderness-horror-style script. The beginning takes place in Las Vegas but we don’t know where the fire tower is, which might ground the reader further in the mythological world if it were mentioned. Although the story treatment need not be a beat sheet, this one could provide more detailed information about the key scenes.

### Premise/Theme

Setting the story in a present-day millennial burnout culture captures the current zeitgeist. A specific description of Clare’s work, perhaps as an Uber/Lyft driver, combined with how she scrolls through Instagram, dreaming of idyllic nature spots, might better introduce the premise. The nuclear holocaust grabs our attention, but we need to understand how this fits into the present-day world. Perhaps we see it through the protagonist’s eyes while scrolling through news sites or listening to the radio. This information could be included at the beginning of the story treatment, which is currently a bit thin on details.

A key area of the story that could use development is the overall message of the film. The writers state that they wish to leave it open-ended, and although it's wonderful to give the audience opportunities to analyze and discuss themes, it can be frustrating if the treatment makes it seem like the film itself doesn't know what it wants to say. Between the nuclear holocaust and the cult sacrifice, Clare faces a "damned if I do, damned if I don't" choice. In her death, alongside the young girl, the resolution lacks a precise message and this could cause problems with the expected use of the document.

## **Characters**

The characters are well-chosen to tell a horror story set in the middle of nowhere. The multiple antagonists all have meaningful roles to play. The details in the character section are thorough, but we don't yet see how the information will be conveyed to the audience within the context of the story. We have a terrific sense of the type of person the protagonist is at the beginning. The key ingredient lacking is Clare's main goal, which is needed to provide overall tension and stakes within the confines of the story. We know what she is running from, but not what she wants. Her character arc is weakened because we don't understand how she gets what she needs. These missing ingredients in Clare's journey are why the overall message of the film is murky.

## **Story/Structure**

The story offers a solid beginning with a hook (Clare gets the new job), creepy discoveries in the middle, and a high-action conclusion. These elements create a strong start for the narrative of a horror feature. There are, however, some missing beats, which are needed to create overall tension. We must understand Clare's mission. Simply "getting away from it all" allows Clare to make discoveries throughout Act II but doesn't allow the audience to be engaged in what these discoveries mean for her or the stakes in the story. What the secluded family's "faith" entails could also benefit from development. Plotwise, the ending shows who dies and how, but lacks meaning to resolve both the story arc and the main character's arc.

## **Production/Representation/Presentation**

The filmmakers know what style of story they want to tell and how to film visual moments of fear. The cast is small and there are limited locations, which is excellent for production value, although the use of lightning and the sacrifice on the tower will pose challenges.

## **Conclusion**

The genre, tone, and imagery in this treatment create a solid start to creating a horror film. The story treatment could be expanded to ensure that more of the details of the story make it onto the script's page. Finding a mission for the protagonist will allow the audience to engage with the main conflict to create tension in the narrative arc, rather than only in moments of visual fear.

***Thank you for requesting coverage from Shore Scripts. If you would like to request coverage on a new draft, don't forget that you can request the same or a new reader as you prefer.*** Download your FREE Copy of [The Ultimate Guide to Pitching Your Screenplay](#) and all our Contest Deadlines [https://shorescripts.com/Shore\\_Scripts\\_Contest\\_Calendar.ics](https://shorescripts.com/Shore_Scripts_Contest_Calendar.ics). More opportunities for screenwriters can be found on our website: [www.shorescripts.com/](http://www.shorescripts.com/).