

SHORE SCRIPTS

SHORE SCRIPTS COVERAGE REPORT

Title: [REDACTED]

Location: African continent

Writer: [REDACTED]

Circa: Present

Length: 66 Pages

Budget: High

Genre: Thriller

Coverage Date: [REDACTED]

Format: TV Pilot (1-Hour)

Logline:

A resilient South African trauma surgeon leading medics into the heart of danger must balance her family life alongside saving lives.

Industry Scorecard:

	EXCELLENT	GOOD	PROFICIENT	NEEDS ATTENTION
PREMISE	X			
CHARACTERS		X		
DIALOGUE/SOUND		X		
STRUCTURE	X			
PACE	X			
PRODUCIBILITY		X		

FEEDBACK:

Premise/Theme

[REDACTED] has a wholly original premise and lifts the lid on an occupation in a place brimming with politics, danger, and power struggles. Rich in drama, the show has strong potential as a high-end returning series that looks into what people sacrifice to save others. Like medical procedurals before it, albeit from a fresh perspective, [REDACTED] shows its main characters' flaws and troubles beneath their savior exterior, giving a theme of how we are all broken, even

those of us trying to fix people. Perhaps more could be done to show the dramatic statement through the episode's storyline (the pregnant prisoner), in the way that the episodic plots of *Grey's Anatomy* or *The West Wing* reflect the personal turmoil of their leads, but at present, this pilot does well to set up an exciting world and watchable cast of characters.

Hook/Stakes

Page 1 immediately sets up a child to save, one of the highest stakes going, and by giving us his POV we are invested and appreciative of Nandi who risks all to save him. The outcome of the teaser is that Nandi is bold, sacrifices herself to save others, and thinks on her feet. Tension builds wonderfully across pages 5-7, showing a knack for rising action that is neatly mirrored in the episode's final scenes. Stakes are sewn into the script with Greg's pill, a hint of romance between Nandi and Quinn, and a mention of Boko Haram before we meet them. All this creates page-turning urgency as well as food for future episodes. The family stakes are clear but less gripping than the workplace stakes. Currently, there is not as much emotional attachment for Khaya and Zeno as there is to the outcome of Nandi's patients and her team.

Characters

Nandi is a strikingly strong and watchable protagonist who heads a *Scandal*-style ensemble cast bound by work but separated by secrets. Nandi's family scenes ground her while flashbacks show her childhood, although there is an option to save the montage on p.47 for future episodes as the action doesn't need her backstory at that point. The pilot's ending question for Nandi is why she does she choose her job over her family. The events with her father (whose name referencing needs checking as it switches from Lazarus to Lucas) don't quite provide an answer. Consider Meredith's mother's reveal right at the end of *Grey's Anatomy's* pilot, and the slow series reveal of Olivia Pope's relationship with the President and her father in *Scandal*. Getting to the heart of what Nandi wants and needs but considering how to slowly unravel that across a series may form a gripping arc of change or growth for her.

The team is gradually introduced and forms a globally diverse and interesting mix. The Boko Haram members form a chilling antagonistic threat before we even meet them, and when we do Umar quickly proves he is a ruthless and powerful enemy, matched only by the deliciously unpredictable and maliciously playful Kuru. They are great antagonists to feed a series.

Dialogue/Sound

The team members are distinctive through dialogue, which skips along with energy adding pace and comedy, while the antagonists choose their cruel words carefully to add tension. Some subtext could be added to the more emotional scenes. Consider how writer Issa Rae's triple bumper approach of retreating from overt statements gives power to the subtext and ensures subtlety and authenticity in your dialogue, by making sure characters don't just state what they feel or think in the moment. Nandi and Khaya's conversation on p.20-25 is a scene in which the final threat is an overt truth, but the early dialogue could be more artful.

Structure/Pace

Built on a strong opening, the well-structured story rolls out beats well with the earthquake teaser, a party at base, home tension, and an urgent job alert packed into 25 gripping pages that world-build and establish characters, genre, and tone. The ensuing story keeps pace which bodes well for the episodic and serial story arcs ahead, with only the flashbacks slowing it. The fragmented scenes could be shortened to give a brief visceral glimpse of the past or, as suggested, removed and saved for future episodes. The mid-point of Nandi delivering the babies serves action as well as character and is bested only by the tense ending. Khaya and Zeno's B/C plots serve emotion but need a little more drama if they are to justify pulling away from Nandi's gripping A plot. It might be worth questioning which is the B plot as although having scenes in the home is worthwhile, theirs overlap and remove focus from Nandi.

Production/Representation/Presentation

The script has strong potential in its genre and suits the 1-hour format, although it does run long. Small edits would shorten pages, for example, character introductions can save space if Domako '*climbs energetically*' or '*Bulky and bald TONY DAWN (50s) grips the other end of the rope, side arms showing under his uniform.*' Most characters have extensive descriptions which are visually guiding but over-explanatory. Phrases like '*too tall and too thin*' may make a reader stop to wonder what that means to the greater story when at this point, they should be gliding on the action. There are moments where the text contradicts itself; is Amram on p.14 the father who is said to be at the hospital on p.13? The confusion with Nandi's father's name also points to the need for a precision edit or a table read. One small aspect that has a big impact is the budget note on p.1, which pulls a reader out of a tense open that has worked hard to pull us into. As the script is an epic high-budget endeavor of night shoots, helicopters, weapons, and cast, perhaps the bigger concern would be the star power needed to attract the finance rather than smaller options within the script which could come later. The script's courage is part of its appeal, so at the development stage, it shouldn't hold back.

Current Predicted Industry Outcome:

RECOMMEND	CONSIDER	PASS
	X	

Conclusion

██████████ is an ambitious thriller script set in an exciting world. Its diverse cast of characters and setting in a world of power, politics, allegiances, and struggle form a hugely appealing and dramatic backdrop for an interesting cast of characters. There are only a few moments where the pace slows, the protagonist's arc ahead isn't entirely clear, and the script would be elevated by an edit for mistakes and length. Yet, the foundations are in place to build gripping serial storylines and character journeys.

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