

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 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.

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.

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