



SCRIPT PIPELINE

– CONTEST FEEDBACK SAMPLE –

This script begins with an incredible opening—it hooks the audience while immediately establishing the theme and tone of the script. The dialogue throughout is almost “musical” and funny, providing a wonderful flair to the story.

It was difficult, though, to determine what *type* of world we were in. At first, it was seemingly a period piece, given the old-timey dialogue, but they have modern-day cell phones, which left this reader wondering if this is an alternate reality of some sort. There are multiple references to old movies, and on p2, the action lines state we’re in a place that is “all time and no time.” Which is kind of fascinating. If we *are* in some type of alternate reality, great (and it would add to the originality of the concept). But you may need a stronger setup for such. Currently, we have a hazy sense of this universe since the cabin is our primary location. Does this world have everything a James Cagney film would have, except it also includes modern technology and deals with modern-day issues? The basic concept was just a bit difficult to grasp.

The leads’ motivations might need to be better established as well. It’s obvious what’s keeping them in the cabin—they’re waiting for someone to drop off their money. But it’s uncertain what they want from each other. They banter back and forth and sometimes stumble into sensitive territory, but nobody is trying to get someone to spill their guts. For instance, if Keith is suspicious Tori took all the money from their group fund, why doesn’t she confront her about it sooner? Why does it take a poker game for her to point a gun at her? Same goes for Cassidy—why doesn’t she confront the group as soon as she sees the fund is zero? Why does she continue with the poker game if she knows there’s no money to be had? Additionally, since Jason and Tori don’t know about the group fund, it’s not certain what they wanted from the group. A suggestion would be to revise the structure so it’s evident how each character is actively pursuing her own secret mission, whether that be finding out who stole the money or discovering how many people Brian slept with.

On a related note, the stakes could be raised to further drive the plot. Throughout the script, they press each other for intimate details over their relationships and sex lives, which allows for some witty dialogue, but it decreases the tension because there are no major consequences riding on whether this information is revealed or not. For instance, so much emphasis is placed on finding out the details about Ox, but this doesn’t go anywhere in terms of the central conflict, which is these women learning they were all wronged by the same man. However, if it were more obvious the leads were searching for information that could destroy their lives (like finding out about the group fund), the overarching conflict would be a lot more immersive.

Overall: love the backdrop, and the characters are well-defined. A clearer plot motor, potentially higher stakes, and a slightly less ambiguous introduction to the world should help give the script a huge boost and tighten up loose ends for what could be a taut, uniquely rendered thriller.

