



# SCREENPLAY READERS

SCRIPT NOTES \* SCRIPT COVERAGE \* CONSULTATION

## **Space Alien Madness**

### **B. Writer**

51 pages

Science Fiction / Present

Analyst: FV

2019-10-12

### LOGLINE:

Scientists who work with aliens struggle to reclaim missing alien items.

### BRIEF SYNOPSIS:

On Hollywood Boulevard, LARRY HAMMOND searches for something. From a distance, TIGER sees the DISINTEGRATOR, an alien device. He plays with it and discovers it makes things disappear. Larry jumps Tiger trying to steal the device. They scuffle and Tiger escapes with the disintegrator.

Larry debriefs with CLOBBER, an alien, who argues with him over the recruitment of a helper. Clobber doesn't trust scientists but Larry insists the one he's picked out is open to new ideas.

HERDIE REGINALD peers through a telescope in an observatory. In the office space, Herdie talks to his colleague BETTY and his boss JACKIE about the existence of UFO's in scientific research. It's hard to get a steady job for them. Jackie suggests Herdie try to find out what happened to Larry as a project.

Tiger meets with MCHINDS and FRIPP, two neo-nazi conspirators. He shows them the disintegrator and discusses an update to their murderous plans. Their discussion concludes with a focus on the upcoming mayoral election.

Herdie attends the Space Fair where he watches Clobber try to recruit the sparse audience into signing up with him. He needs their help in returning lost alien items. Herdie takes a card.

Larry visits Herdie in the observatory. They bicker. Larry proves to Herdie he can disappear.

Later in the office, Herdie finds out he got rejected from Harvard. Desperate for something to do, Herdie is encouraged to pursue the UFO research with Larry. Jackie confesses he was abducted and that's where he got what he needed.

Herdie surveils Tiger's business. He gets knocked out by gas!

Larry meets with Clobber in the back room of a restaurant. Herdie is sleeping on the sofa. After arguing, Clobber allows Larry to train Herdie.

Meanwhile, Herdie has dreams of technology. He wakes up inside Tiger's business. Via cellphone, Larry issues instructions to Herdie. Herdie encounters VIVIAN, Tiger's secretary. ERIN, the executive walks past the pair into Tiger's office. Inside, they argue about a health report. Tiger uses the disintegrator on Erin making her disappear!

Herdie reports back to Larry. Larry debriefs him and talks him into going forward with the mission.

Undercover, Herdie gets a job with Tiger. He returns to his office to borrow brushes and grab supplies. He mentions to Betty the possibility of proving aliens are real.

Fripp and McHinds spy on MAYOR ROGERS from a van outside his house.

Herdie defeats the security camera watching Tiger's door. He picks the lock but then Tiger shows up! Herdie blinds him momentarily and escapes. Tiger gives chase, albeit slowly. Herdie hides in a storeroom but knocks over chemicals. With toxic fumes filling the space, Herdie struggles to escape. He makes it out.

Betty and Jackie decide to help Herdie.

Larry and Herdie sneak into Tiger's house. They find the Nazi club room. Betty

and Jackie show up. The four heroes are ambushed by McHinds and Fripp. Larry is captured but the others escape.

Tiger meets with Rogers and offers him a deal. Tiger won't run for mayor if Rogers signs the contract. Rogers agrees and signs.

Herdie and the others figure out Tiger's real plan. Herdie races to Clearwater Industries, but McHinds and Fripp are in hot pursuit. Herdie is too late to stop Tiger.

At the Omicron Institute, Herdie regroups with the others. They form a new plan to deal with Tiger.

Meanwhile, Larry is left alone with a ticking bomb. He escapes by activating the fire alarm.

Herdie tricks Tiger into a meeting. Tiger quickly gets the upper hand against Herdie and Betty. Tiger pretends to throw the disintegrator away. Herdie and Betty go for it, but McHinds and Fripp are after them! Larry returns and together they manage to put a stop to McHinds and Fripp.

In his office, Tiger is confronted by Herdie. Herdie uses a mirror to reflect the disintegrator's shot back onto Tiger. Everything returns to normal once more.

Herdie and Larry agree to work together. Betty offers to help.

## SCRIPT FEEDBACK / ANALYSIS & NOTES

Space Alien Madness is a science fiction pilot about a scientist struggling to find purpose in life by helping a colleague track down alien items on Earth. The inventive setup and the episode generating potential are both exciting elements of this project. Larry's character especially holds a lot of promise as a great role for a series star.

However, not everything is working as well as it could be just yet. Let's go over a few areas where we might find room for improvements in order to bring the script up to its highest potential.

The script follows the traditional four-act framework for one-hour dramas on television fairly closely. Each act feels unique yet connected to the next in solid

overall plotting. The pacing holds steady with the final act containing enough action to likely satisfy most audiences. Where this script may encounter issues is in the first act, specifically concerning how the script connects Clobber and Larry.

There are a number of concepts the audience has to learn and accept at the beginning of the series including the fact that the show will make a case for the existence of aliens. The pilot makes digesting this easier on the viewer by having Clobber appear and act much like a human. While this helps the audience suspend their disbelief, it may overlap a little too much on Larry. Until Clobber disappears, Larry's personality is muted by the presence of an even stranger alien. When Clobber disappears, Larry becomes the source of all alien knowledge, but it probably takes at least an act or two for the show to shake off the shadow of Clobber from Larry. But what happens if we don't ever see Clobber?

Consider a revision where Clobber only exists as Larry's source of information, or perhaps only seen in shadow or light or otherwise hidden from the full view of the audience. If Clobber isn't around, then the audience might relate to the other scientists better because they too may not be sure if Larry is really on the level with this alien business. By removing Clobber from the audience's memory, Larry's character development may also work smoother since he won't have to share the limelight with a character serving a similar function.

The construction of the script is fairly solid with no noticed errors in the spelling or grammar. There may be a few formatting concerns but there's always a little wiggle room. The length of the project might be slightly under the desired amount for an hour-long (about 60 pages), but that extra space can allow for future revisions to add content to the project.

Thematically, the story plays with the question of whether humans should have access to alien technology due to our relatively mercurial nature. This is a good question from which many episodes can be generated. Consider looking at situations where humans are doing good things with alien technology that might put Larry in a morally difficult position. Morally difficult often results in compelling television.

Finally, the following page notes are intended to support the discussed revisions or to address other concerns.

On page 1, what does it look like when the disintegrator activates? As in, do the

victims simply blink out of existence or is there some other kind of special effect? Given the science fiction nature of the device, it's likely the audience will be expecting some kind of effect, so consider adding one or mentioning that it specifically has no special effect. Perhaps, if a low-key non-visual effect is desired, the sound could cut out when the disintegrator is used?

The action description may need a revision with an eye towards putting the background characters that will become characters of interest in the scene in all caps for their introductions. Specifically, if the technician interacts with a series regular character, then the technician probably needs to be introduced in all caps so the production or future readers will be unable to miss the character.

On page 2, when Larry sees Tiger get the disintegrator, that portion of the action description may need a different format. Consider putting it in a POV formatting device since the action currently attributes that view to Larry's perspective.

Larry's line when nosing Bette Davis' star is funny, but maybe try something a little shorter? The line may take too long getting out there for the comedic timing to land right. Consider something sharper like "I've always looked up to you" or "I love your work" or something similar.

On page 3, what clothing is Clobber wearing that makes it seem awkwardly inappropriate? The multitude of options for what kind of clothes might be inappropriate for a hospital could run the risk of being too open of a visual for the action description. Consider specifying the style of clothes Clobber wears in the scene to give both the reader and future production designer more information to visualize the character. Perhaps a DOCTOR WHO style of wardrobe might be similar?

On page 5, when Larry shows pictures of Tiger to the scientists, do they know who Tiger is? The combination of Larry walking into a place where he hasn't been invited and then the throwdown of stalker photos makes for a suspicious entrance, at least from the perspectives of the scientists. Consider playing up the resistance Larry receives just walking inside the place. If science has kicked him out for his opinion, then this could be the part where the audience gets to see that rejection in action. Larry has been shunned, but without the evidence, the audience just has to take the show's word for it, and that might not be good enough one episode in.

On page 8, when Herdie mentions Clobber, how much about Clobber does Herdie

or the other scientists know at this point? Larry says the name but doesn't add in the detail that Clobber might be an alien. If Clobber is this well-known, consider planting that earlier on in the first act, maybe open with the scientists watching an excerpt from Clobber's lecture that Larry sent Herdie on Clobber's request? Their disdain for it could foreshadow the treatment Larry gets when he shows up to recruit their help.

Further down, if McHinds and Fripp are supposed to be Neo-Nazi's, consider having them repeat a few catchphrases to signal their beliefs. If they're not, consider having a quick line to explain the Nazi memorabilia. Otherwise, the audience may make assumptions about the characters that the script doesn't intend based on what they can see on the screen. These assumptions might be hard to dissuade later too.

On page 15, does Jackie make this confession to Herdie in front of Betty, and if so, what's her reaction to that bombshell? After Jackie exits the scene, might Betty share an exchange with Herdie that's something along the lines of "what the hell was that"?

On page 16, what kind of Officer is talking to Clobber, a human police officer or an alien police officer?

On page 18, the action description inside the Herdie dream scene probably needs to be formatted as a montage or series of shots.

On page 25, the ham radio setup in Jackie's office is a great detail.

On page 31, did Herdie just lock a technician into the storeroom filled with toxic fumes? This might not be the right morality move for the character just yet. If this isn't the case, then consider mentioning that the fumes have dissipated or are no longer toxic. Otherwise, this might be attempted murder.

Additionally, in the next scene, when Betty looks into Jackie's office, consider a revision of the action description so that it says Jackie is missing or that the office is empty instead of "She's alone". The usage of "she's alone" over "It's empty" may give the reader the impression that Jackie is both a woman and alone in the office at the time Betty peeks in.

If the audience needs to read the full title of the newspaper clipping, consider putting that inside an INSERT formatting device in order to ensure the

production emphasizes it for the audience on the screen.

On page 41, would it be appropriate for the mayor to conduct business deals at Clearwater Industries instead of inviting Tiger to city hall? Consider a revision that gives the mayor some umbrage at being forced to have the meeting at Tiger's office instead of his office, especially because the meeting is with his potential opponent.

On page 44, how many seconds are left on the timer when it approaches zero?

With the discussed revisions and a little bit of luck (or alien technology), Space Alien Madness has a good chance of making it to series.



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## ANALYSIS GRID

Concept is strong and/or script has a buzzworthy hook	90
Script's first 10 pages are compelling	85
Script's theme is well-executed/interweaved well	75
Story/plot/story logic is clear and easy to follow	89
Every story element feels essential	80
Setting/world is easy to understand/follow	95
Script is not bogged down by exposition	95
Scenes and moments cause/impact later scenes and moments	68
Stakes are clear/conflict is strong and/or compelling	80
Tension builds/escalates throughout	78
Characters are interesting/entertaining/fun to watch	85
Characters' choices and actions drive the story forward	88
Characters' motivations/wants/obstacles are clearly defined	80
It's easy to tell who's who - Characters are different from one another	95
Antagonistic forces are difficult for protagonist/s to overcome	95
Dialogue is strong/colorful/entertaining/impactful	90
Action/description text is visual/concise/vivid	88
Climax/resolution is entertaining/satisfying	85
Script feels as if it's as strong/funny/dramatic/entertaining as it can be	75
Script's target audience/demographic is clear	100
Script's content/subject matter is likely to be strategically appealing to buyers	85
Script's format/spelling/presentation isn't distracting	100
<b>Average Score</b>	<b>81.9</b>
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Consider</b>
Please note: There is no formal mathematical correlation between scores and Recommendation.	