

Academy Nicholl Fellowships

General Information

Title:	Most Wanted Dad	Script #:	2,442
Primary Genre:	Drama	Year:	2024
Modifying Genre:	True Story Crime/Noir	Log Line:	On their journey to appeals court, a 60-year-old convict escorted by prison guards recalls his criminal life; while his pen-pal, pregnant daughter, subpoenaed as a witness, reveals emotional wounds caused by her dad.
Genre Notes:	non-linear format		
Number of Pages:	117		

Reader Comments

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1st Read Comments

MOST WANTED DAD focuses on an imprisoned man and the relationship he has with his daughter as he tries to maneuver his way into an early release. The voice of the script is interesting and offers a nuanced relationship between the two leads as the years progress. The basic writing is very good. It does great worldbuilding in terms of the prison system and how it works. You also get a sense of the legal system where Roy is mired. When it turns into more of an action piece like with the cigarette heist or the escape the staging is sold and there is tons of tension. I struggled a bit with the overall structure. The timeline cuts and flashbacks feel intentional. And it's never hard to follow. It just felt at times like the cuts were too rapid and you weren't staying in one place long enough for the scenes to be allowed to build and breathe. That being said the story is good as you follow the lead for many years and it never feels slow or repetitive. It's a character piece and both the lead Roy and his daughter Jazmin are well drawn. They have their own voices and personalities. Characters that are usually throwaway ones like Stripper Sofia have some great moments. The David death sequence is harrowing and you didn't even realize how much I liked David until he left the script.

2nd Read Comments

MOST WANTED DAD is a drama that lacks an original premise with a plot that feels too vague and a storyline that feels too contrived in execution. The beginning lacks a strong setup to give a clear picture of the idea which makes it difficult to follow and understand the setting. This affects the structure as well as the tone and plot, leading to a story that does not flow organically as it uses flashbacks as a way to tell the backstory through different time periods, which feels like it doesn't drive the main idea forward and at times is redundant, which an ending and payoff that feels predictable and does not feel satisfying. The next draft needs to be more fleshed out to focus more on driving the main idea through the characters in a more authentic and grounded manner. As mentioned above, the characters come across feeling one dimensional and are not well defined as they need to be. We need to get a clear picture of who protagonist Roy is in terms of his motives, goals, etc. What drives him to constantly commit crimes, even when he is already in trouble with the law? Does he not care about his family enough to put them through this? He also does not have an arch and is not a redeemable character. The rest of the actors feel generic and we don't get a clear idea of their values, motives, which makes them feel convenient to the story and to add conflict. This needs to be addressed to add

substance and depth to the story. The script does not have a unique or effective voice to narrate this type of story in a way that it makes it stand out from similar stories. Given that the script is based on a true story, it needs to execute and exploit the idea and theme with a clear focus on the message its trying to convey to give it an element of emotion and important to heighten the appeal and make it a stronger read.

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