



Entry Type: Classic Notes (WeScreenplay)

Synopsis Included: No

Notes Date: May 27th, 2020

Analyst: KJL6

Ranking: 54th Percentile

BAND OF DOCTORS

Action

Feature

119 Pages

by dengxian Cao

TOP 24%
PLOT

TOP 24%
CONCEPT

RATING

PASS

PLACED IN THE TOP 46%

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OPENING THOUGHTS

Band of Doctors has a wildly inventive premise that utilizes topical technology in a fun and elevated way to allow this story to blend the genres of science fiction and action. There are a couple areas of the story that could be utilized to make this script more effective, starting first and foremost with context. The core idea of a doctor fighting off terrorists in Syria through the use of 3D printing is one that works really well, but something we need more of is the world around this setup particularly when it comes to how this version of the year 2052 looks different than our current time of 2020. This could come through technology but more importantly through how the global dynamics are changing as a result of this advanced technology, setting up the stakes around Alexander luring Pattinson to Kuweires Sharqi to turn the Syrian town into a 3D printing center for the world.

Something that could also work more effectively here comes with adding more pathos and emotion to the story, something that comes primarily with character (which will be discussed in the next section) but also through theme. This could be an intriguing way to add more subtext and gravitas to what is taking place in the story, especially with a focus and dissection of the ramifications of technology this powerful and how the idea of man playing God creates stakes on a deeper level for Pattinson.

CHARACTERS

As mentioned above, one of the more important areas of the script to really focus on is character, particularly as another way to bring emotion and pathos into the narrative. This starts first and foremost with Pattinson, the doctor at the center of all of the story's narrative and a character that could serve as the personification for the story's potential themes of having too much power through technology. As written, the story offers an intriguing backstory to the character with his guilt about crippling his father after a rock climbing accident, but this is lost as the story dives into its plot and focuses on the action and technology.

It could be a lot stronger to see this early on (especially before he berates the clones of himself that he is creating, something that makes him a bit too unlikable initially) as well as how it contributes to his personality, particularly flaws he has to overcome as part of his character arc. For instance, maybe we see him being curmudgeonly and refusing to open up to people (something that could cause issues in his relationship with Bell) which he could have to deal with as a way to realize the impact on humanity his technology has as well as caring more for the lives of the villagers in Kuweires Sharqi.

Although it is not necessary to go as deep for the other characters, it is still important for the narrative to find depth or individual personality traits to provide more emotion and raise stakes as characters we care about find themselves in danger. This starts with Bell, a character who is Pattinson's cohort and romantic partner, and it could be helpful to provide a contrasting personality for her that gives the pair plenty of emotional conflict. For instance, maybe we see her struggling with the reality of the war torn area they travel to in Syria, or maybe we see her struggling with the morality of Pattinson's research and plan to help them escape? Additionally, Kundera should be the script's gateway to really lean into the lives at stake in this mission, particularly if we see his disdain for Pattinson treating this event so pragmatically which can raise likability as we see him caring for the people in his town.

The story's tertiary characters such as Eun, Ying, Becky, Yao and even antagonist Alexander all could provide pops of personality in their smaller roles. The script has a strong moment of this with Ying talking to his mother on page 42, but it could be stronger to see how this translates into Ying being more loving or naive. Additionally, it could be strong to see more emotion and anger from Alexander in scenes such as his revealing his plan to Pattinson. Finally, the script's focus on characters in Kuweires Sharqi such as Lukaya are great moments to add emotion, but they feel a bit too focused on plot progression.

PLOT

Speaking of, one of the stronger areas of *Band of Doctors* comes with the plot, not only with the clarity of the objective of the protagonist but also the active steps they take in working toward completing it. Although the deep focus on this component of the script can create issues in other aspects, the story does an excellent job establishing the script's core conflict right off the bat as well as the why in which Pattinson can fight these antagonists. The script provides plenty of obstacles and tension early with the discovery that the terrorists have trapped them in Kuweires Sharqi as well as the inclusion of Kundera being shot (something we could get more of as an issue in the second act).

What also really works with this plot is how it allows us to see different aspects of 3D printing, particularly with details such as the various powders and minerals that Pattinson needs to use in order to create different objects. This works really well in the script's second half as the story starts its focus on printing out other Pattinsons, something that helps contribute the strongest element of the hook to the story's strongest attribute. This also adds some fun to action scenes involving an abundance of Pattinsons, the "Prints", particularly in fight scenes such as the one at Old Man Mountain on page 89.

STRUCTURE

Despite the strong plot, there are some structural issues present in these pages, particularly when it comes to the script's pace. The big issue is that, with such a focus on plot, the script moves much too quickly from scene to scene. Not only does this prevent emotion from being developed or fleshed out, but it also creates an issue in terms of providing the necessary context for the story's entire setup. This is a noticeable issue in the first act, which is a bit confusing with the rushed explanation for why Pattinson and Bell go to Syria in the first place. This brisk pace creates issues with flow, making it harder to invest in the story as it moves from location to location.

Something else that could be stronger is the story's act structure, one that feels rushed in the first act as there is not enough time to develop an ordinary world around Pattinson before he is thrust into the story's plot, something that should take place a bit later in these pages. That being said, the midpoint of Pattinson getting shot is clear, but the story could provide a stronger low point leading into the script's final act after the exciting fire fight with Alexander and Jaden.

DIALOGUE

Dialogue is another area of *Band of Doctors* that could be developed to help with the issues around character and emotion. To start, there are some formatting errors particularly with grammar that can make some lines feel inorganic, particularly with Pattinson's lines trying to bond with David on page 68. Additionally, too many of the characters sound too similar, and it could be stronger for the story to take the personality traits of the characters and use them to craft distinct voices; for instance, how does the focused and pragmatic Pattinson sound different than the more emotional Kundera? This is particularly important in a script with so much exposition, which always sounds more natural coming from characters that sound real.

CONCEPT

One of the highlights of the script is the premise, especially when it comes to the fun and original hook provided to a more traditional action drama set in the Middle East. This comes clearly with the focus on 3D printing, something that is provided a fair amount of detail both in how it works and what it can

do, and this works well for the script to generate plenty of clever devices to use to help its action scenes stand apart. Additionally, focusing entirely on one town is a strong way for the script to contain its setting and capitalize on one of the more popular trends in current cinema.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Overall, *Band of Doctors* has a really clever premise that contributes original and exciting aspects to its effective plot. That being said, the pages need a stronger focus on theme, world building, character, dialogue and structure to really capitalize on the exciting potential and positive elements of its setup.

BAND OF DOCTORS

VIRTUALLY PERFECT
98th - 100th Percentile

EXCELLENT
85th - 97th Percentile

GOOD
50th - 84th Percentile

IMPROVE
0th - 49th Percentile

-

-

Plot
76th Percentile

Structure
47th Percentile

Concept
76th Percentile

Dialogue
39th Percentile

Characters
59th Percentile

RATING

PASS

PLACED IN THE TOP 46%

ABOUT STORY ANALYST KJL6

Reader has an MFA in Screenwriting and has provided pilot and feature film script coverage for Valhalla Entertainment and Blumhouse Productions; including notes on novels, web series, graphic novels and plays. Previously wrote for production companies working with Lifetime and Hallmark channels.

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