



DRIFTWOOD - By Gary St. Martin

Logline

When an ex-detective discovers a piece of driftwood embedded with clues left by a serial killer, he is thrown into a game of cat and mouse and must join forces with the local detective leading the case in order to save the next victim and catch the murderer.

synopsis

JOHNNY BAILEY is discharged from the SFPD for misconduct, taking up a quiet life in his Washington art studio six months later. Meanwhile DETECTIVE MCFEAR investigates a high-rise building murder, another in a recent string. She side-steps the press outside with DETECTIVE LAFITTE. She meets her Dad DAVE for coffee, who prods her about her failed relationships. McFear reports back to CAPTAIN JONES, who officially labels it a serial killer.

Johnny walking along the shore finds a carved piece of driftwood, realizing from McFear's TV conference that it's the calling card for the serial killer. Johnny's former partner JAMES encourages him to bring the evidence to McFear.

Johnny visits McFear and presents the driftwood, and reporting his findings. Captain Jones initially questions Johnny about his discharge, but McFear convinces Jones that Johnny has skills to offer as a consultant. Johnny joins the case in the search for the elusive and mysterious serial killer.

SHOW CROSS



SEVEN - RONIN - JOHN WIC

Main characters

JOHNNY BAILEY, 41, his eyes, a little puffy, traces of whiskey consumption on his face. Very confident, smart ex-detective turns into a consultant for the Seattle Police Department working directly with Danielle McFear to solve the serial killer murder case.



DETECTIVE DANIELLE MCFEAR, 34 years old she is the youngest to reach her standing in the Seattle police department. She is a smart, knockout beautiful was a standout amongst all other in her class at the academy on her way to becoming Seattle's 1st women head detective. Comes from a family of cops.



Main characters

Detective Pierre Lafitte, 42 years old he was born in France worked as a Detective in France, was hired by Seattle Police force to assist Detective McFear.

Detective Sophia Santiago, 26 years old Smart, she was a standout in the academy. She worked her way up quickly in the department, very outgoing and driven.

Captain Larson Jones, 52 years old - African American Man, The adult in the room. Spent many years as Detective, then Head Detective and now Captain of the Department.

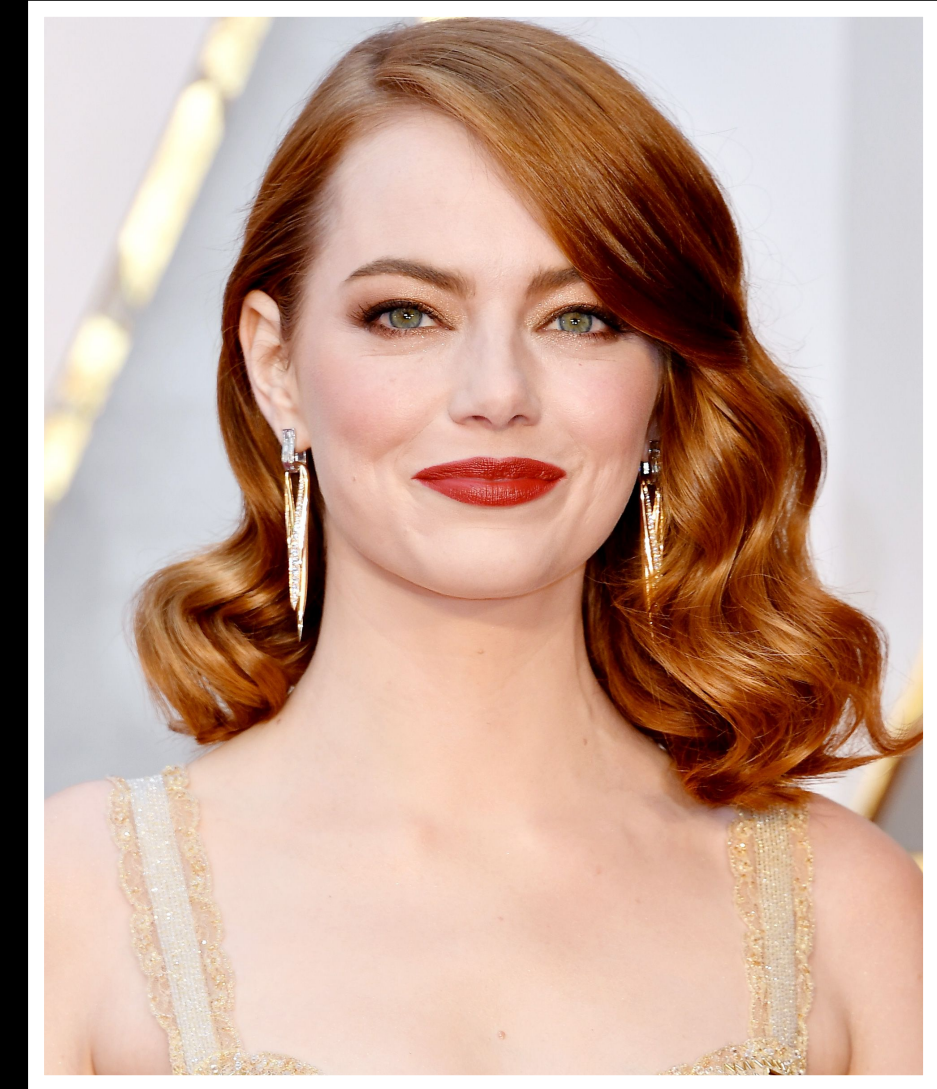


Main characters

MEDICAL EXAMINER DR. JORDEN LANE

36, Irish American, red hair, light blue eyes.

Born in Israel, a former Mossad Agent



ANTAGONIST

SAM LEWIS *A dejected loner fights back against the injustice of the Internet, at least in his mind . His thinking drives him .literally crazy.*



Pilot

One of the script's most attractive qualities is the mystery that the writer creates surrounding the murders and the serial killer - why is the killer taking these small, seemingly random objects?

The fact that Johnny has a similar habit of collecting small items for his gallery initially ties him with the killer, drawing the audience in as they try to discover whether or not he is the killer. The core concept can be discerned and summarized relatively quickly as: a former detective becomes involved in a serial killer case in Seattle but begins to fall for his new partner.

The concept does contain some novel elements that can make the script stand out from others in the genre, like the fact that Johnny was let go from SFPD for alcohol abuse and misconduct, setting the stage for potential character development. The concept can make a good pitch with more specificity and focus surrounding the protagonist's goal and main conflict in the script, which will help quickly establish audience expectations.

OVERALL

One of the most attractive qualities of the script is the suspenseful tone that the writer establishes with the opening sequences of Johnny getting let go from the Police Department and of the latest in a series of murders.

Through the dramatic events of the beginning of the script, the reader can expect more suspense and thrill as Johnny begins to investigate the serial killer whose trophies he is finding on the beach. There are unique aspects of the concept that help it stand out from others in the genre, like the fact that what Johnny has learned after his time as a detective helps him better understand and investigate the killer.

The writer also nicely depicts Sam's specific (albeit creepy) qualities - specifically his eerie whistling of 40s music, obsession with cleanliness, freakish disguises, etc. His meticulous approach to plotting out the murders allows him to remain one step ahead of Johnny and McFear, effectively driving the plot forward while concurrently keeping the audience intrigued. That said, there's relative simplicity and calmness, however, to the way Sam operates - specifically how he composedly enters his victim's apartments (or McFear's house), sharpens his knives, drives along the highways, etc. - compared to the sheer chaos that underlines Johnny and McFear's perpetual scrambling - hence their hefty resources (namely their detectives and technology), almost improvisational fashion in which they chase Sam throughout Seattle, etc. Sam exploits it to disseminate messages which foreshadow murderous outcomes.

TONE

One of the most attractive qualities of this script is the uniqueness of the concept.

The writer has taken a somewhat familiar concept in the crime genre and found a way to put their original spin on it, to include a surprising element that will help this script stand out from others in the genre.

At its core, the concept of this film is: When a retired detective-turned-artist receives mysterious driftwood messages from a deranged serial killer, he takes matters into his own hands and hunts for the killer.

