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Screen Reading

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Title:	CHEVY VAN
Author:	Janet Lynn Carey
Locale:	Rural Arkansas, US
Circa:	Modern day 2010-2020
Format:	Screenplay
Length:	104 pg.
Genre:	Detective, Mystery
Budget:	Low to Medium
Draft Date:	2020
Coverage Date:	1/19/21
Prepared by:	Shawn Carter

LOGLINE

A set of murders in rural Arkansas unfold as two local police detectives try to unravel who is the murderer that is copying an old serial killer MO. A young teen TOM working at a diner with a Chevy van may match the perp.

SUMMARY

N/A for Author read

COMMENTS

Strengths:

The pacing in the story is good and fast-paced. The length is right on target for this genre. There is a good amount of cliff hangers in the story to keep the reader going. One cliff hanger is not showing Tom making the call-in to the police leading the reader to read more. Another one is how Tom drops inappropriate comments about his fiancée. The slow development of split personality

victim/perpetrator is a great reveal as the story rolls out. Scene descriptions are well developed so you can visualize each scene and character quirks. The detective Harvey is always overeating lays out a great false lead on the perpetrator early on. Characters are well described and unique, so you cannot eliminate or blend characters. Marketing budget is low to medium with modern day setting and all shot in small town Arkansas: police station, 2 diners, an old farm, and abandoned town. No CGI is needed for the screenplay, which keeps cost low.

Weaknesses:

The main weakness is in grammar, spelling and formatting; these technicalities will seem amateurish to a producer reading the script and may lead to producers not reading it all the way through. The spelling and grammar errors are as follows. Julie Millers scarf should be "Miller's". "Mam" should be spelled Ma'am, shortened version for Madam. There are numerous spelling errors that detract from the reader experience. On pg. 99, "to late" should be too late, grammar correction. Change "Detective Harvey (Cont'd)" to just "DETECTIVE HARVEY" as its understood. Scene 42b "Everyone cheer and walk" should be Everyone cheers and walks. On pg. 84, "Thomas father" should be Thomas's father to be correct.

There is a series of capitalization errors, which can be easily fixed and detract from the reader experience. All the location descriptions can be NON-capitalized and only major scenes in SLUGLINES capitalized. For character description just add it above where the dialogue starts to follow the scenes easily; this can take reader out of the story a bit. Characters, when introduced first time only, need capitalization as well. Uniformed Officer should be capitalized in description paragraph when introduced. Young Woman should be capitalized when first introduced in the description paragraph. Barn description can be non-CAPS to be correct formatting. Riley's cubical description can be non-CAPS format. Tom's bedroom description should be NON-caps format. Debbie Watts needs to be in CAPS when introduced. TWO POLICE OFFICERS should be capitalized when first introduced on pg. 14. TONY HERNANDEZ and BOB GREENE should be capitalized when first introduced. Photographer should be capitalized when introduced in the description paragraph. Officer Conway should be capitalized when introduced. Scene 41, the Gnome town description doesn't need capitalized. State hospital description on pg. 102

does not need CAPS; incorrect format.

Phone number would have to be scrapped in a shooting script due to harassment laws (867-5309 song). One of the nice definitions of Tom's "Tom" character is the use of crutches while Albert does not need them setting the stage of character reveal. Description of Tony and Bob should be moved to the paragraph before dialogue starts. In the part where Tom reveals his second personality to the reader, you could call that out in the character to be clear "TOM (as ALBERT)" vs. just "TOM" for the actor to interpret correctly. After mental discovery, the Tom character could be called out Tom (normal) or Tom (Albert) personalities to be clear for actor playing him.

Some of the language could be reworded slightly. Sweet iced tea should just be sweet tea; in the South its always iced and understood. It can be called out in the paragraph description like "Waitress brings out sweet iced tea." The police dialogue phrases could be shortened a bit and more curt, less polite when talking amongst themselves. They don't speak grammatically correct in real life.

There were some possible plot holes. Why is Riley taking over from the 2 detectives on the case? Does the story need Riley per say vs. the two original detectives? Does Tom not know about his grandfather being a serial killer? This event would be common knowledge in town that he would have learned about later in life even if grandma kept it a secret; it appears to be a character feature to differentiate between Tom and Albert personalities. Cops seem a bit dumb on detective work claiming one is a genius when its regular, police sleuthing techniques. Why does Tom agree to stay at the police station overnight? They have nothing on him yet, seems that he would want to search her out after leaving a statement, so maybe that needs to be added. How does Della not know about the killings as he was convicted before? Is Della also crazy or getting senile?

Police stories can be cliché and may not be produced unless very original in angle. Is there an inciting moment in the story? Which character has a character arc? What are the character flaws of our two detectives besides one eats too much or drinks coke vs coffee? Tom's crude comments about Amy's tits seems out of character for a new finance but lead the reader to start to realize Albert's personality. It may be better to have the diner dating scene of Tom and

Amy moved forward in the story, so there is more shock of the crime and the personality reveal later. The title seems a bit obvious, maybe the van should have a name for the title or a play on words of the character Tom or his mental condition.

CONCLUSION

RATINGS GRID:

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Very Good</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Needs Work</u>
Artistic			x		
Commercial			x		
Premise		x			
Story		x			
Main Characters			x		
Minor Characters				x	
Dialogue			x		
Visual Elements		x			
Title				x	

SCRIPT WRITER: SHAWN CARTER

PASS/CONSIDER: CONSIDER