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Screen Reading

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Title: XXXXX
Author: xxxxx
Locale: Florida
Circa: 1980s
Format: Screenplay
Length: 114 pages
Genre: Romance
Budget: Low to Medium
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Prepared by: Shawn Carter

LOGLINE

J, a college actor has a crush on his blind friend D, who aspires to be a writer. J's girlfriend K, fellow actor, is blind to J being gay and has to be confronted.

SUMMARY

D/20s a blind son and his mother? C/40s are setting up a Christmas tree in their apartment. C is asking D about going to vocational school for the blind. At Florida State University, BEVERLY, playing Hermia in a college play Midsummer is coached by DUNCAN, her theatre teacher. J plays Pyramus in the play. K plays Titania in the play and walks with J. DANNY playing Puck walks with Jeanie playing Helena. JEANIE suggests to K to dump J. At the Blind Vocational School, C picks up the application forms for D. At FSU, J, Danny, K and Jeanie discuss Christmas plans. ONE A, strange classmate approaches K to flatter her, she dislikes it. D, his dog MAX and J are in Spanish class and walk back to C's apartment. They are disappointed by small audience for their play. At C's apartment, J steals the braille guide from D. K calls J, but gets Marty for a brief

exchange. SANDRA, K's roommate tells her she has an invitation to Panama City with PAUL, a law graduate, but she is uninterested. At C's apartment, J tells D he wants to fall in love while D tells him about his present, a new tape recorder. D is shocked J isn't attracted to K anymore. J is tempted to touch D's hand, but withdraws. D and J have a small spat and J takes off. K shows up at J's house to ask about him. MARTY, his roommate tells her he's not there. K dislikes Marty. At the theatre, FRED, DUNCAN and J discuss Midsummer Night's play. K confronts J about not being home. At C's house, she tells D she thinks GLEN will propose to her. BEVERLY, LYSANDER, Jeanie and Danny discuss a party on Saturday. K says she is busy with J that day. Back at school in Spanish class, J apologizes to D about being weird the day before. J brings D a copy of the homework to turn in. J is worried about dress rehearsal going badly before opening. Glen and C meet at the apartment and they have sex. J and D are driving and almost hit a broken car on the side of the road. At J's house, K borrow's J and leaves D there. K and J are eating at an upscale restaurant. J doesn't want to be there. They are practicing lines in the play. J lectures K to be prepared and know her lines. D has fallen asleep in J's bed waiting. K drops J off at his house. Max has pooped on the floor angering J, since he will clean it up for D. Glen proposes to C at her house; she accepts. D is late coming home, so C worries. D realizes he didn't let her know and calls her. C informs him of the proposal. D apologizes to J about the dog. J announces his love for D. D turns him down and cries. J says it will be fine. In the theatre, Jeanie and K discuss her plans for J. One A shows up with flowers. Jeanie convinces K to go on a date with Andy to make J jealous. Opening night of Midsummer play. K lets J know her date with Andy to make him jealous. At play's rehearsal, K tells J to come over the next day and he agrees. At C's apartment, C, D, Glen and C talk. Glen dislikes J. Glen tells C he needs to get J away from D. D refutes the idea of a new school. Glen and C tell D he can't be a writer as its impractical. D holds his ground to be a writer. Andy meets K at her house and lunges at her. She pushes him off and he starts to leave. K lures him back by playing into his "Hertia" dream. K cuddles next to Andy as J enters. K shoos Andy away. K thanks J for showing up as Andy almost rapes her. J threatens to beat up Andy for K. K tries to seduce J by undressing her top. J is shocked. K asks J why they can't be more than friends. K admits to staging the rape with Andy to anger J. K suggests J is gay. J dodges

the question. J drives off and past D. He stops to offer D and Max a ride. D asks why J didn't tell K he was gay. J suggests they fuck. D breaks the tension by shouting a car is out front. J swerves falsely, but almost hits a tree. J suggest D drive blind and steer for him. D is driving at 15 mph with J when a cop pulls them over. At the party, Jennie is showing her liposuction photos around. K and Sam discuss their dreams of acting and family rejection of their dreams. C is worried about D not showing and drives to find him. D and J try to fool the cop, but the cop spots the dog uniform and issues a ticket to both. K tells Sam about calling J gay. D is stressed about the ticket. J tries to cheer him up and fails. J suggests to D to pay for the ticket borrowing money from parents. Back at C's house, D confesses to driving blind. Glen laughs and agrees to pay the ticket to cover for D. At the theatre, the cast prepares for play. J and K have a heated discussion. K asks Tina if J is gay. C is wrapping Christmas presents. J and K go into character on stage. Prop girl is locked out of theatre. They finish Act 1 of the play and go off stage. At C's apartment, C is trying to convince D to go to vocation school again. The play finishes and K talks to J. K goes out to dinner with Sam instead, confusing J. J calls D at home. D lectures him about not telling C about being gay. Later on K tries to call J at Marty's house, but just misses him. J agrees to meet K to have the "talk". J and K disuss bad relationship at grocery store. K asks J about him being a virgin and suspect him of fearing to try sex. J admits to being gay when asked. K dashes off to cry. Sam and Sandra console K in her trailer. Sam kisses K, making her begin to see the light. J and D are sitting in a park practicing Spanish. J gives D a Christmas present and lays his hand on D's leg. D gets up to go. D tells J he just want to be friends and stop trying to seduce him. D and J shout at each other and leave angry. At theatre dept., J tells Duncan his failed approach with D. Duncan advises him to talk to J again and apologize. J and K meet by accident in a park and agree to be just friends and accept openly that J is gay. J stops by D's house to apologize. D announces he's going to vocational school. J starts to cry. J goes to the theatre to cry and cries with the Prop girl. They console each other.

COMMENTS

It has a modern day issue of coming out as gay, which is timely to our recent era. Another interesting layer is one of the characters is blind, which lends itself to comedy setups like the blind driving a car or great visuals of flirting secretly. The challenge of being a writer being blind also adds a nice layer into the story. The set cost to produce this will be quite low as you can use any college campus, a classroom and an apartment to shoot in if you change it to the 2000s. If you stick to 1980s, you will need to find cars of the era and clear streets for car scenes. Additionally, since it is modern there is minimal costume cost with off-the-shelf clothing to be used. With some added danger to the gay character like an overly religious parent this could have much more intensity to the conflict of gay love not reciprocated. This screenplay may work as a theatre play.

One of the major flaws are unnecessary scenes not adding to the story directly and serve no purpose to move the plot: finding keys, much of the theatre scenes, party, etc. There is no life/death situation here, so engagement could be low from audience. The international market could be limited by the issue of gay could be off limits to show in very traditional cultures in the Middle East, South America or Africa. The minimal conflict in many scenes leads to a slow story. The language is generic and not unique per person, but could be spiced up with slang local to the area and more subtext to frame dialogue and the theme. There is a scene of D crying about J's announcement of love, seems to be reverse of what is expected; probably J would have been crying instead of D. The scene of D as a blind guy calling out a car coming makes no sense and reaction by J doesn't read right. The buildup to the enticing moment of gay love announcement is not as tense as could be. Reuse of *Midsummer's Dream* in the middle of the play is a bit cliché. Additionally, this *Midsummer's* play exposes the weakness of the story and language as copying the theme. Side plots at the party and many theatre scenes don't add much to the story and should be cut. There is a lack of seriousness of the gayness being exposed, maybe a religious parent could be added to give more weight to his secret being exposed or possible pastor as a father and shame connected to being gay added. Another possible angle could be the theatre class staged in a Catholic school with risk

of expelling J from school with his secret out in the open. The extra blank page at beginning is not needed.

CONCLUSION

Although the story has timely issues like coming out gay and acceptance of blind populations, and a low production cost, the lack of life/death seriousness for the protagonist, minimal humor, generic language and unnecessary side stories detract from its success.

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: PASS