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PROJECT ANALYSIS - DRY-RUN INDUSTRY STYLE REPORT

(please note this report has been modified to protect the writer's intellectual copyright)

Title: THE _____
Length: 107 pages
Writer: John Doe
Genre: Thriller / Chase
Sub-Genre(s): Sci-Fi
Director: N/A
Setting: U.S.
Period: 20_
Budget: Medium
Verdict: Low Consider
Date Covered: 03.10.12

Logline: When a _____ searching for the _____ jghjbkj _____ himself, he finds himself hunted by _____, who want to use the _____ for their own ends.

Evaluation: Intriguing subject matter, a compelling writing style, and a strong emotional undertow help compensate for a slightly linear and simplistic plot, hindered largely by a _____ who just doesn't quite have _____ to do or a clear _____ in the story. The emphasis on exposition over action is problematic too, but there are still plenty of strengths in both concept and characters, and overall there's enough here to warrant a Low Consider verdict.

	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
PREMISE		X		
PLOT			X	
CHARACTERISATION		X		
DIALOGUE		X		
PACE			X	
SETTING		X		

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COMMENTS

_____ is an action-packed sci-fi thriller based around two main ___ ideas: the discovery _____ and the possibility of _____. The main plot sees _____ (formerly married, both dealing with the fall-out of their daughter's death) on the run from _____, which have unexpectedly yielded results: _____. It's a satisfying premise in a commercial genre and as such there is much to recommend about it, the story moving from set piece to set piece pretty effectively, and the subject matter and characterisation offering immediate appeal. However there are some underlying structural issues, particularly with the plotting and the protagonist, that prevent the script from fully reaching its potential...

The main concern is that, after an opening act in which he is both active and decisive, _____ becomes increasingly passive, buffeted around by events but only rarely taking concrete action of his own – and when he does, it is often counter-productive. After the initial spate of ___ that precipitate the chase, ___ and ___ go on the run, and from this point on it is largely _____ who controls the action, revealing fairly detailed exposition (which, though motivated by the situation, is dramatically less than satisfying), taking _____ to the research complex, and generally acting like she's the one with all the knowledge and power. Meanwhile it is _____ who saves them from _____ at the midpoint and the _____ who saves them (or tries to, at least) in the final act when _____ is revealed as the true villain of the piece (a neat twist). In fact, the only major actions _____ takes in Act II other than running are to try and revive the _____ – an action that is both woefully misguided and ultimately undermined by Miles – and to seek help from _____.

This latter action does make a lot of sense and demonstrates ___ leading the fight-back against _____. But for the rest of the story he is actually a pretty lacklustre hero, far more obsessed with reviving _____ than with protecting the data and escaping from _____. This makes us question what his goal really *is*, in fact: to protect the _____ from _____ or to use it to bring back _____? If the latter, _____ surely becomes much more of an obstacle than she currently is, plus he still doesn't make that much effort to restart the _____ (one abortive attempt in the middle, then nothing...). The _____ material is certainly interesting and does lend _____ character great emotional depth. But from a plotting perspective there just isn't the sense of propulsion and narrative drive an action-thriller needs, with the emphasis instead falling on exposition and discussion, which slow up the pace. Meanwhile the thematic content is only obliquely touched upon. Though the subject matter sets up some fascinating ideas about the ethics of _____, the dangers of not letting go of the past, and whether it's right to _____ by searching for _____, these ideas are only skirted by, never engaged with in a truly resonant way.

This is partly because we don't fully understand what the _____ actually does. Certainly it can manifest _____, but what does this say about _____, the _____ and what it means to be _____? Above all, why are _____ and _____ so desperate to shut _____ down when he's discovering exactly what they surely want him to discover? Why not simply co-opt his knowledge instead of intentionally alienating him? Indeed why are they trying to shut

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down the ___ at the start at all? Plot holes like these both confuse the story and make it hard to discern what the script intends to say about the rights and wrongs of ___; and on the subject of the _____, his is an underwritten character whose role in the story deserves expanding.

Nevertheless despite these issues, ___ is still an appealing story with great characters and a strong premise. If it were clearer what's at stake for both ___ and ___ in capturing the ___, and if ___ were a more convincing protagonist, there'd be a solid basis here for a compelling and resonant sci-fi thriller.

Ultimately then, there's undoubtedly the merit here to judge the project worthy of consideration for further development, and the writer should be tracked, too.