

SCREENPLAY COVERAGE REPORT:

DATE: 3/20/24

TITLE: "TRAIL MIX UP"

AUTHOR: Paris Dylan

PAGE COUNT: 85

GENRE: Romantic Comedy

BUDGET: "LOW"

RATING: "STRONG CONSIDER"

SCORES:

Characters: 4

Tone: 4

Dialogue: 4

Visual Elements: 3

Originality: 4

Structure: 4

Plot: 5

Commercial Appeal: 5

LOGLINE:

A man and his ex-fiancée embark on a tense and emotional journey to scatter his sister's ashes at a mountain summit, accompanied by a peculiar elderly man who claims to be on a secret mission, only to discover he suffers from dementia and Alzheimer's.

TOPE:

The script for "Trail Mix Up" is characterized by its blend of humor, drama, and suspense. The narrative tone is a mix of light-hearted banter and serious emotional moments, with an undercurrent of mystery and tension. The story unfolds in the backdrop of a scenic hiking trail, evoking images of vast landscapes, dense forests, and towering mountains. The color palette would likely be dominated by earthy greens and browns, punctuated by the vibrant

hues of the characters' clothing and camping gear. The story's tone is one of adventure and personal discovery, with a focus on themes of friendship, loss, and the complexities of past relationships. It also explores the idea of confronting one's past and the challenges of navigating interpersonal dynamics in high-stress situations. The script's tone is further enriched by elements of surprise and comedic relief, providing a balance to the more dramatic and emotional moments.

SYNOPSIS:

In the solemn setting of a funeral home, Marco, a 33-year-old man in business-casual attire, sits alone with an urn and a list of locations that include the Taj Mahal, Grand Canyon, and Mt. Norbert. His solitude is interrupted by two elderly maids and a phone call from his mother. She inquires about the urn and urges him to decide on a final resting place for the ashes it contains. The ashes are those of Marco's sister, Rebecca, who had expressed her wish to have her ashes scattered at certain places.

Marco's mother suggests he should bring Amelia along for this journey - a woman he hasn't spoken to in ten years. Despite his initial reluctance, Marco contacts Amelia who agrees to accompany him on this mission despite her busy schedule.

The following day sees Marco and Amelia at the trailhead to Mt. Norbert. Their reunion is fraught with tension stemming from unresolved issues from their past relationship. They are joined by Percy, an elderly man who mistakes Amelia for someone else.

During their hike through the wilderness, Percy's peculiar behavior raises suspicions among Marco and Amelia as he shows them a dead rabbit he found and warns them about "Operatives." Despite their concerns about Percy's odd behavior and their own unresolved past issues that resurface during their conversation, they press on.

Their journey takes an unexpected turn when they follow Percy's direction at a fork in the trail only to find it blocked by a chasm. They decide to cut across

rough terrain where Amelia injures herself but is quickly aided by Percy while Marco tries to figure out their location.

As evening falls, they reach a familiar clearing where they set up camp. During this time, suspicions about Percy continue to rise as his strange behavior persists. However, around the campfire that night, both Marco and Percy share personal stories - Marco talks about his adventurous sister Rebecca while Percy reveals he is an undercover agent on a secret mission.

Their night is interrupted by the presence of a bear outside their tent. They manage to distract the bear and escape, deciding to wait out the bear's presence. The following morning, they discover their supplies scattered and the urn missing. Marco insists on finding it, leading to a heated argument between him and Amelia about their past relationship and feelings towards Rebecca.

Their argument is halted when Percy finds the urn. They continue their journey and reach the summit where Marco gives a heartfelt speech in memory of Rebecca. As they descend, Amelia reveals she's seeing someone else which is interrupted by park rangers who reveal that Percy suffers from dementia and Alzheimer's.

The story concludes with Amelia visiting Percy at his new residence in a senior home. Marco also shows up, hinting at a possible reconciliation between him and Amelia as they set off on another adventure together.

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

- 1. Marco:** A 33-year-old man who is tasked with scattering his late sister's ashes at specific locations. He is initially reluctant to involve Amelia, an old flame, in the process, but eventually does so. Marco is shown to be dismissive and uninterested in discussing his past relationship with Amelia, but also shows a deep love and respect for his sister, Rebecca.
- 2. Amelia:** An old friend and ex-fiancée of Marco, who joins him on his journey to scatter Rebecca's ashes. Amelia is busy, but she agrees to join Marco on his journey. She is regretful about how things ended with

Marco, and is revealed to be seeing someone else. Despite her past with Marco, she is supportive and comforting during the journey.

- 3. Percy:** An elderly man who joins Marco and Amelia on their hike. Percy is peculiar and paranoid, often hinting at secrets and warning of "Operatives." He is revealed to be suffering from dementia and Alzheimer's, and his strange behavior is due to his belief that he is on a secret mission to save a woman he loves.
- 4. Marco's Mother:** She is concerned about her son's decision regarding the final resting place for Rebecca's ashes. She insists that Marco needs to make a decision soon and suggests that he should bring Amelia along for the journey.
- 5. Rebecca:** Marco's late sister, who expressed a dying wish for her ashes to be scattered at certain places. She is not physically present in the story, but her presence is felt throughout the journey. Rebecca loved hiking and adventures, and her death due to heart complications doesn't stop her from continuing her adventures posthumously.

DETAILED SUMMARY:

In a quiet, minimalist room of a funeral home, Marco, a 33-year-old man dressed in business-casual attire, sits alone with a list of locations and an urn. The list includes places like the Taj Mahal, Grand Canyon, and Mt. Norbert. As he contemplates the list, two elderly maids barge in, disrupting the silence with their chatter and cleaning supplies. Marco's phone rings, and he answers it to find his mother on the other end. She asks if he has picked up the urn, to which he confirms. His mother then asks him about his decision regarding the final resting place for the ashes, and he admits he hasn't decided yet. His mother insists that he needs to make a decision soon, as she and Marco's father are leaving for New York the following week and plan to take the urn with them. She also mentions that Marco's sister, Rebecca, had expressed a dying wish for her ashes to be scattered at certain places.

Marco's mother suggests that he should bring someone along for the journey, specifically Amelia, a woman Marco hasn't spoken to in ten years. Despite his

initial reluctance, Marco calls Amelia, who initially mistakes him for her dog sitter. After clearing up the confusion, Marco informs Amelia about Rebecca's death and her wish for her ashes to be scattered on Mt. Norbert. Amelia agrees to join him, despite her busy schedule.

The next morning, Marco and Amelia meet at the trailhead to Mt. Norbert. Their reunion is awkward, with tension and unresolved issues from their past relationship surfacing. As they begin their hike, they encounter Percy, an elderly man who mistakes Amelia for someone else. Percy decides to join them on their hike, adding to the already tense atmosphere. Despite the awkwardness and tension, Marco and Amelia press on, determined to fulfill Rebecca's final wish.

In the wilderness, Percy, a peculiar older man, finds a dead rabbit and shows it to his hiking companions, Amelia and Marco. As they rest, Amelia and Marco discuss their decision to invite Percy, who they suspect might be a killer, on their hike. Amelia insists that Percy just wants someone to talk to. The conversation then shifts to Amelia and Marco's past relationship. Amelia expresses her regret about how things ended between them, but Marco is dismissive and uninterested in discussing it, leaving Amelia upset.

As they continue their hike, Percy becomes increasingly paranoid, warning Amelia and Marco to be on the lookout for "Operatives." He hints at a secret he's keeping but refuses to elaborate, leaving Amelia and Marco confused and concerned. When they reach a fork in the trail, Percy insists on taking the left path, contrary to Marco's knowledge of the route. They eventually agree to follow Percy's direction, only to find the path blocked by a large chasm. Marco suggests they cut across rough terrain to reach the other path, a plan Amelia reluctantly agrees to.

While navigating the difficult terrain, Amelia notices a bloody gash on her arm. Marco and Percy rush to her aid, with Percy bandaging her wound while Marco tries to figure out their location on a map. During this time, Percy mistakenly assumes that Amelia and Marco are a couple, leading Amelia to reveal that they were once engaged but she ended things while studying abroad in Spain. Marco eventually figures out their location, and they continue

their hike, with Percy leading the way and Marco and Amelia following behind, their past still hanging heavily between them.

As evening falls, Amelia, Marco, and Percy continue their hike on the trail. Amelia and Marco lead the way, with Percy trailing behind. Amelia comments on the growing darkness, and Marco assures her that they are nearing a familiar clearing where they have camped before. When Amelia stumbles, Marco catches her, and she decides to rummage through her backpack for flashlights. Marco praises her preparedness and takes note of the name patch on her bag. He steps closer to Amelia, making her uncomfortable, and points out the patch. He suggests that Percy might have used the name on her bag to pretend he knew her, raising suspicions about Percy's intentions. Amelia dismisses Marco's paranoia but agrees to be careful.

Upon reaching the campsite, Marco begins setting up the tent while Amelia and Percy go to collect firewood. Percy's strange behavior continues as he seems to misunderstand the simple task of collecting firewood as a mission. Amelia tries to understand Percy's odd behavior and asks him about his lack of camping gear and his vague references to training. Percy remains evasive, insisting he doesn't have to explain himself.

As they sit around the campfire later that night, Marco opens up about his sister, Rebecca, whose ashes they are carrying in an urn. He shares that she loved hiking and adventures, and even after her death due to heart complications, she continues to go on adventures. Percy, in turn, reveals that he is an undercover agent on a secret mission to save a woman he loves who is on the mountain. He claims that he is getting old and this might be his last operation. Amelia and Marco are skeptical of Percy's story but decide not to abandon him.

Later that night, Amelia and Marco share a blanket in the tent as Percy takes up most of the space. Their moment of closeness is interrupted by the sound of a bear outside. In a panic, they wake Percy and flee the tent. Marco manages to distract the bear with a stick and some cheese-berries from Amelia's backpack, allowing them to escape and hide. They decide to wait out the bear's presence, uncertain of how long it will take.

In the early morning at a campsite, Percy, Marco, and Amelia wake up. Amelia finds Percy a short distance away, muttering the name "Claire" in his sleep. After waking him, Percy appears disoriented but eventually comes to his senses. The trio then discovers that a bear has scattered their supplies. Marco is distraught when he can't find an urn named Rebecca. Amelia tries to comfort him, suggesting they look for the urn and if they can't find it, they can explain the situation to Marco's parents. Marco insists they must find the urn no matter how long it takes.

Amelia reveals that she needs to leave at some point, which angers Marco. He accuses her of not caring about Rebecca, who was Amelia's best friend. Amelia admits that she didn't really care for Rebecca and only became friends with her because she was Marco's sister. This revelation leads to a heated argument between Marco and Amelia, during which Amelia confesses that she ended their relationship because she felt trapped and wanted to explore her life. Marco is hurt and accuses Amelia of being self-centered.

Their argument is interrupted when Percy finds the urn. Marco takes it and they continue their journey. They reach the summit of the mountain where Marco sets the urn in front of him and gives a heartfelt speech, expressing his love and gratitude for Rebecca. Amelia comforts Marco, assuring him that Rebecca would have appreciated his effort. Percy, however, is disappointed that he hasn't found Claire.

As they descend the mountain, Amelia reveals to Marco that she's seeing someone and wants to move on. She apologizes for everything, including her feelings about Rebecca and their past relationship. Their conversation is interrupted by park rangers who have been searching for Percy. They reveal that Percy suffers from dementia and Alzheimer's and had wandered off from a memory care home. Amelia and Marco are shocked by this revelation.

In the end, Amelia visits Percy at the senior home where he now resides. Marco also shows up, indicating that their relationship might not be entirely over. The story ends with Amelia and Marco setting off on another trail, ready for their next adventure.

COMMENTS:

This script is a great candidate for a romantic comedy movie for several reasons. Firstly, it has a unique premise that combines elements of romance, comedy, and adventure. The plot revolves around a man and a woman who used to be engaged, reuniting after ten years to fulfill a dying wish. This sets the stage for a lot of emotional depth and character development, which are key elements in a romantic comedy.

Secondly, the script is filled with humorous situations and dialogues. The inclusion of Percy, a peculiar older man who adds a layer of comedy and mystery to the story, is a brilliant move. His quirky behavior, secret agent claims, and the misunderstandings he causes add a lot of humor to the story.

Thirdly, the script has a strong emotional core. The journey to scatter Rebecca's ashes is not just a physical journey, but also an emotional one for Marco and Amelia. Their unresolved issues, the tension between them, and their eventual reconciliation make for a compelling romantic storyline. The script also explores themes of loss, regret, and the importance of closure, which adds depth to the story.

Lastly, the script has a satisfying and hopeful ending. Despite the revelations and arguments, Amelia and Marco's relationship seems to have a chance at a fresh start. The final scene where they set off on another trail indicates that their story is not over, leaving the audience with a sense of anticipation and hope.

In conclusion, this script has all the elements of a great romantic comedy - a unique premise, humor, emotional depth, and a satisfying ending. It would certainly appeal to an audience who loves this genre.

Comments At A Glance:

The story is unique in its blend of drama, mystery, and adventure. It revolves around the unusual journey of scattering ashes at a specific location, which is

a unique premise. The story also features a peculiar character, Percy, who adds a layer of intrigue and suspense with his strange behavior and claims of being an undercover agent. The revelation of his dementia and Alzheimer's disease adds a poignant twist to the story. Furthermore, the story explores complex relationships and past regrets, adding depth to the characters and their interactions.

STRENGTHS:

1. **Strong Character Development:** The script does an excellent job of developing the characters of Marco, Amelia, and Percy. Their past relationships, personal struggles, and motivations are well-explored, making them relatable and engaging.
2. **Emotional Depth:** The script delves into heavy themes such as death, regret, and reconciliation, providing a depth of emotion that can resonate with audiences.
3. **Suspense and Mystery:** The script maintains a sense of suspense and mystery throughout, particularly with Percy's character and his secret mission, keeping the audience engaged.
4. **Humor:** Despite the heavy themes, the script incorporates humor, such as Amelia initially mistaking Marco for her dog sitter, which provides a balance and lightens the mood.
5. **Dynamic Relationships:** The script explores the dynamic relationships between the characters, particularly the unresolved issues between Marco and Amelia, which adds complexity and depth to the story.
6. **Unexpected Twists:** The script includes unexpected twists, such as the revelation of Percy's dementia and Alzheimer's, which keeps the audience on their toes and adds an element of surprise.
7. **Strong Ending:** The script ends on a hopeful note with Marco and Amelia setting off on another adventure, providing a satisfying conclusion while leaving room for potential continuation of the story.

Possible Issues:

1. Casting: The script requires an elderly actor who can convincingly portray Percy's character, who suffers from dementia and Alzheimer's. This could be challenging to cast and portray accurately and sensitively.
2. Special Effects: There are scenes involving a bear and navigating difficult terrains, like a chasm, which may require special effects or stunt coordination.
3. Sensitivity: The script deals with sensitive topics like death, dementia, and Alzheimer's. These need to be handled with care to avoid offending or upsetting audiences.
4. Pacing: The script is dialogue-heavy and has a slow pace at times, which might not appeal to all audiences.
5. Layered Character: The script requires the audience to understand and empathize with the complex relationship between Marco and Amelia, which may be challenging to convey effectively in a film format.
6. Continuity: The script involves a hiking journey over a few days, which could present continuity challenges in filming.
7. Animal Handling: The script involves a scene with a bear, which would require trained animal handlers and safety precautions.

FAVORITE MOMENT:

My favorite moment of the script is when Marco gives a heartfelt speech at the summit of the mountain, expressing his love and gratitude for Rebecca. This moment is emotionally charged and shows the depth of Marco's feelings for his sister. It also brings a sense of closure to their journey, fulfilling Rebecca's final wish.

COMPARABLES:

1. "The Bucket List" - This film shares the theme of fulfilling a dying person's wish. In "The Bucket List," two terminally ill men embark on a road trip to do all the things they've always wanted to do before they die. Similarly, in the script, Marco and Amelia embark on a journey to fulfill Rebecca's dying wish of having her ashes scattered at certain places.
2. "P.S. I Love You" - This movie is about a widow who embarks on a journey to fulfill her late husband's wishes, which he left for her in letters. The script also revolves around the theme of fulfilling a loved one's wishes after their death. Additionally, both narratives involve the rekindling of past relationships and dealing with unresolved issues.
3. "The Way" - This film is about a father who embarks on a journey to complete his deceased son's pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago. The script shares a similar theme of a journey undertaken to honor a loved one's memory. Both narratives also involve meeting and interacting with strangers who have their own stories and secrets.