



## The Enlightening – Promo Review

Category	Score
Concept	4 / 5
Storyline	3.5 / 5
Characters	3.5 / 5
Dialogue	4 / 5
Commerciality	4 / 5
Originality	3.5 / 5
Complexity	4 / 5
Production Value	4 / 5

Horror is one of the most challenging but gratifying genres, as it can launch a writer's career in no time – it's creative, intuitive, visually appealing and rich with nuances and shades that don't necessarily depend on the production's available resources. And the challenge comes from the fact that it's a fairly saturated genre. So what makes a script stand out from the crowd, managing to leave a long-lasting impression?

The feature-length script that we are about to review, *The Enlightening*, belongs to the pack that sets itself aside from the competition. It tells the story of June, a young introverted adolescent who deals with high anxiety that sometimes prevents her from

going out or establishing new contacts. However, things change for June when her older sister, April, asks her to join her group in order to go to a music festival hosted in a forest. Hesitant at first, June gathers the strength and energy required to step out of her comfort zone. Little do June, April, and their friends know that they will be chased by an omnipresent creature who isolates and grabs each of them.

Can the siblings and friends survive the night? And more importantly, what would prove to be the creature's fatal flaw, i.e. Achilles heel? Among the first things to notice regarding the execution is the atmosphere. The writer establishes these traits initially, so we anticipate that the protagonists' journey will change trajectory at any moment.

In that regard, the atmosphere is palpable; some moments feel uncanny, June can't separate the voices inside her head from the nuisance, and the unsettling tones always aim to make us, the viewers, uncomfortable. That said, the writer gets every part of the equation right. As mentioned prior, the offer us an immersive and thought-provoking experience that is elevated by a genuine and relatable protagonist.

This leads us to the next subject – the characters versus the plot. Meaning, the writer spends significant time building the characters' arcs. They balance them with the plot devices, which help push the leading ensemble forward, but only when necessary. As a result, we establish an emotional relationship with June and April and root for them to help the others endure the catatonic night.

On the other hand, the subsequent revisions are yet to improve some specific moments, characters and dialogues. Even though the current version has all the ingredients necessary to bring the storyline to the next level, it could be valuable for the next revision to emphasize these parts.

For example, the impression is that it takes a while for the first act to set up the world of the characters and plant the seed for the supernatural elements. In other words, the creature's arrival could be brought forward several pages in order to allow the middle part to include the protagonists in different situations and present various problems and challenges. The way the first act is set currently unintentionally means that it overstays its welcome.

More importantly, June is mainly passive. True, this is expected because of her introverted nature, but it takes a while for June to finally take matters into her hands. Otherwise, April and Katherine move the plot forward, especially the latter, whose screening time could be tailored to give June more space. In addition, the middle act could elevate the conflict between the sisters; this is another way to make June more involved and force her to be active.

The idea of having a protagonist who would do anything to remain intact is to force the other narrative elements to complicate their goals, wants and needs. In June's case, we felt the story could relate to her more than the other characters. Lastly, it could be valuable to revise the voice-over device. Although it enriches the dialogue overall, it

unintentionally falls into the repetition trap. Instead, the story could prompt fundamental interactions to better access June's core wounds and unique traits.

Other than that, it's inevitable to state that *The Enlightening* is headed in the right direction development-wise. As mentioned, it has already identified the special attractor that separates it from the rest, so we are confident that producers and other industry professionals will feel the same about it. In conclusion, although it's preferred to go through a few more revisions, *The Enlightening* showcases its qualities and potential.

**Note from our reader:** *Dear writer, thank you for sharing your story. I thoroughly enjoyed reading your script because of June, the complexity and the production value. I have more suggestions for improving the structure, the length and the pacing. We offer a 1-hour one-to-one online consultation service (use code **50OFF1** for \$50 off when clicking **HERE**) to discuss your script's other strengths and weaknesses, and I can answer any specific questions you may have. This can be done via Skype or Zoom at your earliest convenience. All the best, **DIMITAR**.*

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