

Sample Coverage

Title: Alphas

Type of Material: Screenplay

Author: Story by Christopher Tuffin & Frank Hannah; Written by Frank Hannah

Number of Pages: 104

Submitted by: Voltage Pictures

Circa: Present

Draft Date: N/A

Location: Resort Town

Budget: High

Genre: Action Thriller

Coverage by: Jackson Freed

Producers: Voltage Pictures

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Agent Requesting: N/A

LOG LINE:

In a race to save his resort town, the head of a rescue organization with a troubled past must work with a former aquatic park trainer to have killer whales rid the waters of a shiver of sharks before they kill too many innocent lives.

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
Concept			X		
Story Line/Plot			X		
Commercial potential	X				
Characterization			X		
Visual Elements/Style		X			
Dialogue			X		

Synopsis:

The film opens on an unknown bay in 1989 with a fleet of boats throwing dynamite at a pod of killer whales to force them into shallow waters. A man in his 40s has his son GAVIN (10) take control of the boat when he loses a lighted stick of dynamite. Gavin picks it up and throws it. The dynamite hits one of the whales and explodes, killing a mother and injuring her calf.

25 years later, we meet LISETTE MARTIN, a stunningly beautiful trainer, at a Sea World-like aquatic park with protestors outside the grounds. During a show featuring their star killer whale, KINJAM, one protestor attends and throws a small, but powerful explosive causing the whale to thrash about in the water all while holding onto Lisette's leg in his jaw.

Two years later, a rugged, fit and focused late 30s Gavin McDade heads the Coral Sea Research Organization in a resort town and is presented with the case of a shark attack on a group of surfers. We later meet his sister JESSA (18), who looks every bit the part of a surfer girl, at a surf shop where a local pro says he's going to send a video of her, amazingly riding a wave, to some sponsors before the next competition.

The next day, Gavin realizes that he now has the responsibility of ridding their beach town of the sharks. He enlists a crew to go out on the ocean and capture the sharks. The day after, they succeed with obtaining one of the culprits, but not before a larger offender comes by and kills everyone aboard except for one crewmate.

Later, Gavin meets Lisette at a whale sanctuary where she works with some of the whales from the aquatic park: BONNIE and CLYDE, THELMA and LOUISE, and Kinjam. Gavin requests to use her whales to hunt the sharks, but Lisette vehemently denies him.

The next day, Jessa goes swimming at a tide pool with some of her friends. A shark attacks one of them and Jessa's usual fearless façade drops away to reveal one of shock and anxiety. As a result, Gavin takes his anger at the situation and successfully convinces Lisette to help abate the sharks.

Later, the board that oversees Gavin's position threatens to remove him, so Gavin goes behind their back and uses Lisette's whales to hunt the sharks. After an initial go, the whales successfully attack and kill one of the sharks! The next day, they go out again and kill yet another shark!

Later, Gavin faces the board in preparation of getting fired, but they vote to keep him because of his success with getting rid of the sharks. That evening, Lisette comes over for a barbecue with Jessa and Gavin, ending the night with Gavin and Lisette "unleashing their stored passions together."

Amidst a celebration at the CSRO office, a shark spotter shows Gavin a video of what could be the Alpha shark. In turn, Gavin sends out a patrol team to investigate an old sunken shipwreck. The Alpha attacks and destroys them in a quick, but suspenseful interaction.

Out at sea, we observe a tour boat with a big glass bottom. The Alpha shark bursts through the boat and attacks! Bonnie, Clyde, Thelma, and Louise race out to fight the shark while Lisette turns her focus to save the scrambling passengers.

The next morning, Gavin comes upon the carcass of Thelma washed up on the shore with Louise not too far behind her. She's still alive, but not for long. Lisette arrives on the scene and is immediately devastated.

At the whale sanctuary, Lisette takes her anger out on Gavin and he tries to defend himself before he goes to feed Kinjam. After feeding him, Gavin realizes that Kinjam is the same whale he injured as a child!

Back on the water, Gavin and Lisette search for the Alpha when all of a sudden, the shark comes up behind them. Bonnie and Clyde emerge, attack the Alpha, and they engage in a glorious battle before the shark gets loose and kills Bonnie. Clyde goes after the shark, this time alone, but we lose sight of them both.

When another shark is found dead, Gavin realizes that it is in fact not the Alpha. He tries to convince the Mayor that danger is still on the loose and that he should postpone the surfing competition, but the Mayor doesn't care.

The surfing competition commences, and Jessa competes. Out of nowhere, the Alpha shark emerges and begins to terrorize the surfers. Suddenly, Kinjam appears and attacks the Alpha. Lisette makes her way in, but her boat stops, and the Alpha goes for her. Gavin tries to save Lisette, regaining her respect. Kinjam saves Gavin before the Alpha attacks him.

The battle between Kinjam and the Alpha rages on. Just as it looks like the shark is going to beat Kinjam, Clyde appears and uses his last breath to distract the Alpha. A wild chase ensues between Kinjam and the shark before Kinjam finally is able to impale the shark onto the spiky coral and rip out its liver, killing the shark once and for all.

The film concludes as Lisette and Gavin rejoice at their success and Lisette releases Kinjam back into the wild.

Comments:

Alphas employs many similar elements to that of preexisting shark action thrillers. That being said, it is executed in a manner that engages the audience.

Overall, the plot is rather predictable but the obstacles and high stakes of the film balance that out. Given the context of the film, it is believable to an extent. The idea that a shiver of sharks would continue to terrorize the same beach seems a bit far-fetched but the science behind how the whales attack the sharks makes it stand out less. The subplot of Jessa and the surfing competition is enticing but leaves the audience hanging when it is not revealed whether or not she receives her sponsorship. The hook is extremely captivating and immediately draws the viewer in. Dialogue is realistic and naturally pushes the plot forward.

The stakes that Gavin must get rid of the sharks as soon as possible before they kill anyone else are evident and consistent throughout the film. They are high enough that it keeps the audience interested.

The structure is very easy to follow. It flows from flashback to present and the development of characters is clearly portrayed. The ending, while satisfying in regard to the final shark attack, does leave the audience wondering if Gavin and Lisette end up together and the result of Jessa's subplot as previously mentioned.

All-in-all, *Alphas* is executed very well. It is well written, draws the audience in, and keeps them at the edge of their seats.

RECOMMENDATION: **CONSIDER**