

A friend of the column shared a fantastic story with me. She met this guy by going to several pitchfests and always running into him. Over casual chit chat, he told her that he, and I quote, "only writes... Never rewrites."

I shit you not.

She asked him how many scripts he's written.

His answer?

50.

That's right, 5-0.

She ask him what his best 3 were. His response?

"They're all good."

Really? *Really?!*

Show of hands. How many think Mr. Perfect has written anything worth reading?

Yeah. That's pretty much what I thought too. Glad we're all on the same page. Secretly, I Kind of want to read one of his scripts. I mean they have to be TERRIBLE and it's good to have that stuff laying around when you need a chuckle.

Moving on...

I know it's cliché, but it's true... Writing is rewriting.

As I mentioned last week, I turned in my script. Now, I knew it was going to need some work...I'm not THAT arrogant. I'm not Mr. Perfect (where perfect means fucktard) above.

People are going to read my shit and have something to say about it. That's how this shit goes. It's expected.

Anyway...I got notes on the first 35 pages on Sunday night. Literally...like at 11:30 at night.

I had perfect plans on getting into bed and getting a good nights sleep...but I did what any writer would do.

I read them.

Guess who didn't go to bed until 3:30 in the morning? Can I just say lots of cigarettes were smoked?

My first reaction was a little icky. There were a couple of notes that just didn't sit well with me.

On that note, let me go off on a little tangent here...

When you get notes from a producer, you're always going to run into some issues. For example...

When I was pitching the idea I had this concept where the main character was a prisoner. He was a kept man with the need to be free.

"I don't like that."

That's what he said. Verbatim. "I don't like that."

So I came up with a concept that fit into what he wanted and I thought it worked pretty well. I loved my "prisoner" take but gave up on it when he said he didn't like it. When I came up with the new take, I fell in love with that more. I looked at the prisoner thing and realized he was right. This made more sense.

What's one of the notes I get?

"I think it makes more sense if he was a prisoner."

SLAPPING THE FOREHEAD

Really? I mean come on!

Okay...fine...breath...no big deal.

Here's another example...now, because I can't really talk about the script, and because this example involves a big part of the script, I'm going to have to give you an example that's a little ridiculous.

In the script there are lots of...um...sharks...yeah, that's it...sharks. So one day, I say..."what if there were land sharks...you know, like on SNL."

His response?

"No. Do not do that. I don't like it."

So I didn't. I killed the idea all together.

What was one of his notes?

"I think the should be land sharks."

REALLY??? This just isn't funny any more. COME ON!

So you're going to have to deal with these kinds of notes and really, they're not all that bad. I already had the prisoner thing down and I had already been thinking about putting "land sharks" in the script. So at the end of the day, it's a little annoying but nothing horrible that you can't come back from.

Anyway, back to the matter at hand. My initial reaction to the notes were icky because of the points I just told you.

My second reaction was just the overall amount of read. Entire scenes cut out...pieces of dialog. Just lots of stuff.

That was depressing...but okay. We're moving forward and tightening things up. This is what needs to happen. That's okay. This was a first draft...a vomit draft...just there to get a sense of the story and the structure. Now we go in and make it a fucking bad ass movie script. With character, and theme and all of that shit that you, the viewer, care about.

And it was this thought that finally got me to the place that I am supposed to be at. Ready to roll up my sleeves and get to work on making this thing pop.

And that's what I'm going to do...even if I have to put the fucking "land shark" back in. You know why? Because that's what you do. That's your job. Your job is to rewrite. So don't be like the fucktard who makes stupid statements such as "I write. I don't rewrite."

Cool buddy. You know what else you don't do?

WORK IN THIS INDUSTRY!!

Speaking of fucktards...gotta share some email with you folks. You know what that means!?

Here's the set up...this guy at a pitchfest sent me his first 15 pages. They're sitting on the ever growing pile on my desk, I haven't gotten to them yet. Add in the fact that he was kind of being a little annoying.

He sent me the script and then emailed me like 5 minutes later "making sure" I got it. Look people, that's not going to give you a read. That's going to get you moved down the pile. Sorry. It's the truth.

Then I get this....

Manny: I assume that you've had a chance to read the pages I sent and they didn't do much for you. If that's the case (which would surprise me, frankly) sorry about that.

Okay peeps. You've been with me long enough. What's my response to that email going to be? Do I need to break it down for you?

Guess what...don't use fucking statements like "I assume that you've had..."

No. Don't assume. We are busy people! We have scripts in development that take priority over you. Again, sorry...but dems the facts!

Also, while you're at it, don't say shit like "they didn't do anything for you." So let's see, you've already started your email with two negative comments. You have A) assumed that I read your pages and B) that I didn't like them.

Do you guys know what a psycho sounds like? I'm going to change a couple of words in the email above and see what you think:

I assume that you saw my pic on OKCupid and that it didn't do that much for you. If that's the case (which would surprise me, frankly) sorry about that.

Okay ladies. Tell me. What would YOU think if you got that email from a guy you didn't know? You gonna write back and be like "oh, sorry. My bad. Wanna come over and do me?"

I don't think so...anyway, back to the email...

Also don't say shit like, "which would surprise me."

Really? So you're the guy, huh? You're the end all be all of screenwriting, huh? Okay buddy, I'll take a look.

And I did.

He could not back up his cockiness. Was NOT good writing. Oh well. Big shocker there!

(yes, that was sarcasm)

Till next week...