

THE BLACK LIST

A ROSE THAT GREW FROM CONCRETE

Evaluation

Overall	Premise	Plot	Character	Dialogue	Setting
7	7	7	7	8	7

Era Late 20th Century / Early 21st Century

Locations Multiple US Cities

Budget Low

Genre Drama, Coming-of-Age

Logline A coming of age story about SHYLO, a bi-racial girl-turned woman, as she navigates her sexuality, career and personal life amongst her dysfunctional upbringing.

Pages 103

Strengths

This is a captivating drama, with a layered and dynamic female lead. Shylo is put through the emotional ringer over the course of this story, and we get to see continual conflict for her to process and overcome. This makes the finale extremely powerful, and even draws a tear-jerking moment from the words of an antagonist character. The set up of Donald is well thought out. The audience is able to know that something is up with him, and that he has a darkness to his personality, but he reads as a very entertaining and upbeat guy. The trampoline scene is a perfect example of the tension that is built around his role. Ultimately, he turns out to be every bit as bad as the audience could imagine, if not more. That said, the speech that Shylo gives him, towards the end, about how she used to look up to him, is a strong turning point in her arc, and his own resolution as a character. Shylo's sexuality is tracked well. The little smoke-shotgun moment is an effective piece of foreshadowing, and her first lesbian experience, with Mazie is full of chemistry and natural flirtation. The pacing is quick throughout (and we jump through time with ease, never lingering for too long in any one period of Mazie's life). Subplots that seem like they'll be major (like her working on acting with Ms. Rugerio) are just a small part of her journey.

Weaknesses

It feels like we could get a little more development from Adam. He's a sleazy character, and what he ultimately does to Jean is hatable. With that in mind, him coming back around, earlier, feels slightly contrived. Consider building up to the moment when Shylo reconnects with Adam, even further. Maybe we see/hear more about the void that he's left in her life, so that we could have a better sense for her feelings about him. The coma is a shocking twist, and feels organic in terms of how it happens. Taking that into account, it's brushed over quickly. The dragons seem a little over the top, and one of the only things that could raise this budget (all things considered) without having much of an impact on the plot. After she wakes up from the coma, it would be interesting to get more development about how this experience changed her (as it would seem like this would be a massive deal). Aisha hitting Shylo up about Gramma/Carolyn would make more sense, if the story tracked Aisha another time or two, during the second act, to show some sort of interaction with Shylo. It gets to a pretty bad place before she hits her up, and whether it's realistic or not, Aisha's character is fairly forgotten about in this story (before she calls her).

Prospects

There are strong prospects for this writer. This is a touching, inspirational, very dark, and compelling story. It feels natural, although brutal at times. The state that Shylo comes to find Carolyn in, at the end, is horrifying, but it helps to add to the build up of the climax. There are some areas to consider reworking, and about five pages that could still get added to the overall length. The rewrites are not major, and this project is in more of a polishing (and bolstering up) phase right now. Down the line, the role of Shylo could be very attractive to a big and up and coming actress, as she covers a lot of emotional and physical ground, throughout the course of each act. At the very least, this project could already help to serve as a writing sample, in its current state.