

THE BLACK LIST

DUNWICH

Evaluation

Overall	Premise	Plot	Character	Dialogue	Setting
8	8	8	9	8	10

Era	Present Day
Locations	Dunwich
Genre	Horror, Ghosts & Haunts, Supernatural Thriller, Mystery & Suspense, Detective Film
Logline	When respected up-and-coming detective CLARE DUMONT moves to the quiet coastal town of DUNWICH to live a stress-free life during her pregnancy, she gets wrapped up in the investigation of a bizarre local murder, which the local police seem intent on standing in the way of.
Bible Logline	Dumont's investigation leads her to discover a demon worshipping cult which controls almost every aspect of life in Dunwich, running her into conflict with the local police and insane asylum, both operating on behalf of the cult and hell-bent on stopping her investigation before she can foil their plans.
Bible Thoughts	Dumont's investigation leads her to discover a demon worshipping cult which controls almost every aspect of life in Dunwich, running her into conflict with the local police and insane asylum, both operating on behalf of the cult and hell-bent on stopping her investigation before she can foil their plans.
Pages	66

Strengths

The incredibly well-crafted mystery at the heart of this horror takes the reader on an engaging seamless journey with plenty of twists and turns. Dumont is driven by a clear goal throughout and faces staggering conflict at every turn, the entire town against her. Her pregnancy adds a unique twist and extra layer of emotional conflict. The B-story with Alice adds a great, unexpected layer to the mystery, her unrelated story seemingly on a collision course with Dumont. Dumont is an incredibly strong female protagonist who is easy to empathize with. Her underplaying of her own emotions is expertly written with her true emotions seeping through in subtext. Her lone sex scene is perhaps the best example of this. The largely unspoken conflict between Dumont and Mayweather is exceptionally well-written and riveting. The writer utilizes a unique and powerful writing style in which the mystery unfolds as one reads, making even small moments filled with exciting mini-reveals. With just the word "Teeth," the writer is able to conjure the image and feeling of a vicious dog attacking Dumont. A palpable creepy atmosphere pervades the entire piece, aided by eerie whispering voices and visions, which hint at the horror to come, keeping the reader engaged. Subtle symbolism is used well to echo the piece's themes and drop hints to the audience.

Weaknesses

After the opening, Malcolm disappears for the bulk of the script, and it would be nice to check-in with him briefly to keep alive the powerful emotional stakes of Dumont trying to stay stress free during her pregnancy. The intensity of Dumont's investigation clearly throws a new wrinkle into this storyline, which is dealt with a bit too quickly, feeling brushed over. While the final reveal provides a great closing image to bookend the piece, Dumont's story could peak a bit harder with a more exciting climax. The final Act Out is strong but is no bigger than previous Act Outs, and since the reader knows Mayweather is involved in some sort of cover-up by this point, the final cliffhanger reveals no new information. There are a lot of typos which could be distracting to industry readers.

Prospects

This incredible horror-thriller has two huge things going for it: the widespread popularity of the horror genre, especially amongst international audiences, and the popularity, on television, of the detective drama. This could be a huge commercial success, especially if aided by strong direction, cinematography, and a talented actress who can make Clare Dumont one of television's great iconic characters. With light effects and primarily human antagonists, the conflict centering mostly on human conspiracy and corruption, this could be produced for a lower budget than most horrors. This could find a home on a wide variety of streaming sites, especially following the success of 'Stranger Things,' premium cable, and even basic cable outlets such as FX and AMC.