

Coverage report

TITLE: Perchance To Dream **WRITTEN BY:** Steve Beshekas
FORMAT: Screenplay / 121 pages **GENRE:** Thriller
BUDGET: 10-20 million **SETTING:** Present Day

LOGLINE

A hypnotherapist works to uncover the truth about a young woman with a secret past.

SYNOPSIS

Dean West is a hypnotherapist whose life is going nowhere. Every day it's the same old thing — hypnotizing the overweight to be slimmer, or smokers to quit. He's got a son that he loves, and an ex-wife he doesn't, and he needs something new.

And something new walks into his office one day in the person of Sarah Jennings, a young attractive woman troubled by recurring nightmares. After a couple of sessions, Dean gets to the root of the problem: he discovers that she's got another entire personality named Chrystal which has been somehow erased from her memory. Chrystal worked in the government and was involved in a mysterious project called the Carson project. During this time, Dean and Sarah are being watched by a shadowy figure named Mr. Eldridge. Dean starts getting anonymous phone calls telling him to stay away from Sarah. He ignores these warnings, for he's intrigued by her case — and he's falling in love with her.

After another phone call threatening Dean's son, he and Sarah try and get to the bottom of the mystery, but can't seem to make any progress. Then in the middle of the night Sarah calls — she's remembered the whole story, and she is off to Mexico. She quickly signs off, but she's left a letter in his mailbox telling him more.

In Mexico, Sarah wanders through a deserted town. Dean catches up with her, and she tells him the story — the Carson Project was a State Department water purification scheme that went horribly wrong and killed 50 people. The deaths were covered up and the participants had their memories erased. The man who was in charge is the current Vice President, William Danforth — and he was once Sarah's lover.

Trouble descends on the deserted town in the form of Mr. Eldridge. He intends to kill Sarah and Dean and their local guides, but Dean turns the tables and kills Mr. Eldridge instead. The pair flee back to the US, intending to retrieve tapes of their sessions to give to the media, in order to expose Danforth — but Danforth himself is waiting in Dean's apartment. After he explains his nefarious plans, Sarah tries to kill him and is herself killed. Dean's taken away.

An epilogue has Dean arriving at a hypnotherapist's office, calling himself Martin Turner...he's been having strange dreams. He's been reprogrammed, and the bad guys won.

COMMENTS

The script takes a while to get going and suffers from some fairly long scenes that meander. A general lack of focus indicates a script a couple of drafts away from being fully realized. Some good opportunities here for creepiness which were not fully exploited — the reprogramming, secret machinations within the US government, an *Andromeda Strain*-style mass death in a desolate place — as well as mysteries of the mind and heart in which Dean and Sarah were entangled, or could have been.

The first act needs to be half as long and all the dialogue tightened and shorthanded. The characters should be fleshed out in the second act and the B story of Sarah and Dean in love — currently only hinted at — should be pumped up. And since there's no thematic message about evil being more powerful than good, there's no reason not to have a happy ending. Makes the script more saleable in general. Right now, it's not quite in saleable form — not recommended.

	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
CHARACTERIZATION		x		
DIALOGUE		x		
STRUCTURE			x	
STORY LINE			x	
PACING			x	
RECOMMENDATION	PASS			

Thank you!

Thank you for the opportunity to evaluate your script! We hope you find these comments and suggestions useful, and that they lead you to better writing and greater success. We look forward to seeing more of you and your work in the future!