



2023 SCREENWRITING FELLOWSHIP

LAST HAND

by Sandi Jerome

A protege poker player and his daughter try to flip the tables in the casinos by winning after he is released from prison.

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Logline

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Strengths

"Last Hand" is a film that tells the story of Madison, a young woman whose father was imprisoned for cheating at blackjack, and her journey to reconnect with him after his release while trying to become a great poker player. The film explores several themes, including family, legacy, and the addictive nature of gambling.

Firstly, the film explores the theme of family. Madison's relationship with her father is at the center of the film's plot. Despite his incarceration, Madison still has a deep connection to her father, and as she navigates her way through the world of professional poker, she must also confront the unresolved issues between them. Through her experiences with her father, Madison learns the importance of family, forgiveness, and acceptance.

Secondly, the film examines the theme of legacy. Madison's father was once a respected gambler, but his cheating tarnished his reputation and destroyed his career. As Madison tries to make her own mark in the world of poker, she must also confront the shadow of her father's legacy. She must decide whether to follow in his footsteps or forge her path, and in doing so, she learns about the impact that one's actions can have on future generations.

Finally, the film explores the addictive nature of gambling. Throughout the film, Madison struggles with the temptation to give in to her addiction to gambling. She is driven by the thrill of the game and the desire to win, but she also recognizes the danger of becoming too deeply involved. As she grapples with her own demons, she sees firsthand the destructive power of addiction and learns the importance of moderation and self-control.

"Last Hand" is a well-crafted story that features strong character development, a clear plot direction, and relatable themes. The film does an excellent job of balancing its multiple storylines, while also maintaining a consistent tone and pace throughout.

One of the strengths of the film is its fully-realized characters. Madison is a complex and compelling protagonist who is driven by both her love for her father and her passion for poker. Her father, Flip, is a flawed character whose past mistakes continue to haunt him. The other characters in the film are also well-developed and add depth and nuance to the story.

The film's plot is driven by clear goals and conflicts. Madison wants to become a successful poker player and reconcile with her father, while Flip must confront his past mistakes and try to make amends with his daughter. The central conflict between Madison and Flip adds emotional weight to the story and keeps the audience invested in their journey.

The film also benefits from its realistic portrayal of the world of poker. The film does not shy away from the darker aspects of gambling, including addiction and the temptation to cheat. This realism adds to the film's sense of authenticity and makes the characters' struggles all the more compelling.

Overall, "Last Hand" is a strong character-driven drama that is sure to appeal to a wide audience. The film's themes of family, legacy, and addiction are universal and relatable, and its well-crafted plot and characters will keep viewers engaged from start to finish.

Opportunities for Revision

While "Last Hand" is a strong script with well-developed characters and a compelling storyline, it may face challenges in the current film market. The film falls into the category of a medium-budget project, which is a challenging space for filmmakers to navigate. On one hand, medium-budget films have more resources than low-budget projects, which can allow for higher production values and more recognizable actors. On the other hand, they are not as commercially viable as big-budget studio films, and so they may struggle to secure funding and distribution.

In recent years, the film industry has been heavily focused on franchise films and big-budget blockbusters, leaving little room for mid-budget projects like "Last Hand." This means that finding funding and distribution for a film like this may be more difficult than it would have been in the past.

One way to mitigate this challenge would be to secure A-list talent for the lead roles of Flip and Madison. A recognizable name could help elevate the project's profile and increase its chances of securing funding and distribution. A-list actors could also bring additional attention to the film, helping to generate buzz and interest among audiences.

Ultimately, the success of "Last Hand" will depend on a variety of factors, including its marketing strategy, distribution plan, and critical reception. While the film's strengths may not be in high demand at the moment, it has the potential to be a compelling and well-crafted drama that could resonate with audiences. With the right talent and marketing strategy, "Last Hand" could find success on the screen.



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