

## Sample Screenplay Coverage

### “Before the Devil Knows You’re Dead”

<b>AUTHOR/S:</b>	<i>Kelly Masterson</i>	<b>SUB TO:</b>	RP
<b>BASED ON:</b>	<i>N/A</i>	<b>SUB BY:</b>	<i>Kelly Masterson</i>
<b>FORM / PGS (FILE):</b>	<i>SP /110</i>	<b>COMPANY:</b>	
<b>GENRE:</b>	<i>Drama</i>	<b>BUDGET:</b>	<i>Medium</i>
<b>LOCALE:</b>	<i>New York</i>	<b>COV DATE:</b>	<i>11/15/10</i>
<b>CIRCA:</b>	<i>Present Day</i>	<b>READER:</b>	<i>Keith Blomberg</i>
<b>NOTES:</b>	<i>None</i>		

**LOGLINE:** *Two brothers conceive a plan to rob their parents jewelry store to fix their financial problems. Once the heist goes awry the brothers must deal with the consequences and attempt to cover their tracks.*

**BRIEF:** *Well written, character driven piece. The use of flashbacks and changing perspectives are used in intriguing ways in this smart crime thriller that examines how wrong one robbery can go.*

	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
<b>CONCEPT:</b>	X			
<b>NARRATIVE:</b>	X	X		
<b>CHARACTERIZATION:</b>	X			

<b>DIALOGUE:</b>	X	X		
<b>PRODUCTION VALUES:</b>		X		
<b>WRITING / FORMAT:</b>		X		

**PROJECT: CONSIDER**  
**WRITER: CONSIDER**

Synopsis:

We open with a couple having sex, they seem to enjoy the escape from their normal lives as they express themselves sexually. We cut to a strip mall as her husband, CHARLES HANSON, is dropping off an elderly woman, ANNETTE HANSON, to open her jewelry store and she enters to open the store. As she opens the store an armed masked man who demands all the money and jewelry confronts her. After Annette turns a gun on the gunman, the robbery ends in a shootout with the robber dead and Annette wounded on the ground. Outside, a white car frantically drives away and a man, HANK, takes off his disguise inside and starts melting down.

We meet each character through flashbacks that track before and after the events of the robbery. Hank, a nervous divorced father committed to raising his child properly. ANDY HANSON, a corrupt real estate agent with a drug problem and low moral compass whose married to GINA, who is having an affair with Hank. Charles, Hank and Andy's father, we find to be a broken man who just wants answers and justice after the robbery.

We see Hank as he goes through his daily life. He owes child support payments to his wife, and he is brought into the idea of robbing his own parents store by Andy. Andy's scheme involves Hank using a toy gun to rob their parent's local jewelry store, which supposedly will be operated by a family friend at the time. Hank goes behind Andy's back and hires his friend, BOBBY, to commit the crime himself. Bobby, who has committed previous crimes, demands that he does the robbery with a real gun, and we see him enter the store from the previous scene.

We relive the same events through multiple perspectives, showing how Hank is mentally breaking down after the robbery gone awry while also continuing to have an affair with Andy's wife Gina. Andy, furious at Hank for going behind his back and using a real gun tries to cover up his involvement as their father Charles obsesses over finding the truth behind the events while trying to do all he can to keep his wife alive as long as he can.

After Annette dies Charles becomes determined to find answers, contacting local authority DETECTIVE BARRETT, for help and begins to put the pieces together. Hank begins to be blackmailed by Bobby's brother in law, DEX, whose sister, CHRIS, knows what really happened that led to her brother's death. Hank immediately turns to Andy for help, who is

breaking down as he is not only having trouble covering his tracks, but seems to have problems at his work where there are major discrepancies in his financial statements found by his auditors. Gina reveals to Andy her affair with Hank, but Andy is too pre-occupied with covering up his involvement.

Meanwhile we see Charles taking the investigation into his own hands and visiting a local jeweler who sells stolen goods that Andy had talked to previously. The jeweler hands Andy's business card to Charles, who knows he now must confront his son.

Andy, meanwhile, decides to help Hank fix the blackmail problem by robbing his heroin dealer at his apartment. During the robbery Andy finally snaps and kills the heroin dealer, and his customer who's passed out on the bed, much to Hanks surprise.

The brother's then go to Dex to pay him off, but Andy decides to kill Dex to prevent any further attempts of blackmail. In a rage, Andy turns to shoot Chris but is stopped by Hank. Andy tells Hank that he knows about the affair he's been having with Gina and Hank begs for Andy to shoot him. After moments of building tension, Chris shoots Andy and Hank runs away, taking the heroin and stolen money but leaving some for Chris as he rushes out the door.

We see Charles, whose been following Andy since he left his apartment as he follows the events that lead to Andy in the hospital after being shot by Chris. Andy finally breaks down and admits everything to Charles, who appears to accept his apology. Charles decides to disconnect Andy's heart rate monitor and suffocates Andy with a pillow. The medical staff rushes in attempting to save Andy's life as Charles exits the hospital.

Comments:

"Before the Devil Knows You're Dead" is a smartly written, character driven, crime drama that goes against traditional heist dramas. It is cleverly plotted, showing different vantage points throughout the film and relying on flashbacks to provide exposition throughout. Insights in the minds of this family show the low morality that has been shaped into our younger generations in our financially demanding world.

The story operates around the lives of two brothers, Hank and Andy, as they experience the tragedy after a robbery gone wrong and the lengths the brothers go to cover up their involvement while Charles, their father, searches for the truth. In this ensemble work, Hank is the hero, the morally strong but mentally weak man who finds himself entangled in a crime thought up by his corrupt brother Andy.

On the downside, the exposition feels too stretched out throughout the piece, as it is fitted into multiple characters flashbacks and differing perspectives of events. This can be confusing at some points, but shows effectively how all the pieces of the puzzle fit together in the end. The opening starts strong but doesn't pick back up until halfway through the script. This is due to us having to relive the same events of the robbery and leading up to the robbery from different characters perspectives.

Also, Hank's whereabouts remain unknown in the climax, leaving us to wonder if he needs a solidified resolution. His characters emotional distress is such a large part of the script

that after begging for his life and getting away with a lot of money, we're owed more than the assumption that all of his problems were fixed, especially as Charles uncovered the truth about the robbery.

Though a depressing ending, the script supremely demonstrates the dark side of the human condition when confronted with financial peril that seems untraditionally intriguing as it stays a step ahead of us and breaks previous clichés.

The writer shows a command of many elements in the script, especially character development. Initially we are shown events out of sequence, but as we adapt to the sophisticated story telling we progress into an action packed character piece that shows a new take on the problems within a family of morally ambiguous individuals.

The page number is well within the format for the film staying at 110 pages. More concentration on the events after the robbery is needed to help to push the story forward after having a repetitive, confusing start.