

STORY DEPARTMENT COVERAGE

TITLE: JANUARY 1,000
AUTHOR(s): Warren John Deacon & Lupos Sobre-Vega (non-clients)
GENRE: Sci-Fi Drama
TYPE,DRAFT,PAGES: Screenplay, Unspecified Draft, 107 pages
TIME/LOCALE: Present, Los Angeles & Philippines

STUDIO/NETWORK: N/A
PRODUCTION COMPANY: N/A

SUBMITTED FOR: General Consideration

PRODUCER: N/A
DIRECTOR: N/A
TALENT: N/A
PROJECT STATUS: N/A

COVERAGE REQUESTED BY: RSI. MIS

READER: Tanna Thompson

CONCEPT: A man discovers he has within him a seed containing vital information which maps out a change in the world to turn back the hands of time. With scientists and government agencies in pursuit of him, he winds up at the seed's place of origin and ignites the Earth to change its axis position in the solar system. In the aftermath, the world is given a second chance to begin anew, and the nations join together.

SYNOPSIS

JANUARY 1, 0000: By Warren John Deacon & Lupos Sobre-Vega

1960s, California lab. Scientists VIRGINIA, who is pregnant, and DR. RICHMAN prepare to study seed discovered in the Philippines which has a microscopic encryption on it. But things go awry when a vacuum pump fails and mist from the seed enters Virginia's body. Hours later, Virginia dies after giving birth to young BEN. Only hours' old, little Ben mimics drawing the encryption symbol on his incubator. Jump ahead nearly 30 years... BEN is in a jail cell on a DUI charge. In a trance, he uses his own blood to draw the symbol which has haunted him. Ben's understanding father JOSEPH bails him out and Ben heads to a seedy, underground club. Ben engages in a weird underwater act with a Dominatrix and drowns. As organ harvesters about to collect on Ben, he suddenly resuscitates!

Ben is taken to the hospital wherein his condition stumps the technicians when it is discovered he has an extra chromosome. DR. WELLER orders DNA tests, but sneaks off what he knows to Dr. Richman (50s). Richman orders the exhumation of Virginia's body to compare it to Ben's. Richman now works for a secretive think tank known as GLOBAL SOLUTIONS. They use scientific discoveries to ensure the continuation of the world. Richman proposes to the BOARD of DIRECTORS that Ben's extra chromosome holds an encryption which maps out the end of the Earth, and he wants Ben detained before New Year's Eve, 1999--the date he believes massive global change will occur. Board member GERALD NANCE voices his opposition to Richman's theory and is confined. Knowing he is being used for something sinister, Ben sneaks out of the hospital and researches the connection between his mother and Richman. Joseph takes his son to Virginia's grave and he is horrified to discover her remains are missing. Meanwhile, Dr. Weller is confronted by hospital security. In a panic, he falls to his death. Under Richman's orders, SGT. LOGAN nabs Ben and takes him to Global Solutions. Detained in a room, Ben is surprised when Nance sneaks in and reveals what is happening. Ben has always known something is different about him, but now he feels compelled to fulfill his destiny. Logan surprises the man and a gun goes off. All are stunned when the bullet heading for Ben stops in mid-air and simply drops to the floor. Logan switches allegiances and helps them escape in a tank. Logan is mortally wounded, but using his powers of healing, Ben saves his life. Camping in the desert, Ben notices a star formation which matches the symbol he has always known. They dig deeper and realize they must go to the Philippines. Logan obtains a high-powered chopper from shady arms dealer INO, but knows Ino will turn them over for a price to Richman (he's right). With New Year's Eve approaching, Richman launches a full scale search for Ben before he triggers what lies in a remote Philippine island.

Ben, Logan and Nance find the remote island and instantly, something begins to stir--the island raises out of the ocean. They scuba dive and come upon a labyrinth, or underwater temple. Sadly, Logan is killed by sharks. As Ben nears the center of the labyrinth, the Earth goes through a tremendous shift. A giant beam of light hits the area. The Earth actually lifts off its axis and changes position in the solar system. Ben arranges to meet with Richman as long as he brings Ben's father. Richman does so, but then tries to double-cross Ben. Richman is killed by a bizarre laser beam emanating from the Earth. All throughout the world, a strange thing happens as all clocks--or time--turns back to the year 0000. Simultaneously, the Earth begins replenishing itself. In the aftermath, Ben addresses world leaders, all of whom are now united, in voting for making a space vehicle which will allow them to find the source of the light (i.e. GOD) which gave them a second chance.

EVALUATION

JANUARY 1, 0000: By Warren John Deacon & Lupos Sobre-Vega

COMMENTS: A fairly compelling sci-fi drama with an environmental and spiritual twist in which an unsuspecting young man discovers he holds within him a "seed" which will change life on Earth forever.

The setup leads us down the scientific road in which a bizarre seed containing an encrypted message is discovered on a remote Philippine island. Through destiny, the seed winds up in the body of BEN, a young guy who knows something is different about his genetic make-up, but doesn't know what or why. When the "what" is discovered, the plot takes on a pretty compelling conspiracy angle with a potential Apocalyptic threat. The first two-thirds of the plot have good elements of mystery, intrigue, suspense and action. Simultaneously, good development arises in Ben's character to demonstrate he is troubled, but meditative and searching for answers to his life. He is, in effect, ADAM. To put a formula thrust on things, we get the zealot scientist DR. RICHMAN falsely pursuing the Apocalyptic element, while military man LOGAN switches allegiances to help Ben fulfill his destiny. Time becomes a pushing factor, which effectively adds to the pressure. Where the story becomes a little murky is in the last act in which the Earth goes through a wild transformation. Although Richman's end-of-the-world theories are proved wrong, the fantastical rejuvenation of the Earth is not entirely clarified through reason. Instead, we are simply treated to a visual effects spectacle, then an afterthought speech to world leaders. It works on some levels, but could use some more tinkering to clue the audience in, especially the sudden desire to explore space. What is missing most from the piece are strong subplots to encompass the human factor—i.e., how everyday people's lives are changed by the transformation. As is, we see it, then switch to Ben giving a speech. There are no supporting players, families, co-workers, friends, or loved ones that we get to know.

Characterizations are pretty good, but could be less formulaic and more dimensional. DR. RICHMAN needs more work, as he turns from a zealot to a rather cartoonish villain. Since we know he is merely worried about the fate of the Earth, he should come off as more complex and sympathetic. BEN plays well in the lead, however. He is eerily calm, curious and compelling. Supporting player NANCE adds some "suit" humor, while LOGAN is the man with knowledge to get to the island.

All said, certainly a fresh take on an old theme about mankind, the environment, and the search for God which cleverly uses the science fiction framework to get its message across.

CONSIDER with rewrite.

	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
CHARACTERS		X		
DIALOGUE		X		
STORY STRUCTURE		X		
PLOT LINE		X		
RECOMMEND	CONSIDER	X	PASS	

KEY LEADS

JANUARY 1, 0000: By Warren John Deacon & Lupo Sobre-Vega

BEN WHEAT (Male/Late 20s): Enigmatic young man who knows something is different about him, but is not sure what. Sometimes he avoids his calling by engaging in drinking. Obsessed with drawing a symbol he often dreams about. Has an extra chromosome which holds the key to the world's future. Eerily calm, can die and come back to life and has miraculous healing powers.

DR. RICHMAN (Male/50s): Zealot scientist who falsely believes Ben is holding information on the Apocalypse. Altruistic, but somewhat relentless and maniacal in his attempt to stop Ben.

SGT. LOGAN (Male/Late 20s): Highly achieving Marine who switches allegiances and helps Ben fulfill his destiny. Resourceful, loyal.

GERALD NANCE (Male/Age unknown): On the council board of Global Solutions—the place Dr. Richman calls home. He is the council's gadfly who helps Ben (along with Logan) fulfill his destiny. Quite funny and sarcastic. Tragically is killed by sharks.

JOSEPH WHEAT (Male/50s): Ben's understanding father.