

SYNOPSIS

NATE HAMILTON (Late 20's) is a very successful MBA working for his fathers company. When a car accident takes the life of his friend KEVIN, but spares him, Nate puts his life in perspective. In his recovery, Nate turns to the bible, and four years later, after completing Kevin's last project, contemplates his life. "I'm not sure how God calls people, but I have a sense he's calling me."

A year later, Nate has Completed the Seminary, and goes to K- Town. He believes that the ghetto is the best place to start his work. "Didn't Jesus hang out with hookers and street people?" Respectfully, Nate is placed in a church where a homicide has just taken place. KEIKE (16), brother of the slain boy, warns Nate to be careful.

Soon enough, a friendly wave by Nate is interpreted as a Gang sign, and TONY (20's), the gang leader of K-Town is ready to kill him. The misunderstanding inspires Nate to recruit Tony. "I need a tutor. A mentor to teach me about your world." Tony is reluctant. JASON (16), Tony's younger brother and protégé, holds a violent resentment for his brother. Nate notice's that Jason does not seem to respect the gang world his brother lives in. At the same time, Jason reaps the benefits of being feared.

In a Jail, where Nate volunteers with prisoners, he meets high a ranking ex-gangmember, TREMAINE. Tremaine sets him straight. "Get Tony on your side, cause you don't want him against you." With Tremaine's help, NATE revokes an S.O.S. (Shoot-on-sight) order against Tony. Soon enough, showing his connections, Nate even takes the terrified TONY to meet his would be Killer, rival gang leader PUG. He even takes them out to dinner together.

While taking a group of Boys to see 4th of July fireworks, Tony sees the Beautiful MARIA (20's). He flirts with her shamelessly, but Maria is far more interested in Nate. Sure enough, and Maria begin to Date. "She's smart, Sexy, and after my reclaimed virginity." But suddenly, the once wealthy Nate realizes that rebuilding his church has caused him to go broke.

MR. HAMILTON, Nate's Father, is very frustrated with his son. "You wanted to help the underprivileged, and now you are one of them." Nate's sadness is also growing. After a shooting claims the life of Pug, he questions the sense of his cause. "I find them offensive. I'm sick of their way of life, the stupidity, savagery..."

In a desperate effort to help the boys, Nate takes them to a camp for a retreat. On the obstacle course, he sees the boys violent lack of cooperation. When a fight brakes out, Nate is helpless to stop it, but a

3102758081
MAY-25-2004 18:20 CAP

single word from Tony puts the boys in their place. To the horror of Nate, when Jason defies his brother, Tony has him held down and BRANDED with his gang sign. Nate breaks down, and leaves the ghetto.

DISCIPLES OF K-TOWN - Thomas Locke - 2.

At his parents house, Nate introduces his girlfriend, Maria. His family welcomes him, "It's about time you realize who you are." The family lives a life of lavish excess, million dollar cars, jet-ski's, and vacations. Soon, Nate pops the question to Maria. "You ever think about marrying me?" They are wed almost on the spot.

But Nate is haunted by visions of the ghetto he left behind. "The nightmare's won't stop." Soon, the Businessman inside of him is at work. He proposes an idea to his wife. "THINC - The Hamilton Initiative for the Reversing of Niggardly Conduct." Nate approaches the ghetto with militant force. Calling in a tip on Tony and Keike, Nate gets his enemies sent to prison for Two years. Jason, with a mind for change, takes his place. In the church, and assembled team of lawyers, craftsmen, and brokers educate the gang members. Jason sees to it that everyone attends.

Nate and Jason, side by side revitalize the community. The gang members clean up properties, and even set up funds to buy and rebuild buildings. Drug Dealers are violently banished by Jason, and Business owners who will not cooperate are intimidated. Nate uses gang tactics to revitalize the slums.

When released from prison, Tony comes to a new K Town, flourishing with businesses and a sense of community. Nate even gives him a club to manage. But Tony hides a deep resentment, despite Nate's insistence that, "You needed help. I gave it." When Tony pulls a gun on Nate, Nate's own armed guards put him in his place.

Nate gives Tony a plane ticket out of the country. "You want to master the plantation, but I freed the slaves. Leave by 10 a.m. tomorrow, or you'll be in Jail by 10:30." Tony obliges and leaves. The next morning, Jason Graduates from High School.

3 years later, Jason, Tony and Nate are reunited in the hugely successful church of K-Town. Grown to strong, proud men, they embrace.

DISCIPLES OF K-TOWN -Thomas Locke - 3.

COMMENTS

DISCIPLES OF K-TOWN is the story of a preacher who uses unorthodox methods to win young men away from the world of gang related crime. In the end, he even resorts to gang like tactics to defeat his adversaries. Ultimately, his enemies become his friends.

There is a sense of ferocity in this script that I admired. It didn't pull many punches. Nate's naivety of gang organization is a great vantage point from which to view the slums of Chicago. The methods which Nate uses to defeat his antagonist is equally satisfying, as it is unnerving. The protagonist makes provocative arguments for the audience to contemplate.

Ultimately, I think I enjoyed many of the individual scenes more than the sum of their parts. The process of watching Nate infiltrate the neighborhood is strong, with humor as well as pathos. Introducing rival gang members, taking them to fast food, holding their hands while praying with them, these scenes are moving and comedic at the same time. They are among several strong moments in this script. But there are also some that seem unnecessary, such as the death of a reformed drug addict at the hands of her son, and Jason branding his brother in retaliation. These moments, while dramatically powerful, do not feel necessary to the plot, and lean into overkill.

On a similar note, there is a lot of discussion/debate in several sections of this screenplay, which while interesting, do not amount to a drama as much as it does provide a series of facts. Example: The Family Debating alcohol and drug laws, or The Protagonist stating his business practices. Ultimately, it just seems to be a question of the writer refining what he already has, trimming the excess, and focusing on the story at hand.

DISCIPLES OF K-TOWN is a strong script. A rewrite could refine the plot, and take out any extraneous action/dialogue, but I do not think the this script is far from being a very compelling piece. Though currently over written, I think the potential of this script is strong.

RECOMMEND

MAY 11, 2004