



## COVERAGE REPORT

**Title:** [REDACTED]

**Author(s):** [REDACTED]

**Form:** Feature Screenplay

**Circa:** Unknown

**Received:** 1/18/2021

**Locale:** California, USA

**Date:** 6/2/2021

**Genre:** Romantic Comedy

**Pages:** 81

**Budget:** Medium to High

**Prepared by:** Deidra S J

**Logline:** Doris and Rob experience tragedy in their separate lives. They both are forced to start over. Their worlds come together when they meet each other in route to San Francisco.

**Recommendation:**  Recommend  Consider  Pass

**Comment Summary:** SAVE THE CAT is a story with heart and genuine love. With some work to the structure, storyline, and characterization, that heart and triumph will flawlessly shine through.

|                  | Excellent | Good | Fair | Needs Work |
|------------------|-----------|------|------|------------|
| Premise          |           |      | X    |            |
| Storyline        |           |      |      | X          |
| Characterization |           |      |      | X          |
| Dialogue         |           |      | X    |            |
| Structure        |           |      |      | X          |
| Writing          |           |      | X    |            |
| Originality      |           |      | X    |            |

**Story:** SAVE THE CAT opens with ROB DALTON (45), consoling himself with the loss of a cat he has cared for a long time. He sits in his wing of the Nadie mansion trying to make sense of the loss of LADY GUINEVERE, who he affectionately knows as LADY G, stroking her dead

body in his lap. Meanwhile, DORIS and DON WEATHERBONE, whose long marriage telegraphs routine through their mutual body language. They arrive at the restaurant where they have eaten for decades. Don is checking out the hostess and later the waitress all while Doris is in her world. Don tells her he is seeing another woman and has already worked out divorce papers with a lawyer. Doris is shocked.

Rob is with Lady G's LAWYER, the BUTLER, and the CHEF at the reading of her will. Rob will inherit 96 percent of a 64 million dollar estate, being her primary caregiver, after a DNA test is completed on Lady G. However, he cannot handle the thought of his beloved BFF being poked with needles. He goes back to Lady G, puts her in a plastic bag on ice, and into a cooler. He leaves the house unseen and purchases a scooter from the delivery boy preparing to drive off. Rob leaves his home in Fresno, California and makes his way to San Francisco. Shortly after, Rob makes the news as "the cat thief".

Doris finds herself at the bus station trying to fathom starting a new life but she eventually does get on the bus. While on a passenger break at a diner, Doris comes out of the bathroom to find her bus is leaving. Rob is pulling into the diner. Doris tries to catch the bus but her suitcase comes open. She is handed one of her undergarments by an empathetic Rob. She thanks him and grabs the garment back somewhat embarrassed. He waits with her to catch the next bus. The story of the cat thief grows in popularity, but Doris is unaware of the news story. She eventually continues to San Francisco and shows up at her daughter's apartment. While she waits for her daughter to open the door, she meets STEVE, a cat behavior consultant and pet psychic or cat weirdo, the neighbor.

They both see Rob ride by on his scooter. Steve informs Doris that he is the "cat thief" and was recently spotted at a diner. Doris looks on still seeing him through the eyes of being the kind gentleman who helped her and waited with her. He stops at a house not too far from them and knocks on the door. His sister KARIN opens the door. He goes in to talk with her leaving the cooler outside on the scooter. MUFFY, Doris' daughter, finally opens the door to her and she meets RANDI, Muffy's partner. Doris invites herself in. Steve runs over to the scooter, opens the cooler, and grabs the cat. Then, runs back to his house. Rob eventually comes back out after Karin agrees to let him stay to retrieve the cooler. He notices its weight change but only slightly opens it to say goodnight to Lady G.. Police officers arrive at Karin's house. Then, Rob realizes Lady G is gone. The police take him to the station for a statement. He willingly goes with them. Karin and Doris follow. The news is filled with Rob stealing the rich cat and he has developed a small fan base.

At Steve's house, his housekeeper sees the black trash bag and throws it in the trash can in front of the house. Shortly after, a Chinese Bag Lady comes by and takes the bag out. Meanwhile, the Chinese Bag Lady tries to sale the cat to Chef Wu who she normally delivers to. No longer purchasing cats, Chef Wu throws the bag and it lands right in front of Cat Boy, a spaced-out hippie-looking teen, who takes it to his embalming laboratory. Rob is let go and Karin returns home. Doris, Rob, Muffy, and Randi watch as the news carries the popular story of Lady G's lawyers now offering a cash reward to anyone who turns up with the cat. The city of San Francisco is in an uproar of people looking for the cat, killing cats to turn in, or bringing in random cats. Cat Boy, who does not watch the news, finishes up the embalming and takes Lady G's body to a museum.

Rob decides to take Doris to the pet cemetery where he had hoped to bury Lady G. The two decide to walk back home and Rob is recognized by one of his fans. Pretty soon more fans come out and Rob and Doris become uncomfortable as the fans follow them. They hide out inside a closed pet store. The store manager generously lets them in and re-locks the door. He invites them to the cat festival happening at the museum, which is why he has closed for the evening. He gives them something to wear to get in. Lots of people dressed as cats line the building. The

event begins and they see Muffy and Randi in cat costumes leading the line walking into the room. Doris notices her daughter and they both realize they are in a type of worship ceremony. Lady G's body is revealed as the cat that is being worshipped. Rob sees Lady G all decked out. Doris runs and grabs her throwing the adoring crowd into shock including Muffy and Randi. They leave with her body and head for the lawyers who are staying at a nearby hotel. Doris and Rob are later married on the Nadie estate.

### **Comments:**

SAVE THE CAT is a very unique idea of a love story.

There is a solid premise of the loss of friendship and betrayal. The introduction of the two main characters and their dilemmas sets the story up nicely.

The dialogue is fair. It gives information without telling the story.

The subplots of Steve, Chinese Bag Lady, Chef Wu, and Cat Boy serve their purpose well in leading down this bizarre rabbit hole. It creates cause for Doris and Rob to take an adventure together.

Although the premise is good, the dialogue is fair and this is an original story, the storyline, structure, and character arcs need some work.

This is a love story between Rob and Doris, but the premise of their love could use some strengthening. The two meet for the first time at the diner. She decides to support him when she learns he is the cat thief. The interaction at the diner suggests this is the catalyst of why Doris has become fond of Rob, however, this could be strengthened to bring across the establishing of Doris' love for Rob. Endearment is seen on Rob's part when he takes her to the pet cemetery. It's still unclear at this point in the story why the two have fallen in love with each other so deeply; but, it is speculated through subtle interest as to cause for their attraction. If these subtle moments could be stronger and a couple of additional endearment scenes throughout the story, their marriage will be more believable.

Doris is seen throughout the story but her character arc comes across as incomplete. She learns she has to start over in a new city. She decides to stay with her daughter, who has a life of her own. She has no money or resources. For most of the story, she spends helping Rob to put his life back together, then the two are married. Her financial and living problems are taken care of but her emotional journey is still jarring. There is no insight into how Doris processes her husband's infidelity and the divorce. More development of her emotionally would give a solid establishment of her character. This is a love story between Doris and Rob, but Doris seems to get lost in Rob's story as opposed to the two being equally explored.

The subplot of Muffy and Doris has great potential to lend to the main plot but is only scratching the surface. The two have an estranged relationship but the plot never reveals why nor a resolution or at the very least hope of a resolution. This relationship could reveal more of Doris' and why she is where she is now and what she possibly needs to become emotionally healthy and move on. Muffy reveals her insight of her parent's marriage when Doris shows up at her place, but it just stops at her having frustrated disgust of her mother's situation. Right now, this subplot serves as an opportunity to enrich the main story.

Who is Lady G's owner? The person who owns the Nadie mansion is not mentioned. Unless, it is to be believed that Lady G is the owner.

There are also a few technical issues to be addressed. It is not clear where the story is set. The names Chef Woo and Chef Wu are both being used for the same character. There is some camera direction that is pulling from the story and also a lot of directions for the actors and actresses. More description of what the character is doing will alleviate such direction. And, the page length is also short and needs a few more pages.

**Evaluation:**

Although this story needs more attention to the development of the plot and main characters, the script does have potential.