

Archive #877
Johniee
Reader # 5083

What did you like about this script?

This is an engaging piece of comic absurdity. Your first act establishes that Johniee is a rather unconventional character and that he enjoyed a close bond with his mother. You jump ahead to show him in the aftermath of his mother's death; he's living with Chris, a friend of his mother, and the two have a rather unusual ersatz father-son dynamic. In some respects, Chris is almost as unworldly, impulsive and childlike as Johniee. Meeting Amanda and wanting to apply for the job at the coffee shop mark a new phase in Johniee's life, giving him clear goals.

Being mowed down by the malevolent old man gives Johniee the ability to dream, something he'd previously lacked. You develop some humor from the consequences of this: Johniee arriving at the coffee shop under the dream-inspired delusion that he has been appointed manager, for example, and the sequence where Johniee is insistent that he has won a car.

Johniee's unconventional approach yields unexpectedly positive results at Sharon's childcare center. Amanda, too, begins to warm to Johniee, and he helps her realize that she is pursuing a false goal in the form of her medical career. You lay the groundwork for developing Jake as an alternative suitor for Amanda, although he's too easily overcome as an obstacle.

Johniee desperately trying to find replacements to be involved in the abortive wedding that Amanda planned adds a little tension as the conclusion nears. It's a good idea to connect this to Chris healing the rift between him and Ray, his replacement father figure. Unconventional family structures and making them work is, to some extent, a core theme in the script.

There are some effective running gags (Glenda's repeated hostility towards Johniee, for example) and some gleeful comic absurdity; you clearly have fun developing Johniee as a kind of "holy fool" figure, unworldly in some ways but ultimately able to be oddly perceptive in others (discerning that Amanda should follow her true ambition).