

OBSWriter

Michael Adedeji

Feedback to Jon Gary

Grown-ish Speculative Script

“Baby Luna 2042”

Hello Jon,

These notes are going to function differently than how I usually do them. I don't know if I've given you coverage before, but my process entails a tedious comb-over of your script several times. So, you might receive this on a different day than when I started.

Also, due to the change in processes, I must admit that I will be quite extra on this one, since I had to pull up an episode of Grown-ish and then some, to see if you captured the essence of the show. Now, that being said, it's not about that when writing a spec, it's about showcasing your skill to tell a story with already established characters and get yourself into similar based shows in the industry. It's a resume and script.

Page by Page:

- Page 1: If you're gonna play music in the beginning, we should see it again in the script. At least one more, that fits the mood of the scene. Like Grown-ish plays a song, or something similar when the inspirational moments like the Planned Parenthood inaugural scene later, calls for that transitional tune, or don't include music at all.
- Why is Zoey unamused? Essentially that's her usual mood, but Luca, is he working on her nerves?
- Cal U is holding a contest for designs to be featured at the Met?
- The dialogue between Zoey and Luca at the end of page 1 is weird and inauthentic. I do like that Luca is typical with his references to Jay Z, sin hyphen because that bit was funny.
- Page 2: Dre Johnson old is not shade, it's facts, I assume the shade is based on bringing up her father, which makes this deep because they did meet on strange terms, thus relating to the intimate relationship they had back in Season 2.
- Also, threw a Facts in there and I just thought, why?
- You also threw in the “Shade” in quotations, what did Zoey insinuate by that?
  - You tend to put a lot of things in quotations so I don't know what is emphasized versus a matter of fact. If you get what I mean?
- Luca never met Rainbow, so I guess through pictures they wouldn't bring up her trade and life because that's a bit too much?
- The cute line though. RE: Michelle Obama.
- Zoey laying it on thick with the Zoom Designer Dinner, if she doesn't call her current boyfriend, Aaron up, and have a quarantine date or something.

- Page 3: I had no problems with this moment, this is cute. Ana tends to say Cuban + something in the script, so I think that can be cut down. She doesn't say that much and it doesn't reflect culturally? RE: Cuban beat down later on.
  - Cuban thighs are fine because Francia Raisa does have an hourglass body and granted her figure is hers to reference.
- Page 4/5: Planned Parenthood. Not a space between Parent and Hood.
- Don't quite catch the issue with Luca hiding behind his designs? It wasn't clear enough at the beginning, just his little dinner zoom date with Jillian and no stakes.
- Page 7: Rule of thumb, the history lessons that tend to come and go in the Black-ish Television Universe usually don't overstay or dominate too much of the episode. The show is still catered to college students, so even the discourse that spent 10 pages = 8 to 10 minutes of screen time.
  - Albeit it was to see the opinions of our favorite cast, but we limit the conversation and keep a guiding hand with one character leading the fray.
  - Nice touch on Zoey not being present but present.
- Vivek is still off-brand, I believe Heidi will be a long-term character until the Showrunner says not to. So, he's still a one-girl guy due to losing his virginity to Heidi. He's not a sexpert. His awkwardness is cute, the girls would probably joke about how they miss Pre-Heidi Vivek versus the one who's trying to keep up with the other fellas.
- Ana mentioning Tuskegee was off-brand. I don't know how it fits, but the sentiment does ring true because Sanger was not for Black people. I'm not going into the controversy of her eugenics ideas and how harmful Planned Parenthood was initially to Black women, but now if we didn't have it, we would not have choices and understand our bodies.
  - Must always be careful in political discourse that it's not too skewered so we champion those whose motives may not be aligned with the characters.
- Page 8/9: Moving from J. Marion Sims to Tuskegee is relevant, but a lot is happening and we're desperately needing answers as to why Luca is distressed. We've never seen him so pressed before, sin his and Zoey's breakup. It's cause for concern. Especially since he's not usually present in group conversations.
- Page 10: Deadass is one word.
- The joke did land on page 10, with the shushing of Vivek, so it worked, even though it changes the character a bit.
- Aaron and Zoey are dating, yet have not been close or on the same page in this spec. This is cool because it shows they haven't adjusted yet, but also, she's gonna be in it 100% with him, or think he's not gonna like that she's helping her ex. It's complicated for Zoey even though it isn't.
- Page 11: Sky is being a bit too irrational. We're touching heavily on her stereotype, which is making her unlikable. It's okay to be unlikable, but there is a limit to her character in her out-of-pocket responses.
- It seemed like it was necessary, but what is the significance of going to the Johnson kitchen and discussing that? I see the joke with Ben Carson, however.

- Page 12: Zoey did more teaching than get in the middle of Luca and Jillian's relationship to help him out. We can leave earlier to have Zoey and Luca talk because she confides in Luca, not the other way around. However, since he knows she got that medical hookup, this is a chance for him to confide in her. Thus, you may cause tension with Jillian and Zoey, but Zoey wants to help be the support which is a tactic used by Zoe to eliminate any damage she could cause.
  - Zoey tends to either fall or save herself from dealing with trouble.
- Page 14: Lol that nod to Chloe X Halle because they performed at the Grammy's, that joke was loaded and it landed.
- Opportunity to not talk about the Cafeteria manager and Josh Vivek about dating a sista and not Heidi. Because then it alludes to the fans who wanted Vivek's girlfriend to be a black girl, based on that episode where they discussed Colorism and Black Girl's being options rather than a first choice.
- Page 18: We still don't have an iota of what the decision that could change their lives, Jillian and Luca's issue, and Zoey's need to involve herself, which was not established in the teaser nor during the conversation.
  - While there is a whole conversation happening about Planned Parenthood and choices, there could be a text conversation happening between Luca and Zoey that catches Aaron's attention.
  - We're losing some opportunities here.
- Page 20: Zoey and Jillian are not as close as the writers initially introduced them to be, so seeing them together at this moment is a bit off, but a good bonding moment between them.
  - Jillian flew in???
- Page 21: Jillian would laugh that triple insinuation off and Zoey would be the nervous one because she's on the spot.
- Page 23: Nice transition from talking about Luca who loves kids, and then seeing him with Baby Luna.
- Page 26:
  - I notice parentheticals have a bit too much business going on in them. See how you can use that in action and still come across as a pondered thought.
  - Nice doorbell moment.
- Too many people are picking up the baby. I think him being in her face is cute, but so many people have passed this baby around it's a germ ball. Just a statement, not a critique.
- Page 27: What is microaggression? Where is it?
  - So, I see where you think Aaron thinks Zoey is the one pregnant, but there would be much more than him and Luca teaming up. This would be Angry Aaron.
- Page 28: Aaron and Zoey have since hooked up when they cheated and did Rochelle dirty. So now, this part is tricky. We can talk about it. Because of a "year?" That is extreme, this means they are out of school now. Or near the end of their last year?

- Luca would never say such dirty words about Zoey, he wouldn't rule that out, but to say she got the job then smashed real low blow. Does tell us he has some animosity towards her.
- Aaron too. They are technically together.
- Page 29: By the way, Jillian has a key.
- Page 30: The structure is on point, the joke at the end of a breakthrough was there.
- Page 32: Knowing Charlie he would say that on the mic.
  - That was very Charlie –his introductory words.
- Page 33: You can leave it as a South Central Beatdown and then Aaron can grab the girls.
- Page 34/35: was very good. The reveal of the mural and what it stands for.
  - Bringing the divided group together was just wonderful.
- Page 36: I am not sure about the introspective there, but we can talk about it.
- Page 37: Label as End Teaser
  - I think you hit the final nail in the coffin when you ended with parenting at a different level referencing the Jacksons, which I think closes out the theme, but this is Luca's exam or whatever he was on about last he spoke of Dean Telphy in the script?
  - Either way, it was random, and I liked it.

Okay, final thoughts.

You get the characters and capture some elements of each of them in the script. I do have some concerns because most have a reset, Jillian is used as a device, which helps you, actually when devising this speculative script.

There is some room for change around several spots and ways to cause a little bit more drama than when you do the reset at the mural and the clinic, it's all back to normal with lessons learned. I think you had a real opportunity to have Aaron think Zoey's uninterested and is tagging along with Luca, showing that he may feel a type of way since Luca did get Zoey before Aaron, though Cash was there first, so working on not objectifying Zoey. Also, it would be highly irrational for his girlfriend to smash Luca and get pregnant, so Aaron wouldn't jump too deep into the pool of conclusions.

Make sure your side characters like Jazz, Sky, Vivek, and Doug are split and give meaningful yet funny tidbits to drive us forward. They are comedic relief, while Ana is disproving Nomi's beliefs and that causes a rift and unravels everyone's opinions on the matter. Expose who is ignorant and those are knowing Vivek is on the side of the girls because he lives with them. He's a sweet boy and understands them.

A funny moment is dividing Sky and Jazz because they usually stand together. Now we have some conflicts. Back to Zoey, her issue is she seems like she would want to be on Luca's good side, so she is trying her hardest to be there for him for his serious moments, but Luca would talk to Nomi first, then Zoey would wonder why he never came to her to talk about it. Does she still care about him, hell yes, but the dynamic changed when he knew she still had feelings for Aaron while they were together, then in Season 4, brought it up again, and she

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lied/denied those feelings for Aaron to tell him that she was with him, so she was for him. Luca saw through the bullshit.

Also, opportunities to cause some slick talk amongst Jazz and Sky would be calling Zoey out for breaking up another relationship, between Luca and Jillian, like she did Aaron and Rochelle. She can't let any of her men have a break. Some food for thought.

There are many places you can go with this script. It's still got the Grown-ish essence, which is great, so you don't have much to touch on, except making the first act very clear. Even the Cold Open can be stronger, so we know what is going on. Because it is through dialogue later that we kind of get the gist, but it falls flat after the conversation and didactics. If it's gonna be that long, you have to have another conversation underneath it, that's intertextuality and subtext working for you.

Let's chat and have a page-by-page conversation so we can get you solid. Solid as a rock.

It was an honor to read your work.

Best,

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