



The First Draft (Television)

## True2U - A Love Story

Stephen Salyer · Episodic Romantic Comedy Series· 70 Pages

Category	Score
Plot	9.50 / 10
Concept	9.50 / 10
Dialogue	9.50 / 10
Setting	9.50 / 10
Characters	9.50 / 10
Overall Impression	9.50 / 10
Final Score	9.50 / 10

RATING  
**Recommend**

SCORE  
**9.50/10**

## Opening Thoughts

TRUE2U is a thoroughly enjoyable script that delivers the goods just as the writer suggested in their note with the submission. There's little doubt that the writer has been to Bangkok which remains one of the reader's favorite destinations. Mentions of Siam Paragon and large buckets of popcorn at the Cineplex in the mall bring back fond memories to say the least.

The writer has created a well-conceived and entertaining story that does read like a "Glee" meets "Heartstopper" and captures the tone of BL dramas, which are popular in Asia. Suffice it to say, this is a high quality script.

Accolades aside, the reader has a few minor observations for the writer to consider that may elevate this project's prospects in the current market. With that in mind, let's get started.

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## Characters

The reader notes that the writer has created this script with a lean cast and scaleable atmosphere, both of which bodes well for its prospects in a cost-conscious production climate that has seen costs rise as direct result of the pandemic and inflation.

Klahan "Han" Thanwareth is the lead character in this show and also in the hit series "Destiny Always Wins" where he plays heartthrob "Mann" opposite a leading lady in that series named "Dream". Han's photogenic face with his dreamy eyes and chiseled features are simply everywhere and it's difficult for him to step outside his penthouse apartment without being recognized and corralled for an autograph or a selfie.

Playing opposite Han in TRUE2U is Lamon "True" Charonensuk who is a delivery person for Food Panda. A chance meeting in a stuck elevator on New Year's Eve places Han and True together at a vulnerable moment for each man where they share a romantic spark that doesn't fully kindle when interrupted by the elevator abruptly starting up again.

Each man has their female "sounding board" with Wiliawan Insree, as the head of Sunrise Studio, being Han's shepherd and a line producer named Apinya "Fern" Phasuk offering sage advice to the lonely star as well.

True has Chalaporn "Leah" Tantanakoon as his "sounding board" and confidante who is shocked at the realization that True spent an evening trapped in an elevator with Thailand's biggest star and that there was a romantic spark.

Minor supporting characters include a drunken fan whose nose is accidentally broken and some enhanced atmosphere round out the cast in the story.

All the characters are extremely well-defined but it is the potential of a blossoming relationship between Han and True that will keep audiences engaged and wondering "will they" or "won't they" as their careers and romantic interests appear to be on a "destiny driven" collision course.

Is this the type of cast that could become the foundation for an ongoing series? Yes, particularly with the backdrop of the entertainment industry where romance blossoms with each production and all who choose that world being committed to live a gypsy lifestyle as every show eventually ends. Given that, the writer is perfectly positioned to keep this cast moving along through multiple seasons.

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## **Structure**

The writer demonstrates a professional level skill set for story structure. The script is formatted correctly for today's streaming and television market with delineated Acts that have sticky transitions to maintain viewer traction through potential commercial breaks. The embedded tag at the close is a solid cliffhanger that should ensure view traction to the next episode.

As the writer is likely aware, viewer engagement has become a leading metric for whether a show is renewed or cancelled. Shows that fail to register a 50% level of viewer engagement are now headed for cancellation or non-renewal, with re-runs of ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT and first runs of GOSSIP GIRL being the latest high profile casualties along with hundreds of other titles over the past few months.

Simply put, this is an intelligent and skilled screenwriter who grasps the importance of maintaining viewer engagement who also has an affinity for the genre.

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## **Format/Grammar/Spelling**

The script is properly formatted to a professional standard and is free of grammatical errors and misspelled words. It presents and reads as a script created by an experienced professional screenwriter.

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## **Dialogue**

The writer has an excellent ear for creating organic dialogue with a natural flow. There are subtle differences in the tone of the dialogue for each of the characters as well as with their choices of words and sentence cadences.

Importantly, the dialogue of Han reads as a lonely man trapped into being a character that does not define who he is. True's dialogue elicits the same loneliness but also reads a bit younger, which makes sense given their stations in life.

Wiliawan is simply spot on as the studio chief who is worried about her star and the fate of the studio.

In short, the dialogue is solid top to bottom.

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## Concept

As written in a congested and competitive scripted entertainment market, the reader anticipates moderate to firm interest in the script. This series would obviously be shot in Bangkok where it could potentially be produced for a fraction of the cost of an American show.

There has been a healthy wave of foreign acquisitions by the major streamers who need a consistent flow of content but only at reasonable price points. It's simple math when they can acquire an entire season of a show from Israel, Turkey or Spain on a negative pick-up deal for less than the cost of one episode of a show produced in the U.S.

The reader generally advises writers that scores are valuable for competitions, but that the only numbers that truly matter are those on a check with the writer's name on it securing a deal. There's a lot to like about this script, but the reader has a close associate with a shelf full of Emmy's who always reminds that there are no "10's" in screenplays. In fact, he believes that a "10" is the kiss of death as many take it as a challenge to be overly critical. Keep that in mind if the writer is using the analysis for a capital raise or shopping for a deal.

Lastly, the concept is solid with a well-defined target demographic that should mirror the ages of Han and True. The characters are well conceived and the back drop for the series is ripe for cost-efficient production. Story structure and running time are also on point.

The reader conducted an arm chair timing of the script and anticipates that a savvy editor will be able to conform it to an industry preferred 40-42 minute running time. That shorted length equates to lower production costs and enables the gatekeeper to insert additional commercials when viewed in a curated or AVOD one hour time slot.

The reader trusts that the observations prove to be beneficial. All are actionable by an intelligent writer who display a high level skill set for the craft and an affinity for the genre.