

FEATURE FILM SCREENPLAY COVERAGE

TITLE	Gravity
LOGLINE	Stranded in space, an astronaut battles to survive against relentless obstacles and diminishing oxygen, pushing the limits of her endurance.

SUBMITTED TO	Jeffery Hirshberg	AUTHOR	Alfonso Cuarón & Jonás Cuarón
SUBMITTED BY	Abigail Wisz	COVERAGE DATE	02/25/2024
READER	Abby Wisz	DRAFT DONE	1st Draft
LENGTH	70	TIME PERIOD	Future
LOCATION	Outer Space	BUDGET	Large
GENRE	SciFi	SIMILAR PROJECTS	Marooned, 2001: A Space Odyssey, The Martian
ATTACHMENTS	N/A		

	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
PREMISE		✓		
PLOT			✓	
PRODUCTION VALUE		✓		
CHARACTERS				✓
DIALOGUE			✓	
SETTING		✓		
STRUCTURE			✓	
CASTING POTENTIAL		✓		

	RECOMMEND	CONSIDER	PASS
SCRIPT			✓
WRITER		✓	

SUMMARY:

DR. RYAN STONE, a medical engineer on her first-ever space mission, struggles to reboot the comms card of the shuttle as MISSION CONTROL, EXPLORER CAPTAIN, MATT KOWALSKI, and DOCTOR SHARIFF DASARI are going back and forth telling random stories as she works. Ryan is failing multiple times to send the comms data to mission control as she is unsure what to do. Suddenly, the astronauts get a command to abort the mission as debris starts flying toward them at an alarming pace. It is revealed that the Russians had unintentionally struck one of their satellites causing a chain reaction of debris to head straight towards their shuttle, the Explorer.

Matt orders Ryan and Shariff to stop their work and get safely back to the Explorer. Ryan is too distracted by her work and declines, insisting she has to finish rebooting the comms data. As she finally gets her task done, Ryan realizes her tether is stuck to the machine, unable to let her go. Communication with mission control goes out, as the three astronauts must figure out how to stay safe. The debris is heading straight toward them as Ryan communicates her visuals on it. As the three astronauts desperately complete all the necessary tasks to reboard the shuttle, a piece of debris flies right past Shariff almost hitting him. As he averts his gaze to the debris that just flew past, another piece comes hurtling toward him, hitting and instantly killing him. Ryan looks on as it happens, still unable to detach from her machine. As more debris hits the shuttle, Matt can reboard and tries his best to help Ryan from a distance. As she is finally able to detach from her tether, the engineer starts drifting off into space away from the shuttle.

Ryan is continuously spinning in circles farther and farther away from the shuttle terrified of what will happen. She struggles to keep communication with Matt as she gets further away. As she realizes Matt is on his way to save her, she turns on her flashlight, locating where she is in the darkness. Her oxygen levels are quickly dropping as she is now at 8% when Mat finally reaches her. Matt tethers the two together as he uses a jetpack to push them toward the shuttle. As they are closer to the shuttle, Ryan's oxygen has dropped down to 5% and the two astronauts attempt to grab the body of Shariff. Examining the damages toward the Explorer reveals that Matt and Ryan are the sole survivors as the damages were fatal.

As the two separate from the shuttle, with limited oxygen supplies, Ryan and Matt navigate their way to reach the International Space Station (ISS), as it is their only hope for survival. Ryan's oxygen is now at 2%, scaring her even more. As Matt and Ryan make it to the ISS

Matt pulls Ryan with thrusters, it is revealed that there is only one Soyuz to be used as the others are missing or damaged. As they get closer to the ISS, Matt realizes they have no fuel left and must use one last big thrust to propel themselves forward. They hit the ISS head causing them to drift the wrong way. Ryan can grab a tether and hang on, but Matt starts to slip away from her. He reveals that there is no way for both of them to survive as the debris is still heading their way and Ryan's oxygen has hit 0%. Matt unclips the tether and floats in the opposite direction, pushing Ryan towards the ISS. As he slowly drifts away, losing communication with Ryan, Matt directs the engineer to take the final Soyuz to the nearby Chinese station and get help there.

Ryan now on the station tries her best to figure out how to operate the Soyuz, revealing before she had crashed it every other time she had operated it. As she is distracted, a fire starts on the station, causing Ryan to run around and be forced into the Soyuz without knowing how to use it. Ryan, now in the Soyuz alone with only a fire extinguisher, starts her mission to the other station. The mission is slow and hopeless as it is revealed the Soyuz does not have any more life in it. Ryan desperately tries to contact anyone and everyone who can hear her. As she slowly goes insane, talking to herself, Ryan reaches someone named ANINGAAQ, who cannot understand Ryan. Ryan is losing hope as she realizes no one can save her now. Over the comms, Ryan hears dogs barking and a baby crying from Aningaaq's side. This causes Ryan to start dreaming about her family and life on Earth, pushing Ryan to the decision of suicide.

As Ryan prepares to let the debris take her, Matt suddenly appears to save Ryan again. He gets into the Soyuz with her and starts to help Ryan operate. Matt keeps telling Ryan that it's finally time to go home as she realizes she must launch forward to reach the other station, just like Matt did before. It is soon revealed Matt was only a vision from Ryan hallucinating after Ryan launches herself toward the Chinese station. Ryan's plan is working as she needs to use the fire extinguisher from before to propel herself toward the station. She succeeds just in time and reaches the station as more debris strikes it, causing some damage. Ryan realizes the station has been abandoned and her only way out is one damaged escape pod. She hurries to the pod and ejects straight into the Earth's atmosphere with her descent being too fast. In a panic, Ryan pulls the parachute, causing the pod to fall more slowly and safely land in the water. As she struggles to make it out of the pod before it sinks, Ryan is trying her best to connect with anyone over comms. Finally, communication with mission control is reestablished and Ryan is finally able to be rescued and retrieved by them. Ryan can now finally rest.

COMMENTS:

Doctor Ryan Stone shows little to no character development during the screenplay. She is portrayed as this brilliant but emotionally withdrawn engineer who is dealing with personal loss and past traumas. You hope to see her struggle for survival in the emptiness of space provide a good ground for character growth, but no matter what she is still paralyzed by fear and grief, never being able to confront her deep insecurities and fears. As Ryan encounters insane obstacles, fighting death left and right, it is revealed she is only surviving due to others' sacrifices. Throughout the screenplay she still is always in panic and helplessness, barely learning to adapt to the hostile environment. Even near the end, she is only brought out of her idea of suicide from a hallucination of Matt telling her what to do. She always needs to be saved by someone else, showing that she is incapable of developing into her person, unable to take on the vastness of space.

There is an obvious attempt at a theme of perseverance and adversity throughout this screenplay. It tries to illustrate how moments of crisis can help catalyst personal growth in a person. This is not so successful in Ryan's character development. After being faced with misfortune and obstacles every second, Doctor Ryan is forced to persevere throughout every situation. Only she is saved by someone else every time. Matt is the one to persevere and try his best to survive while making sacrifices that he believes will help the better of mankind. Ryan faces many adversities throughout the screenplay and is forced to try her best to survive after so many people sacrificed themselves for her survival. This causes some perseverance within Ryan, but near the end as she contemplates suicide, all that perseverance disappears. The theme is successful in being obvious, but with the character's lack of development, the theme seems useless in some ways.

The screenplay itself seemed incredibly fast-paced, yet it was nowhere near a page-turner. All the characters were 2D with nothing to offer, and the action seemed forced as if the writers thought they needed something exciting to happen to keep audience appeal. Sci-fi and lost-in-space stories have been done so often that this screenplay seems boring. There isn't anything for it to stick out compared to others. There are so many films similar to it like *Marooned*. Both stories play a heavy idea in survival, resilience, and the human spirit in the face of adversity. They both also touch on themes of sacrifice and the human cost of space exploration, and how it can take a toll on the human psyche. This can also be said about the film *The Martian* which shares themes of isolation, determination, and being stranded, just like *Gravity*. Doctor Ryan's ability to survive also makes no sense. She somehow can go from shuttle to shuttle with no oxygen and this does not affect her. Some continuity seems to be off in the screenplay. The action is so back-to-back, and the whole story seems lost as Ryan is just thrown through new obstacles every second, unable to catch her breath. Though the screenplay is so short, it is quite obvious that it will be a more visual story when on screen.

Recommendation: PASS