

FEATURE FILM SCREENPLAY COVERAGE

TITLE	Erin Brockovich
LOGLINE	A determined single mother uncovers toxic contamination in a small town's water supply, leading a legal crusade against corporate giants to seek justice and accountability.

SUBMITTED TO	Jeffery Hirshberg	AUTHOR	Susannah Grant
SUBMITTED BY	Abigail Wisz	COVERAGE DATE	March 21, 2024
READER	Abby Wisz	DRAFT DONE	1st Draft
LENGTH	139	TIME PERIOD	Early 90's
LOCATION	Los Angeles	BUDGET	Small
GENRE	Drama	SIMILAR PROJECTS	N/A
ATTACHMENTS	N/A		

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

CASTING POTENTIAL	✓			
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	RECOMMEND	CONSIDER	PASS
SCRIPT	✓		
WRITER	✓		

SUMMARY:

ERIN BROCKOVICH is interviewing for a job with DR. JAFFE for a position in his office. Erin responds to the questions as if she has done this a hundred times, yet it doesn't stop Dr. Jaffe from rejecting her. As Erin stands outside the office angrily smoking a cigarette, she notices a parking ticket on her beat-up car. As she gets ready to leave, one of her nails breaks, making her day even worse. Erin finally drives off and gets hit by someone speeding through a light. ED MASRY walks into the office ready to start his day as his assistant, ROSALIND, lets him know his nine o'clock is there to see him. Erin stands in his office looking around with a neck brace on. As the meeting starts, Ed asks Erin to recount what happened in the accident. Erin is on the stand as she recounts the accident to the jury. She explains how she is a single mother, struggling to find a job to provide for her family, and is currently in debt without help from her ex-husbands. The DEFENDING LAWYER sees this as an opportunity to call Erin out and make it seem like she caused the car accident. This causes Erin to blow up, showing how short-tempered she is, and eventually losing the case.

Erin pulls into her driveway, she angrily gets out, and goes next door to pick her kids up from the neighbor. MRS. MORALES explains to Erin she is moving away and no longer will be able to watch the kids for her, giving Erin more things to worry about. Ed returns to his office and sees Erin through his doorway. He asks DONALD why Erin is there and Donald explains she works there, that not being true. Ed approaches Erin, acting all nice, as Erin explains how the firm never called her back. Through this interaction, Erin berates Ed on how they have so much staff, yet no one to call back clients, demanding a job from Ed. Erin shows a new side of herself, a more sincere side as she asks Ed to not make her beg for a job.

Erin is being given a tour of the office and an insight into her job. It is obvious to Erin that the other girls don't like her, as they judge how she dresses and acts. Later that night, as Erin puts her kids to bed, she hears loud noises outside. She goes to investigate, meeting GEORGE, her new neighbor, as he revs his motorcycle engine. He immediately is drawn to her, yet Erin shuts him down. Ed gives Erin a box as he asks her to open a real estate pro-bono case involving PG&E. As Erin goes through the box, she is confused as to why medical files are included. Erin asks for help from ANNA but is shut down. Later that day, Erin goes to pick her kids up from the new sitter's house only to find out no one is home. Rushing back to her house to find her kids, she hears them in George's backyard as the four of them have a barbeque. George explains something came up with the sitter and she dropped the kids off while Erin wasn't home. This kind act causes George and Erin's relationship to flourish as George can watch the kids while Erin works.

Erin decides she wants to investigate the case further, and with Ed's permission, goes to the town of Hinkley to interview the clients. As Erin makes connections with the residents of Hinkley, she notices

the potential environmental implications of PG&E's activities in the town. Her curiosity gets the better of her, as Erin finds herself spending a week in the town gathering evidence on the topic of hexavalent chromium with the help of a doctor and the county water board. Erin returns to the firm, hoping to give Ed the new evidence, but notices her desk is completely cleared as she had been fired. JANE, Ed's assistant explains to Erin that she can't take off for a whole week and not check in.

Erin is sitting at the kitchen table trying to find a new job with no luck. A knock at her door finally pulls her away from all the rejections she has been getting. Ed explains to Erin he got a call from a doctor asking to speak to her about the chromium she had found. Erin demands her job back if Ed wants to know about what she has found. Erin is back in Hinkley, gathering more evidence and statements about how the people have been affected by PG&E. Erin finds out the water had been contaminated causing the residents to get badly sick, and has the potential to spread through generations. Ed and Erin have become an unstoppable duo as they try to get to the bottom of what Erin has found. After a meeting with one of PG&E's lawyers, they decide that taking them to court is the best option if they want to get the townspeople the justice they deserve.

Erin comes home late, once again, and goes to check on her kids as they are asleep. MATTHEW, her son, gives Erin the cold shoulder as he is mad that work is taking up her life causing her to never be home and never spending time with him and his siblings. George has been the one to take care of them, as he and Erin are in a relationship. Erin tries her best to balance life and work, bringing George and the kids to a cookout that Ed and her have with some of the townspeople to get more information. As she is sucked into work again, this makes George and Matthew mad since they just want to spend time with Erin. Late that night, Erin and George get into a fight causing George to leave, the thing Matthew feared as he has seen it time and time again.

The case is brought to court after Ed and Erin refuse an agreement from PG&E, as it was hush money. After the case turns into a lawsuit, it is brought to court, resulting in a judge trial. Ed decides to bring in KURT POTTER, another lawyer, to help with the case. By bringing in Potter and his associates, Erin is driven away from the case as they don't see any reason to have her. Erin still tries her best to help out the townspeople, yet they explain to her that Potter wants to take settlement money. Erin doesn't see that as fair since they have no idea what amount they would be getting and if it could evenly be divided among the 400 plaintiffs where each can get a hefty amount for all the medical bills they've accrued over the years. The only way out is to get all the plaintiffs to sign off so the case can go to arbitration.

Ed holds a town meeting in an attempt to get signatures for the arbitration. He is only successful in getting half the signatures they need. With the help of Erin, the two go door to door to get the rest of the needed signatures. By showing their commitment, the signature collection is successful and all the plaintiffs are on board. After a long day, Erin goes to a bar to cool down, meeting CHARLES EMBRY, an old PG&E worker. He drunkenly tells Erin how he was made to shred documents, but kept some that he thought were important, evidence that provided PG&E poisoned the water supply. Charles agrees to make a declaration which helps the case greatly. After one final decision, PG&E gives over \$400 million to the plaintiffs hoping to finally settle the lawsuit. Erin is given a permanent position at Ed's firm, along with a \$2 million bonus check. George and Erin are back together, living happily as Erin finally has some downtime to spend with her family. Despite all the problems that resulted in working so much, Erin is back to work trying to help those affected by big corporations.

COMMENTS:

The script overall was quite the pageturner with no flat or boring parts. Though it was quite heavy, there isn't a point where a break from reading is needed. The beginning brings you in with Erin having problem after problem post-job interview. The car accident was quite surprising as you wouldn't think there could be anything more to disrupt Erin's day. Near the end, though it was obvious they would win the case, it still kept you on your toes on how the end of the lawsuit would play out, not knowing if they would get the full sum and make everyone happy. Having the B-plot, Erin's relationship with George and her kids, be affected by the actions of the A-plot, Erin working hard on the lawsuit, made the story more realistic with how a career can affect someone's life no matter how strong a bond is prior. Showing how Erin's relationships felt neglected helped humanize her character as you could see she was trying the best she could to make everyone happy, not just her family but the townspeople and her coworkers as well. The development of subplots and secondary characters helped add depth to the story and contributed to Erin's character growth and journey. Even though the ending was a little predictable, it was satisfying having all the strings line up with no plot holes or forgotten storylines. In a sense, everyone won in the end.

Erin had many different sides of her shown throughout the entirety of the script. In the beginning, she is depicted as a struggling single mother with a tough exterior, often coming off as confrontational or assertive. She uses these traits to cover up the financial difficulties she faces and her struggle to find a stable job. After using her assertiveness to land her a job at Ed's law firm, it's clear how resourceful and determined Erin can be. When she first starts to delve into the PG&E case she showcases her sharp wit and keen observational skills which leads her to uncover the larger environmental issue that is happening in Hinkley. As Erin gathers more information from the townspeople, Erin shows her empathy and compassion as she forms personal connections with the victims she meets. Erin becomes emotionally invested in seeking justice which transcends her initial motivation of financial gain after getting a job at the firm. Through the experiences she has with the Hinkley residents, Erin undergoes significant personal growth as she learns to channel her passion and energy into making a difference in other's lives. She evolves from this self-interested individual to a compassionate advocate for social justice. Erin becomes a symbol of empowerment and self-realization as she can bring closure to the residents which reaffirms purpose into Erin's life.

There are obvious themes of social justice and advocacy as well as environmentalism and corporate accountability. Erin's relentless pursuit of truth and justice for the Hinkley residents highlights the importance of standing up for the rights of a marginalized group and holding such powerful corporations accountable for their actions. Erin, who is initially driven by financial need, evolves into this passionate advocate for the Hinkley residents. After creating such a deep connection with them, she feels it is her job to not ignore what happened and get them the justice they need. Her determination to seek justice for these victims demonstrates the profound impact that individual advocacy can have in bringing positive change. Erin can do something good for someone, without focusing on what she can get out of it. The script sheds light on environmental issues and corporate negligence as it emphasizes the need for greater environmental awareness and the responsibility that corporations have to prioritize the well-being of the communities they may be affecting. The depiction of polluted water sources and how they can result in high health problems highlights the urgent need for environmental stewardship and regulatory oversight to protect public health and natural resources. It is a powerful call to action as it challenges audiences to confront issues of corporate accountability and the importance of collective action in addressing systematic inequalities.

Recommendation: RECOMMEND