

BODY. ELECTRIC.

Evaluation

Overall	Premise	Plot	Character	Dialogue	Setting
6	6	6	7	7	8

Era	The Future
Locations	City
Genre	Sci-Fi & Fantasy, Psychological Sci-Fi
Logline	A detective investigates a synthetic creation accused of murdering a young girl. Without access to the program's memories, he suspects the father and Citizen Observer that ran the program may be the only human with an answer.
Pages	46

Strengths

Detective Edwards investigates the murder of a child named Claire in this psychological science fiction pilot. The accused perpetrator is a synthetic named "John," a realistic non-human entity trained as a doctor but officially known as NPL-768. This noir-style mystery is flung into the future of space stations, dreams, nightmares, and psychotic breaks. Though the detective "finds men, not machines," he's sucked into the story of Jim Parsons, a mad scientist likely hiding a sinister past in computer codes. The odds are stacked against him, as he has past accusations of domestic abuse and is the father of Claire and the overseer of NPL-768's programming. The timeline is woven between flashback testimony and the present day. The world is well-built and fascinating, with clever body horror that varies between humans and synthetics, like the color of blood. The universe is highly technological, so the simple addition of lavender and essential oils grounds the story in what is left of the natural world.

Weaknesses

The scenes are short, fast, and condensed, which serves the pace of the story's thriller elements, but often leaves the audience behind as we are unfamiliar with the world and have no time to get to know it. The writers should consider adding breathing beats and slow moments to create variety. A critical execution occurs at the end of the pilot, negating any further attempts at justice. With Claire also dead, nothing new can be learned except through flashbacks. The truth is more or less alluded to, and though the writers could certainly still mix things up with future twists and turns, it feels as if there's no longer a mystery to solve, especially one that would continue through an entire season. The writers might consider looking at the True Detective structure as a model, where the suspects are subtle, and the threat grows through the bitter end. The danger is maintained if the major players stay alive, and the audience will have more time to consider the writers' most poignant themes by falling in love with John.

Prospects

This is a science fiction exploration of what it means to be human and what we might hold within us that machines cannot. It shares major themes with WESTWORLD, BLADE RUNNER, and would attract producers like HBO, SHOWTIME, or even PEACOCK (who took a similar jump with BRAVE NEW WORLD). Detective Edward and Jodi are on the run, but beyond survival, the other stakes have already been neutralized. Because the mystery ends within the first episode, this may work better as a feature.