

BODY. ELECTRIC.

Evaluation

Overall	Premise	Plot	Character	Dialogue	Setting
4	6	4	4	6	4

Era	The Future
Locations	Future Noir City / "Freezone" / Space Station / Asteroid
Genre	Mystery & Suspense,Sci-Fi Thriller,Sci-Fi & Fantasy,Psychological Sci-Fi
Logline	In a dystopian future in the backdrop of a space elevator, a detective finds himself tasked with retrieving an escaped synthetic humanoid accused of murder, only to discover that all is not as it seems.
Pages	45

Strengths

By the very nature of its “synthetic humanoid” centered concept, this genre-bending pilot script opens the door to a fundamentally interesting sci-fi series that asks quite intriguing questions about human nature. While the central narrative of this opening hour tracks the seeds of conspiracy surrounding an escaped synthetic named “John” accused of murdering a little girl, the thematic underpinnings beneath the story here offer a lot more than the standard brooding detective series that are a staple of network and cable television. In fact, the esoteric conversation between Detective Edwards and “John” is the standout scene of this opening hour featuring rich subtleties and critical commentary about humanity that elevates what this larger series can offer for fans of cerebral sci-fi [i.e. everything Ridley Scott, EX MACHINA]. The execution of “John” of course becomes the most harrowing sequence of this opening hour and does open the door to a conspiracy-driven narrative in the series to come, particularly in the flight of Detective Edwards and Jodi - the dynamic duo for the chapters ahead. It is also worth praising the intriguing title here that sufficiently situates this narrative in the larger esoteric, android genre.

Weaknesses

While its thematic kernels warrant praise, this pilot can improve its current narrative execution by most critically world building both its city Moloch/the Freezone to a much greater degree. Especially in this blockbuster sci-fi genre, the unique worlds these shows construct are as much central characters as the cast - and this pilot's world as is feels quite underdeveloped and frankly a little lacking. Can this pilot commit significant narrative real estate to both the cinematic/visual details that help transport a reader/audience into these scribes' fundamentally original world as well as the exposition dialogue/setting information that help convey the rules of this world for viewers to better understand? With its current page count, there's plenty of room to do so. Alternatively, this pilot can also benefit from working to differentiate its protagonist Detective Edwards from cop archetypes audiences have seen before in this futuristic genre. He leaves a lot to be desired as the central character of this show, especially in terms of the emotional depths that would make him a captivating lead for viewers to empathize with. Can this pilot find the subtle human nuances, specific details & the surprising complications that make him a complex TV protagonist capable of leading a show that asks probing questions about human nature?

Prospects

Although there are some particularly rich thematics present within this genre-bending material, the route to the air/an industry development slate for it [in its current shape] does seem quite unlikely. To live up to the undisputed thematic potential here, much more aggressively world building its blockbuster, futuristic setting as well as finding the the emotional depths/nuances that make Detective Edwards a fully developed cop protagonist can help the thoroughly interesting questions about human nature these scribes are wrestling with find the sci-fi audience that would greatly appreciate everything this show could say.