

A COFFIN BUILT FOR TWO by Andy Froemke

andy@andyfroemke.com 612.741.2816

Genre: Comedy

Logline: An inept novelist hires an assassin to put him out of his misery, only to have a change of heart when he falls for a fortune teller who assures him fame is dead ahead.

Tagline: What if you found your first love on your last day?

The tone is ANALYZE THAT meets THE OTHER GUYS.

"The premise is original and entertaining, and manages to balance the dark concept of suicide with humor very well. Such dark material could easily feel offensive or insensitive, but is handled in such a way that it feels comical and approachable. The characters are well written, with endearing quirks that make them feel realistic, from Harry's true love for food to Celia's search for signs. This script's greatest success is its subtlety in transforming Marvin's character. He constantly goes on and on about how bad his luck is, but as he does, he evades all of Harry's attempts to kill him. The irony is wonderful because it doesn't throw it in the reader's face, despite being so cleverly done. Once Marvin gets into drag, things get really hilarious—especially with the cue from Aerosmith's "Dude Looks Like a Lady." The physical comedy cues are on point, from "Marla" popping her water balloon breasts, to flashing the cab driver a little leg. The third act really shines in this story." --- Coverage from Blacklist.com

MARVIN CLANCY (Michael Cera type) is a writer stuck in a dead-end library job. His one novel, *The Devil's Parakeet*, which he self-publishes and sneaks into the library system, languishes in obscurity. His love life is non-existent. So, one night, he finds himself on a bridge and decides he's going to end it all. Only, he can't screw up the courage. Suddenly, he's accosted by JIMMY DOYLE (Steve Buscemi type), a small-time hood with a gambling debt to the Gabbolini mob family, who has a proposition. In exchange for being named the sole beneficiary of Clancy's life insurance policy, he'll arrange to hire a hit man to kill Marvin.

While Marvin waits to die, the unthinkable happens... someone checks his novel out of the library. Curious, Marvin seeks out the patron and immediately falls for CELIA SINGLETON (Zoe Kazan type), a practicing astrologer on the rebound from a bad break-up. She tells Marvin his future holds romance, adventure, and... literary stardom. Revitalized and regretting his moment of weakness the night before, Marvin quickly contacts Jimmy and cancels the contract, not realizing that Jimmy's life now depends on Marvin's death.

Enter HARRY "THE HORSE" DUNN (Will Ferrell type), a pear-shaped hit man with a day planner and a 65' Mustang, who gets the assignment to rub out Marvin. But Marvin turns out to be an elusive prey for the eccentric assassin, who never does get a clear look or shot at his target. Although he does kill Marvin's life-size cutout and accidentally poisons Marvin's neighbor, the main prize eludes him. Meanwhile, Marvin is falling in love and is oblivious to the many failed attempts on his life. He finally wakes up to the fact that the "hit" is still on when a package addressed to him blows up, ironically taking out Harry's prize Mustang.

Immediately, Marvin tries going to the police, but finds they can't do much without a body... his dead body. So, he desperately combs the seedy bars of San Francisco looking for Jimmy, only to wind up on a barstool next to Harry, who is despondent over his lost car. Harry, of course, knows Jimmy, but doesn't know Marvin. In his drunken stupor, Harry comes to believe his new drinking buddy is named Marlin.

And in exchange for drinking with him, Harry agrees to take his new friend to Jimmy... after taking care of a little old business.

For a split second, it seems like everything's going to work out for Marvin until he realizes they're stopping at his building, going to his apartment, and that the "job" involves a .45 caliber. Finally, he puts the pieces of the puzzle together and realizes he's befriended his own assassin. While he frantically phones the police from his back bedroom, Jimmy, fed up with Harry's incompetence, has decided to strangle Marvin. Harry, hearing the struggle, shoots Jimmy, thinking he's Marvin. However, when he realizes Marvin's true identity, Harry discovers he hasn't got the heart to finish off his new friend. But Marvin's relief is short-lived.

Despite their attempts to hide out at a funeral home, Harry is grabbed by Gabbolini's mugs, who are out to collect Jimmy's substantial debt. Marvin escapes the dragnet and reunites with Celia, only to have another bombshell go off... it turns out Harry is Celia's ex-boyfriend who she still has feelings for. Seeing that Harry's fate stands between him and his true love, he decides to rescue Harry. But the recent publicity surrounding the Jimmy Doyle murder necessitates a disguise... a strapless number and a pair of Celia's black pumps. And thus begins Marvin's unorthodox rescue that features the seduction of an overweight mob boss, the deflating of a bogus bosom, a high speed car chase featuring a getaway hearse, gunfire that sends a car to the bottom of the bay, and the imaginative use of a bra and coffin to save the day. All the trappings of a best-selling novel.