

COVERAGE REPORT

TITLE CELESTE AND JESSE FOREVER **DRAFT DATE** 5/01/11 - WHITE
AUTHOR RASHIDA JONES & WILL MCCORMACK **SETTING** PRESENT DAY, LOS ANGELES
FORMAT SCREENPLAY **GENRE** DRAMA, COMEDY
PAGES 111 **READER** DELAYNA JANE MYERS
ELEMENTS TALENT/FINANCING ATTCHD **DATE** 6/01/2015

LOGLINE

A long established couple grapples with their divorce and subsequent jealousy while re-entering the dating scene.

SCRIPT RECOMENDATION PASS

SYNOPSIS

CELESTE (30s, driven, trendy) and JESSE (30s goofy, man-boy) are college sweethearts that have been separated for six months but still live together. Their relationship, once romantic and adventurous is now jaded and distant but they can't seem to move on. Jesse is a hopeless artist who can't hold down a job while Celeste supports the both of them as a "trend forecaster" for a company called Pop Form.

Engaged couple BETH (30s, opinionated) and TUCKER (30s, hipster) meet them for a double-date where Beth confronts them about how they still hang out together even though they've been separated for months. Celeste and Jesse brush it off and convince each other it's not weird. In an interview at work, Celeste trashes pop-star RILEY BANKS (20s, worldly) while discussing the death of American culture. No sooner does her boss SCOTT (40s, gay) reveal that Pop Form is signing Riley on as a client. Celeste is upset that the company she co-founded is selling out but takes it in stride and prepares to remedy her misstep.

Jesse's close friend SKILLZ (32, easy going) tries to convince him that he needs to move on. Jesse admits he wouldn't mind dating but is hesitant because he thinks Celeste isn't over him yet. Once he does land a date, he's scared to mention it to Celeste but is surprised how nonchalant she is, though secretly she doesn't approve.

Celeste, Jesse, Beth, and Tucker run into VERONICA (26, European), a one-night stand that Jesse had months ago when he and Celeste had first broken up. Everyone is surprised at Jesse's connection to this beautiful woman while Celeste masks her jealousy.

One night after too much wine, Jesse and Celeste sleep together. He admits that he still loves her but she is full of regret and doesn't want to get back together. She rushes off, leaving Jesse crushed. Later, when Celeste stops by the guest house to apologize she finds it empty and Jesse gone. Weeks pass and he ignores her calls. When they do finally meet, Jesse announces that Veronica is having his baby from their brief encounter months ago. Celeste is heartbroken.

Distraught from not finding new love before Jesse did, Celeste pours her focus into work, running, and the dating scene. She begins seeing PAUL (35, grounded), whom she met at yoga. But things start to unravel for Celeste when she instigates a PR nightmare at work and repeatedly embarrasses herself in awkward social situations. All this while Jesse develops more into the role of father-to-be with Veronica.

At Beth and Tucker's wedding, Celeste makes a bold and honest speech, a summation of her feelings towards Jesse. With that release, she begins to let go of her jealousy. She also grows closer to Riley and manages to find a solution to the fiasco she caused at work. She tries to move forward with Paul, but realizes she isn't ready to be in another relationship yet and leaves him hanging.

Celeste and Jesse meet at the lawyers office to finalize the divorce. The bitterness is gone and when Jesse reveals that Veronica has left him, Celeste encourages him to chase after her. Feeling closure, she gives Paul a call and tells him she's ready to date.

COMMENTS

This script starts with the interesting premise of two people that are inseparable as friends but incompatible as spouses, however it fails to keep momentum and eventually fizzles to a uninspired resolution.

Audiences enjoy watching couples struggle with their identities and ultimately assume roles that compliment each other. As the character Beth states, "You guys are already best friends and that's the hard part." Regardless of whether or not this is true, it is never addressed, confusing the reader as to why these two can't make it work. Instead of being shown how Celeste and Jesse are ill-suited, we are consistently reminded of their ability to makeup and continue their lasting supportive relationship.

There are some solid laughs peppered in, mostly character driven with aptly sharp dialogue. Though this should not be considered a comedy as it reads more like a drama with light moments. Character-wise, Celeste shows some believable flaws and slight depth, but her cohorts are overly simplified and serve little more than to parrot each other's idea that the leads should move on. All the while, never alluding as to *why*. More frustrating, is that Celeste is portrayed as having evolved as a person when in actuality her path has been marred by too much convenience for too little conflict.

The story albeit simple, is plagued by disconnected subplots that while attempting to add depth, belittle the relationships and purpose of those involved. Without any investment in the characters or their predicament, I cannot recommend any further consideration on this script.