BLACKLIST REVIEW - TRACKER

Overall	Premise	Plot	Character	Dialogue	Setting
8	8	9	8	9	8

Era
Present Day & Near Future

Locations
East Coast / USA

Budgets
High

Genre
Action & Adventure, Action Thriller, Mystery & Suspense, Crime Thriller, Detective Film, Psychological Thriller, Sci-Fi Thriller, Sci-Fi & Fantasy, Psychological Sci-Fi

Logline
A determined FBI agent with a dark past must use new technology go inside the mind of a sociopath in order to solve a mystery he's working on and catch a serial killer, but the sociopath's mind he is using belongs to the man that murdered his first wife and son.

Strengths
This is an extremely well written script with a fantastic concept and a suspenseful plot. The world created here is perfect for the near future setting and isn't ever too over the top in the technology that we have to deal with as an audience. Val is a strong protagonist through and through and there are a ton of layers to his character. Everything from the obvious history he has with Griftka to his new family is well established and developed and that's before we even get a chance to get to know him as a hell bent and determined FBI agent who will stop at nothing to finish the job and catch his perp. The dialogue is natural and nail biting, creating a never cliche tone that never falls back on detective/FBI jargon to push the plot forward. There's a lot of emotion that comes from each of the character's interactions with Val and they stand out in individual ways. The dark nature to the script is executed powerfully and the writer doesn't hold back from creating some pretty gruesome images and sequences for the audience. It's juxtaposed nicely though through all of the human emotion that we get to see developed over the course of the script. WHOA, the twist at the end is so cool and intense and opens itself up for sequels. The empty feeling that the audience must go through when we think Val is lost is really intense.

Weaknesses
Right now it feels like Brady's character is coming up a bit short in comparison to the other really well developed characters. We don't get a lot in line of his personal motives for why he's a part of all this or is passionate about it working out. We know he works well for the plot, and it is strong that he kind of hides from Val who's brain he's going to dive into, but there isn't a lot of personal growth for Brady. The same kind of goes for Dr. Peyton in that all of their scenes end up feeling sometimes repetitive in the ways that they interact with Val and commentate on the technology. The rest of the script never falls into this place, and for the most part these two characters work well to facilitate the plot and the story as well as Val's journey, but getting an extra sense of personality from both would make it easier to connect as an audience to their voices. Establishing a bit more about if other technologies have changed in the world would be cool to give the audience a better sense of how this near future has changed from the present day. This is a big development for only a few years into the future from the present day and it opens up some questions about this. It's not something that the audience has to dwell on, but might be a missed opportunity to expand on and make the world bigger for the sequels.

Prospects: This is a very well written script that is sure to attract the attention of industry readers. It's SILENCE OF THE LAMBS meets MINORITY REPORT and creates a very powerful concept for the audience to get sucked into. The dialogue is sharp and Val, the protagonist, is sure to catch the attention of big time a list actors should this script make it into development. At the very least, the script moves at a polished and quick pace that is going to make for a very strong writing sample.

BLACKLIST REVIEW - TRACKER

Overall	Premise	Plot	Character	Dialogue	Setting
8	7	9	8	8	7

Era
2024

Locations
Washington D.C., MSNBC Green Room, Infirmary, Laboratory, Park, Hospital, Various

Budgets
High

Genre
Action Thriller, Crime Drama, Horror, Sci-Fi Horror, Slashers & Psychos, Mystery & Suspense, Crime Thriller, Detective Film, Psychological Thriller, Sci-Fi Thriller

Logline
An FBI agent hunts a sadistic killer who broadcasts his victims' final days along with a countdown clock. As time runs out on the latest victim the agent agrees to work with the man who murdered his family, using his mind to track the killer on the loose.

Strengths
The story's future is dark (i.e. people pay for exclusive video content of murders) and fascinating. The first sequence has great pacing; the action doesn't stop even for a moment. VAL is an updated version of the classic acutely observational detective*. The first act break is excellent; the conflict (serial killer BTK is on the loose) becomes personal with Val. Furthermore it provides proper motivation for Val to try the experimental tactic to catch BTK. Finally MONICA'S abduction includes a literal ticking clock that creates tension and showcases more of the odd, futuristic world (i.e. voyeurism theme). GRIFTKA works as an intellectual villain that lacks refinement. The wire cutters are excellent foreshadowing and also create tension. The KATE/Griftka minor subplot is well-done. The end of the second act has a great twist. Val's progression with the technology is excellent as his arc. The third act is fantastic, great action, great tension and the ending is well-done.

Weaknesses
The movie is very violent, from the opening sequence, which will limit its appeal among certain demographics. Val's observational ability lends itself to his ability to disassociate (page 17) but the emotion he shows in the first sequence seems to rebuff that notion. Some of the dialogue sounds unnatural or clunky (ex: pages 22-24). The relationship between Val and AVAH feels a bit off (in the first half of the script); it seems odd that either one of them has decided to stay with each other (or get together in the first place given the circumstances). Later (pages 69-70) Avah's ultimatum feels a little clichéd. The sequence from pages 35-52 might need to be shortened. Minor note: It seems that Agent FELDMAN would warn Avah earlier about using her phone (page 57).

Prospects:
The script has flashes of DEMOLITION MAN, MINORITY REPORT, and SILENCE OF THE LAMBS. The blending of genres should help its appeal but the gratuitous violence will force the film to have an R rating which will preclude some audiences from watching it. The script requires a high budget which eliminates many producers from consideration. From a casting perspective the roles of Val and Griftka should be able to attract top talent. Avah is a strong female character that should also be able to attract top talent. Val and Avah could both be strengthened if their relationship was augmented a bit. Overall the script has a great twisting plot, solid characters and plenty of originality. The script could be strengthened by shoring up motivations and a few interactions. Still, as presently written the script is definitely a candidate for consideration**.**

BLACKLIST REVIEW - TRACKER

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

Era
Near Future

Locations
DC and Environs

Budgets
High

Genre
Slashers & Psychos, Psychological Thriller, Psychological Sci-Fi

Logline
An FBI agent tracks a serial killer through a new telepathic technology—that requires him to meld his mind with the death row inmate who killed his family.

Strengths
Wow. There's an energy to TRACKER that is utterly electric. The central MacGuffin is fantastic and is introduced in an exceptionally excellent and well considered way. While there's a lot of information related to the audience it is done in a way that doesn't deter the high octane energy of the script overall. There's something quite unnerving about the sheer number of people watching these crimes on the internet and it gives a reader quite an eerie feeling, considering, ultimately we are witnessing the horrors and feeling the action in quite a similar way. This is a script that, while being heart pounding-ly thrilling, does make one think, which is a rare and wonderful thing. The plot in this script is masterfully crafted-- set ups and pay offs throughout are clearly considered and maximized to their best effectiveness. There are moments that genuinely shock. Without giving it away, the ending is particularly heartbreaking and pitch perfect to the tone of the film. This is not a script that shies away from the dark-- it stares directly into it brilliantly. TRACKER is exhilarating.

Weaknesses
Val is a little too much of an action hero everyman. While the central premise of "his wife and child were killed by our antagonist" is an excellent hook, it's exceptionally plot driven. He's nearly there as a character, but he just needs a little bit more idiosyncrasy to make him stand out from the pack. Avah seems to have more depth than him at this draft, so the writer should match them and the issue will resolve easily. The contrast between the two is most seen in their big fight—the way they speak is far too obvious, though her dialogue trounces his throughout it. His explanations of loyalty read clichéd compared to the more nuanced arguments of his partner. The stage directions tend to get a little bit muddled, as well—there's a lot of new technology in this script and the writer seems to have a clear idea of what they roughly look like in mind, but the explanations seem to be more about the wow factor, without the visual— a script is a blueprint, so the writer needs to be sure that a production designer is going to roughly get the image. But this is all detail work-- the heavy lifting on this script is done. Great work.

Prospects:
There are clear commercial prospects for this script— it's SILENCE OF THE LAMBS meets THE MATRIX. TRACKER is a roller coaster ride of a script that will keep an audience in its grasp up until the last second.