

TYPE OF MATERIAL: Screenplay, Film TITLE: The Fountain

NUMBER OF PAGES: 112 AUTHOR: Jan Henner & Pat Dixon

SUBMITTED TO: DAN GREEN CIRCA: 1987 & 2007

ANALYST: Heath Boylstein LOCATION: Shenandoah, PA

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Logline: After disappearing in 1987, a boy reappears 2 decades later, unchanged by time. As his friends try to make sense of his miraculous return, his brother battles guilt over the wish that may have caused it.

In Shenandoah PA 1987, TROUT KETNER, 13, suddenly goes missing. A myriad of news trucks surround the area and people from the region gather to search for the little boy. The search was ultimately unsuccessful. Flash forward 20 years to 2007 when a news report states that Trout Ketner has returned. He's completely unscathed, but miraculously, is somehow still 13 years old. Flashback to 1987, Trout is a popular middle school student. His brother RICHARD, AKA: HOPSCOTCH, 14, waits with him for the school bus outside their nice family home. Trout and Hopscotch get up to the usual antics of angsty middle schoolers throughout their day at school. They argue over the logistics of a rollercoaster they are scheming up. After getting in trouble for causing a food fight, their mother MRS. KETNER, 30s, sits in the principal's office. She slides the principal enough amusement park tickets to host the graduating eighth-grade class and mentions that "it was Charlie's favorite tradition."

This specific amusement park is known as Ketner's Grove. This is likely why the Ketner boys are interested in developing rollercoasters, their family runs the place. Trout and Hopscotch hang out with a few of their friends around the park. Trout's love interest TRINA, 13, also happens to be Hopscotch's crush. While talking to her friend DEBORAH, 13, Trina mentions that she has feelings for someone other than Trout. Hopscotch, while at a majestic fountain in the park, watches on forlorn as Trina playfully runs after Trout into the forest. She looks back at him for a moment, before continuing. Hopscotch murmurs "Wish your troubles away" before quietly mouthing a wish and tossing his last amusement park token into the fountain.

Flash forward 20 years to 2007. Trout continues into the forest; he leaps out to try and scare what he thinks are his friends looking for him. He realizes that no one is there and makes his way back to the park. Trout discovers something mind-boggling here, instead of the lake and the park there is now a giant megalomart parking lot. He sees on a TV that his brother Richard is now 34 and has "dedicated his life to finding lost children." Trout moves throughout the store in awe as he contends with absorbing the future as it appears before him. Trina, now 33, and the manager, faints when she sees him standing in an aisle. Trout runs out of the store in a panic. Once Richard hears of the news,

he mobilizes to Shenandoah. There isn't a clear image of trout, so Trina's story is doubtful. Her story is given credence when Richard finds Trout outside the Ketner family home. He brings him back to the police station, as people who knew trout flood in to see him for themselves. News trucks gather around the area, it's starting to sink in that this isn't a hoax, but rather the story of the century.

Trout leaves in a tow truck with Trina and SCHMIDTY, 33, one of Trout's friends from back in 1987. They crash eventually due to the pitch-black night and think about how to hide Trout from the growing media storm that awaits him as the story spreads. They end up at a roller rink. Richard finds them eventually, reuniting with Trout once again. Richard contends with the idea of Trout becoming a media sensation as they drive past the megalomart and see a giant crowd amassing. Richard must bear the bad news to Trout that their mother has died in the 20 years he has been missing. He breaks down into tears and runs into the woods as his now grown friends chase after him. He makes his way back to the rock he was at when he jumped ahead 20 years ago to find messages and murals for him made by his friends and family.

KATHRYN TOWNSEND, the TV producer who worked with Richard on a show about finding lost children, finds Trout curled up behind the rock. She sinks her fangs immediately, getting footage of him and asking various questions. Richard and his friends get there soon after and extract Trout as they run from the slew of cameras. They take Trout back to a warehouse, where Richard keeps and maintains some artifacts from Ketner Park. One of these artifacts is the fountain where Richard made his wish. It is revealed that he wished his brother away, and guilt overtakes him as he confesses. In a hopeful attempt to amend his transgressions, Richard tosses another token into the fountain. Flashback to 1987, when the time jump initially occurred. Trout goes to Richard AKA Hopscotch and tells him that he needs to date Trina now that he knows of the jealousy his brother feels. Flash forward to 2007, where Trina and Richard are now happily together in this timeline. Trout has grown alongside them this time while being the only person to carry the knowledge of what transpired in the time jump.

Comments: This script has an interesting hook of a preteen who is frozen in time for two decades and reenters society. The fact that it is due to his brother tossing a coin into a wishing well is a little uninteresting, however. After that main hook is established the story tapers out quite quickly. The second and third acts of this script need serious reworking to make it compelling until the conclusion. The idea of Trout being swept into a media storm remains just that, a looming threat that is not explored in an impactful way. The script starts off somewhat well but loses its footing after the first 40 pages.

STORY: FAIR / CHARACTER: FAIR / DIALOGUE: FAIR / WRITER'S STYLE: FAIR / STRUCTURE: POOR / SETTING: FAIR / ORIGINALITY: FAIR / PRODUCTION VALUE: POOR

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