

# Logline and Treatment

2021 Summer Workshop Brainstorming Group Sessions

## YOUR NOVEL IN A BOX

- One-sentence logline
  - One-page treatment (up to 500 words)
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**LOGLINE** *One sentence that includes **character**, **obstacle** and **goal**.*

**Example 1** | A computer hacker learns from mysterious rebels about the true nature of his reality and his role in the war against its controllers.

**Example 2** | The aging patriarch of an organized crime dynasty transfers control of his clandestine empire to his reluctant son.

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**TREATMENT** *A one-page model of your story.*

Create a one-page treatment of up to 500 words. Keep your three acts proportional to the page. Act 1 is the first 25%, Act 2 the next 50%, and Act 3 the last 25%. Your whole story should fit on one page.

## ***Maxine Justice, Attorney-at-Large***

### **Act I**

When a crackpot claiming to be an extraterrestrial asks Maxine to represent his consortium at the U.N., she realizes her law career has finally hit rock bottom. Not only has she been evicted from her apartment, but her clerk, Brent, quits citing lack of pay and the fact she constantly forgets his gluten allergy. Now this wacko wants to soil what remains of her bad reputation. But with no other options, Maxine finally accepts the offer and discovers the alien, Dr. Arounaios, is telling the truth. She's handed keys to a swanky new office, a check for \$50,000, and a box of business cards: *Maxine Justice, Galactic Attorney. Premier Representation for Discerning Sentients.*

The 'Iperian' federation wants to make a deal. They will cure all natural human diseases—even down to gluten intolerance—for a paltry 30% of Earth's gold. Maxine will be in charge of inking the deal at the UN and making sure all of the conditions are met.

## Act II

The first obstacle, proving the alien serum works, is tackled in a secret facility in Guatemala. There Maxine is kidnapped by thugs, barely escaping with her life thanks to her quick thinking and some help from a hired bodyguard. Turns out her attackers work for Big Pharma, Sky Cross, and MediCorp—the companies facing bankruptcy if planetary insta-health becomes a reality.

Back in the U.S., Maxine's meeting with the U.N. Under-Under-Secretary holds unexpected promise when she learns that the man's son has Hodgkins Lymphoma. This is her moment. If anyone can sell hope to the desperate, it's an ambulance chaser.

A whirlwind series of meetings ends with the signing of a galactic contract, the second obstacle. Soon the healing rains come and the first miracle stories pour in. Maxine is suddenly the most in-demand lawyer in the city. Even Brent is smiling. He can eat donuts again!

Her elation doesn't last. The third obstacle, securing payment, suddenly shifts as major world governments decide to welch. They've read the fine print: the only action the Iperians can take is to assume control of Earth after humans have died out.

Dr. Arounaios seems oddly unfazed by this betrayal. He cancels Maxine's services with a handshake and a final payment. They're leaving the solar system until the enforcement clause can be evoked—roughly a hundred years. What no one realized is that humanity has been sterilized—a measure that would have been reversed with a follow-up rain had Earth paid.

When they're gone, Maxine realizes it's what the Iperians wanted all along. And she helped them do it. Helped them use our own greed against us. However, since the Iperians are no longer her clients, she's free to take action through inter-galactic court.

## Act III

Beyond the stars Maxine argues that humanity was never really healed, and therefore the consortium was not due any payment from earth. Her proof? Brent's gluten allergy is back.

The Iperian lawyers admit that a few of humanity's old genetic flaws have been reintroduced by Earth's medical industry, but surely this isn't their fault. They did make people healthy!

Maxine points to the clause in the contract specifying "natural flaws." The Iperians should have known human greed would kick in. Human nature is, in fact, a natural flaw.

The court agrees. The Iperians will reverse humanity's sterility, and earth will pay its debt.

Back home, Maxine's office is gone, and half the world's governments want her dead. But she does have one fantastic class-action lawsuit up her sleeve. She's going to sue the medical lobby for all it used to be worth. She even has new business cards: *Maxine Justice, Attorney-at-Large. Are you the victim of Anti-Alien Medical Malpractice? Get money. Get even. Get Justice.*