

**Type of Material:** Screenplay - 127 pages

**Title:**

**Submitted by:**

**Author:**

**Analyst:** Julie Saint-Anne

**Circa:** Present

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**Location:** Montreal

**Code #:** 101201RB

**Category:** Romantic Comedy

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**LOG LINE:**

PETE WIGGINS, reluctant owner of “Affairs-R-Us,” is hired by SENATOR DREW SLATE to prevent wife BRIGITTE from catching him in flagrante. Pete falls in love with Brigitte.

	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Poor</b>
<b>Characterization</b>				X
<b>Dialogue</b>				X
<b>Structure</b>				X
<b>Storyline</b>				X
<b>Setting</b>			X	
	<b>High</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Low</b>	
<b>Budget</b>			X	

### SYNOPSIS

Affairs-R-Us provides alibis and runs interference for straying spouses. PETE WIGGINS inherited the company from his uncle. Doesn't like it. Mom calls it "Uncle Eddie's filthy little business." Client MONTY refers sex-addict SENATOR DREW SLATE to Affairs-R-Us.

Pete falls in love the instant he sees BRIGITTE SLATE's photo. Declines the gig. Drew threatens to audit Pete's parents. Pete caves. Poses as the Senator's photographer. Drew's prostitute CHERRI ABLAZE poses as Pete's assistant. She sneaks into Drew's hotel room. Pete distracts Brigitte by smooching with Drew's ex-marine bodyguard SHIMMLER. It works, but now Brigitte thinks Pete is gay.

Drew catches Pete in an accidental, compromising position with his wife. Shimmler gives Pete a swirlie. More spousal subterfuge. Cherri comes on to Pete, who isn't interested. He's a virgin. She goes into shock. Runs to a priest. Pete has to get her back to Drew's bed or he's dead. She's about to strangle him when Shimmler shows up and brings them both back at gunpoint. Gags them and ties them up back to back. Hides them under a serving tray, and rolls it into the elevator, where Drew presses the emergency stop. He has ten minutes to do the dirty with Cherri. Accidentally hits the button again. Throws Shimmler to the floor atop Pete. The doors open, revealing Brigitte and Pete's parents waiting for the elevator.

Brigitte overhears Pete playing a song he wrote for her. They kiss, unaware that Shimmler shoots footage from across the street. Cherri clobbers Shimmler when he comes to get her for Drew. Leaves him tied up and wearing her clothes. Brigitte and Shimmler see Pete trip over the cape Monty makes him wear on his TV Amateur Hour. Cherri goes to Drew's dressing room at the studio. He fucks her to prepare for his televised debate. She asks how he can afford her. He admits he pays for her out of campaign contributions. Brigitte rushes to Pete's dressing room. Shimmler shows up at the studio. Bursts in on Drew and Cherri. They all fall into Pete's dressing room. Drew explains that Cherri is his speech writer. As they leave, Cherri slips a microcassette into Brigitte's pocket. Pete quits. Drew threatens to waste his parents, and then him. Shimmler, still wearing Cherri's dress, gets arrested by Montreal vice. Brigitte cries as she listens to the cassette.

She hires Affairs R Us. Makes love to Pete. She knows it can't work, but it's the best night of her life. He's so kind, gentle, honest. Cherri bails Shimmler out of jail. She has video of Shimmler in a homosexual liaison. Brigitte tells Drew she wants a divorce. Shimmler shoves Pete to the floor in front of her. Hands Drew a photo of the two kissing. Drew writes a check to Affairs R Us, and hands it to Pete. Brigitte runs out to a waiting taxi. Pete rushes after her. Shimmler and Drew follow in a helicopter. Plan to sabotage the private plane before Brigitte and Pete board. Drew invites Cherri, who poses a political threat. But, Drew accidentally gets stuck on the plane, too. Terrified, he warns them they must land before they reach 20,000 feet. How does he know? He ordered it. He's a murderer. Pete holds up a microcassette recorder. Cherri marries Drew in a double wedding with Shimmler and his "bride," Drew's pilot BRUCE. Cherri gives Drew the evidence. He backs out of the wedding. She opens the doors to the paparazzi. The bride throws the bouquet. It lands in Brigitte's hands. Pete kisses her.

## CRITIQUE

### Characterization

- Caricatures-R-Us.
- Fucking rabbits!
- Underused secondary characters. Rook and Velma don't do much to begin with, then disappear until act 3. Pete's parents are cardboard characters, also with nothing to do.
- On the news that his son is a homosexual, Fred feels the urge to prove his masculinity -- so he applies for a job at Affairs R Us?

### Dialogue

- "Because you know and I know that it will never happen again. For the first time in my life, I find myself wishing I were a man. Good-bye." (JSA: Sucks? I rest my case.)

### Structure

- Way too long for a one-note premise. The whole Monty business -- that opens the script! -- is unnecessary. Extra characters with nothing to do, and zero impact on the plot, also add extra pages. Plus redundant scenes.
- The "gay" subterfuge is cheap, lazy plotting.
- For god's sake, if he hates the business so much, he could have sold it. It's as though Author knows owning such a business makes for an unlikable hero. (But, at least he hates it.) Insufficient, when he could easily get out of it. And lousy driving motivation.

### Storyline

- Infantile plotline run amok.
- "Bits" full of holes. For instance: Fire extinguishers don't produce smoke! Shimmler duct tapes Pete's and Cherri's mouths, but when she talks, he tells her to shut up -- he doesn't wonder what happened to the duct tape? Cherri knocks ex-marine Shimmler out and puts him in one of her dresses -- she must be a very large girl. If Cherri wanted to get into Drew's room anyway, why knock out his bodyguard who was taking her there?
- Inconvenient conveniences. For instance, dad has a shotgun that isn't preincorporated. Brigitte repeatedly running into Pete's parents at unusual places. The Senator's dressing room just happens to open right into the Amateur Hour studio?
- The resolution had me completely confused, as you can probably tell from the synopsis.

### Subplots

- Romantic: formulaic.
- Monty's television amateur hour: convenient, off-story.
- Cherri's plot: huh? completely confused and confusing.

### Premise

- I imagine Author got drunk with some friends, and bemoaning his boring life, wished there were a way to safely get a little nookie. Wished there were a company that provides alibis for straying husbands. "We could call it Affairs R Us," he bellowed. "Wow, that would make a great idea for a story," his drunken comrades said. Perhaps it would, in the hands of a writer with more imagination, and greater skill.

### Location

- Author thinks throwing in a few "monsieurs" is all it takes to reasonably set the story in Montreal. Someone should tell Author, story doesn't have to be set in Canada to be shot there. As you can see from the synopsis, there is no integral reason to set this in Montreal.

**Writing**

- Shimmler to Pete: “You fucking amateur.” (JSA: Ditto.)
- Author is definitely male. No woman would assume that women carelessly undress in front of a man just because he’s gay, any more than we undress in front of a woman.

**EVALUATION**

- X      Pass  
          Worth a read  
          Consider with a rewrite  
          Consider  
          Recommend

**CHARACTERS**

Believable  
Complete  
Interesting

X-Caricatures  
X-Thin  
X-Dull

**DIALOGUE**

Realistic  
Succinct  
Effective

X-Artificial  
X-Over-written  
X-Weak

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**WRITING?**

Ugh.

**PLOT CONSTRUCTION?**

Confusing, redundant, aimless.

**WOULD IT WORK WITH A REWRITE?**

Why bother?

**IS IT VISUAL?**

Active, but myopic.

**BUDGET?**

Low: Canadian shoot.

**EXPLOITABLE ELEMENTS?**

Canadian shoot.

**SEX AND VIOLENCE?**

Lots of overdone, gratuitous sex. Minimal violence.

**TV?**

Dubious premise.

**WHAT FILMS WOULD YOU COMPARE IT TO?**

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**HUMOR? IF SO, IS IT FUNNY?**

Broad, cheap, and infantile. Nah.