

PRODUCTION COMPANY: Hello Sunshine
SCRIPT TITLE: COURT 17
WRITER: Elad Ziv
READER: Veronica Arzac
DATE READ: 5/10/24
GENRE: Drama/Sport

PREMISE: **GOOD**
PLOT: **GOOD**
CHARACTERS: **GOOD**
DIALOGUE: **GOOD**
STORY: **RECOMMEND**
WRITER: **RECOMMEND**

LOGLINE:

A female tennis player who is past her prime becomes stuck in a time loop while reliving the same defeating tennis match over and over again.

SYNOPSIS:

NOA SCHULMAN (37) appears battered and abused by her decades as a professional tennis player. Overwhelmed, Noa holds her Hamsa necklace and rubs it three times on its back where it's engraved. ERIC LARSON (39) Noa's coach has the same worn-out look from decades of coaching. Out on the U.S open practice courts is ANYA KHRUSHCHEVA (18, Russian) the new PHENOM on tour. YURI (44, Russian) is Anya's father and coach. While Noa and Eric make their way to the courts Eric mentions that going back to the minors wouldn't be a terrible thing. Noa would rather retire. WOMAN (33, ROXANNA GRIFFITH) wearing a Simon and Garfunkel T-shirt is the new on-site therapist Noa and Eric observe the woman as she walks by them. After arriving, Noa attempts to gain access to the court, but Anya continues to practice HYPNOTIZING HER with the power and control. As Anya begins to leave the courts, she gets into an altercation with Noa, this is when we notice their SIMILARITIES in physique, Anya being a younger version of Noa.

At Court 17 while being escorted onto the court Noa realizes she now has to play Anya in a crowd of her fans. The match begins and during it Noa reaches for her Hamsa necklace, gives it three kisses and whispers. Repeatedly the balls Anya hits are thrown with such force Noa can't hit back. Eric scribbles on a piece of paper. After a last attempt Noa loses the match to Anya. PATRICK (54) that Noa once was a great tennis player, but talent doesn't always translate into victories. As Noa and Eric head to pick up Noa's dog from the doggy day care they see Anya getting interviewed by CHRIS MCKENDRY (53) and Patrick McEnroe. While waiting for Shai Eric tells Noa he has been offered a head coaching job. As Noa and Eric head towards the exit gate SAMMY HENLEY (34, Journalist) and her CAMERAMAN (46) approach and ask if they can interview Noa. Noa SNAPS at the mention of her father.

In a flashback we see a young Noa (5) taking lessons with her Israeli father (35). Her father has on THE Hamsa necklace that Noa wears. Noa misses a ball and her father YELLS at her in Hebrew after a couple more hits. Noa in the passenger seat in her father's car as they hear the song "Bridge Over Troubled Water" by Simon and Garfunkel as they begin to sing along. Noa (17) at the University of Texas wears her fathers Hamsa necklace and rubs and kisses it three times.

Snap back to the present day. Noa receives a voicemail from the Jiangxi Open asking about her participation. As Noa and Shai resume their run they run through a crosswalk a yellow taxicab BARRELS right into Noa. She's DEAD. Noa wakes up. She is in an SUV and Eric is beside her. As they arrive at the U.S Open, Noa explains to Eric what happened, but he dismisses it as a dream.

Noa plays the match with Anya and loses again. After the match Noa runs back to her hotel room. Noa awakens in the same SUV as Eric and Shai. FRSUTRATED Noa begins to explain everything to Eric again, but he doesn't listen. Montage of Noa continuing to wake up in the same SUV with Eric and Shai. Noa walks through the U.S Open Flushing Meadows Grounds spots the same woman, but this time notices her shirt "Simon and Garfunkel." Noa approaches the woman who introduces herself as Roxanna Noa request to talk to Roxanna. In Roxanna's office Noa begins to explain everything. Roxanna explains this as a psychological wound that is causing trauma that needs to be treated. Noa in her hotel room has the same HELPLESS expression on her face. As Noa watches the post-match interview Anya had given in which Anya speaks poorly of her insinuating that Noa is past her prime. Noa FURIOUS by this stares at the image of Anya like a Black Mamba snake stalking its prey. Noa is determined now to beat Anya in the next match.

A DETERMINED Noa begins a new day ready to practice and BEAT Anya. After continuous losing Noa goes to Roxanna. Noa mentions how her father knew everything. Roxanna suggests Noa listens to Eric. Roxanna questions if Noa is jealous of Anya. Roxanna reminds Noa of how she used to have fun with the game. Noa UPSET mentions how each match could be her last. Noa has a breakdown with Roxanna as something about her kind gaze allows her to feel safe. Anya has an OUTBURST during the match the next day. For a second Noa has the lead in a match but still loses to Anya. After the match Noa speaks with Roxanna who she tells the engraving on the back of her Hamsa. Noa speaks on what the tournament meant to her Israeli father the "American Dream." Montage of Noa winning a set but STILL LOSING the match.

Noa states that winning is the only way out of the loop, but Roxanna doesn't agree. Noa reads the notes Eric has written during the match. The next day during her match she applies the critiques but fails to win the match AGAIN. That night Noa at the restaurant sees Anya once again like she has every time sat with Yuri and the rest of her team. At the hotel Noa and Eric strategize going over technique. Next day Noa applies the technique and for a second has the lead but loses to Anya so that night she strategizes

with Eric again. Next match Noa gets the best of Anya for a bit even the crowd reacts in a way they haven't before, but Noa loses. Montage of Noa's matches with Anya and strategizing with Eric. During a match Noa organizes her energy drinks in order of height. After the montage Noa plays Anya and at the last second manages to score. The stadium was quiet as Noa got a match point against Anya. Noa now has control over the match, she rubs her necklace three times and continues. Noa FINALLY WINS! The stadium QUIET and SHOCKED. Noa and Eric walk away as Noa offers Eric half of the winnings. It's time for him to reap the rewards of his hard work. Noa is approached to do an interview with ESPN. Noa jokes with the host of ESPN as they speak of the possibility of this being her comeback. At the restaurant Noa follows Anya and Yuri out of the restaurant and spots them arguing a striking resemblance to Noa's father yelling at her. Noa sees Yuri hit Anya. Noa in bed is EXCITED believing she will escape the loop.

Next morning an excited Noa awakens only to be DISSAPPOINTED and FRUSTRATED that she is still reliving the same day she's CONFUSED. Noa explains to Roxanna how she has done everything she has let go but Roxanna points out that she has to LET GO OF EVERYTHING. Noa plays Anya and loses. Noa thinks of the good that comes with repeating the same day like spending time with Eric and Roxanna not worrying about money. Next day Noa gives Eric her Hamsa necklace after mentioning she knows about Texas and wants him to have it. At the practice courts Noa decides to wait for Anya to finish practicing unlike the other times. At Court 17 Noa observes everything as if it were her first time living this day once the match begins Noa feels as if life slowed down, for a second before feeling normal again.

Montage of first set Noa is losing but is putting up a fight. Montage through second set Noa takes the lead understanding Anya's moves as she hits a ball straight at Anya's stomach allowing her to win the set. Noa at the bench places her drink out of place no longer in order of height. The stadium fills with more people as they hear word of the match. A nervous Noa has the lead. Anya eventually gets the lead as they continue to go back and forth. The crowd on the edge of their seats. Anya attempts to avoid Yuri's gaze he's FURIOUS. Noa wins the set. Throughout the third set it continued intensely. Anya loses her temper because she believes the umpire made an incorrect call. Anya receives a warning as she continues to yell at the umpire receiving a penalty. Noa approaches attempting to mediate the situation before the umpire can call a code violation. Noa manages to calm Anya, getting her to agree to move on and continue with the match. The match continues intensely, Noa takes deep breaths feeling again as if everything slows down. Anya hits the ball, but Noa misses it unsure of whether or not the umpire will call it in Anya's favor. Anya wins but Noa doesn't care she had fun she truly gave it her all the crowd cheers but not just for Anya but for Noa as well.

While being interviewed Noa spots Roxanna. When asked about her father Noa hopes he would be proud of her career before another question is asked Noa walks towards Roxanna. Noa wakes up in the SUV except Eric is not there and she's not

wearing her Hamsa necklace. Noa's phone rings and she answers it's Judy from the U.S. Open offering her a wild card Noa accepts. After the call Noa reaches for her tennis bag and finds a tennis ball with Roxanna's name and phone number Noa feels at peace. Noa sits in an old deteriorating locker room a voice calls her it's Zihan (48, Chinese) from the voicemail. Zihan tells Noa that their ready Noa gets up before leaving the locker room takes a deep breath and says fuck it as she steps out, she feels everything slow once more then the sounds of tennis balls being hit are heard.

COMMENTS:

The good thing about this story is the character development. This story shows how Noa goes from being in a mental state of feeling the need to always having to win to going back to enjoying the game for what it is. This character development in Noa shows how often in life we take things seriously and personally and sometimes we just have to have fun with it. The dialogue and action in this script allows the reader to fully immerse themselves in the world so much that even those who know nothing about tennis can connect to the story. Visually I believe the story can appeal to an adult audience. The action shots can really immerse the audience into the story. Noa's frustration and desperation are some emotions that I as a reader felt and connected with. If the audience can feel those emotions the film will definitely connect with them because it is more than just a tennis film.

This story about a female tennis player who is past her prime becomes stuck in a time loop while reliving the same defeating tennis match over and over again is such a fun read. This script definitely has the resemblance to other films such as GROUNDHOG DAY and PALM SPRINGS in both of these films the protagonist are stuck reliving the same day. The characters have a lot to offer and do not disappoint although our protagonist Noa is repeating the same day it is still captivating. The script is an emotional rollercoaster feeling the emotions that Noa feels while stuck in the same day such frustration and confusion. Hello Sunshine has not worked with a storyline similar to this one but that's exactly why I believe it is a great fit for us. Hello Sunshine is about empowering women and that's something that this script does greatly by showing that both Noa and Anya are strong competitors in their own way. Films that focus on the subject of a sport tend to do better on streaming services there are several films regarding sports that we can use to gage how well it would do. Hello Sunshine produces several straight to streaming films that we already have an understanding of the way these productions go not only that but this opens the film to a bigger audience a theatrical release is not ideal as it will only garner the attention of those interested in tennis limiting our audience unless a big name is attached which is why straight to streaming is the ideal option. Over the years more sports films have been craved by audiences and this can be our way of fulfilling that need while expanding our brand.