**Title:** AFFLUENT HIDEAWAY

**Writer:** ZELIE DEMBER-SLACK

**Genre:** Television Drama/Supernatural/Faith-based

**Logline:** A young woman escapes domestic violence and travels across the country to an exclusive trailer park/school campus and discovers that her destiny awaits her when she meets the spiritual mentor that oversees the site.

**Premise:** A young woman named Delilah leaves New York, escaping from an abusive relationship and travels back to her home state - California. She arrives at a trailer park/campus and is greeted by a mystical woman, Ms. Whiley, who has been expecting her. Ms. Whiley runs a store in the trailer park, but refers to the park as a campus and she spiritually mentors what she refers to as “dreamers”, who need help fulfilling their own destiny. She provides them a dream book as a guide for them to make choices that will either lead to their success or demise.

**Format:** The format is that of a television drama, four-act structure (with teaser/tag). This format is an older format, as most television dramas are now either a five-act or six-act structure.

Continuity is important with transitions. You have a “Fade In” at the beginning and we don’t see the title of the Teaser or Cold Open, neither is there a “Fade Out” at the end of page 4. There is no Fade In at the beginning of Act One. It’s okay to omit the Fade Ins and Fade Outs, but it must be consistent throughout the script.

Consistency should remain with your parentheticals. The MAN on page 4 should have (O.S.) next to his character name instead of (V.O.).

There are a few grammatical corrections needed, which I noted on the script, including changing double spaces after periods to single space.

**Structure:** I love the way the story opens. It starts on a very interesting beat with the Delilah trying to escape from her abusive boyfriend. With the help of store owners in the neighborhood, she is hidden in their freezer, avoiding any further confrontation from her abuser. Ultimately Delilah drives across country in tears and prayer to return back to California to go the Affluent Hideaway trailer park. She immediately finds refuge, room and board, school and a job. Ms. Whiley is eager to help Delilah and refers to her as a dreamer. She slowly reveals her purpose to help her and others like her to find their destiny. Delilah seemingly has no one else in her life, her parents are deceased and she doesn’t have much money. She’s receptive to the help, but is leery about the spiritual aspect of Ms. Whiley’s advice. Supernatural events occur, specially surrounding the bible turning to passages of scripture on its own, wind blowing mysteriously, and the dream book turning up every place that Delilah goes. Delilah is bewildered by it all and rejects the journey that Ms. Whiley is offering, yet she’s curious how it all works. In the meantime, there is a disturbing character that works for Ms. Whiley, Mitch, who seems like a sexual predator. With all that Ms. Whiley upholds, integrity, spirituality, she has a strange relationship with Mitch, knowing that he’s not trustworthy. She’s keeping him around as an obligation to her deceased sister.

Some of the act breaks can be a little stronger.

End of Teaser – Delilah is in a freezer praying to God to help her get back to California. (Maybe the act break

End of Act One – Mitch has secretly snuck into Delilah’ trailer and is in her underwear drawer, but Ms. Whiley appears supernaturally to him warning him of what he’ doing is wrong, prompting him to put the underwear back in the drawer.

End of Act Two – Ms. Whiley presents Delilah’s dream book. Delilah is reluctant to take it, but Ms. Whiley says there’s no escaping it.

End of Act Three – The dream book appears in Delilah’s trailer, revealing a clipping from her 11-year old self saying “A Star is in the Making”. On the verge of tears, she shuts the book and exits with it in hand.

End of Act Four – Ms. Whiley is in the midst of a spiritual angel card reading and sees “love birds in danger”

Tag – Ms. Whiley tells Delilah that no one can escape their God-given destiny, then closes office door. Delilah looks at her dream book in the trash and sighs in defeat.

**Storyline/Characters:** Overall, I love the story, it has a Touched by an Angel feel. It’s mystical and relates to destiny. I like that everything happens within this small community of the Affluent Hideaway. It has legs because there’s a lot that can happen with a person pursuing their dreams, running away from the past and afraid of their future. Then when you throw in the spiritual aspect, there’s a lot of supernatural things that can happen to heighten the story.

We start out with Delilah, so I feel like she’s our true protagonist, but then when we meet Ms. Whiley, and she’s running the place, I thought that maybe it’s her story too. I since that Delilah is definitely going to be with us for more than an episode.

My main concern is filling in some of the blanks, raising the stakes for Delilah, and building more suspense and eliminating contradicting scenes that send out a few mixed messages.

**Filling in the blanks:**

1. The first question I had was how did Delilah know to go to the Affluent Hideaway? What kind of history did she have with this place? Was it a last resort kind of choice? Did she know what to expect? Did she have a vision about it? Later we found out that she has premonitions when it concerned her parents’ accident. (By the way, that’s something I’d want to know more about). What are the parameters of her supernatural gifts. And since she does have those gifts of foreseeing the future, wouldn’t she be more open to receiving the dream book from Ms. Whiley?
2. The opening scene could have been a bit stronger in showing us her circumstances. Before she even gets to the store where she receives help. Why didn’t she just jump in her car at first and drive off instead of running to the store to get help? from the mom and pop owners. Where did this map come from and where did she live in California before. How long had it been since she left California? I think flashbacks here and there can help us to know some of these answers.
3. Also, it was well into the story that I learned that she was pursuing a singing career. Is that why she went to New York? I love that she’s singing Take Me to the King in the car. And then she talks to her mom saying that you were right about her being able to do all things through Christ. Was she like a prodigal daughter? Did she run off to pursue a secular singing career? Maybe a flyer can be in the glove box that shows she wasn’t always a good girl or lived up to the values of her parents.
4. What are the parameters of Ms. Whiley’s gifts. It was little confusing when Mitch was caught in the room and the “Holy Spirit” lit the room, then Ms. Whiley was there? Is she more than human? Is she an angel?

**Raising the Stakes:**

1. I feel like we need to have some very unexpected things pop up in the story to raise the stakes, particularly the act breaks.
2. Is Ms. Whiley hiding something? Maybe Mitch has something on her, which is why she puts up with him? For someone with such a questionable nature, I don’t know how she would if she stands for morality and spirituality.
3. I think Delilah’s boyfriend should appear in the final act break. I was expecting something heavy duty like that.

**Tone:** While the tone of the show speaks to a mystical aspect of story-telling, there are scriptural references and Christian overtones in the story. I’m not completely clear on all aspects of the world that this story takes place in. If it’s faith-based, there are certain aspects that may not translate for mainstream Christian audiences due to the mystical aspect and the mix of what some may consider a New Age interpretation of certain scenes. If it’s both, it’s not completely clear.

We don’t know the parameters of Ms. Whiley’s spiritual gifts. And apparently, we don’t know the parameters of Delilah’s either. It would be nice to see a little bit of backstory on Delilah when her parents were living, particularly because she refers to them throughout the story.

**Overall:** I find the characters in the story intriguing. The setting is unique. I can’t say that I’ve seen a television drama take place in a California Trailer Park/School setting. I believe there is so much potential for so many stories because any and everybody can find themselves showing up in this community, brining all of their baggage with them.