

## FEATURE FILM SCREENPLAY COVERAGE

Title: Sylvie and the Wogglebug

Type of Material: Feature Film Script

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Submitted by: Cynthia Hanson

Circa: Present

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Budget: Medium (Animation)

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**LOGLINE:** When a 7-year-old imaginative, nature-loving girl finds herself in an enchanted forest, she meets the Wogglebug, who has an exciting and dangerous quest for them both.

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
Idea	✓				
Story Line		✓			
Commercial	✓				
Characterization	✓				
Visual Elements	✓				
Title	✓				

Budget	
High	
Medium	✓
Low	

## Synopsis:

A butterfly with golden orange and royal purple striped wings flies around in the playground as SYLVIE HARNOIS (7) chases it. She seems uninterested in playing with the other kids as MISS CLISBY, the manager of New Prairie Home for Children, praises her to a young couple, HARLAN and ELLEN MARTIN, sweet, nervous, expectant parents. The other children make fun of her for "liking bugs." Miss Clisby tells the parents that she had a hard time making friends. Miss Clisby introduces Harlan and Ellen to Sylvie. Harlan is an entomologist which matches with Sylvie's personality. Miss Clisby asks Sylvie if she'd like to go home with them, but Sylvie cries and runs off. That day in class, the teacher wants the students to examine something with a magnifying glass. Sylvie discovers a wogglebug. MR. FRANK, the teacher, hands her a drawing book. There's a key inside it, and Mr. Frank says, "You will know what it unlocks when the time is right." Sylvie draws a forest in her drawing book with elves, fairies, and animal-like people. Moments later, a keyhole-shaped light appears in the drawing. Sylvie tries the key, and a large splash of white light engulfs the room. The light goes out, and Sylvie has vanished.

She is now in the middle of a forest. She thinks she's dreaming, but she meets a human-sized wogglebug called H. M. WOGGLEBUG T. E. They become friends. Wogglebug wants to become the royal counselor to KING ETHANO and QUEEN LEXIA. In the castle, the other people who want to be the royal counselor talk behind the Wogglebug and make him cry. Sylvie tells him that these are bullies, and he can only hope that one day, they'll see that he's worthy of their respect. Wogglebug tells the King and the Queen that he will seek out ANTIBO, who wants to destroy the enchanted forest, and put an end to his terror. Sylvie and the Wogglebug go to the enchanted forest. Sylvie meets the WISE OLD OAK TREES. When they're onto the path to Elves Village, they hear a massive BOOM, and a thick puff of smoke appears in between them. out of it emerges ANTIBO, a short, mean little gnome with pointed ears wearing a large turban. Antibo tells them that he doesn't like the enchanted forest, and it's time for him to change how things are around here. He attacks them as CHRISTEPH, a tall thin ELF, does magic to save them. Antibo leaves. Sylvie and the Wogglebug thank Cristeph as he tells them it's the Domain of the Elves, so they shouldn't be here. Even Antibo doesn't get close to their domain, but he did today. They get acquainted as Christeph tells them that his magic doesn't help teach flower babies to dance with happiness. The Wogglebug sings to them, and the flower babies dance. A dark shadow comes between them, and Antibo appears once again. He attacks the flower babies as they instantly freeze stiff, grow shorter and wither. The Wogglebug tells Antibo that he should leave nature alone, allow it to grow and flourish as it is. As Antibo leaves, Christeph decides to gather his fellow elves.

Christeph introduces Sylvie and the Wogglebug to the elves. They have to gather all the guardians of the forest. Elder elves say that it's very hard to gather them, so there's little they can do to help them. Sylvie believes that they will be able to gather the guardians. The Wogglebug is also positive. Elves give them permission to pass their lands to gather the guardians. They're too scared to go with them. Cristeph tells them that they should consult the Fairy Queen Mother. That's when ELYSIA, the fairy queen mother, appears. She knows about Sylvie. Elysia tells them that her powers are not enough for Antibo. All of the righteous beings of Genoma is in grave danger. Elysia implies that Sylvie and the Wogglebug are chosen for this. After Elysia disappears, the Wogglebug comforts scared Sylvie. Elves choose Cristeph to accompany them as Cristeph tells them that fairies hate elves, but the elves trust that he'll change that.

In the morning, Sylvie wonders what would've happened if she let Mr. and Mrs. Martin adopt her. Cristeph tells her that he was adopted by a wonderful couple who helped him find out what he wants to be. Sylvie never thought about this. They soon end up in caverns where Wogglebug sneezes, which makes Pixies hear them. The pixies are disturbed by Christeph's presence. They decide not to help them because they say that it's not their war. As they exit, THEODORA, a pixie, changes her mind and joins their quest. Theodora picks on Christeph as Christeph asks, "Why must you Pixies always prank?" Sylvie encourages them to put their magic together to do something good for nature. The flowers grow tall and full as they do that. The Wogglebug discovers that he's allergic to pixie dust. Sylvie climbs on a giant mushroom as Antibo appears, unseen by them, and performs magic. The mushroom growls. Christeph and Theodora use their powers together to turn the monster back into a regular mushroom.

They end up near a lake where Sylvie encounters a mermaid. The mermaid points at Sylvie's key and slips back into the water. Sylvie thinks about what it meant. They go into another part of the forest where there is cluster of trees. They can't believe what Antibo has done to the forest. As they go deeper, there are mocking trees that tell them their fears. Sylvie tells them to ignore them. Cristeph and Theodora attack each other, but they stop when they hear Sylvie. However, the mocking trees are so convincing that even Wogglebug gets affected. Sylvie shoves papers into all of their ears, and they continue their path. Wogglebug starts singing, and the trees recoil in pain from the joyous song. They decide that they should travel to the heart of the forest to find Antibo and defeat him. They find the Living Tree, but it's darker and sickly. It looks like it hasn't been watered or seen the light in a long time. There's a keyhole at the center of the trunk. Antibo appears again. This time they all fight him together, but Antibo is very strong. Sylvie gets worried, then reaches to her key and drawing pad. When she turns the key, pixies, elves, and every creature they met along the way appear there. It's an army. Antibo gets very angry and does magic on Sylvie, which makes her stiff and solid as a statue. Cristeph and Theodora can't do anything to reverse the magic, but Wogglebug saves her because he has a little bit of magic in him. The pixies fly by and hit Antibo in the face with a cloud of dust as the elves also attack. Antibo falls to the ground yelling. He's defeated. Everyone hugs and laughs. That's when Elysia reveals that Professor KNOWITALL is actually Mr. Frank, Sylvie's teacher, who gave her the notepad and the key. Knowitall reveals that they've been working with Elysia to save the forest, and that's when he encountered a nature-loving girl, Sylvie. They arranged their meeting, and together, they knew they would save the forest. Wogglebug becomes King Ethano's trusted Chief Adviser, which is the highest honor he awards. Sylvie goes back home. She wakes up on her bed. Her notepad has the drawings she made in Genoma. Sylvie accepts Harlan and Ellen to be her parents.

## Comments:

*Sylvie and the Wobblebug* by Cynthia Hanson is a sweet and compelling family animation about a 7-year-old imaginative, nature-loving girl who finds herself in an enchanted forest and meets Wobblebug. The premise of the movie is well-executed with the amazing world-building and the lovely character Mr. Wobblebug. The main character is well-developed as she has a great personality and voice. There might be too much exposition in some of the scenes that might cause confusion; however, the writer successfully makes it natural. The tone and the style of the film matches the genre. There are minor grammar and screenwriting errors that don't affect the flow that much but should be corrected before production.

The premise of the movie is well-executed. It focuses on Sylvie's character, who's getting bullied in the orphanage because she loves nature and bugs. The opening image with the butterfly and Sylvie's pure interest in the beautiful creature is heart-melting. From the first moment, the audience will be connected to Sylvie and would want to see her succeed. With each scene, the story moves forward as the audience will be wondering what's going on. The story provokes curiosity and excitement.

The structure of the script is well-planned. The inciting incident is early in the script when Sylvia finds herself in the middle of the enchanted forest. Act breaks are on point. For example, the lowest point (act three break) is when Sylvie turns stiff. Other than the main plot points, there are a lot of twists and turns in the movie. The audience won't get bored at all because of the conflicts, character dynamics, world, changing environment, and constant twists that lead the characters into different scenes.

The main character is a very interesting girl that the audience of animation/family type of movies would be very fond of her. Her voice is similar to Joy from *Inside Out*, but Sylvie loves nature and bugs, which makes her much more lovable. The audience needs a character like Sylvie, who supports the "nature" theme of this movie. She's a very brave and mature girl that is very well-written and fits the story.

The side characters are as powerful as the main character. The Wobblebug is a great companion for Sylvie, and their dynamic is remarkable. For example, when Sylvie declares that they can bring all the guardians of the forest and people to look at her, she becomes shy. The Wobblebug sees this and rises to take the spotlight from his shy friend. This is a very cute moment, and the kids and the families will be very happy watching this movie that will make their hearts melt. The dynamic between Cristeph and Theodora is very well-written. Moreover, Antibo, the antagonist, is also very well-developed as he's a great fit for this world who hates the forest and wants to make things his way. He's mean and funny, which is great for children.

The pacing is terrific and supported by tone, comedy, style, and some lovely moments in the script. The style supports animation/family screenplays, and the tone is similar to *The Good Dinosaur* and *Zootopia*. The visual elements are very powerful such as the moment when the light takes over the room, and moments later, the light goes out, and Sylvie has vanished from the room. Also, the forest, elves, pixies, and many other story elements have great visuals by nature.

The only problem with the storyline is that the audience might sometimes feel like the movie has too much exposition. Even though the writer successfully covers the exposition with awesome conflicts, great character dynamics, and well-written dialogues, some expositions

might make the audience think, "Why do I know this?" For example, the scene where it's revealed that Mr. Frank is actually Knowitall is an expected scene since the beginning of the movie, so the revelation with Knowitall and Elysia might feel too much for the audience. Some of them might prefer to see Mr. Frank in the end who would just smile at Sylvie from far away. And at that moment, Sylvie's eyes can shine, realizing that Mr. Frank is Knowitall, and he wanted her to help Wogglebug. But again, this solely depends on the audience and the writer's choice.

There are some minor grammar, punctuation, and screenwriting errors. On page 14, there's "I can make people happy by just by being me." On page 55, there's a full stop missing at the end of the sentence in Elysia's dialogue. The parentheses in the script are not in proper screenwriting format. On page 68, THEODORA is written as PIXIE LEADER. Moreover, Theodora is not introduced in the script. She's only introduced through dialogues, and there's not an action line that describes her. The same goes for Elder Elf 1, 2, and 3 who just have dialogues, but no introduction. However, all characters need an introduction before they speak in the screenplay.

This movie is for families and kids who love animation, nature, and the theme of friendship. Wogglebug is a great character that would shake any kid's world and make them happy instantly. There are powerful scenes in the movie that would make the audience's heart melt. There are also comedic scenes that make the movie fun and enjoyable. There will be a major kid audience who would watch this movie again and again and might demand another film. The idea is original, the world has *The Wizard of Oz* vibes, and the characters are extraordinary. The budget might be different for different qualities since it's an animation film, but it's medium to high budget.

Overall, *Sylvie and the Wogglebug* is a great adventure similar to the feeling of *The Good Dinosaur* and *Zootopia*. It has *Inside Out* and *Coco* vibes as well. That's why this movie will be successful in the box office or on streaming services.

**RECOMMENDATION: RECOMMEND**