

Synopsis of *Dominant Male*

Out of work actor ADDISON SILKO and successful but discontented episodic TV writer JESSICA DANDRIDGE DONOVAN (J.D.) team up to write a screenplay inspired by the strange death of Addison's former boss, private investigator CHARLIE VARNA. Combined with his experience as a former pro football player for a fictional LA franchise and J.D.'s determination to write a commercial script that will give her the clout to get her more artistic work produced, they make a formidable team. Unfortunately, Addison has got a constant erection for J.D.; this despite her toughness, her obsessiveness about the script and her repeated warnings to him not to fall for her. They sell their screenplay for \$950,000 to a producer who almost single-handedly brought down an entire studio with a huge bomb called *Lizard Man*. The producer promises to deliver a first-class production with an A-list action hero in. When no progress is made toward this production promised by the producer and mysterious robberies and break-ins and even murder attempts befall them, they discover that their script is too close to the truth for some powerful people and their lives are definitely in danger. They are eventually saved by luck, pluck and J.D.'s cross-dressing neighbors, two former Force Recon marines!

Comment Summary

Breezily written, cinematic and engaging, this novel, if properly adapted, would make a delightful and unique romantic comedy -- a guy's romance, given the absolute preoccupation by the main character with women and their equipment. It also has elements of satire -- the author's take on Hollywood is succinct and wicked, and action. But the heart of this piece is its two attractive characters. J.D. would appeal to any actress who thinks of herself as strong and smart, and the truly liberating thing about J.D. is she doesn't have to cloak it. She's up front about her brains, her neuroses and her addictions.

It is surprisingly romantic, described from a guy's point of view; Addison is a lovable scoundrel, albeit somewhat obnoxious in the beginning. But he is smart enough to be self-aware, and when he falls in love with J.D., it's for all the right reasons. He grows on you, and you're glad he's capable of falling in love with the right person.

J.D. is a terrific creation. Smart, driven, weird and deeply flawed. I can see a lot of actresses fighting over this part, because, as a heroine, she's utterly unique. She's downright mean to Addison at first -- completely and justifiably disgusted by his behavior. She's got real problems with anger and is in recovery from a cocaine problem. Tough but vulnerable, her flaws are part of her appeal.

The strength of the piece is its two characters. But the story is also strong. It takes a while to get off the ground, and one is almost a little disappointed that it becomes a thriller, yet it works.

Eminently readable, it would make a fun movie, and I recommend an adaptation for the screen.

-- Ken Narasaki, story analyst, Lewis Chesler Productions