

**Manuscript Title:** Novelty

1. Name of author:

2. Date Received: 2/4/15 Date Read: 6/3/15

3. Reader: Brandon Sanford

4. Is the manuscript... finished/half-finished? : Finished

5. How many words: 60, 000 words

6. What is the manuscript about specifically: Movie and TV studios own people, called Lifers, who are sorted into different categories depending on the importance of their roles. Everything done on set is real, including warfare and killing. When the main protagonist's best friend, Connor, is instructed to take the life of a specific Xtra during a rehearsal, rather than in a live shoot, it raises questions with dangerous answers. What if their scripts weren't always guided by The Audience? Who, really, was the Audience? And why was it so important that an Xtra be killed after finding a hidden door no one else could corroborate?

7. How does the manuscript align with Ooligan's Mission? : I believe the author is an adjunct professor at PSU? YA novel. Without having encountered the "outside" much yet, the novel could be set in the Northwest and environmentalism could be a future theme.

8. Stated or not, what is the underlying theme of the MS? : The need for individuality, the obsession TV watchers have with gratuitous violence and reality, the meaning of family.

9. Specific reasons why I liked/didn't like the MS: TV studios controlling our lives is not a new concept, but it's a popular one and a topic I personally find interesting, as, despite complaints, the nature of TV does not seem to change. The characters are interesting and they all have their own personal motivations.

10. Tone of MS (academic, comic...) and writing ability of author (needs improvement/well-developed...) YA dark; so not overly gritty, but definitely not lighthearted. Writing ability is good.

11. Is the manuscript organized? Will the writing need a lot of editing? Will the text need a lot of fact checking research? Rate from 1-10 the state of the manuscript, 10 being ready to be published: 8; I think in general the manuscript just needs some clean up, but the ending is a little dull. The ending might need a little development. Also, doesn't seem to be much in the way of diversity in the novel, and there could

be more physical description of setting.

12. How original is the idea behind the MS? : Not super original; kind of a combination of different ideas that have already manifested in media. Still a solid novel, and, at least to my knowledge, not many books with similar ideas have been targeted to the YA audience.

13. If you think that the manuscript should be rejected, provide specific reasons as to why—unless you alluded to this earlier:

14. Market: who will read this and where would it be shelved in a bookstore? Be specific: YA post-apocalyptic. This could be a book that some adults get in to, as well.

15. Other related books or competition. (Please attach Amazon pages for these books)... Is the manuscript different from the competition? How so? State briefly.

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16. Author qualifications. Are they fit to write about this topic? What have they done/completed/hold a degree in that makes them an author the audience can rely on: I don't think the author as published anything significant. She teaches ESL courses at PSU, if it's the same person.

17. Rate your enthusiasm for this project from 1–10 and your proposed recommendation (conditional acceptance, rejection, developmental edit): 10; light developmental edit to fix aforementioned ending and to add more location details.