

Train Wreck: The Engineer's Revenge

By Valerie Hockert

Based on the novel by Blair London

WGA# 2225623

Thriller/Crime. 108 pages

LOGLINE:

Driven to madness by a cover-up that blinded his fiancée and led to her suicide, a grieving engineer sabotages a high-speed locomotive to deliver a fatal lesson in corporate accountability.

SUMMARY:

Connecting two catastrophic train wrecks, the narrative begins with a real-world **calamity** from 2011 near Reno, where a semi-truck collided with the West-bound California Zephyr Amtrak passenger train. Ben, an engineer, is overwhelmed by the horrific news while at a local tavern. He rushes to the scene alongside his loyal companion Mark, only to find his girlfriend, Christy, permanently blinded by the blast. Deeply **grief-stricken**, Christy slips into a profound depression and tragically succumbs to a fatal overdose—ironically on the exact day Ben discovers a revolutionary surgery capable of restoring her sight.

Consumed by devastating **despair**, Ben develops an obsessive fascination with locomotive mechanics. He craftily **manipulates** a fellow engineer to extract critical technical knowledge, leveraging it to **orchestrate** a second, highly calculated train crash. As authorities **scrutinize** the aftermath, a detective uncovers a **perfidious** truth: his own close friend, Ben, is the mastermind behind the tragedy. This discovery forces a harrowing final confrontation, culminating in the detective pulling the fatal lever as Ben faces electrocution.

AWARDS:

Prague Screenplay Awards

Selected

2024