

EVITABLE

It's a matter of life and no death.

Set against a grounded sci-fi backdrop, this screenplay examines the question:
Is living forever really as good as it sounds?

GENRE: Sci-Fi Romantic Dramedy **TYPE:** Feature

LOGLINE: A man determined to cheat death reawakens in a future world where people no longer age, get sick or die. But when he discovers a small group of endangered humans and falls in love, he finds himself forced to choose between immortality and a woman hell-bent on keeping her humanity.

AWARDS:

- **Best Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Horror Script (3rd Place), 2015 StoryPros Awards**
- **Best Sci-Fi Script, 2014 L.A. Film & Script Festival**

EVITABLE - SYNOPSIS

All cancer-stricken Theo Nardemos knows is that he isn't ready to die. The actuarial tables owe the 32-year-old Chicagoan another 46 years and he wants each and every one of them. So, against his family's wishes, he freezes his remains in hopes of one day thawing out in a world that has a cure for what ails him.

Fast forward to 2109. Theo, now looking much better, re-awakens in transit. His joy to be alive is rudely interrupted by a pedestrian's decapitated head bouncing off the windshield. Theo's horror gives way to dismay when everyone else at the scene reacts to the bobbling head with indifference. Maybe he's still dreaming?

Upon his arrival at the recovery center, Theo learns that he is now cancer free. But, once again, his celebration is cut short by the arrival of a sculpted, well-coifed, twenty-something who claims to be his older brother Alex. If, by some miracle, Alex is still alive, the calendar dictates that he should be a frail 129-year-old clinging to life. What's going on?

A gleeful Alex fills his little brother in: During Theo's absence everyone has swapped their biological bodies for upgraded models that don't age and which are impervious to sickness or disease. Lose your head in an accident? No worries. People are now linked remotely to their brains, which have been copied and stored on massive computers. Theo is far from the only person who has outsmarted death -- no one in this future world dies.

Theo is equally baffled by Alex's intellectual metamorphosis. An auto mechanic back in the day, Alex now holds a Ph.D. and heads up Ankhology, the company responsible for performing the biological-to-cyborg conversions. As a leading government policymaker, Alex zealously advocates for the immortal lifestyle.

Not that Theo needs much encouragement to hop aboard the immortality express. Guided by Liam, a robotic being with human envy, Theo tours a spotless and gleaming Chicago that always enjoys perfect weather. Like the rest of the world, the city also enjoys a peaceful prosperity -- no war, crime, poverty or hunger -- thus enabling people to focus on gaining knowledge and experiencing all facets of life. A very long life at that.

Theo can't wait to join them, but wait he must while his brain is scanned and other tests are completed. His impatience is soothed somewhat by Zoe Phillips, a fresh-faced beauty who works at the center -- he senses a spark between them. Then again, Theo has been almost a century between dates. Better he get some rest.

But in the middle of the night, Theo's awakened by a crazy man in his room. Not just any man but the poor sap who lost his head that morning. Looking no worse for wear, he introduces himself as Morgan and asks, "Who should control your life?" Then he flings himself out the 44th-story window. Liam informs a bewildered Theo that "Mr. Morgan is dissatisfied with the status quo."

The next morning, a still-agitated Theo visits Alex, Alex's wife, Angie, and four generations of their family, although the entire clan resembles a gathering of college students. When Theo asks where all the children are, Alex throws him for a loop. "There aren't any -- anywhere." Birth has joined death as a relic of a bygone era.

Disturbed at the prospect of never having kids of his own, Theo still looks forward to leaving his outmoded body and fully participating in the utopia that awaits. As a bonus, he has a date with the alluring Zoe -- at a Bears game no less. Freezing his remains was the best idea ever!

Theo connects with Zoe at the game -- she's interesting and funny -- and he anticipates an even better time at her place afterwards. But once there, Theo can barely focus, let alone remove his pants. An apologetic Zoe confesses to Theo that she drugged him. *But why?* "Because we couldn't envision a scenario where you'd come with us willingly," answers Morgan, the last person Theo sees before he loses consciousness.

A disoriented Theo awakens to see a young girl standing beside his bed. "Oh, there are children, made in exactly the same way that you remember," Morgan assures him. "Who are you?" Theo demands to know. "Human beings, Theo," a tearful, vulnerable Zoe explains. "We are human beings."

Theo learns he has been kidnapped by the Procreationists, or Procs, a small group of endangered human beings who have eschewed the pervasive technological advances, clinging instead to the traditional model of birth, indeterminate life and -- most inevitably -- death. The Procs hope to use Theo as leverage to overturn the prevailing policy whereby remaining humans, like Morgan, are forcibly converted to the new platform.

Theo, hurt by Zoe's duplicity, is more concerned about his immediate fate. What if Alex refuses to capitulate? Will Morgan follow through on his threats to kill Theo? While confined in the Proc complex, Theo learns more about their plight and sees first-hand why they choose to live -- and die -- as they do.

Theo helps in the garden, plays softball, unknowingly helps Morgan set himself ablaze -- and he makes love to Zoe. Despite the extenuating circumstances, Zoe and Theo cannot deny the chemistry between them. Besides, neither one of them knows what tomorrow might bring.

For Zoe, tomorrow brings another day of trying to pass herself off as a cyborg. For Theo it brings his freedom. While happy to be released, Theo experiences mixed emotions. On his way out, he promises Morgan he won't forget the people he's met there. He promises Zoe he'll figure a way for them to be together. Neither of them feels optimistic.

When Theo arrives at Alex's house, Angie seems surprised to see him. As Theo recounts his recent experience with the Procs, Angie relates her own misgivings about switching to the immortal platform. She agreed because Alex was so gung-ho, but without a long-term plan and passion for life, forever is a long, long time.

Theo begins to reflect on this sentiment when Alex arrives home with -- Theo? Well, that's if Theo were a totally buff 22. The two Theos, original and 2.0, eye each other suspiciously until Theo impulsively tackles his alter-ego, who quickly pins him.

More pragmatic than sentimental about Theo's kidnapping, Alex had simply created the new, improved version of his brother, using a previous scan of Theo's brain. More or less the original plan, save for the now redundant version. As original Theo asks Alex, "Now what?"

Alex comes up with a solution. With Theo 2.0 in place, it's a matter of Original Theo gracefully "bowing out." After all, it's what would have happened if Morgan and company hadn't taken Theo in the first place. But Theo spots the big flaw right away: Theo 2.0 has no knowledge of, let alone feelings for, Zoe Phillips!

Unwilling to place his future in his brother's hands, Theo asks Liam to take him away so he can hash things out with Zoe. But at the arranged meeting place, it's Alex who shows up, not Zoe. Alex believes he has taken care of everything: Zoe will be moved over to the new platform along with Original Theo. In an unprecedented move, Theo 2.0 will be decommissioned. Then the two lovebirds can spend eternity together if they so choose. After all, what other solution is there? Theo nods, but he knows what he must do.

Theo needs to rescue Zoe before it's too late. He asks Liam for assistance. Liam is conflicted; he really likes Theo and wants to help him but his loyalties lie with Alex. Theo appeals to Liam's desire to be perceived as wholly human and asks him to check his gut. That does the trick and Zoe is freed.

Now it's Zoe who's been drugged and, when she awakens, a beaming Theo boasts of his heroic deed. Not only that, but he reveals his intent to stay human and live by her side. Isn't it romantic? Zoe, however, is not pleased. How dare Theo decide what is best for her! Maybe she wants to become immortal? If Theo wants to stay human, stay human, but don't do it for her!

Confused, Theo commiserates with Morgan, who points out the other deficiencies in Theo's aborted plan. Where were Theo and Zoe going to live? For how long? Doing what? Theo comes to realize that things need to change for all the Procs if their way of life is ever to be a viable option. But what can he do?

Inspiration strikes. But again Theo needs Liam. And again Liam agrees to put it all on the line for his one true friend. They set their plan in motion. Theo meets with Morgan and even Theo 2.0 to solicit support. Now, just one more thing to do before D-Day.

Theo goes to Zoe. He professes his love for her. He wants to be with her, whether for one day or a million years, as long as she's next to him when he wakes up in the morning. He leaves the final decision to her. The next morning, they do wake up together. Zoe has made her choice: she wants to live forever. But through their children and grandchildren. Theo is thrilled. But now his plan must work.

Let's do this! A seemingly on-edge Liam drives Theo toward Ankhology headquarters, but an Ankhology helicopter intercepts their vehicle. "Right on time," the uniformed employee tells Liam. Theo turns on Liam, "You gave me up?" "You gave yourself up," Liam responds. "No rational being would willingly relinquish his immortality."

Theo 2.0 steps off the helicopter. "Don't worry, you're alive as long as I'm around -- which should be for a very long time. Again Original Theo lunges at his laughing alter-ego, but he's easily restrained. A dejected Theo is forced to board the helicopter as a giddy Theo 2.0 gets in the passenger seat next to Liam.

The Ankhology employee radios Alex that she is on the way with Original Theo. But shortly thereafter, Theo removes his wig and prosthetics to reveal that he's really Theo 2.0.

Which means that the Theo 2.0 seated next to Liam in the vehicle below is actually Theo in disguise. Liam hasn't given up anyone. Liam and Original Theo enter Ankhology intent on carrying out their plan to forever change the Proc policy.

But Alex is still one step ahead of them. Just as Liam is about to enter the necessary commands into the system, Alex shuts him down. Alex then chastises Theo for his apparent inability to be satisfied: "Cheating death wasn't enough for you. Even virtual immortality isn't enough."

Theo realizes he can't stop Alex from forcing him and Zoe onto the new platform. But he lets Alex know that he will never forgive him for taking away his only chance to have a family of his own. Theo might be alive but Alex's brother will be gone forever.

After an emotional upheaval, Alex relents and permits Liam and Theo to implement the system changes that will enable the Procs to live -- and die -- without fear of retribution or forced transitioning.

In the end, Theo, Zoe and their baby visit Morgan's gravesite as the rain falls.

WHAT THE BLACK LIST SAID ABOUT EVITABLE:

"This script is sure to garner attention from industry readers. It has a unique premise, a strong handle on the characters, plot and dialogue and it's thrilling and funny to boot. The world is established vividly and the rules within it are intricate, but clear. This is HER meets IDOCRACY and THE INVENTION OF LYING. It explores some interesting philosophical thoughts while still remaining very funny, yet emotional throughout."

"This is a phenomenal comedy/romance/sci-fi premise... sure to turn the heads of industry readers looking for a unique concept within this combination of genres."

"The plot is fast paced and jam packed with powerful and gritty dialogue, a strong handle on the rules of the futuristic world and unique and thoughtful characters (big and small). Theo is a dynamic protagonist that we see go through a wide array of emotions over the course of the three acts. In the beginning when he's dying the audience is immediately able to get in his corner and then living with him through the introduction to the new world makes the readers' connection with his character hard to ignore."

"By the time the third act rolls around we're questioning the philosophical nature of the intricate premise that has been created here alongside Theo due to his down to earth and layered handle on the situation."

The Black List Professional Evaluation (05-25-16)

WRITING CREDITS: I wrote an episode for the Disney Channel's *Jo Jo's Circus* and two interstitial segments for *Playhouse Disney*.

I have also written four other feature-length screenplays, including **ICE SAKI**, a comedy about an equipment manager who inherits a struggling minor league hockey team and seeks to turn around its fortunes -- and his own -- by bringing in a 450-pound Japanese sumo wrestler to play goalie.

- **Grand Prize Winner 2019 Creative Screenwriting Screenplay Contest**
- **First-Place Comedy, 2015 Creative World Awards**
- **Best Original Feature Screenplay, 2nd Place, 2014 All Sports L.A. Film Festival.**