

WHEN LIGHTNING STRIKES – STORY REPORT

TITLE: WHEN LIGHTNING STRUCK: THE LEE TREVINO STORY	GENRE: <u>Historical</u>
WRITTEN BY: <u>Mickey Mouse</u>	LOCALE: <u>Texas and PGA Tour</u>
BASED ON: <u>The Life of Lee Trevino</u>	CIRCA: <u>1947 - 2019</u>
FORM/PAGES: <u>Screenplay/108</u>	DATE: <u>June 20, 2026</u>
DRAFT DATE: <u>Unknown</u>	ANALYST: <u>Angelo J. Artuso</u>
SUBMITTED TO: _____	PAGES READ: <u>108</u>
SUBMITTED BY: _____	
CREDITS (if applicable): _____	
DIRECTOR: _____	

	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
PREMISE:				X
EXECUTION:				X
STRUCTURE:				X
DIALOGUE:				X
CHARACTERS:				X

PROJECT for Development:	<u>PASS</u>
PROJECT for Production:	<u>PASS</u>
WRITING SAMPLE:	<u>PASS</u>

LOGLINE: Lee Trevino must overcome many obstacles, including a lack of resources, racism, and being struck by lightning, to become a golfing legend.

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SYNOPSIS: LEE TREVINO is eight years old, living with his mother and grandfather on his grandfather's farm near Dallas, Texas in 1947. The farm is next to a member's only golf course. One day, while working with his grandfather, a golfer looking for a lost ball calls Lee over and says that he bets Lee finds all kinds of golf balls. Lee nods and takes a handful of balls from his pocket. The golfer buys two and gives Lee a dollar. He then tells Lee that he looks old enough to caddy and if he's interested, he should report to "Al" at the golf course tomorrow.

Lee gets permission from his mom and shows up the next day. He caddies his first round and gets paid a \$2 tip. He becomes a regular caddy at the course. Another caddy, Jack, takes Lee to Hardy Greenwood's Driving Range. Hardy watches the eight-year-old Lee and is impressed with his golf swing. Lee will continue to hit balls and practice at Hardy's driving range for the next ten years.

One day, Lee is fired for laughing at his drunken client's tee shot. When he is fourteen, Hardy hires him to work at the driving range and to help build a golf course. When Lee is fifteen, Hardy enters him into a local tournament. Lee makes it past the first round of the tournament but loses in the quarterfinals.

At eighteen, Lee joins the Marine Corps where he competes in a few tournaments. When he finishes his tour in the Marines, he returns to Dallas. He is eventually convinced to move to El Paso by a man he met in Dallas. In El Paso he becomes friends with two cousins who own a golf course. They hire Lee as the club pro and clubhouse "boy," and jack of all trades. Later, they make him their business partner. The partnership eventually falls on hard times when the cousins mismanage a lot of Lee's money.

In 1966, Lee enters the U.S. Open and finishes 54th.

A long series of short vignettes follow Lee's life as a professional golfer, husband, business partner, the victim of a lightning strike, spending a few year in rehabilitation, his return to success on the PGA Tour and later the Senior Tour.

The movie ends with a scene where Lee who is now in his 80s is showing his grandson, Daniel, age 30, how to address the ball on the tee.

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COMMENTS: Summary: I was not annoyed by this screenplay, but I was bored.

Lee Trevino was undoubtedly one of the premier golfers of his time. Not only talented, but very popular. He was genial and accessible to the public and had a great sense of humor. In some ways he was the Yogi Berra of golf. He was significantly responsible for helping golf to become more accessible to average people and growing the popularity of the sport.

Despite his many accomplishments, this screenplay does not present a compelling story. Frankly it reads more like a Wikipedia entry than a movie.

The biggest problem is structural. The screenplay spans over 70 years, from the time Trevino is eight years old until he is eighty. The lengthy series of vignettes are necessarily short and fail to build any tension, real excitement, or drama. The golf sequences read more like a list of wins than presenting any sort of sports drama.

The story, as told, also lacks any meaningful life lessons short of hard work and persistence lead to success. What is Trevino's goal? Is it to be accepted in the golfing world? Is it to fight racism? Is it to win as many tournaments and as much money as he can? Is it all of these and more? This is completely unclear. It is difficult to identify with the Trevino that is portrayed in this screenplay.

Other than overcoming the lightning strike and later back surgeries, which is not insignificant, what are his real challenges? If he had them in his life, the vignettes fly by too quickly for them to make much of an emotional impression.

The story would have been better told by focusing on Trevino's fight to recover from his injuries after the lightning strike and his determination to return to and win professional golf tournaments. Not unlike Nikki Lauda recovering from his severe burns in "Rush" to challenge for the Grand Prix championship. Or Rocky's single-minded focus on "going the distance" in his first championship bout. This story, however, suffers from the lack of such a single, compelling focus. The fact that Trevino is "overcoming the odds" during his long life is simply too "soft" to hold my interest.

The dialogue is pedestrian at best. The only real "fiery" moment in the screenplay, is when his wife kicks him out of the car one night because he jealously pulled her away from her from talking to her friend's cousin. There are hints that Trevino drank too much, but it is not clear if he was an alcoholic or if this affected his golf.

This screenplay has virtually no commercial potential. Even then, it would require serious rewrites to hold the attention of an audience.

Finally, the screenplay suffers from a lack of attention to detail. For instance, there are a few timeline or factual confusion errors. One example:

p. 20-21 - Lee qualifies for the quarterfinals in his first amateur tournament. He loses on the sixteenth hole which begs the question, did they not play 18 holes? The next day, Lee tells a co-worker that he made the semifinals. How did he advance to the semifinals after losing in the quarterfinals?

The screenplay also has several obvious typos. One example:

p. 68 – Clyde: "Well, alright. I'd be glat [vice "glad"] do [vice "to"] do that."

Last pet peeve – the title is too long. 😊