

**ELLIS PIZZOFERRATO
SCRIPT COVERAGE SAMPLE**

TITLE: Psychic Bob

WRITERS: Ron Burch & David Kidd

LENGTH: 37 pages

GENRE: Supernatural Comedy

BUDGET: Low/Medium

SETTING: Los Angeles

CIRCA: Contemporary

COVERAGE DATE: 12/04/24

FORMAT: Television Pilot

LOGLINE:

A struggling psychic takes on a wealthy heiress as a client to pay his alimony, but their romance jeopardizes his abilities, threatening both his livelihood and their fragile connection.

RATING GRID:

	EXCELLENT	GOOD	PROFICIENT	NEEDS ATTENTION
PREMISE		X		
STORY			X	
CHARACTERS		X		
STRUCTURE			X	
DIALOGUE	X			
MARKETABILITY		X		

SYNOPSIS:

Ever since Bob Lowry choked on a potato chip as a child and nearly died, he's been able to hear people's thoughts. Not just the stray worries and passing judgments most of us keep to ourselves—Bob can hear the unfiltered, private truths people would never dare say out loud. Over time, that ability grew: Bob could not only hear thoughts but also sense premonitions and even talk to the dead. It's not the kind of ability that guarantees fame or fortune, though; in Bob's case, it's meant a haphazard existence as a struggling psychic in Los Angeles.

Now in his late thirties, Bob scrapes by doing readings for grieving clients who want to hear from their departed loved ones. He puts on a good show—part genuine talent, part carnival act—and uses his dry wit to gloss over the fact that he's barely keeping it together. Alongside his professional psychic readings, Bob occasionally works as a freelance sleuth for Detective Mark Brown, a mid-level cop who's spooked by Bob's accuracy but knows his gift can crack tough cases. Still, the work is inconsistent.

He's broke, divorced, and perpetually one wrong move away from financial ruin. His attempts to gamble his way out of debt at the racetrack only make things worse, as he tears up losing tickets time and again. To escape his troubles, Bob spends most of his time at his best friend Tom's local dive bar—but even there, the spirits aren't kind. Literal spirits haunt the place, as it's a favorite hangout for three dead regulars who only Bob can see.

To make matters worse, Bob's ex-wife, another ghost of sorts, haunts Bob with constant demands for overdue alimony. She's gorgeous, furious, and quick to remind him of their disastrous marriage. But she isn't the only one who keeps Bob in check. His younger sister Lauren, a hard-boiled lawyer, is always pushing him to aim higher, to stop living hand-to-mouth, maybe even snag a wealthy client who could solve his money problems. But Bob resists. He prides himself on being a "real psychic," not a sellout pandering to the rich and famous. Still, the allure of quick cash is tempting, especially when his sister tosses a gossip column his way. A millionaire real estate heiress named Rhonda Bain is looking for a new psychic. Bob scoffs but keeps the article. He needs the money.

Rhonda is everything Bob isn't. She's wealthy, confident, and surrounded by luxury. When he arrives at her Bel Air mansion, he's greeted by a lineup of phony psychics competing for the job, each more absurd than the last. Bob is ready to walk away, but Rhonda catches him off guard. Her directness and charm rattle him, and before he knows it, he's delivered a reading so specific and accurate it stuns her. She hires him on the spot for \$1,000 a week. Bob takes the job.

What starts as a professional arrangement quickly blurs. Rhonda begins calling on Bob for everything. Stock tips, wardrobe advice, even insights into her rivals at charity galas—and at all hours of the night. At first, Bob plays along, enjoying the easy cash and attention, but he finds himself falling for her, and they soon end up in bed together. For Bob, it feels like a dream come true, but there's a problem: his psychic abilities stop working when he becomes romantically involved. As his feelings for Rhonda deepen, his accuracy fades, forcing him to fake readings to keep her happy.

Things come to a head at one of Rhonda's high-society parties, where she parades Bob as her "psychic boyfriend." Guests swarm him, demanding readings, forcing him to confront the fact he's become a sideshow act, not a partner. Later, he confides in his sister, who bluntly tells him what he already knows—Rhonda is using him for his abilities, just as much as he's using her to escape his financial troubles.

Determined to reclaim his dignity, Bob confronts Rhonda. He finally tells her the truth—that he hasn't given her a real reading since they started sleeping together. She's furious. Bob walks away, back to his non-luxurious, messy life. He's still broke, still haunted by ghosts, and still figuring out what it means to live with his gift. But as he sits at the racetrack with Tom and Detective Brown, watching the horses thunder by, he feels something stir—a new case, a new chance to do things his way. Despite everything, he smiles.

PREMISE:

The premise of *Psychic Bob* immediately feels fresh, blending supernatural elements with grounded, contemporary comedy to create a uniquely quirky narrative. The main idea of a psychic struggling to connect with the living while dealing with a constant barrage of ghosts provides a really interesting foundation for the world of *Psychic Bob*. This premise allows for some inventive character interactions with unexpected spirits and a lot of room for unpredictable storylines. Additionally, Bob's reluctant role as a freelance detective adds another layer of potential, opening the door to a wide range of plots, specifically in the crime/comedy genre. However, while the concept itself is strong, *Psychic Bob* consistently leans on familiar tropes such as the flawed-but-gifted protagonist, the voice-of-reason sibling, and the comedic ex-wife, which work to make the premise feel less innovative than it could be. Most importantly, this script would benefit from raising the stakes and

establishing a clearer trajectory for the series' future. Despite this, the potential for this world is undeniable, making it a promising premise that could really shine with just a bit more development.

STORY:

The pilot quickly and effectively establishes Bob as a broke, divorced man whose gift of hearing thoughts and speaking to the dead has become more of a burden than a blessing. The story's humor really shines through Bob's wit and his interactions with an eccentric cast. These relationships work to ground the fantastical premise, maintaining a sense of realism and relatability to a story that is supernatural at its core. However, the plot feels episodic, with a series of loosely connected vignettes rather than a cohesive, tightly woven narrative. While the sitcom-like structure of this pilot may be intentional, it leaves the broader story of *Psychic Bob* beyond this initial episode unclear. This episodic approach limits the escalation of stakes, and the resolution—Bob walking away from Rhonda—feels predictable and lacks a strong payoff. While Bob's relationship with her offers entertaining conflict, it misses the opportunity to delve deeper into Bob's sense of self-worth, which could have set up a more defined transformation for him from the beginning to the end of the story.

Additionally, the script's ending, where Bob has a premonition about Detective Brown having a case for him, hints at future storylines but feels somewhat disconnected from the Rhonda plot, leaving the conclusion less cohesive than it could be. Overall, the story is lighthearted and a fun read, with plenty of laugh-out-loud moments and quirky world-building touches, like the scene where Bob walks past a charred ghost, still smoking from his death, casually asking Bob for a light. Moments like these add a distinct comedic flavor to the supernatural premise, adding to the story's charm. This pilot without a doubt succeeds as a comedic character study, but leaves some room for improvement in delivering a high-stakes journey for its protagonist.

CHARACTERS:

The characters in *Psychic Bob* are colorful and entertaining, who contribute significantly to the comedic tone of the script. However, many of them lack meaningful development, feeling more like archetypes than fully realized individuals.

At the center of the story is Bob Lowry, a deeply flawed yet endearing protagonist whose psychic abilities are both his greatest asset and his biggest burden. These abilities, contrasted with his messy personal life, set the stage for a story that balances sharp humor with relatable struggles, especially his financial instability. He's sardonic, self-deprecating, and emotionally detached, which makes him a strong comedic protagonist but also limits his growth in the script. While he carries the humor and charm of the story, his character arc lacks a strong transformation. His reluctance to embrace his abilities for meaningful change or self-improvement could be explored further to make him more dynamic.

Lauren Lowry, Bob's younger sister, provides a grounded contrast to Bob's chaotic life. As a high-achieving lawyer, she frequently challenges Bob to improve himself. The sibling dynamic here is entertaining to read, and her efforts to deal with the ghost of Mr. Grady, a middle aged balding dead man who refuses to leave her Hollywood mansion, is a fun subplot. But while Lauren is an entertaining character, she largely functions as a comedic foil for Bob. This works well for a pilot, but her motivations need attention for future episodes.

Additional characters such as Bob's ex-wife Pam, his best friend and bartender Tom, Detective Brown, and the various ghosts inhabiting Bob's world add depth to the plot, opening up a number of

possibilities for future episodes. A standout scene in the pilot involves Bob playing poker with Lauren, Tom, Detective Brown, Mr. Grady, and Chris Silbermann—a geeky psychic bookstore owner and a potential romantic interest for Lauren. This group has pretty great chemistry, but their gathering at Lauren’s house for poker feels somewhat unexplained. While the pilot suggests this is a key group in Bob’s life, their shared history could be more defined. Strengthening the audience’s understanding of their relationships—how they came together and why they matter to Bob—would really enhance the scene’s impact and highlight the group’s potential as a necessary ensemble driving future storylines.

STRUCTURE

Psychic Bob follows a three-act sitcom structure with engaging moments but a few structural weaknesses. Act One effectively sets up Bob’s psychic abilities and chaotic personal life, introducing a dynamic cast, though the sheer amount of characters introduced feels slightly overcrowded. Act Two is stronger, with Bob navigating his relationship with Rhonda Bain, providing a solid balance of humor and character exploration while deepening the story’s ethical stakes. Bob’s problem of losing his psychic abilities after becoming romantically involved is well set up here, yet hastily resolved. Act Three falters as this resolution with Rhonda feels pretty rushed, and Bob’s call-to-action for future episodes—his vague suggestion of finding work with Detective Brown—feels disjointed from the central Rhonda storyline. This weakens the momentum and leaves the episode lacking a cohesive conclusion or a clear hook for future developments.

DIALOGUE

The dialogue in *Psychic Bob* is definitely where the pilot shines brightest. Bob’s unfiltered humor, especially in his comedic premonitions, captures a quirky tone that feels uniquely *Psychic Bob*. Characters like Mr. Grady and the dead bar regulars also deliver some memorable lines that add levity, while exchanges between Bob and his ex-wife Pam or sister Lauren highlight his complicated relationships with biting humor. However, while the dialogue is engaging, it occasionally leans too heavily on sarcasm and snark, which can undercut the realism that helps balance out the fantastical elements of the plot. Not every character needs a perfectly snarky line or perfect comedic timing—and that’s okay!

MARKETABILITY:

Psychic Bob’s marketability lies in its quirky, character-driven comedy, anchored by a cynical yet endearing protagonist. Blending humor with light supernatural elements, *Psychic Bob* has strong potential to appeal to fans of offbeat, supernatural sitcoms like *The Good Place*, or shows with cynical protagonists and colorful ensembles like *Community*. Additionally, its low production demands make it a realistic option to produce. It’s an engaging comedy with a fresh spin, although further developing the characters and exploring deeper, relatable themes could help *Psychic Bob* shine even brighter in such a competitive market.

RECOMMENDATION

PASS - *Psychic Bob* embraces a fun and engaging supernatural concept with a strong narrative voice that keeps the reader engaged. It's a script that I really enjoyed reading—one that I believe has serious potential to resonate with modern audiences. While the series' future could benefit from a clearer setup in this initial episode, the foundation you've built is rich with ideas just waiting to be fully realized. There's so much creative material to explore here, making this pilot a promising start.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Y.P.D.' or similar, located in the lower right quadrant of the page.