

Two Writers Strike *Silver* With an Ad in the Trades

When Chrisanna Northrup told writing partner Halle Eavelyn that she wanted to take out an ad in *Variety* and *The Hollywood Reporter* to hype their script, *Silver*—which is based on Northrup's own horrific experiences with a nanny—Eavelyn's only concern was timing. The pair had what they thought was a knock-out, one-line pitch: "True Dramatic Thriller—she's sweet, she's beautiful, she's a conniving murderer, and she's watching your children." Northrup wanted to run the ad the day after the 2004 Academy Awards. "I was like, 'People will only be looking at the clothes,'" recalls Eavelyn, "but Chris said she had to trust her instincts, and that's when her instincts said it should go in." Northrup's instincts paid off: in June, Vine Entertainment picked up the duo's script, *Silver*, for low six-figures, and the film begins shooting in September.



If this precipitous bit of timing was a surprise to the pair, it was par for the course for their partnership. The origin of their team-up contains enough right-place, right-time happenstance to make Kevin Bacon proud. Northrup was still dealing with the chaotic

events that would form the spine of *Silver*—a con artist nanny with Mexican drug ties, and an American legal system that seemed incapable of helping—when her story spread through the grapevine of friends and friends-of-friends. One day Northrup received a call from *Final Destination 3*'s James Wong. Wong had heard the story through a friend and encouraged Northrup to turn the tale into a screenplay. "We talked for two hours," remembers Northrup. "He said, 'You have an amazing story. You need to put this down on paper.'"

Enter Halle Eavelyn. She had worked as a script doctor for some time and, coincidentally, as a producer on the *X-Files* interactive game. Northrup had never attempted writing a screenplay, so she sought out Eavelyn's services. Northrup and Eavelyn clicked, and a professional relationship steadily developed into a friendship and a writing partnership...although they did occasionally want to kill each other. "When I first saw the script, I was like 'There's only one act, but *I can't stop reading*,'" says Eavelyn. "The material was so compelling, but since this had actually happened to [Chrisanna], there was a lot of 'But this happened!' 'But no one will believe it!' 'But it happened!' 'But no one cares.'"

"Yeah, I hated her," jokes Northrup. "But I did listen. She kept me grounded. I would have shown the first script I wrote to the world, thinking it was the best work ever, but she would consistently say to me, 'No, it's not ready yet.' I would write, she would criticize, and we would fight." It's a chemistry that seems to have worked wonders, as the pair is busy on their next project even as *Silver* prepares to go before the cameras. The only downside? Eavelyn offers: "Other than the fact that I'll have to put up with Chrisanna lording it over me that her instincts are always right, w' 're fine!" ☒