

11 DAYS  
5-Page Pitch Script  
Joseph Olsen

11 Days is a story that focuses on work and home life balance and the toll that effort and exhaustion that goes into effectively maintaining both. Our main character, Simon, is a doctor in the middle of residency working 70 hour weeks. While he prides himself on making it through college without ever pulling an all nighter, he discovers one night that he has the ability to enter an alternate reality after staying awake for 24 hours. *The Insomniverse*. The catch? As soon as he passes out in the alternate reality, he returns to our world. As the series progresses, two pivotal moments occur. First, he falls in love in the alternate reality with a woman named Nia. His sanity wears thin as he tries to maintain his busy schedule as a doctor while simultaneously pulling all-nighters to visit the love of his life. Second, he soon discovers that for every 24 hour period he remains awake, he enters a deeper layer of the Insomniverse. The longest recording ever of a human staying awake is 11 Days. The series will explore Simon's journey into the insomniverse as he tries to beat this record, alongside his girlfriend, Nia, who may have some secrets of her own.

Themes/Styles:

The themes explored include work and home life balance, the strain between choosing career development and personal relationships, and the spectrum of emotions that fluctuate depending on sleep schedule. These themes are explored throughout the series as Simon travels deeper into the insomniverse. The art style will reflect his emotions and stability, as the less sleep he has, the looser and crazier the art style becomes. Styles can move from crisp hard lines, to abstract sketches, with each "day" inside the insomniverse adhering to its own unique art style. Styles will vary, but can include homages to impressionist ideas such as pointillism, or surrealist approaches like Dali.

I think for this book, I won't really suggest other comic artists, because the story and concept will really lend itself to an eclectic style. Even some exploration of mixed media would be awesome.

Simon:

This character's design will change with the series' progression. He'll start off clean-shaven for instance, and as he travels deeper into the insomniverse, we see him with stubble, and a beard, and longer hair. The more he focuses on his "personal" life with Nia, the less time he has to focus on his job and even his own well being. I'd like the character to be ambiguously brown like me, and tall as well. Within this pitch, we get to see him in doctor's scrubs and eventually some nice date clothes for a date with Nia. This script focuses on "the middle" of the story. So maybe his shirt is only half-tucked, he cares a lot about his appearance for Nia, but also only has enough time to do so much. This is a man that really wants it all, but is finding out that time cannot afford him everything.

Nia:

At this point, I'm still fleshing out her character, but I know I want her to be a biomedical engineer. This in her own way is her secret. Of course, Simon knows it, but further down the line, we'll find out that she's using Simon in a way to better understand how the insomniverse works. This will be a breaking point for their relationship, even though she really does care for him. I'm thinking brown/asian with big curly hair. Typically wearing engineering style clothes, jeans and a collared casual button up, like flannel or canvas material.

## **PAGE 1:**

### **Page One, Panel One**

A gorgeous sunrise is in birth, seen only as a reflection on the siding of a glass-walled high rise in Seattle.

Copy: Seattle, Washington

### **Page One, Panel Two**

A digital Clock Reads: 4:59 AM on a nightstand

No Copy

### **Page One, Panel Three**

The Clock Flashes 5:00 AM as it plays music: John Lennon.

“OOOOOH, How do you sleep?”

“OOOOOOOOOOOH, How do you sleep at night?”

### **Page One, Panel Four**

Pull out to reveal that the bed is empty, with messy sheets.

No Copy

### **Page One, Panel Five**

Jump over to SIMON in his scrubs, asleep in a hospital waiting room, unconsciously sprawled across a couple seats, “man-spreading.” A few patrons occupy various seats in the background, reading magazines, fretting, holding flowers, drowsy.

No Copy

### **Page One, Panels Six and Seven**

These panels are small, and OVERLAID atop 5 and 8. Panel 6 is an extreme close-up of Simon’s eyes, lazily closed in a sleep state. Panel 7 is the same extreme close-up, but now Simon’s eyes are wide and awake, bloodshot and shocked.

No Copy

### **Page One, Panel Eight**

The same exact angle as Panel 5, but Simon is in a full sprint pose, dashing across the room, headed right.

## **PAGE 2:**

### **Page Overview:**

This page is two columns of 3 Square Panels each, evenly shaped. Simon's monologues guide us from panel to panel. The panels will be described below in typical left-to-right order. In the gutter between the two columns, Simon's monologue will be present.

### **Page Two, Panel One**

Simon stands over a patient, prepped for surgery and surrounded by peers with clipboards for notes.

Teacher: Alright Simon. Best to not fuck this one up.

Caption: 6 HOURS NO SLEEP.

Gutter 1: "The first time it happened, I thought it was all in my head. Just a hallucination caused by sleep deprivation and stress. 24 Hours no sleep will do that to you. Plays tricks on your eyes, on your mind, on your HEART."

### **Page Two, Panel Two**

A slightly trippy distorted hallway. Things appear wavy, but other than that it's mostly like our own reality.

Caption: 24 HOURS NO SLEEP.

### **Page Two, Panel Three**

Mid-shot of Simon, there is blood on his hands. The Patient's chest is opened wide with their heart visible.

Caption: 12 HOURS NO SLEEP.

Gutter 2: "My Patients are depending on a steady hand. My patience is dependant on a steady sleep schedule. But at times, both seem like a small price to pay when the payoff is becoming the first person to frequently visit an alternate reality-- THE INSOMNIVERSE.

### **Page Two, Panel Four**

Simon is standing center-panel, looking exhausted with red eyes. He's in a hotel lounge, red leather and dark moody lighting. Everything around him looks melty like a Salvador Dali painting. Melting Clocks, dripping paintings, puddled floors.

Caption: 48 HOURS NO SLEEP.

### **Page Two, Panel Five**

The EKG Heartbeat monitor displaying a flat green line dominates the foreground. The imagery of the operating room lingers in the background.

SIMON: "FUCK."

Caption: 18 HOURS NO SLEEP

Gutter 3: I know, I know, awfully dramatic right? A man torn between two worlds, forced to choose between the career he has always dreamt of and the love of his life, who just happens to live in the Insomniverse. Thing is, all I can think about is how other people's lives are literally in the balance over something as trivial as my own damn sleep schedule. Well, that and...

### **Page Two, Panel Six**

Pastel Rainbow paints swirled all around, bleeding into each other. At the center lay simon and nia in the fetal position, facing each other. Their hair melts as the "Source" of the paint.

SIMON: "NIA."

## **PAGE 3:**

### **Page Three, Panel One**

Big shot doctor is leaning over his desk, red-faced from shouting, spit flying from his mouth.

Caption: (from simon) But is a girlfriend worth all of this?

### **Page Three, Panel Two**

The Hallway of the Hospital, the door to Big-shot's office is barely open, just left of center in panel. Two Doctors in white coats are in transit to the right of the door.

Big Shot: (from off) You REALLY fucking did it this time.

DOC 1: Sounds like Simon's in trouble again.

DOC 2: Whaddya think he did this time?

### **Page Three, Panel Three**

Back to inside the office. Both Simon and Big Shot are visible. Simon's watch is beeping.

"Beep!" "Beep!"

Big Shot: Do you have any Idea how serious this is?

Simon: YES. I'm just... I'm going through a lot right now, Speaking of which, I really need to go now.

Big Shot: You almost KILLED someone today, Simon. Jesus, your eyes. When was the last time you slept?

Simon: Uh...

Caption: 23.75 HOURS NO SLEEP

### **Page Three, Panel Four**

Simon is in a more secluded area of the hospital pounding a red bull.

“Gulp gulp gulp”

Caption: (simon) I should feel bad, and I do. I really do.

### **Page Three, Panel Five**

He freshens his breath with a pocket bottle of minty breath spray.

Caption: “But my mind is elsewhere right now, and soon I will be too.”

### **Page Three, Panel Six**

Show Simon from the front, holding flowers standing and checking his watch.

An in-set small bubble shows an extreme close-up of the watch face, a digital 23:59 hrs on the display. It's a counter, not the time of day.

Caption: (simon) “It's almost been 24 hours since I last woke up. The longer I stay awake, the more I find out about her and her world. Imagine what I would discover if I could just stay awake for--”

**Bottom of Page:** A Crushed red-bull can litters the bottom of the page, spilling into a puddle, with caffeine pill wrappers scattered throughout it.

## **PAGES 4&5:**

### **DOUBLE SPLASH PAGE**

This is where we really want to sell the crazy psychedelic visuals of the comic. Just go nuts with it. A ton of vibrant colors, think opening sequence to sesame street, fear and loathing in las vegas, or anything Terry Gilliam for that matter. On this page, Simon stands holding the flower bouquet with his arm down. His back is turned to us so that he is witnessing the Insomniverse just as we are, in utter amazement. A cafe is present in the shot, with NIA sitting at a booth, visible through the window. Otherwise, this page is beautiful chaos. Melting streets, creatures and oddities that feel only familiar as if in a dream. From our perspective, it should be clear that simon is transfixed by NIA through the window, even though she doesn't quite notice him. She's facing whatever is on her plate. The caption is rendered to look just like the Main Series Title logo, and on these pages it acts as an answer to the set-up from the page 3 caption.

A BIG ASS CAPTION: 11 DAYS.