

edgar allan

CRIME NOIR MYSTERY - LIMITED SERIES



by Brandi Self

logline, synopsis, & comps

Logline: Trying to follow in the footsteps of the famous father she deeply resents, a failing crime writer witnesses a murder that draws her into the Skid Row underbelly.

Edgar Allan is a mess. She's an alcoholic crime writer whose ex-girlfriend shows up for quickies after Edgar caught her cheating and threw her out. Her driver's license has been revoked, and lately she's been riding around in the back of Ubers, endlessly adding rides while she drunk writes about family annihilators without getting too close. Not too close, like her crime writer father, Edgar Allan Sr., got to the scene. But he was "the shit," according to her publisher and his ex-lover, Caroline. He was "better than Anne Rule," even. Too bad he fell, jumped, or was pushed out of the 20th-story hotel window in downtown Los Angeles after getting involved in the slayings that happened on Skid Row. But Edgar Allan's father was never there for her anyway, only giving her his name, which her grandfather had given to him because he was such a Poe fanatic. Caroline was right, though; she hadn't really done anything with it. But when she gets into a whiskey-addled fight with a driver and is dumped out on Skid Row, she witnesses a woman being brutally stabbed to death in a dark alley, forcing her to pick up where her father left off in solving one of the biggest crime mysteries in LA history while continuing to grapple with the past.

Comps: True Detective meets Californication—led by a complex, queer female protagonist.

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concept & themes, & tone

Edgar Allan is a gritty, character-driven noir about a wreck of a crime writer chasing both a story and her father's ghost. As she investigates his mysterious death, a string of copycat murders pulls her deeper into L.A.'s underworld—and forces her to confront how far she'll go for the truth. She wanted answers. She never expected to be part of the ending.

THE FALLIBLE
HERO

TRUTH AND
JUSTICE

GRIEF AND LOSS

MORAL AMBIGUITY

Set in the sun-scorched underbelly of Los Angeles, the tone balances existential dread with whiskey-soaked cynicism. Brooding but never self-serious—like a confession told at last call. The city isn't backdrop, it's bruise: tents flapping in heat-warped wind, sirens humming like lullabies. This is noir with a smirk, where the mystery lingers in ambiguity and the truth aches more than it answers.

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format

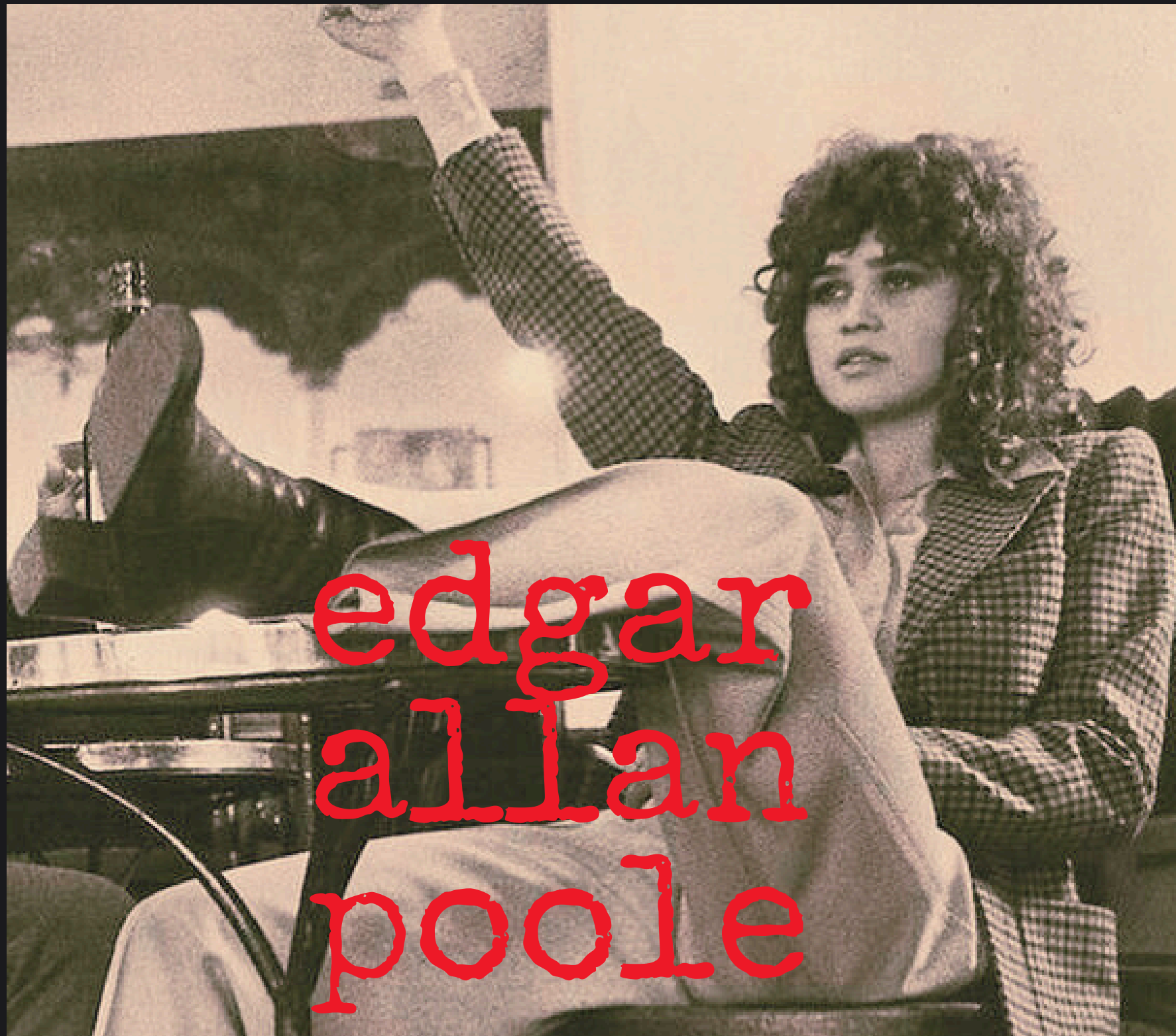
- 1-HOUR SERIALIZED CRIME DRAMA
- 8 EPISODES PER SEASON
- LIMITED SERIES OR ANTHOLOGY
- FOCUSED ON A CENTRAL SET OF CRIMES
- DRIVEN BY A FLAWED PROTAGONIST AND DEEP PSYCHOLOGICAL THEMES
- NONLINEAR STORYTELLING: DUAL OR FRACTURED TIMELINES
- GENRE: PSYCHOLOGICAL NOIR/CRIME THRILLER

THIS SERIES IS DESIGNED AS A LIMITED RUN WITH A SATISFYING ARC, BUT THE DOOR REMAINS OPEN FOR MORE.

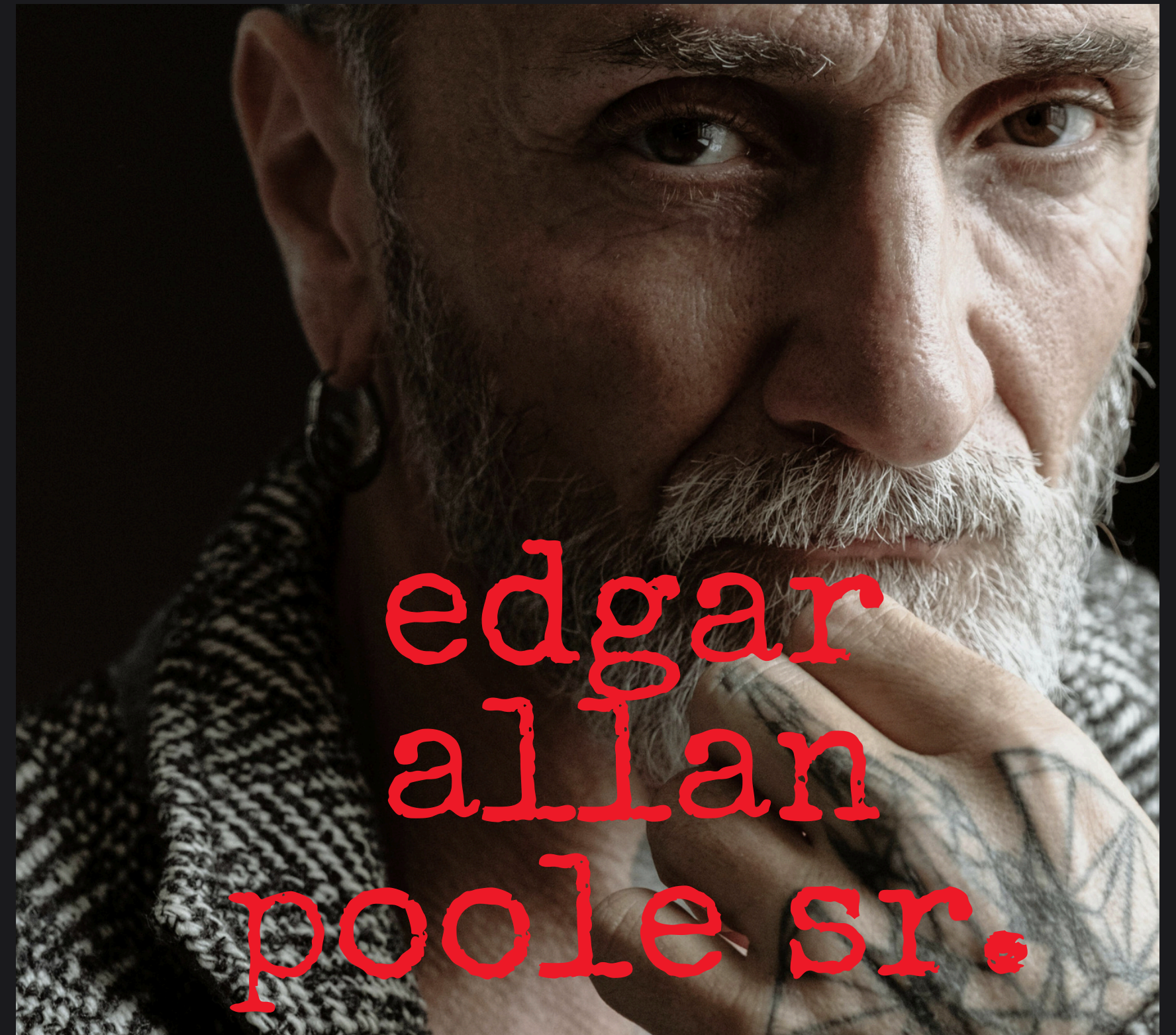
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key
characters

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Haunted by the tragic loss of her father—a once celebrated crime writer, Edgar Allan—a lesbian battling alcoholism and heartbreak wrestles with trauma and the weight of failure, terrified to follow in her father's footsteps yet desperate to find answers about his death.



Edgar Allan's deceased father, a crime writer who went out a hotel window five years before, crushing a pedestrian. His death is still unsolved. His relationship with his daughter was always distant, strained, competitive and... complicated.

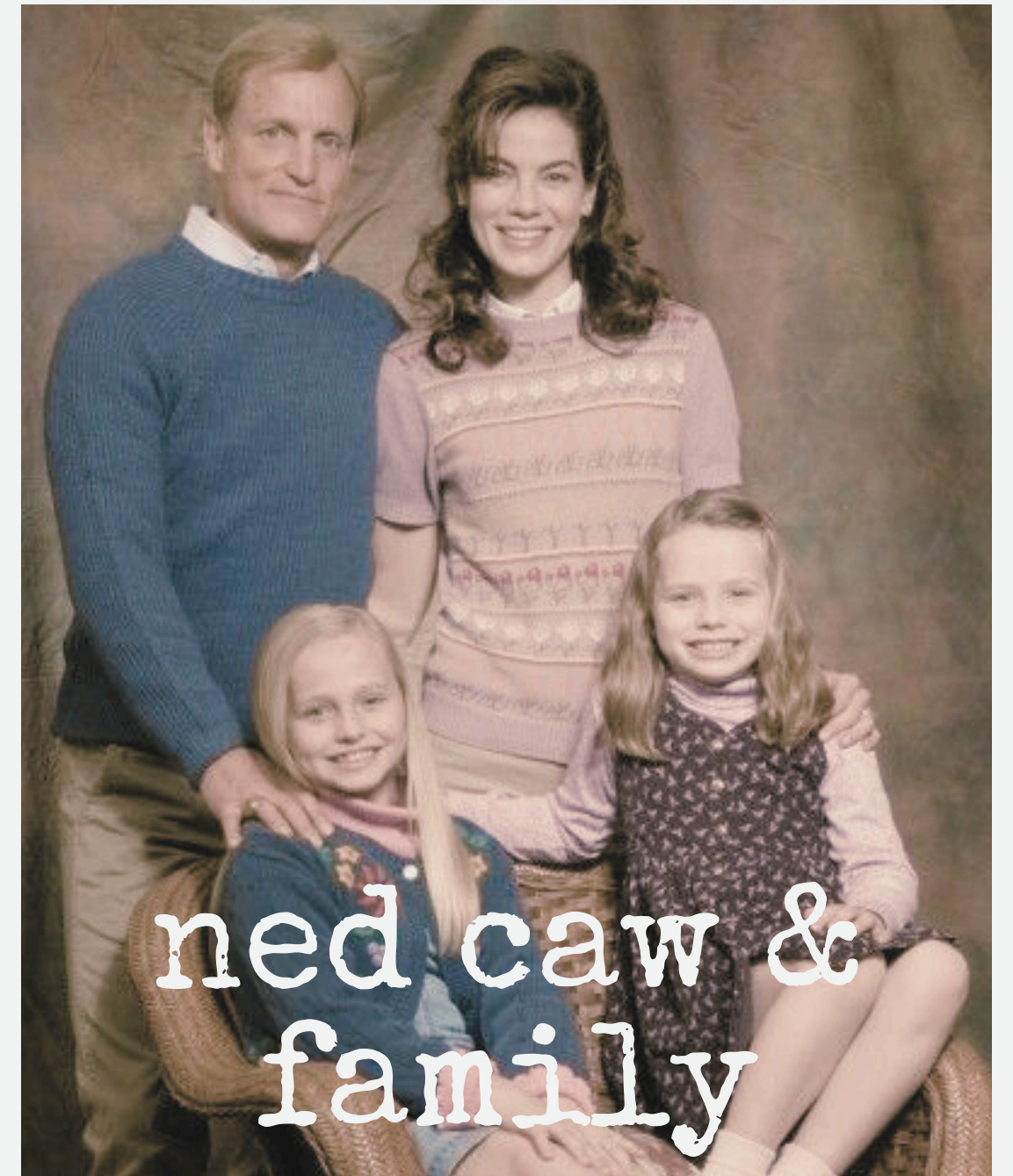
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Edgar Allan's ex-girlfriend, who cheated after Edgar became distant. She is straight-forward, no-nonsense, but loving and always there for Edgar. She has wild hair and a wild heart and assists Edgar on investigations because they share a passion for true crime.



Edgar Allan's one time publisher and her father, Edgar Allan Sr's ex who was pregnant with his child but miscarried. She has always been resentful towards Edgar Allan because she feels like her lost child could've done more with the name.



Ned Caw, a family annihilator who murdered his pregnant wife, Lillian, and twin daughters, Holly and May and buried them underneath a newly poured pool. He was sentenced to life in prison and was dubbed "the most hated man in America."

pilot
breakdown

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setting

Beneath the glittering skyline of Downtown Los Angeles lies a 0.4-mile patch of urban desolation: Skid Row, a concrete labyrinth of broken dreams, flickering neon, and the permanent scent of something burning. This is where society's edges unravel, a place where the rules are different, where time feels stalled, and where the city's soul festers in back alleys and boarded-up buildings. Edgar Allan stays at the hotel her father careened from and a local rundown bar.

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A dark, atmospheric street scene at night. A person is walking away from the camera down a wet, reflective street. The scene is lit by streetlights, creating a moody and mysterious atmosphere. The person is wearing a dark jacket and pants. The background shows a city street with buildings and more streetlights.

inciting incident:

Edgar Allan's publisher, Caroline, rejects her draft and hands over her father's files from murder cases he was pursuing before his death.

rising tension:

Her ex, Sheila, tells her she thinks her father was killed, despite it being ruled a suicide. Edgar Allan ponders on the case she covered with Ned Caw, a family annihilator, and her party being interrupted by the news of her father's death. She ends up getting blackout drunk, prompting a fight with a tweaked-out Uber driver and gets thrown out on the side of the road.

climax:

Lost downtown, drunkenly looking for the hotel, Edgar Allan stumbles upon a stabbing in a dark alley. After the killer takes off, she tries to save the woman, but she ends up dying in her arms.

conclusion:

Bloody, Edgar Allan runs out into the street to get some help, but ends up in the headlights of LAPD. She flees but runs into a sign near a homeless encampment and knocks herself out. When she awakens, she is in a hotel room (locked from the inside) and is wearing someone else's clothes. The front desk lady remembers her checking in but won't let her use her phone. She goes back to the alley to prove it was all a drunken delusion but finds blood where the body was dragged away and sees a strange man standing where the body used to be. She ends up at a bar called "The Alibi Room" where she calls Sheila to come get her, but changes her mind when she spots the strange man and follows him.

Season Overview/ Future Episodes

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Season Arc

Edgar Allan continues to chase the case of the murdered woman in the alley as she slowly loses touch with the outside world. Soon, more slayings are happening all around her, including the woman she's been seeing, a one-legged cam girl, who ends up drowned in the cistern on the roof, which causes the hotel water to turn black. But as she inches closer to finding the culprit, she runs into a person she never thought she would see again: her father, Edgar Allan Sr, whom she thought was dead, but is now homeless on Skid Row. A few glasses of whiskey in, he unravels a story about mistaken identity, brutal killings, and government conspiracies at the root of it all.

By the finale, the case is solved—but Edgar Allan is forced to make a tough decision: justice or family.

EP. 2-8 Breakdown

Episode 2: Superman Attempts an Escape - A Superman impersonator is found smothered, face down in a donation bin, while Edgar Allan has Shaggy Man cornered in a bathroom, making her wonder if he really is the killer and how many there are.

Episode 3: Birdman is Eaten by Crows - After shutting down Sheila's pleas to come home, Edgar Allan gets stuck in the elevator with a one-legged cam girl, who directs her to an old guy who feeds crows in the park and sees everything. But by the time Edgar Allan gets out, he's dead, and the birds have almost picked him apart.

Episode 4: Dead Man Tells Some Tales - Edgar Allan goes deeper into Skid Row and ends up running into her thought-to-be-dead father, who tells her a wild story about the government eliminating people downtown and how everything is connected, including the person who they thought was him.

Episode 5: One-Legged Cam Girl in the Cistern - Her father disappears again. Edgar Allan is drugged at a rooftop party at the Paradiso Palazzo and finds the woman she's been dating in the water cistern, making her wonder if she had anything to do with it herself.

Episode 6: A Prick and a Revelation - Edgar Allan is stuck with a needle and goes home after being released from the hospital, where she combs through her father's case files and finds some connections to the new cases.

Episode 7: The Execution of a Gentleman - Accompanied by Sheila, Edgar Allan attends the execution of the family annihilator, Ned Caw, whom she covered in her first book, and ponders her own morality as she continues to search for her father.

Episode 8: Invisible Umbrella, Terrible Dad - Edgar Allan is forced to make a major moral decision when she finds out that the government conspiracies are a dead end and the serial killer who has been leading her down the wrong path is right in front of her.

target audience, marketing & competitive edge

For those drawn to buried secrets, obsessive minds, and the slow unraveling of truth.

LIKES SLOW-BURN, TENSION-FILLED NARRATIVES THAT FOCUS ON PSYCHOLOGICAL DEPTH AND CHARACTER-DRIVEN STORIES.

18-45 (WITH A FOCUS ON 25-40 YEARS OLD)

ENJOYS ENGAGING WITH COMPLEX, THOUGHT-PROVOKING NARRATIVES THAT REQUIRE MENTAL ENGAGEMENT, OFFERING TWISTS AND MYSTERIES THAT KEEP THEM GUESSING.

VIEWERS WHO PREFER ATMOSPHERE, TENSION, AND INTRICATE PLOTTING RATHER THAN TRADITIONAL ACTION

A gripping blend of crime noir and emotionally charged storytelling, this mini-series brings a fresh voice to prestige TV. With a bold, queer female lead and a mystery steeped in atmosphere, it speaks to true crime fans craving something darker, deeper, and more personal. It's not just about solving the case—it's about what it costs to chase the truth.

Stands apart by blending the psychological depth and moody suspense of classic noir with the unapologetic edge of character-driven drama. Unlike typical crime procedurals, it tackles identity, addiction, and desire through a fresh lens, led by a protagonist whose complexity defies stereotypes. It captivates both mainstream and niche audiences, making it a standout in psychological crime thrillers. This show is as much about the shadows inside us as the crimes outside.

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Brandi Self is a Los Angeles-based, award-winning screenwriter with a background in film, TV, and reality production. Her surreal, character-driven stories explore themes like identity, morality, and alienation, often through absurd worlds where introspection leads to escape. Influenced by Ari Aster & David Lynch, her work is both thought-provoking and emotionally grounded.

A black and white composite image. In the foreground, a woman's face is shown in profile, looking downwards. Her hair is styled in a voluminous, wavy manner. In the background, a smaller, tilted photograph shows a pair of legs in high-heeled shoes, possibly dancing or walking. The overall aesthetic is vintage and artistic.

thank you!