

BOOK'D

"Pitch Doc"

Written by

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## BOOK'D PITCH DOC

1/2 hour, family drama/comedy

At its heart, this is a story about an ex-cop, stubborn father and widower, who prefers to live in stoic isolation rather than accept help from friends and family. He has to learn how to allow people into his life after the sudden loss of his wife, early-retirement from the only job he's ever loved, and raising his three daughters, all of whom present their own set of issues, not-to-mention reentering the workplace at his age.

Book'd is also about the often confrontational relationship he has with his daughters, all of whom have been dealing with their mother's death in individual ways, as well as suddenly having their dad around as a virtual homebound recluse with enough free-time to exercise his habit of overprotection.

They become proactive and begin to set him up on dates (a regular theme in each episode) and he finds a temporary meaning to life: Finding ways to sabotage the dates and harassing hipsters in a record store for laughs.

I watched how the death of my own father effected my mom, the plans they had, the utter hopelessness that can overcome a person when they lose their lifelong best friend. It's easy to tailspin into depression unless you have a support system around you, and most importantly, you're willing to let them in. Harry has that support from his daughters, his friends from his days on the force, and the new friend he meets at the job he suddenly finds himself looking forward to (but would never admit to).

The tone of the show is a family dramedy, punctuated by an exploration of personal loss and the acceptance needed to move on. How it's important to open yourself up to friendships old and new, to not always "go it alone" and accept love when it comes along, and the challenges and laughter that can come from these trials and tribulations.

### POSSIBLE TAGLINE:

"Every ID you fake, every underage drink you take, Harry's watching you."

Our way into the show is from our lead Harry Bukowski, a retiree with too much time on his hands. We'll track his emotional growth through the interactions with his daughters and friends. Harry was a man obsessed with his work as an LAPD homicide detective and the pursuit of justice his position afforded.

He was also deeply in love with his wife with whom he looked forward to moving to Florida to enjoy their golden years.

#### MAIN CHARACTERS

- **HARRY "Hardcase" BUKOWSKI** (50s)

Ex-LAPD homicide detective, took early retirement due to an on-the-job injury. Born in Chicago to a working-class family, he's a third-generation cop and the first in his family to make the rank of Lieutenant.

His favorite things are tacos, tackling criminals, single-malt whiskey, Don Rickles, a fresh haircut, and dancing with his wife.

His daughters all live at home and are a constant source of love, laughter, and frustration... not necessarily in that order.

- The eldest is **RHONDA "Ronnie" BUKOWSKI** (25)

A police trainee, she idolizes her father and wants to follow in his footsteps. A real "chip off the ol' block" who shares her dad's penchant for order, justice and lack of patience for anything else.

She grew up on Harry's knee at police headquarters and loves being a cop. Her proudest moment should have been graduating from the police academy, but her father missed the momentous occasion the night he was almost killed on the job.

Her favorite things are tacos, Tom Selleck, collapsable batons, the smell of a well-oiled utility belt, and Harry.

- The middle child is **DARLENE BUKOWSKI** (18)

She inherited her mom's wild-side, always looking for trouble and quite often finding it. She's a true free-spirit who often seems reckless, but years of her father's stories about the big bad world have given her genius-level street smarts.

Her favorite things are tacos, social media, lip-gloss, teaching thirsty dudes a lesson, and the tactical knife hidden on her at all times (which she does tricks with to scare the shit out of creeps).

- The youngest is **TABITHA BUKOWSKI** (13)

A bonafide bookworm with an intellect that far exceeds her age.

She is often the voice of reason in the family, mediating quarrels and lending a sense of calm to the chaotic household.

Her favorite things are vegan tacos, fantasy novels, The Settlers Of Catan, Elvis Costello, and for everyone to "shut-up" so she can read in peace.

- Their mom **MADELAINE "MADY" BUKOWSKI** (40s)

Second generation Mexican-American and deceased wife of Harry, begins appearing to him "as a ghost". Harry thinks it's because he's attracted to Hannah that she has suddenly come back into his life. But is she a ghost, or some crack in his sanity?

She was his rock, his moral compass, and the first and (he says) last love of his life. A well-read bohemian with equal parts profound spirituality and a reasoned, logical mind.

Her favorite things are tacos, crystals, Octavio Paz, muscle cars, and dancing with Harry.

- **HANNAH VERMILLION** (40s)

The owner of Bibliotechno (books/records) and the connected coffee shop Vessel Coffeewerks. She becomes a foil/love interest for Harry that plays out over a few seasons. The resemblance to his wife is striking.

She's second generation Mexican-American with a love of Latin American writers. She an easy-going, free-spirit with a sharp mind for business. She's the first store-owner in her family and tries to balance tradition with L.A. hipster culture and keeping her businesses afloat in a tough market.

Her favorite things are Chicago stuffed pizza, the smell of old books, assemblage, bossa nova, and a damn fine cup of coffee.

- **TOMÁS "Tommy" ZABEK** (50s)

Harry's old detective partner and his retirement "partner in crime". Often accompanies his friend on stakeouts of his daughters.

Tommy lives in his dead grandmother's rent-controlled apartment with a half-dozen cats and is obsessed with building dioramas of famous executions.

His favorite things are goulash, tweed, apple juice, cats, model glue, and hanging with Harry.

Other recurring characters include:

- **CAPT. ANDRE MOLINEUX** (40s) - Harry's LAPD colleague who has climbed the ladder of success to the captain's job Harry should've had.
- **CHUY "Chewie" CAMILO** (60s) - Harry's longtime barber and occasional confidant. Cuban ex-pat who played major league baseball in the '70s/'80s.
- **JOE "The Pick" MANCUSO** (50s) - A mysterious man who loiters at the barber shop, never speaks. His one gold tooth is seemingly the only bright thing about him.
- **DAMIAN FORRESTER** (50s) - Ex-cop and Harry's therapist.
- **SCARY HOUDINI** (?) - The serial killer that set Harry's retirement in motion. He went underground for a while, but has recently resurfaced. Never seen, only obsessed over.
- **ALFONSE BLOODSAW** (40s) - One of Bibliotechno's regulars, often found arguing music with Harry.
- **BIBLIOTECHNO & VESSEL COFFEEWORKS EMPLOYEES** - Cindy Yang (20s), Devon Milkey (20s), Buster Brown Ransom III (20s), Terry (30s), Markus (20s), Millicent (20s), Cardamon (20s), and Guadalupe Vermillion (60s) Hannah's mom and chef at Vessel.

#### PILOT SUMMARY

Harry and Tommy surveil Harry's teenage daughter, Harry confronts her back home, we meet his family and their dynamic plays out.

Harry and Ronnie have a late-night conversation at their favorite taco place, reminisce about Madelaine.

Harry has breakfast with his daughters, meets up with a police buddy at a cop bar to try and get more info about Scary Houdini.

His daughters create a dating site profile for Harry, set him up on a date. He reluctantly agrees.

Harry goes to see Chuy to get a haircut for his date.

Harry goes on his date, sabotages it, meets Hannah, gets hired to work in the record store.

## OTHER EPISODES

The episodes will center on Harry's continued emotional healing and growth, his acceptance of help from friends, more blind-dates, the hilarious results of him trying to sell records and books to hipsters, the romantic entanglement with his boss, and his continued pursuit of Scary Houdini.

**HARRY & THE NEWB:** Harry's first full day at work is disastrous as all his friends and family visit him like he's a high schooler at their first job. He and another new employee join a meeting. He finds a mysterious note.

**HARRY & THE GHOST FROM CHIHUAHUA:** Harry's first encounter with his dead wife's ghost. He hires some hipsters from the record store who claim to be amateur paranormal investigators. He ends up at her gravesite and has a long talk about his future and the future of their daughters.

**EL CORTE DE PELO DE HARRY:** Harry goes to Chuy for a haircut and decides to try something new with horrific results. He attempts to hide it from his family, Hannah and a blind date.

**HARRY VS BILL ISLAND:** Harry is jealous of an old colleague-turned-best-selling crime author who appears for a book signing at Bibliotechno. To make things worse, Hannah is a huge fan and is asked out to dinner. Harry knows the kind of philanderer Bill is, but doesn't want to seem bitter and jealous by warning her.

**HARRY & THE HEIST:** The store is held-up at the end of the night by criminals looking for rare books.

**HARRY TELLS A LIE:** His friend's and family confront him about the obsession he still has for the Scary Houdini case. He swears he's over it, but they find his off-limits basement littered with case files, photos, and a timeline map covering an entire wall. It's suggested he see a psychologist.

**HARRY & THE SHRINK:** Harry agrees to get help with his obsession and visits a psychologist. He attempts to use some of the mental exercises he learned on the annoying hipsters at the record store with hilarious results.

**HARRY & THE REVENGE OF THE TACOS:** A bad day at work and a memory of his wife send Harry into a tailspin which he tries to resolve with whiskey and tacos. He's almost arrested at the restaurant and is saved by his partner and daughters.

**HARRY & THE NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY:** Harry's daughters wonder if he'll hold a New Year's Eve Party, the kind his wife used to throw every year. He relents and goes ahead with it, only for a classic phone prank to turn the party upside-down.

## OVERVIEW

For three years Harry pursued the serial killer the press has dubbed "Scary Houdini" for his signature kills and ability to elude police efforts to capture him. The closest anyone got was Harry who tracked him down to an abandoned tenement building. To avoid FBI involvement, Harry went alone and was almost killed by a booby trap.

His injury was severe enough to take him off active duty and he was offered a desk job. Harry opted for early-retirement rather than ride a desk and left the force as a legend.

His plan was to retire to Florida with his wife Madelaine, but those plans were put on hold when she was diagnosed with an aggressive form of lung cancer. She died a year later and left Harry to take care of their three daughters.

In the meantime, he hasn't forgotten about the Scary Houdini case and uses his reputation and influence with his old precinct to remain informed and continues an "off-the-books" investigation. It's really the only thing keeping him going and not spiraling into alcoholism and depression, but just barely.

His daughters want him to move on and sign him up for a dating service. These blind dates will serve as cold opens for the episodes. Meanwhile, in order to occupy his mind, he takes a job at a used record store, alongside the owner Hannah Vermillion. There's a clear attraction between the two, and it builds throughout the series.

Each season will feature Harry's interactions with his daughters and the paranoid surveillance of their movements, coming to terms with the death of his wife, his job harassing hipsters at the record/book store, and his pursuit of Scary Houdini.

SEASON TWO would end on a cliff-hanger as Harry once again tracks the serial killer to another tenement building. The police catch wind and arrive as Harry goes into the building on his own. His daughters and Tommy show up just as an explosion rocks the building and Harry is presumed dead.

SEASON THREE begins in a hospital room as Harry recovers from the explosion, vowing to leave the case alone (he doesn't). He and Hannah finally have that kiss that's been teased all this time. But was it a romantic kiss, or just thankfulness that he survived... another thing for Harry to obsess over.

## MAIN LOCATIONS

BUKOWSKI HOME - A modest two-story home in a quiet suburb of Los Angeles (think Culver City).

THE QUEEN VICTORIA - A British pub, nicknamed "The Vic", frequented by law enforcement.

VESSEL COFFEEWERKS - A hipster coffehouse, but instead of the usual avocado toast and kale salads, Hannah's abuela makes fresh empanadas, papusas, tamales, and tres leches.

BIBLIOTECHNO - The adjoining record/book store where Harry works.

CHEWIE'S CHOPS - Barber shop owned by Chuy "Chewie" Camilo, where Harry's been going for decades.

CASA ESCOBAR - An oldschool Mexican restaurant in Santa Monica with a piano bar and loungy, '70s esthetic, a favorite of Madelaine and Harry's.

TOMMY'S APARTMENT - A rent-controlled one bedroom in an old bungalow section of Hollywood. The furniture hasn't been updated since the '70s and is overrun with cats.