

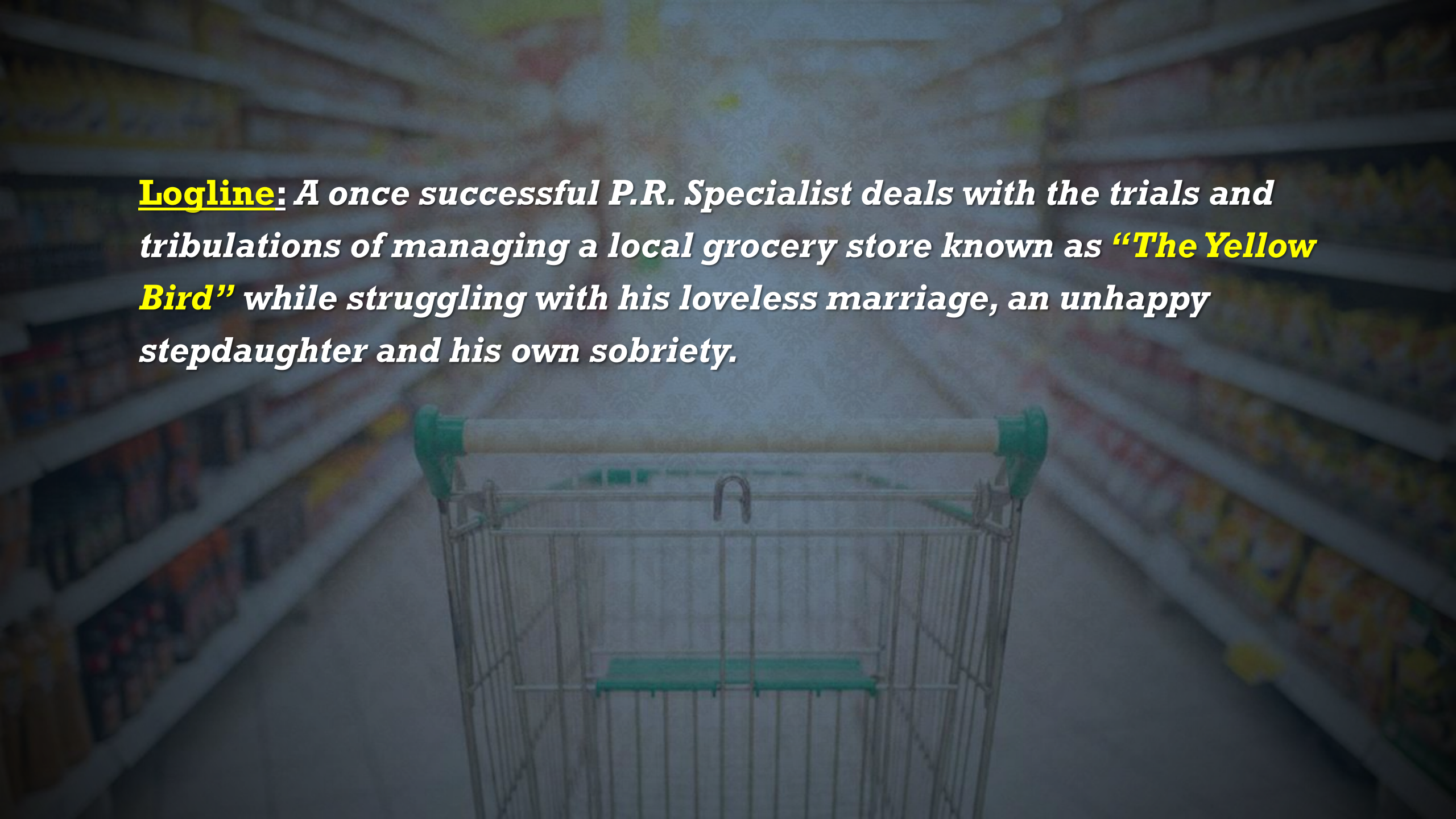
YELLOW BIRD

An original new dramedy series

Created & Written by

Tony Jerris



A shopping cart is positioned in the center of a grocery store aisle. The cart is empty and has a green handle. The shelves on either side are filled with various products, including canned goods and packaged items. The lighting is somewhat dim, and the perspective is looking down the aisle.

Logline: *A once successful P.R. Specialist deals with the trials and tribulations of managing a local grocery store known as “**The Yellow Bird**” while struggling with his loveless marriage, an unhappy stepdaughter and his own sobriety.*

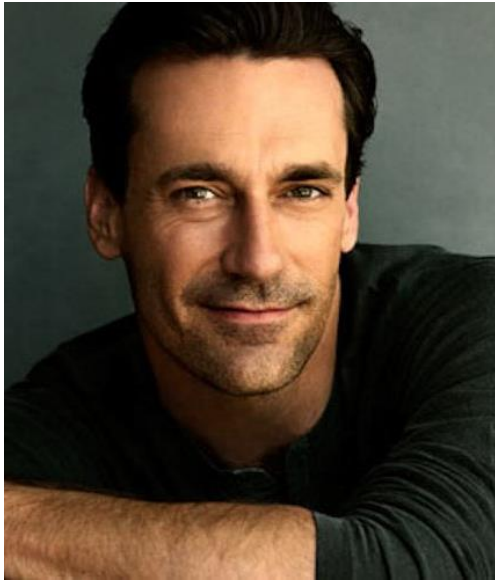
SYNOPSIS



Yellow Bird follows Jake Rush, a once successful public relationships specialist, who, in his mid-forties, has fallen on hard times. He now works as a “stock boy” at a rural grocery store called “The Yellow Bird,” after his wife of 12 years, Ellie, drained Jake’s finances.

When Jake met Ellie, she was a divorcee with a seven-year-old daughter, Kacey, who competed in child beauty pageants. Now nineteen, Kacey is an obnoxious, overweight recluse, who binges on junk food and television shows. Ellie and Kacey’s vile dispositions literally drive Jake to drink, to the point that he joins AA. Struggling to make ends meet, Jake can’t afford to divorce Ellie, so he waits for her to make the first move while trying to maintain some sort of *normalcy* in his life. Not an easy feat, considering Ellie is a cold-hearted, manipulative, gold-digger, who secretly searches – a polite way of saying *sleeps with* – her next potential husband.

Ellie believes she’s finally found grounds for a divorce when her friend, Paula, a cashier at The Yellow Bird, snaps cell phone pictures of Jake getting cozy with a younger, prettier cashier named Becky. Truth is, Jake and Becky are just friends. Becky is in a relationship with, Rusty, a tattooed, 20-something, redneck. Becky looks to Jake as the father-figure she never knew because her father left her when she was a child. When Ellie accuses Jake of having an affair and says she has a lawyer (her new lover) representing her divorce case, Jake moves out of *his* house and in with his elderly, widowed mother, Rachel, who is in the early stages of Alzheimer’s. Through Rachel, Jake learns that ‘Yellow Bird’ means, the one person you cannot live without in your lifetime. This is an epiphany for Jake, who believes working at “The Yellow Bird” is a sign that he will find the one person he cannot live without, as opposed to living with someone he cannot live with.



MAIN CHARACTERS

JAKE RUSH: Mid-40's, good-looking, slightly out-of-shape and receding hairline. Known to his close friends as J.R., he doesn't wear his heart on his sleeve. He has a tendency to imagine what he'd really like to say, rather than actually express it to avoid confrontation. He's someone whose spirit has been broken and drives around in his car with a ceramic "talking" Gnome, who acts as Jake's subconscious. (Think Jon Hamm or John Krasinki)

ELLIE: 40's, bleach blonde, Jake's wife. She has a type-A personality, who hasn't worked a day in her life, except working the nerves of Jake and her previous husbands. A former beauty pageant queen, Ellie lived her life through her daughter Kacey, who Ellie pushed in child beauty pageants. When Kacey got older, and chubbier, Ellie turned her focus on the one person who matters the most in her life— *herself*. Bored with her life, Ellie is looking for a new husband, only she's getting a little long in the tooth. (Think Kate Hudson or Katherine Heigl)

MAIN CHARACTERS

KACEY: 19, overweight, malicious. Ellie's daughter from a previous marriage, and a former child beauty contestant. She has one goal in life – *eating* – but she has a hidden underlying reason to her obsession with food and dislike towards men. (Think Danielle MacDonald)

RACHEL RUSH: 70's, feisty, Jake's widowed mother. Rachel is in the early stages of Alzheimer's. She can't remember what she had for lunch yesterday but can recall things from 40 years ago. (Think Kathy Bates)





MAIN CHARACTERS

SCOTTY: Mid-to-late 30's, cocky. Store manager. Butts heads with Jake when Jake is promoted to Supervising Manager of the *Yellow Bird Grocery Store* and will stop at nothing to get Jake fired. (Think James Marsden)

BECKY: 19, pretty, wholesome, with haunting, diamond blue eyes. A cashier at the *Yellow Bird Grocery Store*, Becky becomes Jake's confident, of sorts, and vice versa. There is an obvious attraction on Jake's part towards Becky, but he knows better. Jake is old enough to be her father... And might be! (Think Bailee Madison)



SUPPORTING CHARACTERS

TIGGER: Hungry-looking redhead in her 40's recently divorced. Manager of the *Yellow Bird Grocery Store's* bakery department. She is dating an employee at the store who is half her age.

HOWIE: Early 20's, Tigger's carefree, stoner boyfriend. He doubles as the grocery store's janitor and stock boy.

PAULA: 40's, gossipy cashier. Ellie's friend, and a puppet master to...

VICKY: 30's, cashier.

KRYSTAL: 30's, outspoken transsexual, who enjoys dressing up as actresses from classic movies. She befriends Jake at his A.A. meetings and winds up working at "*The Yellow Bird*."

ROSA: 60, no-nonsense Latino woman. Jake and Ellie's former maid and Kacey's former nanny, who Jake rehires to take care of his mother.

STEVE: 40's, athletic. Jake's best friend since high school.



SUPPORTING CHARACTERS

OLIVIA: 40's, classy, separated from her husband. She dated Jake in high school and reunites with him at the 30 Year High School Reunion. Her attraction towards Jake is still there, and vice versa.

LAWRENCE FINLEY: 60, distinguished. District Manager of the *Yellow Bird* grocery store chain. He had a one-night stand with Ellie, only he doesn't know Jake is her husband... yet.

DOUG TURNER: 40, handsome, lawyer. Had a couple trysts with Ellie. Doug represents Ellie in her divorce proceedings against Jake.

TED: 40's, successful businessman. Jake's neighbor.

DIANE: 40's, Ted's wife.

DAN: 40's, businessman. Jake's neighbor.

MARY: 40s, Dan's wife.

PILOT EPISODE

“Movin’ On Up”: Jake wakes up in his car at *The Yellow Bird Grocery Store*, bloodied and scratched from what’s occurred the night before. Through flashbacks, we learn it all resorts to his wife, Ellie. Scotty, the store manager, takes pity on Jake after he conveys that he’s having marital problems. Later, as Jake stocks bottles of Mrs. Butterworth’s syrup bottles, Scotty tells him he’s arranged for him to meet the District Manager of the “*Yellow Bird*” stores to see if there’s a better position for him, other than being a “stock boy.” After Scotty leaves, a Mrs. Butterworth’s bottle starts singing the theme song from “The Jefferson’s” (*Movin’ On Up*). Suddenly, Mrs. Butterworth becomes a real person, as Jake and the employees engage in a flash mob to the song. Jake blinks, realizing he’s imagined it, which has him questioning his sanity. When Jake goes home, Ellie accuses him of having an affair with the young cashier, Becky, after Paula showed her pictures of them getting cozy at the store. Ellie believes she has grounds for a divorce, so Jake moves out and in with his mother, Rachel.

FUTURE EPISODES

“Beginning of The End”: A flashback introduces us to Jake at the top of his game as a P.R. Specialist, and his once happy life with Ellie and then 7-year-old, Kacey. In the present, Jake wakes up in his old bedroom at his mother’s house, realizing that happiness has disintegrated. Later, Jake meets Lawrence Finley, District Manager of the *Yellow Bird* grocery stores, who makes Jake supervising manager over Scotty, due to Scotty’s immaturity. Scotty calls Jake a backstabber. Jake puts Scotty in his place before going to an A.A. meeting. Here, we meet, Krystal, an outspoken transsexual who is dressed up as Audrey Hepburn from “*Breakfast At Tiffany’s*.” It’s clear that Jake and Krystal are A.A. “buddies.” When Jake speaks at the meeting, we go into flashback, revealing the beginning of the end of Jake and Ellie’s relationship. We also discover that Lawrence Finley has slept with Ellie, unbeknownst to Jake. That night, at the *Yellow Bird*, Scotty goes over details of “closing up shop” with Jake, including setting the alarm, which goes off 30 seconds after setting it before alerting a Security Company. Scotty leaves Jake with the store’s key, and then exits. Jake lingers, staring at the Liquor display. Suddenly, the store alarm goes off. Jake rushes outside hollering for Scotty’s assistance, only Scotty pulls away in his car, laughing hysterically. Jake sighs, as the Security Company’s sirens sound in the distance.

“Makin’ Bacon”: Jake wakes up at the crack of dawn in his old bedroom at his mother’s house to the smell of bacon. He goes downstairs to find Rachel in the kitchen, telling him that she’s made him breakfast and is keeping it warm in the oven. Rachel opens the dryer door instead of the oven and pulls out a plate of bacon. Jake realizes Rachel’s Alzheimer’s has escalated. Jake has a flashback to his former housekeeper, Rosa, making breakfast when Jake was a P.R. specialist. Ellie and Kacey enter, dressed to go to the beach. They poke fun at Jake before leaving, when Rosa informs Jake about Ellie’s former husbands. Jake is shocked, not only that Rosa speaks English, but also that Ellie has lied to him about how many former husbands she had. In the present, Ellie has an afternoon fling with Doug Turner, the lawyer representing her in her divorce, at the Starlight Motel. Meanwhile, at the *Yellow Bird*, Jake takes over Scotty’s old office, working hard to bring the *Yellow Bird* into the 21st Century, via social media, store gimmicks, and hiring contractors to renovate the store. Lawrence shows up at the store to check on Jake’s progress, at the same time Ellie shows up to gloat about her divorce proceedings. Lawrence learns that Ellie is Jake’s soon-to-be ex-wife, but says nothing to Jake about their fling... yet.

FUTURE EPISODES

“Birds Of A Feather”: With the grand reopening of the *Yellow Bird* just a few days away, Scotty, Paula and Vicky ban together to sabotage all of Jake’s hard work. Not an easy feat, considering Lawrence has put Jake on a pedestal, along with finding him one of the best defense lawyers in his upcoming divorce proceeding with Ellie. When Krystal gets wind of what Scotty, Paula and Vicky are up to, she joins forces with Tigger to make sure the whole thing backfires. Meanwhile, Ellie spends more time with her lawyer/boyfriend, Doug, leaving Kacey spending more time alone at home. Kacey’s erratic behavior indicates that she is on the verge of a nervous breakdown.

“When We Were Young”: Jake’s buddy, Steve, coaxes a reluctant Jake to go to their 30-year High School Reunion. Jake reunites with Olivia, a girl he dated in high school. Olivia is now a stunning woman in her 40’s, who is recently separated from her husband. As the night progresses, Jake and Olivia share their complicated relationships, with the hint that they could become a couple.

“Damaged Goods”: It’s the night before Jake and Ellie’s court date. Jake has dinner with Olivia, while Ellie meets with her lawyer, Doug, at the Starlight Lounge to go over last-minute details regarding Ellie’s case. Major alcohol is consumed, and they wind up in a motel room. Meanwhile, Kacey wanders the streets of Bailey Heights wearing a tight-fitting pageant gown and tiara, crying hysterically. A squad car pulls up next to her, with Sheriff Yates inside. Ellie’s cell phone rings in the motel room, only she’s in the throes of passion with Doug and doesn’t answer. After dropping Olivia off at her daughter’s house (where she currently resides), Jake gets a call from Sheriff Yates about Kacey, who Sheriff Yates has driven home. Jake goes to the house to console Kacey, only she turns on a dime, demanding that he leave. Jake gets in his car, staring at “his” house, as the Gnome begins talking to him, calling Kacey and Ellie “damaged goods.”

SEASON 1 - FINALE EPISODE

“For Better or Worse”: In the wee hours of the morning, Ellie pulls out of the motel parking lot and gets side-swiped by a 16-Wheeler. Jake gets a frantic call from Kacey that Ellie has been in a serious car accident. Jake hurries to the hospital, where Ellie is in a coma. This changes everything...

Contact:

AMI MANNING

Email: AMI@VOLITIONUSA.COM

Phone: 310.600.4517

VOLITION ENTERTAINMENT

7190 W. SUNSET BLVD #71C

LOS ANGELES, CA 90046