



Series Concept by Daniel Knauf

*“Tabloids? Total whitewash...”*

**CONCEPT** – A sexy, edgy, deliciously over-the-top primetime serial featuring the ruthless machinations of a coven of latter day witches who are the true movers and shakers behind the media elite. We follow the Faustian story of a young Hollywood wife, DOROTHY MILLS, a Public Defender, as she slips into a moral abyss of power and corruption.

Babylon is a story about women who are practitioners of an ancient craft which enables them the effect outcomes and thereby exercise power over their own and other’s destinies. The magic of Babylon is not the foolish smoke and fireworks seen in Saturday matinees, but true, practical magic, as subtle as the flip of a coin.

Heads or tails?

If you can call it, you can get rich.

But if you can influence the outcome, the world is your bitch.

**THE TUESDAY MORNING CLUB** – Founded in 1913 by suffragette CAROLINE MORGAN, the Tuesday Morning Club is the oldest, most exclusive private women’s clubs in the United States. Ostensibly dedicated to the “arts, culture and the betterment of society,” The Tuesday Morning

Club serves the community through lavish fund-raisers such as its Midsummer Harvest Ball as well as private parties hosted by the club's Board of Governesses at their residences or Morgan House, an exquisite craftsman-style mansion and estate located in the heart of Hancock Park.

Membership in the Tuesday Morning Club is by invitation only and includes wives, mothers and daughters of the wealthiest, oldest and most powerful families in Los Angeles as well as a number of "bright, well-mannered and charming" women whose public achievements have captured the attention of The Board.

**THE BOARD OF GOVERNESSES** – An appointed body of six stunningly beautiful, refined and impossibly charismatic women who direct all aspects of the club's activities. Unknown to the general membership, these six women are practitioners of The Elder Craft, a dark power that flows into the nexus of invisible ley lines and vortices known as Los Angeles.

Some might call them witches, Wiccans, sorceresses, *brujas* or *strigas*, but they prefer to refer to their cult simply as "The Board." Though all share the same egalitarian title, "Governess," there is definitely a pecking order within the group, an ambiguous command structure as capricious, variable and unpredictable as the flow of a desert creek save one immutable aspect, its leader and long-time alpha, the mysterious, stunning JULIA CHANDLER.

Every one of the ten governesses is powerful and predatory, always testing, challenging the status quo. All feel that they should rightfully be the Alpha. The board is a raging, surging tempest of alliances made and broken, friendships betrayed and enmities forgiven, debts incurred and settled.

Blood is invariably spilled, whether from a thousand minor cuts or a single grievous wound

---

**DOROTHY MILLS** – Attorney, public defender. Sharp, self-made—an orphan who spent most of her childhood in foster homes. Tough as nails and too beautiful for the job by half. The biggest mistake you can make with Dorothy is to underestimate her. She's not happy about the move to Los Angeles, but is willing to make the sacrifice to support Hayden's dreams. After all, she can practice law anywhere, but there's only one place Hayden can flourish as a screenwriter.

Dorothy is oddly attracted and repelled by Los Angeles. In some ways, it feels as if she's lived here her entire life—or perhaps a past life. But she is disgusted by the carnality and materialism she sees in a town in which everyone, from the studio boss to the valet who parks his car, seems to be working some kind of angle. And this is definitely not the place she would want to raise a child .

More troubling are the changes she sees in her husband, Hayden. Though he's a writer, he's obsessively working out, spending time at the spa, focused on his appearance even as he becomes ever distant from her.

**JULIA CHANDLER** – Her past is cloaked in mystery, as is her true age. Some say she is the Daughter of club founder, Caroline Morgan; others, that she actually is Caroline Morgan (though if she was, Julia, who is coy about her age but appears to be a kind shade over 30 would have to be 128 years old). And heiress to a newspaper fortune, Julia is married to TED CHANDLER, 50s, the tough, take-no-prisoners CEO of Omega Newscorp, a multinational media empire that controls virtually all aspects of what and how news will be spun through every mainstream medium save the internet (though he has plans for that as well).

CLOE DEVEREAUX – Julia’s closest confidante and consigliere, shipping heiress descended from a line of Creole voodoo queens. Cloe has turned her eye to the fashion world. She and her husband, superstar designer YUL DEVEREAUX, own shops in Beverly Hills, New York, Paris and Milan. Unlike most of the Governesses, who use and discard men like Kleenex, Cloe sees them as unfit for her attention, much less her passion. She is unreachable, cold and therefore all the more desirable.

**VERONICA PICO-MONTOYA** – A direct descendent of Pio Pico, one of the original Spanish settlers of Los Angeles. Her husband, ANTHONY MONTOYA, is a powerful six-term Los Angeles city councilman known for getting things done. What is not known is that his influence is wholly derived from Veronica, a scion of an ancient line of *brujas* whose lineage stretches back to pre-Columbian Toltecs.

**SARAN WEISS-GANTZ** – A pop-chanteuse whose albums topped the charts in the early-2000s, Saran hasn’t aged a day since she won her first Grammy for Best New Artist in 2003, now married to legendary music exec, Barry Gantz. Practices an ancient form of Cabala. Sees herself as the rightful Alpha and loathes Julia, though she won’t dare confront her directly.

**HAYDEN MILLS** – Handsome hot young screenwriter, Gulf War vet. This week’s top model. JJ is directing a \$200M feature based on his script. Hayden is a former Army Ranger who survived two tours in Afghanistan and based a screenplay on his journals. He adores his wife, Dorothy, but is wonders whether he would choose her over his own ambition to write and direct films—prays he never has to find out.

## **SEASONAL STORY ARCS**

The stories in Babylon will draw from several wells, primarily following characters in their careers, personal lives and the genre aspect of an earth-magic cult, stories intersecting, overlapping and colliding—sometimes violently—in true night-time soap style.

Plots will involve nefarious and sometimes supernatural plots in the glamour industries—film, television, fashion, music and art—as well as the brutal power-plays downtown in City Hall and the courts. They pull the strings, creating superstars and then rendering them into pathetic has-beens, deploying their powerful husbands like pieces on a chess board, deciding whose fortunes will rise, and whose will fall.

The heart of the series will be the struggles within the board of governesses to seize control of the leadership of the Tuesday Morning Club, and thus the reins of power in Los Angeles.

**DOROTHY'S STORY** – Our outsider “in” to the off-the-hook world of Babylon, Dorothy immediately catches the eye of Julia Chandler, who takes her under her wing as a protégé, offering her counsel and quietly opening doors, both socially and professionally. Julia is intent on molding Dorothy into a fiercely loyal ally who will blindly support her in her iron grip on the levers of power within the Board of Governesses. So subtle are Julia’s machinations that most of her manipulations—both natural and supernatural—appear as “lucky breaks” to Dorothy.

The first obstacle Julia must quash is Dorothy’s idealistic goal of using her prodigious legal skills to help the impoverished. In her new job as a Public Defender, thanks to Julia’s black magic and some good old fashioned sabotage, Julia can’t seem to catch a break; key witnesses disappear or suddenly change testimony on the stand, she can’t get adequate court approved funding to engage experts, consultants and investigators.

Julia arranges for Dorothy to meet JAMES BETTINGER, a renowned Beverly Hills criminal defense attorney. Though he smoothly courts Dorothy with the assertion that his office routinely works pro bono cases for the poor, Dorothy soon finds herself defending celebrities, sports stars and an elite white-collar clientele. As soon as she takes the job, her “luck” changes and her career takes off in a meteoric rise. But something about her trajectory feels all too convenient, Julia subtly implying that brains and hard work aren’t everything; there are “forces” in Los Angeles, forces that can be harnessed and used as she has to benefit Dorothy.

Soon, the Faustian bargain is on the table. And now that Dorothy has experienced a taste of the power, she is hungry for more. But allegiances must be forged in blood and sacrifices must be made.

Is Dorothy willing to take the next step?

More importantly, is she already in so deep she has no choice?

**JULIA'S STORY** – Serving as a Governess in the Tuesday Morning Club is not for the timid-hearted. There’s a reason why all the alpha-females on the board are in their twenties and early thirties: it’s a very dangerous game. By sheer will and skill in the black arts, Julia has retained the Alpha position for almost a decade—an unheard of tenure—in no small part due to her chief ally and *consigliere*, Cloe.

But as her own mother once said, “*Just because two ravens are pecking at the same carcass doesn’t mean they’re friends.*” And Julia knows that Chloe could turn on her in a heartbeat. She needs an Ace in the Hole, and young attorney Dorothy Mills is that Ace; the power runs deep and strong within the child. All she needs to do is groom Dorothy, help her master the ancient secrets of the craft and she could become a formidable ally...

... or a deadly enemy.

**CHLOE'S STORY** – Chloe has always supported Julia as a consigliere/enforcer. She knows where all the bodies are buried. And yes, she loves Julia. But she has her own aspirations to

assume control of the Tuesday Morning Club. Her scheme has been to wait until the moment the usurper takes out Julia, Chloe will make a fatal strike and assume the alpha position.

But this new girl, Dorothy, has complicated things. Even as Julia grooms Dorothy, a wedge is being driven between Julia and Cloe. But how can she take out her rival without angering Julia?

Ahh... the husband. There's always the husband. Chloe will weave a spell of lust and obsession that will render Hayden Mills into her own personal meat-puppet. After all, as her Gemmie used to say, if you want to control someone, control what they love.

**VERONICA'S STORY** – Veronica sees herself as the rightful Queen of the City of Angels. Her family, an ancient line of *brujas*, was drawing on the deep well of earth-energy here in an unbroken line back to the original families that tamed the land it into vast *rancheros*. Julia has been in charge too long and Veronica longs to seize the role as leader and reestablish the dominance of the Pico Clan.

But Julia is formidable and dangerous. Time and time again, with Chloe's help, she's slapped Veronica into her place. But the new girl, Dorothy, has thrown the dynamics out of balance. If there's one thing Veronica recognizes, it's jealousy, and she sees it burning brightly in Chloe. If Veronica can turn Chloe into an ally, she can finally assume her rightful role.

**SARAN'S STORY** – Always aloof, shielded behind her persona of a neo-hippy-chanteuse, Saran weaves her deadly web, always observing. The other governesses grossly underestimate her, which has been her goal since she was adopted into the board. Now she is invisible to them. But Saran harbors a secret agenda: She loathes the Tuesday morning Clun, everything it represents and all the preening little princesses who are members.

Saran doesn't want to take over the club; she wants to *burn it down*.

And even as she observes and weaves and schemes, she sees the raw power in Dorothy Mills as no one else can—even Julia. And Saran means to turn that power to her own dark goals.

## THE MILIEU

All our stories will take place in the corridors of power beyond the effete charm of the Tuesday Morning Club; the board rooms, courts, studios, stages and streets of Los Angeles, each of our main characters pulling strings like power-soaked nobility in King Louie XIV's court. Each has struck his or her own deal with the devil, and there's only one true thing about the devil...

He always collects his due.

*"Sweetie, everyone in this town makes deals, but nobody knows who they're really dealing with."* ~ Julia Chandler to Dorothy Mills.