

# ***The Velvet Ditch***

**Written By: Lorrie A Trotter**  
**503 Diane Court**  
**Chilton, Wisconsin 53014**  
**608-658-7794**  
[lorrietrotter33@gmail.com](mailto:lorrietrotter33@gmail.com)  
[lorrietrotter.com](http://lorrietrotter.com)

**Title: *Velvet Ditch***

**Genre: Drama**

**Pilot Episode: "*The Gathering Storm*"**

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## **Opening Scene**

*(Fade in: A sprawling cotton plantation at sunset, the golden light reflecting off pristine white columns of the Troubadour mansion. The camera sweeps across lush gardens and a group of sharply dressed guests laughing under a canopy. A voiceover begins.)*

### **VO (HARLEQUINN TRUBADORE):**

"In the Mississippi Delta, we call it the Velvet Ditch. It's a place so soft and alluring, you'd think it's heaven. But once it pulls you in, you're stuck. And in this ditch, power is everything."

*(The camera shifts to Harlequinn Troubadour, 45, effortlessly elegant in pearls and a silk dress, her smile sharp as a blade. She walks among the crowd like a queen holding court.)*

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## **Act One**

*(The Troubadours are hosting their annual Gala of Magnolias, a decadent charity event that doubles as a battleground for elite families. We're introduced to key players.)*

- **The Troubadours:** Led by Harlequinn and her brother, Trip Troubadour (50, ruthless and cunning), the family is the wealthiest in the Velvet Ditch, owning vast plantations and businesses. They'll do anything to stay on top.
- **The Scotts:** A family of "new money," spearheaded by ambitious widow Margaret Scott (40s), who sees the gala as her chance to secure influence.
- **The O'Shannons:** Old allies turned into rivals of the Troubadours, known for their shady dealings in gambling and bootlegging.
- **The Taylors:** Once wealthy, now struggling to maintain their status, their patriarch, Charles Taylor, is desperate to make a comeback.

- **The Ollies:** Quiet and unassuming but secretly working behind the scenes to outmaneuver everyone.

*(The night is filled with polite smiles, whispered insults, and thinly veiled threats. In the midst of the glamour, Harlequinn confronts Margaret Scott in a moment of chilling civility.)*

**HARLEQUINN:**

"Welcome to the Gala, Margaret. I didn't realize charity was in your budget this year."

**MARGARET:**

"Charity begins at home, Harlequinn. Though not all of us need to auction off family heirlooms to keep the lights on."

*(The tension is palpable. Trip watches from a distance, intrigued.)*

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**Act Two**

*(The next day, a shocking event rocks the Velvet Ditch. A fire breaks out at the O'Shannon casino, leaving their empire in ruins. Rumors swirl about foul play, and fingers point in every direction.)*

- Harlequinn uses the disaster to leverage her position, offering a "generous" loan to the O'Shannons at impossible terms.
- Trip meets secretly with a mysterious figure, orchestrating moves to sabotage the Scotts' plans to expand into oil.
- Margaret Scott, sensing the Troubadours' hand in the casino fire, vows revenge and begins recruiting allies among the Taylors and Ollies.
- Charles Taylor, desperate for cash, strikes a dangerous deal with Trip, selling off his remaining lands for a fraction of their worth.

*(Amid the chaos, we see the personal stakes for each family. Harlequinn's teenage daughter, Isobel, chafes under her mother's control, yearning for a life beyond the Delta. Margaret's son, Eli, struggles with loyalty to his ambitious mother while harboring feelings for Isobel.)*

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**Act Three**

*(As alliances shift, secrets emerge. Harlequinn discovers that Trip has been skimming money from the family business, leading to a heated confrontation.)*

**HARLEQUINN:**

"You'd burn this family to the ground for your schemes!"

**TRIP:**

"And you'd suffocate it under your control. Don't fool yourself, Harlequinn—you need me."

*(Meanwhile, Margaret uncovers evidence linking the Troubadours to the casino fire. She enlists the Ollies to expose the truth, setting the stage for a public showdown at an upcoming town council meeting.)*

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**Climactic Scene**

*(The episode ends at a lavish dinner hosted by the Troubadours, where all the families gather. Harlequinn gives a toast, her words dripping with veiled threats.)*

**HARLEQUINN:**

"To family and legacy—the two things worth fighting for. May the best of us always rise above."

*(As glasses clink, the camera pans to Margaret Scott, her icy smile signaling she's ready to strike. The tension is electric. In the distance, the sound of thunder rumbles, foreshadowing the storm to come.)*

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**Final Scene**

*(As the dinner ends, a shadowy figure rides into the Velvet Ditch on horseback. It's a newcomer—mysterious, dangerous, and tied to secrets that could unravel everything. The camera lingers on the storm clouds rolling over the Delta as the screen fades to black.)*

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**Themes and Style**

- A blend of *Succession* and *Dallas* with the gothic charm of the Deep South.
- Themes of power, legacy, betrayal, and family loyalty.
- Cinematic visuals showcasing the haunting beauty of the Mississippi Delta.

**Hook for the Series**

The Velvet Ditch is a Series made for streaming TV.

The Velvet Ditch isn't just a setting in the Mississippi Delta, it's a battleground where family ties are weapons, secrets are currency, and power is the ultimate prize.

In this privileged world, survival isn't guaranteed, and no one escapes unscathed.