

TITLE: HAINTS

FORMAT/GENRE: One-Hour TV Pilot - Coming-of-Age Supernatural Drama (Serialized)

SEASON ONE LOGLINE: *A 16-year-old "Low Country" orphan must overcome the obstacles of fitting into her new prep school environment while struggling to conquer her emerging supernatural gifts of black magic and voodoo in order to save a missing classmate from a malevolent spirit.*

PILOT LOGLINE: *Confused by the onset of her Supernatural gifts and plagued by nightmares, a "Low Country" teen, hatches a plan to find her estranged grandfather, who she's never met, while struggling to hide her emerging gifts from her family, fearing the outcome should they find out.*

COMPS: "TEEN WOLF" meets "BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER" with a dose of "SUPERNATURAL."

DISTINGUISHING FEATURE: A mash-up teen drama joins the Root magic conjuring and legends of the South.

Some gifts are not blessings...

INSPIRATION: The coastal regions of Georgia and South Carolina are rife with black magic and "Hoodoo" originating from West Africa. Bedtime stories are told to keep children in check and root medicine is practiced to keep them safe. I am one of those children, lucky enough to grow up surrounded by Native American relatives and our extended Geechee family, who were anything but normal.

The Story...

Ruby, a "Low Country" teen, unaware of the curse she carries, unknowingly begins to open a passageway for the Haints of the root-conjuring South to enter the world of the Living. Once this awareness hits, her journey begins to set things right — if she can!

Now meet Ruby...

RUBY, a total teen bohemian is unaware she carries a burden lying dormant deep inside her, until the morning after her "coming-of-age" ceremony" on her 16th birthday, when she starts to question the line between her dreams and reality. This rite-of-passage marks a turning point in Ruby's life and *there's no going back*. Ruby discovers her dreams and her gift of oral storytelling passed down from her "Gullah Geechee" ancestors provide a vessel for the supernatural creatures from her childhood folklore to manifest in the real world. Curbing the storytelling doesn't help. It only assures her dreams become more intensely powerful, unleashing the most malevolent spirits. Exiled for her own protection, Ruby finds herself thrust into a new prep school environment, where she struggles to fit in and make friends, while mourning a recent loss. Meanwhile, her latent abilities have a way of making classmates disappear *or worse*.

The BFF...

JAMIE, 16, Ruby's confidant and best friend from the wrong side of the tracks has a hard time accepting Ruby's new life. It doesn't help that he's hopelessly in love with her.

The love interest...

DYLAN, 16, is the self-assured, hard-to-get Abercrombie & Fitch model type every girl is determined to capture - PAUSE - he's incredibly kind, generous and WAIT - *smart* with impeccable manners! Since when did dreamboats become the good guys? Dylan, weighing his loyalty to his ex-girlfriend and childhood sweetheart, Alyona, stifles his growing desire for the exotic new girl, Ruby. Dylan's journey into the world of the supernatural with Ruby upends his life, heightening this romantic tension and shattering his innocence about the world he thought he knew. Oh, and he drives Jamie crazy.

Don't worry, we have a Queen Bee...

CHLOE, 16, a highly groomed, statuesque blonde with rose-tinged ivory skin, who only wears uniforms carefully tailored to show off her assets, can't wait to sink her teeth into the new girl and rip her to shreds. Chloe's little club of sycophants go out of their way to see that she is pleased, regardless of who gets hurt. Chloe always gets what she wants. She'll either wind up spearheading a presidential campaign or marrying a candidate.

And let's not forget our Problem Child....

ALYONA, 15, a self-possessed, carefully coiffed goth meets the Paris runway. Her pale skin, sickly haunting and oddly beautiful, add to her unusual magnetism. Alyona puts a whole new twist on devious.

Things go awry when a “**BOO HAG**” possesses Alyona for its own sinister purpose. A malevolent spirit of the “Low Country” lore intent on hanging around in the real world by inhabiting its victim’s skin and sucking the life force out of everyone around - *while they sleep*. The problem with Boo Hags is they have a way of tricking everyone around you into believing you are you, only a better version!

Which brings us to our Story...

RUBY brings forth a Boo Hag through a macabre dream sequence, depicting a skinless, charred form, resulting in a tragic accident involving her beloved grandmother, **MAEBELLE**. Ruby is sent to boarding school where she struggles to fit in and make friends after a family friend is killed. The nasty spirit manifests fully the day Ruby recites a story in drama class. Ruby intrigues **DYLAN**, drawing the ire of his goth Ex, **Alyona**.

CHLOE, taken by Ruby’s eerie story-telling, hatches a plan to invite Ruby to her private haunt weekend on her family’s remote island off the coast of Georgia, where she intends to use Ruby’s oral gift to terrify her guests. Alyona, once again, is not psyched with the prospect of Ruby being within eyeshot of Dylan. Chloe promises Alyona she can have Ruby afterwards to humiliate as she sees fit. **And it’s on!**

As the night settles in and the stories begin around a campfire, Alyona grows agitated with Dylan’s obvious interest in Ruby. Alyona pulls him away from the gathering to an old one room Tabby house (former slave quarters). The same charred arm from Ruby’s dream emerges from the shadows, yanking Alyona into the darkness! Horrified and unable to defend Alyona, Dylan runs back to the campfire for help when she vanishes.

The search is on for Alyona. Suspecting this is a prank, the police are initially dismissive. Ruby and Dylan are forced together for the hunt, bringing them closer together sparking the indications of a teen romance as they navigate the mystical world of the Gullah Geechee. Ultimately trusting Dylan and desperate for intimacy, Ruby discloses her family secrets and opens the door to supernatural elements, exposing Dylan to the spirit world and pushing her best friend, Jamie, even further away. When Ruby discloses her dream and the fear she may have had a hand in what happened to Alyona, Dylan willingly agrees to accompany Ruby on her quest for answers, realizing she is alone and no one else will understand.

Wanting to understand what’s happening to her and how she may have brought harm to Alyona, Ruby visits her **AUNT JUNE**, only to discover *she is missing*. Ruby and **PASTOR CUBA**, a family friend and confidante, seek to find June with the help of **DETECTIVE THOMAS**, who is beginning to suspect things are not as they appear.

Alyona is discovered back at school. *Or is it Alyona?* She’s funny, ethereal, kind and spacey. Her once fashionable dorm room is transformed into a hippie root doctors haven, strewn with odd herbs and plants. Ruby discovers this dramatic turn of events on her own -- no one, not even Dylan, bothered to inform Ruby that Alyona had been found.

Dylan, stuck by obligation to comfort Alyona, turns away from Ruby, leaving her confused and wounded. **ETHAN**, the instigator in the group, is only too happy to jump in and comfort her, to Dylan’s dismay. Ruby must make things right with Jamie in order to recruit her ensemble to send this spirit back where it belongs if there’s any chance of saving Alyona.

Something isn’t what it seems with Alyona...

“Alyona, nude, glides toward the door, inching it open and slips out. She turns back peering in the dark room, her eyes glowing white as she slowly edges, then yanks the door shut.”

SEASON ONE:

Ruby slowly uncovers the weight of her dreams and story-telling, while learning to harness her newfound occult gifts. Her dreams grow darker, becoming more prevalent, as she refrains from using the oral tradition of storytelling passed down through her family. This is a problem for Ruby, the famed voice of the Low Country Podcast “Low Country Lore.” That is until her podcast becomes her most valued weapon.

The “Boo Hag” successfully replaces Alyona becoming the perfect embodiment of her in every way. The once-feared goth, becomes the beloved “Ally” allowing the Boo Hag a full reign of terror, providing the perfect host and hiding place. Once Ruby discovers the deception, she must fight to save her classmate and set things right. Convincing those around her that something evil is lurking within Alyona and championing support to take down the hidden spirit proves to be a daunting, if not impossible, task.

Ruby searches for her grandfather, a man she’s never met and has been told her entire life was evil. Does he have anything to do with the mysterious man in black? Ruby’s family keeps Ruby in the dark and there are secrets — way too many secrets. And Ruby is determined to get answers.

SERIES: There’s no shortage of season long antagonists to pull from the spirit world of the Gullah Geechee.