

WHEN YOU NEED A GUNN

LOGLINE:

When your back's against the wall, and there's nowhere to run, that's when you need a gun: JASON GUNN.

PREMISE:

It's 1949, and the United States, along with the rest of the world, is still reeling from WW2. It's the Wild West again here at home, with many a financial carpetbagger jockeying for power in the lucrative landscape of America.

JASON GUNN is a former OSS agent, now an L.A. Private Detective. In addition to his day to day cases, he is searching for his father , who disappeared 15 years ago with a head full of Mafia secrets.

PRINCIPAL CHARACTERS

JASON GUNN: 6'0", solid build, Light-Heavy Weight boxer, and former OSS agent. He is now an L.A. Private Detective, utilizing his counter-espionage background in his current profession.

Jason was raised in Los Angeles with his mother and older sister, Vicky. Their father was a petty criminal, in and out of prison. Jason was 18, and just finishing high school during his father's last stretch, which reportedly ended in a knife fight in the prison yard. Jason was never completely convinced of his father's fate; there was no identifiable body. Nevertheless, it put a strain on the family, especially his mother. She took to the bottle and ended up in a sanitarium. Jason had a best friend, EDDIE VASQUEZ, whose mother took him in, and kept him from becoming a ward of the state. Vicky, at the age of 20, was in no such danger, and she just up and disappeared.

In his early 20's, Jason got the travel bug and joined the merchant marines, travelling around the Far East, and Europe. He returned to L.A., without much direction. That changed when WW2 broke out. He joined the Army, which led him to become a top agent for the OSS.

EDDIE VASQUEZ: Medium build, quick wit with a Cheshire Cat smile. Cat-nip for the ladies. Jason's best friend since their teens.

Eddie's father died when he was 12. He worked himself into an early grave, creating the number one landscaping business in Los Angeles, catering almost exclusively to the rich patrons of Beverly Hills and Bel Air.

After he died, Mrs. Vasquez expanded the business. She recruited other gardeners to join, and work under the umbrella of her already prestigious enterprise. She expanded into other areas, incorporating maids and busboys into her "unofficial union"; providing overall safety and health insurance. She paid off gangs to leave her workers alone. Soon, she had a city-wide network of the entire Latin workforce. Eddie worked for his father since he was 10, now in his 30's he runs the legal end of the business, answering only to the family matriarch.

When the war broke out, Eddie tried to enlist in the army, but they didn't want any Mexicans. The LAPD wasn't going to hire him, even if Jensen put in a good word for him (he said he did, anyway). So Eddie decided to go to school. He found a local community college that would take Latinos, and studied law. At the same time, he did some legal footwork for Kibosh's attorneys, getting more experience. When he was ready, and without a formal law education, Kibosh arranged for him to take the "Bar Exam", which he passed on the first try. Eddie also donates time to help farm workers know and retain their rights.

JASON & EDDIE: They became friends at the age of 14. Eddie's mother wanted to elevate their social status, and moved their family into a predominately "white" neighborhood. When Eddie got a new bicycle for his birthday, he made the mistake of riding it proudly through the neighborhood. This angered three of the local teenage ruffians, and they decided to relieve him of it. Outnumbered and outsized, Eddie was in trouble. Unfortunately for the local toughs, this happened in front of Jason's house. Jason hated bullies. He was big for his age, and had a knockout right hand. Displaying his newfound talent he learned at the local boxing gym, Jason punched out the biggest of the three, and the other two ran away.

Jason and Eddie became close friends, also sharing a common bond that they were both without fathers. Eddie's was dead, and Jason's was in prison. This bond solidified when Eddie's mother took Jason into their family. Now, they were like brothers. These days, Eddie affords Jason the opportunity to utilize the Vasquez family network of gardeners, maids, and busboys, as eyes and ears everywhere.

VICKY GUNN: Jason's attractive older sister. She's his secretary and confidant. They're thick as thieves now. But their bond took a leave of absence when their mother became infirmed and the father in jail. Vicky knew Jason was in good hands as part Eddie's adoptive family. She left L.A. For an extended sojourn, the details she keeps mostly to herself.

She would send postcards every year or so, care of Mrs. Vasquez; from faraway places like Denver, Seattle, Paris, Barcelona, and finally Detroit. When WW2 broke out, she married a Marine, and took a job in an Arms manufacturing plant. Her husband was killed at the Battle of Okinawa. When the war ended, she moved back to L.A., and became the heart and soul of Jason's detective agency.

KIBOSH: 60'S Male, retired Hollywood "Fixer", going back to the Silent Era. Had his hands full putting out fires for all the major studios. Got troubles? He's the man to call. He knew everyone's "dirty little secrets" and "where the bodies are buried". Some literally.

Owner of priceless antiques, and works of art. A few of them "thank you" gifts. He has his own portrait, painted by Picasso. He lives on five acres in the northwest corner of the "Valley". Raises horses and has a barn full of rare automobiles. One of them a 1948 Jaguar sports car, he gave to Jason as a bonus for rescuing one of his granddaughters from kidnappers, who were never found.

A devoted husband, father, and grandfather. Although true, this was also his "Beard", to hide the gay side of himself; his only secret he successfully hid from the studio chiefs. They wouldn't understand or forgive him. He is Jason's connection to Hollywood royalty, which provides lucrative assignments and paydays.

POLICE LT. JENSEN: 42 years old, rangy build. 18 years old when his policeman father was killed on duty, chasing a Latino armed robber. This prompted Jensen to join the force, and cemented his racism.

Lt. Jensen has a Christ/Hero complex, and believes he alone knows how to control the crime in L.A. Originally, his no-nonsense, go-it-alone attitude would bend and sometimes break the rules, but deliver a lot of criminals to justice, sometimes his kind. He had no problem beating a confession out of someone he knew to be guilty, especially if they were Black or Latino. He soon got in tight with two other officers who shared his views. Together, they enjoyed the lucrative task of shaking down petty criminals and low level drug dealers; letting them go, but taking their money. He always took the larger split of the take.

Jensen knows crime will never completely go away, so he will manage it. Let a certain element in each of the minority communities keep their local rackets going to an acceptable minimum, reward their hierarchy; and always accepts his piece of the pie. Lt. Jensen is a firm advocate of "community based corruption". This includes "One-Eyed-Jack", the man and the money behind the "Blue Moon Cafe", where his girl, Ruby Love, is the ostensible owner.

JENSEN and GUNN have a history. They grew up schoolmates since the 5th grade; Los Angeles "Dead End Kids". They were friendly rivals at first. As they grew into their teens, this changed. They became KIBOSH'S "little birds", committing petty crimes and mischief for him; spying on clients, gaining valuable information, mainly dirt. Not long before, they became competitors for Kibosh's attention. Jason got more of it, to Jensen's chagrin, and eventual jealousy. At the age of 16, this led to the only time they came to blows. It didn't end well for either of them, so they settled for an uneasy alliance.

Jensen is also skeptical of Jason's friendship with Eddie. When Eddie's Latin roots get them out of a jam, then he's okay.

When Jason joins the Merchant Marines, Jensen joins the LAPD, following his father's murder.

With Jensen joining the police force, and Jason's merchant marine sojourn, and subsequent enlistment in the Army; their relationship became distant, only slightly strained, as they both become "officers of the court", but from different angles. Occasionally their paths cross during certain cases. Their shared background in petty crime, particularly in the service of Kibosh, keeps their minor scrapes and run-ins, respectable.

SUB-PLOT:

It's the mid 1930's, and the Chicago Mob is making a move into Hollywood, and any other Underworld activity they can get their dirty hands on.

Fully aware of the Jewish influence in Hollywood, the mob enlists

the help of Meyer Lansky, to make the introductions to an old friend of his; a now current Angelino, and Hollywood fixer to the stars, KIBOSH.

At this point in time, Jason's at sea somewhere, and Jensen is now LAPD(or, as what served as a type of mafia in LA); so Kibosh needs to find new discretionary "talent" to help him help his friends from back east.

This leads to Kibosh recruiting Jason's petty thief father, Billy, who's just been released from prison. But Kibosh mistakes Billy's criminal ineptness for stupidity. He's actually a bit of a savant; he has a photographic mind, especially with numbers.

Billy becomes Kibosh's personal accountant in regards to the monetary activities between he and the boys from Chicago.

When things go awry, Billy's neck is on the line, so Kibosh hides him out, first in a prison where his money can keep Billy safe. But that gets exposed after a few months. Kibosh gets Billy out of there in time to avoid a shiv, and this time makes sure they won't find him. Billy is now a park ranger in Idaho.

RUBY LOVE: The African-American chanteuse belting out the theme song, "When You Need A Gunn". She is the figurehead owner and operator of the "Blue Moon Cafe"; a jazz club that caters to true lovers of the art form, no matter what race, religion, or sexual orientation. She is Jason's portal into the "Colored" underground. The true owner of the club is her man, "ONE-EYED-JACK", the Godfather of L.A.'s South Central extra curricular activities. But even he has to kick up to Jensen to maintain his businesses.

CHARLES LONGSWORTH:

He is one of the many corporate "Carpet Baggers", attempting to carve himself a hefty slice of the "American Pie". He's the man pulling political strings, and the one that Edwards reports to. He believes he can corrupt any one he desires. "There's always a price a man will pay, for something he would never sell".

At the outset of WW2, Longworth saw his chance to enhance his fortune, and join the ranks of his father and the other financial titans of the previous century. War needs bullets and bandages. He doubled down on his weapons manufacturing; pouring more money into any aspect of killing machines. He then invested in hospitals, and all that related to patching up the pour souls his other assets had produced.

MAJ. CLARK EDWARDS: He was the officer in charge of the group of OSS agents to which Jason was attached during WW2. Two years after the war ended, his life was floundering. He had a unique skill-set, and nowhere to use it.

After the war, Edwards continued with the OSS, as it turned into the CIA. He was there at the beginning, when the agency began it's experimenting with "truth serum", which segued into the LSD MIND CONTROL experiments. He has used that serum on unsuspecting agents.

Having been under that influence, Jason continues to get traumatic flashbacks to his days in the OSS, working with the French underground. In particular, they involve a beautiful French double agent, Vivienne, that he worked closely with, then fell in love with. But in the end, she betrayed him. He catches up with her, and when he corners her, she tells him he meant nothing to her (she lies). She knows he's there to kill her, and also what it would do to him if he did. She saves him the heartbreak, pulls a derringer hidden in her skirt, and shoots herself through the heart, right in front of him.

These scenes occur in non-sequential, sporadic flashes, until Jason puts the pieces of the puzzle together. This revelation backfires on Edwards, as Jason comes to the realization that it was Edwards, back in France, who set up Jason to take a fall, and have Vivienne seem the Judas, while tricking her into believing her self, guilty.

