

HOUR DRAMA PITCH DECK

THE ONE

CREATED BY BELLEM ENTERTAINMENT



LOGLINE: When the hospital's most reliable messenger crosses paths with a travel paramedic, a long-dormant desire is sparked – one that will force her to question every quiet sacrifice she has made and the version of reality she has accepted for years.

THE QUESTIONS: How much will it cost her, will she find redemption, and is it too late to find (or be) **THE ONE?**

COMPS: MAYOR OF EASTTOWN meets THE AFFAIR and DYING FOR SEX, combining grounded authenticity with a raw, unflinching depiction of a woman's midlife love story – one driven by emotional and physical complexity rather than glamorous portrayals of relationships or desire. THE ONE hones the unglamorous specificity of a real place and a woman who has become invisible, crossed with the slow architecture of awakening desire and the wreckage it leaves in a family.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURE: This series uniquely centers a menopausal woman's love story with her changing biology as the engine, not a subplot or punchline. Layered with Nora's childhood trauma, her OCD tendencies, and her emerging demisexual/sapiosexual self-awareness, the narrative follows her reluctant entry into a highly sexualized *Lifestyle* she does not want – driven by Gabe's intensity and expectations – that proves profoundly unhealthy for her and reawakens buried family demons. As she uncovers truths about herself, long-held secrets surface, transforming a familiar midlife-romance premise into something far more intimate, destabilizing, and emotionally precise.





Synopsis...

A menopausal woman living as a ghost in her own house, with a husband who found emotional comfort elsewhere, has her life rewritten when she meets **THE ONE** person who matches her fiery core. Gabe Mercer disrupts Nora's carefully managed silence and offers a connection she never expected — but at what cost? When he shares his truth with complete disclosure, she follows him into the unknown, despite the risks. A journey that upends her already toxic home life, while simultaneously re-opening childhood wounds that could destroy her.

Will she sacrifice everything for the very thing that could burn her alive? Or will she ignite the fire that has been asleep inside her for far too long?

- Nora Merrick has been a ghost in her own house for a decade.
- She is extraordinary at work but invisible at home.
- Gabe Mercer arrives and she feels truly seen for the first time.
- Their connection forces Nora to confront her reality.
- She must choose between desire and stability.
- But first she has to gather the pieces unleashed by their bond.



THE HOOK: **THE ONE** has a clear, marketable emotional hook – menopause as both physical reality and metaphor for invisibility, the paramedic as catalyst, and the classic “what will it cost to feel alive again?” tension.

WHY IT WILL RESONATE: In a culture saturated with ever-multiplying labels and sharply divided over acceptance, audiences will connect with Nora’s hard-won discovery of meaning in her demisexual and sapiosexual nature – while watching her, a lifelong vanilla, reluctantly attempt to enter a highly sexualized ***Lifestyle*** that was never built for her. The series delivers a rare, unflinching midlife story of invisibility giving way to intense desire, the shattering belief that someone is “**THE ONE**,” and the quiet strength required to own the wreckage and attempt to rebuild. Viewers leave with a deeper understanding of how identity, biology, and the pressure to perform desire can collide – and what it costs when they do.



tone: Grounded romantic drama with suspense undertones and thriller-tinged intimacy, set against the high-stakes reality of hospital and emergency work. The narrative unfolds with quiet intensity, staying rooted in the unglamorous physical and emotional realities of midlife. It tracks the shifting landscape of Nora’s life — her marriage, the unexpected connection that disrupts it, and the simple, costly beauty of being truly seen — leaving the audience to sit with the complexity of human relationships and the consequences of desire.



What this show is about...

- Being unseen is a physical condition. Nora can be the most necessary person in the worst room in the hospital, then go home and become furniture. The show is about what a decade of that does to a body.
- A body can change sides. Menopause runs under every episode like a clock no one can argue with. Her body tells the truth while she keeps saying she's fine.
- Wanting is not the same as being able. She is demisexual and monogamous; desire arrives through the bond or not at all. What Gabe asks of her isn't difficult — it's structurally impossible. The show lives in the gap between "I can't" and what he hears as "I won't."
- Doubt is not the same as suspicion. Her OCD makes uncertainty unlivable, and he hands her an unanswerable question. Everything she checks is real. Everything she checks makes it worse.
- Consent can be technically given and still be taken. She said yes. She asked the question herself. She will never be able to say "You did this to me."
- Both of them are sacrificing. She gives up a marriage and her children's stability. He gives up a world that adores him. Hers is the one we recognize. HIS IS NOT SMALLER!

Themes

In a world of labels, she learns to understand herself, through embracing her own identity. Personality traits that until now never made sense to her, yet they defined her. She could never find just the right words until he opened up an entirely unknown world to her.

Through exploring the Lifestyle, she learns to communicate her monogamy through her unique lens. Terms like Demisexual and Sapiosexual begin to put meaning to her agony and she finally has a voice. The question is, will she use it? Or let old patterns of self-erasure win.

The series explores consent and the complexities of love, addressing the struggles of aging women in a relatable manner.

And how childhood trauma can silently coast under the surface and quietly engulf and influence our decisions without our knowledge.

Two Places...



Two Worlds...



The Collision...



Everyday life and relationships

The horror here is domestic; it's about the silent decay of connection in a familiar setting.



Desire and sacrifice

The tragedy here is foundational; it's about the undoing of connection from differences and deceit.



Nora Merrick, 52

The one who delivers difficult news

Nora is the person families trust in their darkest moments, showing strength and compassion amid her own struggles. Her people pleaser mentality and quiet contempt is her ultimate undoing.

- She is the one they send when a family has to be told.
- She sits down instead of standing over them. She takes their hand. She doesn't fill the silence, and she doesn't look away.
- There is an acceptance letter in her closet, decades old, from a doctoral program she never attended. She'd tell you she chose not to go.
- She is monogamous, precise, and funny when anyone gives her room.
- She's the best friend when you need one most.
- When a space gets loud, she presses her thumb to each fingertip — index, middle, ring, little — and she has never said the name for THAT out loud to anyone.
- At four in the morning she wakes up soaked. She changes her half of the bed in the dark. She does not wake her husband.



Gabe Mercer, 45

A travel paramedic's journey

Gabe is a man loved in three states, yet alone in all of them. He embodies a rare combination of tough love and brutal honesty, while navigating his transient life. His callous insensitivity is his fatal flaw.

- A thirteen-week contract – a job for a man who never has to stay.
- He knows every name in every room. He hugs the woman with the new knee, asks about it, and actually listens.
- He is brilliant, resourceful, and generous with what he knows.
- If he walks in a room and sees a broken outlet, he fixes it.
- He gives freely, and he has never once had to watch that generosity cost anyone anything.
- He is genuine, but sees the world around him through his own lens.
- He will fall for Nora Merrick and it will be the largest thing that has ever happened to him. He will move for her, buy a house for her, and try to give her the stability he thinks she needs. And he will miss the thing she actually needs the most – safety of the truest, most vulnerable kind.
- He will believe he is protecting her. And he will ask her for the one thing she cannot give – without ever understanding that what he calls love is the very thing undoing her.
- He will never, on any day of his life, experience himself as the man who broke her.



Paul Merrick, 60

Decent with detrimental control issues he's working on

A man who prepares tea without being asked but lost sight of his wife over the years. He is convinced he is the smartest person in ANY room. Insecure Arrogance is his downfall.

- Only after Nora leaves does he finally hear her. Only then does he begin the slow, uneven work of seeing what he actually did — and what it cost.
- He knows her. He stopped seeing her a decade ago and didn't notice.
- He is mild, reasonable, and always certain he is the more level-headed one.
- When she tried to name what felt wrong, he didn't argue — he simply reframed it until she started to doubt her own memory of the conversation.
- He controlled the money with the calm logic of someone who was “better with numbers,” and he never had to say she couldn't spend it; she just learned not to ask.
- The children's schedules, the emotional labor, the presence required at every school event and doctor's appointment — those were simply understood to be hers. He was a present and devoted dad, never missed an event, just never let it cost him more than he was willing to give.
- If she outshined him in a room, he would find a way to covertly belittle her so she wouldn't do it again.
- For six years he talked to another woman every day. He claims they never touched. He knew when her mother died and where her kid got into school. Nora didn't know any of it. When Nora's own mother died, he didn't pay his respects. He told her, gently, that the kids still needed her at home and that someone had to stay responsible.
- That was the affair. It's worse than the other kind.



Chloe, 17

A voice unseen yet deeply felt

Chloe navigates her world with **outspoken awareness**. She absorbs everything around her, yet says nothing, And when she does it's seldom kind, capturing the essence of her struggles.

- Her mother's face and her mother's operating system. Sees everything. Says nothing. Absorbs it.
- Wiser than she lets on and possesses a keen mastery of the English language that she yields as a weapon.
- She found out about the affair before Nora did. She was fifteen. She has carried it alone ever since — which is why comments like “you need a haircut” is how she says I see you.
- She has found the woman. Saved the profile. Watches it. In the pilot, she types a message and deletes it one letter at a time.
- She has lost respect for her father and feels a complicated mix of pity and anger at her mother for staying so long.
- She is envious of her little brother, whose OCD has always been allowed to take up space at her expense.
- She is outspoken and often unkind, because pain is the only language she trusts.
- When her mother leaves, she is torn — relieved her mother has found someone, furious at being left behind. And angry at herself for being resentful.
- When she begins to sense her mother's heartbreak, the meanness sharpens. She doesn't know how to help, so she hurts everyone instead.



Jack, 12

A boy holding everything together

Jack quietly maintains the home, overlooked due to his generous nature and innate understanding of the world around him. This adds to his sense of being unseen, as his mother navigates her own tumultuous journey, unaware he is just like her.

- Jack suffers from severe OCD. He lives with constant, debilitating fear that something will happen to his mom and it will somehow be his fault.
- Overhearing how Gabe speaks to Nora, misunderstanding the **Role Play**, only heightens his anxiety.
- He made the guest room bed Nora has been sleeping in, squared the corners, centered his mother's pillow, and set a glass of water on a coaster – he will never say he did it.
- He's awake at night, too. Twenty feet from her, in the same dark house – and neither of them knows about the other, while she talks to a man two thousand three hundred miles away.
- How long can a twelve-year-old keep a house from falling apart before someone finally notices he's the one holding it together?

Doors and Walls

The series introduces a rich tapestry of secondary characters, each serving a crucial role in Nora's journey.

KIT, Gabe's friend (and sometimes sex partner), embodies the ethical conscience, while TOMMY, the young medic, inadvertently carries the weight of their relationship.

Kit is Nora's guide and confidant. She keeps Nora's secrets, even from Gabe. She is the audience's eyes into the Lifestyle, maintaining the importance of consent, boundaries, and values.

Through these connections, Nora's isolation becomes palpable, illustrating how people either provide pathways or barriers in her life. Each character is intricately woven into her narrative, enhancing the show's emotional depth and complexity.

- MAYA represents Nora's only work ally.
- ROSA, the wise medic, silently understands Nora's struggles, though ultimately outs Nora and Gabe due to her own conscience more than gossip.
- DR. WESTCOTT adds layers by recognizing Nora's expertise but remains oblivious to her internal battles. He is the one who ultimately costs Nora her job, due to the strict no relationship boundaries in place at St. Agnes.
- PARK, the resident, is a reflection of Nora's mentorship, creating a poignant juxtaposition.

The ensemble is not merely background; they signify the intersections of support and hindrance, emphasizing the theme that relationships shape our identities and choices.





The Time is Now!

Addressing women's untold stories today

Millions of women are navigating menopause **without representation**. This series explores their complexities, desires, and truths – giving a voice to their experiences.





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