

THE STREET

Genre: Crime/Drama

Format: TV Series (pilot script complete and ready for review)

Nutshell: *Billions* + *Justified* = *The Street*

Logline: A brilliant outsider from the deep south lands a job on Wall Street and is forced into a corrupt world where blood thirsty thugs masquerade as prominent business leaders.

A four-minute pitch video for this script is available at www.ADNapier.com

OVERVIEW

Jake Thomas is a tortured young man with a deeply troubled past. After celebrating his college graduation, Jake's truck slams headfirst into a utility pole, electrocuting his pregnant girlfriend and his unborn son. Unwilling to accept the fact that his fiancé is dead, Jake assaults a police officer in an attempt to get her life-saving medical treatment. When he's released from jail, Jake flees Appalachia for New York City in order to escape bloody conflicts with his dead girlfriend's vengeful family.

A loner with no personal life to distract him, Jake eventually works his way up to hedge fund manager in a premier Wall Street firm. He now earns vast amounts of money, some of which is sent back to his impoverished family, but most is used to support his prematurely-born son who lies in a vegetative state. Despite Jake's dedication to his work, he can't help but notice Janelle, an attractive African American woman who works at the firm. When their relationship turns romantic, Janelle's demanding father won't accept her white boyfriend from the deep south and Jake can't even imagine the reaction of his prejudiced back-woods family.

Jake's corrupt boss, Wall Street legend Brad Ashton, wants to expand his nefarious empire, and finds a dark secret in Jake's past that will hold his employee captive to his illegal activities. Jake is forced to deal with an array of dirty politicians, corrupt government agency officials and international thugs. Will he lose his freedom, or worse his life, before he loses his soul?

CHARACTERS

JAKE THOMAS – His journey to Wall Street unfolds in a series of flashbacks throughout the pilot script. Unlike most of his red-neck classmates who head to work in the coal mines, Jake is determined to escape his rural town and the tragedy that occurred there. He attends college and graduates with a degree in finance.

JANELLE MONROE – Jake's girlfriend. Raised in a privileged family, she's the only daughter of a successful African American entrepreneur. A savvy, driven professional, determined to make it on her own without the interference of her overbearing father.

BRAD "THE ASSHOLE" ASHTON – Jake's Wall Street boss. A bad guy with a dark mind and a darker soul. Brad doesn't disappoint as he lives up to his nickname; he rules his employees with intimidation.

BROOKE ASHTON – Brad's trophy wife and mother of his two young daughters. Beautiful on the outside, under the surface she's a seasoned and callous street fighter with secrets of her own.

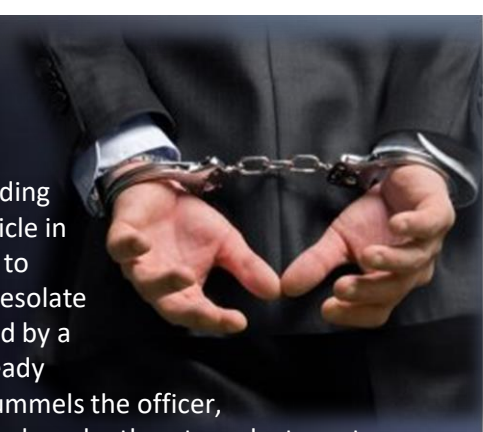
SALVATORE STANESE – Private investigator whose only client is Brad Ashton. Having spent years in prison, Sal has the connections to make people disappear. Almost as flawed as his soulless boss.

EMILY MARKSON – Security & Exchange Commission head determined to destroy fraudulent companies. She hides many deep secrets from her family including an illicit relationship with one of her female interns.

MARCUS MONROE – Janelle's father. A self-made man who worked his way up from the inner-city projects to a Harvard law degree. He struggles to show his emotions...except when trying to protect his daughter.

SUMMARY

Jake Thomas has overcome incredible odds as the only person from his rural town to ever attend college. After a night of drinking to celebrate his graduation, the best day of his life quickly becomes his worst when his speeding truck slams into a telephone pole. His pregnant fiancé exits the crashed vehicle in panic and accidentally steps on the downed power line; she immediately falls to the ground, electrocuted. Jake frantically picks her up and races down the desolate road, desperate to get her and his unborn son medical care. He's intercepted by a patrol officer on the nightshift. But when the cop realizes that the girl is already dead, he ignores Jake's pleas to drive them to the hospital. Enraged, Jake pummels the officer, leaving him unconscious, then steals his patrol car and races to the hospital where he threatens doctors at gunpoint to save the life of his fiancé and child. Despite their best efforts, she cannot be revived, her prematurely born son is in a vegetative state, and Jake ends up arrested.



Jake's dead fiancé's grief-stricken family holds him responsible. Once he is released from prison, her unforgiving brothers seek retaliation by initiating violent and bloody confrontations. Unwilling to relive the tragedy each day as he looks into the disapproving faces of his hometown's inhabitants, Jake flees to New York and becomes an elite hedge fund manager on Wall Street where his high pressure job becomes his life.

His intelligence and unmatched work ethic quickly make him the firm's top performer. His hard-earned success has come with vast amounts of money, allowing him to send desperately needed cash home to his destitute family. But despite his achievements, his life feels empty.

When Janelle, an alluring new employee is hired, Jake's long nights turn into welcome mentoring sessions. He begins to wonder if he could fall in love again. But he knows that any relationship with her will be fraught with conflict because her family is African American and his is from the deep woods of Appalachia where racism is still prevalent.

Janelle's father is a savvy professional who owns a prestigious and highly successful corporate law firm. When he learns of his daughter's relationship with her new redneck boyfriend, he becomes suspicious and tasks an investigator to look into Jake's background.

Jake's boss is Wall Street legend Brad Ashton, who makes twenty times his massive corporate salary by illegally manipulating financial markets.

Emily Markson is the new no-nonsense head of the Securities Exchange Commission. She's on a mission to root out corruption in her organization and begins firing employees that she believes have been compromised. Some of her targets are the very workers that receive bribes from Brad to overlook his insider trading activities. Now threatened, Brad secretly turns the tables and begins investigating Emily, soon discovering salacious secrets that would ruin her career and destroy her family.

Jake's loner status and exemplary job performance have caught the attention of his boss, who now desperate, starts scheming to position Jake as the fall guy in case his illegal dealings are exposed. He attempts to entice Jake with corporate jets, luxury yachts, fast cars, beautiful women and the promise of unimaginable wealth. When Jake realizes Brad's malicious intentions, he refuses.

However, Brad will go to any length to protect his nefarious empire. Armed with information from Jake's troubled past, Brad pressures Jake to reconsider his offer, warning that his job is at stake. When Jake continues to resist, Brad threatens Janelle. Now with no choice, Jake unwillingly surrenders.

When the walls of corruption begin to crumble, can country boy Jake save himself from his depraved boss? Thrust into a criminal world where success is measured in billions, murder has a price, and bloodthirsty thugs masquerade as prominent business leaders, is there any way Jake can survive?