

Lyon's Den

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Acceptance of Senior Honors Thesis

This Senior Honors Thesis is accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for graduation from the Honors Program of Liberty University.

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### Abstract

Daniel is walking to Luke's house as Luke's mom gives the keys to her 1980s pink Cadillac to Luke. Luke is opposed to driving the Cadillac; however, Daniel is completely for it. Luke reluctantly takes the keys, drives away, hides the car, and walks to school. Rusty, the bully, approaches the boys, and banter starts. Angered, Luke starts to throw a punch. The duo ends up in the principal's office. Mrs. Francois lightly scolds the boys, but they all leave with smiles. Logan, running for class president, smooth-talks students into voting for him. However, Luke thinks he's up to something. After school, Daniel and Luke start walking home. In the background, Logan and Rusty shake hands. They walk over to eavesdrop behind the fence; it seems as if Logan is blackmailing Rusty. After Logan leaves, Rusty picks up his backpack and throws it against the fence which falls and reveals the duo. Rusty's furious about them spying on him and charges Luke and Daniel who run for their lives. They escape. Daniel and Luke then figure out that Logan is blackmailing Rusty who is trying to get information to exonerate his dad from jail. Information which Logan has.

### **Scholarly Introduction**

*Lyon's Den* is a "single-camera," dramedy series. Single-Camera refers to the way the show is filmed. Single camera sitcoms quite often use more than one camera. The key difference is that it is shot without a live audience and more in line with a feature film format.

My stated goal was to be a filmmaker who is Christian, not A Christian Filmmaker. Although this is a comedy, there will be moments throughout the season that speak to moral issues from a Christian perspective without "singing to the choir." If my audience does not pick up on those messages, then I feel bringing people a little laughter and entertainment is a ministry in and of itself.

The target market for *Lyon's Den* is individuals aged 10 – 100. This family-oriented TV series will be smart and funny. Adults will enjoy watching, as will families. We will follow the characters from their senior year in high school through their college years. The characters will deal with issues that are relevant but with humor, and each season will contain a subplot mystery. There are many areas of challenge in college years other than the stereotypical issues that tend to dominate most Prime Time shows featuring 17 -23 lead characters. Comedy, smart detective work, and inconceivable situations will dominate each season.

LYON'S DEN

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COLD OPENING.

EXT. RUSTY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

LOGAN CROW, (18) wearing a business suit, is climbing out of a window of a house in a suburban neighborhood, carrying a file. RUSTY HARTMAN (18), a line backer sized, red headed barrels out front door after him. Logan turns toward the house as he is running, laughing.

LOGAN

Thanks for the homework, man.

RUSTY

That's not homework, idiot. It belongs to my dad bring it back.

MRS. HARTMAN (45) Rusty's mom appears behind him.

MRS. HARTMAN

What's going on, Rusty?

RUSTY

Nothing mom. I'll take care of it.

FADE OUT.

EXT. TRENT'S HOUSE - MORNING

TRENT LYON (18) is staring across the road at a house that has a small FILM CREW out front. Reality teen star, NATALIA GREEN (17), exits her house across the street with her personal film crew in tow. She jumps into her CONVERTIBLE. Trent waves to her and tries to look cool. She ignores him.

TRENT (V.O.)

I think she smiled at me. It's gonna be a great senior year. I know I'm getting a car, then I'll ask Natalia to homecoming, we'll probably end up at the same college. It's gonna be great...

His thoughts are interrupted by his mom, GLORIA LYON (45), dressed in her Pink Cosmetics business attire.

GLORIA LYON

Trent, I have a surprise for you!

She hands him the keys to a 1989 PINK CADILLAC.

GLORIA LYON (CONT'D)

It's all yours, Trent! But be careful. It's a classic. First car I earned with Pink Cosmetics for outstanding sales.

Trent is horrified and does a bad job hiding it.

TRENT

Mom, your Cadillac, really, wow... I did not expect this... you don't have to, I'm fine walking to school...

GLORIA LYON

Don't be silly, Trent. It's your first day as a senior - go in style. I have my new Caddy!

She gestures to her 2018 Pink Cadillac in the drive way.

GLORIA LYON (CONT'D)

You might as well use it. I know it's pink but, heck, this 2018, we are way beyond stereotyping.

TRENT

We are? Already, I'm actually comfortable with stereotyping? Mom, it's very pink. I don't know?

Gloria Lyon starts to get a slightly confused, hurt look. DANIEL BRUSSO (17) comes walking toward them.

DANIEL

Hey Trent! Hi Mrs. Lyon!

GLORIA LYON

Hi Daniel. To think just yesterday I was driving you boys to first grade, in this car and now you're driving yourself to the first day of your senior year.

DANIEL

Oh cool. You have wheels Trent!

TRENT

Yeah wheels... but we need to walk to get in shape for tryouts.

DANIEL

What tryouts?

TRENT

Um, some tryouts for (a beat)  
football?

DANIEL

Yeah - that's not gonna happen.  
Come on man - this beats walking.  
Thanks, Mrs. Lyon.

Trent Gives Daniel a look that says, "are you kidding, stop talking."

GLORIA LYON

Have a great day at school, I need  
to get to my first appointment!

Gloria Lyon gets into her new 2018 Pink Cadillac and drives  
up the street waving at the boys.

The boys get in the 1989 Cadillac and buckle up. Trent puts  
the car in reverse, quickly backs up throwing Daniels head  
forward from the unexpected jolt. He continues backing up to  
the corner of the block, stops, parks the car, and gets out.  
Daniel is staring at him, rubbing his head from hitting it on  
the dash like "What is going on???" They get out of the car.

EXT. SCHOOL - MORNING

Daniel and Trent walk along the main street in front of the  
high school.

DANIEL

Your mom gave you a car - why are  
we walking?

TRENT

You know why, Daniel.

DANIEL

It's pink - so?

TRENT

I am not driving it.

DANIEL

You parked further away than you  
live - it took us even longer to  
get here.

TRENT

I had to park somewhere that Mom  
wouldn't pass, on her way home.



DANIEL

Sweaty for my first day of school - not cool, Trent. And (rubbing his neck), I think I have a little whiplash, man.

TRENT

Sweaty and whiplash or get the crap beat out of you for showing up in a pink Cadillac - pick your poison.

DANIEL

Fine, never mind. Let's pray.

TRENT

What! Are you begging for someone to beat the crap out of us.

DANIEL

Not ashamed Trent, not ashamed. I am the 6th generation Pastor in my family.

TRENT

Well and hallelujah; however, around here you're a kid in high school not T.D. Jakes!

DANIEL

It's never too early to start on your calling.

Trent gives up, lowering his head.

TRENT

Fine.

DANIEL

Lord, bless our first day of school. Let us be a light in darkness . . .

TRENT

(quickly adding)

And let us not get beat up for a couple of weeks, Amen. (Opens eyes and starts walking) Let's go - we are going to be late.

Rusty has been watching them pray. He is reclining on the steps, smirking. As they approach, Rusty stands and blocks their progression. Behind Rusty, Natalia Green is filming a segment for her reality show.

Near her, Logan, wearing his trade mark suit, is handing a student a paper. Trent notices the exchange but has a more immediate problem.

TRENT (CONT'D)

See, I told you.

RUSTY

Hey it's Preacher Man and his puny side kick Sinner Boy.

TRENT

Ah, the diabolical Neanderthal Man.

DANIEL

Really, Trent? (Beat) We don't believe in evolution.

TRENT

Yeah but you gotta admit, he's a good argument for it.

DANIEL

Not showin' the love Trent. Rusty does this to mask his insecurity. He wants to feel empowered and unique.

TRENT

Oh yeah, thank you Dr. Phil. (To Rusty) Okay, We don't believe in evolution but I think the anthropology department at Yale, still may be interested in your ... Uniqueness.

DANIEL

Trent...

TRENT

What? They are going to think he is unique - it's a win - win.

RUSTY

Will you two shut up. Say a prayer. Judgement day has come early for you two.

Rusty shoves them both to the ground, Trent is the first to get up and start raising his fist. He throws a punch but Rusty ducks it sending Trent spiraling to the ground past him.

FRANCINE BRUSSO (V.O.)

You three - get to my office. NOW!

FRANCINE BRUSSO (40), the school Principal and Daniel's mother. Small in stature but an imposing presence standing at the top of the stairs.

INT. FBI HQ - DAY

BILL LYON (45) reclines in his chair behind his desk. He is considering the 4 images of persons of interest, on a large screen split 4 ways. Standing in front of his screen are his two team members, they are reviewing a case...

BILL

So, what do we have.

AGENT 1

Not much...

BILL

Wrong answer.

AGENT 2 points to the first person on the screen.

AGENT 2

GREG MACNIMOR 38, CEO of ENDGUARD PHARMACEUTICALS, with 850 million in annual sales. Although the company has been in the MacNimor family for decades it's value has increased expediently under Greg MacNimor's leadership. When the company went public last year Greg and many others became instant multi millionaires.

Agent 1 continues with the woman next to Greg Macnimor on screen.

AGENT 1

Judy Skelovich is Endguard's, Managing Director of Research. A 32 year old brilliant research scientist. The company hired her to head up their ALENKO chemotherapy drug research. This drug is in it's final stages of FDA approval. It's has shown incredible promise in the research and testing fazes for curing the root cause of cancer. The hype in the medical community is massive.

Agent 2 points to the next square.

AGENT 2

And this is Trevor Hartman. Until 12 months ago he was CFO of Endguard. Now he is serving a two year prison sentence for insider trading.

BILL

So how much did he make when the company went public.

AGENT 1

As far as we can tell, not a dime. We have looked into every possible scenario. There are no accounts in Cayman Islands. No Bitcoin purchases, nothing.

BILL

So Hartman has taken the fall for someone else. Who and why?

AGENT 1

We believe it's MacNimor and Skelovich. Hartman was a low paid accountant for these guys. Yet somehow they've manipulated everything to make it look like it was him and since he has confessed...

AGENT 2

I mean the guy was Mr. Suburbia, mows his own lawn on Saturday and goes to church on Sunday. Why sit in jail and take the fall for these guys.

BILL

They're threatening him? Or is he a willing participant? Something doesn't work here. Let's look into this revolutionary drug. If it sounds to good to be true...

AGENT 1

It probably is. We're on that. The company is like a fortress though.

BILL

Find another way in.

AGENT 2

They have local connections.  
MacNimor has a sister living here.  
DORIS CROW, a single mom. This is  
her with her son, Logan.

He points to the fourth square.

BILL

Follow up on that, it may be  
nothing but let's get everything we  
can on these guys. Follow the money  
trail.

Agent 1 and 2 leave the office. Bill sits and looks at the  
screen for a moment and then starts hammering at the  
computer.

INT. PRINCIPALS OFFICE - DAY

Trent and Daniel are sitting on a bench waiting to see  
Francine Brusso, the school Principal. Rusty is currently in  
the office. The conversation between Francine Brusso and  
Rusty is amicable. Principal Brusso smiles and Rusty is  
nodding. He rises to leave, as he exits past Trent and Daniel  
he punches his fist into his hand in a manner only they can  
see.

FRANCINE BRUSSO

Gentlemen.

Francine Brusso gestures for the boys to come in, she is no  
longer smiling. The boys walk in and are about to take a  
seat...

FRANCINE BRUSSO (CONT'D)

Do NOT make yourselves comfortable.  
Daniel Mathias Benjamin Brusso and  
Trent what do you think you are  
doing? Starting trouble on the  
first day of school.

DANIEL

Mom, he...

FRANCINE BRUSSO

What have I told you about calling  
me mom at school, Daniel. We cannot  
let the other students think I am  
playing favorites here.

DANIEL

Sorry Mom... Principal Brusso, well what happened was - he started hassling us about praying and things just got out of hand and...

Trent raises his hand slightly.

FRANCINE BRUSSO

Well Trent, what do you have to say.

TRENT

Principal Brusso? Why did you use all of Daniels names and only my first name - that is kind of playing favorites, isn't it?

FRANCINE BRUSSO

(exasperated)

Never mind. You two just stay away from Rusty - the kid has a lot going on. Get to class and we will discuss this later.

The boys rush to get out of the door bumping into each other in an effort to get out of the door first.

TRENT

Yes, Principal Brusso. Thank-you Ma'am. My middle names are "50 Cent" for next time. Trent "50 Cent" Lyon.

DANIEL

It is not Trent! It is not Mom! I mean Principal Brusso. It's Howard, just Howard.

They continue their shoving and arguing with Principal Brusso shaking her head and stifling a smile.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Daniel and Trent head to their lockers. Logan wearing a suit campaigning for President. Natalia is putting her books away with her camera guy and sound guy following her.

DANIEL

Great - the first 5 minutes of the first day of our senior year and we're in a fight, we're in the office...

TRENT

Yeah. It's shaping up to be an action packed year.

DANIEL

I'll settle for trouble free.

TRENT

Then stop acting like T.D. Jakes which is what started it in the first place.

DANIEL

Me? Me? It was you that antagonized him with all that Neanderthal man stuff . .

Trent sees Logan up ahead and groans.

TRENT

Oh great. Students in suits - there should be a policy against this.

Logan extends a hand to them.

LOGAN

Logan Crow.

Daniel shakes his hand.

DANIEL

Daniel. And this is Trent.

TRENT

We don't need insurance? I'll be on my parents plan till I'm 50.

LOGAN

(Creepy fake laugh) Running for Class President and hoping I can count on your vote.

DANIEL

Cool, I'll take a cupcake.

LOGAN

(Creepy fake laugh) I can do better than a cupcake. Let me know if you need anything.

Logan gives a double gun motion with his hands. He walks away, smiling leaving the boys looking at him and each other.

TRENT

What does that mean? "I can do better than a cupcake?" (Mimics the double gun movement that Logan does.)

DANIEL

Better than a nice fresh cupcake? I don't think so. You cannot win class President without cupcakes.

TRENT

He's up to something. Anyway Melanie is running too. He won't beat her.

DANIEL

Yeah. The girl understands the power of the cupcake.

Natalia with her film crew walks past Trent and Daniel.

NATALIA

(speaking to her crew)  
I cannot believe I'm here, how are we ever going to find a decent story.

FRANCINE BRUSSO

Okay crew. Out. Time for school.

The crew swings the camera around toward the Principal but Francine Brusso points at the exit and glares. They quickly get the message pack up and leave.

TRENT

Can I help you find your way to class Natalia?

She ignores him and continues on her way down the hallway.

TRENT (CONT'D)

Did you see that she smiled at me? We are going to make a great pair at homecoming.

DANIEL

What? She just kept walking...

The bell rings. They exchange "we better get moving looks" and throw their backpacks in their lockers after grabbing books and walk quickly down the hall toward class.



INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM - SAME DAY

The students are mainly seated, normal activity for preclass. Rusty is seated in the back with a couple of his buddies, Logan is talking to them. Daniel and Trent come in and take a seat in front of, and next to their friend MELANIE (17), whom they have know since kindergarten. She is wearing glasses, hair pulled back casually and has a Class President, "Vote for Me" button and a basket of cupcakes next to her desk.

DANIEL

Hey Mel, How's the campaign going?

Melanie, without any enthusiasm lifts the basket offering a cupcake to Daniel.

MELANIE

Hi guys.

DANIEL

Now, that's what I'm talking about.  
You know how to win an election.

He bites into the cupcake, leaving frosting on his face. Trent takes a cupcake too.

TRENT

Your cooking has improved a lot  
since the Easy Bake Oven fiasco.

DANIEL

That was in first grade Trent. Why  
are you bringing that up?

TRENT

Still a little traumatised. Raw  
dough, Salmonella poisoning. It  
stays with a man.

Daniel looks at him in disbelief. Melanie ignores the comment. She looks depressed.

MELANIE

I thought so but it's not working.  
Polling has me behind Logan by 20  
points.

TRENT

The insurance salesman?

MELANIE

I don't know how he's doing it.  
It's the first day of school - he  
must have been campaigning all  
summer.

TRENT

Over-achievers. They ruin it for  
everyone.

The TEACHER enters the class room. The students settle into  
their seats. Daniel still has frosting on his face.

EXT. SCHOOL FRONT STEPS - AFTERNOON

Trent and Daniel walk home. Rusty and Logan are in a brief,  
tense discussion.

DANIEL

Wouldn't have thought they would be  
friends.

TRENT

Yeah...

Trent is considering the scene of Rusty and Logan in a not so  
friendly exchange. Daniel has begun walking - Trent turns to  
catch up with him.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - AFTERNOON

TRENT

We need to help Mel, you know.

DANIEL

Yeah, well she's got our votes.

TRENT

I don't know if that will be  
enough...

As they turn the corner they come upon Rusty and Logan who  
have not seen them approach.  
Rusty and Logan are in the alley behind some homes in an  
obvious confrontation. Rusty is handing some papers to Logan.  
Daniel and Trent pull back behind the fence to listen the  
exchange.

Rusty thrusts papers at Logan. Logan stumbles back slightly  
from the force.

RUSTY

This is it. I'm not doing this anymore.

Logan recovers his balance.

LOGAN

You don't want that file falling into the wrong hands, do you?

RUSTY

Give me the file, snake.

Logan smirks and gives a casual salute as he walks away. Rusty watches him leave for a moment, takes the back pack that was slung over his shoulder and throws it with all his might toward the fence in anger. The fence falls back, and in a chain reaction the fence the boys are hiding behind collapses revealing a crouching pair of spies - Trent and Daniel still in their stealth listening position. Trent decides to pray...

TRENT

...And please heal Daniel of his athletes foot. In Jesus name. Amen.

DANIEL

(annoyed but playing a long)

A...men

TRENT

Oh hey there, Hi Rusty. Are you here for our prayer group? You are welcome to join...

Rusty is furious and barrels toward them.

RUSTY

Are you spying on me? When I get my hands on you...

Trent and Daniel run. Rusty in hot pursuit. They reach the parked Cadillac, jump in and take off round the corner leaving Rusty momentarily bewildered and frustrated. He continues running after their car. Trent parks the car (Daniel is praying desperately) as they run in the house.

DANIEL

Though I walk through the shadow of the Valley of death...(trails off)

INT. TRENT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

DANIEL

I shall fear no evil for... well  
maybe just a little fear.

Daniel is locking the front door, closing the blinds and mumbling scripture as Trent heads to the fridge and pulls out items for a sandwich.

TRENT

So, Logan's bribing Rusty. Why?

Daniel peers through the blinds nervously.

DANIEL

How can you eat at a time like  
this?

Trent ignores him and takes a seat on the couch.

TRENT

It helps me think, So, Rusty is  
supplying Logan with - I'm  
guessing, homework assignments?

DANIEL

And Logan is trading them for  
votes. Of course. No wonder Rusty  
is angry all the time, classic  
example of misplaced anger.

Daniel takes the other half of Trent's SANDWICH.

TRENT

My sandwich, Sigmund...

DANIEL

I just want to think clearer. (a  
beat) It's unbelievable... it  
really works.

TRENT

And more unbelievable, who'd have  
thought Neanderthal Man could do  
assignments worth selling?

DANIEL

We need to help Rusty, man.

TRENT

What are you talking about, Rusty  
wants to kill us.

RUSTY (O.S.)  
Lyon, Preacher Man! I am going to  
kick your butts - get out here!

Trent and Daniel dive on the floor. Daniel continues eating his sandwich really fast.

TRENT  
And you want to help him?

DANIEL  
As terrifying as Rusty is, Logan  
creeps me out more, and he's got to  
be stopped.

They hear the front door handle and look at each other in fear.

TRENT  
(In a super high whispering scared  
voice) He's coming!!!

They cover their heads and close their eyes. Bill Lyon walks into the living room to see the pair lying on the floor next to the couch with a sandwich over Daniel's head.

BILL LYON  
Boys?

The boys look up and jump to their feet.

TRENT  
Dad!

DANIEL  
Mr. Lyon!

BILL LYON  
So (a beat), first day of school,  
how was it?

TRENT  
Great, lot's of new kids, lockers,  
all the regular stuff (a beat) Dad.

BILL LYON  
Oh yeah? I met one of your new  
*friends* outside our house just a  
minute ago.

Bill looks at the two. He knows what is going on.

DANIEL

Mr. Lyon, I know it seems bad but we are gonna help Rusty. In fact maybe you can give us a few of your sleuthing, FBI, tricks to help us.

TRENT

Sleuthing? We are not helping Rusty and we don't need the FBI.

BILL LYON

Rusty? As in Rusty Hartman?

DANIEL

Yes sir. (to Bill and then turning to Trent) Yes, we are.

TRENT

No, we are not.

DANIEL

Yes we are. (turns to Bill Lyon) Mr. Lyon, you know him?

TRENT

No, we are not...

DANIEL

Yes, we are....

Bill raises his hand for them to stop.

BILL LYON

I don't know what's going on here and I'm not sure I want to know, but Rusty's dad is an accountant that got caught up in an insider trading scandal for the company he worked for, Endguard Pharmaceuticals.

TRENT

Rusty's dad? Did not know that.

BILL LYON

Trevor Hartman was sent to jail, but he may actually be innocent.

DANIEL

What? This is huge!

BILL LYON

Rusty's dad may have been forced to take the fall for the real crooks.

(MORE)

BILL LYON (CONT'D)

It's a well known secret and it's under investigation. It's gotta be tough on Rusty. I've got work boys - looks like your first day was a bit like mine.

Bill smiles - exits to his den and closes the door.

TRENT

That answers a couple of questions.

DANIEL

Actually, it poses more questions than it answers. Your dad says it's a well known secret, so what is there to bribe him with. What does Logan know that no one else knows?

TRENT

And that Rusty doesn't want to reveal?

Daniel looks at Trent like, "We can't walk away from this."

DANIEL

Trent?

Trent is looking out his window to an empty street where his neighbor, the reality show star, pulls into the driveway as the film crew is setting up quickly to film her getting out of the convertible.

TRENT

Yeah, I know, I know. We still have Mel's issue to deal with too and we may be able to get two issues dealt with for the price of one. Come on Daniel, time to make another new friend.

Trent leaves with Daniel following.

DANIEL

You mean Natalia? We're gonna actually talk to her? Lord be with us.

TRENT

Yes, didn't you see her crew filming everywhere. I think they have some footage we can use.

Trent and Daniel talk to Natalia and her crew, they all go into her house.

EXT. TRENT'S HOUSE - MORNING

Trent and Daniel are buckling up in the Cadillac. Trent throws it in reverse and they back up around the corner.

INT. CADILLAC - MORNING

TRENT

So, you know how we are doing this today?

DANIEL

Yeah, let's hope it works.

They act as though there is nothing abnormal about this routine. They park the car and begin to get out.

TRENT

And Rusty cannot know we are helping him.

DANIEL

Yeah, why is that again?

TRENT

The whole deal is that he doesn't want anyone to know about his dad. He is not going to be happy we know, even if we are helping him. Plus if we fail - he's gonna beat the crap out of us.

DANIEL

Speaking of that...

Daniel points to Rusty who is barreling into sight behind them. Daniel and Trent get back in the car and peel off.

Rusty stops out of breath where the boys were parked and looks after them angry and frustrated.

EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT - MORNING

The boys pull into a parking space. Students are laughing and pointing. The boys get out of the pink Cadillac. Trent looks humiliated. Daniel relieved he's escaped Rusty.

DANIEL

Man, that was close. He's gonna kill us before we get a chance to help him!



Trent notices students laughing at him.

TRENT

Maybe or maybe we will die of humiliation before he gets the chance.

MALE STUDENT #1

Hey Trent! Do you have anything for my rough dry skin?

Melanie falls into step with Trent and Daniel.

MELANIE

Hey, guys. So, Trent I see your mom is helping you out with wheels.

TRENT

(Sarcastically) Oh yeah, it's a big help.

DANIEL

Mel, we need to talk to you about the elections. We think something Nixonish is going on...

Logan pulls into a space in front and emerges from the vehicle in his regular suit and gives Daniel, Mel and Trent his signature double gun greeting.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Right on cue.

Logan hands each of them a "Vote for Logan" button. Melanie refuses but the boys take them.

MELANIE

What are you doing?

DANIEL

Nothing.

Daniel shoves the button back.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

You've got my vote Melanie. Let's go talk cupcakes...I mean campaigns.

MELANIE

Trent?

Trent did not get a chance to explain the plan to Melanie but needs to follow through or the plan will be ruined.

TRENT

Well, Melanie. I might as well hear what the man has to offer.

Logan smirks at Melanie who is staring at Trent, betrayed.

LOGAN

Let's talk.

Trent shrugs at Melanie and walks off with Logan.

DANIEL

Mel, it's not what you think, he is...

RUSTY (O.S.)

YOU!

Rusty is walking quickly toward Daniel.

RUSTY (CONT'D)

Preacher!

Daniel takes off toward the school building, leaving Melanie completely bewildered. Trent has gone off with Logan. Daniel is running from Rusty. Everything is crazy.

EXT. LOGAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Gloria Lyon is bidding farewell to DORIS CROW, (45) Logan's mom. Gloria Lyon jumps in her new pink Caddy and pulls off as Doris goes back inside her home. A moment later Trent and Daniel pull up in the old Cadillac. The boys get out in scout uniforms carrying popcorn.

TRENT

We need to see exactly what Logan knows and what evil power he has over Rusty.

DANIEL

And sell some of this delicious popcorn.

TRENT

Whatever, let's face it - this stuff does not measure up to the cookies. It's a tough sell.

Daniel rings the door bell. They step back, adjust their uniforms looking around them, etc.

INT. LOGAN'S HOUSE - DAY

DORIS MILLER, (50) answers the door.

DORIS

Yes, boys?

TRENT

Hello Ma'am we are raising money for our troop and have a selection of the finest popcorn available.

DORIS

Of course, come on in - I'll get my purse. Have a seat. You seem familiar? You go to school with Logan, don't you.

DANIEL

Yes Ma'am. I think we've seen him around school campaigning for Class President.

Doris leads them in to a living area and has them take a seat. Across from the living area is an office, with double doors open, a computer and stack of papers on the desk and in front of the desk, in full view of the boys is Logan's backpack. On the coffee table in the sitting room there are some newspapers and files. Daniel points to Logan's back pack and motions to Trent

Trent begins searching through the backpack.

DORIS (O.S.)

That's my boy. He is going to be President one day. Will you be voting for him?

DANIEL

Ma'am I will n...

Trent tries to stop him from talking.

TRENT

(whispering angrily)  
What are you doing?

DANIEL

(whispering)  
I am not going to lie. God is watching, this is bad enough coming here under false pretenses.

TRENT  
(still whispering)  
What? We are selling popcorn.

Calling out to Doris.

TRENT (CONT'D)  
We are looking at all the  
candidates Mrs. Crow. It's tough  
when they are all our friends.

Trent rummages through the backpack stuffing a couple of papers into his shirt and gets back to the living room just before Doris re-enters the room.

DORIS  
I understand, well here you go.

She hands them some cash. They get up to leave Trent trips and knocks the files that were on the coffee table to the floor. A flash drive slips out of one of the files.

DORIS (CONT'D)  
Oh, are you okay? Let me help you.

TRENT  
I'm fine Ma'am, sorry about this.  
I'll just clean it up.

As he puts the files back on the table, Trent slips the flash drive into his pocket. They exit the house in their usual graceful way, both shoving through the door at the same time.

EXT. LOGAN'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

DANIEL  
What was the point of all that  
Trent?

Trent reveals the Flash drive to Daniel.

TRENT  
This was the point.

DANIEL  
You stole that?

TRENT  
Borrowed.

DANIEL  
Without permission, AKA stole. You  
cannot do this.  
(MORE)

DANIEL (CONT'D)

We are trying to help Rusty and Mel. Not make everything worse! Thou shalt not steal, thou shalt not lie, and on and on.

TRENT

Thou shalt not nag. Thou shalt not be a wuss. You worry too much, Daniel. Come on let's see what's on this.

They jump in the Cadillac and fail to notice the car parked across the street with Agent One and Agent Two keeping an eye on the house they have just emerged from.

INT. TRENT'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Trent and Daniel are sitting at Trent's computer.

TRENT

Okay, let's see what's on this puppy.

DANIEL

I don't like this.  
The computer screen flashed with files.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

This has nothing to do with the homework documents - this is research finding on a drug named AlenKo.

Trent stops Daniel as he is about to unplug the Flash drive.

TRENT

Wait, wait. Don't you see what this is?

DANIEL

Nothing to do with homework files.

TRENT

No, no... look at this. This is stuff that may exonerate Rusty's dad, Daniel.

They look at each other and start looking closer at the information. Trent starts munching on the popcorn they have been selling furiously. It's his way of thinking.

DANIEL

Look at this. The drug doesn't work. Your dad said that Rusty's dad made money on insider trading. But that must have been based on falsified data.

TRENT

How come Rusty's dad is in jail for this?

DANIEL

WE need to show your dad.

TRENT

Maybe. But let's start by helping the Queen of Cupcakes and let everyone know, who they are voting for.

DANIEL

What's the plan?

INT. ASSEMBLY HALL - MORNING

Melanie and Logan are seated on stage. Principal Brusso is at the podium, shuffling papers, adjusting the microphone. Students are filing in and taking seats. Daniel is seated. A large shadow looms over Daniel. It's Rusty. The seat next to Daniel is empty.

The large on stage monitor scrolls through announcements.

Natalia with her ever present film crew are seated across the aisle. She smiles at Daniel, giving him a knowing look. Daniel returns the smile.

Trent with his iPad, takes the seat next to Daniel.

DANIEL

(whispering)

Ready?

TRENT

Ready.

Trent on seeing Rusty sitting next to Daniel, puts his fist out to invite a fist bump from Rusty. Rusty does not respond. He just glares at him, not amused.

RUSTY

I want to see you in the parking  
lot after this joke of an election.  
I'm gonna crush your smirking...

Rusty is interrupted by Principal Brusso.

FRANCINE BRUSSO

Okay students file in, let's get  
this started. Quickly take your  
seats so we can introduce the two  
candidates and begin the debate.  
Melanie Banks, Logan Crow, two fine  
candidates for Class President.

Logan stands up and waves presidentially. Melanie stands up  
peers at Logan's behavior and attempts to copy him although  
not convincingly. There is a smattering of clapping  
throughout the audience. A little hollering, and a stray  
crumpled and rolled up paper hits Logan in the head. He looks  
angry for a minute, realizes the school is watching and calms  
down - continues waving.

FRANCINE BRUSSO (CONT'D)

Okay, students - settle. Melanie,  
would you like to begin.

Melanie steps up to the podium and opens her folder to begin  
her speech but her speech is gone. She shuffles through her  
folder, checks her pockets, goes back and checks under the  
chair she was sitting, it is definitely gone. She whispers to  
Principal Brusso, who then steps up to the podium.

FRANCINE BRUSSO (CONT'D)

Due to ah, technical difficulties,  
Melanie will be going second and  
Logan will be giving his speech.  
Logan?

As Logan approaches the podium a paper slips to the floor -  
Melanie's speech. She picks it up - glares at the back of  
Logan's head and slumps angrily into a chair.

RUSTY

Scum bag.

DANIEL

You know that's right.

Rusty fist bumps Daniel.

TRENT  
(bewildered)  
Why did he fist bump you and not  
me? I have as much right...

Rusty slaps him lightly in the head - Daniel and Rusty fist bump again much to the annoyance of Trent.

TRENT (CONT'D)  
And on with the show.

At that moment Francine Brusso leans over and grabs the iPad before Trent has a chance to hit the button that will send the revealing information on to the stage monitor.

FRANCINE BRUSSO  
You two come with me.

The boys are desperate - they move out of their seats and go to the back of the hall with Principal Brusso. The students in the hall mumble between themselves and laugh and then continue their total indifference to Logan's boring speech.

Trent and Daniel are at the back of the hall pleading their case to Principal Brusso. They point toward Logan and toward Rusty. Francine Brusso looks incredulous, then angry, she looks at the iPad - looks at Logan and Rusty and the boys and then hits the button that starts the video sequence. The monitor comes alive with images of Logan trading papers, a clip of Logan threatening Rusty. The kids start reacting, booing Logan, and throwing stuff at him. With Logan trying to explain before running from the stage. Much of the film is film that was taken by Natalia's film crew. Natalia is smiling. Logan runs past Francine Brusso. She is still staring at the projector screen and without blinking or looking at Logan as he runs by speaks.

FRANCINE BRUSSO (CONT'D)  
My office Logan.

She turns to Trent and Daniel, looks at them exasperated - says nothing - turns and walks on stage and up to the podium.

FRANCINE BRUSSO (CONT'D)  
In lieu of circumstances that have just come to light, Logan will not be running for Class President. Since Melanie Banks is now running unopposed I declare her officially Class President. Congratulations!



We see the boys doing some weird high fives and happy dancing, Rusty comes up behind them and they startle slightly and Rusty gives a hint of a smile and walks away. Back to happy dancing.

EXT. PARKING LOT - AFTERNOON

Daniel, Rusty and Melanie exiting the school walking toward the pink Cadillac. Natalia and her film crew are present. Kids are in the parking lot. Saying hi and being friendly to Trent and Daniel. Rusty walks up. They all face each other.

RUSTY

Hey, thanks man. Logan was a scum bag. You two are just annoying.

TRENT

No worries man. I heard he will be finishing out the year in an alternate school.

They all give Logan's double gun salute to each other and laugh.

DANIEL

As a man sews, so shall he reap...

RUSTY

You got it, Preacher Man.

NATALIA

Maybe this place will be interesting after all.

Trent, Daniel, Rusty, Melanie pile into the pink Cadillac and Natalia walks toward her convertible with her crew. In his rear view mirror, Trent catches a glimpse of two suited men in a parked car behind Natalia's convertible. He frowns slightly but drives off with his friends laughing and enjoying the moment.

### **Marketing Plan**

The competitive edge of *Lyon's Den* is found in the smart, dramedy series that can be watched by families. There is no other comedy series in any market that follows the lives of 17 -22-year-old detectives in a smart, family-friendly format.

*Lyon's Den* pitch campaign.

1. Submitting to screen writer's competitions.
2. Partnering with an agency that specializes in working with writers.
3. Directly to Amazon, Netflix, Hulu and Pure Flix.

Included in my pitch and marketing campaign will be the *Lyon's Den* show bible. The show bible is standard for any pitch campaign. This will include a guide to episodes through the first season of the show as well as character breakdowns for the main cast.

### **Show Bible**

*Lyon's Den* is a New Media 30-minute dramedy about a group of students navigating their senior year of high school, and uncovering crimes that all seem to point to one big mystery.

*Lyon's Den* will follow the lives of amateur, reluctant detectives; Trent and Daniel, from their senior year in high school and on to college in subsequent seasons.

### **Pilot Episode: The Enemy of My Enemy**

Trent and Daniel help the school bully and stumble across a bigger mystery. Trent gets a car.

**Episode 2: There's A New Blogger in Town**

Mel's Vlog goes viral, creating conflict between Mel and Natalia. Trent's grandfather's church office is ransacked after Daniel spends time working on the files associated with Rusty's dad. Trent notices Mel in a new light.

**Episode 3: The Researcher**

Trent, Daniel, Rusty, and Mel stumble upon a crime scene on Arbor Day. The keynote speaker of an alternate medicine convention turns up dead and has a connection to Rusty's dad. Hank Lyon interviews the friends.

**Episode 4: Pink Cadillac**

Mrs. Lyon's Caddie is stolen. Daniel has a crush on a girl in the church choir and talks Trent into joining the choir.

**Episode 5: Weird Science**

The students get a weird substitute science teacher that seems too interested in the kids' after school activities. Daniel and Trent finally break the code.

**Episode 6: Confronting Truth**

Trent, Daniel, and Mel stage an intervention with Rusty. With the truth out, they plan to help Rusty's dad.

**Episode 7: Is "Science Fair" (Part One)**

The Science Fair plays a part in helping Rusty's dad. Daniel is suspicious of the guest judge. Mel is paired with the new kid, Colin, an English overachiever with a pilot's license that Trent cannot compete with. Rusty is kidnapped

**Episode 8: Is "Science Fair" (Part Two)**

Hank Lyon warns the kids to stay out of his FBI investigation. Trent continues his attempt to “one-up” Colin as they defy Hank Lyon and attempt to rescue Rusty. Rusty’s dad is released from jail.

### **Episode 9: Graduation**

The team finds out where they are attending college. The first day of college brings a new mystery.

### **SEASON 2: 9 Episodes**

A new set of challenges and mysteries await Daniel and Trent as they end up at the same university.

### **Main Cast**

**Trent Lyon (17):** High school senior. In episode one, Trent is only interested in a car, a girl, and his impending college adventure. His middle-class family life, include a father who works for the FBI and a mother who is a successful Pink Cosmetic representative. Trent is quickly witted which lands him in constant conflict, particularly with Rusty Hartman, the school bully who really has only one target - Trent. Trent’s investigative skills showcase his intelligence that is overlooked by many who cannot see past his ostensible smart-ass attitude.

**Daniel Brusso (17):** Trent’s best friend. African American. He aspires to continue his family tradition of becoming a preacher. He has a close relationship with his grandfather, a preacher in the local church. Daniel has a gift for the sciences which causes an inner conflict toward the end of the season when he needs to decide about his future.

**Rusty Hartman (18):** Trent classifies him as the school bully, but everyone is quick to point out Rusty only picks on one person, and that is Trent. Rusty’s father is in jail for a

crime he did not commit. His father has agreed to take the wrap for a crime he was not involved with to protect his family. Rusty is angry that his dad is in jail and concerned about how others view him because of it. The family is also guarding a secret about a failed cancer treatment that will put the pharmaceutical company executives that Rusty's dad is taking the fall for, out of business.

**Melanie Banks (17):** Melanie is the politician in the group. She is the best talker and her debate and persuasion skills talk them out of (and into) sticky situations. Melanie, Trent, and Daniel have been friends since kindergarten. Melanie harbors a crush on Trent at the beginning of the season but gives up after Trent shows no interest in her and is obviously more interested in reality star Natalia Green. Melanie and Trent suffer from bad timing and miscommunication during Season One. Melanie starts a video log which becomes an important part of her part in the show.

### **Season Regulars**

**Bill Lyon (40 – 45):** Trent's father, an FBI investigator assigned to Rusty's father's case. During Season One, he discovers Trent and his friends entangled in his investigation. Concerned for their safety, he, repeatedly warns Trent and Daniel to stay out of the investigation.

**Gloria Lyon (40 – 45):** Gloria Lyon is a successful Pink Cosmetic sales representative. In the season opener, she has won her second pink Cadillac and is giving her first pink Cadillac to Trent. She is not a stereotype of a cosmetics salesperson. She is sincere and successful.

**Francine Brusso (45):** African American. Daniel's mom and the school principal. A kind, smart woman who tries not to play favorites with her son. Her father is Pastor Robinson

**Pastor Robinson (67):** Daniel's grandfather. Featured in one episode where his church is ransacked. He is a recurring character. Although annoyed by the trouble Daniel and Trent seem to find themselves in at the beginning of season. The relationship improves, and the boys come to lean on some of the advice of Pastor Robinson while also discovering that this pastor is also very cool. (Potential for a spin-off series for this character).

### **Additional Cast**

**Logan Crow (18):** (Episode 1) Bribing Rusty with telling the truth about his dad being in jail, for school reports. Running against Mel for school president. Ends up being sent to an alternative school.

**Natalia Green (18):** (Episode 1 and 2) Reality show star. Her show is canceled, and she moves to California in Episode 2 after a conflict with Melanie.

**Colin Mathers (18):** Makes his first appearance in Episode 7 as he vies for the attention of Melanie. He helps with the Rescue of Rusty in Episode 8. A recurring character in Season 2. He is English/American, has a pilot's license.

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