**TROLL - Written By Sherma Benosa – Batch 25 – 20 August 2020**

The main architect of the biggest and most vicious troll farm in the country who has kept her trolling life secret finds her own activist daughter red-tagged and next in line to be killed. As she races to save her daughter, her carefully hidden trolling persona will be unraveled.

**MAIN CHARACTERS**

ELYSE

* Single mother to Rikka, 19 year old student leader at UP Diliman
* Elyse was born to a poor family. She was intelligent, yet she always came poor second. The family could not send her and her brother to school. Being the girl, she was expected to give way to her brother. She was the brightest in her class, but her rival, the principal’s daughter, is consistently named first honor. Always coming poor second, she craved attention, for her moment to shine.
* Had to fight to be educated. She worked to send herself to a public school. Beautiful, she used her beauty to gain access to money by being in relationship with moneyed boys.
* Her first serious relationship in college after several flings, Rocco Belardo, who comes from an influential political family, got her pregnant right before their graduation. But his family forbade him to marry her. Questioned his paternity. Bought her a huge sum to keep quiet. She used the money to keep herself afloat.
* She got employed in an advertising agency. Had a break via one-hit commercial. From there she rose from the ranks, until she became a celebrated PR strategist
* She formed her own agency and positioned herself as a social media coach, providing paid online courses.
* After the election of Barack Obama, the fall of Mar Roxas and seeing the role of social media in these, she saw the potential of expounding her clout by doing political campaigning via social media.
* She worked with the opponent of the Belardo family in the 2013 elections. Using social media, they ran a smear campaign against the family. Her agency exposed Rocco as having fathered a child but turned his back on his child, while pretending to be clean and not having anything to do with it.
* Having brought about the downfall of the Belardo family, Elyse realized the POWER of social media.
* By 2016, Elyse was already operating one of the biggest, most successful and vicious troll farm in the country –ALL WHILE MAINTAINING HER SWEET, DO-GOODER public face.Her motivations: revenge, power
* She sees trolling as a pure business. She does not feel accountable, believing that if she did not do it, someone else will.

RIKKA

* 19-year-old daughter of Elyse, mass comm student in UP Diliman, a woke student leader

ROCCO

* Rikka’s father

**STORY LINE**

Elyse operates the biggest troll farm in the country. Her agency is responsible for the rise of Duterte. She is the architect, the main strategist of the operation. Mocha et al are just influencers—the faces of the operation. And they have thousands of ground trolls—the posers, the commenters, the likers, etc. But Elyse is the mind behind them all. She develops the strategy, plans the timing, provides the key messages.   
  
Setting: Present time. The government has just closed ABS-CBN and passed the ATB into law. They are currently targeting activists.  
  
Elyse is on top of the operation. Anonymously. In public, Elyse is the supportive social media coach, the celebrated apolitical PR strategist. Her topics on social media: wellness and social media management. Her agency launched Saklolo, a fund drive campaign for the needy.  
  
Meanwhile, has been actively engaged in social media. Frustrated and angry at the situation, unable to understand why people cannot see the excesses of the Duterte administration. She is particularly angry at the trolls. For her, the paid trolls are vermins.

On the side, she embarks on her dream to become a film maker. She thought of doing a movie about trolls. Rikka conducts research, interviews for her story, while continuously being active on social media engaging in political issues, joining rallies. As activists are killed, she raises her voice louder.

CONFLICT  
As Elyse’s agency intensifies their trolling, and as Rikka continues with her research/activism and gets closer to finding out about Elyse’s covert operation and about her father: Rikka herself gets redtagged.

Finding about the redtagging of daughter, Elyse wrestles to protect her daughter. But to do that, she will have to tell Rikka everything.

The world becomes smaller for Elyse, Rikka and Rocco as Rocco finds out about Elyse’s hand in his family’s downfall.

ENDING

Rikka finds out about Elyse. She will plan to expose Elyse to the world, but Rocco will get to do it first. Elyse will be sentenced to imprisonment, but there will be a hint that the world will not suddenly be righted just because Elyse is no longer in the picture. Much as she became very powerful while running the operation, the other trolls were not too far behind. Trolling continues [but may suggest the near downfall of Duterte]. Ending will be suggestive of the need to the need for pausing, for reevaluating our values—