

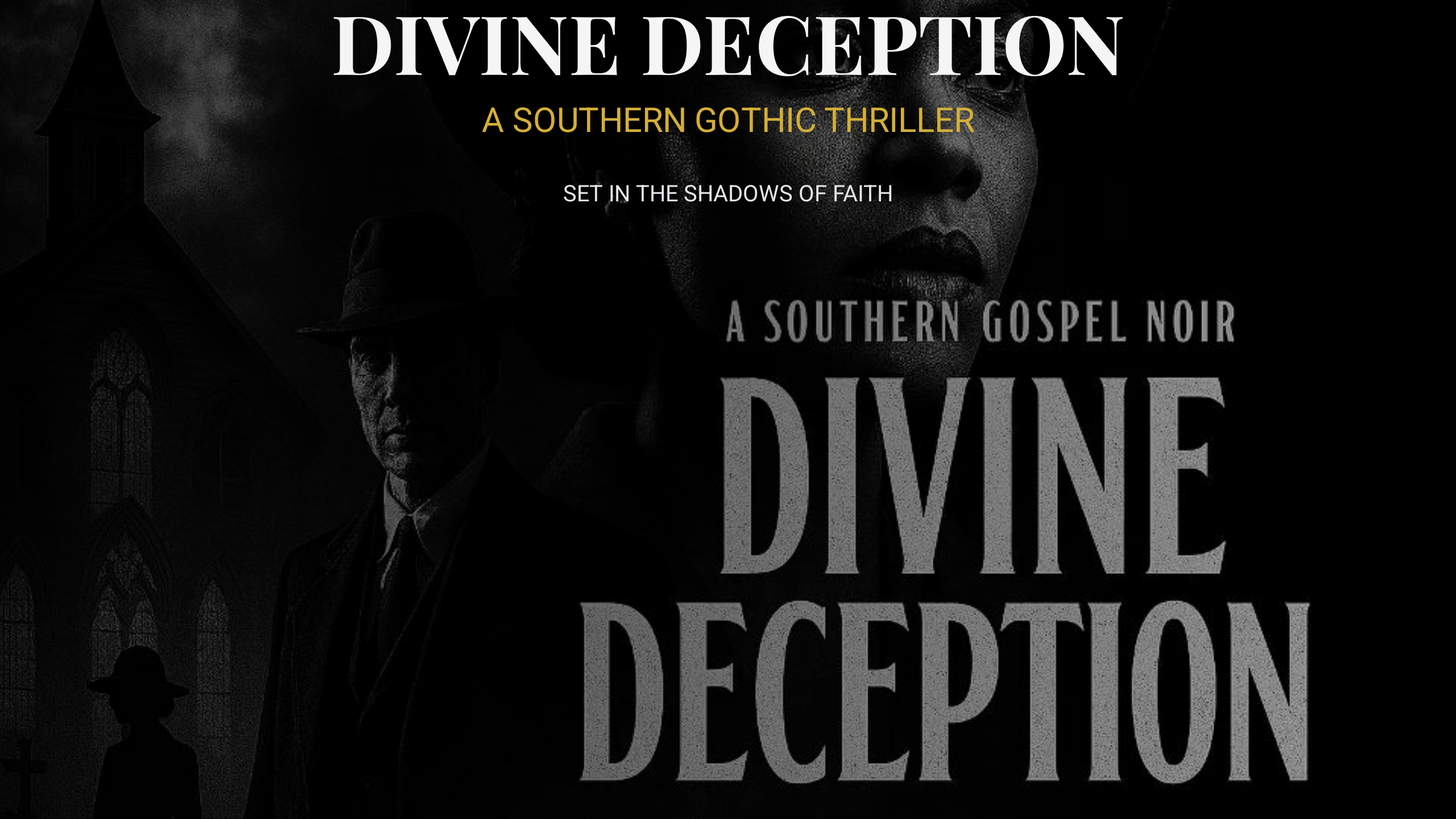
DIVINE DECEPTION

A SOUTHERN GOTHIC THRILLER

SET IN THE SHADOWS OF FAITH

A SOUTHERN GOSPEL NOIR

DIVINE DECEPTION



STORY & HOOK

Why Now?

- Inspired by real-world revelations about **institutional abuse** in faith communities.
- Centers a courageous **Black female lead** speaking truth to power.
- Tackles silence, complicity, and survival in a culturally specific Southern world.



A gospel star returns home to bury her grandmother—and unearths the secrets of a pastor who may be her father, and her mother's rapist.

SYNOPSIS

Three-Act Breakdown:

Act I:

Funeral triggers questions. Hidden ledger. Family secrets.

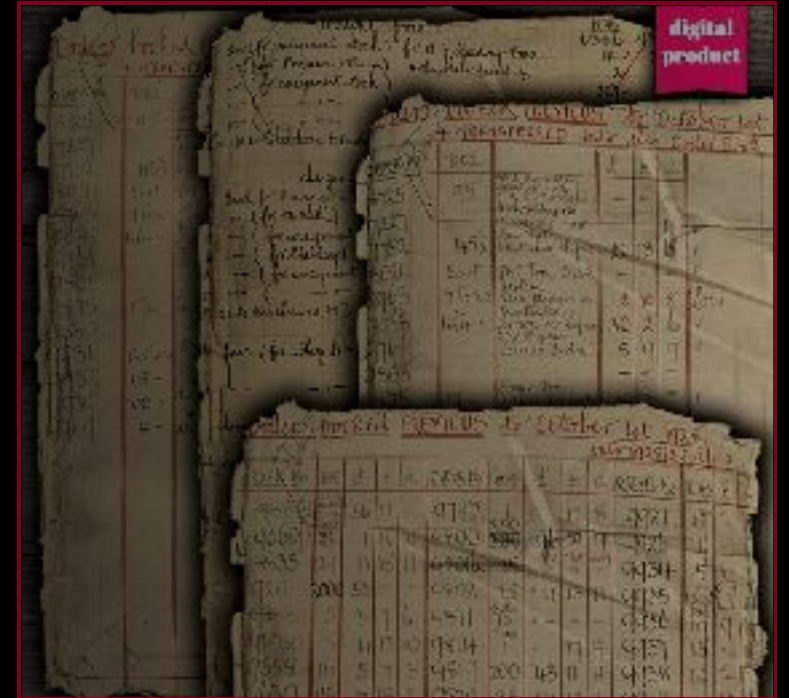
Act II:

Town divides. Evidence mounts. Harmony goes public.

Act III:

Courtroom showdown. Pastor falls. The town begins to heal.

"A powerful story of truth, justice, and redemption set against the backdrop of a Southern community bound by faith and secrets."



The hidden ledger that reveals decades of financial manipulation and hush money payments

MAIN CHARACTERS



Harmony Wells

Gospel star turned truth-teller. Fierce. Haunted.

Blessed Wells

A mother who chose silence to survive.

Pastor Jonathan Cross

Charismatic predator.

Faith Cross

Pastor's daughter. Loyal, then torn.

Marcus Wells

Regretful father, seeking redemption.

Supporting Cast

Sister Margaret, Agent Vance, Treasurer Wong

tone & visual style



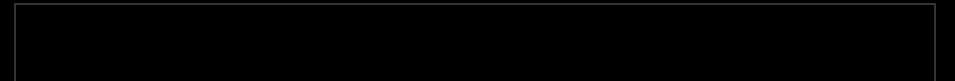
Aesthetic: Southern Gothic x Modern Noir

- Rich shadows, candlelight, and stained glass reflections.
- Voiceover narration. Grit meets poetry.
- Haunting gospel music underscores key moments.
- Contrasting worlds: church opulence vs. modest homes.

Color Palette:



Deep Burgundy (#800020)



Jet Black (#000000)



Muted Gold (#D4AF37)



Ashen White (#F5F5F5)

THE WORLD



A fictional town outside Atlanta, GA



Shadows and light play across sacred spaces

The Megachurch as Empire

- Spiritual: Dominates the town's moral compass
- Financial: Controls local businesses and charity
- Political: Influences law enforcement and courts

Key Locations

Fellowship Halls

Graveyards

Sanctuaries

Jailhouses

"The town breathes legacy, and bleeds when secrets surface."

TARGET AUDIENCE

Primary

Women 25–54 (Lifetime core demo)

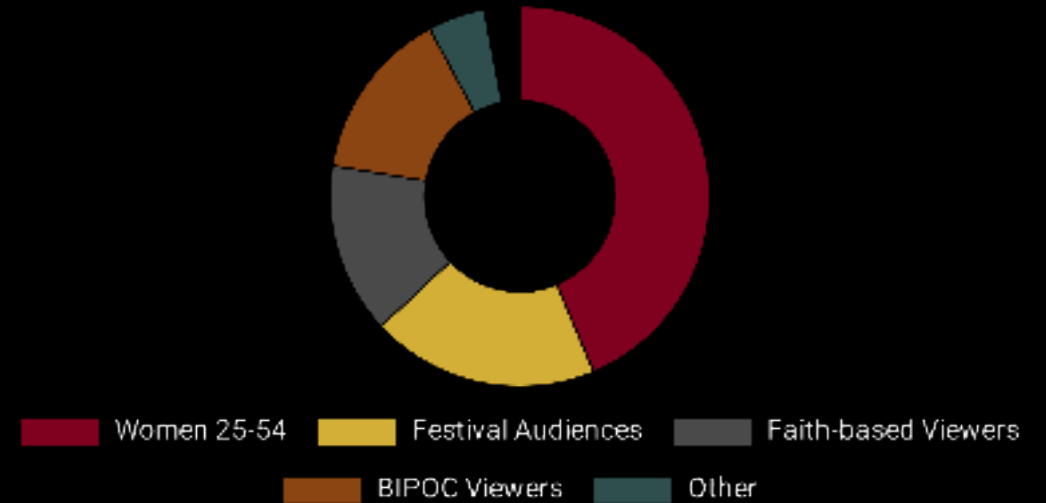
Secondary

- Festival audiences
- Faith-based reformers
- BIPOC viewers

Cross-market with:

- Greenleaf
- Eve's Bayou
- Secrets of a Marine's Wife

Target Audience Breakdown



Projected audience demographics based on comparable titles

COMPARABLE PROJECTS

| Title | Why It's Comparable |
|-------------------|--|
| Greenleaf | Church corruption, Black female leads, family dynamics within a powerful religious institution. Similar themes of power abuse and generational trauma. |
| Eve's Bayou | Southern mood, legacy, family secrets. Shares our film's Southern Gothic aesthetic and exploration of how buried truths impact a community. |
| Doubt | Abuse allegations vs. institutional power. Examines the moral complexity of confronting authority figures and the cost of speaking truth. |
| The Clark Sisters | Gospel culture, trauma, sisterhood. Explores the intersection of faith, music, and family bonds in the Black community. |

"Divine Deception Noir combines elements from these successful projects while offering a unique Southern Gothic noir perspective on faith, justice, and redemption."

FINAL NOTE

Voiceover (Harmony):

"Funny thing about truth.

It doesn't save you.

But it frees you enough to save yourself."

The sanctuary in half-light. A girl begins a new song.

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