

# THE SOUTHERN BELLE'S SECRET

A Southern Gothic Mystery

Written by K. R. Tenney

NCCA Entertainment Inc.



# LOGLINE



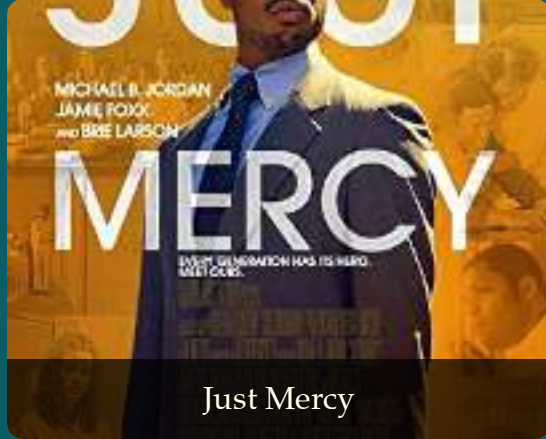
When an investigative journalist uncovers evidence linking her family to a decades-old lynching, a polished Atlanta socialite must choose between protecting her dynasty's legacy or exposing a truth that could destroy her world—and redeem her soul.



# TONE & GENRE



Big Little Lies



Just Mercy



Sharp Objects



The Help

## Genre:

Southern Gothic Mystery / Family Drama

## Tone:

A blend of Big Little Lies prestige tension, Just Mercy justice arc, and Lifetime-style drama.

## Format:

TV Movie-of-the-Week (Lifetime or streamers with similar MOW slates)

# OUR HEROINE: CAROLINE BEAUMONT



25, a third-generation Southern belle raised in legacy and lies



Suffers from anxiety, performance fatigue, and repressed memories



Her arc: From fragile porcelain debutante to justice-seeking woman of integrity

*"The pearls around my neck felt like a noose, choking me with the weight of everything I was supposed to be."*

# ELIAS THORNE



32, investigative reporter with personal stakes

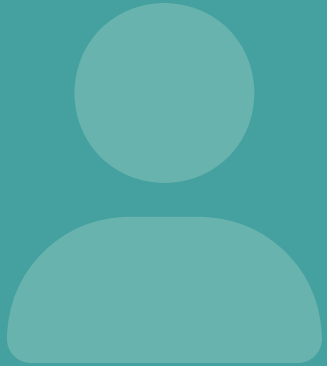
His grandfather was framed and executed for a murder tied to the Beaumont family

Torn between vengeance and unexpected empathy for Caroline

*"The truth doesn't care about your family name."*



# ELEANOR & JUDGE CALDWELL



ELEANOR

## ELEANOR

The matriarch, ruthless and refined,  
driven by a twisted idea of legacy.



JUDGE  
CALDWELL

## JUDGE CALDWELL

Caroline's father. A public servant  
masking private corruption.

*"Behind every Southern dynasty lies a carefully curated facade."*

# THEMES & APPEAL



Magnolias



Pearls



Southern Legacy



Hidden Truths

## Themes:

The Rot Beneath the Magnolias

Inherited Guilt vs. Moral Awakening

Truth as Fire: Destructive, Redemptive

## Target Audience Appeal:



Perfect for Lifetime



Hallmark Mahogany

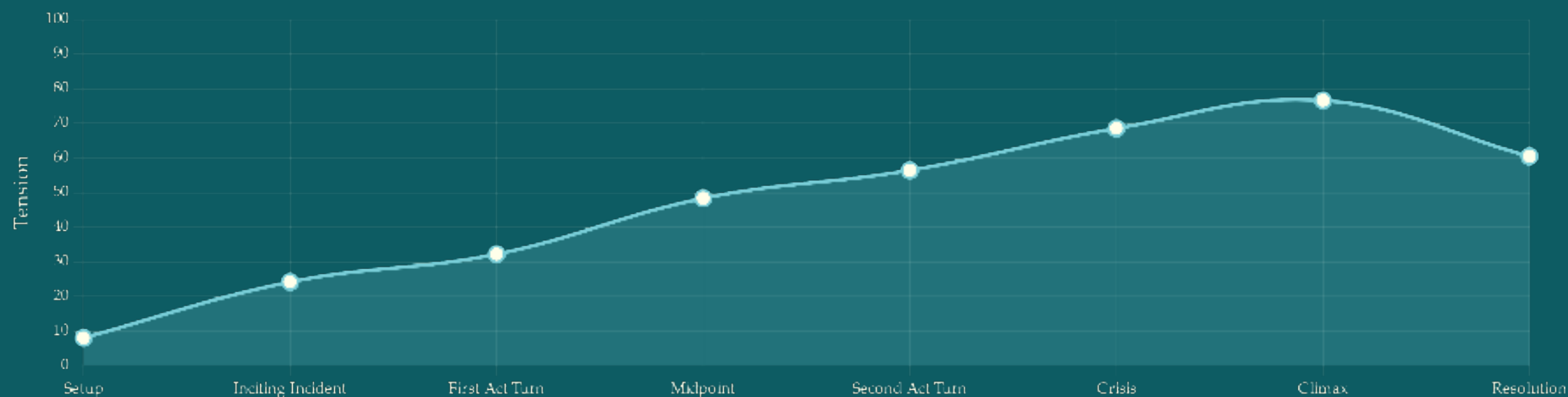


BET+



OWN

# NARRATIVE STRUCTURE



## Act I: The Facade Cracks

- Caroline's anxiety at family gala
- Elias confronts with evidence
- First flashbacks emerge
- Family pressure to maintain silence

## Act II: Truth Emerges

- Caroline investigates family archives
- Alliance forms with Elias
- Eleanor's threats escalate
- Discovery of grandfather's role

## Act III: The Reckoning

- Caroline confronts family legacy
- Public revelation of truth
- Judge Caldwell's confession
- Caroline's moral redemption

*Final Image: Pearls broken, magnolia blooming*



# CASTING VISION (MOCK-UP)



**Lili Reinhart**

as Caroline Beaumont

*Riverdale, Hustlers*



**Stephan James**

as Elias Thorne

*If Beale Street Could Talk,  
Homecoming*

We envision a prestige ensemble  
with commercial appeal.

Diverse, layered, and audience-  
friendly.



**Susan Sarandon**

as Eleanor

*Feud, Thelma & Louise*



**Courtney B. Vance**

as Judge Caldwell

*Lovecraft Country, The People v. O.J.  
Simpson*

*"Casting that elevates the material  
while maintaining accessibility."*

# WHY NOW? WHY THIS?

**Wrongful Convictions in the South: New Evidence  
Reopens Historical Cases** <sup>2025</sup>

**Southern Identity Reimagined: Confronting the Past to  
Heal the Present** <sup>2025</sup>

**The New Southern Belle: Tradition Meets Social Justice** <sup>2024</sup>

**Racial Reckoning in Southern Families: Hidden Histories  
Come to Light** <sup>2024</sup>



Offers catharsis through justice and truth



A fresh spin on the Southern Gothic with Black-led emotional stakes



Resonates with audiences seeking authentic representation and historical reconciliation

## RESONATES WITH AUDIENCES OF:



Women of the Movement



Greenleaf







The Burial





Sharp Objects

# NEXT STEPS

## Available Materials

-  Script available (95–100 pages)
-  Moodboard, visual deck, and casting deck upon request
-  Production timeline flexibility
-  Open to co-production partnerships

## Contact Information

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*"Caroline stares at the broken strand of pearls in her palm. Each bead represents a lie she's been told. She looks up at the magnolia tree, its white blossoms stark against the stormy sky."*

