

*Falling
for
Danger*





Falling for Danger

STORY & ART: Manta Comics

- *A crime procedural with a dose of comedy and romance*

GENRE:
DRAMA

ONGOING
COMIC

21
CHAPTERS

PERFECT FOR A:
DRAMA SERIES

TONE:
**SEXY
SUSPENSEFUL**

ADULTS
18-34

RIGHTS
MANTA/RIDI

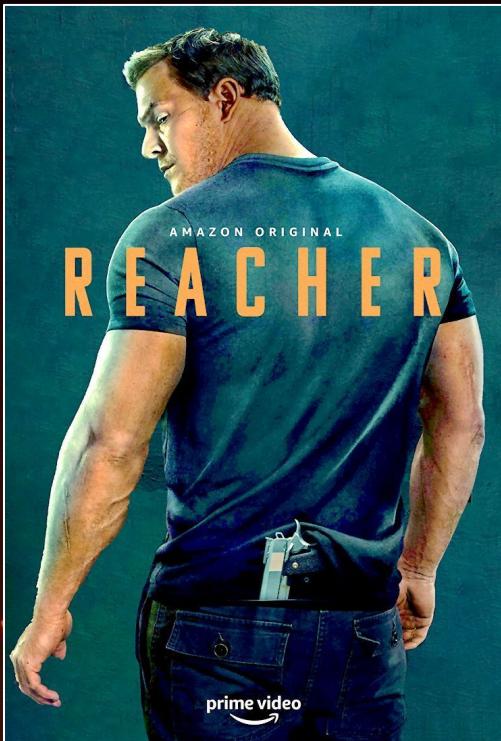


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READ ON
Manta

STATS: ~1M Views

COMPS
Reacher, Moonlighting

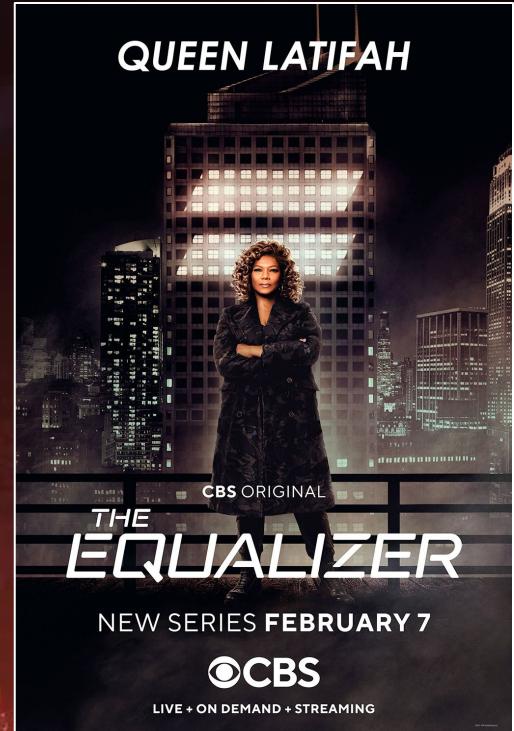
Comps & Tone



FALLING FOR DANGER is a crime procedural that, like REACHER and THE EQUALIZER, features crimefighters that are self-motivated and not officially sanctioned.

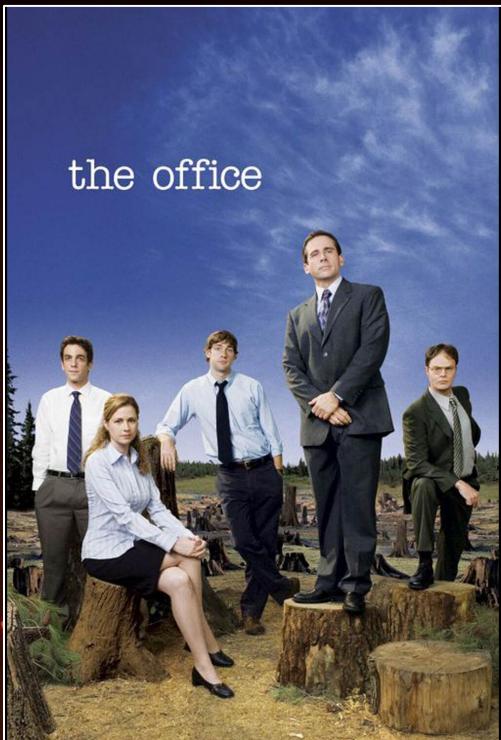
- The show is a “soap-cedural”
 - “cases of the week” are distinctly EPISODIC
 - the characters’ lives (and the slow-burn romance between our leads) are SERIALIZED
- There is a “big bad” – a criminal syndicate – that will take the entire series to bring to justice
 - The male lead is motivated by a personal vendetta that will go through shocking twists, collide with the “soap” aspect of the show and take until the final showdown with the syndicate to resolve
 - The female lead will go through a journey of self-discovery, as she goes from being an office worker to a badass crimefighter
- Some “cases of the week” feed the long arc, others are entirely stand-alone

QUEEN LATIFAH



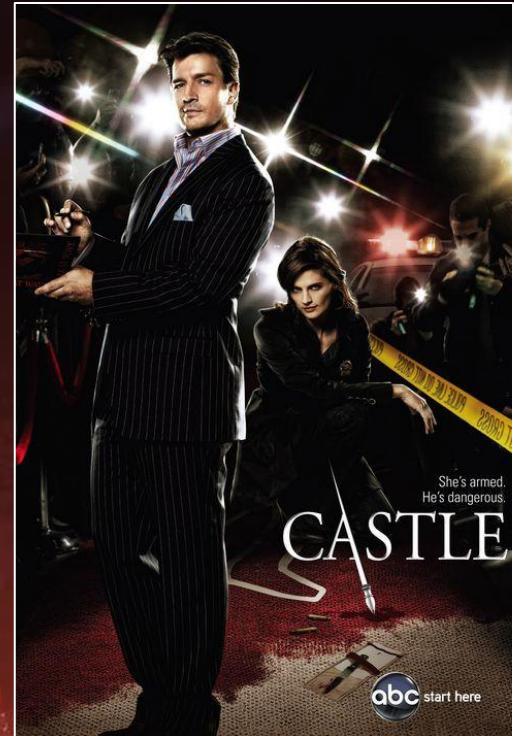
Comps & Tone

the office



Romance and comedy are vital to the tone of the show.

- There is an aspect of workplace comedy woven into the show that will have a tinge of **THE OFFICE**
 - The leads work for a security alarm company
 - The colorful characters and petty office politics of that location will add humor to the show
 - Trivial aspects of our leads' office life will loop around to their cases in surprising ways
- The leads of **FALLING FOR DANGER** have a classic "screwball comedy" dynamic:
 - They are opposites in every way... specifically, the female lead is a high-strung office worker, while the male lead is an emotionless tough guy
 - They have sharp-elbowed but witty banter
 - Although they don't get along, they are forced to work together – both at the office and "moonlighting" (pun intended) to solve cases
 - The show teases a slow-burn romance



Logline

CRIME SOLVERS WITH CHEMISTRY!

An office worker accidentally discovers her most productive (but worst tempered) employee moonlights as a vigilante crime-fighter who operates outside of the law. Much to her horror, he decides to protect his secret by “keeping an eye on her”, leading to them moving in together and, inevitably, having this seemingly average middle manager take an active role in his attempts to undermine a powerful and politically-connected crime syndicate – one case at a time.

As their lives intertwine, they share a love/hate dynamic, as they deal with goofy office politics during the day and intense crime-solving at night, all while trying to tamp down the rumors that swirl about them.

A perfect blend of procedural mystery/thriller, romance, screwball comedy and workplace comedy, **FALLING FOR DANGER** is a winning twist on the “crime solvers with chemistry” format that’s foundational to hits such as **MOONLIGHTING**, **BONES** and **CASTLE**.

Set Up



How much do we know about our co-workers?

MARINE LAINE is a hyper-competent middle manager for a home security firm. But the biggest threat to her *personal* security is her most dependable subordinate, who, unbeknownst to her, is leading a dangerous DOUBLE LIFE.





HALE WINDSOR is a model employee. Sure, he's quiet and keeps to himself, but he is almost super-humanly prompt and efficient.

He just has the bad habit of taking smoke breaks that can last for literally hours.

Anyone else would be fired, but he's just *that* good! He can practically work part time and still outperform the rest of the office.

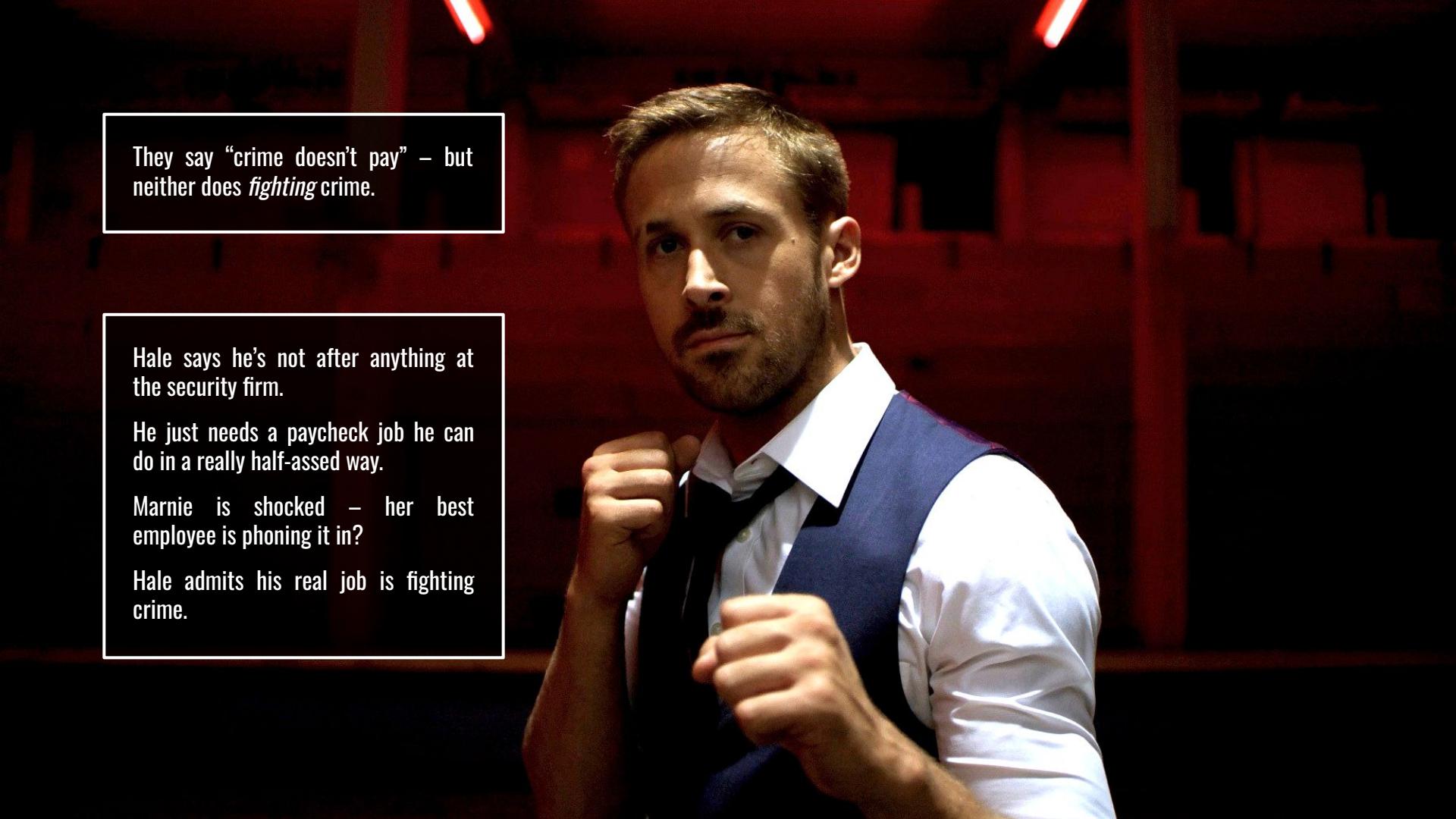
Despite his constant "disappearing act", Hale is Marine's favorite –

A close-up shot of a man with a severely bloody face, looking intensely at the camera. To his right, a woman with long brown hair and bangs looks back at him with a neutral expression. They are outdoors at night, with city lights visible in the background.

– until she
accidentally
sees him on
the street,
follows him,
and watches
him KILL a guy
in an alley!



Confronting Hale, Marine wants to know why he's invaded her office (and her life) under false pretenses – what is he after?



They say “crime doesn’t pay” – but neither does *fighting* crime.

Hale says he’s not after anything at the security firm.

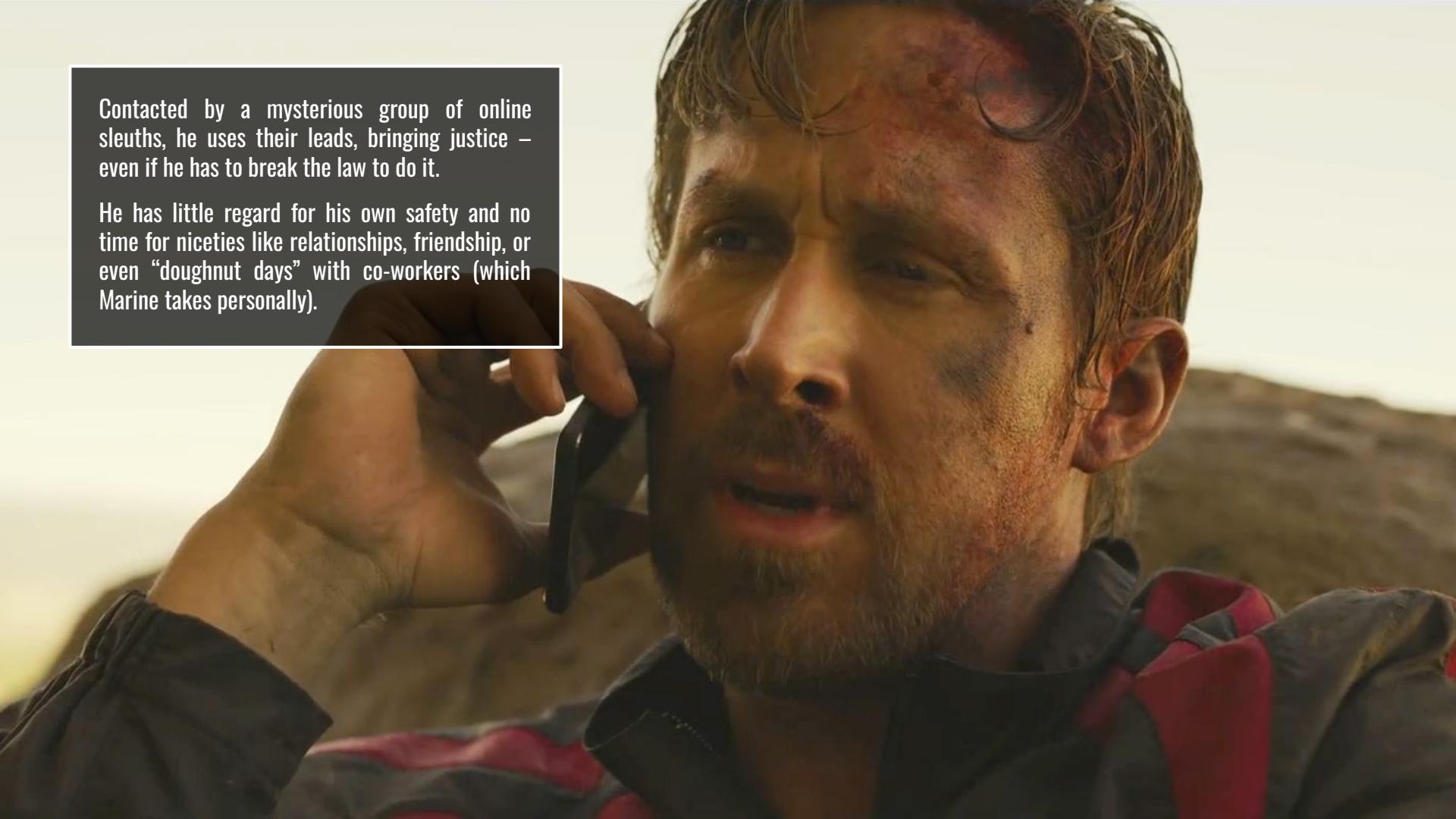
He just needs a paycheck job he can do in a really half-assed way.

Marnie is shocked – her best employee is phoning it in?

Hale admits his real job is fighting crime.

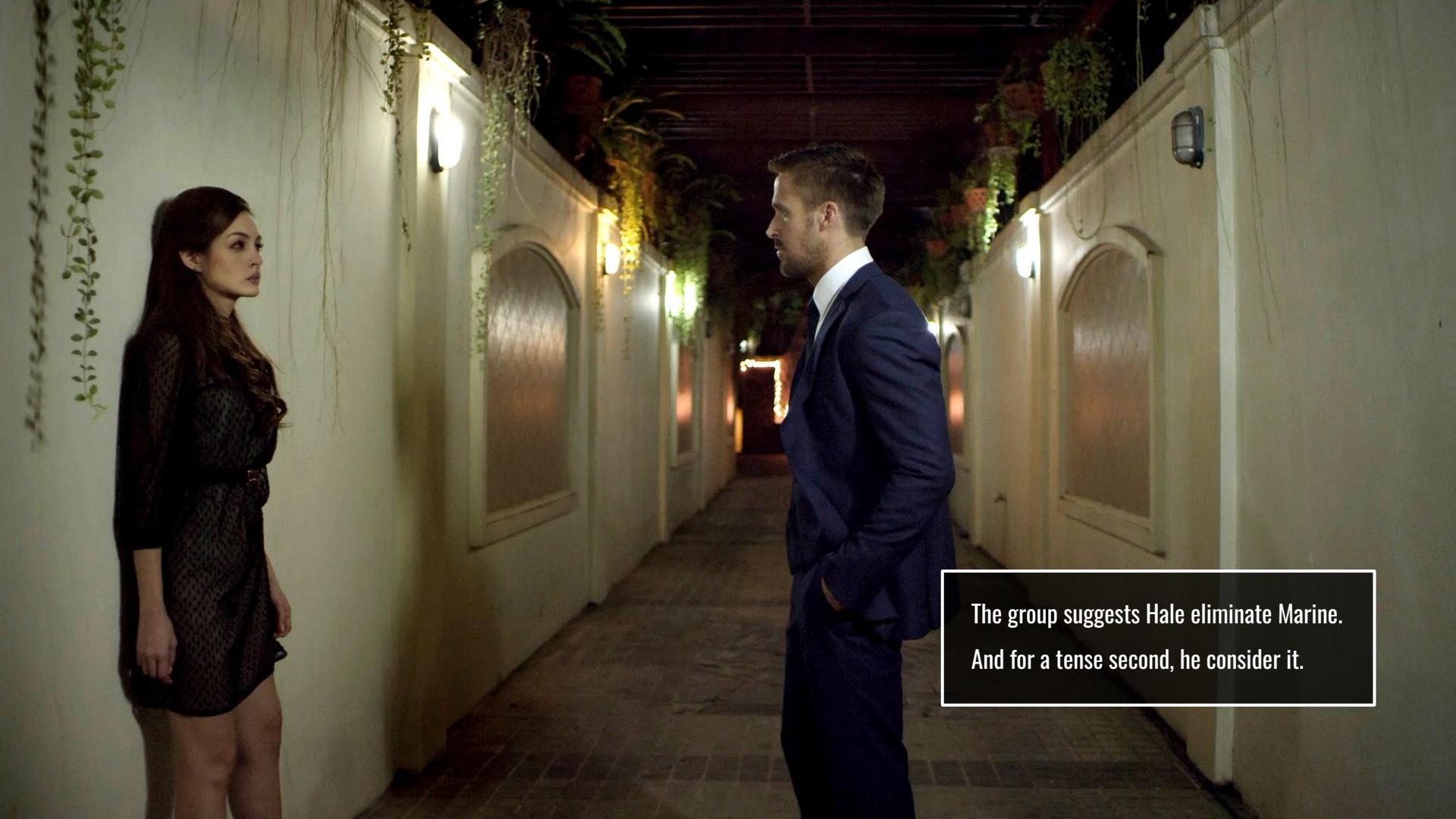


A crime syndicate murdered the love of Hale's life.
He became a living weapon, relentlessly in pursuit of
revenge.



Contacted by a mysterious group of online sleuths, he uses their leads, bringing justice – even if he has to break the law to do it.

He has little regard for his own safety and no time for niceties like relationships, friendship, or even “doughnut days” with co-workers (which Marine takes personally).



The group suggests Hale eliminate Marine.
And for a tense second, he consider it.



Instead, Hale decides to just “keep an eye” on Marine – meaning he’s going to shadow her every moment.



– including moving into
her place!

Characters



Marine

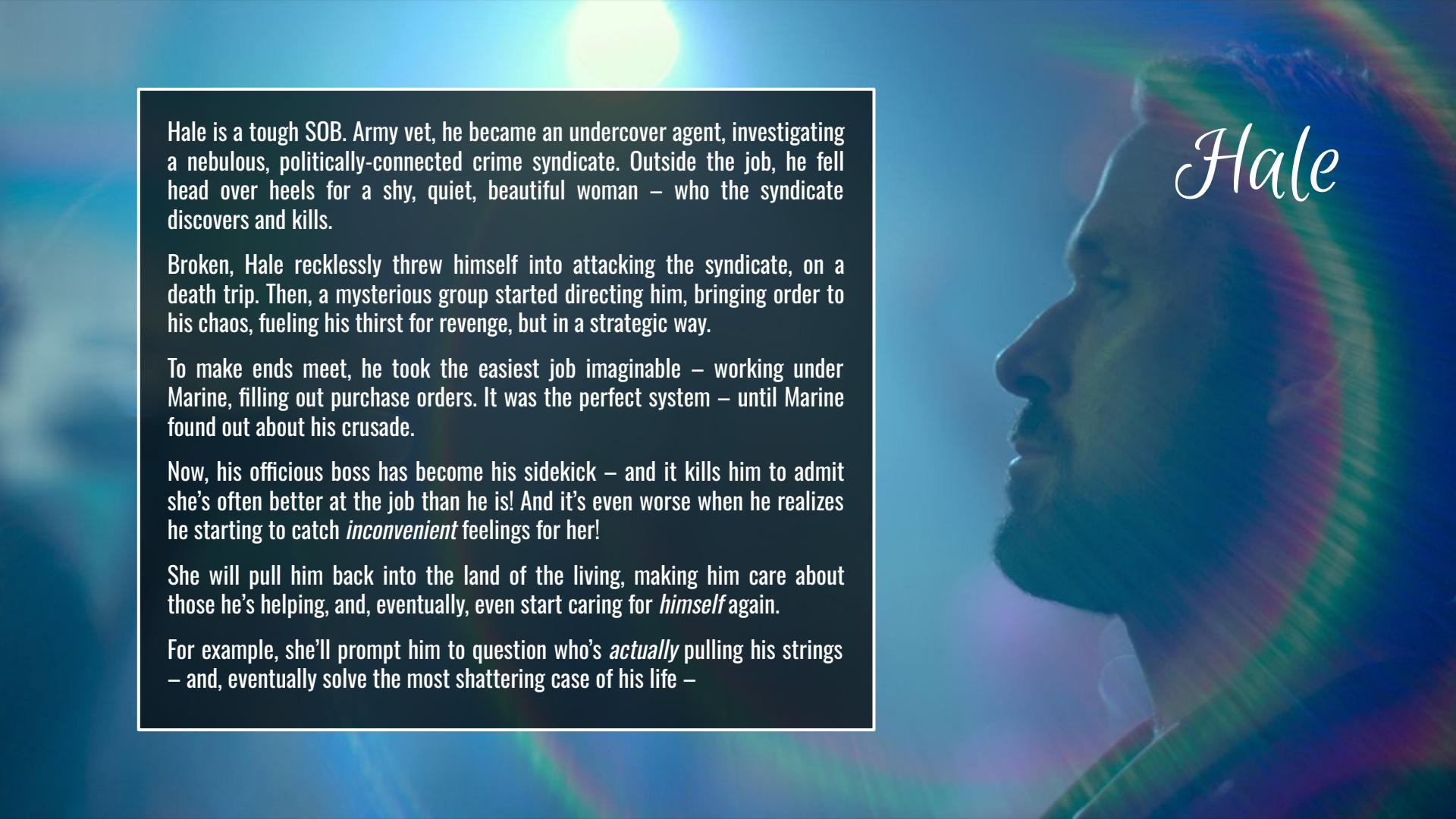
Marine takes her job seriously – maybe a little too seriously. She's a little tightly wound, easily exasperated by the goofballs in the office.

Her new (uninvited) partnership with Hale opens her up to a shadow world full of crime, untold dangers and victims forgotten by the system.

Against her better judgement, Marine is compelled to take on her new role as crime solver/crime fighter/righter of wrongs with the same zeal she applies to her thankless middle manager job processing purchase orders for security cameras.

Shockingly, she discovers hidden talents, abilities and instincts, allowing her to solve crimes, bring criminals to justice and help victims – all without the levels of violence inherent to Hale's two-fisted approach.

Although her “can do” spirit will remain a constant, Marine’s entanglement with Hale will fundamentally change her. At the beginning of the show, everyone but her can see she’s being taken advantage of by her bosses. But, through her work with Hale taking on the worst of the worst, Marine will develop the self-esteem to stand up for herself inside and outside the office – and decide to prioritize not just her job(s), but *real life*. She’s start figuring out what’s important to her... and that just might include *love*.



Hale is a tough SOB. Army vet, he became an undercover agent, investigating a nebulous, politically-connected crime syndicate. Outside the job, he fell head over heels for a shy, quiet, beautiful woman – who the syndicate discovers and kills.

Broken, Hale recklessly threw himself into attacking the syndicate, on a death trip. Then, a mysterious group started directing him, bringing order to his chaos, fueling his thirst for revenge, but in a strategic way.

To make ends meet, he took the easiest job imaginable – working under Marine, filling out purchase orders. It was the perfect system – until Marine found out about his crusade.

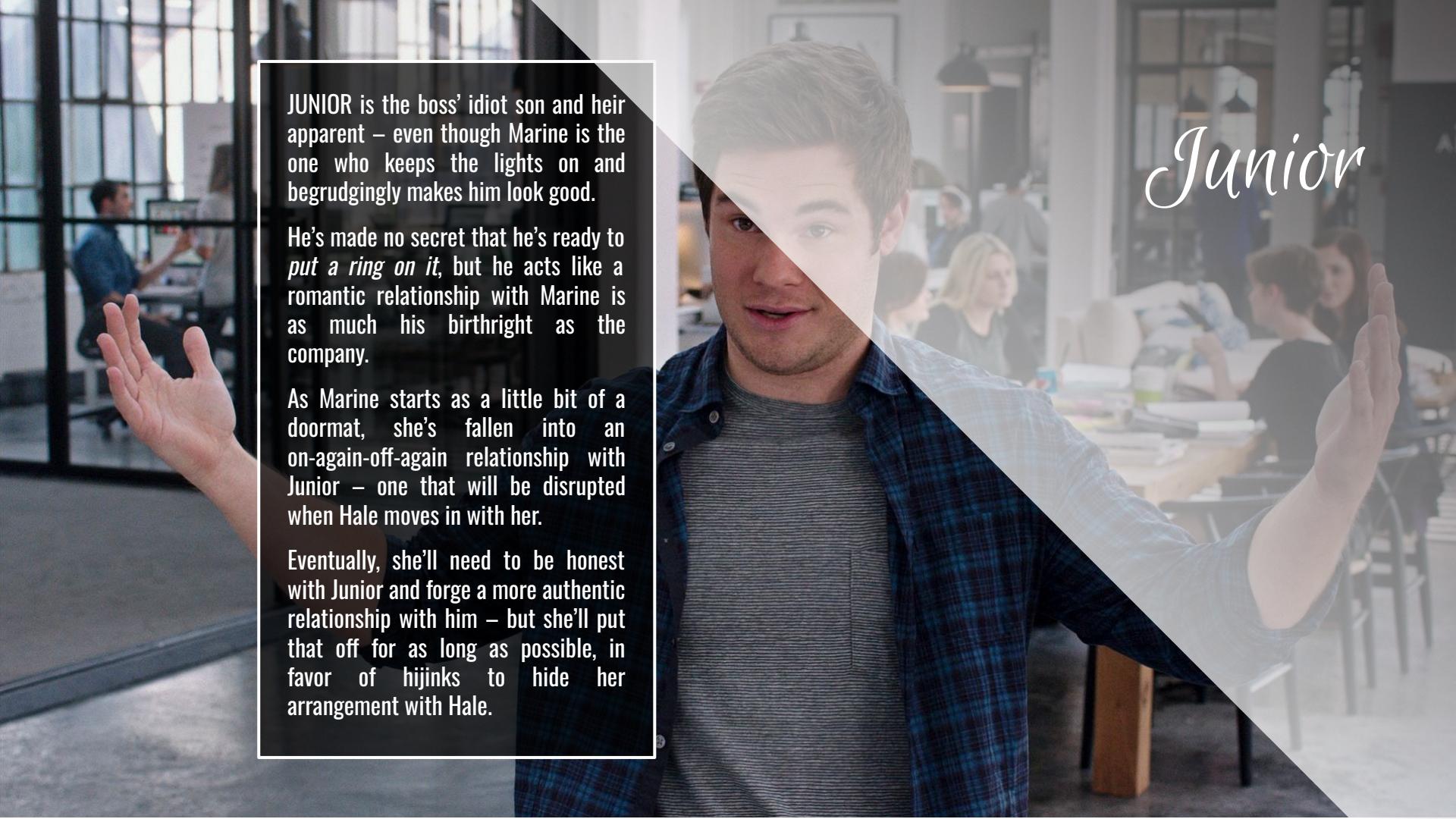
Now, his officious boss has become his sidekick – and it kills him to admit she's often better at the job than he is! And it's even worse when he realizes he's starting to catch *inconvenient* feelings for her!

She will pull him back into the land of the living, making him care about those he's helping, and, eventually, even start caring for *himself* again.

For example, she'll prompt him to question who's *actually* pulling his strings – and, eventually solve the most shattering case of his life –



– DISCOVERING HIS GIRLFRIEND ISN'T DEAD,
BUT, IN FACT, IS THE NEW LEADER OF THE VERY
SYNDICATE HE'S ATTACKING!



JUNIOR is the boss' idiot son and heir apparent – even though Marine is the one who keeps the lights on and begrudgingly makes him look good.

He's made no secret that he's ready to *put a ring on it*, but he acts like a romantic relationship with Marine is as much his birthright as the company.

As Marine starts as a little bit of a doormat, she's fallen into an on-again-off-again relationship with Junior – one that will be disrupted when Hale moves in with her.

Eventually, she'll need to be honest with Junior and forge a more authentic relationship with him – but she'll put that off for as long as possible, in favor of hijinks to hide her arrangement with Hale.

Junior



Jada

JADA is Marine's BFF, cheerleader and sounding board – until Marine's work with Hale causes her to start lying and generally become a bad friend.

However, it's only when Jada starts to call Marine on her B.S. that Marine starts to realize that she's can't do it all – and that real leadership in the office means making room for Jada to shine!

Jada seizes the opportunity, and all is right in the world – – until Jada discovers Marine and Hale's secret!

Season One



Cases

- Similar to THE EQUALIZER, cases will focus on a VICTIM.
- Hale will get a coded message pointing him in the direction of a victim.
- Hale and Marine (typically Marine) will engage the victim and learn what is happening.
- Crimes include:
 - A murder that was unsolved or swept under the rug by authorities
 - Blackmail
 - Arson
 - Kidnapping/Ransom
 - Heists
 - Or forcing vulnerable people into cooperating with illegal activities
- Hale brings the brawn, Marine brings the brains. Together, they see justice served – even if it puts them in opposition to the cops.
- Episodes blend ingenious sleuthing similar to mystery procedurals and action (running, jumping, fighting), but always with a light touch
- Some cops might be dirty, others are just chasing mysterious “vigilantes”
- Some cases lead back to the syndicate, others are entirely stand-alone
- No matter what, the cases are resolved inside of the episode

Runners

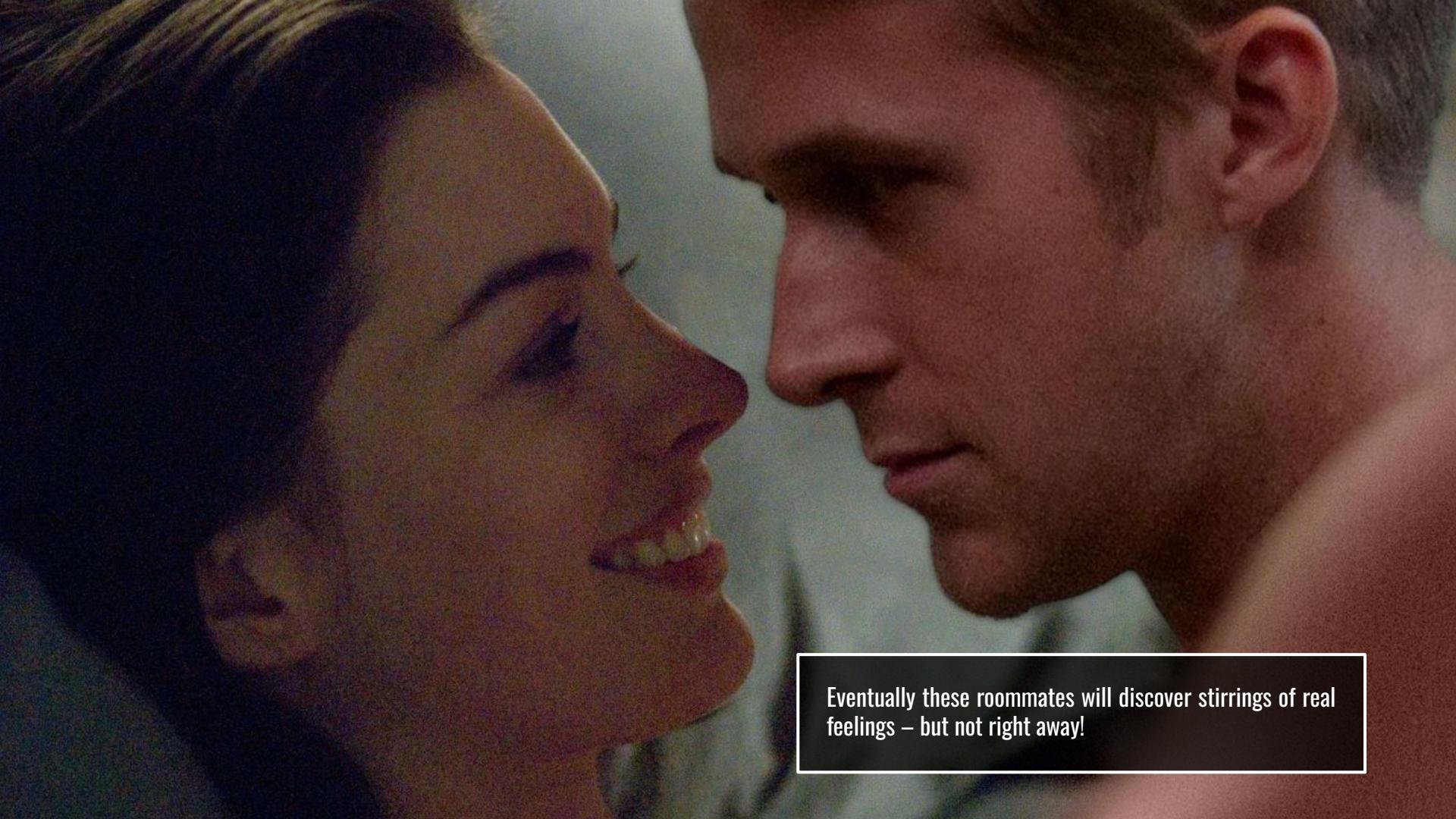
Roommates & Romance



Everyone loves a slow-burn romance!

Marine and Hale will have a combustible “can’t stand each other but can’t stay away from each other” dynamic.

This will be supercharged early on by Hale’s insistence that he needs to “keep an eye on Marine” at all times, causing them to be platonically cohabitating, working together in the office and working together on cases!



Eventually these roommates will discover stirrings of real feelings – but not right away!

Office Hijinks



The world of their daytime work-life will be an important element of the show, as they:

- Maintain relationships, despite constantly lying about their situation and activities
- Deal with Junior's romantic interest (which Marine may use to make Hale jealous at some point)
- Use the company's consumer-grade surveillance equipment and delivery vans to do recon for cases – without exposing their secret life.

Action & Intrigue



Over the longs arc of the show, the cases will uncover a shadowy criminal syndicate that is corrupting the entire city.

- Marine will become more and more effective in the field – solving mysteries, piecing together clues and even handling herself in action-oriented set-pieces.
- Hale will begin to shy away from a “brute force” approach and learn subtlety from Marine.
- As he connects with her and re-connects with his feelings, he'll start to question his life:
 - Who are the mysterious team feeding him information? What is their agenda? Is he being used?
 - Who runs the syndicate he's attacking?
- **He'll be SHOCKED TO DISCOVER THE HEAD OF THE SYNDICATE IS HIS PRESUMED-DEAD LOVER!**

Future Seasons



As depicted in the comic, a major case involves saving a science prodigy from the clutches of the syndicate, where a teen girl has been sold into captivity by her cruel parents and forced to synthesize a new generation of party drugs.

In saving the girl (who is effectively an orphan), Marine and Hale suddenly feel compelled to care for her as guardians.

In future seasons, should the “slow burn” romance start to wear out its welcome, we see this storyline as a great way to “soft reboot” the dynamics of the show and add a brilliant “person in the chair” character who, ironically, is also their rebellious “daughter”, forcing Marine and Hale to take their relationship to a new level.

It's a closed-end procedural!

It's an action show!

It has a long-arc mystery at the core!

It's a romance!

It's a workplace comedy!

It's contained and producable!

It's got stakes, heart and laughs!

It's the perfect show for this moment!

Audiences will fall in love with...

Falling for Danger





CLICK HERE to read

Falling *Danger*

Stories worth the binge

Manta