Punching Down

Mini Bible etc

Main Characters

Trey – Hitman with a heart of gold. Grew up on the wrong side of the tracks, was shaped by it, and excelled at the opportunities he received. Most of the oportunities haven’t been that legal, or...nice. But twas the hand he was dealt, and he played it – well. Almost three decades later, when his ‘rep’ was approaching mythic, he receives word about his ailing parents (70, 80 years old(ish). Realizing they were the best people he ever knew, he turns his back on his own legend, back to the working class neighborhood he’d escaped from to spend time with and care for his folks. He’s used to grown men trembling when he enters the room. Now? He’s changing his parents diapers. And just when he “might” be getting the hang of the adjustment? The past has a way of catching up with you.

Mom – Part of the flower child dynamic duo that form Trey’s parents, she’s always seemed to be a little ‘off’, but what was once a quirk, has developed into full blown Alzheimer’s. At her core, the nicest person one could ever meet, and might be the Only reason Trey never went full blown asshole. LOVES her husband.

Dad – Still sharp. True believer (In humanity, righting wrongs) Can be cold, (with some anger issues) But at his core is a decent human being (He doesn’t care if you know that or not though) He was struggling to care for Mom on his own, but he’d never admit it. His hip breaking is what finally clued Trey into just how bad things had gotten with his parents.

Vasily – Trey’s partner in crime as a youth. He stayed in the old neighborhood as Trey escaped it. An on again off again helping hand for his parents he was the one who finally notified Trey about his parents decline (Tracked him down) He (unlike Trey’s parents) actually knows what Trey’s been up to these past years, and while part of him enjoys the idea of stirring the neighborhood pot with Trey’s sudden reappearance, ( and maybe reigniting some of those side businesses of theirs) He also is keenfully aware of just who Trey has become over the years.

Punching Down brings the best elements of Clint Eastwood, meets a geriatric Shameless.

I believe the show will resonate with a generation that is beginning to care for their parents. While the opportunites abound for subplots – the main arc is Trey, adjusting to his commitments.

At it’s core, I believe it’s a comedy. If comedy is humanity personified by a walking stick of dynamite dealing with the travails of old age.

Trey has spent the last 25 years beating his way out of the gutter. Working class Trey didn't have a lot of opportunities growing up. But he was good at kicking butt. Having been a bouncer, pseudo Hitman tuff guy his whole life, he finds himself returning to the shitty place he grew up in to care for aging parents.

The story will make liberal use of flashbacks (To explain just how Much of a badass asshole Trey has been over the years, and to highlight the dichotomy of his past vs. his present situation. It will also makes use of faded memories and skewed realities of Alzheimers to add depth to characters.

An hour long

PILOT – the Notice

Whereupon Trey first receives word that something isn’t right in parentland, all in the midst of one of his legendary ‘corrections’ (what he calls his “jobs”) He simultaneously reaches the ‘top’ of the underworld food chain & hears the news about his parents, and walks away from his occupation.

Location – Dallas

Setting the tone of the show immediately We start with Trey in the midst of an epic correction he receives the call from Home. Some humor in the situation as we witness Trey (doging bullets? BruceLee’ing up the place?) all the while handling a phone call from Home.