

Inheritance

A 1-hour long-form melodrama

Created by **Sean Nash**

“The past we inherit from others – the future we inherit from ourselves.”

Set on Miami’s brash, glittering beachfront where blue collar cases walk in the same door as millionaires terrified of going to gaol, *Inheritance* is an M-rated series driven at relentless speed by the parallel story engines of police-procedural, law office intrigue, courtroom drama, and P.I. crime-caper combined in the sexy, exciting and dysfunctional-family traditions of *Boston Legal*, *Burn Notice* and *The Good Wife*.

When her estranged father suddenly disappears a beautiful young lawyer inherits his law firm, his relationships good and bad with the police, with dodgy clients, a dodgier P.I., dysfunctional staff, and his girlfriends barely older than herself - along with a seemingly endless supply of secrets that threaten to bring them all undone.

Kassi Storm has had serious dad-issues since she was eight and he walked out on the family in Boston. She’s spent the 20 years since furious at herself for being desperate for his approval. It’s why she followed him into law (*convincing herself there was an altruistic difference between his Business/Law and her Science/Law degree*) and why, when he turned up to see her for the first time in the five years since she graduated, she agreed to become his partner in his Miami law firm. Revealing he’d been diagnosed with a terminal illness he refused to discuss further, Peter Storm told her he wanted to make amends. What he didn’t share was that he was planning to walk out of the Miami high-rise that housed his penthouse apartment and law offices and into the surf in the middle of the night. That was six months ago and it’s only now that Kassi is beginning to get a handle on the inheritance her dad really left her – an ‘inheritance’ which is under the close professional and personal scrutiny of ...

Rachel ‘Benji’ Benjamin, a MPD Detective who – on the down-low – was a more-than-frequent after-hours visitor to the very penthouse Kassi is now living in. Already a Sergeant at 33, Rachel is viewed as a pain-in-the-ass result of Affirmative Action by a lot of her male colleagues. They conveniently overlook her double degree and her work ethic that refuses to allow Rachel to offer anything less than – and to expect in return - the very best. Acutely conscious of the fact she’s only a few years older than the daughter of the man with whom she was having her only clandestine affair, Rachel struggles hard – and mostly unsuccessfully – to look past her opinion of Kassi as a gifted, silver-spoon-fed brat. It’s an attitude not helped by Kassi being the ongoing *objet d’lust* of Rachel’s partner ...

Travis ‘the Brick’ Brickell is an MPD Detective who likes to think of himself as new-age and metro but loathes having to answer to a chick. At 28 and adoring the Miami lifestyle that allows him to train for marathons, Travis’ desire to hit the gym, the surf or the latest hottie rather than work overtime is a source of regular conflict between him and Rachel. But when the going gets tough Rachel knows Travis, with the discipline of an athlete, will always get going. Most importantly she knows he’ll always – eventually - have her back. And while Travis might look but never touch with Rachel (*you don’t look for honey where you get your money*) he has no such reservations about a local P.I. who regularly runs so close to the wind their paths are often crossing ...

Nikita ‘the Phantom’ Kalani, now the wrong side of 35, credits her unusual looks to her Russian mum and Hawaiian dad (*who credits them to a lack of fidelity on the part of his now-ex-missus*). With a promising police career brought to a stress-related close after having talked a psychopath into letting her take the place of his hostage, Niki used the only skill-set she had to open her own Private Investigative firm. Her ability to disappear when it was her buy or when shit gigs were being handed out at the station when she was a cop earned Nikita her nickname, and it’s a gift she regularly uses to advantage as a P.I. working the streets. Tough, gutsy and automatically thinking

more crook than cop (*which ironically put her one step ahead of the villains when she wore blue*) Niki's abilities to skate seamlessly either side of the thin blue line made her the Go-To P.I. for the late Peter Storm. The fact they had a hot, heavy and long time affair put Niki number-one-with-a-bullet on the shit list of ...

Debra Warren, lifelong PA to Peter Storm and now reluctant PA to his daughter, is the power behind the throne. Debra (*never Debbie – something Kassi keeps dangerously forgetting*) fell in love with her boss the moment she met him 25 years ago. She'd kill for him. Some say she has. She certainly knows where all the skeletons are buried. Debra's only time off in a quarter of a century has been one sabbatical. Otherwise she's been totally devoted to serving the one and only Peter Storm 24/7. A well-preserved 50-something – or maybe even 60-something – Debra's only family is her sister, brother-in-law and their son ...

Joshua 'Junior' Lee, 24, is a Junior in the firm of Storm Lawyers and – until six months ago – was living the dream. Idolising his Auntie Debra and her smoother-than-Bond boss, Josh discovered his calling and was the first Lee to not only make it through Uni but to do so *cum laude*. Travelling regularly as Peter Storm's Junior exposed Josh to a five-star lifestyle he'd only read about – a lifestyle that finished with Peter's walk into the Miami surf and with Josh suddenly having to Junior for his late boss' incredibly hot'n'attractive daughter. Now bereft of male mentorship, Josh looks to ...

Robert 'Lefty' Lee, 50 next birthday and a Senior in the firm of Storm Lawyers, Robert is painfully aware his nickname was bestowed by colleagues – primarily prosecutorial colleagues - who believed Robert's attention to detail, his near-fanaticism about his personal appearance and hygiene, and the fact he was cack-handed could only mean he was a switch-hitter at best. But it was those very attributes – the reliable conservatism that was the exact opposite of Peter Storm's radical and maverick unreliability – that meant, for the sake of the firm's prestige, Robert was often wheeled out as the front man for Storm Lawyers by ...

Peter 'Perfect' Storm. Always looking a decade fitter and younger than his 48 years, Peter got his nickname from being infuriatingly good at everything – including charming the jealousy right out of you. Self-obsessed to the point of borderline psychopathy, Peter cultivated the art of being a lone wolf who made everyone in the room think they were his best friend. All of Storm's 'best friends' were stunned beyond belief when he performed his final act of ultimate independence and disappeared. Rumours were rife and ranged from a murder cover-up by one of his more colourful clients or 'business associates', to late night 'chemical assistance' gone wrong, to Peter dealing with a terminal diagnosis in his own way. Whatever the truth, the perfect lawyer and ultimate control-freak is somehow still managing to pull the strings of everyone left behind. Especially those of Kassi who, with secret after secret of her Dad's personal and professional life starting to unfold, is discovering that a day-to-day scramble to stay sane, successful and out of jail is the real truth of her *Inheritance*.

STYLE:

Black comedy arising from character quirkiness will be a key ingredient to the 1-hour episodes of *Inheritance*. Each will be self-contained and driven by a major case which one of our regulars has to deal with that touches on a secret revealing something of Peter Storm's mendacious past ... and their own shameful (*albeit unwitting at the time*) complicity.

The core characters of Kassi, Rachel, Travis, Niki, Debra, Joshua and Robert will offer a fascinating family of misfits (*living in a town of misfits*) forced together by the secrets of Peter Storm. A dysfunctional family (*all cowboys, gamblers and lone wolves in their own rights*), our heroines and anti-hero(ine)s will be constantly forced to live by the seat of their pants as they come increasingly to the realization that, appearances to the contrary, they only have each other to turn to for understanding ... if not warm and fuzzy support.

Spunky and constantly forced to make decisions on the run without stopping to be deep and meaningful about it, our *Inheritance* family won't be sitting round a table discussing things in the traditional drama models of old.

Instead they'll be driven by character needs within the confines of self-contained stories that keep forcing them into each other's orbits where they'll inevitably push each other's buttons.

Kassi – a brutal and phenomenally successful advocate when speaking from the safety of the bar – is far less self-assured behind the desk of her late father. Feeling alone and ostracised in the world of Storm Lawyers that she inhabits 18 hours a day, think of her as a female Gary Cooper in *High Noon* – forced into the top job she doesn't want and desperate for support and friendship.

Rachel – equally at home behind her badge and at a loss to make small talk with most other females – struggles not to have her femininity buried beneath the guy-bullshit she has to match on a daily basis. Can she stop her secret past with Peter Storm destroying her career? And to do that, will she have to become the kind of cop she hates?

Travis – calm and self assured in any physical situation – is constantly threatened and intimidated by the female intelligence surrounding him which, if embraced (*platonically!*), could make his life and job so much easier. When will he be ready to step up and put as much effort into his principles as his muscles?

Niki – feeling fate has not only ignored her attempts to do the right thing but has instead forced her into a career path that benefits from 'bending' the laws she upheld with her life – struggles desperately to convince herself not to give up and go permanently to the dark side.

Debra – unlucky in love but inscrutably holding secret keys to the kingdom – is as lost and unpredictable as any unrequited lover. The only thing keeping her from destroying everything and everyone around her is the desperate hope that Peter Storm might somehow miraculously walk back in the door.

Josh – naive, tainted by a taste of the good life and now totally confused – is a time bomb waiting to explode. But how? Will he honour his calling and betray his colleagues by revealing what he discovers? Or be self-serving to them and himself by choosing wealth and position above personal moral value?

Robert – prissy pretender to the throne in a world that despises anything 'less' than masculine – has the ability and psychological potential to destroy everyone around him ... even if that means destroying himself.

Peter – pulling strings from the past as though he was still living in the present ... might *well* be still living in the present and waiting for the perfect moment to walk back in the door – once he's manipulated his past sins and secrets into no longer pointing at him, and double jeopardy allows him to pick up where he left off unscathed.

Despite living in paradise on a day-to-day basis, our ersatz family will keep themselves close to the safety of the beach-front high-rise they call home.

Kassi will live uncomfortably in the penthouse apartment of her missing-presumed-dead father.

Rachel and **Travis** will haunt the coffee shop (*walking distance from their station*) on the high-rise's ground floor.

Niki will all but live in her P.I. offices in the same building.

Debra, **Joshua** and **Robert** will work long, crazy hours in the Storm Lawyers offices above, venturing out occasionally to the restaurant and bar also tenanted in the building.

Peter will appear in flashbacks as the others recollect - with the benefit of hindsight - how he conned them into compromising themselves ... and occasionally he'll appear real time in the now, in the wee small hours when the others least expect it and he can bury clues pointing to them instead of him.

But in this Elmore Leonard landscape, our misfits will ultimately find a way – often wryly and at their own, self-deprecating expense – of helping the citizens who live 24/7 in this black paradise to get up in the morning and cope despite the dark things that happen to them.

Predominantly location driven over 13 shooting days for a block, *Inheritance* will be a character-led police-procedural-with-surf-&-sun which, while dark, funny, dysfunctional and at times surprisingly life-affirming, will remind the audience that whatever we do *now* creates our future *Inheritance*.

👉End👈