Very Rough Notes on Characters, Murders, Plot Arcs, and Placements in Time...

Following is our rough view of how the characters integrate into the whole—the woof and warp of the show's tapestry.

We highly recommend you first watch the 5 short "explainers" at LYRICS.LA for our vision and how the pieces and parts align to create a must-watch murder series, and a must-participate music contest.

Essentially, our 3 prime Muses are charged with a simple task — inspire the soundtrack for the next generation — but become embroiled in a complex serial murder hunt where they become prime drivers of the hunt... sleuths instead of muses.

The grit and grind of LA today is contrasted with the beauty and grace of our 3 muses who are more comic-relief than serious contenders for detective of the year. But, they learn to adapt to the harsh reality of life in the fast lane, and even though Zeus is not happy, they muddle through with enough positives to offset the huge negatives each episode presents.

This, much like Scandal or Revenge, is a very complex reveal of victim and perp.

All the victims are also potential killers—perverts, degenerates, politicians, lawyers, cops, the list of our evil-doers is endless.

So, this is a series that has as long legs as Law and Order or NCIS... even the StarGate franchise.

Again, developing this from concept to Emmy Winner will take a passionate team to define and create characters that we all love, hate, care about, and want to see hanged!

Maybe before you scan our ideas below, let Rosalie give you the QBP: https://lyrics.la/the-main-characters/

Enjoy,

E. R. Haas/Max Santana

DECEMBER 2022 UPDATE

EPISODES 1-3

Where are we right now?

The Pilot storyline seems to be locked in.

The three muses arrive in Los Angeles after a heated discussion with their father Zeus. Our three muses aren't loving this change, but some like it more than others.

Zeliena is protected by Wolfe when he finds her lost and lonely just outside a club in LA, this brings the muses to get closer to Wolfe and Sparks' case and that's when they find out about the whole fiasco and Mira makes it their mission to help, hoping that this will take them back home.

At the same time, they are trying to find a way to beat the case, they begin to connect with music and that brings them back their powers, but only temporarily. By the end of the episode, the compose their first song, which helps the people of LA start asking questions about the possible wrongful imprisonment of Sparks.

The second and third episode introduce brand new characters to the storyline and keeps building on some that had just a few pages on the pilot. Katie, a coroner setting up her own investigation on the case fueled by the young bravado of her assistant. But she pits against Mr. Franks, the D.A. who has all the power over LA and its police force.

There is history between them, a constant fight of right and wrong. But there is a third person, and her name is Rubeus, the serial killer responsible for all of the murders that are being accounted to Sparks. And Mr. Franks and Rubeus have an even more exciting backstory, as they were lovers decades before the story kicks on, and now, Mr. Franks has Rubeus working for her as she is setting up a potential takeover of Lyrics, Sparks own music company/label.

But why does she want to takeover, and does she want to do it legally? No. Months before, Mr. Franks and Sparks hit it off for a couple of weeks and Mr. Franks was after a half of Sparks' company, as she deemed it to be highly profitable and could even help her to expand her escort business and who becomes relevant in the LA music business. However, Sparks shut her off and now Mr. Franks is setting up Sparks in order to steal the company from him. This arc is slowly introduced in episode two and three.

Our muses are out for information, but they are screw up and have always been, even if they got a hint of information when they crashed Mr. Franks' The Exotica, the club

where she runs her escort business, they also gave up information that has them now on the blacklist and Detective Espinosa is now after them.

During these episodes we're also setting up a battle for power inside the homicide department in LA. A couple of detectives believe they could do better than Espinosa and his friends, but Espinosa has a reputation that helps him always get the "important" cases even if he rarely gets to the bottom of them, but this will have more importance during the latter half of the season, but seeds are planted.

On the other hand, Katie smells corruption, and she thinks Mr. Franks is part of something even bigger than anticipated, so now she has her sight on her. With the help of her assistant, they are creating a case against her, slowly gathering evidence and connecting the dots.

The muses are bonding again, and even if they all have different opinions when it comes to their stay in earth, they realize they have to be together in order to help Wolfe and the people of LA.

At last, a small introduction to Lois Long, a reporter that will come into relevance during the last episodes of the season, when she starts to uncover the truth of the mystery in her own, but she's no hero, as is she is doing this with only one intention in mind, to make the most money out of it.

Mira:

In a way, she is the leader of the trio, the more experienced one and the one who talks more often with Zeus. I think her screwups should be "serious" unlike the screwups from the other two muses. She holds a bigger responsibility on her arms, Zeus wants Mira to "teach" Erika and Tiana how to be "the perfect muse." But it's a complicated task.

Basically, every time Erika and Tiana do something wrong, it falls on Mira and it makes her look bad.

Erika:

Erika, how does she screw up? As discussed before, she can't always pick a side. She's always trying to please everybody, but it sometimes comes in her way of being a good muse. I can see her maybe falling in love with a criminal or someone who's guilty of a crime, but she loves this person so much, she won't do anything about it, she'd hide information in order to cover for this person.

Zeliena:

Zeliena, the youngest. How does she screw up? I think she has the most important comedic arc. She's directionless which always lead her into doing the unexpected. She needed to hunt down a criminal, but she ended up hunting down a normal person who's not involved in the case. Why? She followed the wrong leads and never found out about it.

I think this is how we can play with the screw ups.

Sparks:

What is the trigger point for getting him out on bail and a new trial? What single bogus piece of evidence proves he couldn't have done it?

Simple answer, the muses finally uncover the dirty job the D.A. and the whole office is doing behind scenes.

Complicated answer: Detective Ackerman gives up an important piece of evidence that exposes the scheme behind Sparks' case. The information is very secured and hard to get to, but Ackerman managed to record the conversation Espinosa and Sparks had in the interrogation room during the pilot. Even if Espinosa is not entirely admitting to arresting Sparks out of spite, there is enough information that can't be ignored. This gets Sparks a new trial.

Sparks Alibi:

It's hard for Sparks to find an alibi for each murder. Where was he? He was in the studio, but there is no proof of it, since he's been having writers block and can't work on anything, so how does he prove that he wasn't the killer?...

Can Wolfe testify? They weren't together 24/7. Sparks has a past and sometimes he gets carried away by it.

AUGUST 1st. The day of the first murder.

Let's have one murder per week. It's part of the Serial Killer's MO.

Sparks is arrested on August 16th, after three people have been killed already. What happens on August 22nd? No murder. So it all leads to Sparks, who is behind bars… he should be the killer.

Here enters Mr. Franks' plan, she knows the attention is on Sparks and if there's no body on the 22nd, people will believe it was all Sparks. She's playing the game.

Sparks met Mr. Franks on July 4th, outside Los Angeles and something went wrong… a love affair went wrong. Badly… that's why Mr. Franks plots against Sparks.

What happened between July 4th and August 16th, the day the pilot takes place in? Sparks comes back to LA with Wolfe.

Between these dates… Mr. Franks wants in on Sparks lucrative deal with the music label, Lyrics but she's asking for too much and Sparks won't entertain her offer. Mr. Franks grows tired of Sparks and threatens him to give in, but Sparks really wants the business to be solely his, and maybe Wolfe's.

However, he doesn't tell Wolfe anything about Mr. Franks approach. Why? Because Wolfe was undermined by Mr. Franks when he tried to kickstart his career and Wolfe wouldn't take it so well if he found out Sparks had an affaird with Mr. Franks.

Mr. Franks:

Mr. Frank gives up, she knows Sparks won't cut her a deal, so she prepares her revenge.

On July 20th she hires a serial killer (Needs a name.) But they had a past, so it isn't so friendly, she forces him to partake on her revenge plot.

She asks him to become The Red Rope Killer… but only murder… however, after the first murder on August 1st, the killer likes it. He's not going to stop there.

Mr. Franks offers even more money for him to keep building this plot against Sparks.

However, there is much more than just Sparks… the endgame is a high-end escort that has gotten out of control. She was the D.A. preferred girl but after a bad night, she's ended all contact with the D.A. and now is fighting for her life, she knows too much to be free.

The D.A. is onto Mr. Franks.

Wolfe:

Wolfe is Sparks' longtime friend and he wants to follow his steps to success, something hasn't come in buckets to him. With Sparks in jail, he takes the leadership of Lyrics Inc, it's his time to prove himself. The newfound freedom and power he's found in being a leader excites more than anything, and sometimes he fears he may be corrupted by such power, will he be a good friend to Sparks and take care of the company, or will he use everything in his favor to ensure a better for him and only him.

Flashbacks that we will see will take on Wolfe's friendship with Sparks and how sometimes they clashed against each other and how Sparks sometimes looks down on him and makes him feel unwanted.

Detective Espinosa:

What makes Espinosa be one of the most feared officials in California?

Simple answer, his experience backs him, he's the right hand of the D.A. and he's pursuing full power as his ultimate goal.

Complicated answer, Espinosa is a good cop, he's quality, however, with the passing of time he's been able to be influenced by the higher powers in the political structure. He has a personal vendetta against Sparks and his family.

Espinosa's father, previously a detective as well, was killed by a wave of crimes that were organized by Sparks' family and now wants Sparks to pay the cost even if he didn't do it. He's a good man, but he's been affected by a family death and corruption, will he ever see redemption?

In a more complicated arc, he sees his father spirit in Detective Ackerman, she's a good angel but he doesn't want her to die like his father, but he doesn't know how open up and that's why he plays the bad cop role with her.

Detective Ackerman:

What makes Ackerman stay true to her beliefs when it is so easy to lay back and let Espinosa run the game?

Simple answer, she is young, and she wants to do things the right way, she's not infected by the virus of corruption yet.

Complicated answer, brand new to the force and she gets paired with Espinosa. She was transferred from Miami after failing to follow up on the case of Veronica's mother. She resents herself, she could have done more, and now a fresh start is on the horizon.

When she finds out Veronica is Sparks' daughter, she motivates herself to help Veronica and make amends.

Veronica:

Simple answer, Veronica hiked to LA once she found out his father Sparks got arrested.

Complicated answer, she's alone and with nowhere to stay after her mother and her new boyfriend got killed. She could stay in Miami with the inheritance money, but she decided to start fresh in LA, she is young and full of energy.

During a flashback, prior to Sparks' imprisonment, Veronica has a phone conversation with him. Sparks asks her to come back home, that he'll try harder to be a better dad. Veronica doesn't believe him, but there is still something there… music. They connect through music and she remembers or they talk about how Sparks taught her to play different instruments.

Still, when she gets to LA, she is alone, as Sparks is in prison.

TIMELINE:

1945 (Or anytime in the past):

Zeus has a heated argument with MELPOMENE, the muse of tragedy. In order to regain his trust, he sends her down to Earth with the mission to bring back balance after the tragedies of World War II.

MELPOMENE takes the name of Mr. Franks. In the beginning she went by the book, helping out people, but as her return to Mt. Olympus seemed far from ever happening, she became corrupted with the passing of the years…

Eventually making it to the LAPD…

1991-1992

Lulu and Rubeus meet in college. They get involved in a romantic relationship and they both stay at the Cecil Hotel in downtown LA.

They both join Mr. Franks' network as sex workers to make ends meet.

There, they are corrupted by the violence seen every day. Serial killers living just next door. Something wakes up inside of them. **Rough sex turns hard. It's a bad environment for both, in their apartments and in THE EXOTICA.**

In the Exotica they become two of the most wanted hookers, constantly in demand, they have to make ends meet so they push themselves to work overtime.

They meet shady people, and they see everything that the police is after for, murder, drugs, prostitution. Everything.

Who runs the Exotica? The Sparks family.

However, we don't see much of the family, they are absent from the shady deals happening every night. They are aware, but as they are new to the city, they don't want to get involved and they want to keep things "legal."

Mr. Franks wants to get the best out of both girls and he pressures Rubeus into becoming his number one, but Rubeus wants out, she doesn't want to get hooked on drugs like all the other girls Mr. Franks has lured into his life.

Mr. Franks tries to use Lulu in order to convince Rubeus to get deeper into this underworld, but it only causes their relationship to fragment. And eventually…

They both leave the building traumatized and in a bad place.

1993-1995:

The relationship between Mr. Franks, Lulu, and Rubeus is in danger.

Lulu and Rubeus start their own escort service trying to rival Mr. Franks' business. The hook for their service is that they try to push the girls into becoming Hollywood stars.

Mr. Franks catches on this new trend, and he tries to mirror what Lulu and Rubeus are doing, he wants his own superstars.

Rubeus and Lulu fight against Mr. Franks as they try to be the top escort service in LA. But the fight keeps fracturing their relationship until they finally break up.

Rubeus leaves and embraces her new identity as the Ruby Rope Killer.

On her own now, Lulu lures Mr. Franks into her house, offering him drinks and sex, and talking about a possible merger between the two services. However, it was a trap. Lulu kills Mr. Franks and she becomes the new MR. FRANKS, she takes the mantle at the same time she takesover the escort service.

1996:

Lulu begins to work in the Homicide department in LA as she wants to have control of Los Angeles both legally and in the streets.

As you can see, Rubeus and Mr. Frank come out a very different person to each other. Complete opposites.

2000:

After a few years of trying to be the good person she wanted to be and not letting her crime underworld to get the best of her Lulu - Mr. Franks - succumbs to the crime and corruption. She is not a good cop anymore. She is fully corrupted now.

2005:

LAPD fights off against Sparks' family gang.

Sparks' father is the leader, Sparks is just a young boy at the moment.

2007:

Detective Espinosa gets his first big job. He takes lead on the Sparks' family case and makes it his only goal.

2010:

The war ends, but Espinosa has lost so much, he goes from good hearted man, to scarred detective. Holds bigs resentment, he loses his loved ones.

2011:

Mr. Franks is the new District Attorney. The Sparks family gives off control over the city and Mr. Franks takes the opportunity to finally control it on her own.

Corruption at its finest moment.

2017:

Sparks and Mr. Franks meet.

On and off for years.

2023:

JANUARY 1st:

Already a couple who argues 24/7, Sparks and Mr. Franks go on a trip, but it doesn't go as expected. Mr. Franks loses the opportunity to join Sparks in his lucrative music deal. It's only Sparks' business and he won't share it with anyone.

JANUARY 5th: Sparks comes back to LA, without Mr. Franks, although she's still trying to get the deal in her favor. But Sparks won't listen. She gives up.

JANUARY 6th: Mr. Franks reaches out to Ruby Rope Killer, but at the time, the woman isn't a serial killer, yet. However, she's someone Mr. Franks knows from way back.

Now, when they meet again, in 2023, Rubeus owes a lot of money to the wrong people and Mr. Franks comes to her offering money and a deal she couldn't refuse.

They become business partners.

FEBRUARY 1st: First murder. Rubeus makes her first trademark kill; she learned after seeing so many serial killers in the hotel.

FEBRUARY 8th: Second murder, same routine.

FEBRUARY 9th: Mr. Franks, and the LAPD open up to the public. There is a new serial killer in town.

Mr. Franks prepares to frame Sparks, fakes evidence to get him in. How?

FEBRUARY 15th: Third murder, same routine, however, this time, Rubeus leaves behind objects that can be traced back to Sparks.

FEBERUARY 16th: Sparks' arrest.

FEBRUARY 22nd: No murder.

MARCH 1st: Wolfe takes the leadership of LYRICS, Sparks' company after learning the date of the trial for Sparks. April 1st.

MARCH 15th: The people of LA start protesting against the government.

MARCH 22nd: The first week of protesting turns into riot.

APRIL 1st: Sparks is sent to maximum.

APRIL 5th: LA is in crisis. Riots are at an all-time-high.

APRIL 8th: A piece of contradicting evidence comes out to the public. Sparks may not be behind the murders.

A journalist assumes it's a dirty job from the D.A. or the LAPD. However, there is not enough evidence.

APRIL 13th: Fourth murder. Same routine, but it doesn't see the light of the day.

APRIL 15th: The riots calm down with the promise of an improved city from the mayor (New character)

MAY 1st: Wolfe comes across the evidence that the journalist managed to share, he begins his own investigation. Lyrics is in danger.

JULY 3rd: In Mt. Olympus, our three muses get in trouble. Zeus has no other choice but to send them to earth.

In a private conversation with one of Zeus most trusted people, he confesses he is sending the three muses down to earth to track down MELPOMENE, or as we know her, Mr. Franks.

The muses aren't aware.

JULY 4th: Thunderstorm and the arrival of our muses to LA, start of the pilot.

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How does Mr. Frank get back in touch with Rubeus after so many years?

They met in the early 90s as established before, but their relationship ended, and Mr. Franks joins the police force.

Rubeus starts her journey as a serial killer, slowly becoming more popular over time. By 1996, she's one of the most feared serial killers in the West Coast, and she's so close to getting caught.

Mr. Franks is working on the case to track her down and once she realizes it's Rubeus, she gives her a warning. Rubeus agrees to cool down and she goes off the radar for the rest of the decade.

In 2001, Rubeus moves to the East Coast to live a normal life, until 2022 when she starts to kill again and makes the news. In 2023, Mr. Franks observes the case and quickly ties it to Rubeus, she flies to the East Coast and tracks her down immediately.

When they reunite, Mr. Franks offers her the job to frame Sparks and they fly out to Los Angeles.

About Espinosa and Sparks' past.

As established on the timeline above there was a big crime war during the 2000s where Detective Espinosa got involved.

But who was he fighting against? Sparks' family.

The Sparks family came to Los Angeles in the 90s and slowly established themselves as an important business family. They ran music deals, contracts and touring – on the legal side of things – but on the dark side of the business, they also ran a drug empire that dramatically hit the music industry consumers, by the early 2000s they were the biggest music family in the West Coast.

However, the LAPD targeted them and started a decade-long-war against them and their business.

It got dirty…

The family soon started to fight back and personally target every detective involved… to the point of killing Espinosa's younger brother and father.

By 2010, the LAPD hit the family hard and finally kicked them out of Los Angeles with Espinosa leading the charge.

Sparks, however, stayed and tried to make a name for himself without any ties to his family's business. But Espinosa won't forget…

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Another suggestion…

We could adapt a storyline to provide more depth to the music world we're building… and it may as well could do with the sparks family or even a new one…

A family that could stand for the infamous Ticketmaster business… if you're following the news, they are killing the concert-going experience, by making it extremely expensive for fans to get tickets for their favorite artists or bands. As they introduce new ways to buy tickets that allows them to charge as much as $1500 for a single floor ticket to concerts that would otherwise not cost more than $200.

If you're interested, I could expand more on this idea.

Glenda in the timeline:

Glenda will be introduced in episode two of the first season. She is a hooker that works in Mr. Franks escorts service. How did she become one? She was poor and in need of money to pay for college education.

One night in September 2022, she went home with one of Mr. Franks' bodyguards, she told him all about her situation and he put her on contact with Mr. Franks. In October 2022, she started working for Mr. Franks and money began to flow!

By the time the pilot starts in 2023, she wants to leave the escorts service, she's earned money to leave town and leave behind her not so loved life.

However, she is hiding a secret… something that is keeping her in town… and that secret is… she helped orchestrate the murders that framed Sparks and Mr. Franks is using that to keep her in town.

How do we tie Sparks to the Exotica?

If… you agree to follow my pitch on Sparks' timeline he will not be a problem for anyone until the 2010s… 10 years before our pilot starts.

In the 2000s he was trying to hide from his family business as he was trying to start a family… then Veronica was born and problems started to haunt his life.

Flash forward to 2023… Sparks deals with Mr. Franks (Lulu) and he shuts her out of his music deal…

Mr. Franks starts her revenge…

Sparks meets the Witchy Woman at the Exotica. They agree to leave the club… they leave town and go to a cute mountain upstate.

This happened the night of the first murder. February 1st… Now, this is Sparks alibi… he was out of town when the first murder happened and he was with someone who can prove it.

However… the Witchy Woman… let's have her called Priscila – for now – she worked at The Exotica and was under Mr. Franks payroll. Given her closeness to Sparks, Lulu decided to track her down and once she realized that she was out of town with Sparks the day of the murder, she knew she had to get her killer otherwise she would have proved Sparks' innocence.

Now… to keep connecting the dots… Glenda and Priscila were best friends at The Exotica… Lulu knew that… so the day Priscila got killed she sent them to meet a new client, both of them… Glenda knew something was sketchy… this client was going to meet them at an abandoned club – yes, the same one from the pilot -.

Once they got there, Ruby Rope was there, and she killed Priscila… and used Glenda's fingerprints and even DNA to alter the crime scene.

Glenda ran away from the scene but now she's tied to crime scene, if Lulu wants to use it to her own advantage and that way, she keeps Glenda in town.

Episode Two

This second episode will introduce us to the rest of the key players in the story. Mr. Franks – Lulu -, Glenda, and Katie – the coroner-.

It will start with a new body drop and Katie will analyze the crime scene, where they find possible evidence that Glenda was there.

Now, a theory arises, was Glenda killing these people with Sparks… this is theory that Lulu wants the coroner to believe.

Then, we meet Glenda, she is hiding and she does not know what to do… she knew Sparks, because once, Priscila told her everything about him… what Glenda does is to contact Wolfe, asking for help.

She's lucky that Wolfe is with our muses to keep solving the case.

LIST OF CHARACTERS BY AGE AND ROLE

MIRA: 38, the oldest and leader of the three muses.

ERIKA: 33, the balance of the muses.

TIANA: 25, the youngest, most careless muse. The glue between the muses and humans.

SPARKS: 33, the man of the hour, trouble revolves around him.

WOLFE: 31, the hype man of the man of the hour, he control the damage left behind.

LULU (MR. FRANKS): The bitch D.A., she hunts Sparks.

RUBEUS: 50, our experienced serial killer.

GLENDA: 19, the runaway hooker. She runs into a dozen problems a day.

PRISCILA: 25, the witchy woman. A victim of Sparks' and Lulu's affair.

KATIE: 40: The coroner trying to do everything by the book. Hard to get to her as she sticks to the law.

DETECTIVE ESPINOSA: 52, revengeful and with a mission.

DETECTIVE ACKERMAN: 32, new to the department, not corrupt… yet…

EPISODE TWO – TRACKLIST

Songs by Fleetwood Mac…

Dreams will open the episode during the first scene of Act One. As we see the main credits, Katie drives and makes her way to The Exotica. Even when she walks into the club, the song keeps playing on the building's speakers. It stops right when she enters Mr. Franks' office.

The second song will be Landslide playing on the background during the first scene we see the muses in the episode. Page 7, it'll be playing quietly while our characters have an important conversation.

Third song will be played by improv musicians during the bus ride on page 15-16. The song will be 'Everywhere'. A cute love song that talks about the love our muses have for each other.

Fourth song will be played during the first scene with Tiana and Erika at The Exotica. The Chain will do wonders for them to adjust to the nightlife as they down shot after shot.

And the episode will end with Gypsy as we're introduced to the Ruby Rope Killer as she kills Rose Mills.

EPISODE THREE – TRACKLIST

The third episode will draw inspiration from The Clash.

The first song will be Lost In The Supermarket which will be played during the main titles after the teaser. As we see Los Angeles from above and falls into the Mount Olympus house with our muses recovering from a night out and a hangover.

The second song will be Ghetto Defendant during Mira's first scene at the bar. It's still early in the day, the bar is almost empty, the song is slow.

And the third song will be I'm so Bored with the U.S.A. as we fly over the Topanga hills to meet Rubeus and Lulu. "But what can I do? Yankee detectives are always on the TV, Cause killers in America work seven days a week."

The fourth song will be Police and Thieves and will take us from the scene between Katie and Paul discussing Sparks' case to us meeting Sparks in the visiting room.

Fifth song… Train in Vain… and it will start playing by the end of Sparks' conversation with Lulu during a flashback on page 17-18. The end of their love.

Revolution song will be the sixth song and it will play while Erika and Tiana sneak into The Exotica on page 20-21. And it will play again on page 33-34 during a flashback where Sparks celebrates with Priscila and Glenda.

And the last song will be Know Your Rights as it plays through the tag scene. Rubeus kills another victim and I can see Marco – the victim – singing this song out loud while driving up until he is killed by Rubeus and then it takes us to the credits.