

# VANDAL

## **60 MIN CONTINUING TV DRAMA SERIES**

**A brilliant female psych-profiler hunts a taunting serial killer by reliving murder cases – as the victim.**

VANDAL is a prime-time crime drama with an edgy sci-fi twist, exploring the deadly enmity between a damaged profiler and a serial killer bent on forcing her to embrace her dark side again.

The show combines serial and episodic ‘murder of the week’ elements, kicking off with serial killer One Shot Bob murdering Darcy Montoya – the lead Detective Inspector on his case, and profiler Dr Vanderburgh (Vandal)’s boss. With the help of Darcy’s dysfunctional genius brother Sprye, Vandal uses his prototype time machine to ‘split’ into the past.

Naturally, their plan to avenge Darcy’s death by solving the crime without messing up time and space and getting themselves killed in the process all goes spectacularly wrong, such that it’s Vandal who meets One Shot in Darcy’s stead. But even Vandal finds herself outmatched by this intelligent, manipulative psychopath – and a man who knows far too much about her own violent past.

Returning, shaken, to a new present in which Darcy is still alive, Vandal joins forces with Sprye to solve a murder that, as far as everyone else is concerned, never happened. But when her next murder investigation references Darcy’s case, and each subsequent case seems inexplicably connected to that of the previous episode – to events only Vandal and Sprye should be able to remember – Vandal realises she’s being drawn a dangerous and sophisticated game. One taking place in both past and present, forcing her to navigate a precarious line between hunter and hunted, lawful and criminal as One Shot baits her with the perfect trap: kill or be killed.

But Vandal has never been one to play by the rules – especially those of a serial killer she will do anything to find and face again. Hot on his trail and with Sprye as her time-travelling confidant, Vandal weekly profiles a fascinating array of murderers and victims from all walks of life, adopting the mannerisms of the deceased before splitting back into the bodies of the victims to live out their final hour of life in the hands of their would-be killer.

Each split brings her a step closer to solving the overall plot arc: who is One Shot Bob, a man Vandal knows she must count amongst her associates? What terrible secret does he know from Vandal’s past? How far is Vandal willing to go – physically, morally and lawfully – to keep that secret?

VANDAL is driven by a compelling, complicated and ultimately – in the matter of murder – complicit female lead. This great game of shadows, secrets and lies between One Shot and Vandal exists only because of her desperation to deny, even to herself, her innate capacity for violence, and to save others from turning down the same dark road.

## **MAIN CHARACTER LIST**

### **VANDAL (Dr Sophie Vanderburgh)**

Late 30's, psychological profiler, emotionally disassociated behavioural expert, reluctantly re-hired by Darcy to find serial killer One Shot Bob, a man determined to make her face a past she's spent her life leaving behind.

### **SPRYE MONTOYA**

30-ish, brother of Darcy, resident genius, creator of the Chonopsytronic Vector Generator (aka the time machine); and as acutely intelligent and equivalently dysfunctional as new friend and partner-against-crime Vandal. His secretive former employers, Ret-Chron, become a dangerous enemy to Sprye and Vandal's activities.

### **DETECTIVE INSPECTOR DARCY MONTOYA**

Early 30's, sister of Sprye, by-the-book lead DI on the One Shot Bob serial killer case – and his seventh victim, until unknowingly saved by Vandal and Sprye, thereafter investigating her own profiler and brother in relation to the case.

### **ONE SHOT BOB**

Serial killer who murders with a single shot to the forehead – yet without any sign of coercion – leaving victim's bodies in public places to be found by family/friends. Develops an obsession with Vandal from the first episode.

### **DETECTIVE INSPECTOR JAY KEYES**

Early 30's, Darcy's very-estranged ex fiancé. Vandal first meets – and falls for – a tragic-heroic figure, broken by the death of Darcy; however after saving Darcy in her first split, Vandal instead meets emotionally-retarded playboy locked in an acrimonious rivalry with the woman he cannot bring himself to admit he still loves.

### **DETECTIVE JENNA BURNS**

Early 30's, Darcy's offsider and best friend and Lester's girlfriend. The most emotionally stable and reliable of the team, it's through Jenna's quiet suspicions and investigations into Vandal's increasingly strange behaviour that we start to uncover clues and develop doubts about her past, character and reliability.

### **LESTER LACROIX**

Late 30's, lawyer, Jenna's boyfriend and the only person who will employ Sprye, albeit under the pretence of an office assistant. Bright and witty, Lester's congenial ability to be friends and sympathetic with everyone – especially social pariahs Vandal and Sprye – ironically causes tension through all the key relationships.

## **EPISODIC ROLES**

VANDAL also includes one-off roles for the killer of the episode, their victim and the family/friends affected by the murder.

Because of the way time-travel is used in this series – where Vandal ‘undoes’ murder cases so that only she remembers the reactions, admission and regrets of the bereaved – she is uniquely equipped, after each split, to arbitrate conflict in the lives of people she knows well, but to whom she is now a complete stranger.

Thanks to her time-travelling insights, Vandal appears almost paranormally gifted in the way she can resolve relationship issues she ought to know nothing about. She also has opportunities to intervene in the lives of the would-be killers, conducting her own little investigation into whether the damned can be saved – a search of redemption for others in the hope of finding it for herself.

## **SERIES LONGEVITY**

Although VANDAL has a strong serial element, the series’ procedural “murder and time split of the week” structure allows flexibility in the season length.

The major plot arcs (who killed Darcy? Who is One Shot Bob? How and why is he constructing this trap for Vandal? What secret from her past does he know, and to what length will she go to protect it?) could be condensed into a season as short as 6-8 episodes, however the character arcs would be better developed over 13 episodes to allow greater audience investment and emotional payoff.

There are currently two strong ending options: a more satisfying one-shot single-season conclusion in which Vandal routes One Shot Bob and finds if not redemption, at least an acceptable kind of peace; and then a more shocking climax leaving Vandal and One Shot imprisoned together for murder.

Series two would involve Darcy and Sprye being recruited by a covert law agency trying to utilise Sprye’s splitting technology, but with considerably less success than Vandal had. They would need to extract Vandal from a high security prison to become their only stable splitting subject, and towards the end of the season, Vandal would be forced to secretly arrange the extraction of One Shot as well to help defeat a greater evil.