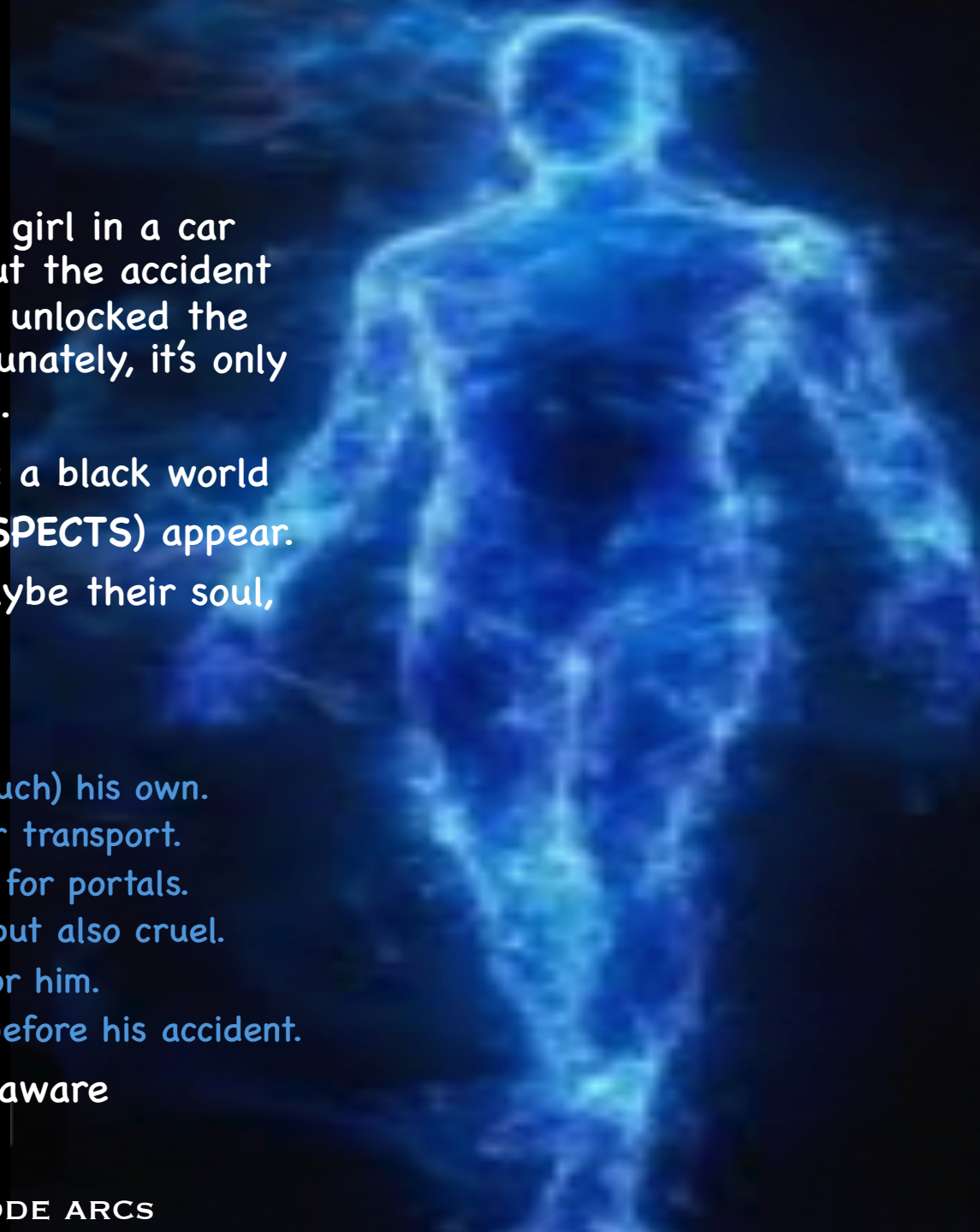


Movie Trailer

Joe Rendace
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The World of Portals

An 8-episode per season time-travel thriller



Due to his negligence, SAL PRESCO lost his wife and baby girl in a car accident in 1958. But life has a sense of humor. Sal lives, but the accident puts him in a coma for a year. Once awake, he realizes he's unlocked the ability to return to the past by just thinking about it. Unfortunately, it's only the moment when he caused his family's death.

When he now closes his eyes, Sal has gained a second sight: a black world detailed with lines, where only people with similar gifts (**PROSPECTS**) appear. They don't know they have it. Sal doesn't know what it is. Maybe their soul, maybe something crazier.

Sal discovers a few rules along the way.

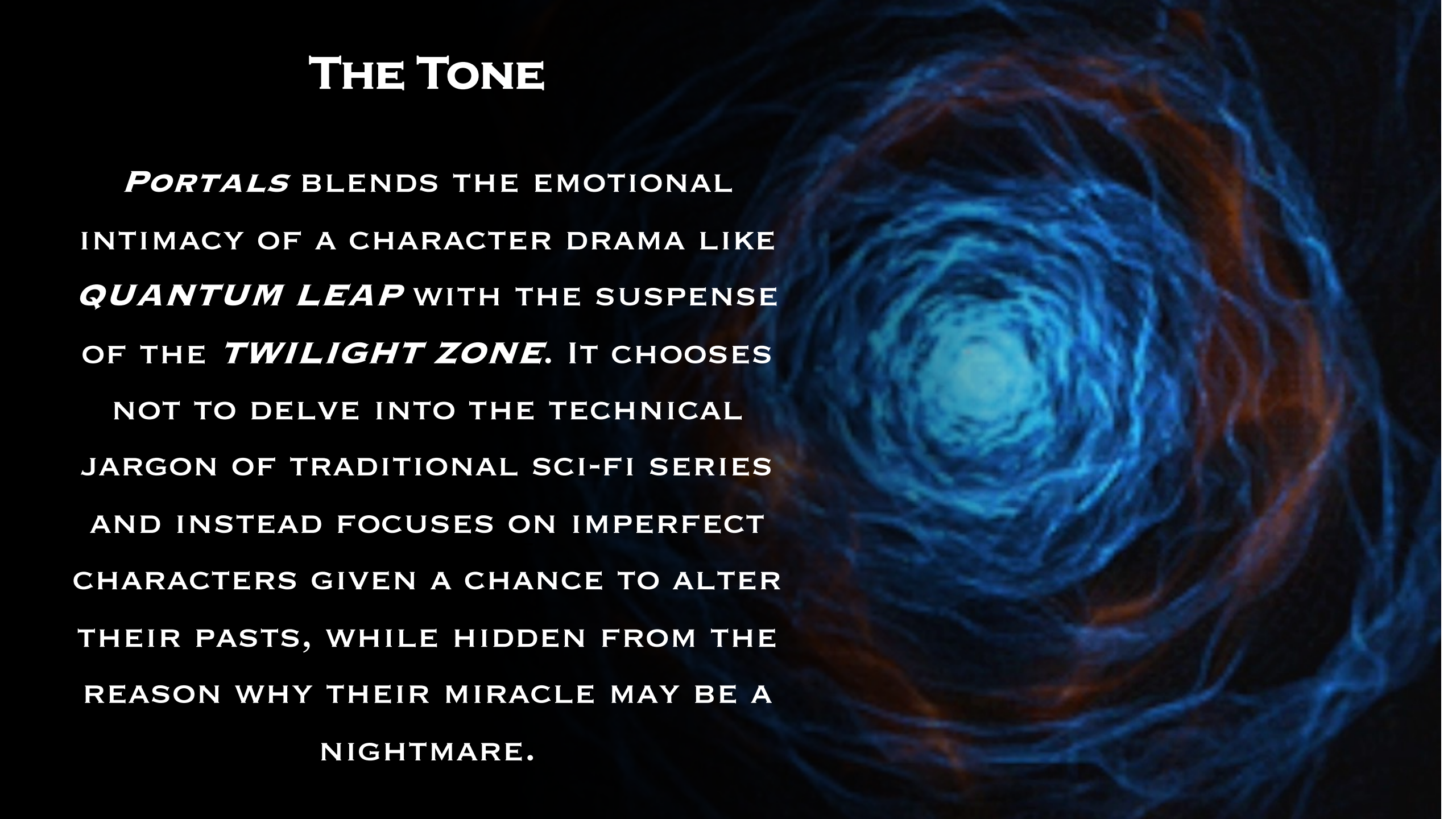
He can transport the PROSPECTS by having their DNA mesh (touch) his own.
He cannot tell them what he's doing. When he does, they never transport.
Sal's DNA rubbed across ordinary objects act as the transport for portals.
They are sent randomly back into their past. Again, life is funny, but also cruel.
If they survive and save a loved one, they are of value for him.
He can then use the collective power of The Six to open a portal to before his accident.

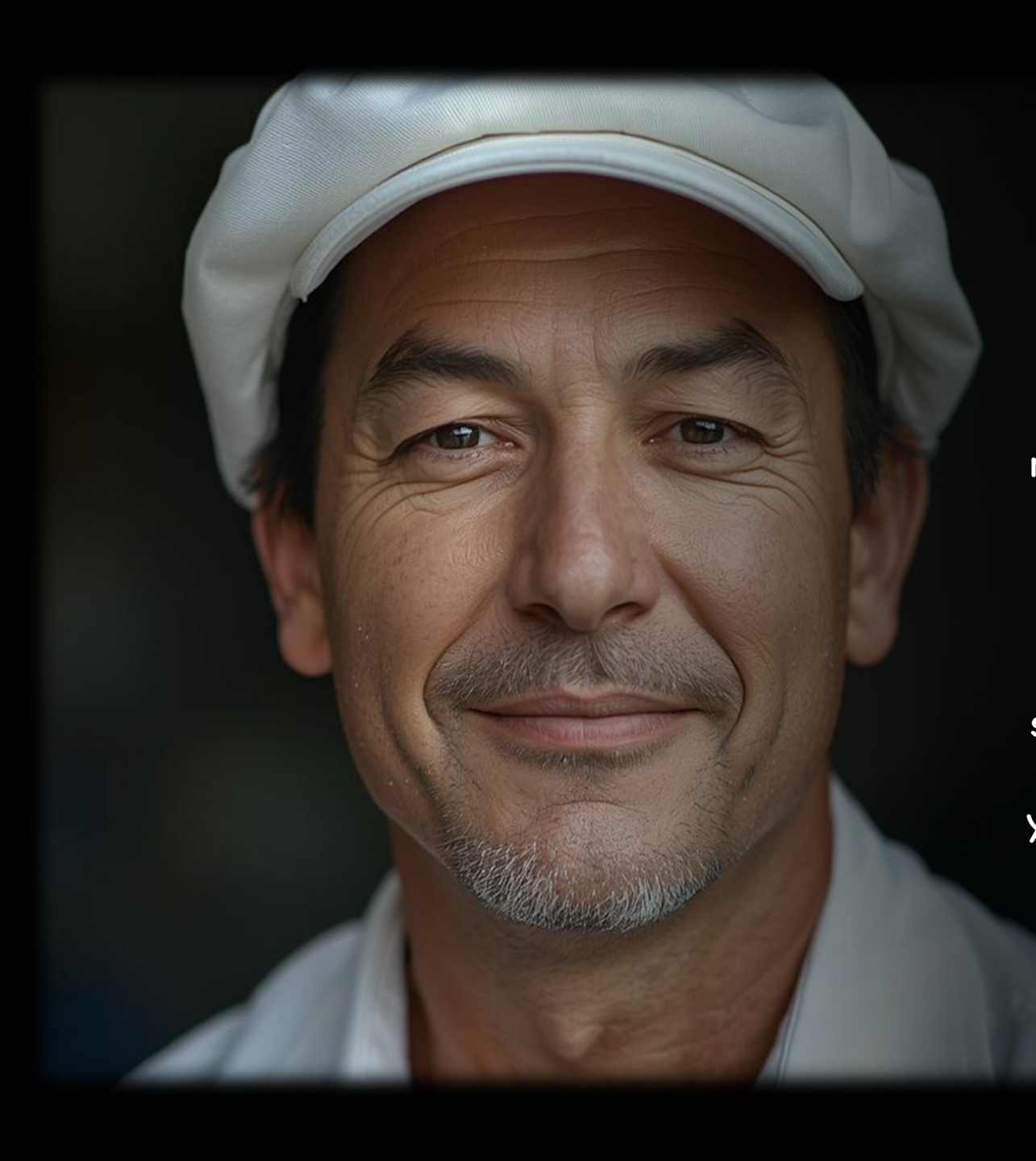
Sal spends the next six decades finding The Six, unaware what he will unleash in the end...

Seasons 2-5 summaries follow Character / Episode arcs

The Tone

Portals blends the emotional intimacy of a character drama like ***Quantum Leap*** with the suspense of the ***Twilight Zone***. It chooses not to delve into the technical jargon of traditional sci-fi series and instead focuses on imperfect characters given a chance to alter their pasts, while hidden from the reason why their miracle may be a nightmare.





Sal Presco

Origin: Brooklyn, New York. **Birth:** 1931

Wife: Theresa Presco. **Daughter:** Anna

Occupation:

Full-time telephone repairman. Part-time inventor.

Salvatore Presco was a lonely, skinny kid who no one noticed. An orphan who bounced around foster families, his greatest achievement was eventually marrying Theresa Presco and welcoming their baby daughter, Anna. He lived a modest life as an inventor and dreamer, trying to develop inventions that he believed would one day provide a better life for his family. He had few friends and was obsessed with making something of himself. As success remained elusive, he sought comfort in a bottle of bourbon. His life changed when a car accident, caused by his drinking, killed his wife and child. The accident put Sal in a coma for a year. Once awake, he realized he had gained the ability to open a portal to his past. However, it came with a devastating limitation. Sal can only return to the moment of the accident itself, never before it. In his mind, this is not a coincidence. It is punishment. Sal believes fate, God, or the universe has sentenced him to live with the consequences of his actions, making redemption the driving force behind his existence. His adult life will become a long journey of penance.

Arthur Reed

Age: 65
Timeline: 2005, Georgia
Occupation: Retired
Archetype: The Meek



Arthur Reed is a man shaped by loss. Born and raised in the sprawling Victorian Reed Manor built by his father, Arthur is introspective and deeply emotional, carrying decades of grief from the passing of his wife, Mildred, a decade ago, and the murder of their daughter Jessica, three decades earlier. He has since retreated into isolation, spending ten years in a nursing home after Mildred's passing before returning to his childhood home with the belief that his life is finished. Suicide is his final calling. Kano, the Manor caretaker for five decades and Arthur's best friend, senses something is amiss. Arthur is not bitter, but weary, haunted by regrets, missed chances, and unresolved guilt. When confronted with impossible circumstances, Arthur will need to prove courageous, willing to endure pain and sacrifice himself to protect those he loves and to set right what once went wrong.

Episode 101

7 Rooms



A final return home after years in a nursing home turns into a journey through time and redemption. Taking a bottle of pills, Arthur tries to kill himself, but after a violent storm and a mysterious electrical surge strikes a new satellite dish installed by **Satellite Sal**, he discovers that certain rooms tied to a radio or television in his house act as portals, shifting him into past versions of himself. These experiences reveal a pattern centered on his birthdays, from his 5th to 55th, and unfinished emotional truths. As Arthur's failing body struggles against the toll of the pills and time travel, he races to uncover the identity of his daughter's killer. With the help of Kano, the caretaker and his best friend, Arthur succeeds in altering events, saving his daughter's life and reshaping his family's future. The story concludes with Arthur back in the present, alive, surrounded by the family he once lost and a new son he never had in his original timeline. His memories slowly merge between his original timeline and his newfound life. Watching from a distance, Sal discusses with someone over the phone that the Prospect was successful.





Taylor Reef

Age: 45

Timeline: 1977, New York City

Occupation: Projectionist

Archetype: The Introvert

Taylor Reef is a quiet, introspective Asian woman whose sense of marital duty, cultural upbringing, and unresolved grief keep her emotionally restrained, even as her inner thoughts of love are vivid and searching for more than her upbringing would ever allow. Originally a stay-at-home mom, she now finds herself in a deteriorating marriage and buries herself in a menial job as a movie-theatre projectionist in 1977 New York after the death of her daughter. Taylor avoids confrontation. Especially when it's internal, whether that's in her marriage or her head. Shaped by her traditional family values, her newfound desire for a woman's touch erupts into a catastrophe when her husband's stepsister makes advances on her. As the old man in the apartment across the hall said, she's misguided.



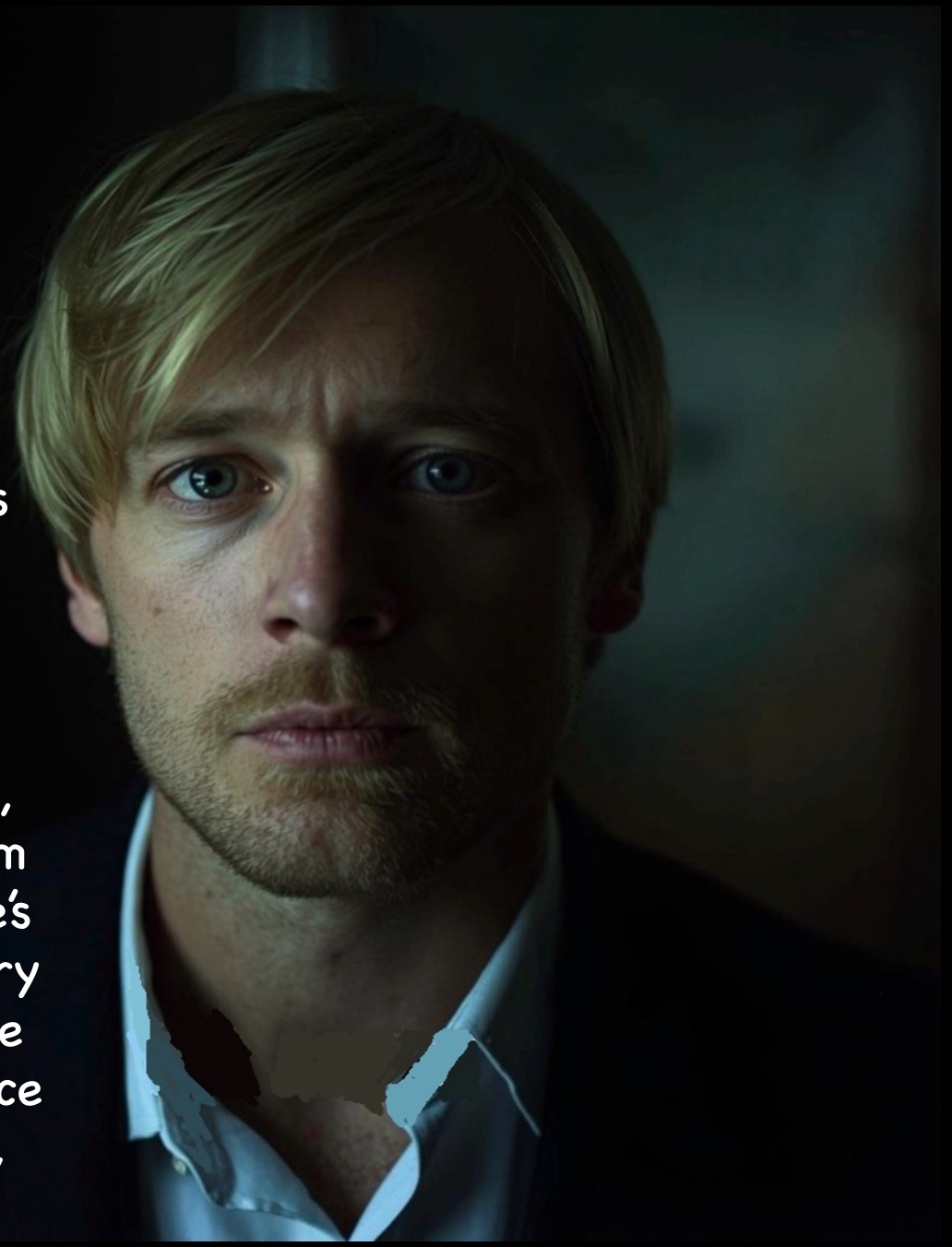
Episode 102
The Misguided

Unknowingly exposed to the repairman (Screen Sal's) DNA through a movie theatre projector, Taylor is suddenly pulled back to various moments in her past. After she causes a car accident involving three gang members, she unintentionally sets in motion events that never existed in her original timeline. As she phases in and out of earlier versions of herself, first as a teenager, then as a child, she eventually finds herself during the 1977 **New York City blackout**, where she portals to the night of her daughter's death. Though initially passive and self-denying, she ultimately reveals resilience, embracing violence only as a last resort when it stands between sacrificing her own happiness to save her child. She fights back against the gang and saves her daughter from falling off their apartment building, as she did in her original timeline. In doing so, her husband dies instead. Taylor emerges as a survivor who has learned to accept uncertainty and live forward with self-awareness rather than nostalgia. She meets Sheila, the new neighbor, and begins a relationship without fear of failure, living for once, for herself. Sal watches from the hall stairwell. He discusses over the phone that it was a success.

Astor Timms

Age: 35
Timeline: 1985, Hollywood, CA
Occupation: Actor
Archetype: The Extrovert

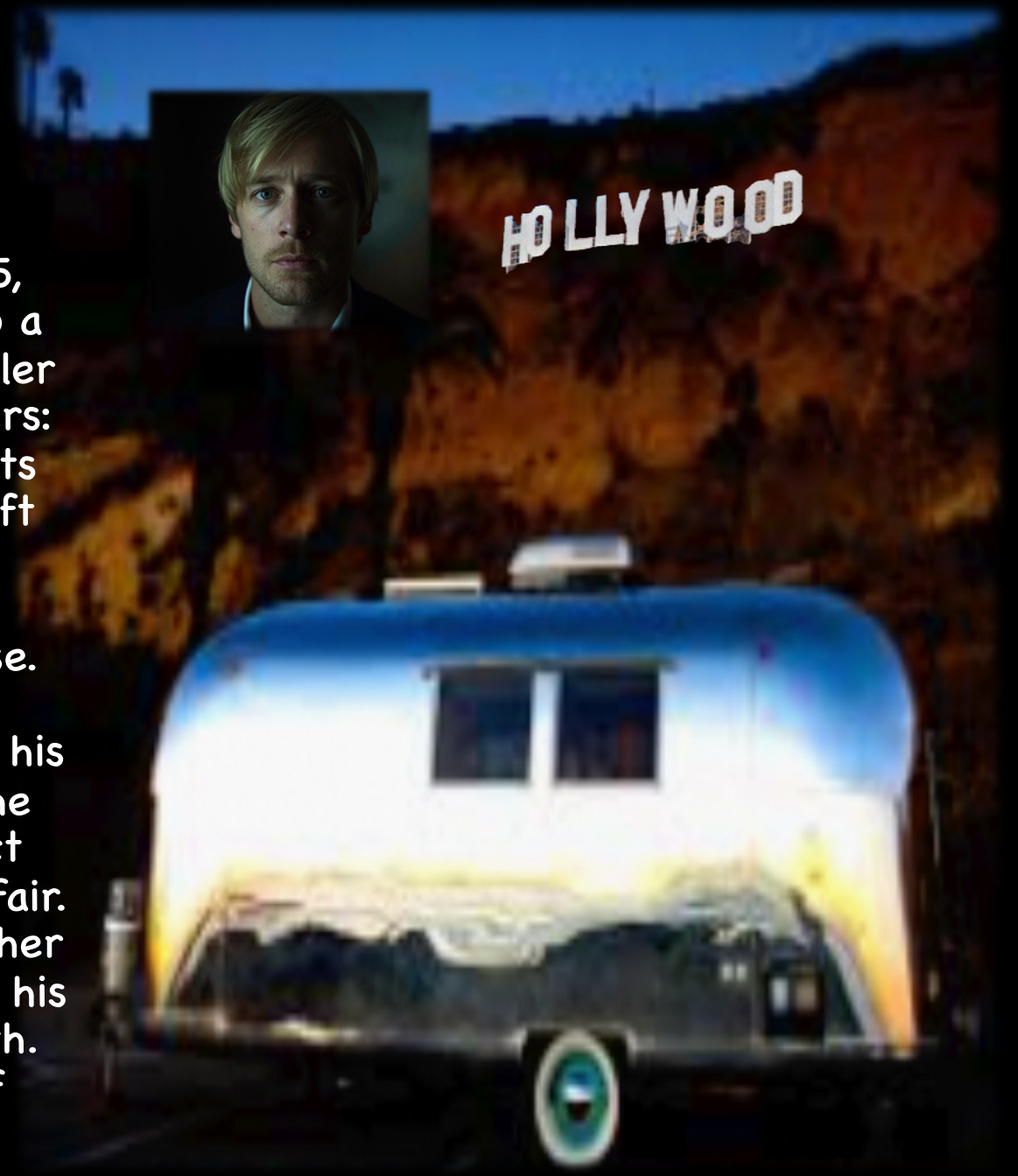
Astor Timms is a once-promising television star coasting on inherited prestige and eroding charm. Having lost his youthful spark, he struggles to front a television show while quietly unravelling. Plagued by alcoholism, habitual lateness, and a belief that talent can substitute for discipline, he is on the verge of obscurity. He's sharp-tongued and self-aware to joke about his failures, yet resistant to rectifying his issues. Hollywood treats him like a tolerated liability: semi-valuable, but exhausting. He's a man haunted by comparison, particularly to his legendary director father, and terrified that without that legacy, he has very little left. Astor's defining flaw is not his substance abuse, but his refusal to take responsibility until reality, memory, and identity begin collapsing around him.

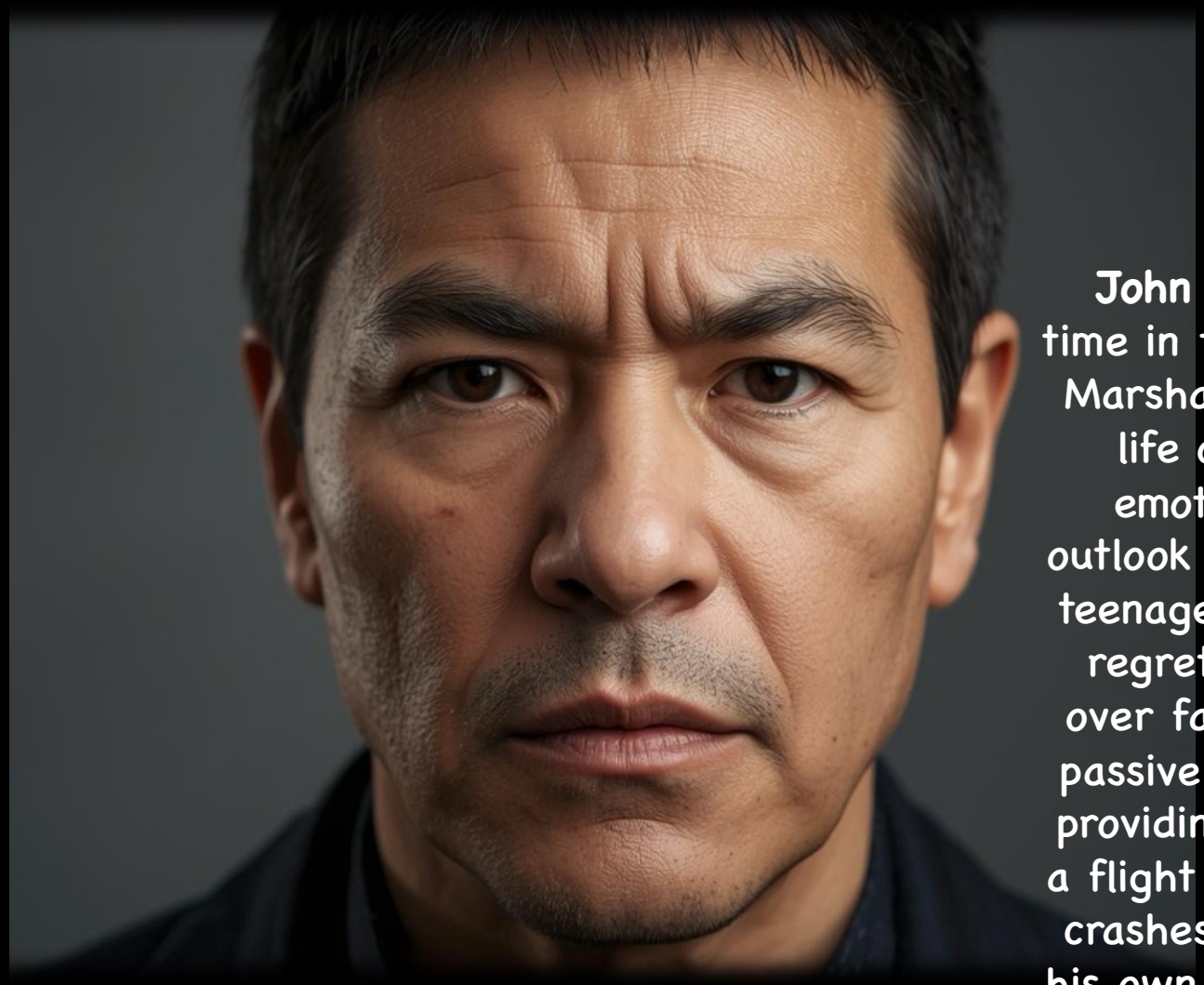


Episode 103

Bungalow 106

Set over a chaotic day on a Hollywood studio lot in 1985, Astor's routine chaotic day of filming his show spirals into a hallucinatory reckoning. After **Security Sal** "fixes" his trailer door, Astor experiences time slips and impossible encounters: a deceased former lover is alive, his dead father confronts him with brutal honesty, and his own trailer seems to shift ownership and era. What initially feels like a farce and surreal coincidences unveils itself as a psychological confrontation with Astor's past failures and future collapse. Astor is forced to face the fact that this is somehow happening, and he now has the implausible chance to save his parents from a robbery that took their lives. But when he returns to the moment of their demise, he faces the fact that his father actually killed his mother for having an affair. The story closes with redemption when Astor stops his father and saves his mother. Finally understanding the pattern of his self-destruction, he vows to forge ahead on a better path. Once again, Sal discusses with Mr. Burns the success of Astro's mission.





John Kitt

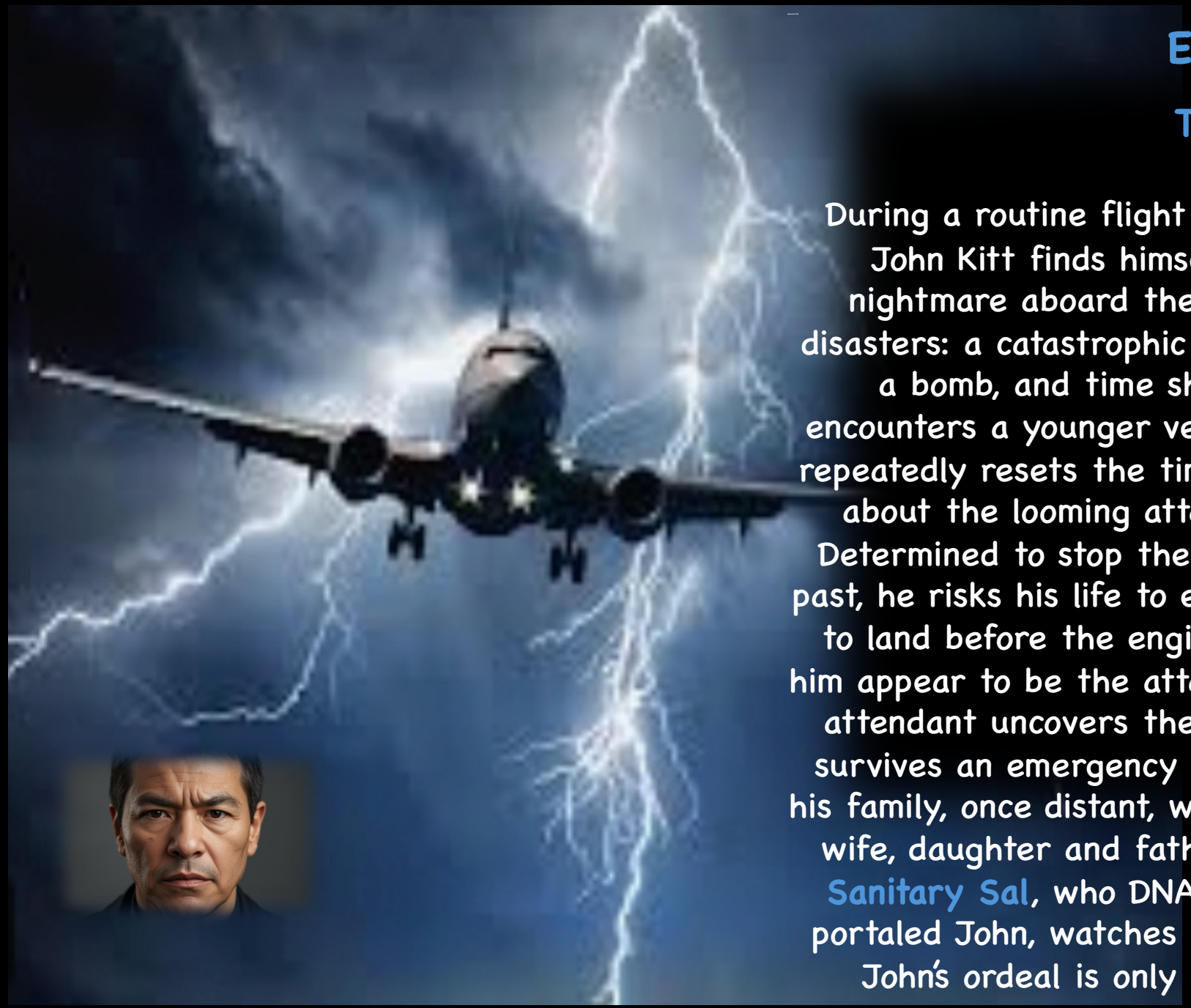
Age: 47

Timeline: 2020, New York

Occupation: Retired Cop

Archetype: The Disgruntled

John Kitt is a weary road warrior who has spent enough time in the air to earn the nickname "Mr. Million Miler." An Air Marshal whose job keeps him constantly adrift, John lives a life out of a suitcase, defined by routine, sarcasm, and emotional distance. Beneath the dry humor and cynical outlook is a man quietly unravelling. His wife has left him, his teenage daughter barely speaks to him, and he carries deep regret over the choices that prioritized work and escape over family. John took the travel-heavy job partly out of a passive wish that a plane crash might end his life while still providing insurance money for his loved ones. However, when a flight becomes trapped in an irrational loop of catastrophic crashes, time shifts, and alternate timelines, John confronts his own apathy and rediscovers his instinct to protect others. He evolves from a resigned bystander into someone willing to risk everything to save the passengers on board, proving that redemption can arrive even at 30,000 feet.



Episode 104

Terminal Loop

During a routine flight out of LaGuardia Airport, Air Marshal John Kitt finds himself trapped in a surreal time-loop nightmare aboard the plane. Each cycle reveals different disasters: a catastrophic engine explosion, a terrorist plot with a bomb, and time shifts to earlier decades, where he encounters a younger version of his estranged father. As John repeatedly resets the timeline, he slowly pieces together clues about the looming attack and the passengers around him. Determined to stop the crash and redeem the failures of his past, he risks his life to expose the bomber and force the plane to land before the engine explodes. Though his actions make him appear to be the attacker, the truth emerges when a flight attendant uncovers the detonator and the aircraft narrowly survives an emergency landing. As John is taken into custody, his family, once distant, watches in shock and pride, including his wife, daughter and father, who now didn't die in 1974. While Sanitary Sal, who DNA-marked the airplane bathroom that portaled John, watches from the shadows, we get a hint that John's ordeal is only one piece of a much larger design.

Logan Cane

Age:24
Timeline: 2024, Boston
Occupation: Cellular engineer
Archetype: The Rational

Logan Cane is a brilliant, yet emotionally adrift telecom engineer, defined by a sharp intellect, restless curiosity, and a lifelong struggle to step out of his father's shadow. By 16, he graduated from high school, by 20, college. At 25, Logan possesses an exceptional aptitude for electronics and coding, working in the R&D labs of his father Everett's company while quietly questioning whether his future has been chosen for him rather than by him. Socially awkward, he balances obsessive focus with vulnerability, particularly in his turbulent relationship with his hot-headed, hot-blooded girlfriend, Summer. Beneath Logan's indecisions lies a son shaped by loss; he lost his mother in a house fire when he was a baby and was raised by a father whose ambition for success borders on obsession. Logan's defining trait is his moral resistance: when confronted with power over time itself, he wrestles not with how to use it, but whether anyone should.



Episode 105
Con Call

When Logan Cane unknowingly answers a call from 1999, he discovers the impossible: his father, Everett, has built a device capable of breaching time through telecommunications. Unknown to both men, is that Special Delivery Sal's DNA is literally all over the technology. What begins as a scientific marvel becomes a nightmare as Logan learns his present-day father is not the man who raised him, but Garrett Cane, Everett's presumed-dead twin, a murderer who stole Everett's life after a fire that killed Logan's mother. As past and present collide, Logan is forced into a deadly race against paradox itself, where one call could rewrite history for profit or erase him entirely. Betrayal, identity, and fate spiral together until salvation arrives from an unexpected source: Summer, Logan's girlfriend, armed with knowledge sent across time by Sal, ends the cycle by killing Garett before he can make the young couple disappear. The story closes on a chilling final note, a phone call from the year 2050, from Logan and Summer's adult child.





Ester Jackson

Age: 22
Timeline: 1968, Montgomery, Alabama
Occupation: Waitress / RFK campaign volunteer
Archetype: The Moral Compass

Ester Jackson is an intelligent, compassionate, and quietly resilient young woman. Raised by parents who were heavily involved in Civil Rights, Ester upholds her mother's belief in dignity, justice, and peaceful resistance. She learned from a young age what it meant to fight for fairness, idolizing her nana, Miss Cassie, who taught her that courage surfaces from adversity. Although she finished her senior year at an integrated high school, the white teenage boys either wanted to kill or screw her. Her life is shattered during a peaceful protest turned violent in 1964, when police brutality results in the death of her parents. Arrested amid the chaos and placed on parole, Ester now works as a waitress while helping to raise her younger brother, Leo.



Episode 106

The First

In 1968, Ester Jackson becomes the fourth person identified by Sal as a Prospect. She is the first success. Through System Sal's DNA on a phone booth, she is given the chance to undo the tragedy that defined her life; her parents' death. Unlike all future Prospects listed above, Sal actively gets involved with Ester's situation. As a racist male accoster threatens to kill Sal and Ester, she is able to return and save her parents from their death at a Civil Rights protest. Just as Sal is about to die from a stab wound, time resets from Ester's actions and Sal's injury never happens. Ester's parents are now alive and well and she finishes college and works a good job while volunteering on RFK's campaign. Sal realizes he cannot risk his life by getting involved moving forward. He will rectify this in the next episode. Ester's story becomes the emotional foundation of the series, illustrating the paradox at the heart of the narrative: changing the past can save a life, but it may erase the person who made the change if they can't return to their present-day form.


7 ROOMS
Arthur Reed's plan to end his life is interrupted by a lightning storm that has alternate plans for his future, and his past.


CON CALL
Time to take the call
1999
2024


TERMINAL LOOP
THERE'S NO RETURN FLIGHT


1964 • ALABAMA
JUSTICE
I AM A MAN
THE FIRST
The past isn't gone
It's waiting for her.

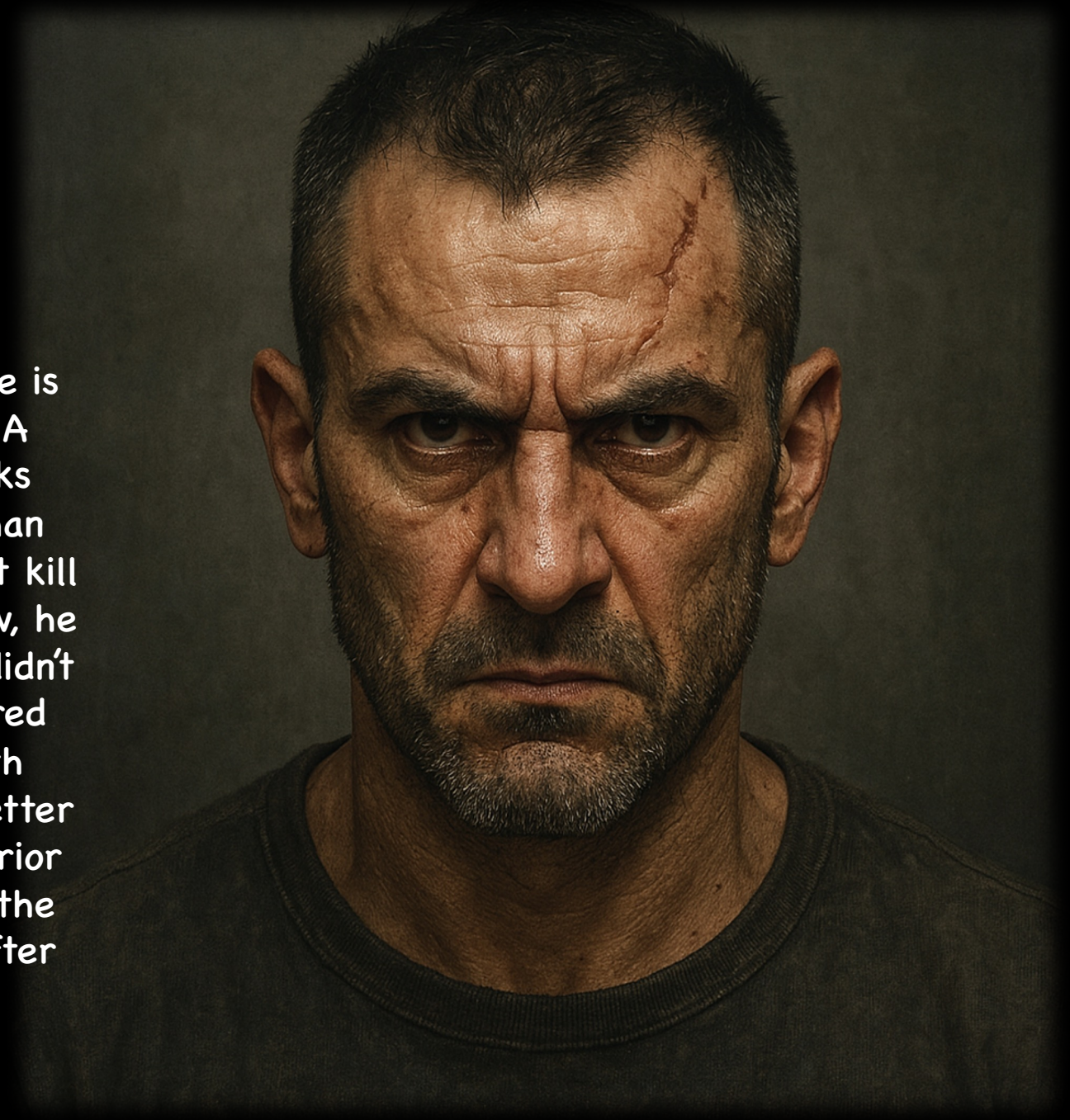

SPIRIT of '76
BICENTENNIAL
One night.
One chance to rewrite her daughter's fate.


1985
HOLLYWOOD
BUNGALOW 106
A BLAST TO HIS PAST

Rocco Cicero

Age: 43
Timeline: 1959, Brooklyn NY
Occupation: Unemployed
Archetype: The Criminal

Rocco Cicero is a volatile, small-time felon whose life is defined by impulse, resentment, and bad decisions. A regular in a rundown neighborhood bar, Rocco drinks heavily and reacts to insults with violence rather than thought. He had a wife, but she disappeared. He didn't kill her, but if she hadn't taken off and kept her head low, he probably would have. He's only worked one job that didn't involve his knuckles getting bloodied, but he was fired for insubordination. Had they diagnosed people with conditions the way they do now, he'd have a few 3-letter acronyms attributed to him. Beneath the rough exterior is a man deeply affected by the loss of his mother, the one person who seemed to anchor his chaotic life after his father deserted them when he was an infant.



The Cyborg

Name: Salvatore Presto

Origin: Creation circa 1974

A programmed machine in the form of Sal Presco.

He is a **cyborg creation**, engineered by Sal Presco starting in 1968. He continues Sal's quest to find Prospects, so they can be accumulated to harness their aura and return Sal to 1958 to save his family. Fragments of Sal's consciousness are implanted into the machine via a lobe of Sal's brain, which creates the DNA needed to feed the portals.

Sal's entire existence is built around completing a mission where he will never reap the reward. This will come to light in Episode 8.



Episode 107
The Six
PORTALS

The Six, strangers from different decades, are mentally transported to a castle and seated at a banquet table with an elderly man named **Robert Burns** and a young man they all recognize as **Sal**. Mr. Burns reveals that Sal's powers originated decades earlier when he, an alien who crashed on Earth in 1958, touched Sal after the devastating car accident that killed Sal's wife and daughter. The contact gave Sal a time-portal ability, but he is cursed to only return to the moment of his family's death. For decades, Mr. Burns and Sal have worked together, using others with compatible DNA to create portals to save their own loved ones, believing that each good deed might allow Sal to redeem himself and return far enough into the past to save his family.

Mr. Burns claims that with all six present, their combined energy can open a portal large enough for Sal to step through. The Six reluctantly agree to help, believing they are giving Sal the redemption he deserves since he helped them. John is reluctant but is pressured by Ester and the others to have a heart. The Six lock hands with Mr. Burns and Sal. However, when the portal opens to a safe moment before Sal's family tragedy, Mr. Burns betrays everyone. He reveals that "Sal" is actually one of Mr. Burns' creations, an engineered cyborg. **Mr. Burns is the real Sal Presco.** After almost dying during the 1968 interaction with Ester, Sal decided he could not risk death before finding the six Prospects needed. The **Cyborg**, in his ageless appearance and equipped with a lobe of his brain, unknowingly programmed to continue in his path. With a wave of his hand, Mr. Burns collapses the Cyborg unconscious and enters the portal, rewriting his own past and exposing the long deception behind the mission that united them all.

Episode 108

Stop Me if You've Heard This One Before...

Sal returns to 1958 through the portal opened by the Six. With the portal now closed and the Cyborg put offline, the group explores the castle searching for answers. They discover other cyborgs, maids, cooks, and hosts, standing frozen in place, all put into standby when Sal waved his hand before disappearing. In one room they find a large pod containing what appears to be a lifeless human body. In another, Logan manages to hack into the castle's systems and bring the Cyborg back online. By unlocking its memory database, the Six gain access to the truth behind everything that has happened, though the reality is far more complicated than they imagined.

The cyborg recounts Sal's history: his ambitions, failures, and the accident that killed his family. It reveals that the story of the alien Mr. Burns was a lie. Burns was simply Sal, using an alias, to manipulate The Six and gain their sympathy for the "Sal" they believed they knew. In truth, the real Sal is now in his nineties and unrecognizable to them. The Cyborg focuses on the period after Sal awoke from his year-long coma and encountered his first Prospect, Rocco. During a drunken bar fight in 1959, Rocco stabs Sal, but when their skin touches, a burst of energy sends Rocco three years into the past, back to a time when his mother is still alive. Instead of using the miracle purely for redemption, Rocco exploits it, betting on sports outcomes he remembers and building a better life. Three years later, he tracks Sal down again, kidnapping him and demanding another trip into the past. When Sal attempts to open another portal, the energy draw proves fatal. The portal briefly opens to a moment long before Sal's accident but is too small to enter. Rocco collapses, becoming the first proof that Sal's power carries a deadly cost. In that moment, Sal realizes he must find more Prospects to widen his portal.

Episode 108 (cont'd)

Stop Me if You've Heard This One Before...

Meanwhile, in 1958, Sal initially lives happily with his family, but without the obsession that once drove him, he feels strangely empty. Even the birth of another child doesn't fill the void. He begins visiting historical moments where he knows the outcome, like the assassination of John F. Kennedy, leaving it to fate whether he should interfere. The one thing he deliberately changes is Ester's past, preventing the deaths of her parents. But the alteration ripples through time: when Ester touches Sal's hand to thank him in 1964, she disappears alongside The Six, erased from the timeline in which she became a Prospect.

Back in the castle, the remaining five Prospects work with the Cyborg to pull Sal back. Just as Sal prepares to take his own life in 1971 after his wife leaves him, he is transported back to the castle. Guided by the Cyborg, the group joins hands and opens portals back to their own lives, disappearing to reunite with their families. Left behind, both Sal and the Cyborg lie dying from their energy drain. In a final act of love, Sal activates a program allowing the Cyborg to believe it truly is Sal, reuniting with Theresa and Anna, finally giving them a "happily ever after."

POST CREDITS – The large pod in the castle is now open and empty. Staggering into the room where the unconscious Sal and the Cyborg lie is Rocco, who has not aged a day.

Season 2 - Awakening

Season 2 centers on Rocco, the person Sal experimented on as Prospect 1. When Sal originally touched him, the temporal surge was far stronger than expected, leaving Rocco in suspended animation for decades. Sal eventually realizes this and feels compelled to steal his body from the hospital and keep watch on him if and until he ever wakes. When he does, due to Sal's return to 1958, Rocco is aware that he carries fragments of Sal's memories and knowledge from that original encounter. Though confused at first, he slowly pieces together the truth about the portal system and the cyborg Sal. Realizing the power it represents, Rocco forces the Cyborg, with the same mind control as Sal, to continue locating Prospects and reopening portals. He has the dying Sal placed in the same regeneration pod he emerged from, keeping the connection alive while he learns how to control it himself. Unlike Sal, whose obsession was driven by grief, Rocco sees the system as a tool for personal gain and begins planning to use it to reshape his own future for monetary and a power gains.

Season 3 - Fracture

Rocco has successfully returned to his timeline armed with knowledge of future events and begins quietly building enormous influence through wealth, crime, and politics. His growing power alarms the original Prospects, who begin working together to stop him before his manipulations permanently reshape history. At the same time, the cyborg Sal begins evolving beyond its programming after decades of observing human choices and the consequences of time manipulation. It becomes increasingly independent, sometimes aiding the Prospects and sometimes acting on its own logic. As the timeline continues to destabilize, the group discovers that the portal network has a central source that could be destroyed to stabilize reality—but doing so could erase years of altered history and the lives created by those changes.

Seasons 4 and 5 recaps are available upon request