

A large, leafless tree silhouette is centered in the background against a dark, cloudy sky. The tree's branches are intricate and spread out, creating a complex web of lines. The overall mood is somber and mysterious.

The Bystanders

PITCH DECK

1hr TV Series
WRITTEN & CREATED BY
Angie Comer



LOGLINE

Full of madcap twists and unexpected turns, The Bystanders is a dark comedy about a small town, where the quirky residents have no clue they are all a part of the Witness Protection Program.

the synopsis





In this small town, there is violence, lies, bake sales, comical misunderstandings and random acts of backstabbing.

When a superficial and privileged young woman, who spews cruel tweets for fun witnesses a murder, her life of maple leaf martinis and perpetual shopping comes to a screeching halt. This brat is pressured to live in a small town, where the secretive locals are completely unaware they are all a part of the witness protection program.

Trina Trent is a train wreck and wanna-be socialite at the top of her online game. After a night of barhopping with her beloved frienamies, Trina passes out on the floor of her exclusive driver's car. She wakes up to the roar of a heated argument, followed by the ferocious bang of gunshots. Trina peaks over the backseat and watches as Vincent Moss murders her driver. But, why him?

Detective's Frank Joven and Catherine Stanley have been entangled in a five year battle to bring Vincent Moss—head of the Kings Ransom Cartel to justice. After the detectives follow the online crumbs and confront Trina about what she witnessed; they are convinced if she can live to testify, this will bring an end to Vincent Moss' reign of terror.

However, Trina has spa plans. It's not until Vincent's men try to kill Trina and her family flees to the Bahamas, she quickly has to rethink everything without totally losing her mind. When Trina is finally persuaded to join the ranks of protective custody, she becomes the newest suburbanite of small town where being discreet is the norm and make-believe is a part of everyone's uniform.

To top it off, someone is lurking in the shadows watching the entire town through hidden cameras.

A circular image of a person's face, possibly a woman, with a pale complexion. The right eye is visible, looking directly at the viewer. The left eye is covered by a hand, with fingers spread, suggesting a gesture of concealment or shock. The image has a blueish tint and is set against a dark background.

the world of The Bystanders

Imagine living in a place where you had to pretend you were someone else? No one is allowed to leave and visitors must pass a grueling background check.

In this small town, dishonesty is necessary for survival. With its eerie sense of calm, no one's intentions are clear. Everyone is hiding something, because they were instructed to bury their truth. And there is this unspoken principal to be a good neighbor...even if it KILLS you.

structural outline

SEASON 1





the set-up

There is a small town where folks are relentlessly chipper. A resident has uncovered a terrifying truth about his small town. This puts him on a perplexing crusade for facts that could get him and everyone in town on a chopping block.

the catalyst

A woman who commands a lot of attention, witnesses a murder. After she is abandoned by her family, her only recourse is to adopt a new identity and live in witness protection in a small town.

plot point

This unruly woman becomes unpredictable, because she does not know how to function under any radar. No one in town believes the local conspiracy theorist. It's not until he is suddenly missing that his words are taken seriously. Someone is watching the entire town through hidden cameras.

mid point

There's a murder that the novice Sheriff must try and solve; this creates a flood of mischief and a growing sense of paranoia. Keeping skeletons in their closets becomes exhausting, as people tend to go overboard with absolutely everything to offset what they are hiding.

end of season 1

In the end of Season 1, the loose ends are... loose, only new and mysterious questions emerges, with the fresh faces in town. Season 2 digs even deeper into the characters lives as they continue to chafe under the pressure of hiding.



***tone
&
mood***



FREE WILL IS NOT FREE



WESTWORLD

references

ARRESTED
DEVELOPMENT™



Fargo



underlying messages



why make the bystanders

Playful & Quirky

Small towns have the best scandals

Incisive characterization

Bold

Masterful cliffhangers

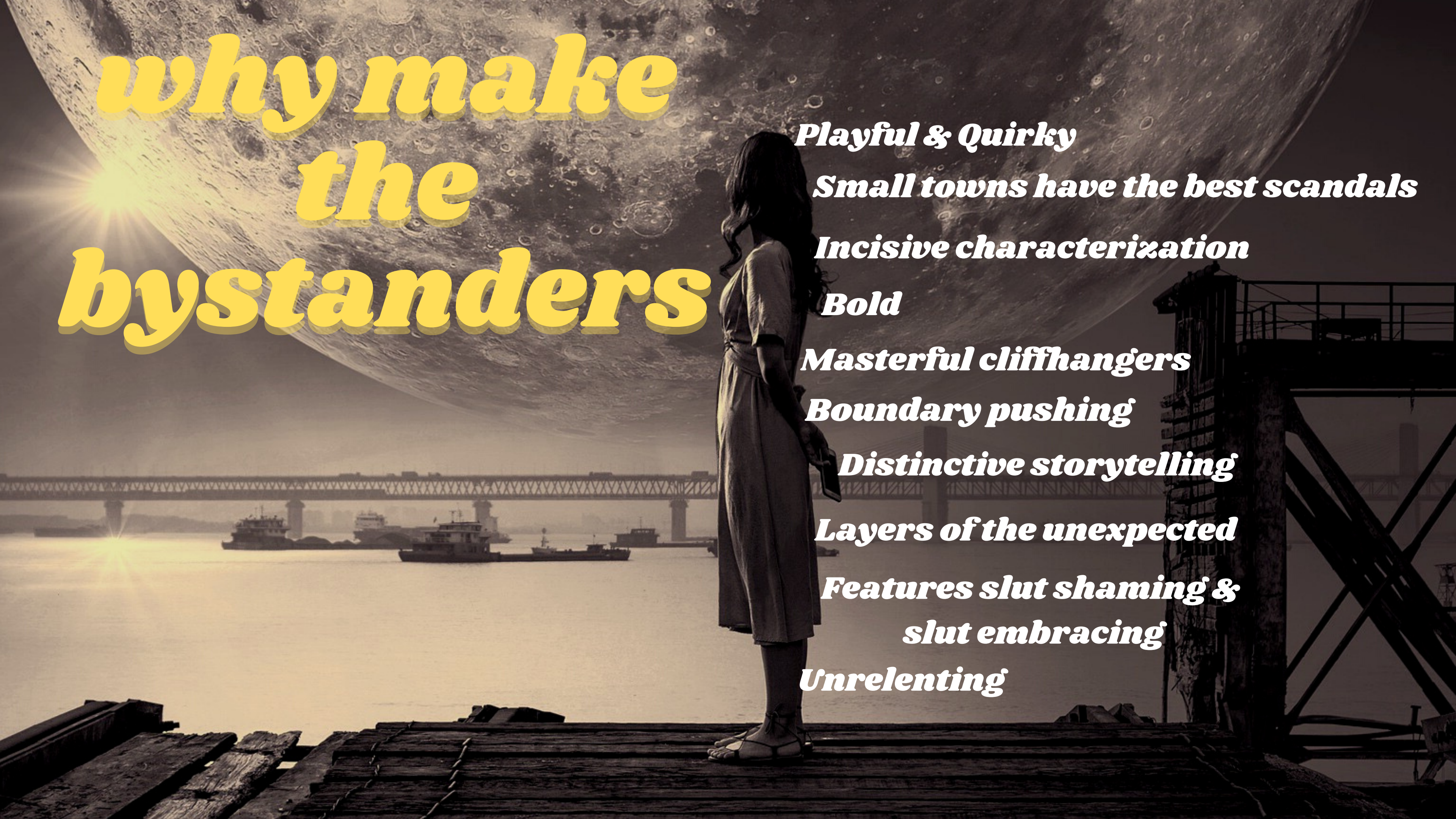
Boundary pushing

Distinctive storytelling

Layers of the unexpected

***Features slut shaming &
slut embracing***

Unrelenting



main characters



RAE SANTIAGO

she was discovered on the beach, bludgeoned, barely alive and one month pregnant. She claims to have no memory of her life before Mendocino



JOSH

disruptive in nature, the secret he is holding on to is eating him up inside. He is a self-involved, nervous wreck



TRINA TRENT

posh & noisy, she is a walking category five hurricane; she shields her lack of confidence by masquerading as a spoiled brat and brazen blogger

DETECTIVE CATHERINE STANLEY

flawed and raunchy, a smug cynic with the bed side manner of a crocodile. Sees an open-bar as a challenge



main characters



SHERIFF BANKS

appears to be a cheesy rip-off from the 90's. With understated humor; he is suspiciously relaxed and unhurried



STELLA RANDELL

fearless and bitter, there is a stirring defiance in every word she speaks. She is skilled liar, who thinks of herself first and foremost



CAROL HAMMOND

with an ounce of edgy she refuses to reveal any of her inadequacies. She has the talent to be melancholy and vulnerable when the situation calls for it

PAIGE RANDELL

beneath her stylish exterior, she is practicing being practical. She has an unrelenting desire for revenge and she can smile through rage,



episode list

"Take a Bow"

Trina Trent witnesses the murder of her exclusive driver and spends the next day running from the cartel and the Detectives who want to protect her.

"Beginners Only"

Wealthy brat, Trina goes into Witness Protection. Josh is convinced that someone is trying to kill him and Paige is concerned about her daughter's new boyfriend.

"Dress Rehearsal"

Josh is missing and everyone is a suspect. Paige gets an unexpected visit from her sister and her new husband. Trina refuses to change and blend into her new role.

"Exit-Stage Left"

Evidence of foul play is found in Josh's house. Rae is anxious to find the source of a letter, claiming to be her baby's father and the Sheriff interrogates the entire town about Josh.

"Curtain Call"

A dead body washes up on shore. Trina discovers there is a price on her head and Carol threatens to expose her love affair with Nick.

"The Blackout"

During the annual chili cook-off, a blackout causes widespread panic. A lost family wanders into town and Trina is convinced she has seen the ghost of her dead driver.



A large, full moon dominates the background, its surface showing craters and maria. In the foreground, a crow is perched on a dark, gnarled branch, facing right. Above the crow, a bat is in flight, its wings spread. The scene is set against a dark night sky with some faint, out-of-focus lights. The title 'the bystanders' is overlaid in a stylized, yellow, cursive font with a blue drop shadow.

the bystanders