

Step I Introduction

Being a germaphobe in a pandemic is like camping atop the Grand Canyon if you're a sleepwalker. Padlock your tent from the outside. Seal your front door with duct tape.

Gene Spiro is a neurotic Hercules. A disgraced, decorated firefighter, he defies his fear of germs and the annihilation of his reputation to become a Mixed Martial Arts challenger and heroic guardian of the night. Wearing an opaque, hermetic bubble helmet and hazmat suit as the mysterious Black Belt G, he protects people in a burgeoning violent-crime wave, while terrified of a looming rat-pocalypse.

It's a tale of our time, an everyman journey, following a character anyone can relate to across political lines. He's a paradox: a brave warrior and a disabled phobic; detested and cherished; brutally honest and living a lie. Perhaps no one is really one thing. In this fragmented era, we present a character who's misunderstood by everyone. Even himself.



Step 2 Formal The state of the

One-hour dramedy / psychological thriller. Twelve episodes per season, laced with dark comedy, social commentary, vigilante justice, and disturbing questions about who we are and what's pushing our buttons.

We will unveil the plight of severe germaphobia, exposing viewers to the ubiquitous microbiome, which plagues Gene incessantly. They'll also experience what it's like to be wrongly judged, vilified, and canceled. We'll drop them directly in his obsessive-compulsive mind, at the wheel in a hurricane, misstep after misstep, rinse and repeat, increasingly shamed by the zeitgeist.

He will rise from the ashes and attempt to save the world, his dignity, and his last roll of toilet paper.



Step3 Step3 Sturcture

The show explores what it's like to be crippled by fear and known as a pariah, presents a process of recovery, and chops a sanitized path to redemption.



Step 4 Story Engine

Each episode features multiple antagonists. Gene's training to be a champion fighter, while guarding the public from dangerous criminals. He has long-strained relations with family members and loses close friends after the world turns on him. Forget about him getting back with his ex.

He battles two viral hazards. One, the microbial world, his tormenting monster. Two, social media users capture and spread his frequent gaffes, perpetually dismantling his credibility. He has to absorb or deflect endless taunting and death threats.

Perhaps his primary antagonist is the truth. As Black Belt G, he must evade the unrelenting Detective Garfield and anyone else who might discover his real identity. All the while, Gene can't let on that he's a guardian and germaphobe or he'll blow his cover. Ultimately, he's hiding a skeleton that, if revealed, would destroy any chance of redemption.



Step 5 Woodland

We begin in Brooklyn during the lockdown. Everyone is now germ-conscious. Germaphobes are now Howard Hughes.

It's a grimy city in decline. Rats everywhere, alive and dead. Screeching tires, roaring biker gangs. Fear, chaos, and crime escalate. The cops have retreated, lunatics are on the loose, and no one picks up after their dog.

And, of course, the fun-loving, unifying internet. The web's more dangerous than street crime. One false step and you're disemboweled. Everything's caught on video, nothing's what it seems.

Our eclectic cast includes violent criminals, first responders, martial artists, phobics, gurus, crisis actors, sycophants, Youtubers, detectives, fiends, and politicians.















Step 7 Themes

FEAR

It's energy. It can be featherweight or nuclear, it controls or motivates. The show examines the grip fear can have and the potential that mastering a phobia can unleash.

SHAME

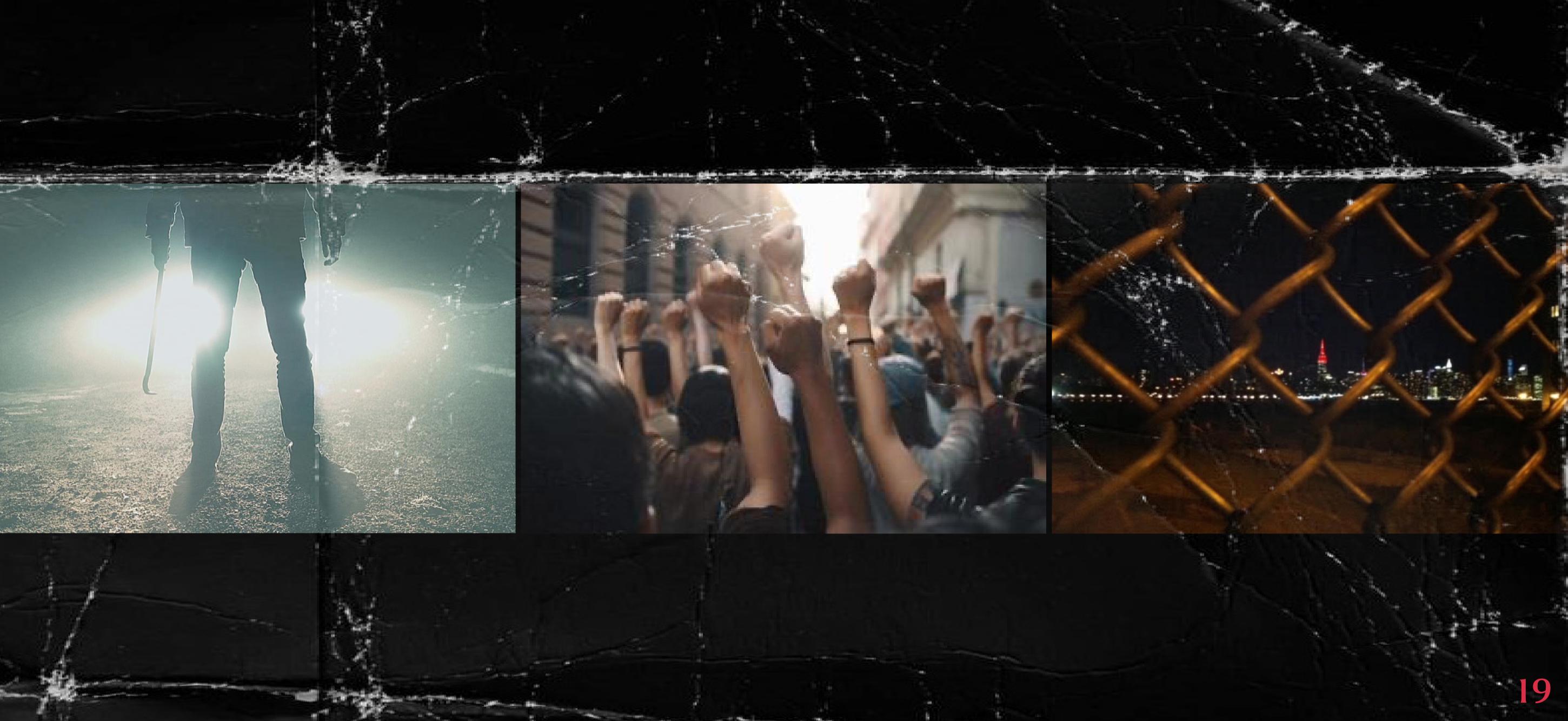
What is the root source? How do we respond to it? Why do we debase each other? How do we find forgiveness? To what lengths will we go to protect our secrets?

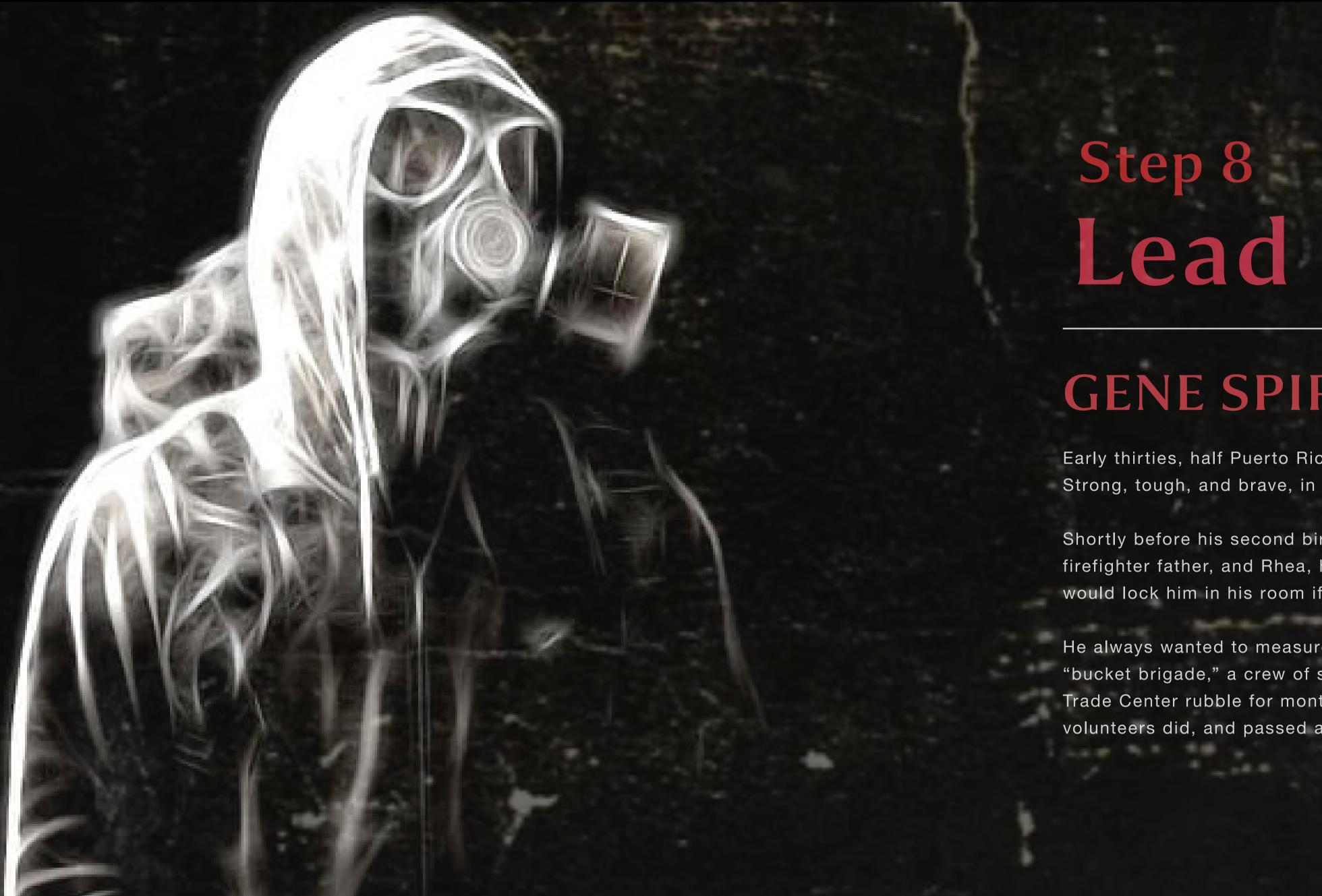
HEROISM

What motivates heroes? Is it true selflessness? Or is even the most heroic act in some way self-serving? Is pure altruism possible?

PARADOX

From the get-go, we will explore contradictions, dichotomies, enigmas, and riddles. What you perceive might deceive.





Step 8 Lead Character

GENE SPIRO / BLACK BELT G

Early thirties, half Puerto Rican, half-Jewish. The guy you wanted in a foxhole. Strong, tough, and brave, in the prime of life. He saved lives.

Shortly before his second birthday, his mother left him with Felix, his heroic firefighter father, and Rhea, his strict and emotionally abusive stepmother. She would lock him in his room if he left a dish in the sink.

He always wanted to measure up to the image he had of his father, a leader of the "bucket brigade," a crew of selfless first responders, who sifted through the World Trade Center rubble for months. Tragically, Felix contracted leukemia, as many volunteers did, and passed a year later.

Now thirteen and alone with Rhea, Gene had his first panic attack and was taken in by his Aunt Polita. Despite her efforts to shield him, he fell in with his cousin's gang and got busted for aggravated assault. After a short stint at Spofford, a notoriously violent juvenile detention facility, Aunt Polita arranged for him to live with his mother in New Hampshire.

Picked on from the start, he got into fights and was nearly expelled. Wanting to channel his rage and aggression, his mom enrolled him in a karate class. The wise Sensei Kyron took him under his wing and helped him recognize the consequences of the dark path ahead of him. He discovered things. He liked nature. Enjoyed drama class. Could exercise restraint. If he focused his energy in any direction, he attained sublime power. He broke the New England high school home run record. Went undefeated in martial arts tournaments. Landed the lead in a classmate's play.

But he hadn't yet harnessed his darkness. There was a betrayal, a suicide, and a coverup. He had a string of panic attacks. Saw flashes of blood on his hands. Couldn't stop washing them. No one could know what he had seen or the full extent of his anguish. Especially Mason, his teammate, the school bully. And Sensei Kyron, who pleaded with him to keep training, to no avail. He buried it. And didn't look back.



After high school, seeking to connect with his father's spirit, he returned to Brooklyn, joined the fire department, and quickly built a reputation as a badass. First man in, last man out, often carrying a victim. At twenty-nine, fastest in his class to make lieutenant.

Despite the growing praise, his past haunted him. He self-medicated. Booze, drugs, escorts, bar fights, drunkenly got his ass kicked. Humiliated and discontented, he found a dojo, sobered up, and got himself back on track.

He met Lexi on the job. She was the one. Humble, nurturing, and insatiable. For a guy who keeps his hands clean, moving in with an EMT and her dog presented an exceptional challenge. The unseeable dangers she brought home. Flu season in her hair. Blood fibers on her phone. Dirty paws on his pillow. She was perceptive and would follow breadcrumbs, so he couldn't leave any. He'd sterilize her phone, door knobs, and fridge handle when she wasn't looking. If she caught him, he'd misdirect.

Then the pandemic hit. Hyper-aware of exposure and witnessing his rugged captain wither away from the virus, his germaphobia kicked into high gear. Firefighting missions posed terrifying threats. Open

wounds. Coughing, desperate victims. Anything could infect him. But at least he could escape to the sanctuary of his ubersanitary apartment. Now Lexi wanted to quarantine together. Living with a first responder would put him under constant threat. Running out of excuses, he let her believe he might be cheating on her. He denied it. She ended it.

It's here we first meet Gene, rushing into a building to save lives. His OCD is now in overdrive. Pulsating walls. Burning floors. Sporing plumes. Radioactive door knobs.

His first task will be to stop the bleeding. He must get a handle on his fear. And channel his rage. While battling a desire for vengeance, can he carry out justice, slay his demons, and dodge the dogshit?







LEONA LEXINGTON (LEXI)

Early 30s, effervescent, ball-buster. Raised in Milwaukee by hard-working German-American parents (her mother taught English, her father ran a brewery), she attended the University of Wisconsin as an undergrad and was accepted into Columbia University's School of Social Work. She did her work-study at a domestic violence crisis center in Harlem and stayed on after graduating. A few years in, she grew disenchanted by depressing cases that went nowhere and pivoted, choosing instead to be an EMT. Even if it seemed like a gruesome vocation at times, she found it exhilarating to make an immediate difference.

She had a propensity for choosing the wrong guys. Despite his integrity and charisma, she initially resisted Gene's overtures, because he was a co-worker and probably a player. He always found a way to charm her pants off. Her pitbull Rock loved him, so she opened up. Even with her training in psychology, she never could put her finger on what it was about Gene that confounded her, so she consented to live in denial. Dating a virile, strong, courageous man awakened her Eve. She suddenly desired a traditional lifestyle. Settle down, raise a family. Two years in with Gene, the clock was ticking. Quarantining together seemed like a great opportunity. His refusal raised suspicion; she confronted him, and her worst fears felt confirmed.

She will meet another beau, and they'll build a satisfying life together. It will pose as a compounding reminder to Gene of what his phobia and secrecy have cost him. But moving on won't come easy. Her background as a social worker and medic will be useful to Black Belt G.

GATO

Gene's MMA trainer. Late 20s. Androgynous tomboy. A "throw-away" child of a Black US Marine and a Filipina bar girl, she was born in '92, at the end of the US occupation of the Philippines. Facing extreme poverty and discrimination, her mother put her up for adoption to a wealthy couple from Scarsdale, NY, who had three sons and wanted a daughter. Always competing with her step-brothers, she inevitably excelled at anything athletic. Her ethnic background and gender fluidity inspired schoolyard fistfights, mostly with boys, and she usually took a walloping. So, she took up kickboxing, had a knack for it, and soon enough was left alone.

Adopted children can be rebellious. She got tatted up, shaved her head, dropped out of school, moved to Forest Hills, Queens, and bussed tables at a Thai bistro. She trained hard and turned pro after only a handful of amateur fights. Overconfident, she challenged a transgender fighter, who'd nearly killed a female opponent in the ring. The bout went horrifically wrong. Gato injured her neck and hasn't fought since. Now a trainer, suspended from teaching for a classroom transgression, she's assigned Gene, the infamous, allegedly racist homophobe, despite her protest. She will find herself on a path of introspection and forgiveness.



JOE GANNON

Mid 40s, bald, humble, affable, earnest, trustworthy, yet crafty. Gene's well-respected sponsor and mentor at the mysterious Germaphobe Anonymous. Raised and homeschooled in upstate New York by hippie parents on a commune, he had a desire to help humanity from a very young age. He chose Cal Poly Humboldt, a top technical school out west, despite acceptance to several Ivy League universities. He left during his junior year to focus on developing a web-based security code, which piqued the interest of the NSA. They recruited him as a programmer in the nascent stages of the drone program. He found drone warfare abhorrent; innocent men, women, and children were being slaughtered. By early 2003, he had grown disillusioned with the future of technology; we were making it easier and easier to kill. After the SARS outbreak, he felt deeply concerned about bioweapons and set out to find a solution. Maybe he's found one, and Gene can help him realize it.

He's admired at Germaphobe Anonymous as a sponsor who saves lives, careers, and marriages – having developed unusual immersion therapy techniques. The exercises he puts Gene through would terrify any germaphobe. Scoop up littered Covid masks. Wade through the rat-infested sewer. Sit on a public toilet. He believes Gene has extraordinary gifts, which his phobia inhibits. Tapping into his capacity for accomplishment, he calmly steers Gene's liberation.

MALCOLM BEARD

Early 50s, intuitive, tenacious, incorruptible, of the Miniconjou Lakota, a descendant of Dewey Beard, who fought as a teenager in the Battle of Little Bighorn (1876) and later at Wounded Knee (1890), where he was shot three times and lost most of his family. Malcolm's ancestry compelled him to pursue justice and led him to journalism. Already an editor of the high school paper as a sophomore, he accepted an internship at the Grand Rapids Register and helped crack the case of Winnie Galihai, a missing Sioux girl. It opened the door for a career as an investigative reporter.

From the Des Moines Examiner and the San Jose Mercury News, ultimately to The New York Times, he earned prestigious awards and uncovered numerous corporate conspiracies, from Big Agra to Big Tech. A relentless muckraker, the type of reporter a free public needs to root out crime and corruption, he was always ahead of the curve. Eventually finding the Times too restricting, he started Retriever, an online publication. While working to expose government/media collusion, Gene's story surfaces. It begs a question: what makes a Person of Color discriminate against other minorities?

WAYNE AND RICHIE

A criminally inept pair of small-time crooks.

Wayne Hunt: 40s, ex-con. Somewhere between Joe Pesci in Goodfellas and Joe Pesci in Home Alone. Vain, vindictive, vulgar, and very short. The wiser of the two, he was, in his day, idolized for his cat burglary game; he once scaled twelve flights of the Chrysler Building and cracked a safe. While serving a ten-year sentence for assault, he sought protection from the Volkovs, a Russian crime family, and is now in their debt. Word to the wise: his last name is pronounced "Hoont."

Richard Cane: the muscle, Wayne's right-hand man; 20s, Russian/Italian, well-built, and tatted up. On the surface, he's a reluctant yes-man, hyper-imaginative (he's usually stoned) with a two-track mind: women and sex. In reality, he's an undercover Fed assigned to infiltrate the Volkovs.

After bungling their latest mission, stealing a pickup truck, they'll have to deal with the fallout.

DETECTIVE GARFIELD

40s, attractive, disarmingly self-deprecating, steadfast, shoots straight. Kay Howard meets Columbo; did time in vice and gravitated to street crime. Her capacity to sniff out cold trails earned her the nickname "Bloodhound." She usually gets her collar. Black Belt G confounds her; he breaks the law and catches bad guys. She'll pursue an outlaw she's rooting for.

MANNY "CUCHILLO" LOBO

20s, Puerto Rican, leader of Los Perros, a Boriqua Biker Gang. Full body and face tats; vicious and lethal, rules the Brooklyn night. He inevitably will clash with Black Belt G, a menacing threat to his street enterprise.

KATARINA "KAT" KANOVA

20s, European, seductive, crisis actor, member of Germaphobe Anonymous. She takes a liking to Gene; they have undeniable chemistry. But his infamy and her undercover work will put a wedge between them... and her life in danger.

CARMINE DEBONO

60s, Italian American, NYC Department of Sanitation supervisor, Brooklyn through and through, funny and old school, ageless libido. Shares a hospital room with and later will prove an asset to Gene as he "cleans" the streets.

CERBERUS

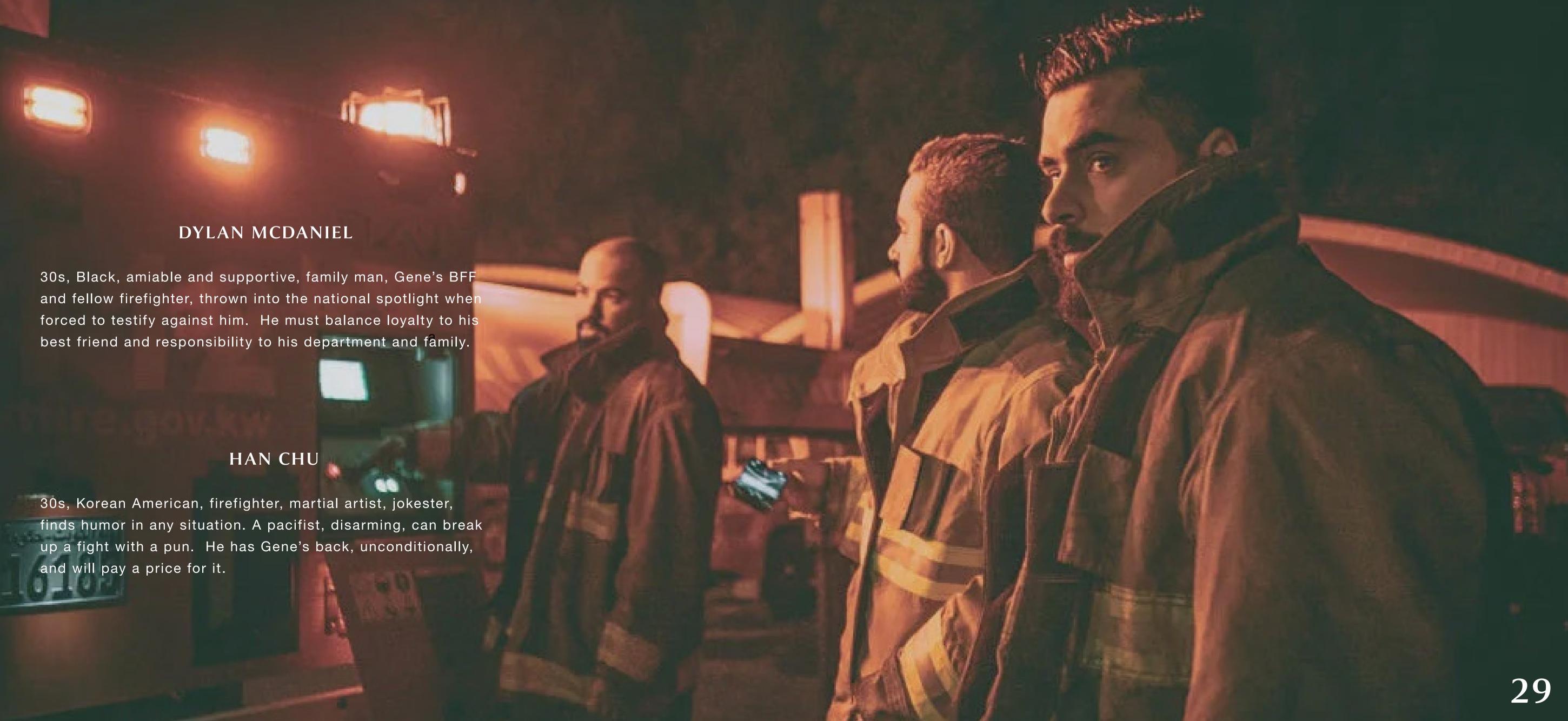
Late 20s, undisputed UFC light heavyweight champ, unanimously considered the most dangerous fighter in the world. An intimidating showman, part Mr. T, part Connor McGregor, he taunts Gene mercilessly, trying to goad him into the ring. He will get his wish.

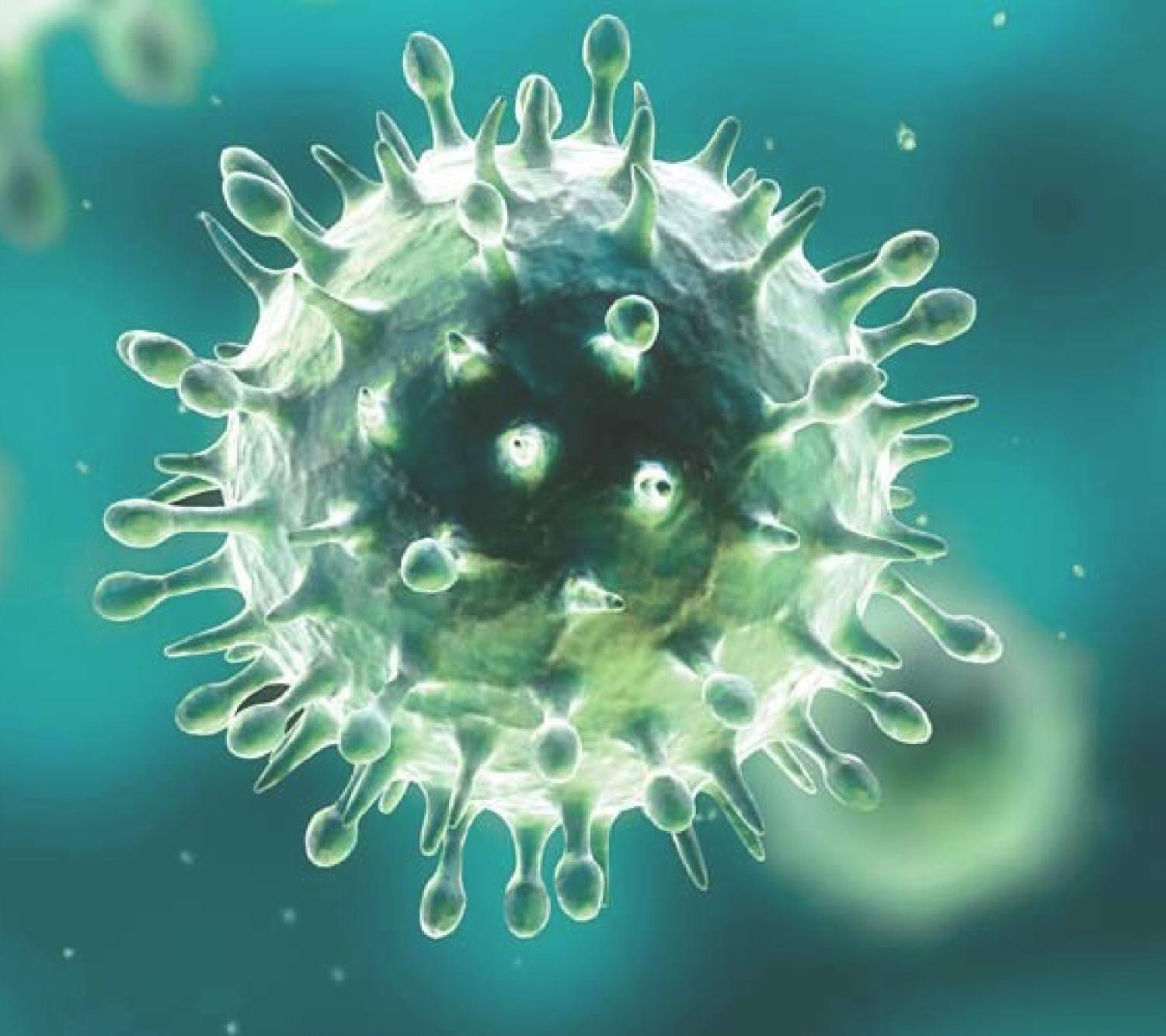
SHERIFF MASON

30s, brash, raucous, alpha, a former high school quarterback and teammate of Gene's, now the local authority in Gene's childhood, New Hampshire hamlet. Uber-protective, he will shield his town at all costs from the world's attention.

DR. SIKH

40s, South Asian, a psychotherapist appointed by the FDNY to assess Gene's mental state. She will probe his tumultuous adolescence and close in on his veiled past.





GERMAPHOBE ANONYMOUS

In an underground, twelve-step program, germaphobes in recovery grapple with being safe harbor to Gene, a public enemy.

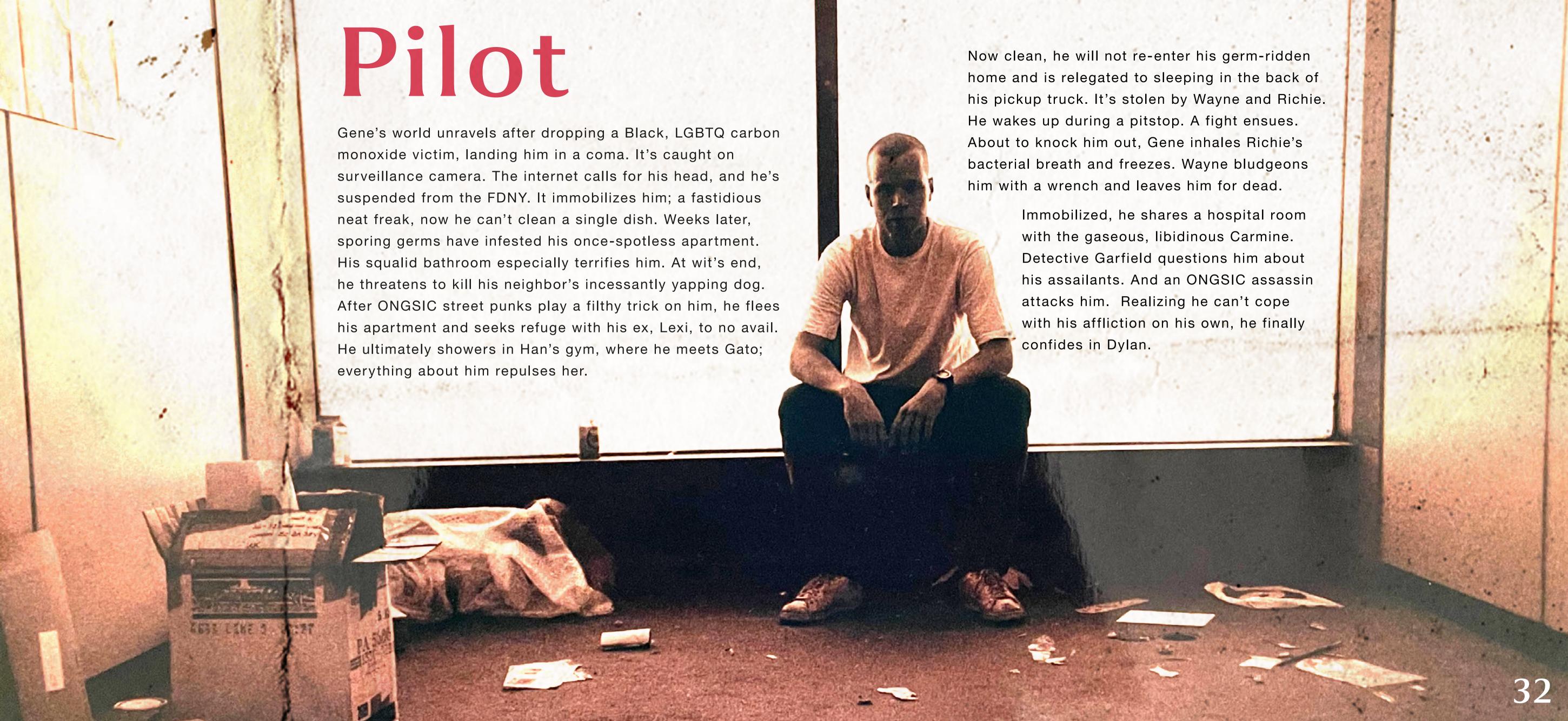
ONGSIC

Organization of Non-Governmental Soldiers Investigating Corruption. An amorphous, clandestine, paramilitary group of vindictive activists hellbent on destroying Gene's life.

THE MICROBIOME

Gene's omnipresent namesis: germs. At times, it's a batscreeching slithering demon with fangs. Only Gene can see it, and it appears at the worst possible moments.









Episode 3 CAT'S IN THE BAG:

The mysterious guest, Malcolm, promises at gunpoint that he only wants to report the truth and that Gene can trust him. They head out with Scott on a hunting expedition to catch the bobcat. Just as Gene's about to bare his soul to Malcolm, the bobcat rushes Scott. Gene comes to his aid. Malcolm lauds his bravery. But the AR-15 video goes viral, exposing Gene's whereabouts, and reporters swarm the motel. Enraged by Malcolm's apparent betrayal, he has another altercation with Sheriff Mason, who arrests him and demands that he leave town. After a marital blowup, his sister-in-law, Cali, makes a pass at him. The rabid bobcat attacks his niece at the campsite; he kills it with his bare hands. An ONGSIC soldier makes another attempt on his life. Back in Brooklyn, Detective Garfield follows a promising DNA lead. Wayne tests Richie's loyalty at a Russian bathhouse.





Next Steps:

The Rest of Season One

Gene begins following two tracks. His return to martial arts goes viral. UFC champion Cerberus publicly ridicules him. Gene responds by challenging him, culminating in an end-of-season, pay-per-view battle. The internet will dog, taunt, troll, and shame him at every turn. Meanwhile, Joe's unorthodox immersion techniques land him the unlikeliest of jobs for a germaphobe and get him out in public in a hazmat suit – establishing the anonymous Black Belt G (Germaphobe/Guardian). As two public figures, he'll be reviled and revered.

As his street heroism and popularity explode, he will find himself on a collision course with Cuchillo, Detective Garfield, internet sleuths, and the human polygraph, Dr. Sikh, who will test him to protect his secrets.

Under the scrutiny of captious ph=one cameras, he will seek to restore his good name but continue stepping in shit. The memes will write themselves. He also will fumble with love; he'll play cat and mouse with Lexi and get blindsided. All the while he'll navigate the nagging microbiome, moment to moment.



Also in Season One

As Malcolm gets closer to the truth, he makes discoveries that complicate the narrative about Gene. Will he challenge public perception, risking censorship and personal injury?

Gato and Gene clash intensely at first. She dumps spitwater on him. They'll discover surprising common ground and warm to each other. Their relationship will transcend division points in our society, including gender identity and race.

While carrying out assignments, Wayne and Richie run from the cops, the Feds, and the Russian mob. They must remain in the shadows, lest their boss's crimes be exposed and Richie's cover be blown.

As ONGSIC ruthlessly gangstalks Gene, Detective Garfield empathizes with his plight. Growing evermore frustrated, she follows leads to dead ends. And then picks up the trail of Black Belt G, who leaves maimed perps and calling cards all over town.





Future Seasons

As Gene navigates notoriety and stardom, he will confront higher and higher levels of criminality as a vigilante. Street thugs, gang leaders, corrupt politicians, white-collar criminals, and global oligarchs. While endlessly battling the microbiome and the internet, UFC challenger after challenger, and his resistance to vulnerability and love.

The Real G features two origin stories: one transitions a Monk-like phobic into a next-level Equalizer / Person of Interest, who collaborates with a Leverage-esque team of diversified experts. They seek to take down high-level corruption and save the human race. Some of the players we've met will participate – like, Joe, Gato, Lexi, and a few surprises.

The other origin story is the result of a catastrophic experiment, conducted in secret. As we enter a world of conspiracy and wide-scale public danger, we will begin to question everything we've seen, realize nothing's what it seemed, and wonder who's been pulling the strings all along.



Step 12 N/In I S

Creating a story about a germaphobe entering the realm of conspiracy requires both an intense awareness of the phobia and a deep dive into the rabbit hole.

David Berman

Writer, actor, and award-winning documentary filmmaker working on a range of topics, including drone warfare, climate change, endangered animals, and news activism. He's served as a leadership coach, volunteered at a suicide hotline, and is a recovering germaphobe. After sealing himself in his apartment with duct tape during the Covid lockdown, he started bartending during Omicron. He hosts trivia in Brooklyn and co-hosts a mental health podcast.



Enrico (Henri) Falconi

Mexican-born writer, actor, and award-winning director who has been making films in a variety of genres for over twenty-five years. Enrico received a certificate in film from New York University's Film, Theater, and Broadcasting program in 1996. An avid conspiracy buff, he has researched alternative history for decades and has a wealth of information to share.



