



PRIVATED ICKS

INVESTIGATIONS & BAILBONDS

322 W

PRIVATE DICKS

CREATED BY: MAX MORA

inspired by:
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(Swing low, Sweet Chariot)

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THORSON

PRIVATE DICKS



PRIVATE DICKS IS A DARKLY COMIC, ROMANTIC NEO-NOIR..

about a gay couple who run a private detective and bail bonds agency with a vice-grip on the balls of the city.

CINEMATIC, CHARACTER-DRIVEN AND ENGROSSING..

Private Dicks is a homage to the pulpy intelligence of Elmore Leonard, John Frankenheimer, Paddy Chayefsky and Jim Jarmusch, electrically cool, suspenseful, mysterious, ultraviolet and curiously erotic.

SET IN TODAY'S LOS ANGELES IT INVESTIGATES THE TRANSFORMATION OF TWO CLASSIC NOIR ICONS..

the private dick and the bail agent, through their love for each other. The series drags them out of the flickering black and white of yesteryears' Hollywood and showers them in the fluorescent light of today's cutthroat business world.

THE SERIES IS A CHINATOWN OF THE MIND..

roaming a city of vague terrain where the customs are alien, motivations always suspect, and the only thing one can depend on is that no good deed will go unpunished. It is the embodiment of a tabloid headline gone awry.

CENTERED AROUND A COMPELLING, SEXY AND DYNAMIC COUPLE..

Sam Brown and Dick Portino make you think; what if.. Pacino and Deniro fell in love with each other in that coffee shop from Heat... and then started a business together?

Deniro: "I'll have what he's having!"

Pacino: "No, I'll have what he's having! HooHa!"

SAMSON 'SAM' BROWN..

a black bounty hunter rooted in the spirit of the blue collar american frontier who becomes the ultimate big city 'macher.'

RICHARD 'DICK' PORTINO..

a fiery cross between Marlowe, Wilde and Mary Kay whose Dale Carnegie spirit leads him into the halls of power, backrooms, safes, and their deepest secrets.

TOGETHER, THEY ARE HOLMES AND WATSON BUT GAYER..

in love, lust & business they are forever in a pissing match over the superior or the inferior, the top or the bottom, the sleuth or the sap. Their relationship in a constant competitive friction that makes their love sizzle..

THEIR RELATIONSHIP IS A CUTTING EDGE SITCOM WITHIN A POLICE PROCEDURAL..

a sometimes surreal character piece composed of darker elements in a new dialect, obscenities and banalities, misconstrued catchphrases, oral storytelling and messages from the unconscious

NOTHING'S WRONG, THEY'RE FINE.. JUST LIKE THE REST OF US..

true crime junkies arguing over the remote, trying to recapture the magic.





Right off the bat we're deep in the shit, or en media res as they say in 'Franch'. An action star Dick's working for gets kidnapped by wiseguys and he can't do anything about it. A family plays tug of war with Sam and his agents over their punk ass cousin's DUI, leading to a black eye. The Lakers lost. Man, it's been a crazy week, in a crazy life.

Luckily, tomorrow is their day off. The first Sam and Dick have ever got to spend together.

But, even on their day off, in the city of angels Sam and Dick cant help but trip ass over backwards into the heaps of discarded halos & criminal trash littering the streets, avenues, alcoves & backalleys that all seem to ooze trouble at every turn.

The first act of Season 1, episodes 2 thru 6, go back in time a year to show us what life was like before the atoms of Sam and Dick smashed together and detail the nebulous web of tripwires that lead to the season's explosive conclusion.

Dick moves to LA when he's contracted to work at a major film studio, HMGstudios. Hired by studio president & secret sleaze, Ken Stillwell, who keeps a cache of "insurance" (ie; AI generated smut..) to keep his people in check . . . puts Dick to work digging up dirt on Execs, stirthe hornets nests of Union Reps & snoop on Stars & Starlettes. Dick is thriving. Dick is loving it. Dick is lonely as hell.

His only solace includes a mad dash to find a landline telephone in time for his weekly call with his godmother, The Honorable Fran Lebowitz. That and his nightly cocktail with the other barflies at the The Dill Pickle, a cross pollination of the city's big wigs, big mouth losers & small time schemers.

Sam is riding high. He's finally vice dog in charge at Thorson Bail Enforcement, on the Venice Beach Boardwalk, much to the consternation of his adopted brother from another bitch'of'a Mama & Pap's son by blood, Jim Thorson. When Sam's not surfing, whittling or



westerns, he's tends to the flock of bailees, whistling, 'the ballad of the lonesome cowboy,' as he updates the roster.

Disaster strikes like a California wildfire, with Pap's scorched corpse at the epicentre. Dismissed by authorities as "an unfortunate accident" the case is closed without further investigation. But, rumors are stirring and Sam will stop at nothing to uncover the truth.

When Sam inherits sole ownership of the family business, his brother Jim is left seething as he's handed the keys Pap's rusted-out worktruck. This is a life changer for Sam in more ways than one & a fact Jim won't forget.

Dick's bigfish client, studio president Ken Stillwell, is gruesomely assaulted, eviscerated & left to die. one eye ripped right out of his head. His underlings snicker and call him "Fritz Lang".

A local surf legend, Johnny "Big T" Towne, is in over his head caught in the of the ghost

black-market, decides to bail by staging his own death, before the Cartel wipes him out.

The mafia puts out a hit on Frank Regal. While performing surveillance on B-list action star for the studio Dick becomes witness to his abduction and becomes his best chance for survival.

Dick hires Sam on a wistful whim to run the new security detail at the studio. Sam is in over his head. Dick is haloed by birds. Sam is seeing stars. Their sparks start to fly.

Chaos is a force that brings love together.

The second act of season 1 stitches all the broken pieces back together with gold. The Japanese call it kintsugi. Sam and Dick call it "bidness."

Dick gets a 3 day notice on his apartment. Big real estate is kicking him out. Ouila, the loft above the bond shop is available the soon-to-be lovebirds decide to build a nest. Upstairs, downstairs, top, bottom, Sam and Dick realize they compliment each other, they're versatile as all hell.



Partners in love and business, Sam and Dick share the helm rebranding Thorson's Bail Enforcement as; Private Dicks Bail Bonds & Investigations.

Dick helps Sam find Pap's killer. Sam helps Dick remodel the loft upstairs and then moves in. Lo and behold Dick's Hollywood connections and Pap's backlog steering them from the crossroads straight into the center of the city's power.

As the series progresses through seasons 2+ our icons transform and begin to transform the city around them.

Sam finds he's more like famed New York bail bondsman Ira Judelson – a hyper connected fixer embedded in the underground of the justice system – than he is a bodyguard, enforcer or on the prowl bail enforcement agent like Dog, the Bounty Hunter or Paps. His mind is ultimately more important than his body – and more important than all the dead ones.



Dick finds he's more Jules Kroll (The father of modern corporate espionage) than he is Sam Spade. He's more of a salesman, gladhander, spy and corporate titan than he is a stake out artist.

No detective show, police procedural or legal drama has ever really shown the transformation from the old 19th century way of doing things - the way most people think about bounty hunters hiding behind a tumbleweed in the old west and P.I.'s in trench coats in rain slicked, backlit alleys, to the new 21st century way of doing things. This is a divested depiction of the professions as they exist today set in an unpredictable world. Sam and Dick themselves are also an innovation, their relationship echoing what Cameron and Mitchell in Modern Family did for the family comedy, accomplishing it in the drama of detective noir.

This evolution from street toughs to boardroom kingpins is hard won, case by case, incident by incident, relationship ebb and flow. Though they remain 'best friends' 'in love' and sexually intimate throughout most of the series, their house and office over time begin to resemble a sorted half-way house, where the two's alturism & open relationships grow together like moss on a stone.

STUDIO CASE/ FIRST DATE:

(DICK tackles fleeing SUSPECT to the GROUND)

SUSPECT: (COUGHING) "If you leave me here, he'll kill me tomorrow morning."

(DICK looks at SAM with a SMIRK.)

DICK: "So you've still got tonight."

NEXT MORNING -SAM & DICK REMINISCE IN BED

Sam: The face you made at me was probably meant for a smile. Whatever it was, it beat me. I was afraid you'd do it again, so I surrendered to you.

Dick: And now, I surrender to you.

FRIENDS, FAMILY & SUSPECTS



ELLEN BASKIN (25-30) - Inheritor of The Broken Circle Ministries after the death of her paramour, Head Priest Shamir Shabazz, she must reckon with the fallout: a cult to run, bills to the ceiling and the many fingers pointing at her for murder. She has to find an economic solution before Sam and Dick figure out what she's up to.



JOHNNY BIG T TOWNES (45-55) - The menace from Venice, the cur of Big Sur, he's a retired surfer and revoked bail agent with nothing to lose, literally: he just faked his death. Big T knows everybody, but nobody knows who killed him or what tricks he's up to - except Ellen. He needs to make enough money to go into hiding forever before anybody realizes he's still alive.



KEN STILLWELL (40-50) - Sleazy, corrupt, deeply connected studio head whose vault includes stolen money, drugs, and a treasure trove of AI generated imagery of studio stars and starlettes - ripe for extortion from just the wrong people. He needs to find a way out, it might be inside his heart.



FRANK REGAL (35-45) - The Steven Segal of his time: pretty, full of himself, rich off dumb ass straight-to-video action flicks featuring 5 minute superstar cameos. His film producers: East coast mafia. His goal: find someone to protect him from them. Enter Sam and Dick. They can protect him from them, and hopefully his own bad taste.



JOE MARINO (55-65) - The Hollywood Fixer, akin to Anthony Pellicano but with early stage aphasia. In the style of Mannix whose life has passed him by, twice. He's good for stories, he's good for business, otherwise he's good for nothing. Sam and Dick will get into his head to get to Ken Stillwell.



PERRY GILLIS AND THE PYROS (65-75) - Perry got stuck in development hell forever & it turned him into the Devil. Enlisting a crew of disgruntled practical special effects pyros to bring the heat they have a surfire plan to make Ken Stillwell & HMG Studios pay.. How? Just gotta work up a little of that old Hollywood magic.

FRIENDS, FAMILY & SUSPECTS



MICAH CHARLES
 (30-35) A street hustler, chess master, homophobe and escaped convict from a Tuscaloosa jail who lucks his way into becoming Dick and Sam's assistant and gopher. He will be instrumental to their success and the first member of their growing family.



PAPS THORSON
 (65-70) Reknowned bounty hunter & Sam's surrogate father, who took him in off the streets as teen. At 310 pounds and six-foot-two Pap's is a commanding & charasmatic figure, a Church Bishop, an aficionado of classical music & an Alumni of The Berkeley School of Criminology. Pap's death haunts their present but he will dispense wisdom to Sam in his dreams.



JIM THORSON
 (35-40) Paps's ne'rdowell son and Sam's brother from another mother. He's a perennial fuck up extremely resentful of Sam's relationship with his father who would like nothing more than to prove his superiority. Feeling stepped over when Pap's leaves Sam heir to the family business in his will, he'll stop at nothing to get payback.



THE HONORABLE FRAN LEBOWITZ
 (70-80) Dick's Godmother, former judge now retired, She's the only family he's on good terms with and her many decades behind the gavel bring an all around voice of reason and thoughtful humility to Dick's character. She's good for advice, tactful compassion, remember whens & just good ol' gabbing banter. Dick's very own Jimeny Cricket he can call, a conscience that will only speak from a landline.



JOANN 'MAMA' THORSON
 Jim's mom, Pap's ex-wife. She's a hellfire woman that raised a devil of a man. Mama fuels the fire of Jim's spite toward Sam for the favoritism Pap's made so clear in life and in death. Jesus Saves fades between sunspots streaked across her leathared chest from years spent at the community pool soaking up the sun & the poetic works of Chaucer, she's the trailerpark gossip queen spitting her venom at anyone within earshot.



CANDY BROWN
 Sam's long lost sister - he thinks, they are not sure. They found each other and that's all that really matters. Taking courses in office administration she earns credits as a temp and occasionally able to put her much needed skills into practice at Private Dicks. Living with clinical PTSD shes an emotional raw nerve witha hair trigger. As Dick and his 2 cracked ribs can attest; She's a bit of a basketcase.





Private Dicks Headquarters
Live/Work LOFT

Thorson Bail Bonds, A staple on the Venice boardwalk for forty years, Sam and Dick take the inherited relic over and make the upstairs their own pleasure dome. The office is piled high with 40 years of Paps' business; Case files, Bonds/Bails records, financials, notes on coffee stained napkins, leads & deadends. And, until Sam connects all the dots of surrounding Pap's death, it'll remain the mess that time forgot.



The Dill Pickle

Legendary watering hole where politicians, pimps, priests, blowhards & busybodies congregate gut to butt. A reliable resource for the Sam & Dick to put their ears to the pavement & pick up a lead.



The Broken Circle

A ministry, a yoga studio, AA, hippies, drugs, guns, a cult — all in a broken down old farm style house at the far end of the beach.



The Studio (House Studios)

Water towers, security guards, magnesium nitrate, celebrities, executives, gates, soundstages, vaults, explosions, extortion and questions.



The Repo Lot

A repository for crank heads, cops and kooks. Dick's got some big dirt on the owners. What's the prize? Access to an interchangeable inventory of swell wheels. Run by Emilio Estevez.



Pyro Piers Warehouse

An underfunded practical special effects workshop falling into disrepair, War-room/Planning & debriefing takes place in an secluded area the crew has affectionately dubbed the "War Room"

The unfolding saga of infamous surfing legend, bodyguard to the stars and decommissioned bail agent, Johnny "Big T" Towne's faked death and its relation to the ghost gun / drug ring centered around Venice's Broken Circle ministry and the succubus cult leader, Ellen, who runs it. All evidence points to a conspiracy inside city hall, Hollywood big shots and to the murder of Sam's surrogate father.

DICK PURSUES A CASE HIS RELATIONSHIP MAY NOT BE READY FOR...

MAJOR CRIMES & INVESTIGATIONS





Dick and Sam are brought in by connected Pellicano-esque 'Hollywood fixer' and 'rag ass old head' Joe Marino, who was fired by the big studio because he couldn't solve the pyro affair. He believes his client, action star Frank Regal (a Jason Momoa as Steven Seagal type) is caught in a Spanish Prisoner scam. In actuality, it's an extortion plot by the mob who are trying to pin the tail on Dick.

THE FIXER, THE ACTION STAR, & THE SPANISH PRISONER

MAJOR VEHICLES & HAZARDOUS-HUSCH-HONS

CULT OF PYROS

A band of disgruntled special effects specialists unable to join IATSE led by an old forgotten Hollywood writer concoct a plan to settle personal scores, setting an explosion off on a studio lot during the filming of Frank Regal's (Steven Segal-esque) B action film Everybody Hurts as a distraction from a mega heist of the studio head's vault. The studio seeks to hide this from the press. But, why? Perhaps it is the macguffin they found by accident...

In response to a cyclopean assault of the studio head, Ken Stillwell, Dick is tasked with vetting studio staffers and new hires. What began as another mundane day was quickly turned on its head, in an instant, when Sam Brown entered the door (and Dicks life) to submit his bid for the security contract, the chemistry was so undeniable they heard fireworks, literally. and more techically, a bomb went off.

This terror plot on the studio lot will prove far more enriching than any ill fated ransom could ever hope to conspire.

Ensnared by circumstance, be it kismet or fate, Dick & Sam form a partnership their hearts just can't shake.



Los Angeles Times

2.00 DESIGNATED AREAS HIGHER © 2016 WSCE

MONDAY, JULY 18, 2016

latimes.com

Terror Plot On Studio Lot

Pyrotechnics gone wrong causes chaos on set of Frank Regal's new picture "Everybody Hurts"

A Cult of Dynamite
Two extremely talented... of disgruntled
IATSE works and... to settle per-
sonal scores, setti... traction from a
mega heist of the... at the same
time is hiding... being hacked.
But, why?
Dick b...
em...
be...
sa...

EVERYBODY HURTS

THE ACTS

PRIVATE DICKS

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Act 1

Depicts what life was like before Sam and Dick met, fell in love and how they ultimately tripped. Sam is happy working as a high level bounty hunter for his mentor, famed bail bondsman Paps Thorson. Dick is guilty and desperate, working a variety of cases digging up dirt for powerful and connected white collar criminals for corporate espionage company, Kroll. Disasters in each of their lives dissolve their work situations and bring them together.

Pilot: Where the Problem Began, sort of. Bricked. Sam and Dick fall face first into a murder case on their first day off, a year in the future on a night on the town.

Voodoo warfare

Back a year: Sam works a high risk, high reward bounty with Paps Thorson. Dick digs up dirt on an actress a studio boss slept with. The pyro cult plans a daring heist. Sleazy executive Ken Stillwell's eye is cracked like an egg, his briefcase stolen. Ooze. Is all this related? Kroll brings Dick onto the studio contract to vet security. Sam eagerly bids for the contract. Dick interviews him and gets his number. Score.

Hobo Chili

Sam and Dick ignite. Star crossed lovers. Sam takes down the bounty on his own as Paps deals with problems from a bail client with connections to magic and the stunt industry he took under his broken wing. Dick pays the cost to be the boss and is forced to compromise his morals (if he has any) for the job but gains valuable contacts and information. The pyro cult takes a big score. We get a telescopic peek at the inner workings of, and interrelationships between the Broken Circle, Paps Thorson, Joe Marino (THE FIXER) and House Studios.

Nothingness

Joe Marino fails miserably at breaking the dynamite case. Frank Regal peeps heroin from a noted follower of the Broken Circle. Paps Thorson is eviscerated in a car bomb. Dick is fired from Kroll for unconscionable insubordination. Sam submits an offer to Dick that he can't forget.

Act 2

Sees Sam and Dick dealing with tragedy by finding solace in each other. The trials and tribulations that come with dealing with loss amidst personal growth are explored. It ends with the seemingly disparate investigations suddenly blending together.

Con men

Sam and Dick dive headlong into opening Private Dicks and Bail Bonds and each other. Sink or swim. Frank Regal is embarrassingly extorted out of \$700,000 by the mafia. Big T and Ellen seek a French connection at the Oaks Card Club in Emeryville. City hall staggers under a flurry of interrelated scandals. The FBI is watching everything.

Human archaeology

Surprise! The cult of pyro explodes a studio lot and Ken Stillwell's accounts releasing unanticipated shockwaves. Sam and Dick wantonly seek capital for their nascent business in the underworld and by dumb luck end up recruiting skip tracer Christina He to find Big T. Joe Marino desperately seeks their guidance. Frank Regal moves his shoot of B action film Everybody Hurts to BC under mounting pressure after the bombing. Big T cuts off loose ties with ruthless discrimination.

Of Saints and Gangsters

The gangster sheriff of the LAPD, the figurehead of the city council, Big T, the Broken Circle, Joe Marino, Frank Regal and the recently deceased Paps Thorson all seem to have a ghost in common. Sam and Dick know who that ghost is. A wedding date is proposed.

Act 3

Sam and Dick climax using their unique combination of skills to solve the Broken Circle and Joe Marino cases while using their Pyro cult evidence to broker a life changing deal with a major Hollywood studio; making Dick the Eddie Mannix of his time and giving Sam vital access to the interior of the justice system.

No dope

The Cult's attempts to launder money crumb a trail that Dick can eat. Sam's pow wow with Frank Regal and Joe Marino leads him to a major clue in finding his Paps' killer. Big T and Ellen run out of options and dope, leading to a fall out of epic proportions. The studio is forced to bankroll one of Frank and the mafia's pet projects.

Self-serving story

The clandestine interests of The Broken Circle and The Pyro cult dovetail. Ken Stillwell is found drowned in his pool. Dick connects someone to a car battery and the money trail to the city council. Sam tracks down his nemesis. Frank Regal and Joe Marino dance with the devil in a blue dress.