



For the last six years, we've seen the rise of authoritarianism around the world, and here in America.

### Wannabe dictators, extremism, and misinformation have put democracy in danger.

The world Cookie grew up in was facing the same struggles, but instead of Ukraine, Iraq and Afghanistan, the battles were fought in Nicaragua and Central America. Proxy wars with the the Soviet Union are now fought with Putin and Russia.

We've also debated the controversial actions of a president who assaulted the Rule of Law and pushed the limits of Executive Power. Daily stories of corruption and the erosion of our institutions and the freedom of the press. The Reagan Administration and its adventures in Central America stretched our democracy to a breaking point.

### Secret deals with our worst enemies, international intrigue, and lies.

Courageous journalists risking their lives to bring us the truth. It's on the news everyday as it was back then. So many of today's war correspondents are women, finding themselves in the most dangerous places in the world. Cookie bravely leads the CBS team through the bloody wars in places like Nicaragua, El Salvador and Honduras.

JOURNALISTA is as current now as it was in 1981. A dangerous unstable world, where greedy power hungry men hold all the cards.

But in this story, it's Cookie in the crosshairs of empires. An unlikely hero, in the fog of war, unrelenting in her pursuit of the truth, no matter what she has to do to get it.





# **NICARAGUA**

The brutal dictator Anastasio Somoza, backed by the United States, is fighting a civil war with Sandinista rebels, that has been on and off for decades, with no end in sight.

Cookie's mother has a close friendship with the ruling family. She often takes Cookie to the palace for play dates with the dictator's children.

At the same time he's bombing his own people. Nicaragua is exploding.

Everything changes on June 29, 1979 when ABC news correspondent, Bill Stewart, is murdered, execution style, at a checkpoint near Managua. The news footage is broadcast on all the U.S. networks and President Carter cuts off Somoza's regime, which falls to the Sandinistas a month later.

When the left leaning socialist Sandinistas take power, it sends a tidal wave through Central America, which are made up primarily of right wing dictatorships, backed by the U.S. When Reagan is elected in 1980, he decides to back the right wing opposition Contras, who are now battling to overthrow the new Nicaraguan government.

Congress opposes all financial and military support for the Contras, and passes the Boland Amendment, which outlaws any further funding and involvement by the U.S.

The Reagan administration goes rogue and does it anyway, illegally. The rest is history.



## **OVERVIEW**

JOURNALISTA is an insane thrill ride following Cookie and her team covering the civil wars, revolutions, and U.S. missteps in Central America - until she breaks the story of the decade.

The craziness starts on page one. She inadvertently crashes a rebel terrorist attack on Christmas Eve with a pound of weed. At just seventeen years old, she's pushed in front of a firing squad. That's her life in a nutshell.

In the wrong place at the right time. The crossroads of history.

That attack forces the release of Daniel Ortega from a political prison. He becomes the leader of the Sandinista revolution and eventually the president of Nicaragua.

At just 26, Cookie leaves her life as a successful model and her drug cartel husband and heads back to Nicaragua with her toddler, lost and aimless, looking for the revolution.

But what she needs is her own revolution. Something to believe in, to fight for.

So of course, she throws herself a party. It's the blowout of the year in Managua. The who's who of Nicaragua attend, from politicians to prostitutes, generals to drug dealers, everyone, including lots of journalists covering the war.

Cookie meets Larry Doyle, legendary CBS News producer. A cigar chomping, misogynistic, drug fueled, out of control, hero journalist. A mess by any standard. Fired and rehired many times. Over a few lines of blow and big fat Cuban cigars, he offers Cookie a job to be his fixer/translator to find war footage for a story he's working on. Just a weekend gig.

And there's nobody better than Cookie to get him anywhere he wants to go. Her charm, balls, and passion for social justice gets her through checkpoints, into jungle military camps, and up to the highest levels of government.



## **LEAD CHARACTERS**

**COOKIE HOOD (26)** Charismatic, charming and courageous as hell. Addicted to booze, blow and danger. An unstoppable force of nature. Half American and half Nicaraguan. She is wild and loves to party, moving easily between the very rich, the working class, and the underbelly of society.

Born to privilege and wealth, her mother, the daughter of oligarchs, was proper and well bred. Her father, a self made American businessman, was cold and hard. He never wanted any daughters and gave his attention to Cookie's brothers. Tells her she is "Just a silly girl".

Desperate for her father's love, she turns to drugs and danger. She moves to New York City in the late 70s, becomes a successful model and finds refuge in the nightlife, partying way too hard at clubs like Studio 54, where she hooks up with a childhood friend from Nicaragua who is a top player in the Medellin Cartel. They fall in love, get married and have a child together. Pablo Escobar is at their wedding. She calls herself "Mrs. Scarface".

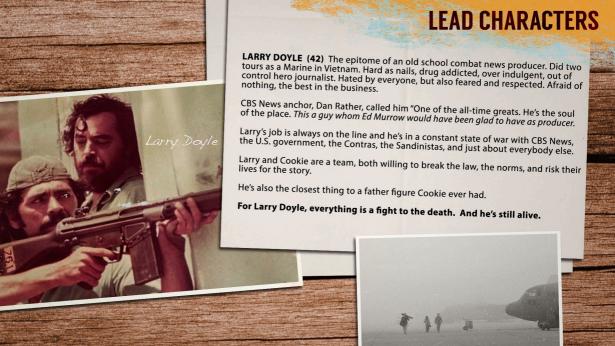
## She gets her father's attention, but also his shame.

Together she and her husband stay just ahead of the DEA. But when he comes home in someone else's blood, she escapes with a suitcase full of money and heads back to Nicaragua with her baby.



She finds her calling when she gets hired by Larry Doyle and CBS News . She knows everyone who matters in Nicaragua. She went to school with most of the leaders on both sides of the civil war. She is brilliant, speaks perfect English and Spanish, can master any accent and can talk her way into and out of extreme danger. In her heart, Cookie is a left wing revolutionary and although she becomes the most powerful journalist in Central America, she knows the truth has a liberal bias and fights for it with every ounce of her being.

Cookie wants to prove to her father and the world that she has bigger balls than any man.



## **SUPPORTING CHARACTERS**

**TOMAS BORGE (47)** Sandinista Minister of Interior / Head of the Secret Police. The most dangerous man in Nicaragua. Cookie's secret source, codenamed: Sugar Daddy. His secret visits to her hotel room go beyond the limits of cultivating a potential news source. Secretly protects her.

**JACK STRATTEN (40)** charming American liason to the U.S. Embassy in Mangua. Friend and off and on lover to Cookie who turns out to be the CIA agent trying to destroy her.

**MANNY ALVAREZ** (36) Cookie's cameraman, best friend and occasional lover. Handsome and brave as fuck, willing to put his neck out to get the shot for Cookie, no matter what. Super drunk, right wing, loud and proud of it. Would kill for Cookie, would die for her too.

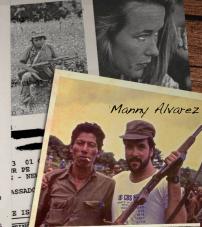
**PABLO GOMEZ (50)** Cookie's driver. Knows every back road, trail and checkpoint in Nicaragua and has the balls to get through any situation.

HILDA COURTNEY (26) Cookie's crazy cousin and confidante. Well bred and and privileged, but could give a shit about the poor or the revolution. Loves sleeping with oligarchs and generals. Also a notorious kleptomaniac.

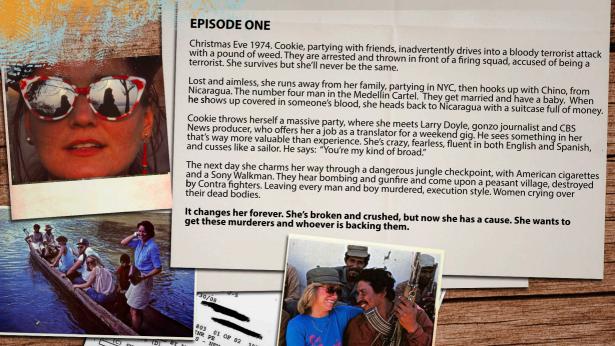
**VIOLETA CHAMORRO (40)** stunning, wise editor of the opposition newspaper. She's also Cookie's aunt and mentor. She became the first female president of Nicaragua.

**CHINO MAURICIO (25)** Cookie's ex-husband, father of her child, her cocaine supplier and the primary distributor in the US for Pablo Escobar. He is always there for her when she needs him.

**VERNON HOOD (45)** Cookie's American father. Workaholic with little emotional ties to his family, especially Cookie.







#### **EPISODE TWO**

Flashback to Cookie, crying at her mother's deathbed, holding her baby. Her father is ashamed of her and he lets her know. What an asshole. She's devastated.

Back at the jungle village, Larry tries to get the women to talk on camera about the killers but they're too terrified. Cookie's in tears, looking for a way in. But Larry pushes her to stay professional - at a distance. But Cookie is Cookie. Does it her own way. Joins the wailing women. She's one of them and they know it.

They begin to open up and agree to speak on camera. All the dirty details. A cathartic moment.

Larry is blown away by her. She knows it. He sees her the way she wants to be seen .

The story is the first proof of Contras attacking the Nicaraguan people. She becomes an instant star for 60 Minutes. When she calls her father, he hangs up. That night, she celebrates her win and drowns her sorrows by going on a cocaine and alcohol bender that nearly does her in.

Cookie soon bumps head with the CBS Bureau Chief, who is jealous of her success. Just another weak man who

In true Cookie fashion, she breaks one rule after another, until she breaks another bombshell that a covert Russian cargo ship in the Managua Harbor is secretly transporting weapons to the Sandinistas.

Cookie's first big scoop. It was also the first time the legend himself, Dan Rather, congratulated her.

The Bureau Chief throws a fit when she won't reveal her sources. So he draws a line in the sand.

"Either she goes or I go."

Clean kill. Congratulations. 13.57 Thanks. Courage.

Dan Rather













#### **EPISODE THREE**

Cookie's now running the CBS Managua office. Her infant son at her side, she's moving like a pro, but the party never stops. She uses charm, sex sex and cocaine to cultivate assets.

She starts an affair with a charming American from the U.S. Embassy. Tries to seduce him into giving up some dirt. Get's nothing out of him, just a policy wonk.

CBS fires Larry for being an out of control alcoholic.

Cookie has drinks with Thomas Borge, Minister of the Interior. He's smitten. Gives her intel on Cubans flying into Managua, pretending to be doctors. At the airport, she pretends to be a Cuban journalist, speaking in a perfect Cuban accent. Talks her way on to the plane and interviews military advisers pretending to be doctors. Another major scoop.

As Cookie gets out of a cab, she's pulled into a van with a hood over her head.

#### **EPISODE FOUR**

The kidnappers, from the Medellin Cartel, take her to Pablo Escobar. She's rescued by Larry, who promises they won't publish anything about the Cartel. Escobar agrees, but tells Cookie next time they will fuck.

Cookie is beginning to see Larry as the father she always needed. A cruel asshole, but it feels like love.

She goes to bat for him with CBS and he is re-hired, too good to let go. They get back just in time to hop on a helicopter into the jungle with her camera crew, looking for proof the CIA is behind the Contras.

Then Cookie and her team get shot down in a fiery crash.

#### **EPISODE FIVE**

Starts with Cookie, Larry and the camera crew jumping from the helicopter just before it crashes. Broken and bruised, they are the only survivors. They spend three days running for their lives dodging Contra search parties.

Larry tells Cookie about a war crime he witnessed in Vietnam that led him to journalism. Cookie shares a dark story with Larry about her childhood that led her to drug addiction.

They find a CIA torture manual, covered in blood, in an abandoned Contra Camp, with the tortured bodies of the dead to prove it.

Cookie and the crew run into an ambush, finally rescued by Sandinistas just as they are about to be killed.

The evidence is clear, the CIA is in Nicaragua. She's vows to blow the lid off what she believes could be the biggest cover up in US history.

#### **EPISODE SIX**

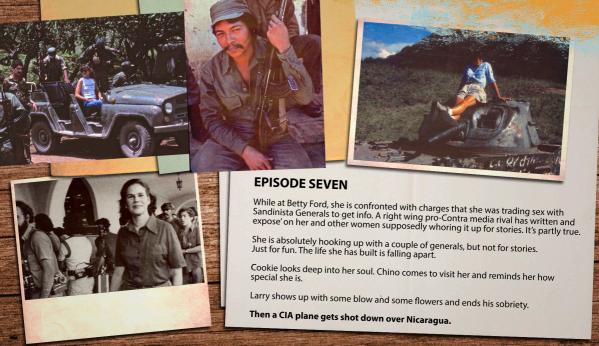
Cookie wakes up in a Miami hospital, broken and bruised, in really bad shape. It's her birthday and she phones her father, but he calls her a junkie and hangs up on her.

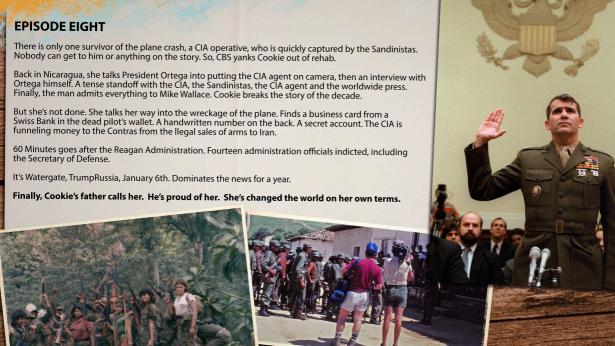
She calls in an ounce of blow and throws a party in her hospital room. Convinced the CIA is after her, gripped by paranoia, she's sliding into hell.

Out in the jungle on a story, Cookie gets arrested for cocaine possession by local cops and thrown in jail. After a call to the Presidente's office, the charges are dropped, but CBS executives show up for a drug intervention and send her to the Betty Ford Center. Cookie is way too out of control and is creating a huge liablity for the network. Her father called her a junkie and he's right.

Cookie digs in, says she won't go. CBS tells her she goes or she's fired.







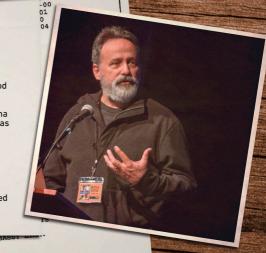
## **CREATIVE TEAM**

#### Steven Esteb Creator

Steve is the creator and host of the IHEART radio podcast JOURNALISTA.

He's also an award winning filmmaker that has worked as a Hollywood screenwriter and directed features, commercials, music videos. documentaries, and also worked as a professor at Loyola University New Orleans teaching film and screenwriting. Founder of the Louisiana Screenwriters Bootcamp. His recently completed film, HATE CRIME, has been gathering awards and winning film festivals all over the world. He's also known for the cult film, BALLER BLOCKIN', a rap film for Universal starring Lil Wayne, hit #1 on the Billboard charts in DVD and video sales eventually going quadruple platinum.

He lived and worked at an AIDS hospice for two years while making the feature length documentary, LIVING WITH...A FILM ABOUT LOVE AND AIDS. It premiered at the Santa Barbara Film Festival and traveled the world, contributing to the opening of new AIDS Hospices, his proudest accomplishment.



(U) CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR DENNIS C. JETT,

(C) SUMMARY: EVIDENCE IS MOUNTING OF A SMEAR CAMPAIGN

PERUVIAN TABLOIDS TARGETTING INVESTIGATIVE REPORTERS WHOSE CONTAINS OF TREASON ROUND OUT THE TACTICS

# **CREATIVE TEAM**

# Daniel Dreifuss Executive Producer

Daniel Dreifuss is an accomplished film and television producer based in Los Angeles with the rare distinction of producing two Oscar-contending films from separate countries: the Oscar-nominated NO, directed by Pablo Larrain, starring Gael Garcia Bernal and Oscar-winning ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT. He was born in the UK, raised in Brazil and has worked worldwide on a variety of critically acclaimed projects throughout his career.

All Quiet on the Western Front, Netflix Top 10 in 90 countries, won four Academy Awards, and seven BAFTA Awards, the most ever for a non-English language film.

Daniel's limited series GHOSTS OF BEIRUT was shot in Morocco and is currently airing on Showtime/Paramount. Daniel's first Netflix collaboration was SERGIO, based on a book by Pulitzer-winning author Samantha Power, stars Ana de Armas, Wagner Moura and Bradley Whitford.

Daniel's film NO won the Directors' Fortnight in Cannes and was Chile's first ever Academy Award nominated Film. He later returned to Chile to produce You'll Never Be Alone, a Teddy award winner at Berlinale 2016.

Other credits include ORPHANS OF EL DORADO, based on the novel by famed author Milton Hatoum, the Spanish Civil War themed GUERNICA for Sony, about the bombing of the city in Picasso's eponymous painting.

Daniel has served on the jury for several festivals including the Queer Palm of the Cannes Film Festival, Zurich, São Paulo, SANFIC, Rio Film Festival, Guadalajara. He also served as the Representative for the Rio Film Commission in the US. Daniel began his career at the MPAA where he worked both domestically and internationally, and in worldwide strategy at Paramount Pictures. He holds an MFA in Producing at the American Film Institute. Dreifuss was the Valedictorian of his college graduating class in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



## **CREATIVE TEAM**

#### Jason Gurvitz Executive Producer

Jason is the founder of Green Dog Films and Hidden Tears Project. Jason's recent feature, DOMINIQUE, which shot in Cololmbia, will be released by Lionsgate in 2024.

Jason directed the documentary short UNTIL THEY ALL COME HOME, featuring Mira Sorvino, about special forces who rescue American children from human traffickers. Other credits include THE COMEBACK TRAIL, starring Robert DeNiro, Morgan Freeman, Tommy Lee Jones and Zach Braff, AVENGED, THE THREE HIKERS, THE RUSSIAN BRIDE, THE SUBMARINE KID, starring Finn Wittrock and Emilie de Ravin, BROKEN KINGDOM, directed by Daniel Gilles and starring Rachel Leigh Cook and Seymour Casssel, THE PERFECT WITNESS, starring Wes Bentley and TANYA, written by Sam Forman (HOUSE OF CARDS), directed by Monica Raymund (CHICAGO FIRE) and starring Eamonn Walker (CHICAGO FIRE).

Selected among 22 writers out of 4,000 submissions, Jason is a a proud alum of the Imagine Impact Program, a screenwriting incubator created by Brian Grazer and Ron Howard.



2. (C) SUMMARY: EVIDENCE

PERUVIAN TABLOIDS TARGETTING INVESTIGATIVE REPORTERS,
ARE PERCEIVED AS THREATENING TO THE FUJINORI GOVERNMENT. SRIBES,
ARE PERCEIVED AS THREATENING TO THE FUJINORI GOVERNMENT. THE TACTICS
DENTH THREATS, AND ACCUSATIONS OF TREASON ROUND OUT THE TACTICS.