
THE OFFICIAL ONE-HOUR PILOT

TELL ME ABOUT IT

A disgraced behavioral therapist who can read almost anyone is forced into a Macau casino empire—while the FBI agent who still loves him risks her badge to follow.

FINAL DRAFT 13

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The story

Mac Allen is called into a police-station hostage crisis after FBI agent Maria Garcia is grazed by gunfire. By reading Officer Peter Buckley's posture, ringtone, watch, and dominant hand, Mac finds the language that can reach him. He turns surrender into "one more hand" and receives the gun in his open palms.

The rescue exposes both Mac's gift and the damage behind it. He has lost his counseling license, carries scars and a back brace from Jimmy Flynn's violence, and has only \$68.14 in his daughter Ruby's college fund. Flynn owes casino markers to blind Macau ruler **Ho Chan** and forces Mac to find the thief inside Queen's Palace—using Ruby as leverage.

Maria, Mac's former lover, is battling a pill dependency after a shooting. When her boss orders her to turn Mac, she instead copies a restricted Flynn file, buries her FBI badge, and follows him onto Flight 888. In Macau, Mac meets **Edwin Lee**, whose wife and seven-year-old daughter died in Typhoon Hato. Their late-night conversation gives Mac the word *saudade*: the presence of absence.

Mac nearly relapses at a baccarat table but lets the black chips fall from his hands. Maria is caught at 11:11. On the Queen's Palace roof, Mac uses Cedar Musk and *saudade* to crack Ho Chan's control—only for Chan's watch to reveal Maria imprisoned below. The tag finds sixteen-year-old Tina alive in Arizona, hiding from an intruder while Maria's dirt-covered badge sits in the watcher's SUV.

The engine

The pilot binds therapy, gambling, fatherhood, surveillance, grief, and criminal leverage into one idea: the body reveals the truth before the mind can hide it.

The 21 key moments

- 01 Queen's Palace** — Ho Chan orders the thief inside his casino found.
- 02 The Call** — Chief Adamo brings Mac into a hostage crisis.
- 03 The Old Wound** — Flynn and Scarface's earlier beating explains Mac's scars.
- 04 The Room** — Mac reads Buckley's gambling tells.
- 05 One More Hand** — Buckley places the gun in Mac's palms.
- 06 Gift / Curse** — Mac returns to the empty room alone.
- 07 License Gone** — His ruined practice and Ruby's balance expose the collapse.
- 08 Flynn's Markers** — Flynn forces Mac toward Macau and threatens Ruby.
- 09 Maria's Week** — Cox finds Maria's pills and starts the clock.
- 10 Chan's Method** — Scent, pulse, sweat, and an envelope marked JF reveal betrayal.
- 11 But I Won** — Young Mac confuses a correct prediction with victory.

The 21 key moments continued

- 12 Black Ice** — Mac and Maria reconnect under surveillance.
- 13 Ticket to Macau** — Flynn supplies the visa and reveals his paralysis.
- 14 Unofficial** — Maria copies the file and buries her badge.
- 15 Flight 888** — Ruby and a memory of Mac's father nearly stop him.
- 16 Macau** — Edwin's yellow socks and half finger introduce Chan's world.
- 17 Saudade** — Mac and Edwin recognize different forms of lost fatherhood.
- 18 Tina Alive** — Tina writes while the black SUV waits.
- 19 Cedar Musk** — Mac turns Chan's private grief into leverage.
- 20 All In** — Mac leaves the table as Maria is captured at 11:11.
- 21 Tell Me About It** — Mac faces Chan; Tina's tag reveals the next threat.

Recurring visual language

Open palms for surrender and resistance · **rings** for love and betrayal · **yellow** for Edwin's daughter · **purple** for Queen's Palace and Tina · **11:11** for love and danger · **restroom doors** for relapse · **Cedar Musk** for memory as leverage · **rosary beads** for Flynn's need to count and control.

Canon correction

This official draft replaces the prior pilot narrative used in early site and visual-development materials.

Remove from pilot materials

Pasco Rabanza · Abernathy · Smith · the staged diner · the armored dome · buried chests · playground escape · Morgan-dollar choice · desert explosion · wind-farm convergence · Blackie reveal.

Use as pilot canon

The Buckley hostage negotiation · Mac's lost license and back injury · Flynn's casino debt to Ho Chan · Maria's pills and one-week ultimatum · Ruby as leverage · Tina alive in Arizona · Edwin and saudade · Cedar Musk · Mac walking away from baccarat · Maria captured at 11:11 · the Queen's Palace rooftop confrontation · Maria's badge in the black SUV.

Materials audit

Website: corrected and published around the official 21-beat sequence.

Screenplay download: replaced with the September 16 official draft.

Image-prompt pack: rebuilt for every main and detail slot.

Series bible: broader premise remains useful, but its pilot synopsis and several character facts require a dedicated rewrite.

Pitch deck: requires a visual page-by-page editorial pass because its text is embedded as artwork.

SOURCE

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