Drama assignment

**The Jeweler**

**Program One Liner**: A young woman becomes an apprentice to a Hoodoo practitioner, and uncovers secrets that were meant to stay buried.

 **Summary of the show:** The show *The Jeweler* is a TV drama series set in the 1980s that will focus on hoodoo. It revolves around the world of The Jeweler, who owns a jewelry store in a small town in Georgia that he uses to practice hoodoo out of.

Hoodoo, also known as Rootwork or Conjure, was brought to the Americas by African slaves. Due to its origins, Hoodoo was first a tradition of protection and practicality. Since hoodoo is looked down upon by the general public, The Jeweler poses as a Christian man and many of his spells and custom jewelry creations are named after saints. His Hoodoo customers are select people who know about his practices and he gains new customers through word of mouth and referrals. His life crosses paths with Isabelle, a 23-year-old woman who is new to the town. Isabelle moved to Georgia to live with her Aunt in their family’s isolated plantation house, after leaving an abusive relationship with her ex-boyfriend in Pennsylvania. Isabelle’s curiosity leads her to his shop, and she eventually becomes his apprentice in hoodoo, leading her into a world she can never come back from, and experiences that will shake her to the core. Isabelle does her best to hide her interests from her nosy aunt, but the weight of leading a double life begins to catch up to her, exposing not only her secrets, but the dark past of the town.

**Main Characters:**

The Jeweler: A Caribbean voodoo priest in his late 30’s-early 40’s who owns a custom jewelry store in a small town in Georgia. His apprentice is Isabelle. He has sparse facial hair and a deep tan. He dresses neatly in freshly ironed trousers, sleek black shoes, and a button-down shirt. His hair is always gelled back. His style of dress, mannerisms, and shop are very reminiscent of the 1920’s but oddly never look out of place in the town. He is a man of few words, and even though he’s been in the town for as long as anyone can remember, no one knows his real name or much about him. His store draws visitors from all over the country by people seeking his spiritual help and connections to the saints. He poses as a Christian man to prevent drawing attention to his rituals and practices. [Were his ancestors slaves? If they were, you should mention that here.]

Isabelle: A smart and feisty 23 year old woman from Philadelphia. To escape the drama in PA and her abusive ex she decides to move in with her aunt, Genna, in Georgia. Getting used to her new country surroundings, Isabelle quickly notices the town harbors [Watch out for apostrophe errors. Apostrophes and not used for plurals. They are used for possessives and contractions. http://theoatmeal.com/comics/apostrophe] many secrets and a turbulent past as a former slave town in the 1800’s. She becomes a hoodoo apprentice to The Jeweler, not realizing the weight of the role she is taking on and that there is no turning back. She tries to keep it a secret from aunt Genna but has trouble doing so. After being introduced into the world of spirits, she learns that not all saints are created equal, [and their demands from her continue to grow.] [?] [Were her ancestors slave owners? Then that should be mentioned here.]

Aunt Genna: A husky woman in her late 40’s who owns an old plantation home in Georgia. [This house is like a character. Has it been in Genna’s/Isabelle’s family since slave days?] She is usually gossiping with her two friends, Thelma and Yvette, about the everything and anything happening in their small town. Their gossiping includes the mysterious jeweler, who has helped them on many occasions with his spells. She spends most of her time in the house or shopping along the main road. When she welcomes her niece Isabelle into her home, she notices a change in her. Thinking that she is back in contact with her abusive ex, Aunt Genna begins snooping around for clues to what Isabelle is really up to.

Thelma: One of Aunt Genna’s friends. She is skinny with piercing eyes and long, sharp fingernails. Her clothes mostly consist of red and black. She practices voodoo herself, and will become jealous of Isabelle’s spirituality and closeness to The Jeweler.

Yvette: An older, heavyset woman. She is friends with Aunt Genna and Thelma. She is in her 50’s and has a very motherly personality. She looks after Isabelle from afar and senses Thelma’s jealousy.

You need a larger cast of characters to keep this series going. For now, you need two more townspeople and a note that says we will meet more denizens of the small town in this pilot, and their stories will be dealt with in depth when the time is right.

**Pilot:**  Prophetic dreams

**Episode One Liner:** Isabelle has prophetic dreams of rituals before she arrives in Georgia, leading her to meet The Jeweler.

**Plot A:** In a dream, The Jeweler’s hoodoo saints tell him he will have a visitor who will refuse to leave.

[Include a synopsis for each plot, after the one-liner.]

**Plot B:** Isabelle has a dream [Be specific. Describe the dream very briefly.] on her way to Georgia. [Nope. Still part of the A plot. The B plot for this episode could deal with Thelma, and perhaps her friends. Or, it could be “Isabelle arrives in town and catches up with her aunt.” Either way, keep it simple and let it guide your choices about what to withhold in this episode.]

**ACT I**

**Plot A Beginning:** The Jeweler is introduced in a video montage of his daily morning routine. He cleans the saints’ alters and prays before them. The room shakes and his prayers get faster as sweat forms on his forehead. A figure of saint Rita Cascia begins to levitate and changes her position to face the wall. Her candle blows out. The Jeweler drops to the floor passed out. Whispered mumblings of “…she’s coming…” are heard across the room. Good scene!

**Plot B Beginning:** Isabelle suddenly wakes up looking around her. She is on the greyhound bus full of people. She checks her phone. There are multiple text messages from her ex [arguing with her]. [Again, be specific. Give us an example, like a message that says “You are making a big mistake” or “You’ll be sorry.”]] The bus comes to a stop and [she realizes she’s at her destination]. [Don’t tell us what we can’t see.] She grabs all her bags and rushes off. Her Aunt Genna is waiting outside for her. On the ride to Genna’s house, Aunt Genna asks Isabelle for the full story of what happened to her in Philly. With her phone blowing up in her hand, and still disoriented from her dream, Isabelle tells her she was having problems with her boyfriend and drama with her mom, but doesn’t get into any details.

**ACT II**

**Plot B Middle:** Aunt Genna and Isabelle pull up to the beautiful [but weathered?] old plantation house. As Genna shows her to her room, the grandeur from the past can be felt. Isabelle’s room is simple and overlooks the backyard. As she’s unpacking, she overhears Aunt Genna and her friends talking outside about the Jeweler’s work and the multiple candles he lit for them. She continues to eavesdrop until she hears Thelma say “…and he made him disappear. Nobody ever heard from him again…”. [This is a good place to end this scene. It’s strong. Plus, when you change location, time or mood you should begin a new scene.]

[New scene.] The ladies continue their conversation as Aunt Genna pours Isabelle a glass of iced tea. Isabelle takes [a sip and butts, in asking] [Wow, that comma makes a big difference, am I right?] about who the Jeweler is. The ladies get quiet. Thelma breaks the silence by asking Isabelle to get her an old photo album from the attic so they can reminisce on their younger days. In the attic Isabelle gets creeped out as she sees chalk drawings on the floor, weird masks, and statues everywhere. As she picks up the album she notices a small statue of Saint Rita Cascia [Are we supposed to know who this is? There are thousands of saints, many of them known only to local parishioners. It would be better if you said “a female saint with a bleeding wound on her forehead.”] in a dusty corner. When Isabelle picks up the album another book fall against the statue and knocks it over and it lands face down. Isabelle grabs the album and runs out.

**Plot A Middle:** The Jeweler is looking in the mirror, dusting himself off and adjusting his clothes. A bell rings and he heads to the front of the shop. He greets a middle-aged lady who tells him her son has been getting into a lot of trouble in school. [Don’t give us so many details. Just the plot points.] The Jeweler selects a pendant of a saint and tells the woman she will need to buy a candle and pray to this saint while burning her wishes on a piece of paper.

**Act III**

**Plot B:** Aunt Genna places a couple of ice cubes into her tea. Isabelle walks to the table with the album. The ladies [I told you to lose “begin” and “start.”] look through the pictures and reminisce about what life was like. A few pictures are missing from the album. Isabelle asks her aunt if she has any aspirin she can take. Aunt Genna says no that she just ran out. Isabelle offers to go to the store and pick some up and Genna hands her the car keys. When in the car she is looking around exploring her new surroundings. She finally gets to main st and walks into an old mom and pop shop. As she is paying for her purchase her headache is getting worse and worse. She grabs her the advil and tries to keep her composure.

**Plot A/B end:** As she is heading to her car across the street she sees an old Jewelry store. She walks right past her car and heads inside. No one is at the counter to greet her so she is slowly walking around looking all the different pieces. She notices black and white pictures hanging on walls and a picture of the Virgin Mary with rosaries. She then comes across a collection of oils on the counter when the jeweler suddenly walks in and spooks her. The rosaries start swinging as if there was a light breeze and all the candles in the shop flicker. He introduces himself. End scene.

[Four acts are needed for television drama.]

SCENE A – PART I

FADE IN

INT. BACK OF JEWELER’S SHOP – EARLY MORNING

THE BACK OF THE SHOP IS DARK. PICTURES OF HOODOO SAINTS AND OTHER HOODOOO ICONOGRAPHY LINE EVERY SHELF. CANDLES AND OFFERINGS SUCH AS RUM, WATER, CIGARS AND BREAD ARE PLACED IN FRONT EACH SAINT. A WHITE RING DRAWN WITH CHALK IS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FLOOR. A LINE OF SALT IS IN FRONT OF THE DOOR WAY.

THE JEWLER WALKS IN. HE IS COUNTING ROSARIES IN HIS HAND AS HE PRAYS IN A BARELY AUDIBLE WHISPER. HE TAKES OUT A SMALL BOTTLE OF OIL AND SPRINKLES IT ALL OVER THE ROOM. THEN HE REFILLS ALL THE CUPS OF WATER IN FRONT OF EACH SAINT’S PICTURE AND/OR STATUE.

HE KNEELS IN FRONT OF SAINT RITA CASCIA AND PUTS A COMBINATION OF ROOTS, HERBS, AND FLOWERS IN A MORTAR AND PESTLE BOWL. HE CRUSHES IT.

SOUNDS: EERIE MUSIC. CRUSHING OF ROOTS AND HERBS.

JEWELER

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

THE CANDLE FLICKERS.

JEWELER

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me…

STATUE OF SAINT RITA CASCIA SHAKES.

SOUNDS: THE JEWELER’S PRAYER GETS LOUDER, THE MUSIC GETS LOUDER AND MORE INTENSE.

JEWELER

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

THE STATUE IS LEVITATING. CANDLE IS WILDLY FLICKERING. THE JEWELER IS SWEATING AND STRAINING WHILE SAYING THE PRAYER.

SOUNDS: THE MUSIC GETS LOUDER AND FASTER. THE JEWLER IS PANTING WHILE SAYING THE PRAYER.

JEWLER

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

SOUNDS: JEWLER IS ALMOST YELLING AND OUT OF AIR. MUSIC IS AT ITS MOST INTENSE.

THE STATUE SUDDENLY TURNS AND FACES THE WALL WHILE LEVITATING. THE CANDLE GOES OUT.

SOUNDS: THE STATUE LANDS ON THE TABLE WITH A LOUD BANG. THE MUSIC SUDDENLY STOPS.

THE JEWELER FALLS TO THE FLOOR, PASSED OUT.

END SCENE.