

The Pearl Earring

written & created by

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TREATMENT

(TV Crime Drama pilot)

Logline

A troubled undercover detective, haunted by her childhood, stumbles when she fails to protect a vital piece of surveillance equipment, forcing her to take matters into her own hands.

Genre: Psychological Thriller, Crime Drama.

SYNOPSIS

Detective Kiki Carruthers is thrown into an undercover operation at Tiffany's Nightclub; her code-name Medusa is appropriate for the tall, shapely, flame haired detective constable. However, she fails to protect a vital piece of surveillance equipment whilst dancing at the pole. The pearl earring that she is entrusted to protect, falls from her ear and is quickly spotted by David Savva (club owner's son). He refuses to return the earring, unless she provides a personal lap dance for him. Later that night he is found dead inside an NCP where DC Carruthers discovers him lying in a pool of blood. Before his dies, he pleads with her for help, but her only concern is the surveillance equipment hidden inside the pearl earring. Through her peripheral vision, she spots a homeless fugitive (Roman Petrescu), and immediately apprehends him when she discovers items belonging to the victim. But with no breakthrough that Petrescu is, in fact, the murderer, she falls under suspicion when it is highlighted that she had lost the pearl earring earlier that night, and sought to devise a plan to get it back. Club owner, Kris Savva takes it upon himself to administer his own justice in his endeavour to track down the killer of his son. His relationship with Glaswegian detective on the case, DS James Johnson keeps him in the loop, as he seeks clarity throughout the investigation. He soon learns that Roman Petrescu is a wanted man in Bulgaria (his homeland), for the rape of the Mayor of Velingrad's young daughter, and when the Mayor hears of Petrescu's arrest, he makes plans to visit the city. Meanwhile, DC Carruthers and her close colleague DC Shelley Peters fall under the suspicion of eagle-eyed DCI Anthea Must. Roman Petrescu is taken to a holding cell awaiting trial, before he is sprung, and his inevitable fate lies in the hands of his kidnapper.

DC Kiki Jane Carruthers.

An undercover detective, deeply affected by her childhood, continues to haunt her, causing her personal and professional turmoil. She is a dedicated detective who holds a torch to each assignment, but without total regard for the rules of engagement. She has grown up with domestic violence and suffered child abuse, but does have a desire for legal matters, due to her parents who both work for the French judiciary in Paris. Kiki Jane Carruthers was born 1994, in the Latin Quarter of Paris. Her father, a prosecutor. Her Mother, a liaison officer in the gendarmerie. At ten years old a troubled Kiki was sent to live in London with her aunty Cath, It was during her new life in the UK that she attended The Royal College of Music, and Cambridge University where she studied sociology and psychology. However, with a keen interest in judicial matters, she went on to study criminal law, before being fast tracked into the Metropolitan Police Service as a detective constable.

DC Shelley Peters.

Undercover colleague, confidant, and live-in partner of DC Kiki Carruthers. She will do anything to protect her partner at all costs.

Kris Savva.

London Greek Cypriot club owner and drug trafficker. Highly connected, due to freemasonry. Doesn't suffer fools, and uses extreme violence to get what he wants. Kris Savva made his fortune in the rag trade. As a buyer of cabbage (clothing), he seized upon the opportunity to purchase garments from clothing manufacturers and outlets around London where he was born to a Greek Cypriot father, and British mother. Kris saw off his opposition with threats of violence, and so had the lion's share of the bulk. Kris sold these surplus garments at a massive four-hundred per cent profit to clothing outlets and shops around the country. With the profits he purchased real estate to-let. So within twenty years he'd become a millionaire, taking ownership of night clubs, restaurants and bars throughout the capital. It was Tiffany's club that drew himself and his son David into the world of drug trafficking when a relationship was struck with Colombian drug trafficker Dev Bakshi. Kris is married to Helen and they have two daughters; Abigail and Bethany- both married with one child.

David Savva

Son of Kris Savva: Drug trafficker and murder victim.

DS James Johnson.

Slick Glaswegian detective on Kris Savva's payroll.

DCI Anthea Must

Eagle eyed DCI in pursuit of David Savva's killer.

Roman Petrescu

Bulgarian fugitive and prime suspect.

TREATMENT

The Pearl Earring is an edgy British crime drama written and created for television. The aim, to push boundaries and challenge the status quo of modern day surveillance, and explore uncharted territory with the aim to captivate audiences with a fresh perspective concerning its genre while highlighting the role of female leadership, loyalty and trust alongside their male counterparts.

The plot concentrates on the murder of a club owner's son. But what sets this screenplay apart from others of its genre is the concept of trust within the perimeters of law enforcement. There are no drawn out car chases, or shootouts that leave half-a-dozen antagonists lying in a pool of blood. That does not mean to say there are no deeply disturbing situations. To the contrary, this crime drama has many challenging moments, and dramatic scenes that ask questions in a forever changing world.

SCENE 1:

The opening scene begins with a classical concert, and where Kiki Carruthers sits among the string section of an orchestra. *This opening scene is to show DC Carruthers as an accomplished, classical musician.*

SCENE 2-3:

Shows a brief outline of the premise where we see the unloading of narcotics from a sea container onto a vehicle, and then trafficked to Tiffany's club where deals are made regarding the narcotics on board.

SCENE 4:

The action moves inside Tiffany's where David Savva hands over four packages of narcotics to Italian Londoner Jorgio who is instructed to deliver the packages.

SCENE 5:

Promiscuous Jorgio decides to visit the red light district of Soho beforehand where DC Kiki Carruthers and blonde haired DC Shelley Peters pose as sex workers. Jorgio kerb crawls and propositions them, before he is duly arrested and charged with soliciting. He is then further arrested for possession of four kilos of cocaine.

SCENE 6-7:

We return to Tiffany's and Jorgio's bail release where Kris Savva and his colleague, Columbian drug trafficker; Dev Bakshi confront him. Regardless of the threats thrown at Jorgio for the return of the drugs, Kris Savva makes a call to DS Johnson.

SETTING & SCENES 8-9 - 10

The narrative concentrates upon an underground police operation at Tiffany's nightclub in Soho, headed by the undercover operations commander. The focus; a drug smuggling cartel that involves a Columbian drug lord and Kris Savva. Selected for this operation is DC Carruthers, and her colleague DC Peters when they are asked by the commander:

UOC

Have you ever pole danced?

In this action sentence, DC Carruthers and DC Peters glance at each other knowingly and grin.

The object of their mission, to film, using surveillance equipment installed inside a black pearl earring, clipped to the ear whilst performing at the pole.

It is during this operation that DC Carruthers (aka Medusa) unbeknown, drops the earring whilst performing upside down at the pole.

The black pearl earring is quickly spotted by David Savva. He picks up the earring and attempts to use it as a bargaining chip in exchange for a private lap dance from Medusa at the end of her shift.

However, he is unaware of the earring's importance, or why Medusa wants it returned to her without fuss. David Savva, on the other hand, takes her willingness to offer a private dance too far.

DAVID SAVVA

If you want this thing back,
you're gonna need to suck this
first.

Medusa responds to his request angrily when she grabs his testicles to the point where he reacts and attacks her then leaves with the earring in his possession and Medusa fractured. *This inciting incident drives the narrative forward.*

FLASHBACK: SCENE 11:

An apartment in Paris. At this point we get a glimpse of DC Carruthers's volatile nature when it is revealed, during her childhood when she pushes Audrey- her alcoholic Mother down a spiral staircase, after she is slapped and ordered back to bed. *This scene is to show what haunts DC Carruthers, and happens when she is physically attacked.*

When we come back, Medusa makes a call that leads to a dramatic event inside a car park:

SCENE 12:

Inside an NCP car park David Savva returns to his vehicle with the realization that the earring is more than just a piece of jewellery, so calls his father. As he does so, he stumbles on a loose segment of pavement and falls flat on his face. It is at this point that he is struck and left lying in a small pool of blood. He is then robbed by homeless Roman Petrescu, before he is interrupted when DC Carruthers enters the NCP as she returns to her own vehicle. She spots David lying on the ground and attempts to retrieve the earring by searching his pockets as he pleads for help before he dies.

DAVID SAVVA

Please, Medusa, help me.

DC CARRUTHERS

Where's the earring? What have
you done with it?

Through her peripheral vision, she spots a dark shadow hiding behind a vehicle. DC Carruthers first apprehends the intruder, then empties his pockets in search of the earring, only to reveal his ill gotten gains stolen from the victim. She calls for back-up, and for the arrest of the suspect. Roman Petrescu is duly taken away to be later questioned by black detective; DI Steve Pearson, and his colleague Glaswegian DS James Johnson. She is also briefly questioned by DI Pearson and asked to present her statement the next morning when the investigation into David Savva's murder begins. Slick haired DS Johnson's relationship with David's father holds no bounds, and when DI Pearson tells him to inform next-of-kin, he bemoans.

DS JOHNSON

Oh, c'mon chief! We're acquainted
for fuck sake! You know exactly
how that'll go down.

SCENE 13:

During a rendezvous inside his limo Kris Savva croaks:

KRIS SAVVA

How am I s'posed to tell his
Mother this? It'll kill her stone
dead.

DS Johnson is then asked by a distraught Kris Savva if he can speak to witness DC Carruthers in person, since it was she who found his son. That request is significant, since DS Johnson cannot refuse, due to Kris Savva's volatile nature and his unwavering loyalty.

SCENE 14:

At their home at Longmoor Manor, Kris Savva's wife Helen is told of the bad news concerning their son.

SCENES 15-18:

Takes place inside the incident room, DCI Must's office where she discovers the importance of the black pearl earring. Roman Petrescu is questioned by DI Pearson and DS Johnson about the murder, conveyed through an interpreter. It is during that interview that Roman Petrescu reveals he witnessed DC Carruthers speaking to the victim.

INTERPRETER

He watched her kneel down by the victim. He thought she spoke to him. She seemed angry with him.

This revelation contradicts DC Carruthers statement, so causes some concern for detectives leading the case. Meanwhile the pearl earring is recovered during a search of the victim's clothing. The earring is immediately sent to forensics for a data search, before they realise its importance; the undercover operation into Tiffany's.

SCENE 21:

In the car park at Soho nick, DC Carruthers is joined by DS Johnson. He comes as a messenger from Kris Savva when he asks a favour, to which she refuses.

SCENE 22:

The Mayor of Velingrad travels to London in pursuit of Roman Petrescu, and justice for his daughter.

SCENE 23:

Whilst DC Carruthers and DC Peters enjoy a sunny afternoon at Jack's wine bar, their conflagration is rudely interrupted by a seething Kris Savva. With his knowledge of them working undercover at his club, his threats are mostly aimed at DC Carruthers, as she suffers a flashback to her childhood.

MOVING ON:

DCI Anthea Must leads. And it is with an eagle eye that she finally stumbles upon the murder weapon, and a deep plot to cover up David Savva's murder when she confronts DI Pearson and DS Johnson and shows them a photo image.

DCI MUST

Now, can either of you blind sods tell me what's going on in this image that was taken by SOCO?

SCENES 25-27:

Shows DC Carruthers and DC Shelley Peters discussing the case before they are removed from the undercover operation at Tiffany's. DCI Must meets the Mayor of Velingrad to discuss Roman Petrescu.

SCENE 28:

A pivotal scene wher DCI Must is handed proof concerning the identities behind the cover up. It is during this scene that DCI Must instructs DS Johnson to remove the murder charge against Roman Petrescu.

PATHOLOGIST

The edge is jagged and sharp.
It's a positive match with the
laceration wound to the victim's
skull... causing the bleed to his
brain. This is uncontestable
since it contains the victim's
own DNA- plus DNA from the
perpetrators. There are four sets
of fingerprints to suggest a grab
and hold position.

SCENE 29:

Kris Savva at home with his family, discuss funeral arrangements, and the release date regarding their son's body.

SCENE 30:

Upon leaving Soho Nick, DC Carruthers and DC Peters are confronted by DCI Must and DS Johnson, before they are arrested and charged with murder.

SCENE 31:

A funeral under a dark cloud as David Savva is buried.

SCENE 32

DC Carruthers is interviewed and shown damning video footage from the NCP the night of the murder.

SCENES 33-38:

Concentrates upon Hendon holding facility, and the springing of Roman Petrescu before his day in court.

DENEQUEMENT:

Kris, finally has justice for his son, however this is not enough for this grieving London hardman. So with the assistance of DS Johnson, an audacious plan is devised to kidnap and murder Petrescu. And as the wheels are set in motion, Petrescu is picked up and driven to a wasteland, only for the Mayor of Velingrad to gatecrash Kris Savva's party. He insists that his vengeance weighs heavier, and it is with compassion towards the Mayor that Kris Savva hands over Roman Petrescu.

MAYOR OF VELINGRAD

So where does this leave us, Mr
Savva? What can be worse than
worst? My little girl, or your
dead son?

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