



The Wick

Prepared for: Writers

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TREATMENT

Logline

Four young women and two young men live in the same Hackney Wick artsy warehouse and face life and love in London.

The World

Consider the juxtaposition between getting a good job and social media. Many uni courses are rubbish, prepare and qualify people for precisely nothing. So they leave with a lot of debt but great expectations. The competition is unbelievably hard work and the job market is getting further squeezed by Brexit and the unaffordability of living in London.

At the same time people have to pretend to be happy/doing well in front of their peers. Everything is about social media, likes, photos of happy smiling faces on beach holidays. This creates unbearable pressure, especially if someone one breaks free from the pack and suddenly begins to do well. That weird stage where some friends are doing well



and getting married with a successful career and others are literally doing nothing and are in the same position. Where 'Girls' finishes off. Late twenties.

Synopsis

We see HOLLY a model trying to transition to something more meaningful after being dumped by her best friend's brother. She's pretty but not hugely successful, bright but not Stephen Hawking. Like most people she's on social media, this defines her and forms a central reference point to her life. She's shallow in a way, but no shallower than anyone else. Not a bad girl, just not that smart, different or amazing. She's suffering from depression which was brought on by getting dumped. In a hope to move on she tries to better herself by going for a series of job interviews in semi crappy professions but it is so comically soul destroying she quickly wants to find a way out. Feeling lost and low she goes on a night out with some model friends at an upmarket bar. Here she meets an older guy who is very quickly taken with her. After a couple of dates he starts to facilitate her lifestyle.

Enter the fascinating and utterly compelling world of Sugar Daddies, is she/ isn't she on the game, what is the game anyway? As Holly goes about trying to find meaning and purpose in life you see her three girl friends do the same.

SORAYA is black and a fantasist, really lovely girl, tries incredibly hard, but tires of the daily prejudices she faces from her industry.

KAY is a rich but not a snob and a Sculptor by trade. She's never quite in this world but is lovely, open and doesn't need anything other than her art. She is always in trouble, needing to be rescued from people and situations.

REBECCA is the killer. Works in PR, Hilarious, Stoical and very Pragmatic. At her core is loving but puts a hard front to the world.

The story follows the four girl's journeys and while comedic becomes darker and darker.

Holly gets sucked further and further into her new lifestyle, all the time pretending to be doing something else. This is about life, reality, sex, money, social media, moral ambiguity, jealousy - all crafted around a journey which Holly takes.

Questions Posed

- What are the moral ambiguities of marrying versus fucking men for money?
 - Where does Depression lead us?
 - How do we find our drive?
 - Can you survive as an artist in a cut throat city?
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CHARACTERS



HOLLY MACKINTOSH (25)

We meet her in the middle of a major downer from the breakup having had to move out her flat with her boyfriend and join the girls in the warehouse. Frantically checking her exes social media and cradling herself. From everyone else's reaction we know that this behavior has been going on a little bit too long. And patience is wearing thin as this has distanced her a little from the girls in the house. When she goes out and meets the older guy she becomes addicted to the attention he gives her.

Over the course of the week, we see him take her out, clearly besotted, then sleep with her and disappear, leaving her with an expensive gift and his amex card. She then gets a text from one of his friends she met on the first night, who she meets at the airport to fly off for a mini break with him. We realise she has started a slippery path into high end escorting. In the margate weekend, friends become suspicious with her buying rounds of drinks and always being on her phone.

Conclusion:

Holly never took the getting a job thing seriously. She gets one knock back and doesn't want to try again. Falls to things that are easy... escorting becomes easy money whilst maintaining the lifestyle she loves. She enjoys the sexual exploration and is NOT a victim. She's probably not happy all the

time. Her sharp break up starts the escalation. Everyone knew he wasn't right for her, but she was convinced he was the one. She's pretty but has lots of self esteem issues that haven't been sorted out. Saying 'fuck it' to the situation is what drives her into escorting and forces emotional detachment. Money and the distraction from real life is her driving force.

LOW POINT - She overdoses as no drive in life, losing sense of purpose and doesn't have a value to life or possessions anymore. She doesn't see the point in going forward. Deals with depression and has to find herself and actually add value to the people around her for the first time. Maybe one of the girls find her unconscious and that girls helps her back.



Lines she might say:

“So I give myself to strangers, like I gave myself to you. All the tenderness I felt has been replaced by something new.”

“No matter what we keep thinking, and how much things are changing, guys will always earn more than women. We're closing the gap but things won't happen overnight.”

“He looks like all of the Hemsworth brothers rolled into one”
“I can only look at his page through my cats instagram”

SORAYA WHITE (25)



Soraya and Holly have been friends from school days. Her bother is the one that breaks Holly's heart. Her family are west-Indian. She's a cynic by nature and has underlying issues of identity but perhaps not the kind you might expect. She has undiagnosed bulimia that goes unnoticed but becomes an issue overtime. She likes to cook for everyone but doesn't eat much herself.

Grew up in Hackney. She's a actress who perpetually always gets put up for African or Urban parts. Faces broad stroke confusion regularly as she isn't as people first presume her to be. By the end of the series she decides to create a one woman show in order to help go against the type cast boxes she's been put into.

Lines she might say:

"Unfortunately who you date is what gets you the jobs."

"Sometimes I go on dates for food, I think guys know though, they can't be that dumb, unless they are."

"Black girls can't be like that. We can't just do that as we aren't valued like you."

"He's an okay actor, not amazing...and he's receding."

KAY LUI (23)

Kay is the baby of the group with a slight naivety to her. She was International Schooled and comes from a lot of money but you wouldn't know. She is a multi-disciplinary artist working in sculpture, installation, and photography, exploring themes of Feminism, mortality, and equality. She spends most of her time pursuing her art even though she's extremely underpaid for it. She has a sweet boyfriend who's the same age. A big commission comes to her and she ends up



falling in love with the client and his wife. This leads to an undercover Romance between them. The falling in love she views as a part of and in aid of her art work and get swept away by the affair. It gets ugly as family have children. This isn't the romantic coming out ideal we often see on screen. Kay has underlying issues of sexual identity and this is her journey through the series.

Conclusion:

She begins the series the most chipper and happy go lucky of the group. Undeliberate and at times humour and physicality are key in this character. Has a very stable and sweet long, long term boyfriend we are introduced to in the first episode (who has come over from Australia with her) who's slightly naturally submissive. Second episode is when her story line starts to thicken. She is invited to the house of a wealthy foreign family in Islington, to be

commissioned to create a work for their garden. She rapidly develops a close connection to the wife as well as the commissioner.



REBECCA JACKSON (28)

Rebecca works in PR is from a working class family and has a chip on her shoulder. Driven to succeed in life and achieve something but never quite hits if the mark. She's super focused on her career so struggles finding a meaningful relationship that could lead to a family which is what she really wants. Constantly overlooked for jobs and relationships. She's never the girl people pay attention too and is constantly fighting to get noticed. Always the nice girl and one day she explodes with built up frustration of

what spoon she's been dealt in life. Rebecca suspects Holly is doing escorting and judges her for it even though she is a great friend. She secretly is in love with Poet/Barista roomie.

LOUISA VYVYAN (25)

Louisa is the thin, blonde, married one of the group living in west London. She's settled and just had a baby with her very financially stable partner. She was a school friend of Holly and Soraya but has recently changed and becoming a bit snobby. All they have in common now is their



shared past. Although she displays the perfect life, she is highly controlling and completely emotionally apprehensive and unprepared for what having a baby entails. She's afraid of losing her life and youth.

Is that the same as Holly (aka marrying for money vs escorting)?

Has an easy life but is she fulfilled?

Was it all she thought it would be?

MINOR CHARACTERS

POET/BARISTA

Works as a Barista in a Cafe Arts Space. Is far too educated to be making your flat white. However he's self absorbed and disguises his womanizing ways with his intellect and deep conversations featured around his poetry works. Most likely will be Scandinavian, dirty blonde with a beard. Thinks of himself as an eco warrior and has turned vegan in hopes of saving the rainforest. He has random people coming out of his room from the night before. Some being a model, builder, milf, businessman - is it drugs, sex?? People who just don't fit. We never quite understand his taste.

COMEDOWN BOY

He's a sometime DJ 'always about to hit the big time'. Skinny from a middle class family from Edinburgh, and always silent throughout the show mainly due to drugs. However he does speak in the last episode, spouting some beautiful words of knowledge. Maybe A sexual.



THE EX (SORAYA'S BROTHER, 30)

He's a photographer who first encouraged Holly to get into modeling. He decided to end things with her as he wanted to focus on being a young black photographer in London. He doesn't do much to take care of his younger sister and is a bit self consumed.

THE EX'S NEW GIRLFRIEND

She's a successful model.

THE SUGAR DADDIE

He's a successful businessman but very Eurotrash. He opens the door to Holly's escorting. Treats her like a lady and is a true charmer. Has a best friend buddy who he always goes out with.

SUGAR DADDIE'S FRIEND

He's jealous of his friends success in life. Likes to hangout with models in the hope of roping one of them in. He's friends with Holly's model friends group.

THE MARRIED COUPLE (MARGOT, 30's/ PIERRE, 40's)

Both are french and been together a long time. They are looking to have fun and explore another side of their relationship and love the idea of bringing a third party into the mix.



KAY LUI'S BOYFRIEND

He's the ideal doting boyfriend who's very empathetic and caring towards Kay.

BAD DATE GUY

Narcissistic good looking actor that has girly voice, and hasn't become anything.

Lines he might say:

"You know if this was an audition, you wouldn't get the job"

"I always check girls bags and nails to see how they take care of themselves"

"I take people to shore ditch house on Sundays because it looks really impressive but I get half off."

"Your not that good looking or talented, why don't you just have a baby."

"I always pay for a girl on the first date because if she doesn't want a second date, then she's a ungrateful bitch."

BAD DATE GUY 2

Soraya meets up with him and he's totally obliterated drunk. He can barely hold his head up. She has to take his phone to order an Uber and finds messages mainly nudes and sex pictures from low end tacky girls.

EPISODES IDEAS

EPISODE 1 (MONDAY)

[STYLISTED DREAM SEQUENCE] - Holly dreams about her ex coming back. She wakes to normality.

Day after a night out.

Breakfast scene with all characters. Weaving in and out of each other.

Holly in bed having woken up weeping, checking instagram and whatsapp obsessively, comes to join for breakfast wearing her ex's old hoodie. During breakfast she's a bit out of it amongst the hustle and bustle.

"Kay breakfast is done,"

Appearing from behind a plastic sheeting area which is her workshop "What? Be 5 mins, I'm just perfecting the fallopian tubes"

Poet is coming to have breakfast with them and a girl comes down with him.

They look into each others eyes for a long enough time for everyone around to feel awkward and then she leaves. He passes her breakfast on the way out.

Pan through east London - Feet on a push bike as Soraya makes her way to meet new agent.

SCULPTOR girl meets commissioner

MODELS first acting audition

*Dream sequence repeats at end of the first episode. - becomes reality, but hypothetical situation and ends worse.

Points:

- Highlight Holly's depression, no energy. Audience needs to relate.
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EPISODE 2 (TUESDAY)

Holly comes down from breakfast deflated, comes in to breakfast. We don't know what happened. This FUCK it, let's do it. That's make something/scratch night.

Soraya has her first reading of play.

EPISODE 3 (WEDNESDAY)

N/A

EPISODE 4 (THURSDAY)

N/A

EPISODE 5 (FRIDAY)

N/A

EPISODE 6 (SATURDAY)

Girls Trip to MARGATE

Kay Lui calls up boyfriend to dump him and sneaks out of trip - to be with commission couple.

Louisa is 8 months pregnant freaking out and wanting to get wasted.

"Did you say your in margate, I'm here"

She Waves at group as she desperately tries to hold onto her old life.

EPISODE 7 (SUNDAY)

Kay Lui wakes up in bed of the commissioner's house.

Margot - *"So great that this happened. It's a shame we can't be together."*

Kay Lui - *“But i gave up my boyfriend for you both!”*

END OF FIRST SEASON - Soraya makes a one woman play. Play falls on deaf ears as not good. All housemates were forced to come watch. Parents come, industry have come and she’s really not good.

EXTRAS

- WEEK OF THEIR LIVES - FULL SEASON - A lot can happen in a week!
- MOVING ILLUSTRATIONS - [dream sequences] - reflected in the street art.

SHOW COMPARABLES

