

Pelerino's Progress

A Limited Television Series Proposal

by Rodney Gibbons

Logline: Forced into flight by startling events, a man with a dark past and a remarkable stolen secret makes a perilous journey of discovery and redemption.

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The Concept

Following a series of strange coincidences, Nick Pelerino, a man with a checkered past, acquires a valuable stolen substance. His reckless attempt to hold onto the substance leads to the murder of his wife and stepson and forces him into flight. Constantly pursued by dangerous adversaries, Nick must stay on the move. Along the way he has many encounters that reflect mysteriously on the dark events of his past. At the same time he begins to discover and use the remarkable properties of his ill-begotten new possession. But through it all he has one main goal. Determined to avenge the family murders, he seeks to unravel the chain of events that led to his startling and tragic predicament.

The Backstory

Being a criminal never bothered Nick Pelerino. It was only business. Until the night he saw the young hooker thrown from a roof by mobster Kazbar Weber. That bothered him. He had terrible nightmares after that. Wanted out. But got sent down for fencing valuable stolen goods. Then he met corrections officer Connie Ramirez. Single mother. Straight as an arrow. She helped Nick get out and stay clean. He got a job as a hydraulic crane operator. They got married. Bought a modest bungalow. Nick's life was back on track. Then...

The Pilot

Connie has just injured her back in a car accident and is on unpaid leave of absence. Nick, who was driving, has a hard time forgiving himself. Especially since she needs a big operation and money's tight with no insurance and only his salary to live on. Suddenly, his past and present lives then mysteriously begin to collide. First the old nightmares return to haunt him, resulting in a strange accident that costs him his job. Then Kaz Weber unexpectedly reappears with a tempting offer. It leads to a series of eerie coincidences that finally leave Nick in possession of a remarkable secret substance.

This substance was only scientific speculation until recently synthesized at the Quantum Research facility. Coveted by various governments and factions it has remarkable properties and is the key to producing cheap, clean nuclear

energy. It also endows Nick with an even more remarkable form of energy. Suddenly, all his senses and abilities are heightened. He can't fly or walk on water, but he can see, hear and do things no other human can.

Elated by his discoveries, Nick wants to keep his secret. Menacing strangers soon come looking for it. His old mob friends too. Blinded by hubris and temptation, he makes a tragic decision. Tries to outwit them. When his home explodes in conflagration, Connie and his stepson Ryan are trapped inside.

The Series

Devastated by the brutal murders, Nick is intent on getting revenge and answers. Who killed his family? What is the secret agenda at Quantum Research? And why have all these strange events suddenly converged against him? To find out he must run, and keep running. But at every step, his past and present lives constantly converge and collide in sudden, mysterious ways.

Various pursuers are never far behind. Some, like Quantum director Carla Ambrose and her team of agents, have strange powers of their own. They want their secret back at any cost. Others, like Kaz Weber and his mob friends, have a score to settle. Nick double-crossed them and they mean to get even.

Nick's nemesis, Detective Erica Gwynn is also on his trail. She sent Nick down the last time and has long tried to nail him for other unsolved violent crimes. Then there's his sister-in-law Angela, a fiercely determined religious eccentric and spiritualist who is convinced of Nick's complicity in the family murders.

Meanwhile, Nick is constantly on the move meeting strangers whose stories often intertwine mysteriously with the darker elements of his own. At the same time, he is often called upon to use his powers to help others, making him question his naturally selfish impulses and prompting him to slowly embark upon another journey - one of self-discovery and redemption.

Through it all Nick never deviates from his goal, even though the road ahead is full of perilous twists and turns. Reality blurs as his past and present constantly collide, sending him off in unexpected directions. But each collision will get him closer to his objectives and the truth. It's as if the key to Nick's dilemma is hidden in his past...