



“The BitchCombers”

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***Created by Gabrielle MacKenzie, Norm Berketa#
Jennifer Bradley & Brenda Scherloski#***

“The BitchCombers”#

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Audience #

Female 35 and older, Canadian TV enthusiasts, wacky comedy lovers, “Beachcomber” aficionados; Episode Length: 30 minutes; Number of Episodes per Season: 13; Location: Gibsons, BC#

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Synopsis#

The “BitchCombers” is an autumnal coming of age story playing on the concept that there is no time limit to the pursuit of dreams and happiness or the possibility of re-inventing oneself at any age. It also demonstrates that there are many ways to make amends for past transgressions and that those who dwell in colliding universes can become strange bedfellows.#

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For decades, Gabrielle and her identical twin Brenda, together with best friend Jenny have defied convention by pursuing irresponsible and age-inappropriate behaviour. They imprudently amassed RSVPs instead of RRSPs; regularly ignored municipal recycling regulations; consumed too many pink Gins and bedecked themselves shamelessly in apparel made from an array of endangered species. These transgressions occasionally morphed into offences of a more serious nature rendering them an annoyance for several Government Agencies including the CRA, CSIS, RCMP and PETA. Such infractions could have been pardoned years ago had they found the time but alas they didn’t. Unfortunately, they have been quietly climbing the ladder of Persons of Interest due primarily to attrition. This disquieting news was delivered to them by their gender-inclusive clairvoyant, “Madame X + LGBTTQQIAAPR2D2” whose divine intuition is inspired by the fact that her husband works at the police department.#

They realize that they must face this predicament like adults, so they decide to vanish. On the eve of their escape they watch “The Beachcombers” which convinces them that Gibsons is their ideal refuge. They become infatuated by Bruno Gerussi and believe he is calling them to join him. They heed his call and while en-route conceive the idea of opening a floating dog-grooming establishment which they name “The BitchCombers”.#

The TV series is their chronicle of the far-reaching havoc caused by their invasion of Gibsons; their disastrous attempts to blend in and their romantic search for Bruno Gerussi who they believe is still alive but just trying to avoid them. They also discover that the challenges of today are not vastly different from those portrayed in their beloved “Beachcombers” TV show. It is a darkly funny and edgy new take on an old story played out by people with nothing to lose but who are determined to make things work or die trying.#

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Background of the Main Characters#

Jenny and identical twins Gabrielle & Brenda have been friends since childhood. Their bonds endure because they have so much dirt on each other that alienation would be perilous. As children, Jenny and Gabrielle insidiously recognize a kindred spirit of sociopathy when they meet shop-lifting. Upon discovery they stuff all the stolen candy down Brenda’s pants letting her take the blame. This becomes a recurring scenario throughout their life. Whatever lunatic idea

is launched Brenda cautions against it; is sucked in kicking & screaming and inevitably is left holding the bag when things go awry. #

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Until recently the twins had been operating Jenny's decrepit Ottawa River mansion as a boarding house. However, the tenants, detecting a reversal of fortune due to the absence of electricity and heat, wisely bolted. After presenting their idea of transforming the white elephant into an upscale brothel their long-suffering bank manager closed their accounts leaving them desperate and pursued by a variety of government agencies. #

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The Main Characters

Jenny is Gabrielle's imperious, self-confident, acerbic, witty, risk-taking best friend who likes the finer things in life. She is a great supporter of the British Empire and its colonies. Her upbringing shows itself in a deeply-held belief that the British are superior, and she is indiscriminate in her dislike of foreigners. #

Previously a wealthy, social-climbing, CEO of a major airport, she clawed her way to the top using her female charms. Unfortunately, a series of regrettable marriages and runway collisions decimated her career and fortune. Resentful of her ex-husband's ruthless financial pursuit she fears she may have drunkenly ordered a hit on him while in Marseilles. She feels they must decamp asap due to possible "complications". She is best described as Machiavellian and many think she inspired "*The Devil Wears Prada*". She is currently being sought by Interpol and the RCMP for lewd public behaviour and suspicion of trying to instigate a deadly assault. #

Gabrielle is Brenda's identical twin. Ditzzy, bohemian, optimistic, attracts disaster, lives by her wits and charm, adored by men. Gabrielle is a failed actress. Her dismal thespian experience consisted of roles in low-budget horror films destined for Indonesia. A career as a stunt woman ended abruptly after agreeing to being shot out of a canon on Parliament Hill during a Canada Day celebration. Her current employment is as spokeswoman for a distributor of laxatives, anti-constipation medication and protective underwear which she mistakenly assumes are Kevlar jockstraps. She has been over-stating her tax deductions claiming a variety of cosmetic procedures. She has been likened to the Norma Desmond of Greater Gattineau. #
She is being hounded by the CRA for suspicion of bloated tax deductions and is known by the agency as the "Enema of the State". #

Brenda is Gabrielle's identical twin. Serious, cynical, nervous, negative with unwavering common sense; she is also lactose intolerant and allergic to animals. Brenda, a once promising ballerina had become a lead dancer with the Bolshevik Ballet. However, opening night became her final performance when a swat team arrested her as a political dissident. It did not help that her bedside photo of Rudolph Nureyev turned out to be the rising star in the KGB, a shirtless Vladimir Putin. She never recovered from this trauma. She has a love/hate relationship with her sister and finds Jenny to be a liability and a bad influence on her sister. #

After being advised that writing would be a cathartic release she became a speech writer for the non-English-speaking Muslim Ambassador of a precarious little country. His Excellency's speeches have proven incendiary to Jews, Arabs, Christians, Hindus, Buddhists and atheists while affectively offending all races, sexual orientations, several aboriginal bands and most

nationalities, including Liechtensteiners, who are so rich they rarely complain. In fact, he is on the verge of being named persona non-grata, which should be noted, has nothing to do with ordering a burger without cheese. She is currently being scrutinized by CSIS for suspicious political postures and those of a more romantic nature with Vladimir Putin. #

Other Characters:#

The Narrator whose pretentious voice is heard at the beginning, end and throughout the episode as required for recap, clarity and drama. He will provide context, while interjecting surprise and annoyance at the antics of the main characters. He will also be the object of character to camera dialogue as the characters reflect on the current crises, assess damage and dish out blame. #

Carl, the “Pharmaceuticals” Salesman/Captain is the odious gentleman that they found on Kijiji with an astonishingly cheap boat for sale. Carl is a dealer who is in debt to the wrong people. He feels his luck has changed when the three “girls” appear on his doorstep to purchase half of his tainted boat, Percodan. He hopes that they will allow him to use his half for his own business dealings. He foolishly agrees to sail them to Gibsons for their grand arrival (hoping to do some “business” with the elderly hippies who live there) but finds himself seconded into the floating doggie-grooming business, discovering that he has a great talent for animal manicuring. Tough as he is, the girls frighten him. His presence is a liability in their assimilation into Gibsons’ society. #

Madam X- LGBTQQAIAAPR2D2 is the Ottawa clairvoyant frequented by the “girls”. Her multi-gender psychic readings are hailed as a salute to the spirit of non-discrimination. However, the reality merely demonstrates that charlatans know no boundaries. Unbeknownst to the “girls” and Carl, she is married to a police officer. She is sent to Gibsons by law enforcement to spy and entrap the girls. However, Madame X etc. has a few secrets of her own. #

Abdul Abdul Abdul Abdullah is the devastatingly handsome man whose striking resemblance to Bruno Gerussi places him in extreme peril as an object of desire for “the girls”. He is actually an illegal alien escaping Donald Trump and is seen furtively in the background evading detection from everyone. Unfortunately, “the girls” are in hot pursuit. #

The Gentlemen Farmers - Christopher, a former funereal makeup artist and partner David, an estate planning expert, who are weary of working with the dead or near-dead have opted for the living and have a trendy organic farm in Gibsons where they are the centre of the social scene. The “girls” feel that they will be indispensable to their “immersion” into the area and insist on attending all their social events with or without an invitation. #

Doctors Bernie & David are members of the Squamish First Nations. They are veterinarians who Jenny and Gabrielle quickly turn to for cheap Botox. They initially refuse to undertake these procedures, but the girls manage to convince them that if they can deliver a baby ostrich then injecting Botox and filler cannot be that difficult. Rather than wasting their time explaining the hatching process the doctors decide to follow the path of least resistance and stock up on Botox just to get them out of the office. #

Raymonde de la Tour is Canada’s own Ed Wood – he is the low budget Zombie/Horror film director, who used to hire Gabrielle’s dubious talents for his movies.”. Raymonde thinks that Gibsons will be the perfect location to make movies– a tranquil setting with lots of free extras. He has decided to do a horror remake of Gone with the Wind and The Twelve Commandments# (nobody had the heart to tell him) using an entirely aboriginal cast. He is particularly excited by the vision of Moses descending from Whistler. #

The Population of Gibsons, BC comprised of the 4200 unsuspecting victims whose oasis of calm, peace and natural beauty is about to be severely compromised by the arrival of three diminutive, seemingly harmless “mature” women. It does not take long before the grim realization sets in that these women are effectively the senior citizen version of weapons of mass destruction. #

Cecil Montague, Inspector Pierre Fontaine and John Smith are the dreaded agents from the CRA, RCMP and CSIS who have drawn the short straws to find the “girls” as they unwittingly climb up the ladder of Canada’s Most Wanted. These are the men who visit them in their nightmares and who they are sure may one day invade and destroy their sanctuary in Gibsons. These hardened agents have tangled with the worst of the worst...they will soon learn; their greatest challenge is yet to come.#

The Episodes#

The Trailer – A Synopsis of Episode 1 & 2#

Please go to: www.thebitchcombers.com#

Episode 1: The Great Escape#

Brenda & Gabrielle have run out of money and their tenants have abandoned the mansion. Madame X+LGBTQQAIAAP advises them that she sees the authorities closing in on them. Knowing the end is near the twins experiment with stylish disguises because “being a fugitive doesn’t mean you have to be frumpy”. Jenny returns from Marseilles where she was supposed to cancel the hit on her husband but opted to go to Spain and have a dalliance with a bullfighter. They must flee. Brenda discovers “The Beachcombers” set in the fairy-tale setting of Gibsons, BC. They become infatuated with the town and its star Bruno Gerussi. At dawn, they abandon Jenny’s repossessed house and head west. The fact that a crucial life decision could be inspired by an antiquated fiction from the CBC is mind-boggling but on their long drive they decide that they will pay tribute to this hallowed Canadian entertainment icon by opening a floating doggie-grooming establishment in Gibsons called “The BitchCombers”. #

Episode 2 – A Deal with the Devil#

The girls drive across Canada, using back roads to avoid the authorities and bedlam ensues. Arriving in Vancouver they realize that to make their grand entrance they will need a replica of Bruno’s boat Persephone on which they will live and operate their demented business venture. Carl, a white-haired and odious semi-retired “pharmaceuticals” salesman enters their world with the perfect boat Percodan and a perilous cargo. They unwittingly make a deal with the devil to purchase one half of Percodan and sail together to Gibsons. While searching for places to plug in their hair dryers they discover strange items including tiny bags of icing sugar, which unbeknownst to Carl, they throw overboard as they are on diets. They lecture him on the bullets and guns that they also find and tell him that hunting is cruel. He lectures them on the cruelty of their fashion choices and it soon becomes apparent that this is going to be a relationship made in hell. They soon begin to argue about which half of the boat they have purchased and draw a red line down the middle. Gibsons appears on the horizon but chaos has erupted on the boat.#

Episode 3 – The Grand Arrival & Opening Party#

Episode 4 – The Not-So-Welcoming Committee#

Episode 5 – The Perils of Animal Manicuring#

Episode 6 – Assimilation or Annihilation#

Episode 7 – Seeking Bruno Gerussi#

Episode 8 – The Organic Social Calendar#

Episode 9 – The Making of the 12 Commandments#

Episode 10 – The Arrival of Madame X (LGBT...etc...etc.)#

Episode 11 – Botox or Bust#

Episode 12 – Carl Goes Log Rolling#

Episode 13 – The Long Arm of the Law#

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The Format#

Each episode is stand-alone. Season 1 has several over-arching narrative threads beginning with the introduction of the girls and their impending ruin; their decision to escape and exchange their current existence for the life portrayed in CBC's fictitious production the Beachcombers in Gibsons, BC. #

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Each episode humorously depicts a constant stream of catastrophic choices in their frantic resolve to achieve happiness, acceptance and freedom within Gibsons' peaceful society. Their false confidence that everyone will adore them as well as their ludicrous pet-grooming business only guarantees massive disappointment. The reality is that they are as welcome as the plague and each episode clearly demonstrates their uncanny ability to constantly make disastrous decisions that upset everyone. Their physical appearance, manner of dress and outlandish personalities are a source of misgiving and horror to most of the local community who want nothing to do with them. #

The series illustrates the changing relationship between the three “girls” and the residents in a comedic stream of misadventures and social disasters emanating from the collision of two very different worlds. Despite this adversity, the girls fall in love with the beauty of the place and its people and refuse to accept rejection as they seek to recreate the idyllic innocence of the fantasy that they fell in love with on TV. Sadly, they must accept that Bruno Gerussi is calling to them from the grave but far worse...the long arm of the law is reaching out to them from the very real world of the living. #

TRAILER: www.thebitchcombers.com #

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