

THE
C U P I D

HANDBOOK

and

THE SHOW BIBLE FOR
"WE ARE LOVE"

A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO
DISTRIBUTION TRAINING

THE GOLD COMPANY - TACOMA, WA



WAIT, WHAT THE F%&@ IS THIS?

WE ARE LOVE is an eight-hour sci-fi fantasy journey.

Set in modern day Los Angeles and inspired by classics like HEAT, THE SOPRANOS, BREAKING BAD and the trailblazing JESSICA JONES.

Our main character AVA is a CUPID.
Forget bows and arrows, she's got guns.
And a big, nasty tattoo of wings on her back.

She is edgy, gritty and badass.





A BADASS CUPID? UHH YAH.

Our goal is to build this character -- from the ground up -- into a brand-new superhero.

Thwarting enemies, solving noirish-mysteries, all the while aiming for that cathartic end-game where she finds what she has always wanted for herself -- TRUE LOVE.

But if she's Cupid, why can't she just make herself fall in love? All Cupids can distribute love, but they can not experience it. Tragic, right?

Cinematic, stylized, emotional and action-packed... it's a story that's based on a universal archetype.

OKAY TELL ME MORE ABOUT HER...

AVA

Ava is a supremely talented Cupid and has always taken pride in her job... until recently.

For years she has grown tired of watching other people fall in love and desperately wants it for herself.

But she can't. Neither can any other Cupid.

Remember the rules from the previous page? For all Cupids, pursuing romantic relationships is forbidden and emotionally impossible.

Ava regularly disregards this rule and continues to engage in physical relationships with men. And of course, none of them go any deeper than primal lust. Since this is a recurring infraction, The Organization (we'll get to them in a second) has put her on a two-year probation.

Her punishment consists of a demotion to trainer/mentor for New Cupids, a position that she sees as embarrassing and mundane.

Underneath her wisecracking, whiskey-drinking, tough-as-nails persona, Ava is quietly contemplative and philosophical. She enjoys reading crime fiction and frequently emulates the hard-boiled investigators that fill the pages of her favorite books.

PHIL

When we first meet Phil, he's selling himself as a newbie Cupid ready to learn the ins-and-outs of the job. He's seen as jolly, eager and aloof.

But underneath his extra layers and green tracksuit, Phil is a Cupid Bounty Hunter. You're asking, *what is a Cupid Bounty Hunter?* Well, nobody's perfect and neither are Cupids. That's where Phil comes in. If you're not doing your job, bending the rules, or on the lam, you might get a visit from Phil. And the outcome has the potential to be violent.

Mistake his kindness as weakness, he might just put the reverse side of a hammer through your groin. Or chop your head off with a machete. Pretty intense, right?

Phil's methods as a bounty hunter are well known throughout the Cupid organization/community. He is a resilient and savage "hound dog."

But once he captures his target, he is fair and compassionate, often bestowing wisdom and counseling the "Rogue Cupid" into again becoming a dependable member of The Organization.



RAYMOND ROYS

Ray is a handsome, roguish Cupid... and a con man who goes by a variety of assumed names.

But what is he doing exactly? Ray is selling his services to the highest bidder and making love connections to unauthorized partners. Are you a multi-millionaire wanting an introduction to a beautiful supermodel, but lack the physical qualities he-or-she might be looking for? Well look no further, Ray Roys will take your money and guarantee a love connection.

And this guarantee is what routinely gets him in hot water, because his methods are counterfeit, the connections are not entirely true and quickly dissolve. His nothing-to-lose actions and cavalier attitude consistently put him on the run from unsatisfied customers.

BUT HOW DOES HE DO IT?

As we said before, this isn't bows and arrows, but guns and bullets. And in order to initiate unauthorized love-connections, Ray Roys has created a laboratory that produces counterfeit bullets.



**BUT
WHAT IS
THIS
REALLY
ABOUT?**

LOVE VS HATE

WHAT IS THE STRONGER EMOTION?

DOES LOVE CONQUER ALL?

Y'KNOW, STUFF LIKE THAT.

LET'S CONTINUE WITH HOW THIS ALL WORKS...

CUPIDS CAN DISTRIBUTE

3 TYPES OF LOVE

CLASS A: NEW EMOTION

CLASS B: REKINDLING

CLASS C: COMPASSION

THE ORGANIZATION

The Organization is the syndicate that controls and structures the operations of all Cupids. What was once fractured into territorial subsets -- keeping the power decentralized -- has since been combined into one group. A conglomerate of sorts that makes it susceptible to corruption.

They are presently troubled by the revelation that a Rogue Cupid has created a counterfeit bullet. If this new information is true, it potentially threatens their supreme control and they will do everything in their power to prevent the processing of these bullets.

Their current solution is to dispatch PHIL, their best and most reliable Cupid bounty hunter, to track down the Rogue Cupid and neutralize the issue.





THE MONGERS

If there is a syndicate that authorizes LOVE, then there must be a force that initiates HATE. That is where the Mongers (or Mong) come in.

Their main objective is to distribute their brand of emotion to the world, swinging the balance of power in their favor. If there is more HATE, they can wield enormous influence. Sway elections, initiate wars, and embolden racism.

They are the natural enemy to The Organization, which puts them in perpetual conflict.

HOLD ON!

**WE FORGOT ABOUT THE
MOST IMPORTANT DETAIL!**



THIS IS AVA'S CAR...

...A REALLY SICK TRANS AM.

NOW LET'S DIVE INTO THE 1ST SEASON...

EPISODE #1 : “THE TEACHER”

When we first meet AVA she’s arrested by the police and questioned about the kidnapping of an elderly woman. Is it a misunderstanding or did she have a part in it?

In the interrogation room she is asked all the standard questions. *What’s your name? What’s your current profession?* She tells them matter-of-factly, “My name is Ava, I’m a Cupid.” And of course they think she’s batshit crazy.

(NOTE TO READER: We revisit this interrogation room scene throughout the first season and we use it as a device to tell our audience a lot of the complex aspects of this world.)

We’re also introduced to RAYMOND ROYS, his love-for-hire endeavors and the current progress of his illegal bullet-making operation.

The episode dashes between the police interrogation, AVA’S relationship with the elderly woman and RAYMOND ROY’S avoidance of unsatisfied customers.

This all crescendos and culminates into our PILOT-TEASER where AVA meets PHIL in the bar and she’s tasked with teaching him the ways of being a Cupid. And we eventually see that PHIL is not who he says.

EPISODE CONCEPTS

EPISODE 2: "THE BULLET"

RAYMOND ROYS makes a lucky discovery in his laboratory. His technicians have researched and created a "CUPID BULLET." A bullet strong enough to make even a Cupid fall in love.

In a flashback we see THE ORGANIZATION give PHIL his orders to track down the Rogue Cupid (RAYMOND), but to recruit a patsy (AVA) to take the fall when he eventually has to "erase" the target.

AVA continues to teach PHIL the process of being a Cupid, but with all this new information, we now know, he's just there to assess her abilities and then... set her up.

EPISODE 3: "WE DON'T NEED THE KEY"

AVA returns the kidnapped Elderly Woman but her Alzheimer's prevents her from recognizing her husband. AVA uses an unauthorized bullet to temporarily rekindle the Elderly Woman's memory. This act is the reason she was put on probation.

AVA and PHIL have a run in with a group of MONGERS and for the first time we see how PHIL handles himself in physical/violent altercations. He kicks ass. *And the whole fight scene is cut to a cheesy love song.* This is when PHIL reveals to AVA who he really is and why he's there. But he doesn't reveal all.

She accepts her new assignment to assist him in locating RAYMOND ROYS. We end the episode with a secret meeting between the top brass of THE ORGANIZATION and THE MONGERS. A truce perhaps?





EPISODE 4: "WE'LL BREAK IN"

RAYMOND ROYS is on the run after his laboratory is searched and destroyed by the MONGERS. They know about his "Cupid Bullet" and they want it for themselves. However, their mission of obtaining the bullet(s) is unsuccessful and RAYMOND is able to flee with the only two "Cupid Bullets" in existence.

Cracks in the management of THE ORGANIZATION begin to appear as it's revealed there is an inner conspiracy and a power struggle.

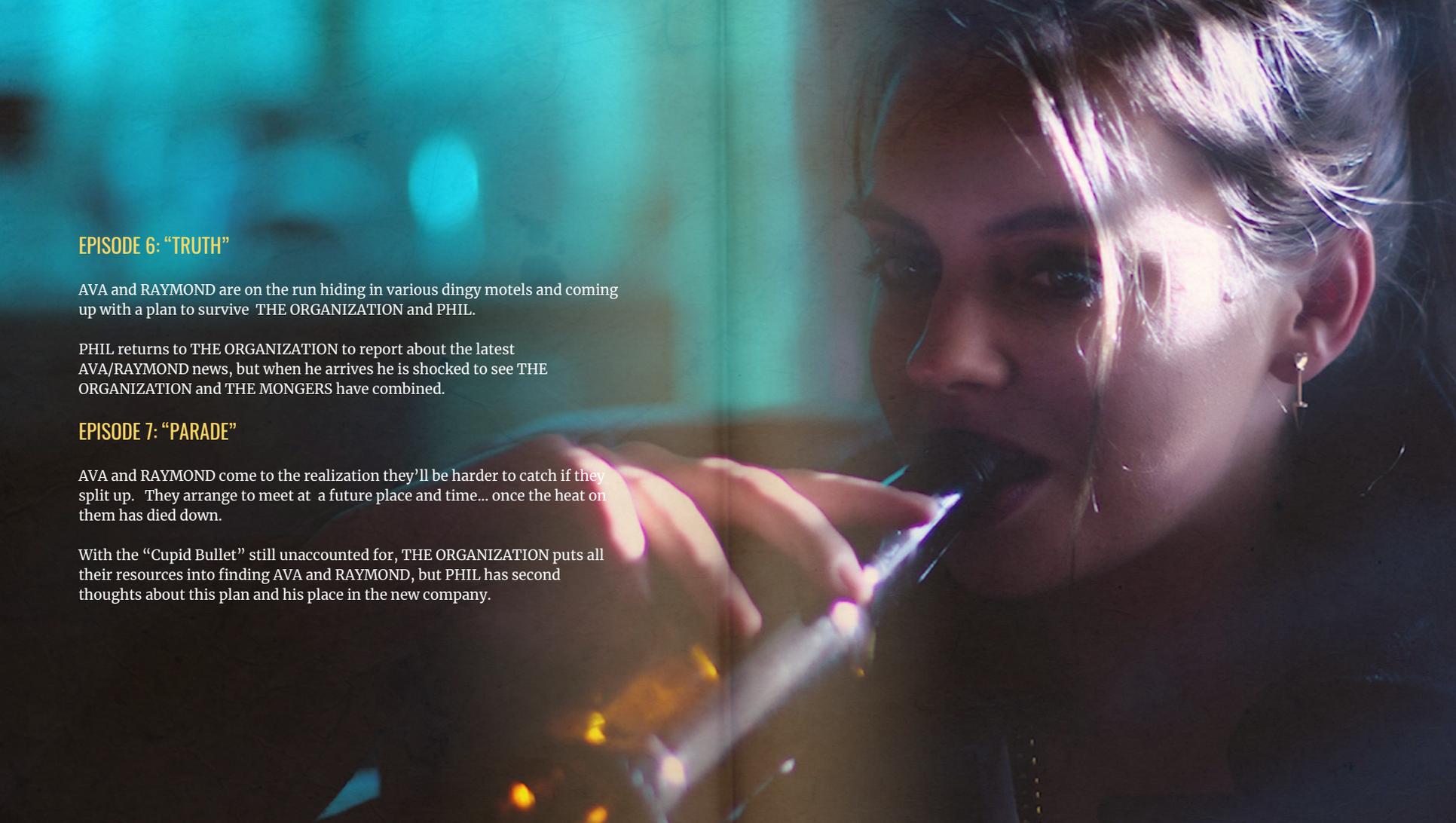
AVA and PHIL discover RAYMOND ROYS' destroyed laboratory and now have to change their tactics to track him down.

EPISODE 5: "SEE YOU NEXT THURSDAY"

AVA and PHIL'S relationship grows as they continue their search for RAYMOND ROYS. Finding clues and red herrings.

THERE is a massive coup at THE ORGANIZATION and a new power structure forms. THE MONGERS and THE ORGANIZATION will combine resources to form one big conglomerate, controlling both LOVE and HATE. *Absolute power corrupts absolutely.*

AVA and PHIL eventually locate and capture RAYMOND ROYS and PHIL informs AVA of their orders to kill. In a private moment, RAYMOND tells AVA about the "Cupid Bullet" and the current corrupt nature of THE ORGANIZATION. In a twist, AVA helps RAYMOND ROYS escape.



EPISODE 6: "TRUTH"

AVA and RAYMOND are on the run hiding in various dingy motels and coming up with a plan to survive THE ORGANIZATION and PHIL.

PHIL returns to THE ORGANIZATION to report about the latest AVA/RAYMOND news, but when he arrives he is shocked to see THE ORGANIZATION and THE MONGERS have combined.

EPISODE 7: "PARADE"

AVA and RAYMOND come to the realization they'll be harder to catch if they split up. They arrange to meet at a future place and time... once the heat on them has died down.

With the "Cupid Bullet" still unaccounted for, THE ORGANIZATION puts all their resources into finding AVA and RAYMOND, but PHIL has second thoughts about this plan and his place in the new company.



EPISODE #8 : “LOVE OR HATE”

We are back with AVA in the interrogation room. That’s right, still with the police, narrating the various complex aspects... or just connecting the dots for the audience. (Remember she’s been doing this the whole season)

After all this time being interrogated, she senses something is amiss when the cops finally question her about a con man named, RAYMOND ROYS.

AS THIS IS HAPPENING... The new heads of THE ORGANIZATION are pleased when they get the word their “TARGETS” have been located and captured.

RAYMOND ROYS is hiding out in some middle-of-nowhere shack when there is a KNOCK KNOCK at his door.

ALL THE WHILE... In the interrogation room, AVA takes action and kills the two police officers in a bloody battle. And in the struggle one of their shirts rip, revealing a large tattoo of wings on their back. They were Cupids the whole time... trying to trick her into revealing the whereabouts of RAYMOND ROYS.

Exhausted and fed up with running, AVA tracks down PHIL and attempts to turn herself in. She’ll accept the consequences.

But there is still that KNOCK KNOCK on RAYMOND ROY’S shack door. And when he opens it, AVA and PHIL are standing in the frame.



EPISODE #8 : “LOVE OR HATE”

(Continued...)

AVA, RAYMOND and PHIL put an arsenal together. They're going all-in to take down THE ORGANIZATION, but it's a suicide mission and they know it.

The Heads of THE ORGANIZATION arrive at the interrogation room to see both their Cupids slaughtered. This strengthens their resolve even more.

When AVA, PHIL, and RAYMOND arrive at the headquarters of THE ORGANIZATION, they are met by an entire faction of Cupids ready to side with them and fight. The fight for good and love.

Still outnumbered, A BATTLE ensues.

It is a massacre. THE ORGANIZATION is too powerful and many comrades die in the process.

Bullets whizzing, chaos, mayhem, gore... fighting the good fight.

RAYMOND and AVA load the only two “Cupid Bullets” into their guns... and in the middle of the carnage...

They embrace in a kiss, each putting the barrels of their guns under each other's chin. Romeo & Juliet style. And they pull the trigger. BAM!

THE END.... of SEASON ONE.



**BUT WAIT! WHAT HAPPENED?
DID THEY SURVIVE?**

**OF COURSE.
AND THEY ARE IN LOVE. :)**

OKAY, SO WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

FUTURE SEASONS

SEASON 2

AVA and RAYMOND are alive and IN LOVE.

After the use of the “Cupid Bullets” a powerful force strips every other Cupid of their powers... but this action ends up increasing the powers of AVA and RAYMOND. Big problem however, the MONGERS still have their powers.

With THE ORGANIZATION fractured and in shambles, AVA and RAYMOND must lead THE ORGANIZATION and rebuild it from the ground up, training new Cupids and fighting for territory.

AND BEYOND...

We see AVA and RAYMOND's journey as the ultimate ORIGIN STORY. They will eventually take on stronger villains, solving bigger issues, and doing all this to deliberately build a fun, sustainable and rich FRANCHISE.



TONE

This is not a comedy. Although parts of it will be funny. The goal will always be to treat each scene as if it were real and not some sci-fi fantasy with futuristic costumes... although this is a fantasy, it's rooted in today. Right now. This moment.

Doing this will not only heighten all our emotional moments, but positively affect all our action and supernatural elements.

Also, it makes the stakes higher. When a gun comes out, or a fight takes place, which there will be plenty of, it should always feel real, gruesome and at times, sloppy. Because fighting is sloppy.

Check out some of these pictures on the right to see the visual vibe we're going for.



**THIS WILL BE A
DOPE SHOW**

YOU KNOW IT WILL BE :)

A woman with dark hair, wearing a dark jacket, is looking down and to the right. The background is blurred, showing a man in a dark shirt. The lighting is dramatic, with a blue tint on the right side.

THE END

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