

ONE-PAGER

JACQUES COUTEAU

A male co-lead in a visceral, female-fronted survival espionage thriller

- **Format:** 6–7 episode limited series
- **Genre:** Scripted Drama · Survival Thriller · Eco-Conspiracy · Geopolitical Espionage
- **Tone:** Introspective · Tense · Romantic · Global
- **Set:** Present day, Baffin Island and beyond

Logline:

When **Jacques Couteau**, a French archaeologist-turned-spy, is sent to search for a hidden WWII Nazi-Japanese bioweapon site buried in the Arctic, he must decide whether to follow his orders or protect the woman he was sent to track: **Rachel Shepherd**.

Why This Story Now:

Jacques Couteau is a rare male character in today’s landscape: romantic without being soft, heroic without ego, flawed but emotionally intelligent. A natural partner to Rachel Shepherd, Jacques brings a moral counterweight to the story’s industrial corruption, colonial legacy, and fractured ideals of masculinity. His presence injects espionage, sensuality, and global scope into the survival thriller’s core.

Think *The English Patient* meets *The Constant Gardener*—by way of *The Night Manager*.

Character Spotlight: Jacques Couteau

A French counter-industrial archaeologist and reluctant spy. Equal parts field agent, romantic idealist, and damaged loner. Sent to investigate rumors of Nazi weapon sites, Jacques follows a trail from Syria to Baffin Island, and instead of a site, finds a woman. Rachel. He’s torn between duty and desire, memory and survival, old secrets and new love.

He's the kind of man who reads Plutarch on a cargo plane, kisses like he's drowning, and can kill with his bare hands if needed, but hates what it does to him.

Why We're Reaching Out:

- **Romantic co-lead:** with depth and complexity
- **European presence:** in a North American geopolitical thriller
- **Franchise potential:** Jacques leads future international storylines and prequel arcs
- **Allows an actor to portray:** intelligence, sex appeal, and slow-burning conflict
- **A chance to build a screen partnership:** with the actress playing Rachel (strong chemistry essential)

About the Creators:

Created by Grammy-listed artist Jay Elle and bestselling author Marielle De Savoie. Based on the upcoming novel *Rachel Shepherd: Mother of None*, the series blends real-world geopolitics with high-stakes romance and survival. Developed as part of Halfmoon Records and Publishing's novel-to-screen IP slate.

Future Seasons:

Season 2 takes Jacques and Rachel into illegal wildlife trade across Southeast Asia and the Pacific Rim. Prequel origin story in development.

Vivienne Vee

viviennevee@halfmoonrecordsandpublishing.com