

ONE-PAGER

JUJU

Rachel Shepherd: Mother of None

A female-led survival espionage thriller in the melting Canadian Arctic

- **Format:** 6–7 episode limited series
- **Genre:** Scripted Drama · Survival Thriller · Eco-Conspiracy · Geopolitical Espionage
- **Tone:** Atmospheric · Urgent · Visceral · Intimate
- **Set:** Present day, Baffin Island, Canadian Arctic

Character Name: Juju

Gender: Female

Age Range: 30s–40s

Ethnicity: Open, non-Caucasian preferred

Occupation/Function: Tracker, Medic, Enforcer

Affiliation: Zaid’s Kill Team / Vastan Energy Mercenary Force

Character Summary:

Juju is the pragmatic survivalist on the kill team’s roster, a hardened, quiet professional who follows orders, but watches everything. Once a field medic and smuggler in war zones, Juju now operates in the icy void of the Arctic as a tracker, medic, and executioner in Zaid’s crew. She’s no ideologue, no sadist, just someone who’s learned that staying alive often means standing just to the side of power, not in its way.

In *Rachel Shepherd: Mother of None*, Juju provides a fascinating counterpoint to the brutality and the fanaticism of Zaid. She’s skilled, emotionally unreadable, but occasionally shows flashes of conflicted conscience, especially when she witnesses the torture of a woman in a Syrian flashback, or when she encounters Rachel’s maternal care toward the polar bear cubs. Juju’s arc dances on the edge of redemption. She could change sides, or she could watch Rachel die without blinking. The choice isn’t simple and neither is she.

Casting Notes:

The role demands a physically grounded actor with a strong, observant presence, someone who can express quiet internal conflict without melodrama. She's not comic relief. She's not a femme fatale. She's the cold steel at the heart of mercenary logic and one of the few people who might understand what Rachel is really fighting for.

Comparable Performances:

- **Shohreh Aghdashloo** in *The Expanse* (authority, gravitas, restraint)
- **Michelle Rodriguez** in *Widows* (streetwise toughness, emotional layers)
- **Emily Beecham** in *Into the Badlands* (stoicism, latent empathy, lethal precision)

Why This Story Now:

Rachel Shepherd: Mother of None is a female-driven, emotionally grounded survival thriller rooted in real history, ecological collapse, and geopolitical urgency. It blends high cinematic tension with psychological depth and a wounded love story. It's *Killing Eve* meets *The Night Manager*, with a twist of *The Terror* and *The Revenant*.

Production Status:

Pilot script completed. 7 novel chapters complete. Early conversations underway with select producers, directors, and lead talent. We are now assembling a creative team and key cast with a view toward packaging and pre-financing. Juju is a pivotal part of that vision.

About the Creators:

Written by Grammy-listed artist **Jay Elle** and bestselling novelist **Marielle De Savoie**. Based on the upcoming novel by Jay Elle titled *Rachel Shepherd: Mother of None* edited by Marielle De Savoie (to be published by **Halfmoon Records and Publishing**). Developed as part of a larger IP slate for novel-to-screen adaptation.

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