

## ONE-PAGER

### ZAID

*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

#### **Logline:**

When **Rachel Shepherd**, a former U.S. Army combat vet turned wildlife documentarian, stumbles upon a buried Nazi-Japanese bioweapon while filming a polar bear den, a kill team is activated. At its center is Zaid, a brilliant, cold, and calculating operative whose moral detachment hides deeper fractures. As he hunts Rachel through the Arctic, Zaid becomes both executioner and tragic figure, caught between duty, history, and his own unraveling sense of purpose.

#### **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*.

#### **Character Spotlight: Zaid**

**Zaid** is the ghost at the edge of the frame. A field commander with surgical precision, fluent in several languages, and trained in psychological warfare, Zaid operates like a shadow, unseen until it's too late. But he is not a monster. Beneath his glacial calm lies the echo of something broken. He doesn't kill for pleasure; he kills because it is what he was shaped to

do. And in his pursuit of Rachel, something shifts. Her resilience, her love of animals, and her quiet humanity begin to haunt him.

He's the kind of villain you remember because he almost could've been something else.

### Why We're Reaching Out:

- **Nuanced villainy:** Zaid is not a cartoon antagonist. He's a layered, cerebral presence: think Javier Bardem in *Skyfall*, Mads Mikkelsen in *Casino Royale*, or Alexander Skarsgård in *Big Little Lies*.
- **Star power with gravitas:** This is a role for a mature, magnetic actor who can command the screen with a whisper, not a roar.
- **Physicality and intellect:** Zaid is lethal but restrained, a modern-day wolf in white camouflage.
- **Redemption arc potential:** Future seasons leave space for Zaid's complex evolution or ruin.

### Casting Details:

Lead antagonist in Season 1 (6–7 episodes)

Union shoot (SAG-AFTRA/ACTRA) · Location: Canada/Nunavut + Studio work

A-list casting envisioned

### 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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