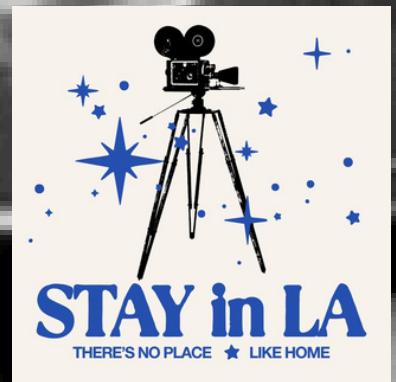


18
42



FILM
INDE-
PEND-
ENT



A private detective takes a job, hoping for redemption, and finds herself in the midst of an ever-expanding world of corruption.



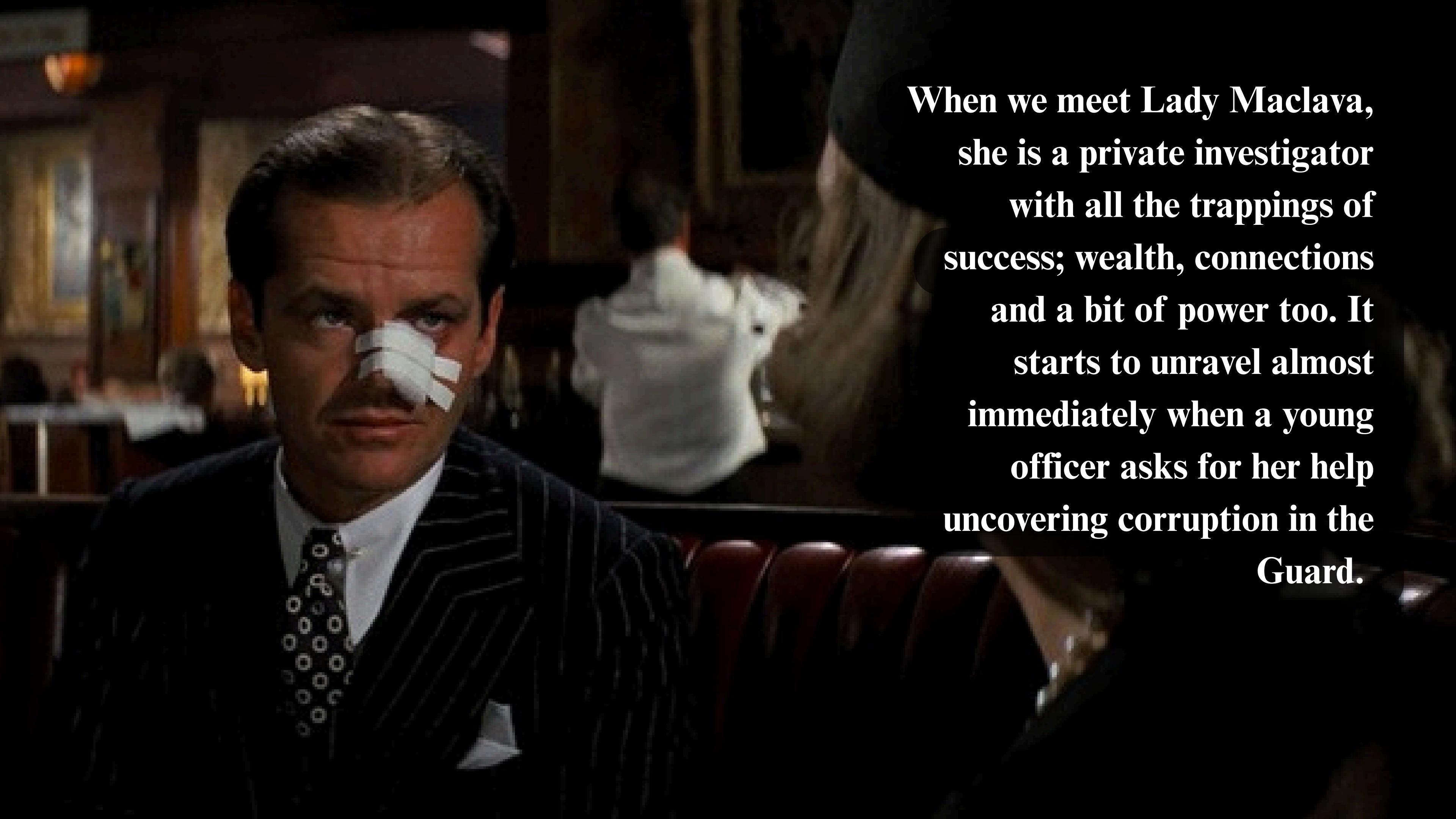
A dark, atmospheric scene featuring a person in a hooded cloak, possibly a monk or a traveler, sitting at a table. The person is illuminated by the light of a single lit candle, creating a dramatic contrast with the surrounding shadows. On the table, there are various items including a small plant in a pot, a book, and some papers. The background is dark and indistinct, suggesting a dimly lit room or a night scene.

As we've seen recently with *Sinners*, audiences are craving original stories with heart and humor that are not shaped by antiquated Hollywood standards. Time and again audiences have demonstrated that they want to see diverse stories that are full of mystery, thrills, magic, action and humor. Not stereotypes. Not tropes. And not tales of struggle and woe.

Zugzwang is the film we need right now. A thrilling and beautifully told story of one woman's journey to uncover a mystery that goes deeper than she ever could have imagined.



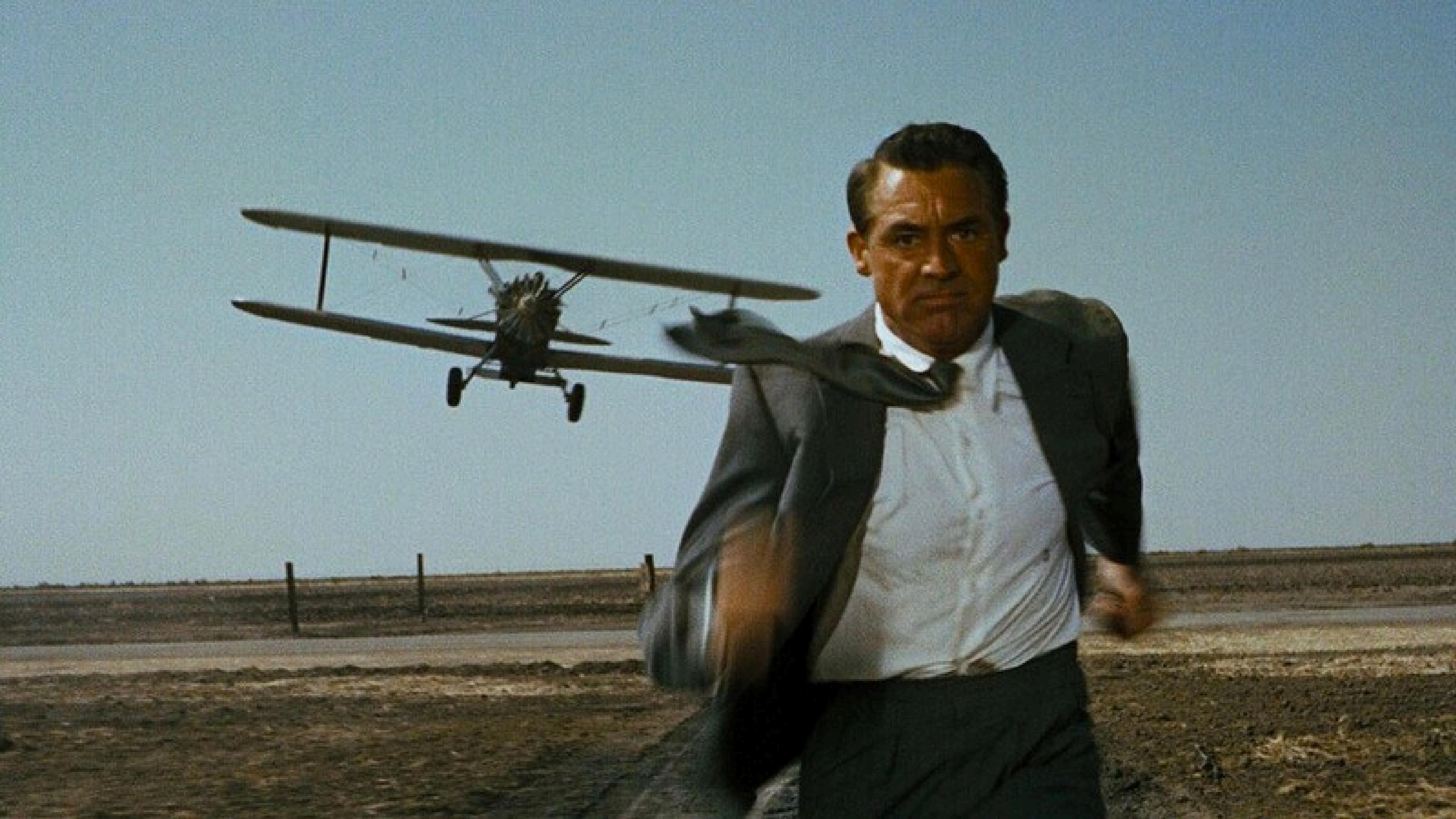


A man in a dark suit and tie is seated in a courtroom. He has a white cloth or tape over his mouth, preventing him from speaking. He is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The background shows the dark wood paneling of a courtroom and the back of another person's head.

When we meet Lady Maclava,
she is a private investigator
with all the trappings of
success; wealth, connections
and a bit of power too. It
starts to unravel almost
immediately when a young
officer asks for her help
uncovering corruption in the
Guard.

Seeing the opportunity to settle an old score, Lady takes the case. Quickly realizing she's been set up, she embarks on a journey to discover the truth and must face her past as she's pursued by those who want to silence her.





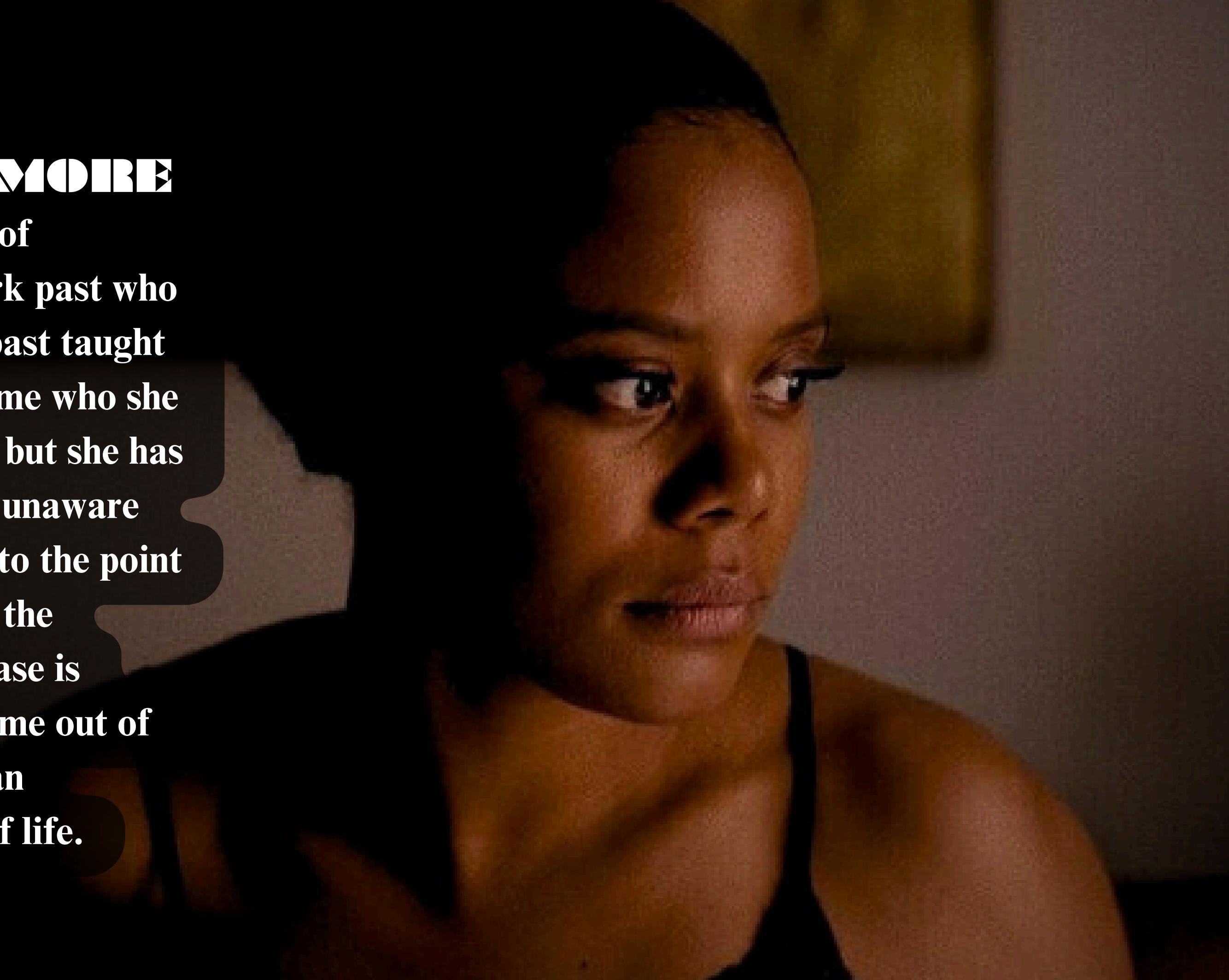


While Lady is on this mysterious and dangerous mission, she is forced to remove the spiritual armor she put on long ago to protect against the cruelty of the world. Only in moving forward with vulnerability and openness is she able to uncover greater truths than those that governed her former life.



LADY CHRISTINA ELMORE

Lady is the heart and soul of Zugzwang, a PI with a dark past who has lived many lives. Her past taught her how to thrive and become who she needs to be to win the day, but she has many vulnerabilities she's unaware of. Lady will have to bend to the point of breaking to get through the gauntlet that her current case is putting her through and come out of the other side, a new woman embarking on a new way of life.



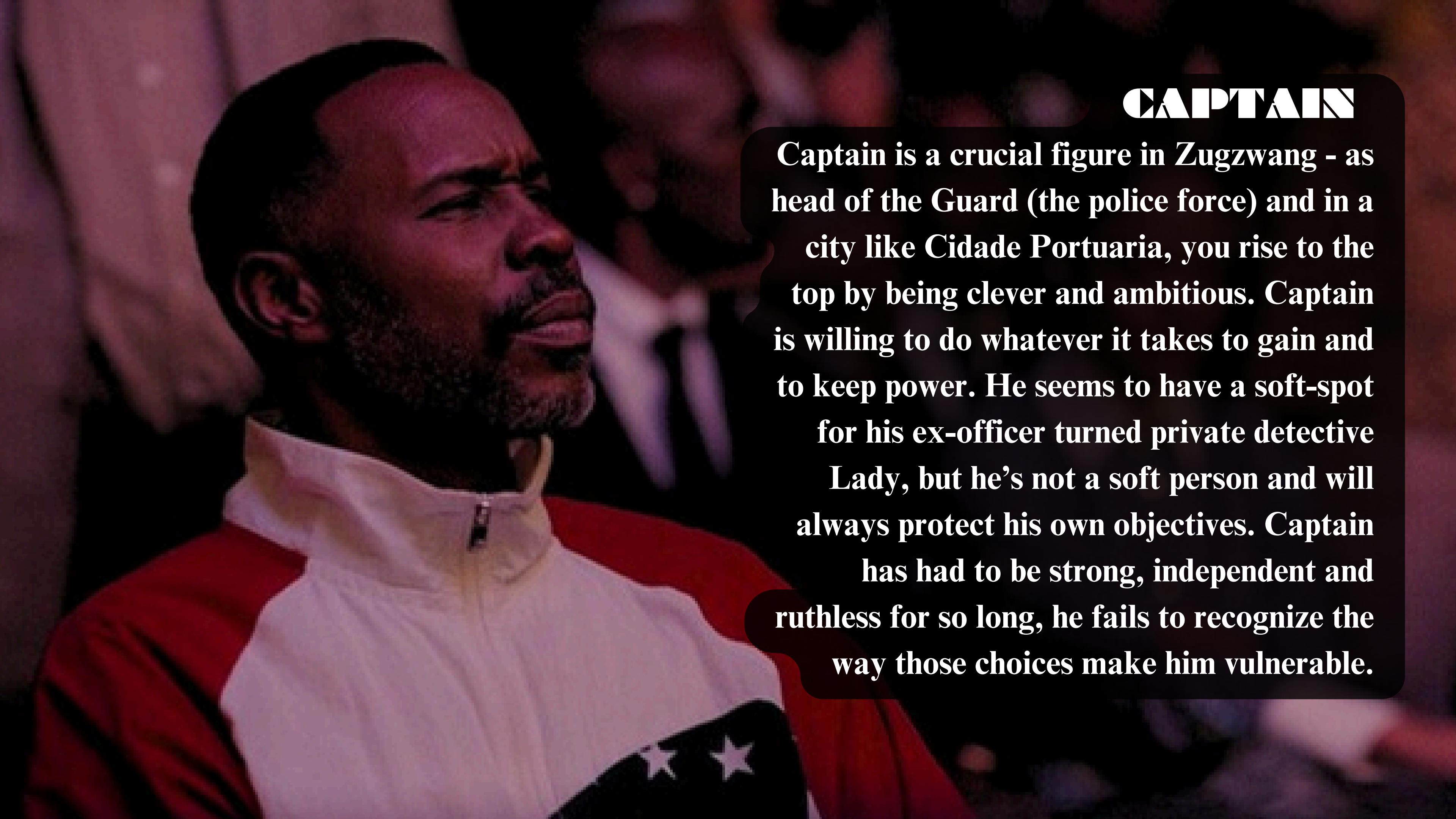




BISHOP

Zugzwang is a hard-scrabble noir fantasy-world where no one is good or evil; just doing what it takes to survive. **BISHOP** is a young bright light in a dark place. She's Lady's assistant and pushes her less-than-moral boss to do what's right. She displays the heroic qualities our hero often lacks and keeps us hopeful that the youth might save the day





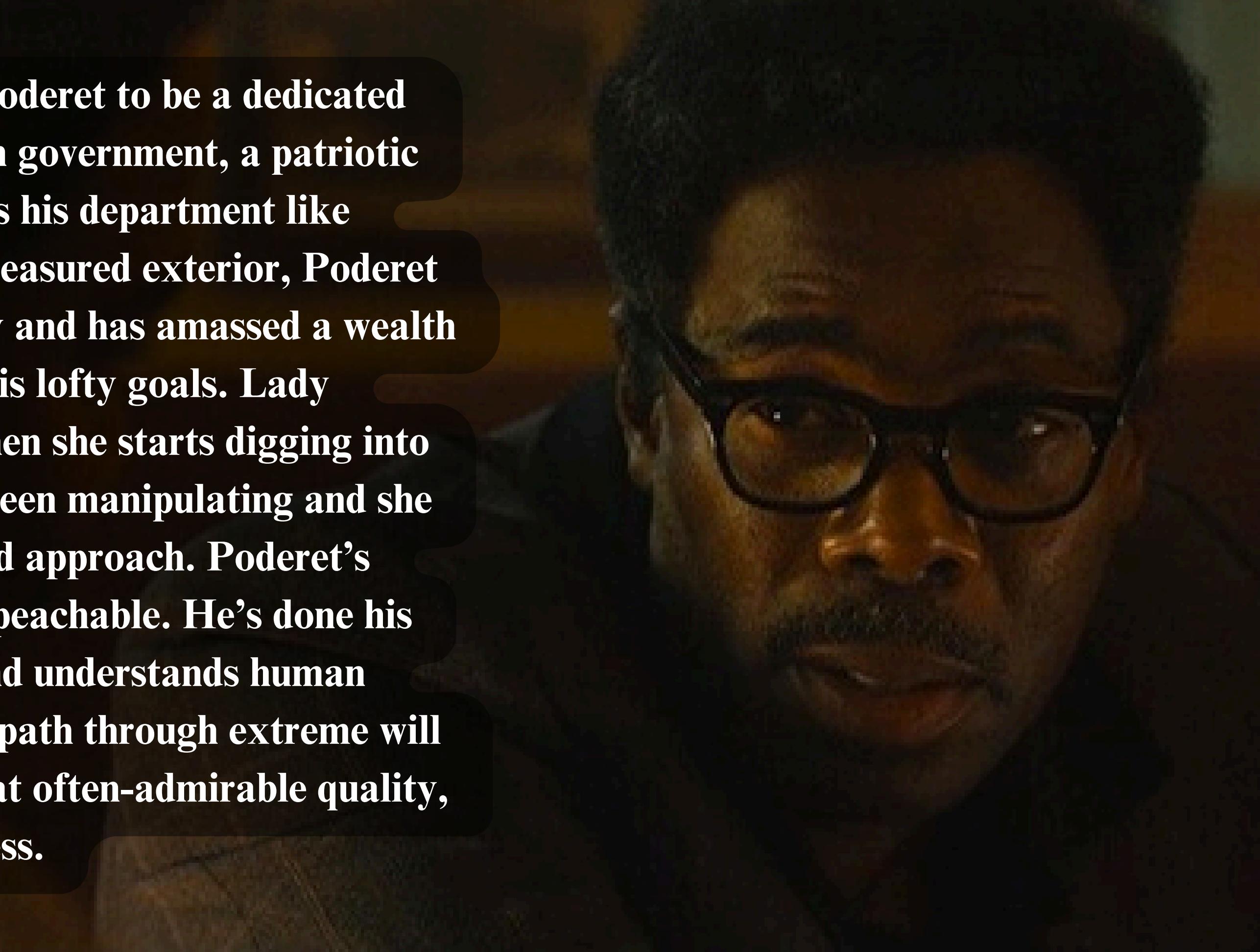
CAPTAIN

Captain is a crucial figure in Zugzwang - as head of the Guard (the police force) and in a city like Cidade Portuaria, you rise to the top by being clever and ambitious. Captain is willing to do whatever it takes to gain and to keep power. He seems to have a soft-spot for his ex-officer turned private detective Lady, but he's not a soft person and will always protect his own objectives. Captain has had to be strong, independent and ruthless for so long, he fails to recognize the way those choices make him vulnerable.



PODERET

Outward appearances show Poderet to be a dedicated minister in the Novo Estadoan government, a patriotic and professorial man who runs his department like clockwork. But beneath the measured exterior, Poderet has big dreams for his country and has amassed a wealth of power in order to execute his lofty goals. Lady becomes a thorn in his side when she starts digging into the politics that Poderet has been manipulating and she will sorely test his level-headed approach. Poderet's ideals are in many ways unimpeachable. He's done his research, knows his history and understands human nature. He has carved his life path through extreme will power and control and it is that often-admirable quality, which is also his great weakness.





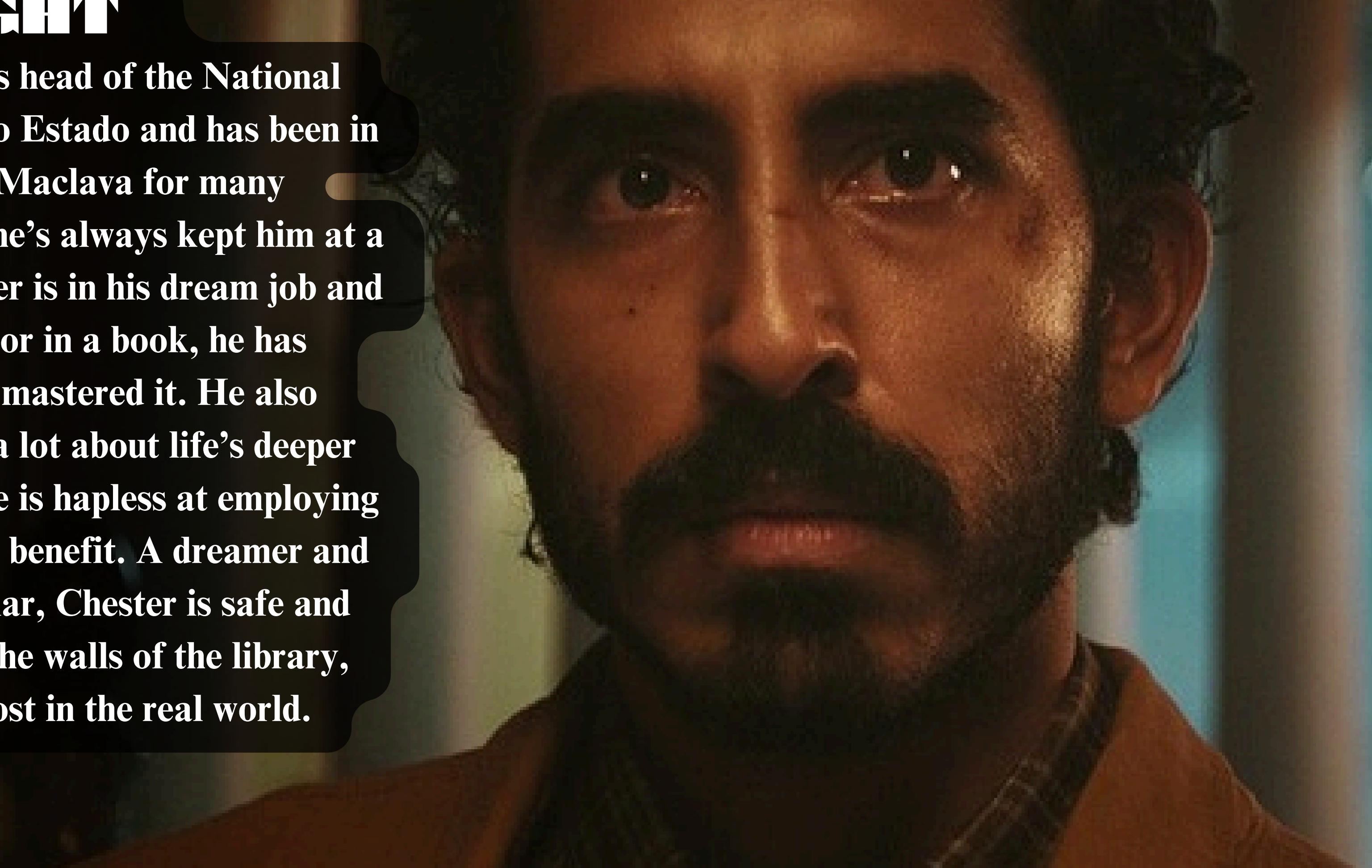
MILLIE JOURNAL ANGEL LAKETA MOORE

A revolutionary and activist, we meet Millie in the critical moment when the movement she's leading through the socialist Modelo Nordico Party is gaining traction in rural Novo Estado and infiltrating the capital, Cidade Portuaria. She conducts secret meetings to evade her opposition; the Acorporaçao Party. Millie is a force of nature who has lived through her country's revolution against colonialism and a series of civil wars which led to the neo-colonialist party currently in power. She has seen the cycle of power and is determined to lead her country out of its death spiral.

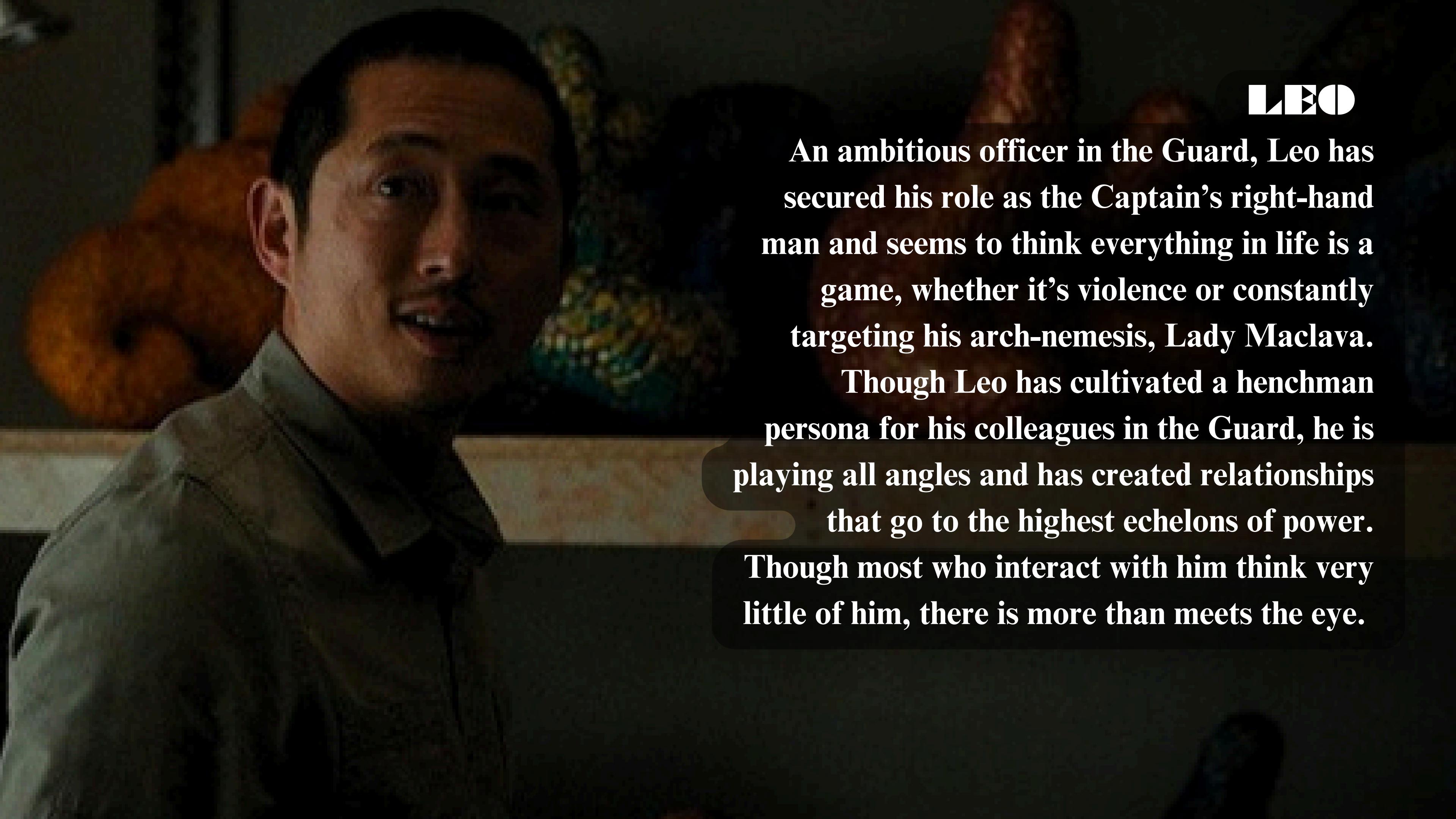


MR. NIGHT

Chester Night is head of the National Library of Novo Estado and has been in love with Lady Maclava for many years, though she's always kept him at a distance. Chester is in his dream job and if it's academic or in a book, he has memorized and mastered it. He also seems to know a lot about life's deeper truths though he is hapless at employing them to his own benefit. A dreamer and a life-long scholar, Chester is safe and content within the walls of the library, but somewhat lost in the real world.





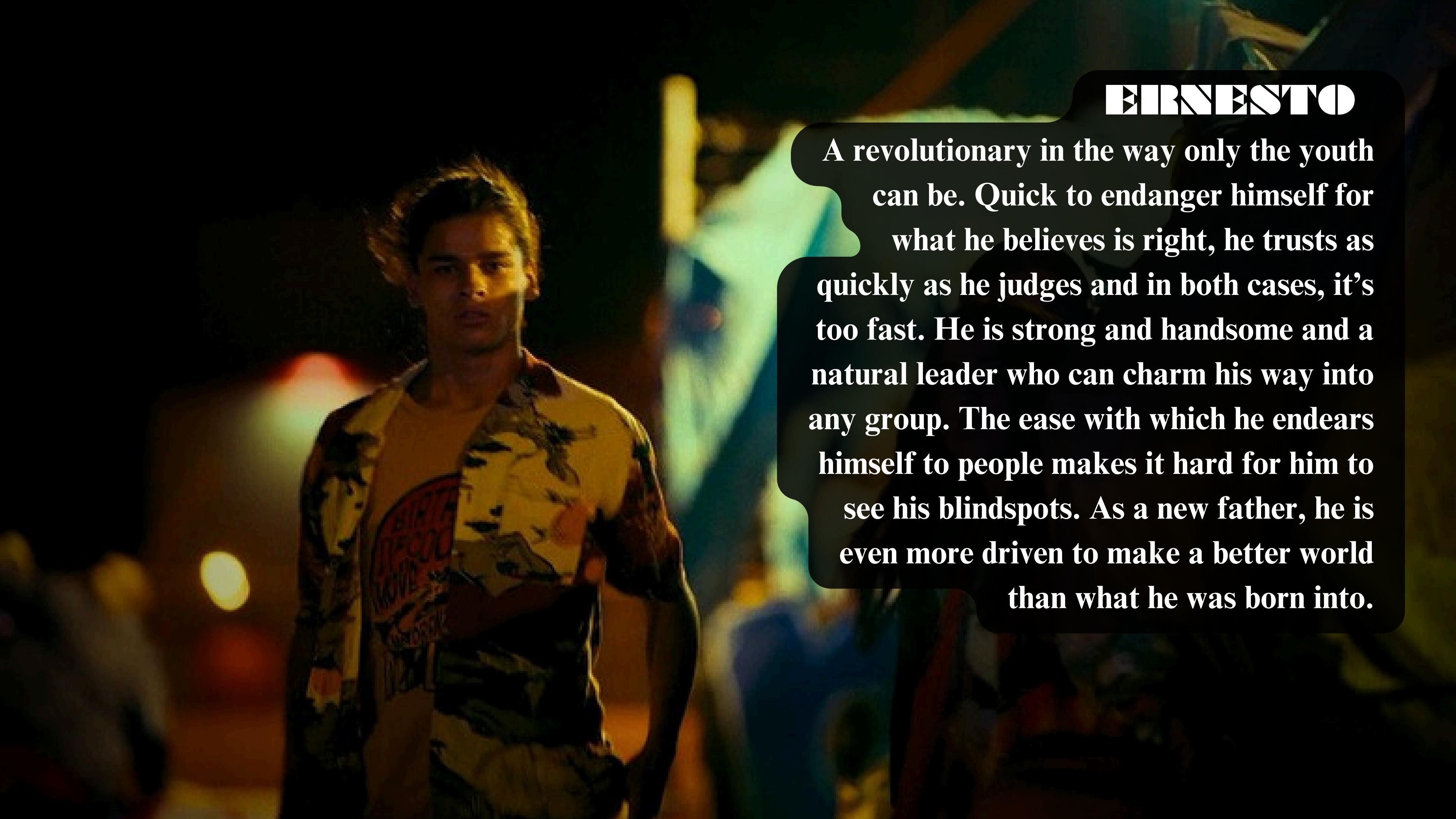


LEO

An ambitious officer in the Guard, Leo has secured his role as the Captain's right-hand man and seems to think everything in life is a game, whether it's violence or constantly targeting his arch-nemesis, Lady Maclava.

Though Leo has cultivated a henchman persona for his colleagues in the Guard, he is playing all angles and has created relationships that go to the highest echelons of power.

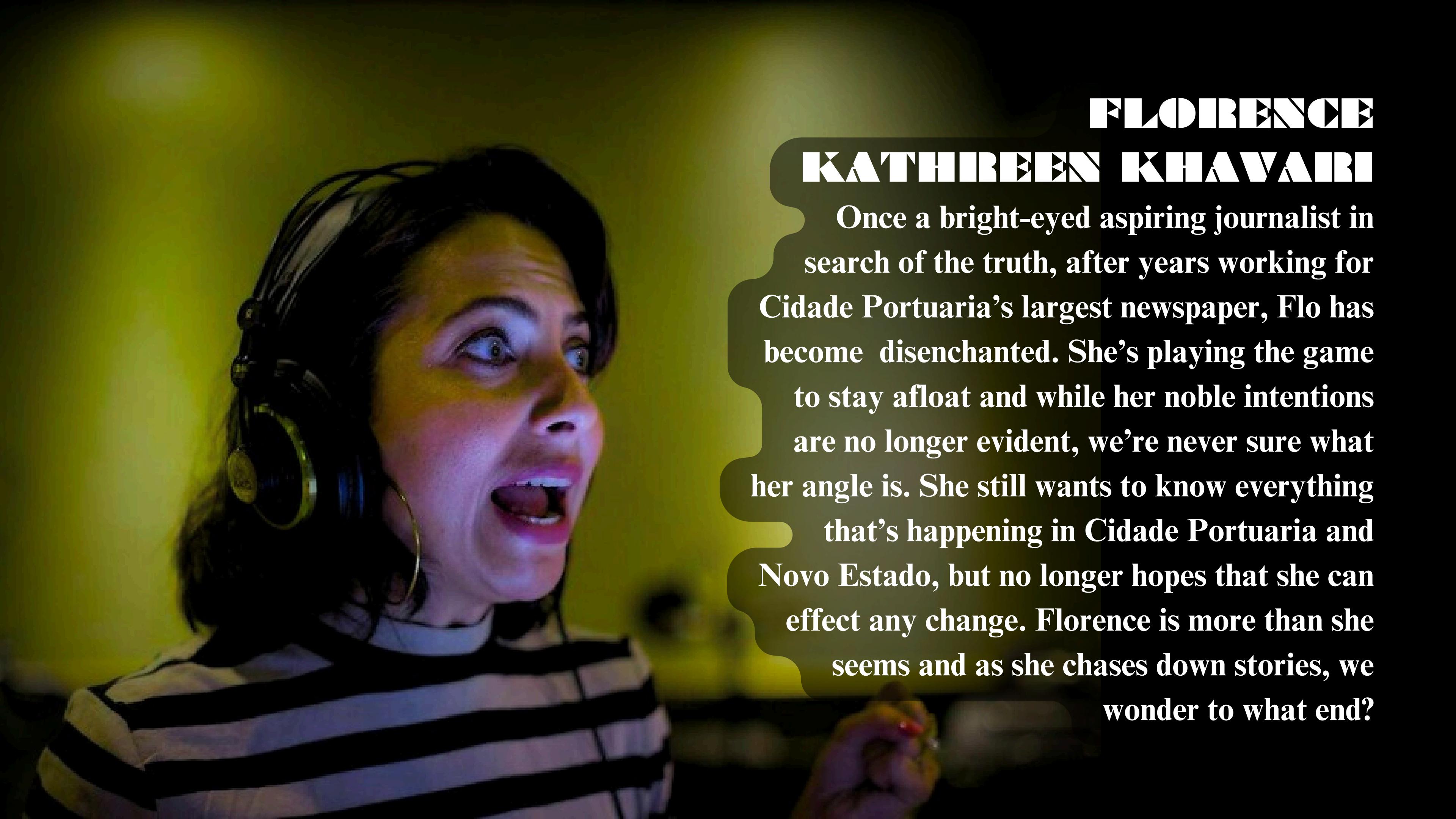
Though most who interact with him think very little of him, there is more than meets the eye.

A man with short, light-colored hair and a tattooed chest is holding a baby in a dark, moody setting. A woman is visible in the background, partially obscured by shadows. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights on the man's face and chest.

ERNESTO

A revolutionary in the way only the youth can be. Quick to endanger himself for what he believes is right, he trusts as quickly as he judges and in both cases, it's too fast. He is strong and handsome and a natural leader who can charm his way into any group. The ease with which he endears himself to people makes it hard for him to see his blindspots. As a new father, he is even more driven to make a better world than what he was born into.

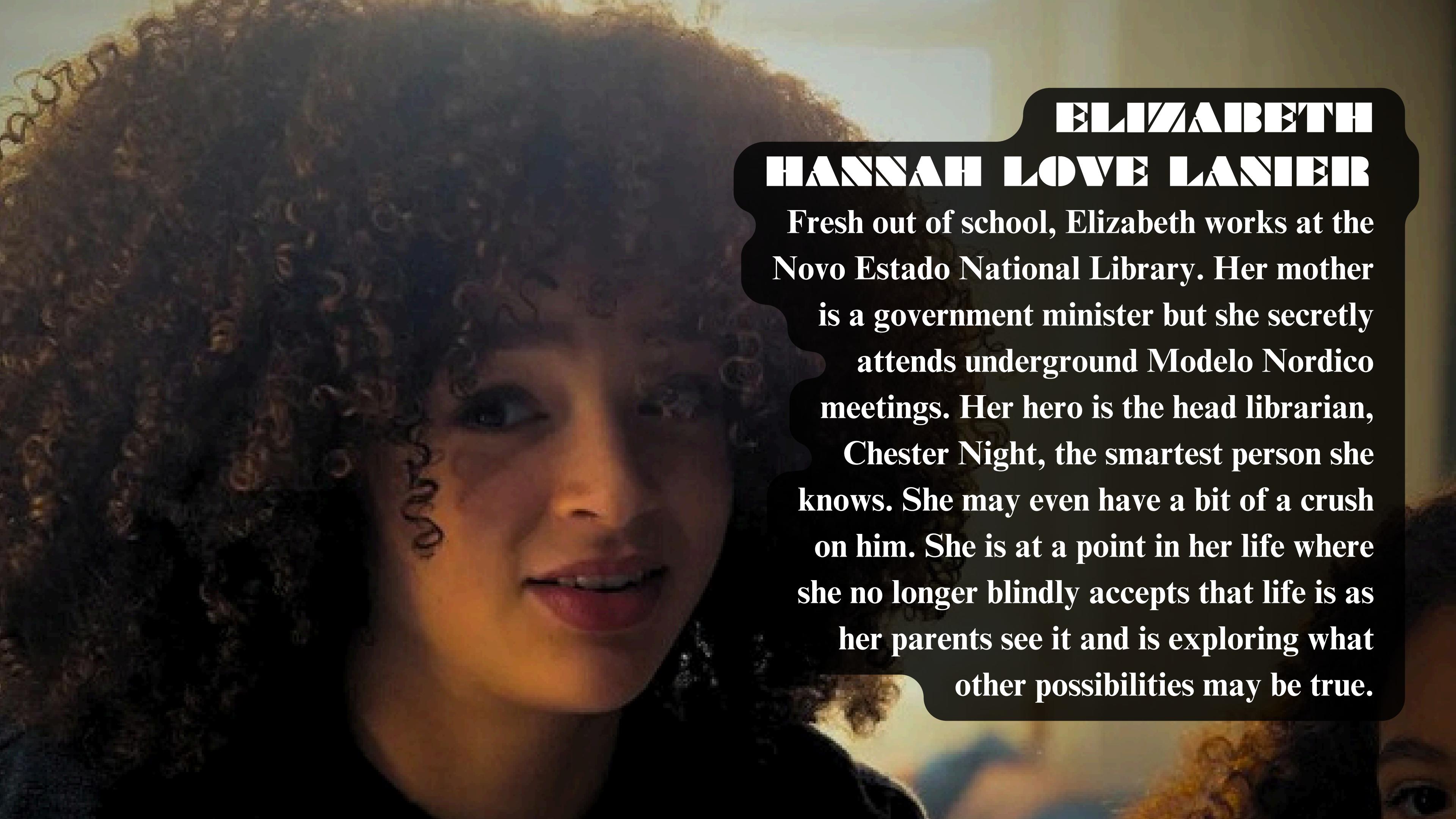




FLORENCE KATHREEN KHAVALI

Once a bright-eyed aspiring journalist in search of the truth, after years working for Cidade Portuaria's largest newspaper, Flo has become disenchanted. She's playing the game to stay afloat and while her noble intentions are no longer evident, we're never sure what her angle is. She still wants to know everything that's happening in Cidade Portuaria and Novo Estado, but no longer hopes that she can effect any change. Florence is more than she seems and as she chases down stories, we wonder to what end?





ELIZABETH HANNAH LOVE LANIER

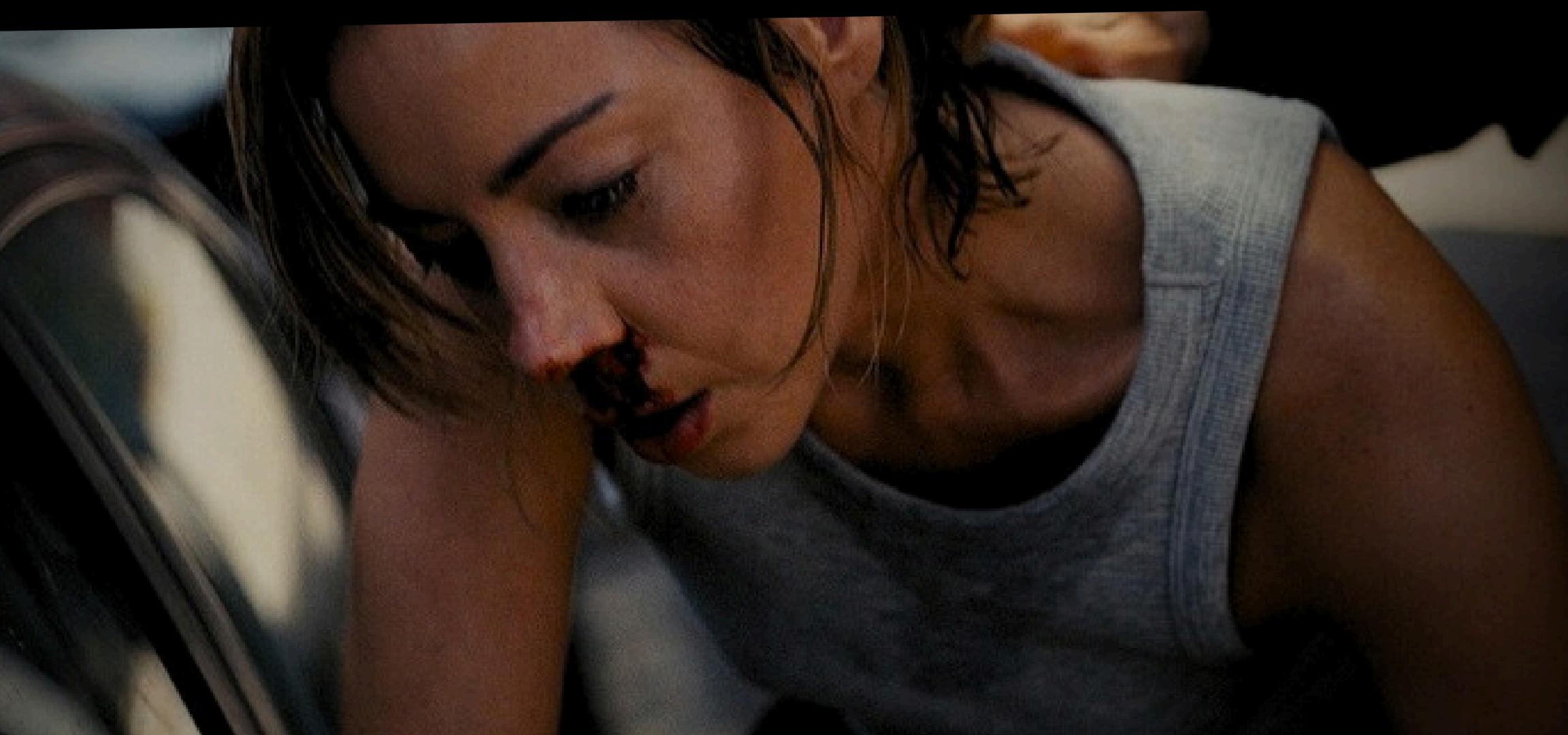
Fresh out of school, Elizabeth works at the Novo Estado National Library. Her mother is a government minister but she secretly attends underground Modelo Nordico meetings. Her hero is the head librarian, Chester Night, the smartest person she knows. She may even have a bit of a crush on him. She is at a point in her life where she no longer blindly accepts that life is as her parents see it and is exploring what other possibilities may be true.

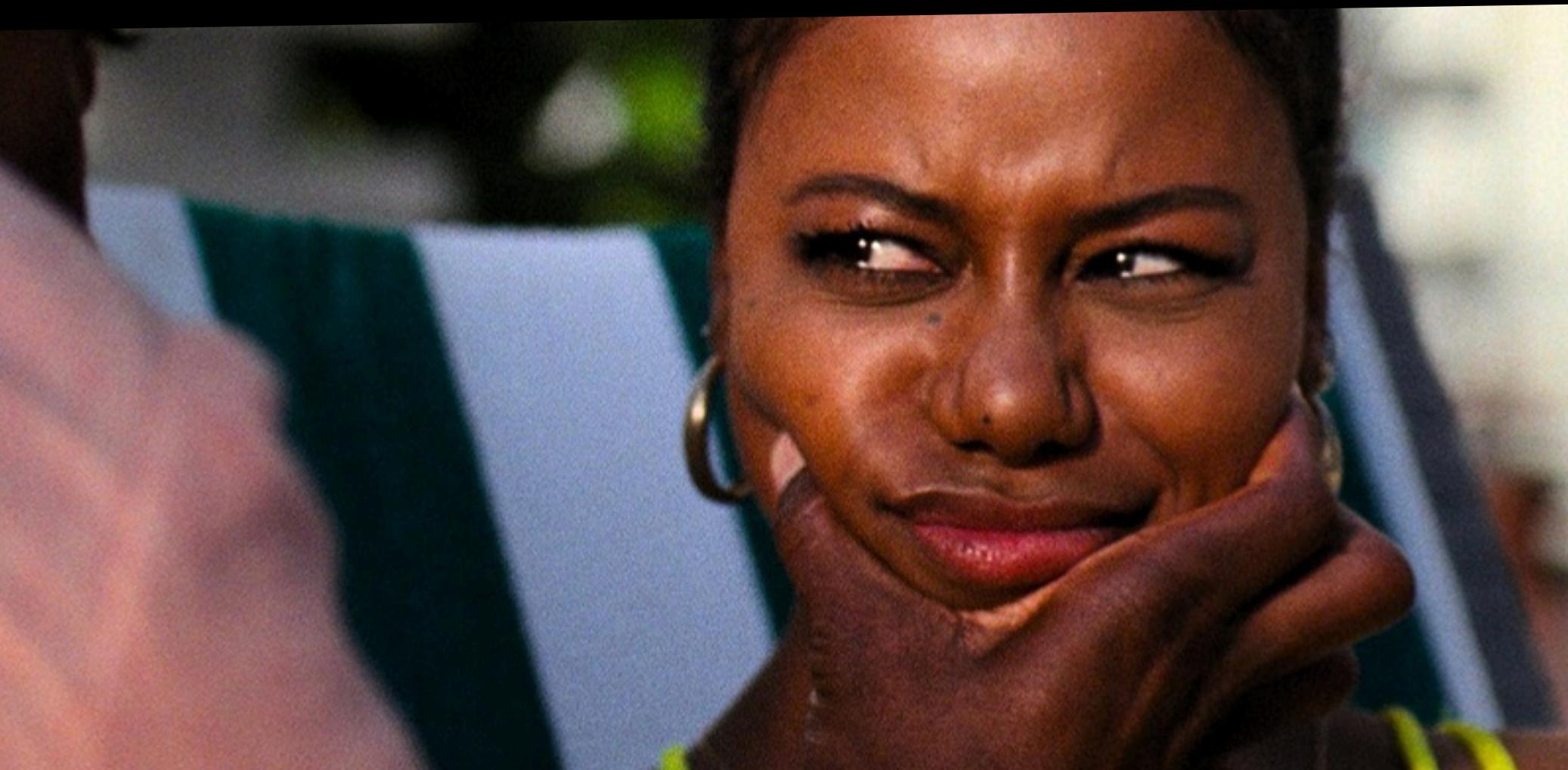


COMPS











Writer/Director Statement

Zugzwang is a situation found in chess in which a player must move, though every move puts them at a disadvantage. Life is a lot like that right now. As more and more people grapple with the Zugzwang in their own lives, this story will inspire our audience to hope. A swift-acting tonic to counteract the helplessness that so many are feeling in their own lives, I want Zugzwang to be made in the spirit it will be received--finding its community and growing that community organically. A community yearning for complex and elegantly told stories that connect them to what's happening in their lives while also offering possibility and escapism.





THEME

How to dance with the universe. So many of us are at this watershed moment; having chiseled and macheted our paths to success, and when there's no longer an option to move forward in that hard-fought life, you must learn to dance with the universe or keep taking hits. We find ourselves in constant conversation with others who have had this moment of realization that no matter how hard they have worked to get to a point where they felt successful, they're now feeling lost. Zugzwang charts a way forward practically and creatively.

Inquiries Contact - Bridget@1842world.com

Michele Yu & Cindy Chao - Production Designers
Emmy Award Nominees *A Black Lady Sketch Show*.
Art Director's Guild Nomination for Excellence in
Production Design, *A Black Lady Sketch Show* &
Waffles & Mochi. *Wonder Man*. *American Born
Chinese*.

Kevin Atkinson - Cinematographer
A Futile and Stupid Gesture. *Mr. Throwback*. *A Black
Lady Sketch Show*. *History of the World Part II*.
Reno 911! *Murderville*. *Bless This Mess*. *Black Reel
Award for Outstanding Cinematography - A Black
Lady Sketch Show*. *ASC Heritage Award - Honorable
Mention*

Erin Owens - Producer
Napa Boys - Magnolia Pictures. *Moon Base 8*.
Comedy Central's *Another Period*. *History of the
World Part 2*, HBO's *A Black Lady Sketch Show*.
Kroll Show. *Pod Save America: Four State Tour
during the 2018 midterms*,

Fiscal Sponsor - Film Independent

Kaitlyn Yang - Post Producer
Death and Other Details. *American Born Chinese*.
Best Foot Forward. *The Shrink Next Door*. CEO of
Alpha Studios. *Forbes 30 Under 30*.

Maejor - Composer
Grammy-nominated singer, songwriter, and producer
Work with Justin Bieber, Drake, Ciara, Ne-Yo's, Trey
Songz's. Maejor is a vocal advocate and practitioner of
sound therapy and wellness, co-founding The
Frequency School and releasing the album Vol 1:
Frequency.

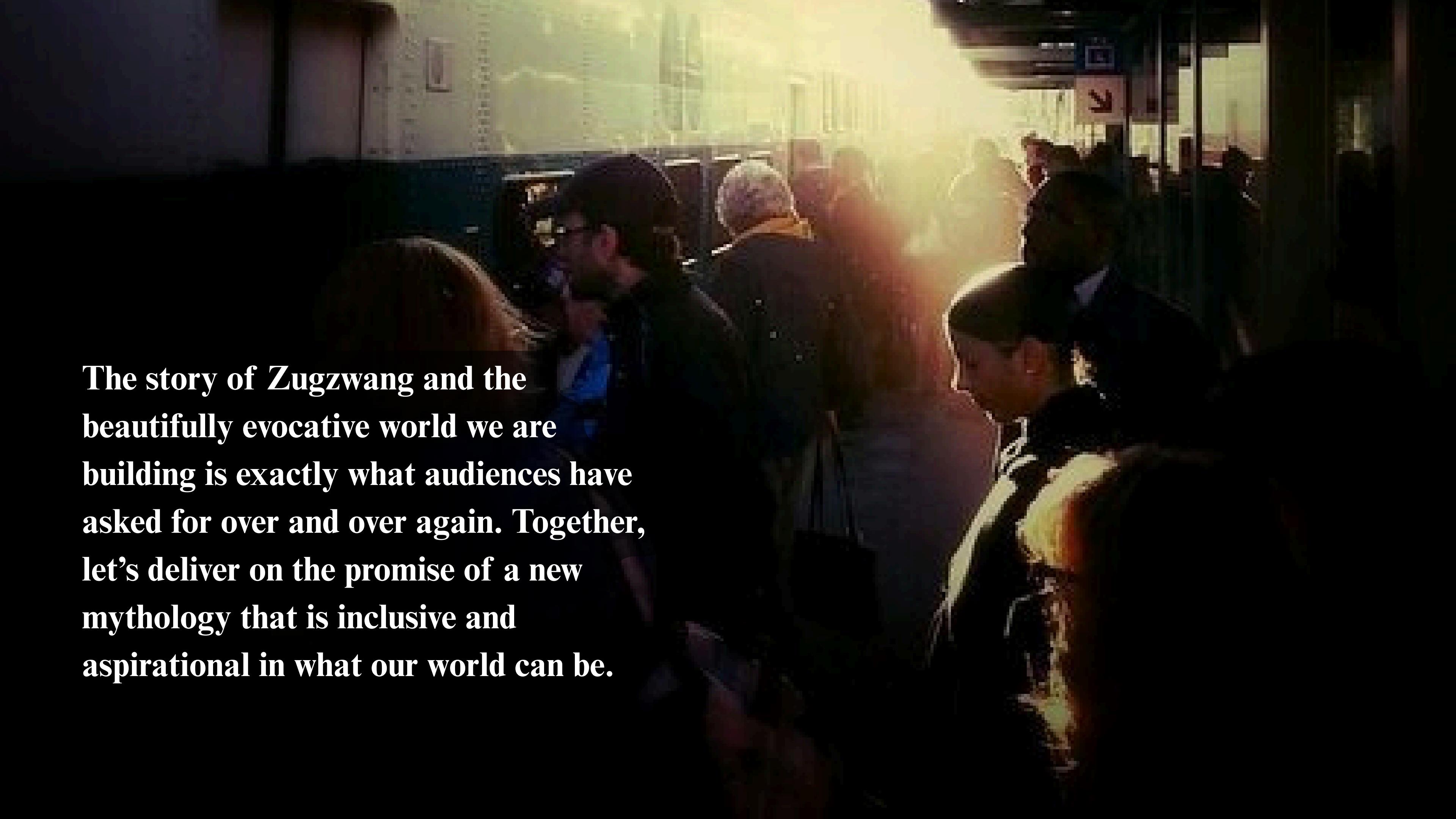
Bridget Stokes - Writer/Director
Boy Genius Amazon, *The Lost Husband* Netflix, *The
Rachel Divide* Netflix, *A Black Lady Sketch Show* -
HBO seasons 3 and 4, *Hello Jack* - Apple seasons 1
and 2, Emmy Winner *A Black Lady Sketch Show*,
Emmy Nominee *Hello Jack*, NAACP Image
Producing Award, NAACP Directing Award Nominee

TEAM

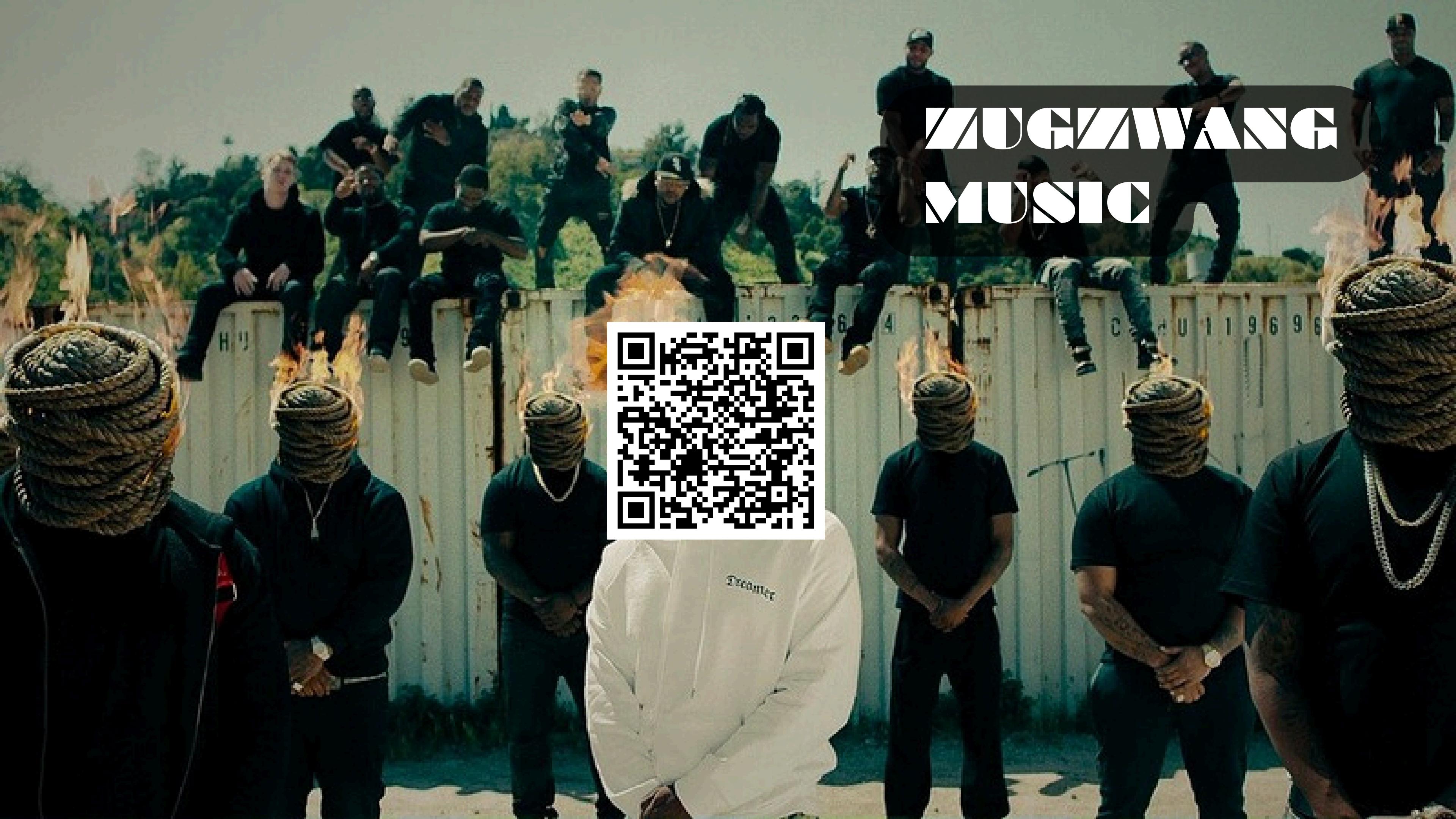
Veronica Rutledge - Editor
Emily in Paris. *Ramy*. *Birds of Paradise*. *What It's
Like to be Okay*. *At Midnight*. *Kathy*. *Coney Island*,
August. *For Keeps*.

Erica A. Hart - Casting Director
That Damn Michael Che - HBO Max. *Jodie*. *Black
Mirror* - Netflix, *Black Don't Crack* - ABC. *Bust
Down* - Peacock. *The Girls on the Bus* - HBO Max. *A
Black Lady Sketch Show* - HBO. *Broadway* - Chicken
& Biscuits, *Pass Over*, *Death of a Salesman* & *Jaja's
African Hair Braiding*. *Board of Governors for
Casting Society (CSA)*

Lauri Levenfeld - Producer
Murder of the Wolf. *Vespertine*. *Goddess Rising*
Mystery School. *Going Up*. *Mad World*. *Nelson
Mandela* documentary. Founded *The Project for
Women & Girls*, *Project Mentor*, and *Village Queens*.
CEO of *AgentC* - wrote/directed more than thirty
microfilms and shorts.

A photograph of a subway station platform. Several people are visible, some in motion, creating a blurred effect. A bright, warm light source, possibly a train or a large opening, is visible in the background, casting a glow and creating a lens flare effect. The platform is dark, and the overall atmosphere is moody and dramatic.

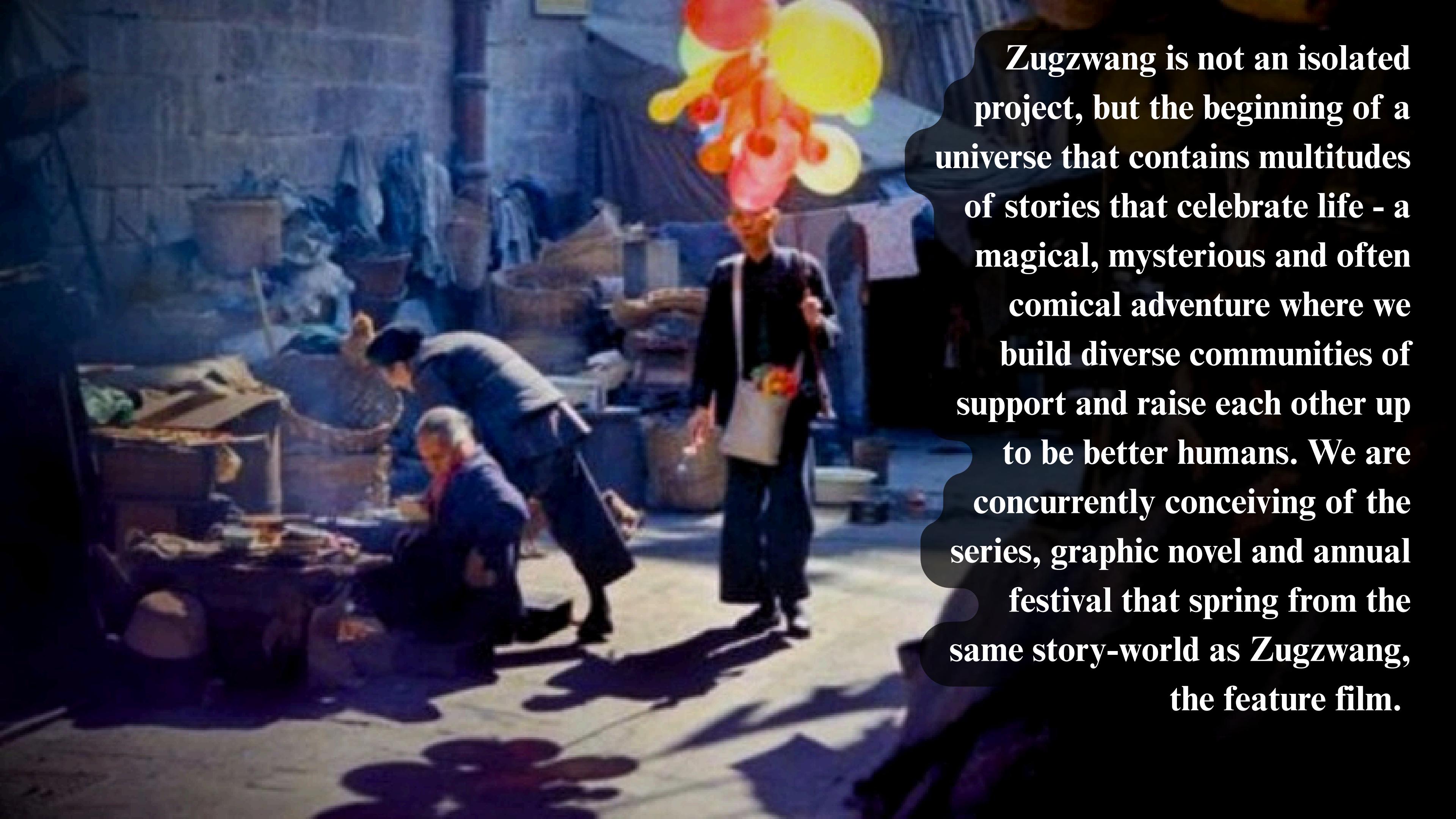
**The story of Zugzwang and the
beautifully evocative world we are
building is exactly what audiences have
asked for over and over again. Together,
let's deliver on the promise of a new
mythology that is inclusive and
aspirational in what our world can be.**



ZUGZWANG MUSIC







Zugzwang is not an isolated project, but the beginning of a universe that contains multitudes of stories that celebrate life - a magical, mysterious and often comical adventure where we build diverse communities of support and raise each other up to be better humans. We are concurrently conceiving of the series, graphic novel and annual festival that spring from the same story-world as Zugzwang, the feature film.

1842. 18 is an important number in Judaism, represented by chai, and means ‘life’. In the novel, “A Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy”, a supercomputer is asked “what is the meaning of life” and after hundreds of years of computing, responds 42. 42 in programming language means “whatever you want it to be.” $18 + 42 =$ Life is whatever you make it. This ethos will infuse the work of 1842 and be a beacon for all the creators who work with us to build this universe.





THANK YOU

WUENWANG