

THE SUICIDE AGENCY – SERIES BIBLE

GENRE

Premium Cable, One-hour, Alternative-Reality, Female Driven, Social Issue, Thriller, with dark comedic elements.

EPISODE FORMAT

In each episode Akiko creates a customized suicide adventure for her unique client, battles her backers to retain moral control of her company, and manages a complementary crisis within her family.

PILOT LOGLINE

A widow desperate to regain financial and moral control of her newly legal Suicide Agency, compromises her grieving family's needs and her ethics, by accepting financial support from a manipulative client who wants an illegal suicide for husband.

PILOT SYNOPSIS – “TOGETHER/COUPLES GETAWAY”

JILL RAE (70) and terminally ill **IRVING RAE** (91) are drowning in debt and look to end their lives. They watch **AKIKO LOPEZ**, introduce **THE SUICIDE AGENCY** (TSA) providing destination suicide adventures for **ELDERLY** and **TERMINAL CLIENTS**. Akiko has nightmares about her role in her husband **CARLOS'** paralyzing accident and eventual suicide; and the resulting loss of control of her business to **OMNIBANK'S MR. BLACK**. Akiko, her son **JAKE**, and Mother-in-Law **SARITA**, agree on a trip to the cemetery on the one year anniversary of Carlos' death. Jill attempts to bribe Akiko by financing her dream project of counseling non-terminal, non-elderly, suicidal clients. Jill wants to book an illegal suicide where Irving thinks they both die, but she survives and gets a new lease on life. Akiko refuses the bribe and gets Jill and Irving to sign-up for a dual-suicide, by jumping into a live volcano. Akiko will chaperone to make sure it goes to plan. This means delaying the trip to the cemetery. Devastated, Jake accuses her of not grieving Carlos. Akiko has a nightmare where Omnibank turns TSA into a Nazi death camp disposing of “burdens to society.” At the volcano edge Jill accuses Irving of manufacturing debt to scare her into suicide with him. She shoves him, along with Akiko into the lava pit. Irving dies. Akiko survives. In exchange for keeping her mouth shut about Irving's murder, Akiko gets Jill to agree to save her business financially. Akiko does the legal paperwork, forfeiting her leverage. Jill threatens to sue. To sleeping Jake, Akiko confesses the depth of her grief. She goes back to work amid the corporate and client machinations. She prepares to quit and belatedly go to the cemetery with her family. Mr. Black threatens to fire her. Jill enters with a million-dollar fund for a “Special Client” List of friends to purchase TSA services and for Akiko's dream project for non-terminal, non-elderly, suicidal clients. Akiko resists. Jake tells Akiko that Carlos would be proud of her continuing her dream. With Jill's financing, TSA markets the fun adventure aspect of suicide bringing in more clients. With this success, Jill pushes for her “Special Clients” suicides. Akiko realizes that she is in business with a wannabe serial killer.

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RECURRING CHARACTERS

AKIKO LOPEZ, 35, Japanese-American, mother of Jake, daughter-in-law of Sarita. The constant presence of death in her cancer pocket hometown led her to get a B.A. in Comparative Religion, an M.S. in Social Work, work to get Euthanasia legalized, and ultimately found The Suicide Agency with her husband Carlos. Now living with the guilt over his paralyzing accident and eventual suicide, she buries herself in her work to avoid succumbing to grief. She is highly empathetic with a blind spot for financial business sense.

JILL RAE, 70, Caucasian. Critically injured as a young woman. Her insurance claims adjuster, IRVING, twenty years her senior, fell in love, nursed her back to health, and made it his life's mission to protect her. They are now wealthy due to Jill's manipulation of their client vulnerabilities to rarely pay out claims. She can't wait for him to die so that she can do everything she's fantasized about in their forty-seven years of marriage. Jill sees Akiko's vulnerability as an opportunity to get rid of Irving, and to get rid of some nagging insurance claims on her "Special Client" list.

JAKE LOPEZ, 14, Multi-Cultural, Hyper-sensitive, intelligent, wicked sense of humor, Season One will track him fitting in at a new school and dealing with being teased about his mother's work. He finds his passion for mathematics and beat poetry as a tool to explain humor in the human condition. He's hypersensitive to the feelings of others, but paralyzed to be himself.

SARITA LOPEZ, 62, Mexican, interns as a nurse's aide at Community Hospital and enjoys the social contact with dying men and women, but particularly the men who will become future TSA clients. She's the heart and soul of the family using humor and wisdom to support the grieving process. Season One will track her journey falling in love with a patient and assisting him with suicide against his family's wishes. The season ends with her falling for Mr. Black. She always sees the humor and big picture of what's happening, but is frequently disappointed with the banality of everyday life.

CARLOS LOPEZ, 37, Mexican-American, deceased one-year prior to the Pilot EP. Will appear in flashbacks throughout season as his manner of death is revealed to be a paralyzing accident on a client trip, and then his own difficult choice of suicide. He's strong and steady, but perhaps too deferential to his mother and Akiko.

MABEL JOHNSON, 22, Non-Specified Race, Actor by trade, empath by nature, works at TSA for the life experience. Highly sensitive, supportive and a likely replacement should Akiko ever feel secure enough to contemplate that. In Season One she is sent to open a new branch and Akiko falls apart without her support.

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MARC FERRET (it's pronounced Fer-ray!), 24, Non-Specified Race, works at TSA to improve his acting chops. In violation of confidentiality clauses, he's always stealing ideas for scripts from real life clients. In Season One the group attends his one-man show where he re-creates his skewed perception of the season's clients. He can rise to portray any role, but he's a friggin' egomaniac.

TOM STONE, 27, Non-Specified Race, Cameraman turned director through clandestine gathering of client information and blackmailing of Akiko.

RICH HUNTER, 35, Non-Specified Race, OmniBank Field Officer, nervous, over-eager, lives with his ailing mother, total skeptic, got into this job straight from getting his M.S. in accounting, but now is obsessed with Akiko and tries to copy her approach. Season One watches him struggle to understand what TSA does and then realize it's the right choice for his mother who is digressing into dementia. He wants to be the best, but he's ready to copy.

MR. BLACK, 55, Caucasian, OmniBank President, appears one dimensional and just out for money, until he faces his own mortality with a heart attack. To Akiko and Rich's horror, Mr. Black and Sarita start dating. Mr. Black brings stability to grieving Sarita, but must work hard to express his feelings, be spontaneous and earn her long-term love.

SEASON ONE EPISODES

STEP2 – "GIRLS WEEKEND"

CARMEN is tricked into going on a Girls' Weekend to show how she might off herself, if she'd like. Her friend GLORIA reveals that she is terminal and wants to plan her CLIFF DIVING SUICIDE. Jill is furious that Akiko diverts attention from her list. Akiko's flashbacks to Carlos' accident affect her ability to work. The Lopez' searches for new housing and a STEM school for Jake.

STEP3 – "SURPRISE TRIP"

Exhausted, Akiko takes a fall that requires a hospital stay. Jake feels it's a repeat of Carlos' accident and has a meltdown. Japanese auntie NIKO visits and battles with Sarita over cultural differences in processing grief. Covering for Akiko, Rich, Marc, Mabel and Tom fumble a simple CLASSIC GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE SUICIDE for one of Jill's "Special Clients" ANNABETH.

STEP4 – "THE LAST LEG"

Jake has a poetry reading in the hospital lounge. Sarita begins a relationship with terminal patient BOB and moves him in with the Lopez family for hospice. Akiko and Sarita create a CARNIVAL SUICIDE for him. After Bob dies, Jake is mad at himself for being afraid of getting to know him. Jill insists "Special Client" ROGER have his adventure immediately or she will pull Akiko's funding.

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STEP 5 – “CONNECTING FLIGHTS”

On Father's Day, Jake asks the TSA team for a custom re-enactment of Carlos' life with a non-linear, but thematically connected events in his entire life from childhood fun with his parents JOSE and Sarita to his decision to commit suicide in the water off CATALINA. Akiko is impressed but also scared by the way that Jake's mind works. Jill and Mr. Black are furious at the wasted resources and insist Akiko increase her sales numbers immediately.

STEP 6 – “FIRST DATE”

Sarita is still grieving Bob's death, so Mr. Black concocts a ridiculous excuse to take her out, on a date. Jake asks his crush out on a date. Rich's mom GLADYS comes to TSA to plan her CORN FIELD SUICIDE resembling her home state of Kansas. Fed up, Jill thinks she can do Akiko's work and tries to chaperone her “Special Client” ROOSEVELT's adventure and ends up in with him in ICU, and her in jail. Akiko contemplates eliminating Jill from her life.

STEP 7 – “BUSINESS TRIP”

At Mr. Black's insistence, Mabel opens the San Francisco branch of TSA. Without her, Akiko has a meltdown while chaperoning Jill's “Special Client” BLAKE with Marc, Tom and Jake assisting. She begs Mabel to return to the home office with a promotion to management. Mr. Black has a heart attack and goes to Sarita's hospital. To Akiko's horror, Sarita decides that she might like him.

STEP 8 – “WEEKEND IN MONTERREY”

On a date, Sarita and Mr. Black take Jake to attend Marc's one-man show that re-interprets recent client suicides. During intermission, Marc's destitute next-door neighbor, terminally ill STAN attempts to commit suicide in front of Marc's captive audience. He fails in a spectacular bloody mess that attracts the cops. Akiko uses Jill's money to create his suicide adventure of being buried in mud pies with a group of “friends” at Monterrey. At the scene afterwards, Jill collects evidence against Akiko.

STEP 9 – “PRE-BOARDING”

Mr. Black proposes to Sarita, who worries she will lose touch with Jake. Jill tells Akiko that she has evidence put her away for murder if she doesn't take care of her “Special Client” her old bookkeeper FIONA. Akiko counsels Fiona and comes up with a solution, but Fiona backs out at the last moment.

STEP 10 – “HONEYMOON”

At Sarita and Mr. Black's wedding on Catalina Island. Akiko properly grieves the loss of Carlos in her own farewell ceremony for him. Jake confronts Akiko about Carlos' death. She confesses and begs for forgiveness. Jake is devastated, unwilling to forgive her and moves in with Sarita and Mr. Black. With Jill's planted

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evidence, Akiko is arrested on suspicion of murdering Stan. Akiko puts her plan in motion to kill Jill and pin the murder on her.

FUTURE SEASON ARCS

Season Two Arc – “TELL IT TO THE JUDGE”

Law enforcement Detective CARLY ROBINSON and Judge JANET NYONGO begin as antagonists, but eventually bring their cultural opinions to bear in assisting Akiko to be released, getting her help with their own suicidal employees and inmates, and putting Jill in jail. In an attempt to clear Akiko's name, Jake accesses information that connects Jill's finances to her list and Akiko's role, pushing him further away from home.

Season Three Arc – “IS THIS IT?”

Finally feeling secure in her business and her relationship with her family, Akiko asks herself what she wants. She begins dating but with each date there is a connection to death. Her fears about the death of a potential partner, and her belief that she is the bringer of death make it impossible for her to be happy.

Season Four Arc – “A FAMILY BUSINESS”

Jake and his husband KYLE join Akiko as full partners in the business assisting clients to create and live out their final fantasies. Throughout the season Akiko's terminal illness causes her to exam how she would like to die, what's left on her bucket list and what she needs to communicate. The season ends with her dying quietly at home surrounded by loved ones.