

Deathdealer

Created by
Andy Watts & Sherese Robinson Lee



Logline

When you're Death, living ain't easy.

After an angry teen orphan violently inserts herself into the life of Vincent, a worn down angel of death, he must struggle against long suppressed feelings of humanity while still killing everyone he ever meets. Vincent suddenly has to weigh his options of what *he wants* versus *what he is*.

Genres

Dark Humor • Family Drama • Grounded Supernatural

Proof of Concept/Tone

Deathdealer: a documentary, 15 min. narrative short

Link: <https://vimeo.com/57596802>

Series Overview

Vincent is like anyone of us who is burnt out on a dead end job, except his occupation is bringing death to those whose time has come. He gets rocked out of complacency when he's assaulted by teen

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orphan Marie Murphy who is looking for both revenge and answers. She slips away after accusing him of killing her mother (true) leaving him not only with many bruises, but many questions as well. The attack creates an existential crisis in the being that's in charge of ending existence.

Eight years after unwisely becoming involved in a documentary film, Vincent reluctantly forms a family-like bond with a cop's *almost* ex-wife, an abused orphan, and a not-so-fake psychic, all of whom will no longer allow him to live in self-imposed exile. Vincent is forever tormented because he wants friends, he wants a family, but he knows eventually he will have to kill every single one of them.

The series follows this withdrawn grim reaper as he is pulled deeper into the world of the living even though he is not one of them. Like all of us, Vincent is looking for meaning in his place in the world. Even he doesn't understand who he is or how he got that way. Was he human at one point? Is he a god? He doesn't know. His only "superpower" is bringing death to those whose time is up. He is just a cog in a much larger machine that he doesn't get to see. All he knows is his work, but Marie sparks something that is buried deep inside.

Deathdealer's appeal is its fearless presentation of mortality, melancholic atmosphere, and immersive storylines. The show will grapple with themes of loss, family, and fulfillment. Part mystery, part procedural, part lo-fi supernatural thriller, Deathdealer will follow all the main characters' as they each search for what they lack.

Even though Vincent IS death, he must confront his own kind of identity-crisis. Deathdealer asks the question, can Vincent have intimate relationships with mortals? Because honestly, no one can do life alone.

Audience

Deathdealer is a grounded supernatural series that appeals to most people's very natural (and relatable) human fears, sensibilities, and questions about death and dying. Humanity has always been obsessed with death and what happens after it, and Deathdealer serves as a commentary on both. Death touches us all; man or woman, young or old.

Characters

Vincent / Deathdealer: Age mid-30s

Vincent is a multi-faceted being. He delivers death to people who whose time as come — whether are ready or not.

Vincent, death personified, tries to toe the line when it comes to getting too emotionally involved with humans. However, he's now dealing with, for the first time in a long time, suppressed human feelings triggered by orphaned teenager Marie Murphy.

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Most of the time, if someone has only known how to do one thing their whole life, like Vincent, they usually stick to it. People don't want to change the comfortable path they're on because it's all they know. Being an outcast and seen as different can affect your relationships with people and even prevent relationships and will doom you to a life of solitude. This is the inevitable fate of Vincent's job, dealing death. Vincent's obstacle is himself.

In a roundabout way, the character of Vincent is similar to someone who is suffering from addiction, or self-harm. His story, when you take the reaping out of it, isn't all that unfamiliar. Vincent started doing something that was thrilling, enticing, and different, but over time, he became bored and numb to dealing death. But, it's the only thing he knows. Vincent's not interested in continuing this life, but he's been in this business for too long to know how to do anything else. It's a narrative we've seen before, like when an alcoholic returns to the bottle over and over again, or when a worker returns to their hated boss. The differences here are the implications of Vincent's work, and the deeply inflicted wounds they leave on him. He refuses to want what he can never have—love, friends, and a family. Vincent's job prevents him from having connections with other people, and he's accepted his fate—until now.

Marie Murphy: African-American, Age-16

Marie hates God more than she hates Death.

She's a Black Punk girl who expresses herself and her emotions through body art and her drawings. She's also a mean-spirited young lady who has disdain for authority and most people.

After Vincent reaps her mother Gladys, as seen in *Deathdealer: a documentary*, Marie ends up adrift and angry in the foster care system. She's also been on an unsuccessful search to find her missing younger sister, Isabelle. Eventually, Vincent and Marie form a profound bond, confiding in each other for comfort and exploring what it means to be truly human.

Rosaria Zambrano-Thomas: Latina, Age late-20s - Early 30s

Death takes care of itself. Rosaria takes care of everyone else.

Vincent started coming by Rosie La Negra Bar & Grill for Rosaria's delicious Dominican home cooking, but later, primarily for her adult companionship—even though she's married to a cop. Rosaria thinks that Vincent is an investigator for the IRS.

Soundtrack

Original music is the heartbeat of the show that helps guide our viewers through a roadmap of life and death that ties each episode, storyline, and character together. Minimal and edgy, like the show itself, all

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original music will be composed, recorded, and engineered at Emmy and Grammy Award-winning studio Limebeat Music & Sound based in New York City.

Pilot Synopsis

"Death Needs Friends"

Eight years after unwisely becoming part of a documentary film that went sideways (*Deathdealer: a documentary*), Vincent, the Deathdealer, lives in an SRO in Compton, Los Angeles and his current base of operation is the dive bar below his apartment building, Rosie La Negra Bar & Grill. Rosie's is managed by the effervescent Rosaria, who is intrigued by Vincent's calm and stoic demeanor. Their lives become even more enmeshed after she "rescues" him from a beat-down delivered by very angry and vengeful teenager, Marie Murphy.

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