HE LOVES ME NOT



TITLE: **HE LOVES ME NOT**

***FORMAT*: A Six-Part Limited Series, Prestige Streaming**

GENRE: **Crime Drama, Based on True Events**

***TONAL COMPS*: UNBELIEVEABLE, MARE OF EASTTOWN**

***WRITTEN BY*: Katy Dore & Alex Hanno**

LOGLINE: *While repressing his own trauma, "one last case" becomes an obsession for a tenacious investigator determined to help a resilient survivor put her abuser behind bars.*

The Series

In *HE LOVES ME NOT,* a domestic violence survivor musters the courage to tell her story but discovers surviving her abuser is only the first battle. After twenty years of psychological and physical torture, GABBY is faced with a system that questions her credibility and her sanity.

ROBERT is four days from retirement from his job as an investigator for the Monterey County District Attorney when he picks up Gabby's thin case file. He has avoided domestic violence cases throughout his 25 year career but his insatiable curiosity—and a latent savior complex—compel him to postpone his retirement and see this case through.

Each episode pairs procedural momentum (a new lead, witness, search, or legal hurdle) with emotional consequence. Every step toward justice risks exposing Gabby and her daughter to renewed danger. And every day in the field further erodes Robert's marriage and drags his own repressed childhood memories of abuse closer to the surface.

As the two team up to untangle twenty years of crimes, the perpetrator is just as quickly covering his tracks and using his charm to discredit Gabby.

The Format

A six-part limited series, *HE LOVES ME NOT*, takes us on an exploration of how crimes and abuse this outrageous and horrific could go on for so long. The perpetrator is identified early, but how can Robert and Gabby turn the allegations into a conviction when systems like law-enforcement, social services, the church and the medical system are easily duped by the perpetrator's manipulations?

Each episode delves into the complications of legal procedure with our maverick investigator both resolving some evidential issues while creating others with his reckless style.

The Tone

Visual: The tone is grounded and cinematic. The Salinas Valley, with its miles of lush argricultural land, remote residences in the hills and the "richer-than-god" communities along the coast, provides a backdrop suited for a prestige streaming experience.

Stylistic: Focusing on human error and systemic biases rather than the brutality of the crime itself positions the series alongside dramas like *Mare of Eastown* and *Unbelievable*, rather than True Crime type shows which emphasize the monsters and the crimes themselves. The perpetrator will get very little screentime and only be shown in quick and muddy flashes of memory. The abuse itself will be shot with an eye toward allowing the viewer to "fill-in-the-blanks" rather than showing vicious brutality on screen.

Sound: Sound will play a large part in depicting the abuse.Through the fast-moving, blurred flashes of abuse, we will hear breathing, flesh hitting flesh, tearing of cloth, etc., The score of this show is also a character. Our investigator, Robert, uses classical music to self-soothe. When overwhelmed, he will turn to classical music or "play" it in his head, his fingers tapping out the notes on the steering wheel, his desk, or on his actual piano. The carefully metered music will become cacophonous as he loses control of his thoughts.

The World

Monterey County, California 2008. Along the coast you'll find the wealthy communities of Carmel-By-The-Sea, Monterey and Pebble Beach. But a short drive inland is another world entirely. Known as The "Salad Bowl Of The World", this rich, agricultural land supplies 61% of the nation's leaf lettuce. The farm laborers and working class live in the valleys and surrounding hills. This is the world of our series: working class people navigating life as best they can in an environment full of beauty and hardship. We're early in the new millennium and the technology (or lack thereof) reflects this. CD players have replaced cassette decks in most cars. Fax machines are in every office. Smartphones and Bluetooth are only for the rich.

Key Characters

GABBY FLORES

"When no one believes you, you stop trusting yourself."

Gabby is both vulnerable and hardened after 20 years of abuse. Tattoos proclaiming her WHORE and ADULTRESS are inked into her skin. She has finally escaped with her daughter after 13 attempts to be free of her abuser. Now she is in hiding, unsure who to trust after years of being labelled hysterical, melodramatic and a vindictive liar by the very people and systems designed to assist victims. As she begins to trust Robert, her story unfolds and her confidence in herself grows. Little by little, she begins to nuture herself and her daughter on their long journey toward healing.

ROBERT ANDREWS

"Being able to get along with anybody is my superpower."

Robert, a relentless investigator for the Monterey County District Attorney, takes on Gabby's case, convinced he can complete the job before his retirement deadline four days away. But as the threads of the case become more tangled and his retirement date passes, Robert refuses to turn the case over. His obsession with justice and protecting the vulnerable take on deeper meaning as Robert's own history of childhood abuse begins to emerge. As Robert's hubris is replaced with honesty, he gains the trust of Gabby and her daughter, giving them all a chance to heal.

HEATHER BRODY

"It doesn't matter what you believe; what matters, is what the jury believes."

Heather is a brilliant attorney who has chosen public service over more lucrative offers in private practice. Competitive and motivated by protecting those unable to protect themselves, she is determined to give Gabby and her daughter a safe future. As much as Heather hates to add any more gas to Robert's inflated ego, he's the best the department has and she needs him if she's going to put the monster behind bars. Between her skills at courtroom strategy and his investigative acumen, they make a formidable team.

NELLIE ANDREWS

"I'm not waiting for you to start living my life."

Nellie retired two years ago from her nursing job. She's postponed travelling, waiting for Robert to join her. Nellie is disappointed—but not surprised—when Robert misses their retirement trip to Cabo. She goes alone and returns with a renewed sense of her value. In spite of herself, she takes an interest in Gabby's case and serves as an important sounding board for Robert as he works the case and discovers personal demons.

Why This Show?

He Loves Me Not is based on the case of

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
VS
ANIANO OLEA

Names have been changed, timelines have been adapted and facts of the case have been altered. Our intent is not to give an account of this particular case, rather to create an absorbing TV Series using the outline of one case to explore a larger systemic issue.

We have obtained Life Rights from the survivor and the lead investigator. Both are enthusiastic contributors to both the tone of the show and the legal procedures.

Domestic Violence is not limited to any ethic background or income level. It's a crime that exists in the shadows. Abusers are doctors, law enforcement officers, auto mechanics, attorneys, teachers and every other profession. Yet, this is a crime where a strong racial and economic bias exists regarding who is brought to justice. Most importantly, it is a crime that further victimizes survivors when they are asked to recount traumatic details, display their bodies and meet face-to-face with their abusers in public courtrooms.

It is time to talk about it. ***He Loves Me Not*** does just that.

Contact:

Katy Dore
katy.dore@gmail.com

Alex Hanno
alexanderhanno@gmail.com

Legal:

Breechman Feldman Breimer Silver Thompson
1875 Century Park East, Suite 1770, Los Angeles, 90067, CA, United States
Steve Breimer: 310-859-6820

The Writers

Katy Dore is a screenwriter and director drawn to stories exploring the collision of relationships, risk, and moral complexity.

Raised in a small logging town where a good chainsaw and a reliable truck were prized social currency, Katy's restlessness led to a degree at Stanford University and an MFA from the Academy of Art. She owned and operated a graphic design and marketing firm before following a less stable but more satisfying career writing for film and television.

Katy's first television drama series was in development with Quincy Jones Productions and Flavor Unit, with Queen Latifah slated to play the lead, prior to Quincy Jones's passing. Her feature script PIPER was selected for the Cannes Screenplay List. Additional accolades include winning the Stage 32 Short Scripts Grand Prize, and having her horror feature GOT YOUR BACK selected for a live read at the Austin Film Festival.

Katy is the co-director and producer of GIFT OF FEAR, a feature narrative bringing global attention to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) crisis. Katy has found notable success as the writer and director of several short films. Her last two films have screened at over 70 film festivals and garnered 37 awards.

Alex Hanno is a Los Angeles-based writer/director whose credits include the upcoming psychological thriller BRAVADO, the apocalyptic thriller A SOCIAL CONTRACT starring Sean Astin, and the romantic dramedy ELEPHANTS streaming on Amazon. His pilot script, SEABROOK, was the winner of CineStory's TV Drama Fellowship, while his other scripts have placed in competitions such as Final Draft's Big Break, Scriptapalooza, Austin Film Festival, and many more.

As a director, his films—including the horror-satire DETOX, which recently premiered on Omeleto—have screened at the Seattle International Film Festival, Newport Beach Film Festival, and Dances With Films. In 2023, he was part of the creative team that launched SoundTrip—the award winning interactive audio experience—at the Hollywood Fringe Festival. Alex has also worked in development for Broad Green Pictures and VMI Worldwide, alongside running Deadline Junkies, a screenwriting organization based in North Hollywood.