



85 GRAMS

BASED ON A TRUE STORY

Art Williams is ~~a tempestuous anarchist, mysterious intellect, trickster, and a provoker.~~

On the surface Art is a self proclaimed, “Robin Hood”, expert bow maker, and grower of mushrooms. More well read than bred this venerated veteran has plans for his well-planned mycological pursuit and quite possibly the world’s future. Whether born of the love for the drug or the drug of love....
...he is to become ~~the biggest continental supplier of MDA spurring the largest drug investigation~~
on the Canadian West Coast. The vibes of which resonate to this day through the warehouses of the rave scenes to the offices of quasi psychologists – all have Art Williams to thank or BLAME.

As all good things come to an end, the strung out clean up, and the psychedelic haze wears off revealing bodies, mayhem, and greed – Art is the white rabbit, and the Feds the rabid dog snapping at his tail. Always ten steps ahead of the heat and ever resourceful, his disappearance is no surprise to his cohorts or the dogs that hunt him at all costs. His current whereabouts are unknown.

His legacy lives on.

LOGLINE

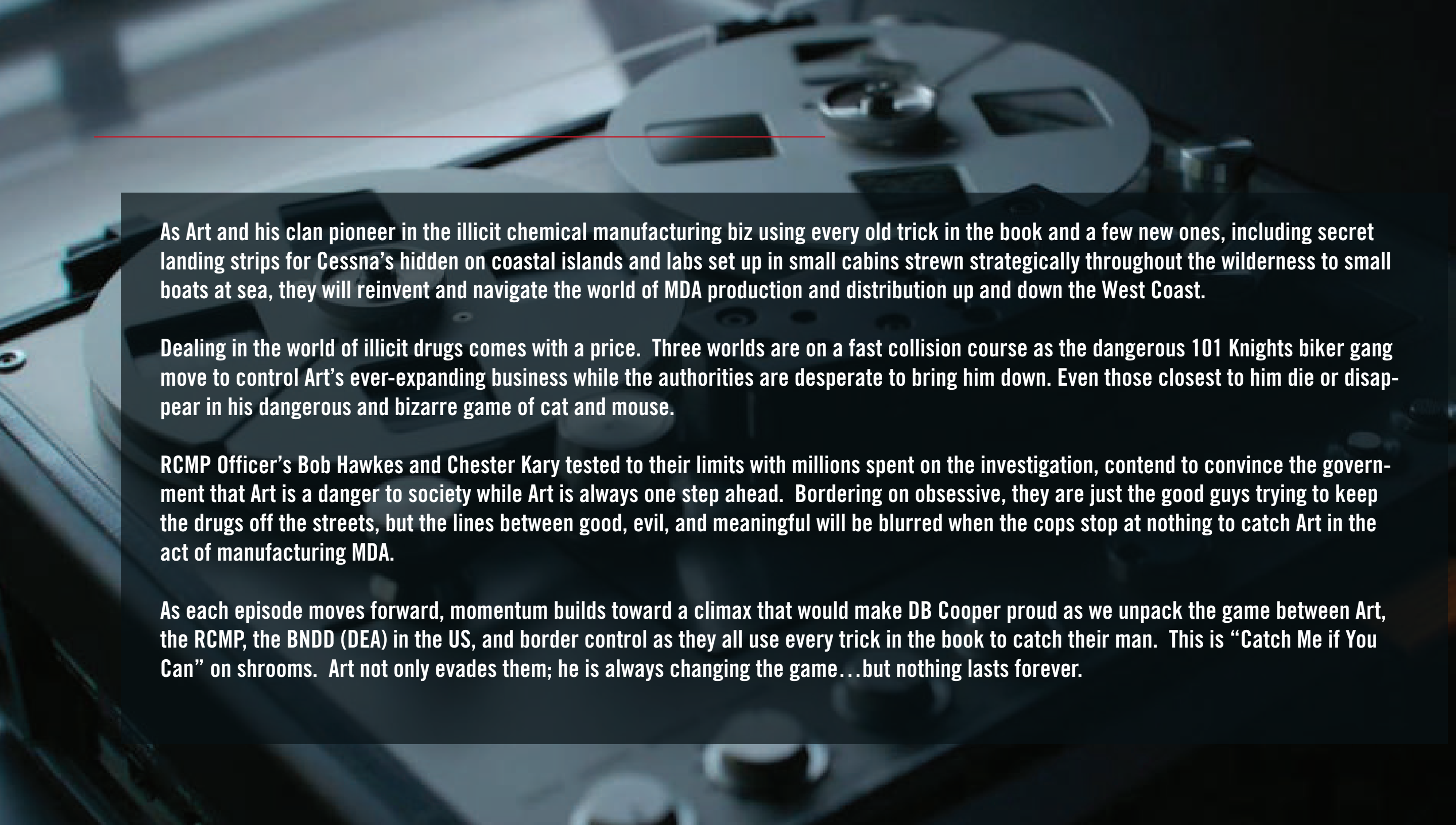
“Turn on, tune in, drop out!”

The West Coast, early seventies. We start our journey at a hippie mecca on an isolated island replete with a steady supply of psilocybin mushrooms and chemical hallucinogens, and no end to the users that seek them. The land is owned by the Svengali-like veteran, Art Williams, who’s “Think for yourself and question authority” mantra appeals to the sexy love drug-induced hippies that flock to his property. Even before his dangerous foray into the chemicals that would change the world forever, he was a man of legend. Everything Art does is legendary.

85 Grams is the telling of the life of Art Williams. Over three seasons, our action packed, dead sexy drug and gang fueled frenzy will leave no doubt that Art, the Wizard of Oz himself, was the most prolific drug manufacturer this country has ever seen. At the advent of our series, MDA has just become a schedule one narcotic. Mid way the gangs begin to battle for a piece of the action, by the third act things are about to get interesting, if not downright bizarre.

Steeped in a gritty seventies feel and the cat and mouse procedural that is “Mind Hunter”, the tension of “Breaking Bad” and salacious sins of “Sons of Anarchy”, “85 Grams” is the story of Art Williams’ rise as a drug czar on the West Coast.

GO ASK ALICE



As Art and his clan pioneer in the illicit chemical manufacturing biz using every old trick in the book and a few new ones, including secret landing strips for Cessna's hidden on coastal islands and labs set up in small cabins strewn strategically throughout the wilderness to small boats at sea, they will reinvent and navigate the world of MDA production and distribution up and down the West Coast.

Dealing in the world of illicit drugs comes with a price. Three worlds are on a fast collision course as the dangerous 101 Knights biker gang move to control Art's ever-expanding business while the authorities are desperate to bring him down. Even those closest to him die or disappear in his dangerous and bizarre game of cat and mouse.

RCMP Officer's Bob Hawkes and Chester Kary tested to their limits with millions spent on the investigation, contend to convince the government that Art is a danger to society while Art is always one step ahead. Bordering on obsessive, they are just the good guys trying to keep the drugs off the streets, but the lines between good, evil, and meaningful will be blurred when the cops stop at nothing to catch Art in the act of manufacturing MDA.

As each episode moves forward, momentum builds toward a climax that would make DB Cooper proud as we unpack the game between Art, the RCMP, the BNDD (DEA) in the US, and border control as they all use every trick in the book to catch their man. This is "Catch Me if You Can" on shrooms. Art not only evades them; he is always changing the game...but nothing lasts forever.

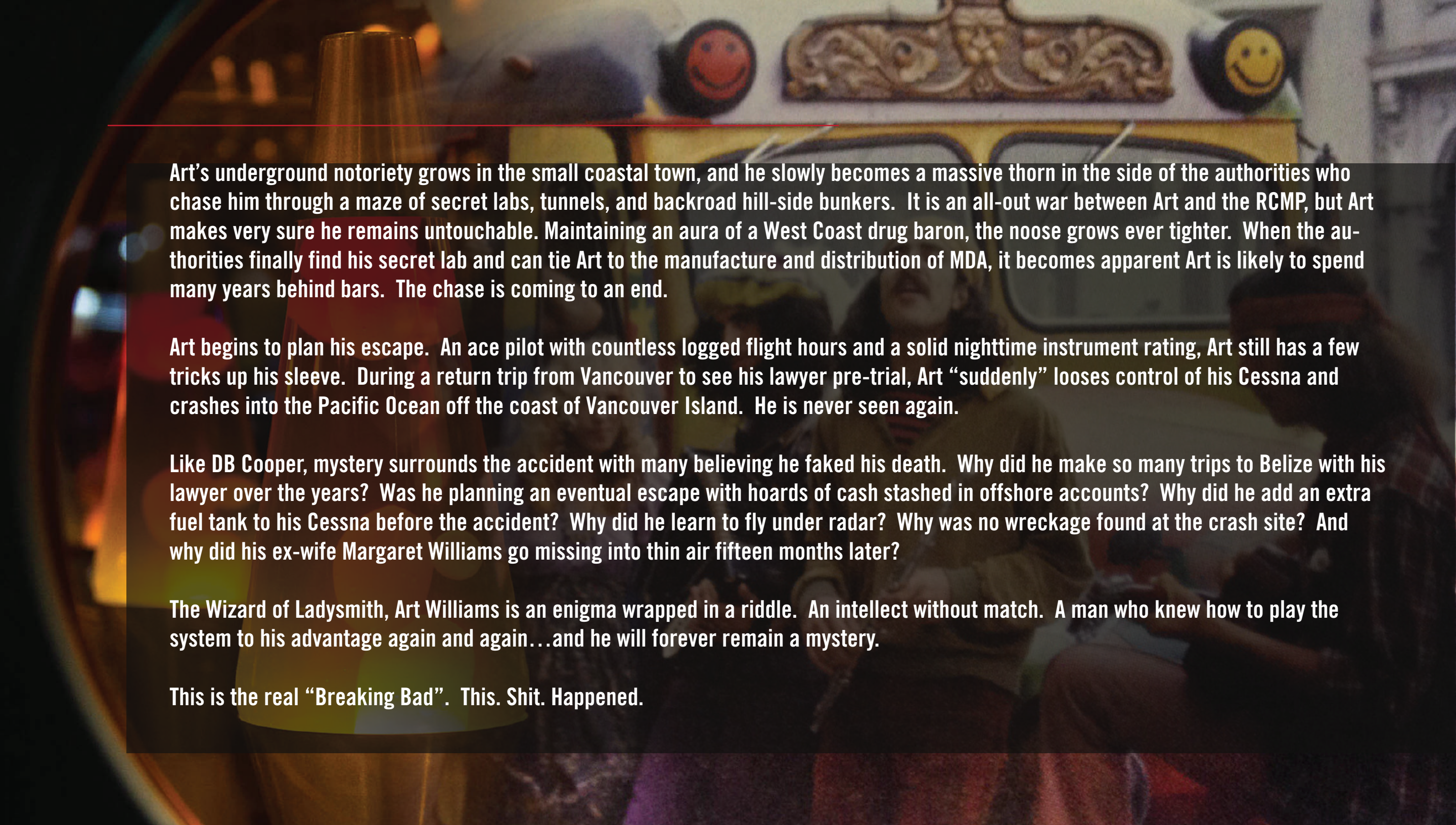
Set on Vancouver Island in British Columbia in the early 1970's: "Williams Archery Limited" flounders under Government pressure to pay its share of income taxes. Unwilling to pay the Government, Art turns to growing mushrooms, and shortly thereafter, secretly begins manufacturing the love drug...MDA.

With a long-held and deep distrust of authority and all things Government, the production and distribution of MDA was more of a challenge for Art, and a big "flip of the bird" to the powers that be. For Art it was never about the money. With the help of his friends Dale Elliot, Ray Ridge, Happy Laffin, Stanley Cross, Myron Zarry, and his girlfriend, Cheryl Monahan, Art's "Institute of Mycology" becomes a cover for North America's largest MDA operation.

The RCMP and the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs (DEA) notice an increase in the flow of narcotics up and down the West Coast they look to the 101 Knights to find a connection. They discover business is brewing on and around Art's property and a case starts to build against him and his Institute of Mycology. They know he is manufacturing MDA. The proof is what eludes the authorities. Art is always one step ahead.

Nothing seems to stick to Art no matter how deep or intense the investigations become. Officers Bob Hawkes, and Chester Kary spend years and millions chasing Williams using any and every "trick in the book" and then some.

THE BEAT GOES ON



Art's underground notoriety grows in the small coastal town, and he slowly becomes a massive thorn in the side of the authorities who chase him through a maze of secret labs, tunnels, and backroad hill-side bunkers. It is an all-out war between Art and the RCMP, but Art makes very sure he remains untouchable. Maintaining an aura of a West Coast drug baron, the noose grows ever tighter. When the authorities finally find his secret lab and can tie Art to the manufacture and distribution of MDA, it becomes apparent Art is likely to spend many years behind bars. The chase is coming to an end.

Art begins to plan his escape. An ace pilot with countless logged flight hours and a solid nighttime instrument rating, Art still has a few tricks up his sleeve. During a return trip from Vancouver to see his lawyer pre-trial, Art "suddenly" loses control of his Cessna and crashes into the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Vancouver Island. He is never seen again.

Like DB Cooper, mystery surrounds the accident with many believing he faked his death. Why did he make so many trips to Belize with his lawyer over the years? Was he planning an eventual escape with hoards of cash stashed in offshore accounts? Why did he add an extra fuel tank to his Cessna before the accident? Why did he learn to fly under radar? Why was no wreckage found at the crash site? And why did his ex-wife Margaret Williams go missing into thin air fifteen months later?

The Wizard of Ladysmith, Art Williams is an enigma wrapped in a riddle. An intellect without match. A man who knew how to play the system to his advantage again and again...and he will forever remain a mystery.

This is the real "Breaking Bad". This. Shit. Happened.

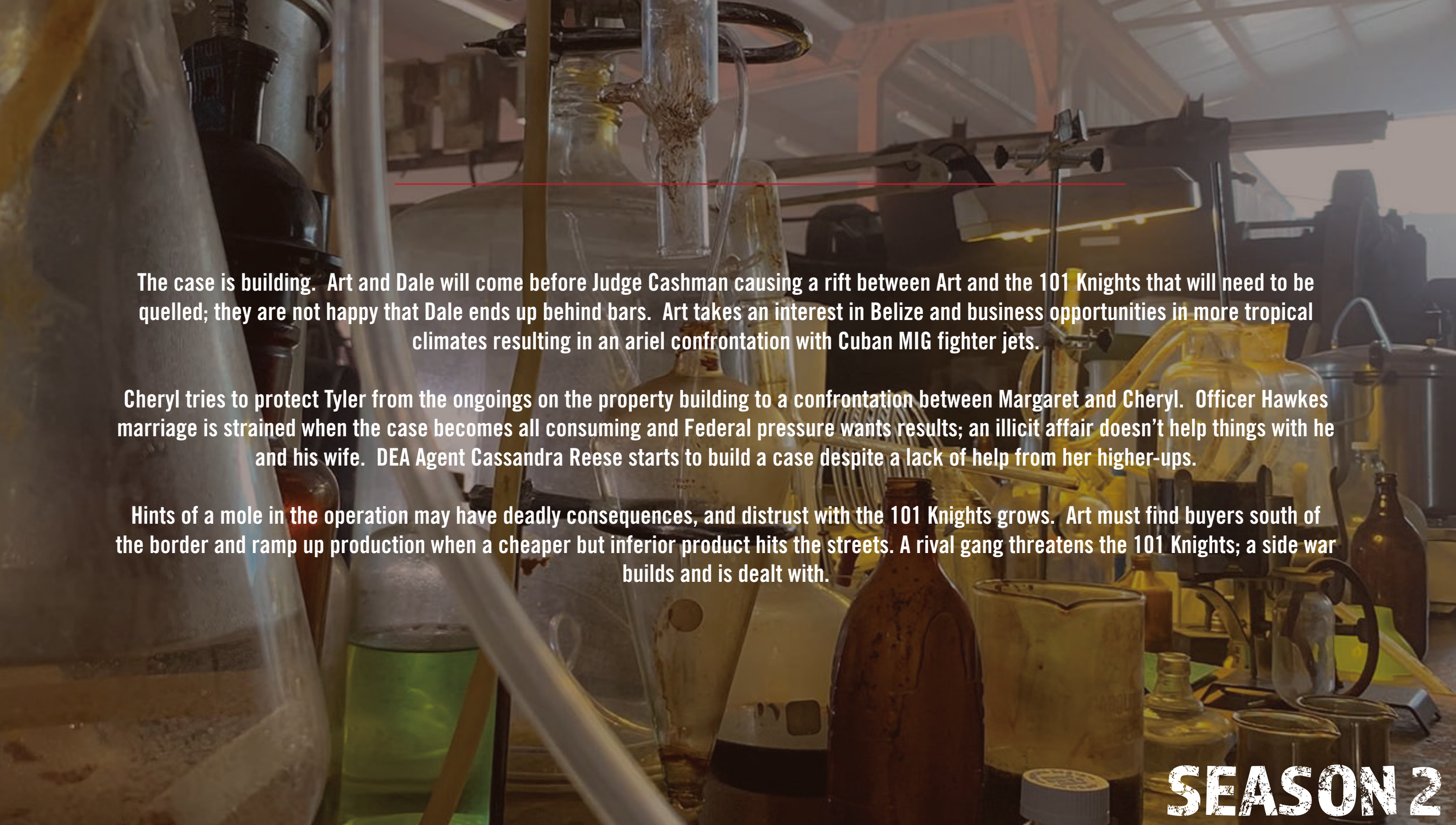
A group of bikers riding motorcycles down a dirt road. The lead biker is wearing a dark jacket and sunglasses. The background shows a line of other bikers stretching into the distance. The overall scene is in a desaturated, dark tone.

Art develops a high-quality product that he begins to sell through Dale's connection with the 101 Knights, the local biker gang trying to get a foothold on the West Coast. Officers Bob Hawkes and Chester Kary notice an increase in MDA on the streets. Their investigation will intensify as they try to narrow down the source. Art and Cheryl begin their tumultuous relationship under the nose of his ex-wife, Margaret. 23 Ghosts, or "Rivers", tries to guide Art away from the evil he sees brewing within.

The Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs (changed to the DEA in 1973) south of the border begins to investigate the distribution of isosafrole, an essential component in the production of MDA, and task force the investigation with the RCMP. Eventually all roads will lead to the Institute of Mycology and the investigation will gather speed as they start to tighten the noose around the center of it all, Art Williams.

The hunt begins but Art's business develops. Multiple labs are built all around his land. A massive "barn" is constructed on his property. It is an Esher drawing come to life with hidden doors and rooms hiding the main lab the RCMP will take years to find. It becomes an all-out war. Art and Cheryl's relationship intensifies when they differ on rules for raising Tyler. Margaret develops a dangerous and treacherous relationship with the head of the 101 Knights, Marvin Brimacombe.

SEASON 1



The case is building. Art and Dale will come before Judge Cashman causing a rift between Art and the 101 Knights that will need to be quelled; they are not happy that Dale ends up behind bars. Art takes an interest in Belize and business opportunities in more tropical climates resulting in an ariel confrontation with Cuban MIG fighter jets.

Cheryl tries to protect Tyler from the ongongs on the property building to a confrontation between Margaret and Cheryl. Officer Hawkes marriage is strained when the case becomes all consuming and Federal pressure wants results; an illicit affair doesn't help things with he and his wife. DEA Agent Cassandra Reese starts to build a case despite a lack of help from her higher-ups.

Hints of a mole in the operation may have deadly consequences, and distrust with the 101 Knights grows. Art must find buyers south of the border and ramp up production when a cheaper but inferior product hits the streets. A rival gang threatens the 101 Knights; a side war builds and is dealt with.

SEASON 2

A war is brewing. Art has begun to pull away from the 101 Knights and Marvin isn't happy. Art's product is moving to another buyer south of the border. Marvin "gets rid" of his competition and business is restored for now. Art becomes even more distant from Marvin. Myron tries to heal the rift.

The RCMP's investigation into Art has become muddy and ineffective. Chester and Bob are almost pulled from the investigation when Sgt. Dave Staples gets involved, but Kyle keeps it moving forward when he reveals evidence against Marvin involving a double murder in California. The case against Art and his clan finds a second wind.

Art and Dale must dynamite a lab in the hills when the cops get too close. Cassandra builds a case against Marvin for the deaths of two drug dealers south of the border and pushes for extradition. Art has no choice but to cut ties with the 101 Knights; the powder keg is burning.

Margaret and Marvin are at odds and Margaret becomes a threat to the business. This concerns Art who tries to protect his ex-wife causing yet another rift between Art and Marvin. The RCMP intensify their investigation and find his main lab. Art's lawyer, Donald Vachon, pleads with Art to turn himself in when the evidence mounts against him. Art disappears into thin air. Dale gets out of jail and begins production anew.

SEASON 3

Art Williams was born in Failand, England in 1924. The family immigrated to New Brunswick in 1927, only to return to Middlesex, England in 1934. In his formative years, Art became an adept wood worker, a skill that would yield success later in life. Art joined the British army in 1943 and saw some action and became an accomplished glider pilot for the RAF. He returned to Canada in 1949 and married Margaret Macdonald and they settled in Ladysmith, eventually opening Williams Archery Limited in 1960. Archery had become a fashionable sport, and his bows quickly gained notoriety in the field and were regarded as some of the best.

However, his disdain for all things government would begin his decent into the world of illicit drugs. Believing governments created armies destined for war, he refused to pay taxes to any government that engaged in such activity. His government loans and bank drafts were soon called upon and the archery business crumbled beneath his feet. The government would begin their long and tumultuous relationship with Art Williams.

Art's next business was mycology; the art of growing and studying mushrooms. His Robin Hood-like nature, Art's intent was to grow a hybrid oyster mushroom for mass consumption. Much to Art's surprise, and despite his cancerous relationship with the government, they threw money at his "Mycology Institute", and he became widely regarded as an expert in the field. Whatever Art put his mind to, he was the best.

Somewhere along the line, with a lab and chemicals at his disposal, Art turned to experimenting with hallucinogens. With a handful of hippies residing on his property in Ladysmith, there was never a short supply of those willing to experiment with his chemical cocktails. Over a short period of time, this experimentation led to the productions of MDA...the love drug. Art could now see a way to make a great deal of money, and the government would not get one single penny of it.

The rest is history.

HISTORY

\$57,300 FOUND

Williams case puzzles RCMP

Nearly six months after the disappearance of Margaret Williams, police remain undecided as to whether the Ladysmith woman left her home voluntarily or involuntarily.

But investigations are continuing.

Margaret Williams' log home, on Westdowne Road, is empty. Its windows curtained and the yard untended. A welcome mat lies before the front door, and the door itself has been padlocked.

She disappeared from her home March 5, and her disappearance is complicated by the fact that her husband, Arthur, had been earlier declared dead by an inquest after an airplane accident.

Arthur's body was never recovered after his airplane apparently crashed in Georgia Strait. At the time of the crash, he was facing charges of conspiracy to manufacture and traffic in the chemical MDA.

Following Margaret's disappearance, police investigations turned up \$57,300 in cash which had been buried on the Williams property.

Ladysmith RCMP Sgt. Bob Udahl said the money, now being held as evidence, was found July 6 by police. It was buried in a yellow plastic pail, and wrapped in bundles.

Margaret's disappearance is far from forgotten in police files.

"I can assure you the investigation is continuing on a full-time basis," said Udahl.

A Canadian Press report, quoting Ladysmith RCMP Cpl. Ed Woytenko as saying the case was closed, was vehemently denied by Woytenko. He said he instructed the CP writer to call Sgt. Udahl for information pertaining to the case and said he had limited information to offer.

The report was carried by many Canadian daily newspapers.

The investigation is being conducted by Cst. Maurice Fitzgerald of the Nanaimo police General Investigative Section.

While Fitzgerald said the investigation is "active," he did not want to discuss the channels the investigation was pursuing.

"There is not an abundance of evidence to indicate one way or another whether Mrs. Williams left of her own volition, or otherwise," he said.

"There is some doubt in our minds as to what took place."

Although her husband, Arthur, has been declared dead, Fitzgerald said "Because she disappeared, it is not clear if she was ever there."

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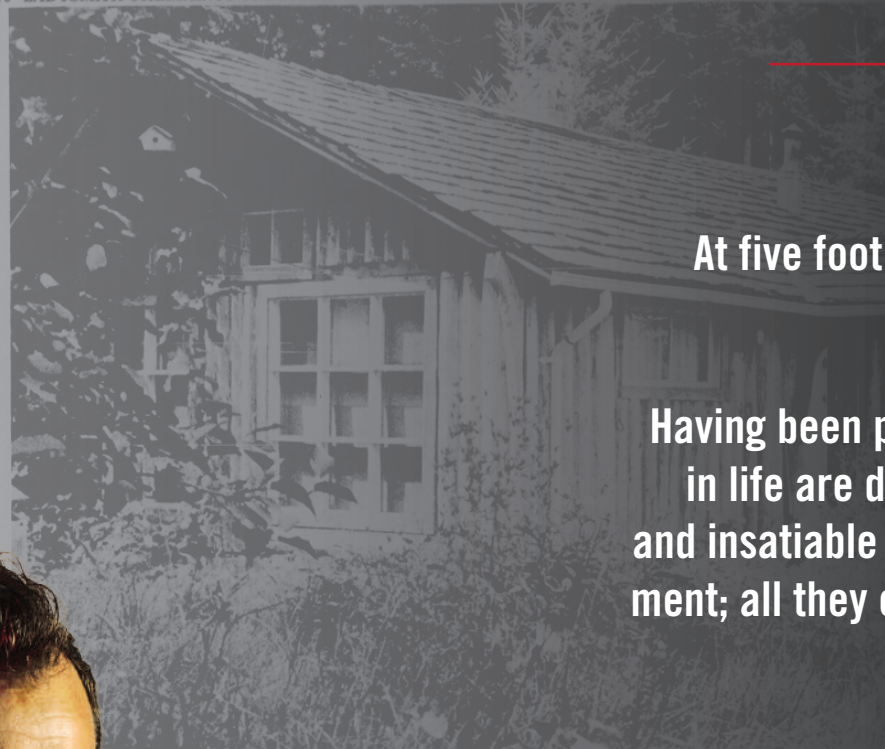
2--Wednesday, Sept. 5, 1979--LADYSMITH-CHEMAINUS CHRONICLE

Chemainus Rotarians kept busy

Chemainus Rotary Club members were out in force over the weekend, picking up items donated for the benefit auction and White Elephant Sale slated for Sept. 22, at 10 a.m., at the Chemainus Waterwheel site.

Proceeds will go to support numerous projects of the Rotary and to maintain a \$500 scholarship for Chemainus Secondary students.

Those wishing to donate may call Key Furniture at 246-3277; Chemainus Heating Oils at 246-3613; R.S. Automotive at 246-4721, or Midway Wrecking at 246-3111.



This is the house, complete with welcome mat at front door, where Margaret Williams once lived.

MYSTERIOUS CASE

House contained

(Cont'd from p-1) Williams, to report she hadn't seen her since March 5.

Mrs. Skelly telephoned the Hinton police, who

queried the police in Ladysmith.

"Since then, we have no indication as to what may have happened to her," said Udahl.

Udahl said that initial police investigations at Mrs. Williams' home uncovered no indication that

she was planning more than a walk.

"Her purse was gone, her coat was gone, sweater she wore was gone," he said.

The refrigerator contained food, and the car was left in the carport.

Things of value had been left in the house, in-

COURT NEWS

Following a lengthy trial, Gust Bert Nyström, of Vancouver, was convicted of having care or control of a motor vehicle while his ability to drive that vehicle was impaired.

He was fined \$400 or 14 days.

His offence took place Aug. 23.

The judge ordered a warrant issued for the arrest of Cheryl Large, of Nanaimo and formerly of Ladysmith, who did not appear in court as scheduled.

Despite a whip cracking temper, Art is a self-proclaimed Robin Hood and would give you the shirt off his back if you needed it; two intense sides of the same coin. He lets peace-loving hippies live on his land. Their ability to be free entices him, it fascinates and teases him. He wishes he could be like them, but his path in life has had another direction. The one sure way to know Art likes and trusts you, he will tell you the truth. If you are a hippie living for free on his land, and you do not lift a finger to help in any way, you are gone. For Art, life is cause and effect. We will not want to take our eyes off him.

Art Williams

(Late 40's)

At five foot five and a hundred and twenty-five pounds, his "small man" complex runs deep.

Having been picked on his whole life in Somerset, England, Art's decisions in life are dictated by an insatiable need to win propelled by a ferocious and insatiable intellect. Art is an anarchist and despises all things government; all they create is armies and war, and he has seen it firsthand during the second world war. His loyalty runs deep, but do not cross his path, you will regret it.

This series is about Art Williams.



Increase won't



MYRON ZARRY

Myron (**Late 20's**) is a hippie intellect who lives in a small cabin on Art's land. Sporting a head of long hair and a goatee, Myron is part nerd, part laid back chill hippie stud with a degree in mycology. He starts the talk of mushroom farming that Art soon intertwines with the production of MDA. Myron's interest in science and hallucinogens comes purely from curiosity and helps fuel Art's early interest. Art takes Myron under his wing and guides him into the nefarious world of large-scale drug production.

Cheryl (**30**) is a young hippie with a head on her shoulders. She and her young son, Tyler (**6**), rent a duplex from Art on Art's property. Her carefree view of life is addictive to Art. He falls for her after being served by her in a local greasy spoon and leaves his wife Margaret in the blink of an eye. Cheryl feels she is the victor over Margaret. Thinking its no big deal to make and distribute the "love drug", Cheryl assists Art any way she can. Despite her "free-love" ways, she is fiercely loyal to Art, and Tyler treats him like the father he never had.



CHERYL MONAHAN

MAIN CHARACTERS



SGT. BOB HAWKES

Bob Hawkes (40's) of the Victoria RCMP drug squad becomes curious about the ongoings at the Williams property after witnessing the presence of the 101 Knights. A tall good-looking man with straight chestnut hair and tanned skin, Hawkes would be better suited on the big screen (and his many romantic liaisons can attest to this). He becomes obsessed with capturing Art in the process of manufacturing MDA.

He pours everything he can into the investigation and even his marriage is threatened as a result, even more so than his wondering eye. He desperately wants to catch his "white whale".

Margaret (Late 40's) is Art's estranged wife. Art makes sure her needs are met. Despite her anger toward Art, she lives a happy life on their property in her cabin and even takes Tyler under her wing for cookies and piano lessons (under Cheryl's watchful eye). She turns a blind eye to what happens in the lab at the back of the property simply content to work on her garden. She, like everyone in Art's life, sticks around due to a blinding sense of loyalty and safety. Although she reluctantly assists in the operation, she knows Art will take care of her no matter what.

Margaret will never see eye to eye with Cheryl.



MARGARET WILLIAMS



CHESTER KARY

A young and ambitious patrol cop. Officer Kary (30's) is Bob's partner and becomes involved with E752, an RCMP informant on the inside of the 101 Knights and Art's clan. Chester is the informant's handler.

The lines of criminal activity and police work will become blurred for Chester placing his life in jeopardy.

Kyle (30's) is a full patch 101 Knight. He is also the informant handled by Officer Kary. He will try to infiltrate Art's operation but will take full advantage of his situation by playing both sides of the fence. He's the king of the party, a rock star without the music. You wouldn't trust him with your life, but man you want to hang with this guy. Kyle is the fine balance between the head of the 101 Knights (Marvin Brimacombe) and Art.



KYLE GRANGER

Happy (30's) is a friend of Art's and works for him on occasion.

Happy is his namesake. Nothing bothers Happy, but he does worry about Art and his dealings. Reluctant to get involved in the drug business, Happy floats on the sidelines working odd jobs for Art. Drug scene just isn't his thing. The RCMP will exert influence on Happy in hopes of turning him against Art.



HAPPY LAFFIN



Marvin (50) is the head of the notorious 101 Knights. An ex-surfer and California native, the lure of the Pacific Northwest was too much for him and he moved his branch of the 101 Knights to the island in 1969. Part businessman part rebel, Marvin is the decision maker for the motorcycle club. And when he decides on something, it is followed or you're out. He is wanted in California on a suspected murder charge arising from gang activity in Oakland and the Feds are aware of his presence in Nanaimo. Art will use this to his advantage later in the series.

MARVIN BRIMACOMBE

Where Art is brains, Dale (Late 30's) is more brawn. A loyal friend and associate of Art's, Dale is Art's right hand in the production of MDA. His connection to the 101 Knights also offers a portal of distribution. Dale is a blue-collar hero who can easily fight his way out of a situation just as well as he could talk his way out. He would often prefer the former, just more fun. His confidence is matched by his fearlessness, and this makes Dale a risk taker; it also makes him a good business partner. Dale is very wary of the local authorities; he even has flood lights and a pair of German Shepard dogs surrounding his double wide. While working as a peacekeeper in Germany, Dale married Ingrid Elliot and they live together on his property.



DALE ELLIOT

MAIN CHARACTERS



23 GHOSTS

23 Ghosts AKA “Rivers” (30’s) as he is most often referred to, is native to the island. Art and Rivers become acquainted one fateful afternoon when he stumbles upon Art, deep in the woods, building yet another hidden lab. Rivers takes a liking to Art and often finds himself attempting to be his moral compass where there otherwise seems to be none. In the end Rivers will have a profound impact on Art and may even know a thing or two about his disappearance. Rivers rents a small cabin on Art’s land.

Cassandra (37) is a newly minted agent with the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs working out of the field offices in Portland Oregon. When an increase of the love drug shows up on the streets the case is reluctantly handed to her by her superiors. Most of the other male agents in her field office would rather chew glass than deal with a few capsules of the love drug, but Cassandra senses something bigger at play. It’s the early 70’s and “equal opportunity” is on the rise, and for a black woman in the BNDD office, this case is irresistible. Wanting to make her mark she begins the long journey of task-forcing the investigation with the RCMP up north. Having been a beat cop in Portland prior to applying to the BNDD, she has a few connections on the street and knows the lay of the land.



CASSANDRA REESE

MAIN CHARACTERS

Inspired by real life events and by Daryl Ashby's "85 Grams: The Story of Art Williams – Drug Czar".

As a local historian and journalist living on the West Coast, Daryl takes great pride ensuring his work is as accurate as possible. Cutting no corners when it comes to digging at the truth, Daryl refuses to shelter those who warrant exposure for their past no matter what the risk. Aside from penning the book "85 Grams", Daryl is the author of "John Muir: West Coast Pioneer", published by Ronsdale Press. It was heralded as the runner up to the prestigious BC Book Prize award as well as the Victoria-Butler Book Prize.

David Langlois

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For the last 20 years, David has directed everything from countless music videos and commercials to several features and TV movies. His most recent credits include “A Sister’s Obsession”, starring Lindsay Hartley, “Psycho Wedding Crasher”, starring Heather Morris and Joan Van Ark, “Deadly Match” starring Tatyana Ali, and “Cheer Squad Secrets” starring Margaret Anne Florence. David recently completed the TV movie “Snatched From Mommy” starring Chelsea Hobbs and is scheduled for a summer 2021 release on Lifetime Network.

Jason Kelly

jkwriters1@gmail.com

Jason is a screenwriter and content creator on the West Coast. With numerous option and development deals under his belt, Jason’s screenplays have won or have been shortlisted in a variety of screenwriting competitions. He studied film and screenwriting at Simon Fraser University and Langara College.



CONTACT