

**THE WHELLINGTON GROUP Pilot**  
**"Clowns and Child Molesters"**

**Series Logline:** When \$20 million in diamonds goes missing on her watch, an insurance adjuster and her partner for a secretive company are suspended, but figure out they were framed and set out to find who set them up.

**Pilot Logline:** After being suspended for losing \$20 million in diamonds, a woman stays with her parents and finds herself enduring her mother's relentless matchmaking attempts amidst other family dramas while still figuring out that she and her partner were framed.

**TEASER**

VANESSA MORGAN dreams about her and her partner, QUIN TALBERT, breaking into a puppet factory looking for stolen diamonds. They find fake diamonds with one real one mixed in. Before they can make a clean escape, they're confronted with a semi automatic wielding CLOWN. He traps the duo in the factory.

**ACT ONE**

Vanessa and Quin try to outsmart the clown, but it doesn't work. They end up trying to make a run for it. Vanessa gets shot in the side. That's when she wakes up and looks around her frilly childhood room that's totally at odds with the badass she was in the factory.

She calls Quin to tell him that she's still having the dream. He assures her it'll go away once she figures out what her mind is trying to tell her. Her mother, SHARON, calls her down to breakfast. Vanessa is dismayed when she comes face to face with her mother's latest matchmaking attempt in the form of OFFICER BOB WOODLEY.

Vanessa learns how badly her mother wants her married off when she figures out she sabotaged her vintage Ford Mustang so Officer Bob would have to give her a ride into the small town where he works. After a glance under the hood, Vanessa diagnoses the problem.

Sharon plays innocent. Until Vanessa threatens her sparkling clean kitchen floor with a full bag of enriched flour. Her mother gives in. She digs the spark plug out their hiding place in the cuddly bear cookie jar and demands the flour. Vanessa demands the plugs. At an impasse, the women hand over the items at the same time.

With the morning adventures behind her, Vanessa heads into town to her UNCLE STEVE'S jewelry store where she first learned to design and cut precious gems. She talks him into putting her to work while she's on vacation from her real job.

Vanessa makes quite an impression on TERRY, her uncle's newest sales manager, with her skills. He raves over her work to her insecure cousin, MELANIE, while missing her obvious crush on him. Determined not to even have the appearance of interfering, Vanessa makes a quick get away.

Later that night, the family throws part one of her niece, Agatha's, birthday celebration. Vanessa gets the vibe that all is not right from the way everyone walks on eggshells around the girl. Things get even worse when Remy, Agatha's mother, Amber's, boyfriend shows up. Vanessa's father, Clay, takes Remy and Amber to the kitchen for a chat.

Vanessa sneaks upstairs to a closet and uncovers a heating grate so she can see and hear what's going on in the kitchen. She thinks she has things figured out, but needs confirmation. Downstairs, she suggests Agatha and her nephew, Tobias have a sleepover. While the kids go change clothes, Vanessa confront Sharon about why no one bothered to tell her that Remy molested Agatha.

## ACT TWO

Sharon says nothing, but Vanessa's brother, Greg, wonders how Vanessa always figures these things out. Sharon points out that she was fishing as she always does, and he confirmed it as he always does. Sharon makes Vanessa promise that she won't say anything until they can figure out how to handle the situation. She does, with a smile that her mother knows means trouble.

Another of Sharon's possible beaux for Vanessa shows up. When she finds out he's an accountant, she pretends to be a financial airhead and scares him off. In the meantime, Remy starts flirting with her while Amber is upstairs with the kids. At first, Vanessa is disgusted, but then gets an idea. She flirts back. Clay pulls her aside and tells her that she doesn't know what she's doing. When she assures him she does, he backs off. Vanessa calls in Quin as back up in her little scheme.

Vanessa has the dream again. She thrashes in her sleep and violently wakes herself up. She climbs painfully from her bed and lifts up her shirt. Blood flows from the bullet wound because she just pulled a stitch.

## ACT THREE

Vanessa tries to staunch the flow. She just barely gets her shirt down before her mother pushes open the door to announce Quin's arrival. Sharon knows something is up with her daughter, but can't put her finger on it. She shows Quin in with a disapproving once over then leaves them alone with the door wide open.

When her mother is gone, the pain shows on Vanessa's face. Quin pushes the door up as she confides that she popped a stitch. Vanessa refuses Quin's help and tries to patch herself up while they talk over what went wrong on the mission. Their vacation is actually a suspension because \$20 million in diamonds went missing on their watch and there's nothing they can do about it.

Quin tries to win over Sharon, but she's having none of it. At last, it's time for the family to head off to the pizzeria/arcade for part two of Agatha's birthday celebration. Again, Remy tags along. This time, Vanessa goes all out with her flirtation despite the fact that her sister is right there. At the arcade, she asks him to meet her in the back for some grown up fun. Stupidly, he agrees.

Her playfulness history, Vanessa shoves Remy in a bathroom and pins him to the wall by his throat. Quin joins them to guard the door so she's not interrupted.

#### **ACT FOUR**

Vanessa demands that Remy leave town and never contact her family again. It takes some painful pressure on a couple sensitive nerves, but he finally agrees. Quin enjoys watching the man run away until he looks at Vanessa. She can barely stand and her side is soaked with blood. The hospital isn't an option because her employer patched her up before suspending them and there's no way she can explain a bullet wound.

This time, Quin won't take no for an answer. He patches her up himself. She's too tired to do more than agree. Once she's presentable, they return to the party where Amber questions her as to Remy's whereabouts. Vanessa says she doesn't think he's coming back and Agatha gives her a big hug. Quin has to keep her from falling over and Sharon is suspicious of the affection she sees between him and Vanessa.

During the ride home, Amber confronts Vanessa about her flirting with Remy. She reveals she's convinced Agatha is acting out because she was with her father, Aaron, the day he was crushed by an SUV inside a Starbucks. Given this new information, Vanessa starts thinking that she could've been wrong about Remy.

Quin reassures her that she was right. He tells her about his clingy girlfriend to take her mind off things. But Vanessa worries that the woman is more resourceful than Quin

thinks and asks if his Whellington office can be breached. He assures her the office is safe from intruders.

Vanessa has the dream again. This time, one section repeats until she realizes the clown was waiting for them, but thought they'd be longer. The diamonds didn't just happen to go missing on their watch. She and Quin were set up.