# MEANT TO BE

"Your true love is online"

# TV Series & Web Series

(Transmedia Project)

12 episodes for TV 12 episodes for Web

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Demo Trailer and other information:
alessandrabourdot.com.br/eng/works/series/meant-to-be/

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"The search for online love and the behind the scenes of a dating site."

# THE SERIES

**MEANT TO BE** is the fictional  $\underline{DATING\ SITE}$  similar to sites like Match.com, OkCupid, among others.

The story takes place in two independent cores.

The first core is developed by the story of the website staff.

The **second core** features the site clients with a  $\underline{\text{new story}}$  in each episode.

The **PLOT** of this **drama / comedy** series is the search for love, presenting the technology as a new element, as a character itself, that might help or hinder love stories that are "meant to be". The series also <u>covers polemic topics</u> such as online predators, crimes, coups, prejudices, adultery and relationships later in life.

# RELEVANCE AND IDENTIFICATION

A universal theme of universal interest.

Talking about love and relationships this series meets the  $\underline{\text{aspirations}}$  of our time.

Combining <u>Love and Technology</u>, this is the story of the <u>lovers of the 21st century</u>. It portrays the timeless longing to love and be loved, now experienced in an integrated world over the Internet.

MEANT TO BE defends another view of technology, usually accused to dehumanize relationships. Here, Internet is **not seen as a threat** to real relationships, but as the **greatest tool** ever created to bring people closer.

In addition to the entertainment of watching  $\underline{a}$  love story each episode, the series brings hope and optimism in these times of disillusionment, for no matter the distance, no matter who you are or who you are looking for:

Your true love is online!

# SYNOPSIS - MEANT TO BE

#### THE MAIN CORE

Kevin, 36, information security analyst, started a dating site business after losing his job. His sister, Lauren, 38, an art teacher, entered the society without great expectations. With the unexpected success of MEANT TO BE, they began to devote themselves exclusively to the business. Lauren is an artist by vocation and temperament, oppressed by a rigid education. Kevin, her brother, partner and best friend, is optimistic, balanced, but is facing a crisis in his marriage to Denise, a successful HR manager.

Daniel also works on the website. Ambitious and sarcastic, his defensive posture was built from old wounds. Katelyn is the content publisher, full of ideals and principles, who dreams of becoming a documentary filmmaker. The daily contact between Katelyn and Daniel is made of friction and opposing views, leaving the audience with the task of reflecting on the middle ground and come to a judgment.

At the main core are also **Leo** and **Max**, two characters who will establish a love triangle with **Lauren**. **Max** is the doctor of **Gerald**, father of **Lauren** and **Kevin**. The common points between **Max** and **Lauren** will lead to a harmonious relationship, but without passion. **Leo**, Police Chief, who investigates cyber crimes occurring in the website, is the opposite of **Max**, with a difficult temperament, almost hostile, and a devastating past. The apparent lack of affinity between **Leo** and **Lauren** suggests an unlikely relationship, but their inner shadows will show that they have more in common than it appears.

### SECOND CORE

Each episode brings a couple of clients. Their stories turn into topics of blog articles on <u>MEANT TO BLOG</u>, written by Katelyn. Gathering two parallel stories (clients and main characters), the aim of the series is to find the balance between drama and comedy. Thus, each episode presents lighter situations in the second core (clients) when there is tension or drama in the main core, and vice versa.

# NARRATIVE STRUCTURE

Teaser -> Opening -> Act 1 -> Act 2

- <u>1) Teaser</u>: before the opening, the teaser brings a short sequence, which introduces the theme of the episode. Teasers are usually situations experienced by a client, which takes part of only one episode.
- 2) Opening: following the teaser.
- <u>3) Acts</u>: two acts after the opening presenting the client of the episode, and in parallel the sequence of the main story, always ending with a cliffhanger.
- <u>4) Profile</u>: At any time, in the middle of a scene, the image of a character is frozen and it turns into a profile page from the website. This feature also helps to introduce new characters.
- <u>5) MEANT TO BLOG</u>: articles posted by Katelyn, editor of the fictitious site, are published following each episode really commenting on the topic presented and complementing the story.

### LENGTH

12 episodes of 30 minutes (total 24 minutes) per season. Teaser plus 2 acts.

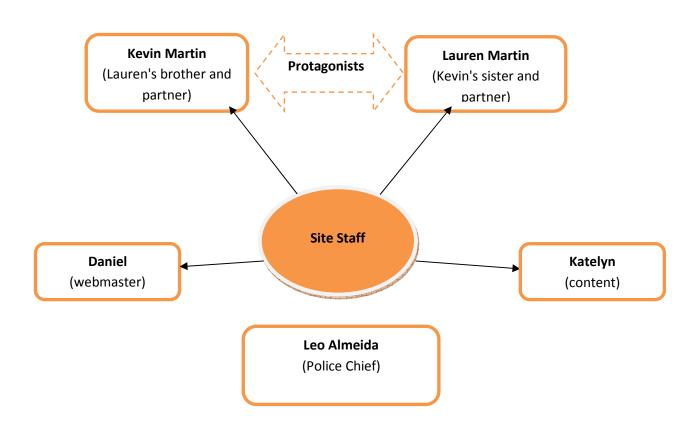
# VISUAL IDENTITY "MEANT TO BE"

The website, often displayed, has a similar identity to other dating sites with profile pages, logo and unique design. (reference images: "Meetic - France")





# MAIN CHARACTERS (5 characters)



# MINOR CHARACTERS



# MAIN CHARACTERS

### Meant To Be





### LAUREN MARTIN, 38, divorced, businesswoman.

Looking for: recover lost inspiration, overcome guilt and raise her daughter.

Children: Deborah, 11.

Likes: classical music, jazz, chocolates and wake up late.

Dislikes: rudeness, casual sex and mess.

An artist by vocation, she was a teacher at the University of Arts until starting a dating business with her brother. She's been divorced for five years, and does not believe in virtual relationships or overwhelming passions. Still, she is dedicated to the site, since it is a success. She's beautiful, but unaware of it. Discreet, her beauty is hidden behind her unsafe attitude. She shows an artificial harmony, tense, ready to explode any moment, because she cannot give vent to her inner torment. Raised by her father in a repressive environment, where intellect and moderation were the main values, and anguished by ancient guilt. Her great talent is little explored. To her, love and sex are overrated and she has never been fully happy in any of them. From the experience of managing a dating site, she will face her own shadows. As the company's co-owner, she manages the administrative and financial area, and she's also in charge for the web design and the whole visual identity of the company.

#### Meant To Be





### KEVIN MARTIN, 36, married. Businessman.

**Looking for:** overcome the marriage crisis, build the perfect family.

Children: no, but he wishes.

**Likes**: reggae, rock, bike, children and being in touch with nature. **Dislikes**: consumerism, onions and discuss the relationship.

Kevin was an information security analyst, but he was fired. After search a new job for a long time, unsuccessfully, he finally entered to the online dating business. This period had a negative impact over his marriage to Denise, a successful HR manager. On the other hand, unemployment was the catalyst of a great personal transformation. The loss of status and money led Kevin into a revision of values and rescued the old Kevin, the cool rebellious that had been tainted by years of corporate atmosphere. He replaced the car for the bike, the formal by informal, and entered into a business whose focus is love. He's a nice guy, at peace with life, at war with the marriage. He dreams of having a happy family, a house full of children, but his wife has other plans. He believes the Denise he once knew is still there, but he must accept that she never existed. Website's co-owner, he is in charge of marketing, partnerships and ads, and also provides technical support to Daniel, the webmaster.

### Meant To Be





**DANIEL GIANELLO**, 29, single. Webmaster.

Looking for: to get rich and move abroad.

Children: no way.

Likes: expensive places, cheap women and TV series.

Dislikes: steady dating, unsteady internet connection.

With a high intellect, a nervous temperament and a shocking common sense, Daniel worked with Kevin and he was dismissed along with him. With his singular market vision, he is the only one to realize the true potential of the dating sites. Workaholic, he has a very personal definition of professional ethics and advocates the merger of the website with a large corporation of dating sites. Discreet in his personal life, just Kevin knows that the apparently sophisticated Daniel comes from very poor family, which makes him feel uncomfortable and angry. Despite of being an ambitious and not so friendly guy, it's Daniel who supports his family while he struggles to enrich. Handsome and confident, he enjoys friends with money or power, and feeds his ego in casual relationships with women who, from his point of view, have less value than him. Webmaster of "Meant to Be", he is responsible for the technical part and the support, along with Kevin. He clashes with Katelyn, content manager, whose "cloying idealism" he despises deeply.

# Meant To Be



# KATELYN MILES, 32, single. Journalist.

Looking for: become a major documentary filmmaker.

Children: no, but she wishes.

Likes: tattoo, thrift stores, lemonade and documentaries.

Dislikes: injustices and webmasters.

Idealist, crazy about causes and full of principles, Katelyn is reliable, loyal, although too direct, with little suppleness or business vision. Kevin's friend, she took the job for financial reasons, for in her opinion, a dating site is a total futility. But the daily contact with the staff and the proximity to the experiences of users will soften her defensive posture and shake her values. Posting user's videos was her idea, and she is in charge of the whole video process. Her only problem is with Daniel, the webmaster at the next table, in whom she does not trust. With a modern look, full of style, she's an extreme advocate of principles and minorities. Her challenge will be confront her own intolerances.

### Meant To Be



LEO ALMEIDA, 45, alone. Police Chief.

Looking for: do his job.

Children: -

**Likes**: coffee, beer and smoking area. He used to like to dance. **Dislikes**: fussy people, too much closeness and decaf coffee.

A man of few words, practical and very reserved. He's not a good-looking man; he looks aged and a bit sad. But even outside the beauty standards, he has a strong sex appeal. Everything around him reflects this tiredness, this indifference: an old car, a chaotic apartment. He does his work automatically, without passion, dismissing the myth of the "hero above the law" of the TV cops. His attitude is blasé, but his gaze carries a latent suffering. He avoids intimacy, and sees himself as a bad influence due to the permanent state of risk on his job. He smokes too much, drinks too much, but is highly competent and smart, although not having a great academic education or general culture. As Police Chief, he will be in charge of investigating crimes involving users from MEANT TO BE. The toughest part will be dealing with Lauren, apparently so different from his world, but whose inner demons will awaken his own.

# MINOR CHARACTERS

#### Meant To Be





#### **DEBORAH MARTIN ROMANO, 11.**

**Looking for**: knowledge, make friends around the world.

Children: -

**Likes**: astronomy, technology and pizza.

Dislikes: housekeeping, narrow-minded people, be treated like a child.

Single daughter of Lauren and Noah, who is married again and lives abroad with his new wife. With a great logical and emotional intelligence, unlike the neurotic-creative temperament of his mother, Deborah is outgoing, good-natured, has a great relationship with her family (especially with Kevin, his father figure), her friends and herself. Concerning the old nerd stereotype, she has only her glasses. She loves astronomy and technology and despite being pre-teen, she does not care much for vanity or aesthetic standards. She believes that the importance of the Internet is to allow the uniqueness, since you can always find people with similar interests and ideas, and so she sees a greater value in MEANT TO BE than Lauren.

# Meant To Be





# MAX BENSON, 42, divorced. Cardiologist.

Looking for: build a new family.

Children: Harry, 14, who lives with his mother.

Likes: sports, old movies and spooning.

Dislikes: hectic lifestyle, social injustice and casual relationships.

Successful cardiologist and personal physician of Gerald for years. He's a handsome, smiling and educated man, well adjusted to his era and his age. Focused, he knows what he wants. With a stable and patient temperament, he believes that solid things are built gradually. He hates being divorced and living apart from his son, but he feels he's ready to start over. Almost a Prince Charming, though not perfect. He has a traditional side, the kind who quotes clichés as "in a relationship, the respect is all that matters" and he loves domestic life. On the other hand, he has sensitivity, compassion, enjoys playing the piano, although a bit rusty, and he is a great lover of the arts in general. He sees in Lauren the chance to build a stable relationship.

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# Meant To Be





#### GERALD MARTIN, 72, widower. Retired professor.

Looking for: keep his independence. Children: Kevin and Lauren. Likes: books, academia and his kids.

Dislikes: lack of formal education, healthy food and getting older.

Since his wife died, more than 20 years ago, he lived primarily for his work and for his children. He had other relationships, but never wanted to remarry. With a brilliant academic career, PhD in literature, author of five books, he is proud of his intellectual and professional accomplishments while was raising his children at the same time. Elegant, cultivated and emotionally reserved, he lives alone, ensuring that he does not need anyone. Secretly, he suspects being sick and is afraid to know the truth. To spare his children of what is really happening and to preserve his dignity, he counts on Max, his doctor and friend.

#### Meant To Be





### **DENISE LOPEZ**, 35, married. HR manager.

Looking for: success in career and marriage.

Children: not for now.

**Likes**: strong people, travels and conflict resolution through dialogue.

Dislikes: lack of ambition, sexism and cooking.

She lives a happy moment with herself and her career. After years of dedication and personal sacrifice, she succeeded in becoming Human Resources Manager in a large company, development expert and lecturer of motivational techniques. But she is frustrated for not finding recognition at home. Denise likes Kevin, but it seems he doesn't follow her growth. While she struggles to settle in her career, Kevin remains a big boy, unambitious, who daily goes biking to his work on a tiny company, has no interest in personal growing, and demands kids as if this was the expected role of Denise. She supported her husband during the unemployment phase and she feels she does not get the same understanding back. But she gives value to marriage and believes that a good conflict management can redo the partnership

# **SETTINGS**

1. "MEANT TO BE" OFFICE unidentified location, in a commercial building.

FRONT OF THE BUILDING



RECEPTION



MAIN ROOM (Lauren, Kevin, Daniel and Katelyn)



MEETING ROOM



KITCHEN



ELEVATOR



#### 2. LAUREN'S APARTMENT

(Lauren and Deborah)



#### LAUREN'S APARTMENT LIVING ROOM

Well decorated with art objects and many books, indicating culture and discretion. The atmosphere is artistic, not modern. Neutral colors for a repressed character, with increase of colors throughout the season.



### **DEBORAH'S BEDROOM**

Despite belonging to a 11 year old girl, the bedroom is not too feminine or masculine. A computer desk and elements related to astronomy, her field of interest.

### 3. APARTMENT OF KEVIN AND DENISE



#### **LIVING ROOM**

Well decorated but cold, showcase style, reflecting Denise's desire to show her professional success, but with the impersonality of a distant couple, no kids, who stays out of home most of the time.

# 4. COFFEE SHOP / RESTAURANT



Opposite the office building. Casual place for team meeting for lunch, coffee or happy hour.

# 5. POLICE STATION: LEO'S OFFICE



# **EPISODE GUIDE\***

- EP. 1 "FIRST DATE"
- EP. 2 "WOLVES DOT COM"
- EP. 3 "GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER"
- EP. 4 "EQUAL"
- EP. 5 "CHEMISTRY AND FRIENDSHIP"
- EP. 6 "UNFORGETTABLE"
- EP. 7 "THE GIRL IN THE PICTURE"
- EP. 8 "THREE TO TANGO"
- EP. 9 "RELATIONSHIP STATUS"
- EP. 10 "INSECURE"
- EP. 11 "THE KELPIE"
- EP. 12 "SAY YES"

\*Note: The synopsis of the 12 episodes and the script for the episode 1 are completed. In this version of the project are presented the synopsis of the first episode and the summary of 11 episodes.

# EP. #101 - "10 - "FIRST DATE"



Melissa and Thomas, an unlikely couple, meet face to face after a long online relationship through MEANT TO BE. On the site, Daniel and Kevin deal with technical problems that take the site down. Katelyn makes a video with the testimonial of Melissa and Thomas. Police Chief Leo tries to contact Lauren.

### SYNOPSIS

#### **TEASER**

Mall. The atmosphere and the soundtrack of suspense suggest big action at any time. Among people, a woman stands out: Melissa. She's in her mid-thirties, beautiful, alone, walking quickly in high heels, dark clothes, sunglasses, looking around, maybe afraid to be seen. She is on the highest floor of the mall, and goes to the area of the escalators from where she can see what happens in lower floors. She confirms by phone with a friend if the man downstairs is Thomas. She goes downstairs and walks toward him at a fast pace. Thomas has his back to her, Melissa approaches then stops behind him. She waits a few seconds before asking: "Thomas?" Thomas's face gets contracted, tense, he gives a resigned sigh, like "it's now." He slowly turns until they get face to face. No expression on their faces. Suddenly, Melissa laughs, embarrassed, and breaks the suspense. Thomas laughs back saying, "It's you, at last ... At last, we meet." They stand in silence, just smiling at each other.

#### OPENING / ACT 1:

(introduction of characters through their ringtones)

<u>Day.</u> <u>LAUREN'S APARTMENT</u> <u>Bathroom.</u> In front of the bathroom mirror, she puts on her makeup, and checks the result, unsatisfied, unsure. <u>Lauren's ringtone</u>: a smooth piano solo. Lauren talks to her father, Gerald, on the cell, while finishing her makeup. She does not like what she sees and removes almost all the makeup. She continues to talk with Gerald. She says she's late, but she'll come by later to check on him. Otherwise, Kevin would go. No, she is not offloading the problem to Kevin, her father is not a problem. She answers the second call: it's Katelyn, from the office.

"MEANT TO BE" OFFICE. Katelyn and Lauren on the phone. Katelyn says everything is in chaos, the website is down, mailbox full of complaints. Fortunately, she had decided to go to office earlier that day ("I had this feeling, an intuition, you know?"). Lauren says only Daniel can solve that kind of issue. Lauren is about to leave and she asks Katelyn to try to contact Daniel again.

DANIEL'S APARTMENT Daniel's ringtone: the display shows "OFFICE". The phone rings several times, until a 20 years old girl wakes up Daniel. He seems surprised by her presence. He answers the phone: "I didn't check my messages, Katelyn. In short, please. Just the headlines". Daniel puts on his clothes and finds the girl's purse in the bathroom. He checks her wallet and finds out her name: Lana. He asks from the bathroom door: "Can you make coffee.... Lana?" Daniel calls Kevin.

<u>Kevin's ringtone</u>. He doesn't answer, and it goes to voicemail. Kevin stops his bike in front of the building.

Office. Katelyn talks to Lauren when Kevin comes in. He picks up the phone, in his quiet and smiling way, and talks to Lauren. Still in the car, she mentions the problem with Gerald, their father.

The website is back, running normally. Kevin and Daniel discuss the causes of the problem. Katelyn is busy and gets annoyed for being alone again, in charge of the office. She tries to focus on editing a video when the phone rings. It's someone from the police.

### ACT 2:

The 2nd block opens with a video of Melissa and Thomas in the coffee shop. This is the video that Katelyn is editing in the office. She asks them (voice-over) to tell how they met in MEANT TO BE. The video is stopped and the scene back to the office with the arrival of Lauren. Katelyn warns her about the call from the police. Lauren gets worried and she calls her daughter to check if everything is fine.

Katelyn returns to the video editing of Melissa and Thomas in the coffee shop. Presentation sequence of "MEANT TO BE", with a soundtrack in "romantic comedy" style. From the couple's story, the website is shown dynamically (registration, chat, messages). The sequence alternates scenes at the coffee shop with their history in flashback. Flashback scenes do not always match the truth. We see their version and what actually happened. They are different and unlikely as a couple. Katelyn gets confused about this unexpected happy ending.

Time lapse. Lauren and Kevin, in the office's kitchen, talk about the technical problem that recurs. Kevin called Leo, the Police Chief who had left the message, but Leo was out. Lauren gets nervous about the situation. The talk leads to relationships and their disappointing personal lives. Kevin laughs at how ironic it is they both work as professional cupids, while they can't deal with their own love lives. Katelyn writes on the BLOG: "Perfectly Mismatched", inspired by Melissa and Thomas. DANIEL interrupts the talking when entering the kitchen to alert Lauren: There is a Leo Almeida in the reception, who needs to talk to her. He's a Police Officer.

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### EP. #102 - "WOLVES DOT COM"



Leo Almeida investigates a sex crime involving clients from MEANT TO BE. Lauren faces an ethical dilemma: illegally provide sensitive data that would help the police or preserve the confidentiality of clients? Upon learning what happened, Denise asks Kevin to sell the site. With Lauren, the case brings to light the concern with the online safety of her daughter, Deborah.

#### EP. #103 - "GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER"



Angelina, a hairdresser of 30 years, found the solution to eating well and for free: almost every night she goes out to dinner with clients from MEANT TO BE. Although she doesn't want to get involved with anyone, the cooking skills of a stressed and talented Chef, may stir up her appetite... Meanwhile, Gerald improvises a dinner and tries to bring together Lauren and Max, who is clearly interested in Lauren. In the blog, Katelyn writes about the ideal places for a first date.

# EP. #104 - "EQUAL"



Victor, a former client, who first met his partner through the site, is the victim of violent aggression. The case involves the Police Chief Leo and brings out disguised prejudices within the site itself. Katelyn writes about online dating between same sex people. Leo tells Lauren that the case will be filed without punishment for the perpetrators.

# EP. #105 - "CHEMISTRY AND FRIENDSHIP"



Alice and Milo have broken up. But they keep living under the same roof until they can find a buyer for the apartment. Good friends, they support each other in the transition back to single life, exchanging tips in the search for a new love through the site. But in these tips and advices about expectations of men and women, they end up revealing hidden frustrations. Kevin and Denise face the decline of their friendship, despite the chemistry. Lauren gives Max a chance, while her feelings for him are nothing more than friendship.

### EP. #106 - "UNFORGETTABLE"



Lauren and Kevin are given bad news about Gerald, their father. Despite all treatment options, Gerald does not intend to follow the advices of his physician, Max. Kevin tries an unconventional choice to help his father using the resources of MEANT TO BE. Katelyn gets touched by the testimonial of an 80 years old lady, then she writes about love and sex in later age.

# EP. #107 - "THE GIRL IN THE PICTURE"



Marc, 25, meets Janet, 24, through MEANT TO BE. In one of the photos, Janet is next to a girl, friend of hers, with whom Marc falls in love. Now, Marc needs to meet with Janet to find out who the girl is in the picture. Lauren can't get over the events of the previous episode and did not return to work. Leo manages to take her out of that melancholic state, abruptly, but at least Lauren decides to move on.

# EP. #108 - "THREE TO TANGO"



Glenda finds out the betrayal of her husband, by pretending to be a site client. Other cases of adultery in MEANT TO BE lead to the debate about online love triangles. This reflects in Kevin's marriage, and he accidentally discovers the big lie of Denise.

Meanwhile, "Two Hearts", an international group of dating sites, makes a proposal to buy the site.

### EP. #109 - "RELATIONSHIP STATUS"



The site is losing clients to its free competitors and Daniel puts in place an unethical strategy that creates more problems than results. While Leo tries to undo the problem, Kevin creates a successful campaign that challenges clients: who will be the first to change the relationship status? The crisis reveals Katelyn's new skills. Besides helping Kevin, she finally gets a boyfriend, Gabriel.

# EP. #110 - "INSECURE"



Vivian is a celebrity. A famous actress and a reference in beauty. Despite her successful image, Vivian wants to be loved as an ordinary person, so she joins the website. Katelyn, in turn, broke up with Gabriel after finding out he still searches for wonderful and perfect women in several dating sites, and all she wants to be is Vivian.

### EP. #111 - "THE KELPIE"



Leo decides to investigate a series of suicides committed by women from different dating sites. To prove his theory about a suspect, which he calls "The Kelpie", he needs Lauren to help him in the research of clients data. With the partnership between Lauren and Leo in the search for "The Kelpie", this episode follows the style of a "road movie".

# EP. #112 - "SAY YES"



A client shows up at the workplace of his girlfriend and proposes to her, performing an Elvis number. This couple is friends with Katelyn, and despite attending the same rockabilly scene, they never met each other until joining the site. The site staff receives an invitation to the wedding, which leads them to reflect on their lives: Kevin leaves home, and Lauren decides to bring a plus-one to the wedding. Lauren and Kevin are not sure about selling the site, an analogy with the continuity of the series. In the last sequence, on the wedding, it is shown what happened to all characters. Some did well, some did not. But the message left at the end, in this 50s party, is that it is worth taking risks.

# SEASON TWO

The purchase offer, made by "Two Hearts", was refused. With the expansion of the site, the new season also explores long distance relationships, and cultural barriers involved. MEANT TO BE is back!

# Ep. #201 "The Come Back!"

In the first episode, the teaser brings the reunion of two clients at the airport. He lives in another country. The two met through the site and then personally. Now he is coming back to stay for good.

Kevin is back to his past. Newly separated from Denise, he's staying at Lauren's place. With both living in the same household, this season goes deeper into their past. To Lauren, this experience will bring more lightness and good humor to her life approach. To Kevin, this will be a period of personal growth.

Daniel and Katelyn gain depth. Last season, Daniel's problems and reactions with the financial constraints of his family were discussed. This time, discussion changes sides: Now, it's Katelyn's embarrassment for the wealth of her family. A kind of a "class struggle" is established between them, where each one despises their own side.

Daniel gets a proposal of the **Two Hearts** dating site and, for a while, he plays the role of villain.

Lauren and Max's relationship gets serious. Max is happy, but his placid temperament and his long-term plans begin to suffocate Lauren.

Leo continues in the new season. Leo's past will be explored, with the story of his marriage and his daughter, who are the reason for his current behavior.

Deborah, now reaching 13 years, begins an internship on the site, a few days of the week, with Kevin, in technology.

The translation of the website has been outsourced. The ones in charge are the translators from the agency "3 Translations", main characters of the web series.

# LOOKING FOR YOU

# Web Series

(A SPIN-OFF OF "MEANT TO BE")

12 episodes

length: 8-10 MINUTES

# LOOKING FOR YOU - THE WEB SERIES

Three friends looking for love in MEANT TO

LOOKING FOR YOU is a spin-off of MEANT TO BE, for online broadcasting on mobile devices before the launch of the series and / or in the range between seasons.

# PLOT SUMMARY

A romantic comedy with lighter approach, with episodes of up to 10 minutes, about the online dating adventures experienced by three friends.

Frederick, Sabrina and Michelle, 28-30 years, seek a relationship through MEANT TO BE. Friends since college days, they work together in the agency "3 TRANSLATIONS", sharing space with the mysterious P & L Consulting, while living the experience of searching for love through Internet.

# WEB SERIES X SERIES

WEB SERIES	SERIES
Romantic comedy, light stories, without realism.	Drama with comic relief. Complex plots, realistic approach.
Perspective of three clients. Same clients in different experiences.	Perspective of site staff. Different clients every episode.
Low cost production.	More complex production.
Target on young audience (+20).	Target on adult audience (+30).
Attract web audience for the TV series.	Attract TV audience for fiction on the web.

# 3 CHARACTERS

FREDERICK - Frederick dreams of being a writer. After college he moved to Spain. There, he fell in love with Lola, with whom he was supposed to get married. The dream is over of a sudden. She left him for a polish guy and took all the couple's savings with her. He ran out of money, out of work and without Lola. Defeated, Frederick returns from Spain and starts working as a Spanish translator at the "2 Translations" agency with Sabrina and Michelle.

SABRINA - Self-confident and independent, Sabrina got married after college and moved abroad with her husband. Upon returning, she suspects that her husband betrays her with other women in MEANT TO BE. She creates a fake profile on the site to spy on her husband and thus she meets Ryan, with whom she begins a virtual relationship. Sabrina finally discovers her husband's affair, and she leaves him. As a Portuguese translator, she starts a small business, "2 TRANSLATIONS", a translation agency with her friend Michelle, she moves into an apartment and, still dating Ryan, she experiences the happiness of a love affair in its early stages.

MICHELLE - Insecure and shy, Michelle never had long-term relationships. She would rather live in the fantasy world of movies and books to not be disappointed. Extremely sensitive and romantic, she despises the technological coldness of dating sites. Michelle was a French teacher for a few years, the language in which she specialized. Now she works as a translator in the agency "2 TRANSLATIONS" that she started with her friend Sabrina.

LOOKING FOR YOU begins at this very moment with the reunion of three old friends, with such different lives and personalities. Frederick, financially and emotionally broken; Michelle, waiting for a fairy tale love; and Sabrina, who changed her life, is now determined to fix the lives of Frederick and Michelle through the site MEANT TO BE.

# NARRATIVE STRUCTURE

- 1) Opening: maximum 5 seconds.
- <u>2) Voice-over</u>: each episode is told from the point of view of one of the three protagonists. Thus, a friend tells the latest adventure/misadventure of the other two, in similar narrative style to "Sex and The City" and other.

# **SETTINGS**

1) 3 TRANSLATIONS Agency: Coworking office. The agency operates in a minimal space, increasing interaction of the three protagonists and creating a mystery about the true nature of the company "P & L Consulting" (that is never seen by the audience) that shares the space with them. Each of them works in their own laptop, which they also use at home.



2) Coffee shop: where they set up dates.

The three characters live alone. Household actions take place in two rooms of each apartment.

- 3) Frederick's apartment: living room, bedroom.
- 4) Sabrina's apartment: living room, bedroom.
- 5) Michelle's apartment: living room, bedroom.

# WEBISODES GUIDE\*

- EP. 1 "THREE'S A CHARM"
- EP. 2 "TRUE OR FALSE?"
- EP. 3 "SABRINA"
- EP. 4 "OUTSOURCED LOVE"
- EP. 5 "DANGEROUS LIAISONS"
- EP. 6 "BE A CLOWN"
- EP. 7 "MISS SPELLING"
- EP. 8 "MIRROR, MIRROR"
- EP. 9 "ADULT CONTENT"
- EP. 10 "LOOK WHO'S HERE!"
- EP. 11 "PERFECT LOVE"
- EP. 12 "GIVE IT A GO!"

\*Note: The scripts of the first episodes are completed. This project version contains the detailed synopsis of episodes 1, 11 and 12, and summary of every episode.

# #101 - "THREE'S A CHARM" narrator: Sabrina (completed script available)

<u>SUMMARY</u>: Frederick returns from Spain and starts working as a Spanish translator at the "2 Translations" agency, which is now called "3 Translations". Sabrina persuades him to register on MEANT TO BE. Frederick creates a profile and sets a first date at the coffee shop. Driven by the experiences of Sabrina and Frederick, Michelle ends up creating a profile.

# SYNOPSIS

Sabrina and her boyfriend Ryan live a romantic moment in Sabrina's apartment when Frederick calls her on the intercom, after 3 years out abroad.

Frederick is devastated. His fiancée, Lola, with whom he lived in Barcelona, left him for Redek, a Polish actor, and took Frederick's money with her. Sabrina and Ryan hear the story. Sabrina talks of the days when they were three inseparable friends: Sabrina, Frederick and Michelle.

Sabrina invites Frederick to work at the agency 2 TRANSLATIONS, of which she and Michelle are partners. The agency is called now 3 TRANSLATIONS.

The agency takes up a tiny space, shared in coworking with the mysterious "P & L Consulting", although no one knows what this company does.

Seeing that Frederick is still feeling down, Sabrina persuades him to join the dating site MEANT TO BE, where she herself met her boyfriend. Sabrina helps him to create a profile and a few weeks later he sets up a date with a client.

Although Michelle doesn't like dating sites, she gets excited with the experiences of Sabrina and Frederick, and at the end of the episode, she also creates a profile on MEANT TO BE.

# #102 - "TRUE OR FALSE?" narrator: Frederick

SUMMARY: Intending to help, Sabrina alters Michelle's profile, messages, photos, interfering more and more. Before long, all communication is done by Sabrina, who becomes a "Cyrano" to Michelle. Frederick, frustrated with the lies he discovers in many profiles, suggests to Michelle always be herself. At the end of the episode, Michelle meets Jean, with whom she starts the long distance romance that develops over this season. Jean's face is never shown. He only appears in the final episode, played by a special guest.

# #103 - "SABRINA" narrator: Michelle

**SUMMARY:** Sabrina breaks up with Ryan. In this episode, partly in flashback, Sabrina talks of the time when she first met Ryan. Meanwhile, the virtual relationship between Michelle and Jean gets deeper. Frederick, bored with MEANT TO BE, decides to investigate the P & L Consulting.

# #104 - "OUTSOURCED LOVE" narrator: Frederick

**SUMMARY:** Sabrina wants to find a new boyfriend. Modern and independent, she hires the Annabel's services: a dating consultant.

# #105 - "DANGEROUS LIAISONS" narrator: Sabrina

**SUMMARY:** The danger of scammers is discussed when a client (actually a man) applies a hit on Frederick.

# #106 - "BE A CLOWN" narrator: Frederick

**SUMMARY:** Sabrina wants to find an optimistic and humorous man. So, when she learns that Jeremy is also "Booger", a professional clown, she invests in the relationship. Michelle, however, thinks the excess of humor is a bit of a turn off, and she starts seeing Sebastian, the accountant. But Sabrina gets disappointed by Jeremy, the depressed clown.

# #107 - "MISS SPELLING" narrator: Michelle

**SUMMARY:** Sabrina looks for clues to prove her theory on the P & L Consulting. Frederick judges clients by their spelling, discarding those with excessive errors. Until he meets "Miss Spelling", the cultured girl.

# #108 - "MIRROR, MIRROR" narrator: Frederick

<u>SUMMARY</u>: Sabrina is interested in Andrew, a client who doesn't like pretty women. Sabrina wants to please him, but if all works out it means that she is not pretty. But if she is beautiful, it means he will reject her. Being beautiful or being loved: what matters most?

# #109 - "ADULT CONTENT" narrator: Michelle

<u>SUMMARY</u>: Sabrina is working on the translation of a site of "adult content", which brings up the debate about virtual sex and male consumption of pornography. But the comments of Michelle suggest women are also familiar with the matter...

# #110 - "LOOK WHO'S HERE!" narrator: Sabrina

<u>SUMMARY</u>: Sabrina meets Dennis and they start dating. Frederick goes on a date with a client and, in the same coffee shop, is Paula, with whom he's been chatting online for some time. Frederick and Paula start a relationship. Michelle gets unexpected news from Jean, her perfect love since the Episode 2: he is coming to the country to meet her in person.

# #111 - "PERFECT LOVE" narrator: Frederick

**SUMMARY:** Thirty days have passed since the events of previous episode. Frederick tells what happened in each one's lives over last month.

#### SYNOPSIS

Sabrina continues dating Dennis. Frederick continues dating Paula. But the relationship is going too fast and Paula thinks they should move in together. Meanwhile, Sabrina also faces problems. Dennis starts to idealize his ex-girlfriend and he compares Sabrina with his perfect ex, Ingrid, all the time, hinting that maybe he should have stayed with the first one.

Frederick says that, with the pressure in their relationships, the only relief seems to be the Michelle's fairy tale just about to be held. But she is way more freaked out than her friends, since her perfect platonic love is coming to see her. The pressure increases: Paula is about to move to Frederick's house; Dennis, longing for his ex, and Michelle, afraid to meet Jean. It's time to make a decision.

Frederick starts "the talk" with Paula in his apartment. Sabrina is at the coffee shop with Dennis and his perfect ex-girlfriend, Ingrid, so they can have "the talk" all together. Michelle walks nervously to the meeting with Jean, her perfect love. But everything stops when Sabrina gets a call from Jean: Michelle has disappeared.

# #112 (FINAL) - "GIVE IT A GO!" narrator: Frederick

#### SYNOPSIS

Frederick starts "the talk" with Paula. His phone rings, but he ignores it. At the coffee shop, Sabrina tries to call Frederick again, unsuccessfully. There's no way to proceed with "the talk" with Dennis and Ingrid. She needs to find Michelle. According to Jean, Michelle did not show up, and she's not answering the phone. Unable to speak with Frederick, Sabrina has no idea what to do. Ingrid offers her car to help. All three go searching with Frederick in Ingrid's car. Sabrina drives.

In a tumultuous sequence, with side conversations, Almodóvar style, all of them get in the car, in the quest for Michelle. The five of them squeezed in the small car, drop hints about their problems: Paula realizes that Frederick doesn't want to live with her; Dennis admits to Ingrid that he's not over her; Sabrina complains about Dennis (Ingrid agrees with her). At the peak of discussion, Michelle calls Sabrina and asks them to meet her in the coffee shop. All try to convince her to meet Jean. She ends up agreeing and calls Jean.

Michelle meets Jean in a public outdoor place. He asks her not to answer the phone because he will find her by the song of her ringtone. It's their special song. The sound gets louder, indicating that they are getting closer, until they stop face to face. They say nothing, just dance to the song. Then, they kiss.

Frederick continues the narrative: Michelle, who never liked dating sites, ends up being the only one to have a happy ending through the site. And like a fairy tale, as she has always believed. But happy endings also happen offline. As with Sabrina. Frederick tells.

After that night, Ingrid and Dennis were back together. But that did not last, because he began to idealize Sabrina, his new perfect exgirlfriend. As a result, Dennis lost them both, and Sabrina and Ingrid became great friends. The two new friends are in the coffee shop, having fun, and talking to two guys at the next table. At last, Sabrina did well. Not exactly through MEANT TO BE, but were it not the dating site, Denis would not exist, and Ingrid would not exist, and that night at the coffee shop would never have happened.

CONT.

As for him, although it didn't work out with Paula, he continues to believe. The episode ends with Frederick on the webcam with a new client. He continues the narrative talking to the client. He says he had unsuccessful experiences so far, but why not give it a go?

### FINAL TEXT (BEFORE CREDITS):

Michelle and Jean are still together.

Sabrina is still dating Chase, who she met at the coffee shop.

Ingrid is alone, but she joined MEANT TO BE.

Frederick got a mail from Lola, asking for forgiveness. He did not answer yet.

None of them has figured out what is "P & L Consulting".

# INTEGRATED ACTIONS - TRANSMEDIA\*

- 1) Web Series: LOOKING FOR YOU is a spin-off of MEANT TO BE, for online broadcasting on mobile devices before the launch of the series and / or in the range between seasons. A romantic comedy with 12 episodes of up to 10 minutes about the experiences of three friends on the site.
- <u>2) Meant to Blog</u>: The blog complements the story at the end of each episode. Written by Katelyn.
- 3) They were meant to be: Video testimonials from real client talking about their experiences with dating sites.
- 4) Shortcut to join a real dating site
- <u>5) Applications</u>: dating tips / sponsor's application / game: going to a date /
- 6) Sharing stories: My best / worst date (articles from real clients).
- 7) Cross-media: Some profiles of the web series also appear in the TV series, and vice versa. The characters of the web series often show a different perspective (clients) about events and actions from the series.

\*Note: the items are briefly presented for reference only.

# THE AUTHOR

# Meant To Be





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For over ten years, I am a writer, screenwriter and translator. I worked as a writer and content editor for various sites and portals in Brazil. After 2003, I began to write screenplays for institutional and learning videos. Also during this time, I worked as video editor, director and producer. Among recent projects, I wrote and produced the short film "A Brief History of Rock" and I published the children's book "The Imaginary Friend". For theatre, among other works, I wrote the play "The Musical Notes Revolution". I currently work as a writer and translator of French and English. As an author, I have a special affinity with television. And for television, I wrote the transmedia series "Meant to Be".

Demo Trailer test and more information:

http://alessandrabourdot.com.br/eng/works/series/meant-to-be/