

# "INSTRUMENTS OF NIGHT"

WELCOME TO

RIVERWOOD.

THE WORST SUMMER VACATION  
A WRITER EVER TOOK.





# INSTRUMENTS OF NIGHT

A LIMITED TV SERIES BY STATON RABIN

(BASED ON THE BOOK BY EDGAR AWARD-WINNING NOVELIST THOMAS H. COOK)



STARRING  
PAUL GRAVES:

A FAMOUS MYSTERY AUTHOR HAUNTED BY HIS OWN CHARACTERS--  
AND A REAL-LIFE MURDER IN HIS PAST.



AND CO-STARRING...DETECTIVE SLOVAK--  
HERO OF PAUL'S EDWARDIAN MYSTERY NOVELS--  
AND HIS ALTER EGO.



# "INSTRUMENTS OF NIGHT"

HAUNTED BY GHOSTS AND MEMORIES OF HIS ROLE IN HIS TEENAGE SISTER'S LONG-AGO MURDER, AND TORMENTED BY THE FICTIONAL VILLAIN FROM HIS BOOKS, A FAMOUS MYSTERY NOVELIST HOPES TO ESCAPE HIS DEMONS BY GOING TO **RIVERWOOD**-- A BUCOLIC WRITERS RETREAT-- ONLY TO FIND HIMSELF IRRESISTIBLY DRAWN INTO HIS HOST-FAMILY'S OWN DARK AND TWISTED PAST WHEN HE'S HIRED TO INVESTIGATE THE COLD CASE MURDER OF ANOTHER TEENAGE GIRL.



ALSO STARRING:

**KESSLER -**

THE PSYCHOPATHIC  
VILLAIN WHO HAUNTS  
MYSTERY AUTHOR PAUL  
GRAVES' BOOKS-- AND  
HIS NIGHTMARES.  
KESSLER KNOWS PAUL'S  
WORST SECRET-- AND  
TEMPTS HIS WORST AND  
MOST DANGEROUS  
INSTINCTS.





AND...

ELEANORA SANCHEZ,  
BRILLIANT PLAYWRIGHT  
WHO HELPS PAUL  
INVESTIGATE A MURDER  
AT RIVERWOOD. SHE'S  
ALSO DETERMINED TO  
UNCOVER HIS OWN  
SECRETS-- AND GET  
UNDER HIS SKIN.





WITH A SPECIAL  
APPEARANCE BY...  
ALLISON DAVIES,  
WHOSE TERRIFYING  
FAMILY OWNS  
RIVERWOOD, AND  
HIRES PAUL TO  
INVESTIGATE THE  
UNSOLVED 1946  
MURDER OF HER BEST  
FRIEND-- AND MORE?--  
- FAYE HARRISON.



EVERYONE AT  
RIVERWOOD IS A  
MURDER SUSPECT.  
AND SOMEBODY  
WANTS PAUL--  
AND ELEANORA--  
DEAD. CAN PAUL  
FIND FAYE'S  
KILLER-- AND  
REDEMPTION--  
BEFORE IT'S TOO  
LATE?



**TIME:** “INSTRUMENTS OF NIGHT” IS SET IN 1983, DURING THE REAGAN ERA. THIS WAS A TIME OF RAMPANT CRIME IN NEW YORK CITY. IT WAS ALSO BEFORE LAW ENFORCEMENT HAD THE ABILITY TO ANALYZE DNA EVIDENCE, AND BEFORE WIDESPREAD USE OF CELL PHONES OR PERSONAL COMPUTERS. THERE ARE OCCASIONAL FLASHBACKS TO OTHER PLACES AND TIMES.

**PLACE:** THE STORY IS SET MOSTLY IN NEW YORK CITY IN 1983, AND AT AN ISOLATED OLD ESTATE/MANSION CALLED RIVERWOOD IN THE FICTIONAL COMMUNITY OF BRITTANY FALLS IN UPSTATE NEW YORK. THERE WILL BE OCCASIONAL FLASHBACKS TO A SMALL FAMILY FARM IN NORTH CAROLINA IN 1962, TO RIVERWOOD IN 1946, AND TO MANHATTAN IN 1901 FOR IMAGINED SCENES FROM PAUL’S EDWARDIAN MYSTERY NOVELS. ONE SCENE WILL TAKE PLACE ON A CLIFF OVERLOOKING SOMETHING SIMILAR TO NIAGARA FALLS (“BRITTANY FALLS”).

## MAIN CHARACTERS:

**PAUL GRAVES** (30S), A TROUBLED BUT BRILLIANT BEST-SELLING MYSTERY NOVELIST. HE’S A SELF-DESTRUCTIVE LONER WHO IS TORMENTED BY HIS WORST SECRET: HE PLAYED A MAJOR (INVOLUNTARY) ROLE IN HIS TEEN SISTER GWEN’S MURDER WHEN HE WAS 12. PAUL CHANNELS HIS HORRIFIC MEMORIES OF HER MURDER INTO HIS BOOKS, AND IS LITERALLY HAUNTED BY HIS OWN FICTIONAL CHARACTERS. HIS SAVING GRACE: HE’S ACTUALLY A GOOD MAN-- IF ONLY HE KNEW IT.

**ELEANORA SANCHEZ** (LATINA; 20S), PAUL’S INCISIVE, SEXY AND FREE-SPIRITED LOVE INTEREST AND CLEVER CO-DETECTIVE IN SOLVING FAYE’S MURDER. A MYSTERY PLAYWRIGHT, SHE IS DETERMINED TO UNCOVER EVERYONE’S SECRETS-- INCLUDING HIS. SHE SENSES THAT PAUL IS A GOOD MAN DESPITE HIS MYSTERIOUS MOOD SWINGS.

**DETECTIVE SLOVAK** (50S): A FIGMENT OF PAUL’S IMAGINATION: THE WITTY NEW YORK POLICE DETECTIVE WHO IS THE HERO OF PAUL’S EDWARDIAN (CIRCA 1901) MYSTERY NOVELS, AND IS PAUL’S CONSCIENCE AND ALTER EGO. SLOVAK PURSUES KESSLER, THE MORIARTY-LIKE VILLAIN IN ALL OF PAUL’S MYSTERY NOVELS.

**KESSLER** (40S): PAUL’S FICTIONAL PSYCHOPATHIC VILLAIN, WHO APPEARS IN PAUL’S LIFE AS A DEVILISH APPARITION, TAUNTING AND TEMPTING HIM, PLAYING ON HIS GUILT AND TRYING TO CONVINCE HIM HE’S A KILLER AT HEART. PAUL BASED KESSLER ON THE REAL-LIFE KILLER WHO FORCED HIM TO HANG HIS SISTER.

THERE ARE ALSO MAJOR SUPPORTING ROLES IN “INSTRUMENTS OF NIGHT” FOR **JESSICA SUZUKI (10)** PAUL’S ASIAN AMERICAN NEIGHBOR IN MANHATTAN; **GWEN** AND **FAYE**, THE TWO TEENAGE GIRLS WHOSE DEATHS ARE CENTRAL TO THIS STORY; PAUL’S AGENT, **MORTY**, PLUS **ALLISON DAVIES** AND ALL THE DANGEROUS MURDER SUSPECTS IN FAYE’S KILLING: THE ENTIRE DYSFUNCTIONAL **DAVIES FAMILY** AT RIVERWOOD, AND THEIR EMPLOYEES (WOMEN AND MEN IN THEIR 50S).

A COMPLETE BREAKDOWN OF ALL CHARACTERS, PLUS FULL EPISODE SYNOPSSES, IS AVAILABLE FROM THE SERIES’ PRODUCERS IN A SEPARATE PACKET.



## ABOUT THE WRITERS

STATON RABIN IS AN AWARD-WINNING SCREENWRITER WHO ALSO WRITES NOVELS FOR SIMON & SCHUSTER, INCLUDING THE HIGHLY-ACCLAIMED BETSY AND THE EMPEROR, WHICH IS PUBLISHED IN 15 LANGUAGES GLOBALLY AND WAS PREVIOUSLY OPTIONED FOR A MOVIE ALONG WITH HER SCREENPLAY--- AS REPORTED IN "VARIETY". HER RECENT SCREEN ADAPTATION OF ALEX ROSENBERG'S NOVEL THE GIRL FROM KRAKOW WAS WRITTEN ON ASSIGNMENT FOR PRODUCERS TONY GREENBERG AND MIKE SAMMACICCIA.

PRIOR TO BECOMING A FULL-TIME SCREENWRITER, MS. RABIN WAS A FREELANCE STORY ANALYST FOR WARNER BROS. PICTURES, NEW LINE CINEMA, AND THE FORMER WILLIAM MORRIS AGENCY. SHE HAS BEEN A FREQUENT GUEST SPEAKER FOR SCREENWRITING CLASSES AT NYU, FROM WHICH SHE RECEIVED HER BFA IN FILM. AS A SCREENPLAY DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT AND FREELANCE EDITOR, SHE'S WORKED FOR NUMEROUS WRITERS, PRODUCERS, AND DIRECTORS, AND HAS TAUGHT SCREENWRITING OCCASIONALLY AT NYU, AS WELL AS FOR CUNARD AND HUDSON VALLEY WRITERS' CENTER. SHE IS REPRESENTED BY LEYLA KADER DAHM OF ZERO GRAVITY MANAGEMENT.

THOMAS H. COOK (B. 1947) -- AUTHOR OF THE NOVEL INSTRUMENTS OF NIGHT THAT IS THE BASIS FOR RABIN'S LIMITED TV SERIES-- HAS WRITTEN NEARLY TWO DOZEN CRITICALLY LAUDED CRIME NOVELS. BORN IN FORT PAYNE, ALABAMA, COOK PUBLISHED HIS FIRST NOVEL, BLOOD INNOCENTS, IN 1980 WHILE SERVING AS THE BOOK REVIEW EDITOR OF ATLANTA MAGAZINE. TWO YEARS LATER, ON THE RELEASE OF HIS SECOND NOVEL, THE ORCHIDS, HE TURNED TO WRITING FULL-TIME. COOK PUBLISHED STEADILY THROUGH THE 1980S, PENNING SUCH WORKS AS THE FRANK CLEMONS TRILOGY, A SERIES OF MYSTERIES STARRING A JADED COP. HE FOUND BREAKOUT SUCCESS WITH THE CHATHAM SCHOOL AFFAIR (1996), WHICH WON AN EDGAR AWARD FOR BEST NOVEL. HIS WORK HAS BEEN PRAISED BY CRITICS FOR HIS ATTENTION TO PSYCHOLOGY AND THE LYRICAL NATURE OF HIS PROSE. BESIDES MYSTERIES, COOK HAS WRITTEN TWO TRUE-CRIME BOOKS, EARLY GRAVES (1992) AND THE EDGAR-NOMINATED BLOOD ECHOES (1993), AS WELL AS SEVERAL LITERARY NOVELS, INCLUDING ELENA (1986). HE LIVES AND WORKS IN NEW YORK CITY. (BIO CREDIT: MYSTERIOUS PRESS).



## ABOUT THE PRODUCERS

DR. TONY GREENBERG IS A LOS ANGELES FILM AND TV PRODUCER WHO IS KNOWN FOR "THE RIDESHARE KILLER" (2022), "THREE DAYS MISSING", "INSTRUMENTS OF NIGHT", AND "THREE DAYS LEFT". CURRENTLY IN DEVELOPMENT IS "THE GIRL FROM KRAKOW", A FEATURE FILM WRITTEN BY STATON RABIN BASED ON ALEX ROSENBERG'S NOVEL.

MICHAEL SAMMACICCIA IS A TV AND FILM PRODUCER, AND FOUNDER AND CEO OF AFTERGLOW PICTURES, WHO ALSO PARTNERED WITH TONY GREENBERG IN DEVELOPING THE SCREEN ADAPTATION OF THE GIRL FROM KRAKOW. HE RECENTLY EXECUTIVE-PRODUCED THE 12-EPIISODE LIMITED SERIES, "SURVIVE". MR. SAMMACICCIA WAS FORMERLY SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF ORIGINAL MOVIES AND LIVE ACTION SERIES AT NICKELODEON, WHERE HE PRODUCED MANY FILMS INCLUDING "HOLES"-- AND "ALWAYS WILL", WHICH HE ALSO WROTE-- BEFORE STARTING HIS OWN FILM PRODUCTION COMPANY IN LOS ANGELES.

PHOTO CREDIT FOR IMAGES OF RIVERWOOD AND "ALLISON DAVIES" (DAME JUDITH ANDERSON AS "MRS. DANVERS" ): THE HITCHCOCK CLASSIC MOVIE, "REBECCA", ©1940. IMAGE OF PROFESSOR MORIARTY ("KESSLER") IS FROM SIDNEY PAGET'S ILLUSTRATIONS FOR SHERLOCK HOLMES.