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TURF WARS

10x60 drama series

Sons of Anarchy meets *The Wire*

Created by Andrew Palmer and Ian Weir

TOMMY MRJANOVICH is a gregarious ex-boxer who spent half a century building a tow-truck empire in metropolitan Toronto. Then he's felled by a stroke, during a roadside altercation with a pair of rival tow-truck drivers – steroid-jacked gangbangers with ties to the drug-trade. As shock-waves spread, Tommy's son-in-law KRIS AHMED – a one-time Special Forces sniper – steps up to fill the old man's size-14s. He moves quickly to counter the threat posed by DEZ KINCAID, the gang-linked owner of an upstart towing outfit, who sees his chance to seize new turf. But the existential danger will come from the last source Kris could have imagined: his wife ANKA, Tommy's whip-smart daughter and the love of Kris's life. Anka is prepared to go much further in her zeal to avenge her father – and she's already fatally compromised.

Set against the real-life turf gang wars in the Greater Toronto Area, *TURF WARS* is a sweeping fictional saga with ripped-from-the-headlines authenticity. The largest and most diverse metropolis in Canada, Toronto's roads are notoriously congested with a million-plus vehicles each day. That's a bonanza for the towing industry, and the absence of provincial regulation creates a Wild West. Honest drivers vie for their livelihoods – and sometimes their lives – against predatory opportunists, as organized crime moves in. Insurance fraud generates \$2 billion per year, as tow-truck drivers take kick-backs from corrupt body shops, with lucrative side-scams involving physios and clinics. And that's just where it starts. Crime groups exploit the towing industry to smuggle drugs and weapons, and in transnational auto theft.

At the heart of the Season One storytelling is Kris Ahmed and his family: his wife and partner Anka, their nine-year-old daughter Jasmine, and the fallen patriarch, Tommy. Kris is a man of integrity who begins to glimpse – too late – that he's been selling his soul by inches. As he does, Dez Kincaid – with his pathologically violent younger brother Ricky, and Dez's business-savvy girlfriend Cass Desrosiers – makes a ruthless and audacious play. Meanwhile, the firebombing of a lawyer's office reverberates into the political realm, as a social-media savvy backbench MPP spearheads an anti-corruption campaign – and sees her chance to ride this wave into *real* power. Other story-strands follow the police and the media, as a failing newspaper makes a bid for relevance (and revenue).

Like *Yellowstone*, *TURF WARS* has at its heart a family that's driven – and riven – by loyalties and obsessions. Like *Sons of Anarchy*, it's a white-knuckle ride onto the wild side, along the road that's paved with good intentions. Most of all, it's a gangland saga that opens a window onto the tensions that are roiling our own world in 2021: the fight to hold onto what we consider to be rightfully ours, by birthright or by merit – and the price we're willing to pay.