

NOTHING BUT HUSTLE

————— Out or in, what's it going to be? —————

A former child pool prodigy, now a young woman, returns to the game on a collision course with the father who abandoned her and his arrogant new protégé, the men's #1.

Set at the intersection of hustling and professional pool, *Nothing But Hustle* is a timely and timeless sports drama in the vein of *The Hustler* and *The Color of Money*, set in present-day New Orleans. A world of contrasts – glitzy pros, desperate grifters, high rises and swamp hovels.



What does it take to find your true potential?

Synopsis and Why this Series?

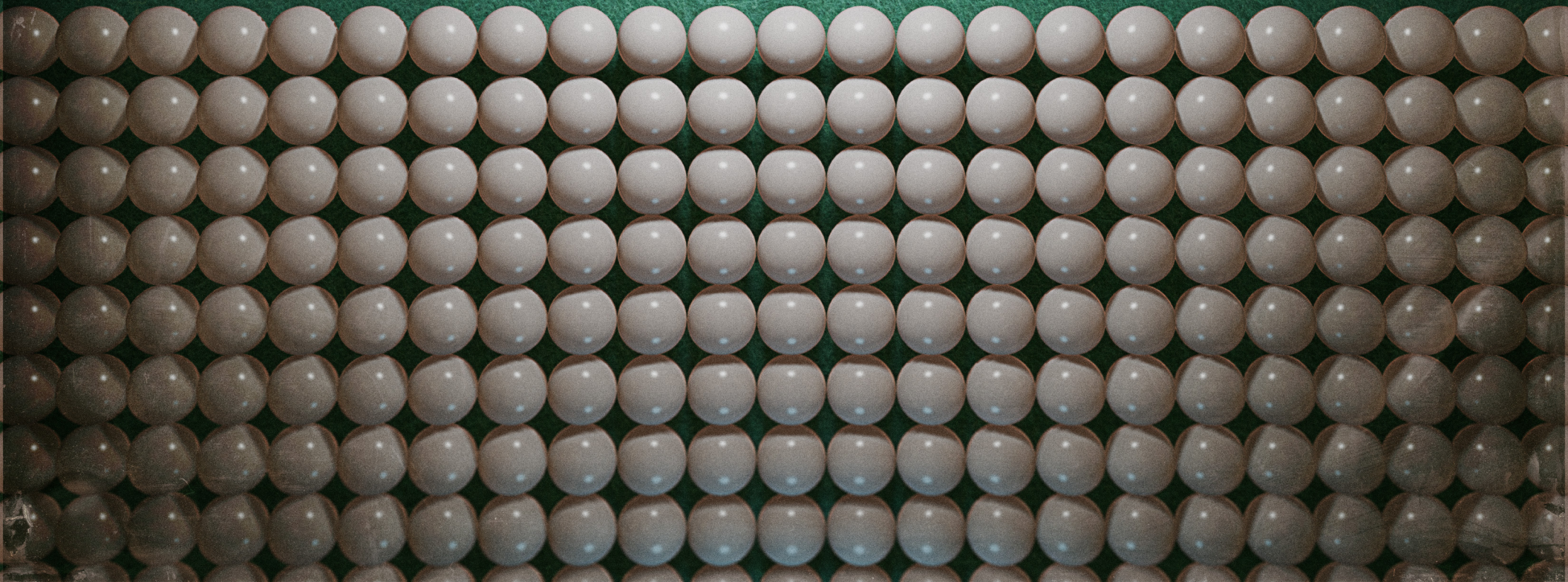
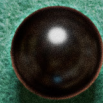
“*Nothing But Hustle*” is a riveting sports drama that follows **former pool prodigy Kadie as she returns to the game** to discover her true potential and settle accounts with her father, Jack. Jack took Kadie on the road when she was 12, gambling in pool halls, a run that ended with Kadie passed-out drunk in a motel and Jack gone without a trace, leaving her to a childhood of desperation and ruin.

Ten years later, emerging from a stretch in jail for stealing cars, Kadie finds out Jack replaced her with a new prodigy, Victor, now the #1 player in the country. She’s stunned. What Victor has should be hers, and Jack owes her, big time. Kadie plunges back into the game at the intersection of gambling and professional pool, a world of high life and low lifes, a place where winning can mean you lose. As Kadie hustles and grows stronger, she has huge setbacks, finds an unexpected mentor, and discovers that while she envies Victor’s success, he might know her better than anyone else. Jack is elated to see Kadie again but he’s always three steps ahead – how can he turn this into a score? Kadie’s incompleteness and need leaves her vulnerable to Jack’s charismatic manipulation.

As Kadie goes deep in her first professional tournament, Jack schemes to set up a big game between Kadie and Victor to settle his debts and come out on top. Kadie confronts the demons of her past on a path that could take her to the top or wreck her life – and everyone else – for good. ***Nothing But Hustle* is a powerful story of genius, damage and discovery set in a thrilling, high-stakes world of gambling and professional sport.**



*The contrasting world – hustling, professional pool.
Race. Prodigies vs the old guard.*



*Tone – people embracing risk, gamblers, high stakes games.
Sewn together with moments of insight, cutting dark humor,
human weakness and the compulsion of raw need.*

NOTHING BUT HUSTLE embraces risk, gamblers and high stakes games, filled with moments of insight, cutting dark humor, human weakness, manipulation and the compulsion of raw need. Tense scenes walk the edge between elation and crushing loss, always on the hunt for the next score.

Set in the present day, the story picks up with the aftertaste of prison and follows the hard-scrabble life of the travelling hustler until it settles into New Orleans, steeping in the rich atmosphere of the American deep south.

The story has a rich visual palette and constant contrast. Grinding poverty and sleek high rises. Honky-tonks, dive bars and lowland swamp versus urban landscapes and posh pool palaces. A world of shadows and gothic decay, vibrantly alive and filled with music.

A camera slightly off-kilter, finding frames that pull us into the character and action of pool. Unusual angles, artificial and naturalistic lighting, dark and light. Color will vary by location and mood, cool for modern settings, vibrant and saturated for nature and run-down places. The camera will be a fluid, breathing, and visceral presence, the kinetic energy of the gritty pool halls contrasted against the cool, more structured and contained world of the tournament. It's all visceral and tactile – the look pulls us into the emotional states of the characters

Let's shoot some pool.

A TIMELY SPORTS DRAMA WITH ENDURING THEMES

We love sports because of the stakes and the risk, but what we really want is a good story. Who are they? How did they get here and what did they overcome?

We're thrilled by winning and losing with everything on the line. High stakes. Rising to the moment. Betting your future and your dreams. Gambling with your body and your money.

NOTHING BUT HUSTLE is packed with enduring themes. Mentor vs student. Hustler vs pro. Fathers and daughters. Prodigies vs the old guard. Stars surrounded by liars, bookies and assorted riff-raff, the ones who weren't good enough scraping out a living from those who are.

For our hero Kadie, it's about finding her way in a hard, unwelcoming world while rising above the kind of childhood that would destroy most people. It's about wrestling past damage to discover her true potential. It's about race and identity, poverty, self-worth, and opening up to love. And a bit of revenge while we're at it.

Inheriting the legacy of legendary pool movies *The Hustler* and *The Color of Money* and following the breakout success of *The Queen's Gambit*, NOTHING BUT HUSTLE is both timely and timeless. And women's sports are more popular than ever.

36 million people in the US play pool once or more per year, with tens of millions more international players and 25 countries represented in the top 100 pool players. With more than 100,000,000 media impressions of pool per year, pool is one of the most widely recognized sports in the world.

There's a huge audience waiting for this story.



Kadie

Kadie's prowess at pool contrasts against her fantastically messy inner life. A biracial young girl with a gift for shooting pool, at 12 she traveled and hustled with her beguiling father, Jack, until he vanished and seemingly left her behind. Now early 20s, emotionally stunted and desperate to reconnect with Jack, Kadie is shattered to discover him at the top of the world of pool alongside Victor, his new adopted prodigy. Kadie embarks on a journey to regain her game and her place at her father's side. As she gets drawn back into Jack's web of schemes and deceit, she risks losing herself completely and damaging everyone who tries to help her.



Jack

Jack is a big presence, charismatic and manipulative, a scammer and a hustler, a black man finding angles and advantage in every situation. When Kadie reappears years after their abrupt separation, Jack plays on her hunger to reconnect and sets up a big score between Kadie and Victor where he knows who's going to win. Jack thinks he can control Kadie like he did when she was little, but he might be planting the seeds of his own destruction.



Victor

Another child pool prodigy, cocky and rebellious, late teens/early 20s, white/Latino. Victor was headed for a bad outcome until Jack found him and shaped him into a champion. But Victor won't hustle the way Jack wants anymore, and he chafes under Jack's manipulation and control. When Kadie appears on the scene, Victor thinks he's seducing her, only to have the foundation of his world crumble when he finds out who she really is. Under his bravado, Victor is watchful and scared of losing his place.



Grace

The #6 pro player, Grace is a formidable presence, equally capable of charming you or ripping your head off. Grace takes an interest in the talented, troubled Kadie and tries to mentor her, but she misjudges the damage Kadie is capable of and finds herself in a fight to keep the game she loves from being destroyed.

Spivey

A washed up pro, John Spivey plays for Jack and serves as a friend to Victor. Spivey's loudmouth swagger makes gamblers try too hard to beat him, but he knows he can't hold a candle to Victor's raw talent. Caught between Jack and his affection for Victor, Spivey can't win for trying.

Millard

Perched behind the counter at Millard's Billiards, Millard watches Kadie as a 12-year-old prodigy, tearing up the locals while Jack makes the bets. When the now-20s Kadie returns, Millard has something she wants – her old pool stick, which Jack sold to Millard when he was broke. Millard sets up a high-stakes bet with Kadie, but Millard is cunning and he doesn't play fair.

Nina

A middle-aged black woman, comfortable in her own skin, Nina owns the What All Emporium, a New Orleans shop catering to African and deep south experience. She had a brief romance with Jack, and now he's back. Nina's attracted but Jack brings a kind of trouble even Nina might not be able to get out of.

Ferris Early

An articulate, business-like gangster capable of bursts of violence and intimidation, Ferris is alternately bemused and furious at Jack's inability to make good on his massive debts.

Doyle

Old and watchful, Doyle is mostly silent, serving as a bagman and scout for Ferris Early. He has a long, simmering beef with Spivey, resulting in a satisfying payoff.

Monty Commodore

Genteel, southern to the core, Monty runs the Commodore Club, a high-end night spot where the highest stakes games are played. His place, his rules. Monty is a big character, filling a space with his personality.

Janelle

The #1 women's player, Asian, Janelle is welcoming on the surface but can be stirred to great anger when the game she loves is under threat from Jack and Kadie's schemes.

Ingrid

Ingrid is intimidating and closed, and she takes an instant dislike to Kadie, instinctively detecting a threat to herself and the professional game.

Pilot Episode

EPISODE I – JACKED UP

We meet young Kadie, 12, and her father Jack as they hustle and travel, Jack manipulating Kadie to do what he wants. At a run-down motel, Kadie gets drunk on Jack's whiskey and they fight over money. Kadie passes out and when she wakes up in police custody, Jack is gone.

We jump time and join Kadie, now early 20s, getting released from jail for boosting cars. She's stunned to find Jack on TV managing men's #1 player Victor, a new prodigy Jack adopted. After getting stiffed for a score, Kadie beats up the loser and takes his car. At a bad hotel, a bloodied Kadie calls herself a "fuckin' amateur", echoing her father's criticism from years ago.



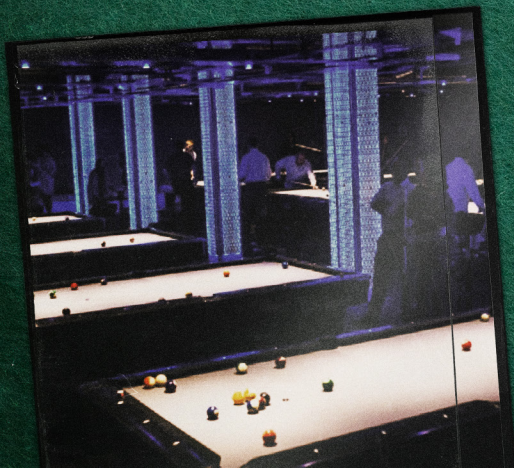


EPISODE 2 – STAKE HORSE

Kadie hustles and gets her game back. She goes to a tournament looking for Jack. Victor tries to pick up Kadie and something clicks between them. Jack yanks Victor away and doesn't recognize Kadie. Kadie chases after Jack but he's gone. Kadie returns to an old haunt and sees her old stick, The Queen, for sale. She makes a bet with Millard and wins until Millard brings in a ringer: Grace, the #6 pro, who cleans out Kadie in a tight game. Kadie sleeps with Millard and gets The Queen back, hating herself.

EPISODE 3 - DOUBLE STEER

In New Orleans, Kadie meets Grace again and enters a qualifier tournament, painfully trading The Queen for the entry fee and a lesser stick. Jack pleads with gangster/bookie Ferris Early for time to cover his debt. Victor and his friend Spivey, a washed-up pro, have an uneasy relationship. Kadie takes Victor on a date to a swamp house on a lake in a stolen car and screws with Victor's head. Jack reconnects with Nina, an old flame. Kadie wins the qualifier and announces herself. Jack, astonished, sees her again.



EPISODE 4 – HANDCUFF ARTIST

Jack claims he didn't abandon Kadie – he went to jail and was ordered not to contact her. Kadie feels out getting back in with Jack. Victor takes Kadie out on a riverboat and cuttingly nails her personality. Bruised, Kadie stays over with Grace, who won't sell The Queen back. Jack trains Kadie and she wins her first pro game, then more. Victor asks Jack about his money. Jack envisions a future with Nina. Kadie beats Spivey in front of Ferris's bagman, Doyle, and Jack recruits Kadie to play a big game with Victor and dump it. Kadie says Yes.

EPISODE 5 - HOOKED

Kadie gets drunk and screws up at a hangout with Grace and other pros. Bitter about losing to Kadie, Spivey has a falling out with Victor. Jack romances Nina and gets advice about Kadie. Still drunk, Kadie calls Victor and he takes her to a terrible hotel to get her back for beating Spivey. After they sleep together, Victor realizes Kadie is Jack's daughter. He lashes out and leaves. Kadie returns to Grace's place and tries to kiss her. Gambler Ferris Early attacks Jack in a bathroom over Jack's debt. Victor gets Spivey to place a bet. Kadie makes the final against Grace, but Jack forces Kadie to agree to throw the final so Jack can settle his debt with Ferris.



EPISODE 6 - SWEATING THE ACTION

Kadie throws the final. Grace and the women pros kick her out of the pro game. Victor finds out he's playing Kadie and tries to back out, but Jack berates him into staying in. Kadie can't bring herself to go into the club and throw the game, and heads for the bus station. Jack places a huge new bet on Kadie with Ferris. Kadie has a realization. She returns for the big game and bets on herself to win. After huge swings in momentum, helped by women pros who come to root for her and with Grace returning the Queen, Kadie wins. Jack and Victor lose everything.

Jack accuses Kadie and Victor of conspiring against him and loses Victor, Spivey and Nina, too. Grace tells Kadie she isn't out of the pro game after all. Jack angrily confronts Kadie, but she stands up to him and he finally realizes he's been a monster. Kadie gives him money to pay off Ferris, then gives him The Queen. Later, Jack tries to pick up a new prodigy and gets chased away. On the pro tour, Kadie and Victor talk about Jack, their future together unclear.



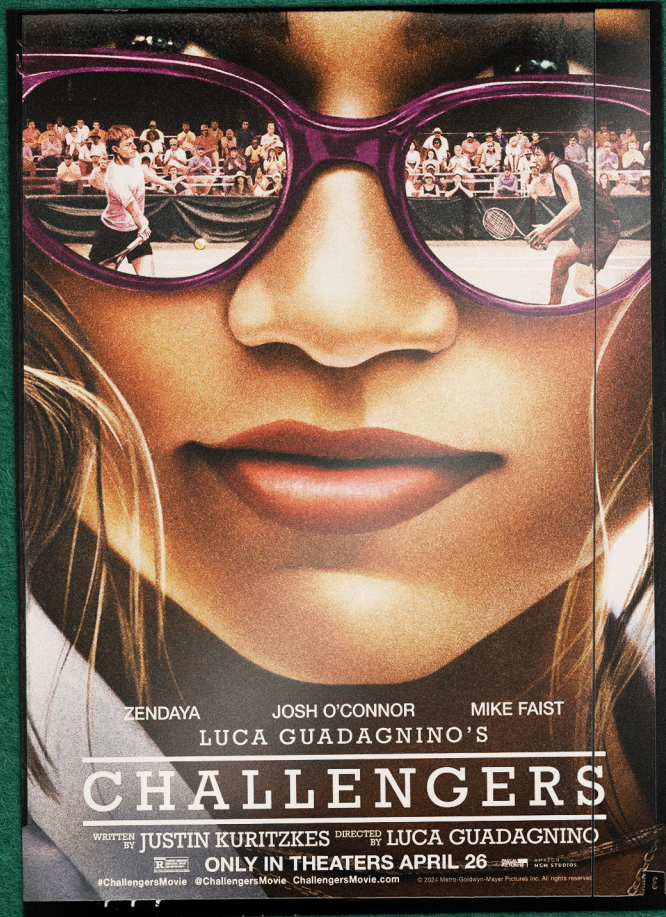
Season 2

Kadie struggles to find her footing in the professional world and takes on a manager troublingly like Jack. As Kadie rises, Victor falls and refuses Kadie's help. Jack returns with a new prodigy. Bookie Ferris Early gets his hooks into both Kadie and Victor, and they come up with a desperate scheme to get rid of him. Grace confronts age and decline. Kadie's confidence crashes and she returns to her self-sabotaging ways. Kadie finally breaks through, getting rid of her manager, tricking Ferris Early, reconnecting with Victor and finding a new equilibrium with Jack. In the finale, Kadie wins her first pro tournament.

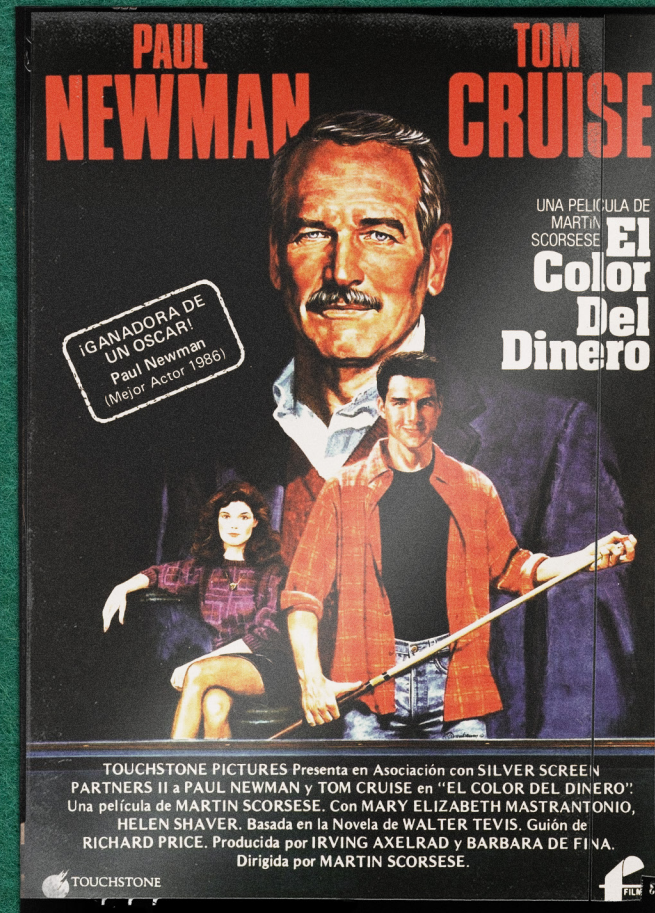
Season 3

Kadie travels to England with Grace and enters the world of billiards, a different game than pool. Misjudging, she gets hustled and finds herself on the wrong side of bad people. Victor and Jack show up in England with their own agendas, and Spivey makes an unwelcome re-appearance. Trapped, Kadie barrels toward her worst-case scenario: having to throw another professional tournament, betraying everyone who believed in her.

COMPARABLES



THE TRIO



+ NOTHING BUT HUSTLE

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