



# Making it Rain

Created by  
Rick Garman

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## Summary

After her husband suffers and aneurysm and slips into a coma, a housewife and mother of two teenagers finds out that he owns a strip club that is much more than meets the eye, but since it is now her only source of revenue, she has no choice but to run it.



## Overview

Suburban Atlanta housewife and mother SARAH HYDE (late 30s) thought she had the perfect life. Her husband, DANNY (40s), was an economics professor. Her kids ALEXIS (16) and CONNOR (15) were straight-A students who never got in any trouble. She had a beautiful home that she loved taking care of with a garden she tended with pride. It was like something out of a movie and she loved it.

Then she found out it was all a lie.

A call from the hospital brings the tragic news that Danny has suffered an aneurysm and has slipped into a coma from which he may never wake. Devastated, Sarah tries to figure out how to keep her family going as she faces a mountain of medical and other bills and absolutely no paychecks coming in. Just when it appears that she may lose the house she loves so much, she finds out that Danny was keeping secrets, a trail of lies that leads her to The PoleCat Lounge, an Atlanta area strip club. Thinking at first that he was just a frequent patron, Sarah goes in looking for answers only to find out that he wasn't a customer – he was the owner!

She wants nothing to do with the place but unable to get anything more than a minimum wage job after nearly twenty years of being a housewife, Sarah is faced with an undeniable fact: the PoleCat Lounge is her sole source of income.

Now Sarah must take over the club and try to make it work for her against increasingly insurmountable odds. The deeper she gets the more trouble she courts as she uncovers layer after layer of criminal activity that the club is masking – everything from prostitution to drugs to pornography to Russian hacking schemes. Aided by her rascalion brother ZACH (30s), Sarah comes into contact with a rogue's gallery of people who may or may not be on her side including HEATHER (30s), a friend and neighbor who grows suspicious of her new life; JUSTIN (Late 30s), the family lawyer who kept Danny's secrets; MIKE (40s), a Russian mobster with anger issues; BEN (40s), an FBI agent with ulterior motives; ONETTA (50s), the manager of the

club who may be more dangerous than she seems; RACHEL and KAITLIN (20s), strippers who definitely don't have hearts of gold; EVAN (30s), a bartender who sets his sights on Sarah in ways that might not be exactly healthy; and LOGAN (20s), the intimidating security guard who has more than a few skeletons in his closet.

And she must handle all of this while still getting her kids to school and hosting the neighborhood watch committee meetings.

MAKING IT RAIN is a darkly comic series that is inspired by classic anti-heroes in shows like *Weeds*, *Breaking Bad*, *Orange is the New Black*, and *Ozark*, set in the glamorously grimy world of a strip club. Filled with rich characters, danger and betrayal at every turn, and a wry sense of humor, the show is certain to become the next binge-worthy, water-cooler series on everyone's must-watch list.



## Atmosphere, Tone, and Format

MAKING IT RAIN is intended to be a 50-60 minute (without commercial interruption) show with 10 episodes per season stretching over five seasons. Each season will have one primary “bad guy” that Sarah needs to defeat and one-story arc “goal.” Although serial in format with strong cliffhangers to encourage lasting viewership, each episode and each season have very clear beginnings, middles, and ends to provide satisfying storylines that only leave loose ends that will become major threads in the future.



As things go from great to bad to worse to “holy shit,” we will get to hear Sara’s inner monologue of sorts as she spends time each episode talking to her comatose husband about what’s happening. This will provide the viewers with a unique, unfiltered insight that helps us understand where Sarah is at and where she’s going, even if the path between the two is not always what is expected.

Although not a comedy, MAKING IT RAIN will have darkly comic moments to leaven the anything-could-happen tension that will be created as Sarah slides further down the rabbit hole into this strange new world. Much like *Weeds*, the series will watch the often-humorous progression of this seemingly average wife and mother as she transforms herself over several seasons into a reluctant criminal kingpin that always manages to stay one (sometimes very small) step ahead of the people that are out to bring her down.

But this is a show with real stakes. Like *Orange is the New Black*, not all of the characters will survive, and Sarah will find herself in situations that force the kinds of decisions one doesn’t normally associate with the “good guy.” She will get blood on her hands, both metaphorically and literally, and nobody around her is safe – not even her own kids.

The characters are heightened for dramatic and comedic tensions but always real, driven by the same kinds of human motivations that drive our everyday decisions. In a way, Sara’s journey acts as an allegory for the struggles that middle-class mothers are faced with all the time as they simply try to provide for their family against increasingly difficult odds.

Like *Ozark* and *Breaking Bad*, crime and its consequences will always be driving the plots although not always in ways that the audience may be suspecting. There will be twists and turns, surprises and shifting allegiances that will keep viewers on their toes and create the kind of social-media-frenzies that the buzziest of TV shows will envy.

## Characters



### **Sarah Hyde** (Late 30s)

Funny, down-to-earth, fast with a quip, this picture of the “perfect” suburban mom with an idyll family and home gets upended when faced with the realities of a very harsh world. Rather than fall apart, Sarah surprises everyone, including herself, with resilience and strong will to not go down without a fight, making her wonder how “perfect” her life was before all of this.

### **Zach Woodward** (Mid 30s)

Sara’s brother is one of those charming rogue types, way too handsome for his own good, a fact that he has used to his advantage in less-than-above-board ways more than once in his life. He is openly gay but in a shrugging, matter-of-fact way that allows him a certain “flexibility” when it comes to the people that he is trying to manipulate.

### **Alexis (Alex) Hyde** (16)

Sara’s daughter is pretty, popular, smart, and, much like her uncle, uses all that to her advantage. While appearing to be the perfect kid on the surface, she has a “mean girl” streak a mile wide and is always testing the boundaries of what she can get away with.

### **Connor Hyde** (15)

Sara’s son is the complete opposite of his sister – quiet, not many friends, and a straight-A student. He is a good kid with a strong moral compass who wants to stay as far away from trouble as he can possibly get.

**Heather Gilliam (30s)**

Sara's next-door neighbor and best friend is delightfully outrageous southern belle with a toddler on her hip and a husband who doesn't pay enough attention to her (at least in her mind). This leaves her looking for fulfillment in whatever ways she can find them, even if it means hurting the people she loves in the process.

**Danny Hyde (Late 30s)**

Sara's comatose husband, who we will see in flashbacks, seems like an average guy with an average job and average life, but he has a deep well of secrets that keeps surprising Sarah and making her wish that she had known him better.

**Justin Yi (Late 30s)**

The Hyde's lawyer and longtime friend knew everything that Danny was up to and hates that he has to bring Sarah into it, especially since he has always harbored a bit of a crush on her.

**Ben Buckley (Early 40s)**

A handsome, low-key, charming, and seemingly by-the-book FBI agent who may not be all that he appears to be.

**Mike (Mikhael) Zherdev (40s)**

The Russian boss of the illegal operations at the strip club is trying to turn a new leaf and find ways to control his rage issues, but usually fails in ways that end up being bloody.

**Onetta Bartlett (50s)**

On the surface, the manager of the strip club is a refined woman of taste and a possible ally for Sarah as she navigates this new world, but underneath lies a ruthless streak that makes her more of a threat than anyone else in the club.

**Rachel Santiago (20s)**

One of the strippers at the club, Rachel is the "bad bitch" of the catwalk, a woman that no one, including the angry Mike and the sometimes scary Onetta, are eager to mess with.

**Kaitlyn Dell (20s)**

Another stripper at the club, Kaitlyn is Rachel's cohort and right-hand-man but not exactly the sharpest tool in the shed, which in some ways makes her even more dangerous than Rachel.

**Evan Atkinson (30s)**

The bartender at the club is an unassuming type who is dating Rachel but develops an interest in Sarah that may be more than just romantic.

**Logan Decker (20s)**

The security guard at the club is a muscle-bound guy's guy who has more than a few secrets of his own.



## Season One

### Episode 101

In a flashback, we see a man being chased through the woods by someone with a gun and then jump forwards ten months to meet Sarah Hyde, a respectable, upper-middle-class housewife in suburban Atlanta whose life is turned upside down when her husband Danny has an aneurysm and she finds out that he secretly owned a strip club. Aided by her rascalion brother, Zach, and the family lawyer and friend Justin, and hindered by her nosy neighbor and friend Heather, Sarah goes on a quest to figure out what her husband was doing and why. This winds up putting herself and her children in danger as people from the dangerous world of the PoleCat Lounge start to invade her suburban haven. This includes the quietly threatening club manager Onetta, the dangerous Russian mobster Mike, the angry stripper Rachel, the intimidating bouncer Logan, and the seemingly nice bartender Evan.

Meanwhile, family issues include her daughter Alexis, who is more of a mean girl than she should be; her son Connor, who is too smart for his own good sometimes; and her brother, who comes to live with them after a tragedy that he only alludes to that led to the death of someone he loved.

Sarah eventually uncovers that Danny was acting as a front man to hide the criminal activities at the club and the Russian mob wants Sarah to take over that role. Feeling as though she has no choice, Sarah agrees but puts a six-month time limit on things.

In the end, we flashback again and see the man being chased get shot... by Sarah.

**Episode 102**

Sarah tries to keep the club at arms-length but quickly finds out that will be impossible when Mike shows up on her doorstep with a bag full of cash that he needs her to hold onto. The visit raises lots of questions from her kids, friends, and nosy neighbors that tests her ability to lie effectively. Adding to the jeopardy is FBI Agent Ben, who is sniffing around because they are surveilling the PoleCat Lounge as a possible front for prostitution and drugs and saw her visit and talking to manager Onetta. Juggling all of these balls means one is inevitably going to drop and it does at the end of the episode when she goes to retrieve the bag of money for Mike and finds that it is missing.

Meanwhile, Zach talks his way into a promoter job at the strip club, setting up a clash with Onetta; Conner starts to become suspicious about his mother's activities; Alex gets in trouble at school; and Rachel gets jealous of how much attention Evan is paying to Sara.

**Episode 103**

Unable to find the missing cash, Sarah has to pull lawyer Justin into the maelstrom to try to find a way to access Danny's secret bank account so she can replace it before Mike finds out. In the process, Justin's crush on her is revealed and it causes Sarah to see him in a new light, even if it's one she can't consider since technically she is still married to the comatose Danny. Just when it seems like it is all going to work out, Mike discovers the deception and becomes obsessed with finding out who stole his money. The trail leads to neighbor and friend Heather and Mike decides the only way to handle her is to kill her.

Ben tries to get closer to Sara; Zach and Onetta continue to butt heads on how to run the club but wind up bonding when he reveals to her the details of what happened to the man he loved; Rachel hatches a devious plan with Kaitlyn to get rid of Sarah; and the fallout from Alex's trouble at school pulls Connor into a potentially dangerous situation.

**Episode 104**

To protect Heather, Sarah takes her on a last-minute birthday getaway to Savannah where she tries to find out what her friend did with the money, a job that becomes more difficult when Heather decides to cut loose and "live a little." Eventually she figures out that Heather didn't take the money but realizes who did – Connor. She rushes home to find Mike with Justin alone in her house and Mike punishes Sarah by killing Justin in front of her.

Ben approaches Zach about his and Sara's roles in the club; Onetta finds out about Rachel's scheme to get rid of Sara; and Connor tries to help Alex with some of the money that he found.

**Episode 105**

The fallout from Justin's murder takes an emotional toll on Sarah who considers going to Ben to confess everything. Zach takes the lead on handling the crisis when Sarah seems unable to, leading to conflict between the siblings just as their mother comes for a visit. Sarah has to tell Connor and Alex what is really happening in order to get the money back for Mike.

Onetta tries to help Sarah but winds up guiding her even deeper into trouble; Evan breaks it off with Rachel, sending her into a tailspin; Zach finds out something very interesting about muscle-bound security guard Logan.

### **Episode 106**

Sarah finds out more than she wanted to about the club's illegal operations when she catches Heather's husband there hiring a stripper for more than just a lap dance. She also has to deal with uncomfortable questions from the police and from Ben regarding Justin's disappearance.

Zach and Logan start what both insist is purely a physical relationship; Onetta and Mike clash on a business issue, giving us the first clue that she may be playing a bigger role in the club's illegal activities than it has seemed; Evan asks Sarah out; Rachel befriends Alexis.

### **Episode 107**

When Mike is sidelined by an injury, Sarah and Zach are forced to handle a drug deal with some very dangerous men from a Mexican cartel. Sarah soon realizes that the only way she is going to get out of it alive is to enlist Ben's help, but she has to figure out a way to do that without tipping him off about her own illegal activities. This brings the two of them together in ways that neither expected.

Evan continues to try to woo Sarah; Connor tries to keep Alexis away from Rachel; and Onetta has to deal with a very needy Mike.

### **Episode 108**

Sarah's new romantic relationship with Ben causes her to lose sleep for a lot of reasons, not the least of which is that she is still married. The police find Justin's body. Evan sees Sarah with Ben, disappointing him and raising suspicions with Onetta and Rachel. Zach and Onetta team up to devise a strategy to bring more "real" business into the club and end up with the idea of hiring male strippers. Heather finds out about her husband's infidelities. At the end of this episode we will have a big reveal when Onetta kills Mike and we realize that she is the real mastermind behind the illegal operations there.

### **Episode 109**

Mike is blamed for the murder of Justin, satisfying the police but not Ben. He pushes Sarah for answers about what is really happening at the club and by the end of the episode, when she is unable to get out of her deal now that the six months is over, she is finally ready to tell him the truth. Onetta gets a replacement from Russia for Mike. Connor goes to extreme lengths to reveal Rachel's true motives with Alexis. Heather's husband tries to get her to forgive him. Zach and Logan's relationship gets deeper.

### **Episode 110**

Sarah tells Ben everything and in return reveals a shocking truth. While he is an FBI agent, he is actually on Onetta's payroll, there is no FBI investigation, and his instruction was to kill one of her kids if she ever revealed what was going on. He leaves to go do just that and Sarah chases

him to stop him, eventually leading to the scene in the woods behind her house where we started the series.

Meanwhile, the situation between Alex, Connor, and Rachel comes to a head with both kids in danger at the hands of the increasingly unstable Rachel.

The season ends with the revelation that the gunshot we heard at the end of the first episode didn't come from Sara's gun. Ben has been killed by someone else and she turns around to find out who it is, shocked to see the person in front of her (whom we don't reveal).

## Season Two

This season starts with another flash forward, this one of Danny lying in the hospital bed and we see the monitors indicate that he has died.

From there we go back four months to where we left off in Season One and reveal that the person who killed Ben is Connor, using a gun that Rachel was threatening him and his sister with. They managed to get away from her although she escapes to places unknown.

A lot of the second season for Sarah's family deals with the fallout of the bloodshed from season one as she tries to help Connor from slipping into darkness after what he did, tries to stop Alexis acting out in ways that put the entire family at risk, and tries to rein in Zach who is taking his involvement with the strip club and its unsavory elements to new levels.

Sarah, now basically trapped by the circumstances, starts to lean into the illegal activities of the club, figuring that the only way to protect herself is to know what is really happening. She and Onetta will come to a truce, driven by a mutually assured destruction type of stand-off and brokered in part by a new character, NICK (40s, unexpectedly reasonable), a Russian mobster replacement for Mike, who is driven by profit instead of rage or murderous impulses. They will all band together to focus on a couple of common enemies – competition and the law.

Competition will come in the form of a new strip club that opens nearby, which becomes a threat not only to the legitimate business but to the illegal ones as well. The ringleader of that new club, JASON (40s, charismatic), will at first be a threat to Sarah but they will eventually succumb to an unhealthy attraction.

For our other characters... Logan will break things off with Zach after Zach cheats with more than one of the new male strippers; Evan will get pulled into the criminal side of the club as he tries to get Sarah's attention; Heather will find out what Sarah has been up to and romanticizes it in ways that put her in danger; and Kaitlyn, now rudderless with Rachel to manipulate her, will provide some good comic relief as she looks for meaning in her life anywhere she can find it. We will also introduce a few new recurring characters in both female and male strippers.

A major new character will be WHITNEY (30s, dogged), a new FBI agent investigating the disappearance of Ben. She will slowly start to unravel the mystery and find herself increasingly

focused on Sarah as a possible culprit behind the whole thing, but will not be able to prove anything until the end of the season when Rachel returns to become an informant ready to blow the lid off everything.

Everything will come to a head as it looks like Sarah will be arrested but that may be a moot point as she, Onetta, Zach, Evan, and Logan are all trapped in the strip club as a fire breaks out.

It is here that we catch up to the flash forward we started the season with – the monitors in Danny's room indicating that he has died. But he hasn't... instead we'll see that the monitor lead on his finger that measures pulse has slipped off because he is moving. Danny is waking up.

## Season Three

As with the previous seasons we will start with a flash forward. This one will involve someone being run down by a car as Sarah watches in horror.

This will be a rebuilding season in many ways as Sarah tries to piece together the shattered remains of her life and her businesses.

Everyone makes it out of the club fire except for Logan, who gives up his life to save Zach's, something that will haunt him for the rest of the season and drive him to very dark places. The fire was set by Evan in a bid to get Sarah out of the life of crime so the two of them can be together. A furious Onetta kills him when she finds out what he has done.

Meanwhile, the case against Sarah being made by FBI Agent Whitney using information supplied by Rachel quickly falls apart because of the fire wiping out the bulk of the evidence and Danny waking up from the coma – since everything is still in his name, technically he's on the hook for any illegal activities that may have been occurring in the club.

Danny, however, is in no condition to be prosecuted. The aneurysm left him both mentally and physically challenged and he will spend the bulk of the season in the hospital as they attempt rehabilitation. This comes with a huge emotional toll for Sarah, who cuts off her personal relationship with Jason.

Her professional relationship, however, goes to a new level. The two, along with Onetta and Nick, come to an agreement to combine operations out of Jason's club, basically creating a criminal monopoly for the entire area.

It is here that we will introduce a new element to the illegal activities being concealed by the strip club – Russian hacking, trolling, and meddling in American politics. A new character, VANESSA (50s, ruthless), will come on the scene, running for a US Senate seat and willing to do anything to win it.

For our other characters, Alex will struggle with getting her life back on track, applying for colleges and eager to get away from the crazy world she has been living in for the last couple of years; Connor will start to come to terms with his own sexuality, looking to his uncle for guidance that Zach will not be in any position to be able to give; Rachel will return to the strip club looking for forgiveness; Heather will fight with Sarah and strike off on her own criminal endeavor; and Kaitlyn and the other strippers will all try to unionize, causing more than a few headaches for Sara, Jason, Onetta, and Nick that get dealt with in brutal ways.

We will end this season on election night with Vanessa poised to win the Senate seat despite the fact that we see it is her that was driving the car that ran someone down (we still don't get to see who).

## Season Four

The flash forward will appear to be a happy one at first, with a proud Sarah sitting in the audience of a high school graduation as they call her son Connor's name. This will be intercut with quick shots of someone – we don't see who – setting up a noose by which to hang themselves.

We will wrap up the cliffhanger by revealing that Heather was killed by Vanessa because the rather inept criminal efforts Heather conducted allowed her to stumble into something much darker about the new Senator. This will be a mystery to viewers and the major characters until next season.

The primary threat is the head of the Russian mafia that is funding operations – basically Onetta and Nick's boss – who comes to town to find ways, often ruthless, to improve the underperforming businesses.

Other developments:

- Sarah takes custody of Heather's now five-year-old Parker
- Danny will have recovered enough to leave the hospital but still depend on Sarah for care
- Sarah will rekindle her affair with Jason
- This, in part, along with the reveal that Onetta caused Danny's aneurysm with a lethal drug injection, will drive a wedge between Sarah and Onetta that rapidly gets dangerous
- Kaitlyn will come into her own, becoming the boss bitch that Rachel once was and causing problems for everyone
- Zach will try to put his life back together after almost overdosing at the end of the last season and start a tentative new relationship with a man that we will eventually reveal is an undercover agent working with Whitney
- Alex will go off to college but find that she's better at the "family business" than anything else
- Connor, torn by his sexuality and the things he has done in the past (killing Ben), will turn to religion to try to find comfort

Double crossed by Sarah, the Russian crime boss goes to Connor to take advantage of his internal conflicts. When we catch up to the graduation scene, we will see that it is Connor setting up the noose and that when his name is called at the ceremony he is not there.

## Season Five

This is intended to be the final season of the show.

Our flash forward will mirror that of our first season, with someone running through the woods in the rain being pursued by someone else.

We resolve our cliffhanger by showing that although Connor set up the noose, it was so he could put the crime boss's body in it – Connor killed him to stop him from going after Sarah.

This is the start of a high body count for the final season and the final push toward a resolution for all of the characters one way or another:

- Sarah will uncover the secret that got Heather killed and have to take on the now powerful Senator Vanessa to exact revenge, something that will require an uneasy partnership with Onetta
- Sarah and Danny's relationship falls apart
- Sarah and Jason start to talk about what getting out of the "business" might look like
- Alex drops out of school and comes back to work for her mother
- Connor embraces his dark side
- Zach will find out about his new relationship's true profession as an FBI agent but be surprised when the agent reveals that he has fallen in love with Zach and wants to help him evade arrest
- Whitney will finally get the evidence she needs to take down Sara, this time with information provided by Danny who is devastated by her affair with Jason

The whole thing comes to a head as the FBI is closing in on the strip club with Jason and Sarah inside. Onetta sacrifices herself to allow the others – Sara, Jason, Zach, his FBI boyfriend, Alex, and Connor – to escape. Onetta blows up the club, once again destroying all the evidence.

The flash forward is resolved when we see that the two people running through the woods in the rain are Sarah and Jason, but they are doing so playfully, happy and living under assumed identities in another state with a seemingly happy family of Alex, Connor, Parker, and Zach.

We will, however, leave the door open for more when we see someone in an FBI jacket watching them.