

Faces

Series screenplay: four supplied episodes

Psychological crime drama

Written by Ben Burgess Jr.

Key art and visual approach are proposals. No cast or production attachments are implied.



A story in one sentence

A trusted elementary school teacher hides his participation in a child exploitation network, until his calculating wife's investigation exposes an imminent threat and forces his family and community to confront the consequences of misplaced trust.

Listing synopsis

CFW Harrison is the elementary school teacher parents praise and the babysitter families welcome into their homes. Behind that dependable public identity, he purchases and trades child sexual abuse material through an online network. His work gives him access to children, and his reputation helps conceal the danger.

Childhood memories reveal humiliation and a family ruled by his mother Susan's contempt. In adulthood, CFW remains attached to Claire, his married childhood friend, and distant from his brother Cam. A relationship with Tricia offers the appearance of a conventional life. It also brings a calculating observer into the controlled apartment where he keeps his secrets.

As CFW moves further into the network, Tricia uncovers records and devices, then records his plan to assault Emma Mitchell, a child whose family trusts him. She persuades him to surrender the evidence and brings it to the FBI, pursuing her own financial protection as well as his exposure.

The four episodes follow his arrest, trial, and imprisonment, alongside the shock confronting Claire, Cam, Principal Mitchell, and the families around them. Faces ends with consequences, continuing lives, and no absolution for the man who used trust to conceal his choices.

The story

CFW Harrison presents himself as a patient, gentle elementary school teacher. Colleagues praise him, parents request him, and Principal Mitchell recommends him as a babysitter to her sister Janet. Yet his private routine includes purchasing child sexual abuse material and communicating with an online network. Maya, a student, senses something unsettling beneath his exaggerated niceness. Childhood memories reveal his mother Susan's contempt for him and his father, Coach Harrison. CFW learns to associate authority with finding people who are smaller, weaker, and trusting.

His oldest friend Claire, now married to Alex, encourages him to build an adult life. Their former teenage relationship remains important to him, and he envies the family she plans with her husband. When he babysits Janet and Mark Mitchell's daughter Emma, ordinary activities such as baking and watching television emphasize the family's trust. His private behavior remains hidden from them. Episode One ends with an invitation to a more exclusive network and a memory of his adolescent fixation on power.

In Episode Two, memories of school bullying deepen the portrait of humiliation without removing CFW's responsibility for his later choices. His brother Cam tries to reconnect, shares news of Sarah's pregnancy, and reveals that CFW unknowingly interrupted his teenage suicide attempt. CFW nevertheless withdraws. A network contact asks him to prove his access to children, and he sends a classroom photograph.

CFW begins dating Tricia, a marketing professional who values stability and financial security. She quickly pushes their relationship toward commitment. He welcomes the outward appearance of normalcy, though his thoughts remain attached to Claire and his concealed activities. He then sends the network a photograph of Emma asleep. After their first night together, Tricia examines his phone. A message from Claire redirects her attention from Kik to possible romantic competition. She also discovers a hidden lockbox and the birthday date on a photograph of Claire, keeping that information for later.

The resolution

Episode Three follows their relationship into marriage and CFW's further escalation. Claire questions whether Tricia cares for him, while Cam begins therapy and tries to protect his growing family from the damage of their childhood. Tricia becomes increasingly suspicious of CFW's nighttime rituals. She opens the lockbox using Claire's birthday and finds drives, passwords, and notes about children. The FBI is already monitoring the network, but her evidence becomes crucial when she records CFW describing a specific plan to assault Emma.

Tricia tells CFW that a relative can erase the illegal material and protect them. Under that pretext, she obtains his devices, notebooks, and signed financial authority. She brings the evidence to the FBI and demands protection for herself. She later tells CFW what she has done and that she has emptied his accounts. Principal Mitchell removes him from the school. Maya tells her mother Diane about the behavior that made her uneasy and the precautions she took. Federal agents arrest CFW at his parents' home. Claire rejects his pleas for help, and Cam grieves the brother he believed he knew while affirming his daughter's safety.

Episode Four moves through the investigation and trial. Child interviews describe discomfort and covert photography. Principal Mitchell acknowledges an earlier parent complaint she failed to follow up. Tricia's testimony exposes both CFW's planning and her own calculated motives. Claire confronts the memories she explained away. Cam describes choosing therapy and a different life despite their shared childhood. CFW concentrates on attacking the evidence and Tricia rather than acknowledging harm. The jury finds him guilty on all charges, and he receives forty-five years in federal prison.

Prison strips CFW of the control he sought, leaving him isolated, threatened, and subjected to implied inmate violence. Outside, Tricia turns her account into a successful book and media career. Principal Mitchell commits herself to child protection. Claire and Alex have a daughter named Emma Claire, honoring the child who was saved. Cam builds a present, affectionate family with Sarah and their children. Years later, CFW waits for visitors who never arrive, writes a limited acknowledgment of what he built, and discards it. The series closes without redemption, followed by a survivor dedication and a child-protection appeal.

People at the center

CFW Harrison

Charles Franklin William Harrison, a trusted teacher and babysitter. His concealed participation in the network develops into a documented plan to assault Emma.

Claire Donnelly

CFW's childhood friend and former girlfriend, married to Alex. His exposure forces her to reconsider the reassurance and protection she offered him.

Maya / Emma Mitchell

Maya is CFW's student who senses danger and protects her own boundaries. Emma is the principal's niece whom CFW babysits and targets. They are separate children.

Tricia Harrison

CFW's partner and later wife. Her investigation produces decisive evidence, while her financial demands and later media career complicate the motives behind her actions.

Cam Harrison

CFW's brother, Sarah's partner, and Beth's father. Through therapy and parenting, he chooses a different response to their family's emotional abuse.

Principal Mitchell / Agent Harris

Mitchell faces her recommendations and an unaddressed parent complaint. Harris leads the FBI investigation that converts the evidence into exposure and prosecution.

What the story examines

Betrayal of trust. Deliberate choice and responsibility. Institutional reassurance that overrides warning signs. Family trauma without exculpation. The difference between protection and possession. The commercialization of an exposure story. These are editorial interpretations of the four supplied episodes.

Four supplied episodes trace a trusted teacher's concealment, escalation, exposure, and consequences. The drama follows the people around him as they discover that affection and a respected role never revealed who he was.

The world of the story

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Farmingdale school and homes, CFW's controlled apartment, childhood family and school memories, cafés and restaurants, the FBI office, federal courtroom, and prison. Later scenes contrast continuing family life and Tricia's public success with CFW's isolation. Four episodes are supplied. No additional season or episode is proposed.

This lookbook describes the supplied screenplay material. Proposed visual choices are labeled separately.



An approach to the image

Proposed visual approach: restrained psychological crime drama with ordinary spaces and controlled frames. Cool screen light, reflections, closed doors, and neutral daytime classrooms should expose concealment without fetishizing it. Keep abuse material and sexual violence off screen in promotional imagery. The key art uses an imagined adult teacher and an empty institutional corridor. No children appear. His history supplies context, never a visual excuse.

The four-episode arc

Episode 1: The Nice Guy

CFW's trusted teaching and babysitting roles contrast with his private purchases of abuse material. Maya senses the mismatch. Claire urges him toward adult relationships, while memories show a family organized around humiliation and power. Babysitting Emma reinforces the access others grant him. A network invitation closes the episode.

Episode 3: The Trap

CFW marries Tricia and escalates his concealed activities. She discovers the devices and notebook, records his imminent plan against Emma, and obtains his evidence under a promise of cleanup. She hands it to the FBI. CFW loses his job and is arrested. Claire and Cam confront who he is.

Episode 2: The Girlfriend

Cam seeks connection and shares news of a baby. CFW instead pursues network access and dates Tricia, accepting rapid commitment as outward normalcy. He sends classroom and sleeping-child photographs. Tricia examines his phone, focuses on Claire, and discovers a lockbox and the birthday clue she will later use.

Episode 4: The Reckoning

The investigation and trial expose CFW's choices, institutional failures, and Tricia's motives. Convicted on all counts, he receives forty-five years and faces prison isolation and implied violence. Tricia builds a public career, while Claire, Cam, and Mitchell rebuild their lives. Years later, CFW remains alone without absolution.

Ben Burgess Jr.

Ben Burgess Jr. is a novelist and screenwriter with a background as an NYPD detective. His published work includes *Mothers Vol. 1* and *A Father's Sacrifice: Daddy's Girl*. He previously published with Urban Renaissance/Kensington Publishing and has identified Legacy Books LLC as his publishing company.

His screenplay portfolio includes *Ball Is Life*, a basketball drama about a professional athlete grieving her father while reconsidering the family legacy that shaped her. *Black and White*, adapted from his novel *Defining Moments*, follows competing attorneys whose criminal cases expose pressures on their careers, relationships, and sense of identity. *Faces* follows a trusted teacher's concealed predatory behavior, his exposure, and the consequences for the people who believed in him.

These projects place personal relationships alongside professional roles, examining what people protect, what they conceal, and what their choices cost. Burgess brings experience in both prose fiction and screenwriting to stories concerned with Black family life, interracial relationships, responsibility, grief, and trust.