



# GATEWAY

A One-Hour Drama Series

Logline: In a repurposed motel in the Arizona desert, a recovering addict fights to survive a corrupt treatment facility where patients are erased for profit, while a state auditor races to dismantle the system from the outside before the paper trail disappears.

# welcome to gateway house



It sells itself as a sanctuary—a place for fresh starts, “accountability circles,” and trauma-informed care. But beneath the veneer of therapy, Gateway House is a holding pen. Here, recovery isn’t the goal; retention is.

The Conflict: Alex Reed signed a paper for help. Now, Alex is trapped in a system where silence is survival, questions are labeled “resistance,” and patients who become inconvenient disappear on Thursdays.



DAILY COMPLIANCE LOG

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DATE: OCT 12	 PATIENT SIGNATURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DATE: OCT 13	 PATIENT SIGNATURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DATE: OCT 14	 PATIENT SIGNATURE
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**REFUSED**

  
PATIENT SIGNATURE

# SWEAT & STATIC

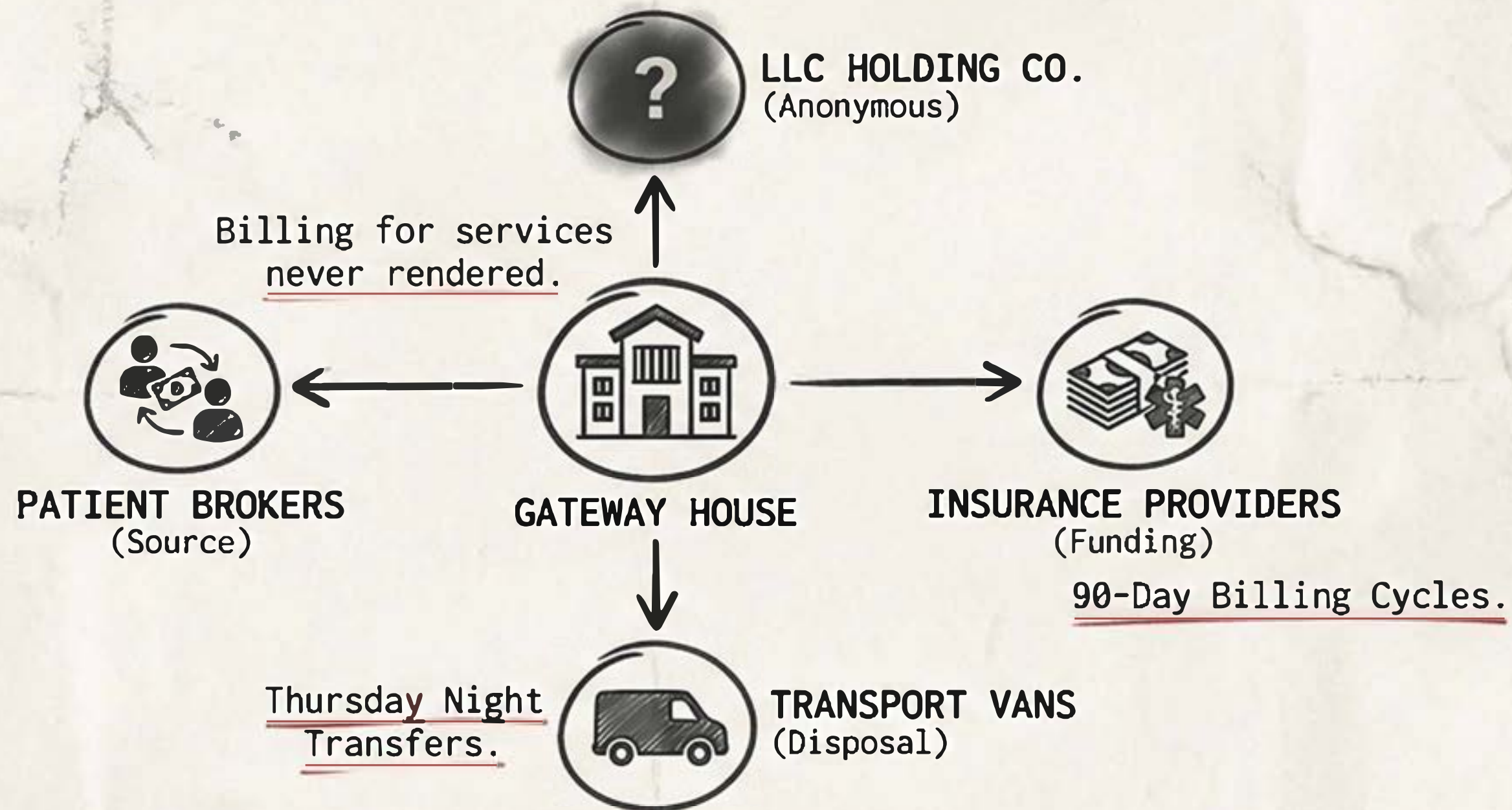
Tone: *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* meets *Michael Clayton*.



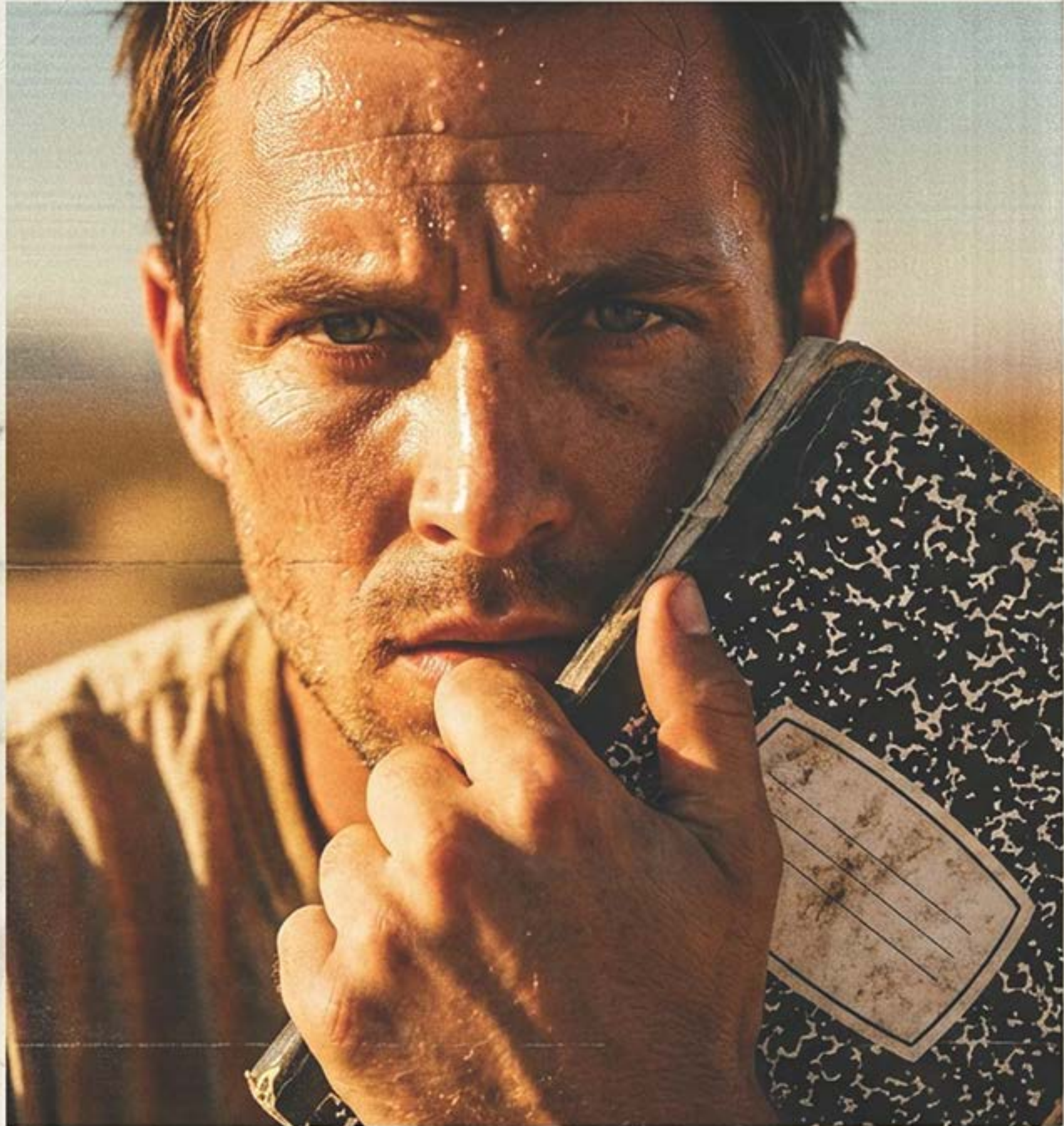
Claustrophobia defined by the heat of the desert and the cold indifference of the audit.

# THE BUSINESS OF BODIES

## The Engine of the Series



The Concept: Gateway House is part of a “sober home” racket. They buy patients from brokers, bill insurance until the policy runs dry, and then transfer the “inventory.” The weapon is documentation: Staff backdate logs to cover neglect. If it’s written down, it’s true.



# THE WITNESS: ALEX REED

The Investigator on the Inside.

- Motivation: Came to Gateway to get clean after a family ultimatum (“Arizona or the street”).
- The Skill: Sharp, observant, and underestimated. Alex tracks patterns—shift changes, van schedules, and lies in the paperwork.
- The Arc: Alex realizes ‘compliance’ is a trap. To survive, Alex begins a secret log, hiding evidence in bathroom vents, transforming from victim to whistleblower.

“They document more than they care.”

# THE AUDITOR: AGENT LARA MOYER

The Hunter on the Outside.

- Motivation: A state bureaucrat with a micro-tremor in her hand and an obsession with truth. Her superiors want to close cases; Lara wants to open them.
- The Insight: She sees the people behind the numbers. She spots the statistical anomaly: a 40% spike in sedative orders every Thursday.
- The Arc: Fighting her own boss and the system's apathy to prove a conspiracy exists before the evidence is shredded.

“Maps have edges, and people fall off them.”



# THE RESIDENTS



## **JAX CARTER (The Veteran)**

40s. A “fixer” who knows the routes and “partner facilities.” He teaches Alex the rules of the underground and how to “perform compliance” to survive.

## **MARIA BLUEBIRD (The Protector)**

30s. Fierce and guarded. She is trying to save her younger cousin, Naomi, from the system that already erased her brother. She knows that “leaving isn’t leaving; it’s disappearing.”

## **NAOMI BLUEBIRD (The Victim)**

20s. Young, trusting, and rapidly disintegrating. She represents the target: someone with good insurance and no voice. She is gaslit into reading scripted “confessions” to her mother.

# THE ENFORCERS



## **KENDRA (The Face)**

The Director. She speaks in therapy-speak (‘Growth,’ ‘Safety,’ ‘Process’) while orchestrating kidnappings. She is corporate evil with a wellness smile.

## **SHELBY (The Hammer)**

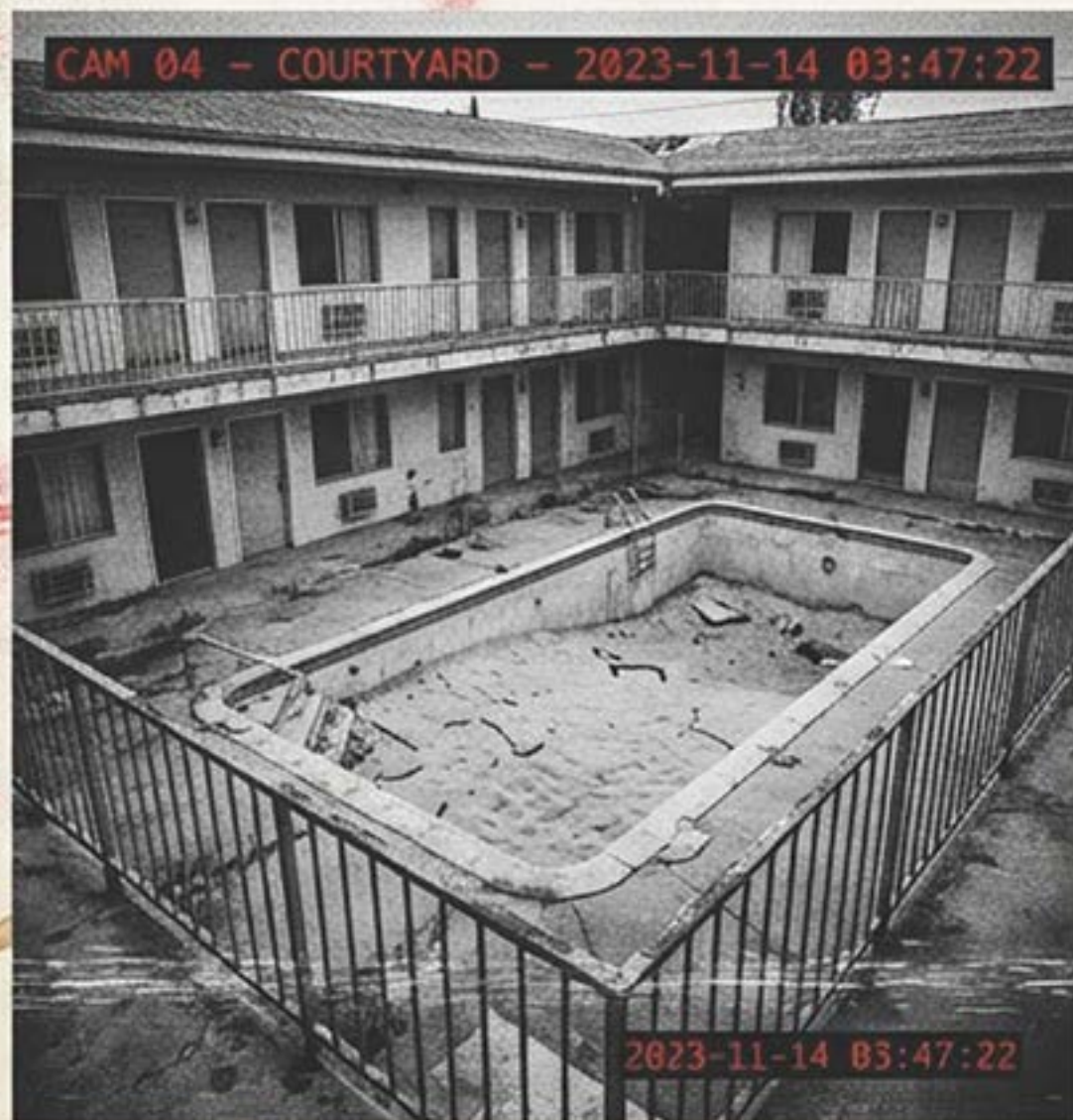
The Floor Manager. Cold, efficient, and sadistic.

She uses ‘documentation’ as a weapon. She forces residents to sign false logs or be marked “Non-Compliant.”

## **NATE (The Cog)**

Staff Tech. Overworked and compromised. He knows it’s wrong, but he needs the paycheck. He runs the med lines alone and follows orders to “keep the logs clean.”

# KEY LOCATIONS



## THE COURTYARD

Nowhere to hide.



## THE DORMS

Inventory storage.



## THE STATE OFFICE

The Paper Labyrinth.

# PILOT SYNOPSIS: THE ARRIVAL



## The Story:

Alex arrives at Gateway House seeking help but finds a prison. “Intake” involves destroying personal property and signing away rights.

## The Inciting Incident:

When a young resident, Robbie, suffers a medical emergency, staff refuse to call 911. Instead, he is “transferred” in a van in the middle of the night.

## The Turn:

Alex realizes the facility isn't treating them; it's holding them. Meanwhile, Agent Moyer spots a statistical anomaly: a 40% spike in sedative orders every Thursday.

# THE SEASON ARC: THE PAPER TRAIL



## Ep 102: First Cracks

The facility runs on skeleton crews. Naomi is targeted for asking questions. Alex begins secretly documenting the neglect in a notebook.

## Ep 103: The Ride

Psychological torture intensifies. Naomi is forced to read a scripted "I'm safe" message to her mother. Alex hides the "Daily Services Checklist" in a bathroom vent—proof of fraud.

## Ep 104: Paper Trails

Moyer files a "Preservation Notice," spooking the facility. Gateway goes into lockdown. Staff erase records and "batch" patients to clear evidence. The Thursday purge is imminent.

# VISUAL LANGUAGE



## **THE DESERT (Day)**

The sun is a threat. Heat waves distort the frame. Delirium and entrapment.



## **THE FACILITY (Night)**

High contrast noir. Deep shadows where secrets are exchanged. 'Panopticon' lighting.



## **THE CAMERA**

Subjective handheld intimacy with residents (claustrophobia) vs. Static, wide surveillance-style frames with staff (machinery).

# WRITER'S STATEMENT

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**GATEWAY is not just a thriller; it is an autopsy of a system that has industrialized addiction treatment. It asks a terrifying question: What happens when a patient becomes a product? When care becomes a metric? This story explores the reality of the 'Troubled Teen' and 'Sober Home' industries, where jurisdiction is blurry and human rights are optional. It is about the resilience of the human spirit in a place designed to crush it, and the power of witnessing the truth when the world wants to look away.**

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