

MEET THE BONERS

COMEDY SERIES | 13 X 30
CREATED & WRITTEN BY JESSICA FORBES



LOGLINE

SKELETONS WALK AMONG US -
CALEB JUST WANTS TO BE
PART OF THEIR WORLD.



WHAT IF...

WHAT IF A BILLION SKELETONS
ROSE FROM THE GRAVE?

NOT CRAVING BRAINS OR FLESH.

NOT TO DESTROY HUMANITY.

JUST TO RECLAIM THE LIFE THEY
ONCE HAD IN A WORLD THAT HAD
MOVED ON?



THE WORLD

We meet our world 15 years after a billion dead humans rose from the ground as “living” skeletons.

These newly “risen” appear all over the globe and range from as old as the dawn of Man to as recent as 10 years dead.

“The Rising” was followed by a period of war waged by the living against the newly risen, but a lasting peace was struck between the skeletons - known as “Boners” - and the living - known as “Fleshies.”

This peace means there was a full-scale integration of the Boners in all aspects normal society.

The most successful sign of a lasting peace is the global popularity of a weekly TV show that launched in the decade after the last wars called “Meet the Boners.”

This show is the single biggest, most profitable entertainment property in human history and has been almost single handedly responsible for the normalization of Boners in modern society.



INFLUENCES



The Good Place - NBC

Unafraid to use a blend of out-there and low-brow humor in a surreal setting to explore relationships and big human truths with network-tv constraints and reach.



Atlanta - FX

Grounded, but surreal journey of a man looking to find his place in world he doesn't always feel at home in.

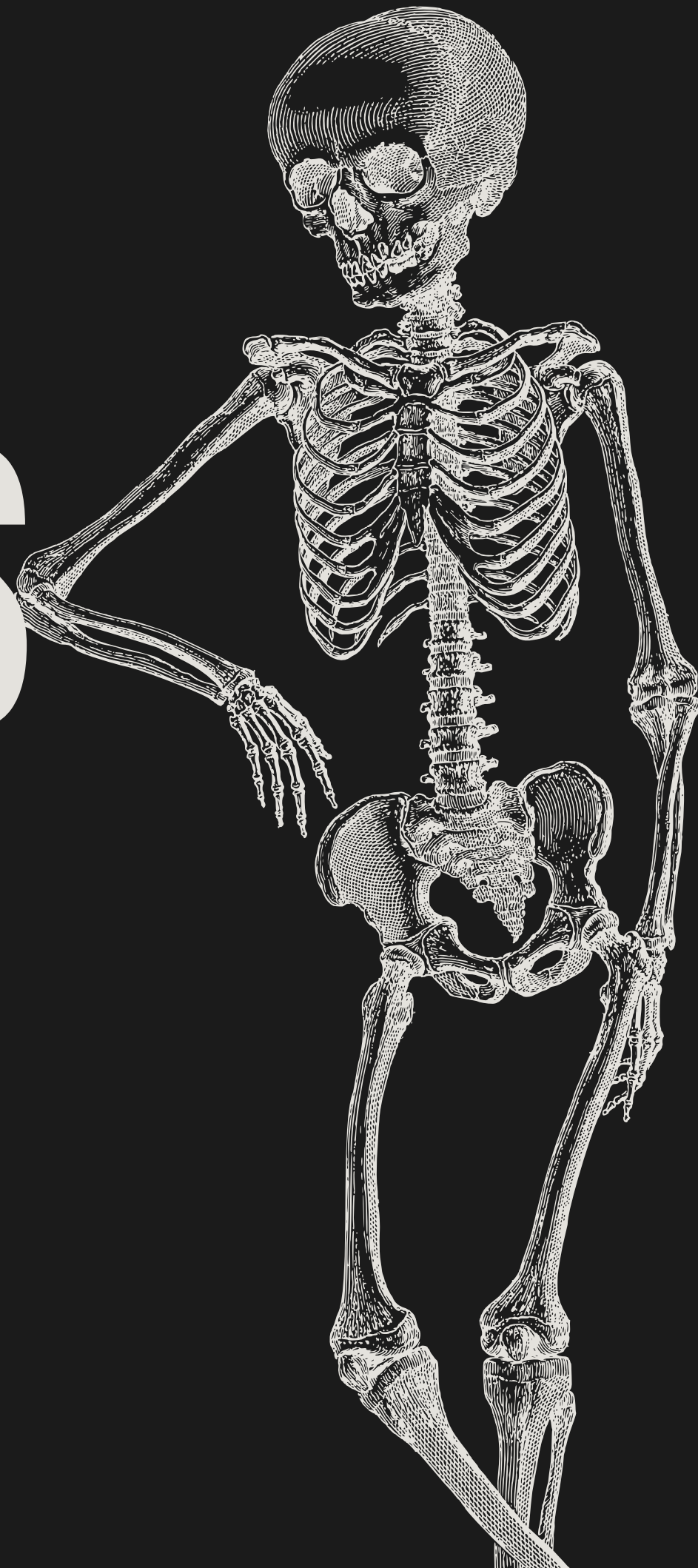


Barry - HBO

Bridges the broad comedy of chasing a dream against hard-hitting violence and drama.



LET'S MEET THE BONERS



OUR HEROES, VILLIANS, AND THE UNIVERSE
THEY ARE FIGHTING FOR.

24. NO GOALS. JUST A DREAM. A BONER DREAM.

MEET CALEB.

CALEB SEEMS LIKE A LOSER TO EVERYONE ELSE, LIVING IN THE BASEMENT OF HIS PARENTS HOME AT 24, BUT HE'S REALLY JUST A SENSITIVE GUY WHO JUST HASN'T QUITE FIGURED OUT HIS PLACE IN THE WORLD YET. SURE, HE MAY NOT HAVE A JOB, A COLLEGE EDUCATION, A ROMANTIC LIFE, OR EVEN A PURPOSE, BUT HE DOES HAVE THE FANTASY WORLD OF BONERS TO OCCUPY HIM.

WHEN HE WITNESSED "THE RISING" AT THE TENDER AGE OF 9 LIVE ON TV, IT UNLOCKED SOMETHING INSIDE OF HIM AND PERMANENTLY SHAPED THE WAY HE THINKS ABOUT HIMSELF AND THE WORLD AROUND HIM. AND THOUGH HIS DAD HAS EXPECTED HIM TO FOLLOW IN HIS FOOTSTEPS AND CARRY ON THE FAMILY JANITORIAL BUSINESS, CALEB HAS ALWAYS FELT LIKE HE WAS DESTINED FOR MORE - HE'S JUST NOT SURE WHAT.

UNTIL HE FIGURES THAT OUT, HE SPENDS HIS TIME OBSESSING OVER ALL ASPECTS OF HIS FAVORITE SHOW - "MEET THE BONERS," HOW HOT BONER WOMEN ARE, AND HANGING OUT WITH HIS BEST FRIEND AND NEIGHBOR TUTS.

COMPS: CALEB MCLAUGHLIN, MARCELLO HERNANDEZ, EMIL WAKIM



18 GOING ON 3,338. JUST WANTS TO BE NORMAL AGAIN.

MEET TUTS.

QUITE LITERALLY THE FABLED EGYPTIAN BOY KING TUTANKHAMEN - BUT NO ONE BUT HIS BEST FRIEND, CALEB, KNOWS THAT.

HE'S HIDING OUT IN THE SUBURBAN ENCLAVE NEAR L.A. HE SPENT THE FIRST THREE YEARS OF HIS TIME AFTER THE RISING FIGHTING WITH THE BONER LIBERATION ARMY (BLA) AS AN UNKNOWN SOLDIER AND HAS SPENT THE PAST 12 YEARS MAKING UP FOR THE LIFE HE FELT ROBBED OF AS THE BOY KING THAT NEVER GOT TO LIVE A LIFE HE DESERVED.

MOSTLY, MAKING UP FOR LOST TIME HAS TRANSLATED INTO PLAYING A LOT OF VIDEO GAMES, SMOKING MORE WEED THAN IS ADVISABLE (SOMETHING THAT, FOR WHATEVER REASON SCIENCE STILL DOESN'T UNDERSTAND, GETS BONERS JUST AS HIGH AS FLESHIES), AND HOOKING UP WITH AS MANY BONER-LOVING FLESHIES AS HE CAN (OF ALL GENDERS).

GOOD NATURED AND DOWN-TO-CLOWN, TUTS JUST WANTS A CHANCE TO BE A NORMAL KID LIVING A NORMAL LIFE WITHOUT THE PRESSURES OF BEING THE GUY THAT HISTORY SEEMS TO THINK HE IS.

COMPS: RAMY YOUSSEF, JULIO TORRES, LAKEITH STANFIELD



21 GOING ON 106. TEMPER LIKE A GUN. GONNA MAKE IT THIS TIME.

MEET THELMA.

THELMA GREYSTONE MAY BE A BONER BUT, ONCE UPON A TIME, MANY DECADES AGO, SHE WAS A RISING IT-GIRL ACTRESS WITH STARS IN HER EYES THAT MET A TRAGIC END THAT SHE LIKES TO KEEP CLOSE TO HER... RIBCAGE.

TODAY, SHE'S CLAWED HER WAY BACK INTO THE INDUSTRY AS THE NEWEST ADDITION TO THE HOTTEST SHOW ON TELEVISION, "MEET THE BONERS," PLAYING THE NEW NEIGHBOR THAT CATCHES THE EYE OF THE SHOW'S TEENAGE DAUGHTER, JESSICA BONER.

HAUNTED BY HER FIRST LIFE'S PAST IN HOLLYWOOD, SHE SEES HER TIME ON "MEET THE BONERS" AS HER LAST CHANCE AT THE CAREER HER UNTIMELY AND SUSPICIOUS DEATH STOLE FROM HER ALL THOSE YEARS AGO.

TEMPESTUOUS BUT CALCULATING, THELMA LOATHES FLESHIES AND TREATS FELLOW BONERS AS A THREAT TO HER AMBITION, BUT SHE FINDS HERSELF ODDLY FLATTERED AND ENRAGED BY THE ATTENTION OF YOUNG CALEB - A NEW PA ON THE SET OF THE SHOW.

COMPS: CLARA BOW, OLIVE THOMAS, VIRGINIA RAPPE, GILDA GRAY



40. HARD AS STEEL HATES BONERS MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE.

MEET BONNIE.

THE STRIKING AND BRILLIANT FORMER COMMANDER OF THE HUMAN FRONT - THE ORIGINAL GROUP THAT TOOK UP ARMS TO FIGHT BONERS AT THE DAWN OF THE RISING.

12 YEARS AFTER SHE WAS TOLD DOWN TO LAY DOWN ARMS AND WELCOME BONERS INTO SOCIETY, SHE FINDS HERSELF DOWN ON HER LUCK, A FUNCTIONAL ALCOHOLIC WHO IS SCRAPING TOGETHER THE REMNANTS OF THE HUMAN FRONT AND OTHER MEMBERS OF FLESHY SOCIETY WHO NEVER QUITE GOT OVER THE IDEA OF SHARING THE WORLD WITH BONERS.

FILLED WITH A HATRED OF BONERS AND THE FLESHIES THAT LOVE THEM, SHE SPENDS HER TIME PLANNING TERRORISTIC ACTIONS FOR HER NEW ORGANIZATION - KILL ALL BONERS (KAB) - TO EXECUTE.

THINGS ARE COMPLICATED FOR BONNIE AS SHE'S CONSTANTLY FORCED TO BATTLE THE INCOMPETENCE OF HER OWN ORGANIZATION AND THE MEMORIES OF THE WAR SHE WAS TOLD TO SURRENDER ALL THOSE YEARS AGO COME BACK TO HAUNT HER.

COMPS: LINDA HAMILTON AS SARAH CONNOR



THE STORY

We follow Caleb Krimp, who has been obsessed with the Boner society ever since seeing “The Rising” live on TV when he was just a young boy. Now, a young man without much going on besides getting high with his best friend, a boner named Tuts, and obsessively watching the “Meet the Boners” TV show.

A set of lucky circumstances create the conditions where Caleb can “pass” as a Boner and he immediately sets his sights on getting a dream job with the “Meet the Boners” production. Things get complicated when he falls in love with a young Boner woman he meets his first day on set - Thelma Greystone. His attempts to remain undetected in the world of the boners grow more elaborate and risky until things build to the inevitable reveal of his true identity.

But there’s more at risk than just Caleb’s dreams. The fragile peace between the Boner and Fleshy world starts to splinter as a Fleshy terrorist faction called KAB (Kill All Boners) escalates their campaign to drive Boners from normal society. Funded by Fleshy and Boner leaders who operate a shadow world government, KAB’s charismatic leader is a woman codenamed Bonnie Blanks. She’s got her own personal motivations for hating the Boners and an unflinching approach to destroying what she considers a threat on humanity. She is tasked with a plan to kidnap and assassinate key figures in both the Boner and Fleshy societies in order to drive a new war between the communities. Unfortunately for her, the KAB cause doesn’t necessarily attract the best and brightest and Caleb manages to thwart many of their attempts to take their targets from “Meet the Boners” without even trying.

This sets Bonnie’s sights directly on this new Boner on the scene - Caleb.





THE WORLD OF BONERS

They are our neighbors. Our friends. Our family members. Doctors. Bosses. The guy who makes your sandwich at the deli or the person who teaches your kid how to read.

More importantly, they create cultural moments and set the tone in this brave, new world.

WHERE THEY ARE

Season 1 of Meet the Boners is set in the Greater Los Angeles Area.

Caleb & Tuts live in the borderlands between Glendale and Burbank.

The show-within-the-show is shot in Burbank.

The KAB initiative is based out of an abandoned lodge on Mount Baldy.

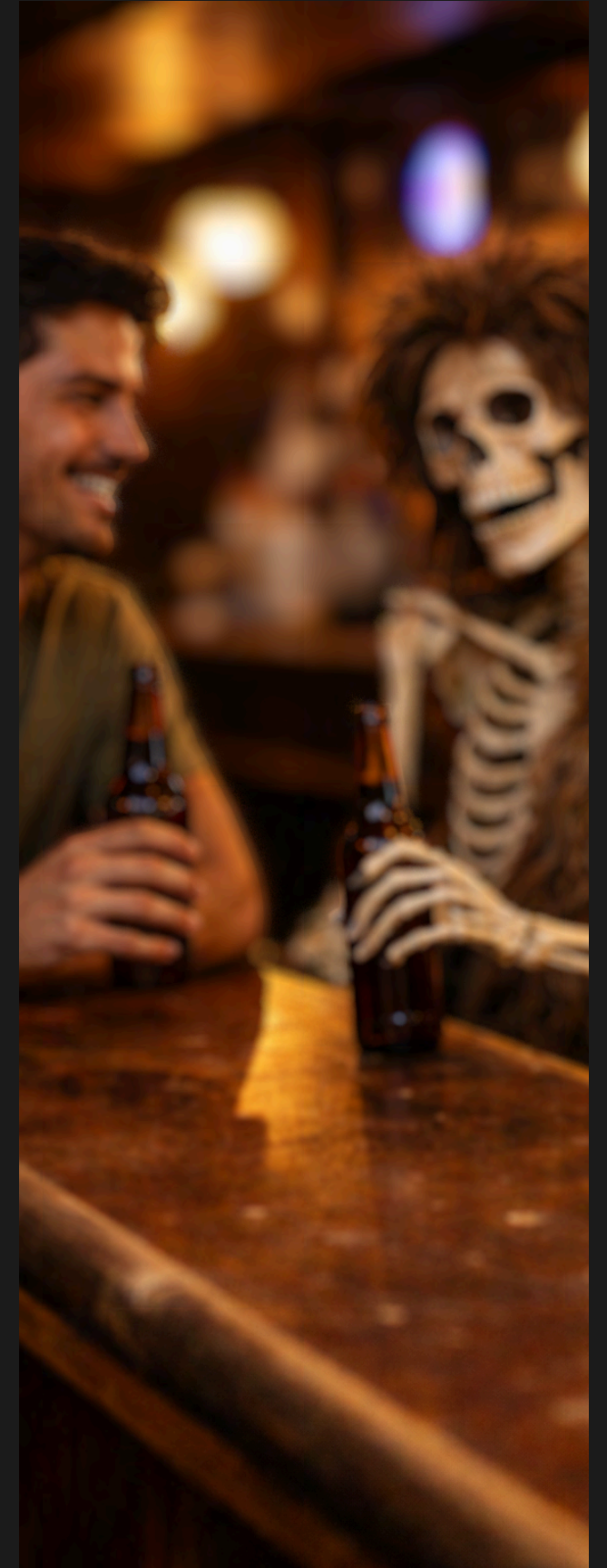
FUTURE SEASONS WILL BRANCH OUT AS THE STORY GROWS.



MEET THE BONERS IS



- Earnest, heart-felt comedy wrapped in a bit of the surreal.
- Packed with social commentary and world-building lore delivered in a witty, grounded way.
- Never mean-spirited and always open to surprising the audience to make important truths more clear.



BONER STYLE.

TOPE

The tone of the show should always feel genuine and sincere. The juvenile jokes about boners aren't jokes to the people of the show. The show should always be exploring "what if" and "what could be" in order to build the lore and universe.

STYLE

The visual style will alternate between the cinematic style of teenage shows of the late-90s and early 00s (think Buffy the Vampire Slayer/Malcolm in the Middle) in the primary plot and the hyper-stylized realistic sitcom look of that same era when showing the show-within-a-show. Music direction should mimic these same eras, ideally with a mix of more modern artists covering the character-appropriate songs of those decades (e.g. pop punk, grunge, reggae, rap metal).



THE FUTURE OF BONERS



WHO IS THIS FOR AND WHAT'S THE POTENTIAL?

WHO IS OUR AUDIENCE?

- 1 18-49 (GEN Z TO MILLENIALS)**

Not afraid to take serious issues both seriously and not-so-seriously, raised in a post South Park world.
- 2 MEN AND WOMEN (YES, BOTH)**

The humor behind Caleb and Tuts may skew more male, but the romance between Caleb and Thelma and strong character development of both Bonnie and Thelma will be attractive for women.
- 3 INTERNATIONAL APPEAL**

Though in the U.S. and within the LA metro area, the worldwide nature of the story has a broad appeal and the opportunity to “take the show on the road,” that will make an international audience feel part of the plot.

WHAT ARE PEOPLE WATCHING FOR

1

TO LAUGH

Meet the Boners engages in sarcastic and witty humor with a frame of a very juvenile concept.

2

TO ESCAPE

The world is increasingly polarized and scary. Meet the Boners takes those really big concepts and makes them larger than life, which helps people release their own fear.

3

TO CONNECT

Because the scope could be as small as one man's story or the story of any person who has ever lived, there are infinite human experiences that people can see themselves in.

THE SEASONS



SEASON 1 & THOUGHTS ON THE FUTURE



Season 1

The first season tells a contained story of Caleb's desire to "pass" as a Boner and how he ultimately realizes that he doesn't have to be one to fit into the world. His obsession with joining the "Meet the Boners" TV show and falling in love with Thelma intensify his feeling of being out of step with the world-at-large, but it's when he's kidnapped by an anti-Boner terror group, fronted by the caustic Bonnie Blanks, that he realizes that he can do more good if he connects to his humanity, regardless of his appearance.

YOU CAN'T BE SOMETHING YOU'RE NOT.
YOU CAN LEARN FROM SOMETHING YOU'RE NOT.
YOU CAN'T HATE SOMETHING BECAUSE IT'S
FAMILIAR.
YOU CAN RUN FROM YOUR PAST... FOR A WHILE.



THE PILOT

Our story opens with the moment the Boners appear. Over the credits, we get brief glimpses of what happens next as scenes to whet our curiosity and appetite to learn more about a world where the dead have returned to participate, rather than destroy, the human world.

We meet Caleb in the basement of his parents home 15 years later, doing what he usually does - watching something about his favorite show "Meet The Boners." He doesn't have much going on in his life and this show feels like his whole world.

His slacking off is interrupted when Tuts arrives and convinces him to go for a walk. While the two are on their walk and discussing the future (or Caleb's lack of one), the encounter scenes of Boners going about their day. The friend's discussion is interrupted by an odd encounter with a frazzled man who shoves a wrapped bundle into Caleb's hands with the instructions to "keep it secret, keep it safe." Caleb and Tuts flee the scene as shadowy figures nab the man, and Caleb returns to the safety of his basement to discover the bundle contains a small vial with a microchip inside labeled "Swallow Me." Hopeful what's in the vial is drugs, Caleb shrugs and swallows it.

When he awakes, Caleb stumbles into the bathroom and finds that he looks like a Boner. After his initial surprise, Caleb meets up with Tuts and, after some convincing, the pair take his new persona out for a test drive, experiencing the world as a Boner as he's always dreamed of. The pair get offered a chance to audition for Caleb's favorite show, "Meet the Boners." While he blows the audition, he gets a chance to join the crew.

His first day as a PA on the set of "Meet the Boners," starts off rough, but he runs into the ingenue actress, Thelma Greystone, who he falls for - hard. Catching his stride, he earns the chance to stick around set and in his celebration, accidentally ruins a bombing plot of the KAB - a shadowy organization bent on driving a wedge between Boner and Fleshy society to ultimately destroy all Boners. Bonnie Blanks, the obsessive leader of KAB, curses him for foiling her plot to KILL ALL BONERS.

EPISODE STRUCTUURE

RISING, PLOT, STEP TO THE CLIFF



GOLD OPEN

Every episode should begin with a relevant “Rising” that helps us understand the motivations and development of the boners we meet or the fleshies relationship to them.

THE ARC

The bulk of the episode is designed to explore the core plot of Caleb trying to fit into the world of boners or Bonnie’s attempts to destroy that world.

THE STEP

Each episode ends with a stepping stone to get us to the next level of both core plots, as well as widen the view of how Caleb fits into the larger universe.

S1. EPISODE BEATS

EP 2-4



EP 2

Open with Tut's rising. Follows Thelma for a day. Caleb's constant boneheaded mistakes keep thwarting her. She gets him fired, but Tuts makes her see the errors of her ways. Caleb pushes his luck and asks her out. Bonnie makes plans.



EP 3

Open with a famous actor rising. Caleb is sent on an important mission by the producer of "Meet the Boners." He returns to set just in time to ruin a big scene for Thelma. She isn't pleased. Caleb interrupts a KAB plot to kidnap her inadvertently.



EP 4

Open with a random Boner's rising. Follow Tuts for a day when he learns the random boner has claimed to be the risen King Tut. Tuts seeks out the pretender. Bonnie's group gets in the way. Caleb inadvertently saves the day - AGAIN.

S1. EPISODE BEATS

EP 5-7



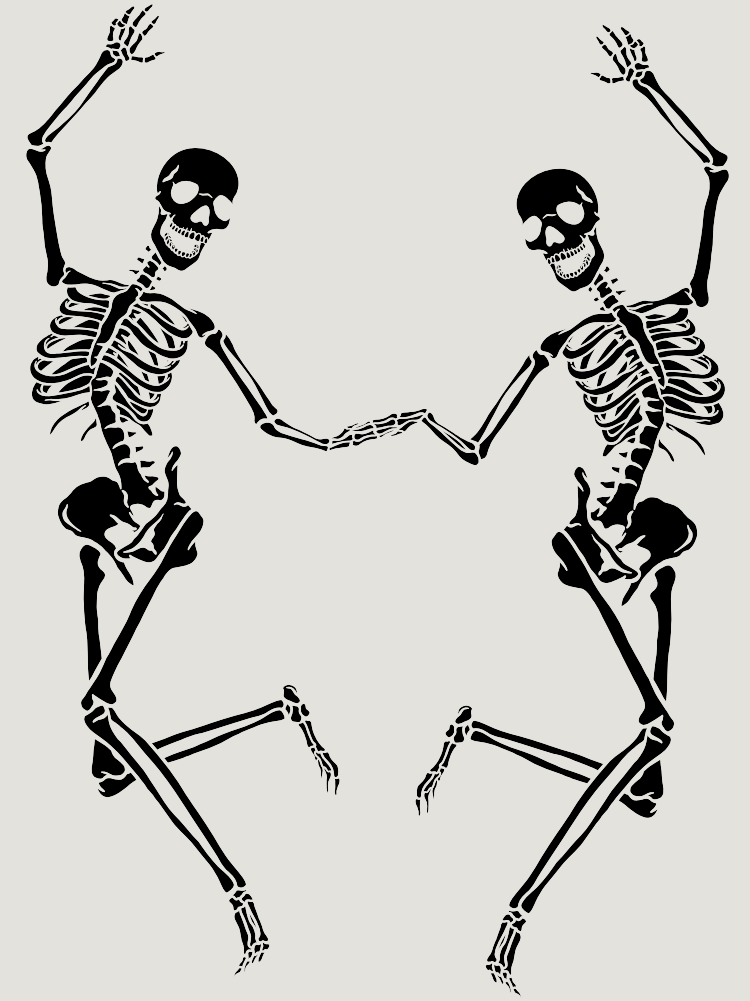
EP 5

Open with Thelma's rising. Caleb and Thelma flirt on-set. She rejects him, but secretly wants to give in. They wind up on a date without knowing it's a date. At the end of the night, they kiss. Caleb almost reveals his secret, but is interrupted by a KAB action.



EP 6

Open with Bonnie's dad rising. Follows Bonnie for a day. She intros a new recruit into her KAB group. They make a plan for another action. Caleb inadvertently interrupts this plan too. Bonnie is pissed and takes it out on the boner we see in the open, unaware of who he is until too late.



EP 7

Open with a wife rising, but not her husband. Caleb and Thelma are set to go on a date. Tuts is jealous and against the match. After the date, the couple start to hook up and Caleb's secret is revealed as he reverts to fleshy form. What will Thelma think???

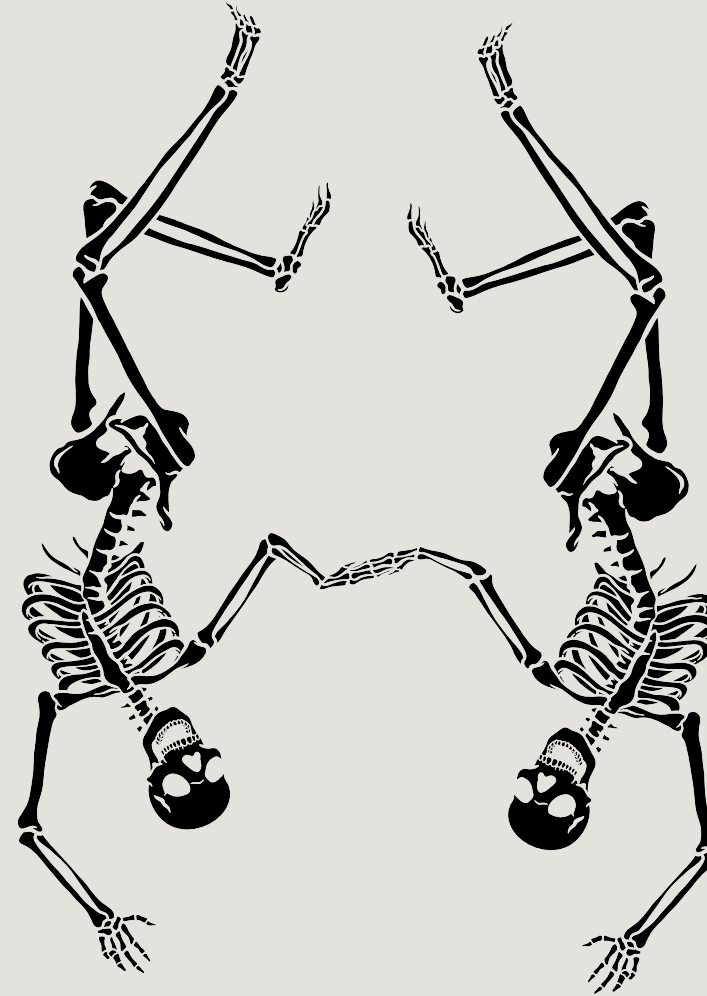
S1. EPISODE BEATS

EP 8-10



EP 8

The episode is a flashback to The Rising from the perspective of Caleb as a 9 year old. Eager to have his mom back. Disappointed she doesn't return. Is saved in the ensuing conflict by a kindly boner who ends up being one of the stars of "Meet the Boners." Caleb talks Thelma out of sharing his secret.



EP 9

The episode is a continuation of the documentary about "Meet the Boners," focusing on the experiences and thoughts of the main cast. We learn about the secret group funding research into boners and get hints into their mission. Caleb is ambushed leaving Thelma's after swallowing the device.



EP 10

Open on a rising of a holy man. Caleb wakes up in a holding cell at the KAB hideout. He and Bonnie spar about the value of The Rising and boners, then she broadcasts a hostage video on Live to the world. Bonnie offers a threat, then a choice to Caleb.

S1. EPISODE BEATS

EP 10-13



EP 11

Open with the rising of a man who was killed in the Asian steppe 250,000 years ago. We follow him on a day in his life as a cab driver through LA. His final fare is a mysterious stranger who asks to be taken to the Mt. Baldy Lodge. When he gets out, he terminates the cab driver.



EP 12

Open on a very silly rising that ends almost immediately after it happens. Bonnie decides to execute Caleb on Live. Caleb reveals his secret on the Live for the whole world to see just as the Boner Liberation Front busts in. They almost kill him, but Thelma recognizes him and saves him. The mysterious stranger looks for the device.



SEASON FINALE

Open with the rising of Caleb's mom and subsequent interaction with his dad. Caleb being welcomed to a wrap party "Meet the Boners" in fleshy form as a hero. He proposes to Thelma. Bonnie is on the run from the BLF & world powers. Tuts is seen in his home, looking at the device he stole in the aftermath of Caleb's rescue. Close on Tuts swallowing the device.

AND BEYOND

FUTURE SEASONS & THEMES

S2

The second season switches main character perspective and we follow Tuts, who has joined a group therapy for Boners to deal with their “addiction” to the human world. He winds up discovering a conspiracy by a group of Boner ruling class to create a device that allows them to “pass” as human (which is the device that Caleb used in Season 1 to do the opposite). He is torn between supporting his kind or accepting that the differences between himself and the Fleshies is too insurmountable. Ultimately, he decides his previous, “fleshy” life was enough and, after outing his past, he sacrifices himself to reveal the conspiracy that the Boner elite has tried to hide from the world.

S3

The third season revolves around the KAB organization and their alliance with the Boner elite. The main character of the season is a scientist inside the KAB that discovers that The Rising might have been caused by Bonnie Blanks’ father - a physicist working with a particle accelerator. When confronted with the truth, Bonnie murders the scientist but fails to realize that they might have planned for this contingency. The scientist becomes the first Boner to rise since The Rising all those years ago and the secret of their rising remains in the hands of Bonnie. Ultimately, she destroys the lab that triggered the rising and the newly risen scientist is imprisoned by the Boner elite for their “crime” of rising.

BEYOND

Future seasons will see Bonnie bringing Caleb and Thelma back into the world of the mystery of what caused the boners to rise, the choice that Caleb and Thelma have to live a more “normal” life, and Bonnie being challenged by her own organization for not being as ruthless as she once was.



BEYOND THE TV

SPREADING THE BONERS

VERTICAL FORMAT

Though designed for wider/TV viewing, Boner's punchy humor and visual gags will work well for vertical edits that could be used to hook in new viewers on platforms like Reels and TikTok. The wide range of characters in this universe also work well as promotional social media stars in short-form content that could be shot throughout production and run before and after airings to supplement the experience of watching on other platforms.

AUDIO

Complimentary audio storytelling (e.g. short-run podcasts) could be created to tell bite-sized histories of The Rising, spread propaganda-style content from the KAB organization (ala conspiracy theory podcasts), or even create extended stories about the world of Boners that have risen, like Tuts.

FILM

Because the world is so rich with stand-alone story possibilities after Season 1, we have the ability to build a franchise with longer-format storytelling with movies connected to the universe.

ABOUT JESS.

If 20 years of experience in her past life as a tech executive has taught her anything, it's that the stories we tell one another shape the world we live in and the most long-lasting and impactful stories can only be made by a group of people, together. Ideally, on-time and on-budget.

Jess has placed in a number of well-regarded film festival and screenplay contests across genres - from thrillers to comedies to family dramas.

A life-long wanderer and storyteller, Jess wants to bring stories of getting lost and found in faraway places while finding home in the great crush of humanity.



WANNA MEET THE BONERS?:

jess@jessforbes.com

THANKS!

