

THE RECRUITED

THE INTERVIEW FROM HELL

Genre: Thriller, Mystery, Horror

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LOGLINE:

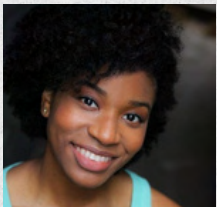
Strapped for cash, **JANELLE** follows her friend **DEJA** to an exclusive recruitment event at a global energy conglomerate, only to uncover a life-or-death elimination process that tests how much of herself she's willing to sacrifice to survive.

THE WORLD:

A present day corporate horror-story, we find ourselves in the boondocks of Georgia. Somewhere outside Macon... or Cordell. Our story is told from the perspective of an intelligent young black woman, Janelle, looking to break out from her job as bartender at the local sports pub.

She drives off into the middle of nowhere to a private recruitment event run by a trillion-dollar energy conglomerate simply titled **[BLANK]**. She joins the corporate ritual event and as it unravels, finds herself distanced symbolically, physically, mentally from the real world. The ritual occurs on a private compound owned and operated by **[BLANK]**, akin to the contained nature of movies like *Ready or Not* or *Get Out* and the elimination angle of movies like *Circle* or *Exam*.

KEY CHARACTERS



JANELLE (F, 30)

Attached: Jaye Ladymore (4400, Empire, The Chi)

A financially-strapped bartender who moved in with Deja approx. 1 year ago. Overly trusting of those closest to her.

Self-doubting contender → Instinct-driven tactician



DEJA (F, early 30s)

Comps: Keke Palmer, Jayme Lawson

A ruthless ladder climber who lures Janelle into the recruitment gauntlet. She's in line for a promotion if they survive the night.

Trusted confidante → Devout corporate loyalist

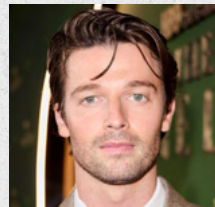


THE USHER (F, 50s)

Comps: Karen Aldridge, CCH Pounder

A multi-decade employee of the energy conglomerate. Recently demoted, she knows that when the day ends, she will be *let go*.

Silent witness → Traumatized dissenter

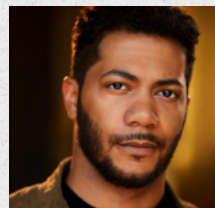


CHARLESTON (M, early 30s)

Comps: Patrick Schwarzenegger, Hudson Williams

Deja's former partner with some feelings still lingering. Invited his business frat brother, Charles, to game the event together.

Devious finance bro → Corporate golden boy

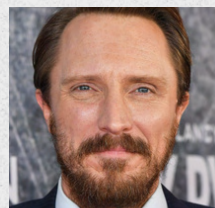


CHARLES (M, late 20s)

Attached: Xavier J. Roe (Macbeth, Nickelodeon)

Charleston's business frat little bro, who finds himself drawn into **[BLANK]**'s cult. He indulges in the gaslighting and violence.

Naïve protégé → Morally compromised aggressor



MR. HARRISON (M, 50s)

Comps: John Hoogenakker, Courtney B. Vance

The institutional enforcer in direct connection with the boss. Almost like a warden. Executing recruits with a smile.

Seasoned enforcer → Disposable executive

FEATURE
SOCIAL THRILLER with HORROR ELEMENTS
CLIMBING THE CORPORATE LADDER

SYNOPSIS

Passed over for yet another corporate gig, overworked at her bartending day job, and unwilling to move in with her mama; Janelle is at her wits end... and rent's due. Against her better judgement, Janelle accepts an offer to attend a private recruitment event for *[BLANK]* from her fast friend and current roommate, Deja, who still hasn't paid this month's rent.

Together- Deja, Janelle, and a group of ten other recruits journey to an undisclosed location hidden deep in the forest... something's off... but only Janelle seems to notice. She brushes it off as the event festivities begin... starting with an icebreaker game of Twister. By game's end, she realizes the stakes are life-or-death as two losing recruits are swiftly *eliminated* via bolt-pistol.

The group is then led inside the company's compound and directed to a secret bunker for the next activity. The bunker presents a challenge where Janelle must assess what success looks, dresses, and sounds like... each pushing her to accept a corporatized version of herself... void of her cultural background... assimilated. Each game eliminates two recruits. Janelle tries to get Deja to run with her... but Deja calms her down, redirecting. *The only way through is forward.*

The remaining eight recruits are led to the Rewriting Room where they are forced to emphatically and publicly accept alterations of real events. One of the recruits refuses to participate... willingly eliminating themselves. Swiftly, the company also eliminates the recruit they invited. Six recruits remain. They are split up into three teams. Deja and Janelle are partnered together, as they arrived together... the others the same. They are tasked with locating a map hidden in the forest, a map that will guide them to the final event. Charleston / Charles take it upon themselves to eliminate another group of recruits. Deja's exterior begins to crack, Janelle seeing the *real* Deja.

At the final event (a bonfire), the four remaining recruits approach a ritualistic ceremony, the final brainwashing. Rather than shoulder the company's vital task (where another's life, the Usher, is at stake), Janelle fights back and breaks into the forest with the Usher. Here it is revealed that Deja was aware of every element of the event's festivities. Deja hunts down Janelle who's planned a rushed escape with the Usher. Janelle discovers the company's main electric-data grid, powered by A.I. programming fed through human conduits, including the "eliminated" recruits from earlier (who were implanted with a microchip, not killed). Deja fights Janelle on behalf of the company, but Janelle gets the upper hand and burns the compound down.

As she drives away, the company takes note... she's won the battle. Not the war.

Traction: *The Recruited* placed top 2 out of 1,500 submissions in a national greenlight competition with Quibi. Early pitches have led to general meetings with Paramount Skydance and XYZ Films.