

THE ARCHIVE

1-Hour Sci-Fi Drama / Serialized Mystery Thriller

Created by Kelly R. Tenney

LOGLINE

In a near-future society where every human memory is uploaded into a government-run Archive, a disgraced memory detective uncovers a conspiracy of falsified pasts, including his own and begins a dangerous search for the truth in a world built on curated lies.

TONE

Cerebral like *Severance*, emotionally grounded like *True Detective*, and charged with the speculative intrigue of *Black Mirror*. The series explores identity, memory, and truth in a world where surveillance is internal and no one's past is truly their own.

THE WORLD

The Archive is set in a sleek yet decaying future. In this society, memories are no longer private, they're voluntarily uploaded into a state-run digital repository called *The Archive*, supposedly for justice, medical accuracy, and historical preservation. Memory detectives once solved crimes using these mental recordings as evidence, but when memories can be altered, deleted, or fabricated, justice becomes a performance.

Most citizens comply, believing they're preserving their legacy. But some memories, inconvenient truths, historical traumas, government secrets never make it into the official record. Underground resistors, called **Revisionists**, hack the Archive to preserve what's been erased. Or to erase what was never supposed to be remembered.

THE SERIES ENGINE

Each episode follows a contained memory investigation, missing persons, unsolved crimes, social anomalies, while gradually unraveling the serialized conspiracy arc of a hidden rebellion, a reprogrammed population, and a detective on the edge of remembering everything he was forced to forget.

SEASON ONE: "False Impressions"

Episode 1 opens on JULIAN VEIL, a washed-up former memory detective, now estranged from the system he once served. He's pulled back into a strange off-the-books case by TAMSIN ROWE, a rogue archivist: a woman claims her child never existed but she *remembers* raising her.

Julian investigates, only to discover that the child has been **scrubbed from The Archive**. His tools, memory viewers, biometric readers, neural databases, find no trace. And yet... he sees something familiar in the mother's grief. Something that stirs an *impossible* memory: a glimpse of his wife, **MIRA**, who's been presumed dead for years.

Over the season, Julian and Tamsin unravel layers of memory manipulation from faked court testimonies to stolen childhoods and uncover a forbidden project called **SYBIL**, which tests memory transplantation to alter identity and erase unwanted people. The truth is staggering: **memories aren't just stored—they're edited**.

As Julian digs deeper, he discovers that *his own memories have been tampered with*. Mira's disappearance wasn't a tragedy... It was a choice. She joined the Revisionists, a group using black-market tech to preserve unaltered memories and expose the Archive's crimes. And now, they want Julian to finish what she started.

In the season finale, Julian recovers a hidden backup of his memories, uncut and raw and sees the full truth. Mira gave herself up to keep the memory of a powerful secret from being destroyed. Now that he knows it, Julian must decide: expose it and burn the Archive to the ground, or preserve the system and keep the lie alive.

He chooses neither.

Instead, he rewrites *himself* and goes underground.

Because truth can't survive in the open. But it *can* be planted.

MAIN CHARACTERS

Julian Veil

Former memory detective, haunted by the loss of his wife and the feeling he's forgotten something crucial. Brilliant but emotionally repressed, Julian once believed in the Archive's promise, until he became one of its victims.

Tamsin Rowe

A gifted archivist who can "read" memories without tech, an illegal and dangerous ability. Outspoken, skeptical, and driven by guilt for what she once helped cover up. She recruits Julian to help uncover the truth, but she's hiding secrets of her own.

Agent Rhys Kaldor

A loyal but conflicted government enforcer tasked with hunting down memory crimes. He suspects Julian is onto something real and must decide whether to stop him or join him.

Mira Veil

Julian's wife. Brilliant, subversive, and far more involved in the Archive's creation and corruption, than anyone realized. Presumed dead, she resurfaces as a mythic figure leading the resistance from the shadows.

WHY THIS SERIES MATTERS

The Archive tackles urgent, contemporary questions through a gripping genre lens:

- Who controls truth in a post-truth world?
- What happens when memory becomes a weapon?
- Can love survive when even the past is no longer trustworthy?

This series blends speculative fiction with emotional realism, creating a bingeable narrative engine that invites philosophical debate, psychological complexity, and visual invention, with a fresh, franchise-worthy mythology at its core.