

TWICE BETRAYED

She survived the marriage. Now she has to survive the man who planned her ruin from the grave.

FORMAT

Feature Film • ~90 pp.
Limited-series expandable

GENRE

Psychological &
Domestic Thriller

TARGET

BET+
Original Event Movie

SETTING

Atlanta, GA
Buckhead • Grant Park •
Fulton Co.

LOGLINE

A celebrated Atlanta therapist is framed for the murder of the ex-husband who built a machine — the police, the courts, and even her new marriage — to destroy her from beyond the grave. To stay free, she must dismantle a dead man's conspiracy before it buries her for good.

THE STORY

Dr. Sanaa Wade rebuilt her life after escaping a marriage engineered to make her doubt her own mind. She's a sought-after therapist, a rising author, and — she believes — safely remarried to Jared, the contractor who fixed his way into her home and her heart.

Then her ex-husband, Marlon, turns up dead, and every piece of evidence points at Sanaa: her fingerprints on the glass, her voicemail on his phone, her cell signal at the scene. What she uncovers is worse than a frame-up. Marlon staged his own death as the final move in a two-year plan to erase her — funding a network that reaches into the police records room, a Midtown law firm, and the Fulton County bench, and all the way into her own bedroom.

With a former-detective PI who believes her, an unthinkable alliance with Marlon's first wife, and a husband who must risk everything he has to prove his loyalty is real, Sanaa fights a dead man's machine on every front at once — and refuses, one day at a time, to become the woman he built her to be.

WHY BET+, WHY NOW

A female-led thriller with a Black community at its center — a survivors' circle, a scrappy PI firm, a courthouse — set in an Atlanta that is a character, not a backdrop: Buckhead's old money against new ambition, the church and the club, Black excellence and Black struggle in the same frame. It rides the national conversation on coercive control and "gaslighting," and it delivers what BET+ audiences reward: catharsis with transformation, not trauma for its own sake. Sanaa ends remade, not merely rescued.

PRINCIPAL ROLES

DR. SANAA WADE

Mid-30s. Therapist, author, survivor. Clinical armor over private panic. The engine of the film.

JARED BANKS

Late 30s. The contractor paid to spy on her, who fell in love — and must burn himself down to atone.

AISHA THORNTON

Late 30s. Marlon's first wife. Weaponized against Sanaa, then her fiercest ally.

MARLON WADE

Early 40s. The architect. Cold, charismatic — a villain who rules from the grave.

Full principal & supporting casting ideas follow →

COMPARABLES

The Family Business

First Wives Club

Behind Closed Doors

A Fall From Grace

TONE

Propulsive domestic thriller with prestige texture — Buckhead gloss laid over a survivor's raw nerve.

THEMES

- Coercive control & the fight to trust your own mind
- Institutional betrayal — when every system turns at once
- Sisterhood between women set against each other
- Reclamation: survival as a daily act of will

SERIES UPSIDE

Sanaa's practice and the Wade-Thornton Survivors' Foundation seed an anthology engine — "Reclaiming" — each installment a new woman inside a new machine.

TWICE BETRAYED — Casting Ideas

Working-actor tier • calibrated for a BET+ Original budget • three options per principal role

How to read this: Names below are bookable, recognizable working actors — not A-list quotes — chosen to fit a BET+ Original Event Movie. Each role lists three directions (a lead-forward pick, a texture pick, and a value pick). Availability, interest, and quotes to be confirmed.

Dr. Sanaa Wade

LEAD

Mid-30s. Elegant, formidable, articulate. Must carry clinical armor and the fault lines underneath — the private panic she never lets a room see.

Nafessa Williams Controlled intensity; thriller-ready leading presence.	Grace Byers Poise + hidden crack; sells composure and collapse.	Yaya DaCosta Range and warmth; strong BET+/OWN recognition.
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Jared Banks

LEAD

Late 30s. Grounded, charming contractor; morally compromised; the hardest redemption arc in the film. Must be lovable and unforgivable at once.

McKinley Freeman Warm-but-guarded leading-man quality.	Cory Hardrict Grounded everyman with a dangerous edge.	Brian White Charm laced with moral ambiguity.
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Aisha Thornton

LEAD / ALLY

Late 30s. Elegant survivor. Built to be Sanaa’s enemy, becomes her fiercest ally. Wounded strength; the film’s most redemptive turn.

Skye P. Marshall Poised, layered, quietly powerful.	Robinne Lee Elegant gravitas; interior depth.	Denise Boutte Controlled emotion; BET+ audience pull.
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Marlon Wade

ANTAGONIST

Early 40s. The architect — charismatic, glacial, controlling. Lives mostly in flashback and a chilling final video. Charm that curdles into menace.

Lance Gross Handsome; can turn easy charm into ice.	Robert Ri’chard Underused villain potential; magnetic.	Stephen Bishop Polished, intelligent, quietly threatening.
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Judge Marcus Wade

ANTAGONIST / ELDER

Early 60s. Marlon’s uncle; the “fourth player” on the bench. Magisterial authority hiding rot. His fall must feel like a pillar cracking.

Gregory Alan Williams Instant authority and gravitas.	Clifton Powell Commanding; velvet menace on demand.	Richard Lawson Dignified elder-statesman presence.
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Detective Raymond Parks

SUPPORTING LEAD

Late 40s. Methodical, ethical; the detective who arrests her, then turns against his own department to free her. Quiet moral spine.

Dorian Missick Grounded, credible procedural presence.	Rockmond Dunbar Steady authority; audience trust.	Hisham Tawfiq Watchful, understated gravity.
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Keisha Mills

SUPPORTING

Mid-30s. Ex-APD, now a PI with her integrity intact. Sharp, warm, funny under fire — Sanaa’s hands on the outside.

Shalita Grant Quick, sharp, effortlessly charismatic.	Reagan Gomez-Preston Warmth plus a working edge.	Bresha Webb Grounded, likable, real.
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Destiny Rourke

SUPPORTING

Mid-20s. Marlon’s assistant; forgettable by design, chilling up close. A damaged loyalist who staged the scene.

Ajiona Alexis Young; plays quiet menace convincingly.	Imani Hakim Subtle, unassuming, unnerving.	Bre-Z Distinct presence; hidden depths.
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Derek Morrison

SUPPORTING

Early 40s. Marlon’s estate lawyer — and Aisha’s half-brother. Conflicted, complicit, undone by the family he sold out.

Kendrick Cross Polished, conflicted, camera-ready.	Brad James Handsome and morally gray.	Jason Dirden Intelligent, tightly wound tension.
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Marie

SUPPORTING

Late 30s. Sanaa’s cellmate and unlikely protector; a survivor who ran out of exits. Tough, soulful, the heart of the jail thread.

Danielle Moné Truitt Tough and soulful; commands the frame.	Elise Neal Veteran grounding; lived-in strength.	Ta’Rhonda Jones Raw, authentic, unforgettable.
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A.D.A. Patrice Jordan

SUPPORTING

Late 40s. Sharp, principled prosecutor who chooses sunlight over her own department. Authority with a conscience.

Golden Brooks Commanding, precise, formidable.	Salli Richardson-Whitfield Elegant, authoritative, credible.	Robin Givens Sharp edge; courtroom presence.
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Dr. Lydia Foster

SUPPORTING

Late 50s. Sanaa’s own therapist and the one person she can break in front of. Warm, no-nonsense, wise.

Vanessa Bell Calloway Warm authority; deep audience trust.	Anna Maria Horsford Grounded warmth and wit.	Pauletta Washington Dignified, tender gravity.
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Also cast: **Detective Caroline Reyes** (40s, Parks’ partner) • **Micah** (late 20s, Sanaa’s fiercely loyal assistant — ideal breakout/rising-name role) • **Denise Hughes** (early 40s, client & thematic mirror) • **Vanessa Cole** (40s, defense attorney) • **Sanaa’s Mother** (flashback, luminous) • **Ellis Ward** (40s, publisher).

Casting suggestions are for creative reference only and do not imply any actor’s availability, attachment, or endorsement. Prepared by NCCA Entertainment.