

Sinners & Saints

Southern Gothic Romance | 90-Min Made-for-TV Film

Love can't erase the past, but it can expose the truth.

Logline

When a preacher's daughter elopes with a reformed felon, she uncovers a hidden church ledger proving her own father framed him—and that their families are bound by a secret decades-old affair. To save her husband, she must burn down the pulpit that raised her.



The Hook



A Southern-Gothic thriller that blends faith, fraud, and forbidden love



Explores the collision of gospel grace and generational guilt



A Black female lead reclaims her voice in a world of lies wrapped in scripture



Tone & Comparables

Comparable Titles

Tone Descriptors



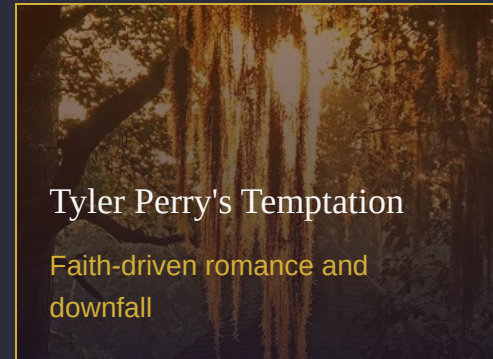
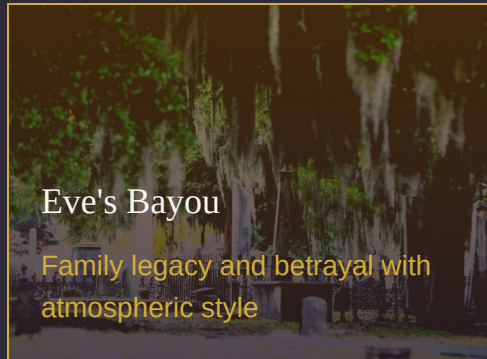
Southern Gothic



Romantic Suspense



Financial Noir



Main Character

Danielle Cross

Age	Role
28	Protagonist

Personality

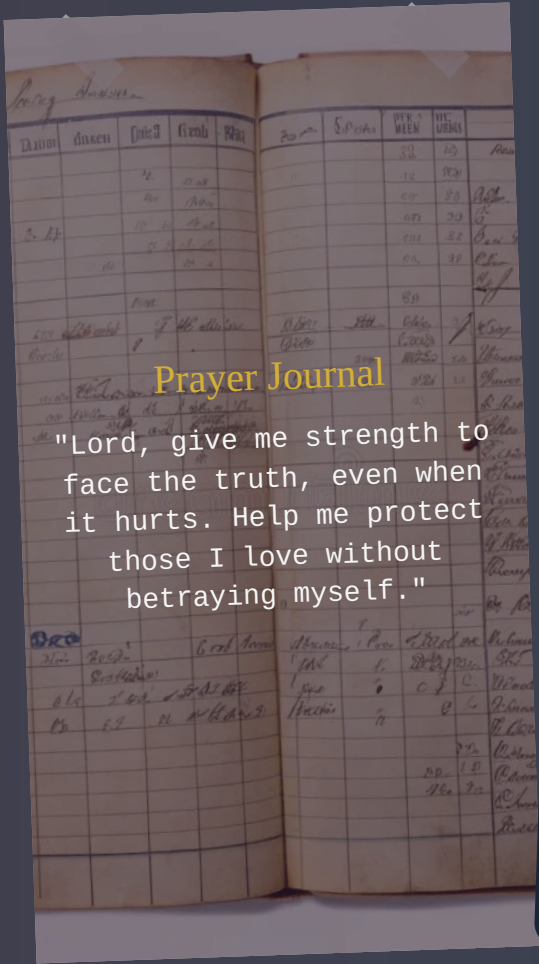
- Smart, strategic thinker
- Torn between loyalty and truth

Goal

- Build an honest life with Malik

Conflict

- Must choose: her family's legacy or her own



Prayer Journal

"Lord, give me strength to face the truth, even when it hurts. Help me protect those I love without betraying myself."



True Crime Confessions

Ep. 42: Church Fraud Exposed

How financial crimes hide behind faith communities

Ep. 38: Family Secrets

When the ones you trust are hiding the truth



Romantic Lead: Malik Hayes

Romantic Lead & Catalyst — ex-con whose presence threatens the church's secrets



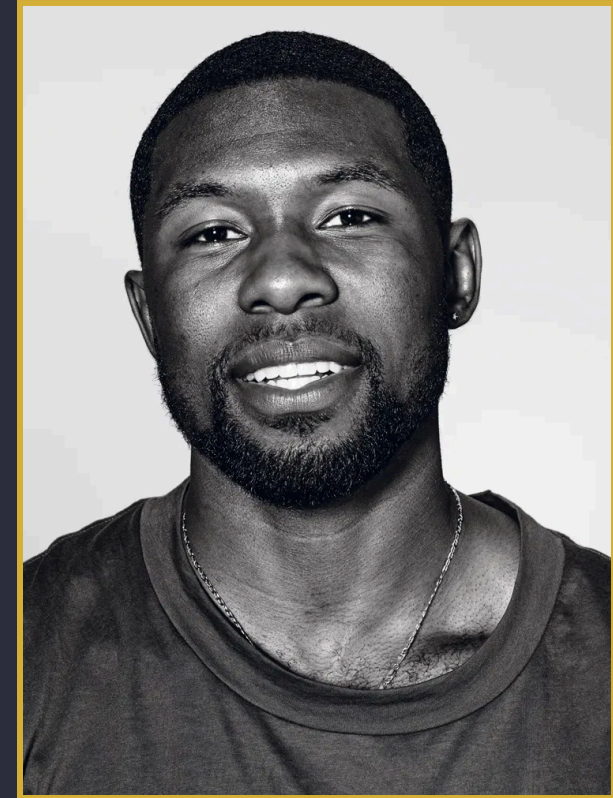
Ex-army medic with a past he's trying to redeem



Danielle's sanctuary and greatest risk



His existence unravels a legacy of lies tied to both their families



Redemption



Commitment



Past Constraints

Supporting Characters



First Lady Etta Cross

55 years old

Instagram-famous church matriarch hiding an affair that changed everything. Played by Lynn Whitfield.



Pastor Gabriel Cross

60 years old

Velvet-voiced patriarch hiding criminal fraud and betrayal. Played by Courtney B. Vance.



Deacon Willis

50s

Loyal fixer who does the pastor's dirty work. Played by Mykelti Williamson.



Keisha

25 years old

Danielle's cousin, loyal but suspicious of the church's secrets. Played by Dominique Fishback.



Aunt Thelma

60s

Malik's aunt, matriarch of truth and community wisdom who knows the town's history.

Plot Summary



ACT 1 – Elopement

Danielle and Malik secretly marry, sparking scandal and exile from the church community.



ACT 2 – Setup Exposed

A staged baptism-gone-wrong implicates Malik—
Danielle finds clues pointing to her father.



ACT 3 – Blood Ledger

She uncovers a church app with financial fraud and a thirty-year-old affair between Etta and Malik's father.



ACT 4 – Mother's Confession

Etta breaks down, revealing the truth and the reason she's tried to keep Danielle and Malik apart.



ACT 5 – Sunday Showdown

Danielle downloads proof mid-sermon as the congregation sings. Malik disappears.



ACT 6 – Exodus & Ashes

Danielle publicly exposes the scandal, choosing love and freedom over legacy.

Visual Style

Mood Board Keywords



Cracked stained glass, altar shadows, gold cross lighting



Warm amber + deep mahogany tones



Sunday best + southern grit



iPhones, tambourines, burner phones

Color Palette

AMBER

MAHOGANY

PLUM

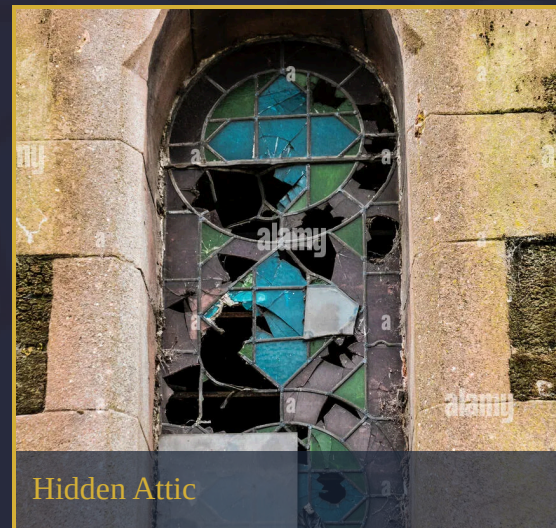
NAVY



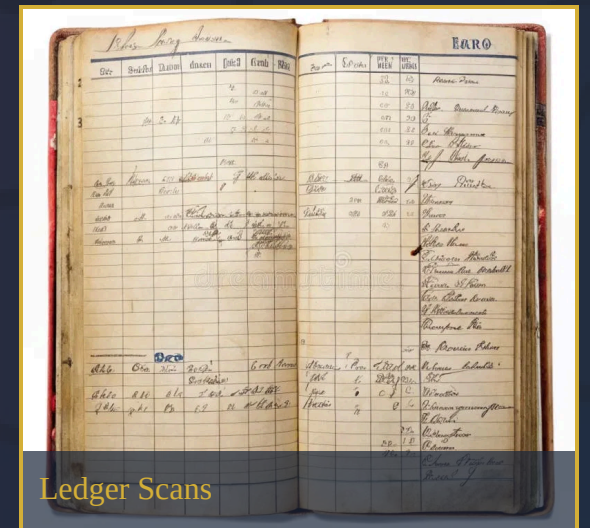
Baptismal River



Church Choir



Hidden Attic

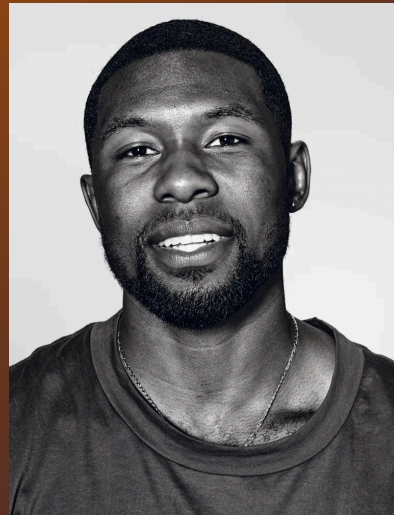


Ledger Scans

Casting Wishlist



Jurnee Smollett
as Danielle Cross



Trevante Rhodes
as Malik Hayes



Lynn Whitfield
as First Lady Etta Cross



Courtney B. Vance
as Pastor Gabriel Cross



Dominique Fishback
as Keisha



Mykelti Williamson
as Deacon Willis

Why It Works

Marketability, Audience Fit, Unique Appeal

✓ Built-in audience: faith-based drama lovers & Tyler Perry-style thrillers

✓ Southern-Gothic tone with Black female lead

✓ Romance + generational mystery + social commentary

✓ Anchored in faith culture but boldly critical

✓ Visually cinematic, socially relevant



Perfect Fit For:

Hallmark Mahogany

BET+

BET Her

OWN

Lifetime