

MY FATHER'S BOMB - SERIES SUMMARY

Logline: **Needing money to save his beloved son, a down-and-out metal sculptor has to brave the murky depths of international arms smuggling.**

Synopsis: Blake's gamble to save his ill son backfires, causing the boy's abduction. From his poignant, quirky family struggle, he is catapulted into the danger and darkness of a strange, violent criminal underworld. Racing against time, he must adapt or die if he hopes to see his son alive again.

Genre: Crime Drama

Suggested Target Audience: Male/Female, 25-50

PILOT EPISODE SYNOPSIS: "Sitting in a Tin Can"

Blake Fletcher's greatest love is his 10-year-old boy, Tom. They have a deep, quirky bond fuelled by homemade rockets, crazy banter and spiders from Mars. So Blake spun out completely when little Tom was given a few years to live. When we meet Blake, he has destroyed his career, his marriage and is close to losing access to his son.

Melville, an old stranger, arrives on Blake's doorstep looking for Blake's dead mother. When this ghoul, with his oxygen mask and walking frame, demands his 'bomb', Blake dismisses it as senile ranting. But Blake doesn't see the shadowy figures watching the old man. Melville is clearly more to them than a dodderly fool.

Blake messes up once too often. Tom's mother, Alison, plans to leave the country to have quality time with her sick child away from his dysfunctional father. Blake's denial that Tom is dying kicks into overdrive at the prospect of having to say goodbye. He steals a wallet from Melville as a first step towards the six-figure sum he hopes can buy an illegal life-saving treatment for Tom.

The wallet opens a can of worms when Blake discovers the old ghoul is the father he never knew. Unrepentant about his theft, Blake now wants more than the old bastard's wallet. It's only fitting that the father who abandoned him should come up with the money to save young Tom.

However, Blake has walked into a minefield. Literally! Melville is a recently released ex-con with no money, but the bomb he is looking for is very real. Plutonium real! And Blake's dead mother was part of the secret. When Blake confronts Melville, the shadowy figures close in and Blake cannot escape. He is forced to kill or be killed. No easy task for a soft-in-the-middle artist.

He and Melville are thrown together as two unwilling partners who need each other to survive. The old man is a fading 007 with a dodgy brain; Blake, his inadequate apprentice with a very unconventional skill-set. And together they are the only hope Tom has of ever making it to his teens.

MY FATHER'S BOMB combines poignant, often funny domestic drama with the thrills and surprises of a violent, but quirky criminal underworld. It is the story of boys who never grew up finally having to become fathers and men.

CHARACTER THUMBNAILS

Blake Fletcher, 40: Ruled by his inner child and acts without really considering consequences. Creativity and IQ are way ahead of his EQ. Not so much a father as his son's best friend. The pain of seeing Tom sick has almost destroyed Blake. But he's a better person than he thinks he is.

Alison Fletcher, 35: Recently divorced from Blake, she's had to temper her huge heart with pragmatism as she tries to make a happier future for herself and her son after a disastrous year. She's a lioness who refuses to allow circumstances to overwhelm her, but struggles to keep a lid on her anger.

Tom Fletcher, 10: He feeds off the love of both parents, devoted to his father, but needing his mother more. An old soul (and a Bowie fan like his Dad), he still enjoys being a kid with Blake, but knows that he is usually the one who must eventually be the grown-up.

Harry, 40: Hides the psychological damage of his military past from Alison. He's clutching at normality by starting a family with her while he ignores his demons. But it's a battle he cannot win for long, especially now he no longer has the army as his foundation and moral compass.

Frederick Melville, 70s: Raging against the dying of the light, Melville is fighting his failing faculties. Years in prison made him hungry for what he thinks life now owes him and he won't accept it's too late for him. His selfishness is the biggest obstacle to overcome before he can find redemption.

Lola, 35: Has a heart, but mostly ignores it to avoid being burned again. Past scars have given her a survivor's grit. An unapologetic hedonist, she is more Blake's enabler than his lover. She knows they probably won't have a happy ending but, to hell with it, she's enjoying the trip.

Sadie, 70: Seemingly just another little old spinster with a dog. But her benign front hides a colourful, dangerous history that is intertwined with Blake's past in ways he does not know

and with Melville's in ways he can't remember. Having worked undercover in her youth, she has many secrets.

The Hipster, 30: A narcissist who has bigger dreams for himself than playing second fiddle to his mother in their twisted family business. Beneath his hip façade he's needy. A preening, mutant product of the selfie generation, he's drunk the Kool Aid that has convinced him fame is his destiny.

Mummy, 50: The Hipster's mother, an illegal arms dealer and savvy businesswoman who secretly sneers at the wars she profits from and the fools who fight them. Behind the sweet smile, she is harder than the men who underestimate her. Her disappointment in her son has damaged both of them.

For a full series synopsis and complete pilot script, email greigcoetzee@gmail.com