



## **THE VIGILANT**

### **TV/STREAMING SHOW TREATMENT**

**FORMAT:** 10 serialized episodes per season; three-season arc; expandable to traditional episodic series for S4 and beyond.

**LOGLINE:** Seeking justice for the tragic death of their child, two women take wildly different paths through hell on the road to redemption.

**DESCRIPTION:** In suburban Virginia, nestled between big city life and relative peace in the woods, two women in a tumultuous, strained marriage are sent into dual tailspins toward hell after their daughter is killed in a mysterious incident at school. Each of the women revert to their base instincts: Emily Kent reclaims her family's vigilante roots, while Avery Kent immerses herself in the pursuit of their daughter's killer - all the while spinning in her logistics boss Jamar Aragon's intricate web of self-destruction. Culminating in a brutal one-on-one showdown, an ultimate betrayal by Emily's kin will leave both women facing a fiery, and certain, demise.

## **CHARACTER BIOGRAPHIES**

**EMILY KENT, mid 30's (Main Character):** Grew up a nomad as her mother and “the family” galivanted across the country in search of vigilante justice. At 16 and due to be initiated into the group, she rebelled, refusing to join them, and left to venture out on her own. Met Avery a decade later and instantly fell in love, despite Avery's ‘here today, gone tomorrow’ vocation in the military.

Wearing her heart on her sleeve, she convinced Avery to adopt; for a time, Emily was content raising the child while Avery continued her military career. Once Avery got her honorable

discharge and found a steady job with a logistics company, things settled for a time; until Avery grew disenchanted with civilian life.

Always willing to be the sacrificial lamb for the sake of her family, and fiercely loyal, Emily rode the waves of Avery's tumultuous attitudes, refusing to allow it to affect her love. But after repeated instances of putting her own interests ahead of the family's, while at times indirect, Emily is left clinging to a relationship that isn't ready to face challenges.

Deeply in love with her daughter MaKenzie despite her growing rebellious nature, Emily can only find solace in helping to raise a teenager despite the growing absenteeism of her wife.

**EVERY KENT, late 30's (Main Character):** Born and raised in a military household, there was little doubt from the start where Avery was headed. Taught to be independent, self-sufficient, and a workhorse no matter what the task, Avery excelled in school and graduated college at the top of her class at age 20.

Becoming an officer upon enlisting in the Army, Avery dedicated herself to quickly rising in rank. After several years and after rarely taking any time off, Avery found herself in a bar on a brief respite, and everything instantly changed the moment she met Emily. As if two long-lost souls, the two quickly hit it off, with Avery spending as much of her time as possible with Emily, despite being sent to far-flung reaches all around the world.

It wasn't long before they were married and had adopted their daughter. But from that point on, Avery lost track of her core essence, and eventually, she decided to leave the military and refocus on her family. It wouldn't last, as Avery's disenchantment led her to bury herself in her new job at Aragon Global Logistics, which caught the eye of the owner, Jamar Aragon.

Struggling to maintain her emotional attachment to Emily, Avery leaves less and less of herself behind, forcing Emily and their daughter to fend emotionally for themselves.

**KINA WILSON, late 30's (Supporting):** The living embodiment of the Hembra Tercio, the "family business" of the Mancillas. Conscripted into service in her 20's, Kina has been an integral part of the group's continuing vigilante justice, doling out vengeance for those who can't take it for themselves.

A natural leader, Kina has taken the mantle of the head of the family as the health of Delora Mancilla, the matriarch of the family and Emily's mother, continues to degrade as time wears on. Deadly but strategic with her force, Kina has the dual ability to converse well on any topic while calculating the dozens of ways she could kill someone before they even knew what hit them.

Her abilities, naturally, feed her growing ego. Once a master of operating in the darkness to keep their family business from gaining unwanted attention, Kina grows tired of the shadows, creating tension in the group – particularly with Oneida, who are increasingly at odds.

**JAMAR ARAGON, late 40's (Supporting):** The definition of the American dream. Coming from a small country overseas at 22 years old, Jamar began the lengthy work of relationship building while putting himself through night school, keeping his vision of becoming a wealthy, influential businessman directly in front of him.

Once he was armed with the technical expertise, Jamar launched Aragon Global Logistics before he turned 30. Within five years, AGL's footprint grew to include offices in ten countries. Becoming a leader in his field, Jamar's contacts grew exponentially; as did opportunities for expansion into militaristic areas, lending logistical support for major clients.

To keep himself above the fray, Jamar enlists the aid of honorable discharges from the military to assist with his clandestine operations. When Avery is brought on board, he quickly notices her talents and begins laying the long-term groundwork for her initiation into his off-book ops.

With unshakable conviction guiding his moves, Jamar mentors an increasingly interested Avery, with the goal of weaponizing her moral code to inflict his brand of justice on a major stage.

**ONEIDA, late 20's (Supporting):** While only a member of Hembra Tercio for a handful of years, Oneida is the spear of the family – literally. A student of her people and their historical demise, Oneida channels the long-held pain of her ancestors to inflict as much justice as she can get her hands on. Abrupt, rough around the edges, and brutal in her tactics, she tends to go nearly over the edge when facing longer odds of success.

Her rigidity and desire to be more visible with the family's actions conflict often with the rest of the Tercios. But her street smarts and intuitive nature allow her to be patient with her true desires of leading the family in a new – and even more destructive – direction.

**DELORA MANCILLA, mid 60's (Supporting):** Emily's mother and the matriarch of the Mancilla family, and thereby leader of the Hembra Tercios. Thrust into a nomadic life at a young age, escaping the Mexican drug trade and making a life for herself, Delora had forged a path honed from the teachings of her father – the last of the traditional Tercios.

Sent to the United States as a teenager, Delora took the mantle of the Tercios – a specialized faction of the Mexican army who conducted sneak attacks against their enemies – to create a new breed of secret warriors. Righting wrongs and building a vigilante family, she raised Emily in the life to one day replace her. But Delora's strong will and nomadic ways eventually turned Emily away from the family, something she would regret into her elder years.

Now more frail with age and the cumulative effect of years of fighting, Delora's final task rests with bringing Emily back into the fold. Doing so forces her to make unconscionable decisions, but holding true to her faith, she never wavers in her core beliefs – to her dying breath.

**EMBER DYSON, mid 30's (Featured):** The quirky Ember, half fighter and half analyst, uses her brain as much as her brawn in almost any situation. Accepted into the Hembra Tercios at 16 after running away from an abusive upbringing, Ember's passions can get the best of her, leading to occasional outbursts and disagreements with her sisters. Dependable and uncaring of her own fate, she holds the secretiveness of their operations to high regard.

**NEELEY, early 50's (Featured):** The stoic right-hand man of Jamar Aragon in all of his extralegal affairs, Neeley lets his actions do most of his talking. Despite his age, his physical abilities remain in peak form. A fixer, organizer, and commanding presence, Neeley will nearly always follow orders without question, despite the occasional annoyance of the task at hand.

**QUIN, late 30's (Featured):** Neeley's apprentice of a sort, Quin is the exact opposite of Neeley's stoic nature. Opinionated, always ready with a barb, brash, and confident, Quin enjoys getting down in the dirt and mixing it up with all comers – even if he ends up on the short end of the stick more often than not. Loyal to a fault, but always looking for the angles, Quin remains in the fold because of his bounce-back nature, however low he has to go.

**ROSARIO, early 50's (Featured):** A wise, sage-like entity who knows far more about life than most. Despite her vocation as a high-priced medic available to anyone willing to settle up her gambling debts, Rosario is counted on for her discretion, serving to stitch up casualties of Jamar's nefarious operations as well as being counsel to his closest allies. Somewhat of a paradox in not adhering to the advice she dispenses, Rosario's loyalties lie only with herself – she doesn't mince words when speaking truth to power.

**WALT NOLAN, late 40's (Featured):** The diligent manager of the legitimate operations of Aragon Global Solutions, Walt often coordinates with Avery on strategic planning and execution of new strategies. Astute, book-smart, but often a source of trivial asides, Walt enjoys a love for the work he does. His positive nature serves to make people smile, even in the most tumultuous of times. His work ethic is unmatched, as illustrated by his willingness to work and be available at almost any hour of the day.

## **EPISODE OUTLINES**

**EPISODE 1:** Emily and Avery Kent's complicated marriage is put to the test after the tragic and unexplained loss of their teenaged daughter.

**EPISODE 2:** Emily immerses in her family's past as she runs from her daughter's demise, while Avery buries herself in her new position at work.

**EPISODE 3:** Emily is put through intense training to break the connection with her past life while plotting the next target of their vigilante justice.

**EPISODE 4:** Avery gains more insight into Jamar Aragon's motives and begins to find discreet evidence of a plan behind her daughter's death.

**EPISODE 5:** Emily completes her vigilant transformation when faced with a serial deadbeat whose violent past with women has gone unpunished.

**EPISODE 6:** As she digs deeper into her personal investigation, Jamar enlists Avery for a militaristic operation that challenges her moral code.

**EPISODE 7:** Emily's tactics are battle tested with a continuous supply of targets to destroy. The family begins to question Kina Wilson's leadership.

**EPISODE 8:** After returning from her mission, Avery questions her place at AGL before discovering the first direct lead in her investigation.

**EPISODE 9:** While Oneida and Kina fight for leadership of the family, the group makes plans to focus on their most audacious target yet: Jamar Aragon.

**EPISODE 10:** Avery finally reaches Emily, telling her they need to meet. The family sets their trap, putting Emily and Avery in a direct confrontation. AGL suffers from an apparent cyber-attack and leak of extra-legal affairs, putting their entire business in jeopardy.

Unwilling to listen, Emily attacks Avery as the family surrounds their former home. As the family torches the house, Avery, near death, reveals the truth: the vigilante family killed their daughter. Putting all of the pieces together, Emily realizes their deception. Before she can act, Kina strikes Emily, leaving both her and Avery to burn as the home is engulfed in flames.

**PROLOGUE (End of Episode 10):** One year later, a woman enters her home, locking her doors and hurriedly closing shutters and drapes. Scared, she retreats to her bedroom and closes the door. She moves to her dresser and notices a note. She looks at it, dread coming over her. The note reads: “You’re next” – E & A.

## MAIN STORY ARC

**Separation:** Emily and Avery Kent are two women who’ve been married for many years. Raising a teenage daughter while Avery works long hours, coupled with deteriorating job prospects of her own, has made Emily feel weary and lost. Seeking an outlet, Emily reaches out to her mother and the family she abandoned before adulthood.

In the pilot episode, we see this illustrated. Avery, hard at work and impressing her boss Jamar Aragon; Emily, seeking to reconnect with a member of her former family. The seeds of separation, long since birthed, are being fertilized.

Then, a cataclysmic event shatters their lives: their daughter is killed under mysterious and unknown conditions at her school. With no trace of a suspect and no evidence to cling to, Emily loses all sense of herself. She forces herself to continue on, but makes it clear to Avery that she has to do it on her own.

**Journey to Hell:** Now separated, both Emily and Avery begin their own descents into the abyss. Emily finds seclusion in reconciling the past, immersing herself back into the family ‘business’ of doling out vigilante justice. Avery buries herself in her work, becoming more of a pawn in Jamar Aragon’s nefarious dealings.

But a dogged determination to find her daughter’s killer keeps Avery from the brink, while Emily becomes consumed with blind vengeance, seeking to burn any remnant of her former life.

Their paths remain apart until Avery finally puts the pieces of the puzzle together, putting her on a collision course with Emily - who with the help of her family is now hell-bent on bringing down Aragon’s global empire.

**The Price of Redemption:** As the body count rises in the wake of the Hembra Tercio's work, Emily is now nothing more than a cold-blooded killing machine. With her transformation complete, the vigilantes set their sights on their most audacious targets yet - Jamar Aragon and AGL.

Fully under Jamar's tutelage and influence, Avery draws closer to finding MaKenzie's killer. As a new threat emerges that could bring everything down, Jamar taps Avery to lead AGL's defense - setting the stage for the ultimate showdown.

As her tribe stands vigil outside, laying fire to their former home, Emily uses every ounce of her harnessed anger to strike Avery. Before long, Avery is defeated, a single blow from certain death. As the vigilantes gather to watch Avery burn, she motions to Emily; with labored breath, Avery reveals who killed their daughter. As Emily realizes the truth about her tribe, Kina attacks Emily, leaving them both to become engulfed in flames as the group exits.

As noted in the prologue, the first season ends with a direct reference to their survival, leaving us with a full second season to explore their reparation and eventual determination to seek revenge,

## **EPISODE ONE SYNOPSIS**

**COLD OPEN:** The women of the vigilante family stand guard outside as the Kent house burns. Inside, Emily and Avery are locked into a 'heated' battle. Avery holds back, trying to reason with Emily, but is forced to defend herself from several vicious attacks.

Eventually, Emily beats Avery down to the floor, the heat from the flames searing both of them. Emily leans over the fallen Avery, who is near unconsciousness. With no remorse in her eyes, Emily delivers a series of final blows. Avery tries a last gasp to get Emily's attention at the end, but Emily simply rears back for a death blow as we cut to black.

**THE STORY:** Emily and Avery Kent, two women struggling to maintain their marriage while raising their teenage daughter MaKenzie, are at a crossroads.

An otherwise normal morning turns to disappointment as Avery rushes out the door for an important work meeting. Emily, moments away from a vital call for a job opportunity herself, is left alone to take MaKenzie to school.

On the way there, the ever-rebellious teenager lashes out. Needing her space, MaKenzie offers some choice words to her mother as she's dropped off in front of the school. Emily reels in her seat, feeling the weight of the world on her shoulders - until she calls a former family friend, one she hasn't seen in decades.

While Avery focuses on her high-paying logistics job, her studious nature gains the attention of her boss, Jamar Aragon. After being put in charge of a lucrative contract, Avery realizes the deal is unlike any she's seen before. A phone call shakes her reverie; there's been a serious incident at MaKenzie's school.

At a park near the school, Emily listens as Kina Wilson informs her that her mother, who Emily hasn't seen in decades, is dying and wants to see her. Emily struggles to come to grips with the news. Kina appeals to Emily to rejoin the family she abandoned in her youth – as Emily contemplates a response, her phone rings. She's needed back at the school, urgently.

She arrives to find Avery already there. Sirens, police lights, and the hushed tones of gatherers signal a tragedy on the grounds. There were no witnesses. No evidence. And just one fatality - MaKenzie. Emily becomes lifeless, tears falling but devoid of emotion. Avery falls back on her military training, gathering what little information she can.

Later, Emily sits alone in her living room looking at photos of her daughter scattered about. She eventually drifts into the kitchen, grabbing a large knife. Avery walks in the moment Emily puts it to her wrist. She drops it, telling Avery she's "dead either way".

Emily goes upstairs and hastily packs a bag. Despite protests from Avery, Emily leaves, telling Avery to let her go. Unable to stop her, Avery complies.

Emily walks a deserted road at early dawn, heading to an unknown destination, flashes of memories of her daughter at the forefront of her mind.

**POST CREDITS:** Emily is tied to a wall in a dreary basement, bloodied, beaten, and broken. Footsteps approach, and the familiar (to her and most audiences) voice causes Emily to slowly look up. "Welcome home, Emily", as her mother stares at her with a mix of pity and shame.

## CENTRAL THEME

The connection to the world, aside from relatable, identifiable characters put into extraordinary circumstances, is the purposeful way of presenting a topical, contemporary suspense story, full of drama and action, led by two women who are married with a child.

While other characters of "The Vigilant" are illustrated to be part of the LGBTQIA+ community as well, Emily and Avery's presentation is meant to show the normality of such a relationship. We still see, far too often, how stereotypes continue to permeate through entertainment despite progression towards more representative characters. Not a single character in our story ever references them as being lesbians or abnormal; no one utters a sly aside, or makes a derogatory comment about their sexuality.

As a society, we're making progress – slowly. But we're not there yet, and more stories depicting characters in this manner will go a long way. We want audiences to, first and foremost, come away entertained by the story and the performances. But we also want them to say "YES, more please!" And with the twists and turns, highs and lows, and personal deconstruction and ultimate resurrection of these characters, we feel this series will do just that – and hopefully, lead to more content and mainstream entertainment with similar depictions.