

POLE POSITION – Pitch Document

Based on everything having to do with man, speed, skill and success.

The world of Formula 1.

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Pole Position

13 1 hour episodes of a television series

As a child I was impressed whenever my father hurtled down the German Autobahn doing over 160 kilometers an hour in his Buick Riviera in the 1970s. An inexplicable sense of exhilaration came over me. Speed has a magic effect on practically all of our senses. It is no wonder that millions of people feel attracted towards all of its facets. The ultimate racing experience of Formula 1, draws us in, we can practically feel the same high levels of adrenaline it produces in everyone involved in it, we can marvel at their efforts to remain so physically and mentally alert and make the right split second decisions.

Because Formula 1 is the highest level in car racing, the interests are immense and success can only be reached if and when every team member pulls their weight and achieves maximum results in their respective disciplines. This aspect inherently causes tensions, guaranteed to generate large doses of drama. Each race has the potential to determine the course of an entire season. But especially before the start and after the finish, there is a world to discover which many dream of but in which few ever take part.

That's what **Pole Position** is about!

As in every series there are a number of characters who play essential roles from beginning to end. One of them is Janet Ross, a young woman just turned 21 with jet black, half long locks of hair. She is provocative without her even realizing it, being the tomboyish daredevil with lots of spunk and guts that she is. But she sometimes has a short fuse, especially when she feels cornered, and then its best to stay out of her way.

First time we meet **Janet Ross** is when she pulls up in her VW Golf GTi model "81 at a garage in a grimy industrial estate somewhere on the outskirts of Glasgow.

A couple of minutes later she is working on a car, lying on a dolly underneath it. During the coffee break her co-workers crack quite a few dirty jokes but they respect Janet, switching to talking about football without batting an eye when she walks into the canteen. Their customers are mainly car owners of expensive models with tons of dirty money in their pockets. One of them is a certain **BO Fang** who invites all the garage employees to come and race go-karts on a Friday night at his Party Centre 'Revolution'.

That evening marks the very beginning of a new career. She drives the hell out of everyone! None of the mechanics can keep up with her. All of them are

impressed by her driving skills. And not just Janet's co-workers!

"Hey you! I saw you karting last Friday night, you're a real champ, babe!"

That is how she is spoken to after a day of hard work at the garage, when she makes to get in her car. It is Mr. Fang again who thinks he is putting her at ease with his forced smile.

She can, he tells her, make about a month's salary doing just one small job. All she has to do is drive a car at night with three passengers to a location, wait until they get back, and then drop them off safely somewhere else. She should only put her foot on the accelerator in case of an emergency to shake off any prospective pursuers.

She hesitates, she asks for time to think it over. The man shakes his head.

"It's take it or leave it dear!"

Janet Ross did not have an easy childhood. Her father, ran off leaving his family in the lurch when she was five years old. She had three older brothers and a mother who was either drunk or was always sleeping off a hangover. Ever since she was a kid she'd had to survive in a man's world. In other words; she always had to look out for herself.

She made every important decision on her own and never had anyone in her family she could lean or count on. Paul, her oldest brother was always at sea, Derek, her middle brother was slightly feeble-minded and John was behind bars more often than not. But Janet fought her way out of the Gorbals, a dangerous slum in Glasgow.

Nonetheless, the specter of her becoming a teenage mother came true when she was seventeen. To this day she is afflicted with a guilty conscience. She had no choice and gave Ruby up for adoption to a family. After Gerry, who had refused to recognize the child, she has been wary of anything to do with the opposite sex.

After graduating from high school she immediately started living in a rented room with a family, where the father was chief mechanic at a garage. He helped her get a job where half of the time she studied to be a mechanic working the other half as an apprentice in a garage. She naturally had to get used to working in an all-male environment and even though she had grown up with men at home, this was different. But she was praised by everyone and passed her mechanics classes with flying colors. She was immediately offered a better salary at an official BMW dealership but Janet was loyal and remained true to her boss, he was, after all, the one who had cut her a break.

But now, all of a sudden everybody starts telling her how good she is at go-karting, including a perfect stranger, who for a very reasonable fee, wanted to avail himself of her services for a 'small job.'

The other faces in ***Pole Position*** are;

Jo Crespo, owner and founder of Crespo Racing., a Formula One Team. He is 'every inch a gentleman' but has no scruples when it comes to making serious money. Jo Crespo owes his fortune, among other things, to his skills at seizing opportunities and his controversial way of doing business. Jo is married to **Suzanne**. She is Jo's polar opposite in every respect and on more occasions than she would have liked, prevented him from going down the wrong road, or even worse.

Christa de Souza was once a junior kick boxing champion who still works out with weights. It shows both literally and figuratively, she makes a big impression not just because of her muscular build but especially by the way she moves.

Christa is Crespo Racing's team manager. After a brief career as a driver in a rally team she became spokeswoman for a reputable Formula 1 team.

When Jo Crespo ended up getting bad press once again he went looking for someone to take over his task as team manager. He made Christa an offer she couldn't refuse.

Technical director **Steve Callaner** is the brain behind the advanced racing cars at Crespo Racing. There is something of a professor about him that is even slightly reminiscent of a modern-day Einstein. He is the one who is absolutely responsible for boosting the team to a higher level and these days Crespo Racing drivers are regularly among the point scorers. Steve has just recently been forced to have dealings his boss's son whom he doesn't really get along with, which produces extra tension at work.

David Crespo is Chief Racing Engineer and an absolute 'workaholic' who is only satisfied by achieving the highest goal possible. As the boss's son it is sometimes hard for him to maneuver. Especially when it comes to Steve Callaner, who he clashes with on a regular basis.

Ann Lockwood looks like a cover girl. As public relations officer she often deals with a large contingent of journalists and photographers. Ann appears to be the ideal daughter-in-law, but appearances are deceiving. Her wily antics enable her to manipulate almost everyone and have them do things her own way. But oddly enough she gets away with it, time after time.

Ian Hardy is Crespo Racing's senior racing driver. At the age of 35 he is practically the oldest driver on the entire grid. Ian has the reputation that James Hunt had in the 1970s, always in for a joke but once he gets behind the wheel he is one hundred percent alert and capable of pulling off miracles.

Markus Steiner is a newcomer in the team. He's not even 20 yet, but has the potential to give the established order a serious run for their money.

The Pilot

It's a drab and drizzly day. A fast black Mercedes ML AMG is racing through the desolate hills of Scotland. In the distance looms a castle with various outbuildings.

It is Glenelmond, a boarding school, for the children of the rich and famous. One of its pupils is Sally Crespo. She is a pretty blonde girl of ten. She is playing a game of lacrosse with her schoolmates on one of the sports fields.

In the Mercedes the sound of a walkie-talkie. A male voice briefly responds to the call.

A man clad in overalls is standing near the sports field doing repair work on a small wooden building that serves as storage space for sporting equipment. He quickly puts a compact walkie-talkie away and continues with his job, without losing sight of the group of nearby girls for a second.

The Mercedes drives slowly past the entrance to Glenelmond.

Since it is starting to rain harder, the physical education teacher blows the whistle to end the game. Sally and a group of some fifteen other girls start walking towards the castle. The man in the overalls quickly contacts the occupants of the Mercedes again. While Sally is horsing around with two of her classmates the black Mercedes approaches at high speed. The informant near the little wooden building quickly gives them a couple of last second instructions.

The Mercedes stops. Two men with balaclavas run over to Sally. They grab the girl and shove her, kicking and screaming, into the car, spraying gravel in its wake as it races back out of the Glenelmond driveway.

Her classmates are left behind in shock and awe. But not the lady sport's teacher, who is already dialing 911 on her cell phone.

Sally, it turns out, has not given up yet. She continues resisting in the Mercedes for all she's worth. She bites one of her attackers, drawing blood. But once a cloth soaked in ether is pressed to her face Sally's resistance quickly evaporates.

So as not to draw any unnecessary attention the car drives slowly through a nearby village. Once they are out of the town center it picks up speed again. Until they spot a police car in the distance with its lights flashing, parked along the side of the road. There is fleeting eye contact between the driver and the two men sitting on the back seat. Just as they are approaching it, it turns out a broken down lorry is being towed away around the next bend. For a second the car comes to a standstill until the police agent signals that she may pass.

An oncoming Jaguar XE passes them on the opposite side of the road. The man

behind the wheel takes a call on his cell phone. Then looks in his rearview mirror and still sees the Mercedes ML as it is disappearing around the bend. He makes a U-turn as soon as he can and starts chasing them.

It takes a little while, but soon the Jag is tailing the Mercedes. In the SUV's outside mirror one can clearly see the driver of the chasing car talking hands free on his phone.

The Mercedes suddenly pulls away at high speed.

What follows is a spectacular chase scene in which the cars twist and turn through the hilly landscape along winding roads, slick with rain. The Jaguar is not any slower than the Mercedes, it is the skill of the person driving the Mercedes that makes difference. The Jaguar keeps on losing terrain and in the end, winds up spinning out of control off the road after a reckless maneuver.

The next day.

Jo Crespo, is completely shattered when he sees a photograph of his little girl the front page of *The Guardian* with the huge headline above it.

SALLY C. VICTIM OF BRUTAL KIDNAP TERROR

On the television he sees footage of a silver colored Jaguar on its side at the bottom of a ridge of hills. He hears the woman reporter saying: *On his way to work behind the wheel of his car, the Headmaster of Glenelmond College suddenly received a phone call from one of his staff members informing him of the kidnapping, and he quickly spotted the car in which Sally and her abductors were heading in the opposite direction. He immediately gave chase. For reasons as yet unknown, he ran off the road and is now in critical condition in hospital in Perth. For the time being, Sally Crespo and her attackers have disappeared without a trace. Lisa Waters reporting from Perthshire, Scotland for BBC London.*

Jo Crespo had not expected this turn of events at the end of the year. Their Christmas presents were already under the tree. He was going to celebrate New Year's at their chalet in Zermatt with family and friends. But now nothing else mattered, except Sally. How happy he had been when he was absolutely certain that Suzanne was pregnant, since practically every doctor had told her she would be unable to have any children.

Was it because of the stress or did he revert to an old habit when Jo knocked back a glass of vodka. He was suddenly stricken with grief but also with anger and fear that alcohol would seize control of him once more. In a reflex, he smashed the crystal glass, throwing it against the wall unleashing an ear splitting shriek.

Janet Ross had taken the man up on his offer and done about five 'driver's' jobs without once having to exceed the speed limit.

But now her conscience was bothering her. If she had known for a single moment that she would be taking part in kidnapping a child she never would have done it.

She had lost a child herself, at least that is how it felt when Ruby was taken from her arms by a nurse who cautiously handed her over to the new mother for adoption.

She woke up in a pool of sweat, quickly popping a pill to calm down. She had got it into her head, she knew she was going to do it, that she had to do it...she had no choice!

Going to the police would be too easy and maybe not that sensible because how was she to explain her own part in all this? She knew exactly where Sally was being held hostage. She came up with a plan. And now she would carry it out to the last detail!

Pole Position from start to finish.

The characters referred to earlier, will all be featured one by one in each episode but the main relationship focused on is that between Jo Crespo and his team manager Christa de Souza.

A second story line will follow Janet Ross's 'struggle for life'. Her simple, small world and that of Formula 1 where practically anything is possible, are seemingly unbridgeable.

The series starts in winter. Preparations for the new racing season are in full swing.

Jo Crespo and his team manager Christa de Souza have to take numerous key decisions. Jo wants to get Markus Steiner to sign a contract as soon as possible before the talented German is snatched away by a rival racing team! And what to do about the fact the new Crespo F1 racing car is still far from being 'fit to race' since Messieurs Callaner and David Crespo are constantly at loggerheads about how to deal with things.

The series will likewise deal with love, adultery, money and the constant competition and rivalry between practically all the characters with featured roles on the Crespo Racing Team.

Yet the real sparks start to fly when Janet Ross makes her entrance at Crespo Racing. Whereas in the past it was always the men giving her a hard time, now suddenly there's a woman throwing her weight around at her. There's no love lost between Christa de Souza and Janet Ross, to put it mildly!

As their new test driver Janet operates in the shadow of Crespo Racing's two regular racers, but in the final episode we see how she has become Formula 1's first woman champion, after harrowing trials and tribulations both on and off the circuit.

