

Lovers Muggers & Thieves

T R E A T M E N T
f o r
P R E M I U M C A B L E

By
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LOG LINE: Holden Caulfield meets Risky Business in this coming of age story of one boy's extraordinary journey through the most wicked neighborhood in America, Boston's Combat Zone.

SYNOPSIS: *LOVERS, MUGGERS & THIEVES*, set in 1969, is a 50-minute dramedy series intended for premium cable. The series follows a G-rated college freshman from his white-middle class home into the X-rated world of Boston's Combat Zone, notorious for adult entertainment, strip clubs, street crime and prostitution. Stepping into a world unlike any other, the student faces uninvited consequences each day as he balances his life between the margins of sin and virtue. His evolution as a street-wise building super advances in each segment as he rents rooms by the week to the local dancers, scammers, hookers, drug dealers and musicians. He befriends many lost souls along the way while managing to keep his humanity throughout a torrent of temptations. With the backdrop of the worst days of the Vietnam War, the apex of the student upheavals on campuses across the country, and the transcendence of the hippie and black pride countercultures, this series steps into the dark, fascinating, and often humorous world of Boston's red-light district. "Running this show is a mind-blowing business, a bit like being the mayor in the Land of Oz, on acid," from *Lovers, Muggers & Thieves - A Boston Memoir*.

Protagonist: Clean-cut college boy. **His Goal:** Keep everything on an even keel; tenants and landlord, his grades, and his sexuality.

Antagonists are numerous: College professor bent of failing the boy, maniacal tenants, the allure of strippers and prostitutes, an unscrupulous landlord, magnetic sex and drugs, Boston's vice squad, and the neighborhood itself.

LM&T is a true account of friendship and depravity, sensory overload and primal survival. In the course of one year the college freshman evolves from an inexperienced teenage boy into a street-wise adult in good standing inside the neighborhood hierarchy. Ultimately, he is sure who he has become is not who he wants to be.

SETTING AND BACKGROUND

The Combat Zone was the name given in the 1960s to the adult entertainment district in downtown Boston, Massachusetts. The area was the site of scores of strip clubs, peep shows, X-rated movie theaters, and adult bookstores; and held a reputation for high crime and prostitution. Most the story takes place at the apartment house and inside the Combat Zone's adult entertainment venues. Bars and lounges make up the view on the street.

LOCATIONS

The Cloud Nine Apartments: A grimy and bland 6-story brick building wedged between bars and the neighborhood's strip clubs. Studio apartments with junk-yard furnishings rent for thirty bucks a week, cash-only. A typical studio consists of one room with a kitchenette squirreled off in the corner. A bathroom designed for midgets and smelling like rotten fruit sits behind the wall of the kitchenette. The building borders on a dark section of LaGrange Street, notorious for street-walkers and drug-dealers.

Washington Street, Ground-Zero of the Combat Zone: Sparkling lights of the marquees beckon the course of gentlemen drifting along the street. You feel a charge of excitement as you blend into the flow. The sidewalks are brimming with men of all shapes and colors eager to tap into the sexual fantasia that pours from the strip clubs as easily as the liquor and the beer inside. Many travel in packs of threes and fours; a few are in uniform; the majority are your average, loud-mouth, boozing, adolescent rednecks, office creeps, and college boys. They all share one common fascination: female subjugation. Among the visitors, local scammers, pimps, and drug dealers troll the gutters, feeding on innocence, pleasure, and greed. Black musicians - romantics and entrepreneurs - walk the street with an air of confidence and superiority, affecting an attitude that is urbane and debonair. Affecting no attitude at all, except maybe boredom, are the bartenders, bouncers, and capitalists living off the local entertainment. And then there are the girls. You can clearly discern the various patterns of female life in the Combat Zone. Three classes distinguish the ladies. The first group - the Entertainers - makes up the majority. They include strippers, dancers, and cocktail waitresses. The second is the Girlfriends. They consist of women who are along for the ride with the men in their life; the men are definitely behind the wheel. And finally there are the Hookers. They are further distinguished by two subclasses: Winners and the Losers. The Winners are semi-successful, work out of their apartments, and service a steady clientele. At the bottom of this sexual swamp are the Losers, the ones that hang out in the street, often alone. But don't underestimate their power. They can be the most dangerous, mostly because they've got nothing left to lose.

The Normandy Lounge: Beneath its brightly lit marquee, bare incandescent bulbs trim the edges of the letter board featuring glossy black and white photos of girls displayed on panels flanking the door. Full-body shots of ladies standing naked in

high heels, winking at you over their shoulder to come closer, step inside. There is an action photo of a girl dancing nude on stage before a circle of men, tassels twirling from glorious breasts, little fans cooling the faces gazing up at her.

Wentworth Institute: The college's late-nineteenth-century architecture could easily be mistaken for an old shoe factory. A strictly enforced dress code policy keeps the blossoming flower-power of the hippy culture from passing through its muscular stone façade. The regiment inside the college is as close to a military institution that one could be, without the uniforms. Students in the all-male technical college are cut from a fresh crop of teenagers harvested out of white, middle-class New England. Slide-rulers sheathed in leather scabbards hang from their belts like daggers.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Jonny has not had any bona fide eye-popping experiences that come with approaching adulthood. On his eighteenth birthday, he leaves his family in Connecticut to study architecture in Boston. A twist of fate changes Jonny's life. He is offered a job as a building superintendent in downtown Boston and jumps in imagining an easy ride to live independent and rent free. His life takes a dramatic twist when he finds himself living among unsavory characters, petty crimes, street violence, and grungy living conditions. Although, he never really becomes part of it, nor it apart of him, he's able to expose the humanity in a cast full of lost souls, befriends prostitutes and strippers as well as lust after most of them, while managing to maintain his own humanity.

Van Helden, is an 18-year-old college drop-out who could be mistaken for a rock star, easily fitting in with the crowd strolling along London's Carnaby Street. Incredibly likeable and good-looking, he is trying to make it on his appearance for what he lacks in scholarship. Van Helden emigrated from Holland with his family when he was twelve, bringing along his seductive accent, bestowed to him by his Dutch father and Indonesian mother. Van Helden is a dedicated follower of fashion.

Sam Dumont, a 21-year-old mysterious female, is too hip to own up to her christened name, Sheila, and keeps it hidden from most everyone. Jonny's friends all but genuflect before her, calling her slick, good-looking and wise. Her wisdom comes with a price; Sam has been dumped on so many times she's developed an edge. On weekday afternoons, she dances in the Four Corners Lounge for tips and walking-around money, but the better part of her income flows discreetly from selling grass to band members and other dancers. Sam displays the hard, outward persona of a seasoned denizen of the street; not needing anything from anybody, but inside she craves affection.

Julie, 27, a shapely, bottle-hair strawberry blonde stripper never makes an appearance on the street without throwing on a pound of makeup, a mountainous blond wig to accompany her satin pantsuit, and a pair of 5-inch stiletto heels so sharp you could use them to cut open cans. Julie is a poor judge of male character, always putting her money on a losing bet, "If I was smart, I wouldn't have a heart." Julie knows her body and good looks have a shelf-life; she saves every penny she makes hoping to leave the stripper-scene and start fresh on a new path.

Charles Taylor, is a 30-year-old black musician and Julie's old man. A disagreeable drunk, fiercely jealous of any guy eyeballing Julie for longer than two seconds; an unfortunate trait for the boyfriend of a stripper. When he stares at you hard, you think you're looking at frozen meat.

Kitty Boudreaux, 35-year-old French Canadian, is as smooth and black as polished ebony, and breathtaking in the art of exotic dance; she looks spectacular walking along Washington Street under the lights of the marquee. She may be the most flamboyant act ever grace the stage, but like most things offered to those who patronize the Combat Zone, Kitty is an invention. Her fake hair and false teeth are only part of what she conceals. Kitty's morality is deeply conservative, her decency offstage as stunning as her dancing.

Winky Perez, is a lissome 19-year-old beauty, possessing the grace of a Nubian princess, and will do anything for her man, whatever it takes. Winky is remarkably in body, face and mind. Long, dark waves of silky hair enfold her shoulders. All eyes are on Winky when she enters a party, but her own eyes, ever cautious, dart between those present like a Siamese cat assessing a room full of pit bulls. What appears on the surface as quiet restraint is actually shyness from not being formerly educated; her manner of speech is flavored with "d's" in place of "th's".

Marvin Jones, tall and handsome, strong black man, who wants to impress you, but more than that wants your respect. To his misfortune his actions lead to the opposite effect. Marvin believes the world has shown him little gratitude for the twenty-five hard years he's put into it. He doesn't much like white folks, with one exception; he watches out for Jonny like a guardian angel. Marvin abuses his girlfriend, Winky, beyond comprehension; considering she is the only good thing to ever come his way.

Benny Jones, 24, Marvin's little brother, is an ingratiating weasel who's always fast-talking and smiling his way into his next scam. Don't count on Benny to watch you back.

Jackie, 28, Benny's old lady, makes her bread performing girl-on-girl sex acts at stag parties, and it's rumored she occasionally dips into prostitution whenever times get hard. Jackie takes on life like a healthy drag from a cigarette, breathing a line of smoke into the eyes of her transgressors, a dragon's weapon of choice.

Jasper, 28, is the flashiest son-of-a-bitch on the block. If Doctor Seuss was asked to draw a pimp, he'd draw Jasper. His pimp attire, Little Richard mustache and wavy lacquered hair appear to conceal murderous intentions, but the fact is you could never meet anyone more colorful or mellower than Jasper. This soft-spoken dude has a silky suit ensemble in every shade imaginable: Leprecon green, Klondike gold, Florida orange, Vatican purple. Sneak a peek inside Jasper's closet and you'll swear you opened the door to a rainbow.

Barry, twenty-something black male, six-foot three inches tall and 240 pounds, fills a small studio apartment like a city bus backing into a tight parking spot. Barry, a thief and a pathological liar, has no redeeming qualities. No one wants him around; even his own mother turned her back on him. He is the lowest kind of thief; stealing from friends and family.

Andreas Theodokis, 20, is a likeable, freshman architecture student newly arrived to Boston from Greece, whose speech is woodened by his heavy Greek accent. Andreas personifies optimism and carries a perpetual smile throughout the day's tedious collage rituals; always obliging to his fellow classmates. But, that persona flips completely on its head while overseeing the management of the family business, particularly while carrying water for his older brother, Lykos.

Lykos Theodokis, an oily, 30-year-old slumlord, who thinks grandiose thoughts of himself and his shrewdness in business. He strides into a room with one hand in his pants pocket jingling change, pacing back and forth impatiently, as if looking for a way out the moment he arrives. Lykos is always impeccably dressed when he visits his buildings, standing out like a diplomat calling on a camp of savages. He distrusts everyone he meets, and is never afraid to bend the rules to squeeze every dime owed to him.

Delmonti, in his late-thirties, was raised on the streets in a tough section of East Boston. God played a trick on this man and gave him the head of a pit bull. Delmonti drives his taxi through the dark city streets all night long; his loud, vulgar mouth wafting a foul stench of cheap alcohol. He chooses to communicate by yelling, and when he does spittle flies from his mouth. Delmonti pilots his cab with a gun beneath his seat; don't mess with him.

Detective Richard Boyko and Sergeant Peter Dooley, Vice Squad, Boston Police Department, are a pair of straight-looking white dudes with oily combed back hair, both in their thirties, dressed in loud open-neck sport shirts, dark chinos and windbreakers; each could be mistaken for Dads at a Little League game. The only difference between them, and it's striking, is their height; nearly a foot apart, like Mutt and Jeff. Get too close and you can smell Vitalis drifting off the smaller guy's head. Each man holds a bitter attitude when relating to the natives, concealing their better-angels that surface when off-duty.

Professor Pederson, a 56-year-old instructor at Wentworth; tall, humorless white guy shaped like an eggplant, dresses in a drab business suits. His commanding glare will bring any class to quick attention. Pederson runs by rules designed for the Victorian Age; he finds students who question his authority repulsive. His teaching style is like a Bolshevik camp counselor drilling the Romanov kids.

Donnie Pyle, a 19-year old Marine, recently returned home from Vietnam and is soon to be discharged. While most of Jonny's friends looked ahead to college in their senior year of high school, Donnie looked forward to only one thing, shooting up. Donnie's a certified junkie. The narcoleptic drawl of Donnie's voice pours out slowly, as if being emptied from a pot of glue. After ducking a dubious charge of murdering a civilian, Donnie left Viet Nam and returned to the States. Stationed outside of Boston at the Chelsie Navy Yard, Donnie landed the ironic duty of a Pharmacist mate, dispensing pills to his fellow Marines.

LOVERS, MUGGERS & THIEVES
EPISODES

SEASON 1 - BRIEF OVERVIEW

Pilot: Unhinged

In 1969, a popular strip club is hosting one of Boston's finest strippers. Her dancing is as shocking as it is captivating. The stripper's friend, 18-year old Jonny, is there to enjoy her act. Flashback to the summer of 1968 and trace Jonny's path from his comfortable suburban home to the notorious streets of what is arguably the most wicked neighborhood in America. He takes a job as a building superintendent inside Boston's red-light district, the Combat Zone. On his first night in residence his new neighbors, strippers, musicians, and drug dealers, convene an impromptu tenant council in his room to strategize a response to an impending raid on the building by Boston's vice squad.

Episode 1: The Mod Squad

Jonny's roommate Van Helden has dropped out of school and begins looking for work as a male model. To get better acquainted with their neighbors Jonny and Van Helden throw a house warming party. On the advice of the landlord, Lykos, the boys confiscate property from a surly tenant who is several payments behind in his rent. The disagreeable tenant threatens the party with a plan to shoot the boys in the head; he later skips out without paying his rent and the boys track him down. Jonny and Van Helden befriend Sam, an attractive cocktail waitress, dancer and small-time drug dealer. Van Helden and Sam become lovers.

Episode 2: Home, Home on LaGrange

Strippers, prostitutes, and musicians from the local clubs begin to fill the building's vacancies. The violent energy surrounding the building is beginning to be felt personally; Van Helden is mugged at knifepoint outside his door; a car below the boy's window is fire-bombed. Jonny and Van Helden witness a gunfight; the loser is shot in the back in the middle of the street.

Episode 3: Mister Eyeballs

A room is rented to a college kid that wandered in off the street; He doesn't make it through the night, begging for his money to be returned after learning a man lay dead for several days inside the room he rented. Jonny meets up with Mister Eyeballs, a local street hustler. Jonny invites a preppy high

school girlfriend to spend the night, hoping to lose his virginity, but comically fails. He introduces her to strippers in his building. Van Helden sleeps with a new tenant after discovering she is a prostitute; he pays a visit to collect her 'rent'.

Episode 4: College Boys

Van Helden picks up five unsuspecting college girls and brings them back to the apartment for a party. The girls are shocked by the neighborhood scene. Jonny joins an untrustworthy tenant for a night out. They hit on two girls who offer to share their pot. The tenant pulls a stolen Boston Police Detective's gold shield from his wallet and "busts" the girls, who become inconsolable. Jonny fights a hopeless crush on Karen, an attractive, young prostitute. Sam warns him to stay away. Jonny gets a visit from an old friend who returns home from Viet Nam a pathetic junkie. Jonny arranges for one of his tenants to sleep with his friend. It does not go well. Afterward, the friend steals all of Jonny's money.

Episode 5: Appeal to The Great Spirit

A suspicious woman prowling the halls detonates a bomb outside the door of her former lover's apartment. The boys fight the fire and evacuate the tenants. The authorities come to investigate and shut off the building's heat and electricity, fatefully on the cusp of the 'Snowstorm of the Century'. Boston is hit with a traumatizing blizzard, snowing heavily for 101 consecutive hours. The boys struggle for days to bring power back to their tenants. Cold, dark and fire damaged, the apartment house takes on the character of an abandoned building.

Episode 6: Boston's Finest

Kitty, a popular stripper, bathes in her tub while Jonny awkwardly scrubs her back. She invites him to her club to watch her dance. While collecting rent, Jonny tries to keep his composure when a tenant's girlfriend furtively strips for him behind the back of her old man. A junkie steals everything of value from the boy's apartment. Jonny befriends the jovial cop who comes to investigate. Three men are shot inside the bar next door. Jonny stands beside the door as they carry away the wounded, including his friend, the cop, killed by a bullet to his chest.

SEASON 2 - BRIEF OVERVIEW

Episode 1: Break On Through

The boys visit a strip club for the first time. Gaining entrance is a comical achievement. Jonny's tenant, Julie, a popular stripper in the club, joins them for drinks, while another tenant performs a sensational act to the adulation of the crowd. Julie begins to make advances on Jonny. Jonny comically loses his virginity with Robin, a daffy tenant who has the persona of Betty Boop. Robin surprises Jonny by showing him her softer side; but Jonny dismisses her kindness and passes Robin off to his friends.

Episode 2: Julie

A python is loose inside the building. The matriarch of a family of Gypsies brings trouble. Jonny begins to frequent the downtown bars and disassociates with his classmates. A Secret Service agent visits Jonny and questions him about a tenant's activities. Jonny learns the meaning of the phrase, "Sugar Daddy". Julie and Kitty, receive roles in a pornographic movie, and Julie 'reads' her part for Jonny in the privacy of his room. They begin an affair; but her old man, a musician in one of the downtown clubs, becomes suspicious and catches them in the act, pulling a gun and threatening to shoot them both.

Episode 3: The Untouchables

Kitty angrily complains about prostitution in the building and expects the Jonny and Van Helden to remedy the problem. Jonny joins his black friends at a strip club and are accosted by the white clientele. Two attractive girlfriends of Jonny's step on stage and dance beside a homely stripper who is giving a crowd of men a horrible performance; the girlfriends lift the spirits of the men in the room. Night-life and drugs are taking its toll on Jonny. In class, Jonny has a falling-out with one of his professors; He learns he is failing and will likely be dropped from school. The Vice Squad raids the building and enlists Jonny's assistance to evict the prostitutes.

Episode 4: Twist n' Shout

The landlord, Lykos, is livid because his financial resources have been targeted by the police and blames his problems on the boys. He imposes new management policies for screening prospective tenants, which the boys ignore. The relationship between both parties deteriorates. For Jonny, remaining focused on school has become impossible. He spends more time at night 'clubbing' than studying. While cramming for his final exams, Jonny hears a woman screaming for her life. He races to the

scene of an assault in the hallway and disarms Julie's old man, stopping him from slashing a knife across her throat.

Episode 5: Prom Night

New tenants replace the evicted hookers: a drug dealer, the leader of a popular R&B band with a hit record, and two lovely dancers. Jonny returns to his hometown and escorts a 16-year-old girlfriend to her Junior Prom. They leave the prom and drive to Boston to attend a party in the Combat Zone; Jonny and the 16-year-old girl become lovers. Classes are through for the year; Jonny learns he barely passed his final exams. A tenant sends Jonny to the drugstore for tampons and he ridiculously stumbles with the purchase. A new dancer moves into the building and Van Helden becomes enamored by her dancing and her beauty; they begin sleeping together. Julie becomes Jonny's lover after her old man is arrested and thrown in jail.

Episode 6: Hot Town Summer in the City

A violent domestic dispute erupts behind a tenant's closed door and Jonny intervenes. Julie becomes Jonny's Sugar Momma; he doubts the wisdom of accepting her gifts. Tenants organize a pool party; a multihued parade of strippers, go-go dancers, musicians, bar tenders, cocktail waitresses, and one college boy march towards the river in a gala display of flesh and flash. Jonny learns Sam is pregnant. Van Helden is 'borrowing' rent money collected from tenants. Lykos makes a surprise visit, argues with the boys, accuses them of stealing and threatens to have them arrested. On the sidewalk outside the building Jonny gets in a near deadly fight with a John, nearly killing the man. Jonny is disturbed by the fact that he personally enjoyed the violence.

SEASON 3 - BRIEF OVERVIEW

Episode 1: Pornographic Priestess

An attacker crawls through an open window and sexually assaults a female tenant, breaking her jaw. She recognizes the man, a fellow tenant. Men in the building gather inside Jonny's room and plan retribution, discussing how best to kill the tenant. A plan is hatched to set a trap for the assailant and bash his head with a baseball bat. A celebrated stripper from New York City visits Boston. Jonny is hopelessly captivated by her beauty, only to be crushed later by her vulgar style. Jonny has two girls in his life, the 16-year-old girlfriend at home and Julie, the 28-year old stripper. He turns to Sam for advice. Lykos delivers "proof" the boys are stealing. Friends host a

"Moon Party" in their apartment; everyone gathers in front of the building's only television to watch America go to the Moon.

Episode 2: Nun of the Above

A group of Jonny's high school friends party inside the boy's apartment; the girls from the Combat Zone provide the entertainment. Julie, at Jonny's suggestion, performs a fabulous striptease for his friends. Jonny evicts a drug dealing couple when he mistakenly suspects they are running prostitution from their room. The couple returns and threatens his life. Sam is in love with Jonny and comes to his bed late one night on a ruse that she is being pursued by a stalker. Jonny does not realize the depth of her intentions, and mistakes the situation as platonic affection. He takes Sam's advice and separates from Julie.

Episode 3: Cold Fire

The owner Boston's most popular nightclub offers Jonny a job as a Floor-walker (a euphemism for bouncers with boutonnieres). Jonny considers this new opportunity to make a few bucks and visits Lucifer's. He meets up with a prostitute he had once lusted-after and regrettably evicted from his building. Jonny shifts gears and begins to train as a door-to-door encyclopedia salesman for Colliers. Van Helden's relationship with the beautiful dancer in the building turns serious; she becomes pregnant and they move out and plan to marry. Jonny begins to manage the building without Van Helden. Jonny is sick and broke, while battling threats directed at him from several sources.

Episode 4: Who Am I?

Lykos wants the money he believes the boys have stolen. A drug dealer wants revenge on Jonny for evicting his old lady. Jonny's 16-year-old girlfriend wants him to come home. Jonny escorts a black buddy's girlfriend for a late-night drink; she also is an African-American. She refuses the advances of a stranger, another African-American. Jonny intervenes and tensions in the bar explode. Jonny has had enough of the Combat Zone and hatches a plan to leave. Sam confesses her love and begs him to stay. In a final confrontation Lykos evicts Jonny, calling the police to arrest him. Facing criminal charges, Jonny makes a run for it by conning money from a Colliers salesman for a bus ticket home.

AUTHOR BIO

A selection of Jonathan Tudan's memoir, *Lovers, Muggers & Thieves*, was first published as a feature inside *Architecture Boston*, "After Dark - The World is a Different Place". He has been a guest on Boston's *Fox in the Morning* and the *Howie Carr Show*, New England's top-rated syndicated radio program. The *Boston Herald* published a 2-page article of Jonathan's coming-of-age story, and several on-line magazines and literary works of non-fiction, including *Salon* and *Urban Daddy*, have published interviews with Jonathan to gain insight into his experience.

Jonathan Tudan has enjoyed an extensive career as an architect stretching from Boston to the Central Mountains of Arizona, through the Pacific Northwest and down the west coast to Southern California. Jonathan lives with my wife, Mary, and son, Maxim, in Calabasas, California. His daughter, Leah, works as an attorney in Washington, DC.