

The Destiny

TV Treatment

By Anna Liza Bella & Mina Choi

Logline: *Below Deck* meets *Dead Calm*

Intro:

Inspired by a 25-day sailing journey that Anna Liza took during her wild days of roaming around the South Pacific, this TV drama is the story of privileged youths from the Instagram/TikTok generation and how their superficial idyllic existence gets an IRL (in real life) reckoning when their voyage on the sailboat *Destiny* leads them into a succession of harrowing life-or-death situations.

Overview:

A group of seven 20-somethings take on a challenge to deliver a luxurious sailing yacht for a mysterious billionaire halfway around the world in less than 60 days. Once they embark on this journey, everything goes wrong -- equipment failures, life-threatening storms and personal betrayal. As the crew members fight for survival, tensions explode. Noah, the first-time captain, must do everything to keep them alive.

World & Tone:

A suspense-filled hour-long drama on the high seas, *The Destiny* brings together a motley group of characters (like *Nine Perfect Strangers*) as they sail halfway around the world aboard a luxury yacht. *The Destiny* begins as an ultra-glamorous, Gen-Z *Succession* jet-set spectacle but develops into a lean psychological thriller as the frothy existence of never-ending parties, epicurean pursuits and sexy escapades shifts into an epic struggle for survival.

Channeling Tik Tok and Insta-inspired graphics and the frenetic energy of young people posting their ENTIRE lives for all the world to SEE, the series will begin like an enviable Insta influencer's feed with hearts and likes and comments overlaid on the screen. This style will transform through the first season as we lay bare the darker side to this social media addicted generation and the contrast between reality vs. digital life as the crew face IRL dangers for which they are woefully unprepared.

Characters:

Noah Warner (23)

The feckless bon-viveur from Rhode Island, Noah is committed to partying as much as possible before he turns 30. He is movie-star handsome but unaware of it. His philosophy (imbued by his deeply

ethical parents) is to be the best human being he can be—and to leave the world a better place than he found it. Despite his bleeding-heart liberal tendencies, Noah is still a golden boy living a charmed life, enjoying an effortless existence of luxury and fun (now in its second year in the Caribbean) complete with booze, beautiful people, and all-night raves. Everything comes easily to Noah, even his captain's license on a whim when his friend Jack suggests it might be useful. Noah is unaware of how many people admire and envy him, and his compassionate nature means he's always been the 'nice' guy to all. However, this creates conflict with his older adoptive brother, Rob.

Rob Warner (25)

The adopted son of the Warners, Rob is guarded and insecure and carries a huge chip on his shoulder. Growing up around the WASP-y Warner family and often mistaken for the help, the multi-racial Rob holds deep resentments, mixed with begrudging gratitude to the Warners for pulling him out of a dire foster home at the age of one. Rob has always been the more responsible one and as the dutiful son, he immediately agrees to fly to the Caribbean to convince his younger brother to come home and take his place in the family business. Rob secretly resents Noah, blaming him for everything that has gone wrong in his life. He is jealous of all the attention Noah gets and finds Noah's casual attitude to life distasteful, especially since Rob must fight for every bit of normalcy in his life, such as his lazy eye which his parents spent years and thousands of dollars in physical therapy to correct but reemerges when he is under extreme stress and an ongoing handicap with his mild dyslexia. A dark cloud hangs over Rob, and his striking, brooding face repels some and attracts others.

Aurora Rosario (24)

A sexy, drop-dead gorgeous Filipina American who comes to the Caribbean to attend a wedding with her fiancée, Aurora decides to pull a "runaway bride" when she meets Rob and joins him on an epic 60-day voyage. A stunning looker with an irresistible smile, Aurora is willing to bare her amazing body for all the world to see, making the crew suspect that she is a bit of a nymphomaniac. Once on board, however, the rote recounting of her simple immigrant background in Florida gets challenged by different members of the crew, especially when the details don't add up. We slowly learn Aurora's true intentions as the season unfolds. One thing is for sure: Aurora is determined to get almost every single person on the yacht infatuated with her—both girls and boys.

Jack Urban (29)

An adventurer and documentary filmmaker of sorts, Jack has come into Instagram and Tik-Tok fame by filming his own wild exploits. Party friends with Noah, the joke-laden Jack is famous for witty retorts that have everyone in fits of laughter. Popular with the ladies, Jack and Noah are indomitable lads when they hit the party scene, leaving the rest to pick up the leftovers. Lately though, Jack's become obsessed with conspiracy theories on Reddit, alarming the crew with his dark vision for the future. Jack also begins to incur the crew's

growing ire as he insists on filming everything—even the ugliest moments.

Albert North (24)

Noah's friend and hanger-on, timid Albert has lived on the periphery of fabulous people since he was born. The only child of a celebrated Broadway actress and jazz musician, Albert is drawn to people like Noah, his hero worship bordering on a kind of love. Albert is also the only one who has a day job—as a waiter in the yacht club that Noah likes to frequent, and Noah has taken Albert on as his "do-gooder project". Sweet and sensitive, Albert is that guy that you go to when you need a good cry, or unload, the sympathetic ear, and for Noah, he is that stalwart friend who can anticipate your needs. However, Albert's feelings for Noah come out on the 60-day voyage, as Albert struggles with his sexuality.

Stefan Fehr (28)

A Michelin-chef in the making with an outsized personality and a nose for finding a good party, Stefan hails from Hungary (which explains his indescribably strange accent but not his outrageous punk-shaved head). Wiry, lean with tattoos and super frantic, Stefan can slap down a meal for eight in an hour and then party for the rest of the night. His approach to 'meat'—that anything alive is game for cuisine—makes some of the others squeamish. Liver, spleens, eyes of fish or any other animal are served up on a platter—yet delicious as Stefan cooks it. When the crew runs out of food, Stefan serves up items that most people find inedible, including the discarded parts from the yacht's waste, all learned from his poverty and hard-knocks Eastern bloc upbringing. Deceptive and bombastic, Stefan becomes Noah's nemesis as the journey continues, especially when his manipulative control over his girlfriend Alice is challenged.

Alice Wright (24)

Bipolar wild child from New York City, Alice is in a depressive zombie state when she joins the crew. Despite her black mood matched by her stringy dyed black hair and lethargy, Alice is an incredible mixologist and proves to be a perfect companion to Stefan's foodfest. However, after a mix-up with her medication, Alice begins to come out of her shell, transforming into a charming and delightful woman, and almost posing a challenge to the attention-craving Aurora. Her complete unawareness of her intellectual genius and the patience with which she explains the most difficult technical details eventually earns her the trust of everyone on the boat.

The Pilot Story:

Noah Warner is lolling about in the Caribbean, celebrating his new captain's license with a group of late 20-something friends and his sidekick, Albert, most of whom are living off trust funds and aimlessly globetrotting from one luxury destination to another. When

he sees twenty gate crashers at the party (from the wrong side of the tracks) who get turned away by the venue, he warmly invites all of them in, buying them drinks—only to see an exorbitant bill. Despite this, he adds a handsome tip. Noah is a softy and just can't say no to most people. At this party, Noah runs into Jack Urban, one of his pals from an exclusive dinner club. Jack tells him about a billionaire investor, looking for someone to sail a 30-million-dollar hand-built sailboat to the southern tip of New Zealand within 60 days so he can join a race. The payment: \$150,000.

When Noah sees the magnificent mahogany vessel, *The Destiny*, he immediately says yes, despite not having met MR. TAN. Jack connects him via Zoom with the mysterious Mr. Tan (late 50s) a Southeast Asian. Mr. Tan never takes off his sunglasses during the entire call but assures Noah of the legitimacy of the job and that he may take a few crew members with him. Jumping onto another call, Mr. Tan instantly transfers a deposit of \$50K to Noah's account, signaling he means business.

Noah's brother Rob, who has just arrived on the island, decides he must go as additional crew, if only to keep an eye on his wayward brother. But Rob complicates matters by bringing along Aurora, a sexy Filipina American he met just a few nights before. Aurora came to the Virgin Islands to attend a wedding with her fiancée but bailed on the wedding and her engagement, capping off the night skinny-dipping with the hopelessly smitten Rob. As soon as Aurora meets Noah, sparks fly, although Rob is in the dark about it.

Inspired by the yacht, Jack also decides to join the voyage hoping it might provide the right materials for his ambitious full-length feature documentary. Bored by the idea of just four people on a yacht for 60 days, Jack persuades Noah to take two more crew to spice up the journey, Stefan—a gourmet cook-- and Alice--his mixologist girlfriend. Noah reluctantly agrees but warns they must keep their presence a secret as his contract states that he cannot have more than three additional crew on the yacht. Unbeknownst to Noah and the rest of the crew, Stefan and Alice are looking for a way out of the Caribbean after stealing a huge shipment of drugs from their former employers, Albanian gangsters.

At the last minute, Noah's sidekick Albert ditches his waiter job at the yacht club and makes an emotional plea to join the journey. Noah relents, knowing he will need the help. Albert has hidden his intense sexual infatuation with Noah but doesn't realize he is heading right into the middle of a disastrous love triangle.

Season Structure:

Episodes 1-3:

Early in the season, the series will offer a glossy international Instagram fantasy playground of the young and gorgeous, living their best lives. The love triangle between the Warner brothers and Aurora

will be the focus. While there are hints of Jack and Stefan's mysterious pasts, we will thread those stories into Jack's filming and through old posts seen on social media with the yacht still able to stop at ports of call and having communications access.

Episodes 4-6:

Once the yacht reaches the Panama Canal, Stefan and Alice's drug running and Jack's paranoia will step up the tension. As *The Destiny* must cross the big expanse of the Pacific Ocean, the stakes escalate as each of the crew's dark secrets directly threaten their survival making it impossible to unite against extreme weather and storms.

The final two episodes will be action-packed: Jack's paranoia endangers the crew and Stefan's hold over Alice is broken. The Albanian gangsters catch up to Stefan and Alice, trying to board *Destiny*. Even as the crew manages to escape the Albanians and get Jack off the ship, a new danger arises from Aurora.

Season Arcs:

As *Destiny* sets sail, the unlikely group of seven face obstacles and danger, with intrigues and alliances shifting between the crew members.

Initially, the love triangle between Aurora and the Warner boys will drive tension and provide eye candy for Jack's film. The conflict will simmer into a much bigger contest with Rob becoming physically aggressive as he struggles with his shortcomings, and eventually turns violent. We begin to wonder whether he might just kill his own brother during an enraged encounter.

At the Panama Canal, there's nervousness and an incident when Stefan and Alice narrowly dodge some Panamanian gangsters looking to intercept the drug shipment. Shortly thereafter, Alice, zombie-like when she boarded the ship, becomes serious competition to Aurora's monopoly on male attention aboard the yacht when she emerges from her shell-shocked zombie state. But Alice is shocked when she begins to suspect that Stefan has been using her medication to control her.

Someone on board is sabotaging the ship's equipment and food items making the voyage more precarious and Noah suspects that it might be Rob. When Noah confronts Rob, a fist fight breaks out, but Albert quickly steps in as the peacemaker. However, Albert's secret crush on Noah is discovered by Aurora.

Albert accidentally sees Jack's edited version of the voyage thus far and is dismayed to discover they are all characters in Jack's fake tale. The film is symptomatic of the delusion which will eventually overcome Jack - the rest of the crew come off very badly in the edit, except for Jack who is almost heroic, a demi-god saving them from extinction. Albert shares his concern with Noah, who demands that Jack

show them the footage. But Jack is dismayed to find that it's all been destroyed.

Jack mistakenly accuses Noah of destroying his "life's work" and surreptitiously starts a mutiny on the yacht, recruiting Stefan, Alice and even Rob to join him. He pushes for Noah to step down and wants to steer the boat towards another destination off the coast of Ireland — where they can await the apocalypse.

Suddenly, the crew get an inundation of apocalyptic news—which makes a few of them even think that Jack might be right after all. The crew learn that Japan, Korea, Taiwan, US, Russia & China are all pointing missiles at the South China Sea. This, coupled with political disruption in South America with multiple elections, followed by a military coup, and the shocking news of a massacre of the top government ministers in the very same Caribbean Island they had been docked make the crew wonder if the world that they left behind will still be there when they return from this epic voyage.

A bad storm drives *The Destiny* off course and washes out the food pantry. Stefan makes a meager meal and the crew tell stories to pass the time. Jack questions Aurora's story -- it doesn't add up to what she previously said about her childhood. Alice reveals her hidden skills and repairs the comms system, and the crew puts out an SOS.

Jack starts an active mutiny, and it looks as if Rob & Stefan might join him, with only Alice on Noah's side and Albert trying to play nice guy. Aurora seems to be on the fence, although her seductive smile to Jack shows that she knows which side her bread might be buttered on. A secret vote with black and white Go game pieces takes place—with mounting tension—and Noah just manages stays captain. But Jack attacks him, forcing the rest of the crew to lock him up in the hull.

All hell breaks loose when the Albanian drug lords that Stefan double-crossed come looking for their contraband. Stefan sets up Alice to be the scapegoat—knowing it could mean death for her. Once the crew rallies against the Albanians and Alice comes up with an ingenious ad-hoc solution to sink their boat, Noah convinces the rest of them to lock up Stefan.

The crew finally manage to set the Albanian boat on fire using Molotov cocktails made with the remaining supplies. Jack is seriously injured while they're planting the Molotovs. The Albanian boat explodes and they see the two Albanians swimming to the life raft.

All seems well as *The Destiny* sails away and the crew celebrates as they pull into port at Fiji. Dropping off an injured Jack, the remainder discuss what the best route is to the South Island of New Zealand where they will meet the billionaire and collect the rest of the money.

When they wake up the next morning, Alice notices the angle of the sun and warns Noah that they are off course. Noah investigates and sees that the communications equipment has been disabled yet again. But by who? Rob comes out on deck looking for Aurora only to realize that she has locked herself in the supply pantry where Jack and Stefan were both being held captive. We see inside the pantry as Aurora pulls out a case with high tech sat comms devices. She quickly sends a message: "It's all set up. We will rendezvous in 24 hours."

Further Seasons:

The second season of *The Destiny* ratchets up the stakes when Aurora's true intentions are revealed - to kidnap them for the billionaire yacht owner. Although the Warner boys believe it was for a huge ransom from their billionaire father, they eventually find out that the Mr. Tan wants Warner's proprietary software code used by the US military. We learn about Mr. Tan's complicated back story with the Warner senior - that he had been at CalTech with Noah's father.

More will be revealed about Aurora's motives- that Aurora's mother is the yacht owner's mistress. When Aurora took on the Warner kidnapping, she figured this would be the last job, and she was planning to break ties with her mother and the sugardaddy/tycoon. However, it gets complicated when the kidnapping does not go according to the plan and the tycoon threatens her mother's life.

But everything changes when Albert is killed by the kidnapers accidentally when Mr. Warner refuses to provide the software code. Rob had given Albert his bright red jacket to wear overnight. The crew initially has no idea how Albert's body ended up floating beside the yacht.

The crew finally piece together the evidence that it was a drone that killed Albert. After receiving broken-up frantic message from Warner senior-sent in codes- that the brothers had rehearsed from when they were toddler just in case they were kidnapped or in serious danger, the brothers realize that the kidnapers had intended to kill Rob as the ultimatum for the senior Warner to hand over the code. Later, the boys receive another one of their father's coded message and they realize the worst has happened-that they are on their own. It takes Noah and Rob some time to figure that the issue is bigger than the two of them-that their father will not compromise the safety of the world for their two lives. But another garbled message arrives from the father-telling them to head towards South China Seas, the only place where the senior Warner might be able help the crew with his contacts with the US military. All this is told in broken up bits and comms that Alice patches together.

Rob once again flies into a rage when he realizes that the kidnapers thought he, as the adoptive son, would be disposable and that the Warners' genetic son would be the one that the father would try to save. Noah is mystified as to Rob's emotional state as he is focused on saving them all. Rob slowly begins to fall for Alice after Aurora's

double treachery is revealed and Alice teaches him the tools for managing dyslexia and shows him how his spatial perception is way better than others. When Stefan tries to stake his claim on Alice and assumes his controlling and manipulative overtures, Rob gives him a rough beating.

Aurora begins to have a change of heart because of Noah's good-hearted influence. Despite herself, she finds herself falling in love with Noa. Aurora has only been involved in scams and when she sees Albert's dead body—who became her confidant during the first season--she is shaken by the extreme measures that the yacht owner is willing to take. She is shaken to the core when she realizes that her only friend on the yacht was murdered, because of her own treachery.

The journey to South China Sea takes a more perilous turn, as the crew of *Destiny* encounter military jets, boats, and missiles converging for one hell of a battle: US, China, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan gear up for a territorial naval/aerial battle and the yacht is caught in the middle. The senior Warner pulls his military strings and does his best to help the boys. But it is unclear what the crew must do to survive.