

Dear Bible Reader,

Bibles make me think of my Dad. He gave me a bible once to prop the window open in my bedroom – so I wouldn't die when the gas leaked from our stove. But there's this high you get from gas – just before you pass out. It's like hearing the phone ring just before you learn it's bad news.

The fucked IED that cut into my spinal chord made me hate God and his bible bullshit. But Lily in unit 1070 told me that God kept me from dying, so what do I know? I'm thinking about letting her see me naked. She just asked me this morning. I know she's like 100 years old but she's feeling the need. Who am I to judge?

If you want to store your stuff at Safe & Sound, I'm open for business. This isn't a sales pitch or anything. I just see that you're loaded down with stuff and I could help you take care of that. Self-storage is for anyone with baggage. Get it?

Yeah, some nights I think about killing myself but I'm too curious about who's going to walk into this place next.

See you –

West Henry



Safe & Sound LOG

A vet from the Gulf Wars, West Henry has returned home to run his family's self-storage space that's bloated with people's problems, illegal businesses, eccentric characters and accumulated pasts.

Tone: *Shameless* meets *Weeds*. Dark comedy.

Format: scripted; Single-camera.

A Note about Self-Storage and the Stuff that Fills It

There are 70,000 self-storage facilities in the US alone. Currently, there are at least 7 reality shows about storage and/or collecting / hoarding stuff. People are obsessed with material things that have no intrinsic value but when seen in a particular context –drive us towards illogical and emotional behaviors. We keep things we don't need. Self-storage contains a world exploding with personal stories.

Safe & Sound

Safe & Sound Self-Storage is a blown-out, tin can of a facility. Its mood is unhinged. Nothing really stays put. It's as if the stuff people own is so thick with their anxious energy, the entire building vibrates. It's unsettled and unsettling.

The building is a few miles from the LAX airport. Of the 2.6 billion cubic feet of storage in the US – *Safe & Sound* is a fantastical representation of a fraction of that space. It contains a dense, bizarre and unpredictable world.

Safe & Sound is more about the people than their belongings – it's more about saving yourself than about saving your stuff. The featured characters may surround themselves with material things, but most of the clutter is inside their own heads.

The series throws us in front of other people's out-of-control lives. We watch them try to contain themselves inside a 16' x 16' space, only to witness the thrill of their spill all over the arc of the season. The start of the series might feel like we've met a family of misfits. But by the end of the first season, the "family" has been splintered into different camps – with each person ultimately out for their own survival.

Every plot line emanates from the *Safe & Sound* self-storage facility serving as ground zero – a place inhabited and controlled by West Henry. West is like a young Woody Harrelson. He's un-phased by things that would normally sink others. War has both hardened him and broken him into softer pieces that yield way for the possibility of extraordinary transformation. Part guru, part thief, West is the host of the party – his party.

Safe & Sound speaks to a universal human desire for control. Putting your stuff in storage and locking it safely with a key can feel like a completed action. But if you lock yourself in that same space – even metaphorically—an entirely different experience takes hold. And if that space contains everything you've ever cared about – then the stakes are extremely high to protect it. To keep it safe and sound.

Main Characters of *Safe & Sound*

WEST HENRY inherited ownership of Safe & Sound. He survived serving time in Afghanistan, but an IED put him in a wheel chair. He's unhinged but in control when it counts the most. He's got a charismatic, comedic edge to him, with the ability to insinuate himself into any situation. He's been spooked by war just enough to not trust anything or anyone - for the time being.

ROMY is West's girlfriend from before the war. She runs Safe & Sound as his right hand person. 20-something, lively, rebellious, sexy, quick-tongued leather and lace girl, Romy has an incongruous moral compass that makes her set unreasonable "rules" at Safe & Sound that are always broken. At night, she feeds her mojo by professionally dancing at a club near LAX, where she enjoys after-hours sexual encounters with both men and women. She's complicated.

RACINE is a 40-something African American woman who runs an Ebay type of consignment business with tenants of Safe & Sound. She has a take-no-prisoners approach to her work, and has a sales rap that will get the crankiest tenant to consider selling their stuff through her business.

LEGO is a 20-something, street-smart high-school dropout who is insatiable when it comes to making deals and making money. She has a thriving pot business inside Safe & Sound. It's not clear where she lives. Her mother is on the constant verge of suicide, while her 16 year-old nerd brother leans on Lego for support.

CARMEN is the Lucille Ball of Safe & Sound. She runs a balloon business out of her unit, where she also lives illegally. She can make a meal out of anything. She gets into everyone's business. An actress at one point, Carmen's humor has always saved her from dark times.

Reoccurring Characters of *Safe & Sound*

SIA MISHUKI is a steely-cold Japanese businesswoman, who illegally runs a pod hotel network inside Safe & Sound. She's a tight-assed, soulless force that has no trouble stepping over dead bodies. Her lack of regard for other people's rules makes her a fiery match for Romy and a welcome challenge for West.

LINDA is in her late 30's, a mother and wife and a new unit owner who has recently foreclosed on her home. Her new drive to survive is something even she doesn't recognize. Her partnership with Racine explodes her into all-business mode.

JON is Linda's husband and the eventual side-kick for West. He has a John Goodman energy. He's had many jobs in construction and bars. He's less of a family guy/straight guy than he appears. His business dealings with West are layered with questionable motives.

HENRY is Lego's brother. He's still in high school and figures heavily into Lego's drive to succeed. He's a victim in the wake of their mentally ill mother. His need to break free from that world becomes more pressing as the season moves forward.

FORMAT

This is a story of the week format. Each week, the hour episode follows the trajectory of West Henry's life as he runs Safe & Sound Storage. The main characters each traverse their own separate plot lines. Similar to *Shameless* where the common family house serves as the hub for interactions, the storage facility holds the ensemble cast in a common space. But they each have lives that we follow either inside their own units or out in the world.

In addition to the main plot lines moving forward with each episode, we also have smaller plots that begin and end in a single episode. These are fed by typical 'normal life' storage-scenarios, where we have brief encounters with new tenants. Examples:

2 people in the midst of a divorce splitting their stuff in storage
Going through a unit of a dead family member
Trying to find a horrid smell somewhere in a unit
Looking for that one thing in a unit / losing that one thing or finding that one thing
Dealing with an abandoned unit
Something is 'alive and moving' in unit
Owner going through a unit she hasn't seen in 30 years
Being trapped inside a unit
Fire sprinklers go off in the unit / an angry tenant
A couple going through their unit – one discovers something awful about the other
Creepy customers who raise our suspicions
The oddball collectors with their oddball collections
The designer tenant who needs his unit to be 'as beautiful as his stuff'
The anal tenant who is always seen labeling things
The frustrated tenant who can't fit his possession in the unit - no matter how hard he squishes
The obviously homeless wannabe tenant with no possessions at all

Safe & Sound is a nighttime primetime series, best suited for cable due to its potentially R rated content. It would make sense for a channel that already has shows about "stuff" – like DISCOVERY, A&E, PBS, AMC, HGTV, HISTORY.

By the end of Season One, the nature of Safe & Sound Self-Storage will have changed. It will be more entrenched in black market and underground cultures. It will be ready to enter Season Two with plans for a complete overhaul –one that incorporates new technologies, a new space, and a host of new business ventures that turn West into nothing short of the God Father of Self-Storage.

Episode Synopses

Pilot: West Henry finds out his dead uncle made a raw deal with a Japanese underground hotel ring. He's forced into a contract but decides to turn it to his advantage. Romy is pissed; Racine sees opportunity. Tensions mount, culminating with Carmen refusing to move her disputed unit. Lego's brother comes with more bad news. New tenants Jon and Linda find their place in the chaos.

TWO: Carmen is hit with property damage costs, while West tries to get his head around the new sleeping pods that take up an entire row of his facility. Racine and Linda start focusing on harassing tenants to sell their belonging. We meet Romy's darker side. Lego makes a secret deal with Sia.

THREE: West has a bad night. Nightmares start plaguing him. PTSD symptoms become real. He blows off steam with Jon. Lego visits her mom who's over-dosed on bison burgers. Carmen harasses a POD guest. Word gets back to Sia. There's hell to pay.

FOUR: One of Romy's dance club trysts comes to hit on her at work. West picks a fight that ends up badly. Racine and Lego butt heads about competing "business" practices. A band blows the circuits. Blackout causes havoc for everyone.

FIVE: A month has passed and the water and electricity bills come in, reflecting the POD usage. Romy freaks out. West confronts Sia. Romy confronts West. Things have to change if there is to be a future. Carmen and Lego have a deep talk about what to do about Lego's brother, Henry. Racine hooks up with someone in a tricked-out S&M unit.

SIX: Jon and West finish building the VIP lounge for POD guests. Carmen is tapped for some bizarre entertaining to satisfy those sleepy Japanese businessmen. Lego cashes in on some big deals. A band that rents rehearsal space happens onto the secret VIP lounge. West has to intervene with threats. Sia makes unwelcome appearance, demanding new plumbing.

SEVEN: Lego's brother Henry finds his mother in a pool of blood. She survives, but Henry spends the night with West, while Lego is at the hospital. West shows his guru side. Jon and Linda take Racine out for her birthday. A new idea is hatched.

EIGHT: West confronts some more complicated PTSD pains. He gets a visit from his only close relative – cousin Jay / the son of his uncle who willed him the business. Jay begins to peel away another layer of West's past. With no payments coming into from POD expenses yet, West increases unit rates. There's resistance from all fronts.

NINE: Linda and Racine take over an empty unit to create a bizarre home shopping network for the Web. Carmen and West nearly overdose on Helium late at night. They think they may have witnessed a murder between two men staying in the PODs. Sia's crew is creepy and efficient. The murder plants dark seeds for Season Two.

TEN / SEASON FINALE: West engages Jon in a plan to overhaul Safe & Sound. A dangerous financial loan leads to new and strange bedfellows. The installation of cameras in certain units opens up opportunities for some lowbrow business ventures. Jon is starting to take advantage of West. Romy and West fight about the meaning of fidelity. Carmen loses her marbles when she finally has to move units. Linda and Racine break into an abandoned unit and find something dangerous. Lego has a brush with the law that may put Safe & Sound under outside investigation. Sia has to intervene, but at a cost to everyone.