

'Trash With Money'

A Teleplay

By Jennifer Gulbrandsen

Script Synopsis

LOGLINE: Money can't buy you class, but it can get your ass in a lot of trouble. *Trash With Money* is a one hour scripted television dark comedy that follows the escapades of the Del Principe family, who have more money than they can spend... and too much time on their hands. The series centers around the adult children of the deceased Antonio Del Principe, the "Gentlemen's Club King of Chicago," and the mess they manage to make of their lives while remaining a fiercely loyal family.

Michael, Joey, Angela, Gina, Nicky, and 'Baby Dominic' range in age from 42-27, and have lived their lives totally indulged by the family money, and are prone to hijinks. Set in the tony Chicago suburb of Barrington, the Del Principe's trashiness has been legendary since they were kids.

From family brawls at funerals, strippers at children's birthday parties, a lack of tasteful landscaping, and poor country club manners, the residents of Barrington have been calling the Del Principe tribe, "Trash With Money" for the last 30 years since the patriarch moved to town richer than all of them from his 'smut emporium' as local meddling widow, Muffy Epstein, likes to put it.

The glue of the family, and the protagonist of the series, is the middle sister Gina. Unofficial matriarch of the family after the death of their mother eight years ago, Gina is the one sibling everyone listens to and seems the most gentrified of the clan. Her goal in life is to have one peaceful day without a major family embarrassment. Though her outward appearance as a recently divorced high level public relations executive with four boys makes her look like everyone else in Barrington, she too can throw down with the family and isn't above some light intimidation, murder coverups, and perhaps a little gentle money laundering for her family. Though some of the siblings aren't talking to each other, they all talk to Gina, and without her, everything would crumble.

While the Del Principe family is mostly a train wreck coming apart at high speed on the surface, the true hero of their story is their heart, loyalty, and ability to put their differences aside in order to stick together. Every episode of the series begins with a flashback to pivotal live shaping moments in order to set the stage for the story of the week. Through these flashbacks, we see how being outsiders, the children of first generation immigrants, and the pressures that come with growing up in a wildly dysfunctional family, shapes them into who they are today. It provides insight into why Michael is a serial entrepreneur, why Joey is obsessed with fame, Angela's inherent need to keep secrets and sabotage Gina, the reason Gina feels so obligated to keep her family together, Nicky's struggle with his sexuality, and 'Baby Dominic's' issues with drug abuse and addiction.

The flashbacks also provide the viewer with context with regards to who Antonio and Veronica Del Principe were as individuals, their demons, and how it made their adult children who they are today. There will be times Veronica will lament that her family would have been better off had they remained middle class on the South Side of Chicago or back in Italy.

Through mistakes, misadventures, tragedies, and the occasional accidental murder of a neighbor's chicken, the Del Principe love each other fiercely and always show up for one another when the chips are down. Nobody ever loses their sense of humor and, "Gina fixes everything."

The first season of the series ends with the Del Principe children learning their life lessons, owning their pasts, and paying their karmic debt. As they travel to Italy together after the sale of the first piece of property their father ever bought, and to spread their mother's ashes that have been sitting in Angela's hall closet for eight years, they raise a toast to their parents and admit that while they are a band of glorious disasters, they're making it through life in one piece.

This is a series instead of a feature, because there is a lot of ground to cover in the story of Gina and her siblings, that can go on for many years with several twists and turns. Every episode begins with a flashback from their parents that shaped the kids into who they are today, and the episodes end with the family around Angela's dining room table for the mandatory Sunday night family dinner.

[Series Summary] 12 - 47 minute episodes spanning the course of about a calendar year:

Pilot - **Maronna Mia!** (Oh My God!) - The Del Principes have lost their salty old tia, Teresa, and funeral arrangements need to be made with special attention given to keeping Angela and her arch nemesis, Cousin Rita, apart. Gina goes to war with her neighbor's rooster, which accidentally takes a dark turn. Michael has another business idea he pitches to Angela for financing. Tia Teresa's funeral gets heated when Angela and Cousin Rita's paths cross and it becomes an all out Del Principe brawl right there in the narthex of St. Isidore Church.

1.2 - **Lascialui!** (Leave Him Alone) Gina deals with Baby Dominic living on the streets again while her siblings want nothing to do with him. Nicky and Angela disagree about his lifestyle choices and deepen the rift between them. Joey thinks his ticket to fame is vlogging and starts his own video channel which comes with bizarre consequences.

1.3 - **Manga Familia** (Family Dinner) - Dominic gets out of treatment and hears disappointing news from Gina, causing him to turn to Angela for help. Nicky brings his longtime boyfriend to family dinner for the first time. Michael's business idea starts to take off after a brainstorming session with Angela's husband.

1.4 - **Scubata** (To Get Laid) Angela encourages Gina to get back into the dating game. The strain of Dominic and Angela's secret takes its toll on Angela, and she lashes out at Gina after something bad happens. As Joey's popularity soars on his video channel, Michael wants to capitalize.

1.5 - **Ufratu** (Your Brother) Gina continues to deal with the fallout of Dominic and Angela's secret, while a new romance begins. Nicky and his boyfriend have an altercation over his family. Joey and Michael's idea hits it big on the internet.

1.6 - **Mortadell** (Loser)- Dominic tries to start over, but quickly finds the dark side of his new opportunity. Gina's new relationship goes to the next level, until something hilariously strange happens in Angela's pool. Nicky's boyfriend problems bring him closer to Angela.

1.7 - **Ma Che Cozz'u Fai?!** (What the Hell Are You Doing?) Dominic gets deeper into his new enterprise, and Joey has a hunch something isn't right. Gina deals with juggling a new relationship and her crazy family. Angela and Nicky come up with a plan to get him out of his bad situation.

1.8 - **Numu Fai Shcumbari!** (Stop Embarrassing Me!) Michael and Dominic's paths cross in an unlikely way causing Michael to be alarmed that one of his secrets will be revealed. Angela executes Nicky's escape plan, and something goes wrong that could have permanent consequences. Gina discovers Joey's video channel and is hurt by what she sees.

1.9 - **Sorda - Sorda** (Money -Sister) Dominic discovers a secret between Michael and Angela's husband that gives him even more leverage over his brother and sister. Gina has another chicken misfortune that lands her in very hot water. Angela is forced to come clean to her husband over some things she's been hiding.

1.10 - **Sedeti!** (Sit Down!) Michael and Joey are given a huge opportunity but can't agree on whether or not to take it. Gina has her day in court over the chicken incident. Nicky begins to navigate a new life on his own.

1.11 - **Spaciad Gina** (We're not talking to Gina) Gina's new boyfriend ends things because of her chaotic life. Dominic is confronted about his lies and blackmail with an unexpected outcome as Nicky sheds some light on his problems. Angela tries to mend fences with Gina as the family gets some news from Italy.

1.12 **Buona Italia!** - The Del Principes head to Italy to sell their father's property and spread their mother's ashes. The siblings travel together trying to make it a good trip without too much drama. Gina receives some unexpected news on the trip that changes her life.

CHARACTER OUTLINES

MAJOR CHARACTERS

GINA DEL PRINCIPE - BIANCO

Gina is the middle daughter of Antonio and Veronica, and was probably their favorite. Smart, polite, pretty, and book smart, she excelled in school and was the closest thing to an All American Girl this family could get. She went to college, graduated, married and had 4 boys: Tony (15), Nicholas (13), Rocco (11), and Jimmy (10). She divorced her husband three years ago after she caught him in bed with one of the PTA moms from the boys' school and finds herself single again in her late 30s.

She's a bit codependent and a habitual peacemaker. Gina's job has always been to fix everything, and she both relishes and hates the role. The 'Trash With Money' moniker always gets under her skin, because she knows her family is made up of genuinely good people who simply can't get out of their own way. Gina's goal in life is to have them clean up their image a bit, reach their fullest potential, and go one day without chaos. She and the boys moved into her parent's old house in Barrington after her divorce, and the improvements she made got her the nickname, "Lady of the Manor" from her somewhat resentful siblings who sometimes think she puts on airs that she's better than them.

Fiercely protective of her tribe, Gina is almost loyal to a fault and sometimes to her own detriment. Her closest bond within her siblings are with her younger brothers, Nicky and Dominic. There's a quiet rivalry between her and her sister Angela that sometimes bubbles up to the surface. Gina genuinely loves her older sister, and doesn't seem to understand why Angela has some bitterness toward her.

And while she's the most prim and proper of the bunch, Gina has no problem getting down and dirty when the situation calls for it, making her siblings wish this Gina was out and about more often. She speaks like an educated woman day to day, but get her in the middle of the chaos and the south side, Italian slang accent comes right out.

At the end of the day, Gina wants everyone healthy, happy, and secure. That's really all she wants. Oh and for the damn rooster to shut up.

Secret No One Knows: She's terrified she will end up alone one day. The idea of being alone panics her.

ANGELA DEL PRINCIPE - SORELLA

Angela is the eldest of the Del Principe siblings, and probably unfairly considered the black sheep of the family. Classically attractive, street smart, and cunning, she's a sharp contrast to "Santa Gina" as she calls her younger sister. For all of Angela's strengths, her foul mouth, short temper, and penchant for secrets and dishonesty, are contributors to how her parents viewed her and it has stuck with her long after their deaths' into her early 40's.

The only one of the siblings who would be independently wealthy on her own, she lords her success over her brothers and sisters and tends to make them beg for things. Angela also likes to keep people indebted to her, and reminds everyone that her father's investments are still alive and successful today because of her.

Though she's successful, and the sole reason why her siblings enjoy their lives of relative leisure, her jealousy of Gina is almost palpable with every interaction. Angela resents that she was raised as one of the sons, while Gina got to be everyone's princess and had a much easier life, and that everyone runs to her to fix everything, while the family comes to Angela when they need something. Usually money. These resentments aside, she is loyal to her family and gets along with them for the most part.

Angela dropped out of high school, and later married Bobby Sorella, an ex-con with mob connections turned informant for the FBI. The family is sworn to secrecy about Bobby's past for their daughter, Lexi's sake.

Angela's main motivation is to be recognized by her family for how integral she is to holding them together outside of Gina, and for them to acknowledge they'd have run through the money ten times over if not for her.

Secret No One Knows: Her ties to organized crime are deeper than her husband's. Not even he knows.

MICHAEL DEL PRINCIPE

Michael is the oldest son of Antonio and Veronica, just turning 40 years old. He's a serial entrepreneur whose only success has been failure. None of his concepts have ever come to fruition, and Angela has cut him off from the family money to finance any more ventures. He has an unquenchable thirst to be more successful than his father since he turned down his offer to run the family businesses for him when he retired. Michael thought he was better than a chain of strip clubs and commercial real estate investments. He knows he broke his father's heart, but he has a very grand view of himself and what he 'deserves'.

He's devilishly handsome with a bit of an edge to him which further plays into the dichotomy of him wanting to be a successful businessman while covered in tattoos, driving Harleys, and listening to heavy metal. Michael exists in this very strange place of wanting to be a rebel and wanting to be the scion of the family. Something he resents Angela for.

Michael is lukewarm about Angela and Gina, happy to let them handle the bulk of the drama, despises his petulant baby brother, Dominic, doesn't have much connection to Nicky, and is closest to Joey. He is married to the always brash and tacky, Lola, who desperately wants to climb the social ladder in Chicago, and doesn't want any children.

His main motivation is to find the angle that's going to be his pot of gold that is bigger and better than anything his father built.

Secret No One Knows: He regularly steals money from Angela to finance his schemes, and lets the blame fall on Dominic.

NICKY DEL PRINCIPE

Nicky Del Principe was the baby of the family, and Veronica's favorite until he was 8 years old. Then when Dominic was born, he became the invisible child in the family. It wasn't uncommon for Nicky to be left at restaurants and gas stations as everyone around him grabbed his parents' attention. He was fascinated by his mother and his sister, Gina, and always wanted to be around them. Nicky loved women, but he learned soon after Dominic was born, that women made him happy, but they didn't *excite* him. It was Michael's tough crowd he was attracted to, and it didn't take long for him to realize he was gay.

Being gay in a first generation Italian household is no easy task. Nicky was a priest until his mother died when he was 27. A week after her funeral, he asked to be dismissed by the Archdiocese and came out as gay to his family. The only ones who accepted this were Gina and Joey. The rest felt it was the biggest stain on the family. A family rich because of naked women and shady business dealings drew the line at their brother being a gay priest.

Since leaving the priesthood, Nicky made up for lost time living a wildly promiscuous life on the gay scene until finding his long term boyfriend, John. They have been together for 5 years, share a home, and Angela refuses to invite him to her mandatory Sunday night family dinners. This, as well as the way Angela treats Gina, has been the reason why they have had an icy relationship for almost a decade. Michael dismisses him as weak, Dominic doesn't care about anyone but Dominic, and Joey tries to overcome his uneasiness about having a gay brother.

Nicky's motivation is to be accepted by his family for who he is, but mostly to release the guilt and shame he holds onto within himself so he can be who he truly wants to be.

Even though he comes off as a meek, clean cut, and pious individual there is a dark side to Nicky's life that makes his intolerance to certain things so interesting.

Secret No One Knows: Nicky is a sex addict who puts himself in dangerous situations as part of the kinky thrill he craves. This even happened while he was a priest.

JOEY DEL PRINCIPE

Joey Del Principe is the middle son of Antonio and Veronica, and some would say he was Antonio's favorite. Devastatingly handsome, charming, and sweet, Antonio had high hopes for Joey, but he struggled in school and was diagnosed with severe dyslexia and barely made it through high school. Much to Antonio's chagrin, Joey fell in love with the idea of being famous and has tried to find the one thing that will bring him the fame he craves. He's been a lounge singer, a model, an actor, and now he's taking his turn at internet fame.

A confirmed bachelor, Joey lives in a condo in the city and survives entirely off his trust fund dividends, and he's perfectly content with that, except as he gets closer and closer to the end of his 30s he knows his window of fame is closing and it's 'do or die' and he his quest for fame has even more desperation behind it.

Like Gina, Joey is pretty much close to all of his siblings, and because he's perceived as 'the dumb and pretty one' they take advantage of him sometimes and he gets resentful. Angela scares him, he idolizes and looks up to Michael, worships Gina like a living saint, is fiercely protective of Nicky, and while he dislikes Dominic immensely, (he blames his parents for the way he turned out) Joey truly wants Dominic to get his act together.

Joey's motivation is to become famous so he can show his family, himself, and the world that he is good at something and worthy of respect on his own. It's mostly fear of succeeding that holds him back, because he's so used to being cloistered in the family bosom the unknown is terrifying for him.

He's simple, without a mean bone in his body and has no agenda. Out of all the Del Principes, Joey is the one with the true heart of gold.

Secret No One Knows: Joey is the wealthiest and most powerful woman in Chicago's gigolo.

DOMINIC DEL PRINCIPE

If there's a story that need's an antagonist, it's 'Baby Dominic', the youngest of the Del Principe family. Dominic was an 'oops' baby his parents had in their 40s when Angela was 15. Dominic was spoiled and indulged without the rigorous parenting and guidance Antonio and Veronica bestowed on their older children. So because of this, Dominic was always a spoiled brat most of his siblings grew to despise. He quit high school when he was 16 to play video games all day, stole his mother's cancer medication to get high, and spent his entire trust fund in only 9 months on cars and drugs.

Now 27, he lives on the streets mostly, lying and scheming his way through life and onto his next fix. Gina is the only one who truly cares about him, and Dominic has a seething hatred for her because he felt she abandoned him when she went to college after their mother first got sick.

The problem with Dominic is that he feels entitled to everything and completely lacks any kind of empathy. Is he a sociopath his parents created out of sheer laziness? If you believe his older

brother Nicky... then yes. Is he an addict who behaves the way he does because he has an illness that needs to be treated? According to Gina, that's the answer as well. But most of the siblings are on Michael's side when he says some people are just born bad.

The truth is, Dominic doesn't have the good looks and the hustle of his other siblings. Even though they're unrefined and somewhat spoiled, they all have a direction in life they want to go. Dominic just wants to navel gaze, do drugs, and have someone else do the rest of life for him. If he's forced to live as an adult, his goal then becomes to make everyone around him miserable and manipulate them into making his life easy again.

Is Dominic evil? Probably. He's the only one who defies Angela's family dinner rule on Sunday nights... unless he hasn't eaten in a while.

Secret No One Knows: Dominic has a genius IQ and was scouted by the best universities in the country before he dropped out of school.

VERONICA DEL PRINCIPE

The matriarch of the family, Veronica Del Principe came to America with her new husband Antonio when she was only 20 years old. She was raised in a very conservative family who valued penny pinching and religion as their main priorities. She was a very stark contrast to her flamboyant husband, but she felt it was good because she kept him grounded and realistic.

Veronica, 'Viana' as the family called her, relished her role of wife and mother. While her husband was sometimes embarrassingly brash, and the businesses he ran she had to keep secret from her family back in Italy for fear of scandalizing them, her children were the light of her life. She didn't care that their snobby suburb looked down on them because Antonio wasn't an investment banker, and she didn't wear twinsets, and they were Catholic because she was fulfilled doing what she did. Her neighbors had housekeepers and nannies to free up their time for lunches and tennis, but Veronica was content to spend her days cooking and cleaning.

She wasn't ready when Dominic came along. Honestly, her mother told her all women became barren at age 35, so she didn't think a baby was even possible, but she welcomed him as a blessing and felt she really did her best, but six kids are a lot, she had been raising children her entire life, and when you have three teenagers, a newborn is almost too much to handle. Sometimes she felt guilty for making Gina practically raise Dominic, but her Gina was like her with a servant's heart and seemed to enjoy taking care of Baby Dominic as much as Veronica loved taking care of babies when she was younger.

Veronica was diagnosed with breast cancer when Dominic was little and only he, Joey, and Nicky were still at home. She went into remission after her first round of treatment, but the stress of Antonio's sudden death five years later caused the cancer to come back, she believed, and eventually succumbed after a long battle when Dominic was just 19. By then she was too weak to do anything about his behavior and Gina was too busy with her own family at that point to help.

Overall, she was proud of her children even though they didn't turn out like the other kids in the neighborhood. When she left this earth, they were all alive, none were in prison, and were relatively happy so she did her job.

Secret No One Knows: Veronica considered having a secret abortion when she found out she was pregnant with Dominic.

ANTONIO DEL PRINCIPE

The 'good cop' to Veronica's 'bad cop' Antonio Del Principe was the patriarch of the Del Principe family. A hustler since the minute he was born, he and his new bride moved to America when he was 22 after he opened two successful restaurants, and settled in Chicago. He was thirsty for what the American dream could provide him... money and fun.

After opening a moderately successful restaurant in the Chicago Suburbs, "For dumb Lutherans who eat canned spaghetti and play golf on Saturdays," Antonio saw an opportunity in the strip club scene. It was the mid 70s and Studio 54 in New York was in its heyday and America was in love with the night life. He set out to create an establishment for, "Businessmen who wanted to grab a drink, eat a steak, talk shop, and look at tits because they've earned such things." And thus, The City Club was born. Wildly successful, The City Club went nationwide, and is still an institution in the Gentlemen's Club industry combining the nicest locations, best food, and prettiest women available.

Antonio loved flash. The flashier the better. The new house in Barrington was an ostentatious nightmare and he didn't care that his aesthetic was often described as 'tacky,' he made a living on refining tacky things for high end consumption. The rest of his world could be his canvas of expression.

He left the child rearing to Veronica, as that's what Italians do, but enjoyed showering his kids, especially his daughters with love and material possessions. He loved his sons, but never felt that any of them were in his image, an heir apparent, if you will. Michael had too much anger and rebellion in him, Joey didn't have the brains, Nicky didn't have the guts, and Dominic was a mistake. The only child he had that had his mind for business was Angela, so she would have to do.

Antonio's motivation was to be the best provider he could be, and for his wife and children to be taken care of and want for nothing. He also felt he had something to prove as an immigrant and hated American men for how lazy and entitled they were, but he loved America more than he loved Italy for the opportunity it provided him. "Americans whine about everything," he often said.

Antonio Del Principe had a massive heart attack at one of his clubs 13 years ago when the some of the kids were grown, and some were still growing up. The one affected by his death the most was Angela since she felt Antonio and she had a special understanding of one another. As was his purpose in his life, his wife and children would be set for life if they were smart and worked hard for the things they believed in.

Secret No One Knows: Antonio had a secret family with a Polish woman who danced in his club, Agnes. He made sure they were taken care of, too. The only secret he ever kept from his wife. He loved Agnes and their two girls, Maria and Julia, but he loved Veronica more.

Attached:

Pilot Episode

Episode 1.9