

NORTHERN LIGHTS

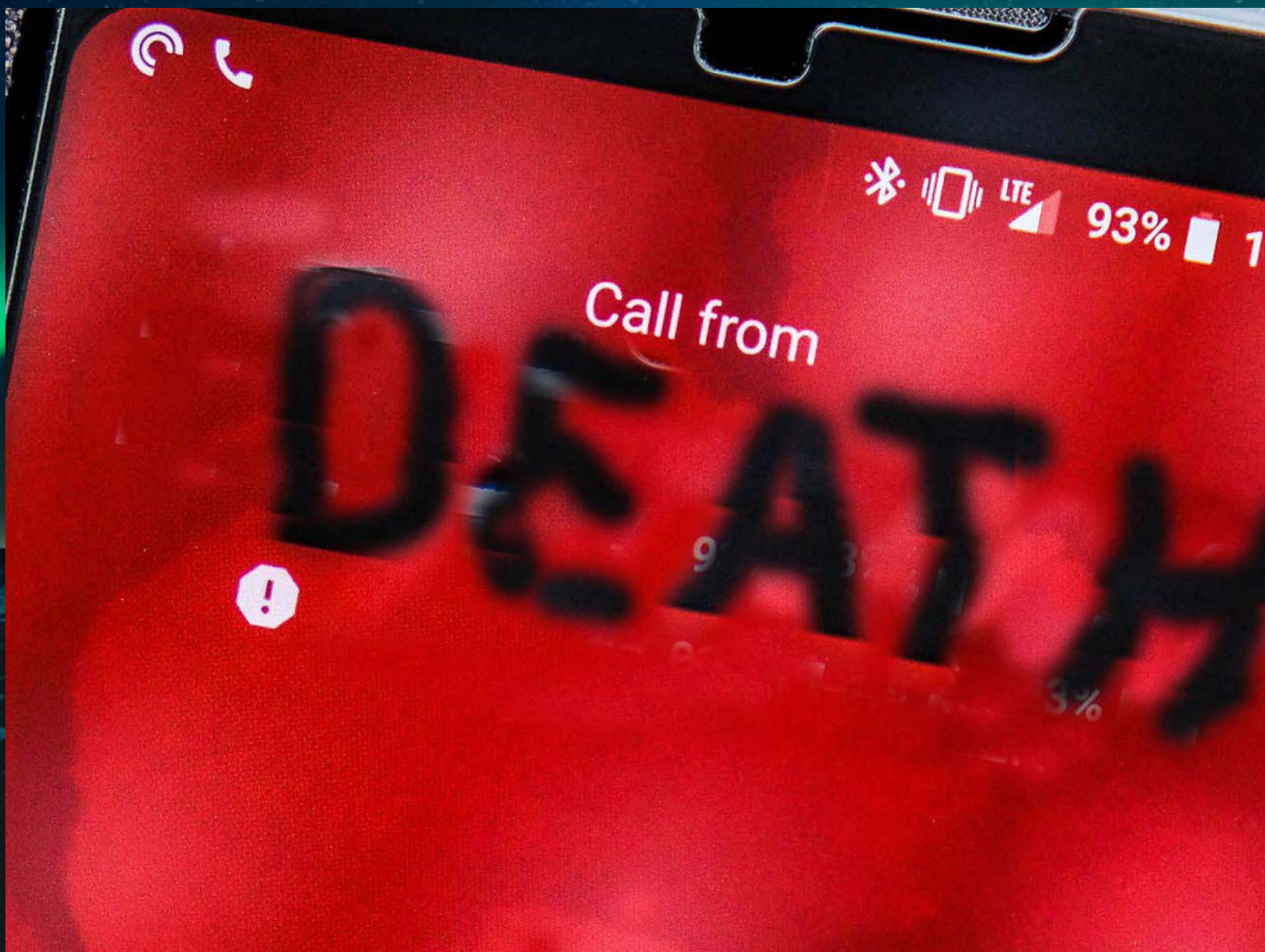
Limited TV Series

by
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LOG LINE

A young cop investigates a series of bizarre murders in a small Icelandic town, and she discovers a global conspiracy.





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SUMMARY

Hekla Egilsdottir is young cop in Seydisfjordur. This town on Iceland's east coast grew recently due to the success of Innoven Pharmaceuticals, a nearby vaccine maker that cured a global pandemic.

But prosperity brought crime, drugs, and now a series of bizarre murders that begin when a local woman's domestic robot rapes and kills her.

Hekla investigates with the help of Jim Mason, an engineer sent by H.A.R., an American robotics company concerned about their liability.

Soon more victims are killed via "smart" technology, and clues at various crime scenes point to a reclusive, Neo-Luddite cult.

But each suspect in the path of Hekla's investigation is murdered, and she finds herself always one step behind. Until she and Jim hack into a huge financial transaction linked to Innoven Pharmaceuticals.

(more)



SUMMARY (Cont'd)

Soon the investigation implicates Hekla's friends, family and superior officers.

When evidence suggesting that her father's suicide may have been murder, Hekla must confront emotional ghosts from her past as she struggles to expose the brutal truth:

Innoven Pharmaceuticals manufactured the virus, and it escaped the lab.

The company unleashed a global pandemic in order to sell the cure, and when the disease spread before vaccine supply was adequate, six million people died.

Billions of dollars in ill-gotten gains are at stake in addition to prison terms for the company's executives and others complicit in the cover-up.

When Hekla finds her life in jeopardy, she must use the skills and lessons learned in the course of the story to stay alive, protect Jim, and expose the conspiracy.



SETTING

Seydisfjordur is a quiet town nestled between glacial mountains and a fjord on Iceland's eastern coastline.

It's the year 2036, and the story takes place in the police station, rental cottages, a high-end home where the first murder occurs, the marina, El Grillo Cafe, on various roads around town, in the nearby glacial wilderness, and on Hekla's family boat.

Studio locations include corporate board rooms, the Reykjavik morgue, various bank offices, airports, court rooms, legal offices, hospitals in both the U.S. and Iceland, and Jim's home in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.



CHARACTERS



Hekla Egilsdottir

Jim Mason

Sigrun Selmasdottir

Magnus Johansson

Gunnar Egilsson

Anna Egilsdottir

Motts Von Karman

Ragnar Traustasdottir

Nigel Dickenson

Richard Brandon

Frank Ellis

Johan Magnusson

Hekla Eglisdottir

Our hero is a sexy, young cop with a genius IQ, but she has various personal issues.

Hekla is newly pregnant and in the process of ending her brief marriage. She has trouble resisting temptation, including drugs and alcohol.

Hekla is wounded from the mysterious death of her father, labeled a suicide, when she was twelve.

She's impulsive. A risk taker. And she pushes the limits of police procedure, frequently pissing off her partners and superior officers.

The murder investigation and Hekla's relationship with Jim teach her many important lessons, some of which help break the case, others help her live a good life at the story's end.

Over the course of her arc, Hekla evolves, conquers her addictions, keeps her baby, and becomes not only a better cop, but a more actualized person.

At her journey's end, Hekla is ready to be a soul mate, and Jim is the one.

Jim Mason

Chief engineer at Home Automation Robotics (H.A.R.), Jim is sent to Iceland to spin the investigation and mitigate company liability.

A former Naval officer, Jim has vast technical knowledge. And, like Hekla, he has a dark past involving his sister, Linda, who was abused by their father.

As a child, Jim tried to protect Linda, and he carries guilt over his perceived failure. Ten years sober, Jim is no longer tempted by alcohol. In him, Hekla sees a man like her father: disciplined, a strong moral compass, well defined boundaries. She considers him a role model, a he's her intellectual equal.

Jim and Hekla find trust and connection in the darkness within themselves. The couple complete one another at the story's conclusion.

Sigrun Selmasdottir

Raped and murdered by her domestic robot as the story opens, Sigrun's past becomes a key to the multiple murders, and she appears in flashback during later episodes.

Sigrun is the first domino to fall in the cover-up/conspiracy involving her former employer, Innoven Pharmaceuticals.

A medical doctor, research scientist, and engineer, she was on the design team that created a vaccine, effectively curing a global pandemic -- and that made her very rich.

Magnus Johansson

Hekla's estranged husband. A bright, troubled young man who loves Hekla and tries desperately to get her back. He is jealous of Jim, and gets sucked into dirty work on behalf of the conspirators who use his immaturity and technical skills for their own purposes.

Gunnar Egilsson

Hekla's police partner and older brother, Gunnar is a big, strong, Viking of a man. He protects Hekla, but she does not usually welcome his paternal role. Gunnar frequently restrains Hekla from rogue police tactics.

Anna Egilsdottir

Hekla's older sister. She is a doctor who lives and works in Reykjavik. Anna is Hekla's "sponsor" and helps her deal with drug and alcohol issues.

Anna is a source of medical information related to the investigation, until various clues indicate she may be complicit in covering-up the truth of their father's death.

Is Anna involved in the conspiracy? Was their father? Was his suicide actually the first murder? Did Anna lie to Hekla about his death out of love and a desire to protect her sister? Or was Anna protecting herself and her co-conspirators?

Motts Von Karman

The local forensics cop. Motts retired from a twenty year career as an M.E. in Hamburg for what he thought was a cushy job in a sleepy, little town.

Motts becomes a pawn of the conspirators. They pay him to hide evidence and steer the investigation.

Ragnar Traustasdottir

A Detective Chief Inspector, Ragnar is Hekla's immediate superior. Her entire family is linked to the conspiracy, and Ragnar's failure to control Hekla's investigation results in her going missing.

Nigel Dickenson

Sigrun's husband. A British ex-pat and a lawyer, Nigel sues H.A.R. Corporation for wrongful death and product liability in Sigrun's murder.

An arrogant, sleazy, profane, egomaniacal caricature of a lawyer, Nigel is the guy you love to hate. And every clue somehow leads to his door, but nothing sticks.

Johan Magnusson

CEO of Innoven Pharmaceuticals. Johan features mainly in the final episode wherein he is exposed as the mastermind. He has the most to lose and will stop at nothing to protect his ill-gotten gains.

Frank Ellis

H.A.R. General Counsel, Frank is linked to the conspiracy in several mysterious ways, and tries to influence Jim to his advantage. Frank pursues his financial self-interest without any moral compass.

Richard Brandon

CEO of H.A.R. Corporation. Richard understands what motivates Jim and uses that knowledge to influence him. Richard cares ultimately about the company, the shareholders, and protecting his own investment. But, unlike Frank, he has personal boundaries.

Gail Newman

A psychologist working for H.A.R. as a design consultant, Gail is an important voice in the development of "human" machines and is a friend to Jim who needs boots on the ground at H.A.R.

Kristjan Snorrasson

Police technical expert.



STORY ARC

Solving the crime spree and finding the people responsible for the murders is the main story arc.

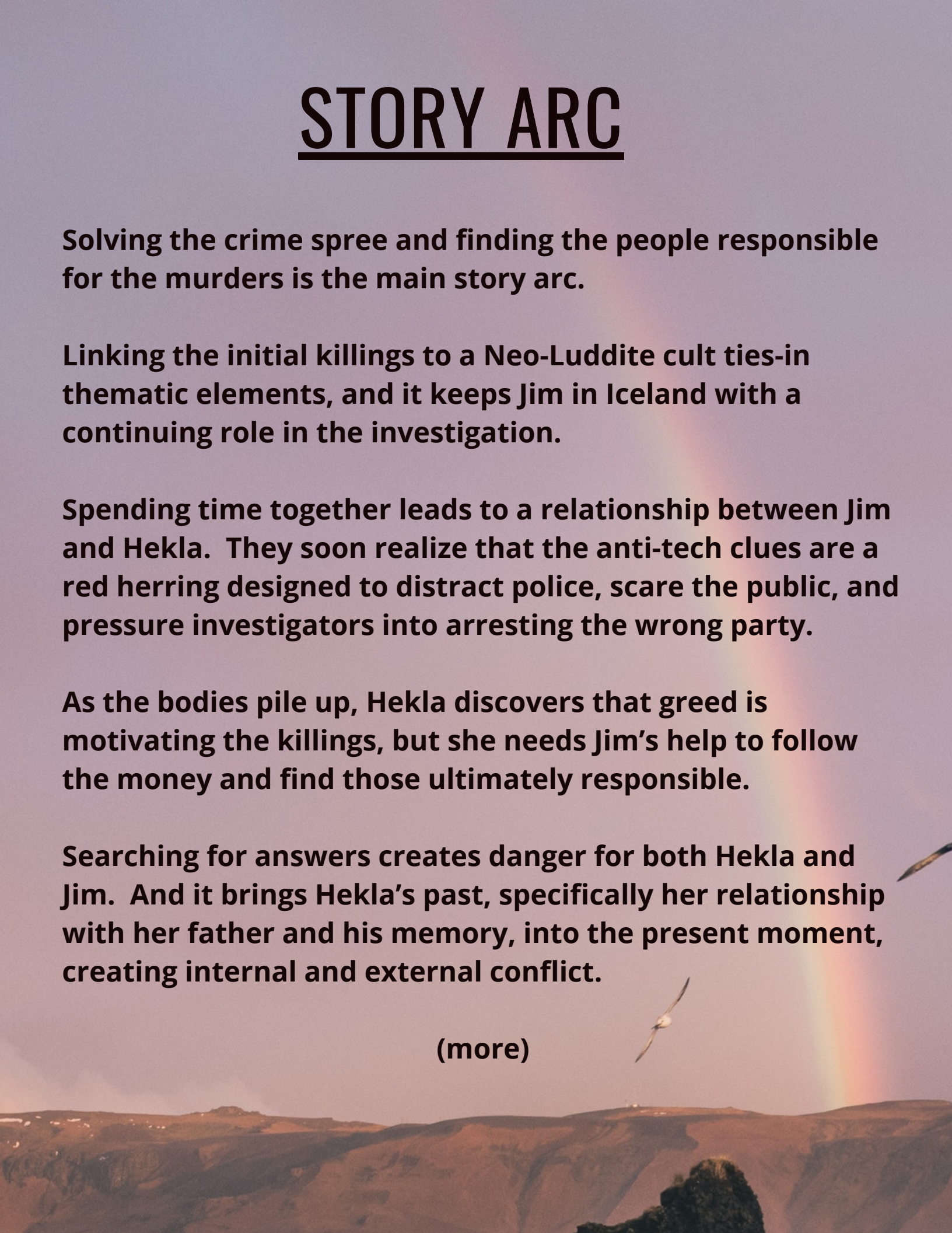
Linking the initial killings to a Neo-Luddite cult ties-in thematic elements, and it keeps Jim in Iceland with a continuing role in the investigation.

Spending time together leads to a relationship between Jim and Hekla. They soon realize that the anti-tech clues are a red herring designed to distract police, scare the public, and pressure investigators into arresting the wrong party.

As the bodies pile up, Hekla discovers that greed is motivating the killings, but she needs Jim's help to follow the money and find those ultimately responsible.

Searching for answers creates danger for both Hekla and Jim. And it brings Hekla's past, specifically her relationship with her father and his memory, into the present moment, creating internal and external conflict.

(more)

A seagull is flying in the sky above a landscape with a rainbow. The background shows a hazy, mountainous landscape with a rainbow arching across the sky.

STORY ARC (Cont'd)

Each episode ends with yet another murder, or injury to Hekla, or an imminent physical threat to her and Jim.

These plot points not only raise the physical and emotional stakes for Hekla and the community, they also present new evidence.

But the clues always contradict what Hekla understood about the crime spree, which becomes more and more personal as she loses her brother, becomes leery of her sister, and suspicion is cast upon her father and her superior officer.



CHARACTER ARCS

HEKLA

Hekla travels the traditional hero's journey.

She is wounded by her father's death, which she never truly believed was suicide. But family members and counselors convinced her that she should not blame her father or vilify him for his human frailty. They pressured Hekla to accept what happened and to forgive.

A standout student, Hekla's choice to give up an academic or professional career and become a cop is driven by her emotional need to find truth where shades of grey might be dismissed, where a crime might exist but is denied out of convenience to those in authority.

She chose to become the authority.

As Hekla solves the mystery of her father's death, she heals her relationship with his memory, comes to terms with the associated pain and loss, and learns to accept what she cannot control.

Hekla transcends an egocentric world view, "growing-up" and conquering her drug and alcohol issues.

JIM

As a child, Jim tried to defend and protect his younger sister, Linda, from an abusive father. He failed, and bears the scars of their father's belt as a reminder.

Jim's backstory is revealed mostly via subtext, and by his consistent motivation: defend and help the weak and those who are victims.

Jim's actions are consistent until the story's end, when he overhears Hekla and Magnus and discovers that she is pregnant with another man's child.

This is Jim's cathartic moment. If he wishes to accept Hekla, he must give-up the "big brother" role for that of a true lover, equal partner, and father to her son.



THEMES

A close-up of a humanoid robot's face and hands. The robot has a pale, metallic skin and a human-like face with a single visible eye. Its hands are positioned in front of it, with fingers slightly curled. The background is dark with glowing blue energy lines and patterns, suggesting a futuristic or digital environment.

The central theme of the story is the darkness within the human heart.

Twenty years into the future, robots look human, and they are realistic sex partners. One of them is also a rapist and a murderer.

Is violence an inevitable destination on the road to machine consciousness?

The story explores what it means to be human, and shows the process by which wounded hearts, greed, and ego create dysfunctional, self-destructive minds that impair healthy relationships.

Also central to the story is the snowball effect of certain events that engulf otherwise moral people into criminal activity. Will a conscious robot suffer the same fate?

THEMES

MAN VS MACHINE

H.A.R. Corporation puts bot-cops on the street just as their best selling "domestic" model commits rape and murder.

Is "smart" technology doomed to grow out of control and dangerous as the Neo-Luddites argue?

Both Hekla and Jim believe robots are a tool, and machines will never possess the humanity necessary for police work. Even if facing an armed suspect, Hekla believes she is better qualified than any bot, and she can summon skills that no bot will ever master.

Soon she faces a gun, and Hekla tries to use her human skills to avoid the bullet. But the gunman turns out to be a bot, and it follows its programming: Hekla is shot in the chest.

Are bot murderers inevitable? Even if limited to the role of a tool, they will surely be the tools of human criminals. Must we therefore deploy bot cops? Can we trust machines to police our machines?

(More)

MAN VS MACHINE

(Cont'd)

Jim also faces a violent bot, controlled by Frank. But Jim is one step ahead. His work to update all of H.A.R.'s bots is successful, and this machine can, "do not harm."

In the final episode, Hekla stares down the barrel of a gun held by Magnus, and she uses the emotional connection between them, evokes shared memories, and implores him not to destrtoy the memory of a love they once shared.

Hekla's humanity saves both their lives, and keeps the only remaining witness alive to testify and bring Johan Magnusson to justice.



EPISODES

S1 E1 -- PILOT

"CODING THE HUMAN HEART"

S1 E2

"THE NEO-LUDDITES"

S1 E3

"FOLLOW THE MONEY"

S1 E4

"GHOSTS IN WHITE SATIN"

S1 E5

"I ROBOT. U FOOL"

S1 E6

"THE CURE"

S1 E1 PILOT

"Coding The Human Heart"

Sigrun is murdered by her domestic robot during a massage. A Neo-Luddite symbol is painted in blood on her fireplace wall along with dogma warning about the dangers of technology.

Jim is sent to Iceland by Frank and Rich to do damage control and point fingers at others. Hekla tells Anna that she's pregnant.

Analysis of the bot reveals that it was hacked by a disgruntled H.A.R. employee who left taunting, Neo-Luddite messages for Jim inside the malicious code.

Jim and Helka enjoy the Northern Lights on her boat. They are mutually attracted, but Jim holds off on anything physical. He shares the names from a short list of current and former H.A.R. employees capable of hacking the bot.

Hekla traces one of the names to the tiny town of Vik, location of a Neo-Luddite web server. She and Gunnar raid the house with armed police.

As they approach the home, it explodes, and Gunnar lays bleeding heavily in the dirt.

S1 E2

"The Neo-Luddites"

Gunnar is in the I.C.U. Hekla has minor injuries and a concussion. Jim visits Hekla in the hospital and encounters Magnus, her estranged husband.

When Anna comes by on rounds, she tells Hekla the baby is safe, and asks if that's good news or bad? Hekla has no answer.

Hekla visits the ME in Reykjavik. The victim, Anton Donde, died of electrocution prior to the explosion.

Hekla asks Jim's help understanding the murder M-O described in the forensics report. One thing leads to another, leads to a steamy sex scene.

The police report on Anton's murder is leaked to the press along with images of Neo-Luddite messages at the crime scene. Public panic ensues, and Jim is the suspected source of the leak.

Reykjavik police take over the investigation. Confined to a desk, Hekla traces Donde's money flow and finds a bank in Luxembourg with deposits from the Cayman Islands. She discovers that the bank's legal counsel is Nigel Dickenson's firm in London.

(more)

"The Neo-Luddites"

(Cont'd)

Nigel files his lawsuit. Richard implores Jim to stay in Iceland, and he agrees, happy to continue his relationship with Hekla and avoid returning to a development role at H.A.R.

Gunnar dies. Jim is blamed for leaking the report to the press. He works remotely to build a tamper proof system that prevents violence acts by H.A.R.'s bots. Once successful, he vows to quit.

Frank arrives to manage the litigation. He hires a local attorney and gives him money to coddle influence. The bribes buy assignment of a judge favorable to the case.

Hekla disregards orders to stay out the investigation. She interviews Nigel about his connection to Donde's bank. En route, her car, hacked and under remote control, drives itself over a cliff high above the rocky sea.

S1 E3

"Follow The Money"

As Hekla's car soars from the top of the cliff, the driver's door is seen swinging freely.

Hekla, still rolling in the grass at the cliff's edge, is scratched, bruised, and very stiff, but she gets to one knee and watches the car crash in a fireball on the beach below.

A legal decision stops Nigel's lawsuit. Hekla listens to him complain that the fix was in.

With Jim's help, Hekla traces the money used to fix Nigel's case. It's from a numbered account in Liechtenstein, funded by a series of shell companies controlled by Innoven Pharmaceuticals.

Ragnar runs Hekla down with armed police and drags her back to the station, preventing her from approaching anyone at Innoven. She threatens to fire Hekla, and orders her to stay out of the investigation and stay away from Innoven.

Helka listens, but does not obey, and soon Ragnar goes missing.

(more)

"Follow The Money"

(Cont'd)

Jim convinces Hekla that Sigrun's work for Innoven cannot be coincidence. They conclude that the Neo-Luddite link is a red herring, and stay focused on the money.

Both of them realize that no one can be trusted.

Hekla finds the payment to the clerk who steered the judge selection in Nigels's lawsuit. She threatens to arrest him, and gets the name of a banker, and his home address.

Hekla find the man dead from a drug overdose. But his arms and legs have only a signgle needle mark. She doesn't buy the death as suicide and tries to call in a forensics team, but her phone explodes, burns her hand.

The device used to overheat her phone's battery emits a noise that pierces Hekla's ears. The killer is still inside the house! Hekla now faces an armed suspect.

She tries to talk the killer into surrender. But the gun is pointed by a robot that obediently follows its programming:

The bot fires. Hekla takes a bullet to the chest.

S1 E4

"Ghosts In White Satin"

Hekla was wearing a vest, and has only a nasty bruise. Jim is concerned for their lives. He brings a prototype, bot-cop from his garage in Michigan to Iceland.

Hekla and Jim decide to hack Innoven, and they discover that Frank is a board member of the bank in the Caymans.

Jim confronts him and threatens to expose evidence that Frank helped Anton hack the bot that killed Sigrun. Frank orders the robot to kill him.

But the bot refuses a command to harm a human being, because Jim, via a backdoor known only to him, successfully updated all of H.A.R.'s bots worldwide. All now function properly and will, "do no harm."

Frank's own bot arrests him. But Frank dies mysteriously in the Seydisfjordur lock-up.

(more)

"Ghosts In White Satin"

(Cont'd)

The hacked Innoven data leads to Hekla's father who, as a consultant, created predictive modeling systems for Innoven.

More digging by Hekla leads to sealed court files and hidden forensic evidence, all of it indicating that accounts of her father's death differ from what the family told Hekla.

**She grows angry with Anna and suspicious of her sister, just as new evidence points to Ragnar's family as part of the conspiracy
Ragnar's frozen body is found in a nearby glacier.**

S1 E5

"I Robot. U Fool."

IN DEVELOPMENT



S1 E6

"The Cure"

IN DEVELOPMENT

