

CHALLENGERS

Television Series Executive Summary

By John Adcox

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CHALLENGERS

The Secret History of the World

The world will end in five years.

There is a struggle. There are two sides. On one:

Beautiful and brilliant, the heirs to fame and fortune, Tom Reilly and his friends have grown up in the spotlight—with the world watching to see what they'll become. They are the great grandchildren of the larger than life global adventurers who inspired the pulp tales and movie serials of another era. Although of course, no one today seriously believes that those incredible exploits actually happened. Tom Reilly knows better. His great grandfather and the others had all those astonishing adventures back in the day because the world was different then. Something changed. The nature of that change is the secret history of the world. Tom's parents were murdered for that secret.

On the other: Behind history's most significant events—the beginning of World Wars, the rise and fall of nations, the disappearance of lost civilizations, fluctuations in the global economy, and even the deadliest secrets governments keep—is a great and sinister conspiracy. Known only as the Cabal, a word meaning secret, the conspiracy has existed since the dawn of civilization. Now, centuries of planning and manipulation are coming to a terrible and deadly climax.

One side or the other is responsible for our doom. Neither side knows which.

Beware. Things are not as they seem. And everything you know is a lie.

The Team

A deadly assassin breaks in to Tom's penthouse, attempting to steal one of his great-grandfather's journals—the one item his parents had with them when they were killed. Now, the danger is very real and immediate. Like his famous great grandfather before him, Tom gathers his own team:

- **Cheli Brown**, an investigative reporter fired when a CIA operation went terribly wrong.
- **Sophia Reverté**, a sexy stage magician.
- **Devil O'Brien**, a daredevil pilot who left the Air Force under mysterious circumstances.
- **Dr. Hallelujah Jack Smith**, a genius inventor and Tom's godfather.
- **Samantha Galore**, a sexy and deadly British spy.
- **Jenny Silverheels**, a beguiling Native American Shaman.
- **Natalie Quinn**, a mysterious ninja assassin and thief.

Like the original *Challengers*, they are our only hope against the terrible might of the shadowy, global Cabal. The *Challengers* are dynamic, talented individuals with tempestuous personalities. Each of the team members has a secret past, the kind of secret that makes a career in mainstream society difficult or impossible. Ultimately, they will become a tightly knit family. They care deeply for one another.

One of them is a traitor.

The *Challengers'* adventures have the retro adventure feel of the movie serials, with shadowy villains, lost cities, and forgotten treasures—but with a hip, modern twist. It's the fun of a *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, coupled with the dangerous historical mystery of *The Da Vinci Code* and the contemporary flair of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*.

Each episode closes with a satisfying end but *Challengers* features ongoing mystery plotlines of a series like *Lost*, with strong character arcs for a young, sexy, multi-ethnic cast to make us care.