

# WACKY WITNESSES

Half-hour comedy

Written by

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**Logline: When four protected witnesses, each with a criminal past, are put in a single safe house to save money, the US Marshal supervising them will curse the day he ever took on the task.**

People aren't born good or bad. They become what they are through circumstances beyond their control. The characters in this story are: Frankie – a former contract killer, a woman in her thirties; Alex, a former gigolo, in his forties; Lisa, a former getaway driver, in her thirties and Roberto, a former hacker in his thirties. Forced by circumstances to live together in the same safe house, they have pooled their savings and started up a rehab center, treating all types of addiction. The idea was a good one, and it has worked out in practice, too – the center is doing a good trade and everyone is earning nicely from it, and they are doing it on the right side of the law now, too.

*It's The Big Bang Theory meets The Good Place.*

Although all of them are sincere about becoming the “good guys”, they face some major obstacles along the way. The first of them is Chester, an African American in his thirties, a career U.S. Marshal, who is tasked with supervising them and who hates his job, has no sympathy for their problems, and dreams of the day he will take a bullet for the president. The second obstacle is in the shape of the crazy, demanding and troublesome VIP clients of the rehab center, who from time to time leave them no choice but to use some of the knowledge and “skills” they acquired in their previous lives. The third and perhaps greatest obstacle is their own selves – or rather, their old life and the way they learned to survive. In the first episode, Frankie discovers that a professional killer has come to the center, pretending to be a patient named Kowalski. Fearing that he might blow their cover, Frankie liquidates him. This would mean instant loss of their protected witness status, but they drag Chester into the scheme, arguing that he carries the most blame for failing to prevent the infiltration of the killer into their new lives and that he is therefore an accomplice. In return for their silence, and agreeing not to rat him out to his superiors for his failure, they ask him to use his knowledge and connections to find out whom Kowalski had come to kill.

This is also a story of love, sex and manipulation, and of the friendship that emerges and begins to thrive when a group of very diverse people face trouble together on a daily basis. At the end of the first season Chester reveals that Kowalski had in fact come to kill him, and that he had been hired for the job by a criminal whom Chester had sent down for life.

This story is all about second chances. How many times, after a major misstep in life, have all of us prayed to God, to some cosmic force, to whatever, with a heartfelt plea for a second chance? Everyone deserves a second chance – most of all the “worst” among us.

## CHARACTERS

### Main characters:

**FRANKIE** – former professional killer from Florida. Smart, calculated, resourceful, always has a solution. Her parents were mistakenly killed by Mafia hit men. Having failed to get justice by legal means, she took things into her own hands and killed both the killers and their employers. She did a textbook job and after that went into the killing business full-time. She went into witness protection after realizing that someone was trying to get her to carry out a political murder. Frankie invests herself in the running of the center more than any of the others.

**ALEX** – former gigolo from Seattle. Dreamer, artist, incurable romantic, but not the sharpest tool in the shed. Grew up in foster families. Graduated from art school but before his first exhibition slept with the wife of his agent, who blacklisted him for life. To pay the bills he became a gigolo. He has gone into the program as witness to the murder of a client. He has taken up painting again.

**ROBERTO** – former hacker from San Francisco. He is Chinese. Self-centered, prone to panic, something of a rebel, the Che Guevara of the IT revolution. He sees conspiracy in everything. He hacked into the Pentagon to prevent a Middle-East war. His parents died early and he left college and embarked on a life of digital crime, on a mission to change the world using his revolutionary algorithm, on which he believes life itself operates. He went into the program after ratting out a terrorist group that tried to hire him. He tests out his revolutionary algorithm on online gambling sites.

**LISA** – former getaway driver, cynic, pessimist from New Jersey, she is in-your-face but plays her cards close to her chest. Her father was a pimp, who was later murdered. Her mother was a whore, who died of an overdose. She grew up on the streets and knows how to look after herself. The whole world, and the way it is, it's all bullshit in her book, and the sooner it all goes to hell, the better. She went into the program after the robbers she was driving for killed some bystanders. Now she drives an Uber.

### Support characters:

**CHESTER** – An African American from Memphis, a U.S. Marshall. Career-driven, obsessive-compulsive, loves Elvis. He is the black sheep of the family. He hates his job because he feels he is ready for more important assignments. He dreams of one day taking a bullet for the president.

**MARTA** – head nurse in the center, from California. A pleasantly plump Mexican woman. Fierce, energetic, fair and honest. Always concerned for her large extended family.

**PRIEST** – long-suffering, forced to hear the confessions of former criminals who continue to screw up on a daily basis. Grew up in Boston.

**DETECTIVE** – Doesn't know if he is gay or not, ends up hooking up with a female doctor. From Texas.

# F O R M A T

## Season One

**Ongoing story** – Who was Kowalski supposed to kill?

**Story of the week** – Each season has 12 episodes, more could be added. Instead of describing the episodes individually I will give an overview of the story of each character as it develops over the season, how the season ends and how it teases the next one.

**FRANKIE** – She likes Alex but keeps a lid on her emotions as she is trying to play the introverted hero, and has got all the problems with the crazy clients of the center to deal with.

**ROBERTO** – Wants to finally lose his virginity and asks for Lisa’s help. She reluctantly agrees, and gradually starts to like Roberto. She tries not to show it, but you can see it a mile off.

**LISA** – Has a regular client, a local successful businessman, who courts her aggressively. Lisa likes the attention but is not that keen on the guy.

**ALEX** – Alex is all wrapped up in his painting, but has fallen in love with Frankie and clumsily tries to show her.

**CHESTER** – Is trying to get himself out of the mess with the Kowalski killing but is not having a great deal of success.

**MARTA** – She likes Chester but is afraid to show it because she is “not up to his standards”.

**CLIENTS OF THE CENTER** – They drag all the characters into their problems, driving them all crazy.

**DETECTIVE** – The detective is happily married but apparently in-the-closet gay. He starts to take a liking to Chester and to discretely make advances to him. Chester notices, but has to grin and bear it so he can keep covering up the Kowalski murder.

**PRIEST** – He is starting to come out in a rash as one by one all of them start coming to him for confession.

**SEASON ONE FINALE** – Shock! Chester finds out that it was him Kowalski had come for and not one of the characters. Frankie breaks off the “friends with benefits” arranged with Alex because she has fallen in love with him and wants to keep a lid on it. Chester realises that he will have to live with the detective’s advances because of the Kowalski killing. Marta is increasingly lovelorn over Chester. Lisa is definitely falling in love with Roberto but won’t admit it. The detective is having therapy sessions with Helga the doctor, who has taken a serious liking to him. Alex is dismayed that Frankie has broken off the sex arrangement. Roberto has gone wild now he has “discovered” sex, and that he is seemingly rather well endowed.

## Season Two

**Ongoing story** — Chester tries to extricate himself from the thorny situation caused by the hit that was ordered against him.

**Story of the week** — As in Season One.

**FRANKIE** — Having broken off the “FWB” arrangement with Alex, she is on the lookout for other opportunities for sex, and along the way faces constant conflict with the clients of the center and their unreasonable demands.

**ROBERTO** — Saw the light when he finally sampled carnal delights, and has now gone off the rails, making up for lost time. He has also gained something of a reputation for his apparently enviable tool size.

**LISA** — Has definitely fallen in love with Roberto but is not really keen on a serious relationship because she is afraid to commit, so she resists it.

**ALEX** — Dejected because of Frankie, seeks solace in his painting and his attempts to achieve recognition for his work. But all he gets are half-baked offers.

**CHESTER** — Forced to flirt with the detective as the latter has promised he will fix the “Kowalski Problem” for him.

**MARTA** — Furious at the relationship between Chester and the detective because she can see the detective has him by the balls. She tries to find a connection through the members of her extended family, who are involved in various types of crime, in order to eliminate the threat that could cost Chester his life.

**CLIENTS OF THE CENTER** — The clients cause them all ever-increasing and more complicated problems, which they are obliged to resolve in their “own” way.

**DETECTIVE** — Makes increasingly more obvious advances towards Chester, while Helga the doctor falls for the detective even more.

**PRIEST** — The FBI pays the priest a visit to ask whether he has any suspicious parishioners. The priest plays dumb as he is already sick of all the tales he has heard from the characters.

**SEASON TWO FINALE** — Frankie cannot do without a more intimate relationship with Alex, and sleeps with him again. However she still refuses to admit she is in love with him, merely telling him the FWB arrangement is back on. Alex acts dumb and goes along with it just to be with her, even if just for sex. Roberto twigs that Lisa is in love with him and sleeps with her, but he is also getting into serious problems because of his gambling. Alex gets his first proper art-related job, illustrating a children’s book. Chester finally realizes Marta likes him but carries on playing the indomitable fortress. Marta bails out Chester, using her connections to organize a hit on the guy who ordered Chester’s murder and who is currently in jail. The detective finally realizes that perhaps he isn’t gay and gives in to Helga’s advances.

### **Season Three**

**Ongoing story** – Frankie tries to fix Roberto’s gambling problem, but ends up entangled with the gambling mafia.

**Story of the week** — As for the previous seasons.

**FRANKIE** – Frankie is happy to be close to Alex again through their casual sex arrangement, but doesn’t show it. She tries to do everything she can to solve Roberto’s gambling problem and save their whole community, but there are many obstacles along the way.

**ROBERTO** – He has a thing going with Lisa, but is having trouble giving up on the sleeping around as he has developed quite a taste for it. He is scared stiff of the gambling mafia and pressures Frankie to help him.

**LISA** – Starts to suspect Roberto is cheating on her and begins asking questions, but Roberto skillfully evades them, and she buys his stories, believing he is just not capable of it.

**ALEX** – The children’s book gig falls through and, disappointed, he goes back to his painting and his rekindled FWB arrangement with Frankie, acting as though he does not realise how much she has fallen in love with him.

**CHESTER** – He is finally able to rededicate himself to his career, but then Roberto drags him into his gambling problem.

**MARTA** – Starts seeing Chester secretly, and the romance of it all leads her to start neglecting her job.

**CLIENTS OF THE CENTER** – The clients of the Center start to complain to the owners about Marta’s increasing neglect of her duties.

**DETECTIVE** – Gets into hot water over his secret affair with Helga the doctor, and everyone at the center tries to protect him from his “crazy” wife.

**PRIEST** – The priest tries hard to get a transfer because he cannot cope with the sheer quantity of sins confessed to him by the characters.

**SEASON THREE FINALE** – Frankie once again resolves Roberto’s problem “professionally”, killing the man who was the main threat to Roberto. Lisa splits with Roberto over his philandering. Roberto withdraws inside himself with his conspiracy theories and dedicates himself to his revolutionary algorithm. Marta and Chester finally confess that they are together, and just when he thinks a promotion might be on the cards, Frankie confesses her killing of the man who was threatening Roberto. Alex gets a job illustrating a porn site for serious money. The detective’s wife leaves him and takes the children with her. A patient comes to the center who was Lisa’s great childhood love, now a filthy rich and successful programmer who needs to get off drugs.