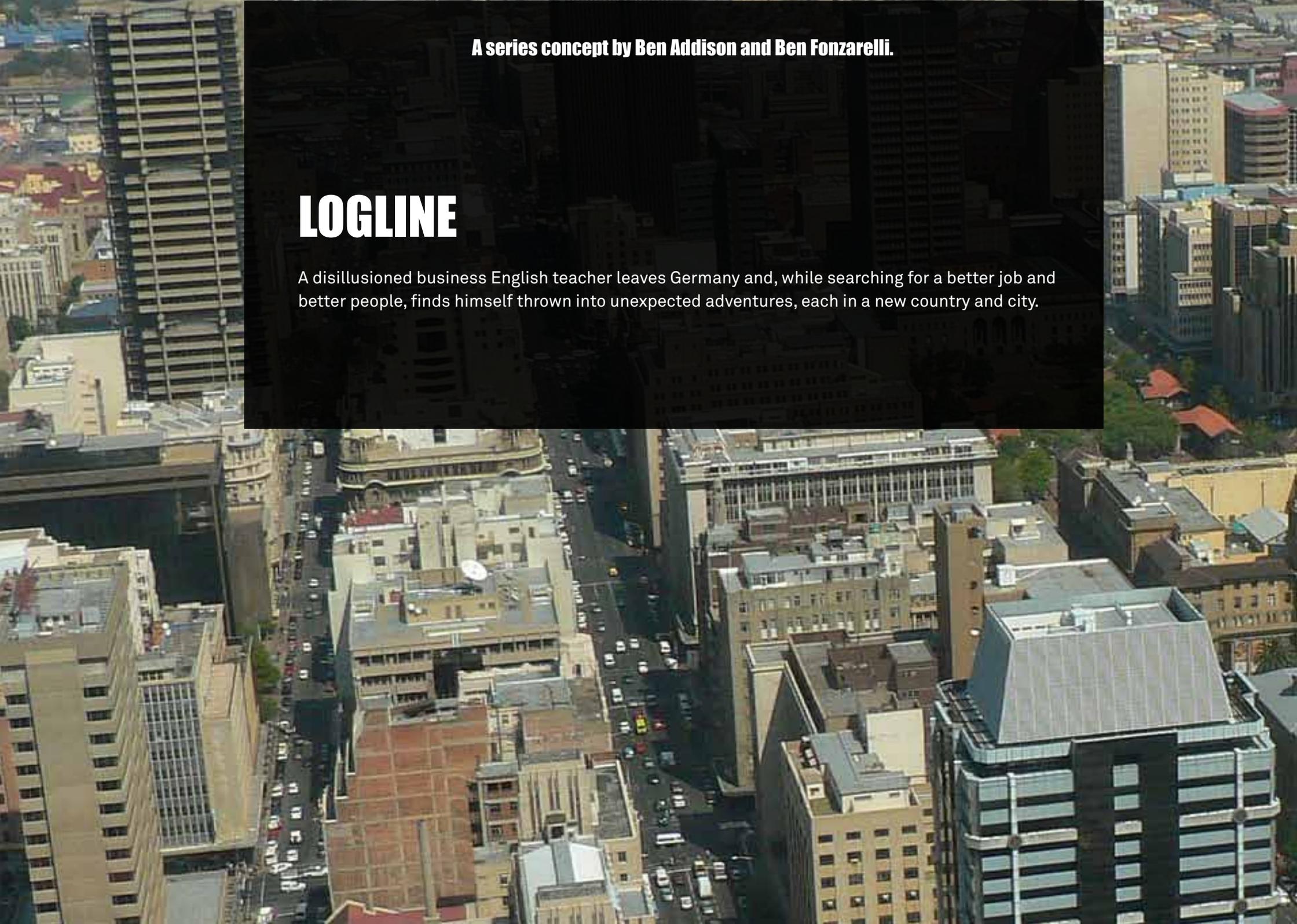




MAX LAUFFEN
FUCK THIS PLACE.
A MAN'S SEARCH FOR LOGIC AND LOVE

A series concept by Ben Addison and Ben Fonzarelli.

An aerial photograph of a city street, showing a grid pattern of buildings and roads. The buildings are mostly multi-story, with some taller skyscrapers. The street is filled with cars and traffic. The overall scene is a dense urban environment.

A series concept by Ben Addison and Ben Fonzarelli.

LOGLINE

A disillusioned business English teacher leaves Germany and, while searching for a better job and better people, finds himself thrown into unexpected adventures, each in a new country and city.

An aerial photograph of a city skyline, featuring several prominent skyscrapers and a dense urban landscape. A dark, semi-transparent rectangular box is overlaid on the lower half of the image, containing the title and a paragraph of text in a bright yellow font.

SERIES BREAKDOWN

Max Lauffen has to flee. As he doesn't lead a settled life, it may seem he's running away. But in fact Max is on the run because, deep down in his heart, he's searching for a new type of man and woman. We follow him from city to city, from country to country, through adventures of various sorts. More often broke than not and sometimes having to leave somewhat suddenly from a place, Max will take up very different jobs, from travel writer to airport check-in agent and private drum teacher, introducing and involving him into ever new situations, set-ups of people, their lives and hardships.

CHARACTERS

MAX LAUFFEN

Age: 46
Job: Business English Teacher / Musician (Drums and piano)
Reads: everything
Music: everything
Sport: Boxing, Running
Languages: German, English, medium French, medium Spanish, can read Latin

Max knows the world is fucked up probably anywhere he'll ever go. He observes humans becoming more and more irritated with each other and he hates it. People who don't understand empathy and imagination. Caught up in the process of selling anything up to the point of lying. So ready to be told what's good and what's not. Never making up their own minds, just fucking up flow. But still, he has the hope to find a place where more people think like him.

Max is very observant and a quick, sharp thinker. Not especially sensitive or angry, not at all. Aware of evolution, but suspicious of recent results, he's against further dehumanizing our species on so many levels. Max has a broad view on things, which gives him an advantage in many situations. He's a popular guy because he treats everybody the same, which is the most logical, instinctive way for him to behave. Max doesn't preach about all that. But he stands out from the crowd by behaving differently. He's cynical based on experience and has plenty of opinions about things but waits to be asked.





ANGELA, MAX'S MOTHER

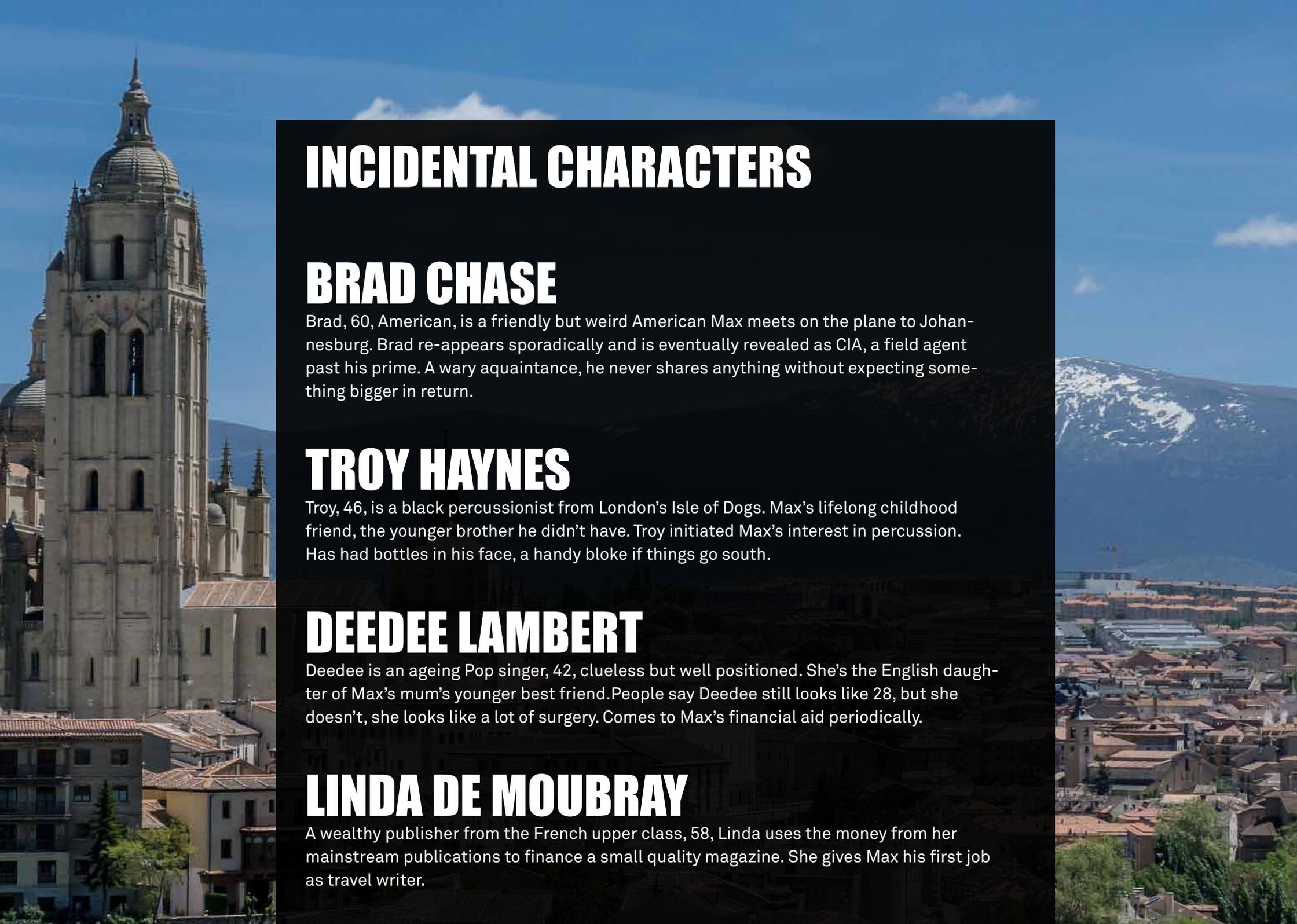
Max's mother, 74, born in England, model and social butterfly, met Hans in swinging London, fell in love and let him drag her to Germany. The adventure turned into a boring nightmare, living in provincial towns and ending up in faceless Frankfurt. Max has all his Cockney wisdom from his mother. He's in fairly regular contact with her, as there are questions he can only ask her. After Hans's death Angela moved back to London, living on her own, but Max is never worried about her because she's made of strong East End stuff.

HANS LAUFFEN, MAX'S FATHER

Max's father, worked for many different companies as a management gun for hire, always chasing a better job with more money to keep his wife entertained in Germany. Although he was a rather distant figure and died when Max was 22, he remains a big influence. From his dad, Max inherited his middle-class side and stubborn determination. His own global wandering is an extension of his father's moving around Germany, only for different motives.

PENELOPE, MAX'S SISTER

Max's elder sister, 48, divorced. Penelope's an art historian working in a reknowned gallery in Zurich. As an older sister she made Max grow up more quickly. Max has taken a lot of his attitude from her. Not half as damaged as Max, Penelope found her way earlier. She's able to enjoy life without a bad conscience. She understands Max's search, but sees no real point in it.



INCIDENTAL CHARACTERS

BRAD CHASE

Brad, 60, American, is a friendly but weird American Max meets on the plane to Johannesburg. Brad re-appears sporadically and is eventually revealed as CIA, a field agent past his prime. A wary acquaintance, he never shares anything without expecting something bigger in return.

TROY HAYNES

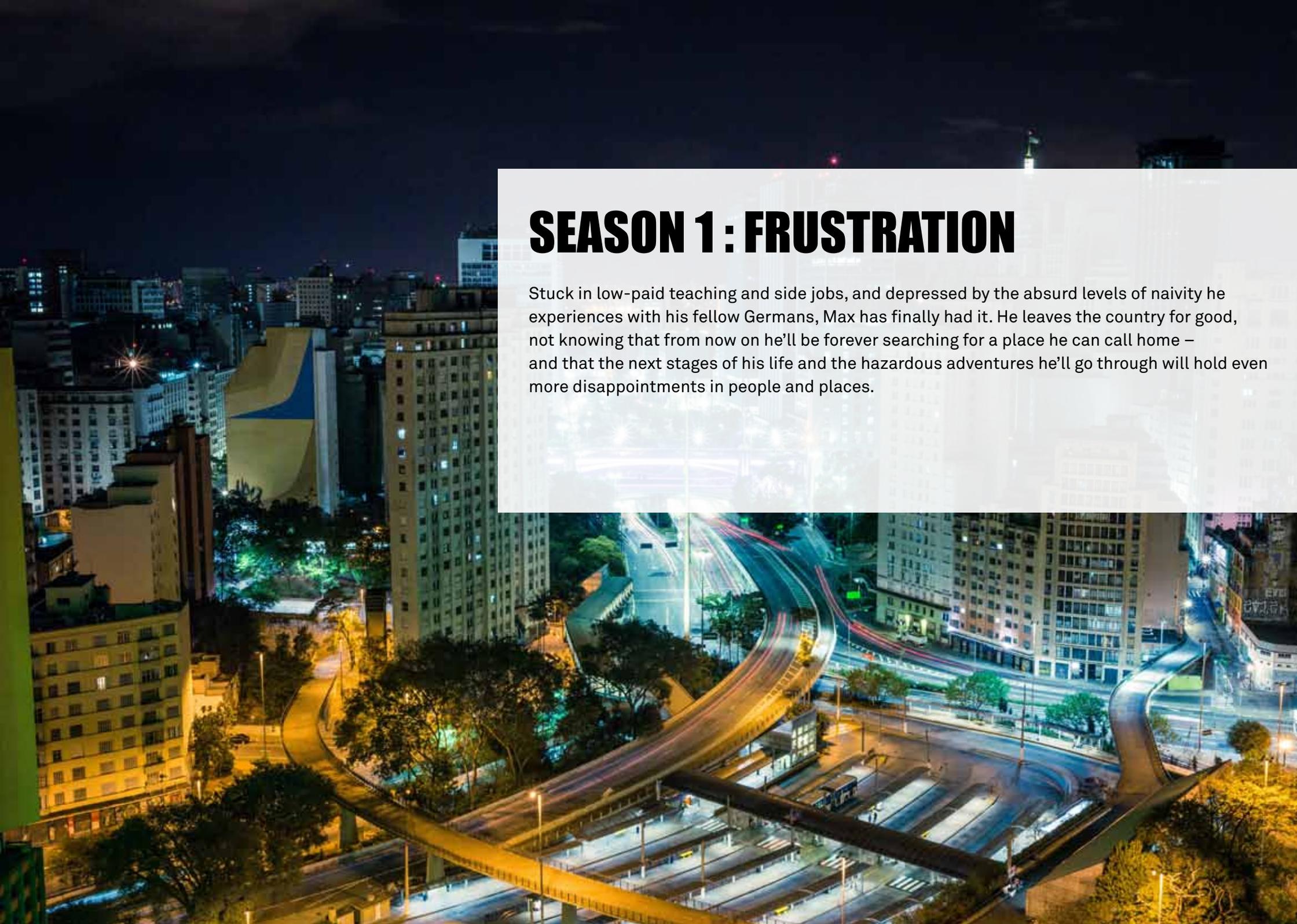
Troy, 46, is a black percussionist from London's Isle of Dogs. Max's lifelong childhood friend, the younger brother he didn't have. Troy initiated Max's interest in percussion. Has had bottles in his face, a handy bloke if things go south.

DEEDEE LAMBERT

Deedee is an ageing Pop singer, 42, clueless but well positioned. She's the English daughter of Max's mum's younger best friend. People say Deedee still looks like 28, but she doesn't, she looks like a lot of surgery. Comes to Max's financial aid periodically.

LINDA DE MOUBRAY

A wealthy publisher from the French upper class, 58, Linda uses the money from her mainstream publications to finance a small quality magazine. She gives Max his first job as travel writer.

An aerial night photograph of a city, likely São Paulo, Brazil, showing a complex multi-level highway interchange. The scene is illuminated by city lights and the headlights and taillights of cars, which have created long, colorful light trails. The background features a dense urban landscape with various buildings and trees.

SEASON 1: FRUSTRATION

Stuck in low-paid teaching and side jobs, and depressed by the absurd levels of naivety he experiences with his fellow Germans, Max has finally had it. He leaves the country for good, not knowing that from now on he'll be forever searching for a place he can call home – and that the next stages of his life and the hazardous adventures he'll go through will hold even more disappointments in people and places.

SEASON 1 / EPISODES 1 - 4

“Johannesburg”

Max leaves Germany for Johannesburg where he's landed a job as a business English teacher. At the boxing gym he trains with a young guy. They cross paths late at night and Max steps in as the guy is troubled by two gangsters and learns that they want to blackmail him into a bank robbery. He has to come up with an idea big enough to take on the local clan.

“Pattaya”

In South Africa Max met Linda, a publisher who asked him to work for her as a travel writer. Max is more than willing to – especially as Linda sends him to Thailand to write about the original paradise invaded by Chinese mass tourism. In a bar, Max meets Sabrina, head of a group ladyboy dancers, threatened by a young emerging gangster who, in contrast to Max, doesn't respect old agreements.

“Stockholm”

Max gets sent to Stockholm to cover the Nobel Prize Award Ceremony. He meets Sarah, the assistant of a member of the Committee and starts an affair with her. When Sarah disappears, Max gets hired by her billionaire dad to deliver the ransom money. Then gets hired again to find out who the kidnappers are. Max decides not to use violence but Daddy's money to get the answer.

“São Paulo”

Linda deceives Max and sends him to São Paulo in a matter that gets her killed. Her ex-husband has been skimming mob money. She blackmails him through a letter she has Max deliver, while on assignment to interview a big Brazilian musician. When she turns up in São Paulo and dies in his arms, Max blows town, betrayed and knowing there's nothing he can do against the mob machine.





SEASON 1 / EPISODES 5 - 8

“Havana”

Max needs a break and chooses Cuba to relax and improve his percussion and boxing skills. He lives with a dressmaker and Paz, his 17-year-old granddaughter. They share thoughts and experiences: youth and the first times for everything. Paz’s promising future and their domestic bliss are shattered when she gets killed in a hit and run accident. Max finds the driver, but what now?

“Frankfurt”

Every year Max receives an embarrassing family newsletter from Christina, an old love of his, and her husband, an aspiring politician. This year he can’t believe what he reads: Christina has been put up in a mental hospital. Against his vow, Max goes back to Germany to visit her and finds that it’s not Christina but her husband who went crazy when she found out about his criminal activities and had her locked away.

“Madrid”

Penelope tells Max a secret about their father. There’s another brother in Spain. Max gets a job in Madrid where he knows his half-brother currently lives. One day, a girl confuses Max with her uncle. It seems there’s more than a brother to meet. The girl invites her uncle’s doppelganger to dinner, Max accepts the invitation and stumbles into a dark world of refugees and drugs trafficking.

“Sydney”

Max finds a beaten-up homeless guy in the backyard of his house. He dresses up as homeless himself to find out who’s evil enough to punish the weak. A gang of three try their luck and fail badly. Max discovers that they’re policemen, “cleaning up” in their spare time. As the press is not at all interested, Max has to find other ways to stop them.



SEASON 2 : LOVE

Max rediscovers love. In Portugal he falls for Kate but suffers as their relationship ultimately turns sour. He also falls in love with the people of Ghana, but has to leave brokenhearted again. We follow Max to Lisbon, Copenhagen, Melbourne, Accra, London, Portland, Vancouver and Sofia.

SEASON 3 : MISINTERPRETATIONS

Roaming Hanoi, Marseille, Palermo, Thessaloniki, Mexico City, Bogotá, Istanbul and Cairo
Max learns that the power of misinterpretation still prevents him from finding what he's looking for – like following wrong leads, mistaking shyness for arrogance or pure stupid ego for worthy motives.





SEASON 4 : RETURNS

Max returns to Germany again, to an old friend, to his youth, to an old love, to memories, but also the brutality of change and alienation.

His search for logic and love takes him to Berlin, Panama City, Marrakech, Buenos Aires, Warsaw, Dubai, Goa and San Diego.

SEASON 5 : FAITH

Life takes Max to Mumbai, Jakarta, Guangzhou, Hongkong, Damaskus, Tel Aviv, Budapest and Kathmandu. Despite these spiritual surroundings his faith in his fellow humans, his self-confidence, perseverance and courage are put to the test time and time again.

GOOD BYE

A photograph of a narrow street in a city. On the left, there are several closed metal shutters with a corrugated texture. A person is walking away from the camera down the center of the street. The street is paved and has shadows cast by trees on the right. Buildings with windows and balconies line the right side of the street. The overall lighting is bright, suggesting daytime.

A series concept by Ben Addison and Ben Fonzarelli.

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