



TV SERIES BIBLE

HUMAN AGENCY

An absurd comedy about a dysfunctional family running a dastardly psy ops agency

Vrinda P

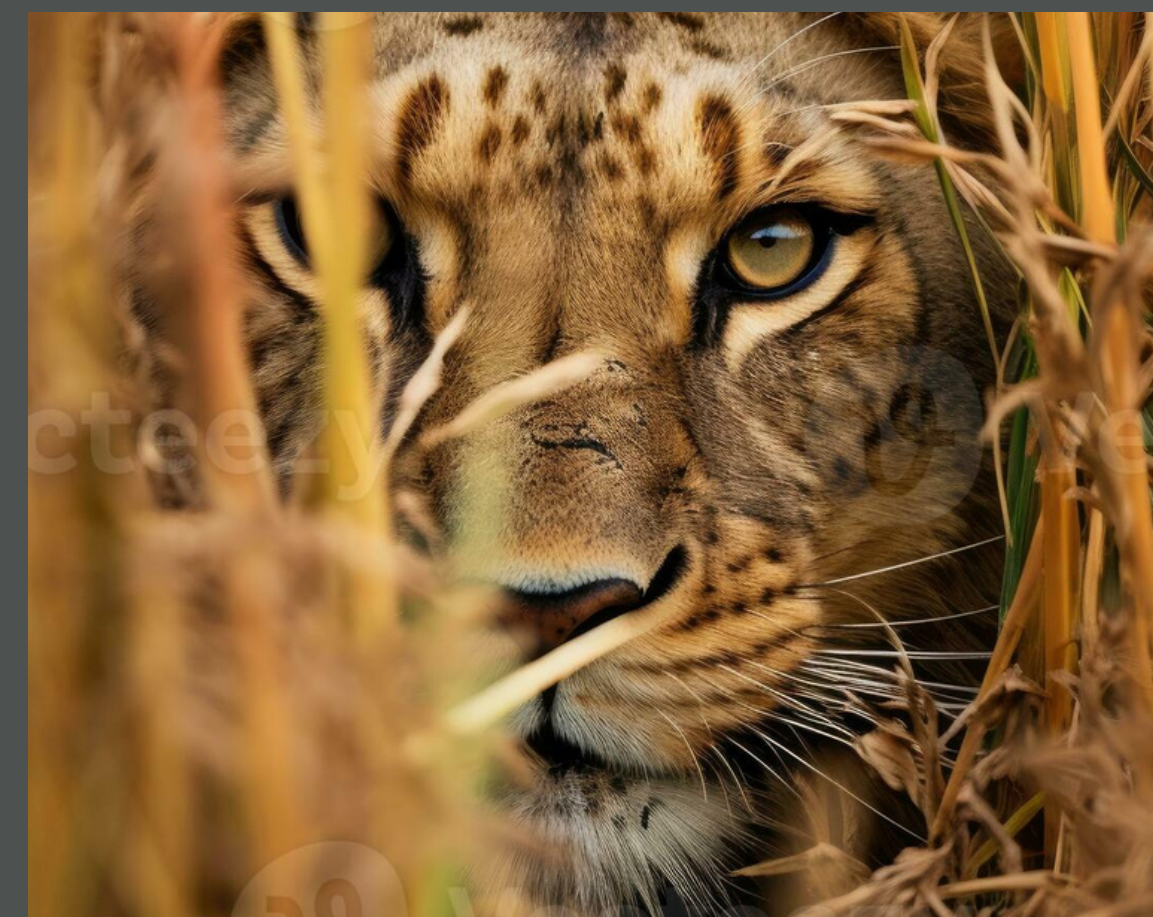
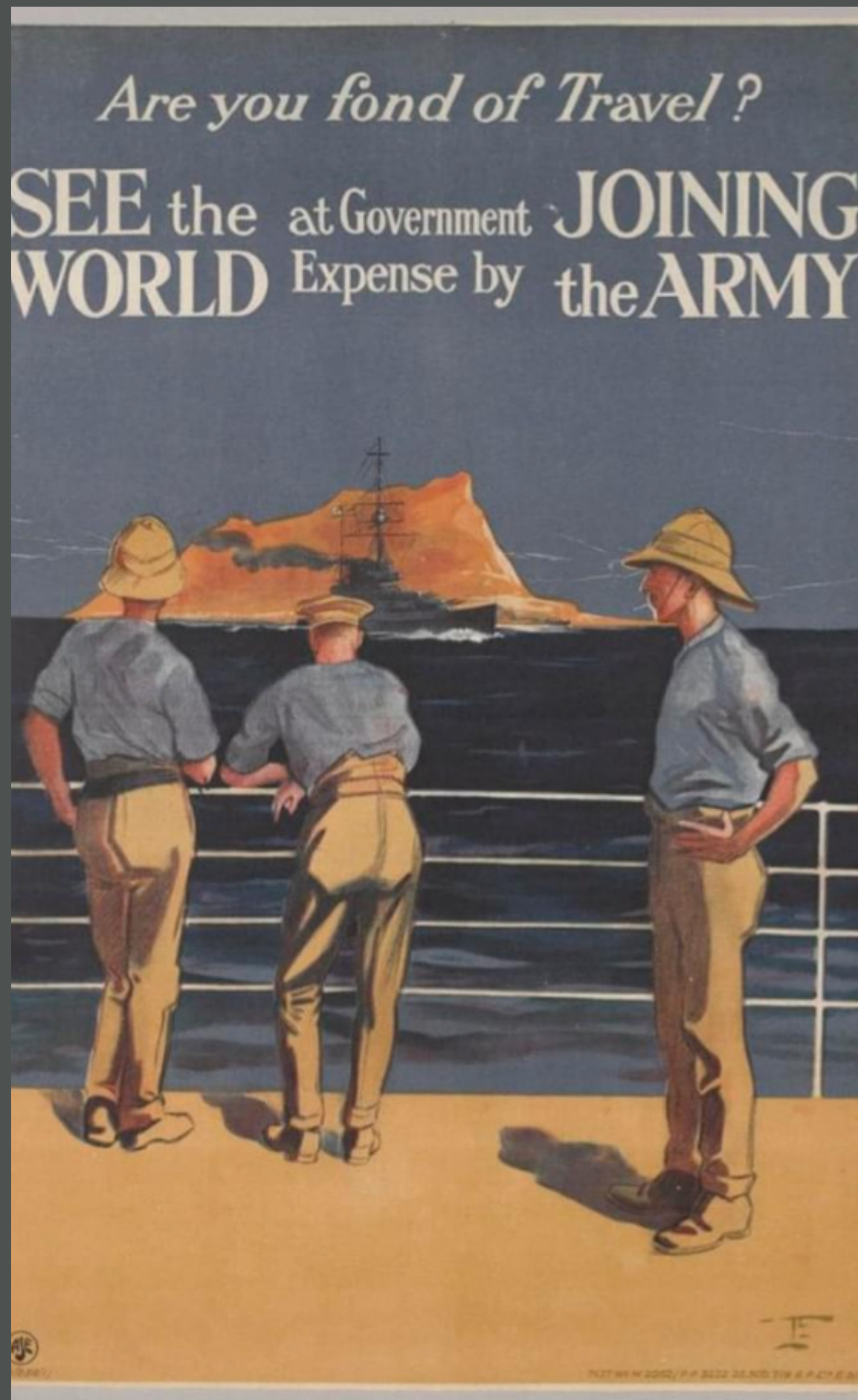


TABLE OF CONTENTS

CLICK ON TITLE TO JUMP TO PAGE

Story Arc1

The Four Departments2

Family Tree3

Characters....4

Episode Breakdowns15

Season 2 + Season 3 Arc.....27



STORY ARC

Human Agency is a fast-talking, slow-imploding workplace comedy about India's most powerful (and least emotionally regulated) psy-ops firm. Officially, they're a boutique branding agency. Unofficially, they invent public opinion, rebrand fear, and occasionally manipulate the weather.

The comedy lives in absurd wordplay, corporate mysticism, and constant miscommunication. Lies become systems. Slogans are prophetic. Nobody is well.

SEASON 1 ARC

When Deepa, a low-level spy from a rival agency, embeds herself inside Human Agency by pretending to date the boss's daughter, things go exactly as planned: terribly.

The mission was simple: Infiltrate, Observe, Use cute nicknames, Destabilise. Instead, she finds herself navigating a minefield - a family that weaponises love the same way they weaponise language: poetically and with plausible deniability.



THE FOUR DEPARTMENTS

OOH

In regular advertising parlance OOH simply means “Out of Home”. OOH is the loudest, most visible department. They control what people see in the streets, on walls, in transit, on packaging.

But in a Psy Ops agency it takes on new meaning. OOH uses primal images hardwired into the human brain. Akin to how a lizard knows to fear a hawk’s shadow. They seep into your psyche, alerting the watchmen you don’t know are watching. Primal predators stamped in your genetic memory, imprinted on your reptilian brain, remnants of fish instincts, or even ancestral memories of single-celled organisms.

BIO-ENGINEERING

The most secretive with their projects as they tend to leave a bad taste in your mouth. Bio-engineering picks up few clients and works on campaigns that span decades. Their work is poised at the intersection of the individual and society; for example - destabilising the patriarchy by making faulty zippers, is that off-brand Pikachu on your boxers?

CONSUMPTION

The highest billing department, directly related to the selling of product. It’s work is better understood with an example, by the HOD herself:

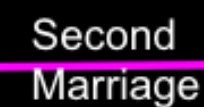
“We’re not in the business of products; we’re in the business of souls.”

Consumption weaponises ancient mythology and scripture to sell the product of the week. Tales of deities vanquishing snake demons are leveraged to sell skim milk.

LANGUAGE (Formerly called Mother Tongue)

As much as words are carried forward from the past, the future is a product of words. This department crafts irresistible narratives that the masses turn into prophetic forces. A commonplace metaphor or a cliché, ones that you’ve heard a hundred times, so often that animals in your dreams quote it.

Matriarch



~~Fake dating~~

~~Adopted~~

Jean

- Family
- Romantic
- Friendly
- Animosity



KALI

THE MATRIARCH

- Crowned CEO at 18 when her father unexpectedly passed, Kali was raised as the prize pig of Human Agency. With a sharp mind and a sharper tongue, she's wielded her gilded position with grace and grit. People often wonder how she's done it for decades, but the truth is, she just loves the damn job.
- Losing her parents young and being an only child made her long for a big family. Thus, the whirlwind (and very public) romance with her first husband, Aryan, and their subsequent three children. While she may pretend that the job always comes first, she obsesses over her children, allowing their betrayals as long as they stay close. Yet, she is still missing the caretaking bone referring to her children and grandchildren alike as "pet". They respond in kind, referring to her as "Other" instead of "Mother" when she's not around.
- While it may seem that she is denying Kavya's wishes to lead the company out of spite, in truth she wants to save her daughter from going down the same path she did- neglecting her family due to the demanding job.
- The story opens on the night of her 60th birthday, no one has seen her for 6 months and while she claims a health scare, everyone has their own suspicions.
- Warranted doubts as the true reason for her absence is to set up Charlie, her second husband and acting CEO, to take the fall for company fraud that she had recently learned of.
- While she loves Charlie, her runaway first husband hardened her heart to bonds not formed in blood.

KAVYA

THE JILTED HEIR

- Head of Consumption, the highest billing department in Human Agency.
- Most like her mother, Kavya has silently expected to inherit the family business since an infant. In fact, she was so sure of it that she had children young, expecting to train them to take over after her, or at the very least, aid her reign.
- Which made it all the more shocking when she expressed her excitement to her mother on a drunken night and was informed (amid laughter) that that would only happen if she (Kali) was dead.
- While her workaholic tendencies rivals Kali's, she is less effective, prone to instigation by her siblings. Often hyper focusing on a task or thought, she comically loses situational awareness.
- She too is distrustful of romantic relationships, choosing to raise both her kids as a single mother (alongside multiple nannies).
- She is jealous of the bond Kali share with Sri, and has been suspicious of Sri's motives since she joined the family.





SID

THE (MIDDLE) MAN CHILD

- Sid, short for Siddhartha, is the Co-Head of Bioengineering. He was humbly named by his father, after Siddhartha Buddha.
- Married Sri, his middle school sweetheart. Growing up he was the most stable of his siblings, getting the validation he missed from his parents from his wife instead. The “honeymoon phase” lasted a decade, their romance sickly sweet, much to Kavya’s displeasure. A tactic he often plays up just to spite her.
- He cares little for the law, or ethics, or anything really. Which is essential to his post as it does require quite a lot of ... human experimentation.
- With the first cracks in his marriage now showing, and deepening into canyons, he is now realising he has no personhood.
- Both him and his wife are being scouted/courted by the rival company “The Collective”.
- Potential divorce? Fake divorce?
- Biohusb anger issues?

BILLIE

THE GOOF UP

- Head of Client Services
- The poster child for “forgotten about youngest sibling”, Billie has spent much of her life trying and failing to get her mother’s attention. Her tactics are acts of rebellion- dating inappropriately aged women, dropping out of several colleges, and selling instant ramen flavoured candles, to name a few. But finding that her mother’s attention always centred around work, she changed gears and proclaimed interest in the company. All her antics growing up gave her a strong stomach for embarrassment, making her perfectly suited to lead Client Services, the department that liaisons between clients and ideation departments. But that’s just the company line. In truth, the matriarch is glad to be able to easily monitor Billie’s activities and PJ, the former HOD will be doing most of the work anyway.
- While she wants to be avant garde and creative, she lacks all skills and talent. Yet, she still persists, claiming she can revolutionise her department. As such, she is often the butt of the joke.
- She takes an instant liking to Deepa when they get trapped in an elevator together. A real meet-cute. Confiding her many secrets in the stranger, she sees some of her own (lesser) qualities in Deepa and comes up with a plan. If one Billie isn’t enough to get her mother’s attention, then two will be! Thus she hires Deepa on the spot, planning to make her an account manager and win her mother’s worried attention through Deepa’s ineptitude and their (fake) inappropriate workplace romance that violates multiple company codes.





DEEPA

THE SPY/ FAKE GIRLFRIEND

- Deepa is a spy recruited by the rival agency “The Collective”.
- With a charmingly gummy smile and a knack for falling ass backwards and upwards- somehow always coming out on top through sheer luck.
- Her first entanglement with Human Agency was as a child actress in the hit adverts produced by them for Big Diapers. Her one line in the advert was “Proud of you baby”. As a result, all adults who grew up seeing it on tv instinctually (have been programmed to) feel comfortable in her presence/ seek her approval.
- She would not take up any more acting roles, going on to study Business in college and work at a small advertising agency. Until, she is approached by a member of The Collective and entered into a training program to spy on Human Agency. She beats several much more capable candidates, as her true role is a decoy, chosen as the matriarch will obviously guess her to be a spy. Thus, she is not given any real responsibility, meant to occupy the matriarch’s attention while the real spy putters about in secret. While she often goes to great pains to share intel she’s learned, she will be disappointed when she finds out that The Collective rarely collected the intel, expecting it to be tainted by her own ineptitude and the matriarch laying false seeds.
- While the initial objective was for her to charm her way into the company via Billie, she found herself feeling guilty over the idea of leading her on. A fact made easy when Billie approached her with her own plan of subterfuge.
- Her fake romance with Billie eventually blossoms into a real one, tinged with guilt over her perceived role as betrayer to the family.

WILL

THE RELUCTANT (HE WONT)

- Will is the head of OOH (Out of Home).
- Kavya had Will at 18, through IVF. The donor is an unidentified man, rumoured to be a prize winning physicist.
- Will was supposed to be Kavya's magnum opus. Living proof of her abilities. For what's harder than raising the perfect child?
- For most of his childhood it seemed her efforts were working. Will was intelligent, disciplined, enterprising, and constantly coming up with new ideas for Human Agency. But Kavya flew too close to the sun. In making Will an analytical powerhouse, participating in daily company meetings on manipulating the nation after soccer practice, he soon became bored. Where he would once spend nights on end drafting a proposal, he now watched the water bubble in the water cooler.
- Panicked, fearing that he is going the way of her father, Kavya adopted another child. Both as a failsafe, to have a child who is interested in the business and in the hopes that she could ignite a competitive spirit. Something that frequently drove herself and her own siblings to achieve things.
- The plan briefly worked, as brothers were pegged against each other, renewing Will's fervour for the company. But with the departure of the matriarch and the family crumbling, Will eyes are wandering to less explored pastures.





JEAN

THE PARANOIAC

- Jean is the Head of Language
- He has big ears, both literally and figuratively, always on the lookout for any threats to his place in the family.
- Adopted at 15, he is immensely grateful to Kavya for taking him in. He cherishes the family, however dysfunctional due to his orphan upbringing.
- Kavya chose him for his fierce competitive spirit and sly tactics. When she walked into the orphanage it was to the sight of Jean rubbing the other children's shoes in cow poop. He claimed it was a tactic to win at hide and seek, he could smell them from several feet away.
- He is very pompous and patronising, especially to new people.
- Suspicious of threats to the company since day 1, he is rabid to find a spy, overjoyed when rumours of their existence begin to solidify.

CHARLIE

HE'S JUST HAPPY TO BE HERE

- Kali's second husband of three years, they met at a yoga workshop he was leading.
- He shares many commonalities with her first, especially on the surface, they have the same charming smile and attentive gaze. But something lurks under the surface. While for Aryan it's manipulation, for Charlie it is an empty brain. If you peeked into his head you'd hear elevator music playing. But that's what won Kali's affections in the first place, his presence makes her relaxed, functioning as her own walking zen garden. And he's pretty easy on the eyes too.
- He was appointed acting CEO when Kali announced her unexpected leave. While he doesn't do anything of value at the company, he somehow hides it well from the other employees and the family.
- With an endearing lisp, his verbal malfunctions lead to many comical misunderstandings.
- While he is unaware of Kali's plans to position him as a potential "fall guy", he knows that she has some bigger plan his position as acting CEO is facilitating. Initially this excited him greatly, but as the siblings antics and arguments grew more frequent and louder, and his responsibilities grew larger, he finds himself sneaking away for alone time most hours of the day.





ARYAN

THE RUNAWAY MONK

- Kali's first husband, Aryan, is any woman's worst nightmare. Charming, attentive, intelligent, full of life, and wholly obsessed with you. Until he's not. Which happens often.
- They were married for over two decades, he was head of Client Services for the first half of the marriage but his interest started waning and his conscience started growing. Passionate about "good" politics, he became a "shadow lobbyist". Wining and dining political figures to guide them towards less exploitative policies turned into just wining and partying. Eventually seeing the futility of his vision for a less corrupt nation, he renounced it all five years ago, giving up his marriage, his children, and his hair, to be a buddhist monk in Tibet.
- He did not go quietly. In the last couple years, as resentment grew, he was very vocal about his distaste for the unscrupulous family business.
- But he's no saint. Well, he is, technically. But he has his own demons, a substance induced anger problem, tempered by meditation, is starting to rear it's head when he re-enters the family's life.

SRI

THE BETRAYER

- Sri is the co-head of Bio-Engineering.
- Niece of Cyril, the head of the rival agency “The Collective.” and the wife of Sid.
- Sri and Sid are remarkably alike, with the same caution-to-the-wind reckless personality and lovers of indulging in excess.
- Fancying themselves Romeo and Juliet, children of warring families, Sri and Sid never made a secret of their relationship. However, Sri’s own parents are not involved in The Collective, thus not offering much pushback on her decision to throw her lot in with the Mandala family.
- This changes when Cyril expresses interest in her, courting both her and her husband, alluring them with promises of legacy, and guiltting her for abandoning the family.
- While Sid would’ve once been enough to keep her content, she finds herself pouring over history books (the ones not available to the public), and wanting to cement a name both for herself and her former family.
- Now she is at a crossroads- turn her back on her lineage or betray her new family.
- Kali is protective over her, seeing a younger version of herself, from before her father’s death, more naive, enticed by the pull of “legacy”. Similarly, Sri looks up to her, and holds a higher opinion of Kali than her children.
- Ultimately, it is the news of Kali’s subterfuge, that she set up Charlie to take the fall for company fraud, that makes Sri defect to the other side- joining The Collective and separating from Sid.



OTHER CHARACTERS

- **Anita Wadur: The President Hopeful**
In running to be appointed the next President, Anita is the key client of the season. Winning her account and keeping her happy drives some of the episode arcs.
- **PJ: Former head of Client Services**
Demoted to second in command when Billie joined the company, PJ holds resentment to the company. Despite being a demotion in name only, she is slighted. Thus, she begins feeding intel to The Collective, becoming one more spy. Kali soon roots out her role as a spy and uses her to feed false intel to the rival agency.
- **Spy: Raj**
The true spy, finding and sharing intel with The Collective, is Raj, a man employed under Kavya for nearly 3 years. Flying under the radar like any good spy should, Raj was playing the long con, planning on slowly amassing intel over a decade, but is ultimately caught out in the finale by Charlie.
- **The board:**
The board is often mentioned but little importance is given to them. Some members, older relatives of Kali, make fleeting appearances.
- **Cyril: Head of The Collective**
Mentioned only by name in the first season, Cyril has served as the co-head of The Collective for nearly as long as Kali. Employees from The Collective make an appearance in episode 5 during a client pitch.



ANITA WADUR

EPISODE 1

“THE LEEK”

Deepa’s first day at Human Agency co-incides with the matriarch’s reappearance for her birthday party and a big pitch to a new client. Or is it really co-incidence after all? Through a series of errors suspicions of a spy at Human Agency are created.

A STORY

Deepa’s first day at Human Agency introduces us to many of the family members and the nature of their work. She goes to great lengths to get on their good side.

B STORY

Misunderstandings resulting from a salad lead to Kavya blackmailing Kali with false intel about a real spy, provoking Kali to extend her absence, jilting a hopeful Kavya and putting Jean on high alert for a spy.

C STORY

The company wins the President Hopeful’s account.

SET UP

Various character motivations are introduced, such as Kavya vying to be successor, Jean looking to find the spy, Billie’s need for her mother’s attention, and questions about Kali’s mysterious absence. Sid turns up at the party.

EPISODE 2

“PIN THE TAIL ON THE DONKEY-CHILD”

The birthday party continues and the matriarch plays mind games with her children. The rival company, The Collective, makes a brief appearance at the soirée. Insecurities surface in various ways.

A STORY

Bored after 6 months spent away from the company, Kali pits her children against each other. They can’t help but be made to play along, alternatively making a splash and floundering with the party guests.

B STORY

The broader world is explored from Jean’s perspective as he looks for a spy. From party guests who are older relatives of Kali, to interns who work at The Collective, shedding light on the business of psy-ops.

C STORY

Sid surprisingly arrives without his wife, Sri. He confers with Charlie about the pitfalls of marriage, sharing insecurities about his own.

SET UP

The sibling dynamic is explored, showing the extent of Kali’s involvement in their relationships with one another, and how others are left to the waysaid in their whirlwind.

EPISODE 3: “LOVE IS IN THE AIR CONDITIONING”

With the return of Sri, the Bio-Engineering couple drape over each other across the office, prompting Billie to step up her game to make her relationship with Deepa seem equally passionate. A suspicious Kavya watches closely over Anita and Charlie, still laboring under the delusion that they are having an affair.

A STORY

Sid and Sri fluctuate hot and (uncharacteristically) cold, exposing cracks in their once stable marriage. Billie’s attempts to one up them only makes the cracks deepen.

B STORY

Kavya looks for more dirt on Anita and Charlie, enlisting Deepa’s help as she assumes her to be smarter than she is.

C STORY

Will and the employees of Human Agency take bets on which member of upper management is going to have a mental breakdown.

SET UP

Billie and Deepa’s relationship begins to turn legitimate, as the false romantic scenarios they engineer for prompt them to develop feelings for each other.

EPISODE 4:

“DELICATE THINGS”

A STORY

The heart of the family- Kavya, Jean, and Will, take centre stage. Moving between past and present, contrasting the different dynamics they shared over the years. Will expresses deep dissatisfaction with his life.

B STORY

Another client pitch, this time involving the Bio-Engineering department. Everything turns upside down when it is discovered the pitch was a ruse, a ploy mounted by The Collective to scope out the agency’s current process.

C STORY

Tension builds between Billie and Deepa as they find themselves more flustered than they should be with each other. The episode closes with Kali urging a confession out of Deepa, admitting she’s a spy.

SET UP

Deepa is posed as the spy and betrayer. Things look bleak for Human Agency as it appears The Collective has plans to bring them down.

The heart of the family- Kavya, Jean, and Will, take centre stage. Meanwhile, another client pitch turns awry when it’s found to be a set up by The Collective.

EPISODE 5: “COLD SOUP”

A STORY

Kali and The Collective take pot shots at each other, rehashing old feuds and egotistically recounting past pitches.

B STORY

The verbal joust turns nasty, the two parties revealing secrets in the process. Primarily, that Aryan has left the monastery he had originally left Kali for, Will has been meeting up with Aryan, Kali encouraged Sri to separate from Sid, and that Sri is in contact with Cyril.

C STORY

Deepa, in bewildered attendance at the dinner, anxiously waits for her role as spy to be exposed to Billie. Billie assumes her nerves to be ones born out of a crush.

SET UP

Decades old rivalries between the two agencies are brought to the surface. Son and mother are pitted against each other as Sid struggles to understand why Kali would torpedo his marriage.

Calling for a “Peace Dinner” with The Collective, Kali shows just how nasty she can be. Underestimating her dueling partners, she ends up losing more than she expected.

EPISODE 6: “FOOL ME FOUR TIMES”

Jean and Will team up and the hunt for the spy reaches a head. But suddenly everyone has secrets and everyone looks like the spy.

A STORY

Jean and Will play good cop/bad cop searching for the spy. Their investigations first reveal that Sid’s therapist is a double agent for Kali to control what info goes to rival agency. They then find out Sri has been sharing information with Cyril as she shares her life with him. They then find out PJ is a full fledged spy.

B STORY

Deepa tries to avoid being seen by Jean and Will. The discovery of three spies takes the heat off her back. Charlie similarly avoids the duo, fearful they will discover he is professionally useless.

C STORY

Anita hears of the turmoil at Human Agency and voices her displeasure, showing inclinations of wanting a new psy-ops agency. Kavya finally, disastrously, finds out there is no illicit affair. Toilet Man makes a reappearance and is subject to intense questioning by the police duo.

SET UP

Three spies are uncovered but the agency’s future is still at risk. The episode closes with the arrival of Aryan.

EPISODE 7:
“BORN AGAIN
B*TCH”

A STORY

Following Kali from early childhood, from her first pitch, to meeting and falling in love with Aryan, to conducting a mock pitch with her three children, Aryan leaving her, and finally meeting sweet Charlie.

B STORY

In present day, Jean finds the true spy, Raj.

C STORY

In present day, Sri convinces Sid to leave the company with her.

SET UP

The episode closes with Charlie taking the fall for company fraud and being fired. The audience meets a more humanized Kali in the finale.

The episode delves into Kali’s past.

EPISODE 7: “THE PUNCHING LINE”

While the true spy is finally found, the family cannot rest easy just yet. Missing several members and a whole department, Human Agency is questioned by a team of vulture auditors.

A STORY

Each member of the family is questioned by auditors about the company fraud.

B STORY

Billie finds out Deepa is another spy and must hide her heartbreak.

C STORY

Kavya messes up another shot at becoming the CEO and takes out her anger on her children. Will leaves the company after urging from Aryan, his father.

SET UP

The finale leaves the family a mess, splintered, and missing a few members. Kali officially returns to the company and Sri is posed as their chief threat for the next season, taking Sid with her.

SEASON 2

Season 2 follows the fallout from the many betrayals from Season 1. Kali whips Human Agency back into shape while Sri and Sid restructures The Collective armed with company secrets. Meanwhile, outside the company, Will and Charlie find new friends in each other, until Aryan decides to join the party. Deepa swears her allegiance to Human Agency but remains on awkward ground with Billie. Competition finally sparks between the brother Will and Jean, but it is about matters of the heart. Season 2 wraps up with a broken hearted Sid rejoining the family and The Collective running around like headless chickens. Kali comes out on top.

SEASON 3

With the family nearly whole again, things are looking up. That is until a major scandal flings Human Agency into the public eye, making their top secret work public for the first time. The family scrambles to do damage control, having to engineer and employ the most dastardly tactics of manipulation to convince the public they are not manipulating them. Meanwhile, romance is in the air once again as Billie and Deepa “start over”, Charlie gives Kali a second chance, and Sid ... no, Sid is still single.

