



WGA #1305280

*Nicki ESQ*

Created by Derrick Thompson

*Kusinough and Company*

**ALLIED INVASION**



## **Logline**

A suddenly single lawyer attempts to put the pieces of her fragmented life back together with the help of her newly divorced gay uncle .

## **Show Tone**

Warm and funny Nicki, ESQ. is a satirical dry comedy that sits atop a poignant legal drama. If Scandal had a silent laugh track and special moments of family it could be Nicki, ESQ.

## **Synopsis**

Suddenly single and impossibly overwhelmed with the details of her life, Nicki Howell, ESQ decides to take in her recently divorced gay uncle, Derrick Howell, who – for the first time – feels his life is no longer his own. Nicki and Derrick soon discover they need each other more than they may realize.

## **Genre**

Dramedy *30 min.*



# OVERVIEW

Nicki Howell's personal and professional life are seemingly in a holding pattern that doesn't provide space for the highest version of herself. Derrick Howell's humility and ego have never been challenged in a way that demanded true growth. Against the backdrop of a litigation, swirling family issues, and normal everyday shit, Nicki and Derrick push and pull one another past their own boundaries. Each week, we see Nicki and Derrick learn from one another. The focus of the show is Nicki Howell's journey as she bears witness to the reconstruction of her uncle's life. Drilling through the layers of each character to reveal their own personal pain, we find purpose and ultimately fueled growth emerge in our story. The show is anchored by a roster of supporting characters that provide the color, context and comedy that keep us on our toes, engaged and coming back every week.

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# SHOW CROSS



black-ish



Will & Grace  
ORIGINAL

THE MARY  
TYLER  
MOORE  
SHOW



girlfriends

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# CHARACTERS

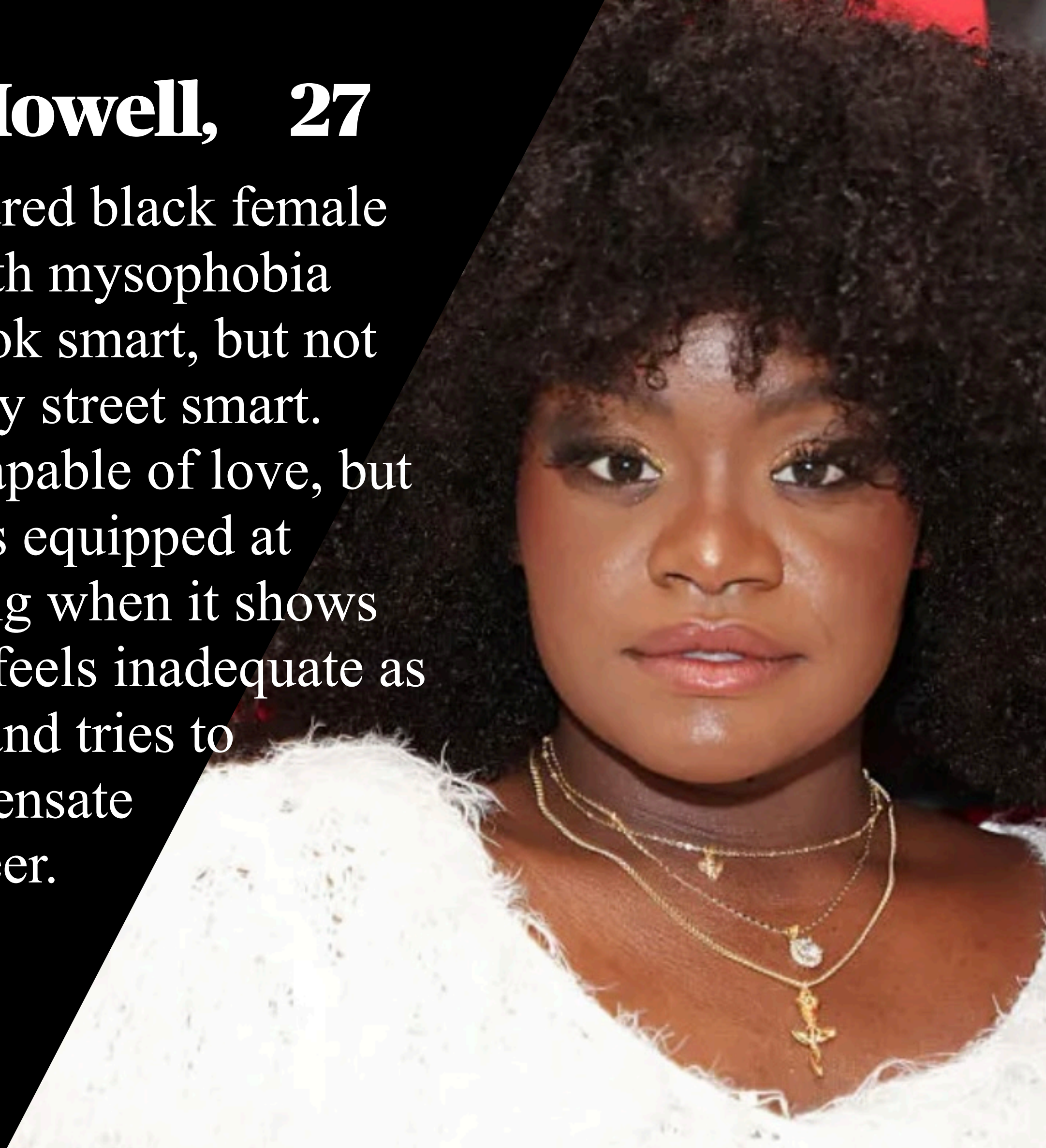
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# Nicki Howell, 27

A full-figured black female lawyer with mysophobia who is book smart, but not particularly street smart. Nicki is capable of love, but not always equipped at recognizing when it shows up. Nicki feels inadequate as a mother and tries to overcompensate in her career.



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# Derrick Howell, 51

A masculine, fit, gay, former music business executive, who spars both personally and professionally with a razor-sharp tongue, as his not-so-secret weapon. The fall from the music business was painful, but he is built for the roller coaster ride. Even with his bank account on empty, he still maintains champagne tastes and considers himself the worlds best uncle. He's excessively neat, probably to counter the messy nature of other parts of his life. As much as he wants to shake his cynical nature, he realizes it's a part of his DNA. Now single and unemployed, he is trying to recalibrate and reprioritize his life.





# John Layton, 66

White. Male. Lawyer.  
Layton makes sure the  
Layton & Ross train  
stays on tracks above all  
else, regardless of  
details. He takes  
absolute pleasure in  
his first love, his law  
firm.





# Chandra GoPal, 29

A sophisticated Indian attorney from Harvard who should take herself extremely seriously but doesn't. She eats and breathes fashion and always looks like she stepped off a runway. She enjoys dating. Chandra would never dare tell her mother she'd rather remain single than settle.



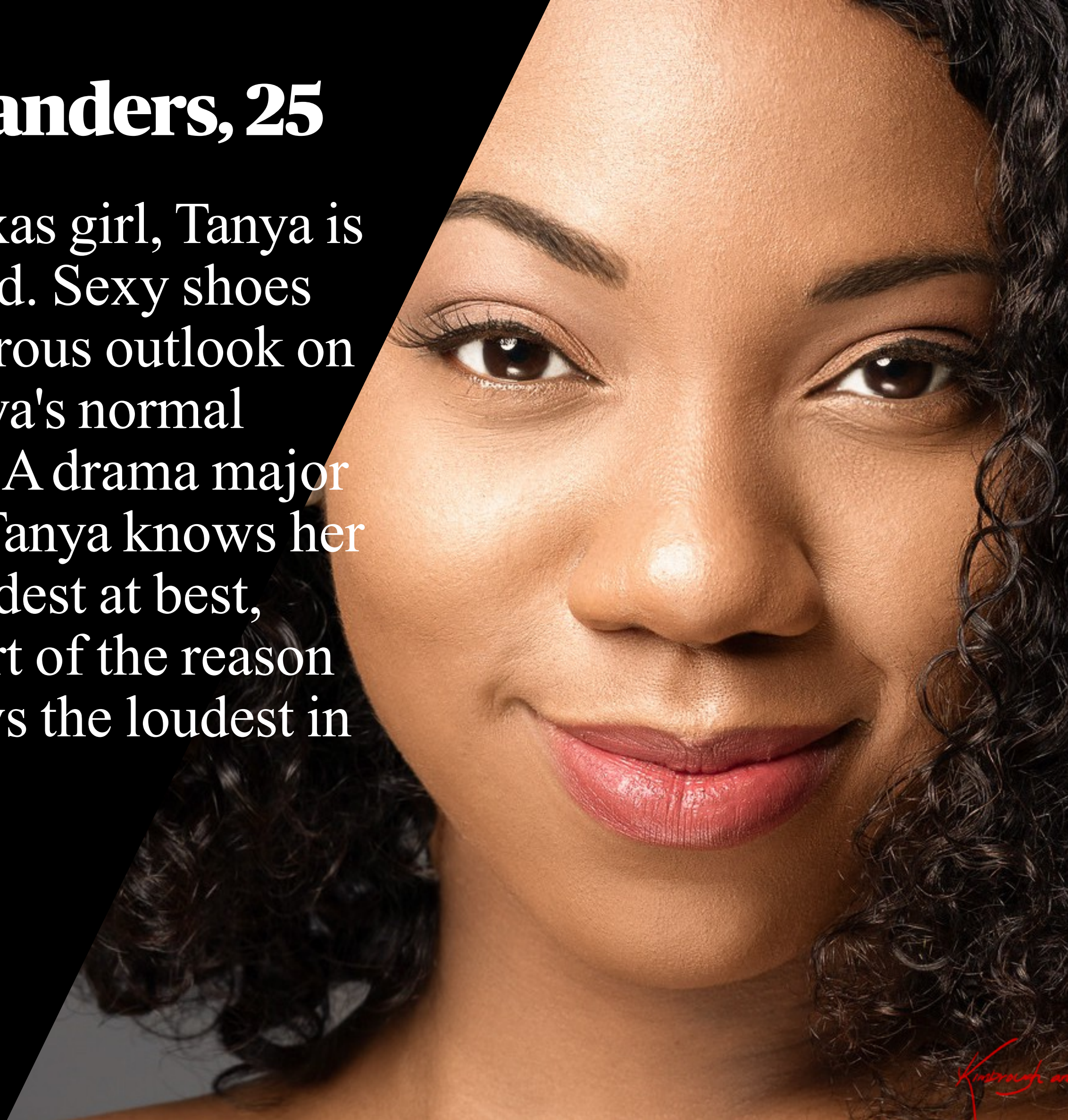
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# Tanya Sanders, 25

A native Texas girl, Tanya is an only child. Sexy shoes and a humorous outlook on life are Tanya's normal accessories. A drama major in college, Tanya knows her talent is modest at best, which is part of the reason she is always the loudest in the room.



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# Gladys Gulley, 69

Gladys was a wild, adventurous child who became an even wilder, adventurous adult. She works on her own schedule, which means asking her to do something before she's ready is a test of virtues. Though often a pain, Gladys is also known for her motherly instincts, which are always hovering just below the surface of her wild demeanor.



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# Jasmine Howell, 9

Cute and, precocious Nicki's young daughter is full of life and questions. She is the apple of her mother's eye and usually the moral compass of her decisions. Wise beyond her years, she often fills in the emotional gaps of Nicki and Derrick's lives.



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# SEASON ONE

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## **Pilot - Forecast Cloudy**

We meet Nicki Howell. a single mom, budding attorney and complete mess. Derrick Howell, her uncle shows up after ending a ten-year marriage to his husband. Nicki is given a high-profile case and employs the help of her uncle to help her win.

## **Episode 2 - Love Connection**

A random encounter between Chandra and Gladys' nephew Julius, leads to an awkward romantic encounter. Mr. Layton tells Nicki that she is doing a good job but needs to police some of Derrick's actions in the office. Nicki gets surprising news.

## **Episode 3 - Hair Care**

Tanya brings a potential blockbuster case to Nicki involving a huge hair care company. Things are intense between Derrick and his new love interest. Nicki and Chandra butt heads on her newest dating choices. Gladys goes on a secret mission.



## **Episode 4 - The Second Time Around**

Nicki meets the opposing counsel, an old college flame. Derrick helps his niece. We learn a bit more about Gladys. Chandra keeps her new love interest a secret from her family. Tanya books a TV spot.

## **Episode 5 - Bully**

Nicki and her old college flame rekindle. Derrick comes to Jasmine's rescue when she is being bullied at school. Chandra's family introduces her to the Indian "Mr. Right".

## **Episode 6 - Fight the Power**

Nicki is determined to win back her case and prove her worth. Chandra is torn between two lovers. Gladys lets Nicki in on a little secret. Derrick's trip to a gay bar involves a familiar face.



## **Episode 7 - That's All Folks!**

Nicki looks for her parents' approval on her new relationship. Gladys tries to find out who broke her nephew's heart. Jasmine reaches out to her father. Derrick gets in contact with his ex husband.

## **Episode 8 - I Didn't See That Coming**

Jasmine confronts her parents. A rival firm offers Nicki a position. Derrick contemplates reconciling his marriage. Chandra has to make a tough decision. Nicky discovers something that threatens her relationship with Tanya.

## **Episode 9 - Do You Know Where You're Going To?**

Jasmine confronts her parents. A rival firm offers Nicki a position. Derrick contemplates reconciling his marriage. Chandra has to make a tough decision. Nicky discovers something that threatens her relationship with Tanya.

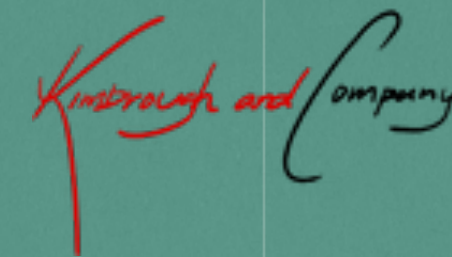


**Nicki commands more power at work while thriving in a healthy relationship. Derrick moves out and starts to have an intervention about his true calling. Tanya receives her big break when she is cast on a popular TV show. We are introduced to a new line of business at Layton & Ross led by Nicki Howell; celebrity litigation. Chandra's relationship forces her to examine some of her toxic personality traits and eventually embrace therapy. John Layton dies.**

## **SEASON TWO**

**Jasmine requests to live with her father. Nicki's relationship with Derrick takes a turn. An unexpected love interest arrives for Nicki. Layton & Ross is taken over by John Layton's daughter. Chandra has a health scare in her family that forces her to rethink her life choices. Nicki contemplates working for herself for the first time in her life after losing a big case. Derrick is finally settling into his new life and new career.**

## **SEASON THREE**



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# THANK YOU

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