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CHALLENGERS

Multiple Contest Winner

Logline

The world will end in five years. There is a struggle. On one side, a unimaginably vast, global conspiracy. On the other, the 20-something great grandchildren of pulp-era adventurers. One side is responsible for the end. Neither side knows which. And one of our heroes is a traitor.

The Series

In the days between the turn of the 19th Century up through around the 1940s, wonders seemed almost commonplace. There were tales of lost jungle cities, Yetis, boys raised by apes, shadowy detective heroes, and more. But in the modern world, wonders have disappeared, lost in forgotten pulp covers and tabloid headlines.

The world is smaller now, safe, controlled. The mysteries are solved, but we are bereft of myth and wonder. *What happened? Where did the unexplained mysteries go?*

TOM REILLY, and his surrogate father, DR. HALLELUJAH JACK SMITH, have been searching for a clue to explain his parents' murders. It cost Tom a (literal) fortune, but he has at last found a source — a secretive man known only as Descartes.

Descartes' information leads Tom to recover a journal that once belonged to his famous great-grandfather. The journal was the one thing Tom's parents had with them when they died. Now, Tom might finally be able to begin to uncover the secrets of the Cabal.

To do just that, he recruits a team of uniquely talented individuals. Most of them are the descendants of his grandfather's famous friends. Our characters are the descendants of heroes: explorers, inventors, magicians, ace pilots, and even a wild boy of the jungle. Their ancestors would have amazing adventures in days past, because the very nature of reality was different then.

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 with strong character arcs for a young, sexy, multi-ethnic cast to make us care.

CHALLENGERS

The Secret History of the World

The world will end in five years.

There is a struggle. There are two sides.

On one side: Beautiful and brilliant, the heirs to fame and fortune, 26-year-old genius billionaire **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 very nature of reality 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 side: 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**, 26, an investigative reporter fired when a secret, “disavowed” CIA operation went terribly wrong.
- **Sophia Reverté**, 25, a sexy stage magician.
- **Devil O'Brien**, 25, a daredevil pilot who left the Air Force under mysterious circumstances.
- **Dr. Hallelujah Jack Smith**, 50s, a genius inventor and Tom's godfather.
- **Samantha Galore**, 28, a beautiful and deadly British spy.
- **Jenny Silverheels**, 25, a beguiling Native American Shaman.
- **Sòng Yin-Yue**, 25, a mysterious and sardonic Chinese assassin and thief with a secret agenda.

Like the original *Challengers* of the 1920s and 30s, 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.

Materials available: show bible and four episode scripts