

Casino Riviera – One Pager

Title: *Casino Riviera* – by David A. Bradley

Genre: Drama/Mystery & Suspense

Logline: When a guest at the Bristol Hotel, in the sleepy resort town of Menton, falls from his balcony in suspicious circumstances, shady people come out of the woodwork presenting an opportunity for an English socialite to acquire control of a casino on the French Riviera.

Series Synopsis: It's 1959 on the French Riviera and the jet-set is just around the corner. A German businessman falls to his death from his hotel balcony causing shadowy figures from his past to come out of the woodwork.

Delphine Howell-Evans is a 24 year-old socialite and the daughter of top British spymaster Colonel Edmund Howell-Evans. Driven by the death of her mother and brother, Delphine has convinced the higher-ups that she can serve her country by keeping tabs on Soviet influence amongst the ex-pat *bon vivants* from the British aristocracy living a life of hedonism and cocktails on the Cote d'Azur.

While she is investigating a Hungarian diplomat's connection to a blackmail scheme using high-class prostitutes, Hugo Von Wetterau falls to his death, revealing a world of intersecting interests centred around the town's casino.

Delphine's drinking partner and washed-up debutant, Countess Jane DeVilliers, 35, spends her time going from one failed romance to the next. With cocktail in hand and an acerbic witticism for armour, she knows everyone who's anyone on the Riviera and always where to find the next party.

Swiss Banker, Felix Dresner, 32, journeys to Menton to meet up with his old flame, Countess DeVilliers and starts to investigate the death of Von Wetterau. Learning of his own dark past, Delphine co-opts Felix into assuming a stake in the casino where she can sit at the centre of a world of business, politics and dark secrets.

As the circumstance surrounding Von Wetterau's death uncover Nazi-hunters, personal vendettas, Machiavellian tycoons, the mafia, and the KGB, Delphine is forced to confront her own moral integrity and decide how far she's willing to go to protect British interests: whether or not they – and the people holding the reins of power – are just as corrupt as the enemies she has committed her life to countering.

Series one concludes with not only who killed Von Wetterau, but the multi-layered reasons behind it and its impact on Delphine's mission to thwart the advances of the KGB in Western Europe.

The series draws inspiration from the films of Hollywood's golden era, French Nouvelle Vague and the Italian Neorealists. Films like *To Catch a Thief*, *La Dolce Vita*, *Et Dieu Crea La Femme*, are foundations to the show's style and various plot points.

Themes: The impact and memory of World War Two was still vivid in the early days of the Cold War. Personal loyalties and conflicted motivations confuse the good versus evil narrative of the time and *Casino Riviera* explores the pain and conflict of this defining event had on the people of this era.