

## SERIES CONCEPT

### **DREAMWRITERS**

By

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Where do dreams come from?

Everyone dreams. What if it turns out there is an agenda behind our dreams - forces that use our dreams to guide us through life, for better or for worse?

Welcome to IYD Inc: In Your Dreams, Incorporated. At first glance, it is an office like any other - fluorescent lights, decorated cubicles, and stale coffee. However, the work being done here, and the product being produced, is uniquely unlike any other business in existence. It has the familiarity and humor of *The Office*, the over arcing mystery of *Lost*, and the augmented reality of *Inception*.

IYD does not exist on Earth. Where it does precisely exist is one of the central mysteries of the series. At IYD, the product is dreams, specifically dream writing. We learn our dreams are literally *written* by “Dream Writers”, each writer assigned to a genre such as romance, nightmares, power/prestige and inspiration. “Engineers” transmit the dreams to Earth, and the “Watchers” gather data on the “Dream Writer’s” subjects. The focus of the series is on the day to day interactions of the employees of IYD, the larger mystery behind their work, and the lives of the people on Earth they impact.

Equal time is split between the “dream world” of IYD and Earth. There is a core set of recurring characters both on Earth and at IYD who have a larger role in the ultimate end game of the series.

Our main character is Daniel, a charming young man who is IYD’s golden boy - a gifted writer who also works tirelessly to break down the invisible walls that exist between the different ranks at the company. The story begins when Daniel is assigned to Lucy, a beautiful, quirky young woman on Earth who is of great interest to the higher ups at IYD. Daniel’s boss is Oswald, an affable, older gentleman, who runs the office with a distinct air of whimsy, but who also knows more than he reveals.

Each of the employees at IYD has a history, though their memories are muddled and incomplete. In addition to navigating the pitfalls of any other office, these characters seek to find out their purpose at the company, and exactly what individual roles they serve. Every episode opens with a new dream that weaves its way through the story each week. The search for the truth behind IYD, and Lucy’s ultimate importance to this world, is the driving mystery that keeps audiences engrossed in the series.

Where do dreams come from...the answer may be larger than we ever imagined.

## **SETTING: THE DREAM WORLD AND EARTH (CHICAGO, IL)**

The dream world that IYD calls home will remain a mystery until the series' conclusion. It is clearly not Earth, but it feels very familiar. The offices of IYD Inc will be instantly recognizable to the viewers. There is a small city outside of IYD and another company, "Pandora", with whom IYD competes. Our main Earth locale is a small suburb outside of Chicago. This provides us the backdrop of a small town with a looming city nearby when it is needed.

## **CHARACTERS**

### ***The Principles:***

**DANIEL:** Daniel is the consummate coworker you would love to hate, if he wasn't so likable. He is handsome, charming, funny, and driven. He hit the ground running at IYD, never having to take the standardized tests and assigned to the coveted Dream Writing genre of "Power/Prestige". However, his drive to succeed, combined with his cockiness, causes him to sometimes push those around him a little too hard. His goals are always equitable, but his means often cause discord among those he enlists in assisting him.

The focus of many school girl crushes, the dashing, late 20's Daniel has truly caught the eye of an engineer named Leah. She has been enamored with him ever since he "broke down the walls" and proved that engineers, writers, and watchers can not only exist side by side, but also be friends. He does not believe in IYD's unwritten rule that there should be no fraternization among and between the various departments. His best friend is Zeke, a rambunctious and wild dream writer. He is also very close with Lex, a tough as nails writer and Remy, a shy but intelligent watcher

When Daniel is given a new file in the "romance" genre, he is completely caught off guard. This is a rarity as generally writers are assigned to only one genre. However, his handling of the file makes it clear that he understands the importance of the assignment. The subject for whom he is writing is Lucy, a young woman living in Chicago. The importance of Lucy's file is a great temptation for Daniel to break the rules at IYD, written and unwritten. He is eager to learn more about how IYD operates, and part of that is due to his unwavering loyalty to his boss, Oswald.

Daniel is relatively new at IYD, and therefore hasn't begun to fully recollect his past life. He skirts Leah's (and any other female's) advances, mainly because he is driven to do his work well and earn the right to know more about the company. His interest in Lucy is purely academic...at the beginning. But, soon, Daniel begins to develop feelings for his new subject. This is the number one *unbreakable* rule at IYD, and Daniel struggles between following his feelings versus obeying the orders he has come to respect.

**LUCY:** A beautiful, quirky, and incredibly intelligent young woman, Lucy is also battling some personal conflicts. Her father, whom she adored, died when she was only 8 years old. Her connection to him is partly due to his slowly revealed ties to the dream world and IYD. She works for Sommer's Vet Center under the tutelage of her boss, Susan, and alongside her best friend, the outspoken Karen. She has been dating John, an attorney who works in Chicago, for longer than she imagined she would; and she's begun to believe she may actually be in love with him.

Lucy is unaware that IYD and possibly others are actively keeping tabs on her as a coveted piece in their ongoing chess match. Her father attempted to reveal her connection to that world before his untimely death, and she has little recollection of all the hints he left her. The one constant in her life is a recurring dream of the day her father passed away. It always ends in the same way, although recently a mysterious figure has begun to appear in the dream and attempt to put her at ease.

Lucy, whose mother abandoned her when she was very young, was raised by her Aunt Miriam after her father passed away. Lucy is reticent to return to the city with John, as she associates it with her childhood and her father, whom she very much misses. When Daniel begins to write her dreams, she can sense that something has changed. Her burgeoning relationship with this "dream man" causes her to rethink her relationship with John.

Lucy's ultimate importance to the dream world is unclear, but even she senses there is a greater purpose to her life. Her desire to decipher the clues her father left her, as well as the truth behind the mystery man in her dreams, is her driving purpose in the story. This allows her character a great deal of complexity between the headstrong, yet funny young woman she is on Earth, and the rigid tightrope she will have to walk in the future.

**OSWALD:** The middle-management boss of IYD who oversees and manages the day to day operations of the company. Oswald reports to only one person - the head of IYD, Fallon. Oswald is in his late 60's and considered by many employees to be a bit of a joke. Most see him as nothing more than a slightly daffy, old fuddy-duddy, stuck in middle management, toeing the line and repeating the same stale, old, jokes around the office. Only Daniel holds him in high esteem and believes Oswald is far sharper than the bumbling persona he assumes at the office.

Daniel is right about Oswald; the man is far shrewder than the others believe. He is the person responsible for giving Lucy's file to Daniel. Oswald disagrees with Fallon's warnings about the repercussions should Daniel mishandle Lucy's file with his often unorthodox ways. However, Oswald is sure Daniel is the go to person to truly break the case open. While many view Oswald as past-his-prime; he is far from it. He takes many great risks with the handling of Lucy's file in his quest to make IYD serve what he considers its greatest purpose.

### ***Secondary Leads:***

**LEAH:** Leah is an engineer at IYD; she is in charge of transmitting the dreams the writers write to their subjects on Earth. This also puts the engineers in somewhat of a “policing” role as they are the final line of defense before a dream winds up in someone’s head. She is best friends with a watcher, Remy, but is infatuated with Daniel. While he has made it clear that they are only friends, Leah continues to hold a candle for him and help him out in ways she might not if he were anyone else.

Leah’s inability to tell Daniel “no” causes her to circumvent the rules at IYD in order to help him out. *She is mousy, but pretty, and this has caused Remy to develop feelings for her.* She senses Remy’s interest, but only has eyes for Daniel. While shy to the eye, she is far from timid. She is a female in a man’s profession and as a result she has developed a thick skin. She often butts heads with Lex, another headstrong female at IYD, though they are far more similar than either would like to admit.

**REMY:** Remy is one of the watchers at IYD. His job is to view the lives of those on Earth in order to feed information to the dream writers. He is slightly awkward but incredibly brilliant. Remy’s desire to fit in has been validated by Daniel’s efforts and genuine friendship with him. He wishes his friendship with Leah would progress to something more romantic, but is afraid of being alienated if he makes a move and he is rejected.

He is working on a project with Leah that they call “Figment”. While Remy is using the project to get closer to Leah, he doesn’t fully comprehend the implications of the device’s potential, which would allow a writer to literally insert themselves into someone’s dream in real time.

**LEX:** Lex is another dream writer at IYD whose job is in quality control. She’s abrasive, and outspoken, but incredibly loyal to her friends. She feels the company doesn’t recognize her skills, and considers herself stuck in a menial position.

She is close friends with Daniel and Zeke, but has an obvious distaste for Leah. Lex’s attention to detail makes her a great fit for quality control, but also causes conflict with Daniel’s more carefree and “break the rules” attitude.

**ZEKE:** In every office environment you have a wild card, a person who is simultaneously brilliant and recklessly idiotic at the same time. At IYD, that person is Zeke. He is Daniel’s best friend and confidante, and looks the part of the office miscreant with distinctly bizarre features. He has a blatant disregard for authority, but is well liked despite his affinity for creating havoc.

One of the major differences between Zeke and the other writers, however, is that he has retained more of the memories of his past life before IYD... a fact he doesn’t openly share with others, including Daniel.

**MONTY:** Monty is the most mysterious of the dream writers. His genre is “nightmares” which would be reason enough for some of the employees to treat him differently and Monty compounds the situation with his secretive actions and anti-social habits.

He is never without his black, leather bound journal, in which he writes constantly. Lex, in particular, suspects that Monty may have ulterior motives at IYD; however, Daniel feels he is simply misunderstood, and continually reaches out to him in friendship.

**JOHN:** Lucy’s boyfriend on Earth, John is a lawyer from the Deep South, but has sublimated most of his accent and southern regionalisms. He’s extremely handsome in an “awe-shucks” way, and lives a regimented life in the city where he makes a very good living.

On paper, he looks like the perfect match for any woman, which is strange considering Lucy’s hesitance to fully commit to him. He’s devoted to a fault, and continues to try to mold and reinvent himself to become Lucy’s perfect mate.

***Minor Recurring Characters:***

**NEWTON:** A brand new employee at IYD, Newton is still getting his bearings in the dream world and acclimating to his new job.

**TRUMAN:** A trainer at IYD, Truman helps assist new employees during their first months at IYD.

**MORT:** One of IYD’s more acerbic writers, Mort cares about very little other than himself. Disliked by many, especially the female staff, Mort doesn’t buy into everything he is told about IYD, yet doesn’t appear to care enough to cause a stir. He trusts no one, but others trust his no nonsense attitude, often to their detriment.

**FALLON:** Not seen until the season 1 finale, Fallon is the true head of IYD. A mysterious figure, the mere mention of Fallon’s name sends a shiver through even the most brazen of IYD employees.

**KAREN:** Lucy’s best friend, Karen is British, brazen, and incessantly man-crazy. She works alongside Lucy, and acts as her confidant.

**SUSAN:** Lucy’s boss and owner of the vet center, Susan seems ready to hand the reins of the business over to Lucy and settle into a quiet retirement.

**MIRIAM:** Lucy’s Aunt and sister to Lucy’s father, Christopher Lockett, Miriam is like a parent to Lucy. While often sad, she loves Lucy unconditionally. Miriam holds many clues to the mysterious dream world to which Lucy has such a strong connection.