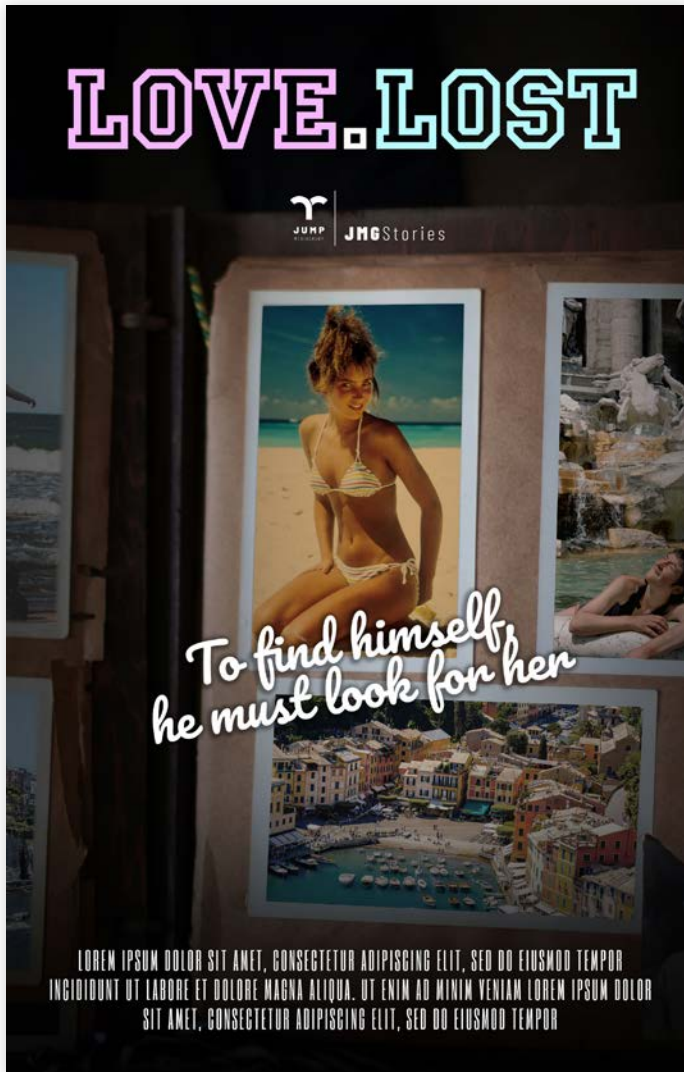


LOVE.LOST

— *To find himself, he must look for her* —

Written by: Alex Lynch



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*BENNY: Graham, this isn't like you.
You're not thinking.*

*GRAHAM: No. No, on the contrary –
I've been thinking. For once I have been
thinking and I've never been more sure of
anything in my life. I've spent years being
predictable, unimpulsive, unexciting and
now – enough – I want a change.
I want to change.*

*BENNY: Oh you speak Italian now,
do you?*

*GRAHAM: I'll download DuoLingo.
Start learning. Only need the basics.
C'est muy importante.*

*BENNY: That's Spanish. With some
French*

GRAHAM: Shit.

Genre: *Comedy Drama*

Format: *6–8 episodes of 30–45 mins each*

Targetgroup: *15 – 60 years old*

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Graham Walker is a man with his life in limbo. He has just turned 50, he has worked 20 years in his mundane job at Manchester's city council, and he's recently lost his wife of 25 years to cancer. As the days blend into each other, Graham finds himself at a real impasse and in his melancholic state begins to meander down memory lane.

One night, as Graham sifts through old photos and scrap books from his past, with innocuous daytime travel telly shows playing in the background, he comes across photos from one particular trip to Italy when he was 17. The year: 1988. The place: Cinque Terre. A disappointing family holiday with his wannabe-cultured mother, his Brit-abroad dad and his no-nonsense little sister Lori, soon turns into a summer he would never forget following a chance encounter with local girl Daniella. An encounter which swiftly blossoms into a whirlwind romance. But that was over 30 years ago now. A distant memory.

But Graham starts to wonder whether that distant memory could become a promising future. In a move very much out of character he decides he should go to Italy and rekindle his relationship with Daniella. His first love.

Graham enlists the help and accompaniment of his oldest friend, Benny Buchanan, who in his early 50s has only just come out to his parents and is in dire need of some soul-searching himself (though he is much more reserved than Graham and would never admit to this). Graham eventually cajoles the ever-reluctant Benny into joining him on his mission to go back to Italy and find Daniella. Only one problem – they don't know where she is, who she is or what she looks like now. Plus, neither knows the country nor

speaks the language. It's a futile endeavour before they've even begun, yet Graham believes at this point he has nothing to lose and everything to gain .

So begins the trip of a lifetime for Graham and Benny as their travels take them through remote villages, dubious accommodations, and enigmatic trails – all of which provide their own unique set of surreal characters. Our heroes delve deeper down the rabbit hole of this wild goose-chase wondering whether this really is a sign of fate dealing them each a new deck, or else just a mid-life crisis on a monumental scale.

This show will take the viewers on an emotional journey of their own as they go on this quest of self- discovery with Graham and Benny, enjoying the quirky mishaps of our heroes whilst empathising with their inner-turmoil and grief. From the crossover of drizzly Northern England to scorching Southern Italy, we allow the viewer to bask in their comfort zone and then every so often subtly strike with a sentiment or social commentary which takes them right out of it. All the while, the show maintains an atmosphere of romantic Mediterranean escapism with glorious, diverse locations, rich culture, and an original Italian score to compliment the action.

Hilarious and heart-warming, 'Love. Lost' is a drama in a similar vein to film and TV titles such as 'Us', 'Burn, Burn, Burn' and 'The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel'. It tells us that, no matter our age, it's never too late to take risks and allow ourselves to follow the route less travelled – or in this case, never travelled. Because in life, we can only find what it is we're searching for once we have been truly lost.
