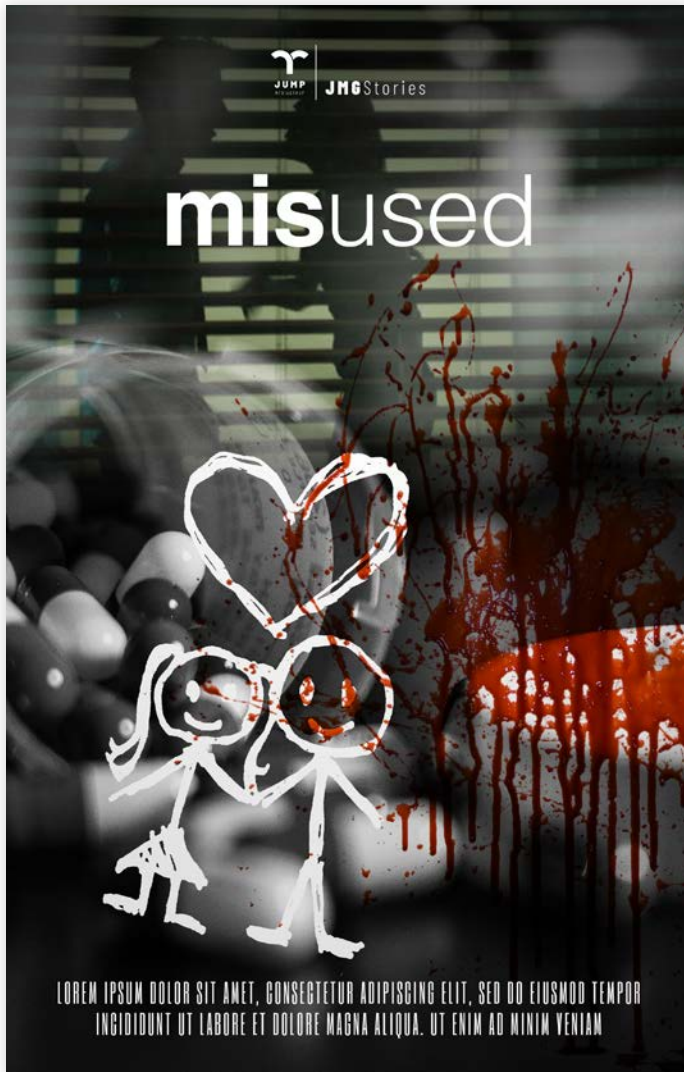


MISUSED

— *When the cure is the root of the problem* —

Written by: Rebecca Sandeman & Grant Andersen



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Inside Shane's apt

Shane wakes up, tied to a chair and is given a seltzer

Aidan

I want you to tell me everything about Frank's nasty, little pharmacy-business.

Shane's eyes widen in fear

Shane

What! I know nothing about that

Aidan reveals 4-5 big boxes of pills

They're all opened and empty.

Aidan

See those? They were all mixed into the drink I just gave you. You have around 30-40 mins before your pulse rate starts to lower, your eyes go blurry and eventually your respiratory system shuts down...If I were you I would start talking real fast, or else I may be tempted not to call the ambulance.

Genre: *Crime/Drama*

Format: *4 episodes of 60 mins*

Targetgroup: *15 years old and over*

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A desperate brother searches for his sister who has mysteriously disappeared from Cardiff. As secrets threaten his unravelling family he continues in his quest for the truth, all of them learning much more than they bargained for.

An estimated 3% of people within the UK receive a benzodiazepine subscription each year, whilst the UK also possesses the highest percentage of high risk opioid users of any country within the EU. Of those statistics, an estimated 59% of users were found to be women, whilst the number of teenagers misusing illicit or illicitly obtained substances throughout the country has increased each year since 2013. Following major countrywide scandals like the fake Xanax trade that persisted throughout the late 2010s, there continue to be concerns that prescription medication, drugs that would be completely legal with a doctor's recommendation, are finding their way into the hands of vulnerable people.

This miniseries, which will run for four hour-long episodes, follows 26-year-old protagonist Aidan, a past-his-prime rugby player, and newly transitioned family man. The series is set between rural Wales and his 22-year-old sister Ellie's home in Cardiff, where she studies art.

The core plot surrounds the mystery of Ellie's complete disappearance as well as the developing struggles amidst the Phillins' family unit. To find out what really happened, Aidan and the rest of the family have to discover things about themselves, including aspects of Ellie's world that they would've rather remained oblivious to. Nate and Beth, Aidan's father and mother, have presided over a household mired with a web of fractious relationships, with more bubbling under the surface than it first appears.

These events, if already not difficult enough, occur in tandem with problems concerning Aidan's partner Katherine. After giving birth a year ago to their baby daughter, Evie, Katherine is struggling to cope with postnatal depression. She flits from goading herself to be the best mother in the world, to periods of deep depression and sadness. Aidan tries to support her and Evie in any way he can, but never seems to say or do the right thing. Now with Ellie's sudden vanishing, this puts even more pressure on Aidan and his fragile young family.

The show juxtaposes settings of mundane reality, concerning Aidan's home life and rural roots, with the dark and unwelcoming side of city life. The cinematography will reflect this, exploring the colourless existence of someone impacted

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by over-prescribed medication, pitted against a beguiling and dangerous side that the initial allure of criminality and addiction promises. This emphasis on prescription medication unveils an uncomfortably plausible scenario, evidencing the possibility that Ellie's disappearance and the family's reaction could happen to anyone. Misused will broadcast a believable, balanced narrative of a private doctor manipulating their patients, broaching the inherent power dynamic between patient and caregiver. However, when looking more closely, who in fact is the one really holding the power?

Aidan is forced to navigate increasingly perilous scenarios; a slow descent into behaving like the people he's chasing, forever on the outskirts of the law. Think Broadchurch meets The Stranger, with an out-of-his-depth everyman trying to get to grips with reluctantly embodying a detective role.

His inabilities are then exacerbated further by the fragmenting of his family, careening towards the point of implosion as they're unable to accept the reality of what's being presented to them. When Aidan discovers that Ellie is potentially mixed up in a blackmail plot concerning her doctor and his supply of prescription medication, he starts to wonder if he really knew his sister at all.

Misused is a mystery-thriller designed to leave the viewer wondering just how well they actually know the people around them; what lengths would anyone go to in order to uncover the truth about the people they love? The series forces the viewer to question the integrity of those we care about, as well as the professionals whom we're told to place our trust in.
