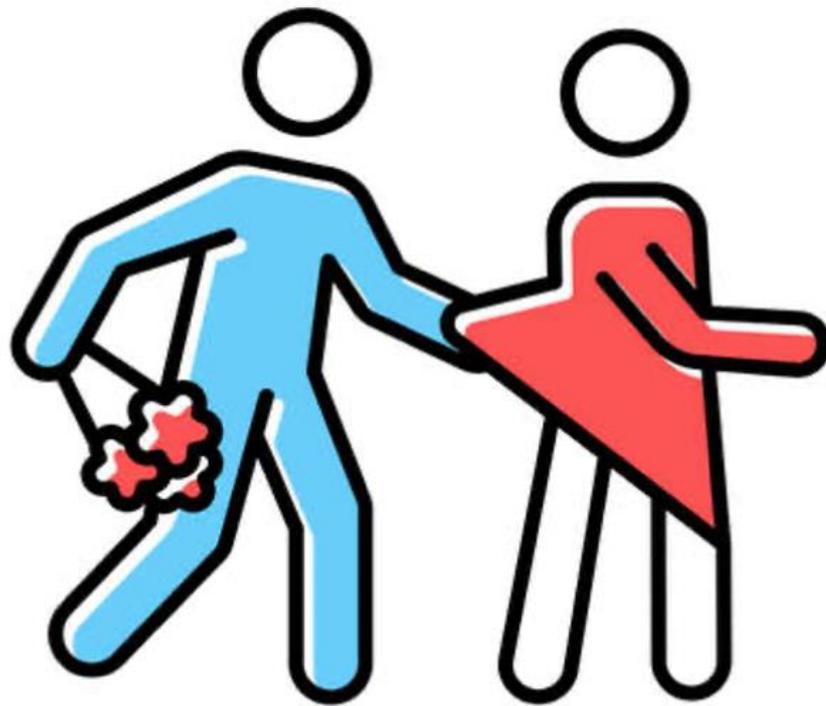


I am a Gentleman

Scénario : Nicky Calloway



I AM A GENTLEMAN



Backpack Pictures

Synopsis

« In a society that rationalizes violence against women, a teenage boy faces the harsh reality and consequences of his new, hormonal compulsions. »

Note d'intention de l'auteur

"I Am A Gentleman" is a dark satire on the dangers of gender essentialism; edging on the profane and ridiculous, with the story ending on a mortifying and contemplative note. All of the characters in the script are fully indoctrinated with the ideology of their world: a slightly skewed version of society where boys reaching the age of puberty are from then on believed to be capable of murder, and fully expected to act out these hormone-induced aggressions on women and girls. How this society deals with this atrocious belief is to put their full trust in the hands of a capitalistic corporation called Tundra Incorporated. They blindly follow Tundras' pseudo science techniques, using them in public schools for decades. As our young protagonist Max finds as his own story unfolds, the techniques are a poor attempt at covering up the larger social issues at work.

The character of Max is our access into this world and we learn about it along with him - as he's introduced to Anti-Harm class, taken the psychologically damaging sexuality test, developed a crush on a girl, and discovered all of the ways that this Anti-harm ideology has harmed his family. Max is meant to earn our sympathy, after all he is still a child. But as his behavior starts to reflect the effects of toxic masculinity and misogyny, the reader/viewer's relationship with him takes a sinister turn. We're forced to watch as his own values and better judgment is corrupted by his environment, with the only possible outcome - he gives into the impulse he was taught he'd have.

Luckily, the girl he has a crush on is fully equipped with school sanctioned self-defense lessons and a tranquilizer pen, but it leaves many questions in the wake of his uncharacteristic violence: *Is aggression truly biologically rooted? Do boys and men have power over their own inclinations or is this a lie told to keep the patriarchy in balance? What came first, Max's inherent violence, or the imagery and beliefs that told him that was what he was capable of?*

As the writer, I hope this story is told with the respect and conscientiousness it deserves, but also a certain fearlessness to lean into the aforementioned ridiculous and enjoyable hypocrisy of its themes. I believe it can be made into something truly unique and powerful, and have a voice in a discussion that's never been more relevant.

Nicky Calloway