



Blink

Neo Feminist Gangster Story

- inspired by real events.

Anastasia, aka Blink, escapes the war in Ukraine and finds refuge in Buffalo, NY where she joins a group of small-time thieves chopping cars for parts. In time she takes over the business and eventually builds an underground corporation specializing in the theft and bulk export of luxury cars to Russia making her mark in US criminal history.

Set in Buffalo, NY



The Story at Glance

At the heart of the story is Blink's meteoric rise and fall as the founder and 'CEO' of her underground corporation. She starts at the lower depths – nearly escaping the war and arriving in the US with petty cash in her pocket. She begins as a 'mechanic' at the local 'garage' chopping stolen cars and selling them for parts through the back door. She is an easy target within the hyper-masculine environment but fights back the misogyny and establishes her place in the pecking order.

Driven by her survival instinct and hubris she builds alliances and establishes her power. She deposes the former boss and takes over the business. She expands its operations and network and in time creates Buffalo's most audacious crime alliance exporting stolen vehicles in bulk to Russia.

The heist and the genius behind the thefts drive the story in the fast lane. In every episode, we get closer to the inner workings and ever-evolving methods of the gang and marvel at Blink's ideas and vision. She and her loyal team of "artists" stage the thievery with great imagination and bravado. We are seduced by their genius while constantly dreading the end of the 'dream'.

Blink is a non-conventional gangster protagonist. Her story brings a poignant commentary on contemporary gender politics. She is a neo-feminist gangster and conducts her business with a strong feminist brand. She works doubly hard to cut her path through machismo. Every day she combats gender inequalities and stereotypes as they play out at the lower depths of the hyper-masculine criminal world.

Who is Blink?



Anastasia, aka Blink, is twenty-five. She left Ukraine after her boyfriend Kirill got enlisted and shot fatally. She first escaped to Poland and from there arranged a fake marriage in the US landing her in Buffalo.

Back home, Blink worked at a car garage. Spending days at the shop she befriended the mechanics who taught her everything about cars – soon, she could phase the camshaft without using a computer. She was a fearless driver, earning good money on local street races. She earned her nickname through her special gift for stealing cars. As the war broke out, she found employment fixing military vehicles damaged on the front. Back home she was already 'somebody', but with the death of Kirill, and fast deteriorating life in Ukraine, there was nothing to keep her there.

How do we Meet Blink?

A sexy supped Camaro stands at an empty intersection at night. Oso (30) is behind the wheel, smoking. Blink, wearing a black formal dress, sits beside staring intently into the dark road ahead. The traffic lights change casting a red glare on her face. Headlights appear in the distance - her eyes focus on the oncoming car. Her phone vibrates and she looks at the screen.

Lips (30) is driving a red Mustang - she sends a text and puts down her cell. She is stalking a fancy black BMW. The Beamer stops at the lights. Lips pulls behind and hits its rear end. She watches as Pit Bull (30) gets out of the Beamer and examines the damage. He approaches Lips.

Blink watches them. She gets out of the Camaro and swiftly moves across the road towards the Beamer. Her move is timed to perfection.

As Pit Bull approaches Lips, she pulls a bloodied napkin and wipes her nose. "Are you O'K, ma'am"? She nods, clearly distressed. Pit Bull tries to open the door, but it's locked.

Blink sneaks behind him and slides into the Beamer. She looks in the rear-view mirror and steps on the gas.

Oso starts the Camaro and makes a sharp U-turn. As he passes Pit Bull, he calls out mockingly: "Are you O'K, ma'am?" Lips burst out laughing and spits droplets of blood on Pit Bull's face. He yanks back and quickly wipes the splutter from his lips. "What ta fuck?!" Lips laugh out loud.

Blink sees this in the rear-view mirror and stops the car. She does a fierce three-pointer and rashes back to the intersection. She gets out and approaches Pit Bull.

BLINK

What ta' fuck are you goofing
around for?

PIT BULL

She spit on me.

BLINK

Deal! It's a fucking fake
blood, Pit Bull. And this
isn't over until we clear,
clear?

PIT BULL

It's her fucking saliva.

BLINK

Deal! (To Lips) And why is
your window down? (Lips
shrugs) What if he grabbed
your keys?

We realize this is a rehearsal and Blink is the 'director' drilling a newly designed heist with her team.

The Story

Later, we see Blink, Lips, Oso, and Pit Bull chopping a brand-new Lexus at the back lot of a shady garage. We learn they all work for Pzo, the old boss, who sells stolen cars for parts. Blink gets a small share of the profits compared to the risk they take. Blink has a different idea for the business.

Trying to find a footing in Buffalo, Blink meets Lips, a popular character in the local small-time criminal scene. She introduces Blink to Oso and Pit Bull. Turns out Blink and Lips have lots in common and they quickly bond. After a crazy night out, Lips takes Blink to her ex-husband's home, to show her, her estranged six-year-old son. The visit ends up in a fight and her ex throws them out. Seeing her boy, Lips falls apart. Blink takes care of her. This brings them together.

Blink, Oso, and Pit Bull frequent local street racing making small bets for fun. During a showoff after a party, Blink challenges Oso and embarrasses him in front of the crew.

He's pissed while others are impressed with Blink's driving skills and grit. They pitch her to Pzo as a driver. He gives her a chance and brings her on a job. She nails it! The next day she shows up with Lips and introduces her as her business partner. They negotiate a bump in pay and set new rates for drivers. Blink quickly establishes herself as the new talent at the shop while Lips takes care of contracts and payments.

The two women form an alliance and push back against Pzo's attempts to rip them off. He gets annoyed but is intrigued by Blink's obvious skill. "Were you watching your daddy supping up his Torino?" "He didn't have a Torino. He drove a Russian Volga and killed himself driving drunk".

Blink is not interested in working for Pzo - she wants better margins. She brings to the garage her own stolen cars and chops them after-hours for an un-shared profit. She recruits Oso and Pit Bull who form an independent crew. Blink designs increasingly more daring and ingenious theft stunts, while they plan, rehearse, and eventually execute them on the road to perfection. Real money trickles in.

Pzo gets a whiff of their side activities and catches them red-handed while chopping a Mercedes at night. He threatens to let them go. He reveals that he pays 'taxes' to Jean Stephan, an old oligarch from Montreal whose Quebec Ring has for generations controlled trans-Atlantic export including the Buffalo Port. His 'soldiers' from the Laurentians collect the taxes. Pzo threatens Blink to tip Jean Stefan if she continues and makes them pay him a share.

Blink is furious and looks for a workaround. Chopping yields low profits compared to re-selling the cars out of Buffalo. She reaches out to the local Russian ring

wanting to tap into their market to push the merchandize. She and Lips visit Vlad who is open to the deal. They also reach out to Korean, Jewish, and Jamaican rings forcing a 'healthy market completion'. As they increase the volume of stolen cars, they expand storage locations and train crews. They build new friendships and create new enemies in the process.

Her expanding activities get under the radar of Jean Stephan who pays them a surprise visit just as her crew is about to take a car. "Do you have good insurance on your car, ma'am?" "You don't look like an insurance guy." "You should pay a premium on all cars you drive, whether you own them or not." He drives away leaving her concerned.

Pzo counts the money and hands it to Blink – she takes it, it isn't much. "How do I get in touch with Jean Stephan?" "Look him up in the Yellow Pages." He smiles and advises her to "drive safely".

Lips helps Blink dress up for a formal event. It's not her usual self, but she looks stunning! Lips drops her in front of a fancy club. The valley approaches, but Lips waves him away and peels off.

Inside the fancy club, Blink scans the tables and sees Jean Stephan in a booth surrounded by his entourage – fancy clothes, food, and drinks - it's a debauchery! He notices her – wow! He is intrigued, maybe even impressed. He invites her to join their company. She sneaks in and sits among the men. He introduces his affiliates; they seem to 'own' the place. This is the life Blink wants.

After desert, Jean Stephan proposes a fun challenge: who manages to break into his brand-new Maserati. They all head out to the back lot. On her way out, Blink

introduces herself as JS's 'assistant' and asks the wardrobe guy, Adam (17), for his coat.

At the back lot, two young 'pros' are working on the door, while others are watching. JS is looking at his watch. Blink gets close to him and puts the jacket over his shoulders. He likes this gesture. The guys are not succeeding and the onlookers begin to chuckle. Blink drops "I can open her in thirty seconds." The men laugh, but JS calls his crew off. "Let her try." Blink walks over to the car, takes out JS's keys, and beeps open the Maserati. JS is taken aback; he touches his empty pocket. Blink doesn't stop there, she slides inside the Maserati and peels off. JS looks on concerned for his car but impressed.

The next morning, Blink returns the Maserati to JS's home. It's a mansion. When she gets in, she is surprised to see him in a bathrobe. A moment later, they sit inside a spacious jacuzzi - It's an authentic Romanesque bath with golden plated tiles and porcelain sculptures. The water is steaming between them. "You always do business in a bathroom?" "Are we doing business?" They engage in conversation about Blink's future plans. JS is impressed and offers her a managerial position. "I'd rather work for myself."

A few days later, Blink arrives at the club with her payment. She sees the coat man, Adam, severely beaten up. His arm is in a cast. She asks him what happened, but Adam doesn't want to say. She storms upstairs and confronts JS. "Why did you beat up the kid? It wasn't his fault; I took your key!" JS is slightly amused: "That was your choice, but he works for me. He's lucky he's my godson." She is furious, throws him the money, and storms out.

Blink works relentlessly to expand the business. She wants to be in control of every aspect and perfect it. She is looking for a strategic entry point into bigger markets. She targets only insured high-end cars and the new generation of theft is designed to 'protect' private owners while taking only from the rich insurance corporations. She designs the hits to fit insurance policies to make it easy for the owners to claim their losses, while hard for the lawyers to decline the claims. She pitches herself as the modern female Robin Hood. She is uncompromising in developing new methods and drilling new scenarios turning them into perfect heists. She often ignores risk factors daring and frustrating the team.

We eventually see the scenario that Blink and her crew were rehearsing in the first episode as it plays out in real-time. Instead of Pit Bull, the real owner of the BMW comes out. He doesn't seem to be very 'sympathetic' to seeing Lips' bloody napkin and orders her to get out of the car. Blink watches alarmed by Oso's car. The owner is an off-duty cop and he quickly becomes in charge of the situation. Pit Bull panics and pops from the back seat with a gun. The ex-cop docks and pulls out his gun. Lips tries to back up, but instead, she drills right into the back of the Beamer. The cop freaks out and starts shooting. Lips shifts to reverse and peels off, but before she has a chance to three-point and run away, a bullet goes through the windshield and lands in her chest. Blink watches Lips' car slowly roll into a ditch. The cop approaches it at gunpoint. Oso is frozen, Blink pushes him out and jumps behind the wheel. She steps on the gas and accelerates towards the cop. She hits him hard from behind; his body flies and flips in the air, and thumps lifelessly on the road.

Moments later Blink is speeding to the hospital with Lips bleeding in the passenger seat. She knows she can't check her in, the cops will be all over this.

She needs to make a decision. She sees Lips losing consciousness and slows down the car. She pulls over to the side of a dark suburban street and waits for Lips to expire.

The accident sets the cops on a chase. Blink needs to disappear. She reaches out to Jean Stephan for help. His feelings obstruct his judgment. He agrees to help her. This jeopardizes his critical relationship with the Police Chief who already reached out to him for leads. It puts him in a tricky spot.

Blink is at her lowest. She feels responsible for Lips' death. She can't shake it off. She goes to visit her boy but can't make herself knock on the door. She turns the pain into determination and begins to work on a much more ambitious version of the dream she once shared with Lips.

Blink's new business vision averts violence. It explores new markets and exports to Eastern Europe and later to the Middle East. This is a game changer, but as her operations grow, she attracts more attention from the police as well as a keener gaze of the regional rings.

Jean Stephan develops a weakness for Blink but it's increasingly more difficult for him to keep the cops in the dark. His Montreal boss, Joachim gets suspicious and sends out Maurice Boucher (Mom) to keep an eye on him. His surveillance and the increasing presence of the cops create an escalation of antagonistic forces that oppose Blink's expansion and safety.

The physical threat gets close to her family. She manages to protect them and navigate the storm. She keeps her head low for a while and slowly invests in building her alliances on all sides.

Looking for a new 'circle of friends' she crosses paths with Kanat, an Uzbek who manages shipment of Russian opioids to the US. He gives her an idea for a new market: Russia. She develops a partnership with Kanat that leads to an unprecedented boom in business and profits.

For every victory, there is a fall and a price to pay, but eventually, Blink sets up a multimillion-dollar underground enterprise made up of expert car thieves, sales agents, distributors, exporters, port and customs officials, and police affiliates, as well as a myriad of "support groups," that collude with the Buffalo municipal police and the Bureau of Motor Vehicles – providing fake VI numbers.

Her growing economic significance in Buffalo and her unwillingness to make her revenues transparent to the Quebecois create huge tensions and cause her frequent losses. Blink invests in expanding her own 'army' to protect her goods and crews. She assembles a personal guard to protect her, but even with them around, she's shot at and nearly dodges the bullet. She is threatened but never stops and remains steadfast in running her business on her terms. The battle between David and Goliath rages on!

Blink runs the world's only car heist school at the peak of her operations, training its thieves while "processing" and exporting mass volumes of high-end stolen cars to Russia. She takes personal orders from prominent Russian politicians and oligarchs. Her final opus magnum is to send one thousand stolen Jeeps to Russia.

Her team put them on a cargo ship headed for Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky port on Kamchatka Peninsula from where it's planned to head to Vladivostok, but the ship gets stuck in ice crossing the Chukchi Sea. The Russian coastguard rescues it and confiscates the merchandise at the same time as Blink gets arrested.

Where is the Story Heading?



Blink's long-term business partner and the original member of the crew Oso rats her out and she is convicted. She prepares to operate the business from the inside, but it isn't that simple. Her closest friends turn away and Blink struggles to

keep control of her position and influences. Joachim puts a muzzle on Jean Stephan and he too decides to distance himself. She is on her own and completely exposed in jail, and it looks like the whole thing is going to collapse. But, she has been in this place before. Crawling out of the gutter is in Blink's DNA. She finds a way to hold on with her fingernails, until the last day inside.

She walks out with much thicker skin and a much bigger idea. She sets to work harder and smarter to claim her 'rightful' position at the top of the hill. Her growing revenues need laundering, which directs Blink to charity work. Her generous donations open new opportunities and feed her political growth. While entering this new arena, she catches the attention of other powerful women, who in their spheres fight against influential men. While swinging between glamorous philanthropy and gritty crime, she falls in love with her new multi-faceted persona.

Her business is in direct conflict with her newly emerging political persona. She uses dirty money to support not only charities but to further promote her own political campaign. As she moves up the social ladder it becomes increasingly harder for her to fit in. Her new friends don't know that she's taking evening classes in feminism to keep up with their conversations. Her balancing act becomes increasingly more difficult and spectacular.

What's to come in Next Seasons?

Season 1

From zero to a small enterprise exporting stolen cars in twelve episodes.

Season 2

Blink launders rapidly growing profits through charities. Her 'philanthropic work' catches eye of Victoria, a trustee for GAIN – Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition. Blink 'generously supports' GAIN opening a high valve for washing dirty money. Blink wins Victoria's heart, trust, and unconditional support, and helps her to make a move on the major new mission: Charity Water – bringing clean water to 800 million people in developing countries. In the end game, Blink decides to pursue the mission for herself and outbids Victoria. She secures Charity Water for herself. She eventually finds her own charity: Blink Foundation with a broad humanitarian agenda that incorporates several missions. She engulfs and overtakes Victoria's GAIN.

Season 3

Blink becomes a celebrity in the philanthropic society and brushes against politics. She sees an advantage in entering the political sphere. She aligns herself with Preston, a lesbian city council. The feminist alliance unites them in the man-dominated political milieu at the city hall. Blink finances Preston's campaign for the Mayor, and positions herself close to her.

Season 4

Blink steals more cars than she can process. She expands the school and the export channels, but it's not enough. She blackmails Preston to help her create a

fully independent international distribution, which allows her to push the cars outside of the state without a trace and to set up exports beyond Buffalo. Blink begins to clear her storage and initiates a massive movement of convoys moving the stolen cars across the country. The new channels bring great financial success! Blink secretly tips the authorities about Preston's shady move and the city opens an investigation on her. Blink helps her to contain it and avoid legal actions, but she has to step down from her office. Preston is indebted but still devastated. Blink eyes at the newly opening opportunity. She gains Preston's endorsement.

Season 5

Blink enters the Mayor's race and self-finances the campaign - huge billboards with her face hang all over the city. A star is born sending ripples across social media and the press. She uses her underground network to expose and trip up the rival and wins the race.

Once in power, she changes the bylaw that allows deep sea cargo ships to enter Buffalo port letting her export large volumes of cars directly to Russia. Her merchandise can now flow through the fingers of paid local port customs. The cars vanish without a trace. The monopoly for transatlantic export has always been fully controlled by the Quebecois Ring. Blink must amend the damages and 'befriend' Joachim, and negotiate a new arrangement. But, instead, she goes behind his back directly to Sadiq, Joachim's partner that has an affiliation with Wagner Group in Africa. From there, she can supply the Russian and African markets. She offers Sadiq a better deal and he agrees to dump Joachim. He

moves his charters from Montreal to Buffalo. Joachim is set on fire. It's a war! Will she find a way to win it?

Thematic Core



Blink is a story about an ingenious rebel who fights against gender prejudice and transforms her life. She represents a meeting place – a crash – between the poverty and blue-collar upbringing from which she rises and the wealth, privilege, and sophistication to which she aspires. She has a huge dream and the guts to chase after it.

Her journey is self-driven and aims at breaking the mold. Her dream is constantly threatened. She dreads that her glorious dream may prove only a fantasy, a bubble that may burst at any moment.

Blink emanates strength and genius, but wrestles with ugly personal demons. When she was fifteen, she got pregnant and let her mother care for her daughter, Gabriela. They made a pact never to tell Gabriela that Blink is her real mother. Underneath the 'tough gangster' is a broken mother. She is desperate to reform her mistakes, but confronting her daughter proves much more difficult than running a multimillion-dollar corporation.

The story emanates a timely theme that is rarely packaged into a crime genre. It engages with contemporary gender politics while delivering drama and a jolt of adrenaline.

"Blink"

Original Story by Rafal Sokolowski