


# My Russian Roulette

based on an  
unbelievable  
**true** story



When a 65 years-old woman finally meets the love of her life online, she can't tell if he's a victim of money laundering or... a romance scammer.

# My Russian Roulette

an unbelievable **true** story

Hi!! Just talked to my bank and the wire transfer will be very easy. I can do on line and need the following:  
Routing/Account#/swift code  
Name of bank and address

My love

Even if it is winter, your smile awakens spring in my heart!"

I feel like crying

Wed 10:21 AM

It will be ok

Wed 10:22 AM

I'm forever in your debt

Your kindness will not be forgotten

I was just talking to my mom

Apparently that guy living on the 25th floor stills has an eye for my BEamer

So he is willing to pay 25k dollars

My love

I have been snatched away by some miraculous saving grace from the jaws of going to jail for a crime I didn't commit

Have You Seen Me?



# My Russian Roulette

based on an unbelievable true story

## Synopsis

Rae's Russian Roulette story ends in an FBI interrogation room where two agents pressure her with a series of questions. "Money laundering" comes up. They want her to clarify how she got involved...

Rae (65 y.o.) explains that she met Christof, a Russian, in December 2018. They talked every day and she fell in love with his sweet words. Soon, he had to leave for Houston for an oil contract with a well-known oil company. However, his contract changed to building a gas station in Istanbul, Turkey. While he heads that way with promises of coming back soon, Rae enlists herself in a competition for a promotion at work.

Friends and family start asking questions: "Are you sure he's not a catfish?" Although she hasn't met him in person yet, Rae disarms them with the simple fact that he hasn't ask her for money. Thankfully, Rae can rely on Tiffany's friendship at work, and on Susie, her neighbor, for fun Thursday-Rita nights.

January 2019, although Christof successfully starts construction, everything in his bank accounts disappear. Christof's accountant has been using his accounts for illegal activities. Christof must fund up to 60% of the project before he can receive reimbursement from Husk. He sells his BMW, his Rolex, and family members contribute to help him. He confesses that he can't come see her because he hasn't paid his hotel bill of \$30K.

Rae holds her breath: "Is this when he asks her for money?" Yes, it is. Now worried he might be conning her; Rae asks for a videocall. He agrees it's time, for Valentine's Day.

Suddenly, no words from Christof. Three days later, he finally calls: he was detained in Turkey regarding the investigation in Russia for money laundering and funding terrorism. He begs Rae for the money. He promises that it's a loan. Rae's friends say "No, you still haven't seen him." But Rae's heart wants to rescue him...

Rae withdraws one of her 401Ks of \$32,000 and wires it to a Turkish account. Grateful, he thanks her for standing by him. He sends her his flight ticket; he'll be there in 5 days. Although the competition at work is fierce, Rae takes a week off to spend with Christof. Saturday morning, March 9, 2019, he's on his way to the airport. Rae doesn't hear from him during his 5-hour layover in London...

As Rae celebrates her promotion at work, Baba, Christof's supervisor at Husk, calls Rae. Christof was arrested at the airport by the Turkish government under Russian order – they took him to a Turkish prison.

His attorney, M. Simoneze, tells Rae that the court found Christof guilty of money laundering and terrorism financing, but elected to fine him \$54,000 instead of deporting him. He has 2 weeks to gather the money, or he goes back to Russia. In a letter, Christof begs Rae to help him again. The attorney pressures Rae almost daily to send money. She's the only one who can save him.

Rae wires the money. Unfortunately, the bank puts a 10-day hold on it. Christof and his lawyer do not get it in time for the hearing, so the judge fines them an additional \$34,000 and another 2 weeks. Christof finally calls her after almost 2 months of silence since he's been in prison. He reiterates his love for her: she's his angel, his savior. Charmed by his plea, Rae sends the money needed.

The attorney informs her that while they paid the \$84,000, now there is a tax evasion charge in the amount of \$100,000!

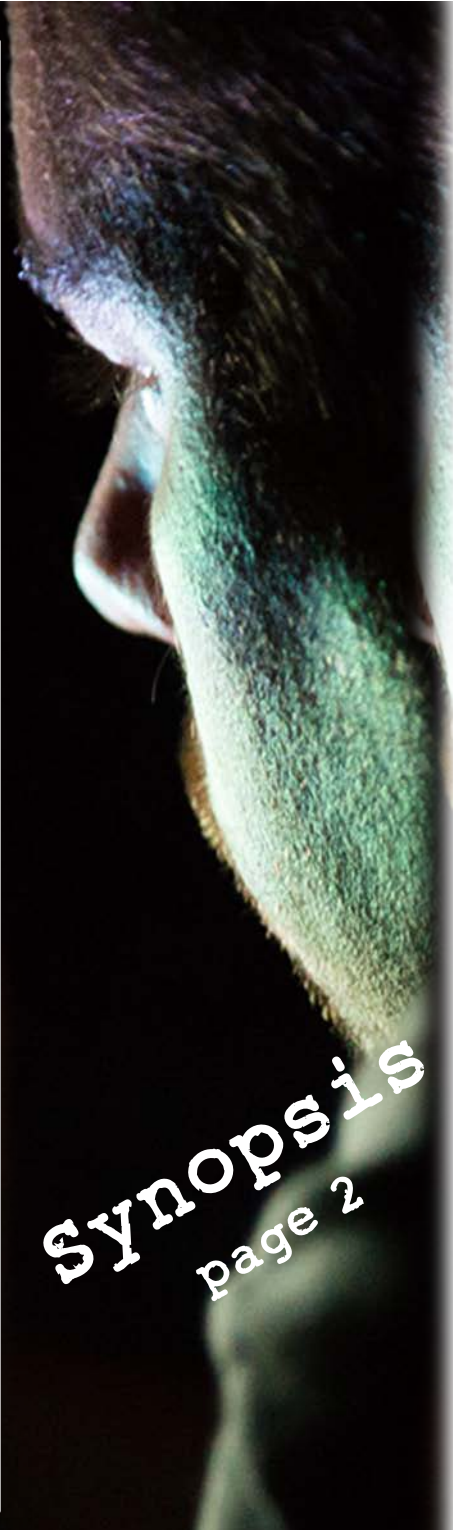
Discouraged, Rae starts to believe she's being scammed and refuses to help. Rae changes her tactic and starts to investigate Christof and Simoneze. She hires an investigator specializing in international dealings and investigations. Christof is not real, no name shows up in Russian birth records, Turkey visa's, Russian embassy in Istanbul, photos are fake, phone number not listed, on a watch list. Of course, Christof denies it all and deduce that someone is trying to make him disappear. Heartbroken, Rae doesn't believe anymore and calls him a "LIAR!" before she hangs up and then reports him as a scammer on the FBI website. Discouraged, Rae focuses on work - her new promotion challenges her plenty anyway - and abandons Christof. She even dates again.

In September 2019, Baba contacts Rae to let her know that Christof is in bad shape. He misses her terribly and needs her more than ever. Missing him and curious, Rae agrees to talk to him. Christof professes his love for her and how a picture of her kept him alive. He promises to refund all the money and promises a refund is on its way. He also shares that his time in prison has allotted him time to think and piece together why his identity has disappeared. His cousin, who died several years ago, worked for some of the higher-archy/Oligarchs of Russia. He thinks Russia has orchestrated his disappearance, because of a "box" his cousin left him. Some information has been decoded, but there is a hard drive that they are unable to retrieve intel, but an IT guy in Istanbul can decode it for \$1500. What's \$1500 after all the money Rae has invested in him - especially when he was able to refund her \$8K so far?


Christof is finally acquitted on December 9<sup>th</sup> and released from prison. They are both so happy to have a chance at a future together. Now he needs \$2K to buy a ticket to see her, a phone, and pay his attorney. Rae sends \$1000. Before she can send the 2nd \$1000, Christof gets kidnapped. The next day, the driver is found dead.

Back to the interrogation room at the FBI, Rae, devastated, hasn't heard back from him. The agents exchange a look. Rae knows what they must think of her story, but no one can understand their love and how they connected. The agents can't offer any comfort but asking her to stay put.

The door opens. Rae leaves through a hallway full of women waiting for their turn to speak about their unknown lover...



**SYNOPSIS**  
page 2



## Writer/ Director's Statement

I met Julie Gordon back in 2018. I was working as a temp receptionist at a corporate property managing company s working for at the time. She was already a Property Managing Director. Right away, I was impressed by her high sense of fashion and style. She always matched from earrings to high heels, and she always looked beautiful. I worked as a temp receptionist sparsely for a year or so. Within that time, I mentioned to a co-worker that I wrote screenplays. Later, Julie shared her wild story to that co-worker who insisted she should turn it into a movie and contact me to do so. Julie didn't wait to talk to me about it. Intrigued, I agreed to meet with her. We were able to meet on December 30th, 2019. She spent more than 2 hours sharing her incredible story to me - which I recorded. She then asked me if I would be interested in writing it.

I have been married 13 years, but before that, my husband Tim and I were in a long-distance relationship for 12 years. It took 7 months before we could meet in person. Back then, there were no video call on phones. We did exchange pictures and talked on the phone, but ultimately, it was a leap of faith and trust to travel from Montreal, Canada to see him in Dallas, Texas. All my friends were warning me not to go: "He could be the Texas Chainsaw Massacre!" I had deeply fallen in love with him, way before meeting him. It is an inexplicable feeling, and yet I have always been interested in sharing my experience through a movie.

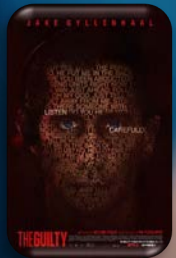
Julie's story was the perfect opportunity to share my love story experience – which could have turn sour like hers – as well as hers – which did turn sour. It was important to me to never see his side of the story. Why would we? She doesn't know for sure who he is. I never knew for sure what Tim was doing. To be true to the story, it had to be one sided, while still entertaining!

I see this film vivid in colors in the beginning. The romance and love make everything so colorful and fun. As his stories become taxing, the colors dull off slowly, until Rae finds her power again and start questioning things. Now, the colors are strong, not as fun, but clear. Although this story is "one-sided visually", I plan on entertain visually and auditorily. The cinematography will also be intimate as we penetrate their private love affair.

The story is thought-provoking and relatable. In our world where social medias have become the mecca for dating, who knows who they are really talking to. This is a major worry as much for parents as for daters. Not only are we dealing with catfishes, but now romance scammers as well. And still, too many people are not aware of their wide reach.

As a Writer/Director, my goal is to create esoteric themed projects with a unique, thought-provoking storytelling style to help widen the audience's views and reconsider their preconceptions through a fun, entertaining way. My Russian Roulette's goal is also to create awareness about romance scams – regardless of people's belief and wiseness...

# Comparable Films



Genre: **Romantic Drama**

Projected budget: **\$500K** (subject to change – according to cast)

Box Office Comparison of Successful Films in the Same or Similar Genre

FILM	BUDGET (estimated)	WORLDWIDE GROSS	ROI
<i>The Tinder Swindler</i> (2022)	\$50,000,000	\$350,000,000	600.00%
<i>Searching</i> (2018)	\$ 800,000	\$ 75,462,037	935.78%
<i>Going the Distance</i> (2010)	\$32,000,000	\$ 42,059,111	31.43%
<i>Unfriended</i> (2012)	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 62,882,090	618.88%
<i>Nobody's Fool</i> (2018)	\$19,000,000	\$ 33,705,333	77.40%
<i>Compliance</i> (2012)	\$ 270,000	\$ 830,700	207.41%
<i>Now is Good</i> (2012)	\$ 500,000	\$ 2,141,436	328.29%
<i>The Guilty</i> (2018)	\$ 570,671	\$ 4,598,051	707.73%

Worldwide gross number obtained on [boxofficemojo.com](http://boxofficemojo.com)

# Character Rae Saxon's Looks

65 y.o, professional, caring,  
impatient, lonely, and  
passionate.

Rae, a commercial property manager, falls in love with a Russian she will never meet in person, but it is the strongest bond she has ever felt with anyone. This bond will take her in a rollercoaster of emotions and challenges.



Sela  
Ward



Melora  
Hardin



Jessica  
Lange



Christine  
Baranski

# Christof Markonvic's Looks

The online / long distance Russian love interest.  
Romantic, poetic, musician, sensitive.

Christof, an engineer, seduces Rae with his romance, his singing, his poetic words, and his promises to love her forever. While we never meet the real Christof in person, we hear his voice, see him in pictures and when Rae fantasizes about him. As he struggles through the conning of his best friend which leads him to being kidnapped and imprisoned, Rae wonders if she is being conned as well or is his love true?



Danila Kozlovsky



Maxim  
Matveev



Pyotr  
Fyodorov



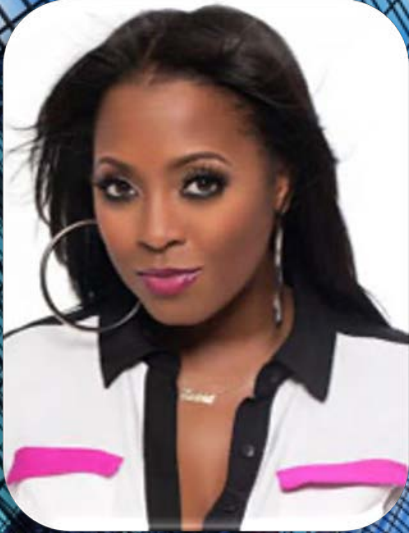
Prokhor  
Dubravin



# Tiffany's Looks

45 y.o., Rae's co-worker and friend.

Tiffany, commercial property manager assistant and friend, married with 2 children. Bored with her own love life, she finds Rae's most interesting. She also supports and encourages Rae's career growth, seeing a mentor in her.



Keisha  
Knight Pulliam



Rashida  
Jones



Paula  
Patton



Thandie  
Newton

# Susie's Looks

40 y.o., Rae's neighbor and friend.

Susie, a real estate agent and neighbor, loves to party and flirt with men. Rae and Susie have a tradition of meeting for "Thursday-rita"! Rarely do they miss. A perfect way to chitchat about their week!



Kate  
Walshs



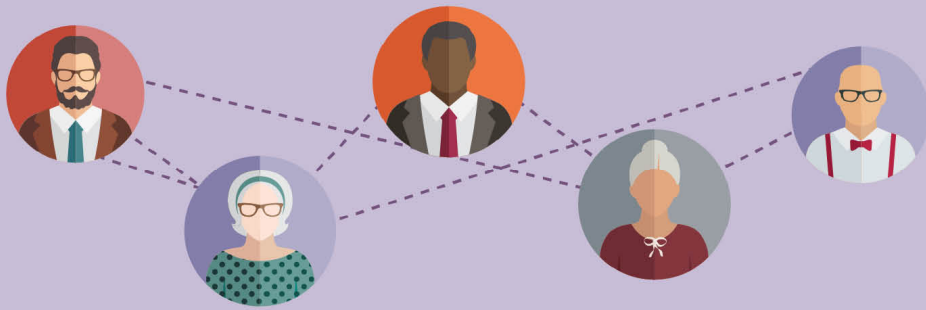
Christina  
Hendricks



Aishwarya  
Rai



Constance  
Wu

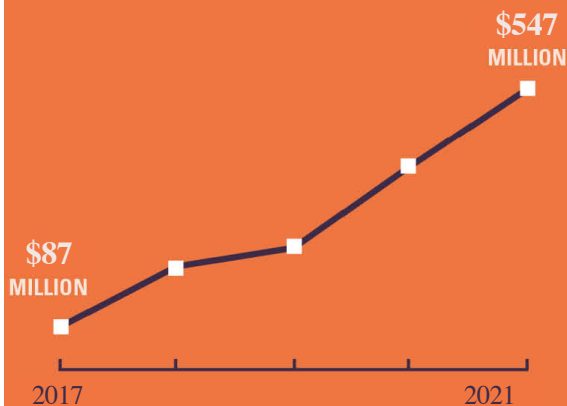


Scammers know millions of people use online dating sites. They are there, too, hiding behind fake profiles.

## COSTLIEST SCAM

**REPORTED  
TO THE FTC  
IN 2021**

**\$547**  
million lost



**REPORTED  
MONEY LOSSES  
INCREASED 6X  
SINCE 2017**

## Signs of a Scam



Professes love quickly.  
Claims to be overseas for business or military service.



Asks for money, and lures you off the dating site.



Claims to need money — for emergencies, hospital bills, or travel. Plans to visit, but can't because of an emergency.

Report romance scams to the dating / social networking site, and to the FTC at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/report-fraud).

Learn more at [ftc.gov/romancescams](https://www.ftc.gov/romancescams).



Julie Gordon  
Producer / Story by

I've been asked to write my bio. This is a first for me, sharing my life experience to an audience. But I wanted to let the world know how real this is. It doesn't just happen to lonely, older women who are retired and living off their social security. It happens to successful, intelligent, career-oriented women who have proven themselves to their family and friends.

I was raised in the Midwest and moved to Texas when I graduated from high school. This started my long, and successful career in real estate, spanning over the course of a 35-year period. In 2019, I was promoted to VP of Property Management. I have a daughter and 3 grandchildren in Dallas. I started online dating in 2010, after my divorce, and it was not always the best experience.

In 2018, I met Christof on a dating site, we talked or texted daily. Before we could meet, he left town on a job out of the country. I thought our relationship was temporarily a long distance one. Our loving, romantic words, and our deep discussions grew into a strong love. However, the story eventually turned to terrorism, Russian Federation, prison, release, and kidnapping. The cunning, diabolical, heartless, sociopathic mind that contrived this story that captured and broke my heart, is portrayed in this screenplay. This is my opportunity to take audiences through my rollercoaster ride of emotions of passionate love, anger, grief, and regret.

## My Russian Roulette

Since 2001, Natasha has written, directed and produced her short films SOLITUDE and ROXY SOLO; wrote and directed COMPULSION 1897 and EMPTY CALORIES (winner of a WorldFest Houston Film Festival Bronze Remi Award). She worked for BBR Productions on productions starring stars such as Christopher Plummer, Susan Sarandon, and Max Von Sydow. In 2013, she completed her 5<sup>th</sup> short entitled MARGARITAS ON THE ROAD, her second short sponsored by the Cirque du Soleil. She directed the first 3 episodes of a web series entitled THE ROSES. Natasha's 2017 Dallas 48 Hour Film Project, SOMETHING BORROWED, SOMEONE BLUE won Best Film, Best Writing as well as Best Cinematography. Natasha was recently hired as the producer, writer, and director for 7 Public Service Announcements for Women In Film Dallas.

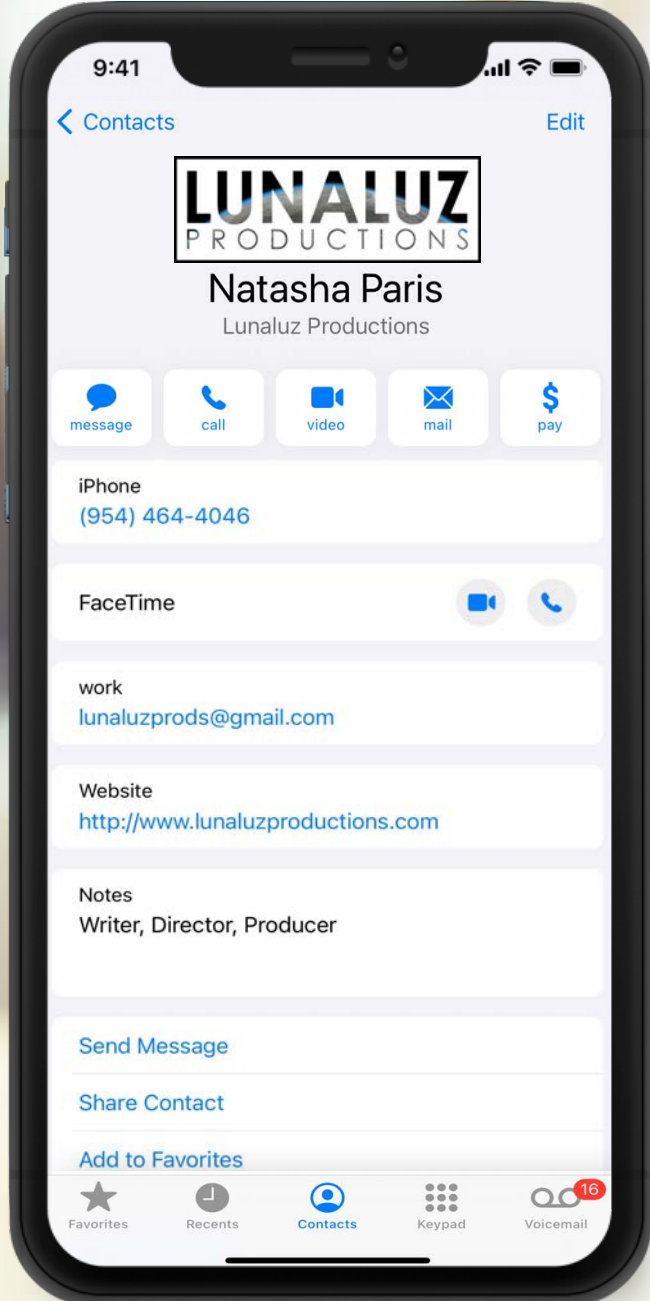
Her screenplays have been rewarded with numerous nominations, especially THE ZODIAC DATER which has recently won the Scriptapalooza Fellowship, and the first draft of most recent screenplay, PANDORA'S VOODOO made it as a Second Rounder at the Austin Film Festival.

So far, Natasha has worked as a writer/script doctor on more than 20 films, as an assistant director in 15, directed 10, and produced over 15. Her short films have been screened in more than 25 various national and international film festivals.



Natasha Paris  
Producer / Director / Writer

# Contact Us



**My  
Russian  
Roulette**  
based on an  
unbelievable **true**  
story