

JOELLE Female, Late 30's/early 40's. BIPOC. Senior Social Worker with Cook County. Passionate, fearless, intelligent, totally committed to her job, sometimes shoots first and asks questions later. Can be stubborn but someone you'd want in your corner. Professionally competent but a mess when it comes to romance. Has never had a live-in partner before. Grew up in a military family that moved all around the States and overseas which is why she's probably so close to her younger brother Michael and is so bad at romantic relationships. Brought up a Baptist but is no longer a Church-goer.

SIOBHAN Female, Mid 30's, Irish, a photographer, intuitive, creative, a dreamer but with a practical side. When her ten year relationship broke down she took a sabbatical from her job as a university lecturer to take up an fellowship with a Chicago photographer. She also works part-time in a cafe and volunteers in a community college. She sublets a small photographic studio which also doubles as her home. She met Marian in the ER when she got bitten by a tic. They hit it off and she offered to take photos of Marian's daughter's First Holy Communion That's where she met Joelle. They joke that they met at Church. Joelle took one of her photography courses at the community college and the rest is history as they say! Had a few casual relationships after her break up but is more interested in a stable committed relationship if she can find the right person and allow herself to trust again. Brought up a Catholic but is no longer a Church-goer. Irish Accent.

MICHAEL Male, BIPOC, late 30's. Nearly two years younger than big sister Joelle. Is a Cook County sheriff's officer married to Marian. They have two young girls. He and Joelle are like chalk and cheese. He's Steady Eddie. Someone you can always rely on. Always thinks before he acts in fact he can be somewhat of a procrastinator. A Church going family man but open minded and always wants to do right by everyone. Likes to play by the rules but can be persuaded to bend them occasionally especially by Joelle. Is a member of the Baptist church and sings in the choir.

MARIAN Female, 30's, mixed race. Born and bred in Chicago. Is a nurse although now only works part-time since she had the girls. Met Michael in their final year of high school. Is a very bubbly, happy person who loves life and believes in living it to the full. Is a hard worker but also likes to party. Wishes that Michael was more adventurous and less of a procrastinator. She's the initiator and decision maker in their relationship. She has a very warm open heart but is no fool. Brought up a Catholic. Is a Church-goes mainly for cultural reasons and because her children go to Catholic schools and are being brought up as Catholic.

NEVIN Male Caucasian, 30's Assigned to Joelle after being promoted from an administrative job as part of an internal promotion and development initiative championed by Joelle. Is very loyal to Joelle, has great numeracy and research skills but hasn't much street sense or people skills. Decided to go through the files in the conference room of Tony's law firm dressed in his usual streetwear which made him stand out like a sore thumb and got him arrested for burglary. Joelle told him to dress appropriately which he interpreted as wearing his newest sneakers.

RITA Female, 40's Joelle's highly ambitious boss. Joined the service after Joelle but has climbed the greasy pole in record time. Has principles but is a politician first. Justifies this by convincing herself that she can do greater good the more power she has. Admires Joelle but also finds it frustrating that she often fails to see "the bigger picture" as she calls it i.e. doesn't consider the enemies she makes along the way or cultivate friends in the right places.

TONY Male, late 30's/early 40's An ex of Joelle's from their college days. Has recently returned to Chicago from New York after his divorce. His Asian American ex-wife has taken

their daughter on a year-long sabbatical to South East Asia to connect her to her South East Asian heritage. Is in the partner fastrack at a downtown law firm. Still has the hots for Joelle