

# #PowerCut

A series by NARRATIVE ARK:  
transformative television

NARRATIVE ARK

"You never change things by fighting the existing reality.  
To change something, build a new model that makes  
the old model obsolete"

BUCKMINSTER FULLER

# #PowerCut WAS BORN OUT OF OUR CONVICTION THAT THE CURRENT WORLD CRISIS IS A FAILURE OF THE IMAGINATION.



It is easier to imagine the extinction of the entire human race than it is to imagine a different way of being.

**We can change that.**

Narrative Ark's 10 episode TV Show #PowerCut begins where we are and carries all of us – all the fractured factions of our broken culture – to a future we can each believe in.



# #PowerCut IS A THRILLER

**February 2023:** Opening in a world of food shortages, rationing and riots, the show begins as one man's quest for redemption. A soldier, betrayed and broken, returns home a fugitive. His homeland has become enemy territory, his moral compass is adrift. To whom can he pledge allegiance, if not Queen and Country?



Lost, he finds hope in a community that is his polar opposite. Tragedy tears him open - but it also gives his compass a new north: he will destroy all those responsible. He revels in being the best of himself - until realisation dawns that the old rules no longer apply, that murder and mayhem are not the answer, that he will need to find new ways to live if he is going to protect those he loves - and given them space to create a way of life that leads to genuine hope.

**As challenging as it is inspiring, #PowerCut steps beyond tribalism. It gives voice to the many tribes so that they will find common cause as our story uncovers new paths, amplifies new voices, empowers new ideas and explores new ways of being in the world.**

# FOOD SHORTAGES, RATIONING AND A CRUMBLING SYSTEM DESPERATELY CLINGING ONTO CONTROL

**Episode 1** bursts onto the scene with a British special forces mission in Russia that goes disastrously wrong. Major NICK AINSLEY has been ordered to break into a secret bio-tech laboratory to steal the DNA technology that will feed the UK. But politicians are political, and the mission is called off just a little bit too late. His team are killed. Nick disappears into the Russian security system.

Nine months later, Nick slides back into the UK, seeking answers. He finds *his wife has remarried, his colleagues believe him dead, and the father who was his rock and role model, has died of grief.*

With nothing left to live for, Nick seeks a private and peaceful way out. But he has reckoned without LUCY, leader of a regenerative community in the west of Scotland.

Lucy doesn't give up easily on the people she's just met, even if they're a tramp she's pulled out of a bin who turns out to have a neat line in inter-personal violence when the local Mafia are pulling heavy.

**Joining him in his loch-side vigil**, Lucy lays her life alongside his. *Thus, in the heart-breaking beauty of a Scottish winter landscape, Nick's broken heart is offered redemption.*

But now his old bosses know he's back, and as the security structures gear up to manage the food crisis and confront radical protest, they're also hunting Nick.







THE EPISODES

The remaining nine episodes are a storm of tension and confrontation. Nick doesn't buy into the pacifist, regenerative, micro-dairy-in-the-polytunnel, polyamorous, non-binary lifestyle of Lucy's Highland community. Everything here is as foreign as any he's encountered in his years undercover.

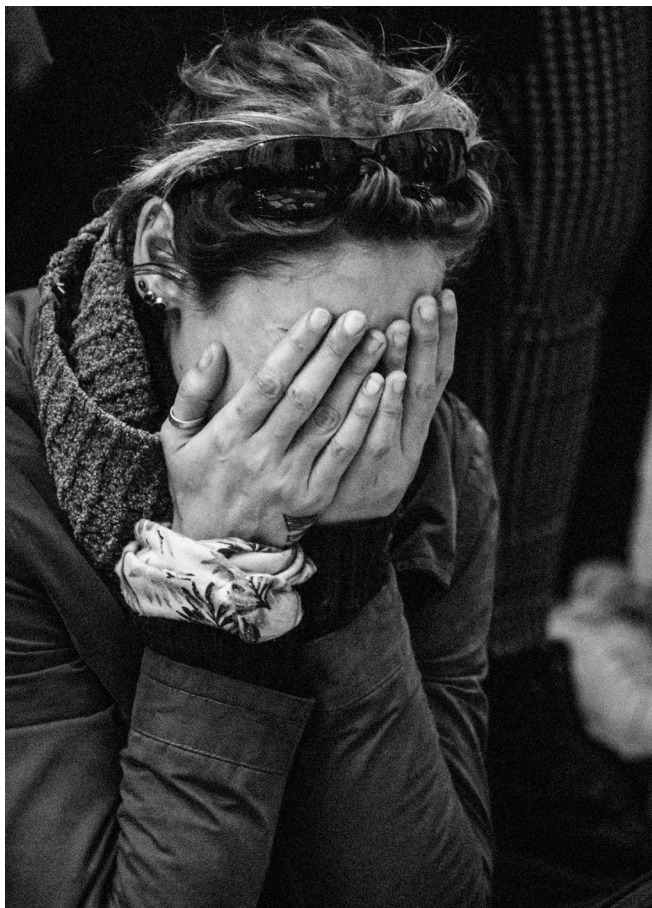
But when the community plans a protest against the biotech giant that owns the Russian gene-tech, Nick is dragged into action. Because some of the 'non-violent activists' seen to be leading the protests are people he knows from his past, and for sure they don't believe in calf-on-cow dairies or home-baked organic sourdough.

**What they're best at is taking a peaceful march and turning it into a riot** so violent that the police have the moral cover to start firing live rounds. They've done it in Estonia, Portland, Palestine — and now they're doing it here...

**A RIOT SO VIOLENT THAT  
THE POLICE HAVE THE  
MORAL COVER TO START  
FIRING LIVE ROUNDS**



Which is how, in a **climactic high-intensity episode midseason**, *Lucy ends up dead, posthumously smeared by a State that knows exactly how to destroy an enemy's reputation.*



## HIS HOMELAND HAS BECOME ENEMY TERRITORY

Nick is devastated, but at least he has a mission now: **he will take out every single member of the command chain that caused Lucy's death – right to the top.** His homeland has become enemy territory, and he is a lone hunter facing enormous odds. This is his comfort zone: here, he is the best of the best; unstoppable.

Alongside revenge, though, he has to take care of Lucy's late-teens daughter, Finn, and her high-tech hacker partner, Alyz. And these two have very different ideas of how the world should be, and their role in it. **They're not going to wait around to be victims**, or even let Nick martyr himself for his new cause.



# NOTHING IS AS IT SEEMS



**Set against him is the entire weight of the security services.**

Nick is hunted by his oldest friend, leading all the overt and covert apparatus of a desperate state, for which Nick is a dangerous irritation in a much more complex crisis.

The hunt for Nick uncovers new truths, and we begin to doubt his motives. How did he get out of Russia? Who is pulling his strings? Nothing is as it seems and my enemy's enemy can sometimes be my friend. What matters? What are we fighting for? What's possible in a world hurtling towards chaos?

*#PowerCut portrays a vivid, desperate society, full of passionate and overcommitted people: no goodies and baddies, but a whirl of politicians and scientists and activists and soldiers and spies all fighting for what they think is right, fighting to preserve or fighting to reform, fighting to understand a world changing faster than they realize.*



# KILLING SOLVES NOTHING

Nick is good at what he does. But as his ruthless revenge reaches its explosive climax and the helicopter containing the Prime Minister and the pioneering biotech CEO goes up in flames he sees at last how little he has achieved and how far the world has to go.

Lucy was right. Killing solves nothing and 'winning' is not the answer if it means half the world loses. What has Nick learned – what has any of us learned – from the futile chaos? Can the most destructive figure become a force for renewal? Will we realise in time that the most vulnerable have answers we never dreamed of?







## THE ONLY THING WE CAN SAY FOR SURE IS THAT NOTHING IS PREDICTABLE

Future seasons will follow Nick, Finn and Alyz through a world where synchronicity meets singularity and the only thing we can say for sure is that nothing is predictable.

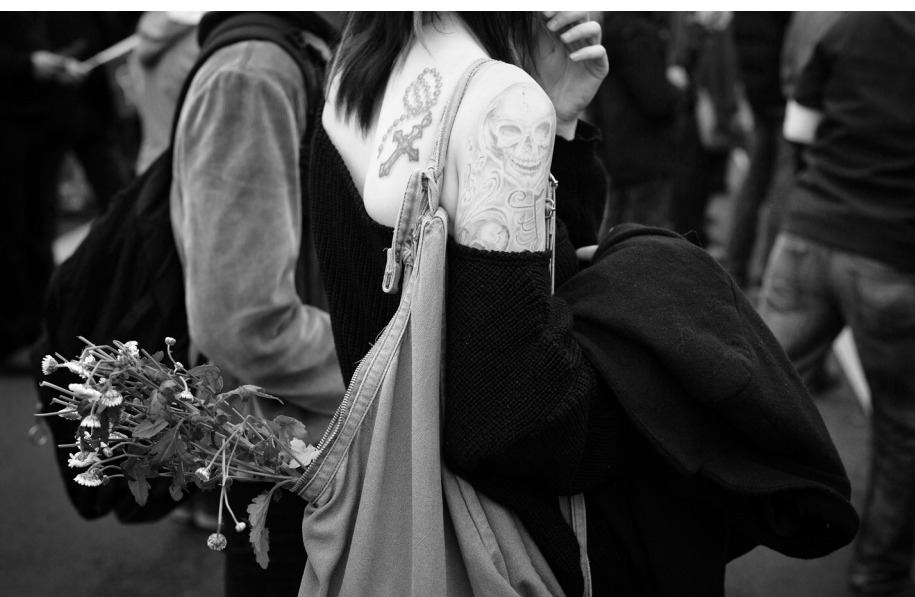
Finn and Alyz and their generation must confront players in every system with their own alternative visions of reaction or change. If Nick can help them, perhaps he can lay all his ghosts to rest. He will die before the end – sacrifice is the most powerful motif in our human lexicon – but he will do so knowing that the future is safe in the hands of the new generations.



**#PowerCut is defined by a consistent and gripping visual and emotional tone.** Its key elements run through every aspect of characterisation, narrative, and filming style.

## PASSION

The people in this world care, very strongly. About survival. About family. About feeding the nation. About protecting the nation. About getting to the top. About science. About secrets. About truth. About power. About saving the world. About changing the world. In some cases, about each other.



## AMBIGUITY

No goodies and baddies in #PowerCut, no rights and wrongs, no one getting the girl (or boy) at the end. It's not only that some people's motivations seem obscure to us, or changing, or suspicious. It's that no one set of motivations is entirely negative or positive. Almost everyone things they're doing something right. Almost everyone is wrong; half-wrong, anyway...





# UNEASE

There's lots to worry about in #PowerCut, and lots of people worrying about it. Who is really in charge? What do they want? Who does he work for? Who do I work for? Can I trust what's in the news? Can I trust what's in this sandwich? How can we protect all the good things I think this nation has been? How can we destroy all the bad things I think this nation has become? How will I feed my children?



THE TONE



# OTHERNESS

There is a natural world out there and we have yet to understand its power, and how we might relate to it. There is a world of technological change, and we have yet to understand its power, and how we might adapt to it. There is a world of advanced, amoral, anti-national, activist young people out there, and we have yet to understand its power and how we might unleash it.

## CONTACT

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