

THE BANKER'S DAUGHTER

Based on a True Story

LOGLINE

When Brooklyn's most feared Black numbers man moves his family to Acapulco to escape the FBI and Italian mob, his youngest daughter is kidnapped in broad daylight—sparking a harrowing 24-day ordeal of survival, betrayal, and unimaginable resilience.

THE WORLD

- Pete Mooney – Known as “the biggest numbers man in Brooklyn,” Pete built a multi-million-dollar street empire while navigating alliances and rivalries with mob legends like Joe Gallo, Paulie Vario, and Little Davey Petillo.
- In 1971, The New York Times reported Pete's empire was pulling in \$27,000 a day. With the FBI circling, Pete fled to Acapulco, Mexico—a glittering haven for celebrities and criminals alike.
- Pete's story began decades earlier: his father, an Irish immigrant who arrived in 1910, married a Black woman from Virginia. His family disowned him for that choice, but together they raised nine children in Brooklyn—all in the name of love. Pete was the seventh of those nine.
- In his teens, Pete was sent to Sing Sing for robbery. There, he was taken under the wing of Little Davey Petillo, Lucky Luciano's right-hand man, who later set him up to run craps games when they were both out of prison.

THE INCITING EVENT

On May 24, 1976, eight-year-old Gaylie Mooney was abducted while walking to school. Bound to a tree deep in the mountains of Guerrero, she endured hunger, fear, and sexual assault while her family received a \$5M peso ransom demand.

Failed exchanges led to gunfire in a cemetery, murdered kidnappers, and corrupt federales. For 24 days, Gaylie survived the impossible—until she was finally returned to her father's arms.

THE FAMILY SAGA

- Pete: From Street hustler to independent crime boss, Pete's life was a collision of loyalty, power, and survival in the shadow of the Italian mob. He refused to testify against Paulie Vario, a choice that spoke to his code of honor and silence.
- Lois: Raised in privilege as the granddaughter of Brooklyn's first Black judge, Lois became a reluctant queenpin's wife—her descent into depression after the kidnapping was as tragic as it was human.
- Gaylie: The beloved youngest daughter whose childhood innocence was stolen, but whose voice carries the truth of this story.

THE SERIES

- Structure: A sweeping limited series told through three intertwined arcs—Pete's rise and fall, Lois's fractured elegance, and Gaylie's abduction and survival.
- Tone & Style: Man On Fire meets American Gangster—a visceral, character-driven crime saga anchored by a family's private nightmare.
- Talent: Potential directors include Spike Lee (Brooklyn authenticity), Regina King (female gaze & emotional depth), and Issa López (Tigers Are Not Afraid, Mexican perspective). Pete Mooney (Marcus Scribner & Chris Jackson) Lois Mooney (Nia Long, Sanna Lathan, Regina Hall)

WHY NOW

Is there a greater American story than that of a white immigrant who marries a Black woman, builds a family of nine children in the name of love, and whose son would rise to become one of Brooklyn's most powerful—and feared—independent crime bosses?

This is more than a mob story. It's an untold piece of Black and American history, a survivor's testimony, and a cross-border tale that exposes power, corruption, and resilience.

BEYOND THE SERIES

A companion documentary deepens the impact—interviews with Gaylie, now a mother and coach; Pete, who lived until the age of 97; and surviving witnesses to a story buried in silence for decades.

THE BANKER'S DAUGHTER is both crime saga and survival epic—at its core, it's about a little girl stolen, a family fractured, and a legacy that demands to be told.