

BOOK OF JEB

* (Very loosely based on real-life events and lawyer-type people)

AN IRREVERANT COMEDY-DRAMA * | PREMIUM CABLE

"If I had one wish, I would make
men stop their lying, deceiving and
be honest and upright in all their
dealings with one another, and above
all honor the name of the Deity."
Brigham Young

" There's nothing that
will change someone's
moral outlook quicker
than cash in large
sums."

Larry Flynt

INSPIRATION

She is the daughter of a German Jew who escaped the Nazis in 1939 as part of the rescue effort *Kindertransport*, who later came to America and married an avowed atheist, then promptly became a born-again Christian. This cemented Gilda Hauser Porcari's complicated relationship with religion (and her father) making her uniquely qualified to write the Book of Jeb.

Gilda's husband is an IP attorney who introduced her to the real life inspiration for Jeb – a strict Mormon trademark attorney living in Salt Lake, who has a majority of clients in the porn industry.

In preparation for writing the Book of Jeb, Gilda has studied principals of trademark law and traveled the Country attending legal forums regarding intellectual property matters.



LOGLINE

When his unscrupulous late father leaves the family law practice to his secret polygamist wife, a straight-laced Mormon trademark attorney finds a bold solution – he goes to work for a global porn conglomerate to earn enough cash to buy the firm back.



THE SET UP

SALT LAKE CITY
EARLY 2000S.

The land of religious conservatives and 3.2 beer. At the epicenter, conservative Mormon trademark lawyer, Jeb Jensen, who wields his statutes and sermons in the courtroom like a smut fighting caped crusader.

Meanwhile, two states over and a world away... the amateur adult film industry is about to explode, threatening to crumble the traditional pillars of porn monopoly.

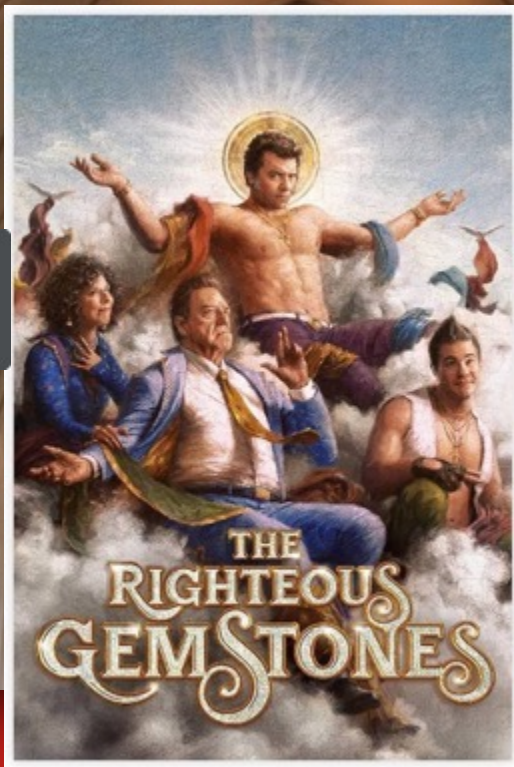




This brings Flint Stone, L.A. pornographer, to Salt Lake to entice Jeb, our pinnacle of piety, to join him in his seedy underworld.

Initially, Jeb rejects Flint's advances, but when faced with the unexpected scandalous death of his father, Jeb is suddenly in danger of losing control of the prestigious family law practice, so, in an unavoidable move he thinks is only temporary, Jeb joins forces with Flint - and so begins his descent into the netherworld of the seedy San Fernando Valley.

COMPS



THE PILOT

There was a man in the land of Salt Lake, and that man was perfect and upright...

We meet JEB JENSEN in the courtroom, witnessing his landslide victory over pornographer FLINT STONE, who has infringed on the trademark of Brigham Young University. Stone's pun-ily titled porn series "Bring 'Um Young U" (about college girls whose "oral skills are all outside of the classroom") doesn't stand a chance against our righteous orator Jeb. Flint is so impressed, he suggests Jeb switch sides and work for him. While a lucrative offer, Jeb refuses. That night, the family patriarch, JOSEPH JENSEN, keels over of a heart attack in the midst of a tryst with his secret "second" wife JOHANNA BATES. His death exposes their plural marriage, and the fact that Joseph has left the family law firm not to his own sons, but instead has named Johanna, an uber-successful slip-and-fall lawyer with billboards across Salt Lake, as his successor.

One that feared god and eschewed all evil...

Jeb's world is shattered. His life's work, his family values, and his standing in the Mormon world have all been threatened by his father's betrayal. His dream of winning his father's love and approval after years of blind obedience will never be realized. Johanna threatens the Jensen legacy further by threatening to sell the family law firm for a cool fifty million if Jeb doesn't get in line and work for her. Jeb refuses and sets about looking for ways to reverse and outlast his father's betrayal. His position within the Latter Day Saints community, his legal reputation, and his standing as the next patriarch of the Jensen family, all hang in the balance.

And the lord said unto satan, behold all that he hath is in thy power...

When the partners (and even his own brothers) fail to stand with Jeb and stand up to the Satan-like Johanna, Jeb calls for reinforcements – his old Yale law school buddy, DOM PORCELLI. Together they find a way to block Johanna from selling the firm for one year, giving Jeb time to come up with the fifty million he needs to buy back Jensen and Jensen.

Dom offers to stay in Salt Lake and partner with Jeb. At home in New York, Dom is going through a nasty divorce, his kids hate him for it, he's lost his position at his father-in-law's law firm – thus the partnership of Jeb and Dom is born. Johanna blackmails Jeb's clients into staying on board with her, leaving Jeb one option to make back the funds fast. Backed into the proverbial corner, Jeb and Dom travel to L.A. and agree to take on their only interested remaining client with deep enough pockets to help them. Jeb's nemesis, Flint.

Satan answered the lord and said "doth Jeb fear god for nought"

Can Jeb do Flint's bidding without breaching his ethical, moral, and legal code? The rest of the pilot (and the series) grapples with those questions, as they handle their first case; porn star GEORGIA PEACHES' copyright lawsuit against a rival porn company that they sue for unauthorized use of her "private parts" for a sex-toy mold. Raunchy yes... but a very legit trademark case. Jeb and Dom prove that Georgia's "privates" are trademark-worthy and can't be copied. But, when a legal loophole arises (in the form of ex-porn starlet BRANDI BULLETT) Jeb – calling on his LDS faith – comes up with a "higher" solution. He pledges all the profits from the sex-toy to a newly created Mormon battered women's shelter (*The Peach House*, named after Georgia), a solution that keeps both his number one client *and* his ethics intact. For now...

THE CHARACTERS



Jebeddiah “Jeb” Jensen

Jeb, 50s.

Internationally recognized trademark lawyer, family man, and leader in the LDS Church. Yale law, class of 1986. He’s a family man through and through, adores his loving wife Marian.

He’s built his career at Jensen & Jensen, venerable intellectual property (IP) law firm that has been in his family for generations. He’s well on his way to fulfilling his ambition of ascending to the head of the firm, just like his father and grandfather before him. Brilliant, persuasive, always prepared. He’s much like a ‘legal Boy Scout’.

Loyalty motivates him. His driving force? He wants his father to be proud of him. That’s also his blind spot, and the wound that makes Jeb so relatable – that unfulfilled yearning for his father’s unconditional love.

Jeb just wants to ‘be good’.



Domenic “Dom” Porcelli

Dom, 50s.

Contract law, litigation expert. A fellow “Yalie” Dom and Jeb spent three years together studying law, and they remain best of pals to this day (Not to mention he’s Jeb’s only non-Mormon friend). Loyal to a fault when it comes to Jeb.

He’s wily, a formidable opponent when it comes to the law; he loves to win. He’s scrappy and sarcastic. He is the comic ‘Yang’ to Jeb’s ‘Yin’ And the muscle to get the things done that Jeb won’t do. He knows how to work an angle.

He’s also in the midst of a nasty divorce. His kids hate him. His partnership at his father-in-law’s law firm is crumbling, his life is in shambles. So when Jeb calls, he gets on the next plane to Salt Lake to start anew and help his friend.

Dom just wants to ‘be right’.



Flint Stone

Flint, 65.

Internationally recognized CEO of InColor Entertainment, owner of the most successful pornography company in California. Modeled after Larry Flynt.

He is foul-mouthed and uncouth, the kind of guy that doesn't take no for an answer.

For Flint, there is no right or wrong. All things lead back to the all-Mighty dollar, he isn't immoral; he just never picks a side.

He is, however, surprisingly honorable – for an unprincipled, greedy porn producer, that is.

Flint just wants to 'be rich (er)'.



Johanna Bates

Johanna, 50s.

Also a lawyer, but the billboard plastering, sleazy kind. The illegitimate daughter of self-made sleazeball Salt Lake businessman Gil Bates. Rich in her own right, Johanna has wealth but not position. She clawed her way to the top and she's unabashedly unashamed of that fact.

Secret second wife of Jeb's polygamist father, Joseph. When Joseph dies, leaving the family law firm to Johanna, she sees it as a way to legitimize her name and law firm in the LDS/Mormon community.

The convincing, conniving 'other woman'. Blackmailer? Forger? Or was Joseph really the loving protector she claims?

Johanna just wants to 'be legit'.



Georgia Peaches

Georgia, late 20s.

International porn star. The center of Jeb and Dom's first case with Flint. Pamela Anderson with a southern accent.

At first glance, Georgia seems like nothing more than the "hooker with the heart of gold" type, but she is actually cunning and smart. She has great business sense and marketing skills.

She's a survivor. She is comfortable in her own (frequently exposed) skin and wants to help others.

Georgia is determined to be more than a pretty face... and breasts and... well you get the idea...

Georgia just wants to 'be respected'.



Marian Jensen

Marian, 50s.

The backbone of the Jensen family. She's soft and sweet, but a fierce fighter for her family. She steadfastly supports Jeb.

She is patient and kind to a fault, but steers the Jensen family behind the scenes and is a fierce protector of her children and marriage. She doesn't compromise her principles. Unless she really (really) has to.

Raised with a sense of belonging in the LDS/Mormon community makes her fearful of the changes in Jeb's new path, however her faith in her husband wins out every time and she stands by her man.

She just wants to 'be safe'.



Tone and Series Structure

The tone of BOOK OF JEB is irreverent comedy. It's funny but serious. Sarcastic. And more than a little bit naughty. Honest. But with a sweetness too.

Every episode we will challenge popular thought about sexual and religious norms in equal measure, as Jeb struggles to come up with creative ways to do the right thing.

Each episode will be comprised of three interweaving narratives all revolving around the legal cases that Jeb must solve – the story of his relationships (his wife, his best friend, his employer...) the story of porn, and the story of religion.



[illegible]

Porn
hub

SEASON ONE STORY ARC

Threaded throughout the season are new cases from Flint. Jeb and sidekick Dom manage to maintain their integrity and to grow their caseload using “ethical” solutions to Flint’s porn business, and still stay on the right side of the law (as exemplified in their first case in the pilot.) Just shy of a year, Jeb and Dom earn what they need to take the firm back from Johanna.

All the while, Jeb struggles to keep his relationship with his family and the church intact. To that end, Jeb spends almost as much time keeping his work on the downlow as much as possible, mostly for the sake of Marian and the kids and to stay an elder and leader in the church and community. Johanna manages to make this even harder, continually threatening to expose Jeb to the world as a fraud.

Meanwhile, there is a “bubbling beneath the surface” B story about the morality of underage girls in porn and the amateur style “YouPorn” sites that threaten Flint’s business. This comes to the forefront when Georgia Peaches non-profit center for homeless girls (The Mormon-run “Peach House”) is actually secretly profiting from the runaway girls selling themselves for the home-based porn site “Porn Corner”. As the season progresses, the Peach House turns more and more into a breeding ground indoctrinating young teens into porn.

At first Jeb thinks Johanna is behind all of it, but as he investigates, he uncovers the fact that the church is behind the whole Porn Corner operation. Disillusioned by his church, Jeb does a 180 – telling Flint he will stay in the industry, believing he can save the scourge of underage girls entering the world of pornography. He asks Johanna to stay on and work with him going forward, realizing she is a strong attorney and ally.

What Jeb doesn’t realize, but we do in the shocking last moments of Season One cliffhanger, is that Jeb’s father was the one responsible for the connection between the church and pornography. Will this information destroy Jeb? Will he lose the last shred of connection he had with his father and turn away not just from the church, but all that is good and ethical in his world?

Season cliffhanger: it turns out...the church leaders are the bad guys – and so was his late father.

SERIES STORY ARC

SEASON TWO : Season two starts off four years later. "Losing My Religion". The year is 2012. everything we came to know and love in season one about ethical Jeb, church-going family man, is now the total opposite. We quickly learn that after finding out that his father deceived him, Jeb left the church, and he and Dom work entirely in the porn industry, primarily for Flint. This caused Marian to leave him and take the kids. Dom meanwhile, has also switched sides and turned into what Jeb used to be – a happily married man with a child. He has married a young porn star they rescued and had a baby with her. Dom's kids have turned around also. In fact, Dom's daughter, now 22, has moved to Salt Lake to be near her Dad as she also has a son who is almost the same age as Dom's baby. They are raising the children together. Georgia Peaches has also had an about-face . She has left the porn industry to start a multi-million dollar "intimate make-up" corporation. Johanna is her C.O.O. Although Jeb has lost his beliefs, he more successful than ever and he's about to make billions for Flint – leading him in the purchase the top level domain .xxx (which was in real life purchased in 2012 by a private equity firm which made them billions).

Jeb's new life is a reaction to losing his dream to follow in his father's footsteps at the end of season one, So, of course, he is unfulfilled by anything in his new life. He's gone to the "dark side" to be like his father. Season two is about Jeb finding out who he really is, getting over the loss of his dream, getting his family back, and finding a new direction that is not merely a reaction to his loss.

SEASON THREE : In season three , "Redemption"* , we again skip ahead four years. Jeb has left the porn industry. Flint has gone to prison (which Jeb narrowly escapes at the end of Season Two), and Jeb is back in Salt Lake, running his own firm with Dom, still his trusty side kick. He seems a happy man. His one issue – the law is no longer giving him the satisfaction it once did. And so he decides to tackle the last corner of the trifecta... politics. Jeb runs for governor (against the Mormon candidate, of course). He loses but gets his life – and his wife and kids – back in the process. He learns that no one's opinion or judgement – family, church, citizens of the world – matter as much as what kind of man he himself wants to be.

*Redemption: deliverance from sin, salvation, atonement for guilt.

WRITER BIO

Gilda Hauser Porcari grew up a fish out of water in the Great Lakes, the quiet middle child in a crazy, chaotic family. Never feeling like she belonged, she gravitated towards adventure. She started her career in finance, then became a stand-up comic and improv actor in Second City. She was also the voice behind many iconic voiceovers in the 2000's. Then, she went back to her roots, spending a decade in the non-profit world, a fundraising superhero who got billionaires to invest in changing the lives of foster care kids.

Her writing has placed in several major competitions. She was a semi-finalist at the Austin Film Festival, won the Chicago Screenplay Awards, and placed third in the Screencraft Drama Pilot competition. She is a student of former NBC Writers on the Verge consultant and author, Jen Grisanti as well as Joan Lane, producer of the King's Speech. She studied writing at the University of Michigan and UCLA extension courses.

She's still an avowed atheist. Agnostic, at least.

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Religion has caused
more harm than any
other idea since the
beginning of time.

- Larry Flynt