



CHARACTERS

ROBERT (BOB) HARRISON: Mr. Confidential himself. At first, all he cares about is finding a way to the top. The magazine makes him a star. But when his empire is attacked, he has a choice to make. What kind of man does he really want to be?

JEANNIE DOUGLAS: Bob's cotton-candy girlfriend is a drop-dead stunner. She's a showgirl who gets lots of ink from the columnists, and a dumb blonde who proves to be anything but. She loves Bob with all her heart.

MARJORIE MEADE: Bob's niece is an intelligent young wife and mother who unexpectedly becomes his right-hand in business. As "Confidential" gains in popularity, tabloids start calling her a "Flame-Haired Femme Fatale" and she relishes it... for a while.

HOWARD RUSHMORE: He's the razor-sharp, red-baiting writer who sees everyone as a probable enemy. His acid-tongue is matched by his energetic belief in his own infallibility. When things go spectacularly wrong, it is never his fault.

EDITH TOBIAS: Bob's matronly older sister is a worrier and a mother. Maybe she seems a little meek, but she morphs into a pit-bull when she has to defend her beloved brother Bob or her daughter Marjorie.

MICHAEL TOBIAS: He's a fresh-faced, geeky high school student; Bob's nephew, Marjorie's brother, Edith's son. He idolizes his Uncle Bob and idly dreams of becoming just like him one day.

FRED MEADE: Marjorie's neglected husband is a good guy, but not the smartest or most exciting of men.

FRANCES RUSHMORE*: Howard Rushmore's pretty, alcoholic wife can give as good as she gets, but there's a fragility and honesty to her.

WALTER WINCHELL*: The most famous newspaper and radio personality of the day, with 50 million readers and listeners. His rapid-fire, machine gun delivery is one-of-kind.

FRANCESCA DE SCAFFA*: A source for magazine stories. She is sexy, mysterious, and of an indeterminate foreign origin.

ENSEMBLE: Two more women and three men of varying shapes, sizes, ages, and ethnicity. They play many characters.

** Actor plays other characters as well.*

THE REAL PEOPLE



ROBERT (BOB) HARRISON practically invented modern celebrity journalism. Handsome and charming, he was catnip to the ladies and men wanted to be just like him. After initial success publishing girlie magazines like *Titter*, *Wink*, and *Flirt*, Harrison created *Confidential Magazine*, a cultural phenomenon that turned the rules of Hollywood PR upside down, selling 5 million copies of every issue—more than *T.V. Guide*, *Time*, and *The Saturday Evening Post*. No one ever admitted buying it, but no one could put it down: White Glamour Girls with Black Bachelors, Homosexuals in Hollywood, Society Swells in Hock. Harrison swore to Tell the Facts and Name the Names. So he did. And that's the thing: The

juicy stuff was all true. Newspapers called him "The Titan of Titter Tattle" and "The Sultan of Sleaze," with columnists breathlessly covering his antics. In the beginning Robert Harrison wanted little more than a lifetime membership in Café Society. Separating truth and fantasy proved impossible as his life became more and more like a story in *Confidential*. But Harrison loved to laugh. Even when the joke was on him.



JEANNIE DOUGLAS is an amalgam of the three important women in Bob's life. **GEENE COURTNEY** is pictured here. He put her on the cover of the first issue of *Confidential* with "Showgirl Sells Shares in Self!" and she was the dame who got Harrison "shot" in the jungle. She released a hit novelty record that has to be heard to be believed: "Putzie Putz, the Octopus." **JUNE FREW** was his girlfriend during the height of the *Confidential* success. She created a huge scene at the airport during the Dominican Republic "jungle shooting," when she arrived with photographers in tow to meet Bob's plane, and promptly started screaming and hitting him in a jealous rage over his by-then pretend affair with Geene. **REGI RUTA** was his girlfriend from the late '50s until his death in 1978.

MARJORIE MEADE, Bob's niece, was a young newlywed living in Manhattan. She was brought up to be a good wife and mom, but like Joan Crawford in a '50s melodrama, all she wanted was to get up, get out, and get something more out of life. Uncle Bob sent her to Hollywood where she headed up his new research organization. Mainly it involved having lunch every day at the famous Polo Lounge with women willing to go on the record with their liaisons with rich and famous men. Once she was on trial, tabloids called her the "Flame-Haired Femme Fatale" and "The Most Feared Woman in Hollywood." She risked prison for Harrison, but was bound and determined not to go down with the ship. Improbably, she became a fixture of Beverly Hills society



later in life. None of the ladies who lunched with her at charity functions or served with her on the court of the Crown Jewels (a sort of rich lady drag ball that has been going on for decades in the 90210) had any idea of her notorious past—though she never tried to hide it.

HOWARD RUSHMORE was an angry, goofball-popping, alcoholic, violent, anti-Commie witch hunter. He wasn't just hated by the Left and the Middle. After a stint working for J. Edgar Hoover, Joseph McCarthy, and Roy Cohn, the Far Right couldn't stand him either. And yet he had a certain braggadocios charm that he turned on when he needed to. At first Harrison relied on Rushmore for one crucial business contact, but soon, Rushmore's flameouts and betrayals would lead to grisly coast-to-coast headlines. Strangely, he started his career as a card carrying member of the Communist Party, working as a journalist for the Party newspaper. He was incensed when they censored a positive review he wrote of *Gone with the Wind* because party brass labeled the film racist and capitalistic propaganda. He changed his entire world view and betrayed them over a petty slight. He would do the same with Bob.





EDITH TOBIAS was Bob's older sister. She was fiercely protective, and reportedly once even stood up to an armed mobster who was after Bob, angry about a story he had printed.



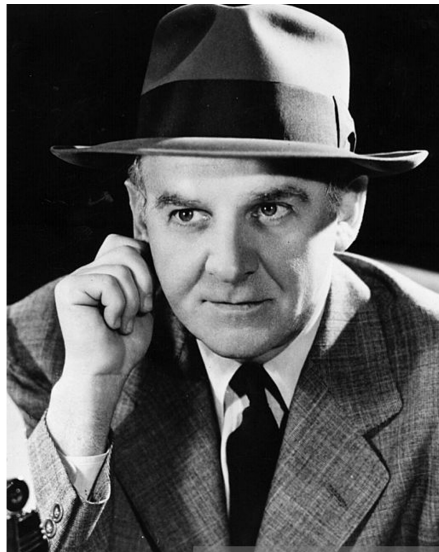
Marjorie's younger brother **MICHAEL TOBIAS** was naïve and impressionable—awed by the glamorous women that his Uncle Bob attracted and he was often overshadowed by Marjorie.



FRED MEADE was Marjorie's first husband (of three) and they had two sons together. He was unprepared for the life that came with Marjorie's passion for the magazine and all it entailed.



FRANCES RUSHMORE fell into alcoholism along with husband Howard during the *Confidential* years. She was trying desperately to pull away from him and rebuild her life when he murdered her and killed himself.



Columnist and radio personality **WALTER WINCHELL** reached an astonishing 60 million people every week. If you were in his good books, there was nothing he wouldn't do for you. But it was easy to get on his wrong side.



FRANCESCA DE SCAFFA started with nothing—but she married a movie star, was linked to the King of Egypt, and called herself a countess. Her longest marriage was with the French ambassador to Mexico.