

CALIBRATION

Executive One-Pager

Jeremy Salsburg

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CONFIDENTIAL

Format: 8-episode limited series (50-65 min) **Genre:** Science fiction thriller / literary drama **Tone:** *Chernobyl* meets *Watchmen* — institutional failure, superhuman tragedy **Source:** Novel by Jeremy Salsburg, inspired by Philip Wylie's public-domain 1930 classic **Budget range:** Comparable to *Chernobyl* (~\$15M/ep) — see full budget analysis

LOGLINE: A geneticist secretly modifies his unborn son's genome — creating the first superhuman, and the man the world will spend twenty-four years trying to control, replicate, and ultimately destroy.

THE STORY: Hugo Danner is born in 2002 with fourteen CRISPR-modified genes that make him superhumanly strong, fast, and nearly indestructible. His childhood is a curriculum of concealment — learning to calibrate every touch, every step, every handshake so the world around him doesn't break. College football gives him an outlet until his calibration fails for three-tenths of a second and paralyzes a quarterback. Two years of exile follow before a defense intelligence officer recruits him with the promise of belonging. Behind the recruitment lies PROMETHEUS — a \$183 million program to replicate Hugo's modification in human embryos. When Hugo discovers the dying children the program has produced, he destroys it. The government's response is a thermobaric bomb.

WHY IT WORKS:

- The novel that inspired Superman — told as the tragedy it always was
- Grounded in real CRISPR science with one fictional leap
- Every episode escalates: childhood → college → exile → military → betrayal → destruction
- A protagonist who is not a hero or a villain but a man trapped by his own biology
- The question audiences will debate: did the world fail Hugo, or was he always impossible?

THE AUDIENCE: The audience that made *Chernobyl*, *Watchmen*, and *3 Body Problem* hits. Superhero deconstruction meets institutional thriller. The gap in the market: no prestige series has treated superhuman abilities as literary tragedy.

THE ADVANTAGE: Public domain source = zero rights cost. Single-author adaptation = clean chain of title. Complete novel published = proof of concept. Full production package available.

SERIES POTENTIAL: CALIBRATION is a complete, self-contained story. The ending is definitive. The world and characters support further exploration if audience demand warrants it — with zero IP complications.

NEXT STEP: Pilot screenplay, series bible, and complete production package available for review. Creator available for meetings.

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