

# IMTA ALUM JESSICA BIEL RETURNS TO TV IN “*THE SINNER*”

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“*The Sinner*” premieres on the USA Network, August 2, 10pm ET



“I think that she believes that when she commits that crime and she's in prison, now she's almost safe... There's a relief. It's easier to be here than it is to live in the real world.” – Jessica Biel

On a beautiful summer day at the beach, a young mother—who appears to be living the perfect life with her loving husband and son—suddenly and inexplicably stabs a man to death. The shocking scene kicks off the USA Network’s limited summer series “*The Sinner*,” starring IMTA alum



Jessica Biel. The subsequent investigation into what happened, and why an ordinary person would do something so out of the ordinary, are the heart of the series that is adapted from Petra Hammesfahr’s book of the same name.

“When I read the book, every step of the way for me was a shock,” said Biel. “I feel like nothing can shock me anymore. There’s nothing too weird, nothing too dark. We’ve all seen it all in a sense, the way we’re exposed and have access to everything. But every time there was a surprise in the book, it was a genuine surprise for me. It just felt incredibly rare to find a piece of material where you didn’t expect every twist and turn along the way. That felt incredibly rare. I wanted to play (Cora) and be a little nuts.”

Biel, who is also an executive producer on the series, said her character “is terribly complex and complicated. The tracking of what she knows, what she remembers, what she thinks she remembers, what is a lie, what was told to her, and when she is lying was very complicated. We would constantly be [considering] if this is a moment where she was telling the truth or lying or is she telling the truth and it’s actually a lie? That was terribly interesting to me.”



“*The Sinner*” also stars Bill Pullman as the investigator who takes up the case, trying to figure out the motive behind the brutal killing, and Christopher Abbott as Cora’s husband struggling to comprehend his wife’s actions.

Biel will next be seen in the feature drama *Shock and Awe*, a politically controversial project that chronicles the efforts of a real group of journalists who were covering the build up to the 2003 invasion of Iraq. The journalists began to question the veracity of the claims put forth by George W. Bush and his administration that Saddam Hussein was stockpiling weapons of mass destruction. In addition to Biel, the cast of the Rob Reiner-directed film includes James Marsden, Milla Jovovich, Woody Harrelson, Tommy Lee Jones and Richard Schiff. Currently in post-production, *Shock and Awe* is tentatively scheduled for release later this year.