

# **JACK 9**

## **Series Document**

Barrington Smith

### CONTENTS:

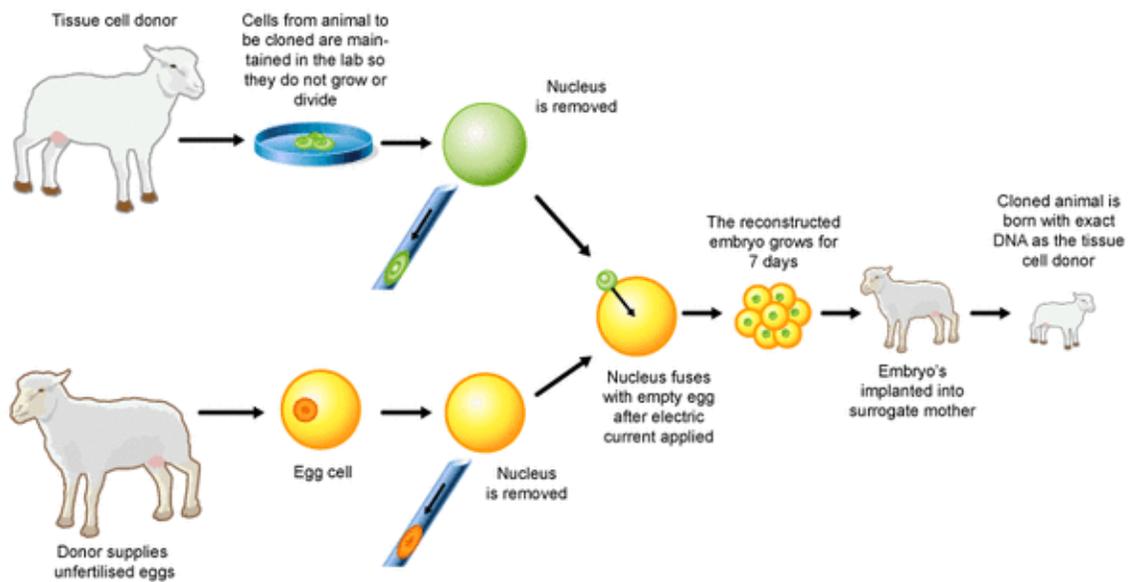
- 2 Cloning
- 3 Memory Transfer
- 4 Deep Background
- 5 Character List
- 7 Pilot Summary
- 8 Season 1 Arc
- 11 Season 2 Arc
- 13 The Past
- 14 The Future

### APPENDIX:

- 15 Notes on the Science
- 16 Notes on Theme (Identity)

# CLONING

In 1996, Scottish researchers produced Dolly, a sheep; the first mammal cloned from a mature (somatic) cell taken from an adult animal. Since then, over a dozen other types of mammals have been cloned, including cattle, pigs, and goats.



In 2006 the FDA concluded that food products made from cloned animals or their offspring are “no different” from those of conventionally bred animals.

In 2015, Chinese company, Boyalife, announced it was opening the world’s biggest animal-cloning factory, specializing in beef cattle, race horses, and bomb-sniffing dogs. Their board chairman stated that while “the technology is already there,” for human cloning, the firm is “self-restraining” and choosing to move “at the pace of social values.”

In the United States, 15 states have laws limiting human cloning. 35 states do not.

As of 2018, there are no human clones.

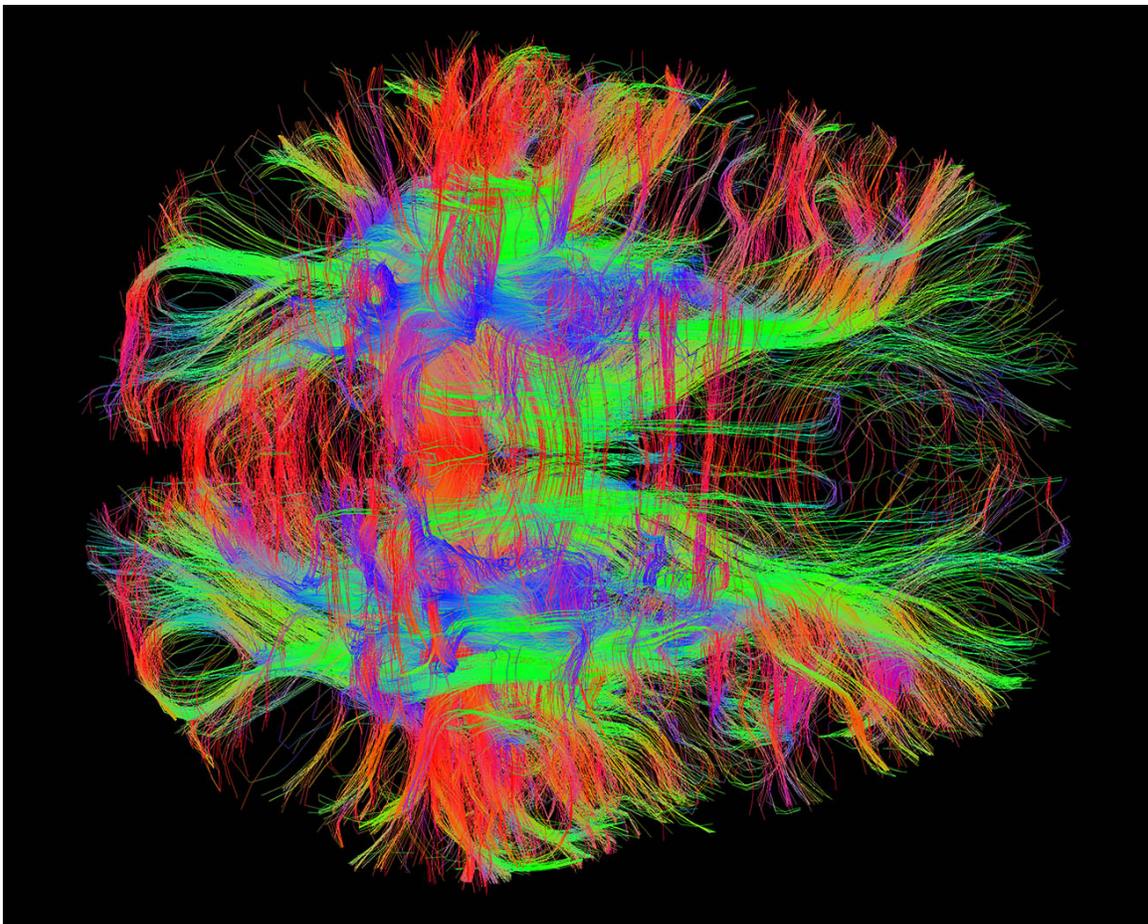
That we know of.

## MEMORY TRANSFER

“The self is in the structure,” says Charles Higgins, a University of Arizona neuroscientist and electrical engineer. “It’s in the interconnection of 100 billion neurons, and in the individual shape of neurotransmitters and receptors.” Even if surgeons could successfully transplant a brain, they would have to transfer the spinal cord as well, or risk stripping the subject of a lifetime of muscle memory.

One workaround, says Higgins, could involve cloning. “A clone with a structurally identical central nervous system could perhaps be stimulated with electrical signals that mimic the original.”

*from “Will Mind Transfer Ever Happen?”  
Popular Science, July 2015*



## DEEP BACKGROUND

In the early-to-mid 1990s, advances in cloning technology provoked a firestorm of scrutiny from a public disturbed by the idea of human cloning. In response, biotech companies banded together and enacted a voluntary moratorium on human cloning.

But consider: The first IVF babies, born beginning in 1978, were called “test-tube babies,” and accused of having no soul. Yet, by 2006, less than 30 years later, 41,343 births—more than 1% of the U.S. total births—were conceived using artificial reproductive technologies.

Times change and opinions change.

This is what SOMATECH INDUSTRIES was counting on, when, instead of adhering to the ban, it continued its secret division devoted to human cloning.

In 1997, SomaTech created one dozen human clones from the DNA of a young man named John Dreyer—called “Jack” by his friends.

These clones were originally designed purely for organ donation, until a new scanning technology created an opportunity for SomaTech scientists: They began attempting to transfer John’s memories to one of his clones. For years, their attempts failed.

Until one day... they succeeded.

In 2018, the pattern of John Dreyer’s 100-billion neurons, neurotransmitters and receptors were mapped onto the brain of the ninth clone.

In this one-hour, serialized drama, Jack 9 wakes with every memory John Dreyer had at the point his brain was scanned. Jack 9 is an exact copy of the man John was in 1995.

... and he doesn’t know he’s a copy.

## THE CHARACTERS

**JACK DREYER (aka JACK 9), 22:** From Jack’s perspective, just yesterday it was 1995 and he was athletic, good-looking, smart and studying pre-law at the prestigious and expensive Clayton College. Jack’s charm verges on cocky, but his bravado is also a tactic to distract people from the less perfect aspects in his life. His businessman father used to say, “Never let them see you sweat,” and Jack has endeavored to follow that advice, even when his father’s death when he was fourteen left Jack and his mother struggling financially and emotionally. Refusing to cave into grief, he set about pursuing the things his father wanted for him: To be accepted and successful—maybe even go into American politics. Jack hustled to earn his scholarship to Clayton, and once there, kept hustling for friends, connections and the heart of the right kind of girl. By 1995, Jack’s life plans were back on track: He was about to graduate, start law school, and propose to Lisa. In 2018, when Jack wakes to find his life again derailed, he’s determined to put his life back on the track he has set for himself.

But in this new era, Jack has an opportunity others only dream of—to see his future while he’s young—and he won’t always like what he sees. Jack is a fugitive who has lost the people he loves, the life he planned, and his very identity, but despite this—*because* of it—Jack’s future is uncharted. His quest to understand his own nature may give him a chance to become someone he never could have foreseen.

**JOHN DREYER (45):** John is the “original” Jack Dreyer, now twenty-three years older, and going by his formal name, John (like a Kennedy). John is his younger self taken to a natural, if extreme, conclusion: As a politician on-the-rise, he’s still a charming, ambitious hustler. But years of compromises and backdoor deals have also changed him. Physically, he’s older and heavier, and emotionally, he’s more isolated, tending to push family away and retreat into his work, alcohol or, occasionally, a pair of friendly arms.

**LISA DREYER (43):** At 20, John’s wife, Lisa, was a talented artist, and *nice*, but two decades of keeping secrets and caring for her emotionally-distant husband and their rebellious daughter have taken a toll. These days her escape lies in a pill bottle instead of a sketchbook, and her niceness has become just a tool in her arsenal for survival. Her husband associates her with blame and rebuke; her daughter sees her as weak, and willing to be walked over, but Lisa has more inner resources than anyone gives her credit for.

**ANNABELLE DREYER (19):** John and Lisa’s daughter, Annabelle, has an immune system that attacks her organs. Since she was a little kid, she’s had to have transplant surgeries every few years, *and* she’s had to keep those surgeries secret. Her parents told her they would get in “bad trouble” if anyone found out—but would never say why. Her fuck-it-all attitude comes from living with ever-present uncertainty about whether she’ll survive her next transplant... and also the fact that her father withdraws emotionally whenever she is “ill.” Better to be a wild-child who gets attention in the form of anger than the sick girl who gets no attention at all.

**RANDALL EVERETT (47):** John’s buddy since college, Randall was that awkward kid last-picked for any team in gym, but he has found his true calling and religion in science. He is the mind behind memory transfer technology at SomaTech. Randall has long carried a torch for John’s wife, Lisa, and is also emotionally attached to John’s mother, Loreen. While Randall has helped the Dreyer family over the years, some of that “help” may have been spurred by a resentment of John that lives just below the surface.

**JESSIE (21):** A student at Clayton College and one of Jack’s new housemates, Jessie is a scholarship kid like Jack was back in ’95. Like Jack, her family experienced economic setbacks—they lost everything in Hurricane Katrina. Bi-racial (black/white), she has an awareness of both privilege and otherness, and an innate commitment to human rights. In her personal life, she tends to be attracted to men who are emotionally unavailable. Jack, with his loyalty to Lisa, falls right into that category, but over time things may change...

**TAYLOR (22):** One of Jack and Jessie’s housemates and Annabelle’s love-interest, Taylor’s wealthy parents pay his tuition and bought the house he lives in at Clayton. Though he prides himself on rebelling, when put to the test, he actually holds their conservative views about race, sexual preferences and—once he learns of their existence—clones. While others want to protect or eradicate Jack based on emotion or self-interest, Taylor’s opposition is gut level and global. In the way he believes abortion and homosexuality are unnatural and wrong, he believes clones are *unnatural and wrong*.

## Secondary Characters

**ELI (20):** Jack’s mysterious third housemate. Eli is introverted and anxious. He takes many of his classes online. He’s observant and thoughtful and has a unique way of looking at the world that can be annoying, but also valuable. His Texas family loves him but doesn’t understand his way of seeing the world or know that he’s gay.

**LOREEN (73):** John’s mother, Loreen, was a real spitfire before she was beset by early-onset dementia. She’s always supported her son’s ambitions in whatever ways she could. During Jack’s college years, she developed a soft spot for Randall.

**MONICA (44):** Currently Loreen’s live-in nurse, Monica began working with the Dreyers after one of Annabelle’s childhood surgeries. She is trusted, but knows more of the family’s secrets than they realize.

**ALEX, (late 50s):** Randall’s boss at SomaTech, Alex is a businessman first—science just happens to be the product he’s selling. His long-term plan to make SomaTech a major player involves cornering the organ market—which means first *cultivating* the market by convincing lawmakers and the public that cloned organs are a societal good—while keeping the clones a goddamn *secret* until all the pieces are in place.

**TOM and DICK, (30-40s):** Hired muscle, working for SomaTech... or are they?

DICK: Career mercenary, happy to do anything for the paycheck.

TOM: Ex-military, his experiences have left him with some scars you can’t see.

# THE STORY

## Pilot Summary

In the PILOT EPISODE, we meet JACK DREYER as he wakes from a sleep study at Clayton College. His last memory is of volunteering for the study in 1995, but when he escapes the room where he is being observed, he learns the year is actually 2018.

Evading the mysterious henchmen who are chasing him, Jack attempts to pick up the pieces of his life. He tracks down his once-girlfriend, LISA and finds that she, like everyone he knew, is 23 years older. Lisa is now married to JOHN, a man who appears to be an older version of Jack—and whom Jack assumes is an *imposter*.

When the henchmen kill a professor to whom Jack has told his story, a college student, who witnesses the event, JESSIE, helps Jack and brings him to the apartment she shares with two housemates.

Meanwhile, John and Lisa prepare to attend a VIP dinner, keeping up a public façade of a happy marriage, even though John has recently moved out of the house. At the dinner we meet their college-age daughter ANNABELLE who shows her resentment by faking a coughing fit and leaving the dinner during John’s speech.

Outside the dinner, Annabelle instigates a sexual encounter with one of the catering staff. She avoids taking off her shirt during the encounter, not wanting to reveal the mysterious SURGERY SCARS on her torso.

Inside the ballroom John talks to his friend RANDALL about Jack’s escape. Randall promises that his company, SOMATECH, is “taking care of the problem”.

Lisa makes an excuse to leave the dinner, and secretly goes to meet Jack. She is suspicious of his motives, but he uses shared memories to convince her of his identity and the two share a kiss before a pursuer arrives. Before telling him to “run,” Lisa warns Jack “You aren’t who you think you are.”

## Season 1

Although Jack is initially confused and shaken by his situation, his natural determination soon sets in. Just like when his father died, he fixates on “getting his life back,” clinging to the idea this is possible if he can figure out what’s happened, who’s done it, and why.

This task is doubly daunting since Jack, a twenty-two year-old man, is unfamiliar with smartphones, Google searches, or any cultural events after 1995. His best help in transitioning to modern times is Jessie, who gives him a crash course in the internet, pop-culture and evolving social norms.

We quickly see the chemistry between Jack and Jessie, although Jack, loyal to Lisa, works to ignore it.

With Jessie, Jack attends the memorial service for the professor who was killed. Jack’s motivation is to see Lisa, but he encounters his doppel-ganger, John, in person, for the first time. He’s disconcerted to see that, along with a physical resemblance, John has his mannerisms. And when Jack gets ahold of John’s phone, he finds he knows the password. He and Jessie take photos of texts and contact lists from the phone before returning it.

While pursuing clues from the phone that gradually lead to Randall and then to Randall’s employer, SomaTech, Jack also continues to seek out Lisa, both for information and romantically. This forms a love triangle that tests Lisa’s loyalty to her husband just as John moves back home saying he wants to repair their marriage.

Between their marital problems and concern that Jack’s escape could expose their secrets, John and Lisa are distracted, making it easier for their daughter, Annabelle, to hide the fact that her health is deteriorating. Because her parents and doctors refuse to tell her where her transplant organs come from, Annabelle has tried to discover the truth and the few clues she’s found have led her to believe the organs are black market. To postpone facing the terrible decision of whether to trade another person’s life for her own, she skips medical appointments and distracts herself, first with rebellious behavior, then with a burgeoning romance with Jack and Jessie’s housemate, Taylor.

At SomaTech, Randall begins to believe that Jack is, in fact, the first “successful outcome,” of his experiments. In hopes of bringing Jack in for study, he begins to secretly sabotage Tom and Dick’s efforts to eliminate Jack. At the same time, under pressure from his boss, ALEX, Randall must begin working with another subject, “Jack 10”.

Jack and Lisa’s continued interactions remind Lisa of the good things she and John had in their early days. She begins to treat John differently, searching for the man she fell in love with. John, in turn, tries to respond positively, although for both of them, destructive habits die hard.

When Jack receives a lead that SomaTech storage facility is storing “special” equipment, he sneaks in. Expecting to find cryogenic chambers, he instead discovers a barracks-like

compound and dozens of men and boys in a robotic and nonverbal *blank state*. He's bewildered to see that each individual has several *identical duplicates*.

And then, Jack spots *two copies of himself*.

The realization finally sets in: John is not an imposter; Jack *himself* is a COPY of John.

As Jack escapes the compound that night, after a surreal day masquerading as a blank-state clone, viewers see something that Jack doesn't—a separate women's barracks, and residing there, several women who look like *Annabelle*.

Back at home, Jack's revelation throw him into a tailspin. His assumptions about who he is have all been wrong, and worse, he realizes Lisa has known all along. He breaks things off with her and, in despair, embarks on a suicide run, threatening to take John with him.

This is Jack's first direct interaction with John. John subverts Jack's expectations by sympathizing with this version of his younger self. It's unclear whether John is being sincere or a political animal working to save his own life, but by talking to Jack about the things he'd planned but was never able to do, John re-ignites Jack's desire for a future of his own, deterring him from his suicidal plan.

Jack returns home to Jessie, and the sparks that have been growing between them finally explode into sex, and a real relationship.

Soon after, at the Dreyer's, Lisa's hand is forced by Annabelle's refusal to go to the doctor, and she tells Annabelle about her clones. Lisa emphasizes that the clones aren't conscious or even human. Annabelle storms away, but is secretly relieved: If clones are really *non-people*, it might be okay to choose her own life over theirs.

As she weighs her options, Annabelle visits Taylor, whose curiosity about his housemate has led him to discover the existence of clones at the storage facility. Upset and repulsed at the very idea of clones, he makes a call leading authorities to raid the facility. But when the authorities arrive, the compound is empty: Annabelle has secretly called in a warning. She's picked her side. Annabelle reconciles with her parents and agrees to accept the life-saving transplant she needs.

Meanwhile, Jack struggles with the practicalities of living. With no I.D, he's confined to under-the-table jobs, and he must always avoid SomaTech's henchmen who continue to pursue him. To escape this predicament, Jack and Jessie use Jack's DNA to frame John for a crime, then blackmail John to negotiate with SomaTech on Jack's behalf.

Because Alex is depending on John to help advance SomaTech's agendas when he is elected to congress, Alex agrees to halt SomaTech's pursuit of Jack and provide him with a new identity, with the condition that Jack leave Clayton City to make his new life.

But just as he's heading out of town, Jack gets a call from Lisa. She's desperate, saying that Annabelle's body has rejected her latest transplant, and that Jack holds the key to saving Annabelle's life. However, to do so, he has to return to the lab. He agrees to do it. In the PENULTIMATE EPISODE of the season, Jack turns himself in at the lab, and learns what viewers have already gathered: that Randall has been working with memory transfer for years, and that eight Jack clones were destroyed in transfer experiments before his own succeeded, making him "Jack 9."

Randall also reveals that recent transfer attempts have led to the death of "Jack 10." But now, with Jack 9's help, Randall hopes to solve the memory transfer problem and use it to save Annabelle. Out of regard for Lisa, Jack allows himself to be put under anesthesia, with no idea what's going to happen next.

In the FINAL EPISODE of Season 1, Jack wakes. The process has been successful.

The results of this are two-fold:

In a private facility, we see Annabelle wake from what she believes was an emergency surgery... until she sees that her tubes and bandages are gone and she's in a scar-less, healthy body. She realizes *she is a clone*. She is ANNABELLE 1.

At the lab, Randall leads Jack to an observation room. Jack stands on the opposite side of the two-way glass from where he was in the pilot as Randall shows him JACK 11. Like Jack 9 before him, Jack 11 believes he's woken from a sleep study. He doesn't know he's imprisoned...

... and he's calling to be let out.

## Season 2

With his new identity provided by SomaTech, Jack 9 now has the ability to “pass” as normal, and make a new life far from Clayton City.

But now there are other *conscious clones* –Annabelle 1 and Jack 11—and Jack 9 finds himself feeling solidarity with them. Jack 11 seems like a true brother and Jack 9 can’t just walk away, leaving him a captive at the lab. Jack 9 volunteers to stay and help Randall at the lab, at the same time plotting with Jessie to help Jack 11 escape.

Jessie continues to influence Jack’s thinking with her activist nature and concern for social progress and forwards their plans by getting herself assigned to work tech-support at the SomaTech Center on campus – the building that houses the lab.

Annabelle 1, recovering in a private facility, sneaks out of her room only to witness the “real” Annabelle, hooked up to tubes and monitors, dying in Lisa’s arms. Annabelle sees Lisa’s grief at losing her daughter and is stricken with the thought that Lisa will never love Annabelle 1 in the same way.

This turns out to be true. Despite her efforts, Lisa finds herself unable to accept a clone as her daughter’s “replacement.” Years of taking organs from clones and defining them “not real people” have shaped her core beliefs. This affects not just her relationship with Annabelle 1, but puts her at odds with John, who embraces having a second chance with his daughter. His efforts, however, are met with resistance by Annabelle 1 who has inherited original Annabelle’s resentment and memories of the years he pushed her away.

Annabelle 1 struggles both with survivor’s guilt, and feeling like an imposter. She becomes alone when she breaks up with Taylor. Even though she loves him, he has a deep hatred of clones, and she knows her new, scar-free body will cause him to reject her and will put her family at risk.

As Jack 9 spends more time with Jack 11, he realizes Jack 11 has been manipulating him, and might be more dangerous than anyone realizes. He has second thoughts about helping Jack 11 escape. Realizing this, Jack 11 turns his manipulative powers onto Jessie, causing her to doubt Jack 9 and, around MID-SEASON, to go behind his back and help Jack 11 escape. Once she has done so, Jack 11 betrays her trust and reveals his vindictive nature and his ambition to claim the life he feels is owed to him.

Jack 11’s dark nature alarms Randall as well. How can there be such a profound difference between Jack 11 and both Jack 9 and John? He runs tests to see if the transfer process could be flawed, but his diligence raises the ire of his boss, Alex. Alex discloses that the company is under pressure from a customer he calls “the client,” to move forward with the technology. He also confirms Randall’s suspicions that Tom and Dick work, not for SomaTech, but for the client, who is keeping tabs on their progress.

Jack 11 goes to the media claiming to be John's illegitimate son, creating a scandal that allows another candidate to pull ahead of John in the congressional race. Alex, intent on insuring John's political future for the benefit of SomaTech's interests, ignores John's wishes to run a "clean" campaign, and cruelly smears the other candidate.

SomaTech asks Jack 9 to participate in an operation to stop Jack 11. Jack 9 finds himself pulled in different directions—should his loyalty lie with the family and friends of his borrowed memories, or to a fellow clone who has been treated unfairly?

In the FINAL QUARTER of the season, Randall learns what Alex's client is waiting for: the memory transfer of a set of clones who were created from the DNA of a young soldier named AMIR. Randall sees that Amir signed a contract giving the client ownership of all his copies. Haunted by the idea that he could be creating slaves, Randall plans to secretly transfer one of the clones early, in order to get Amir's side of the story.

Annabelle 1 has gradually begun meeting with Taylor again, and she has been considering trusting him with her secret. When she finally does tell him the truth and they spend a night together. But the next morning she wakes alone, and finds a note from Taylor saying he can't continue. In her heartbreak, Annabelle turns to her father. They spend a day together, closer than they have ever been.

Lisa, in contrast, has begun to attend meetings of an organization that supports the use of clones for organ donations. At a meeting, she makes her first move toward a leadership role, and toward becoming a threat to the conscious clones.

In the FINAL EPISODE of Season 2, Randall's memory transfer of the Amir clone coincides with Jack 11's attempt to destroy the lab. Jack 9 uses his unique knowledge to defeat Jack 11 to save the lab and peoples lives, but he is haunted by the feeling that he betrayed a brother.

And Randall sits by the side of an unconscious but healthy AMIR 1, ready with answers and questions for when he wakes.

# The Past

*Jack 9*'s narrative structure contains two time frames: The PRESENT, beginning with Jack's awakening and moving forward, and the PAST, comprised of scenes from the 23 years Jack has missed.

While these scenes from the past serve to answer questions—"how much did John and Lisa know, and when?" and "why was Jack chosen for cloning?"—their emotional power lies in the way they play as a counterpoint to the present-day story.

For example, in Season 1, John and Lisa attempt to rekindle their marriage in the PRESENT. The PAST gives us snapshots of the moments leading to their estrangement. In the PAST we see John's former expectations for the future, while in the PRESENT we see how those were either met or subverted over time.

In Season 2, in the PRESENT, John attempts to run an honest political campaign and make amends to his daughter. In contrast, we see his PAST darker choices and actions that in turn make us realize that Jack 11's darker nature might not be an anomaly.

For the audience, the PAST offers an added layer of cultural perspective, as characters live and make decisions against the backdrop of a changing world:

J. Dreyer does sleep study / brain scan	1995	"Women's rights are human rights"
JACK series of clones created	1996	Google begins as college research project
John graduates law school / Lisa pregnant	1997	Ellen Degeneres "comes out" on TV
Annabelle contracts auto-immune condition / ANNABELLE clones created	1998	
Randall begins work with scanning technology	2000	
Annabelle's first organ transplant	2001	Attack on Twin Towers
Alex procures funding from "the Client" / AMIR clones created	2002	First 3G cell phones
	2003	U.S. invades Iraq
	2004	
Annabelle's second transplant	2005	Hurricane Katrina / You Tube launches
	2006	Facebook goes public
John and Lisa learn about Annabelle's clones / John enters politics	2007	
	2008	Housing bubble bursts / Great Recession
	2011	Occupy Wall Street
First memory transfer to Jack 1 fails	2012	Birth of Black Lives Matter
	2013	
Tom and Dick arrive at SomaTech	2015	Gay marriage legalized
	2016	2016 Election
	2017	
Jack 9 Memory transfer is successful	2018	

## The Future

Over the life of the series, we'll continue to pursue the trajectory we have created, traveling from the microcosm of one conscious clone seeking to define his place in the world, to the macrocosm of defining the place of all clones in our society.

In coming seasons, awareness of conscious clones will spread – slowly! – from the military to corporate entities to rich and powerful individuals who see not just financial gain, but the potential for *virtual immortality*.

Eventually, we will see the introduction of clones into society give rise to public and political debate, religious objectors and new religions, rights activists and vigilantes, black markets and business models, new laws and new definitions of life. We'll follow the lives of our characters as they take sides and make ethical and emotional choices.

Through this, we'll follow Jack, as he evolves from a self-concerned individual, to a community-minded activist, to a leader who embraces his own nature and is willing to fight for all clones' place in humanity.

## APPENDIX

### **The Science**

In developing *Battlestar Galactica*, Ron Moore described *naturalistic science fiction* as “the presentation of a fantastical situation in naturalistic terms.” On one hand, there were Cylons. On the other, the spaceships didn’t make noise because there is no noise in space.

This example falls squarely into our larger ethos, and along the same lines, here are a few rules to keep in mind.

- There is no way to accelerate a clone’s aging process. The human cloning process results in a baby after 9 months, a two-year old child after two years, and so on. If Jack is 22 years old, his clone-body has existed for 22 years, and as a corollary, SomaTech has had to deal with food, shelter, and disease prevention—just as with any kind of livestock—for 22 years.
- No clone “inherits” the memories of his or her original. A clone born and given a normal childhood would naturally develop his or her own identity and memories, just as would any human child. In the world of *Jack 9*, memory transfer is artificially imposed.
- In *Jack 9*, “blank” clones exist in a dumb-animal-like state. This state has been artificially cultivated. To draw a dark comparison, children raised in circumstances of extreme isolation and neglect have “stunted” brains, with thinner myelin layers and underdeveloped prefrontal cortexes required for cognition and personality. SomaTech has worked to develop a combination of sensory deprivation and direct cortical stimulation that will keep their clone brains “blank” yet physically developed enough to accept transferred memories.
- An “identical brain” for purposes of successful memory transfer, means the brain “receiving” transferred memories must be close in age to the “donor” brain when scanned. This is one reason that the early Jack transfers failed—the clones were not yet the right age. In the later seasons, those pushing for “immortality” will want memories of older men in younger bodies. If this is even possible—it will not happen quickly or easily.

## Theme: Discussing Identity

### Identity:

A single word that describes a concept rich, varied, and layered enough to be studied at length by philosophers, psychologists and linguists—and storytellers. A word that is timely in our political era, but timeless in the fascination it holds.

With JACK 9, we have the opportunity to examine identity from different angles and explore the array of resonant questions that result.

### Personal Identity:

When “Jack” wakes up in an observation room in 2018 he is certain of who he is. He believes he is the same Jack who volunteered for a sleep study in 1995.

*What gives a person identity?* We think of some properties as being *essential* to identity and others as *contingent*. If a person loses a limb, we still think of her as the same person. But if someone has with advanced Alzheimer’s has lost of all the memories and experiences that have shaped him—it is harder to say he is the same person he used to be. To say someone has *lost his mind* infers the loss of something more than *mind*—some key to oneself—one’s identity.

In JACK 9 we test these assumptions by reversing those circumstances. We ask, what if someone has not lost, but *found* ones mind? If someone—like Jack—acquires all the memories that have shaped a person. Does he, in essence, become that person?

And if so, how long does he remain that person? In our world, when a prisoner comes up for parole, his lawyers say that “he isn’t the same person he was” when he committed his crime—arguing that accumulated experiences and inputs can fundamentally change someone into a different person. If this is the case, in the arc of that prisoner’s life, could one pinpoint the moment when he ceased to become the person he was, and became the new person? As soon as Jack 9 wakes, he immediately embarks on different life, filled with different experiences, from his original. At what point does Jack become a separate person from who he remembers being?

### Social Identity:

Socially, we categorize people based on characteristics—from physical characteristics to beliefs to moral commitments to types of behavior. We tally these characteristics, and use them to judge whether someone is a member of a given group, be it social, cultural, economic or other.

And, we also strive to *self-define* what groups we belong to, in the context of society. We often feel a sense of dignity and pride in that comes from belonging to a certain group.

In the world of Jack 9, the group is *humanity*—and the question is, who belongs in it?

Scientifically, the humanity of cloned humans is no more in question than in vitro babies. But societally, there is no place for them—not in our family structures or our legal systems, there is no prepared path to rights or citizenship for *redundant* beings.

However, if defined as *other than human*, clones could fit into our *economic* systems. Throughout history, people have always found uses for uncompensated labor and medical advances that can increase health and longevity.

### **Clones as People or Product?**

Confronted by the choice, we can imagine the varied responses of the public, lawmakers, politicians, religious leaders, human rights activists, and the one-percent. Thousands of people in need of life-saving organs may have one opinion, while parents desperate to replace sons lost in wars would have another.

And, we can imagine the wealthy and powerful will be hooked into the supply and profit chain on the “product” side of the equation, but their views might change if they consider the idea of passing on their wealth—not only to their families, but to *themselves*.

But let’s not get ahead of ourselves. That’s in the future world, where there are hundreds of clones, and the secret of their existence is out.

In the meantime, we have Jack, who has just discovered 1) that he is merely a clone of his original, and 2) that his original did not even become anyone Jack would aspire to be.

Now, Jack must *define himself* asking not only the basic question of identity, “who am I?” but also, “why do I exist?”—a question of significance and purpose. Will he give in to the temptation to survive by passing as a “traditional” human, choosing to live an unexamined life? Or will he choose to embrace his unconventional origins, to question the status quo, and seek a new purpose?

### **Jack 9 as *Other***

The idea of “otherness” has a specific connotation in today’s environment. Jack, an athletic straight white man living in 1995, has never experienced being that kind of *other*. His relatively sheltered life has shaped who he is – a nice enough guy who has had the privilege of living his life unaware of... his privilege. What he learns as he faces his new life—undocumented, considered less than human, economically dependent on the kindness of strangers—is a large part of his arc.

Even as we empathize with Jack, we do not forget the *context* in which he exists. He is really only the latest in a long lineage of peoples who have been discriminated against. The choices to make the characters of Jessie bi-racial and Eli Hispanic and gay are deliberate. At first they might seem to simply represent how demographics and the cultural climate on college campuses have changed in the time Jack has been gone. But as we get to know them better – we are able to explore the parallels and juxtapositions of different kinds of otherness.