

THE ZIRCON TWINS

SERIES BIBLE

One-Hour Science-Fiction / Conspiracy Drama

Created by Geoff McCue

Based on the novel The Zircon Twins by Geoff McCue

SERIES AT A GLANCE

Format: One-hour serialized drama • Season One: 10 episodes • Target script length: approximately 48–55 Final Draft pages

Genre: Science fiction / family drama / conspiracy thriller

Tone: Intimate family emotion colliding with escalating scientific and national-security stakes. The extraordinary is treated seriously and plausibly; suspense grows from what powerful institutions will do when confronted with something they cannot explain or control.

LOGLINE

Fraternal twins Elliott and Lillian Carter share an impossible mind-to-mind connection that began before birth. As their extraordinary intelligence and shared perception attract the attention of secretive government researchers and rival interests, their parents must protect them from a world determined to study, recruit, separate, or weaponize what makes them unique.

THE SERIES

The Zircon Twins begins with a mystery small enough to fit in the palm of a hand: a blue zircon pendant purchased by Emily Carter at a roadside market outside Santa Fe. During her pregnancy, Emily experiences vivid geometric dreams and senses two unborn minds reaching toward one another. Elliott and Lillian are born already connected.

As children, the twins do not merely finish one another's sentences. They share information across barriers, react to one another's sensations, solve problems as if operating from a common cognitive space, and mature intellectually at a breathtaking rate. Their parents, Stephen and Emily, make the only decision they can: protect the children first and explain them later.

That protection cannot last. Specialists notice. Universities notice. Surveillance begins. By adolescence, Elliott and Lillian have become the youngest doctorate recipients in Ashwood University history. Project Helios arrives with an invitation wrapped in opportunity and national-security language. Behind it lies a more dangerous question: who gets to own an ability no institution created?

The series is therefore not simply about telepathic twins. It is about family, autonomy, identity, trust, and the collision between love and institutional power. Every escalation forces the same choice in a new form: are Elliott and Lillian people to be protected—or assets to be controlled?

THE CENTRAL HOOK

Elliott and Lillian are two individuals with a shared mental corridor. Their connection is powerful, but it is not a convenient superpower. It complicates privacy, independence, fear, pain, attraction, trust, and eventually survival. The dramatic engine comes from testing the limits of that bond while asking whether separating them would destroy something essential—or finally allow each twin to discover who they are alone.

RULES OF THE CONNECTION

- The connection began before birth and is instinctive rather than learned.
- The twins can exchange information without conventional speech or sensory cues, even when physically separated.
- The bond can include emotional and sensory resonance, not merely words or images.
- Distance can weaken certainty but does not automatically sever the connection.
- Stress, injury, drugs, technology, and deliberate interference can distort or suppress the bond.

- The twins are extraordinarily intelligent, but neither is omniscient. Their greatest advantage is the way two minds cooperate as one system.
- The connection has emotional costs: privacy is difficult, individual identity is complicated, and the absence of the other can feel like losing a sense.

WORLD & VISUAL LANGUAGE

The Carter home begins warm, ordinary, and tactile—breakfast tables, notebooks, family arguments, childhood experiments. As the twins move into the wider world, the visual vocabulary shifts toward glass, surveillance lenses, sterile research spaces, mirrored rooms, anonymous corridors, isolated safe houses, and eventually damaged structures. The blue zircon and recurring paired geometric imagery provide a restrained visual motif linking the twins’ origin to the larger mystery.

Technology remains grounded. The most unsettling moments are not flashy displays of power, but quiet demonstrations: an answer known through a wall, pain felt miles away, two people turning toward the same unseen threat at exactly the same instant.

CORE CHARACTERS

ELLIOTT CARTER

Brilliant, analytical and protective. Elliott tends to convert fear into problems he can solve. His bond with Lillian is the organizing fact of his life, but the series gradually forces him to ask who he is when he cannot feel her.

LILLIAN CARTER

Equally gifted, more intuitive and emotionally perceptive. Lillian often senses the human meaning beneath what Elliott analyzes. She values the connection deeply but is increasingly aware that being half of an extraordinary pair can erase the individual inside it.

EMILY CARTER

The twins’ mother, a historian whose encounter with the zircon pendant precedes their conception and strange prenatal development. Emily is fiercely protective because she sensed the twins before anyone else believed they could be communicating. Her arc moves from concealment to active resistance.

STEPHEN CARTER

The twins’ father, a physicist whose scientific instincts initially demand evidence. Once the evidence becomes undeniable, skepticism becomes strategy. Stephen tries to understand the phenomenon without reducing his children to it.

MARA LAMBERT / CHRISSY RENNER

The twins’ trusted tutor and surrogate older-sister figure. Mara has built a new identity over a buried, violent past. That secret makes her vulnerable to coercion, but her loyalty to the twins ultimately becomes stronger than the leverage used against her.

DR. MIREYA SANBORN

The developmental specialist who first produces controlled evidence that the twins can share information under isolation. Her scientific curiosity is tempered by guilt: once information escapes her control, she becomes part of the effort to protect them.

LANGSTON GREY

A polished recruiter and operator associated with Project Helios. He rarely needs to raise his voice because information is his preferred weapon. He sees the twins as a strategic problem that must be contained before someone else controls it.

KESSLER

A senior figure in the expanding research apparatus around the twins. Kessler is less interested in whether the connection exists than in how it can be measured, disrupted and exploited. His experiments push the story toward limbic resonance and forced separation.

RELATIONSHIP ENGINE

At the heart of the show is the Carter family. Stephen and Emily disagree about risk, disclosure and scientific inquiry, but neither questions the twins' personhood. Elliott and Lillian's relationship is loving, funny, occasionally claustrophobic and increasingly tested by the need for independence. Mara/Chrissy introduces a second family theme: whether belonging can survive the revelation of a past deliberately hidden out of fear.

SEASON ONE ARC

Season One tracks the twins from the mystery of their origin through public academic distinction and into a struggle among family, Project Helios and other covert interests. The first three episodes establish the phenomenon, the family's rules, the surveillance network and the invitation. The middle of the season turns observation into pursuit and separation. The final movement tests the twins' connection under controlled interference and physical catastrophe, forcing everyone around them to choose between possession and protection.

EPISODE 1: "CONNECTED"

COMPLETED • 51 Final Draft pages

Emily Carter's roadside purchase of a strange blue zircon pendant precedes vivid dreams, an unusual twin pregnancy and the birth of Elliott and Lillian. Their synchronized behavior develops into controlled evidence of impossible information-sharing. Dr. Sanborn confides in Kessler, surveillance begins, and an unknown system creates a subject file on the Carter twins. The children sense it before their parents do: someone is looking for them.

EPISODE 2: "RIPPLES"

COMPLETED • 48 Final Draft pages

The twins grow from remarkable children into young prodigies, learning both the reach of their connection and the danger of displaying it. Their accelerating academic life brings them to Ashwood University while watchers test the boundaries of their bond. A staged campus emergency confirms that Elliott can sense Lillian's danger from a distance. The operation also uncovers Mara Lambert's buried identity: Chrissy Renner.

EPISODE 3: "THE INVITATION"

COMPLETED • 53 Final Draft pages

At sixteen, Elliott and Lillian become Ashwood's youngest doctorate recipients. Langston Grey confronts Mara with her real identity and uses her past as leverage. Project Helios formally invites the twins into a classified research program. Mara finally tells the Carters the truth rather than allow blackmail to control her. Soon afterward, the twins are followed at a mall and the family retreats to an isolated property—only to discover that another organization may already have found them.

EPISODE 4: “ABDUCTION”

PROPOSED

At Aunt Rhea’s isolated property, safety becomes an illusion. Langston’s pressure on Mara/Chrissy collides with the arrival of outside operatives. A plan intended to seize the twins fractures when Elliott and Lillian disappear before anyone can secure them. Emily and Stephen return to an empty house, and Mara is left facing the consequences of every secret she tried to contain.

EPISODE 5: “THE DISAPPEARANCE”

PROPOSED

Law enforcement, Helios and the Carter family launch competing searches. The absence of a conventional trail turns the twins’ disappearance into a mystery even to those who planned to take them. Mara’s role is exposed. Emily and Stephen must decide whether the woman who deceived them is also the person most likely to help bring their children home.

EPISODE 6: “CHRISSY RENNER”

PROPOSED

Mara’s past is finally told in full as interrogation and investigation reveal why she became someone else. In parallel, Elliott and Lillian attempt to understand who moved them beyond Helios’s reach and why. The episode reframes Mara not as a betrayer but as another person whose identity has been controlled by fear and powerful men.

EPISODE 7: “THE SAFE PLACE”

PROPOSED

Dr. Sanborn emerges as an unexpected protector, hiding the twins while admitting that her earlier disclosure helped put them in danger. The apparent refuge becomes a laboratory of trust. Elliott and Lillian begin questioning whether remaining together makes them easier to control—and whether their connection can be deliberately altered.

EPISODE 8: “LIMBIC RESONANCE”

PROPOSED

Kessler’s research turns toward the emotional and neurological architecture of the twins’ bond. When Lillian becomes unreachable to Elliott, the silence is more terrifying than any physical separation. For the first time in his life, Elliott experiences a world in which his sister is simply gone from his mind.

EPISODE 9: “CONDUCTION”

PROPOSED

The search converges on the science behind the twins’ connection. Stephen and Emily follow Sanborn’s trail while Helios closes in. Elliott and Lillian discover that the bond can carry more than thought—and that the same mechanism that connects them may be used to locate, manipulate or injure them.

EPISODE 10: “THE RUINS”

PROPOSED SEASON FINALE

A confrontation at the research site ends in catastrophic structural collapse. Elliott awakens in the ruins and cannot feel Lillian through their connection. He finds her buried and barely breathing. The family’s search, Mara’s redemption and the scientific mystery converge as the twins survive a test no experiment could ethically justify. The aftermath leaves the connection changed, the institutions exposed but not destroyed, and the origin of the zircon still unresolved—opening the door to Season Two.

FUTURE SEASONS

Season Two can widen the mystery without abandoning the family. The immediate question becomes what the trauma in the ruins changed in Elliott and Lillian. Their connection may no longer behave according to the rules everyone thought they understood. The zircon's origin, the vendor who recognized its significance, and evidence that the twins may not be the first expression of the phenomenon provide a larger mythology.

Longer term, the show can explore other forms of linked cognition, attempts to reproduce the twins' abilities technologically, political battles over neural privacy and personhood, and the twins' struggle to build adult identities without allowing governments, corporations—or even their own family—to define them by the connection.

THEMES

- Family versus ownership
- The right to cognitive privacy
- Individual identity inside profound connection
- Scientific curiosity versus ethical restraint
- The difference between protection and control
- Whether extraordinary ability creates obligation
- Trust after betrayal
- What parents owe gifted children—and what gifted children owe the world

COMPARABLE AUDIENCE & POSITIONING

The series sits in the space between cerebral speculative science fiction and emotionally grounded conspiracy drama. Its appeal is less about superhero spectacle than about a plausible impossible phenomenon entering an ordinary family and attracting extraordinary attention. The central sibling bond gives the show a distinctive emotional engine that can support both intimate episodes and escalating thriller stakes.

CREATOR

Geoff McCue is an inventor and author whose fiction frequently begins with a technological or scientific possibility and follows its human consequences. His background in developing and commercializing inventions informs the grounded speculative ideas in his novels and screenplays. The Zircon Twins is based on his novel of the same name.

CURRENT MATERIALS

- Episode 1 — “CONNECTED” — 51 FD pages
- Episode 2 — “RIPPLES” — 48 FD pages
- Episode 3 — “THE INVITATION” — 53 FD pages
- Feature screenplay adaptation
- Published novel / source manuscript
- Series Bible
- Submission Package