



The Scoop

Azure Springs, Ohio, has always been a pleasant town. As the hub of Lake County, it serves as the heart of the state for many Ohioans, not least so for its picturesque parks, friendly townsfolk, and beloved landmarks. However, scratching beneath the surface of Azure Springs reveals a seedy underbelly of deceit and fraud, where the rich get richer and those who don't stay quiet often meet an untimely demise. Back in the good ol' days, citizens could count on local news stations to hold these crooked folks to account, but with buyout after buyout, slowly the local newsrooms have fallen. Azure Springs Announcements & Publications (now simply known as ASAP) remains as the last bastion of solid journalism and good sense for the public, delivering the headlines three times daily. ASAP has recently fallen on hard times, with major news corporations threatening to steal their viewership, which would leave dozens of Azure Spring's best & brightest unemployed. Because of this, ASAP has had to become ever more reliant on fluff pieces and advertising, as they drift further away from the hard hitting journalism they made their name on. As corruption continues to spread through the streets of Azure Springs, and so many interested parties anxious to get ASAP out of the picture, can the one remaining local newsroom find its way again? Or will the staff simply help themselves and get out before it's too late?

Relationships...

1 – talent

- 1 Lead anchor and new co-host
- 2 Roving reporter and the only cameraman they trust
- 3 Sports & celebrity correspondents who want each other's jobs
- 4 Resident meteorologist and apprentice who knows more than them
- 5 Stand-in anchors who are desperate for the limelight
- 6 Used to host 6pm news, now hosting 6am news

2 – work

- 1 Scriptwriter and spellchecker
- 2 Technicians having to get creative due to budget cuts
- 3 Make-up artist and hair stylist who hate each other's guts
- 4 Paranoid sound engineer and reason for paranoia
- 5 Canteen worker and the lady that "delivers the salmon"
- 6 Secretary and boss

3 - the past

- 1 Took the same Journalism course
- 2 Members of the same pyramid scheme
- 3 Former Alcoholics Anonymous attendee and unhelpful sponsor
- 4 Each responsible for breaking the other's limb
- 5 Childhood rivals
- 6 Why does everyone always think we're related?

4 - Romance

- 1 Current spouses
- 2 Former spouses
- 3 Together out of convenience
- 4 Clearly punching above their weight
- 5 Fucked once and everyone knows it
- 6 Purely platonic lovers

5 - crime

- 1 Kingpin and their loyal contact
- 2 Squealer and aspiring squealer
- 3 Two undercover reporters who are unaware of each other
- 4 Trying to make the headlines whatever way they can
- 5 Vandalised a beloved local statue
- 6 Ransacked a pet store and unsure what to do with the animals

6 – lead stories

- 1 Marine biologist from the local aquarium and person with a dolphin heart
- 2 The only two Welsh people in a 100 mile radius we could find to comment
- 3 Local inventor and the person they're suing
- 4 Accidentally stopped a fire and eternally grateful survivor
- 5 Witnesses to a robbery who were in on the whole thing
- 6 Owner of the world's largest Tortilla chip and proud aunt

...In a local newsroom

Needs...

1 – to get the job

- 1 ...by making the other candidates look incompetent
- 2 ...by bullshitting the biggest story of the year
- 3 ...by taking credit for someone else's work
- 4 ...by blackmailing the current holder of the position
- 5 ...by showing the local mob they can trust you
- 6 ...by pinning the mayor to this whole thing

2 – to get away

- 1 ...from this shitty station to a national broadcaster
- 2 ...from a scandal that could come to light at any minute
- 3 ...from the petty squabbling and focus on the news
- 4 ...from all the people you're going to rat out
- 5 ...from your family commitments to focus on your careers
- 6 ...from a story that is too dangerous, even for you

3 – to get even

- 1 ...with that smug fireman who embarrassed you on-air
- 2 ...with the police who keep telling your leads to keep quiet
- 3 ...with your sociopathic landlord
- 4 ...from that stupid network who think they can fire you for misconduct
- 5 ...with the state of Ohio for everything it's done

6 ...with your co-worker and best friend

4 – to get respect

- 1 ...from your spouse, so they'll stop thinking about having an affair
- 2 ...from your stepdaughter
- 3 ...from someone else's stepdaughter
- 4 ...from the higher-ups at ASAP
- 5 ...from that little shit who is trying to take your job
- 6 ...from everyone, the only way you know how

5 – to get the truth

- 1 ...about what happened to Sally McCourt that night
- 2 ...about what the mayor pissed away 4 million dollars on
- 3 ...about local celebrity Todd Danes
- 4 ...about why the previous anchors were fired so suddenly
- 5 ...about who left a loaded gun in the building
- 6 ...about that hip new drug all the kids are using

6 - To get laid

- 1 ...so you can use it as evidence
- 2 ...so you're not the only one with this STI
- 3 ...by local celebrity Todd Danes
- 4 ...because we've been married for two years and I'm sick of waiting
- 5 ...by that weathergirl who thinks she's better than you
- 6 ...to hurt their career

...In a local newsroom

Locations...

1 – In the studio

- 1 ASAP Action News Desk
- 2 The “Sports O’clock” Sports Desk
- 3 ASAP’s barely working weather blue-screen
- 4 Behind the cameras, amongst the tangled wires
- 5 The couches where we interview the guests
- 6 The walkway above the studio that holds the lights in place

2 – Backstage

- 1 The snack room where they keep the good muffins
- 2 Janitor’s broom closet
- 3 On the roof, by the broadcast tower
- 4 Secretary’s desk at the front door of the building
- 5 Office of the President of ASAP
- 6 Production control room

3 – at the scene

- 1 Charred remains of the carpet warehouse
- 2 Front steps of city hall
- 3 Azure Springs Playing Fields (Go Salamanders!)
- 4 The Azure Springs nondenominational church
- 5 Principal’s office of Azure Spring Elementary
- 6 Azure Springs courthouse

4 – off the record

- 1 Home of local celebrity Todd Danes
- 2 Unlit corner of the underground parking lot
- 3 Abandoned duck pond
- 4 A screening of that new Adam Sandler movie in the Buckeye Theatre
- 5 Room on the 3rd floor of the Azure Springs Inn
- 6 Behind the bead curtains at adult store “La Luxure”

5 – The usual spots

- 1 Trendy nightclub “Schmaltzy”
- 2 The tanning salon that has those isolation tanks in it
- 3 The suit shop that gives you a surprisingly deep discount
- 4 The Wolfhound Irish Pub
- 5 Lou Frank’s Pharmacy & Frozen Yoghurt shop
- 6 Pizzeria “The Princely Pepperoni”

6 – Sights of azure springs

- 1 By the edge of Lake Erie
- 2 The largest oak tree in Ohio
- 3 The plaque dedicated to Neil Armstrong in the cemetery
- 4 The Conlon farmhouse on the outskirts of town
- 5 That hill everyone says is a dormant volcano
- 6 Town square, where the time capsule is buried

...In a local newsroom

Objects...

1 - Unsavoury

- 1 Some illicit pictures of your unknowing neighbour
- 2 A broken stiletto heel, covered in vomit
- 3 The keys to the old jailhouse
- 4 The last surviving copy of a sex tape
- 5 Some dead goldfish
- 6 A cardboard cut-out of local celebrity Todd Danes

2 - Information

- 1 An SD card filled with incriminating photos
- 2 A time, date and address written on a napkin
- 3 Video footage of a shady figure
- 4 A binder of unpublished celebrity obituaries
- 5 Voice recording of a public figure being uncharacteristically racist
- 6 A tape recorder containing two very different accounts of the same story

3 - Transportation

- 1 A Segway
- 2 A bright red Honda Civic
- 3 A Ford Focus Electric that barely works
- 4 A mountain bike
- 5 A pair of pink roller-skates
- 6 The ASAP news-wagon

4 - Valuables

- 1 A hollowed-out copy of "Fellowship of the Ring"
- 2 A Jeroboam of champagne
- 3A mint condition pair of sneakers
- 4A solid gold cigarette lighter
- 5A bottle of medication which is no longer legal in the state of Ohio
- 6What you believe to be an original Picasso

5 - Sentimental

- 1 An unworn engagement ring
- 2 A magazine with your face on the cover
- 3The last birthday card you received from your father
- 4 The Nokia 1100 that saved your life
- 5 A small figurine of an Ice Hockey player
- 6 A Peabody Award (not necessarily yours)

6 - Weapon

- 1 A pair of frequently polished brass knuckles
- 2 A hunting rifle that has been made to look like a Nerf gun
- 3 A bloodied 9-iron
- 4 A Glock pistol
- 5 A bread knife
- 6 An overfilled bag of fireworks

...In a local newsroom