

NBC airs Jackie Collins' 'Lucky/Chances' miniseries

Nicollette Sheridan
saga's drawing card

By Amy Schmidt

While NBC airs the six-hour miniseries, *Lucky/Chances*, over three consecutive nights, beginning Sunday, Oct. 7, CBS will counter with the American and National League baseball championships, and *The 24th Annual Country Music Association Awards*.

Author Jackie Collins, who penned the six-hour NBC saga, an amalgamation of her two best-sellers *Lucky* and *Chances*, isn't worried. "We wanted to do something that was going to be exciting, but that would also appeal to men. Because I think that a lot of older men are sort of glued to the television with their can of beer, watching baseball. But give any red-blooded male the choice of watching the playoffs or watching Nicollette Sheridan, and I think I know who they'll choose."

Sheridan (*Knot's Landings*) will don a



Jackie Collins' (far left) NBC miniseries *Lucky/Chances* begins Sunday and stars (from left) Vincent Irizarry, Anne-Marie Johnson, Nicollette Sheridan, Michael Nader and Leann Hunley.

dark wig for her lead role with co-star Vincent Irizarry (*Santa Barbara*). Irizarry plays gangster Gino Santangelo, and Sheridan is his strong-willed

daughter, Lucky, who together are caught in a power struggle to maintain control of the Santangelo empire and fortune.

The novel *Lucky*, published by Collins in 1982, topped 10 million copies. The follow-up novel *Chances* came out in 1985 and spent 23 weeks on *The New York Times* best-seller list. Some critics have expressed concern, however, that the novels are five and eight years old and that the bloom is now off the rose for romantic melodramatic miniseries.

Not so, says Collins. *Lucky/Chances* stars are "great-looking," the sex is "erotic," the cinematographer "wonderful," and the production values high. Moreover, says Collins, that unlike the film adaptation of her book, *Hollywood Wives*, she has been very involved with *Lucky/Chances*: "I was on the set every day, and I was involved with the casting and the look of it, and I wrote it."

So, who knows? If Collins is lucky, and the miniseries fares well in the ratings, she just may get the chance to do another.

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Ellen Barkin and Dennis Quaid play an attorney and a detective investigating a grisly drug war fostered by police corruption in *The Big Easy*, Thursday on CBS.

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