

Logline

An undercover cop infiltrates an Irish mob in Boston led by a ruthless kingpin, but struggles to maintain his cover when a fellow officer may be a mole leaking information that threatens to expose his true identity.

Genre

Crime, Drama, Thriller

Top Keywords

crime, police, undercover, drugs, organized crime, corruption, violence, murder, boston, investigation, gangs, mob, mafia

Time Period

Based on the details provided in the narrative, the majority of the screenplay takes place in the 1980s in Boston, Massachusetts and its surrounding areas.

Location Setting

The geographical setting of the screenplay is primarily in Boston and its surrounding areas, including:

Southie, Boston

Script Score

1. Character Development: 7/10 - The main characters of Billy and Colin are well developed with complex motivations and backgrounds. Supporting characters like Queenan, Madolyn, and Costello also have depth. Some side characters could be more fleshed out.

2. Plot Construction: 8/10 - The plot has a strong narrative arc and escalating tension between the two protagonists. The twists and turns keep engagement high. The ending resolution is impactful.

3. Dialogue: 8/10 - The dialogue often crackles with intensity, humor, and subtext. Each character has a distinct voice. Some exchanges are overly expository.

4. Originality: 7/10 - The undercover cop/criminal informant premise has been done before, but the execution feels fresh. The Boston setting adds flavor.

5. Emotional Engagement: 9/10 - The constant danger, high stakes, and moral ambiguity create strong emotional investment in the fates of the characters.

6. Theme and Message: 8/10 - The exploration of identity, loyalty, trust, and moral compromise comes across clearly. The ending highlights the self-perpetuating cycle of violence and corruption.

Overall Rating: 8/10

In summary, the screenplay is very strong across most criteria, with excellent character development, plot construction, dialogue, and emotional engagement. The thematic content is clear and impactful. Some minor issues exist with originality and dimensionality of minor characters. But overall, it is a compelling crime drama with layers of moral complexity.

Short Synopsis

Billy Costigan grows up in South Boston surrounded by crime and joins the police force as an undercover agent to infiltrate the organization of mob boss Frank Costello. Colin Sullivan also grows up in South Boston under Costello's influence and joins the police force, secretly working for Costello as a mole. Billy manages to gain Costello's trust, but Colin becomes suspicious that there is an informant in the organization. After Billy witnesses Costello murder a police captain, Colin arranges the death of the captain and nearly kills Billy too. Billy gets evidence of Colin's involvement with Costello and intends to arrest him, but Colin kills Billy first. Colin then covers up the murders and maintains his status as a decorated police sergeant while Billy is buried anonymously. However, Colin's crimes are

eventually exposed by another officer, leading to Colin's death.

Comprehensive Synopsis

In South Boston in the 1980s, young Colin Sullivan is mentored by crime boss Frank Costello. Years later, Colin joins the Massachusetts State Police while secretly reporting to Costello. Billy Costigan comes from an organized crime family but becomes a police cadet. His family background gets him recruited by Captain Queenan and Sergeant Dignam to go undercover in Costello's crew.

Colin is assigned to the Special Investigations Unit tracking Costello. Unaware of each other's true identities, Colin and Billy both operate as moles, trying to identify the other side's informants. After Billy almost catches Colin at a porno theater, Colin has Queenan tailed and killed. Billy escapes and tries to bring evidence against Colin to Madolyn, a police psychiatrist who is also Colin's girlfriend.

Colin learns Billy's identity and erases his undercover records. Billy arranges a meeting where he takes Colin hostage, intending to arrest him. Another trooper arrives, resulting in a standoff. Colin is rescued when Billy is suddenly shot by Barrigan, another cop on Costello's payroll. Colin kills Barrigan and pins the blame on him, emerging unscathed.

At Billy's funeral, Colin sees Madolyn but she remains distant. Later, Colin is confronted by Dignam, who shoots him for his role in the deaths of Queenan and Billy. The story closes with a rat emerging to eat Colin's fallen groceries.

The synopsis captures the main narrative arc, focusing on the central characters of Colin, Billy, and their undercover operations on opposing sides. It highlights the major events including the deaths of Queenan, Billy, and ultimately Colin, while condensing some plot details due to the one page length limit. Please let me know if you would like me to expand or modify the synopsis in any way.

Plot Assessment and Enhancement

What's Working Well:

- The setup of having two moles/undercover agents (Billy and Colin) trying to infiltrate the same crime organization creates an intriguing dynamic and suspense. Their interactions and near discoveries of each other's identities are well done.
- The relationships between the criminals, cops, and moles are complex and keep the story engaging. There are no purely "good" or "bad" characters.
- The action sequences and shootouts are exciting and propel the plot forward. The violence fits the criminal underworld setting.
- The ending provides a grimly satisfying conclusion to the cat-and-mouse game between the moles, criminals, and cops. Colin's fate feels deserved.

What Could Be Improved:

- The narrative is dense and fast-paced, which can make it hard to follow at times. Additional scene transitions or simplifying some subplots may help.
- Some of the minor characters like Madolyn feel underdeveloped. Giving more insight into her motivations could strengthen her role.
- There are opportunities for more emotional resonance - exploring the toll this lifestyle takes on Colin and Billy could add depth.
- The motivations behind some key choices, like Colin's decision to kill Queenan, are unclear and could use more setup.
- The pacing slows down a bit in the second half once Queenan is killed. Finding ways to maintain momentum could help.

Overall, the complex web of deceit and double-crosses makes for an engaging plot. Focusing on clarifying character

motivations, streamlining subplots, and sustaining momentum in the second half could further enhance the strong foundations. More emotional depth would also help balance the action.

Character Profiling

1. Billy Costigan: Billy is the central protagonist of the story. He is a young police officer who goes undercover to infiltrate the Irish mob led by Frank Costello. Billy is conflicted throughout the story, torn between his loyalty to the police force and his desire to bring down Costello. He is determined, resourceful, and willing to take risks to achieve his goals. Billy fits the archetype of the Hero, as he embarks on a dangerous journey to expose the corruption within the mob and protect the innocent. archetype: Hero
2. Colin Sullivan: Colin is a rising star in the Massachusetts State Police and a mole for Frank Costello. He is tasked with uncovering the identity of Costello's informant within the police force. Colin is intelligent, charismatic, and skilled at manipulating others. He is torn between his loyalty to Costello and his duty as a police officer. Colin fits the archetype of the Trickster, as he deceives those around him and plays both sides to protect his own interests. archetype: Trickster
3. Frank Costello: Costello is the main antagonist of the story and the leader of the Irish mob in Boston. He is a ruthless and cunning criminal who has infiltrated the police force. Costello is charismatic, manipulative, and highly intelligent. He uses his connections and influence to maintain control over his criminal empire. Costello fits the archetype of the Shadow, representing the dark and hidden aspects of society. archetype: Shadow
4. Captain Queenan: Captain Queenan is the head of the Special Investigations Unit and serves as a mentor to Billy. He is a seasoned police officer who suspects there is a mole within the police force. Queenan is wise, experienced, and dedicated to upholding justice. He guides Billy and provides him with crucial information and support. Queenan fits the archetype of the Mentor, as he imparts wisdom and guidance to the protagonist. archetype: Mentor
5. Sergeant Dignam: Dignam is a tough and cynical police officer who works closely with Queenan. He is suspicious of Colin and becomes increasingly distrustful of him as the story progresses. Dignam is blunt, confrontational, and fiercely loyal to Queenan. He serves as a voice of skepticism and acts as a foil to Colin. Dignam fits the archetype of the Guardian, as he protects and defends the truth within the police force. archetype: Guardian
6. Madolyn Madden: Madolyn is a psychiatrist who becomes romantically involved with both Billy and Colin. She is intelligent, compassionate, and perceptive. Madolyn plays a significant role in the story as she becomes entangled in the lives of both men. She serves as a moral compass and provides emotional support to Billy and Colin. Madolyn fits the archetype of the Lover, as she represents love, connection, and emotional depth. archetype: Lover

Main Character Casting

Colin Sullivan:

1. Matt Damon - Has played similar complex characters in films like *The Departed* and *The Bourne Identity*. Can portray Colin's duality and internal struggles.
2. Jake Gyllenhaal - Skilled at playing morally ambiguous characters. Could capture Colin's charisma and corruption.
3. Ryan Gosling - Has range to portray Colin's charm and ruthlessness. Would bring nuance to the role.
4. Armie Hammer - Has the looks and ability to play a confident, powerful Colin. Could show his dark side too.
5. Joel Kinnaman - Known for gritty, intense roles like in *Altered Carbon*. Could embody Colin's intensity and flaws.
6. James Marsden - Has experience with layered, dramatic characters. Would bring depth and complexity to Colin.
7. Charlie Hunnam - Convincing as authoritative, alpha male types. Could capture Colin's swagger and arrogance.
8. Jon Hamm - Excellent at portraying charming yet flawed men. Would bring gravitas and moral ambiguity.
9. Michael Fassbender - Skilled in complex roles in films like *Shame*. Could show Colin's inner turmoil and corruption.
10. Chris Pine - Has range to play Colin's likability and villainous nature. Would bring charisma and edge.

role.

10. Timothée Chalamet - Rising talent who could tap into Billy's despair and psychological trauma. Would bring authenticity.

Frank Costello:

1. Jack Nicholson - Originated the role. Would reprise the character's chilling menace and corrupt power.
2. Robert De Niro - Legendary actor who could instill Costello with sinister charisma and gravitas.
3. Al Pacino - Would bring explosive energy and volatility to Costello. Could capture his ruthless nature.
4. Joe Pesci - Excelled as violent mobsters in films like Goodfellas. Would be convincing as the crime boss Costello.
5. Harvey Keitel - Long history playing gritty, intense characters. Would bring a commanding presence to Costello.
6. Willem Dafoe - Exceptional ability to play unsettling, villainous characters. Could humanize Costello's darkness.
7. Edward James Olmos - Intimidating presence and acting chops to portray Costello's criminal mastermind.
8. Ben Kingsley - Award-winning actor who could provide a unique, menacing interpretation of Costello.
9. Forest Whitaker - Immense talent perfect for embodying Costello's complexity and corruption.
10. John Malkovich - Would lend an eccentric, cerebral edge to the character. Could show Costello's intelligence.

Main Character Casting Limited Budget

1. Ben Barnes - English actor in his 30s who can play conflicted, ambitious characters. Recently starred in smaller budget films like The Words.
2. Dan Stevens - English actor in his 30s with experience playing complex lead roles in independent films like The Guest.
3. Sam Claflin - English actor in his 30s who has played gritty dramatic roles like in Journey's End. Could capture Colin's struggle.
4. Douglas Booth - English actor in his 20s who can portray Colin's charm and duplicity. Has worked in lower budget films like Loving Vincent.
5. Tom Hughes - English actor in his 30s with experience in crime dramas. Portrayed conflicted characters in Cemetery Junction.
6. Luke Pasqualino - English actor in his 20s who could capture Colin's ambition and duality. Known for roles in The Borgias and Snowpiercer.
7. Freddie Fox - English actor in his 30s who specializes in complex, troubled characters. Recently starred in Year of the Rabbit.
8. George MacKay - English actor in his 20s who could portray Colin's inner turmoil. Known for 1917 and Pride.
9. Nicholas Hoult - English actor in his 30s who can play manipulative characters. Starred in smaller films like A Single Man.
10. Aaron Taylor-Johnson - English actor in his 20s who can capture Colin's darkness. Known for smaller films like

Kick-Ass.

For Billy Costigan:

1. Logan Marshall-Green - American actor in his 30s who excels at gritty, intense roles like in Upgrade. Could capture Billy's drive and desperation.
2. Scott Eastwood - American actor in his 30s who has experience with troubled action characters. Known for films like Overdrive.
3. Ansel Elgort - American actor in his 20s who could portray Billy's criminal side and inner conflict. Starred in low budget films like Billionaire Boys Club.
4. Dylan O'Brien - American actor in his 20s who can play gritty, angry characters like in American Assassin. Could capture Billy's volatility.
5. Aaron Paul - American actor in his 30s who is skilled at portraying criminals and antiheroes like in Breaking Bad.
6. Shia LaBeouf - American actor in his 30s with experience playing criminals and outsiders in films like Lawless. Could capture Billy's anger and alienation.
7. Logan Lerman - American actor in his 20s known for indie films like Perks of Being a Wallflower. Could portray Billy's criminal ties and desire to break free.
8. Emory Cohen - American actor in his 20s who can capture a gritty, brooding intensity like in Brooklyn.
9. Dane DeHaan - American actor in his 30s who excels at playing troubled, angry outsiders. Known for films like Kill Your Darlings.
10. Nat Wolff - American actor in his 20s who could portray Billy's criminal family ties and inner turmoil. Known for indie films like Palo Alto.

Comparative Film Analysis

1. The Departed (2006) - This screenplay is the basis for the film itself, which won four Academy Awards, including Best Picture. It combines elements of crime, undercover operations, and betrayal.
2. Infernal Affairs (2002) - This Hong Kong film served as the inspiration for The Departed. It explores similar themes of undercover cops and moles within the police force.
3. Goodfellas (1990) - This Martin Scorsese film delves into the world of organized crime and the complex relationships between criminals and law enforcement.
4. The Godfather (1972) - This iconic film follows the Corleone crime family and their interactions with the police and government officials.
5. Heat (1995) - This crime thriller showcases the cat-and-mouse game between a group of professional bank robbers and the dedicated detective trying to bring them down.
6. Training Day (2001) - This film explores the corrupt practices within the police force and the moral dilemmas faced by an idealistic rookie cop.
7. The French Connection (1971) - This classic crime film focuses on a pair of detectives trying to dismantle a drug smuggling operation.
8. Donnie Brasco (1997) - Based on a true story, this film follows an undercover FBI agent who infiltrates the Mafia and

forms a close bond with a mobster.

9. *The Usual Suspects* (1995) - This mystery crime film revolves around a group of criminals and the enigmatic figure known as Keyser Söze.

10. *Serpico* (1973) - This biographical crime film tells the story of Frank Serpico, an honest police officer who exposes corruption within the New York City Police Department.

These films were all successful at the box office, with *The Departed* grossing over \$289 million worldwide, *Goodfellas* earning over \$46 million domestically, and *The Godfather* becoming one of the highest-grossing films of all time.