

A FEATURE SCREENPLAY · DARK CRIME THRILLER

MELTDOWN

written by Craig Houchin

LOGLINE

MELTDOWN is a dark crime thriller set at the height of the Occupy Wall Street movement, about a rule-bending homicide detective on the trail of a killer executing "too-big-to-jail" Wall Street bankers one by one. But as the investigation deepens, the detective begins to embrace the killer's brand of vigilante justice, and questions whether he should stop him or help him.

STORY SUMMARY

MIKE MALLOY is an NYPD homicide detective whose sense of justice looks more like revenge. When a serial killer begins executing Wall Street bankers and leaving populist calls for justice at the crime scenes, the NYPD labels the murders terrorism and forms a joint task force to catch him. Leading the investigation is **WILL MANETTI**, an ambitious, by-the-book young detective with the Counter Terrorism Bureau. The son of a disgraced NYPD cop, Will is driven to erase his father's stain.

As the killings continue and pressure on the task force mounts, a growing protest movement rallies around the unknown vigilante, believing that he is delivering the justice that the courts and the government have failed to.

As the detectives interview foreclosure victims whose photos were left at the crime scenes, Malloy listens to their stories of injustice at the hands of the banks and begins to sympathize with the killer's cause. He sees in him a kindred spirit: a man who, like himself, is willing to pursue justice at any cost.

During a routine interview with a man Malloy and Will believe is just another foreclosure victim, they realize they've stumbled upon the killer—an out-of-work house painter who calls himself **DAVID HART**.

David runs, and Malloy and Will become separated in the chase. Malloy corners David alone and faces a crisis of conscience. He believes in David's mission, so he lets him go.

David leaves behind an organized, almost too-good-to-be-true trove of evidence tying him to the murders, including an actual hit list of his intended targets. But as the investigation and manhunt continue, new evidence suggests that David isn't who Malloy believes him to be. Malloy discovers that the real David Hart is dead and that the man he let go is a contract killer using David Hart as a mask while he works to hide his employer's money-laundering scheme beneath a series of bank CEO murders and the ensuing chaos of the populist Occupy uprising.

But when the killer and Malloy next meet, there is another twist. The killer reveals that Malloy's faith in him has profoundly reawakened something in him he thought he had lost: a righteous purpose. He invites Malloy to join him for the final hit and deliver the only kind of justice the system will ever allow.

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