

Screen Treatment, ***Gray Justice***
From the Novel, "*Gray Justice*," by Ron W. Mumford

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Writers Guild of America West Registration Numbers:

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Genre: International Action/Thriller, courtroom drama

Logline: *Dirty Harry* teams with *The Godfather* to bend the law around *Scarface*. Finishes Tom Clancy's novel/film *Clear and Present Danger*.

Premise: It's all about the money! The U.S. Government spends in excess of \$24 billion a year to fight organized crime and drugs. The U.S. based Mafia, as far as government agencies can tell, takes in \$20 billion a year in unlawful enterprises. The U.S. government cannot invade a sovereign nations like Mexico or Colombia to stop drug production, especially the farmers who grow the plants from which drugs are made. The mafia can go anywhere they choose to go. Working together, under the guidance of the U.S. government, the mafia acts as foreign agents of the U.S. government, doing what they do best, "making people offers they can't refuse." The U.S. government agrees to pay the mafia \$24 billion a year to the U.S. based mafia, by giving them government contracts and do away with the unlawful businesses of the mafia which they no longer need. It is not the first time the government has teamed with the mafia, as in "Lucky" Luciano given government contracts to guard New York harbor during WWII. Stop the plants

from being grown, stop the drugs. Pay farmers to grow other produce, U.S. government will sell them to foreign nations.

Reader Comments: "If the situations lined up and the Department of Justice and other drug-fighting agencies had the fortitude to do what is written in this book, we could eliminate drugs, organized crime and drain the swamp in Washington, D.C. just as this book lays out... Amazing!"
U.S. Attorney (Chooses to remain anonymous)

Main Characters, (Protagonists)/Ensemble Cast:

1. **Judd Rayburn**, (Hero), mid-forties, Texas Assistant U.S. Attorney in El Paso, TX.
2. **Rikki Rhine**, Colorful first woman to win Top Gun at Miramar in her early aviation career, now an NCIS Officer. Former college flame of Judd Rayburn.
3. **Joe Feather**, Native American Indian F.B.I. agent from New Mexico, former Green Beret. Judd Rayburn's best friend.
4. **Randall Erin**, U.S. Attorney, Judd's boss on this huge drug case in El Paso.
5. **Erica Stone**, Blonde, beautiful local news anchor. Has a big crush on Judd Rayburn. Determined to get the story at any cost!
6. **Maureen McAfee**, Judd's high-energy, flamboyant, super loyal assistant. Can juggle many tasks, many boyfriends at the same time. Finishes Judd's sentences before he speaks them.
7. **Father Molina**, Priest to *El Prevision*, a Puerto Rican group labeled as terrorists but really like a Robin Hood group that steals from the rich landowners in Puerto Rico who have stolen land from farmers. *El Prevision's* leaders, **Jose** and the tough, AK-47-carrying, **Leti**.

Protagonists/Antagonist: Reader doesn't know until end of book.

1. **Daniel Perrone**, son of Nico "The Bull" Perrone, head of all 24 families of La Cosa Nostra (*this thing of ours*) families in New York.
2. **Robin Perrone**, M.D., dark-haired beauty and sister of Daniel Perrone, Judd's forbidden love interest.

Antagonists:

1. **Julio Cortez**, ruthless, blood-thirsty head of the Mexican Cartel (Main Antagonist)

2. **Rigozzi**, equally ruthless, head of the Sicilian Mob, working with Russians to get drugs into the Russian states.
3. **Three, corrupt Russian ministers/businessmen** trying to control all the drugs coming into the Russian states.
4. **Several, corrupt U.S. Congressmen.** Deep State controllers in Congress.

Locations

1. **El Paso, TX**-Opening scene depicts a huge drug-bust gone horrifically bad by several ill-prepared government agencies in and around El Paso. The Mexican Cartel knows about the bust and ambushes the U.S. lawmen lying in wait for them in a huge, bloody gun battle. Judd is wounded. Joe Feather rescues him, Erica Stone covers the event with her news crew.
2. **Mexico**-Feather and Rikki go undercover into the strong-hold of Julio Cortez to strike him with frozen darts filled with LSD and to lure him back over the border into Texas of his own free will, avoiding kidnapping charges. This is a very solid form of **Gray Justice**. With Feather's form Green Beret contacts, Judd forms his own group of mercenaries called **The Jury** just in case they need help immediately. They cannot depend on support from the government since they are so far over their heads in the, uh, well, very covert way they are taking the law into their own hands.
3. **New York, NY.** Judd figures out that the U.S. Justice Department and La Cosa Nostra have a common enemy, Rigozzi of the Sicilian Mob who is trying to recruit from the U.S. Mafia. "*The enemy of my enemy is my friend.*" Judd goes to New York to have a forbidden talk with an arch-rival, Daniel Perrone, head of the Mafia families.
4. **Puerto Rico**-With all the pharma companies in PR, All parties, good and bad, arrive there in their pursuit of drug distribution plans. Judd, Feather and Rikki (not to mention the determined Erica Stone) arrive there, following their investigation of the growing number of participants-- Sicilians, Russians, U.S. Congressmen, Mexican & Columbian Cartels.
5. **Washington, D.C.** - Judd and Feather are called to the White House and believe it is to be reprimanded for their actions if the government finds out what they are doing. Instead, from the heroic footage of the bad drug bust, the President presents Judd and Feather with The Medal of Freedom Award. (What both do not know is that "Big Brother" is watching their every move.
6. **Medellin, Colombia**- "**The Brotherhood of the Bullet.**" In a "trick" ceremony between the top 50 La Cosa Nostra Captains and Lieutenants and the top 50 Cartel members, Nico "The Bull" Perrone tells the cartel about a very special ceremony that will completely bind their agreement to distribute all of their drugs in the U.S. In one big "POW" all 50 of the Cartel members are killed

Synopsis/Act 1, The Set Up

Judd Rayburn is an assistant District Attorney in El Paso, Texas, who experiences a terrible drug bust gone wrong. The title of the first chapter, *Murphy's Law*, carries throughout the story. His pursuit of law and justice are captured on film by would-be suitor, Erica Stone, local news anchor who continuously plagues his attempts to seek his kind of justice.

Joe Feather, Zuni Indian New Mexico FBI agent, Judd's best friend, joins the fight along with Judd's old college flame, Rikki Rhine, Top Gun Winner, NCIS and a very colorful Naval Intelligence Officer with unorthodox methods of getting what she wants. Her self confidence is undaunted.

The antagonist is Julio Cortez, a barbaric Mexican Cartel drug boss who kills an FBI undercover agent, Dee Espinoza, right in front of everyone during the bad bust. He suspends Espinoza from a hangman's noose below a hovering helicopter two hundred feet above the officers and cuts the rope. Espinoza plummets to his death in plain sight.

This terrifying opening scene leads the way to an investigation into the affairs of the Mexican Cartel. By stretching the law itself our heroes go into Mexico with a plan to get Cortez back on American soil, legally. This story within a story is almost a divine comedy.

Act 2- The Crisis

During discovery before the trial to convict Cortez and twenty-seven other cartel flunkies captured during the bust, Judd, Feather and Rikki's interrogation of the soldiers reveal the involvement of Mexican Congressmen, U.S. Congressmen, Sicilian mob members and high ranking officers of several of the former Russian republics. They are all meeting at a pharmaceutical company in Puerto Rico with Mexican and Colombian Cartel bosses. Their plan is to process and ship drugs from this site into Eastern Europe. And, U.S. Congressmen are involved. This can of worms investigation quickly escalates into an international pit of snakes. Who can be trusted? Is *Big Brother* involved?

Judd and Rikki go to Puerto Rico taking pictures to identify all the players. At the same time, Feather puts together a mercenary team of ex-special forces and hides them at a secret location in Con Can, Texas. They call their team "The Jury," a group they can call on at a moment's notice without all the government red tape. The Jury is unauthorized by law but necessary for survival in a fight that is becoming overwhelming.

Judd is kidnapped by the Sicilian mob boss, Rigozzi, who takes him into a camp deep within the Puerto Rican jungle to beat and interrogate him about why he is there and what he knows about their plan. Judd spits in their faces. Rikki is frantic and realizes that Judd will be killed very soon. She recognizes another player on the island, Daniel Perrone, son of the head of all twenty-four families of the La Cosa Nostra, Nico "The Bull" Perrone, and his doctor/surgeon daughter, Robin Perrone, who usually has no participation in family business.

Rikki knows the American mafia launders drug money but basically detests drugs. Believing that both may be on the outside looking in, she meets with Daniel and lays her cards on the table. She needs his help locating Judd. Daniel needs information also and agrees to help. A day later, Daniel procures Judd's location and who is holding him. Daniel believes his Sicilian brothers are trying to take over his operations in the states and agrees to help Rikki.

Feather and "The Jury" show up for the gun battle rescue along with Rikki, Daniel and Robin Perrone. Daniel kills Rigozzi and Robin nurses Judd back to health as she silently falls for "her cowboy." Judd, in his almost unconscious state, thinks Robin is an angel. Erica Stone secretly captures the rescue on film and becomes very jealous of Robin. Judd is smitten with a forbidden love affair. He cannot get Robin out of his mind, much to the chagrin of her brother.

Before returning to El Paso for the trial, Judd has a "skivvies" talk with Daniel telling him that the U.S. Justice Department is coming after La Cosa Nostra...or, they could work together. It's all about the money. Judd knows from government reports that La Cosa Nostra operations net them about \$17 billion per year, which is the same budget law enforcement has to take them down. Daniel wants to legitimize La Cosa Nostra businesses. Judd tells him how to do this. After all, the U.S. hired "Lucky" Luciano to guard New York Harbor during World War II.

Judd's Plan: Daniel would set a meeting with the Colombian Cartel to be sole distributor of Cartel cocaine and heroin in the U.S. Simultaneously the U.S. government would set up a company, "newco," in La Cosa Nostra's name in Colombia and staff it with agricultural and commodity experts. Once the Cartel was out of the way, which was for La Cosa Nostra to figure out, "newco" would reclaim the land from the local farmers who would scrape their cocoa fields and re-plant with other world commodity food crops that would be brokered to third world nations on a mass scale, yielding huge profits for the La Cosa Nostra owned company. In addition, the U.S. government would direct building contracts to the Mafia to build government housing and remodel prisons that would not be filling up as fast since drugs would disappear from the U.S.. La Cosa Nostra would then act as an international, off-shore police force to keep drug trafficking out of the U.S. and would pay taxes on their profits.

Daniel sees this plan as a win-win for the Mafia, either way, even though drug distribution was offensive to La Cosa Nostra, it was profitable. Daniel sets a meeting between his father, Nico, and Judd to go over details and a price tag for the proposed deal.

Judd returned to El Paso, prosecutes the prisoners, including Cortez, and gets "guilty" verdicts. During transportation to prison, Cortez escapes in another horrific gun battle. More officers down, more lives lost, more reason to keep going.

Act 3- The Resolution

Judd and Feather are summoned to the White House to receive Medal of Freedom awards from the President. They are national news heroes thanks to Erica's footage. The White House ceremony scares Judd and Feather. Will they be awarded or busted for their actions? Does the government know what they are doing and what is the involvement of the three congressmen? During his trip to Washington, Judd meets Nico, Daniel and Robin in nearby upstate New York.

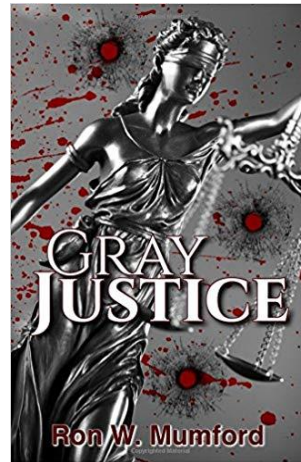
The meeting is tense, no trust on either side. Nico's price to go forward is \$24 billion. During a break in the discussions, Judd and Robin have a very close romantic interlude. The deal is on. Daniel meets with the Colombian Cartel group and makes his deceptive plan to eliminate them in a fake "Brotherhood of the Bullet" ceremony to be held the night of the transfer of money and drugs in Cali, Colombia, to the freighter, *Agua*, waiting off shore.

Judd is summoned back to the White House. *Big Brother* knows everything from beginning to end and allowed Judd's group to proceed. The three congressmen in question are not "dirty," rather patriots that would allow the Russia republics to become addicted in order to preserve America's position in Europe. Their testimony is amazing. The President agrees to Nico's price tag to "buy off" organized crime and will set up "newco" in Colombia, since the U.S. cannot violate the sovereignty of another nation. The President also wants dossiers from La Cosa Nostra on any "dirty" congressmen to expose them, cleaning up congress. They watch the midnight operation go down in Colombia together, along with the three congressmen.

The "Brotherhood of the Bullet" charade eliminates the Cartel bosses in a single POW! Feather, Rikki and The Jury copter out to the freighter to arrest all the mafia dissenters and take possession of the drugs. Cortez is waiting for them, kills Feather and Rikki crashes her chopper into the freighter telling her crew to off board so she can bury her secret husband [Feather] in her own way. No one knew of their marriage, much less Judd, but justice was served on Cortez.

Shaken beyond despair, Judd walks out of the White House where Robin is waiting for him in a limo. He tells Robin about Feather and Rikki. Robin tells Judd about their twins on the way named Rikki and Feather and if he loses his job, her father Nico "The Bull" Perrone may just

have a job for him in newco. Judd's reply, "Imagine that!" They cry in each other's arms. Death has been replaced by birth, loneliness into a forbidden marriage. *Gray Justice* is done.



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Ron Mumford is the author of a non-fiction book, *Finding Your Soul Mate, God's Way*, an action thriller, *Gray Justice*, and a fantasy trilogy which includes *Wayne's Angel, Betwixt, and Z-Gen*, soon to be published by 3rd Coast Books, LLC where he is now Co-Publisher.

Mumford was a Journalism major at the University of North Texas, worked at two small newspapers as sports editor, as associate editor at a national trade magazine, and has written freelance articles for several newspapers and magazines. In the U.S. Army, he was an information specialist (Army Combat Correspondent/Photographer), receiving two Bronze Stars for his service . He also wrote for *Army Times and Stars & Stripes*.

Mumford started his own business as a literary agent in the late 1990s in Houston, Texas, went to New York and Hollywood to pitch his clients' work and did kick off the careers of several aspiring authors. The experience he gained from talking to many editors at Simon & Schuster, Putnam/Penguin, Warner Books, Warner Studios and other Indie film makers in Hollywood was invaluable.

Later Mumford became a licensed Financial Consultant with Smith Barney & Merrill Lynch.

He is now author & Publisher of 3rd Coast Books, LLC, in Montgomery, TX.