



# A FINE LINE

A 136 PRODUCTIONS FILM  
WRITTEN BY DAN BURNS

A Screenplay by Dan Burns

Crime Thriller | Drama

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A severed hand

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A powerful political family

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A wealthy philanthropist

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A cold murder case

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Only one viable solution

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# SEBASTIAN DRAKE



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# LOGLINE

**A wealthy philanthropist hires a struggling author with a secret government past to investigate a cold murder case and uncover the buried secrets of a powerful political family.**

# SYNOPSIS

**A Fine Line** is a story about Sebastian Drake, a struggling author trying to come up with his next story idea. Drake receives an unexpected visit from a man interested in hiring him for a project, who thinks he has just the solution to Drake's writing challenges. He also believes that Drake's past life with a shadow government organization is a valuable asset. His proposition to Drake is simple: become a hired agent to investigate a cold murder case involving one of Chicago's most powerful political families. The job comes with a decent paycheck and the types of real-life experiences that can form the basis for great fiction stories. This story is about a man who has found a new lease on life and leads a dual existence as an aspiring author and a rogue vigilante. His biggest challenge is keeping intact the fine line between reality and fiction.



# Genre

Crime Thriller / Neo-Noir Drama

# Tone

Gritty, tense, cerebral, emotionally complex

# Themes

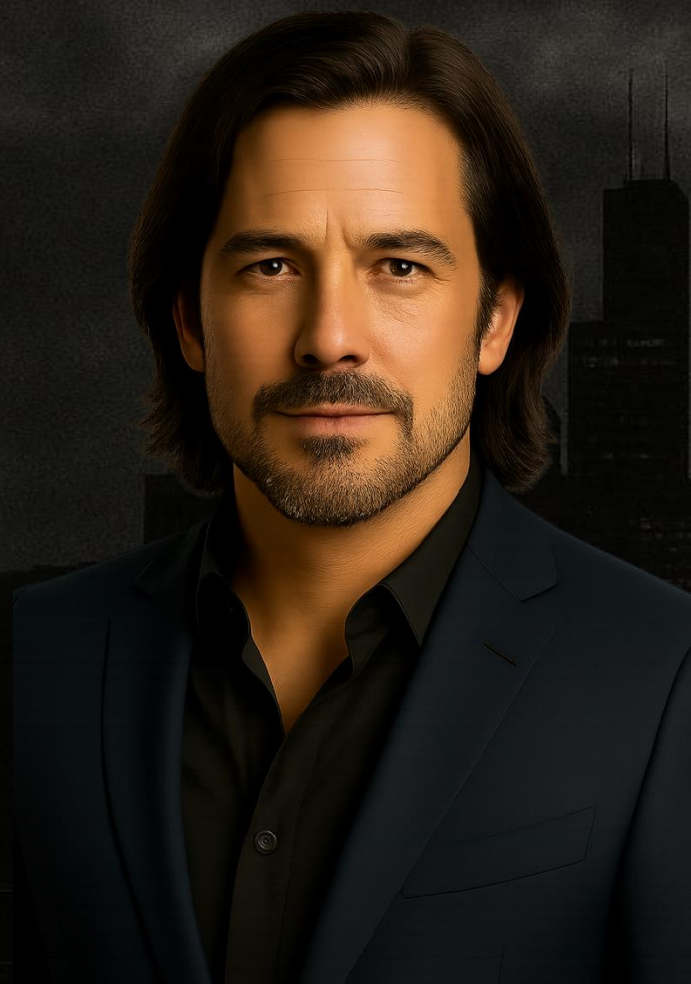
Duality of identity

Corruption of power

Redemption through reinvention

The fine line between reality and fiction

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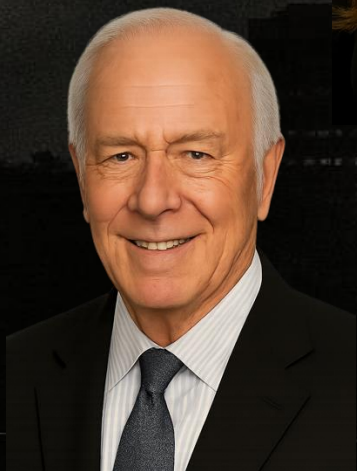


# CHARACTERS

## Sebastian Drake

A gifted but struggling writer, emotionally scarred, hiding a violent past. He's both detective and prey in his quest for redemption.





# CHARACTERS

**Thomas Engel: A wealthy citizen seeking an elusive murderer**

**Karen Drake: Drake's emotionally grounded ex-wife**

**Senator Jack Mitchell: A Prominent politician whose daughter was murdered**

**Clarisse Mitchell: The senator's wife and powerful political matriarch**





# CHARACTERS

**Chief John Peters: Head of the cold case investigation**

**Mike Hartman: Corrupt cop involved in the case**

**Angie Parker: Rookie detective and Drake's brief love interest**



# SETTING

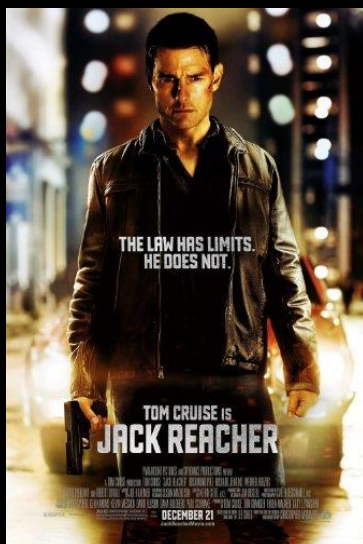
**Modern-day large city: From seedy lofts to polished mansions, the city is a character itself, revealing what thrives in the cracks of privilege and politics.**

# VISUAL STYLE

Inspired by the noir textures of *Zodiac* and the narrative density of *Gone Girl*, *A Fine Line* is atmospheric and moody, with chiaroscuro lighting, rich urban textures, and cinematic use of voiceover. A balance of realism and stylized grit shapes the visual language.



# COMPARABLE WORKS



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# DAN BURNS

*Writer and Film Producer*



Dan Burns is an award-winning screenwriter, author, and independent filmmaker dedicated to telling character-driven stories that blend emotional depth with cinematic precision. His short film *Come Out, Wherever You Are*—adapted from his acclaimed story collection *No Turning Back: Stories*—has been an official selection at more than 70 festivals and has earned 25 awards, including Best Short Film, Best

Screenplay, and Best Director. Burns brings a distinct literary voice to each project and a deep understanding of structure, character, and tone. As the founder of 136 Productions, he develops original content for the screen and stage, drawing on his experience as the author of seven books. He splits his creative time between Chicago and Montana, where the landscapes and solitude often find their way into his stories. Whether on the page or screen, Dan Burns is committed to telling stories that linger long after the final line—or frame.



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# DEVELOPMENT STATUS

**Screenplay:** Completed

**Source Material:** Based on Dan Burns' award-winning novel

**Format:** Feature Film

**Production Company:** 136 Productions

**Seeking:** Producer, director, financiers, and distribution partners



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WRITTEN BY DAN BURNS

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