

A FEATURE FILM WRITTEN BY ALANA GERDES

---

# JUST SCAMS

## LOGLINE

INVESTIGATING A SERIES OF CATFISHING SCAMS, A TRAUMATIZED EX-POLICE OFFICER IS FORCED TO CHOOSE WHAT IS JUST WHEN HER ECCENTRIC SISTER GETS INVOLVED.





## INTRODUCTION

Set along the familiar sights of New York City, this thriller follows two diametrically different women on their journey through the ongoing opioid crisis, Black Lives Matter, and the complexities of sisterhood, leaving to audience questioning what justice means in a world where not everything is black and white.

---

# MAIN CHARACTERS

## CHARLOTTE JONES

A strict believer in the law, this traumatized former police officer turned private investigator sets out to take down a romance scammer, only to find that justice comes in various shades of grey.

## HUGH BOWMAN

Powerful and ruthless, this businessman lets nothing come in the way of his success until he meets a couple who challenges the perception of serving justice.

## HARPER JONES

Constantly battling against her addictive nature, this free-spirited former Wall Street high roller agrees to help her sister find a romance scammer, only to threaten their fragile relationship with her moral ambiguity.

## JAMES CERVINE

Living a double life without remorse, this charismatic con artist follows his own moral code until his actions threaten the life of the woman he loves.

---

## SYNOPSIS - ACT I

Traumatized by her fatal shooting of an innocent man and the subsequent cover-up by her superiors, Charlotte Jones quit the police force to work as a private investigator. One day she comes upon the case of a romance scammer who defrauded the main shareholder of the successful company Bowtech Pharmaceuticals, Hugh Bowman. Finding herself at a dead end, Charlotte asks her sister and former drug addict Harper for support. Despite her reluctance, Harper agrees to help her out as a means to pay Charlotte back the money Harper borrowed to pay for her stint in rehab.

During the course of the investigation, the sisters meet Hugh and his assistant Jesse, who is immediately suspicious of their activities. At the same time, Charlotte's student boyfriend gets involved in a discussion with his charismatic ethics professor James Cervine, who points out how the rich and powerful seemingly always get away with their immoral behavior.

---

## SYNOPSIS - ACT II

Charlotte and Harper find out that the scammer specifically targets shareholders of Bowtech. Blindsided with this information Hugh reveals that he has bribed the FDA to ignore a report which disclosed that Bowtech's best-selling pharmaceutical product leads to an increased risk of opioid addiction. Shocked by this revelation, Harper tries to persuade Charlotte to go public to expose Bowtech's corrupt business, but Charlotte refuses, and the two sisters fall apart.

Shortly after Charlotte' receives a hint which leads her to believe that James is the scammer, and she decides to observe him to confirm her suspicions. To her dismay, she finds out that Harper has been working with James all along after having met him and his sister in rehab. Following his sister's death due to her addiction to Bowtech's product, Harper and James decided to take revenge on the company's main shareholders, who in their view profited the most from the ongoing opioid crisis.

---

## SYNOPSIS - ACT III

After struggling to decide whether or not she should turn her sister in, Charlotte decides to confront her in person. At the same time, Harper and James hack into Jesse's computer to obtain the withheld report, however, Jesse notices and also turns up at Harper's apartment. Much to Charlotte's surprise, he reveals himself to be the brother of the innocent man Charlotte killed during her tenure at the police force. Given the chance to avenge his brother and stop Harper from releasing the report, he fires a gun at her. Trying to save the life of the woman he loves, James jumps in front of Harper and catches the bullet.

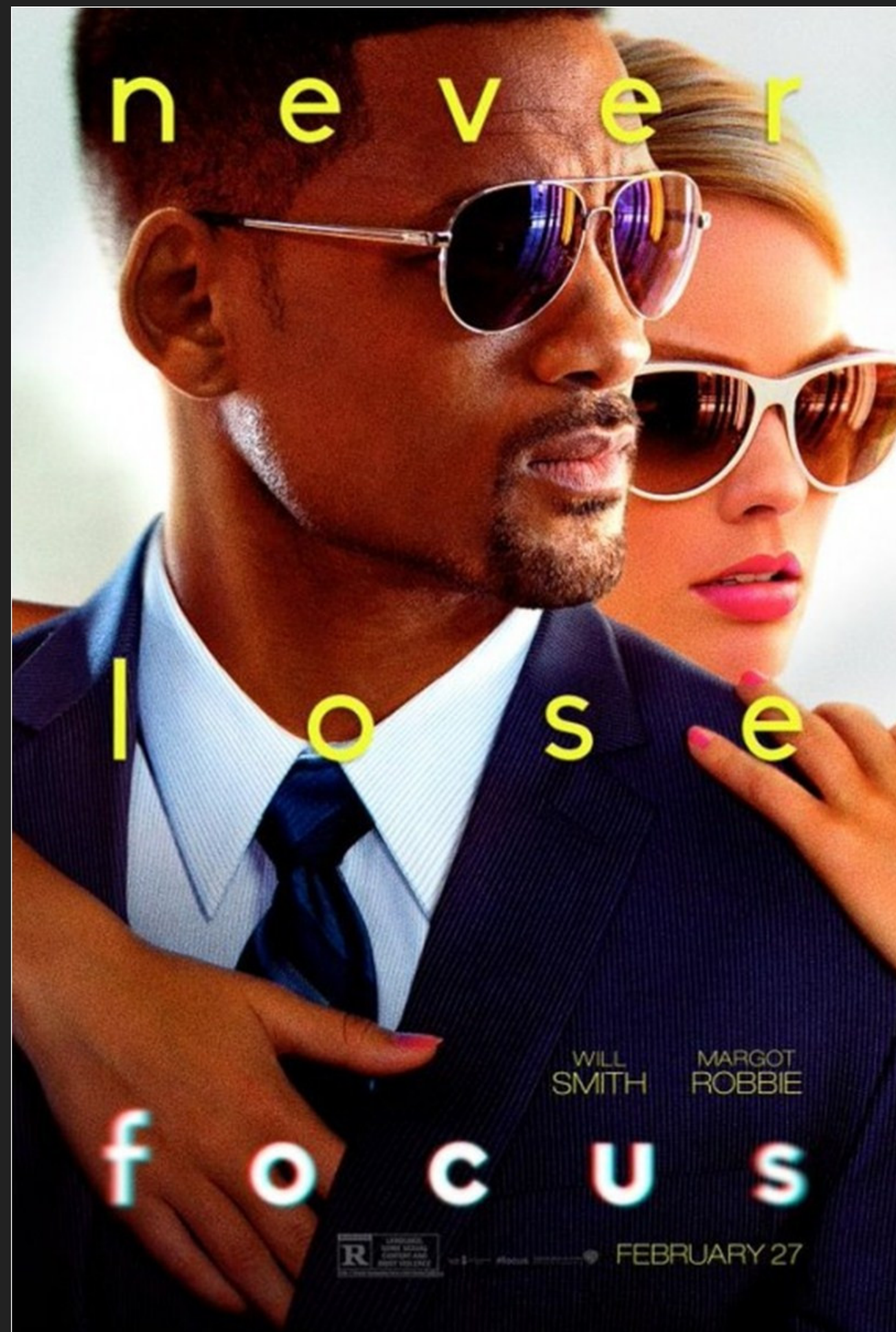
Realizing how the moral corruption of powerful businesses affects the lives of innocent people, Charlotte decides not to turn Harper and James in, giving them the chance to escape. Harper leaks the report and repays Charlotte's loan with the profit she made from illegally betting on Bowtech's falling share price, which Charlotte accepts as she comes to terms that moral ambiguity is part of life.

# MOOD BOARD





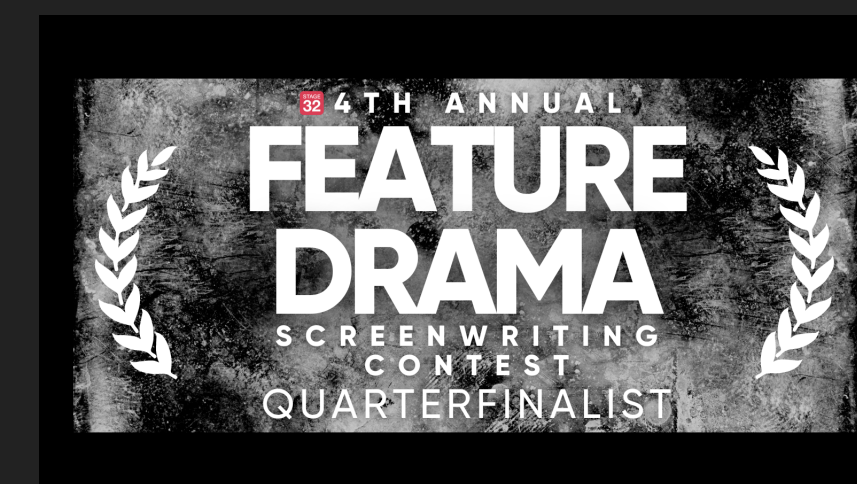
# REFERENCES



# ABOUT THE SCREENWRITER

Alana Gerdes is a Swiss-Australian financial crime prevention expert who specializes in writing crime dramas (the irony is not lost on her).

She likes to spice things up with some romance and comedy, thus creating complex and relatable characters that resonate with the audience. Self-motivated and committed to innovative and original scripts, she has gained recognition in multiple screenwriting competitions, including placing as Quarterfinalist with "Just Scams" in the Big Apple Film Festival Screenplay Competition (2022 Fall Edition).





FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE REACH OUT TO  
ALANA GERDES BY EMAIL ([A.GERDES@GMX.CH](mailto:A.GERDES@GMX.CH)),  
PHONE (+41 79 548 77 03), OR SKYPE (ALANA GERDES).

---

**THANK YOU FOR  
READING**