



RISING STAR

The Devil's Watch

Screenplay by Stephen Hall

The Story

In this sequel to *Rising Star*, Logan Ford wakes up at dawn, with his wife, Audrey, fast asleep, and he makes a cup of coffee before lighting a cigarette and heading for the front door.

When he opens the door, he finds the street lined with police cars as a SWAT team approach his neighbour's house that belongs to Peter Denton.

The police enter the house to find marionettes hanging from the ceiling. One of them is connected to a bomb which explodes.

In the aftermath of the explosion, Logan and his partner, Malik Edwards, are ordered not to pursue Peter Denton as it is being handled by the FBI and their officer Larry Drake, but this doesn't deter the detectives from pursuing Denton who has befriended Emily Wishaw while attending a protest outside the Jacob Javits Federal Building.

During the protest, the police charge the protestors and Emily is attacked by officer Carey Robards with his baton but Denton helps Emily escape and provides aid to her wound.

Later, Emily introduces Denton to the other members of the protest group led by Mitchell Hemmings and a disagreement ensues where Denton suggests their tactics need to be more direct.

This initiates a split in the group and Denton draws in Emily, Tilly Foster, Cheryl Underwood, Aiden Rourke and Terry Bridges to plan a series of bombings against the state.

Meanwhile Logan and Malik discover through the registry in Philadelphia that Peter Denton and Richard Evans, the killer from the previous investigation, were brothers with a different father.

RIISING STAR II



The Story

This encourages Logan and Malik to seek out Peter Denton despite the orders they have been given.

Meanwhile Denton meets up with the others and a plan is hatched to cause mayhem in the city but Terry Bridges is aghast at what Denton proposes and informs Mitchell Hemmings who says he will deal with the matter.

Later, Officer Casey Robards is approached by Emily Wishaw in a bar and they return to his apartment where she murders the police officer and takes his gun.

As she leaves the building, Logan and Malik are driving past and are suspicious of Emily. She fires a shot in their direction and escapes. The detectives enter the building and find the body of Casey Robards. So begins their investigation into his murder.

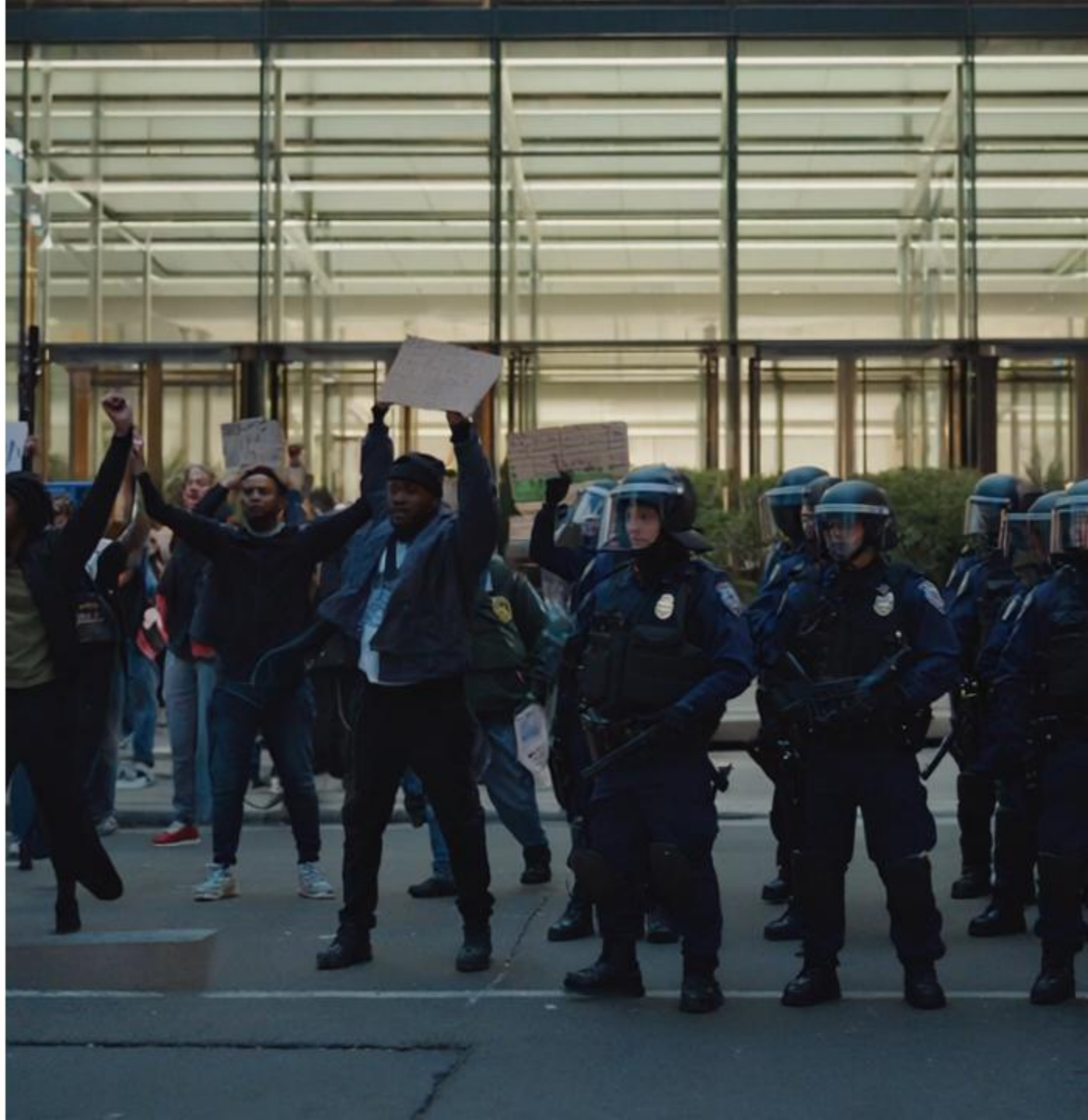
Not long after the murder of the police officer, Cheryl Underwood visits Mitchell Hemmings and shoots him with the stolen gun and frames Terry Bridges by placing his gloves in the apartment.

Malik and Logan appear on the scene of the second murder and discover a girl had been at the scene. The detectives surmise it may be more than coincidence.

Denton and the others, including Terry Bridges who is unaware of the murder, drive out to Adirondack Park to camp. There, they murder Terry where everyone, except for Denton, fire a bullet into their traitor but Aiden Rourke is uneasy and frightened with what is happening.

By now, Logan and Malik have gathered more information and visit the home of Terry Bridges but do not find him.

RIISING STAR II



The Story

Malik inadvertently meets FBI officer Larry Drake at a gay bar and he informs the officer that they have connected Denton with the protest group. Drake provides the detectives with a list of known names from the group, but it is not the full list.

Denton is now sharing his bed with Emily and Cheryl, but Denton visits Tilly and stays the night.

Logan and Malik enter Terry's apartment and find the stolen gun while Larry Drake visits Tilly's apartment where he finds Peter Denton but he is murdered by Tilly.

When the two detectives visit the FBI offices they discover Drake has been murdered.

Denton and Emily assault a delivery driver and enter the Supreme Court while Cheryl enters City Hall and Tilly enters the police station where Logan and Malik are based.

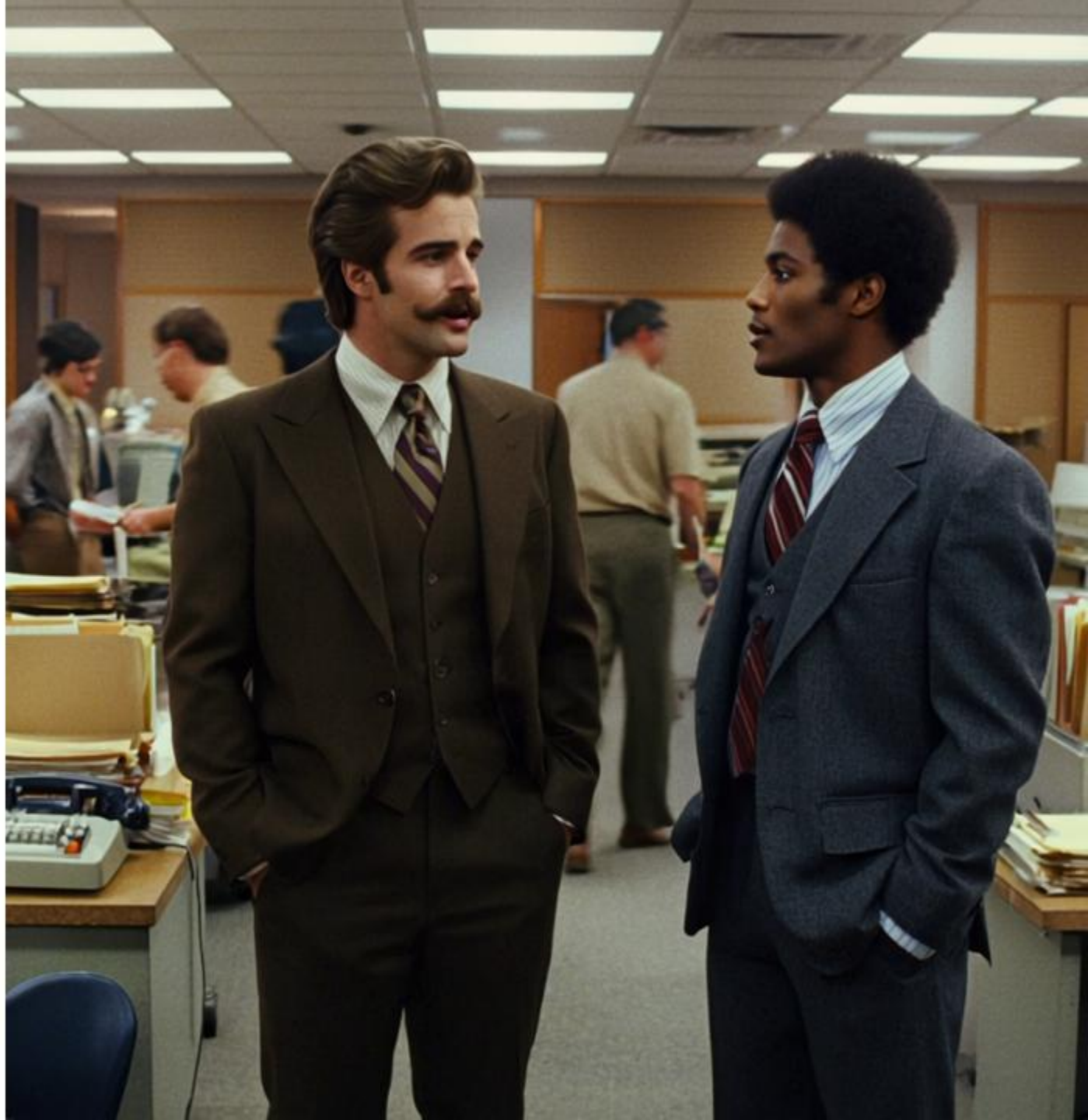
The three separate groups plant bombs while Tilly leaves an envelope for the attention of Logan at the sergeant's desk.

Logan is informed of the envelope and retrieves it before stepping out into the street. When he opens it, he reads the message, "This is for you". Suddenly the bomb explodes followed by the bombings in the other buildings.

Logan and Malik discover Aiden's involvement and approach the house where he lives to find Denton at the premises as he is about to murder Aiden. A chase ensues to capture Denton but he escapes.

With Denton now aware that the detectives are closing in, he returns to his apartment where Emily, Cheryl and Tilly are waiting.

RIISING STAR II



The Story

After the foursome have packed up their belongings and escaped; Logan and Malik arrive at his apartment.

They search the apartment and find clues they may be heading to Pittsburgh.

In the U.S Marshalls Building, the detectives along with the U.S Marshalls wait for Denton and his gang, believing their building may be the target, but Emily and Cheryl are in the building opposite setting off fire bombs that cause panic while Denton makes his way to the U.S Marshalls Building and Tilly waits in their car for them to return.

The officers become aware of the chaos in the building opposite and everyone races across, while Malik is casing the streets.

Denton enters the building and takes an elevator but is spotted by Logan who follows in the next available elevator.

Malik catches sight of Emily and Cheryl escaping the scene and shoots them dead while Logan finds Denton and they get into a fight in which Logan manages to get one cuff on Denton. Suddenly a shot rings out and the window shatters with Denton falling out with Logan attached.

The detective struggles not to fall out the window and manages to find the key to unlock the handcuff before watching Denton fall to the ground.

With the case resolved, they are unaware of Tilly driving away from the scene alone.

RIISING STAR II



The Characters

Logan Ford

A maverick 37-year-old detective who is ridiculed by his colleagues, he prefers to work on his own. A drinker and smoker, his marriage to Audrey is shaky as she feels he is not stepping up as a father to his son Callum [7] and daughter Christina [14] (who dote over him) due to his work obsessions.

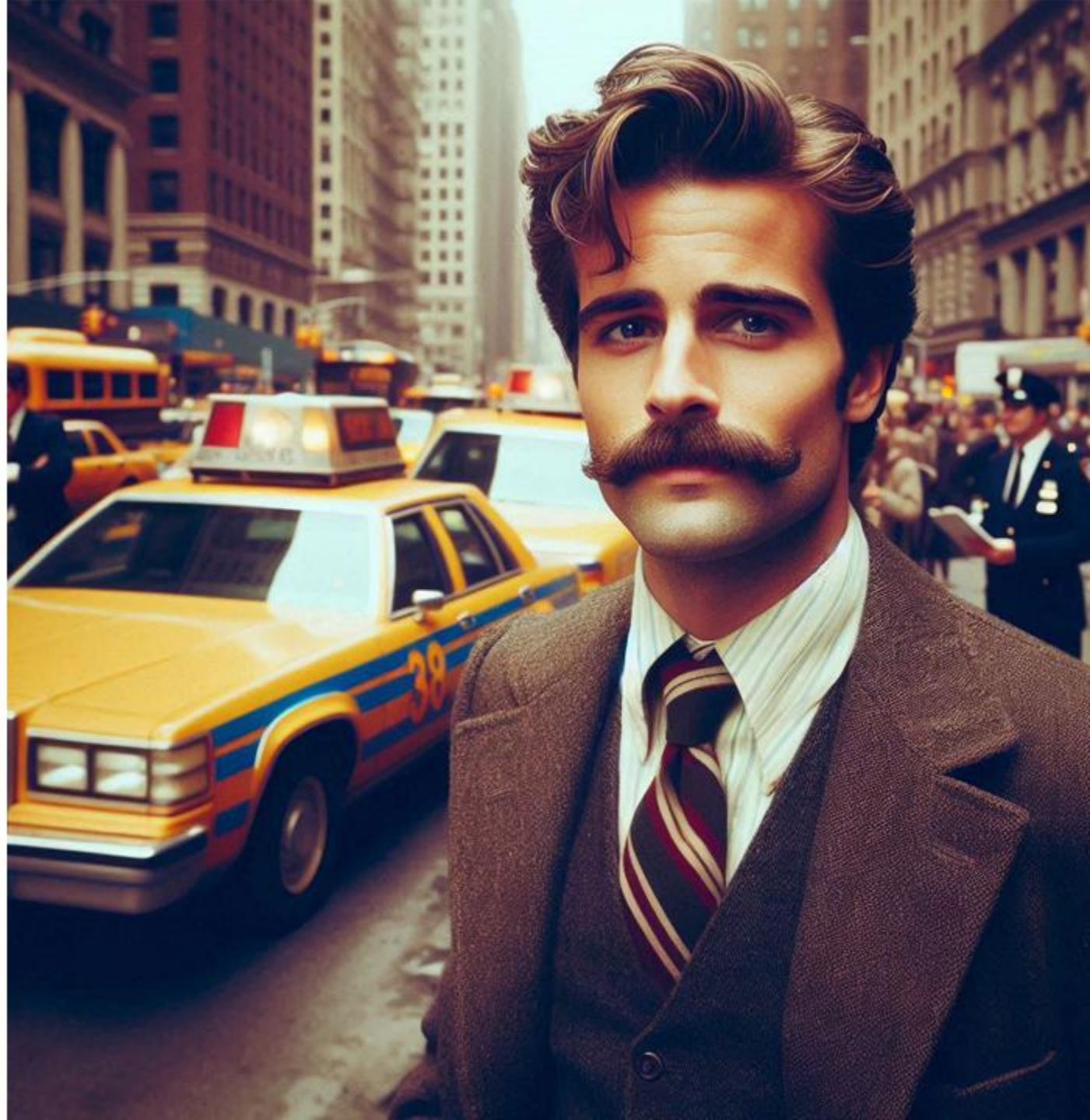
Despite appearing disorganised, his mind is sharp but he doesn't follow protocol when it comes to investigating as he is prepared to use any means to get answers.

A streetwise detective of the old-school type, Logan has been around the block a few times, but this investigation tests his mettle and questions his abilities.

In the sequel Logan and Malik's relationship is on an equal footing, but not without conflict.

His relationship with his wife Audrey appears more secure which is exposed by his drive to find Denton who puts Logan's family at risk in the first scene.

RIISING STAR II



The Characters

Malik Edwards

This 28-year-old gay detective has gone through university and is seen by the force as a promising up-and-coming detective with a bright future.

Quiet, unassuming and driven by logic, he reveals to Audrey Ford his sexuality which he feels needs to be hidden from his colleagues for fear of reprisals. In that same conversation he informs her of the loss of his partner to Aids, indicating he is a man of caution and control.

The sequel sees a more level relationship building between the two detectives. Malik is seen less as an understudy and more of an equal. This is revealed when the two detectives reveal more conflict between each other as Malik makes his own decisions and is less subordinate.



RISEING STAR II



The Characters

Peter Denton

The 36-year-old loner is neighbour to Logan with whom a friendship is initiated after recently moving into the area.

In Rising Star he is seen as a quiet, reserved individual but who Logan begins to suspect is the murderer they seek.

Ultimately, Logan is proved wrong but in the sequel Denton's personality comes to the fore as a manipulative, dangerous man who has the skillset to cause chaos.

His twisted desire to right the wrongs he perceives are caused by the system (specifically law and order) drives him to wreak revenge at any cost.

RIISING STAR II



The Characters

Emily Wishaw/Tilly Foster/ Cheryl Underwood

These three girls, in their early/mid-twenties, become infatuated with Peter Denton that is very similar to Charles Manson and the Manson Girls.

They come across as innocent and bubbly but harbour a dangerous edge to their psyche.

Equals in their relationship with Denton, their ideology has warped their objectives of affecting changes in the democratic process and government rule, encouraged by Denton.

There is an undercurrent of anger against society which is exemplified when Emily is attacked by police officer Carey Robards to whom she exacts revenge and Cheryl sees Mitchell Hemmings as a traitor who she murders.

RIISING STAR II



The Characters

Larry Drake

The FBI officer is seen as a competitor by Logan Ford, whose instincts turn out to be correct when Drake provides an incomplete list of members of the protest group.

Drake, Logan believes, will do anything to progress his career.

Malik attempts to be conciliatory and when a chance meeting of Drake at a gay bar arises, Malik believes that by having something in common confirms Drake is not as bad as Logan thinks.

Drake's drive to find Denton by working alone only leads to his own downfall.

RIISING STAR II



The Characters

Terry Bridges/Mitchell Hemmings/Aiden Rourke

As the leader of the protest group, Mitchell Hemmings is a pacifist who wants to play by the rules. Level-headed and calculating, he is well-regarded by his fellow protestors (until Denton appears on the scene) and when he is informed that some of the group may be turning towards Denton, he is confident he can make them see sense.

His right-hand man is Terry Bridges who is fully onside with Mitchell Hemmings, is extremely worried about Denton, who he sees as a dangerous interloper capable of causing havoc and is willing to infiltrate Denton and his followers to reveal their true intent but it is a risk he will regret.

Aiden, at nineteen, is the youngest member of the group and the most vulnerable who finds himself in a situation that requires him to question his morals which conflict with him being besotted with Tilly Foster and lead him into danger and survival.

RIISING STAR II



The Characters

Captain Hanley

The 51-year-old captain is a gruff fellow with a no-nonsense attitude who sees a bright future in Malik Edwards. Undeterred by Logan's protestations to partner Malik, he holds a secret admiration of Logan and knows he will be of benefit to the protégé.

His emotions rollercoaster in his dealings with Logan and Malik. One minute he is angry, the next he is supportive of his detectives as Logan, in particular, pushes the boundaries which leaves him in constant conflict with how to deal with them.

RIISING STAR II



The Characters

Audrey Ford

Logan's wife is no push-over but she understands and supports her husband. It was she who convinced Logan to work with Malik.

In the original feature, there are signs of strain in the marriage but in the sequel their relationship is more stable as she resigns herself to accepting Logan's dedication to his work and his desire to protect the family.

RIISING STAR II



Scenes



Detectives Logan Ford and Malik Edwards scan through microfiche to discover a link between Richard Evans and Peter Denton.



Emily Wishaw meets police officer Carey Robards who beat her up during a protest.



Peter Denton, Emily Wishaw and Terry Bridges are among the group who camp out for the night with Terry about to be murdered.



Scenes



Denton and his gang set off bombs in three locations simultaneously.



Denton, disguise as a vendor technician plants a bomb.



Emily races through a corridor of an office complex having discharged fire bombs.



The Writer

I started writing my first screenplay in December 2021 based on the true story: Burke and Hare – The West Port Murders, which has won numerous awards and positive reviews including one from the Cannes Film Festival.

Since then, I have completed seven feature screenplays of various genres including:

- GREATREX – period crime drama
- Love Is A Stranger – contemporary gothic fable
- Inside Reach – Psychological love story
- Going Underground – Live action/Animation comedy
- Rising Star – 80s crime thriller
- Rising Star II : The Devil's Watch – 80s crime thriller
- The Deceit And Desire – Period drama

Multiple drafts have been produced for each screenplay as I strive to create authentic, captivating stories that fire the imagination of the reader.

Stephen Hall

www.hereandback.co.uk/screenplays

www.facebook.com/makeitdramatic

RIISING STAR II

