

Beat Sheet: Rising Star III

Below is a feature screenplay beat sheet for Rising Star III, the concluding crime thriller in the trilogy. The story shifts from the serial-killer and domestic-terrorism threat of the sequel into institutional corruption, organised crime, homophobia, trauma and the cost of loyalty inside the police force.

Beat	Approx. Page	Story Function	What Happens
Opening Image	1-6	Expose the rot inside the police	Six masked men led by Detective Ronnie Jackson massacre Carlo Beretti's crew at a warehouse and burn the scene, while Jackson later kills a hostage-taker during Logan and Malik's police operation and claims self-defence. The opening immediately reveals that the film's central threat comes from officers using the badge as cover.
Set-Up	7-20	Establish the investigation, personal stakes, and returning threat	Hanley assigns Logan and Malik to the warehouse murders. Rising Star tablets link the slaughter to the criminal network from the earlier films, while Beretti and Conti prepare for war. Logan is drinking, traumatised and neglecting his family; Malik is trying to build a relationship with Geoffrey Risler. Tilly Foster arrives in Brooklyn with a photograph of Logan's family and a gun.
Catalyst	21-32	The evidence points toward Jackson	Forensics links the warehouse shells to an earlier attack on Beretti's Capri Lounge, a case led by Jackson. Logan finds Billy Roberts, who witnessed the warehouse escape and identifies a thin man with a pencil moustache and part of the getaway car's registration: 579. The supposed mob war begins to look like something else.
Theme Stated	15-50	What does loyalty cost when the institution is corrupt?	Across Logan's home life, Malik's relationship and the police station, the film asks whether loyalty belongs to the badge, a partner, a family or one's own conscience. Logan is told that functioning through trauma still carries a cost; Malik is warned that mavericks cannot beat the system. The story tests whether the two men can trust each other when the system itself is compromised.
Break into Two	33-40	Logan and Malik enter a covert double game	After Jackson humiliates and outs Malik during a raid on a gay club, Logan appears to reject his partner and tells Jackson he is ready to profit from corruption. Malik responds by confronting Conti. Their apparent split allows Logan to infiltrate Jackson's crew while Malik keeps pursuing the case from the outside.
B Story	15-103	Family, intimacy and the life beyond the badge	Logan's trauma threatens his marriage and relationship with his children, even as Audrey returns to work and unknowingly brings Tilly into their home. Malik's bond with Geoffrey offers the possibility of a personal life, but also gives Jackson's men a target. Both detectives are forced to confront what police work has cost the people closest to them.
Fun and Games	40-65	The partners perform a dangerous deception	Logan gains Jackson's confidence and is invited into the crew. Malik uncovers the group's next move by overhearing Jackson at the gym. The detectives stage a bitter public rupture to sell Logan's betrayal. Meanwhile, Tilly charms Audrey and the children, Logan begins therapy, and forensic evidence produces a distinctive boot print and beige corduroy fibres that quietly tighten the net around Jackson.
Midpoint	66-70	The undercover strategy explodes into massacre	Malik warns Beretti of an ambush, unaware that Jackson fed him false intelligence. Jackson's crew storms the bar and slaughters Beretti's men. Malik is shot and nearly executed, but Logan deliberately misses and falsely confirms him dead. The detectives survive the trap, but their deception has become lethal and Malik must disappear.

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Bad Guys Close In	70-93	Jackson hunts the survivor and attacks Malik's private life	Logan secretly helps Malik recover while remaining inside Jackson's organisation. Jackson receives payment from Conti and refers to an unseen superior as "Piper." The crew learns Malik survived and searches his apartment. Todd traces Geoffrey, murders him, and tries to ambush Malik; Malik kills Todd in self-defence and flees, now exposed as both a witness and a wanted officer.
All Is Lost	93-96	Malik loses Geoffrey and is branded dangerous	Geoffrey is dead, Malik is forced into hiding, and Hanley publicly names him as an armed person of interest in Geoffrey and Todd's deaths. At the same time, Tilly drugs Audrey and the children and reveals the gun she has smuggled into Logan's home. Both detectives' personal worlds collapse at once.
Dark Night of the Soul	96-102	The partners face isolation and the consequences of the past	Malik sees himself declared wanted and has nowhere safe to turn. Logan learns Malik's prints place him at the Beretti massacre and realises evidence may be moving through compromised hands. Returning home, Logan finds Audrey and the children bound at gunpoint. Tilly reveals that she loved Peter Denton and intends to make Logan suffer the same loss.
Break into Three	102-104	The partners reunite and choose their final move	Malik shoots Tilly before she can kill Audrey, saving Logan's family. Reunited, the detectives combine Billy's identification, Jackson's distinctive boot print, the getaway vehicles and their inside knowledge. Malik calls Hanley and arranges a private meeting, believing he is finally bringing the conspiracy to his captain.
Finale - Phase 1: The Piper is revealed	104-106	The corruption reaches the top	At the warehouse, Hanley reveals himself as "The Piper," the senior officer protecting and directing Jackson's crew. He intends to disarm and eliminate Malik, while Jackson and the remaining corrupt officers emerge from hiding. Logan appears to have betrayed Malik again, only to move into position beside Hanley.
Finale - Phase 2: The warehouse gunfight	106	Logan and Malik turn the trap	Logan draws two guns and opens fire. Malik joins him as Mulroy, Santini, Hitchins and Garcia are cut down and Hanley is wounded. Police sirens close in, but Jackson escapes through the rear and races away.
Finale - Phase 3: The pursuit	106-110	Malik confronts Jackson	Logan and Malik chase Jackson through the city after his car crashes. The pursuit continues into the subway and onto a moving train. Jackson fires through the darkened carriage, but runs empty; Malik shoots him dead, ending the corrupt officer's campaign and avenging Geoffrey without surrendering control.
Resolution	110-112	The conspiracy is exposed	Commissioner Frederickson's backup arrests Hanley, whose bank deposits confirm he was being paid. Logan explains that the photograph of Hanley playing the bagpipes supplied the "Piper" clue. Conti remains beyond immediate reach, but the corrupt police cell has been dismantled and Malik is cleared as Todd's killer in self-defence.
Final Image	112-113	Logan chooses his family; Malik carries the work forward	Logan refuses a commendation, hands over his badge and ends his police career because his family must come first. He and Malik acknowledge the strength of their partnership without sentimentality. Logan walks away from the station, inviting Malik to a Sunday barbecue: a final image of survival, friendship and a life beyond the badge.

One-sentence structural summary

Rising Star III follows Logan Ford and Malik Edwards as they secretly infiltrate a crew of corrupt police officers working for organised crime, only for the conspiracy to destroy Malik's relationship, invade Logan's home and reveal that the corruption is being directed from inside their own command.

Logline

When a mob warehouse massacre points to a crew of corrupt New York police officers, detectives Logan Ford and Malik Edwards stage a dangerous split to infiltrate the conspiracy, but their deception turns personal when Malik is wanted for questioning after killing a corrupt officer in self-defence and a surviving disciple of the Puppet Master targets Logan's family.

Core character arcs

Logan Ford begins traumatised, drinking and emotionally absent after surviving Denton. His undercover role forces him to appear disloyal to Malik and brings the danger into his home. By the end, he accepts that survival is not enough: he must choose his family over the badge and resigns.

Malik Edwards begins trying to balance the job with a genuine relationship. He endures institutional homophobia, is manipulated into a trap, loses Geoffrey and becomes a wanted suspect after lawfully killing Todd in self-defence. He nevertheless remains disciplined, saves Logan's family and emerges as the detective capable of carrying the work forward.

Ronnie Jackson embodies corruption without guilt. He uses police authority, intimidation and violence to serve Conti and enrich his crew. His arrogance makes him believe Logan can be bought and Malik can be broken, but his underestimation of their partnership leads to his death.

Wallis Hanley appears to be the pressured captain trying to contain chaos, but is revealed as "The Piper," the senior figure who protects and directs the corrupt officers. His betrayal makes the conspiracy institutional rather than merely criminal.

Tilly Foster returns from Rising Star II as the surviving carrier of Peter Denton's mission. She infiltrates Logan's family through care, trust and domestic intimacy, transforming Denton's ideological legacy into personal revenge before Malik stops her.

Audrey Ford moves toward independence by returning to teaching, but the family's vulnerability exposes the cost of Logan's work. Her question - when will this end? - forces Logan to make the choice he has avoided throughout the trilogy.

Overall tone

The screenplay plays as a gritty 1980s New York police-conspiracy thriller with organised-crime, domestic-invasion and fugitive elements. It is darker and more intimate than the previous films: the central threat is not an outsider attacking the police, but corruption embedded within the institution itself. The action is balanced by trauma, marriage, sexuality, friendship and the question of whether personal loyalty can survive a system built to exploit it.