

Robbers (working title)
Original Screenplay by Tom Batt

Genre: crime/drama

Erkki Kanto
Atophill™ Films
www.atophill.com
mobile (805) 462-7081
erkki.kanto@atophill.com

SYNOPSIS

EMILY, 16, is trapped in a hopeless life, struggling to come to terms with the passing of her mother. She is blamed by her step-father for causing her mother's death and is desperate to escape and find some happiness.

RYAN, 25, is suffering from the loss of his beloved girlfriend, Naomi. Feeling responsible, he is riddled with guilt and punishes himself by self-harming. He is suicidal, desperate to be with her again, but not until he has achieved what the two of them set out to do, raise the money for her brother's life saving operation.

Both their lives take a turn when Emily witnesses the robbery of a convenience store by a masked man, Ryan. Curious as to whom he is, she watches him drive away from the scene in his rundown car. A day later, walking home from school, Emily stumbles upon Ryan outside his motel room repairing his car. For a moment they stare at each other, a hint of recognition between them. He offers a gesture of kindness and she automatically feels comfort toward this stranger.

Her step-father, unemployed, mourning and soothing his pain at the bottom of a bottle, one night he attempts to kill Emily, but she manages to fight him off and escape the house. Lost and frightened she claims sanctuary in Ryan's motel room, hoping to stay, but Ryan is adamant that won't happen. He offers to take her to the nearest hostel, which she reluctantly accepts, but first she needs to collect her things from home.

As Ryan waits for Emily outside her house, she is inside gathering her possessions, terrified of alerting her step-father. As she is about to leave, she is blocked by him. Ryan hears the gunshot echo from outside and rushes into the house to find Emily has shot her step-father dead with Ryan's gun. He grabs her and they leave.

With nobody else to turn to, Emily is alone. Empathising with her, Ryan agrees to accommodate her on the condition she pay her way. She is to help him with his robberies, by driving the car. At first this is difficult for her as her mother was killed in a car crash when Emily was driving. Some stern words from Ryan and the threat of leaving her, forces her to build the confidence she needs. As they spend time together, they bond over each other's pasts.

JENNIFER, 37, is a homicide detective assigned to the murder of Emily's step-father. She too is dealing with her daughter's recent kidnapping and murder, finding solace with alcohol. Upon hearing from witnesses that it seemed Emily was being kidnapped, Jennifer sees it as an opportunity to do what she couldn't do for her daughter and save Emily.

Desperate to end the robberies, Ryan makes the bold decision to hit one final place, a pawn shop. The very same place Naomi was killed robbing. With more risk added, it proves difficult. Ryan is shot and the police are on their tail, but they make it. With Ryan incapacitated he stays at the motel while Emily delivers the last of the money. Ready to see Naomi again Ryan calls the police and they surround the motel along with Jennifer. He exits his room and attempts to draw his gun; the officers open fire shooting him dead. As he lay on the ground taking his last breath, Jennifer sits alongside him, holding his hand.

Upon Emily's return she realizes what has happened and is distraught, but Jennifer comforts her understanding their true relationship, and how he helped her. As Jennifer looks at Emily, she sees a scared girl with no family and feels they may be able to sooth each other's pain and loss.