

The Monroe Detail (working title)

Original Screenplay by David Zwolinski

Genre: drama, a 24-hour love story

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SYNOPSIS

March 17, 1959. Chicago. St. Patrick's Day. Based on true stories within 24 hours. After a night of heavy drinking and losing his paycheck at the racetrack, Bud promises his wife Irene to buy her an Easter bonnet. Assigned to the St. Patrick's Day Parade, Bud goes to Marshall Field's department store in downtown Chicago, only to be embarrassed by an uppity clerk who introduces him to expensive designer hats. Bud is reassigned to Midway Airport as security detail for Marilyn Monroe. As a decoy to fend off press and fans, Bud drives Monroe alone in his squad car to the Ambassador East hotel, stopping for her request for a bottle of Dom Perignon Champagne. Monroe warms to Bud as he witnesses her excessive drinking and pill popping.

They are tailed by a Private Dick with a camera working for mobster Sam Giancana attempting to get alluring photos for his friend, Frank Sinatra. The Dick is followed by FBI Agents, surveilled by communist obsessed J. Edgar Hoover. Monroe passes out at a press conference at the hotel and Bud carries her to her suite where they establish a trusting relationship. Bud answers a call from Senator John F. Kennedy and sees Monroe in body exposed lingerie.

Monroe sneaks out after the roadshow premier of SOME LIKE IT HOT and has Bud take her out on a Chicago St. Patty's Day "night on the town", including the racetrack, an encounter with Jack Ruby, eating a Maxwell Street Polish, a tour of Bud's childhood neighborhood of the Chicago Stockyards. Also a quirky conversation about Christian Dior, hat designer and old friend of Monroe's. They end up at Bud's watering hole, Zeno's Tavern. The couple drunkenly dance to a jukebox playing TEQUILA, and end up naked, in bed together at Monroe's suite. The Dick gets alluring photos, only to be followed and killed by the FBI who execute a nighttime raid, bringing Bud's wife Irene to their office to interrogate her. As Bud remains blacked out in her bed, Monroe checks out of the hotel and visits Irene in the middle of the night in her small two-flat apartment, meeting in a gut wrenching, woman-to-woman expose.

A hung-over and confused Bud arrives home to Irene who explains that Monroe is in awe of their relationship and wishes she was as happily married and devoted as they were. A postal, special delivery brings Irene a Dior hat with a note from Monroe. Two weeks later, Irene walks with her family to Easter Sunday mass, proudly wearing her Dior bonnet. In the Epilogue, the violent fate of Monroe, JFK, Ruby and Giancana are surmised along with Bud and Irene's enduring marriage which lasted for years that followed.