

# Manipulation

Screenplay by **Vincent Asbjornsen**

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## SYNOPSIS

Seven years after the trial of a psychotic doctor, Dr. Johan Sorensen, who was experimenting on his female patients with mind altering drugs, a series of grisly and bizarre suicides has struck the coastal town of Jasmine, California. Chief of Police, Patrick Alvarado, is called in to investigate. Sensing foul play, Alvarado sets out to find the killer.

Alvarado not only has murder with which to contend. He's a married man with a twenty year old daughter, Elaine, living under his roof who has a job working with venomous snakes. Her current profession is enough to cause Alvarado an ulcer, but when her ex-fiance returns to town, it causes Alvarado more worry not just because he broke Elaine's heart, but because he is the son of one of Dr. Sorensen's female patients who testified at the trial.

To add fuel to Alvarado's concerns, he's entertaining a romance with Rachel, an attractive young woman who owns the popular coffee bar called the Mystic Bean.

When medical examinations of the dead are performed, it's found that they have the same mind altering drugs in their blood as Sorensen's female patients did. However, it's not possible that Dr. Sorensen could be the culprit: He was killed in prison.

Soon, others begin to exhibit bizarre behavior that indicates possible mind altering drug influence.

Enlisting the help of a psychiatrist, Dr. Lazarus Cohn, Alvarado begins to put the pieces of the puzzle together and learns that each victim was related to someone involved with the Sorensen trial. Equally disturbing is the fact that all the victims drank coffee at the Mystic Bean.

With that knowledge in mind, Alvarado fears for his daughter since he was the arresting officer in the Sorensen case. Will he succumb to his desire for Rachel and destroy his family? Will he catch the killer before his daughter is the next victim? Could it be someone from Dr. Sorensen's past? Could it be Rachel?