

**Getting conned
by identical
twins...**



**...only doubles
her desire for
revenge**

DOUBLE BLIND TEST

Logline

After a professional mediator is conned by identical twin businessmen who sought her help to resolve a dispute, she meets another woman in a suspiciously similar circumstance, and the two team up to take down the con artists.

Summary

Length: Feature film (<2 hours)

Genre: Psychological Thriller / Con Game

Audience: Adult; likely PG13 (language, some violence, sexual content)

Characters:

- 2 Leads (female and male, 30-45)

- 2 Supporting (female and male, 25-30)

- 3-6 Tertiary players

Locations: 3-4; primary shoots – office, restaurant, apartment, hotel, airport, woods

Budget: Estimated low: \$1M - \$3M

What's the Appeal?

Limited competition anticipated. Story built on material and themes aimed at a mature, adult audience underserved by a movie roster heavily dependent on super-heroes, cartoon characters, and tapped-out plots in their fourth or fifth installment.

A good vehicle for a mid-career actress looking for a hefty part; potential for attaching a recognizable star.

Combines two audience favorites: the con game and the intrigue associated with identical twins (see Comps slides)

Expense benefits from small cast, limited locations, contemporary setting, no special FX.

Everybody loves a twist on the end. And the twist affords a potential sequel if the female lead attracts audience interest in her transformation to an anti-hero.

Synopsis

ACT I

Mediation expert Tracy agrees to help twin brothers Fischer and Fletcher resolve a dispute over the future of an eye drug they are developing – one that could benefit her blind father. A cynical hook on the part of the twins.

Meanwhile, Tracy develops a relationship with Matt, a young, entrepreneur CEO she meets on an assignment to resolve an issue between his high-tech company and a competitor.

Fischer notes the lab's drug development is moving forward but Fletcher is holding up progress. Fletcher accuses his brother of financial malfeasance; and regardless, Fletcher has his own plans for a competing superior drug. He needs money to move forward and convinces Tracy to invest.

ACT II

Tracy soon learns she's been conned, realizing the twins are actually one man. She hires a PI to investigate, and while he dithers, Tracy learns Matt's company is going IPO. She joins the IPO party to gather intel, and meets Marilyn, one of Matt's execs who describes an investment with twins that sounds eerily similar to Tracy's scam. Tracy enlists Marilyn's help to find Fletcher. During the IPO festivities, Matt seeks a closer relationship with Tracy, who obliges.

ACT III

Marilyn arranges a meet between Fletcher and Tracy at his bungalow. Tracy confronts a surprised Fletcher, killing him when he unexpectedly attacks her. She invents a ruse to escape detection. Marilyn freaks out, so Tracy offers to convince Matt to promote her in exchange for her silence about that fatal meeting. Marilyn gets the promised promo - an assignment in faraway Asia. Matt proposes to Tracy, and the couple embark on a lengthy honeymoon. Fade out? Not yet.

EPILOG

Tracy and Matt watch TV with her father who now sees thanks to research conducted by Matt's company. Tracy receives a call from her former PI who has a lead on the murder of her con man. She demurs, giving the PI pause. Tracy tries to play it cool, but the PI is curious about her disinterest. He hangs up leaving Tracy to sweat out what might happen next. The End.

Main Characters

Tracy

Strong, driven, independent single woman (35-45) running her own dispute resolution company. Caters to corporations, sports teams, etc.

Lives in a stylish apartment in a major US city. Wealthy and well-traveled.

Committed to helping her blind father, which opens her to a scam tailored for her by a con man she meets on a trip.

A solid lead role for a mid-career actress who can carry the film.

Fischer/Fletcher

Identical twins (played by a single actor (35-45) who supposedly own a lab doing research on eye diseases. Fischer is the business guy; Fletcher is the free spirit. The brothers disagree on most decisions.

Fischer hooks Tracy into the scam, but it's Fletcher who gives Tracy's his confidence. He cultivates a relationship allowing him to extract a big investment.

A challenging role for a mid-career actor who must play both twins during the scam, and then his awful self when confronted.

The Intrigue of the Con Game Tale

It's called a confidence game. Why?

Because you give me your confidence?

No. *Because I give you mine.*

- David Mamet, "House of Games"

Comps: The Con Game

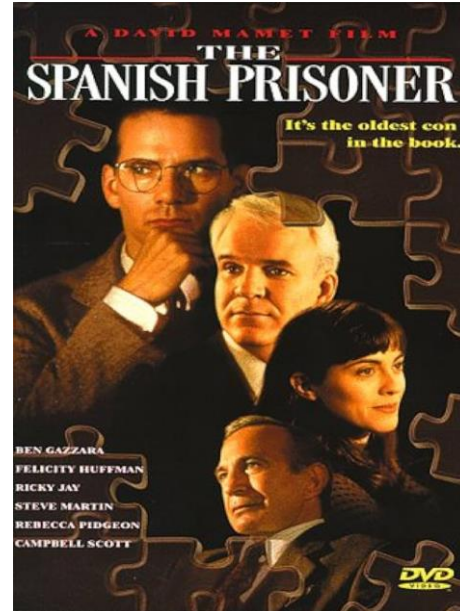


House of Games

WW gross - \$2.6M

Golden Globe 1987 Best Screenplay nominee

Venice Film Festival 1987 Best Film



The Spanish Prisoner

WW gross - \$9.6M

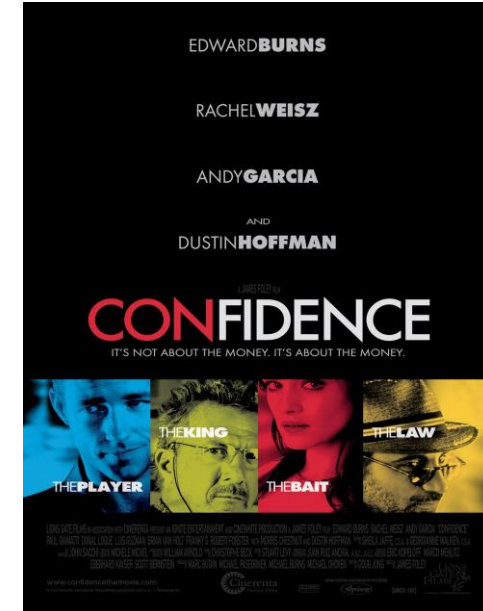
Edgar Allen Poe Awards 1999 Best Movie nominee



The Good Liar

WW gross - \$33.9M

Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror Films 2021 Best Film nominee



Confidence

WW gross - \$23M

Dustin Hoffman, Andy Garcia, Paul Giamatti, Edward Burns, Rachel Weisz attached

Twins have driven stories for eternity

Comedy, Mystery, Vengeance, Duplicity

Characters from antiquity

Jacob and Esau

Romulus and Remus

Castor and Pollux

Chang and Eng – the Siamese Twins

The Subject of Esteemed writers

Mark Twain – *Those Extraordinary Twins*

Alexandre Dumas – *The Man in the Iron Mask*

William Shakespeare – *A Comedy of Errors*

Popular Movies & TV

A Stolen Life

The Dark Mirror

The Shining

Sisters

The Social Network

Dead Ringers

The Krays

Breaking Bad

Man in the Iron Mask

Comps: Identical Twin Tropes



Dead Ringers

WW gross - \$8M

LA Film Critics Assn 1988
Best Film nominee

NY Film Critics Circle
Awards 1988 Best film
nominee

The Krays

WW gross - \$2M

LA Evening Standard
British Film Awards 1991
winner Best Film

Vertigo

WW gross - \$7.8M

AFI Top 100

Dead Ringer

100% on Rotten
Tomatoes

Writer Bio

Herb Schultz

Former marketing executive for Supercomputing at IBM, now retired.

Writer of five spec scripts

Architect's Rendition – An architect enlists three associates in a complex scheme to murder his wife, and each other.

Double Blind Test – A woman conned by identical twins gets revenge.

*Tempus Fu*it* – The life of a scientist who hunts for the thief of his invention is upturned by the invention itself.

The Stoooper – A racetrack stoooper fights to recover a valuable lottery ticket that rightfully belongs to him.

Stalled – Imprisoned in a bathroom stall, two disabled men plot an escape from their sadistic captors.

Author of three novels, a collection of short stories, and a collection of essays

RonnieandLennie about conjoined twins who are saddened after becoming separated.

Architect's Rendition, a story of a Machiavellian man who gets random people to kill each other for his benefit. *Double Blind Test*, a tale of deceit, romance and lex talionis.

Sometimes the Sun Does Shine There and Other Stories - Winner of the 2012 Indie Reader Discovery Award for best short story collection

Culture Justly Scrutinized: A Take on Six Years of Virtue and Venality

www.majorterata.com for more.



The Script and More

Read the treatment and script at www.majorterata.com/double-blind-test-2

Check out the novel *Double Blind Test* from which the screenplay was adapted at www.majorterata.com/double-blind-test/

More screenplays at www.majorterata.com

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Thank You

Story Overview

On a flight to negotiate a dispute between two high-tech companies, professional mediator Tracy meets Fischer who is in a dispute of his own with his identical twin, Fletcher. Tracy learns that the two brothers own a lab that is researching a cure for a rare eye disease – one that happens to afflict Tracy's father. Eager to help the brothers resolve their differences and clear the way for product development, Tracy agrees to assist.

During her dispute resolution exercise with the high-tech firms, Tracy captures the attention of Matt – a young, brash entrepreneur and CEO. Recognizing her talents, and under the allure of a sexy, older woman, Matt pursues Tracy. Eventually the two become an item which affords Tracy the leverage she'll need later.

As promised, Tracy meets with Fletcher who reluctantly reveals his fear that Fischer might be cooking the books to swindle his brother. Tracy is unsure until she receives damning confidential financial data mistakenly sent to her by Fischer's business director. Tracy informs Fletcher who calls in the FBI. The company is shut down and Fischer goes on the lam. Fletcher reveals to Tracy that he has been working quietly on a superior cure for the eye disease, but needs working capital to proceed with the drug. Enthusiastic that research can continue on the cure, Tracy invests.

Within the month, Tracy discovers she has been the victim of an elaborate scam. The lab was a front and Fletcher is missing. She calls in the FBI and learns that Fletcher never asked for an investigation of Fischer. Now convinced that Fischer and Fletcher are one and the same, Tracy hires a private detective. She also initiates an investigation of her own which leads back to the high-tech companies she helped earlier. On a visit to Matt's company, Tracy encounters Marilyn, one of Matt's executives who seems to be involved in a situation suspiciously similar to her own.

Tracy convinces Marilyn that she's being conned – almost certainly by the same man posing as twins who took Tracy's investment money. Marilyn agrees to help Tracy reconnect with the con man so she may record his confession under duress. Armed with a pistol, Tracy accosts Fletcher in his home. After some back and forth, Fletcher lunges. Tracy reflexively pulls the trigger and discharges a fatal bullet. Tracy covers her tracks and manufactures a ruse to throw off the inevitable investigation into the con man's death.

Upon hearing from Tracy that she failed to get the confession, and instead killed their tormentor, Marilyn freaks out. Tracy offers to negotiate on her behalf with Matt to help her ascend the executive ladder in return for Marilyn's cooperation to keep the killing a mystery. Unaware that Matt and Tracy are an item, Marilyn agrees. She gets the promo... and a assignment overseas, far away. Tracy marries Matt, takes a seat on his company's board, and helps steer R&D toward curing the rare eye disease that afflicts her father.

A year later, Matt, Tracy and her father – now able to see again thanks to the research conducted by Matt’s company – watch an old movie on TV. Tracy receives a call from the private investigator she hired. He indicates that he has a lead on the man who scammed her. Concerned that the PI’s efforts might lead to her, Tracy tries to convince the PI to drop the case – but her demeanor raises suspicion. The PI hangs up, leaving Tracy to worry about what troubles may be visited upon her in the future.