

## THE RAID

A Screenplay Treatment by

James Nathan Post and Shelly Waxman

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James Nathan Post  
2020 Dartmouth NE  
Albuquerque NM 87106  
(505) 232-8774  
[jamesnpost@aol.com](mailto:jamesnpost@aol.com)

Sheldon R. Waxman  
Box 309  
South Haven, MI 49090  
(269) 637-6557  
[shelly@cybersol.com](mailto:shelly@cybersol.com)

*Was he the Black James Bond of the FBI  
Or the Judas of the Black Panther Party?*

### LOGLINE

THE RAID

Genre: Crime/Murder/Mystery

Sub-genre: Conspiracy, Courtroom, Nonfiction/History, True Story/Based On, Drama

This is the story of the murder of Fred Hampton on December 4, 1969, in Chicago. Hampton was the Black Panther Leader who ran afoul of the FBI's Co-Intel Program to prevent the rise of a "Black Messiah." The raid involved a notorious informant, William O'Neal. Was he the Black James Bond of the FBI or the Judas of the Black Panther Party?

### SYNOPSIS

In 1974, Assistant United States Attorney in Chicago, Shelly Waxman was tasked with defending the Chicago FBI Agent in charge of racial matters and his secret agent, William O'Neal, who was a planted informant in the Chicago Black Panthers. A lawsuit charged them with civil rights violations, resulting from the infamous police raid in on December 4, 1969, which killed Black Panther Chairman Fred Hampton.

Shelly learned about the raid, about the people who organized and conducted it, and about O'Neal. He refused to go along with a planned cover-up and eventually resigned his job.

As the FBI's mole, the charismatic and enigmatic O'Neal rose to the position of the Panthers' Chief of Security and earned a reputation for ruthlessness in dealing with those suspected of disloyalty, while covering his own role. O'Neal's cover was blown when he testified in another case that he was working with the FBI at the time of the raid. It was Shelly's job to minimize the damage that discovery of O'Neal's involvement could do to the FBI.

A second case, also infamous for its use of Federal laws for a simple murder case, was known as the Hit Squad case. It involved Sgt. Robinson, a black officer acting as FBI liaison for the Chicago Police, who was charged with the Federal murder of two drug dealers. Robinson worked with O'Neal and it was O'Neal, who testified falsely against him and caused him to be convicted for which he received a life sentence.

Robinson claimed he had been framed for the murders, which O'Neal committed, and it was done deliberately to silence him because of the secret evidence he had obtained. In the course of going through old police files on behalf of the FBI, he found evidence that the murder of a Senator's daughter by the Senator's wife had been covered up.

Notwithstanding that bringing it out would compromise J. Edgar Hoover's FBI secret Co-Intel domestic spy program, Robinson wanted the evidence to be disclosed. Shortly thereafter, the murders of the drug dealers occurred and Robinson's imprisonment.

Payment of \$1.8 million to the families and survivors of the raid eventually settled the case against the participants of the raid. In 1990, O'Neal was living a quiet life with his wife under a new name. One evening, O'Neal climbed out of his bathroom window, after being told to kill himself to protect his loved ones, and he ran onto the Eisenhower Expressway and threw himself in front of a truck and was killed.

To present most dramatically these two cases, and the astonishing facts they reveal about how the government agencies and officers behaved, we have created a plausible fictional framework. In narrated flashbacks, the story is initiated by present time 1999 lawyer Shelly in film-noir Bogart detective style as told to Serena Wilson. She is a young, lightly complexioned Black woman, who approaches Shelly to tell her about William O'Neal.

As the story proceeds, we discover Serena has learned that the father she never knew was O'Neal, and that her mother, Janice, was a blonde secretary working for FBI Agent Mitchell who was O'Neal's contact agent. It soon becomes apparent that antagonists are following Serena, and there is a present time risk at stake.

The present time risk involves the missing evidence, which Sgt. Robinson had taken to expose the cover-up of the Senator's wife's crime. He gave the evidence to his partner O'Neal, who he thought was a pal, to hide for him as life insurance.

After he falsely testified against Robinson in court, as instructed by the Agent Mitchell, O'Neal hid the evidence, giving it to Janice. When she was tortured years later to reveal O'Neal's secret identity, she told Serena that O'Neal was her father and gave her the evidence.

In present time, we find several different unidentified antagonists pursuing Serena. Examination of the evidence (a 16 mm film) reveals it would convict the Senator's wife for the murder of his daughter and the Senator for covering it up. The Senator is now (in 2000) running in the Republican primary elections for the White House. As well as revealing the cover-up of the daughter's murder, it would also reveal that the FBI was conducting illegal surveillance of the Senator, which was the FBI's concern. The antagonists, therefore, could be agents for or against the candidate, FBI still on the case, old Panthers looking for some kind of revenge, or others.

With unknown antagonists in close pursuit, the fate of the candidate is in Shelly's hands, having been given the film by Serena. The FBI's secret program long ago had been made public knowledge, and the lives of those involved were either over or beyond change. Shelly and Serena, having been threatened, decide to destroy the evidence. At the moment when they burn the film on a balcony, celebrating the turn of the millennium, the snipers that are ready to kill them lower their rifles, which ironic twist lets everyone off the hook.

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

### SHELLY WAXMAN

At present time in December 1999, he is a 59-year-old working class lawyer making ends meet taking low paying but idealistic cases. In the earliest flashbacks, he is 34, not a large man, a flashier dresser than his peers, cocky and aggressive.

### WILLIAM ONEAL

The charismatic FBI informant, who at 18 became Chicago Black Panthers security chief, in his early 20s conducted city drug trade undercover, participated in at least one police hit squad murder, died by forced dramatic suicide at 36. From the violence of his acts in character as Panther enforcer to the tenderness of his relationship with FBI secretary Janice Wilson, this complex and enigmatic character must walk the moral tightrope, and the story must ride upon his shoulders.

### SGT. STANLEY ROBINSON

The 30-year-old black Chicago Police Officer accused in 1974 of being the hit squad killer of two drug dealers. It was his claim that he was framed by the FBI to silence him about a covered-up crime he had discovered which forms the central speculative thread of the plot.

### ROY MARTIN MITCHELL

Squat, thick-set, middle-aged burr-head, deep-south FBI Agent in charge of the Racial Matters Division of J. Edgar Hoover's Co-Intel Program in Chicago in 1969. He was the motivator of the raid. He was also responsible for the set-up of Sgt. Robinson by his FBI-informant partner William O'Neal three years later.

### EDWARD HANRAHAN

Cook County State's Attorney, he was in charge of the specially organized team of Chicago Police who actually conducted the raid and was charged with Obstruction of Justice for concealing the true facts of the raid but was acquitted by a politically connected judge.

**RICHARD JALOVIC**

First Asst. State's Attorney and former AUSA, he was the go-between Mitchell and Hanrahan, and the one who coordinated the raid.

**J. EDGAR HOOVER**

The Director is a paranoid and powerful old man obsessed with his nightmare of a black messiah in communist colors.

**JAMES THOMPSON**

He is the United States Attorney about 40 years old and is blonde, very tall, pear-shaped, walks stooped and has loose skin under his chin so that he looks like a turkey.

**JOHN COUGHLIN**

He is 50 years old, very rough looking with a broken nose and looks like a prizefighter

**BLACK PANTHERS (all about twenty in the 1969 flashbacks):****FRED HAMPTON**

He was the target of and purposely murdered in the raid. He had been drugged by O'Neal and was unconscious when shot in the back of the head. He was a mild mannered, educated person from a middle-class suburb of Chicago and since high school a community organizer of socialist self-help programs.

**MARK CLARK**

He was murdered in the raid, an ex-GI, like most of the others a college student from a suburban family.

**DEBRA JOHNSON**

She was Hampton's wife and in late pregnancy was wounded in the raid.

**BRENDA HARRIS**

She was Hampton's assistant.

**LOUIS TRUELOCK**

**CHICAGO COPS:****GLOVES DAVIS**

He was Black, a brutal killer, and the leader of the raid, who fired the first shot.

**CISJEWSKI**

He is White and was wounded in the raid by a stray bullet fired by the police.

**SGT. GROTH****JUDGE PERRY**

He is an elderly white man of puritanical appearance, looking like a Frankenstein monster because of large hearing aids protruding from his ears. He is the Judge in the civil rights case brought by the Panther victims. He is personally committed to blocking the plaintiffs case.

**ARNOLD KANTER**

The other young AUSA on the case with Shelly in 1974. Kanter pleads with Shelly to play ball and stonewall the Panthers case, and then succeeds him when he resigns. He takes the fall for the attempted cover-up but later becomes a Federal judge.

**FLINT TAYLOR**

He is a young idealistic hippy, long-haired white man and the lawyer for the Panthers in their suit to prove the raid was deliberately set up to kill Fred Hampton. He is charged with contempt for protesting Judge Perry's bias against him.

**JEFF HAAS**

Flint Taylor's law partner.

**THE HITSQUAD CASE:**

**ONEAL'S FATHER:** He cleaned the murder gun so that it could be alleged that it was the reason any ballistics test on it would be inconclusive.

**BEARD**

The dope dealer murdered.

**TOLLIVER**

The other cop involved in the murders.

**BROWN**

Driver of the hit squad car.

**CHARLES KOKORIS**

About 35, Robinson's prosecutor.

**GENSEN**

Gimp legged, colorful Robinson defense lawyer.

**SERENA WILSON**

At present time, she is 29, a beautiful, well-dressed and serious looking woman, clearly of mixed black and white extraction. Central to the speculative thread of the plot, she has just discovered that the father she never knew was William O'Neal. She received the 16 mm FBI surveillance film that O'Neal was hiding for Sgt. Robinson. Under pretense, she has come to Shelly to learn what he knows about O'Neal.

**JANICE WILSON**

In 1969, when O'Neal was working with the Black Panthers, she was the pretty 22-year-old blonde secretary in Roy Mitchell's FBI office who dated him secretly. As she lies dying from the torture she received in 1986, she tells fifteen-year-old Serena that her father was O'Neal and tells her about the 16mm film.

**VALERIE DARENSBERG**

In present time, Shelly's secretary, about 40, is good looking, competent, patient, and sympathetic, his best friend and maybe occasionally girlfriend. Assaulted by the antagonists, she flees into hiding.

**SKIP PONDS**

In 1974, Skip is one of the lawyers working with Taylor and Haas. An old school acquaintance of Shelly's, he gives Shelly the report about the raid which starts Shelly's discoveries about O'Neal and Mitchell, leading to his resigning the job.

**SENATOR JERRY COMER**

He is responsible for covering-up the murder of his daughter and her Black lover by his wife, which Robinson found out about. In present time, he is an elder statesman running in the early primaries for the Republican nomination in the 2000 election. He is seen as a young man of about 30 in the 16mm FBI surveillance film that Robinson gave to O'Neal to hide.

**KIESHAH**

She is a very sharp Black woman, who is hired to warn Shelly of the danger he is in if he doesn't play ball.

**NEWS REPORTERS:****TYLLAN PRESCOTT****ANDY MARTINEZ****WILBUR FOX****HECTOR**

A gun dealer.

**SCIENTIST****RAMSEY CLARK****EDDIE ROOK****ASSAILANT****BLACKSUIT****STREET HOOD**

None of the present-time blacksuits, gangsters, or other antagonists is given an individual character. They could belong to any of several groups with a speculative interest.