

## SYNOPSIS

### Fer-de-Lance by Benjamin Tsai and Jess Kroll

ROBERT BIAS is an ex-Army Special Forces officer living in Philadelphia who ends up working for criminals because he cannot find a job as an ex-con. Robert disguises the source of his income as “security consulting” work. Robert sends money to his ex-wife KIM GABANY, who Robert still has a speaking relationship with. Kim uses the money to cover Robert’s estranged son BEN’s tuition. Robert wants to leave his criminal career and start a relationship with JUDI MICHAELS, who Robert slowly opens up to about his past. Judi is a waitress struggling to make a living for herself and her high school son ANDY. Robert becomes a fatherly figure to Andy by using some of his free time to tutor him.

Following Robert’s recent assignments, Robert’s handler VINCENT offers unusually more money from the BOSS to conduct surveillance on New Jersey gangster SCHULTZ. Vincent describes the reasons why Schultz is detested by many people and advises Robert not to get caught due to Schultz’s brutality.

The only things comforting Robert during the surveillance on Schultz are his conversations with Judi over the phone and the dinner date they schedule after he returns. The job assignment frustrates Robert because he cannot find any vulnerability in Schultz's regular activities due to Schultz’s defences and the FBI also observing Schultz. Robert eventually discovers one vulnerability when Schultz attends Church on Sundays because Schultz’s security and the FBI are not around.

After presenting the surveillance findings, Vincent tells Robert to think about the Boss’s \$500 thousand offer to kill Schultz. Following the dinner date with Judi, Andy surprises Robert with his acceptance letter to University of Pennsylvania (Penn). Robert calls Kim about celebrating Andy’s college acceptance, but also laments his past mistakes that prevented such an occasion with Ben. Kim finally tells Robert to stop dwelling on his past mistakes and enjoy his future with Judi and Andy.

Seeing a potential future with Judi and Andy as a family, Robert calls Vincent to accept the Boss’s offer with the condition that this will be Robert’s final assignment. Robert plans to kill Schultz in front of the Church by shooting him from inside the trunk of a car modified to serve as a rolling sniper nest, with Vincent as the getaway driver. Robert and Vincent repetitively practice their mission and getaway plan from New Jersey back to Philadelphia for a couple weeks.

Finding some available time, Robert throws a surprise party for Andy getting into Penn. As the party dies down, Robert tells Judi that he is leaving his “security consulting” work and will have more time for her and Andy. Robert also opens up about his struggles with painkiller addiction after leaving the military, which destroyed his family and led to his incarceration before he sobered up. Judi empathizes and sees Robert as a good man who she wants in a relationship, which they seal with a kiss.

Now optimistic about his future with Judi and Andy, Robert completes his mission to kill Schultz. While Robert and Vincent make final arrangements at the junkyard, Vincent talks about Judi and Andy, who Robert never told Vincent about. The thugs ambush and wound Robert, but Robert kills the thugs and wounds Vincent. Robert coldly executes Vincent after interrogating him, even though it is unclear if Vincent knew of the ambush. Robert calls the Boss on Vincent’s phone and threatens to destroy everything the Boss possesses if the Boss targets Robert’s loved ones.

Feeling heartbroken about losing the future he desires with Judi and Andy, Robert looks at Judi’s house before driving away.