

# **“PLANES: Chapter One – THE GANGSTER ZONE”**

## **FULL SYNOPSIS**

This is a very unique and original inter-weaved story with a treasure chest of characters. loaded with humor, suspense, numerous plot twists, and explosive surprises.

It's heavy drama with fast dialogue and multiple climaxes and all with a touch of the supernatural. It's like a gangster style Twilight Zone!

This screenplay was originally written with four separate episodes for a TV series to be titled "PLANES" meaning dimensional planes. Through out the story there are SFX dimensional shifts that are often lead by a 747 either heard or seen flying overhead.

The plot for this screenplay has four interweaving stories featuring six childhood friends that we see as young kids, teens and as older adults.

The story revolves around FRANK VICARELLI, SR. (80s), who is on trial for racketeering. Frank Sr. seemingly has supernatural powers. His son FRANK VICARELLI, JR. (60s), wants to take over and plots to eliminate his father. CYBIL (50s), one of the locals, is a gorgeous kleptomaniacal femme fatale who will steal anything she likes if it's not nailed down. ANGELO (60s), is married to Cybil, his childhood sweetheart. Angelo could have become a gangster, but he didn't he became a carpenter and works for a living. He suddenly becomes an unexpected unstoppable hero who prevents a disaster. MACHINE GUN EDDIE G. GREENBERG (60s), an aviophobic retired hitman with more phobias than bullets nicknamed Machine Gun because he stutters. PAUL GREEN (60s), the SUPER JEW, the son of a deceased mob accountant that will not accept his father's death. THE MOOSE (60s), muscle for Frankie and the mob and a loyal best friend to all.

In a flashback scene we are introduced to the main characters when they were KIDS (10-12) in an APARTMENT BUILDING ROOFTOP initiation scene where new members are challenged with playing “chicky” having to jump from one roof to the other as a test of courage. In this scene Paul is nick-named The Super Jew when he jumps from one roof to the other and Eddie is nick-named The Machine Gun because he is so afraid he stutters.

One part of the inter-weaved story revolves around FRANK VICARELLI, SR. (80s) a Bronx mob boss that is on trial for racketeering. Frank, Sr. seems to have psychic powers.

His treacherous son FRANK VICARELLI, JR. (60s) is secretly plotting against his father with hopes to take over the family.

At the start of the trial a bribed juror ISADORE LUCARNA (60s) is removed from the jury which means the only other option is to whack the witness before he can testify which brings us to MACHINE GUN EDDIE G. GREENBERG (60s) an old hitman living in California known for having more phobias than bullets.

Eddie is called out of retirement by Frankie to do an emergency hit on a government witness set to testify. Eddie is purposely selected by Frankie with hopes that he will fail to get the job done when he is forced to face his greatest fears, aviophobia, the fear of flying.

Another one of the parallel story-lines is PAUL GREEN (60s), Angelo's close friend, who is a writer now living in California married to a surgeon SUE GREEN (50s).

Paul's life unravels after the death of his father WILLY GREEN (80s) when he uses a book given to him by his father back when he was a young boy about mind over matter. Paul becomes obsessed with a metaphysical philosophy of the book believing thought can reshape reality itself.

This belief becomes dangerous when Paul returns home to California after his father's funeral and he begins to attempt something impossible: resurrecting his father through mental projection and emotional will so his mother HELEN GREEN (80s) won't be lonely.

When Willy reappears his mother, Helen, simply thinks that Willy is back. She is caught between grief and survival and has no idea of what is truly happening. This worries Paul thinking that his mother is losing her mind not realizing that his using mind over matter is causing his father to actually reappear whenever he thinks of him being alive and well with his mother in New York.

After hearing his father speak on the phone and being told by The Moose and Angelo that they saw his father sitting at the kitchen table Paul starts to realize that he is the one making his father come back to life whenever he looks at a photograph of his father and now believes that if his focal concentration, and his mental consciousness are strong enough, death can be reversed—or at least rewritten and his mother and father can be together again.

With this new realization Paul won't do anything except concentrate on the photograph of his father to keep making him appear. He starts to ignore his family and taking care of himself. He has become crazed and he won't speak with anyone on the phone except his mother.

Helen seems to be completely happy with Willy's return not knowing how it is affecting Paul and his family.

Paul's wife Sue realizes she must do something to get Paul to stop in fear of his health deteriorating Sue secretly calls Paul's mother and asks her for help.

In return Helen telephones Paul and tells him that his father has died making Paul come out of his crazed stupor and comes back to reality accepting his father's passing and he finally lets go.

In the same moment Helen ultimately makes the defining choice: she accepts Willy's death fully and completely and as the Willy's image and the illusion start to fade that Paul has created Willy is not lost—he is released.

Helen and Willy share a touching final goodbye that is intimate, quiet, and absolute. Willy fades not as disappearance, but as emotional resolution.

In another parallel plot is ANGELO (60s) and CYBIL (50s), married neighborhood childhood sweethearts. Cybil is a gorgeous kleptomaniacal femme fatale who will steal anything she likes that is not nailed down. She is always getting Angelo in trouble while he is just a simple hard working married man who becomes the story's surprise unstoppable anti-hero.

Living and growing up in the Bronx, Angelo a hard working married man struggles to survive and keep up with his bills. He is just about the only guy in the neighborhood that isn't a gangster. He's married to his childhood sweetheart Cybil who he loves with all his heart, and he works hard to keep her happy while she constantly gets him into trouble with her spending and shoplifting and in the end gets him into some very deep trouble with the local mob.

But, temporarily things suddenly change for them when Cybil shoplifts some items at the local candy store run by PHILLY TWO CHINS (60s) the local bookie and former hitman who is living a disguised life while hiding from the police for murder. One of the items Cybil steals turns out to be a strange TV GUIDE that seems to predict the future with impossible precision.

At first it is dismissed as coincidence until they start winning money by betting on horse races but Angelo sees that it predicts something else: a catastrophic crash involving a 747 and a school full of children—down to the exact time and place.

Angelo realizes the future is not unfolding randomly—it is already written.

Cybil refuses to believe it. She sees the book as a tool for profit, not prophecy, and pushes forward with a gambling scheme tied to a major horse race. She believes luck is real—but fate is not. Angelo, however, becomes consumed by the prediction and breaks away from her to try to stop the disaster.

As the countdown begins, Angelo tries to warn authorities, but bureaucracy, disbelief, and indifference block every attempt. At the final moment, his warning finally reaches an airport control tower. A call is made to Flight 86 out of LAX. The plane suffers engine failure—but is narrowly diverted. The predicted school crash is avoided by seconds.

But fate does not stop—it rebalances.

Cybil is killed in a separate, brutal chain of events tied indirectly to the same prophecy. Angelo survives—but loses the person closest to him, proving that even when fate is interrupted, it still collects its due.

Frankie Vicarelli is a rising mob heir desperate to take control of his father's empire. He is volatile, insecure, and obsessed with proving dominance over Frank Vicarelli Sr., the cold, calculating patriarch who still controls everything from behind the scenes. Frankie's greatest psychological wound is that he may never truly be in charge of anything—including his own life.

Frankie is secretly involved with LUPE "LU" LUCARNA (30s) a seductive and strategic woman who is also entangled with Frank Sr. This hidden triangle of betrayal becomes a silent power struggle inside the family itself, destabilizing Frankie's already fragile authority.

Frank Sr., meanwhile, operates like a ghost kingpin—rarely seen, always controlling outcomes. He manipulates money, violence, and loyalty from a distance, ensuring Frankie never fully escapes his influence.

Frankie's enforcer, THE MOOSE (60s), is a physically imposing but emotionally conflicted loyalist. Moose a big dumb lummoX and the muscle for Frankie and always a loyal friend to all. He genuinely cares for Angelo and increasingly struggles with his role in Frankie's violent world.

Moose eventually begins to questions Frankie's orders when he is asked to physically hurt Angelo and refuses to do it choosing loyalty to friends over loyalty to power, signaling the beginning of internal rebellion within the system.

Within this same criminal orbit exists Machine Gun Eddie G. Greenberg, a stuttering, neurotic enforcer whose nickname is ironic rather than literal. Eddie is defined not by aggression, but by fear.

Eddie suffers from extreme phobias—especially aviophobia (fear of flying)—along with claustrophobia, panic disorders, and an overwhelming fear of failure. His mind is constantly anticipating catastrophe, making him erratic and unpredictable. In a world of violence, Eddie is dangerous precisely because he is terrified of everything.

Eddie's instability makes him both comic and tragic—he is expected to function in a criminal system that requires emotional numbness, while he exists as pure psychological overload that leads to his failing his assignment to make the hit and stop the witness from testifying.

Back in the criminal storyline, Frankie's continues to plot against his father so he can step out from his father's shadow and take over the family while not knowing that his father is totally aware of all that is going on.

Lupe Lucarna's divided loyalties further erode any illusion of control, exposing Frankie's emotional dependence on forces he cannot dominate.

Frank Sr. remains untouched by chaos, continuing to manipulate outcomes from behind the curtain, reinforcing the idea that power in this world is never visible—it is inherited, controlled, and quietly enforced.

Machine Gun Eddie G. continues spiraling under the weight of his phobias, forced into roles he is psychologically unfit for. His fear of flying, in particular, becomes symbolic of the entire world's denial of human fragility inside violent systems. He is a man surrounded by danger but defined by panic.

In the aftermath of the failed disaster, Angelo is left with a paradox: he has seen the future, tried to change it, and learned that even when fate is interrupted, it still extracts a price.

Cybil is gone. The crime world is destabilized. Paul has broken through illusion into acceptance. Helen has achieved emotional release through truth. Frankie is losing control. Eddie is collapsing

under fear. Moose is beginning to question loyalty. Frank Sr. remains in control.

And Angelo is left with knowledge—but no certainty.

The stolen TV Guide, once a tool of prediction, becomes a symbol of something larger: that knowing the future does not mean controlling it—it only means witnessing it.

In the final tone of the story, all characters converge thematically around the same truth:

- Fate cannot be fully changed
- Love cannot be fully controlled
- Power cannot eliminate consequence
- And letting go is the only form of freedom

The final image leaves Angelo moving forward into uncertainty, while the world around him continues to orbit forces he can no longer see—but now fully understands.

In the end Frankie's plot to take down his father fails In the final scenes we see Frank Vicarelli, Sr. with Frankie's girlfriend Lupe "Lu" Lucarna on a boat in the Caribbean living the high life. He has escaped and gotten away with the girl and the money while his plotting son Frankie sits in jail accused of his murder.

In the tag Angelo moves to California and when leaving Paul's house he finds Paul's mind over matter book in the garbage and we are left wondering if he will bring back Cybil.