

The Abused

by John Halas, ScreenwritersForHire.Com

based on the book, *The Abused*
by Matthew Douglas

Logline

A child welfare officer becomes director of The League of Angels (Good Samaritans), an underground vigilante group that dishes out justice to abusers and tracks down a Mexican human trafficking cartel.

Characters

Jennifer Martinez (F) - Co-Director, League of Angels. She is the adopted daughter of the president. She is abducted by the Mexican trafficking cartel who once abused her and eventually rescued by the president's SEAL team.

Mathew Davies (M) - Thirty-eight. Samantha's boyfriend. He leaves his job as a child welfare officer to become director of the League of Angels. He eventually finds out the president is his father.

Levi Clements (M) - Eleven. The son of a single mom. He's been assigned to two foster homes. He eventually gets adopted by Michelle and Sam Robinson, who turn out to be Mexican trafficking criminals. He is kidnapped by his adoptive father but eventually reunites with Matthew.

Samantha Mitchell's (F) - Matthew's girlfriend. She is abducted by the Mexican trafficking cartel but is eventually rescued by the President's SEAL team.

President Tom Sullivan (M) - Head of the League of Angels. He runs the underground court and jury that tracks serial abusers and punishes them. He joins the SEAL team to rescue Jennifer and Samantha. He eventually reveals himself to be the father of Matthew and Jennifer.

Sam Robinson (M) - Husband to Michelle Robinson. He is the son of a Mexican human trafficking boss. He kills his wife for her role in exposing the cartel.

Three-act Summary

Act One

- Mike Philips alights from a taxi at 7:25 pm and gets into his house. His wife, Brittney, offers him over dinner, but he beats her and their son instead. Two police officers, Phil Bennet and Josh Miller show up afterward, stating they received a call concerning noise violation. He denies it, and they leave.
- Tiffany Price awakes and tries to make breakfast for herself in the family's disheveled kitchen. Unfortunately, she spills the milk for the cereal, and the noise startles her mom's boyfriend in the room next door, who then wakes her mother, Beth. Beth saunters into the kitchen, yells at Tiffany, and burns her arm with a cigarette butt. Later in class, Tiffany's teacher Mrs. Jones notices the burn and takes her to Nurse Taylor's station for care.
- Steve is at a party with his friends and goes to use the bathroom. An older stranger invites him to a fight club, and he persuades his friends to come along. They find out it's an animal fighting ring and watch two dogs fight to the death.
- Matthew and his dog, Charlie, head out from his inherited house near the beach to the JavaBean for a coffee shop. Then, he returns to shower and heads to work in his black Jeep. On his way, the news about the Good Samaritans

catches his attention. He discusses the Good Samaritans with his colleagues before meeting with Levi, one of the kids he's counseling.

- Meanwhile, Mr. Smith sits in his private jet, preparing to land in LA. Back at Mathew's office, Sam and Michelle Robinson come to adopt a child, and they are paired with Levi. Mr. Smith's private jet lands, and an SUV picks him up, driving him to a building in Beverly Hills which he inspects with a woman named Jennifer Martinez.
- Jeff Hodge sits at his desk pondering about the good Samaritans. Mathew and Charlie head to the ocean, where he runs into Samantha, marking the beginning of their relationship. In Mathew's office, he receives an urgent mail from his ex-girlfriend, Trisha Sparks. He calls her, and she requests to see him. They meet up, and she drives him to a trendy restaurant in Beverly Hills, where they meet Jennifer Martinez.
- Jennifer informs Mathew that her boss wants him to help run his business. That night at 7:00 pm, a black car picks him up and takes him back to Beverly Hills to a giant building, Smith and Smith Holdings. He walks in and becomes privy to witness a court proceeding going on. The underground court tries three individuals, Bethany Price, Mike Philips, and Ryan Wilson, finding all of them guilty of different levels of abuse. After the court session, the organization rewards all the active and helpful members while Jennifer persuades Mathew to join them.

Act Two

- Meanwhile, back in LAX, Mr. Smith is back in his private jet and prepares for takeoff. At work, Mathew discusses the activities of the Good Samaritans with his colleagues, but he is confused because he met with the League of Angels.
- Months later, Mathew's relationship with Samantha is blossoming, and he still thinks of the encounter with the

League of Angels. While at his office, Levi shows up crying that he has suspicions of his new family being involved in crime. This pushes him to call Jennifer, and they arrange a meeting. However, Jennifer disappoints them by suggesting they go to the police.

- Jeff Hodge, seeking information about the Good Samaritans, visits a popular police hangout bar. He overhears Josh and Phil having a conversation about one of the victims of the good Samaritans. Disappointed by Jennifer, Matthew and Levi agree to report to the police but are accosted by Mrs. Robinson, who takes Levi away. Right then, an anonymous person contacts Matthew.
- Back at the bar, Jeff approaches Phil and strikes up a conversation with him. The next day Jennifer invites Mathew to Beverly hills and takes him on a plane tour, and later for a meeting with the president of the United States, Mr. Sullivan. The president makes Mathew an offer to run the League of Angels, and he accepts.
- Mathew returns home to Charlie and Samantha. That night, he receives a message for a meeting with Jennifer and informs Samantha that he's gotten a new job. Jeff Hodge is in his apartment studying his leads on the good Samaritans. He calls Josh for a meeting.
- Mathew walks into Smith and Smith Holdings, and Jennifer introduces him to the other members, and they discuss Levi's predicament with his adoptive family while also mentioning other abuse cases. Jennifer takes him on a tour of the building, and they discuss his new role.
- The next morning, Ethan Walker trails the Robinson family as they start their day, then follows Michelle Robinson closely to the San Diego zoo. He watches her exchange a brown popcorn bag with a Mexican man and leaves for home. Meanwhile, Jeff joins Josh and Phil on their police duty. He tries to get Phil to talk about the Good Samaritans by informing him of his pregnant friend who's been abused.

- Mathew is home with Samantha and Charlie and informs her of his dressing requirements for his new job. At 10:00 pm, Michelle Robinson leaves her house. Dan Roberts, Ethan's partner, follows her to the Los Angeles port where she meets with a man. She drives to another location, and Dan calls for backup.
- Kevin and Art, two of the soldiers who respond, find the bad guy's nest and a truck of dead girls, then they torch it. Samantha and Mathew are leaving the restaurant where they had supper when Mathew receives a call. He drops Sam off and heads to his Beverly Hills office for a meeting with Jennifer and other jurors, and they agree to bring Michelle into their court.
- The next morning, Mathew receives a call from the president about his work activities. Jeff shows up at Tiffany Price's school, where he meets Nurse Taylor. Back in his office, Mathew ponders his job expectations when Jennifer shows up to comfort him. Soon the court session and trials begin. Jeff is with Nurse Taylor in one of the suites watching the trial. As usual, after the trial, there are acknowledgments of individuals helpful to the organization's cause.
- Taylor persuades Jeff to talk about his abused friend with Jennifer while detective Phil observes him from a distance. Mathew returns home at 1:30 am, and Samantha questions about his close relationship with Jennifer. The next morning at the office, Jennifer informs Mathew that there's a reporter in their gathering. Mrs. Robinson gives them a lead, and they delegate Ethan to follow it up. Dan and Ethan tail Mrs. Robinson to San Diego and eventually follow a red car.
- On Thursday, Mathew takes Samantha to the beach and buys her a place to set up her restaurant. Ethan continues trailing the red Honda to a church inside the Mexican border. Jennifer calls Mathew to inform him. Ethan and Dan try to accost the Mexicans but are attacked.

- When Mathew gets home that night, he receives an update from Jennifer about the situation. They send some soldiers on a rescue mission, and as they watch from the office TV, they get a visit from the Robinsons, Levi, and Sam. Further interrogations on Michelle reveals more information. Meanwhile, Art and his team of soldiers continue their search for Ethan and Dan engaging the Mexicans in a shootout, but they succeed.
- Back at the office, Matthew and his team are making further plans. Later, he meets with Jennifer outside the hotel where Sam and Levi are lodged to inform Sam of his wife's activities with the Mexican gang. He drops Levi off with Samantha and heads to hold a court session for their prisoner. Surveillance at Robinson's house is beefed up. Michelle leads the team to find the Mexicans but is shot by a sniper (her husband).
- Mathew receives an anonymous call. He rushes home to find Levi and Samantha safe. The next morning, he meets with Jennifer and the jurors to discuss the new development.

Act Three

- After the weekend, Mathew comes to work to find a parcel in his office and another phone call from the kidnappers. He rushes home and finds the house empty. Then the anonymous caller calls again and gives him some instructions, which he obeys. The kidnappers threaten Samantha and Charlie at their hideout.
- While following the kidnappers' instructions, Mathew tries to save the captured girls by bidding for them, but they deliver the dead girls to him. He eventually decides to call Dan for help. Back at his house, Mathew receives a parcel containing blackmailing photos and a phone call from the kidnappers.
- The next day he goes to his office to find the president sitting in his seat. He discloses his predicament, and the

president assures him of a solution. Old man, Travis Young, is watching the activities of Mathew's office from his computer. He panics as he realizes the president has become involved. He arrives at the room where Jennifer, Sam, and Levi are being held and leaves instructions for Jennifer to be brought to his place at night.

- While waiting in his office for the next step, Mathew receives a parcel containing instructions from the kidnappers demanding that their brother, Jose Rodriguez, whom he holds prisoner, should be released. He sends the picture to the president, who then arrives in the next three hours. Mathew and the president discuss the next line of action, and the president leaves.
- An hour before the court session, Mathew meets with the jurors, and the president shows up to address them on the proceedings. When the court session starts, Mathew takes Jennifer's position, and the judge acquits Jose Rodriguez. When it ends, he realizes that a supposed friend of Jennifer's, Dr. Cruz, was part of the gang.
- Dr. Cruz and Jose drive happily to their family in Malibu, where a welcome party is held. Meanwhile, Mathew calls the president to inform him that he knows who took Jennifer but cannot reach him. Back in Malibu, Travis offers Samantha to his son, Jose, and goes on to the end of the hallway to see Jennifer.
- That moment, the president and a SEAL team invade the house and knock out Sam Robinson, Jose, and Travis, freeing their prisoners. Mathew runs to the emergency section of the hospital on hearing that Jennifer and Sam have been released. They are also able to get the location of Levi and Charlie and unite everyone.
- Three months later, Samantha is having the grand opening of her restaurant, Sam's place. She invites many of their friends. The president calls Mathew to meet at the back of the restaurant. When he does, the president reveals that he

is Mathew's father. He brings the president to the house and introduces him to Samantha.

- A few days later, the president relieves Samantha and Mathew from their position in the League of Angels and offers them a new role. A week later, a private court session is held with only the president, Jennifer, and Mathew in attendance, and the Mexican criminals are punished. The president then narrates to them how he pulled off the rescue operation with the SEAL.