**Synopsis: Robin Templar and the Cross-up Capers**

 **(A 9-part limited, special edition, television series)**

**Including Robin Templar himself, *Robin and his Merry Band* con-sist of five very talented – but bored thrill seeking individ-uals who start out seeking excitement, more than personal gain, by pulling off an armored car heist in the sin city of Las Vegas and, despite multiple impediments, manage to get away with it; but not without lasting scars. In an effort to clear their con-sciences, they give their ill-gotten proceeds to a charitable cause. But the thrill of the game is now forever in their blood.**

**Seeking the rush of a well executed caper, but not wanting to repeat the trauma of their first outing, the *Merry Band* switches tactics. Now, for a percentage or fee, they specialize in re-covering lost or stolen assets; but continue giving a vast per-centage of the proceeds to charity.**

**At first, the *Merry Band* used nom de guerres wherein except for one person; no other team member knew the true identity of an-other – a precaution in case a *Merry Band* member were to be cap-tured or arrested, it would be impossible to name names.**

**The one person who knew the true identities of the others was Jonathan Moore, a distinguished, gray-haired, soft-spoken black man in his early sixties and the only one without a nom de guer-re. Moore is a former Marine Corp. lieutenant colonel who was adjunct to a major general and considered a master planner of military operations – until his sudden dismissal from the Corps.**

**Jonathan’s dismissal resulted from an incident where, in order to get information that ended up saving many lives, the LT Col-onel thrust the barrel of his .45 behind the ear of an Iraqi captive and threatened to pull the trigger unless he gave up certain information. At first the Iraqi soldier was reluctant, but when Moore fired the gun next to his right ear, all sorts of valuable information came spewing forth, although the bullet landed harmlessly. The action was frowned upon by the Pentagon.**

**Considered the man who knows too much, Jonathan never partici-pates in an actual caper nor goes in harm’s way.**

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**In addition to planning the capers, LT Colonel Moore provides the team members (excluding himself) with impeccable but never-**

**theless phony credentials under their nom de guerres – including passports, driver’s licenses and credit cards.**

**Robin Templar, the leader of the *Merry Band*, is a good-looking man in his early thirties whose real name is Harry Fletcher. When not on a caper, Harry and Jonathan run a multinational, San Francisco-based company known as Universal Imports – the name a play on the fictional company *Universal Exports*, featured in Ian Fleming’s James Bond books.**

**Harry actually lives with his beautiful, school teacher wife on an estate overlooking the Pacific Ocean in an area known as the Carmel Highlands, just south of the picturesque city of Carmel, California. The 5,800 sq. ft. luxurious home comes with its adjacent helicopter hanger and the latest business model, 4-passenger *chopper* housed inside. Production Note: The estate actually exists and is owned by a friend of the writer).**

**Although Harry’s wife is aware of his double life, the local townspeople only know Mr. Fletcher as a highly successful San Francisco importer who often flies his helicopter to the Mon-terey Airport where he boards a flight to San Francisco.**

**Other members of the *Merry Band* include the exotic looking, 30-something year-old *Chardonnay* Rogers, who is really highly de-corated Detective-Sergeant Andrea Parker of the San Diego Police Department. Not trusting herself to be faithful, Sergeant Parker has never married. Assigned to the drug enforcement squad, *Chardonnay* is used to living on the edge, actually enjoys it, and the thrill of a good caper is just too good to pass up.**

**Then there’s *Merry Band* member Patrick Palmer, whose real name is Louis “Duke” Osgard; a former naval fighter pilot (flying the F/A-17 Hornet) who left the Navy when he contracted atrial fi-brillation and was grounded. He currently runs a series of sports bars in Georgia and Florida, the flagship of which is *Duke’s Bar & Grill* in Jacksonville. Naturally, other Merry Band members have no idea of *Patrick’s* impressive background – and he of theirs.**

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**Finally, there’s Doug Shinaman – real name Sean Easton. Easton owns a small chain of successful multiplex theaters in the Southern California area. But as Doug Shinaman, this Irishman is a gifted safe cracker with a vast knowledge of firearms and explosives. There is not a safe that Shinaman cannot open or a lock he cannot pick.**

**“Shinaman’s” *blarney* is a cover for life’s boredom. Even though well off – married to a very attractive woman and living in a luxury home in an affluent neighborhood, “Doug” laments the lack of something in his life, although he knows not what. He finds himself longing for the excitement of the storylines depicted on the screens of his theaters.**

**After the first robbery, the “Cross-up” team transitions into legitimacy by attempting to recover losses at the hands of other sophisticated thieves, grifters, and scam artists – for a large percentage of the recovery, of course. Keeping a reasonable percentage of the recovery – to cover their high-end living ex-penses during the various capers – the *Merry Band* always donates the majority of the gain to a variety of charities.**

**There’s a fifth, honorary team member; San Francisco Police In-spector David Morgan. A longtime friend of LT Colonel Jonathan Moore, Inspector Morgan provides valuable information in helping the team track down the bad guys; albeit David’s captain has it in for Harry Fletcher and pushes Inspector Morgan to catch him in something.**

**But David leaves the team after inheriting and taking over a Pauillac, Bordeaux winery. He manages to make a success of it – despite the murder, mayhem, sex and fraud he has to deal with – as described in episode six of the TV series entitled, “The Bordeaux Cross-up.”**

**Now pursuing legitimate recovery operations and capers, and no longer fearing capture by law enforcement, Robin and members of his *Merry Band* are occasionally using the teams real names – albeit, out of habit, they often refer to *Merry Band* members by their nom de guerres.**

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**The *team* manages to pull off some spectacular recoveries, in-cluding most of the diamonds stolen in the infamous Belgium Dia-mond Center heist – a caper that takes them hopping around Belgium, Italy, London, Zimbabwe and South Africa.**

**An equally notable caper was the breakout and nerve-racking res-cue of a journalist from Tehran’s brutal Evin Prison. Although not all the Merry Band actually participates, the description of the team’s escape from Iran with the journalist in tow is the making of bestselling thrillers. The segment also provides a stark contrast between pre-Khomeini and post Khomenini Iran.**

**The *Merry Band’s* efforts take us into the fascinating worlds of high stakes gambling; art theft and fake paintings; wine fraud; gourmet cuisine; Formula One racing; emotional distress and am-nesia; sleek heists and pre-meditated murder.**

**The big advantage of an international company like Universal Imports is its complex international banking. Universal has a complex way of moving its *recovery* fees, ill gained or not, through Macau and then to the Caymans – by which time it is completely laundered.**

**As an aside, around the world (digital) location filming only adds to the interest, educational value and watchability of this 9-part, 18-hour series.**

**In keeping with the James Bond tradition, one thing the merry band has in common when on a caper is the Michelin 3-star res-taurants and 5-star resort hotels – many of which (like the Accor Group) have already assured the writers of their cooper-ation and assistance during production.**

**Not only are the Cross-up series capers fascinating but the vi-suals are stimulating, as well. Exotic locations include San Francisco – featuring Jonathan Moore’s 90-foot schooner upon which he lives; beautiful Carmel California; Las Vegas, Nevada; Antwerp; Belgian; scenic Italy (including Venice); Cape Town, South Africa; the Matopos Hills & Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe; Boston; Miami; Las Angeles; Palm Beach; Manhattan; New Orleans; Tehran and the Caspian Sea; and practically all of France.**

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**While the team takes extraordinary measures to avoid bloodshed, occasionally lives are lost. But, as Jonathan submits, the taking of these lives was not murder – as condemned by the Ten Commandments. The former LT Colonel Moore points out that kill-ing – especially in self defense and war is justified; that in when translating the bible from Hebrew into Greek, there was no Greek word for *murder* – so the translators used the word “kill” instead. Thou shall not *murder* became – thou shall not *kill*.**

**In counseling team members who have killed, Jonathan carefully explains that whereas killing in a situation such as war is ac-ceptable – killing one’s wife so that the widowed husband can move in with his mistress – is *murder* and not condoned under the sixth commandment.**

**Team members, including Robin Templar himself, look forward to the *Merry Band’s* next caper.**

**These characters are meticulously set up and introduced in Epi-sode One, “Robin and the Las Vegas Cross-up.” All the episodes are available for viewing and reading in the PDF format at cinemaarts.com. Click on SCREENPLAYS.**

 **--- Dennis F. Stevens**

**THE FINAL CROSS-UP**

**A Robin Templar Caper (Part 9)**

**Treatment by**

**Dennis F. Stevens**

**Treatment for screenplay**

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 **001**

**TAG LINE:**

 **Harry Fletcher’s beloved wife is murdered**

**and it would take the fingers of both hands**

**to count the suspects that would like to**

**see Harry suffer.**

**NOTES:**

 **Principal characters (in order of appearance):**

 **HARRY FLETCHER:**

 **NICOLE FLETCHER:**

**STEPHEN BERNAT:**

**DEPUTY #1:**

**CORONER:**

**JONATHAN MOORE:**

***‘DUKE’* OSGARD:**

**JANET OSGARD:**

 **CHARDONNAY ROGERS:**

**PAUL LEE:**

 **DACIA ROBINSON:**

**SPENSER JAMES :**

**PROSECUTOR:**

**BEN CRANSTON:**

**OLIVIA SCHYLER:**

**JASON OW:**

 **FREDERICK VAN GENT:**

**While HARRY FLETCHER is boarding a plane from the San Francisco International Airport to Monterey - his wife, NICOLE FLETCHER, is murdered at their Carmel Highlands estate. Arriving home several hours later, Harry discovers the nude body in the bedroom and immediately calls Sheriff STEPHEN BERNAT of the Monterey County Sheriff’s office; who Harry knows slightly.**

**Soon, deputies arrive led by Sergeant LUCAS GARCIA. While Sergeant Garcia is interviewing Harry in the den, the deputies**

 **002**

**are scouring the house for clues. A forensics team is also at work. During the interview, DEPUTY #1 returns with an antique Colt .45 M1911 semi automatic – now contained in a zip lock bag – found in one of Harry’s home office desk drawers. Deputy #1 notifies the sergeant the weapon smells like it has been recently fired.**

**Harry Fletcher denies the army issue semi-automatic is his and having ever seen the weapon before.**

**As the CORONER’s team removes the body, Sergeant Garcia tells Harry not to leave the county until a time of death is deter-mined and ballistics on the weapon is compared to the bullet that killed his wife. Harry agrees. Frankly, if it were not for the Fletchers’ reputation in the community, Harry would have been arrested and *perp* walked to the squad car.**

**Harry phones JONATHAN MOORE to explain what’s happened. “Nothing was taken, robbery doesn’t seem to be the motive,” Harry relates.**

**“You’re going to need an attorney and I think I know just the person,” Jonathan tells his friend. “Let me make some calls,” he adds.**

**Jonathan puts in a call to Jacksonville Florida and speaks with**

**DUKE OSGARD at Duke’s *Bar & Grill.* Jonathan explains the situ-ation to Osgard and suggests ‘Duke’ persuade his wife JANET (Fisher) OSGARD, a former Navy commander and JAG attorney to represent Harry.**

**“The question is can Janet practice law in California,” Jonathan inquires. He’s pleased to learn that indeed Janet is a member of the California BAR but that she is not active. But ‘Duke’ adds that for her to become active she would only have to pay the current year’s fee – probably $600 or $700. “Tell her to activate her membership,” is Jonathan’s final comment.**

**Meanwhile, Jonathan completes putting together the team that will attempt to find the person responsible for this heinous crime. He phones Detective-Sergeant Andrea Parker of the San Diego Police Department who, when on a caper, often goes by the name of CHARDONNAY Rogers. Chardonnay enthusiastically pledges to help the skilled thief she originally knew as *Robin Templar* – in any way she can.**

 **003**

**Because the air conditioner was off and the temperature rather high in the bedroom, where the body was found, the coroner could initially only set the time of death within a one and a-half hour margin of error.**

**But worse, the slug that killed Nicole was badly damaged – the lands and groves unreadable. All that can be determined is that the bullet was a .45 caliber with possibly a left hand twist. Consensus is that said description fits a lot of weapons, including the Model 1911 semi-automatic.**

**Meanwhile, Harry has been arrested, handcuffed, and taken away. Bail is denied. But later he is allowed to attend Nicole’s funeral in Jackson, Wyoming – under personal escort of Sheriff Stephen Bernat; the Sheriff’s expenses being paid for by Jonathan Moore and the San Francisco based multi-national company known as Universal Imports (a twist on the name Universal *Exports*, the company Ian Fleming wrote about in his James Bond novels).**

**In picturesque Jackson, attending the funeral is Nicole’s younger brother, PAUL LEE, a Stanford University student. His beautiful girlfriend, DACIA ROBINSON, likewise a Stanford stu-**

**dent, also is in attendance. From the beginning Harry has trou-ble warming up to Paul.**

**Paul is one of those good-looking, calculating men that tend to use their looks to get whatever they want from woman without regard to ethics or commitment. The meeting between Paul and Harry does not go well; especially when the conversation turns to the family wealth. It seems that after the long ago death of Nicole’s mother – her father, Earl Lee, gained real estate holdings from Driggs (Idaho) to Jackson (Wyoming). The key holding being a 10,000 acre ranch and resort in Eastern Idaho, located at the foot of the Teton Mountains.**

**Until now, Harry never knew that the picturesque ranch (with the Teton peaks in the background) and which currently stocks 2,500 Black Angus cattle - belonged to Nicole’s father - who is currently fighting cancer and too ill to attend the funeral.**

**Taking care of Earl Lee’s affairs is the flamboyant – but likable – SPENSER JAMES, an attorney qualified to practice in several states, including Wyoming, and who is also the executor of Earl Lee’s will.**

 **004**

**Spenser, who reminds people of a young Gerry Spence (including cowboy hat and rawhide jacket), volunteers to show Sheriff Bernt, Harry Fletcher and Jonathan Moore some of the Earl Lee holdings. They start with the rustic family ranch home in Jackson Hole. Touring the nearly 10,000 square foot home, the group comes to a glass cabinet displaying antique frontier pistols. Sheriff Bernat notices that there is one empty slot where a pistol once hung. Curious, he asks Spenser what previously hung in the now empty slot.**

**“A Colt .45 Peacemaker,” is Spenser’s reply. “It disappeared Over the Christmas holiday.”**

**Next, they take the short drive from Jackson to Driggs and then north towards Yellowstone to the luscious and beautiful Targhee Ranch at the foot of the Tetons. During the trip, we are introduced to some of the most beautiful sights on the planet.**

**Paul’s lack of warmth towards Harry is understandable since Harry is being accused of killing his sister. Dacia, however is**

**a totally different matter. Extremely likeable, she tends to warm up to everyone; including Harry – whom she finds attractive and refreshingly frank. She doesn’t believe for a moment that Harry is the type that would kill his wife.**

**Later, the team Jonathan has assembled gathers on the fantail lounge of Jonathan’s 90 foot, twin mast, schooner “Sweet Charity,” moored at the end of one of the San Francisco Marina’s many piers.**

**Assuming Nicole’s death was either revenge or meant to send a message to Harry, the team goes to work tracking down recent movements of the usual suspects.**

**Through a series of flashbacks depicting relative scenes from previous episodes in the “Cross-up” series, we are introduced to several of these possible revengeful subjects. Checking out their recent movements, however, only leads to one dead-end after another.**

**Finally, the day of the preliminary hearing arrives. Harry, of course, is represented by Janet Fisher and she is well prepared.**

 **005**

**The former JAG commander confronts the Monterey County Coroner with a forensic temperature chart that more adequately indicates the time of Nicole Fletcher’s death and gets the coroner to admit that Harry could not possibly be the killer.**

**As for the murder weapon found in Harry’s desk, the former JAG commander pointed out that it did not contain *any* fingerprints, let alone Harry’s; and the sale of which could not be traced to Fletcher.**

**Janet argued that since the weapon missed the date of being qualified an antique by approximately 22 years, if sold in the United States Harry would have had to register it. But there was no such record.**

**The PROSECUTOR pointed out that the Colt would not necessarily have to be registered if purchased in certain foreign countries and shipped to Harry via FedEx or DHL.**

**But Janet’s argument that the gun was an obvious plant; together with the fact that locals testified that to all appearances, the**

**marriage was a happy one in the end won the day. The Prosecu-ion decided not to go to trial. Harry was off the hook – at least for now.**

**Meanwhile, the team’s search for the killer continues, but now with Harry Fletcher’s help.**

**Search for the guilty party, however, allows us to review some of the stories in the “Cross-up” series to date and use footage from said productions herein. But it’s Chardonnay who sends the case in a different direction when she comes up with a copy of the last will and testament of Nicole’s father.**

**It seems that the will, filed in Jackson, Wyoming, provided that the inheritance would be divided equally between the two children, Nicole and Paul. But what Chardonnay found interesting was a codicil to the will providing that instead of a sibling’s share going to the estate in the event of the sibling’s death, at the time of the father’s death the entire amount would go to the surviving sibling. If neither sibling is alive at the time of the father’s death, the entire amount goes to various listed charities.**

 **006**

**‘Duke’ Osgard asks the obvious question “was half an inheritance worth killing for?” It’s Chardonnay who provides the possible answer. “Including land, hotels, and ownership in various busi-nesses, Earl John Lee’s estate is estimated to be worth nearly $30 million.”**

**Osgard then asks the follow-up question, “If you already have $15 million, why would you kill your sister for the additional $15 million. Sorry, but it doesn’t make sense.” Then Jonathan Moore adds his opinion, “I agree, there has to be another reason, perhaps psychological.” Now it’s Fletcher’s turn to respond. “We need to prove Paul Lee guilty or innocent – one or the other. If Paul has psychological motives other than greed, it would be helpful if we found what they were.”**

**The team first goes to work on Paul Lee’s alibi for the day in which Nicole Lee Fletcher was killed – which happened to be a Saturday. His Stanford roommate, BEN CRANSTON swears Paul was in his room all day studying for an upcoming exam. Indeed, Sunday morning he was seen by many in the campus library.**

**Jonathan is assigned the job of finding out the possible psychological reasons why Nicole’s brother Paul would murder his sister, if lack of money were not an issue?**

**Osgard goes to work on the roommate, Ben Cranston, who provided Paul with his alibi. Fletcher studies old video camera footage from the parking lot where Paul Lee’s distinctive red Porsche was supposedly parked on that fateful Saturday.**

**It’s former JAG commander Janet Fisher who confronts Paul’s lovely girlfriend Dacia Robinson.**

**Hoping to get an insight into Paul Lee’s mental state, Jonathan Moore puts in a call to Bordeaux, France, where he speaks with Doctor OLIVIA SCHYLER, a board-certified psychiatrist. It seems Jonathan and the doctor had worked together on the case of the French Affaire Cross-up.**

**At first, Ben Cranston hangs tough. But when Osgard points out that providing a false alibi for his roommate could get him charged as a co-conspirator in a murder charge, Cranston confesses all and decides to cooperate. Seems Paul promised him**

 **007**

**$250,000, payable within six months of his father’s death to provide the alibi.**

**Looking through the security footage of the parking lot for the Saturday in question, a red Porsche is seen leaving in the morning and returning late that afternoon. But there is no way to tell if it is the one belonging to Paul.**

**In the course of his phone conversations with Dr. Olivia Schyler, Jonathan gets an insight as to why a person raised the way Paul Lee was, could have a strong desire not to share anything with his older sister and to possibly even eliminate her; keeping all the money for himself – albeit money was not necessarily the motivation for his action.**

**But it is former JAG commander Janet Fisher hits the jackpot by eliciting a goldmine of information from Dacia Robinson; in-cluding the fact that Paul is indeed a very disturbed young man. Dacia tried several times to break off their relationship but Paul would have none of it and went so far as to threaten her. “If I can’t have you...no one will have you was his mantra.”**

**It seems that all four teammates have come up with valuable insights which together could indeed prove that Paul is the actual murderer.**

**In her Stanford dorm room, instead of grilling Dacia as an attorney would, Janet Osgard takes a sympathetic approach. It proves the correct thing to have done.**

**Dacia tells Janet Osgard that on the early evening of the Satur-day in question; Paul Lee brought her the antique Colt Peace-maker and told her to hide it for him, which she did. When asked if she still had the weapon, Dacia replied in the affirma-tive – retrieving and turning over the weapon.**

**Janet, in turn hands the six-shooter over to the team and notes that weapon is loaded with black powder cartridges and appears not to have been fired since its last cleaning. The team consensus is the Peacemaker could not possibly been the murder weapon or forensics would have surely detected the presence of non smokeless powder on the body; and this model Peacemaker was not made to handle smokeless powder cartridges.**

 **008**

**After surrendering the Peacemaker to Jonathan and the former JAG attorney, Dacia is deeply concerned about retaliation by boyfriend Paul. She no longer feels safe in her Palo Alto apartment. Jonathan offers to allow her to stay in one of the vacant cabins aboard *Sweet Charity.* Using the company limo, JASON OW, Jonathan’s limo driver, cook and all around good guy, will escort Dacia to and from the University.**

**Of all the suspects that might wish Jonathan and Harry harm, one name keeps surfacing. That is Frederick Van Gent, of Cape Town, South Africa. Problem is that Van Gent still has two years remaining on a five year sentence. But Chardonnay, using her San Diego Police Department connections, decides to check out the precise whereabouts of Mr. Van Gent.**

**Meanwhile, now that his alibi has completely come apart, Paul confesses to the team. That Saturday, he did go to the Fletcher Estate to kill his older sister – figuring that with Harry’s sordid past as Robin Templar that it was a cinch for him to get away with it. But when he arrived at Carmel Highlands, Nicole was already dead. Not knowing what to make of the situation, Paul fled in a panic.**

**Chardonnay learns that after serving three of his five year sentence, Frederick Van Gent was released for good behavior. Airline records show that Van Gent recently caught a flight from Johannesburg (JND) to San Francisco (SFO), with a stop at London’s Heathrow airport. The 27 hour flight left JNB at 2:35 pm and arrived at SFO at 2:45 pm, local time, three days before the murder.**

**Aboard *Sweet Charity*, the team is focused on Van Gent’s motive and how to bring him to justice. Jonathan surmises that Van Gent would not bother to cover his trail because he needed for Fletcher and Moore to know that he was behind their suffering.**

**The team figures that Chardonnay was safe from reprisal since she worked undercover during the entire diamond heist caper – never using her true name of Andrea Parker. The only true names Van Gent had were those of Jonathan Moore and Harry Fletcher, of Universal Imports. On that caper, Harry Fletcher could have used his nom de querre of Robin Templar, but chose not to.**

 **009**

**The conclusion is that in his desire to cause pain in the lives of Fletcher and Moore, Van Gent doesn’t wish to harm them phys-**

**ically, but mentally. That’s why he killed Nicole, instead of Harry – and why instead of killing Jonathan, he may try to take away his boat, *Sweet Charity.***

**One night, after a delightful dinner, Chardonnay, Jonathan, Osgard, and Fletcher are leaving the Acquerello Restaurant on Nob Hill. They all pile into the limousine driven by Jason Ow and head for the San Francisco Marina and *Sweet Charity*, where Jonathan has invited everyone aboard for hors d’oeuvres, champagne and adult beverages.**

**At the marina, Jason drops everyone off at the pier on which Sweet Charity is docked out on the end. As Jason drives off to park the stretch limo in its assigned space, the rest walk along the picturesque pier towards the 90 foot, twin mast schooner. They have walked about half way when the sky lights up with a tremendous EXPLOSION. They look on in horror as the schooner is blown to bits, killing the sole occupant – Dacia Robinson.**

**Now that they know for sure who they’re after, the team goes to work setting a trap for their prey, Frederick Van Gent. How they finally snare him, and the aftermath, provides the dra-matic conclusion to “The Final Cross-up.”**

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