

TAKEN SYNOPSIS

By Jennifer Barlow

LOG LINE: When a voyeur's obsession with his beautiful neighbor leads him to a company that produces fantasy dates for the provocatively elite, he becomes caught up in a dangerous web of deceit, murder and betrayal.

SYNOPSIS: When a hauntingly seductive, older woman (CHALIS) moves in across the street, a 24-year-old army vet (JESSIE) is instantly and completely taken by her. Because she bares an uncanny resemblance to the mysterious lover in his long-time recurring dream, Jessie can't get her off of his mind. Eventually, his growing obsession causes him to lose his job, his young girlfriend and his best friend. After trailing Chalis to "Players," (a service which creates intimate dates for wealthy, consenting adults), Jessie stumbles upon a job offer, and accepts. He becomes responsible for interviewing the new female clients of "Players," coaxing them to divulge their most private fantasies, into his camera. For a voyeur like Jessie, the job is a dream come true but he has only one agenda, to find Chalis's "interview tape" and uncover her ultimate fantasy. Dangerously, he uncovers much more than that. It appears the mobster/owner of "Players" (GIONELLI) is secretly filming "dates" and selling them in the underground porn market. Chalis-- it is rumored--visits Gionelli because she's his favorite call girl. Angry and confused, the reclusive Jessie finally confronts the woman of his obsession. Chalis assures him, that all though her relationship with Gionelli begun years ago, it's of a completely different nature. In fact, it all started when she refused his sexual advances. Now the mobster is extorting her-- because of an old debt-- and holding her son as collateral. Chalis will only get him back unharmed, after completing a Players "date" for Gionelli's cameras, tomorrow afternoon. Jessie, so outraged, and so deeply in love, will do anything to help. Confessing that he was once a trained sniper in the Gulf War, (a skill that left him incapable of emotional intimacy) now he's prepared to kill for Chalis. But the next morning she's gone. Jessie's emotions range from panic to murderous rage when he learns that snuff films have been added to Gionelli's repertory, and Chalis is set as the next victim! Jessie manages to intervene, shooting Gionelli between the eyes and rescuing Chalis. Passionate with the adrenaline of danger, Jessie and Chalis make love, simulating Jessie's recurring dream and finally putting closure to it. But a surprising twist reveals that none of it was real. Not the bullets in Jessie's gun, not the snuff films, not the blackmail. The actor playing Gionelli is alive and well and Chalis's son was nothing more than a borrowed photo. The only real part was "Players" and Chalis, their top client. She's like all the other players, except she pays extra to "set up" her fantasy lovers. It's more exciting for her, if they're led to believe it's real. Because of Jessie's emotionally unstable history, he'd been the perfect pawn for their game. In a final scene, Jessie's once frigid ex- fiancé, shows up on his doorstep in a Loitta costume. She explains that she's taken his advice, gotten in touch with her sexuality and is ready to become his fantasy. As he carries her toward the bedroom, the audience is left wondering ... is she real or has Jessie lost all touch with reality?