

MEDIA ARTISTS GROUP

READER REPORT

TITLE: By Any Means Necessary

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FORM: Screenplay

PAGES: 121

GENRE: action

LOCALE: Los Angeles

PERIOD: present day

ANALYST: B. O'Malley

SUB TO:

SUB BY:

SUB TYPE:

DATE: 10-17-94

LOGLINE:

A brutal gang war erupts in L.A. and uncovers a sinister conspiracy by the true powers-that-be to keep the population impoverished in the interests of profit. It's up to two elite cops to unravel the web of deceit and to mend the trust that was broken.

RECOMMENDATION: don't recommend WRITER: recommend

BRIEF: Black cop and his Hispanic partner team up to uncover a conspiracy that's larger than life amidst the violence of an LA gang war that pits blacks against Latinos. Good ideas, good dialogue. In general needs fewer characters and a tighter plot.

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>
Concept:		x		
Storyline:			x	
Characters:				x
Dialogue:		x		
Setting/Production:		x		
Structure:				x
Budget:	medium-low			

SYNOPSIS OF *BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY*

TREY is a member of the LAPD Secret Investigations Section, a part of the police department that's in charge of "eliminating" targets under the veil of secrecy. **RICO** is his partner.

A mysterious drive-by shooting turns sour, igniting the fuse to a bitter gang war between a black gang and a Latino gang. But Trey and Rico smell a rat. They start to uncover a conspiracy that goes way above their heads.

They team up with Rico's sister, **ANA MARIA**, as well as numerous characters from both sides of the gang war, in an effort to unravel the mystery. But someone knows how close they are to the truth, and that someone wants them dead.

MIKE SALSA, the leader of the Latino gang, orders the execution of Trey and Rico, after being pressured by his boss, **CAPTAIN GAINES**, who is Trey and Rico's boss.

Trey and Rico find themselves on the other side of the assassin's gun, but manage to escape and to devise a plan to capture Salsa on videotape, revealing whoever it is that he works for.

The plan works but goes sour when **ESCOBAR**, a drug-lord, shows up and wants Salsa dead. After the action has cleared, the tapes are salvaged and brought to the hands of Trey and Rico, who bring them to the light of day as the story comes to a close.

COMMENTS:

Too many characters. I couldn't keep track of them all. Good ideas (LAPD assassins...and having an actual scene of the conspirators at a board room table saying "Poverty is our business, gentlemen.") and good dialogue, but the characters are so plentiful, it's hard to give anyone any decent character traits or screen time. Trey seems too weak, Ana Maria seems too strong. Trey needs to do more, in my opinion. (If I were writing it, I'd just give all of Ana Maria's action and cool lines to Trey and probably do away entirely with []the character of Ana Maria.)

This would be an excellent vehicle for a strong black lead, but the script needs a good kick in the pants. There needs to be a tighter pace. It seems to lag in parts. Good for a first draft, but deserves a couple more.