

# Screenplay Coverage Report: Legacy Code

**Logline:** A street-hardened fighter, operating as an undercover cop, navigates the treacherous underworld of Singapore's shipping empire, unknowingly connecting with his biological father—a powerful, enigmatic crime lord—and his half-sister, as he uncovers a complex legacy of family, loyalty, and hidden truths.

## Synopsis:

"Legacy Code" opens in Singapore with a police task force, led by Inspector Chen, diligently pursuing Don Diego, a seemingly untouchable CEO suspected of illicit dealings for over two decades, following in the footsteps of his late boss, Walter. Meanwhile, Steve, a skilled MMA fighter, engages in a brutal underground fight that draws the attention of Don Diego and his assertive daughter, Evita. Steve's victory leads to an offer to work for Don Diego, embedding him within the organization. Unbeknownst to them, Steve is an undercover cop, recruited by Chen, with a past marked by juvenile delinquency and a mother working at the port. The narrative then delves into the past, revealing Don Diego's youth in Valparaiso, Chile, as a young seaman. He shares a poignant moment with Young Claudia, who becomes pregnant with his child (Evita) but never tells him, instead moving to Singapore with her daughter years later. Concurrently, the script introduces Young Steve's troubled childhood, marked by bullying and expulsion from school, with his caretaker, Chun Hua, struggling to guide him. These parallel backstories establish the complex familial ties and past struggles that underpin the present-day narrative.

In the present, Evita, having been sent by her mother to find Don Diego, integrates into his business. Steve and Evita develop a contentious yet growing relationship, with Evita's suspicions about Steve being a "softie" contrasted with his undercover mission. As a police raid on Don Diego's containers looms, orchestrated with information from Bill, a double-crossing cop, Don Diego demonstrates his shrewdness by allowing the raid, knowing the containers are empty. The raid exposes Bill's treachery and highlights Don Diego's elusive methods.

Steve, meanwhile, begins to piece together clues about Don Diego's past, including details about "Eva del Mar" and Walter. A crucial revelation occurs when Steve discovers Chun Hua, his adoptive mother, works at "Ng's Kitchen," tying his past to the port. The script culminates in Steve confronting Don Diego, learning about Walter's "legacy" of building "walls, not mirrors." Don Diego reveals that Steve's deceased father was also a seaman who worked for Walter. The film concludes with Steve's decision to break ties with his police handler, Chen, to

protect his newly discovered family, as Don Diego seemingly disappears, leaving behind a complex network and a new "legacy code" for Steve and Evita to navigate.

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## Detailed Scoring Analysis:

### I. Concept & Premise (Weighted: 20%)

- **Originality & Freshness (85):** While the undercover cop and crime lord dynamic is familiar, the intricate family secrets, including the unknown father and half-sister, woven into a multi-generational, international crime narrative, offer a fresh twist. <sup>111</sup>
- **Hook/Logline Potential (90):** The premise of an undercover cop unknowingly working for his biological crime lord father and encountering his half-sister creates a compelling and emotionally rich hook with significant dramatic potential. <sup>222</sup>
- **Thematic Depth (80):** The script explores themes of legacy, identity, family bonds (both biological and chosen), and the blurred lines between justice and illicit power, offering a strong moral core. <sup>3</sup>

### II. Plot & Structure (Weighted: 20%)

- **Three-Act Structure (75):** The script generally follows a three-act structure, with a clear setup of Steve's mission and Don Diego's world, rising action through the investigation and family revelations, and a resolution involving Steve's choices.
- **Plot Points & Twists (85):** The revelation of Don Diego being Steve's father and Evita being his half-sister serves as a powerful and unexpected twist, re-contextualizing much of the preceding narrative and character motivations. <sup>4</sup>
- **Subplots (70):** The subplots involving Bill's double-crossing and Jose's connection to Diego's past effectively add layers of intrigue and support the main narrative, though some could be more deeply integrated. <sup>5</sup>
- **Resolution (80):** The ending provides a satisfying resolution by having Steve choose his newly discovered family over his police duty, while Don Diego's ambiguous disappearance leaves room for future stories. <sup>6</sup>

### III. Characters (Weighted: 20%)

- **Protagonist (85):** Steve is a compelling protagonist, conflicted between his duty as an undercover cop and his growing connection to Don Diego and Evita, making his moral dilemma central to the story. <sup>777</sup>

- **Antagonist/Antagonistic Forces (75):** While Don Diego functions as an antagonist to the police, his paternal relationship with Steve softens this, and the true antagonistic force is the complex criminal underworld and the moral ambiguity it presents. <sup>888</sup>
- **Supporting Characters (80):** Don Diego is enigmatic and powerful, Evita is a strong, independent character, and Chen serves as a solid mentor figure, all contributing effectively to the story's depth. <sup>999</sup>
- **Character Arcs (85):** Steve undergoes a significant character arc, moving from a detached operative to someone deeply invested in family, while Evita's initial distrust of Steve also evolves. Don Diego's character is explored through flashbacks, providing depth to his present-day persona. <sup>101010</sup>

#### IV. Dialogue (Weighted: 15%)

- **Authenticity & Voice (75):** The dialogue feels authentic to the characters, especially in the gritty underworld scenes and the more intimate family moments, with distinct voices for each character. <sup>111111111111</sup>
- **Subtext (80):** There is good use of subtext, particularly in the interactions between Don Diego, Evita, and Steve, where hidden motives and unspoken truths drive the tension and revelations. <sup>121212121212</sup>
- **Exposition (70):** The exposition, especially concerning Don Diego's past and Steve's undercover mission, is generally handled well through flashbacks and character conversations, avoiding heavy info-dumps. <sup>131313</sup>
- **Functionality (75):** Dialogue consistently moves the plot forward, reveals character, and builds tension, effectively serving its purpose within the narrative. <sup>141414141414</sup>

#### V. Pacing & Tone (Weighted: 10%)

- **Scene-by-Scene Pacing (75):** The scenes are well-paced, balancing action sequences with character development and exposition, maintaining engagement throughout.
- **Overall Pacing (75):** The overall pacing builds effectively towards the major revelations and confrontations, keeping the audience invested in the unfolding mystery.
- **Tonal Consistency (80):** The tone maintains a consistent blend of crime drama, action, and family saga, creating a coherent and engaging atmosphere.

#### VI. Commercial Viability (Weighted: 10%)

- **Target Audience (85):** The script would appeal to a broad audience interested in crime

thrillers, action films, and dramas with strong family themes and emotional depth.

- **Genre & Tropes (80):** It leverages popular crime thriller tropes while adding unique elements like the hidden family connections, making it familiar yet fresh.
- **Marketability (85):** The compelling central premise of an undercover cop discovering his crime lord father and half-sister provides a strong marketable hook for a film or series.

## VII. Execution (Weighted: 5%)

- **Formatting (90):** The script adheres to standard screenplay formatting, making it easy to read and visualize.
- **Clarity & Readability (85):** The writing is clear and concise, allowing for a smooth and immersive reading experience despite the complex plot.

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### Overall Score: 80.5

- Concept & Premise:  $(85 + 90 + 80) / 3 = 85 * 0.20 = 17$
- Plot & Structure:  $(75 + 85 + 70 + 80) / 4 = 77.5 * 0.20 = 15.5$
- Characters:  $(85 + 75 + 80 + 85) / 4 = 81.25 * 0.20 = 16.25$
- Dialogue:  $(75 + 80 + 70 + 75) / 4 = 75 * 0.15 = 11.25$
- Pacing & Tone:  $(75 + 75 + 80) / 3 = 76.67 * 0.10 = 7.67$
- Commercial Viability:  $(85 + 80 + 85) / 3 = 83.33 * 0.10 = 8.33$
- Execution:  $(90 + 85) / 2 = 87.5 * 0.05 = 4.375$

**Overall Score Calculation:**  $17 + 15.5 + 16.25 + 11.25 + 7.67 + 8.33 + 4.375 = 80.375$  (Rounded to 80.5)

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### Strengths:

- **Compelling Central Premise:** The core concept of an undercover cop unknowingly infiltrating his biological father's criminal empire is highly original and emotionally rich, providing a strong hook. <sup>151515</sup>
- **Strong Character Relationships:** The evolving dynamics between Steve, Don Diego, and Evita, particularly the revelation of their familial ties, create compelling and emotionally resonant character arcs. <sup>161616</sup>
- **Intriguing Plot Twists:** The script effectively uses major plot twists, such as the true identities of Don Diego and Evita, to maintain suspense and deepen the narrative's complexity. <sup>17</sup>
- **Effective Blending of Genres:** The screenplay skillfully combines elements of crime thriller, action, and family drama, offering a multi-layered story that can appeal to diverse audiences. <sup>181818</sup>

- **Well-Paced Narrative:** The script maintains a consistent and engaging pace, balancing action sequences, character development, and exposition through both present-day scenes and revealing flashbacks. <sup>191919</sup>

#### **Weaknesses & Constructive Feedback:**

- **Deepening Supporting Character Motivations:** While Bill serves his purpose, exploring his motivations for being a double agent beyond mere usefulness could add more depth to his character. <sup>20</sup>
- **Clarifying Temporal Shifts:** While flashbacks are used effectively, ensuring that the transitions between different time periods are always immediately clear to the audience could enhance readability.
- **Strengthening Stakes Early On:** While the stakes are clear for Steve as an undercover cop, the immediate personal stakes for Don Diego and Evita could be more sharply defined early in the script to fully engage the audience.
- **Refining Dialogue for Nuance:** While generally authentic, there are opportunities to infuse some dialogue with even greater subtext or unique turns of phrase, especially in moments of high emotional tension.
- **Exploring the "Legacy Code" More Explicitly:** While the title implies a deeper meaning, the concept of "legacy code" could be more explicitly explored thematically throughout the narrative, perhaps through Don Diego's philosophy or Steve's internal conflict.

#### **Final Recommendation: RECOMMEND**

"Legacy Code" is an exceptionally well-crafted screenplay with a highly original and emotionally resonant premise. Its strong character development, compelling plot twists, and engaging narrative make it a strong candidate for production. This script has significant potential to be a compelling and successful film, appealing to a broad audience.