



THE BORDER

A FEATURE FILM SYNOPSIS

Two cartels go to war over a border. One family just wants to cross it.

LOGLINE



When a kidnapped son forces a hardworking father into the service of a Mexican drug cartel, he must rise through its ranks to protect his family — even as the choice tears that family apart and ignites a war along the U.S.-Mexico border.

GENRE

Crime Drama / Thriller

TONE

Epic, Violent, Morally Complex

PROTAGONIST

Hector Mendez, factory worker

SETTING

Mexico - U.S. Border, present day

COMPARABLE TO

"Sicario" meets
"The Godfather"

THE STORY



THE TRAP

Hector Mendez and his wife Angelica work an honest factory job, raising three kids and dreaming of U.S. visas. When the Padilla Cartel kidnaps their son to force Hector's loyalty, he has no choice but to become a 'drug-horse.'



THE RISE

Hector's silence under torture earns him Omar Padilla's trust. He's promoted to underboss, begins an affair with Omar's daughter Lucia, and is pulled deeper into a war with the rival Sanchez and Cartalano cartels — and into Washington's quiet manipulation of immigration policy.

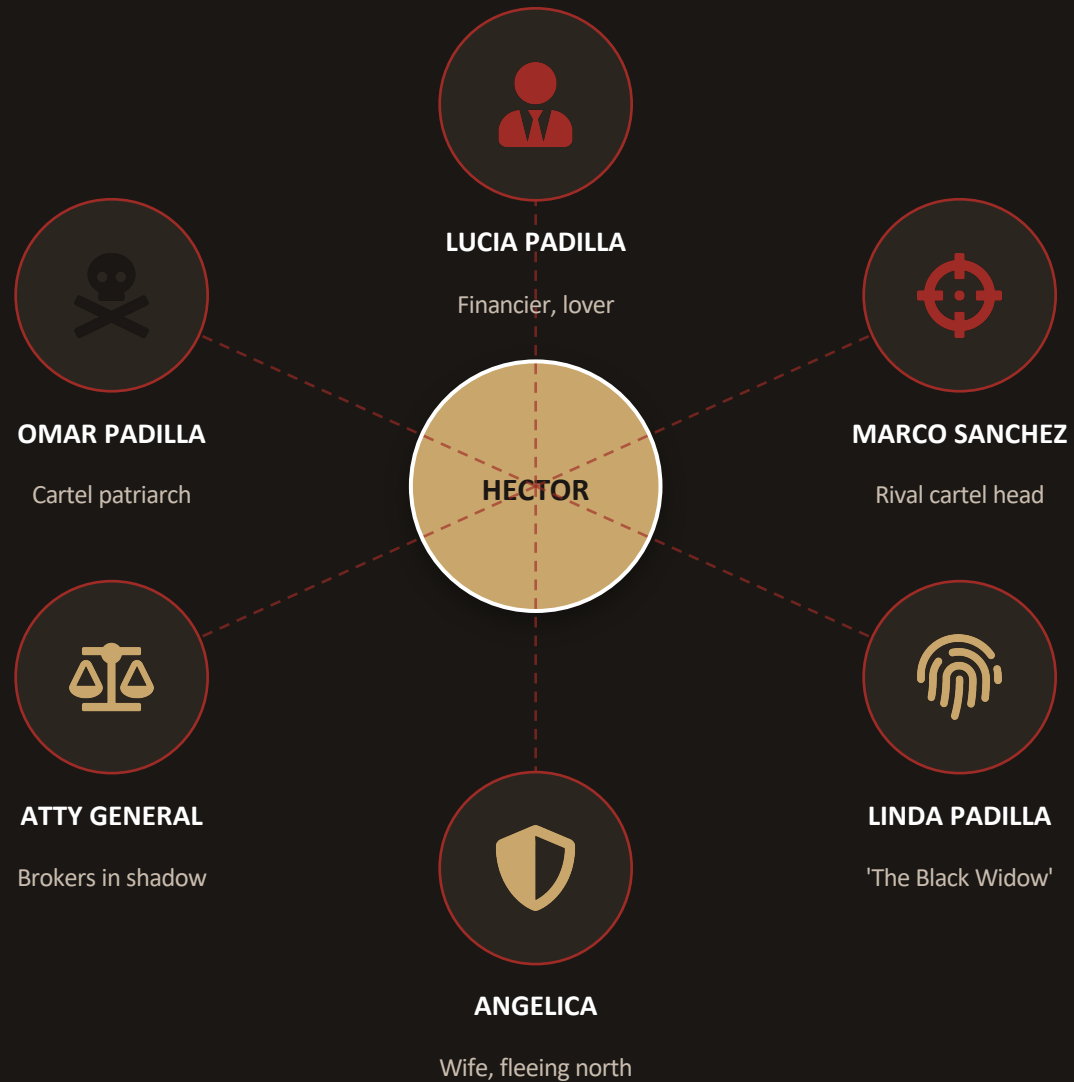


THE COST

Betrayal, beheadings, and assassination consume both cartels. As Angelica flees north with their children, Hector is forced to choose between the family he swore to protect and the empire he now commands.

THE PLAYERS

A father caught between two cartels — and a government playing both sides



THEME

Loyalty has a price tag

THE BORDER asks what an ordinary man will sacrifice to protect his family — and what's left of him once the sacrifice is made. Hector's journey from factory floor to cartel underboss mirrors the larger story of a border that consumes everyone who touches it: governments that profit from chaos, families torn between nations, and a love that curdles into complicity. By the time Hector is offered a way out, he's no longer sure he wants to take it.



A closing image of Hector's convoy crossing back into Mexico leaves the American dream unresolved — for him, and for the country he's left behind.

Epic Scale

Three cartel families, two governments, one border — a sprawling ensemble anchored by one man's choice.

Moral Descent

A slow, believable corruption arc — sympathy never fully lost, even as Hector crosses every line.

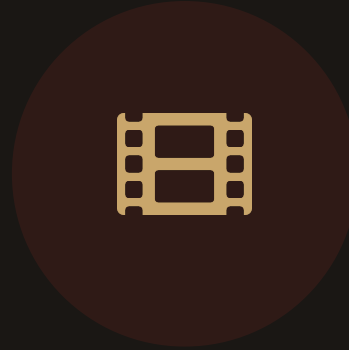
Geopolitical Bite

Immigration policy, cartel economics, and backroom deals ground the violence in real stakes.

THE FACTIONS AT WAR

FACTION	LEADER	STAKE IN THE BORDER	RELATION TO HECTOR
Padilla Cartel	Omar Padilla	60% of S. America–Mexico import	Hector's new family
Sanchez Cartel	Marco Sanchez	30% import, 15% to U.S.	Sworn enemy of Padilla
Cartalano Family	Jesus Cartalano	Wholesale partner to Sanchez	Allied against Padilla
U.S. Government	Pres. Joseph Fleming	Border security & policy	Plays both sides covertly
Mendez Family	Hector & Angelica	Caught in the crossfire	The human cost of it all

Five factions, one border, and a man trying to survive all of them.



“Your workers have arrived.”

— Lucia Padilla

THE BORDER

A Feature Film Synopsis

For screenplay inquiries, contest submissions, or representation,
please contact the writer directly.