

# AFFECT

— *Playing God is not for the timid* —

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**GREG:** *Ever since I was a child, I was obsessed with cause and effect. How my choices could change the outcome of certain events, even change someone's mind. This surely works as an act of God. So if you can affect people into doing as you want. Then surely, I am a God. Are you keeping up?*

**SHRINK:** *Yes. But I don't like how it's going. Greg laughs.*

**GREG:** *Well it's only gonna get worse.*

**Genre:** *Psychological thriller*

**Format:** *Feature movie, 1h 45m - 2h*

**Target group:** *16 years old and over*

**Potential buyers:** *Netflix, Amazon, HBO, various TV channels*

**Estimate:** *\$ 30-35 mill*

**At Pitch-level Q4 2021**

*American Psycho with a twist. A psychological drama/thriller feature that focuses on relationships and how you shouldn't trust too easily.*

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**G**reg Halpern likes to play God. In fact, he has a sneaking suspicion he may be him. Greg killed his father as a child, affecting him in a way which led to his death. This just cemented his idea that he can make people do whatever he wanted.

Greg has a hobby. First, he finds a “project”. A person who he feels needs to be taught a lesson. He then monitors this person’s every move. He collects information on them, and works out what the person needs, desires, and of course, their secrets...

He then finds a way to insert himself into that person’s life. Maybe he’s a friend, a lover, a colleague.

Then he affects their life, sometimes helping them get everything they ever wanted, sometimes he drags them so far down they want to die. This can take months, years even, but when he achieves his goal... It is exhilarating.

He gets to change his name, his personality, sometimes even his appearance, and he travels all across the world.

He finds them, he attaches himself, he affects their life... then just like that-

He’s gone.

Looking for his next project.

All of this he repeats to his shrink, who he meets on a weekly basis, who finds this very disturbing, but seems obligated to listen.

His goals become more elaborate as time goes on. Can he convince a cheating husband to tell his wife? Can he push a petty drug dealer to become addicted to his own stash? Can he get a cold and bitter business woman to fall in love, have his child, but then, leave her on the day of the birth? Yes he can, and he has.

He’s not a bad person, just a mortal god with a sick sense of humour.

But this one is different. This new project is interesting. Leona, a fresh faced undercover detective with a prescription drug addiction who is attempting to collect information on him. Can he teach her a lesson before she finds enough evidence on him to bring him down?

Or will this project affect him before he affects her?

Leona researches and meets with other people Greg has affected, learning more and more about him, all the while casually dating him to get more information. Greg doesn’t at all seem like the man he’s made out to be, and Leona starts to think that it may be the wrong person. Until while snooping in his house, she discovers something that points towards his guilt.

Leona is caught snooping and Greg convinces her that it is not him, but someone else who is just framing him. Leona starts finding it difficult knowing what’s real and what’s not. After a while, the police tell Leona that she has enough proof and now must set up a sting operation. She is torn from her confused blossoming love for Greg and her duty.

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They set up the sting, but she purposely sabotages it to help Greg get away. They run away together, but then while in hiding, she finds something else that undoubtably shows Greg's guilt.

They fight, and Greg reveals that he knew she was undercover the whole time. He also reveals that he knows about her prescription pill addiction, and may have been slipping in something extra for a long time... Leona passes out.

We skip forward several weeks, and Greg is still speaking to the shrink. This is when we understand the truth. The shrink reveals that Greg is not the person who affects all these people, Leona is. He is the detective and has been affected by Leona.

The cocktail of drugs he was unknowingly taking, the fixation with Leona and her past, and Leona's unique ability to affect people, made him imprint himself onto her life. Eventually believing that he is her, and leaving Leona to disappear, looking for her next project.

Affect is a psychological thriller/drama that delves into the astounding trust we seem to afford people we let inside our lives, and how little we really know about anyone. It offers an uncomfortable view on how risky it can be to open your social bubble to people who seem to be friendly, but may have ulterior motives altogether...

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