

## Choices

(Feature screenplay, crime/drama – 102 pages)

*Orlando Film Festival 2016 Finalist*  
*Austin Spotlight Film Festival 2020 Official Selection*

*“Two brothers, one chose a badge, the other a gun.”*

RUTGER and GUNTHER WEIS both made their life's choices as kids working in their families German bakery. Older brother Rutger points out to the police the whereabouts of a local boy named SIGFRIED wanted for robbery. This did not feel right with Gunther that Rutger had 'ratted' on Siegfried, nor did Siegfried forget.

Twenty years later Gunther now works as a hit-man for Siegfried who now runs a crime syndicate. Rutger has risen in the police ranks to Homicide detective and, along with partner STU, answers the call from DELLA of a shooting in her tenement. The detectives find the body of LUCY, a past girlfriend of Gunther's now the main squeeze of a drug dealer MARTINEZ.

Stu thinks maybe Siegfried had Lucy killed to teach Martinez a lesson not to sell drugs on his turf and Martinez might start a turf war with Siegfried. Gunther learns of Lucy's murder and is curious why she was killed. He is approached by Della to join her and a 'silent' partner to begin a small drug dealing operation. Gunther refuses but wonders if another city dealer named Jackson is Della's connection.

After a harrowing cab ride and chase through a ghetto neighborhood, Gunther meets a black man named JONES just released from prison. Jones explains Jackson invaded his home causing his families deaths and also surprises Gunther by saying he is going to kill Jackson. He ask Gunther for a gun which Gunther uneasily provides.

Rutger fills Stu in on Della after learning about her plot. Stu shoots and kills Rutger to keep him from learning more of his plan. Gunther goes to Della's apartment to confront her when Stu arrives holding a gun on Gunther. Stu admits he made a deal with Jackson to set up Siegfried and Martinez to begin a war with each other by killing Lucy. Rutger and Gunther figured it out and both had to be eliminated, but before Stu can shoot Gunther the police burst in. Stu is shot dead. Della is arrested as an accessory to murder because the police overheard all of Stu's confession to Gunther. Gunther learns Jackson was killed a few hours earlier by Jones who now holds a contract on Gunther fro Siegfried. Jones finds Gunther at the train station but lets Gunther leave town.

The End