

Synopsis: The Lone Killer

Pitch:

Benjamin runs and owns the local newspaper 'Copenhagen Daily News', which has always been known for its investigative and critical journalism. However, by 2015, the funds are running dry. As Benjamin struggles to secure financial resources, the editorial team faces an unprecedented threat, casting doubt not only on freedom of expression but also on everyone's safety.

Synopsis:

The year is 2015. It's a chilly winter morning in Copenhagen, and Benjamin (40) kisses his wife and children goodbye before heading to work. His best friend, Jacob (40), jogs past energetically, and they exchange a quick hug, promising to meet later that evening at a Bat Mitzvah. Elsewhere in the city, the morning unfolds very differently: A young man is curled up in a modest room as the apartment owner angrily tells him to pack his things and leave. He has nowhere to go, and when he approaches his sister at work for help, she angrily brushes him off.

Benjamin has now arrived at his office at 'Copenhagen Daily News' the local newspaper he owns and operates after his father, and his father before him. The newsroom is a diverse mix of journalists, editors, and interns from different backgrounds and areas of expertise. Among them is Hakan (38), who struggles to find meaning in his work and with the prejudices that come with having a Middle Eastern background in Denmark. However, Benjamin insists that Hakan's voice is important in the news flow, and it's clear that Benjamin is a well-liked and respected boss. But behind the professional facade lies a genuine fear of losing his paper to dwindling sales and digital competitors—not to mention a greedy brother who wants to buy him out of the business. To secure the survival of the newspaper, Benjamin must attract 35-40,000 new subscribers.

The homeless figure returns to his parents' apartment in the hope of motherly care and forgiveness, but she too has to ask him to leave, fearing his father's disdain. He turns to some shady figures, who also don't welcome him with open arms but with clenched fists and threats never to return. Everyone has turned their backs on him, and he sees no other option than to fight for his own existence and restore his honor.

At the newspaper office, a heated editorial meeting is suddenly interrupted by the news of a shooting at a debate in the cultural center 'Krudttønden'. Earlier in the day, one of the newspaper's reporters, Karl (45), had been sent to cover the event, and everyone now fears for his life. But when Benjamin learns that Karl is unharmed, he sees a golden opportunity to use Karl to craft the unique and authentic frontpage story the paper has long sought. All employees are assigned to cover the incident, and Benjamin realizes he'll have to miss the Bat Mitzvah and let Jacob and his family go without him.

The mysterious and now murderous figure has fled 'Krudttønden', where he unleashed his rage in a hail of bullets on the attendees and spectators. He continues through the streets of Copenhagen, and as the sun sets, he reaches the synagogue on 'Crystal Street'. Outside, Jacob stands with two uniformed men, guarding the entrance when shots ring out again, and they fall to the ground.

Back at the newspaper office, Benjamin is unaware of the night's events, focusing on finishing the next day's edition.

The next morning, the atmosphere is both relieved and tense. The editorial team proudly looks at the day's paper, the tragic frontpage story has saved the newspaper and brought in the necessary subscribers, but at the highest price of all.