'mymobster.com'
Treatment for a Novel
by David Goossen
From an original idea by
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New York City. Two burly, mob-like guys are chasing Neil, a midthirty year old guy. He's running, trying to explain - See, he hasn't got the money they want, but he'll get it, really! They are not interested and when they catch him, they beat him up.

The offices of a hi-tech firm - the entire third floor of an old warehouse, full of cubicles and computers. Obviously it's a dotcom startup, judging by the mess, the types of people who are working there, and the general attitude of the place.

We meet the gang of coders and designers who are part of this pre-IPO company. A very irritating, very flaky genius named Chazz is bitching about the quality of coffee for the espresso machine. Seems part of his work preconditions is a very specific type of coffee. Libby, the office manager/secretary/marketing specialist is running the phones, and trying to diffuse Chazz. Gavin, the gay design guy is working on a huge white board full of confusing pictures and layouts. There are many more people working there, all of them eccentric in their own way.

Neil returns, all battered and bruised. The gang freak out, what happened?! Neil just shrugs it off as a mugging, obviously they don't know about the money he's borrowed. The gang laugh at that, he's the wrong person to mug, he's got no money and everything he owns is wrapped up in his company, which is pretty much broke. But they have high hopes for new investors. Neil nervously slips out of the open area as the gang talk.

Neil is in his office, later. He's dozing fitfully behind his desk. The door opens, someone enters, the door closes quietly. A hand reaches around his neck... Neil lurches away, spinning onto the floor in complete terror. Sara, his girlfriend, jumps back.

As Neil catches his breath, Sara wants to know what he's so jumpy about. Neil claims a bad dream as Sara comes over to kiss him. She's just finished working as a P.A. on an indie film and is on her way home to bed. She gives him a quick kiss and leaves. Neil pauses, then goes over and locks shut the flimsy office door.

The next day at work. As the programmers and designers bicker obsessively about pointless things in the open area, Neil is in a

heavy potential investor meeting. Suddenly, the boardroom doors open. Gavin calls out 'Overscan'. It's their warning, and the group are suddenly hyper professional, studious employees. A glum Neil leads a group of sullen Japanese business men out of the office. The room holds its breath.

Neil comes back in, silently crosses to his office, slamming the door behind him. Still no investors...

Instantly, the gang revert to depressed bickering. An argument erupts about Neil and finances and the state of the company. Libby is trying to diffuse it when two burly Italian men in ill-fitting suits enter the office. 'Overscan!' and everyone is professional again. These must be more potential investors. Before they have a chance to say anything, Libby ushers them into the boardroom.

Neil is indifferently pounding his head on his desk, rattling a precarious stack of Wired magazines. Libby leans in and tells him the next group are here. Sighing, Neil gets up and starts out. Libby stops him, fixes his hair, gives him a sisterly hug and sends him on his way.

Neil steps into the boardroom, all bright and excited, starting into his investor pitch until he sees the two men. They are the ones who beat him up! He screams. In the open area, the coders frown and look curiously at the closed boardroom doors.

Neil is pinned to the boardroom table. The two mob guys, Tony and Gino, are glaring down at him. They are there to take everything they can to get back the money their bosses are owed. As they start to bend back Neil's fingers, the boardroom doors swing open and the gang are standing there, hoping to be intimidating, but mostly hiding behind Libby.

The gang are terrified to find out they're trying to intimidate real mobsters. Neil tries to explain the nature of the dotcom world. They don't have any money, they don't have any income, andthey spend lots each month. They're a perfect internet company. Tony and Gino don't like this business formula and they still want their money.

The entire gang frantically go thru their Rolodexes looking for anyone who could possibly invest. A flurry of urgent calls to parents, siblings, even old high school enemies. But they've already tapped everyone they know. Recklessly, Chazz wants to whack the mob guys. They're screwed and Chazz is nuts.

Libby returns to the boardroom. Neil is still strapped to the

boardroom table. Gino is sharpening his knife on a strop, humming quietly. Libby smiles calmly. "The money will be here in the morning." Neil stares at her, in fearful disbelief. Tony and Gino smile. They'll be back in the morning to get their cash. With polite nods to Libby, they leave.

Neil freaks out as they all untie him. "What are you talking about?! No one has the kind of money we need, except..." Libby stares at him until his face drops and he realizes what she's thinking.

Neil in ushered into a mansion by an aged butler. He is taken to the massive dining room and introduced as Master Neil. His parents rise from an enormous dining room and embrace him.

Gulping down glass of wine, Neil turns to his parents. He needs their help. He's never asked for anything, ever, but now he needs their help. His business needs a cash infusion, not a loan, but equity investment. His father smiles, they would love to help. Neil slumps back in his chair, relieved. But, Dad sighs, they've lost their entire investment portfolio on some dot-com company that IPO'ed, went huge and then bottomed out and disappeared. "We're broke, dear.", his mother sighs. "More Kraft Dinner?"

Midnight and Neil is pacing around his empty office. What is he going to do? The phone rings. He jumps. It's Sara wanting to know if he's coming home. He tells her he's pulling an all-nighter and he'll see her the next evening, hopefully.

Morning. Libby arrives, full of expectation of a good day. She opens the office doors to find Neil hanging upside down from the ceiling. Tony and Gino are sitting watching all the blood rush to his head. Obviously, Mom and Dad said no....

Libby berates Tony and Gino, much to the dismay of Neil, but they listen to her and let Neil down. As he collapses to the floor, Libby turns to Tony and Gino. They want their money, right? Right. Well they don't have any money, they don't have anything to take and sell, they don't have any assets, even the office chairs are leased. Libby looks at Neil, then takes a chance. The only way for the mob to get its money back - all its money back - is to invest some time in their firm and in their secret product. And once they get their funding thru an upcoming IPO, they'll all be rich. Or, the company folds, they don't get a cent, and beating up Neil isn't going to help. Everyone stares at each other. Stalemate.

Tony and Gino are balled out by the capo di capi of their organization for not getting the money they're owed. Taking a big

chance, Tony tells their boss they're going to have to work with these kids to get their money back. It's a whole different world, this freakin' internet thing. If the bosses are patient, Tony and Gino will get everything owed them. The bosses aren't happy and make it very clear that if this plan of theirs doesn't work, then many people will be hurt, mostly them.

Group meeting at the office. Neil pleads with everyone to keep working, even though the mob will now be a majority shareholder. It's the only way they're going to get any money for themselves. A lot of people bail out, they don't want to work for the mob. But the hard-core ones, they stay, what the hell... Neil's only demand is Sara can't know the mob owns his company.

There is a somber moment as the other employees pack up their things and leave, wishing Neil and the others luck. Unfortunately, Chazz has decided to stay and so heaps abuse and insults on those who are leaving.

The meeting. Neil and Libby arrive at a smoky, dark Italian restaurant. All noise stops as they step thru the front door into a set from 'The Godfather'. Tony and Gino spot them and get right down to business. Neil tells them most of his team will continue to work. For a brief moment, Tony and Gino look relieved. They tell Neil they've got approval to let him live for a while longer. Business completed, Neil and Libby quickly leave and race straight to a familiar lounge to get really drunk. Back at the restaurant, Tony and Gino are doing the same thing - getting really drunk.

Later. Neil and Libby are now really drunk. She's been with him since the start of his company. Neil is asking Libby, who turns out to secretly own 50% of the shares, if she ever thought it would turn out like this. She shrugs and knocks back her Crantini, then orders two more, plus one for Neil.

A real scene from 'The Godfather". Neil is passed out in front of the TV. Sara comes in quietly, sees him, sighs, turns off the TV and goes to bed. Neil sleeps thru it all.

Sun is streaming across Neil's face. He wakes up, in absolute agony. Sara wants to know how the investor meetings Neil answers, noncommittally, struggling to keep from throwing up. As she goes back to sleep she asks one last question. Did he have to give up much to the investors? and a leg, he calls back, nervously, and she laughs.

As Libby and Neil suffer thru their own personal hangover hells, Tony and Gino arrive to join the team. Libby points them to a couple of the newly vacated desks. Problem. They don't want

They're by the window. They'll take the desks at the end of the room, backs to the wall, facing the front door. But that's Chazz's personal fiefdom. But Tony and Gino have guns Furious, Chazz moves, griping the whole time. and knives.

The first thing they do is start a Dean Martin cassette, much to the horror of the gang, who leaned towards funk and hip hop. any requests are stopped by Gino and Tony cleaning their guns and sharpening their knives at their desks. The gang suffer in silence except for Chazz, who immediately brings things to a boil, again. And again, Libby has to break it up and separate them.

Chazz is a real prima donna and makes things difficult for Tony and Gino, questioning what they know about computers (nothing) and just about everything else. It's all Tony and Gino can do to not beat him to a pulp.

Neil is explaining to the gang that their one big client has just moved up when they need their software. The gang freak out! They weren't going to have it done when they were supposed to, how can they get it done earlier?! Tony yells back for them to shut up, he's trying to count a tablefull of wrinkled cash.

Tony and Gino are threaten people on the phone while Neil is attempting to have meetings. They've got their little black books full of all the debts owed to them, and they're constantly trying to keep all the payments, interest and current debts and it's rather a mess. Especially since they just don't like doing it in the first place. Even the mob has paperwork to deal with.

All this make it hard for the gang to do their work, constantly looking over their shoulders to see if Tony and Gino are waiting to whack them. Especially with Neil hovering, worrying about an important deadline. Finally Gavin snaps and demands that Neil leave them alone - forced mandatory night out. Neil has to agree. It's a company rule.

Neil and Sara are out for a nice dinner. She's finished the shoot she's on and thrilled to be back in the real world again. Dinner is going nicely until Neil receives a slap on the back. It's Tony and Gino. They're here to have a chat with the restaurant owner, "If you know what we're sayin'." Neil panics and introduces them as his Angel Investors. Gino takes offence, but Neil is just able Missing Neil's to calm him down. Sara asks the two to join them. negative gestures, they do and call for some more wine - this time the good stuff. The owner fearfully brings over the very best wine in the house. Sara is curious, them being investors, maybe they want to invest in a film idea of hers. Neil quickly changes the subject.

A gossip column reporter spots Neil and Sara and comes over, excited to see them. She tries to take a picture of the four of them, but Gino grabs the camera away and pulls out the film. Before things get even uglier, Tony quickly explains they're 'Angel Investors' and want to remain anonomous. Frustrated, the gossip columnist grudgingly accepts their explanation and a wad of their cash.

The rush to finish their software. The dotcomers finish the creation of the elaborate database, spreadsheet, report writer section of the project they're working on. They're very happy with themselves. Tony and Gino, still deep in their business woes, watch them, enviously.

While everyone is working hard, a guy shows up looking for cash for the building lease. It seems Neil's past couple cheques have bounced, and this tough guy is here to get payment. Before he has a chance to threaten anyone, Tony and Gino carry him back out into the hall. He tries to be tough with them, until he realizes who Then he starts to cry. Tony pulls him up off the they are. ground and stuffs a load of bills into his hand. Now the lease is The guy, grateful for not being kneecaped, all paid up, right? takes the money and runs. Gino yells after him and the guy freezes, anticipating the bullet in his back. Where's our freakin' receipt?

Tony and Gino step back into the office. Libby is there and smiles at them. She knows what they just did. Gino gestures for her to keep quiet about it and she grins.

The next morning, when Tony and Gino arrive for work, Dean Martin is playing. You can almost see the tears in Gino's eyes, but he wipes them away and starts making his morning espresso, trying to be gruff. But he ends up making espresso for everyone.

Everyone is getting pretty tired, frustrated with the final crunch to their ship date on their new product, even Tony and Gino are staying out of Chazz's way. He hasn't left his desk for 72 hours and it shows.

The product purchase they've been slaving on falls thru. other company got bought, the new owners have canceled the deal. Neil and his company are screwed. He storms out of the office.

That afternoon, Tony gets a call. His happy demeanor sours during the call. He and Gino take to the boardroom, kicking out Neil and some potential customers. They spend the rest of the day in their yelling at each other, only coming out to get more coffee and to

borrow cigarettes.

The gang are insanely curious about what they're yelling about but no one is willing to get killed going in to find out.

That night, Neil and Sara fight. Sara is livid because Neil promised she could make a documentary of the company during its IPO and now, mostly because of the known mobsters at the office, he doesn't want to have her filming there. He can't tell her the truth and his lies are pretty weak. He is also lashing out at her because of the failed business deal.

The next day, Tony and Gino are still in foul moods. Everyone is tiptoeing around them. Attempts to find out what is the problem are met with grunts and glares. Not even Dean Martin helps. Something is seriously wrong.

Finally, Libby goes over and forces them to open up. they've got to explain to their bosses where their money is, and to show what they've collected from all their other debts. And they can't put their info into a clear report. They're gonna get capped if they can't pull something good together, by tomorrow. Neil tries to be sympathetic but he can't. Everyone's got business troubles. Tony and Gino might get whacked, he needs some new clients. Life sucks. Libby's eye's light up as Neil goes into his office.

Once he's gone, she turns to Tony and Gino. If they want something better than good for their presentation, they're going to have to hire the team to help them. That way everyone wins, Neil gets a new client using some made up company name, and Tony and Gino don't get whacked!

Neil comes out of his office. He's going home, he's got nothing to work on. Everyone says good night, take it easy, etc. thanks everyone for all the work they're all doing, he knows it's hard but it will pay off, he hopes. The second he's out the door, Libby calls everyone over to Tony and Gino's desks. "Operation MobStory" begins.

The gang pull an all-nighter, working on spreadsheets, database connections, Powerpoint presentations, coaching the two on what to say and how to say it. The two have some difficulty taking direction but in the end they do, knowing it's the difference between living and dying, for all of them.

In the wee hours of the morning, while Gavin is trying to teach Tony how to operate the video projector, Chazz is caught sneaking data out of Tony and Gino's database. Gino freaks and pins Chazz to the floor, his gun pressed against Chazz's cheek. Libby is trying to break it up, the rest of the gang is trying to keep Gino from killing Chazz. Someone is screaming, where's Neil?!?

Neil and Sara are sleeping when the front door flies open and Tony is looming there. Sara screams, Neil screams. Tony calmly tells Neil he's needed at the office, right away. Despite Sara's protestations, Neil wisely puts on his clothes and goes with Tony. Sara watches from window as they drive off in Tony's mint condition 1972 Cadillac.

Neil is dragged into the office. Chazz is still on the floor, and he still has a gun in his face. Neil freaks out and pulls Gino off Chazz. Chazz gets to his feet and mouths off to Gino, now that Neil's here. Neil spins around, glaring. "You're fired. Get out, now." Chazz explains but Neil won't listen. Furious, Chazz leaves, grabbing his prized coffee beans as he goes.

Tony and Gino look at Neil, that's the first tough thing he's done. They offer to whack Chazz, as a favour. Neil shakes his head, they're a software company - no killing, just killer apps. Tony and Gino miss the joke. Neil sighs and goes into his office. What a way to start the day. Libby comes in with coffee. That was Neil's first firing, and he's taking it bad. Nothing's working out the way he expected. He sighs and takes the coffee.

Tony and Gino's presentation to the mob. Silicon Alley meets Bensonhurst. They've got a brilliant presentation full of all the latest hi tech bells and whistles, profit projections, Flash charts in 3D, everything. And it works, even though they're not making any money, it looks so good that their bosses beg them continue, just like a dotcom company.

A huge dinner celebration. Tony and Gino are hosting at their Italian restaurant. The gang are all there. Neil doesn't know why they're celebrating, but he's happy to be there with Sara.

Together, they plow into a huge meal, with lots of pasta, red wine, Sambucca, cigars. The meal turns into a huge drunken celebration, culminating with Gavin singing along with the house band, a definite first for the establishment.

The next morning everyone is hung over. Really, really hung over. Even Tony and Gino are hurting. Red wine/Sambucca hangovers. But Neil leaves to meet Sara and again everyone kicks into gear.

Tony and Gino are outfitted with laptops, Palm Pilots, cellphones, pagers - the works. Now they don't know these things except to fence them, but since Neil's company has them around (because of

an extended prepaid lease) they may as well get used.

The gang go to work, coding furiously, creating whole new products, taking apart the stuff they've already created and making it all different for Tony and Gino. Neil is so excited to see how much they're billing for the new mystery client, he doesn't ask any questions about who this client might be.

Tony and Gino's mob business' are set up. Low, low introductory leasing on computers, internet hook up etc., from other mob run businesses, who then need computers to keep track of their own business. Old family run stores become hi-tech data centers.

The gang have Tony and Gino bring in some of their elderly customers to test the programs they have created. They get this instant feedback, in Italian, on what works and what doesn't. Neil comes thru at one point, almost tries to understand what is going on, but gives up and goes into his office.

At work one day, while Tony is watching the phones for Libby, he takes a phone call. It's someone looking for a reference for Chazz. Tony calmly explains about the drugs, the pornography, suspected sex with animals, the questionable hygiene of Chazz and for some reason, the job isn't mentioned anymore. Tony smiles to himself. That was fun.

One morning, the gang gather around Tony and Gino's desks. Gavin opens up a browser and types something in. www.mymobster.com. Surprise! Tony and Gino now have a website! All their business activities, on-line, 24-7. 'Customers' can log in, securely, make payments from their cards or bank, check on their loans, their debt ratios, etc. all without leaving their office! The guys are thrilled and don't know what to say. They're touched.

In the middle of all this success, as the coders work furiously on the code needed for the fuzzy accounting products Tony and Gino need for their business - One-Click Double Books, Extortion Amortization, Fluctuating Debt Interest Ratios - Chazz returns to the office, furious about the lies in the job reference. Gino holds back Tony, and then threatens to whack Chazz if they ever hear from him again.

Out on the streets of little Italy, old guys are betting with their Palm Pilots. Behind deli counters, elderly ladies do data entry into new iBooks online thru www.mymobster.com.

Then the company servers goes down. Serious panic. The IT guy was one of the ones who left when the mob showed up. But Gino wanders over, moves everyone out of the way and calmly restores

the data and gets the server up again. It seems he's been taking classes over the internet. He's saved the day! Neil is so happy, he offers to take everyone out to dinner.

Dinner, this time it's the dotcom's place of choice. groovy, funky, beyond hip place full of beautiful people. fact, Chazz is serving tables there. It's his final humiliation to have to serve them. But the gang think this is great fun and everyone has a wonderful time, even if Tony and Gino can't get enough food. Tapas fusion cuisine. Tiny morsels with big price tags. The drink of choice? Bellini's. Imagine Tony and Gino sipping Bellini's and trying to remain cool.

Everyone is working away, sipping their espressos, getting thru another day, actually working on Neil's projects. In the server room, activity lights start to light up faster. No one notices.

Libby gets a phone call from the restaurant gossip columnist wanting to know about www.mymobster.com. She's a bit confused and denies knowing about it. Curious, she wanders over to the server The activity lights are on solid. She calls the gang. Gino checks the activity logs, www.mymobster.com is getting thousands of hits. Something is going on. And it probably isn't The intercom light is flashing by the front door but no one has noticed it.

Gavin wanders over to the window and looks out. The street below is full of TV remote crews. The rest of the gang rush to the window and start waving down at the TV cameras. Tony and Gino frown and slip out the back of the building.

Neil is walking to work, coffee in hand. He is knocked over by a TV news crew struggling to get into his building. Neil gets to his feet to see his staff being interviewed outside. They're all pretty happy to be on TV and to be interviewed, and, worst of all, they are all pretty happy to say they are working for the mob. Neil finds out who their mystery client is.

Neil struggles thru the crowd of reporters and camera crews to the front door. Neil yells for the gang to go back upstairs. The TV crews realize who he is. They charge Neil and he disappears from sight as the chastened gang go back inside.

Upstairs, the phones are ringing off the hook. Everyone is talking on at least one phone. The door is kicked open and Neil crawls in, his suit a mess. He slams the door shut, and locks all the locks. He then pulls a desk in front of the door and turns to the room. Company meeting, boardroom, now!

Silently, a livid Neil turns on the TV. His picture is on CNN. Neil is trying to figure out where to start yelling, but he's so angry he can't figure it out. A call comes in on his cell. It's his parents. They want to invest. Neil sighs and hangs up.

Tony and Gino are pulled out of a pool hall by two bigger, meaner men and brought before their bosses. On a TV, Tony and Gino are now on CNN, with their criminal histories. The bosses are very unhappy with all the attention that has been brought upon them. They don't like it. They don't want it. What are Tony and Gino going to do to make it stop?

Neil blows up at his staff. He is furious they have been spending all their time working on a web site, WEB SITE?!?, for the mob rather than on their own projects. He just can't believe they have all been so stupid! And they retaliate by blaming him for everything since he was the idiot who went to the mob in the first place. Nothing is resolved and everyone is angry. Neil storms into his office, slamming the door. Libby leaves, slamming the door. Everybody else leave, slamming the door. Neil comes out of his office into the empty cubicles. Angry, he kicks one down, then storms out the door, slamming it behind him.

Alone in the office, Gino, his face quite battered up, searches thru the activity logs with Libby. They find that Chazz hacked his way into the site and then spammed the world from their server. He let loose the genie! Gino has a simple solution. Time to whack Chazz, fast. But Libby doesn't think that will stop the media circus that's accelerating around them. Gino realizes she's right, and apologizes for dragging her into all this. Libby sighs and smiles back at him, such is life...

Neil and Sara are in a huge fight. She's just found out the mob owns Neil's company and he's lied to her about it. Nothing he can say calms her down, in fact, everything he says just makes her angrier until she finally storms out of the apartment, furious. Neil calls down as she walks off, a tv crew chasing her, but she doesn't look back.

The next day, the front doors of the office are kicked open and the Justice Department storm in with the police and a dozen tv crews. Neil is alone. Quickly he is arrested and dragged off. Everyone is picked up at their homes or out on their streets. Police start searching for evidence.

In jail, everyone is furious at each other. Neil's life just couldn't be worse than this.

They're all stuck in jail until a couple of flashy mob lawyers

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arrive and bail them all out with huge suitcases of cash. This doesn't help them as the media report every aspect of their case to the world.

The news coverage is huge. Footage is on CNN, Entertainment Tonight, MTV, the cover of every magazine. They are the entertainment-crime-technology story of the year.

Neil is alone in his empty office. Even the walls have been taken. Nothing is left but some empty coffee cups. Everything he's worked so hard for is gone. Sara comes into the room, and watches as Neil sits on the floor, forlorn. She thinks about going over to him, but she doesn't, instead she turns and leaves. Neil hears a noise but turns too late to see her. It's Neil's hour of reckoning.

Thru the mob lawyers, Neil gets word to everyone, "Deny all knowledge, blame Neil". He'll take the rap for the whole thing and they can get on with their lives. They are all horrified, but realize it's the only way.

The Trial. It's a complete OJ Simpson media circus. Neil, Tony and Gino are dragged thru the crowds into the building and into the packed court room. The judge enters, the trial begins. The gang are in the courtroom, watching along with the world

One by one the justice department lawyers try to get the old men and women who were being sweated by Tony and Gino to confess they were doing business with the mob. But they don't, they just talk about software and accounting programs, frustrating the prosecution.

This might be ok for Neil after all, but then Tony is called to the stand.

Tony's past record isn't good. He's pretty much been a textbook mobster from age 8. Same is true for Gino. Neil pounds his head on the desk. But his mob appointed lawyers are very good and they make Tony and Gino look a lot like simple businessmen. Neil might have a chance after all.

The key prosecution witness is Chazz. Tony and Gino are furious they listened to Neil and didn't whack the guy. And what he has to say is really damning to them. It looks like there's nothing any of the mob lawyers can do to get them out of this mess. He's completely, utterly screwed.

In the afternoon, it's Neil's lawyers turn. Their first surprise witness, Sara. Neil, Tony and Gino look up in shock. Sara takes

the stand. Nobody knows what to expect.

Sara explains that everything has been a charade, an improvised theatre of life creation of hers, to write a film script. Yes, even Tony and Gino. True, they used to be hoodlums, but now they are the two key investors in this film production. Neil and the rest of the gang never knew what was going on. And the website was part of it. Marketing, promotion, creating a buzz, call it what you will, that's what's been happening. She has the entire whole project plan right here. She waves a script in the air.

The judge has to calm down the court. He asks Tony and Gino if is this is true. They both nod, quickly. The judge looks over at Sara, furious. She's messed with the courts, the justice department, the police and the media. Does she have anything say?

Sara turns and faces the court. Bidding on her script starts at 1 million dollars! Media madness as the judge dismisses the case and the gang surround Sara, Neil, Tony and Gino.

Back at the empty offices. The gang are milling around, not sure The media are ignoring them since the drug overdose what to do. of a famous rock star the night before. Their fifteen minutes of fame are over. Tony and Gino enter thru the broken front door. Everybody is happy to see them.

They go over to Neil and give him a piece of paper. The mob is renouncing all claim to any shares of his company. It's all his again.

It's not because they're nice guys, but because all the accounting systems and programs that were created have meant an increase in profitability for their operations, both legal and illegal! mob are thrilled with the technology and feel they've been more than paid off. As for Tony and Gino, they're getting out of the mob to open up an IT shop. They've got lots of customers who will be needing their new services.

With hugs all around, Tony and Gino leave. Gino pauses on the way out and asks Libby is he could possibly, you know, meet her for a drink, sometime, maybe. Libby smiles and gives him her home phone As Neil is getting congratulated on once again owning all of his bankrupt, debt-laden company, Sara arrives.

At least she made out all right, what with the screenplay for the film at a script auction at all that. Wrong! No one wants a true story that ends like this one does. Neil failed, he's broke, everyone's broke, what kind of an ending is that?

A couple days later. Neil and Sara are packing up their stuff in their apartment. The gang are helping. They are moving in with Neil's parents. There is a knock on the door that Neil answers. Two burly guys in suits. Before Neil has a chance to say anything, the gang tackle the two guys and pin them to the floor. They're not going to let anything happen to Neil again!

Only after checking thoroughly for guns, the two men are let up. With everyone watching them warily, they state their business. They are from a huge software firm. They saw the trial, heard all the evidence from the witnesses and they liked what they saw. software they developed for the mob is brilliant, so brilliant 89 year old Italian women who don't speak English can use it. And that software is worth lots of money. And they want to buy it. Neil and the gang are going to be rich!

Sara screams with joy. Now this is a perfect ending to her film script! She rushes off to phone her agent.

As everyone's hugging, cut to the Rocky Mountains. village in the wilderness. Chazz, with different hair and a different name is futilely trying to get a good cup of coffee from a dingy little truck stop in the middle of nowhere. He screams out in frustration.

THE END

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