

SEC on the Silver Screen: How Films Shape Public Perception of Financial Regulation in the United States
During the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries, 1914-2023

By Loren E. Miller, Ph.D.

Year	Title	Image of the Markets, Nature of the Misdeeds, and Role of Regulation in Plot
1914	The Gamblers	A banker's sweetheart marries a lawyer who is a more aggressive suitor. The banker speculates with funds from his father's bank and borrows more than he can cover. Competing banks trigger an investigation by the state attorney general, who assigns the lawyer married to banker's former sweetheart to the case. A stockholder plants false evidence incriminating the banker at the lawyer's home, and the banker goes to retrieve it. The lawyer's wife and the banker's former sweetheart is home, and the lawyer thinks they are having an affair. The lawyer has the banker arrested for burglary and demands his wife give him the false evidence the banker came to retrieve, but she refuses. The banker turns himself in and takes responsibility for the bank's losses, and his former sweetheart says she will divorce the lawyer and wait for him to get out of prison.
1914	The Good-for-Nothing	A father disowns his drunkard son. Years later, the reformed son learns that his brother has lost the family money through stock speculation, and the family is living in the poorhouse. The son saves an Indian with smallpox from being lynched, and the man leaves him a mine before he dies. The son becomes rich from the mine and saves his family from the poorhouse. He then ruins his brother on the stock market. He finally reconciles with his brother and reestablishes the family business.
1915	A Gilded Fool	A poor grocery store clerk inherits a large sum of money from an uncle but spends it recklessly because he is upset that it came too late to save his mother from dying of bad health. Five years later, he falls in love with a banker's daughter. The banker's business partner invested and lost all the banker's funds without his consent. The business partner convinces the grocery store clerk to join the bank to cover the losses. The store clerk doubles the president's lost money through clever investments, the business partner is arrested as a fraud, and the daughter agrees to marry the store clerk.
1915	The Avalanche	Despite loving another man, a woman marries an elderly millionaire for his money. When she is tired of the millionaire, she tries to win back her old flame, who has gotten married. After seeing the flirtation, her elderly husband dies of shock. In the hope that she can win her old flame back by financially ruining and then saving him, she tries to manipulate stock in the Avalanche Company. The old flame's wife thinks he is having an affair, but a lawyer reveals the other woman's manipulation, and the husband and wife reconcile.
1915	The Running Fight	A banking magnate deliberately bankrupts his trust and deposits the money in another account. The police save him from an angry mob, but the trust's vice president tries to kill the magnate. The vice president's fiancée tries to shoot the magnate after he reveals their affair, but she kills the magnate's secretary by accident. The vice president goes to jail for the murder, and the magnate unsuccessfully tries to bribe his way out of prison. The magnate arranges for his daughter's sweetheart to become Governor, but he refuses to pardon the magnate. After the Governor pardons the vice president, the magnate fakes a suicide and escapes jail. The Governor forces him to return the money to depositors and then pardons him.
1916	A Corner in Cotton	A socialite decides to investigate the conditions of Southern cotton mills by getting a job in one after her father gives her a significant number of shares in cotton. The father offers to help the mill owner by buying his failing business and is upset by the owner's rejection. The father decides to ruin the business by cornering the cotton market, but the daughter sells all her shares to another buyer to save the mill. She then helps her father and the owner come to a financial understanding.
1916	Between Men	A wealthy stockbroker tries to ruin a Wall Street financier in the market so the financier will force his daughter to marry the stockbroker. The financier reaches out to a mine owner, who he helped recover his fortune years ago, for assistance. The mine owner comes to town, and the stockbroker's partner, who helped ruin the financier, offers the mine owner a fake stock market tip. The mine owner and the financier uncover the stockbroker and his partner's scheme and alert detectives. The mine owner and the financier then use the information they overhear to win a lot of money in the stock market and nearly bankrupt the stockbroker.

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1916	Dollars and the Law	A young woman doesn't know that her miserly father is rich. She is courted by a wealthy suitor and a poor suitor and chooses love over of money, becoming engaged to the poor suitor. The wealthy suitor invests in a company that defrauds the public and perpetuates the fraud. The company is investigated by the postal authorities and the wealthy suitor needs money to avoid prison. He discovers the young woman's father is rich and decides to rob him. The father is killed during the robbery and the police blame the butler for the murder. The daughter and her fiancé expose the wealthy suitor and he confesses. The daughter puts her inheritance into circulation in a savings bank and can afford to marry her fiancé.
1916	Each Pearl a Tear	A stockbroker tries to seduce his employee's daughter. He lends her a string of pearls and then claims that he never received them back. She goes to work in the broker's office to pay back her debt, but the broker's secretary is in love with the daughter and tries to raise money in the stock market to pay back her debt. The broker then uses all his resources to financially ruin the secretary, but the daughter finds the necklace and sells it. She gives the money to the secretary who uses it to take down the broker's financial empire.
1916	Husband and Wife	A man speculates using bank funds due to his wife's extravagances. To make the speculation successful he enlists the help of a bank director, who asks in return that the wife accept his unpopular wife into her social circle. The woman ignores the director's wife for the attentions of a young millionaire, and the bank director ends the deal, leaving the husband broke. His wife is about to go to Japan with the millionaire, and the husband tries to kill himself. The wife hears about the incident and realizes she is the cause of all his problems, so she returns to him, and his financial situation improves.
1916	The Alibi	An assistant cashier at a bank enters a false sum into the books, because he plans to embezzle money to help his dying father. He tells a cashier, his superior, about his plan. The superior steals the money first to pay for his unsuccessful speculations, kills a guard, and frames the assistant cashier. The assistant cashier goes to jail, but his girlfriend, the bank president's daughter, hires a detective to prove his innocence. The assistant cashier threatens his superior, who becomes afraid he will escape from jail. The assistant cashier escapes and goes to his superior's house, but the superior commits suicide. The assistant cashier is cleared and resumes his work at the bank.
1916	The Conqueror	A self-made millionaire known as the "Wolf of Wall Street" forces his way into society but carries a grudge against the rich. He decides to ruin a wealthy society man he dislikes by manipulating the stock the man is heavily invested in. The millionaire agrees to save the society man from financial ruin, if he can marry the society man's daughter. The daughter reluctantly accepts the engagement but rejects the millionaire when he says he bought her. The millionaire realizes his bad behavior, saves the society man's fortune, and apologizes to the daughter who agrees to marry him.
1916	The Traffic Cop	A traffic cop rescues a wealthy girl who loses control of her horse. The girl is the ward of her millionaire uncle. The uncle embezzles funds from the bank where he works but plans to throw suspicion onto a teller, who is the cop's brother. The girl overhears her uncle's plan, and warns the cop. The cop finds his brother's diary, which reveals the uncle's plan. The cop lures the uncle to a hotel room with the diary and arrests him. The cop retrieves the stolen money and marries the girl.
1916	Youth's Endearing Charm	An orphan flees to the city where she meets a young millionaire who gives her a job at his house. The millionaire is a trust officer and has a partner who has been stealing from the firm. The partner wants his daughter to marry the millionaire to minimize the losses, but the millionaire demands the partner tell him where certain securities are located. The securities fall out of the partner's pocket, and the orphan hits the partner on the head during the ensuing conflict. The millionaire falls in love with her.

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1917	Fighting Odds	An honest factory owner's business is thriving, but a successful Wall Street mogul becomes jealous and creates a trust with his cronies. He convinces the owner to become president of the trust. The owner discovers he signed a doctored statement giving away control of his plant. The mogul manipulates the trust, and it soon fails. The factory owner is then imprisoned for violating the Sherman Anti-Trust Law. The owner's wife goes undercover and with the help of the mogul's butler, who is an undercover detective, exposes and imprisons the mogul, and frees her husband.
1917	Greed	A couple invests in the stock market. The woman becomes greedy and begins to recklessly speculate, then goes to desperate lengths to recoup her losses. The woman meets a second woman who used to be in the same financial situation, which drove her to enter into illegal stock transactions. The couple and the second woman go to a party held by a man who is blackmailing the second woman. When the blackmailer attacks the woman, he is killed, and the man from the couple is blamed. His name is eventually cleared and his girlfriend renounces greed.
1917	Money Madness	A bank president uses his own fortune to save the bank from collapsing by covering its losses, but without knowing that the vice president is undermining the bank. A young man who is in love with the bank president's daughter asks his uncle, a famous detective, to investigate the case. The detective uncovers the conspiracy and apprehends the bank vice president and his conspirators, saving the bank.
1917	The Barricade	An executive at a securities company is threatened by the firm's new president and speculates in the stock market with company money. The executive's plan fails, and he tells his daughter that the president caused his downfall. The president protects the frail executive from prosecution, pays back his debt, and sends him away on vacation to recover. Believing he ruined her father, the daughter marries the president, makes his life miserable, and conspires with his business rival to ruin the president and gain control of his funds. The executive returns from vacation and reveals that he lied. The daughter asks for the president's forgiveness and goes West with him.
1917	The Scarlet Car	A cashier discovers the bank president and his son have embezzled the bank's money and lost it in speculation. The cashier confronts them, they hit the cashier, and thinking he is dead, they dispose of his body. The cashier's daughter is engaged to the bank president's son, but a young man convinces her to marry him instead. They run away together and find the cashier alive but suffering from memory loss. When the bank depositors discover the missing funds, the bank president and his son blame the young man and lead a mob to him. The young man and the daughter discover a document in the cashier's pocket that incriminates the president and his son. The mob tar and feather the president and his son, the cashier begins to gain his memory back, and the young man marries the daughter.
1918	Closin' In	A bank president embezzles funds, and an employee finds out. The employee takes the blame because he believes he only has a year to live. The employee moves to Canada and discovers he will live. He becomes a Mountie and finds gold on his land. The president's children arrive in the town for the gold rush. The president's son denounces the employee, who then resigns. The president's daughter marries a wealthy man, who is not divorced from his wife. The employee rescues the daughter from her marriage and the dying president clears the employee's name.
1918	Humdrum Brown	A bank clerk financially supports his family because his brother-in-law spends all the family's money on get rich quick schemes, so he can't afford to marry his fiancée. The brother-in-law and the president of the bank where the clerk works rob the bank, and it is forced to close. The clerk moves to look for a new job. His fiancée inherits a large sum of money and goes looking for him. She meets the bank president who promises to invest her money, but he steals it. The brother-in-law double crosses the bank president and tells the clerk and the police about the robbery. The clerk finds the president and holds the boat he is about to escape on until the police arrive. The president returns the stolen funds, the clerk is appointed bank president and marries his fiancée.

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1918	The Eleventh Commandment	A woman rejects her sweetheart to become engaged to a wealthy man, who is a stock gambler. The man goes broke and forces his fiancée to give him the money she is holding for her employer. He loses the money and runs away; the woman is sent to jail and refuses to implicate him. Upon her release, she marries her former sweetheart who doesn't know about the affair. Her ex-fiancé returns and threatens to blackmail her, but she confesses everything. A policeman shoots the ex-fiancé who clears her name before he dies.
1918	When Do We Eat?	An actress in a failed travelling show is arrested in a town as a suspicious character. A woman, whose son works in the local bank, takes her in. Two criminals pressure the son into playing a poker game, and he steals from the bank to cover his losses. The actress impersonates a safe-cracker to help the criminals break into the bank, but has them arrested. The son learns his lesson and proposes to the actress.
1919	Someone Must Pay	A stockbroker speculates in the market using a client's stocks because he is jealous of a wealthy jeweler who is paying attention to his wife and daughter. The client threatens to have the stockbroker arrested, but the wife gets money from the jeweler to pay back the stolen funds. This husband berates his wife, and she leaves with the daughter. The stockbroker thinks his wife is at the jeweler's house, and he shoots the jeweler. During the trial, the jeweler reveals he is the wife's father and escaped from prison after being wrongly accused of murder. The jeweler is cleared and reunites the stockbroker and his wife.
1919	The Stream of Life	A bank president's young daughter dies unexpectedly, and he rejects religion. His mother eventually brings him back to religion, and he sacrifices his own fortune to save the bank when depositors stand to lose their life savings due to a director's speculation. When the president dies many years later, he is greeted by his wife and daughter.
1920	A Master Stroke	A young man who squandered his inheritance is on the verge of suicide and goes to say goodbye to his fiancée. He learns that her father faces financial ruin unless he can raise a large sum of money. The man takes a job at a brokerage firm. During a raid on the market, he gains access to the stocks his future father-in-law needs and puts them on the market, lending the proceeds to the father-in-law. But the sale makes the man look like a thief. A crooked broker who oversaw the stocks goes after the man, but he returns the securities just in time.
1920	Just Out of College	A wealthy businessman wants his daughter to marry his associate, but the daughter wants to marry a recent college graduate. The businessman gives the graduate \$20,000 to invest and tells him he must double it in sixty days to marry the daughter. The businessman has his associate sell the graduate valueless oil stock, but the graduate retains \$5,000. The graduate and an old college friend, who wants to become an advertiser, meet a woman who says she could make a fortune in pickles. The three combine their talents to make, advertise, and sell Bingo Pickles. The businessman buys the company for a large sum, and the graduate reveals he is the financial backer and wins the daughter.
1920	The Inner Voice	Two men mining for gold in California fight over a land claim, but one offers the other a share in the mine and they become partners. A promoter hears of the miners' success and makes them an offer. The promoter takes the miners' profits in a fake stock deal. One miner loses everything, but his partner makes another successful claim, and they rise in the financial world again. Just as the miner is about to destroy the promoter, he decides not to out of love for the promoter's niece.
1921	A Wife's Awakening	A dishonest promoter is going to be arrested for embezzlement, and tries to borrow money from his wife's former suitor. He fails to borrow the money and tells his wife to ask her former suitor, but she asks her mother instead. The promoter is caught in a second financial disaster, and tells his wife to ask her former suitor again. She realizes he is weak and deceptive and confronts him about an affair. The promoter threatens to blackmail the wife's former suitor and she leaves him.

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1921	Fine Feathers	A man persuades an engineer facing financial difficulty to use an inferior cement in the construction of a dam. The man then tries to ruin the engineer by convincing him to buy worthless stock, and the engineer forges a check in the man's name. The dam breaks, and the engineer sends his wife to get money from the man, but she gets it from the man's wife. The engineer believes his wife is conspiring with the man and is upset about the dam breaking and people dying. He kills the man and then commits suicide.
1921	Jim the Penman	In order to save the father of the woman he loves from financial ruin, a bank clerk forges a check. When the owner of the check finds out, he forces the clerk to head a gang of forgers. The clerk marries the woman and become financially successful. Years later, the couple's daughter becomes engaged to the son of an English banker, whom the gang of forgers has targeted. The clerk knows his life is over, so he tricks the gang onto a yacht and then sinks it, killing everyone.
1921	Luring Lips	A teller at a Wall Street bank marries the office manager's secretary, but the office manager continues to pursue the secretary. The bank discovers a loss of \$50,000 and the teller is arrested and convicted. Just before his release from prison, he sees his wife and the office manager together in a newsreel. When released, he confronts them as they are leaving for South America. The wife has evidence that the office manager stole the money, and he is arrested. The wife confesses to the teller that she seduced the office manager to prove that he stole the money.
1921	Passing Thru	A bank teller takes the blame for a cash shortage believing that the culprit, a fellow employee who is the bank president's son, will tell his father the truth. The son breaks his word, and the teller is sent to prison, but he escapes on the way. In a new town, he falls in love with the bank president's daughter, and begins working for a farmer. The farmer's mule kicks the bank president, and the farmer is charged with assault. The teller goes to the bank try and settle the dispute, but he finds the president being robbed by the same employee that framed the teller at the last bank. The teller gets locked inside the bank safe until the mule kicks out the wall, and the president accidentally destroys the building with dynamite. Everything is resolved in the hospital.
1921	Payment Guaranteed	A Wall Street broker on the verge of bankruptcy uses his fiancée to get a loan from a wealthy young businessman. The fiancée gains the businessman's confidence, and he offers her a check if she breaks her engagement. The businessman is in a car accident, and the fiancée steals the check. She realizes she loves the businessman, and distances herself from the broker and his schemes.
1922	Easy Money	The town constable's sweetheart, who is the bank president's daughter, falls for a new investment promoter in town. The constable warns people not to buy shares from the promoter, but the townspeople and the president, who invests bank money, buy fake shares. Despite evidence that the shares are fake, the constable hesitates to arrest the promoter, because it would ruin the president. The president's daughter becomes engaged to the promoter who finds oil on the constable's land and buys it cheaply. The constable exposes the promoter, arrests him, turns the tables on him, and gets his money.
1922	Gay and Devilish	A young woman promises to marry a rich elderly man to help her guardian with financial difficulties, but she meets a young man in the woods, who is the elderly man's nephew. The young woman avoids the elderly man, and her aunt falls in love with him. The young woman borrows money from the elderly man's safe to help the nephew in speculation. When the elderly man discovers the money is stolen, he accuses his nephew, but the guilt is fixed on the butler. The woman and her aunt marry the uncle and nephew.
1922	No Trespassing	A young man owns a road in the village where he lives, but he lets everyone use it. He refuses to sell it to a financier until he needs the money. When the young man and the financier are out on a boat to close the deal, a third man, who is gathering information on the financier for his Wall Street rival, explodes the boat. The young man makes financial decisions needed to save the financier's stock market investments while he is unconscious. When the financier wakes up, he gives his property to the town and offers the young man a job.

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1922	Shackles of Gold	A former dock worker becomes a wealthy stockbroker through shrewd speculation. A young woman from a formerly wealthy family marries him because her family wants to return to their former lifestyle. When the stockbroker learns that his friend took his wife to a cabaret and insulted her, he plans revenge by forcing his friend's stocks down and ruining him. The stockbroker loses his own fortune in the process, but his wife realizes that she loves him and stays with him.
1922	The Man Undercover	A crook return to his hometown with a companion. A bank cashier, who is the brother of the crook's childhood sweetheart and an old friend, needs \$25,000 due to bad oil investments. The crook and his companion break into the bank to steal money to help the cashier but discover that the cashier committed suicide and was short \$25,000 from his account. They rearrange the scene to look like the cashier died protecting the bank from a robbery. The crook decides to go straight. He and his companion discover confidence men are running a fake oil scheme in town. They create a fake oil well with a gusher that the confidence men buy at a high price and give the profit to the townspeople who invested with the confidence men. The crook tells his childhood sweetheart everything that happened, and she forgives him.
1923	The Silent Partner	A woman becomes a silent partner in her husband's financial speculation on Wall Street. She saves the money he gives her, and she gives him her savings after he gambles all his money away and there is a stock market crash.
1924	Not a Drum was Heard	A man's sweetheart leaves him for his friend. The friend is behind on his house payments and steals money from the bank where he works. The owner of the bank finds out, but the man takes the blame for his friend by pretending to hold up the bank and steal the money his friend already took. The friend shoots the bank owner and is wounded, but the man takes the blame for the crime at trial. The friend admits he is guilty before dying from his wounds and the man promises to take care of his ex-sweetheart and her child.
1924	Secrets of the Night	A man hosts a large party where he stages his own murder to a keep bank examiner from investigating his bank's records. Everyone is a suspect, until the party host reappears and announces that the man who took out a large loan from the bank, which the board of directors wanted to conceal from the bank examiner, has been repaid.
1924	Turned Up	A bank president who is in collusion with a group of bond thieves tries to frame a teller for robbery. The teller escapes arrest and joins the gang, but later reveals he is a Department of Justice agent.
1925	Dollar Down	The general manager of a manufacturing company is faced with financial ruin when his daughter buys a ring from "installment sharks" who sell merchandise on long-term payment plans. The daughter pawns the ring, which has not been paid for, to keep the installment collectors away. An agent for real estate speculators tricks the daughter into revealing a site the manufacturing company has optioned. The speculators take the option, and the manufacturing company blames the general manager and fires him. An installment collector attempts to repossess the pawned ring. The daughter realizes she was tricked, abducts the agent in an airplane, and does not land until the speculators' option expires. The general manager's sister and nephew get the pawned ring back and make the daughter promise not to buy from "installment sharks" again. The daughter's flight demonstrated the value of her fiancé's invention, and their future is secured.
1925	Men and Women	An assistant bank cashier speculates on the stock market and makes a fortune. He buys his boss' wife things the cashier can't afford to woo her. The cashier embezzles bonds from the bank and invests them with the assistant cashier's broker to try to keep his wife. A change in the market wipes out the broker, and he commits suicide. The bank owner discovers the theft and blames the assistant cashier. The cashier confesses and goes to jail. His wife pleads with the bank owner for his freedom, and the owner arranges for the cashier's release from jail and sends him to South America to manage a coffee plantation.

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1925	The Man Who Found Himself	Two brothers are directors at their father's bank. The younger brother speculates with bank funds, but a banker has the older brother blamed. While in jail, the older brother learns that the banker is going to marry his fiancée, so he breaks out and confronts the banker. When he is released from prison, the banker controls the bank, so the older brother has two prison friends help him steal bank funds and plant them at the banker's house. The brother notifies the bank examiners, but the banker is shot by a watchman because he was embezzling funds. The older brother then marries his fiancée.
1925	The Re-Creation of Brian Kent	A bank clerk embezzles money from his employer to support his wife's financial demands. He feels guilty and tries to commit suicide. During his failed suicide attempt, he meets a maid who introduces him to her employer who is a schoolteacher. Under the teacher's guidance, the clerk reforms and writes a book. He falls in love with someone, which upsets the maid, who tells her father of the clerk's misdeeds. The maid's father goes to tell the bank, but the teacher gets there first and persuades the bank president, who is a former pupil, not to prosecute the clerk. The clerk's wife drowns while trying to visit him, and he finds happiness with the woman he fell in love with.
1925	Three Keys	A Wall Street investor faces bankruptcy, and his daughter's fiancé promises to lend him money. The fiancé squandered his inheritance and steals negotiable securities from a wealthy family. The daughter breaks up with the fiancé because she suspects he is having an affair with his ward. The wealthy family's son discovers the theft and decides to help the former fiancé. The son lends the investor the money he needs, buys back the stolen securities, and convinces his father the money was never stolen. The son falls in love with the fiancé's ward, who is the investor's long-lost daughter.
1925	When Love Grows Cold	When an inventor fails to sell his invention to an oil company, his wife pleads his case. The company hires the inventor, and the couple becomes wealthy. But the president of the company is interested in the wife and tries to break up the marriage. He ruins the inventor in the stock market; when the inventor finds out, he threatens the president with a gun. The president promises to fix the financial losses he incurred. The inventor returns to his wife knowing that their marriage will be hard to repair.
1926	The Better Way	A broker's stenographer overhears a market tip while taking dictation and becomes rich when she invests in the stock. She continues to invest in the broker's tips, but the office bookkeeper is jealous of her feelings for the broker and reverses her investments, trying to bring her to financial ruin. Instead, they both accidentally become rich, and the bookkeeper wins her love by protecting her from the broker.
1926	The Broadway Boob	A young man takes a role on Broadway and his press agent lies about his salary. The man's father is a banker and asks him for financial help because there is a run on the bank. The son confesses he can't help, but the press agent helps create a scheme to save the bank. The son wins the town's respect and his sweetheart for saving the bank.
1926	The Man in the Shadow	A bank employee is upset when a wealthy man courts his sweetheart. A gambler convinces the bank employee to gamble with bank funds, and he eventually falls into debt. The gambler offers to cancel the bank employee's debts if he provides a plan of the bank. Another man, who is being blackmailed by the gambler, shoots him, and the bank employee discovers the body. The circumstantial evidence points to the bank employee as the murderer, and he is sentenced to death. His sweetheart gets the true murderer's dying confession, and the bank employee is saved.
1926	The Splendid Crime	A young millionaire discovers a pretty thief robbing his safe. He lectures her on the evils of theft and then gives her money, but she leaves it and goes straight. When she goes to his house later as a dressmaker, she discovers he has lost everything in the stock market and is about to steal a large sum from his housekeeper. To stop him she calls in her old cohort to perform the crime first and then takes the blame. He accepts his bankruptcy and becomes a professional golfer. After she returns the money, they marry.

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1927	A Hero on Horseback	A cowboy loses most of the money a rancher lent him when gambling but uses the last \$50 to back a prospector. The cowboy goes to work for the rancher but is fired for getting involved with the rancher's daughter. The prospector strikes gold and he and the cowboy buy a bank. They hire the rancher's daughter as the cowboy's secretary, which upsets the bank cashier who likes the daughter. The cashier robs the bank to get revenge, but the cowboy is the main suspect because of his debts. While the cowboy chases the cashier, the rancher's daughter gets locked in the bank vault. The cowboy returns with the money and lets her out of the vault.
1927	Birds of Prey	Two pickpockets rob a banker. A member of the pickpockets' gang recognizes the banker as a former prison inmate, and blackmails him to keep his identity a secret. The gang stages a theft at a ball, and one of the pickpockets meets and falls in love with the banker's son. The banker is in financial trouble and plans a bank robbery with the gang. The pickpocket who is in love with the banker's son refuses to participate in the robbery and warns the son. He does not realize that his father is involved and locks the bandits in the bank vault. An earthquake occurs, killing the banker and the gang, but the banker's son survives and saves the pickpocket who loves him. They look forward to a happy future together.
1927	Home Struck	A chorus girl rejects her agent's proposal and marries a bank clerk who begins going to wild parties. The clerk's co-worker, who desires the clerk's wife, convinces the clerk to "borrow" money from the bank when he is short cash. The co-worker then tells the bank president the clerk has embezzled. The clerk escapes, and the co-worker agrees to help him if the clerk's wife will yield to his demands. The agent gets the wife a new role, and she rejects his suggestion that she divorce the clerk and marry him. The agent then reunites the wife and her husband.
1929	Nothing but the Truth	A stockbroker encourages his clients to invest in companies that are failing. His fiancée asks him to invest a large sum of her money for a charity project. He makes a bet with the money that he can tell the truth for twenty-four hours. He wins the bet and helps his fiancée.
1929	The Sap	A bank clerk confesses to his brother-in-law, a small-town investor, that he has been using bank funds for speculation. On a hunch, brother-in-law discovers that another clerk has been doing the same thing. The brother-in-law offers to leave town and take the blame for the embezzlement if the clerks give him \$50,000, and they agree. When the clerks are on the verge of being discovered, the investor tells them he played the stock market and won more than enough to return the money to the bank. He returns to town a rich hero.
1929	The Wolf of Wall Street	The Wolf of Wall Street, a ruthless stockbroker, corners the copper market and then sells short making a fortune but ruining the finances of his maid's fiancé. Out of spite, the maid tells the stockbroker's wife that he has been cheating on her with his male business partner. The stockbroker deliberately ruins himself and his partner in the market and leaves his wife as revenge.
1930	Big Money	A messenger for a brokerage house is supposed to make a cash deposit at the bank, but he goes to gamble instead. He arrives at the bank after it closes and must keep the cash overnight. He invites his boss' daughter to dinner, but he can't afford the restaurant, so he pays with company money. On the way home he escapes two crooks and inadvertently wins a large sum of money from a notorious gambler. The boss' daughter rejects the messenger after finding out he is a gambler. The messenger sees someone killed at a poker game and decides to stop gambling but is arraigned as a witness to murder. He reconciles with the boss' daughter.
1930	Man to Man	A son returns home when his father is sentenced to prison time and gets a job at a bank. He falls in love with the bank president's secretary, which upsets a co-worker who also likes her. The father is paroled, but the son avoids him fearing that a relationship will tarnish his reputation. The father goes into the bank the same day money is stolen from the son's till. The son confesses to embezzling to save his father from going back to jail, and the father confesses to save his son. The bank president's secretary exposes the co-worker as the real thief, and the father and son are reunited.

SEC on the Silver Screen: How Films Shape Public Perception of Financial Regulation in the United States
During the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries, 1914-2023

By Loren E. Miller, Ph.D.

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1930	On the Level	An iron worker flirts with a woman who is a decoy for racketeers who have an option on lots that they sell before they expire. She convinces him to invest his life savings in lots that have no title and gets him to sell them to his friends. When they discover the fake deal, his friends thought he knew about it. The iron worker catches the racketeers before their train leaves and returns all his friends' money.
1931	Honor Among Lovers	The secretary to a financial broker resists his advances to marry someone of her own class. After she marries a struggling broker, her boss asks her husband to do some business for him, and they quickly rise to the upper class. The husband is corrupted by wealth. He unsuccessfully tries to corner the silk market, loses his fortune, and embezzles from clients, including the boss. The wife asks her boss for money to keep the husband out of jail, and the husband then shoots the boss and blames it on the wife. The husband is put on trial, but the boss drops the charges. The wife divorces him for her boss.
1931	Reaching for the Moon	A society woman bets that she can get a date with a romantically inexperienced, but successful, stockbroker. She makes the date but then breaks it for her own amusement. To get even, the stockbroker follows the woman and her fiancé on a ship and woos her the entire trip, but he falls in love with her despite himself. During the trip, he neglects his financial situation, and when the stock market crashes, he is bankrupt. On the last day, he confesses his love, and she reciprocates, saying she will marry him even though he is broke.
1931	Secrets of a Secretary	A young girl secretly marries a gigolo who abandons her after her father's death. The father left her without an inheritance because he lost everything in the stock market crash. A family friend hires her as a secretary to help plan his daughter's wedding, but his daughter is also in love with the gigolo. The friend's daughter secretly sees the gigolo and gives him her father's money. The secretary and the friend's daughter's fiancé fall in love, but he feels bound to the daughter because her family helped him financially. The gigolo's racketeer boss notices him stealing jewels and kills him. The friend's daughter admits her part in the scandal and is sent to the Far East as punishment, and her fiancé and the secretary marry.
1931	Three Who Loved	A banker spends his time trying to build a successful future for himself and his fiancée. His fiancée feels neglected and falls in love with the banker's friend and co-worker, who seduces her with promises of marriage. The banker loses a large sum of money from speculating on the stock market, which he was going to use to buy a house. He steals money from his friend's drawer at work to make up for his losses. The friend tries to leave town to escape the fiancée. The police accuse the friend of the robbery, and the banker lets him take the blame. Five years later, the fiancée is still in love with the friend and does not love the banker, to whom she is now married. The friend escapes prison and comes to their house and tells the fiancée he never intended to marry her. She realizes that she loves her husband, but he confesses to the crime. The police kill the friend, and the wife promises to wait for her husband.
1932	After Tomorrow	A married woman has an affair with a man and flees the country with him when federal examiners investigate him for using his bank's money for speculation. The speculation later pays off, and the woman returns and offers her ex-husband money to give to their daughter so she can get married, but he refuses it. The daughter's fiancé finally makes enough money for them to get married through returns on a legitimate investment.
1932	American Madness	A bank's board of directors are upset with the president's liberal lending practices, which he believes will help end the Depression. The bank's head cashier has a large gambling debt, so a gang makes him help rob the bank, but he implicates the head teller. The head teller refuses to tell his alibi because he does not want to reveal that the president's wife was out with the head cashier. A run on the bank occurs, and the directors will only help if the president resigns and gives them his bank stock. The president refuses, but when the head teller is proven innocent, the president changes his mind because he learns about his wife's actions and his friend's unwillingness to help. Eventually bank clients begin to make deposits, the president decides not to kill himself, and he takes control of the bank. The directors are impressed and deposit savings into the bank.

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During the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries, 1914-2023**

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1932	Harlem is Heaven	A wealthy man offers a poor woman a job at his theater. The man is manipulative and runs a policy racket. He is possessive of the woman and fires her and an employee who protects her from his advances. The man offers the employee's friend, who is in love with the woman, company stock in his newest scheme and money for floating the product around. The district attorney investigates the new racket and arrests the employee's friend on fraud charges, because only his name is associated with the scheme. The police eventually free the friend and arrest the man running the racket for fraud, but an angry customer who bought the fake stock kills the wealthy man.
1932	Prosperity	A son inherits a family bank from his mother during the Depression. The bank's biggest depositor, the son's mother-in-law, is afraid the bank will fail, so she withdraws her money and creates a run on the bank. The son tries to get back his mother's bonds, which he invested in a building without permission, but the project manager will not return them. The mother is forced to sell everything to keep the bank going and convinces people to barter instead of using cash. The son believes the building will not be finished in time, and the bonds will be forfeit, so he forges a stop completion notice on the building. The building is finished on time, but the building project manager steals the bonds. The mother tries to kill herself to save the bank with her life insurance money, but she is unsuccessful. The son gets the money back from the project manager and saves the bank.
1932	Strange Justice	A bank vice president confronts the president about a large sum of money he embezzled. The vice president threatens to expose the president unless he pays him half the stolen funds. The vice president suggests they stage a car accident. The president goes to his former employee's home, whom he is jealous of because he likes his girlfriend. After he leaves, the police discover the president's crashed car and an unidentifiable body. They arrest the employee based on evidence the president and vice president planted. The employee is scheduled to be executed, but the president has a change of heart, strangles the vice president, and is shot in the process. He arrives at the prison, reveals the truth, and stops the employee's execution before he dies.
1932	The Crash	A stockbroker finds out his wife is having affairs and tells her to get investment recommendations from her latest lover who is a high-profile financier. She gets recommendations but breaks up with the financier. When the stock market behaves strangely, the husband asks the wife to get inside information from the financier. The financier is suspicious of the wife's quick change of heart and doesn't give her information. The wife tells the husband the financier said the market will rise, and the husband loses all their money in the 1929 crash. The wife agrees to marry an Australian sheep rancher when she discovers her husband is broke, but her husband still loves her. The husband confronts the financier about information he gave the wife, and the financier gives him a loan. The wife comes to say goodbye to the husband, but they reconcile, and she tears up the financier's loan.
1932	The Mouthpiece	A former prosecutor begins defending racketeers after he discovers he convicted an innocent man and had him executed. He saves an embezzler from prison by convincing the embezzler's employer to accept a partial reimbursement in exchange for hiding the crime from company stockholders. The employer finds out that the lawyer is taking a large sum of the money as payment and files a complaint against him, but he escapes punishment by arguing that the employer aided in the crime by not reporting it. The lawyer then falls for his new secretary who is repulsed by his morals. The secretary's fiancé is falsely arrested for bond theft, and the lawyer discovers who really stole the bonds. He has the thief arrested and is murdered by the underworld he defended for turning the thief in.
1932	The Penal Code	A young man who works at a bank goes to jail for a crime he did not commit. To hide that he is in jail, he tells everyone that he is working in Australia and has his mail routed through the country. After his release, the man returns to his position at the bank and resumes courting the bank president's daughter. The mail employee who re-routed the man's mail is also a clerk at the bank and blackmails the man to keep his secret. The bank vice president is a romantic rival for the bank president's daughter. To pay off his gambling debts and get rid of his rival, the vice president plots to steal from the bank and frame the man, but he is stopped by a detective.

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1932	The Penguin Pool Murders	A wife learns that her shady stockbroker husband has lost all the family money on bad investments and asks a former boyfriend for help. She meets the former boyfriend at the Battery Park Aquarium, which is run by one of her husband's angry, defrauded clients. The husband finds out about the meeting, shows up, and is knocked unconscious during a fight with the former boyfriend. A schoolteacher finds the husband murdered in the penguin tank and helps the police inspector figure solve the murder by reviewing suspects including the wife, the former boyfriend, the angry client, a lawyer, and a pickpocket. When the wife and her former boyfriend are put on trial, the schoolteacher deduces that the wife's lawyer, who was also her lover, killed the husband.
1933	Bureau of Missing Persons	A police officer is assigned to a missing persons case and is ordered to find a woman's husband. He discovers that she is actually a secretary wanted for murdering her boss who was a banker, but does not believe it. When he goes to listen to her side of the story she is missing. He discovers her bag and clothes on a dock, but does not believe the staged suicide. The officer holds a fake funeral to lure her from hiding. She shows up, as well as her missing boss. The woman tells the officer that the banker murdered his mentally disturbed twin in order to stage his own funeral and escape embezzlement charges. The banker denies the charge, but is then tricked into telling the truth.
1933	Day of Reckoning	A building and loan employee falls into debt because of his extravagant wife. He is arrested for embezzlement. His wife seeks financial help from a wealthy businessman who lusts after her. He agrees to help, but secretly gets the lawyer to ensure the husband is sent to jail. The wife later goes to the businessman again for a job and he seduces her. One of his ex-lovers murders the wife, but he takes the blame and goes to jail. He fights with the husband in jail, and the husband's friend pushes the businessman off the roof. The husband is finally released and reunited with his children.
1933	Justice Takes a Holiday	The head of a company embezzles all of its money, leaving the company's safe expert without a job or money, because he invested it all in the company. Concerned about supporting his pregnant wife, he and a partner rob a house. When the partner kills the owner of the house, the safe expert is blamed for the murder and goes to jail. His wife dies in childbirth and the judge who sentences the husband, and was in love with his wife, adopts their daughter. The judge keeps the safe expert from getting parole, and when he finds this out, the safe expert escapes from prison to kill the judge. But, when he sees how much his daughter loves the judge, he returns to jail.
1933	Man of Action	A sheriff shoots and kills a thief during a bank robbery. The sheriff finds the thief's bag and discovers that it is empty. A ranger arrives in town and stops a man from hitting the bank teller. The ranger learns that the stolen money belonged to a ranch owner who borrowed money from the bank president to pay back a loan. The ranch owner was also injured in the robbery. The ranger finds out that someone hired the thief to fake a robbery. The bank teller is shot as he is about to confess to the ranger. The ranger confronts the bank president who admits he was blackmailed by the man that almost hit the bank teller, because the man wanted to buy the ranch. The ranger arrests the man and shoots the deputy that tries to ambush him.
1933	Master of Men	A crane operator at a steel mill becomes the personnel manager. He discovers that the mill's owner and manager are making a deal to push out the mill's principle stockholder, and he warns the stockholder. The stockholder uses his Wall Street knowledge to push out the owner and the manager and take over the mill. He makes the personnel manager president of the mill. The personnel manager marries the mill owner's daughter, and they move to New York where he earns a fortune through stocks, mergers, and consolidations. He becomes a ruthless businessman, closes the mill, and neglects his wife. He spreads himself too thin, and the mill's principal stockholder ends his business dealings with him. The personnel manager's wife leaks the information to his competitors and works to weaken her husband's financial position. When the stock market crashes in 1929, the personnel manager goes bankrupt. He returns home and mill's principal stockholder re-opens the mill and places him in charge where he regains his reputation and his wife's love.

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1933	The Big Brain	A gambler partners with a fake stocks and bonds dealer to sell stocks. When he becomes successful, he leaves for England to escape the district attorney. On the trip he offers a job to a man who wants to make enough money to marry his wealthy fiancée. The man thinks the stock is legitimate so he accepts. In London they are successful, and the gambler begins an oil scheme in Bucharest. When people discover the scam, the company actually strikes oil. The gambler sends his employee to Bucharest and tries to seduce his fiancée. When she refuses, the gambler frames her fiancé for the scheme and escapes. She pretends to seduce the gambler and helps arrest and extradite him.
1933	The Little Giant	An ex-bootlegger decides to go straight after Prohibition ends. He falls in love with a socialite and tries to impress her by renting a mansion. He proposes and she accepts, and then she and her family sell him their fake bond business to steal his money. When they try and escape to Europe, his realtor reveals that the socialite's family also swindled her father out of all his money, causing his death. In order to avoid jail due to the bond debt, he calls on his old mob friends to help recoup his money. He then repays everyone who was swindled by the family and marries his realtor.
1933	The Lone Avenger	A son returns to his hometown to find his father, the bank president, dead and accused of embezzling funds. The coroner declares the death a suicide, but the son is convinced he was murdered. The son tries to find father's papers, but two henchmen are also looking for them. The bank vice president, who was embezzling the funds, sent the henchmen to find the papers because they prove his guilt. The vice president creates a plan to blame the son for his father's alleged crimes. The henchmen attack the bank examiner, and the vice president hires a replacement who tells the townspeople that the bank president embezzled their money. Someone planted in the crowd states the son should pay for his father's crimes, and a mob tries to lynch the son, but he escapes. The son finds the wounded bank examiner, and a group of friends help him trick one henchman into revealing his identity, but the second henchman and the vice president escape before he implicates them. The henchman and the vice president lock one of the friends in the bank vault. The son wins a gun battle against the vice president, makes him write a confession, and frees the friend. The son re-opens the bank with his friends, and they have satisfied customers.
1933	Turn Back the Clock	A poor cigar shop owner has dinner with his wife and two now wealthy childhood friends. The friend offers him the opportunity to invest in an aluminum underwriting scheme, but the wife refuses the deal. The owner drunkenly tells his wife that he would have been happier if he married the rich childhood friend. When he is hit by a car he dreams that he goes back in time and can re-live his life. He invests in a land investment scheme, marries the rich childhood friend, and becomes a millionaire based on his knowledge of he future and successful investments, such as the Ford Company. He donates money to veterans of World War I and is made head of the War Industry Board. He loses the post because of his belligerent loan policies. He has dinner with the other couple, and offers them a safe investment. He is unaware that his wife put all their savings in the stock market, and is ruined by the crash. He is now a bank president and learns that his employees plundered the bank during the crash, and he is held responsible for it. As the police pursue him, he wakes up a poor but happy man.
1933	Twin Husbands	A criminal wakes up in a mansion and is surrounded by people convincing him he lives there and that he has amnesia. He figures out the plan but plays along with it, but when his supposed wife and secretary find out he knows that he does not live there, they offer him money to impersonate her husband who is away. The criminal fools the estate trustee and signs for a large sum of money in bonds. The wife admits she was trying to save her husband from his secretary's financial manipulations. The trustee admits he tried to steal back the bonds to cover his own over-drafts. The criminal discovers that the secretary actually covered up the husband's death and stole his securities. He can't turn the secretary in because of his own criminal past, but he forces him to leave for South America and then stays with the wife.

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1934	Back Page	A woman takes a job as an editor at a small town newspaper. She turns the paper into a success and learns about a local stock deal where the town banker, who owns the mortgage on the newspaper, is encouraging people to invest heavily in a speculative oil well proposition. The oil well overseer gives a statement to the paper saying the well is a failure. The editor is skeptical, and when the banker says he is going to buy some of the town's interest to alleviate the burden, she knows the well is a fraud. The overseer changes his statement and the area becomes an oil boom town. When the paper becomes successful, the banker decides to use his buy-out clause. The editor threatens to print damaging stories about the banker and overseer unless they follow her plan for the paper, and they accept.
1934	David Harum	In 1893 a small town banker hires an employee during the financial panic. The employee's father died when he lost his money during the panic, and his fiancée broke their engagement because of the loss. The employee helps the banker in a fight with a forger, and is then protected by a wealthy woman. The woman wants to marry the employee, but he will not wed until he can support a wife. The woman enters an unlikely horse in a harness race, and the banker convinces his employee to bet his savings on it. The employee wins and asks the woman to marry him.
1934	In Love with Life	A millionaire's daughter elopes, and he disowns her when she returns poor, abandoned, and with a child. The millionaire takes custody of his grandson and educates him, but refuses to let his daughter have contact with her child. When the stock market crashes, the millionaire shows his morality by sacrificing his money for his investors. The daughter makes another attempt to reconcile with her father and, humbled by his financial losses, he agrees.
1934	Inside Information	A bank's assistant cashier is falsely accused of stealing security bonds. His dog helps him find the true culprit responsible for the inside job, who is a member of a criminal gang posing as a bank depositor. The cashier, the dog and the police fight the robbers, recover the bonds, and clear the cashier's name.
1934	Mills of the Gods	A wife turns her family business into an industrial factory after her husband's death. The wife does not believe her children are competent enough to run the factory, so she entrusts it to the Board of Directors when she retires. During the Depression, profits drop largely and the town is on the verge of financial ruin. She orders her son and daughter to help, but the son secretly decides to close it down and leave the country, which leads to a riot. The plant labor organizer falls in love with the wife's granddaughter who reopens the plant with the money she made.
1934	Six of a Kind	A bank employee goes on a cross country trip with his wife and is unaware that his colleague has deposited embezzled bank money into his suitcase. After the couple leaves for their vacation, the colleague, who planned to retrieve the hidden money, cannot locate the suitcases. The couple is unaware they are carrying stolen money and are robbed. The employee wires his bank for money, but his colleague and two bank detectives have the town sheriff arrest him. The sheriff cannot find the stolen money because the owner of the bank employee's hotel took it to the police. The hotel owner returns with evidence that the colleague is guilty, and the couple enjoy the rest of their vacation.
1934	The Oil Raider	An oil prospector takes an investment and a loan from his financial backer, but is unaware that the backer added an option to the loan stating that he would gain total control of the well if the prospector could not quickly pay it back. The prospector then finds out that he lost all his money in the stock market and is near bankruptcy. The backer hires the prospector's old employee to sabotage the well. When the prospector discovers the contract change, he and the backer's niece confront the backer and he dissolves the deal. The prospector then strikes oil.

**SEC on the Silver Screen: How Films Shape Public Perception of Financial Regulation in the United States
During the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries, 1914-2023**

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1934	We're Rich Again	A formerly wealthy businessman is almost bankrupt days before his daughter's wedding to a wealthy stockbroker. The businessman's naive niece arrives for the wedding and the groom falls for her on a trip to Mexico. On the trip, the cousin learns about an investment tip on a lucrative oil stock and convinces her uncle to borrow money against his life insurance policy to invest in it. The uncle complies and his stock becomes very valuable.
1934	You Can't Buy Everything	In 1893 a rich widow withdraws all of her money from a bank when it appoints a new vice president, with whom she had a romantic past. When her son graduates from college in 1904, she forces him to take a job at the bank. A friend tries to reunite the widow with the vice president and it does not work, but during the meeting their children fall in love. When the children return from their honeymoon, Wall Street is in a financial panic. To save the bank from bankruptcy, the vice president offers his own railroad stocks as collateral against a loan. The widow agrees to lend the money but demands it all back as soon as the bank is secure. She eventually returns all his stocks after realizing he left her at the altar because her father tried to force him to sign a pre-nuptial agreement denying him any money.
1935	Charlie Chan in Paris	A detective is hired to investigate bond forgeries in Paris for a London bank. The case becomes more complex after murders take place, and the police wrongly arrest the bank president's daughter for murder. The detective eventually discovers a secret room in the sewers where the forgeries are created and apprehends the criminals, clearing the girl's name.
1935	Good God Gold	In the late 1920s, an investor makes a lot of money in the stock market, but when a reporter suggests that a crash is coming, he sells his stock just before 1929. Afterward unethical lawyers ask him to use his reputation to make money in receiverships and he agrees. The investor sends receivership papers to a hotel president who then kills himself. The reporter agrees to help the president's daughter avenge her father's death. The investor takes over a utilities company by creating anxiety among small investors so they will support his bid for receivership. The daughter becomes his secretary in order to spy on him and sees him signing incriminating documents. One of the lawyer's nephews shoots the investor for stealing his wife, but he hands the papers over to the daughter before he dies.
1935	Murder Man	Someone murders a crooked businessman, and a reporter helps the police figure out it was his equally crooked business partner. They believe he wanted to collect on his partner's life insurance. The case is air tight and the reporter helps bring a swift conviction. The reporter goes to interview the partner in jail, and says he knows the partner did not commit the crime and makes a tape confessing to murdering the businessman. The reporter wanted revenge because his father lost his life savings due to of the man's investment fraud, and his wife killed herself because of his affections. The reporter then goes to jail.
1936	Ellis Island	Three men rob a New York Federal Reserve bank. After they are released from prison, a fourth thief, posing as part of the Treasury Department, offers to help one of the men escape deportation if he splits the hidden robbery profits. But the robber is captured by a gang of thieves who also want the money and eventually find it. The real Treasury Department official and the police arrest the imposter official and the gang, and recover the money.
1936	Man Hunt	A school teacher finds a gangster who escaped from jail hiding in the schoolhouse. She helps him hide from the police, and he tells her that he plans to rob the town bank. The teacher's reporter boyfriend tries to warn the police about the plan, but no one believes him. The teacher and her boyfriend start a run on the bank so there will be nothing to steal when the gangster carries out his plan. The police catch the gangster, and the boyfriend gets the inside story and is promoted to editor.
1936	Postal Inspector	An in-debt nightclub owner finds out about a large shipment of old dollar bills being removed from circulation at the Federal Reserve Bank from a postal worker, and steals it. The postal worker, his girlfriend, and brother catch the nightclub owner and his gang who are sentenced to twenty years in prison and recover the money. The Federal Reserve orders the bills to be immediately mutilated.

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During the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries, 1914-2023

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1936	West of Nevada	A man rescues two taxidermists from a gang attack, but the men are not really taxidermists; they are hiding gold in the animals. The bank president who sent the gang after the men is under federal investigation and needs the gold because he embezzled bank funds. The man who rescued the others finds out that the taxidermists are Indian miners, in danger of a claim jump and the gang steals the gold the miners worked for. The rescuer reveals his father is a senator and sent him undercover to protect the Indians and catch the president and the gang leader, which he successfully does.
1937	Carnival Queen	An heiress loses all her money in the Great Depression, but realizes she has one asset left--a failing carnival. She examines the carnival and realizes that the manager has been deliberately wrecking it and replaces him. The manager swears revenge and fixes the game wheels and then robs the new manager of the proceeds from a charity event. He frames the heiress, but the police realize the truth and discover he is part of a gang of bank robbers using the carnival as cover. The new manager and the detective for the Banker's Association catch them. The heiress sells her house to finance the carnival and falls in love with the new manager.
1937	Don't Tell the Wife	After his release from prison, a con artist convinces his cohort and a retired gang member to perform a stock market scam involving a goldmine he won in prison. The gang member convinces his unknowing wife to invest their money in the scheme, and they also hire the financial editor of a paper to unknowingly support them. They sell stock over the phone and are suspected of fraud. When the editor discovers the scheme, he begins to tell the police, but instead investigates the mine, which is full of gold. He then buys shares through real brokers using the wife's money. The gang try to buy back the shares to manipulate the market, but the wife's money is already gone, and she is rich.
1937	Git Along Little Dogies	A bank president embezzles money to support an oil drilling project, but the project manager is trying to swindle the president in order to take over the bank's lease on the land when it runs out. The manager claims the well is dry. The president attempts suicide after he discovers a bank examiner is coming, but a cowboy who is opposed to the drilling, saves his reputation by saying he was shot in a robbery. The cowboy discovers the manager's crooked dealings, but the manager starts a rumor that the cowboy swindled his friends by convincing them to buy worthless oil stock. The cowboy discovers that the well only needs to be dynamited to produce oil. The cowboy gets half the company and gives out dividends on people's stock.
1937	The Man In Blue	A bank bookkeeper is promoted to teller, but when he encounters personal problems he accidentally takes a large deposit from the bank. When he is fired, he steals a large sum in bonds from another bank, hides it, and is then imprisoned. The teller's father and girlfriend convince him to return the bonds, but before he can a former inmate steals them. The teller is paroled to recover the bonds, but the issuing company mistakes the inmate for the teller, thus saving him from jail again.
1937	The Toast of New York	During the Civil War, Jim Fisk and his partners make a fortune by smuggling cotton from the South, but they lose the money by investing it in worthless Confederate war bonds. They trick Daniel Drew into buying his shipping company with the useless bonds, and turn a profit. Drew then asks them to help prevent Cornelius Vanderbilt from purchasing the Erie Railroad Company. Fisk uses this to his own advantage and manipulates railroad stock, infuriating investors. Abandoned by his partners he tries to corner the gold market himself, which leads to Black Friday. President Ulysses Grant stops the financial panic by releasing the government gold supply. Fisk is shot by an investor and dies. This film is loosely based on Fisk's life.
1939	Beauty for the Asking	After a cosmetic salesman leaves a beautician to marry a dowdy wealthy woman, the beautician develops a new facial cream. With the help of an advertising executive, she gains financial backing from the wealthy woman who wanted to help her husband start a business. The beauty line becomes a success, but the husband still flirts with the beautician. The wife asks the beautician how to save her marriage, and the beautician confesses her feelings for the husband. The wife agrees to divorce the husband for the company's stock, but the husband refuses to give up his wife's wealth. The wife divorces him anyway, and the beautician falls for the ad executive.

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1939	Ex-Champ	The son of a washed-up boxing champion neglects his father to climb the social ladder and marries a banker's daughter. The son loses a large sum of his client's money in the stock market and is faced with jail time. The father bets against his boxing protégé in order to help his son financially. Even though his protégé wins, the father's friend bet all his money on the protégé and they use the winnings to help the son.
1939	Irish Luck	The bellhop at a hotel helps clear the names of two hotel guests accused of bond theft. After a series of murders committed by the thief, the bellhop finds the hotel's detective with the bonds, who confesses to killing the bank president after he stole his own institution's bonds. The police arrive and save the bellhop by arresting the detective, and the two guests are exonerated.
1939	Stagecoach	In 1855, a self-righteous banker takes a stagecoach out of town with a group of other travelers. He is carrying a carpetbag filled with embezzled money, and believes he can get away because the telegraph is down. The cavalry must protect the stagecoach from Indian attacks. At the end of the journey, the banker is arrested for embezzlement after the townspeople inform him that the telegraph has been repaired.
1939	The Gorilla	An insurance broker receives a death threat from a murder called "the Gorilla." He hires a group of detectives to protect him, and the broker disappears from his mansion. Then one of the broker's clients arrives and accuses him of manufacturing the scheme to embezzle money from his insurance company. An SEC agent also arrives and agrees that the broker wrote the death threat to throw off suspicion. The agent leads the detectives through the house's secret passages and find the broker who is tied up. The detectives discover that the agent is not from the SEC, but is actually the Gorilla. The broker then reveals that he did manufacture the threats to catch the Gorilla whose crimes were ruining his insurance company.
1939	Undercover Doctor	A surgeon helps a ring of gangsters who rob the New York Federal Reserve Bank by operating on their wounds. The surgeon eventually refuses to perform more surgeries, but changes his mind after his stocks drop, because he needs the money. When the head gangster can no longer evade the FBI, he asks the surgeon to perform a facelift, but they are both caught by the FBI during the operation.
1940	If I Had My Way	When a young girl's father dies, the man's friends deliver her to her socialite uncle who refuses to take her. Instead, they then bring her to her great aunt and uncle who are retired vaudeville performers. The men drunkenly buy a failing Swedish restaurant with their savings and decide to turn it into a club with help from the great aunt and uncle. The men convince the socialite uncle to buy worthless shares of stock to finance the club. The uncle threatens to expose their fraud, but the club is successful. The manager of a bank then lends the men the money to pay back the uncle, and the family is reunited.
1940	Johnny Apollo	After a multi-millionaire stockbroker is imprisoned for embezzlement, his son tries to get him paroled. In order to earn enough money to win parole, the son joins a gang. During an administration crackdown the head gangster's girlfriend double-crosses him to save the son, but they both go to jail. Once in prison, the gangster and the son plan an escape, but the father finds out just in time to stop the son. The gangster shoots the father, but makes it look like the son did it. The gangster dies in the escape, and the father clears his son's name. When both men are paroled, they start a new life.
1940	Money and the Woman	The vice president of a banking corporation investigates a clerk. When the clerk becomes ill, his wife fills in for him. The vice president discovers the clerk was embezzling, but he does not tell the bonding company, and he lends the wife \$9,000 to balance the books because he falls in love with her. The wife discovers her husband's plot to rob the bank with his mistress, the bank bookkeeper. When the clerk recovers, he tries to blame his wife for the missing money and blackmail her father to keep her out of jail. The vice president and the wife try to prevent the bank robbery, but the clerk sneaks into the vault and gets stuck inside. The vice president and wife notify the police, but the clerk shoots his way out and escapes to his mistress' house. The police capture the clerk, and the vice president is offered a job at the bank's Honolulu branch and asks the wife to join him.

**SEC on the Silver Screen: How Films Shape Public Perception of Financial Regulation in the United States
During the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries, 1914-2023**

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1940	Opened by Mistake	A newspaper publisher asks his reporter to cover a story on a bank president who escaped with embezzled bank funds. The reporter tells the publisher he heard the president was in Mexico, and uses the publisher's money to take a vacation. When the reporter buys a trunk to add plausibility to his lie, he finds a dead woman inside. An insurance company investigator arrives looking for the trunk, which she thinks contains embezzled money, and they agree to solve the murder together. They follow a trail of clues to the dead woman's house and discover her husband killed her and hid the embezzled money in an identical trunk. The police arrest the man, the reporter and the investigator marry, and the reporter later reads that the bank president was arrested.
1940	The Bank Dick	A man accidentally captures a bank robber, and the bank president makes him bank detective. A swindler then sells the man phony stock in a mining company. The man convinces a fellow bank employee to invest in the stock by embezzling money from the bank as an advance on his bonus. A bank examiner then shows up to audit the books, and the man unsuccessfully tries to poison him in order to hide the embezzlement. As the audit begins, the stock becomes very profitable and the bank is held up. The robbers force the man to drive their getaway car and he accidentally catches them. Through a reward for their capture and the mine stock money, the man becomes the richest person in town.
1941	Arizona Cyclone	The owners of two freight line lines compete for a contract and one, who is a banker, refuses to give the other company a bond, and hires a gang of outlaws to sabotage the rival line. When the banker pressures the gang because they failed, they threaten to reveal that he embezzled bank funds to finance his freight line. The outlaws kill the owner of the rival line and the banker is caught trying to blow up the rival company. The two lines' crews shoot it out, and the sabotaged crew wins. The murdered owner's daughter takes over his company, is awarded the contract, and offers the wagon boss a half share.
1941	Here Comes Mr. Jordan	A boxer dies before his time and his soul is placed in a murdered millionaire's body. A woman asks the millionaire for help because he sold worthless securities using her father's name. The boxer in the millionaire's body agrees to help her and gets her father out of jail and buys back all the bad investments. The millionaire's wife and her lover murder the millionaire a second time, and the boxer is transported into his boxing rival's body. In that body he wins the world championship, helps catch the murderers, and dates the girl he helped.
1941	Nine Lives Are Not Enough	A reporter discovers the body of a missing millionaire and does not believe the millionaire committed suicide as the crime scene implies. He launches an investigation, but is fired from the paper when the inquest is ruled as suicide. He continues his investigation, but the people he suspects keep turning up dead. The reporter finally catches the murderer, the millionaire's partner, who killed him because the millionaire threatened to reveal that the partner embezzled to cover his losses in the stock market. The partner escapes, but is killed in a police shootout.
1941	Nothing but the Truth	A stockbroker is asked by his boss' niece to help her double her money through investments, so she can donate it to charity. The boss tries to force the broker into making his clients invest in worthless stock, but he refuses and tells the truth. He then makes a bet with the boss and his partners that he can tell the truth for twenty-four hours. He wins the bet despite the boss and his partner's treachery, and the niece gets her money and falls in love with him. This is a remake of a 1939 film of the same name.

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1942	Inside the Law	A petty criminal steals the identity and job of a newly hired bank manager. The bank president allows the criminal posing as the manager to hire people, and he appoints his gang members to the new positions. The gang discovers the bank is cash poor and come up with a scheme that brings in depositors, and the bank accumulates \$72,000. The gang members decide to run the bank legitimately, but one member steals the money in a suitcase. The real bank manager shows up at the gang's apartment and tells the police that they stole the money. When a bank examiner shows up, the gang locks him in the bank vault until the petty criminal returns with the stolen suitcase, which everyone discovers is empty. The bank president reveals that he took the money home each week for safekeeping. The bank president and the examiner count the money, and it is all there. The police drop the charges, and the gang runs the bank honestly.
1942	King's Row	In a small town in the late 19th century, five young people whose lives are intertwined grow up together. One of them is a rich orphan. A bank official steals his trust fund, and he is forced to work for the railroad. He is crushed by a boxcar and the town physician needlessly amputates both of his legs because he feels it is his duty to punish wickedness. The orphan falls into a depression, but becomes resilient when his friend, who is a doctor, tells him the truth about the amputation.
1943	The Falcon Strikes Back	Criminals frame an amateur sleuth for murdering a bank official and stealing war bonds. The sleuth continually escapes arrest, tries to discover the true culprits, and uncovers a war-bond racket. He discovers several criminals working together. Some of them are murdered by a puppeteer who claims that they robbed him of his life savings. The sleuth pursues the puppeteer who falls off a building and dies while trying to escape, and the police arrest the surviving female criminal for bond theft.
1944	Barbary Coast Gent	In the 1880s a con-man needs enough money to get married and flees town after wounding an ex-partner. He sneaks on to a private train car owned by a railroad magnate. The magnate sends him to a boom town to make a speech in his place posing as his financial partner. The con-man begins pushing phony mining stock, which soon becomes real after he finds some gold. He gains a lot in investments, but his ex-partner steals the money. He then begins to rob Wells Fargo stagecoaches with payroll shipments to drill in the mine, and eventually finds a lot of gold. When the town thinks his now deceased ex-partner committed the robberies, the man claims the deed and goes to jail.
1944	Cheyenne Wildcat	A bank president catches his cashier who is exchanging gold certificates with counterfeits. The president realizes that the cashier committed the same crime fifteen years earlier, which the president had his partner imprisoned for. The president has his ex-partner released and plans to tell him the truth, but the cashier and his accomplice have the president killed. The ex-partner takes a job as a bank guard to watch over his daughter, who the president raised as his own. The daughter invests her inheritance in the bank to save it, and the accomplice creates a run on the bank. When the bank remains solvent, the accomplice steals a money shipment. The daughter realizes who her biological father is, and they successfully clear his name, catch the cashier and accomplice, and run the bank together.
1944	Mr. Skeffington	In 1914, a brother and sister are living above their means to keep up the appearance of wealth. The brother gets a job on Wall Street, but is fired by his employer for embezzling. The brother threatens to commit suicide, so the sister marries the employer to save her brother. The brother leaves for Europe and the sister, who does not love her husband, has a series of affairs and then divorces him. The sister becomes ill and ages very quickly. All of her suitors are repulsed by her and she is left alone until she reunites with her ex-husband who has been blinded by his time in a concentration camp.

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1944	Mrs. Parkington	The elderly matriarch of a large family meets her great-granddaughter's fiancé. The fiancé confesses that he quit working at the granddaughter's father's investment firm because he discovered that government agents were going to arrest him for theft and fraud. The father embezzled his investors' money to recoup Wall Street losses. The fiancé stops the father from killing himself. The father then asks the matriarch to lend him the money, which is the grandchildren's inheritance, so he does not go to jail. The family votes on lending the father the money, and decides not to, so he goes to turn himself in. The matriarch decides to use the inheritance to pay back her grandson's debt.
1944	Shake Hands with Murder	The owner of a bail bond business bails out an investment company executive. When the executive disappears, the business faces bankruptcy. The executive's boss admits to the owner that he framed the executive for the crime, hoping the real thief would come forward, but the boss is suddenly murdered. The owner's partner finds the executive, who convinces her to help search for stolen securities. They find them in a booby-trapped safe, and then get the company's board members to individually approach the safe. When one refuses to approach it because he knows about the booby-trap, they realize he is the thief. The partner then captures him and marries the executive.
1944	Sheriff of Las Vegas	A cowboy stops a bank robbery and returns the money to the bank president. He does not know that the president embezzled a large sum from the bank and staged the robbery to cover up the shortage of money. The territorial judge asks the president to bring over a list of securities because he is going to cut his rebellious son out of his will. The president uses the opportunity to kill the judge, and the son is arrested for the crime. The president tries to kill the son because he needs the money, and the son is the heir. The cowboy catches the president, and the son gains his inheritance and settles down.
1945	Fighting Bill Carson	Soon after banking is legalized in Texas, thieves hold up a wagon with a large amount of payroll, but a man who is known for fighting injustice stops the robbery. The townspeople nominate the man who pushed the bank legislation through lobbying to run the bank, but he refuses. He arranged the robbery and plans to rob the bank. The robber's niece gets a job at the bank and learns the safe code, and tells her uncle who robs the safe. The crime fighter realizes who the robbers are and forces the man to return the money, and all the people involved in the plan end up dead.
1945	Wilson	When Woodrow Wilson is elected President, he establishes the Federal Trade Commission and the Federal Reserve Bank Act, and passes the Anti-Trust Act. These actions gained him enemies in the Senate. This film is based on Wilson's life.
1946	Canyon Passage	In 1856, the owner of an Oregon mule train discovers that his best friend, who is a banker, has a gambling problem. The problem is so severe that he is embezzling funds to cover his losses. The banker's best friend agrees to pay back his debt if his friend gives up poker. The banker takes the money, but continues to build debt with a professional gambler, and he kills a miner from whom he was embezzling. The owner orders the gambler to pay the money he won back to the banker, but the banker is arrested for the miner's murder. The banker is found guilty of the murder and the townspeople kill him.
1946	It's A Wonderful Life	A failing building and loan society tries to keep one man from gaining financial control of the town. The building and loan faces many challenges including a run on the bank, and a misplaced deposit almost leading to the bank president being arrested for bankruptcy and embezzlement. The community comes together to donate the amount of the missing deposit and save the president.
1946	Strange Triangle	A returning World War II serviceman is promoted from bank investigator to district supervisor. At his new branch, a principal depositor offers an investment opportunity that falls through and the manager loses a lot of money. The bank manager's assistant finds a shortage at one of the branches, which the manager thinks is due to a bookkeeping error. But, the manager actually used the bank's money in the failed investment and took out a loan from the investor to cover the missing money, which the investor needs immediately. The manager's wife convinces him to take money from the bank and leave town, and then she steals it. The manager shoots his wife, confesses and goes to jail.

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1947	Road to the Big House	A bank clerk is happy with his life until he compares himself with his wife's wealthy ex-suitor who comes to dinner. He embezzles a large sum from one of a bank client and plans to escape to Mexico with his wife before the bank realizes it's missing. The wife refuses the money and tells the bank president that her husband accidentally brought home a deposit. The bank clerk is arrested and sent to jail, but hides the money. He tries a prison break, but is recaptured and sentenced to more time. When he is released, he goes to the grave plot where he hid the money, but it is missing. His wife admits she returned it a long time ago, and he agrees she did the right thing.
1947	The Pretender	A crooked investment banker owes his stockbroker a large sum for failing stocks. He steals money from the fund of a wealthy young woman, who is his client and legal trustee. In order to make more money, he proposes to her, but she refuses because she is already engaged. The investment banker hires a gangster to identify the fiancé's picture in the newspaper and kill him. But, the woman changes her mind and marries the investment banker, whose picture appears in the paper. He tries unsuccessfully to call off the hit, and goes crazy. He dies in a car accident trying to escape the hit man, who was actually following him to return the money.
1947	Valley of Fear	Townsppeople accuse a cowboy of receiving embezzled bank funds from his murdered uncle who founded a bank. The uncle solicited money from the townspeople to dam the river and it disappeared. A rancher tells the cowboy that he suspect's uncle's partner really embezzled the money, and he plans to foreclose on the farmers who used their mortgages in the dam project. They realize the partner is innocent, but arrest him to try and catch the real thief. A man decides to use his deceased wife's jewelry to pay the farmer's mortgages. When he is attacked, the cowboy realizes that the rancher embezzled the money. The cowboy captures the rancher and retrieves the money so the dam project can continue.
1948	Million Dollar Weekend	A stockbroker steals his client's money and plans to fly to Shanghai through Hawaii. There is also a woman on the plane coming from her husband's funeral. The man sitting next to the woman threatens to blackmail her if she does not give him half of the life insurance money, because he knows she killed her husband. She asks the stockbroker for help on the plane, and after landing all three check in to a hotel. The man then steals the broker's briefcase of cash and goes to San Francisco. The woman and broker follow him. During their trip, the broker reveals his embezzlement and the woman confesses she accidentally killed her abusive husband. The broker than finds the man and gets the money back, and flies back to replace it before anyone notices its missing. The woman and man later meet in Hawaii.
1950	Marshal of Helderado	A man arrives in town seeking lodging. Two brothers sneak in to the house he is renting from a Colonel who owns a bank and steal hidden money. The man stops them, but the brothers kill each other in the scuffle. The marshal arrives, returns the money to the Colonel, and credits the man with killing the brothers. The Colonel's daughter convinces him to hire the man in the bank. The Colonel is part of a plan to steal money from the bank, and learns that the man is actually a U.S. marshal sent by the Governor to investigate. The Colonel has second thoughts about the plan to embezzle from the bank to help his homesteader friends, and tells the marshal. The marshal captures the thieves and he and the Colonel use the money they find to pay off the homesteader's loan.
1950	The Great Rupert	An entertainer with a trained pet squirrel is evicted from his apartment. He releases the squirrel into the wild and meets a poor family he knows. They go back to the apartment and the landlord's son lets the family move in because he likes the daughter. The squirrel returns and lives in the wall of the apartment. When the mother prays for money, the squirrel happens to throw down cash returns from a gold mine investment return that the landlord stores in the wall. The family uses the money to help friends and invest in local businesses. A policeman, a tax investigator, and an FBI agent question the family, but the squirrel sets the house on fire, and they see where the money was coming from and drop the investigation. The family rebuilds the landlord's house with their returns and the landlord's son becomes rich from an oil investment that the family lent him money to make.

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1951	Belle Le Grand	In 1850, a woman is released from jail after serving time for her husband's crime. She changes her name, moves West and starts a very prosperous casino. She invests in a mine that has not produced, and minutes later the stock sells well. Her estranged husband short sells his stock in the mine and purchases its note from a lender, because he wants to buy it himself. He then further increases the mine's debt by setting it on fire. The woman anonymously pays off the mine's debt and buys the stock that her ex-husband short sold. When her ex-husband tries to lynch the mine owner, he is shot with his own gun.
1951	Double Dynamite	A bank teller wins a large sum of money from illegally betting on horse races, and the bank where he works finds that almost the same amount of money has been embezzled. The man, his fiancée, who is also a teller, and the bank owner are all mistakenly investigated and accused. The bank discovers the fiancée had a faulty adding machine, so the teller and his fiancée are cleared of suspicion. They marry and tell a man at the reception about the money they won. When the man reveals he is from the Internal Revenue Service, they quickly drive off.
1951	Inside Straight	In the 1870s a woman faces a run on her bank and a millionaire refuses to help her even though the state economy depends on it. The millionaire suggests that the woman bet her bank against the money she needs in a round of cards. During the game the players discuss the millionaire's past. They learn that when his parents died, the millionaire became determined to make money. His actions were sometimes dishonorable and other times honorable. At one point, he lost all his money in the stock market. He earned the money back and received insider stock tips, which earned him even more money. His fortunes continued to fluctuate, and after his wife died he became only interested in the stock market. In the present, when the woman states her hand during the game, the millionaire lies and tells her she won and that the money will be there in the morning.
1951	The DuPont Story	In 1800 a French immigrant develops plans for mills to make better gun powder and brings them to Thomas Jefferson, who applauds the idea of American production. The mill has high safety standards and becomes a success, but stockholders are disappointed that the returns keep going back into the business. The owner opens more mills and cares for his employees. When the country is in an economic depression, banks continue to fund the mills because they are a proven success. Over the years the family runs the company very successfully with the help of many good employees.
1951	The Hoodlum	An ex-convict and his accomplices rob an armored car making a delivery after he learns of its Federal Reserve deposit schedule by flirting with the bank's secretary. After arguing over how to divide the money, the convict's accomplices take it and flee. All of the accomplices die or are captured. When the convict returns home his brother tries to kill him for ruining his life, but loses heart. As the convict escapes, the detective, who has been on the case, shoots and kills him.
1951	Two Dollar Bettor	A bank comptroller places his first bet at the horse race track, and has a winning streak. He continues to bet to provide more for his daughters, but racks up a large debt with a bookie. He steals from the comptroller fund to pay back the debt and pay for his gambling habit. The comptroller continues betting and stealing even though an audit is scheduled in three months. His daughter becomes engaged to the bank president's son, and the president is going to promote the comptroller to a general manager after the audit. Two criminals trick the comptroller and steal the stolen bank money. He then gets the money back, and is mortally wounded but kills the two criminals. The comptroller goes to the president's house and confesses before his death. The president protects his reputation and daughters by telling everyone the comptroller was robbed.
1952	The Steel Trap	A bank's bored assistant manager creates a plan to rob it after the Federal Reserve makes its deposit and then escape to Brazil with his family. He steals the money and he and his wife fly to New Orleans. But after a series of mishaps, he realizes he will not be out of the country before the bank notices the missing funds. When he tells his wife about the crime she goes home without him. The manager then returns home to his family and successfully returns the money before anyone realizes it's missing.

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1953	Red River Shore	The town marshal is robbed in 1800s Oklahoma when he delivers a large sum of an oil company's stock holder money to the bank. But, the oil company owner planned the robbery with another man from town. The marshal shoots the owner in self defense, and he confesses, but before he dies he asks the marshal not to tell his son about his guilt. His son arrives to find his father's killer and raise more money for the drilling. Since the marshal does not reveal the secret, the son believes that the marshal wrongly killed his father. After the father's partner in crime reveals the truth about the swindle, he is accidentally killed. The son strikes oil, even though the marshal thought his father was lying about its existence, and the town unknowingly celebrates the father, and becomes prosperous.
1954	Loophole	A teller pretending to be an auditor and his female accomplice steal from the head teller at another bank, who is then blamed for the theft and fired. The FBI question the head teller and his wife, but find nothing. He cannot find another job, because the bond company that insures him cancels his certification, and the couple has financial difficulties. When going to make a deposit at a new bank, the teller recognizes the thief, and pursues him. After the thief's accomplice shoots and wounds the head teller, the police arrive and arrest the two criminals. The teller is cleared and reinstated at the bank.
1955	Good Morning, Miss Dove	A school teacher falls ill and recalls the events of her life. She remembers when she first returned from college and her father, the town banker, died suddenly. She learns from the bank vice president that he had embezzled money from the bank. She vows to pay the money back by working as a teacher and refuses a marriage proposal from her boyfriend. She also remembers a run on the bank due to a national scare. To stop customers from withdrawing all their money, she stalls people by filling out a deposit slip until the bank closes. After she remembers all of her good deeds, she goes through a successful surgery.
1955	Lucy Gallant	A woman comes to Texas in 1941 and gets a bank loan to set up a clothing store. The store is a success and she pays back the loan. She falls in love with a rancher, but he refuses to marry her unless she gives up the store. She tells him that her fiancé left her when her father was indicted for fraud and committed suicide. They separate and she wants to build a bigger store, but her old store burns to the ground and the bank manager rejects her loan application as too risky. The rancher pressures the manager to give the loan. A year later the woman learns that she cannot pay back the note that is due, but the rancher pays the note for her. She leaves the store to marry him.
1957	Public Pigeon No. 1	A bumbling cafe worker can't afford to marry his fiancée because of his history of bad investments. He is swindled by a con-man and his accomplices who sell him fake uranium stock for his fiancée's life savings. After a police lieutenant tells him the stock is fake, he sees one of the accomplices and pretends he is a government agent. But they convince him that they are FBI agents looking for the racketeers. They "hire" him as an agent and use him to steal money from others. The cafe worker is arrested and refuses to talk to the police, because he believes he is a secret agent. The police help him escape jail and tail him to catch the real crooks, who are also following him in order to get the money. He eventually realizes the gang are not FBI agents, the police arrest them, and he gets a reward.
1957	Undersea Girl	Two tuna boat fishermen are found with large sums of money in new notes with similar serial numbers. The police discover that the money is part of a shipment from the Federal Reserve Bank for wartime counter-intelligence activities in Japan. The ship carrying the money sank years earlier, and two Navy frogmen who were assigned to retrieve the cash disappeared. One frogman killed the other and used fishermen to help him transport the money and hide it in an undersea cave, but one of the fishermen kills the frogman for trying to double cross him. When a reporter plants a fake story about finding the money, the fishermen go to check on it and are arrested by the police.

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1959	The Bat	A writer rents a bank president's house for the summer and discovers there has been a string of murders in town by a person dubbed "the Bat." The vice president of the bank discovers that over a million dollars is missing and tells the police lieutenant, who is also a board member. The president is camping with the town physician and reveals that he embezzled the money, and offers to split the money if the physician will help him stage his own death. The physician kills the president and takes the money while the vice president is arrested for the crime. After a string of murders, including the physician, the writer discovers the "the Bat" is actually the police lieutenant.
1960	Pretty Boy Floyd	In the 1920s a failed boxer Charles "Pretty Boy" Floyd returns home to find that his father was murdered and the killer was unfairly acquitted. Oklahoma is hit hard by the Depression and the drought, and he cannot get a loan to buy seed and rebuild his family farm. All his anger leads to a long bank robbery and killing spree. But, Floyd would distribute the robbery money to his friends who dubbed him "The Sagebrush Robin Hood." He was America's Public Enemy Number 1 and evaded the FBI until 1934, when he was killed in a shoot out. The film is based on Floyd's biography.
1962	Experiment in Terror	A bank teller is accosted by a man who threatens to kill her if she does not steal a large sum from the bank where she works. She notifies the FBI, who tell her to play along with the man. They find out he is an ex-con wanted for murder. When the teller robs the bank, the ex-con grabs the money but is shot down by police.
1963	The Wheeler Dealers	A sexist boss gives a female stock analyst the impossible job of selling the shares of an obscure company, so he can fire her when she fails. She meets a Texas millionaire who is trying to raise money for a business scheme. He is interested in the analyst and agrees to help her. They discover that the company went out of business over 100 years ago, and only exists on paper. Its asset are shares in AT&T purchased long ago. The analyst and millionaire meet the family that owns the hidden assets, and the millionaire strikes oil on their property, so the stock rises. The SEC becomes suspicious and investigates. They discover that the millionaire has a false identity and there was not really oil on the property. The judge throws the case out and rules that manipulating the stock was not against public interest because the family, the millionaire, and his friends own all of it. The millionaire sells his stock to the family to give them controlling interest, gains the money for his business scheme, and marries the analyst.
1968	Funny Girl	Fannie Brice becomes a popular comedienne with the Ziegfeld Follies around World War I. She marries a gambler, Nick Arnstein, who becomes threatened by her career and success. He continually loses money on business ventures until he is forced to put their house on the market. He refuses financial help from Brice and becomes involved in a bonds scheme. He is imprisoned for 18 months for embezzlement, and then returns to Brice to end their marriage. This film is based on Brice's life.
1973	Girls Are For Loving	The U.S. is about to sign a trade treaty with an Asian country, loaning them money to purchase U.S. goods under contract, in exchange for friendly relations. A woman tries to discover insider information about which companies will get the contracts so she can make money in the stock market. The CIA hires a stripper-spy to thwart the woman's plan.
1973	The Daring Dobermans	A group of five Doberman pinchers escapes with bags of money after performing a bank robbery. Three men find them in wilderness with some of the money, but decide to train them to rob a campaign fund chairman who keeps illegal large cash donations in his office. The dogs complete the robbery, but the FBI catch the men because they spent the initial stolen money they found for supplies, and it was marked bank money.
1973	The Friends of Eddie Coyle	In Boston, a low level gunrunner tries to avoid going to jail by being an informer for an undercover U.S. Treasury agent while providing guns for a gang of bank robbers on a spree. The gang is robbing banks by holding the manager's relatives hostage. The group kills a man at one bank, but is convinced the FBI will not be involved because it was not federally insured. The gunrunner refuses to give up the gang to avoid jail, but the agent catches the gang because of another informant. The gang believes the gunrunner was the informant and send the man who was the real informant to kill the gunrunner.

**SEC on the Silver Screen: How Films Shape Public Perception of Financial Regulation in the United States
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By Loren E. Miller, Ph.D.

Year	Title	Image of the Markets, Nature of the Misdeeds, and Role of Regulation in Plot
1974	The Godfather Part II	A mafia boss tries to expand his casino business in Las Vegas as well as in Havana. A Nevada Senator tries to force the boss to pay a large sum of money for a casino license, but the boss refuses and says the Senator will pay. As the boss is involved in a series of murders among other groups, he is summoned to the Senate hearings. All the boss' enemies are killed, but he is left alone without his family.
1979	Being There	A mentally handicapped gardener is mistaken for being part of high society. When describing how lawyers made him leave his deceased employer's home, a businessman falsely assumes he is talking about SEC attorneys shutting down his business. The businessman relates to this story and takes the gardener under his wing. No one realizes that he is mentally handicapped and he becomes a Presidential advisor, is included in the businessman's will, and is discussed as a Presidential nominee. But he walks away from everything, alone.
1983	The Big Chill	Seven college friends reunite at funeral. One friend, who owns a successful sneaker company, provides insider information by revealing that the company is going public to his friend.
1983	Trading Places	Two millionaires make a \$1 bet about whether a person's environment or biology determine their behavior. Unbeknownst to two men, the millionaire switch the lives of their commodities broker and a homeless con-man. The two men try and figure out what happened to their old lives and eventually discover the truth. To exact their revenge, they steal the millionaires' money. They discover that the millionaires were bribing a man to leak false information so they could corner markets. The two men falsify a report so the millionaires lose all their money in the market, and then the men buy the stock at rock bottom prices. The millionaires' seats are put up for sale, and their assets are sized to make up for their losses. The men escape to a tropical island with their millions.
1985	Fletch	An investigative reporter pretends to be a SEC agent to examine an aviation executive. The reporter claims the SEC knows the man doesn't own any stock and isn't involved in proprieties, but is making the accusation anyway because he claims that someone at the organization wants a promotion.
1985	Prime Risk	A computer specialist is turned down for a position she wanted at a local bank. She learns that the bank's computer person stole the ideas she presented in her interview. She meets a man who is angry with the bank about a wire transfer, and they develop a way to steal money from ATM machines, by cloning debit cards. They discover a group of international hackers who are plotting to crash the Federal Reserve and destroy the U.S. banking system, and go to Washington, D.C. to tell the FBI.
1987	Buy & Cell	A boss frames his employee for stock fraud when the SEC starts to investigate the company. The employee is sent to jail, and helps an inmate successfully invest his money. When other inmates also ask for help, the employee forms an investment company called "Con, Inc." The SEC and IRS then begin to investigate the successful company.
1987	Hiding Out	A successful bond trader passed fake bonds for a mob boss, and is going to testify against the boss. When mobsters try and kill the trader, the FBI takes him into protective custody. He escapes protective custody and enrolls as a high school senior to hide from the mobsters. The hit men discover where he lives and try to kill him during the class election. He escapes and testifies against the boss. The FBI then places him in the Federal Witness Protection Program. He decides to become a teacher.
1987	Wall Street	In the early 1980s, a powerful corporate raider takes a young stockbroker under his wing and teaches him how to rise to the top using insider trading and securities fraud actions. The two men betray each other and go to court for their illegal activities.

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1988	Tucker: The Man and His Dream	After World War II Preston Tucker developed a new car with many technological innovations. Tucker raised money to buy manufacturing plants through stock issues. The car was met with enthusiasm by the public and shareholders but faced technological problems. The board of directors tries to take control of the company, and Tucker faces animosity from the big three auto companies and a Michigan Senator. The Senator and SEC examine Tucker for stock fraud. Tucker argues that big business is ruining small entrepreneurs like himself. He is acquitted, but his public image is ruined and he never achieves his dream. The movie is based on Tucker's life.
1990	Ghost	When a banker discovers and investigates some discrepancies in the accounts, he reveals them to his co-worker. Soon after he is murdered in a mugging and becomes a ghost. He tries to protect his wife from the robber by showing himself to a con-woman posing as a medium. The ghost discovers that his co-worker planned the robbery to try and get his security codes because he was running a money laundering scheme at the bank. The ghost persuades the con-woman to end the money laundering scheme by posing as the owner of his co-worker's fake bank account. The con-woman withdraws the money, donates it to a charity, and closes the account. When the co-worker tries to kill the con-woman and the wife in an attempt to get his money, the ghost kills him. The co-worker becomes a ghost and is dragged away by demons and the ghost goes to heaven.
1990	The Godfather Part III	In 1979, an aging mob boss has become a multi-millionaire from his vast holdings, but is mostly removed from the mafia. He bought up enough stock in an international real-estate company to become the single-largest share holder. He makes an offer to gain a controlling interest in the company. He knows the head of the Vatican Bank has created a large deficit and needs the money. However, the deal cannot go through until the dying Pope ratifies it. The boss realizes the deal is a scheme between the head of the company, the head of the bank, and the Vatican accountant to steal his money, and speaks with the Cardinal next in line for the Papacy. When the Cardinal becomes Pope and agrees to the deal, the scheme is on the verge of being discovered. The boss has the men involved killed in order to save the Pope, but the Pope drinks poisoned tea from the head of the bank and dies. The boss loses his family and dies alone.
1991	Other People's Money	A corporate raider tries to take over an antiquated publicly-traded wire and cable company that is a major employer in a small town. The boss' right hand man offers to let the raider vote with his stock if he pays him a large sum. At the same time, the boss' wife offers to buy back the stock from her trust fund. The company shareholders vote to give the raider controlling interest. The step-daughter discovers that the company's product can be used in tires, so the company can be run at a profit and does not have to be sold.
1992	Boiler Room	A group of telemarketers grow dissatisfied with the small amounts of money they are making from scamming clients, so they develop a plan to make a large sum. But an Attorney General is following their plan.
1992	Folks!	A successful stockbroker goes to visit his parents. His father, who is suffering from dementia, burns down their mobile home. While on his visit, the FBI stages a sting at the broker's firm to investigate insider trading and freezes his accounts. He is forced to bring his homeless parents back with him. Without any money, he loses his home as well as his wife and children. His parents, who do not want to be a burden, tell him to help them commit suicide so he can collect the insurance money. He helps with many failed suicide attempts, but the broker's family eventually returns to him and things being to improve. The family realizes that the demented father invested in a successful company years ago and is a rich man.
1993	Barbarians at the Gate	F. Ross Johnson tries to make RJR Nabisco private after learning about the market failure of their smokeless cigarette. Two pioneers of the buyout oppose Johnson's bid, because Henry Kravis feels betrayed when Johnson discusses the deal with American Express. Other bidders emerge when Kravis and Johnson can not reconcile, and the bids rise astronomically. Kravis eventually wins, but the buyout price creates a large level of debt for the company. This is based on the leveraged buyout of RJR Nabisco. The film is based on a book of the same title.

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1994	The Hudsucker Proxy	In 1968 the founder and president of a company commits suicide. A member of the company's board learns the founder's shares will be sold to the public, so he develops a plan to gain controlling interest. He plans to depress the stock by hiring an incompetent president. He chooses a young business college graduate working in the mail room, who appears unintelligent. The young graduate produces the hula hoop in his new position, and the company's stock rises dramatically. The board member convinces the board that the graduate is insane and needs to be fired. The graduate is chased by an angry mob and almost falls off the office building, but he has a vision of the founder who tells him that all the shares belong to him. The graduate gains controlling interest in the company and invents the Frisbee.
1998	Pi	A number theorist can perform complex mathematical calculations in his head, but suffers from severe headaches. The theorist makes stock market predictions based on his computer's calculations. The computer prints out a 216 digit number and one stock pick, and then crashes. He believes the number is an error, but the pick turns out to be correct. Members of a Wall Street firm become interested in his work, and he accepts a classified computer chip in exchange for his predictions. The theorist becomes psychic and can visualize stock market patterns. The firm's agents steal the special number and try to manipulate the market with it, but it crashes. The theorist is driven to the brink of madness. He burns the number and drills a hole in his skull, which makes him lose his powers, but he is happy.
1999	Rogue Trader	Nick Leeson runs a Barings Bank office and operates the trading, as well as the back office. The bank leaves him unsupervised and he violates trade rules and covers losses with bank funds. Barings collapses and Leeson is arrested and charged with fraud, forgery, and breach of trust. The film is based on Leeson's autobiography.
2000	Boiler Room	A college drop-out takes a job at an investment firm that sells fake equities and creates artificial market demand. He is arrested by the FBI for violating SEC regulations, but trades his help and testimony for federal immunity. He steals information from the firm and leaves as the FBI raid the building.
2001	Good Advice	A stockbroker plays golf with a newspaper publisher, who tells him that the company is going to merge with a drug corporation. The broker tells his clients the information and invests much of his own money. The publisher lied about the merger to get back at the broker for sleeping with his wife. The broker goes bankrupt and loses his license for insider trading. His girlfriend leaves him and he secretly takes her job as an advice columnist and does well. She then returns from abroad and blackmails the broker. The ex-girlfriend then transfers to the lying publisher's firm. The column soon fails because she gives bad advice, the publisher's stock plummets, and the broker begins his own successful advice column.
2002	Catch Me If You Can	Frank Abagnale Jr. runs away from home at the age of 16 and cons people to survive. His cons escalate to check fraud, and he poses as a pilot, a doctor, and a lawyer. The FBI tracks Abagnale, and Carl Hanratty a bank fraud agent takes a special interest in the case. Hanratty follows Abagnale throughout the country and eventually catches him in Europe. At the time of his arrest, the young man has embezzled millions of dollars. Abagnale serves his jail sentence and goes to work for the FBI to help stop check fraud. This is based on Abagnale's life story.
2005	Fun with Dick and Jane	The vice president of a company takes the fall when its stock becomes worthless, as do all the employee pensions. His family falls into poverty when he is fired, so he and his wife begin robbing stores as a last resort. They make enough money to retain their house and decide to stop the robberies, but the husband is about to be indicted for his role in the company. They discover that the CEO of the company siphoned off the assets and dumped the stock. The couple seek revenge and get the CEO to sign a check that they alter. They then set up a trust fund to pay for all of the company employees with the money, and the press discovers the story.

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2005	Syriana	A CIA operative, an energy analyst, a an attorney in Washington, and a Pakistani migrant worker are involved in the global politics of oil. A giant energy firm is losing its grip in the Middle East. The firm initiates a merger with a smaller oil company to gain drilling rights in Kazakhstan, but the Department of Justice is suspect of the merger. The firm hires a Washington attorney, who discovers in the merger records that an oilman bribed a foreign official to gain access to the fields. The attorney gives the oilman up to the DOJ, and then reveals an under-the-table deal his boss made. The DOJ takes these two men and allow the merger to go through.
2008	Mad Money	A woman in financial trouble takes a job as a janitor at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. She develops a plan to steal the old money that is being shredded. With the help of two other women who work at the bank, they successfully steal money on a regular basis. Finally, a federal examiner confronts the bank's head of security, tipping the women off. But the police catch them before they can destroy the money. The janitor hires a tax lawyer and they are all freed. The IRS demands they pay their taxes, which leaves them with no money left. However, the janitor reveals she saved a bunch of the money by hiding it in a bar basement.
2010	The Other Guys	Two mis-matched police detectives stumble upon a case where a multi-millionaire is trying to cover his losses for his large clients. One client has hired a gang to ensure that the money is returned. The multi-millionaire's lawyer covered the millionaire's losses, but also works for the SEC. The detectives discover that the millionaire is trying to make up the losses by scamming the New York Police retirement fund. The detectives arrest the millionaire, which leads to a stock market crash and federal bailout.
2010	Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps	During the 2008 financial crisis, a stockbroker emerges from his time in jail and finds Wall Street a different place. He tries to gain relevance in the new market with the help of a young, successful investment banker and uses manipulation and false information to gain power again. He steals money from his daughter to begin a new financial company, which becomes very successful. After he created significant profits from the stolen money, he returns the sum to his daughter.
2011	Green Guys	Four young Wall Street hot shots create an investment company that is a Ponzi scheme. They steal hundreds of millions of dollars from investors and live large using the stolen money. They convince a Mexican drug lord to invest a large amount of money into the Ponzi scheme. The FBI begins investigating the scheme, and the drug lord wants his money back. Suspicion and greed divide the four hot shots.
2011	Limitless	A washed-up writer takes a pill that allows him to access all of his brainpower. With the drug he begins day trading and goes to a loan shark to get more capital. He then starts stock trading and does very well. He is approached by an energy tycoon, and impresses him with his knowledge. The tycoon wants information on his rival, with whom he is in the middle of a deal. The writer finds the rival is also taking the pill, but the rival dies from its effects. The tycoon discovers how the writer achieved success so quickly in the market and offers him an unlimited supply of the pill if he provides insider information when he wins his campaign for office. The writer goes off the pill and refuses the deal.
2011	Margin Call	An analyst discovers though his investment firm's records that the firm is beginning a downfall. The firm is shocked and must decide what to do twenty-four hours before the early stages of the 2008 financial crisis. The firm follows the CEO's plan to avoid the disaster instead of control the damage.
2011	Too Big To Fail	Wall Street and Washington decided the fate of the economy during the financial crisis of 2008. The Secretary of the Treasury, the Chair of the Federal Reserve, and the President of the New York Federal Reserve try and find a way to save Lehman Brothers through a bailout with no strings attached.

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2011	Tower Heist	A condo manager discovers that the tenant he asked to manage the employee pension fund, a Wall Street financier and billionaire, invested it in a Ponzi scheme and embezzled two billion dollars. The billionaire is on house arrest. An FBI agent tells the condo manager that the billionaire may have money hidden in his apartment. The condo manager and other employees break into the apartment while the billionaire is at court and find a hidden safe, which is empty. They realize that the billionaire hid his money in plain site by creating a car out of gold with a ledger of his illegal finances in the glovebox. The employees steal the car. The billionaire and the FBI agent return to the apartment, and the FBI agent forfeits the billionaire's bail and takes him into custody for not revealing the safe. The FBI arrest the condo manager and other employees. The condo manager's lawyer negotiates the employees' freedom for the billionaire's ledger, but the condo manager must serve a two-year sentence. A petty criminal involved in the robbery dismantles the gold car and splits the parts between the employees to cover their lost pensions.
2012	Arbitrage	A hedge fund magnate manages a fund with his daughter and is about to sell it. His daughter and employees don't know that he has cooked the books and borrowed money from an associate to cover investment losses and avoid being arrested. The potential buyer is stalling the process, and the associate wants his money back, but the magnate needs the money in his account until the audit is complete. The magnate's daughter informs him that she found financial discrepancies in the books. The magnate has a car crash in which his mistress dies, but he covers up evidence and doesn't turn himself in. The daughter discovers the magnate's fraud, confronts him, and he says he will take care of it. When the audit is complete, the magnate and the potential buyer agree on a price, even though the buyer performed a secondary audit and found a problem. The magnate's wife says he must give all the company's voting rights and money to her foundation and their daughter or she will tell the police about the mistress' death.
2012	Madea's Witness Protection	A CFO in New York finds his co-workers shredding documents, and his boss tells him the business is a Ponzi scheme run by a crime family. The boss pins the blame on the CFO for spearheading the scheme and laundering funds before escaping to Europe. The Atlanta District Attorney's Office puts the CFO and his family in witness protection so he will testify against the crime family. A church pastor's son plots to rob the couple hosting the CFO and his family to recoup church funds that he invested with the company running the Ponzi scheme. After going to his hosts' church, the CFO recognizes a pattern in company records and realizes where 10% of the stolen money is stashed. He re-diverts it from laundered accounts to the charities that lost everything in the Ponzi scheme, and his host directs some of the money into her account. The District Attorney's Office dismiss charges against the CFO for his cooperation and diverting of funds. The church celebrates the money being returned and the mortgage being paid off.
2012	The Dark Knight Rises	Bane, a villain, attacks the Gotham Stock Exchange and uses Bruce Wayne's (Batman) finger prints in a series of fraudulent transactions, bankrupting Wayne.
2013	American Hustle	A male and female con artist are caught in a loan scam by an FBI agent. The agent says he will release them if they help make additional arrests. The FBI agent targets the mayor of Camden, NJ, who has been trying to get investors and politicians rejuvenate Atlantic City. The mayor brings an undercover FBI agent posing as a potential investor to a casino party, and a mob boss wants to meet him. The mob boss requires \$10 million wire transfer to prove the fake potential investor is legitimate. The mayor and the con artists videotape members of congress taking bribes. The FBI agent convinces his superiors that he needs \$10 million to catch the mob boss, but only receives \$2 million. The FBI agent arranges a meeting with the mob boss' lawyer, but the mob boss never shows up. The FBI loses the \$2 million and receives an anonymous offer to return it if the con artists are given immunity and the mayor receives a reduced sentence. The mob boss' lawyer who arranged the transfer, was a con man working with the two con artists and stole the money. The FBI accepts the deal, and the FBI agent's career is ruined. The congressmen and the mob boss are prosecuted, and the two con artists open a legitimate art gallery together. The film is inspired by the FBI Abscam operation.

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2013	Assault on Wall Street	During the 2008 financial crisis a ruthless, greedy portfolio manager tells his employees to make investments that are best for the company and neglect client interests. An armored car driver tries to cash in his military pension to pay for his wife's medical treatments but finds that his financial advisor lost it in bad investments. The driver is also being sued for bad real estate investments the financial advisor made. The driver borrows money to pay for a lawyer to sue the financial advisor and tries to meet with the assistant district attorney, but neither help. His wife feels guilty for the financial strain her illness put on them and commits suicide. The driver blames Wall Street financiers for his wife's death. He finds the portfolio manager responsible for his financial ruin and tricks him into grabbing a gun just as a SWAT team enters the room. Thinking the portfolio manager is the perpetrator, the SWAT team shoots and kills him, and the driver escapes pretending to be a wounded bystander.
2013	Runner Runner	A Princeton grad student gambles online to earn tuition money. He loses everything and discovers through a statistical analysis that coders created an algorithm allowing them to cheat. He travels to Costa Rica to confront the gambling tycoon who owns the website and shows him the statistics. The tycoon offers the grad student a job helping with the website, which he accepts, and the FBI tries to make him an informant. The grad student learns how unethical the tycoon is and tries to leave the country, but the tycoon stops him. The grad student discovers the tycoon is running a Ponzi scheme, the player accounts have no money in them, the tycoon uses the money, and leaves just enough for players to cash out. The tycoon buys out the grad student's father's poker debts and holds him hostage in Costa Rica. The grad student discovers the tycoon has been planning on moving his gambling operation out of the country and has planned to set him up as the fall guy. The grad student bribes local officials, including a pilot who flies the tycoon to Puerto Rico, where the FBI agent arrests him and the grad student leaves a flash drive with enough evidence to convict the tycoon before flying away on a private jet.
2013	Side Effects	A woman attempts suicide when her husband is released from prison after serving his sentence for insider trading. When no antidepressants work, the woman's former psychiatrist suggests an experimental drug to her current psychiatrist. The drug works, but makes the woman sleepwalk, and she stabs her husband to death while asleep. She is found not guilty by reason of insanity and stays in a psychiatric hospital until her current psychiatrist can clear her for release. The current psychiatrist discovers that the woman hated her husband for losing their wealth and became lovers with her former psychiatrist. Together they plotted the woman's fake suicide attempt, killed her husband, and profited from manipulating the drug stock prices. The current psychiatrist agrees to let the woman out of the psychiatric ward for a cut of her stock manipulation profits. The woman wears a wire to meet her former psychiatrist who is arrested for conspiracy to commit murder and securities fraud. Since the woman can't be tried again for the same crime, her current psychiatrist sends her back to the psychiatric hospital as retaliation.
2013	The Fifth Estate	Journalist Daniel Domscheit-Berg and Australian journalist Julian Assange begin working together on WikiLeaks, a website that releases information being withheld from the public without revealing the sources. The first target is a private Swiss Bank, Julius Baer, whose Cayman Island branch is involved in illegal activities. The bank files a lawsuit and an injunction, but a judge dissolves the injunction, and the journalists carry on. The film is based on Domscheit-Berg's book.

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2013	The Wolf of Wall Street	Jordan Belfort begins his career as a at a Wall Street Stock brokerage firm where is he transfers calls. Executive Mark Hanna takes a liking to Belfort and encourages him to be ruthless. Belfort earns his brokerage license but loses his job on Black Monday, the international stock market crash of 1987. He finds a job at a boiler room selling penny stocks and makes a fortune before opening his own firm with a partner. The firm grows into a billion-dollar company by skimming large amounts off the top from faulty investments and using "pump and dump" schemes. The FBI investigates the firm to combat securities fraud. After a near death experience, Belfort begins a "self-help" financial coaching service to make others rich. He is arrested by the FBI but pays bail and is on house arrest. He agrees to wear a wire to incriminate his associates, but secretly warns his business partner he is under surveillance. The business partner, who was also working with the FBI, tells the agent about the warning. The FBI raids the business and Belfort spends twenty-two months of a three-year sentence in prison. He then becomes a motivational speaker. The film is based on Belfort's autobiography.
2014	Amira & Sam	In 2008, a former Iraq War soldier is fired from an apartment building security job. His cousin, a hedge fund manager, asks him to help woo a veteran and potential investor for a large commission. The soldier learns at a work gathering that his cousin's hedge funds may be illegal, and confronts his cousin, who denies it. The cousin finally admits the funds are illegal, but that he rigged the system so no one will ever find out. The soldier refuses to help woo the investor, and the deal doesn't go through.
2014	Creed of Gold	During the Bolshevik revolution in Russia, a reporter hides a list of names of bankers who financed the revolution. A Russian history professor's son inherits the list and researches the names on it. In a university class, he is assigned to work on a paper with a girl whose father is on the board of governors of the Federal Reserve, and they research the names together. Their work is thwarted by a Federal Reserve member who is stealing from the Federal Reserve of New York with a computer program that misappropriates funds every time the Reserve buys and sells bonds to the U.S. Government. The students discover the Reserve member's family history through the list and find out his fortune came from crimes committed during the Bolshevik revolution.
2014	Free Fall	An executive at a capital company finds out that a co-worker committed suicide, and the billionaire head of the company offers the executive her deceased co-worker's position. When cleaning out the co-worker's desk, the executive discovers he was investigating the head of the company and had files showing the head of the company was embezzling. The executive notifies her supervisor about the documents and embezzlement, and he calls a "fixer." The fixer tries to kill her, and the executive gets stuck in the elevator while trying to escape the building, and she eventually kills him.
2014	Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit	A CIA agent covertly working on Wall Street is looking for suspicious financial transactions that could be terrorist activity. Russia loses a key United Nations vote, and the agent discovers the markets don't react as expected, billions of dollars owned by Russian businesses and an oligarch have disappeared. The agent poses as an auditor and is denied access to his company's Russian accounts. He goes to Moscow to investigate and discovers that the oligarch's international investments have made the United States vulnerable to financial collapse after a terrorist attack. The oligarch tells the agent that he sold the problematic company and assets, preventing an audit. The agent steals the oligarch's office key and downloads his important files showing that the oligarch has propped up struggling Chinese and Japanese state economies for years, making the U.S. economy vulnerable. The agent discovers that the oligarch's son is going to execute a terrorist attack on Wall Street. He finds the son and stops the attack.

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2015	Blackhat	A hacker causes a nuclear plant in China to meltdown, and then hacks into the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, causing soy futures to rise. A Captain of the People's Liberation Army cyberwarfare unit goes to L.A. and reveals to an FBI agent that he and his college roommate at MIT wrote the hacking code used in the attacks. The college roommate, who is in prison for hacking banks, is released to help with the investigation. The Captain and the FBI agent go to Hong Kong and trace the stock trade money to a paramilitary operative. The college roommate figures out the nuclear plant was a test, and the real plan is to destroy several Malaysian tin mines to make a profit in buying tin options. He hacks into a bank's computer and transfers the hacker's funds to his own Swiss bank account. He agrees to meet the hacker to discuss partnership, but double crosses him. After a firefight, the roommate is shot, but he kills the hacker and escapes to Indonesia rather than going back to jail.
2015	Criminal Activities	Four former classmates, including a stockbroker and a former nerd with insider trading information, invest in a pharmaceutical company. The company folds under federal scrutiny, and the classmates discover the former nerd borrowed the money they invested from a loan shark. The loan shark offers to clear the debt if the classmates kidnap someone for him. When the classmates kidnap the person, they discover he is the nephew of the head of a rival crime syndicate. The syndicate offers a large reward for the nephew's kidnappers. The loan shark forces the classmates to kill the nephew because he was an FBI informant. The former nerd meets with the head of the crime syndicate, turns in his classmates, and collects the bounty. After one of the classmates, an FBI agent in the white-collar division, identified the nephew as an informant, and told the former nerd, he set up the classmates for bullying him in high school. The former nerd splits the bounty with the loan shark, who is his uncle.
2015	The Big Short	In 2006-2007 a group of investors bet against the U.S. mortgage market and discover how corrupt the market is during their research. A hedge fund manager from Scion Capital believes the U.S. housing market is built on a bubble that will burst, and bets against the market with the banks. An executive in charge of securities trading at Deutsche Bank agrees that the Scion Capital manager is right and decides to enter the market. A FrontPoint hedge fund manager also finds out and buys swaps from the Deutsche Bank executive. The SEC has no regulations to monitor mortgage-backed securities activity. As the loans begin to default, the Scion hedge fund manager realizes the world economy is about collapse. The personnel responsible for the crisis escape any consequences, except one trader. The film is based on a book of the same title.
2015	The Debt	With the help of his protégé, a hedge fund manager has cornered the market on buying debt that the Peruvian government owes to struggling landowners. The manager's boss tells him to stop the deal because the hedge fund needs cash flow. The manager convinces the boss to give him a week to close the deal. The manager pressures the Peruvian finance minister to repay the debts and tries to work with a land developer buying farms. The manager promises the protégé not to work with the developer if the development is exploitative. The protégé learns that the land the developer wants contains gold but dies before he can tell the manager. The developer agrees to the deal if the manager convinces the only hold out farmer to sell his land. The farmer agrees to sell his land in exchange for the manager getting his badly injured son to a hospital quickly. When the manager identifies his protégé's body, he finds the gold and discovers that his boss knew the developer planned to mine the land and already signed a deal with him. The banker returns the developer's contract to the farmer.
2015	Those People	A young man struggles with depression and public scorn after his father, a wealthy financier, is arrested on high-profile, white collar criminal charges. When he visits his father in jail, the father tells the young man to continue his crimes, and the son disowns the father. The father commits suicide in his cell. The son becomes more depressed and contemplates suicide, but a friend talks him down, and he slowly recovers.

SEC on the Silver Screen: How Films Shape Public Perception of Financial Regulation in the United States
During the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries, 1914-2023

By Loren E. Miller, Ph.D.

Year	Title	Image of the Markets, Nature of the Misdeeds, and Role of Regulation in Plot
2016	Equity	A senior investment banker is hired to handle the IPO for Cachet, a privacy company with a social networking platform. The investment banker's former college roommate is a federal prosecutor working on white-collar crime and investigating the investment banker's boyfriend, a broker at the same firm, for insider trading. The boyfriend tries to hack into the investment banker's phone for insider information about the IPO. The investment banker's assistant on the IPO leaks information that Cachet's software is hackable to the boyfriend, hoping that he will get her a promotion at the firm. The boyfriend leaks the information to his friends at an investment firm and a tech journalist. When the shares open, the company loses a third of its value on opening day due to the leaks. The boyfriend moves firms, the investment banker is fired, and the assistant takes the investment banker's position. The federal prosecutor interviews for a position at the firm to crack the case from the inside.
2016	Gold	In 1981 the owner of a prospecting company goes to Indonesia and meets a geologist who he convinces to discover gold with him. The prospector raises the money to finance their venture, but the exploration fails to show any gold. The geologist tells the prospector they found a large gold deposit, a major Wall Street bank invest millions in the prospecting company, and it goes public. The prospector refuses to sell it to an executive of a major mining company, and the next day the Indonesian government closes the mine. The prospector finds out that the U.S. President is friends with the Indonesian President and sits on the board of the company that offered to buy the mine. The prospector and the geologist go into business with the Indonesian President's son and are allowed to reopen the mine. They receive 15% of the \$30 billion business. The geologist flees after people discover that he planted the gold in the mine. The FBI question the prospector and tell him that the geologist was captured by Indonesian authorities and is dead. The geologist dumped his stocks before the scandal and had \$164 million before fleeing. The prospector receives a note from the geologist and a bank deposit slip showing where his half of the money is stashed in the United Kingdom. The film was inspired by David Walsh and the Bre-X Minerals scandal.
2016	I.T.	A private aviation tycoon is developing an app to increase business while his company raises financial capital with a stock offering, which requires SEC approval. The aviation tycoon asks an I.T. consultant from his company to fix the wi-fi in his state-of-the-art smart house. The aviation tycoon finds out the I.T. consultant is interested in his underage daughter, and he fires the consultant. The angry I.T. consultant accesses the tycoon's personal data and monitors his family through the smart house. The I.T. consultant sends fake emails to the tycoon's clients and the SEC, threatening the company's survival. The tycoon breaks into the I.T. consultant's apartment to get evidence his crimes, but the I.T. consultant frames him for assault and the tycoon is arrested. The tycoon returns home to find his family held captive by the I.T. consultant, and after a struggle, the I.T. consultant dies. The tycoon successfully develops the app and his company thrives.

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2016	Money Monster	A capital company's stock tanks due to a glitch in a trading algorithm, costing investors \$800 million. The company's CEO was supposed to appear on a financial television show, but unexpectedly leaves for work. A man who invested in the company because the television show host endorsed it, takes the crew hostage, and makes the host put on a bomb vest during the show. The host and the capital company's CCO offer to pay the man's losses, but he wants answers. He does not believe the algorithm is to blame. The CCO contacts the algorithm's programmer who believes someone meddled with it. The CCO, the television show's team, and a group of Icelandic hackers discover that the CEO invested \$800 million in a South African platinum mine during a miner's union strike. The strike lowered the worker's stock, allowing the CEO to purchase it at a low price, and would have resulted in a large profit when minework resumed. The plan failed because the union leader did not accept the CEO's bribe, the union stayed on strike, and the capital company's stock sank due to its investment in the failing mine. The host and the man confront the CEO on national television, and the CEO only admits to his misdeeds when the bomb vest, which is fake, is placed on him. Satisfied, the man throws away the bomb vest detonator, but is fatally shot by the police. The SEC announces that it will investigate the capital company and the CEO is charged with violating the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.
2016	The Accountant	An autistic math savant launders money for criminal organizations but has a small accounting office as a front. When the Treasury Department's Financial Crimes Enforcement Center begins to close in, the accountant takes on a legitimate client--a robotics corporation that an in-house accountant discovered was missing millions. During his audit, the accountant discovers \$61 million was embezzled, and he tells the CEO's sister. A hitman forces the CFO to overdose on insulin, and the next day the CEO pays the accountant the remainder of his contract and tells him to leave. A hitman tries to kill the accountant and the in-house accountant who was helping him. The accountant saves the in-house accountant and finds the CEO's sister murdered. The Director of the Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Center raids the accountant's house. The Director tells a data analyst at the Center that he has been receiving tips from the accountant and asks her to be the accountant's contact after he retires. The accountant kills the CEO. The accountant's partner gives the analyst a tip about the robotics firm, and the analyst and gives at a press conference about the company.
2017	The Bang Bang Brokers	During the 2008 financial crisis, a suicidal stockbroker having a psychotic break yells racial slurs at Latino gang members, hoping to be shot. A young gang member offers to perform the mercy killing if the stockbroker helps him rob a drug dealer, so he can get money for college tuition. The stockbroker agrees and robs the drug dealer, escaping with a large sum that he convinces the gang member to invest in the stock market. The gang member involves his friends, and they start using street tactics to sway the hedge fund they invested with. The drug dealer and his gang find out where their stolen money is and show up at Goldman Sachs headquarters with guns. The stockbroker and the gang member convince the drug dealer to buy into the scheme, and the two former rival gangs come together to sway the market and destroy corporate competitors. They make millions and find a sense of community and justice as they prank predatory executives that destroyed their communities.
2017	The Crash	The U.S. economy is on the brink of a financial crisis. The Secretary of the Treasury offers immunity to a stock trader federally indicted for creating and using software to hack the New York Stock Exchange, if he can stop a cyber-attack on the stock market. The attack uses the same software the trader developed, and it could cripple the global economy. The trader creates a team of white-collar criminals to stop the hack, and they discover that the big banks and the chairman of the Federal Reserve are behind the attack.

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2017	The Polka King	Polish-American Polka band leader and entrepreneur Jan Lewan takes an investment from an elderly couple and guarantees them a 12% return annually. The state SEC finds out Lewan is taking investors and investigates him. The SEC tells Lewan that it is illegal for him to accept investments, because his business is not properly registered and gives Lewan three days to return the money and shut down. Lewan can't meet the deadline because he has hundreds of thousands of dollars in investments. The elderly couple returns and wants to invest more, so Lewan closes the investment scheme and opens a new one without telling the SEC. Lewan expands his enterprise. After some bad press, investors ask for their money back and complain to the SEC. The SEC discovers Lewan's Ponzi scheme has expanded into millions of dollars. Lewan goes to jail and when he is released, he returns to leading his polka band. The film is based on Lewan's life.
2017	The Price	A Nigerian American junior trader on Wall Street works hard to contribute to his family's struggling finances, experiences institutional racism, and has a growing prescription amphetamine addiction. Realizing that his boss takes credit for his ideas, he uses a confidential tip from a friend in mergers and acquisitions to move up in the office. The trader continues struggles with pressure at work, insider trading, lies, his family, and drugs. He involves a co-worker in his insider trading, and the SEC comes to investigate. The SEC suspects the co-worker of insider trading and asks the trader to help bring him down. The trader must decide what to do.
2017	The Wizard of Lies	Bernie Madoff founds a Wall Street company in the early 1960s, which turns into a large investment fund. In 2000, a portfolio manager testifies before the U.S. House of Representatives that Madoff is running a Ponzi scheme because his company's gains never fluctuate. Five years later, the SEC fails to check the company's assets in its Depository Trust Company account, despite Madoff giving them the account number, which would have immediately revealed the Ponzi scheme. Clients start to pull their money during the 2008 recession, and Madoff realizes the fraud will be exposed, because he can't cover the withdrawals. He tells his wife and sons about the Ponzi scheme, and his sons expose him. Madoff and his wife try to commit suicide but are saved by police. Madoff admits to the FBI that he has run a Ponzi scheme since the 1970s, the largest in American history. He is sentenced to 150 years in prison, and investors file clawback suits against his sons. One son commits suicide, the other dies of cancer, and Madoff's wife divorces him. Madoff refuses to take responsibility for his actions in prison. The film is based on a book of the same name about Madoff.
2018	Den of Thieves	A team led by an ex-Marine turned bank robber steals an armored truck. The team plans to steal money from the Federal Reserve that is being shredded and removed from circulation. The getaway car driver gives a detective fake information about the team's next heist, and he goes to the wrong bank while the team escape. Pretending to do a money drop, the team uses the stolen armored truck and heist money to sneak into the Federal Reserve. The driver gets the cash before it's shredded, drops it into a garbage truck, and escapes. The detective finds the team and leader is killed in a standoff. The detective only finds shredded paper in the bags in the garbage truck, and The Federal Reserve says all the money is accounted for. The detective visits the bar where the driver worked, and realizes he was the mastermind. The driver obtained information from Federal Reserve employees frequenting the bar, set up the heist, and double crossed the ex-Marine team. The driver shipped the money to Panama and escaped to London where is targeting a diamond exchange.

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2018	The Hurricane Heist	<p>A U.S. Treasury agent hires a maintenance worker to fix a storage facility generator as a hurricane nears the area. A group led by a rogue Treasury agent, takes over the facility, holds an employee hostage, and tries to steal old bills slated for destruction. The group can't crack the vault code, so they send henchmen to find the Treasury agent because they think she changed the code. The henchmen find the agent and the maintenance worker, and there is a shootout. The agent escapes with the maintenance worker's brother, a National Weather Service meteorologist, but the maintenance worker is taken hostage and forced to repair the storage facility's generator. The agent and the meteorologist ask the sheriff for help, but he is working with the rogue agent and tries to capture them. They escape and realize the group is using the town's transmission tower to decrypt the vault's code, so they knock it over and stop the decryption. The agent agrees to exchange the vault's code for the employee being held hostage and the maintenance worker. The agent goes to the storage facility for the exchange, and the rogue agent kills the employee held hostage, and uses three Treasury trucks to take the money and the agent. The maintenance worker and the meteorologist follow the trucks. The hurricane sucks up one of the trucks and another crushes the rogue agent. The agent, the maintenance worker, and the meteorologist outrun the storm and save \$200 million.</p>
2019	Crypto	<p>An anti-money laundering (AML) analyst at a Wall Street bank discovers that a potential client has violated AML rules and prevents a deal from happening. The bank CEO wants to fire the analyst, but the head of AML saves him. The analyst is demoted to a small branch in his hometown, where family's failing potato farm is about to be repossessed by the bank he works at. He reconnects with a friend who is a hacker that mines crypto currency and starts dating an art gallery assistant. After the analyst reviews the bank's records, he believes that the art gallery where the woman he is dating works is laundering money through Bitcoin transactions. He is denied access to his bank's crypto currency investments, but his friend helps him hack into the bank's computers. They discover a multi-million-dollar money laundering scheme involving Russian mafia. Russians who report to the art gallery's accountant kill the head of the art gallery, the analyst's friend, and the analyst's predecessor at the branch. The analyst has evidence that the bank's head of AML is running the money laundering scheme. The art gallery accountant tries to get the evidence, but the gallery assistant is an undercover FBI agent and catches him. The bank's head of AML is arrested, and the analyst starts mining cryptocurrency to save his family farm, and he continues dating the FBI agent.</p>
2021	Sweet Girl	<p>A woman dies of cancer after a pharmaceutical company pulls a potentially lifesaving generic drug off the market amidst rumors of a payoff. The woman's husband calls into a television show interviewing the pharmaceutical company CEO and a congresswoman and threatens to kill the CEO. The husband meets with a reporter who has evidence of the company's criminal activity, and at the meeting a hitman stabs the husband, knocks out the husband's daughter, and kills the reporter. The husband survives and finds the CEO, who says he doesn't know about the criminal activity. He tells the husband to talk to the pharmaceutical company's chairman. The husband kills the CEO. The daughter asks an FBI agent to investigate the pharmaceutical company. The company chairman refuses to talk to the husband, and the hitman kills him. The hitman tells the husband and daughter that he works for the congresswoman. The FBI agent ambushes the husband and realizes that the daughter has been pretending to be the husband, who died years ago after he was stabbed by the hitman. The daughter suffered PTSD and dissociative identity disorder after the incident and finished her father's quest for vengeance. The daughter escapes, finds the congresswoman's office, kills the hitman, and records the congresswoman admitting to taking bribes from the drug company for government contracts, and ordering the hit on the reporter and the husband. The daughter sends the tape to the FBI, trades her money for cryptocurrency, boards a plane, and leaves. The congresswoman is arrested.</p>

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2022	Jerry and Marge Go Large	<p>Retiree Jerry Selbee discovers a statistical loophole in Michigan's WinFall lottery after a rolldown, which allows people to repeatedly win. He buys \$2,000 in tickets and loses, but he empties his bank account to buy a larger sample size to increase his chances and makes a profit. The lottery is shutdown in Michigan and Jerry and his wife, Marge, buy tickets in Massachusetts and double their money. They create an investment company to help their town, and residents buy shares in the corporation. The corporation grows, the townspeople revitalize the community and invest the money carefully. A Harvard math student also discovers the loophole and wins but realizes that someone else found it because his profits are less than anticipated. His friend hacks into the state lottery system and figures out where Jerry and Marge live. The students suggest Jerry and Marge add their money to the Harvard pot, but they decline. The students threaten to hack into the couple's investment company and sell investor's information if the company doesn't stop playing WinFall. The townspeople don't back down, so the students create an artificial rolldown by getting their parents to invest. Jerry requests the Massachusetts State Lottery board publicly announce when reaching rollback. A reporter publishes an article on the couple and the students, and the lottery commission takes away the town's machines and stop WinFall. But the corporation's investors played all over Massachusetts and won big one last time. The film is based on the article written about the Selbees.</p>
2023	Dumb Money	<p>Financial analyst Keith Gill notices during the Covid-19 pandemic that the video game retailer GameStop's stock is falling. He uses his life savings to buy stock and streams updates on his YouTube channel. Within months, the subreddit thread r/WallStreetBets reveals that investment firms, including Melvin Capital Management, have been short selling stock, assuming the chain would close, causing a mass increase in GameStop's stock price. Small online investors start aggressively buying stock and cause the investment firms to lose hundreds of millions. The subreddit thread is temporarily shut down, causing investors to panic sell GameStop's stock to beat a perceived price drop. The commission-free stock trading website Robinhood can't pay the money for the sales, so the website's co-chairman stops all purchasing to drive the price down. There is a backlash resulting in an investigation by the United States House Committee on Financial Services and several CEOs and the analyst are subpoenaed. Melvin Capital Management closes, Robinhood faces lawsuits and a falling stock price, and Gill denied any wrongdoing. The film is based on the book, <i>The Antisocial Network</i>.</p>