

JUSTICE INC.

Matt McAvoy



**I AM A CRIMINAL.
I HAVE BEEN
SERVED JUSTICE!**

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Screenplay

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"JUSTICE INC." - TREATMENT
(approx. 25 mins duration)

THE INSTRUCTOR sits in the window of a greasy-spoon cafe at night, dressed in black, watching as MARVIS and DARREN openly deal drugs on the corner of the street.

The following morning, an excitable crowd has gathered to see Marvis and Darren stuck to an advertising billboard ten feet above the ground in their underwear.

Marivs and Darren each have a single word written on their chest - CRACK DEALER and RAPIST respectively - and a JUSTICE INC. business card tied to their toe, reading: "I am a criminal - I have been dispensed justice."

INSPECTOR JACK JACKSON arrives at the scene.

Jack is unsurprised when Marcus hands him the business cards, and reveals Marvis and Darren to be wanted violent criminals who have absconded.

Marcus overhears two teenage boys talking at the scene and confronts them. One of the boys witnessed the attack on the two men and tells Marcus that their assailant was dressed in black with a balaclava. He used the shadows and alleys to fight them "Like Batman", and was a martial arts expert "Like Bruce Lee". Brief images of the fight are inserted.

As Jack returns to his car, he is accosted by a REPORTER taking photos at the scene.

When Jack enquires how the reporter was on the scene so quickly, he discovers that the offices of the newspaper where the man works overlook the billboard.

The reporter hands Jack a Justice Inc. business card in a white A6 envelope the newspaper received that morning; on the back it reads: "Follow us on Facebook".

Jack asks the reporter to hold the story before leaving.

Jack is in his office later that day, viewing the Justice Inc. Facebook page, and is shocked at the number of "fans" the profile has.

Jack attends the Mantis Kung-Fu class in the local community hall.

He confronts the Instructor, showing clear disrespect. It is clear the Instructor is Jack's prime suspect as the vigilante, and this is not the first time the detective has confronted him. In this scene the Instructor calls Jack by his first name, clarifying

the familiarity between them.

Jack sees that one of the computers in the hall is trying to shut down and makes a note of the time.

He suggests to the Instructor that his Facebook profile may be provable by his computer's I.P. address. The Instructor dismisses Jack's suggestion by saying he knows nothing about computers, then hinting that if Jack wants the address he will need a warrant to obtain it.

The Instructor implies he does not know the identity of the vigilante Jack seeks, as he has told him on previous occasions. He does, however, hint at certain details of the victims that most civilians probably would not know.

Jack queries how the vigilante is targeting the confidential most dangerous list of the public protection agency MAPPA, but the Instructor simply challenges him to catch the vigilante and ask him.

Jack assures the Instructor he will, and the Instructor questions why he would want to.

That evening, Jack is at home with his WIFE, again reading the Facebook page. He sees an entry added just minutes before he arrived at the community hall.

The following morning Jack enters the office, where Marcus and his colleagues are discussing Justice Inc.

One of the sergeants hands Jack the newspaper, and he is annoyed to see that a photograph of Marvis and Darren stuck to the billboard dominates the front page.

The accompanying story clearly hints at the work of a vigilante serving up wanted criminals for the authorities; however, there is no mention of Justice Inc.

Marcus jokes that they should allow Justice Inc. to continue. This angers Jack and his SUPERINTENDENT, who is present.

The Superintendent suggests that Justice Inc. is publicly ridiculing the police.

D.S. EBUBE refers to the vigilante as a "hero" amongst people he knows.

Jack advises that the threat of Justice Inc. be taken seriously, citing the scale of its Facebook following.

Privately, the Superintendent asks Jack to find out the identity of the vigilante, and is shocked when Jack reveals he already

knows it. Jack also suggests that the suspect revels in him knowing.

She asks Jack to take the suspect off the streets before he becomes famous, but because the investigation is not official, to do so in his own time, which dismays Jack.

As Jack ponders the request he loiters outside the community hall, watching the Instructor's class train.

The following morning Jack goes to the home of the Instructor - a flat in a grubby, run-down tower block.

As the Instructor makes Jack coffee, Jack advises him that he will not get away with Justice Inc. - that he will go too far and will be caught if he does not stop now - and offers him a deal; a summary charge in return for his ceasing activity.

The Instructor still refuses to admit whether or not he is the vigilante.

He instead embarks upon a vitriol questioning the ability, motivation, and indeed the very purpose of the police. He warns that people are ready to take the law into their own hands.

Jack reads from his notes "fan" entries posted on the Facebook page by wannabe vigilantes, describing their beating shoplifters and suspected paedophiles, and warns that the Instructor will take the blame for all of them if he allows the page to continue.

Jack calls the vigilante a narcissist who only cares about the publicity.

The Instructor expresses regret at the incidents, but continues his angry rhetoric about the failures of the criminal justice system, and the point of Justice Inc. - to highlight these failures.

He asks if Jack's colleagues share his view, and Jack tellingly falters.

Jack then outright accuses the Instructor of being the vigilante, and the Instructor warns him against slander.

Then, more light-heartedly, the Instructor shows Jack his new motif for the class, which is not dissimilar to that of Justice Inc.

He teasingly reveals his attention to take his brand nationwide, cheekily asking Jack to post his adverts to the national press - A6 envelopes strongly resembling that the reporter handed Jack.

Suspecting he is being mocked, Jack leaves. As he does so, he and

the Instructor share a joke.

The Instructor then thanks Jack for calling him by the respectful title "Sifu".

At night, as the Instructor stands on his balcony watching the world, Jack watches a documentary about prison life. One of the offenders in the program suggests he became an inmate because he was not sufficiently punished earlier in life. Jack ponders this point.

The Instructor goes out late at night dressed in black. As he sits on a train, several carriages along, Jack discreetly follows. Jack follows the Instructor on foot into the dark and tough Grahame Park estate, before losing sight of him.

There Jack is approached and surrounded aggressively by a group of YOUTHS. When Jack identifies himself as a police officer, he is set upon by the group, who subject him to a savage beating.

He is saved by a FIGURE in black, and a black balaclava. The vigilante fights and defeats the youths, leaving two of them badly beaten. He and Jack acknowledge each other, before he disappears into the night. Jack makes his way home.

The following morning, a bruised and battered Jack receives a call from the Grahame Park police office, who reveal they were delivered a wanted violent criminal tied in a red bow by Justice Inc. early that morning.

Justice Inc. left a recorded message with the criminal which is played over the telephone for Jack. In it, the man pleads under duress for justice and the opportunity to address his life, with a stark warning that if the criminal justice system does not deal with him harshly, Justice Inc. will.

Later that afternoon Jack locates the Instructor in a local pub, and joins him for a pint.

He thanks the Instructor for last night, but still the Instructor reveals nothing.

The Instructor does mock Jack's allegiance, clearly in light of the vicious assault he suffered.

Jack shows signs of disillusionment, and suggests that the vigilante cleans up "the Facebook nutters" if he wants to retain his apparent popularity.

Teasingly, the Instructor invites Jack to join him at his classes, and furthermore to bring as many police officers as want to join him, all free of charge.

He also puts the wad of A6 envelopes on the bar, offering to hand them over to Jack and let him take charge of the timing to nationalize his brand.

Jack ponders his choices, as he considers picking up the wad.

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