

Absolute Power (1997)

The story describes a conflict that arises after Luther Whitney (Clint Eastwood), a master jewel thief, witnesses Secret Service agents killing Christy (Melora Hardin), the beautiful young wife of elderly billionaire Walter Sullivan (E.G. Marshall), during her drunken rendezvous with Alan Richmond (Gene Hackman), the President of the United States. Sullivan is Richmond's friend and financial supporter, and Richmond is a known philanderer. Luther has a daughter, Kate (Laura Linney), who works as a prosecutor and has been estranged from him for years.

Luther breaks into Sullivan's mansion while the Sullivan family is on vacation, but Christy and Richmond interrupt him as he robs the house, Christy having asked her family to go without her. Luther hides behind a one-way mirror and watches as they begin a sexual encounter. When Richmond, who is a sadist, slaps Christy and tries to strangle her, she attacks him with a letter opener; Richmond yells for help, and Secret Service agents Bill Burton (Scott Glenn) and Tim Collin (Dennis Haysbert) shoot her to death. They and Chief of Staff Gloria Russell (Judy Davis) then make the scene appear as if a burglar killed her. Luther escapes with some valuables and the bloody letter opener, but the Secret Service becomes aware of him.

Detective Seth Frank (Ed Harris) investigates the crime. Luther quickly becomes a prime suspect in the burglary, but Frank does not believe he murdered Christy. As Luther is about to flee the country, he sees Richmond on television, vowing to find the murderer, and incensed by this hypocrisy, he decides to bring Richmond to justice. Meanwhile, Burton asks Frank to keep him informed about the case while a Secret Service agent bugs Frank's office telephone.

Kate takes Frank to Luther's town house to search for clues. Photographs of her indicate that Luther has secretly been watching her as she grew up, but she still suspects him of killing Christy, so she agrees to Frank's request that she meet with Luther. Frank guarantees Luther's safety, but Burton learns about the plan through the wiretap, and someone alerts Sullivan, who hires a hitman (Richard Jenkins) to kill Luther. At the meeting, Collin and Sullivan's sniper, each unaware of the other, try to shoot Luther, but they both miss, and Luther escapes through the police cordon by posing as a police officer. Frank takes Kate back to her apartment. After he leaves, Luther comes out of hiding in the apartment, explains to Kate how Christy was killed, and leaves.

Luther taunts Russell by sending her a photograph of the letter opener and tricking her into wearing Christy's necklace in public. Correctly suspecting that Kate knows the truth, Richmond orders Collin and Burton to kill her. When Frank tells Luther that the Secret Service has taken over surveillance of Kate, Luther races back to DC to protect her. He arrives at her jogging area just moments after Collin pushes her and her car off a cliff. Collin tries to kill her again at the hospital, but Luther stops him, jabbing him with a poison-filled syringe Collin brought with him. When Collin pleads for mercy, Luther says he's "fresh out" and delivers the fatal dose.

After learning from Frank that Sullivan gave no reason why Christy stayed home (she had claimed to her husband - and to him only - that she was sick), Luther incapacitates Sullivan's chauffeur and drives Sullivan around Washington, telling him what happened on the night of the murder and explaining that Richmond incriminated himself in a speech by citing Christy's excuse for staying home, which he could only have learned from her. Luther gives Sullivan the letter opener and drops him off outside the White House, and Sullivan sneaks the letter opener into Richmond's office.

Meanwhile, alerted by Luther that his phones are bugged, Frank goes to Burton's office. In remorse for the attempt on Kate, Burton has committed suicide and left evidence, which Frank uses to arrest

Russell. Later, on the television news, Sullivan claims that the President committed suicide by stabbing himself to death. It is unrevealed whether Sullivan himself stabbed Richmond or if Richmond indeed committed suicide so as to avoid punishment for his crimes. The film ends as Luther watches Kate in her hospital room. After Frank visits briefly, Luther suggests to Kate that she invite Frank to dinner and draws a sketch of Kate.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Absolute_Power_%28film%29

Cast



Clint Eastwood ... Luther Whitney



Gene Hackman ... President Allen Richmond



Ed Harris ... Seth Frank



Laura Linney ... Kate Whitney



Scott Glenn ... Bill Burton



Dennis Haysbert ... Tim Collin



Judy Davis ... Gloria Russell



E.G. Marshall ... Walter Sullivan



Melora Hardin ... Christy Sullivan



Kenneth Welsh ... Sandy Lord (as Ken Welsh)



Penny Johnson ... Laura Simon



Richard Jenkins ... Michael McCarty



Mark Margolis ... Red Brandsford



Elaine Kagan ... Valerie



Alison Eastwood ... Art Student

[after Collin disguised as a doctor tried to kill Kate with an injection]

Luther Whitney: [disguised as a doctor also holding a lethal injection against Colin's neck] I didn't mind when you tried to shoot me at the restaurant. But I did mind when you rammed my daughter off the hill back there.

Tim Collin: [pleading weakly] Mercy.

Luther Whitney: I'm fresh out

[plunges the injection into Colin's neck]

Tim Collin: [groans as he dies]

Kate Whitney: [starts waking up in hospital bed] Daddy?

Luther Whitney: [softly] Go on back to sleep, honey.

to ram = spingere (usando un mezzo come se fosse un ariete); **fresh out** = appena uscito (dal forno, di prigione, ecc.)

Michael McCarty: ... You are a salesman, sir.

Walter Sullivan: Selling sin is easy.

sin = peccato

Luther Whitney: Go down a rope in the middle of the night? If I could do that, I'd be the star of my AARP meetings.

AARP = associazione americana che fornisce informazioni, servizi e intrattenimento agli ultracinquantenni

Seth Frank: Why does he bother to dig a slug out of the wall when he knows there's already another one stuck in her head?

Laura Simon: Uh, different from the one in her body?

Seth Frank: Two guns means two burglars. They broke in together, they both went out the window? That's bullshit! And by the way, why did he, or they, go out the window in the first place when he, or they, got in by breaking a zillion-dollar security system?

slug = proiettile; **zillion** = milioni e milioni

Kate Whitney: Why'd you come?

Luther Whitney: I couldn't have my daughter thinking I was a murderer.

Kate Whitney: No, I mean why did you come to the restaurant this afternoon? You must have

suspected something, or else you wouldn't have been prepared.

Luther Whitney: My daughter wanted to see me.

I couldn't have my daughter thinking I was a murderer = non riesco a sopportare l'idea che mia figlia pensasse che sono un assassino.

[*Looking at Christy's body*]

Walter Sullivan: I'd been married to my Rebecca for forty-seven years. When she died, I decided I never wanted that pain again. One thing I knew about Christy, she was going to outlive me.

to outlive sb = sopravvivere a qc

Bill Burton: Miss Russell, I should've called the police that night but I was weak. You convinced me to stay silent. I regret that. Know this: every time I see your face, I wanna rip your throat out.

to rip sb's throat out = tagliare la gola a qc

Valerie: I just never figured you for a runner.

I just never figured you for a runner = è solo che non immaginavo che ti piacesse correre

Luther Whitney: [*to Tim Collin*] He made a mistake. You made a mistake. When you went after my little girl, that was entirely unacceptable.

to go after sb = (qui) prendersela con qualcuno

Luther Whitney: When you're alone at night, and your rage takes over and you want an avenger, what face do you put with your enemy?

avenger = vendicatore, qualcuno che le renda giustizia

Gloria Russell: He's got the letter opener. Blood. Fingerprints. Jesus... Think what he can do.

Bill Burton: The man's a thief. A thief who witnessed a murder.

letter opener = tagliacarte

Allen Richmond: What do we know, so far?

Gloria Russell: Well, we've checked his license plates. He stole the car from a police impoundment lot.

Allen Richmond: We're not dealing with a fool here, are we? Has he initiated contact?

Gloria Russell: Burton doesn't think he will.

Allen Richmond: I agree. I apologize for my behavior. It won't happen again. Consider it a blip on the screen. As far as I'm concerned that's all he is, too.

Gloria Russell: Well, he could be a little more than that, Allen. He saw.

Allen Richmond: He saw nothing. He saw a drunk woman who liked rough sex too much. He's a burglar. Who's gonna believe him? After all, it's not as if he has any evidence or anything.

police impoundment lot = deposito della polizia; **blip** = piccola interferenza

Luther Whitney: [*to Seth*] You gotta get with the program if you're gonna catch this guy.
gotta get with the program = (slang) devi andare avanti col programma

Kate Whitney: Quit wasting my time. He doesn't want you to find him, you're not gonna find him.

Seth Frank: You're saying what? He left town, he skipped the country? What?

Kate Whitney: I'm saying, you won't recognize him. I'm saying, he could be right around the corner.

to quit = smettere; **to skip** = (qui) lasciare, andarsene

Seth Frank: Kate, he's on the run and he's scared. And he's right to be scared, 'cause he's gonna get caught. You don't know the heat on this.

on the run = in fuga

Luther Whitney: Remember, tomorrow is promised to no one.

tomorrow is promised to no one = a nessuno si promette il futuro

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0118548/>