

Breach

Eric O'Neill (Ryan Phillippe) is a young FBI employee assigned to work undercover as a clerk to Robert Hanssen (Chris Cooper), a senior agent he is told is suspected of being a sexual deviant. Hanssen has been recalled from a detail post at the State Department to FBI headquarters ostensibly to head up a new division specializing in Information Assurance.

Initially, Hanssen insists on a strict formality between the two men. He frequently rails against the bureaucracy of the FBI and complains that only those who regularly "shoot guns" are considered for senior positions instead of those, like himself, who are involved in vital national security matters. He calls the bureau's information technology systems antiquated and laments the lack of coordination and information exchange with other intelligence agencies.

Eventually, Hanssen becomes a friend and mentor to O'Neill and takes a personal interest in him and his wife Juliana (Caroline Dhavernas), who is suspicious of Hanssen and resents his intrusions. A devout Catholic who is also a member of Opus Dei, Hanssen urges O'Neill, a lapsed Catholic, and his secular East German-born wife to become active churchgoers.

O'Neill finds no evidence of Hanssen leading a secret double life and develops a growing respect for his boss, so he confronts his handler in the undercover assignment, Kate Burroughs (Laura Linney), and she admits that the sexual deviance allegations are only a secondary consideration. Hanssen has been suspected of spying for the Soviet Union and Russia for years and being responsible for the deaths of agents working for the United States. He learns that FBI Director Louis Freeh is personally leading the investigation.

While the FBI could arrest Hanssen under lesser charges, they want to catch him in an act of espionage, so they can threaten him with the death penalty for treason and possibly induce him to divulge the information he has compromised. O'Neill is ordered to obtain data from Hanssen's Palm Pilot and keep him occupied while FBI agents search his car and plant covert listening devices in it.

The tracking devices in Hanssen's car cause interference with the radio, which makes Hanssen suspicious. He also wonders why he was placed in an isolated position in the FBI only a few months before he's scheduled to retire. He tells O'Neill he believes he is being surveilled by Russian agents. The FBI intercepts a message he sends to his Russian handlers saying he will not provide any more information. O'Neill persuades Hanssen that he is not being trailed by the Russians or by him on behalf of the FBI. With his confidence restored, Hanssen makes one last dead drop of stolen information, and the FBI catches him in the act.

Cast

Chris Cooper	as	Robert Hanssen
Ryan Phillippe	as	Eric O'Neill
Laura Linney	as	Kate Burroughs
Caroline Dhavernas	as	Juliana O'Neill
Dennis Haysbert	as	Dean Plesac
Gary Cole	as	Rich Garces
Kathleen Quinlan	as	Bonnie Hanssen
Bruce Davison	as	John O'Neill
Tom Barnett	as	Jim Olsen
Jonathan Watton	as	Geddes
Jonathan Potts	as	DIA Suit

David Huband	as	Photographer
Catherine Burdon	as	Agent Nece
Scott Gibson	as	Agent Sherin

Memorable quotes (with notes on difficult vocabulary)

Hanssen: Can't trust a woman in a **pants suit**. Men wear the pants. The world doesn't need anymore Hillary Clintons.

Pants suit: completo giacca e pantaloni

Hanssen: The **perks** go to the guys who play the game, the ones who **politick**.

Perk: vantaggio/privilegio; **To politick:** fare politica

O'Neill: What if he's smarter than I am?

Burroughs: A couple of years ago, the bureau put together a task force. Lots of **assets** had been disappearing. So this task force was formed to find the **mole** who was giving them up. Our best analysts **poring over** data for years looking for the guy, and they could never quite find him. Guess who was put in charge of the task force? He was smarter than all of us. Actually, I can live with that part. It's the idea that my entire career has been a waste of time, that's the part I hate. Everything I've done since I got to this office, everything we've all been paid to do, he was undoing it. We all **coulda** just stayed home.

Asset: (qui) beni/risorse; **Mole:** talpa/spia; **To pour over something:** sgobbare su qualcosa

O'Neill: There's no such thing as the Information Assurance Division, is there?

Kate Burroughs: No. We created that to **lure** him back from State. 9930 was built for him, too. Video, audio, **bafflers** in the **vents**, heat sensors, motion sensors. Probably enough microwaves in that office to cook a chicken.

To lure: attirare con l'inganno/adescare; **Baffler:** (qui) filtro; **Vent:** ventola

Hanssen: I never cared about making **headlines**. I wanted to make history. The people that **intel** tracks are the ones who want to **wipe** America **off** the map. And somehow that always meant a little more to me than being promoted.

Headline: titolo in prima pagina; **To make headlines:** finire in prima pagina; **Intel (intelligence):** servizi segreti; **To wipe off:** cancellare/eliminare

Burroughs: That was the worst spy in American history **you brought down**, and you're just going to **walk away**.

O'Neill: Can you think of a better time to walk away?

Burroughs: **Nope**.

To bring down: (qui) fare fuori/eliminare; **To walk away:** (qui) lasciar perdere/lavarsene le mani; **Nope (informal):** no

Pleasac: Director wants him **caught in the act** of making a **drop**. That would give him the death penalty.

Don't you think he's earned it?

To get caught in the act: essere colto sul fatto; **Drop:** (qui) consegna

Hanssen: Perfect. We're fighting crime with 19th-century technology, and he's worried about protocol. **Set up** those meetings. **Leave it up to** him, they'll never happen.

O'Neill: Sir?

Hanssen: That was **turf protection** you were just watching in there. Didn't you **spot** it? Organizational arrogance.

To set up: (qui) organizzare/fissare; **To leave something up to someone:** lasciare che qualcuno si occupi di qualcosa; **Turf protection:** (qui) demarcazione del territorio (fig.); **To spot:** accorgersi/notare

O'Neill: You know, sir, I think you're misunderstood.

Hanssen: Oh? By whom?

O'Neill: By whoever **gives out** window offices, for one.

Hanssen: Oh, that's all right. I think **I made too much fuss of** all that. I'll be gone so soon anyway, what good would a window do me now? Fifty-seven in two months, that's **mandatory retirement**.

To give out: distribuire; **To make too much fuss of something:** fare tanto rumore per nulla; **Mandatory retirement:** pensionamento obbligatorio

Sources:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Breach_\(film\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Breach_(film))
<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0401997/quotes>