



# SumJustice\_Dec25\_Scene#\_CP

## Logline

A father's desperate search for justice becomes a town's darkest hour when a Black janitor is lynched for a crime he didn't commit, while the real perpetrator hides in plain sight.

## Genre

Historical drama, legal drama, social justice.

## Top Keywords

justice, racism, lynching, trial, mob, murder, false accusation, prejudice, violence, legal system, small town, 1920s, newspaper, law enforcement, courtroom, racial tension, community, historical drama, crime, identification

## Location Setting

Columbia, Missouri

## Script Score

### 1. Character Development: 7.0/10

The screenplay effectively develops its central characters, particularly James Scott, whose dignity in the face of injustice shines through. Rubey Hulen shows compelling moral complexity as he grapples with his role in Scott's fate. Regina Almstedt's journey from mistaken accuser to horrified realization is well-portrayed. However, several supporting characters like George Barkwell and the various officials remain somewhat two-dimensional, serving more as plot functions than fully realized individuals.

### 2. Plot Construction: 8.0/10

The narrative structure is strong, using the framing device of Kya's book report to effectively tell this historical tragedy. The screenplay builds tension expertly from the initial assault to the eventual lynching, with careful attention to procedural details. The trial scenes are particularly well-constructed, showing how justice was systematically denied. The nonlinear timeline occasionally creates unnecessary confusion, but overall maintains a compelling progression.

### 3. Dialogue: 8.0/10

The dialogue effectively captures the period without becoming stilted or overly formal. Courtroom exchanges are particularly strong, balancing legal precision with emotional impact. The conversations between James and his family carry authentic weight and poignancy. Some secondary characters speak too similarly, and occasionally dialogue becomes overly expository, particularly in the classroom scenes.

#### 4. Originality: 7.0/10

While historical lynching narratives are not new to cinema, this screenplay finds fresh angles by focusing on the legal and journalistic aspects alongside the personal tragedy. The framing device of connecting past injustice to present-day descendants provides a unique perspective. The screenplay avoids some racial trauma tropes by emphasizing systemic failures rather than individual racist caricatures.

#### 5. Emotional Engagement: 9.0/10

The screenplay creates profound emotional impact, particularly in scenes of James' final moments and the courtroom's callous treatment of his memory. The revelation of Kya's personal connection delivers a powerful emotional payoff. The juxtaposition of James' dignity with the mob's cruelty creates genuinely moving moments that resonate beyond the historical specifics.

#### 6. Theme and Message: 9.0/10

The screenplay powerfully articulates themes of justice, racial prejudice, institutional failure, and historical memory. Its examination of how media, law enforcement, and legal systems can collaborate in injustice feels timely and important. The three lessons Kya articulates at the end are clear without being heavy-handed, showing how historical traumas continue to affect descendants while also emphasizing resilience.

#### Overall Rating: 8.0/10

The screenplay delivers a compelling historical drama that effectively connects past injustice to present understanding. Its strongest elements are its emotional impact and thematic clarity, though some character development opportunities are missed. The structure effectively balances historical accuracy with dramatic necessity, creating a powerful narrative about justice denied and the enduring impact of racial violence.

Based on the Script Score, this screenplay ranks at 86th percentile and received a Strong Consider

### **Synopsis**

A Black janitor named James Scott is accused of raping a white teenager in 1923 Columbia, Missouri. After being identified by the victim Regina Almstedt, he is arrested and jailed. When news spreads, George Barkwell leads a mob that breaks into the jail and lynches Scott from Stewart Bridge, despite his claims of innocence. Later, Regina identifies Ollie Watson, Scott's cellmate, as her actual attacker, revealing Scott was wrongfully killed. During Barkwell's murder trial, witnesses testify to his leadership role in the lynching, but he is acquitted after just eleven minutes of jury deliberation. The story, narrated by Kya in her present-day classroom, concludes with her revelation that James Scott was her great-great-grandfather, an innocent man whose legacy lives on through generations of accomplished descendants.

### **Comprehensive Synopsis**

In 1923 Columbia, Missouri, a town sharply divided by racial segregation, a young white girl named Regina Almstedt is sexually assaulted near Stewart Bridge. The victim describes her attacker as a "copper colored negro" with a Charlie Chaplin mustache. Chief of Police Ernest Rowland quickly narrows his search to James T. Scott, a 37-year-old Black janitor at the university medical building who matches this description.

James is a respected member of Columbia's Black community - a World War I veteran, father of three, and church pianist married to schoolteacher Gertrude Scott. When Chief Rowland brings James to Regina's home for identification, she immediately claims he's her attacker. Despite James's protests of innocence and lack of any scratches from Regina's umbrella (which she had used to defend herself), he's arrested and jailed.

County Prosecutor Rubey Hulen charges James with rape, and Judge Henry Collier denies bail due to the severity of the charges. Meanwhile, tensions rise in Columbia as newspaper editor Colonel Ed and city editor Hollis Edwards publish inflammatory articles suggesting "summary justice" should be delivered to save taxpayers the cost of a trial.

George Barkwell, a prominent local businessman and former city councilman who lost his wife and daughter, becomes the catalyst for mob action. At Booche's Pool Parlor, Barkwell and his associates Hamp, Red, and Lou plan to take matters into their own hands.

Attorney E.C. Anderson agrees to defend James after meeting with Reverend Jonathan Caston. During their jail visit, James insists he was working at the university medical building all day when the attack occurred. Anderson notices James has no facial scratches, contradicting Regina's claim she repeatedly jabbed her attacker's face with her umbrella.

The situation deteriorates when Ollie Watson, arrested for assaulting another girl, is placed in James's cell. James recognizes the facial scratches on Watson from Regina's umbrella and realizes Watson is the actual perpetrator. Watson essentially admits to the crime, giving James hope for exoneration.

On Saturday night, April 28, 1923, a mob of over 1,500 people gathers outside the Boone County Jail. Led by Barkwell, they use chisels, sledgehammers, and blowtorches to breach the jail's defenses. Inside, Sheriff Brown, Judge Collier, Prosecutor Hulen, Jailer Hall, and two policemen debate whether to use force to protect James but ultimately decide against it, fearing casualties.

When the mob reaches James's cell, they brutally beat him before dragging him through Columbia's streets toward Stewart Bridge - the very location where Regina was attacked. Professor Almstedt attempts to intervene, pleading with the mob to let his daughter's alleged attacker stand trial, but is threatened and pushed aside.

At the bridge, James maintains his innocence and identifies Watson as the real perpetrator. Two reporters, Charles Nutter and Frank Misselwitz, try to reason with the crowd but are ignored. Barkwell places a noose around James's neck and shoves him from the bridge. James's body jerks to a stop twenty feet below with a sickening crack as the mob cheers.

In the aftermath, Governor Arthur Hyde and Assistant Attorney General Henry Davis pledge justice, stating that anyone who encouraged the lynching could be charged with murder. Barkwell is arrested but quickly bailed out by prominent citizens who offer to post bond for any mob participant.

During his investigation, Hulen discovers troubling evidence suggesting James's innocence. Regina identifies Watson as her actual attacker when shown him at the Audrain County Jail. She becomes hysterical upon realizing her mistake led to an innocent man's death.

Barkwell's trial begins in July 1923. Prosecution witnesses place him at the jail directing the mob and later at the bridge placing the noose around James's neck. The defense counters with alibi witnesses claiming Barkwell was elsewhere on the bridge during the lynching. The trial's turning point comes when newspaper editor Edwards testifies that Hulen himself was one of the "men of sound judgment" quoted in the inflammatory article.

After just eleven minutes of deliberation, the jury returns a verdict of "not guilty." The courtroom erupts in celebration while James's family leaves in silent grief. Ollie Watson is later convicted of raping Ernestine Huggard and sentenced to twenty-four years in prison, where he dies seven years later.

The story concludes in present-day Chicago, where high school student Kya reveals during her book report that James Scott was her great-great-grandfather. Despite the grave injustice of his death, she takes pride in his descendants' accomplishments - doctors, nurses, teachers, and her father, a school superintendent. She expresses gratitude that people in Columbia still remember and honor James T. Scott, welcoming her family and keeping his memory alive.

Through this tragic story, Kya learns three important lessons: the critical importance of due process, the power of media to help or harm depending on who controls it, and the necessity of standing up against unchecked power, even when the fight seems futile.

## **Plot Assessment and Enhancement**

### Working Well

- **Strong Historical Authenticity:** The screenplay effectively grounds itself in the true historical events of James Scott's lynching while creating a compelling narrative frame through Kya's present-day connection to the story.
- **Powerful Framing Device:** Using Kya's book report as a vehicle to tell this historical story creates emotional investment and provides a modern connection to past injustice.
- **Complex Characters:** The screenplay avoids one-dimensional characterizations. Characters like Rubey Hulen show moral complexityhe initially pursues prosecution before realizing his mistake and struggling with guilt.
- **Clear Thematic Focus:** The screenplay effectively explores themes of racial injustice, mob mentality, media responsibility, and the failure of the justice system through concrete dramatic moments.
- **Dramatic Trial Scenes:** The courtroom sequences are particularly strong, with excellent use of testimony, cross-examination, and legal maneuvering to build tension.
- **Emotional Resonance:** The revelation that Kya is James Scott's descendant delivers a powerful emotional payoff that connects past and present.

### Improvement Areas

- **Too Many Characters:** The screenplay introduces numerous minor characters that can be difficult to track. Consider consolidating some roles to strengthen audience connection with key figures.
- **Pacing in Middle Acts:** The investigation and pre-trial sequences could be tightened to maintain momentum between the lynching and the trial.
- **Regina's Character Development:** While Regina's trauma is shown, her character could be more developed to show her struggle with the identification and its consequences.

- Visual Storytelling Opportunities: Some exposition-heavy scenes could be reimagined as more visual sequences that show rather than tell information.
- Enhance the Parallel Structure: The connection between past and present could be strengthened with more intercutting between Kya's classroom and the historical events, particularly at emotional high points.
- Clarify Ollie Watson's Role Earlier: While his guilt is eventually revealed, establishing more concrete suspicion around Watson earlier would heighten dramatic tension and make James's innocence more evident to the audience.
- Strengthen the Press's Role: The newspaper's role in inciting mob violence could be visually dramatized more effectively through montage or scene work showing how information spreads.
- Family Impact: While we see Gertrude's grief, expanding scenes showing how James's family copes after his death would strengthen the emotional impact of the injustice.

## **Character Profiling**

James Scott

A 37-year-old African American janitor at the university, husband, and father of three. Falsely accused of raping Regina Almstedt, he is lynched by a mob despite maintaining his innocence. His arc is tragic, transitioning from a respected community member to a victim of brutal murder, with his legacy honored by his descendants.

Archetype: The Innocent

Regina Almstedt

A 14-year-old white girl who is sexually assaulted and mistakenly identifies James Scott as her attacker. Initially confident in her identification, she later realizes her mistake, leading to profound guilt and remorse when she discovers Ollie Watson was the actual attacker.

Archetype: Innocent

Rubey Hulen

The county prosecutor who rushes to judgment against James Scott, prosecuting him based on questionable evidence. He is partially responsible for the environment that led to the lynching. After Scott's death, he doubts the case and feels deep guilt for his role in the miscarriage of justice.

Archetype: The Ruler

George Barkwell

A prominent local contractor and former city councilman who leads the lynch mob that murders James Scott. As a key instigator of the violence, he is later put on trial for Scott's murder but is acquitted, representing systemic racism and lack of accountability of the time.

Archetype: The Shadow

Reverend Jonathan Caston

A young Black pastor who supports James Scott's family and tries to help prove his innocence. He provides spiritual and emotional support, representing hope, compassion, and moral integrity in the face of profound injustice.

Archetype: The Caregiver

## Main Character Casting

Kya

- Marsai Martin: Marsai Martin is a talented young actress known for her role in 'Black-ish.' Her ability to portray intelligent and reserved characters makes her a perfect fit for Kya. As a 19-year-old African American actress, she aligns well with Kya's age, race, and nationality.

- Skai Jackson: Skai Jackson has demonstrated her acting skills in various roles, including her work on 'Jessie.' At 21, she can convincingly play a 16-year-old, and her African American heritage matches Kya's background.

- Storm Reid: Storm Reid, known for her roles in 'A Wrinkle in Time' and 'Euphoria,' brings depth and nuance to her performances. At 20, she can portray Kya's intelligence and reserved nature effectively. Her African American ethnicity and American nationality align with the character.

- Quvenzhan Wallis: Quvenzhan Wallis, an Oscar-nominated actress for 'Beasts of the Southern Wild,' has the experience and talent to embody Kya's character. At 20, she fits the age range and shares Kya's African American heritage.

- Lovie Simone: Lovie Simone, known for her role in 'Greenleaf,' has the acting chops to portray a complex character like Kya. At 24, she can still convincingly play a teenager, and her African American background matches Kya's.

- Amandla Stenberg: Amandla Stenberg, known for 'The Hate U Give,' has a strong presence and the ability to convey deep emotions, making her a great choice for Kya. At 25, she can still portray a 16-year-old, and her African American heritage aligns with the character.

- Yara Shahidi: Yara Shahidi, famous for her role in 'Grown-ish,' is known for her intelligence and poise, qualities that suit Kya's character. At 23, she can convincingly play a younger role, and her African American ethnicity matches Kya's.

- China Anne McClain: China Anne McClain, known for her work in 'Descendants 2' and 'Black Lightning,' has the versatility to portray Kya's reserved and intelligent nature. At 25, she can still play a teenager, and her African American background fits the character.

- Kyla-Drew: Kyla-Drew, known for her role in 'Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn,' has the youthful appearance and talent to portray Kya. At 19, she fits the age range and shares Kya's African American heritage.

- Lexi Underwood: Lexi Underwood, known for her role in 'Little Fires Everywhere,' has shown her ability to handle complex roles. At 20, she can convincingly play a 16-year-old, and her African American ethnicity aligns with Kya's character.

James Scott

- Chadwick Boseman: Chadwick Boseman was known for his powerful performances in historical dramas, such as '42' and 'Marshall,' where he portrayed real-life figures with depth and dignity. His ability to convey strength and vulnerability would have made him an ideal choice for the role of James Scott. Unfortunately, Chadwick Boseman passed away in 2020, so he cannot be considered for this role.

- Michael B. Jordan: Michael B. Jordan has demonstrated his versatility and depth in roles that require both emotional intensity and physical presence, such as in 'Fruitvale Station' and 'Just Mercy.' His ability to portray complex characters makes him a strong fit for James Scott.

- John David Washington: John David Washington has shown his capability to handle intense and dramatic roles in films like 'BlacKkKlansman' and 'Tenet.' His experience in portraying characters dealing with social justice issues aligns well with the character of James Scott.

- Sterling K. Brown: Sterling K. Brown is known for his compelling performances in both television and film, including 'This Is Us' and 'Marshall.' His ability to convey deep emotional range and his experience in legal dramas make him a great choice for James Scott.

- Daniel Kaluuya: Daniel Kaluuya, though British, has successfully portrayed American characters in films like 'Get Out' and 'Judas and the Black Messiah.' His powerful screen presence and ability to tackle complex social issues make him a strong candidate for the role.

- Anthony Mackie: Anthony Mackie has a strong background in both action and drama, with roles in 'The Hurt Locker' and 'The Banker.' His ability to portray characters with resilience and integrity would suit the role of James Scott well.

- Aldis Hodge: Aldis Hodge has portrayed historical figures and characters involved in social justice narratives, such as in 'One Night in Miami' and 'Clemency.' His experience and gravitas make him a fitting choice for James Scott.

- Trevante Rhodes: Trevante Rhodes gained acclaim for his role in 'Moonlight,' where he showcased his ability to convey deep emotional complexity. His talent for portraying nuanced characters would be beneficial for the role of James Scott.

- Yahya Abdul-Mateen II: Yahya Abdul-Mateen II has demonstrated his range in both dramatic and action roles, such as in 'The Trial of the Chicago 7' and 'Watchmen.' His ability to embody characters with a strong sense of justice aligns with James Scott's character.

- Jovan Adepo: Jovan Adepo has shown his talent in roles that require emotional depth and historical context, such as in 'Fences' and 'When They See Us.' His experience in portraying characters facing societal challenges makes him a suitable choice for James Scott.

## Regina Almstedt

- Mckenna Grace: Mckenna Grace has a strong track record of portraying complex young characters with depth and sensitivity. Her experience in dramatic roles and her ability to convey trauma and resilience make her an excellent fit for Regina.

- Julia Butters: Julia Butters is known for her impressive performances in dramatic roles despite her young age. Her ability to portray vulnerability and strength aligns well with Regina's character.

- Mia Talerico: Mia Talerico has grown from her early roles into a capable young actress. Her experience in family dramas and her American background make her a suitable choice for Regina.

- Brooklynn Prince: Brooklynn Prince has demonstrated her acting prowess in films like 'The Florida Project,' where she portrayed a child facing difficult circumstances, similar to Regina's situation.

- Lulu Wilson: Lulu Wilson has a strong presence in horror and drama genres, often playing characters who experience trauma. Her ability to convey fear and resilience is ideal for Regina.

- Ella Anderson: Ella Anderson has experience in both comedic and dramatic roles, showcasing her versatility. Her

American nationality and acting skills make her a good fit for Regina.

- Alyvia Alyn Lind: Alyvia Alyn Lind has portrayed complex young characters in various dramas. Her ability to convey emotional depth and her American background align well with Regina's character.

- Isabella Crovetti: Isabella Crovetti has a background in both voice acting and live-action roles, bringing a unique perspective to her performances. Her experience in drama makes her a suitable choice for Regina.

- Scarlett Estevez: Scarlett Estevez has a strong presence in family and drama genres. Her ability to portray a range of emotions and her American nationality make her a good fit for Regina.

- Mckenna Roberts: Mckenna Roberts has experience in dramatic roles and has shown the ability to portray characters with emotional depth. Her American background and acting skills make her a suitable choice for Regina.

## **Main Character Casting Limited Budget**

Kya

- Marsai Martin: Marsai Martin is a talented young actress known for her role in 'Black-ish.' Her ability to portray intelligent and reserved characters makes her a great fit for Kya. As a 19-year-old African American actress, she aligns well with Kya's age, race, and nationality.

- Skai Jackson: Skai Jackson has a strong presence and has played roles that require depth and intelligence. At 21, she is slightly older but can convincingly portray a 16-year-old. Her experience and African American heritage make her a suitable choice for Kya.

- Storm Reid: Storm Reid is known for her roles in 'A Wrinkle in Time' and 'Euphoria,' where she has demonstrated her ability to handle complex characters. At 20, she can portray a younger character, and her African American background fits Kya's profile.

- Quvenzhan Wallis: Quvenzhan Wallis, an Oscar-nominated actress for 'Beasts of the Southern Wild,' has the acting chops to bring depth to Kya. At 20, she can still convincingly play a 16-year-old, and her African American heritage aligns with the character.

- Lovie Simone: Lovie Simone has shown her range in projects like 'Greenleaf' and 'Selah and the Spades.' At 24, she is slightly older but has the youthful appearance and talent to portray Kya. Her African American background matches the character's ethnicity.

- Lexi Underwood: Lexi Underwood is known for her role in 'Little Fires Everywhere,' where she played a thoughtful and introspective character. At 20, she can portray a 16-year-old, and her African American heritage fits Kya's profile.

- Ariana Neal: Ariana Neal has experience in both film and television, with roles that showcase her ability to portray intelligent and nuanced characters. At 19, she is close in age to Kya, and her African American background aligns with the character.

- Riele Downs: Riele Downs is known for her role in 'Henry Danger' and has the acting skills to portray a reserved and intelligent character like Kya. At 22, she can still convincingly play a 16-year-old, and her African American heritage matches the character's ethnicity.

- Saniyya Sidney: Saniyya Sidney has appeared in 'Fences' and 'Hidden Figures,' showcasing her ability to handle complex roles. At 17, she is very close in age to Kya, and her African American background fits the character's profile.

- Dafne Keen: Dafne Keen, known for her role in 'Logan,' has the acting range to portray a character like Kya. Although she is of mixed heritage, her American nationality and acting skills make her a potential fit for the role.

## James Scott

- John David Washington: John David Washington is a talented actor known for his powerful performances in films like 'BlacKkKlansman' and 'Tenet.' His age, race, and American nationality align perfectly with the character of James Scott, and his ability to convey depth and emotion would bring authenticity to the role of a World War I veteran and community leader.

- Michael B. Jordan: Michael B. Jordan has a strong presence and has portrayed complex characters in films such as 'Fruitvale Station' and 'Just Mercy.' His experience in roles that tackle social justice issues makes him a great fit for James Scott, and his age and American nationality match the character's profile.

- Chadwick Boseman: Chadwick Boseman was known for his compelling performances in historical dramas like '42' and 'Marshall.' His ability to embody real-life figures with dignity and strength would have made him an excellent choice for James Scott. (Note: Chadwick Boseman is deceased, but his inclusion here is to acknowledge his suitability for such roles.)

- Sterling K. Brown: Sterling K. Brown is an accomplished actor with a strong background in drama, known for his roles in 'This Is Us' and 'The People v. O.J. Simpson.' His ability to convey complex emotions and his alignment with the character's age and nationality make him a strong candidate for James Scott.

- Daniel Kaluuya: Daniel Kaluuya, though British, has demonstrated his versatility and depth in films like 'Get Out' and 'Judas and the Black Messiah.' His ability to portray characters facing systemic injustice would bring a powerful dimension to the role of James Scott.

- Anthony Mackie: Anthony Mackie has a commanding presence and has played roles that explore themes of race and justice, such as in 'The Banker.' His age and American nationality align with James Scott, making him a suitable choice for the character.

- Aldis Hodge: Aldis Hodge is known for his roles in 'Hidden Figures' and 'One Night in Miami,' where he portrayed historical figures with nuance and strength. His experience in period dramas and his alignment with the character's profile make him a great fit for James Scott.

- Trevante Rhodes: Trevante Rhodes gained acclaim for his role in 'Moonlight,' showcasing his ability to convey deep emotional complexity. His age and American nationality match James Scott, and his talent would bring authenticity to the character.

- Yahya Abdul-Mateen II: Yahya Abdul-Mateen II has demonstrated his range in projects like 'Watchmen' and 'The Trial of the Chicago 7.' His ability to tackle challenging roles and his alignment with the character's age and nationality make him a strong candidate for James Scott.

- Jovan Adepo: Jovan Adepo is known for his work in 'Fences' and 'The Leftovers,' where he has portrayed characters with depth and sensitivity. His age and American nationality align with James Scott, making him a suitable choice for the role.

## Regina Almstedt

- Mckenna Grace: Mckenna Grace is a talented young actress known for her roles in 'Gifted' and 'The Handmaid's Tale.' Her ability to portray complex emotions makes her a strong fit for the role of Regina, a traumatized assault victim. Her age, race, and American nationality align perfectly with the character.

- Julia Butters: Julia Butters gained recognition for her performance in 'Once Upon a Time in Hollywood.' Her ability to convey depth and vulnerability would suit the character of Regina, who is artistic and sheltered. She matches the age, race, and nationality requirements.

- Brooklynn Prince: Brooklynn Prince, known for 'The Florida Project,' has demonstrated her capability to handle emotionally challenging roles. Her experience and age make her a suitable choice for Regina, aligning with the character's background.

- Mia Talerico: Mia Talerico, from 'Good Luck Charlie,' has grown into a capable young actress. Her experience in family dramas and her age, race, and nationality make her a good fit for Regina.

- Lulu Wilson: Lulu Wilson has shown her range in films like 'Annabelle: Creation' and 'The Haunting of Hill House.' Her ability to portray fear and resilience aligns with Regina's character, and she fits the demographic requirements.

- Ella Anderson: Ella Anderson, known for 'The Glass Castle,' has experience in roles that require emotional depth. Her age, race, and nationality make her a suitable candidate for Regina.

- Alyvia Alyn Lind: Alyvia Alyn Lind has a strong background in drama, with roles in 'The Young and the Restless' and 'Daybreak.' Her acting skills and demographic match make her a good choice for Regina.

- Isabella Crovetti: Isabella Crovetti, from 'Colony,' has demonstrated her ability to handle complex roles. Her age, race, and nationality align with Regina's character.

- Scarlett Estevez: Scarlett Estevez, known for 'Lucifer,' has shown her versatility in various roles. Her experience and demographic fit make her a potential choice for Regina.

- Mckenna Roberts: Mckenna Roberts, from 'The Young and the Restless,' has experience in dramatic roles. Her age, race, and nationality make her a suitable option for Regina.

## **Comparative Film Analysis**

This screenplay can be described as a mash-up of the following movies, each contributing elements of historical drama, racial tension, legal battles, and social justice:

### 1. **"To Kill a Mockingbird" (1962)\*\***

- **Reason:** Both stories explore racial injustice and the legal system in America, focusing on a black man wrongfully accused of a crime.

- **Box Office:** \$13.1 million

### 2. **"Mississippi Burning" (1988)\*\***

- **Reason:** This film deals with racial violence and the investigation of civil rights violations, similar to the mob justice and racial tensions in the screenplay.

- **Box Office:** \$34.6 million

### 3. **"12 Angry Men" (1957)\*\***

- **Reason:** The intense courtroom drama and exploration of justice and prejudice are central themes in both the

screenplay and this film.

- **Box Office:** \$1 million (estimated)

4. **"The Green Mile" (1999)**

- **Reason:** Both narratives involve a black man facing wrongful accusations and the exploration of justice and humanity within the prison system.

- **Box Office:** \$286.8 million

5. **"A Time to Kill" (1996)**

- **Reason:** This film features a racially charged trial in the South, with themes of justice, revenge, and racial tension paralleling the screenplay.

- **Box Office:** \$152 million

6. **"Selma" (2014)**

- **Reason:** The film's focus on civil rights, racial injustice, and the fight for equality mirrors the historical and social justice elements of the screenplay.

- **Box Office:** \$66.8 million

7. **"The Birth of a Nation" (2016)**

- **Reason:** Both stories address racial oppression and the struggle for justice, with historical settings that highlight systemic racism.

- **Box Office:** \$16.8 million

8. **"The Hurricane" (1999)**

- **Reason:** This film tells the story of a wrongfully imprisoned black man, similar to the wrongful accusation and imprisonment in the screenplay.

- **Box Office:** \$74 million

9. **"Amistad" (1997)**

- **Reason:** The film's exploration of legal battles and racial injustice in a historical context aligns with the themes of the screenplay.

- **Box Office:** \$44.2 million

10. **"Just Mercy" (2019)**

- **Reason:** The film focuses on a lawyer's fight to free a wrongfully convicted black man, paralleling the legal and racial justice themes in the screenplay.

- **Box Office:** \$50.4 million

These films collectively capture the essence of the screenplay's exploration of racial injustice, legal drama, and historical context.