

HUMANITIES INSTITUTE
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The Specialist (1994)

Luis Llosa Urquidi

OVERVIEW

Luis Llosa Urquidi was born in Lima, Peru in 1951. Arts run in his family since his uncle is Mario Vargas Llosa the Nobel Literature Prize Winner and Claudia Llosa, his niece who is also a film director. He is a film critic and a filmmaker. He has done many movies that have diverse themes such as explorations of human nature developed in action and thriller movies. He became very popular in Hollywood for his first two first action movies, *Sniper* (1993) and *The Specialist* (1994).

SYNOPSIS

An explosives expert, a former member of the CIA, is hired by a beautiful and mysterious woman in order to take down a group of mobsters who murdered her parents when she was a child. A girl witnesses the murder of her own parents and swears revenge so she can feel better and a little freer. She starts publishing certain ads to hire a specialist and at first this character refuses to do the job, but when he begins to treat her and listen to her through phone calls, he apparently begins to like her so he decides to accept the job of killing her father's murderers but under his conditions. . She, who is a very ambiguous character, has planned all this so that the antihero, Ned Trent, can also kill Ray since he caused them to be kicked out of the CIA. The story develops into certain twists in the sense that neither May nor Ray thought that they would like each other. At the end, she accomplishes all her objectives, especially when she falls in love with Ray.

CHARACTERS

Ray Quick Soldier (1)

The Specialist, he does jobs that are specific for the intelligence group. A former CIA member, he is the best at his job, but also he is honest and tries to do the right thing in many cases. Even though trained to become a killer, he is concerned about certain issues. He is very sensitive and human in many ways. He helps May Munro achieve his objective, but he falls in love and almost loses everything.

Brave He shows courage and he is brave to handle many tasks that requires to be brave so he can face many problems throughout his life.

Strong Besides his strong body, he also has been trained to have a strong mind and to survive in many circumstances.

May Munro

A woman in her thirties who is seeking revenge by killing the family that killed her parents in front of her when she was nine years old. She is the woman that hires Ray Quick in order to get revenge from the mobsters that killed her parents. She is not a trusted person, and she shows that she will do anything to achieve her objective.

Betrayer We can see how May betrays her beliefs and her plans with Ned because she falls in love with Ray.

Seductive May uses her seduction as a weapon which helps her to reach many of her objectives.

Ned Trent (Soldier 2)

The anti-hero, he fights for the wrong actions, he is corrupted and helps the mafia. He is the security guard of Joe Leon, the head of the mobsters. A former soldier for the CIA, who was fired because he did not follow the rules. He works for one of the most powerful families in Miami.

Villaine Ned wants revenge from Ray, so he uses May's will to get Ray to kill the responsables from her parents assassination. He has mental problems, he always tries to play smart with everyone else.

Aggressive Very aggressive and violent, he does not hide his willingness to do bad things. He wants everyone to fear him.

Joe Leon

Head of the mafia, he is corrupted, tries to have everyone bought so that he could still do his "business".

Tomas Leon Son of the Head of the mafia, he is a spoiled son, that he gets orders from his dad and has to perform them. He is stubborn and falls in love with May Munro, which facilitates Munro's revenge.

THEMES

Revenge Revenge is seen throughout the entire film story. Since she was a child when she witnessed the murders of her parents, May Munro has had to live with that pain and suffering. She seeks revenge and finally achieves it.

Love Love and seduction is seen throughout the film. The real love that can be given in the characters of Ray and May, but also the family love towards her parents on May's part. Seduction is used by May in order to achieve her main goal of getting closer to Leon's family.

Obsession There are two levels of obsession in this movie. The first is May's obsession with getting revenge on her and thus feel better and perhaps freer, but parallel to this is Ned's obsession with finding Ray and killing him.

SCENES

Blowing the Bridge In Bogota, Colombia 1994, two soldiers are supposed to blow a bridge but after placing the dynamite in a couple of places one of them realizes that there is a kid in the car. He tries to convince the other soldier to stop the bomb, but he refuses, so Soldier 1 (The Specialist) tries to stop the two bombs but he fails. He survives the bomb but he felt bad and sad.

Uncertainty The Specialist appears in the nightlife of Miami Beach where he gets a phone call from a female voice asking him to do a special job. She wants to kill some men that have done horrible things to her family. On his way home and before taking the bus, a yellow cat starts following him, so he grabs the cat and takes it with him.

Cemetery The next day the Specialist goes to the cemetery where May Munro goes daily to be in the presence of her parents. He sees her and listens to her voice recorded. When she was a child, she saw how they killed her mother and her father, torturing her mother to make her talk about certain matters that her father knew. She asks the Specialist for revenge and even though he has told her that he does not work in Miami or does private jobs, it seems that he is going to help her.

Recorded voice The Specialist starts to listen to the recorded conversation between him and her and starts to develop certain types of feelings towards her. He has seen her and she knows that, so she starts to pressure him, telling him that she will take action and no one is going to help her. He starts to do research and sees her case closely.

Tropical Night Miami nightlife is appreciated in this scene through tropical music and dance. We can see Ned Trent in this night club and then Joe Leon, dressed in wealthy clothes with economic power tells his son (Tomas Leon) that the "business" is going very well. In a conversation between Ned and Tomas, the Soldier asks for his money, and Tomas gives an envelope with some money.

Ned tells him that he does not work for tips, he demands his money. May goes to the party and dances with Tomas.

Ray's home Ray watches the train leave at the same time everyday from his house. The next day, he gets on the bus, and some punks are bothering the people. Ray manages to stop the punks and fights with them.

Tomas and May Tomas begins to seduce May and invites her to see Miami. He takes her to a bar, where Tomas beats up a man. She wants no part of it, and she leaves the bar and waits for him outside. When Tomas approaches her, she tells him never do that again, that she should always be with him. At that moment Ray walks by and looks at them. Already sitting in the car, Tomas and May see Ray go by again and at that moment, Tomas gets out of the car and tells him that he doesn't have to look at him, that he doesn't know him.

Ray follows May Ray continuously follows May until he agrees to help her fulfill her revenge by killing the men that killed her parents. He sets his rules in order to do the job and May agrees in everything.

The Revenge starts Ray goes to a bar and sets a bomb to kill the first one out the four assassins that kill May's parents. While the guy in inside talking to the manager of the club, Ray puts a bomb in the door so when someone opens it, the room will blow up.

Talking about the bomb Tomas, Ned and Joe start talking about the bomb that explode at the night club and they decided that the motif is personal. So they start putting things together to know who can be behind this.

Ray and May talk Each of these actors start to develop a certain type of interest and like to talk to each other. May tries to seduce Ray, who definitely has developed a certain interest in May. He continues to follow her and she knows that he likes that.

Joe's Mansion After the explosion at Charlie's Bar, Joe talks to the policeman in charge so they can be covered and protected from them. Joe holds a meeting to talk about business with the Chief of the Police.

Ned in the Squad's office Ned threatens the explosives team that if they don't work hard, the explosion specialist is going to surprise them, and with a paranoid attitude he begins to make them see the anger that this character has towards this person that he knows very well, Raymond Quick.

Tomas' place May keeps spending more time with Tomas, and now she goes and stays with him at his place. They both get there in Tomas' helicopter and we can appreciate the wealthy and rich life that he has. May makes him think that she loves him, but we all know that she is using her seduction and beauty to get her revenge. Later on, Ned gets to Tomas's place and starts to treat her aggressively, he even hits her and they talk about having the perfect plan to get rid of Tomas Leon but also from Ray Quick, because he was the one that made the CIA fire Ned because he didn't follow orders.

Ray's blows up the garage After he has sex, the mob accountant leaves the house and as he is leaving his friends tell him to be careful with things because they may have a bomb. Cautious and unscrupulous, he realizes that there is indeed a bomb under his car, so after he takes that bomb out of the car, he makes the young man who works in that garage start his car to see if there is another bomb. Without any problem the young man starts the car and drives it. The accountant, totally sure that he is safe, drives his car and when he reaches the garage exit, he stops and hears a particular sound that he quickly identifies as a bomb. It explodes and the second candidate dies in revenge for May.

Ray's home Ray prepares the third bomb and this one is to kill Tomas. He knows and has studied what Tomas does in his daily life. He uses a cup of coffee and a plate to set the bomb, so that he can get rid of the third candidate for revenge. He also thinks about his parents and his life.

Ray's blows up the Country Club Ray blows up the room where Tomas is and at the end, May

Munro goes inside the room to let him know that her real name is May Munro and not Andrea Hastings.

Tomas' Funeral Joe Leon is very upset and when Ned comes to the funeral, he is so angry that tells him to bring the responsible for his son's death. All his anger and bitterness that he feels wants to vent with the guilt of the death of his son.

Ray at May's Wake Ray goes to the wake of Andrea Hastings and soon he realizes that they are not talking about the same person. While the priest and some relatives are talking formally at church, Ray goes to the casquet and sees who is the person that is inside. When he sees that it is not May Munro, he goes to the entrance of the church and sees a silhouette that can be identified with the real May Munro. He encounters her and looks for a weapon that she holds in her leggings.

Ned at the Police Office Ned wants to corner Ray and tries to see where he can hide. He tries to see the buses and the stations and the train stops. Little by little he finds a way to get closer to him. In a call he makes, Ray realizes that Ned Trent is behind it all, and asks to talk to him.

Ned at Church Ned manages to go to Andrea Hastings' s wake and when he gets to the church, he tells the priest to open the casquet to verify who is inside it. The priest does not want to do it, so Ned points the gun towards him, and the priest opens the casquet.

Ray and May at Fountainblue Hilton They both start to get intimate and they have feelings towards each other but her desire for revenge can be more in her than the affection she can have for Ray. Ray goes in to take a shower and when he comes out he calls her and can't find her in the room. He walks over to the food table and finds a note that reads "I'm not a woman you can trust."

In the lobby May sees Ned and he finds her. She tells him that she has done everything in order to give Ray to him, so she gives him the key and tells him that it is on the 10th or 11th floor. They find out his room and Ned with four more agents go up the elevator. May goes with another agent to the car, but on her way, she asks the agent to go to the restroom where there is a woman talking on the phone. She grabs her phone and calls Ray warning him about the situation, and then he says "You set me up", and she replies, "No, I did not".

Ray blows up hotel room After the phone call that Ray receives from May, he prepares himself and the room to explode when Ned and his squad come into the room. Ray leaves the phone off the hook so that when one of the agents hang up, the bomb goes off. He then goes to the kitchen where he fights the other thugs.

Joe's mansion Ned brings May to the mansion to meet Joe. He tells her all sorts of insults, and then Ned tells Joe that he needs her for one more task and then he can have her.

Ray & May's phone conversation Ned forces May to call Ray to catch him and she tells him that she needs to see him, that everything that had happened between them, she had truly felt, and that above all she will remember what he had written in the note.

In the Shore May enters the shack and many bombs begin to burst. Ray and May disappear and they are later seen at Ray's house. Desperately, Ned looks for Ray everywhere, and manages to find the address through a delivery that brings him food periodically.

At Ray's house Ray has protected himself with bombs around his house and indoors as well. Just as he also protects himself when he comes face to face with Ned and ends up burning him. At that moment May and Ray manage to escape when they descend through a hatch and finally are able to get out of the problem.

Bomb letter May continues trying to end his plan in which he killed the four murderers of his father. She doesn't want to stop until she does, so she sends Joe a letter with a necklace and earring where she finds a bomb, so she ends Joe's life.

Happy Ending At the end, May and Ray are seen driving a convertible sports car in the middle of a city, in love and smiling.

IMAGES



Ray talking on the phone with May



Ned talked to May after he slapped her face.



The Specialist in explosives. Ray working on a bomb.