

THE BLACK HATCHET

Genre: Action/Adventure/Revenge/Martial Arts/Thriller/History/Epic

Tone: Brutal, mythic, operatic

Setting: San Francisco, 1906 – Barbary Coast, Gold Rush tunnels, opium dens, alleys, citywide inferno

Demographics: Adult/Female/Male/Asian/Multicultural

LOGLINE

A ghost vigilante rises from the shadows – twin blades parched for justice, vengeance in his veins. When Hatchet Men sex traffickers abduct his sister, a scarred cowboy reborn as the Black Hatchet carves a savage path, racing against time to save her before she's shipped to Shanghai – leaving alleys awash in blood and body parts.

THE STORY

San Francisco, 1906. A city rotting beneath its own excess. The Barbary Coast is ruled by opium dens, brothels, underground fight pits, and the iron grip of Chinese Tong syndicates. When rugged young cowboy **Malcolm Hutchins** arrives with his fourteen-year-old sister **Rose** for a cattle auction, they stumble into this criminal abyss. Tong Hatchet Men ambush them in the streets – Malcolm is left for dead with his face slashed open, and Rose vanishes into a trafficking pipeline bound for Shanghai.

Scarred, shattered, and consumed by guilt, Malcolm retreats to his family ranch near Mt. Shasta, seeking help from his blood brother **White Crow**, chief of the Okwanuchu people and master of obsidian hatchet warfare. Before they can mount a rescue, Malcolm's world collapses again: highwaymen burn the ranch to the ground, killing his parents in the flames. With nothing left to lose, Malcolm undergoes brutal training in **White Crane Kung Fu** under a feral Shaolin exile known as **the Werewolf Monk** – and returns to San Francisco reborn as a myth whispered in alleyways: **the Black Hatchet**.

Armed with twin obsidian blades, Malcolm unleashes a relentless war through the Barbary Coast – dismantling the Tong empire, liberating captive girls, and leaving a trail of blood through gambling halls, opium dens, and fight pits. His endgame is **the Pale Devil**, an albino enforcer of the Shanghai Green Dragon Tong – the sadist who scarred him and stole Rose. Just as Malcolm closes in, the city itself explodes: an 8.3-magnitude earthquake and four-day firestorm turn San Francisco into an apocalyptic hellscape. In flooded Gold Rush tunnels beneath the burning city, Malcolm confronts the Pale Devil in a final Hatchet-Fu showdown – where Rose must rise, fight back, and save her brother. The city survives. So do they. But across the Pacific, the Green Dragon Tong still reigns – and the Black Hatchet's war has only begun.

WHY IT STANDS OUT

- **A never-before-seen world:** Rarely explored **Chinese Tong underworld** of early San Francisco
- **Signature action:** Martial-arts combat fused with savage hatchet warfare ("Hatchet Fu")
- **Epic spectacle:** The 1906 earthquake and firestorm as a third-act apocalypse
- **Franchise-ready mythology:** The story launches toward Shanghai and a global crime empire

A NEW ACTION ICON

- A masked vigilante with **obsidian hatchets**
- Martial arts styles rooted in **White Crane Kung Fu**
- Brutal, grounded, close quarters combat with mythic flair

EMOTIONAL CORE

- Brother-sister bond
- Love tested by catastrophe
- Justice driven by guilt, grief, and redemption

THEMES

- Justice vs. vengeance
- Cultural collision and shared humanity
- Survival, rebirth, and legacy

COMPARABLES (POSITIONING)

- *The Crow* (iconic vigilante mythology)
- *Gangs of New York* (historical crime epic)
- *The Raid / John Wick* (visceral combat)
- *Fist of Fury / Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* (martial artistry)
- *Gladiator/The Revenant* (historical revenge)

CONTACT: Michael Trachiotis – Screenwriter, Producer 415-577-1537 metrachiotis@gmail.com

PREVISION WEBSITE, PITCH DECK, PROOF-OF-CONCEPT COMICS: www.onceuponatimeinsf.com