

*note*  
*RKO*  
CROSSFIRE (In production at RKO) Being an adaptation  
of the published novel "THE BRICK FOXHOLE"

The shooting script is a straight murder mystery story. A man, Samuels, is found murdered in his apartment, and the principal suspect is a soldier named Mitchell. Mitchell lives in Washington D.C., in a ~~house~~ <sup>hotel</sup> commandeered as a barracks. The investigation is carried on principally by a police lieutenant named Finley.

In the course of unfolding the story, it is revealed that the murder was actually committed by a recently discharged soldier named Montgomery. The principal motive for committing the murder is the fact that Samuel's was a Jew -- though his motive is mixed in with Montgomery's belief that he <sup>(Samuels)</sup> was also a slacker during the war. However, it is proved that Samuels is ~~is himself~~ <sup>was</sup> an honorably discharged soldier.

At the climax of the story, Finley wins over one of Montgomery's buddies to the idea of helping convict Montgomery, by telling the story of how his (Finley's) grandfather, an Irish Catholic immigrant, was murdered back in 1848, also on account of racial and religious prejudices. On the basis of this plea, the help required is forthcoming, and Montgomery is unmasked and shot by the police while trying to escape.

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In view of this speech of the police captain, the story could be defended as being a plea against all forms of racial and religious intolerance. However, the basic story is still open to the charge of being a special pleading against current anti-semitism.