

LOGLINE for **BOO HOO FLANAGAN**, a screenplay by Robert Gately

A black prison guard in personal turmoil coaches the inmate basketball team and finds the strength and motivation he needs, both in life and on the job, in an aging, white, crippled inmate who shoots 3-point baskets better than anyone he has ever seen. Or – *The Longest Yard* except it is basketball with a little *Shawshank Redemption* thrown in.

SYNOPSIS for **BOO HOO FLANAGAN**, a screenplay by Robert Gately

CW Gavin's father commits suicide after being suspended from the police force on false charges of theft. CW tries to clear the family name. He asks questions - too many to the wrong people, and the lives of his wife and daughter are threatened. Unable to cope with this situation, CW has an emotional breakdown.

When he returns from his 'leave of absence', the Governor arranges for a comfortable job coaching basketball to the inmates at the correctional institution where CW meets Brendon H. Flanagan, a cripple who shoots three-point baskets better than anyone in the NBA. CW believes in the innocence of the sharpshooter. The fact that he is black and Flanagan is white doesn't matter. The inmate's story attracts CW and he sees an opportunity to erase his own self-image as a failing son by investigating Flanagan's story.

Ten years earlier the other inmates in the institution nicknamed BH Flanagan as 'Boo Hoo' because of his sobbing episodes during his first month of incarceration. CW pieces together the puzzle of Boo Hoo's story. Coming home early from a business trip, Boo Hoo hears noises upstairs. Thinking he is being robbed he collects his gun and investigates. Instead of finding a burglar he catches his wife in bed with Petzinger, a profession tennis player. A struggle ensues and random shots blow out Petzinger's knee. In the quiet aftermath, Boo Hoo's wife lay dead with a stray bullet in her head. Petzinger, angry that his tennis days are over, tells the authorities Boo Hoo callously shot his wife in cold blood. Based on this testimony, Boo Hoo receives a twenty-year sentence for second-degree murder. The Flanagan daughters believe the lies and disown their father for killing their mother.

Charles wants Boo Hoo to pay with more than just his life, so he assaults his daughter and takes pictures of her bruised body. Charles finds pleasure in Boo Hoo's anguished face while inspecting the photos.

Boo Hoo thinks, eats, and sleeps basketball for almost a decade just to remove the hate in his heart. It is the only thing that distills his brain from the tormenting thoughts of the past. The repetitive act of shooting basketballs is the only way he can keep his sanity. Until CW comes along, Boo Hoo rarely talks to anyone.

In a carefully choreographed background of basketball, which culminates in a tension-packed game between the inmates and guards, the forefront story has CW struggling to get past the Warden's personal agenda, Petzinger's decadency, and two very stubborn Flanagan daughters. In the end, Boo Hoo's redemption and CW success in restoring his family's name converge in a good-feeling climax where three-point shots save the day.