

THE INFILTRATOR SYNOPSIS

It's 1964. SAM HOWELL and KATHY EDWARDS, a young college couple, pull up in front of a men's fraternity house. They kiss and Sam runs into the frat house as Kathy, smiling, drives away. Inside the house, Sam is admonished and teased for being late by BRUCE who is just finishing putting on his ROTC uniform. Sam takes the ribbing, gives it back, and hurriedly gets his ROTC uniform on.

Sam and Bruce are leaving the frat, but get caught up in a drinking wager during mid-terms between TIMMY MOORE and other fraternity brothers. Timmy says he can drink a six pack while taking his Sociology mid-term without getting caught and acing the test. As Sam is considering getting in on the betting, the group is interrupted by the fraternity nerd, LANAGHAN, who wrecks the party atmosphere with the news that President Kennedy has been shot. A television is quickly turned on and all focus now on the news broadcast – Timmy's bet is forgotten.

Sam and Bruce are with a platoon of ROTC cadets, who lower the American flag to half-mast and ceremoniously fire off a 21-gun salute. A tear trickles down Sam's cheek.

Back in civilian clothes, Sam and Bruce sit at a campus café. Bruce questions the wisdom of participating in ROTC. Sam firmly assures him it is a wise choice; they're going to get drafted anyway – better to enter as officers. When Bruce brings up the possibility of combat, Sam assures him again that the times are peaceful; U.S. involvement in Indochina is strictly in an advisement matter.

Graduation day. Kathy watches from the bleachers as Sam sits with some of his frat brothers on an athletic field. The final words from the graduation speech are, "... and let us not forget the words of our late President Kennedy: Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

Back at the frat house that evening, the campus' largest graduation party is taking place. Timmy Moore is engaged in yet another drinking competition with an unknown student. Tim's competitor passes out as Tim raises his arms in a drunken victory celebration.

As the party winds down, Timmy holds with some of the frat brothers. They discuss the potential of communism taking over the world. Timmy announces he has enlisted to go to Vietnam and "teach those commies a lesson".

Elsewhere, Sam and Kathy discuss their plans for the upcoming school year after a hot and heavy make out session in the front seat of Kathy's car. Sam will be off in the Army and Kathy will be finishing her senior year of college. Sam expects to be back at the end of the year, at which time they plan to marry. Sam gives Kathy an engagement ring to reassure her (and him) in his absence.

Sam goes through a typical bootcamp experience and is commissioned as an officer. He is assigned to handle military intelligence duties in a base in Greece and expects easy duty while stationed there.

Upon arriving at the Greek base, Sam is immediately called to meet with an unnamed Major who seems to be in charge of military intelligence in Greece. The Major spends most of the meeting informing Sam of the potential dangers of communism infiltrating Greece. Their meeting takes place in a Jeep that arrives at a Greek Police Station. There, in a backroom, Sam gets his first experience with interrogation tactics, in which a Greek woman is brutally tortured.

Requesting a transfer from Greece after a year, Sam finds himself stationed back home in the San Francisco Bay Area. He is briefly interviewed by a panel of superior officers; mainly CAPTAIN RICHARDSON and MAJOR JEROME KLEIN. After Sam leaves, the officers debate whether or not Sam's character is appropriate for intelligence work. Sam is reported to be "imbued with a rigid moral code which hampers his effectiveness in operations of questionable ethics." The officers decide it is precisely this character "weakness" that might make Sam perfect for Operation Invert.

Sam and Kathy visit the San Francisco Zoo. Kathy is impatient with Sam; she wants to get married as they planned to do when he returned. To calm the situation, Sam tells Kathy that he is assigned to a military intelligence mission in California and he needs to keep a very low profile for a while. Sam assures Kathy that he wants to marry her and will as soon as the mission is completed.

Sam is briefed, along with other officers in fatigues, by Captain Richardson and Major Klein. They are told the importance of a new program, CONUS (Continental United States Intelligence), which gathers domestic information throughout the country. Participants in the program are to vet out and contain subversive organizations which include anti-war and civil rights groups - or any group advocating civil disobedience.

A quick montage shows Army agents, including Sam, engaged in various frivolous orders to counter subversion – by replacing anti-war graffiti with pro USA slogans, disrupting Vietnam War Vet meetings that are protesting the war; financially persuading church leaders to speak out against anti-war movements; and keeping surveillance on potentially dangerous leaders such as a birth control advocate.

During this activity, Sam meets SARA at a Golden Gate Park rally. Sara, a street vendor, invites Sam to smoke a joint with her. He agrees, and gets a quick pot smoking lesson before she wanders off leaving Sam with the joint.

Sam is now stoned outside of the Presidio entrance gate with about 100 protesters, some of them actually army agents like Sam. The protest turns rowdy and chaos ensues between the protestors and the Military Police guarding the gate. In the melee, Captain Richardson, who was overseeing the MPs, is clobbered by one of the secret Army agents.

Cut to Major Klein, behind his desk, briefing Sam on a new mission. Sam is targeted to enter a deep cover mission, joining one of the subversive organizations they've been watching; People's Coalition For Peace (PCP). It means a new undercover identity for Sam – which he later awkwardly explains to Kathy about at a department store soda fountain. That's the last straw for Kathy. She huffs off threatening Sam that this might be the end of their relationship.

Sam, now fully bearded and with long hair, makes his way through a bustling 1967 Haight-Ashbury neighborhood to a Victorian that is headquarters of the People's Coalition For Peace (PCP). Right away he meets Timmy Moore, the Olympic drinker from the frat house and Sara, the vendor that invited him to smoke a joint with her at Golden Gate Park. Timmy introduces Sam to the owner of the Victorian and leader of the PCP, ROBERTO MARTINEZ.

Sara offers Sam a ride home. Before getting to his apartment, Sara asks if he'd like to join her at a festival. He accepts.

At his next meeting with Major Klein and Captain Richardson, Sam is surprised to find them accompanied by two FBI agents. Sam is informed that he is to help the FBI with their own investigation of the PCP organization. His assignment is to get two undercover FBI agents into PCP under the guise of them needing help to evade the draft. He's also warned that all emotional involvement with the people he is interacting with is forbidden; Sara is particularly called out.

After making arrangements with Robert Martinez, Sam and the two FBI agents are met by Timmy at a location in Golden Gate Park. Timmy goes off with the two agents and Sam joins Sara at a "be-in" at the soccer field in Golden Gate Park. Sam and Sara end up at his apartment after the be-in and Sam is invited to make love, very casually. He's taken aback by the offer – and Sara says it's cool; she just wants to be a friend. That said, Sam and Sara's friendship is growing closer and more intimate.

A heated debate takes place at the PCP Headquarters about participating in a protest at the Oakland draft center. A representative of the Black Panther Party, TYRONE JEFFERSON, is in attendance. They debate the pros and cons of non-violent protesting, with Jefferson advocating violence. A vote takes place and Martinez determines that the PCP will march in a non-violent manner in Oakland.

Upon hearing Sam's report of the debate that took place, Major Klein and Captain Richardson tell Sam to dig deeper – find the link to the foreign countries that are supporting the PCP's action to undermine the US government. They also recommend that Sam increase the friction between the non-violent and more aggressive factions of the different groups participating in the upcoming protest in Oakland.

At the protest, a plain clothes cop, PETE ANTONELLI, helps a young male hippie being accosted by a police officer. Nearby, LENNY WONG, the PCP liaison to other like-minded organizations, gives a passionate speech about peace, freedom and equality. Suddenly, the police inform the gathering that the city of Oakland has revoked their permit to assemble and if they leave peacefully no harm will come. However, a small scale riot erupts when a biker shoves a cop. Sam is arrested and taken to jail while attempting to escape.

When Sam is bailed out by the US Army, Pete Antonelli's suspicions are raised about who Sam is and what is going on... Back at Sam's apartment, he gets a call from Captain Richardson. He's told he has a week's leave – and to be careful during it. Sam calls Kathy after hanging up.

Sam goes to Kathy's apartment; she's excited to see him. Surprise! Three of Sam's old college frat brothers are also there to celebrate with him and Kathy; Bill, Greg and Bruce. Sam learns that the "nerd", Lanaghan, was killed in Vietnam. Sam clearly feels out of place with the three friends and Kathy. After the three former frat brothers leave, Kathy expresses how different Sam is acting. He encourages her to go on to bed without him.

Upon returning to his undercover operation, Sam is told that he needs to step things up. The Army has agreed to aid the FBI even further with their crackdown on the PCP. Four Navy deserters are believed to be aided by the PCP. Sam is showing noticeable doubts about the covert operation.

Elsewhere, two FBI agents bust into Timmy's flat. After a quickly roughing him up, Timmy's told by the agents that he had better have some information for them upon their next visit about the PCP's underground railroad to Canada.

At a beach, Sara and Sam are hanging out. Sara tells Sam a bit about the PCP leader's life philosophy – which boils down to showing people that they are free. She then gives him a gift she's just finished making, a medallion. Sam is very appreciative of the gift and puts it around his neck immediately.

Meanwhile, the PCP headquarters are ransacked. It is meant to look like a burglary, but nothing of value is taken. Sam confronts Major Klein, believing it possible that Federal agencies have broken the law by illegally entering the PCP headquarters. Sam is strongly assured that anything that might have taken place is justified because the country's security is at stake. When Sam leaves, Major Klein issues an order to have Sam kept under watch.

Timmy is again confronted by the agents in his apartment. They clearly are using Timmy's addiction to hard drugs as a means to blackmail him. If Timmy cooperates, they'll give him the drugs. If he doesn't, they'll bust him. However, Timmy honestly doesn't have much to give them in regards to information. Timmy's told they'll be back soon for more information about the Navy deserters.

Sam and Lenny are at Union Square talking while anti-war speakers protest in the background. They notice POVICH (who Sam knows to be an undercover agent) is now delivering a passionate anti-war speech to a gathering crowd. He encourages the males to burn their draft cards – and the fervor of his speech entices many to do so. Lenny is one of the ones moved to act. Sam attempts to talk him out of it but Lenny proceeds to burn his draft card with the others. Lenny and Povich are arrested.

Sam's report of the incident states that Povich's actions were inappropriate. Sam is awakened at 3AM by Povich. Povich sternly tells him never to report Povich's actions again – and never to doubt why they are being done. Povich then goes on to tell Sam that the entire PCP group is about to be busted. Sam protests upon which Povich cautions him – Sam's getting emotionally involved with the enemy. They continue to argue about the moral right of the agencies actions. Povich ends the argument with a stern warning to Sam to watch his back and stay out of the way if he's not going to help.

A morally torn Sam goes to Kathy's apartment to seek answers and support. Kathy doesn't know how to deal with a clearly changed Sam from the one that graduated college and proposed to her years ago. After arguing, Sam storms out of the apartment leaving Kathy crying. Sam goes to Sara's apartment, seeking the same solace and support. There he finds it, and he and Sara end up making love.

The next day, Sam is told by Klein that he is being released from his mission. He asks for an extension to his duties, saying he wants to see the mission through to a successful completion. Klein agrees. When Sam leaves, Klein issues an order to step-up surveillance on Sam.

At a San Francisco college campus, Senator McGovern is expected to come and talk with the students. However, some of the crowd is unruly. PCP leader, Bob Martinez, attempts to keep order at the gathering. Martinez asks Sam to contact Senator McGovern's people and hold them off a bit until the crowd quiets down. Sam looks for a quieter place on campus to make the phone call. While wandering the campus for a quieter spot, Sam sees a student talking with two suited agents.

Back at the campus rally, Povich jumps onto the stage and gets the megaphone from Martinez. Povich begins to incite the crowd. Martinez regains control of the megaphone and begins to quiet the crowd. The student Sam saw talking with the agents moves to the front of the protest and throws a small explosive device through the Administration glass door. Panic ensues.

Martinez chases the student who threw the small bomb but is stopped by police. The “student” is hustled away by agents and Martinez is clubbed to the ground by the police. Sam witnesses all this, attempts to help, but is pulled away by Sara who knows that the current situation is helpless.

Sam is infuriated by the day’s events. He writes up a scathing report about government activities and breaks his cover to turn it in, confronting Major Klein at a neighborhood little league game. After a lecture from Klein about the nature of politics, Sam is told either he co-operates for a few more months and gets his life back, or he’ll be spending years in jail for criminal activities that have been documented by the surveillance placed on him.

At his apartment, Sam is confessing everything to Sara when he gets a phone call to hurry over to Timmy’s place. Upon arriving at Timmy’s apartment, Sam is greeted by police Lieutenant Pete Antonelli. Antonelli explains to Sam that Timmy has been an informant for the feds for some time. Timmy told the feds that the Navy deserters are scheduled to go through the PCP’s underground on Friday. The entire PCP, including Sam, is going to be busted. Antonelli says he can’t help further because he has a wife and kids to care for. He takes his leave and Sam goes over to help an OD’d Timmy and wait for the ambulance that Antonelli called.

Sara meets Sam at Timmy’s funeral. She tells Sam that she is leaving San Francisco, heading up north, and she wants Sam to come with her. She tells Sam she’s leaving in the morning and hopes he’ll join her.

Next morning, the three Navy deserters arrive at the PCP headquarters. As Martinez and Lenny Wong are handing out the itinerary for their escape, Povich and two other agents enter with guns raised. The FBI is quickly joined by Major Klein and Captain Richardson. Sam captures Povich in the hallway and holds a gun to his head. Sam tells Lenny to get the other agents’ guns and help hold them while Martinez and the Navy deserters escape. After tying up Klein, Sam tells him that what he (Sam) has just done is not treason but a patriotic deed – the people are finally going to learn what their government has been up to.

A van with Lenny, Sam and Sara is seen driving on a deserted two-lane highway, heading north through the California Redwoods. A superimposed epilogue relates the Rockefeller Commission’s 1974 findings, that the FBI and US Army broke the laws of the United States while gathering domestic intelligence. And that similar operations are still happening today....