

The Ackerman Scenogram (Adapted from Hal Ackerman, UCLA)

Author and Title Robert Towne's *Chinatown*

Exposition

J. J. Gittes used to work with Escobar until he tried to help a woman in Chinatown who "got hurt," and he quit the force, became a P. I. Mulwray fought with Cross over building a new dam because he wanted the water to belong to the people of L.A., and the previous dam burst and killed hundreds of people. Mrs. Cross loses his bifocals when he drowns Mulwray in his tide pool. Cross is intimidating landowners and diverting water to land outside L. A. which he's buying under the names of dead people from the Albacore Club. Cross plans to make the land part of L.A. and to make a fortune. Mulwray has had a child by her own father and wants to protect her daughter from Cross's doing the same thing all over again.

Unifying Devices

Water in the desert: fresh and salt (the flooding creek, the Pacific, storm sewers and dry gulches, Mulwray's tide pool, "bad for glass," salt water in Mulwray's lungs), Jake's nose, the broken bifocals (Mulwray's? Cross's?) Broken watches and taillights. Chinatown itself.

