



Jeff Bridges is Jack Forrester, a newspaper publisher and editor accused of murdering his wife, an heiress, in "Jagged Edge."



## the movies Dan Greenberg

### Fascinating people are the characters in 'Jagged Edge'

Critics usually consider themselves the ones to recommend films for others' viewing pleasure. If you happen to enjoy the film, then you'll be convinced the critic is a good one.

Not so this time. Everyone's been telling me I just had to see "Jagged Edge" — so, despite the role reversal, I went to see it. While everyone was quite correct, it is entertaining and worth seeing, it doesn't hold up to the rave notices as much as one might wish.

The "Jagged Edge" is the serrated blade of a hunting knife used to brutally slay wealthy San Francisco newspaper publisher Page Forrester (Maria Mayenzel), and her maid, as the film opens.

The "Jagged Edge" is also the psychological borderline that weaves and wanders between the interesting characters who populate the film. The politically ambitious district attorney, Thomas Krasny (Peter Coyote), sees the opportunity to grandstand a sensational case and run for the Senate.

**SUSPICION FALLS** on Page's husband and editor-in-chief, Jack (Jeff Bridges). For Krasny's political ambitions that is just perfect, particularly since Jack Forrester's editorials have been highly critical of Krasny's management and tactics in the District Attorney's Office.

The Krasny-Forrester borderline is complemented and triangulated when Forrester's law firm convinces one of its attorneys, a former Krasny assistant D.A., Teddy Barnes (Glenn Close), to return to criminal practice and defend Jack.

Barnes' complicated and jagged psychological reactions to the assignment involve her great distaste for Krasny and his questionable tactics, her guilt for the outcome of the last case she had tried with him and her own slightly disordered personal life.

That personal life includes two conventionally cute kids, played with satisfying restraint by Brandon Call as young son David and Christina Hutter as daughter Jenny. Teddy's divorce from hubby Matthew (Guy Boyd) is so amicable that one has to wonder if the only reason they divorced was to meet the needs of plot complications.

In any event, Teddy takes the case in spite of her avowed distaste for criminal practice. Her investigations convince her that Jack is innocent and that the D.A., whom she despises, is out to get an enemy and advance his own career.

**"JAGGED EDGE"** has plenty of emotional tension, suspense and excitement induced through good use of film techniques — subjective cameras, darkly lit, shadowed images, appropriately creepy music, and too much gruesome gore. Those images, however, along with Matthew Leonetti's fine photography of San Francisco, make the film a worthwhile entertainment.

There are some excellent roles that flesh out this picture. John Dehner strikes just the right note as Judge Carrigan. His courtroom demeanor and his personal interaction is warm, human and just. Robert Loggia is Teddy Barnes' personal friend, confidant and private investigator. His tough, no-nonsense approach and brash, outspoken manner keep the film moving. His tag line, as the film closes, alone is worth the price of admission.

Unfortunately, Glenn Close mugs when she should be acting and neither Jeff Bridges nor Peter Coyote ring true. In that latter case, it's difficult to tell whether the acting or writing weakens the story and the role of D.A. Krasny.

No doubt such venal villains inhabit the halls of power, but I'll bet anything that such characters are much more devious than Krasny. His edges were obviously jagged. Not only didn't he do his homework, he didn't appear to try. There is also some question whether the circumstantial evidence he presented to the court was sufficient to have Forrester bound over for trial.

In spite of all that, San Francisco devotees will appreciate the scenery. Mystery/suspense fans and courtroom drama addicts, too, will enjoy the tension and suspense of the "Jagged Edge."



Peter Coyote is District Attorney Tom Krasny, who finds himself pitted against Glenn Close, his former assistant attorney, now the defense lawyer for Forrester.

## table talk

### Try cabernet

"The Great Cabernet Shootout," a tasting of cabernets that retail for \$8 or less, will be held from 7-9:30 p.m. Tuesday, at Parina's of Berkeley, 2485 Coolidge at 11 and One-Half Mile Road. The tasting presented by the Oakland County Chapter of Les Amis du Vin is open to members for \$10.50 per person, to non-members for \$13 per person. For more information, call the Beverage Warehouse in Birmingham at 644-2155.

### Opening delayed

Houlihan's in Troy, which was scheduled to debut this week, has postponed its Grand Opening Benefit Celebration for the Arthritis Foundation and also the opening date to the public the following day. Due to construction delays, the restaurant is rescheduling the benefit, originally planned for Wednesday. A new opening date, tentatively expected to be a week later, will be announced.

### Regional foods

Chef Jim Lehane at Nicky's in Troy is featuring dishes from traditional American recipes. One recent lunch-time offering included Texas-style shrimp in black bean sauce with rice, broiled Boston scallops with sherry herb butter, boneless breast of chicken jambalaya with rice, broiled George's Bank haddock with a mushroom-and-pea cream sauce, and marinated Kansas City flank steak in its own natural juices. Hungarian goulash with sour cream was the special soup; the special vegetable, glazed baby carrots.

Lehane has researched regional cookbooks, as well as talked to local

chefs, to select his American favorites, which vary daily and are available in addition to the regular menu at lunch and dinner.

Describing the George's Bank haddock, for example, Lehane notes, "George's Bank is a fishing ground off the coast of Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut. Its fish are unrivaled in quality, taste and texture. The (mushroom-and-pea cream) sauce is quite popular throughout New England and is considered a natural to sole, salmon and haddock."

### 7th Chi-Chi's

The Detroit area's seventh Chi-Chi's Mexican restaurant opens to the public today (Monday) at 27566 Northwestern Highway, south of the Tel-12 Mall in Southfield. The restaurant group's Mexican-style food is prepared fresh daily — not frozen — and the accent is on subtle spicing. The house specialty is the Chimichanga, a deep-fried meat-filled burrito topped with sauce, creamy sour topping and green onions. Complementing the variety of Mexican dishes is Chi-Chi's Jumbo Margarita. Many menu items are under \$5.

### Going Bonkers

With the slogan "Go Bonkers," the new Bonkers Burger Grill & Bar at locations in Southfield and Troy (replacing Victoria Stations there) combines a fast-food concept with items cooked to order. Customers may order a half-pound Bonkers Burger (at \$3.89) on a home-baked bun, grilled teriyaki chicken sandwich, frankfurter, steak sandwich or taco salad. Customers place their order for food and drink, grab a table before returning to pick up the order when their name



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