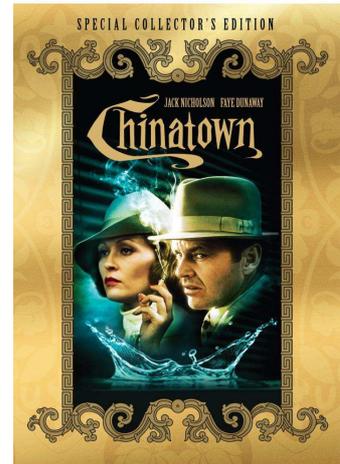


# Chinatown

**Director: Roman Polanski**  
**1974 (131')**



Los Angeles in the 1930's. It is hot. It is dry. Jake Gittes, private detective, makes a living, a good living, investigating people. In walks a dame with money. She thinks her husband is having an affair. She wants proof. She wants Gittes to get the proof. Gittes takes the job.....

But in the great tradition of American detective fiction what starts out as just another job becomes more and more complicated and hazardous as the hero searches for the truth.

## Vocabulary and expressions:

**Drought :** A long period of time with little or no rainfall

**Down the hatch!:** Drink a glass of something, i.e. alcohol, in one go

**Take it easy!:** Stay calm! Don't get unnecessarily excited

**Phony:** False, untrue

**Drop a lawsuit:** Stop or cancel legal action taken against someone

*I'll drop the lawsuit.*

**Beat it!:** Go away! Get out of here!

**To smell like a rose:** To be pure, without fault or imperfection

*Now beat it, Gittes! You don't come out of smelling like a rose, you know.*

**Dead drunk:** Completely drunk

**Nosy:** Be interested in things that don't or should not concern you

*You are a very nosy fellow!*

**The big boys/ The big shots:** The important/powerful people

**A payoff:** A payment made to someone, often secretly or illegally, so that they will not cause trouble

**To sue (somebody):** To bring a legal action against somebody

**A falling out:** A serious argument or disagreement leading to an end in a

friendship

### **Characters in the film:**

**J.J. (Jake) Gittes** (Jack Nicholson) : A private detective.

**Evelyn Cross Mulwray** (Faye Dunaway) : Wealthy L.A. woman

**Hollis Mulwray** (Darrell Zwerling) : Head of L.A. Water Board. Evelyn Mulwray's husband.

**Noah Cross** (John Huston) : A very wealthy businessman. Evelyn's father.

**Lieutenant Lou Escobar** (Perry Lopez) : L.A. policeman

### **From the film:**

**Jake Gittes:** What can I tell you, kid? You're right. When you're right, you're right, and you're right

**Evelyn Mulwray:** Hollis seems to think you're an innocent man.

**Jake Gittes:** Well, I've been accused of a lot of things before, Mrs. Mulwray, but never that.

**Jake Gittes:** There's no point in getting tough with me. I'm just...

**Evelyn Mulwray:** I don't get tough with anyone, Mr. Gittes. My lawyer does.

**Jake Gittes:** Mulvihill! What are you doing here?

**Mulvihill:** They shut my water off. What's it to you?

**Jake Gittes:** How'd you find out about it? You don't drink it; you don't take a bath in it... They wrote you a letter. But then you have to be able to read.

**Man with Knife:** You're a very nosy fellow, kitty cat. Huh? You know what happens to nosy fellows? Huh? No? Wanna guess? Huh? No? Okay. They lose their noses.

**Yelburton:** My goodness, what happened to your nose?

**Jake Gittes:** I cut myself shaving.

**Yelburton:** You ought to be more careful. That must really smart.

**Jake Gittes:** Only when I breathe.

**Jake Gittes:** I just want to know what you're worth. Over ten million?

**Noah Cross:** Oh my, yes.

**Jake Gittes:** Why are you doing it? How much better can you eat? What can you buy that you can't already afford?

**Noah Cross:** The future, Mr. Gitts, the future.

**Noah Cross:** 'Course I'm respectable. I'm old. Politicians, ugly buildings, and whores all get respectable if they last long enough.

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