



Stunt Road – Synopsis

When PETE MCFADDEN inadvertently grabs the attention of legendary Hollywood computer-generated imagery mogul VAS PAPAYANNIS one evening at a party, Pete recognizes the opportunity of a lifetime. Pete is an unemployed computer graphics designer, and would give his right arm to work for Vas. There's only one catch. Pete has just claimed that he would be able to develop a system of fortune-telling every bit as convincing as astrology. And Vas, eager to convince his wife that astrology is a fraud, wants to see the results. If Pete succeeds, his dream job is there for the taking. If he fails, his future looks bleak.

Pete gets help. EMILY is a brilliant high school math teacher whom Pete has secretly yearned for since their college days at UCLA. SUSAN is a highly-strung psychologist. Together they dream up Horokinetics, a system of fortune-telling based on interpreting fractals - complex and conveniently pretty patterns that underlie everything from cloud formations to stock prices.

A chance meeting with soft-spoken drifter and philosopher JAKE SIMMS gives Pete the spiritual lingo his system had lacked, and favorable press attracts the attention of multinational corporation Apatchi International, who become Pete's financial backer. Bolstered by Jake's wisdom and Apatchi executive AXEL LINDBERGH's commercial vision, Pete's creation blossoms. From Hollywood stars to Midwestern housewives, America embraces Horokinetics as its latest spiritual fad *par excellence*. Yet something is wrong. Jake's quiet wisdom has made him a beloved national icon, and yet hate mail begins to pour in. Accusations of devil worship and cult indoctrination fly. Emily breaks up with her longtime boyfriend DANIEL and gives Pete hope that he might finally win her love, but even this good news is the result of Daniel's disturbing descent into "spiritual turmoil." When Emily is fired from her teaching job because of her early involvement with Horokinetics, she urges Pete to take a closer look at what Jake and Axel are up to.

He does, but for his trouble he gets a severe beating from a gang of thugs, plausible deniability from Jake and a bitter goodbye from Emily, who accepts a job in San Francisco despite her growing feelings for Pete. And then things get ugly. Alan's girlfriend commits suicide and Pete stumbles on evidence that Jake is using Horokinetics to form his own cult. He fires Jake, but newspapers start accusing Pete of corruption and betrayal. Those newspapers, Pete learns, are owned by Apatchi International. Pete and Jake are pawns in a larger game, unwittingly part of a corporate plot to harness the power of psychological and spiritual manipulation in the service of marketing.

Pete fights back by exposing Horokinetics as a fraud. But no one believes him. Pete realizes that he has created a monster he cannot stop. But he has grown up, and it is a wiser Pete McFadden who heads to San Francisco determined to win Emily's heart.