



# FU MANCHU



## FU MANCHU

**Genre:** Action / Thriller / Adventure / Martial Arts

**Comps:** Skyfall (James Bond), Rush Hour (Jackie Chan), Bourne Ultimatum, True Lies  
Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon, Batman

**Logline:** A Chinese and an American agent are sent to assassinate an immortal Chinese monk who plots against the elite world order, only to find out that they are being manipulated into killing a man who can save the world.

**Market:** Fu Manchu is an action-packed martial arts film that has both an exciting story and a central moral dilemma. The main characters are American, Chinese and British, which will appeal to a wide international audience. The storyline bridges cultures and explores the tensions and alliances between intelligence agencies with a mix of ancient mystery, it delivers a thrilling rollercoaster ride that will keep viewers on the edge of their seats. There are multiple martial arts scenes in the film which will attract the kung-fu aficionados. It is also a thinking person's film that brings forth ethical tensions about right, wrong, and immortality. The movie would also classify itself as an international spy thriller that will be appealing to that audience. The story and ending promise an exciting franchise that captivates audiences on both sides of the Pacific and beyond.

### SYNOPSIS / PLOT

Fu Manchu offers a dynamic fusion of action and martial arts, weaving an exhilarating narrative around a central moral quandary. That quandary is this: Does anyone have the right to be a judge, jury, and executioner even if he or she is faced with assassinating very bad people. Our characters vacillate between what the correct answer is for each of them.

Our story starts with Bobby Morrison, who is a team leader in a joint CIA/MI-6 operation to rescue a kidnapped British nuclear scientist. They get into a firefight with the Taliban during the operation, which is led by an Afghani warlord. Eventually, the scientist is rescued and the team makes a daring escape via helicopter from a rooftop.

A team of mercenaries is sent to destroy a remote monastery in the Himalayas and capture the mysterious Fu Manchu alive. Fu Manchu has the secret to immortality and the people running the world want the knowledge as to how he manages it. Hellfire missiles pound the monastery and a team of executioners assaults the Monks defending it. All hell breaks loose and most everyone ends up dead... except for Fu Manchu himself.

Fu Manchu goes after a corrupt pharmaceutical executive who has caused (for a profit) tens of thousands to become permanently sick. Fu Manchu sees his mission as assassinating people (like this executive) who are working for members of the Prometheus Council, an organization whose power and corruption influence evil worldwide. Fu Manchu is successful in killing the executive and most of his security team using martial arts.

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There is a flashback to 1860.

The Chinese Imperial family is fleeing British and French soldiers during the last days of the opium war. The married couple is accompanied by a midwife (the wife is pregnant) and a security team of pugilists. The couple is able to hide in a crypt and the wife gives birth there to Fu Manchu. The crypt in which the couple hides and in which Fu Manchu is born is ancient, sacred, and protected by the symbol of the Owl (which is a Chinese source of good luck, wisdom, knowledge and protective energies). The spirits of these protective (and intellectual) energies are instilled into Fu Manchu, and his eyes on birth take on a glittery appearance similar to the eyes of an Owl.

Exiting the crypt, they see the soldiers and the pugilists dead from a gun vs. martial arts battle. Another group of soldiers comes after the Imperial family. The new parents give the baby to the mid-wife to take to a nearby orphanage and they run for their lives. Eventually they jump from a cliff and die.

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Bobby and his team are sent to the monastery in the Himalayas to investigate what happened. They are met by a Chinese team doing the same thing. The Chinese are led by Meng Tiantian. There is tension between the two sides and nothing of note is discovered, other than almost everyone died in a big battle.

Fu Manchu and several Monks are in the vicinity of a slave auction in Libya. A slave, Kudu, breaks loose and causes chaos and the monks assist him. Fu Manchu offers employment to Kudu to do great... terrible things.

Meng is at home with her parents working on analysis for her job at the Chinese Ministry of State Security. She takes time to bring tea to her parents and discusses the American (Bobby) she met in the Himalayas. Her mother takes a great interest in her daughter's dating life. However, Meng dismisses Bobby as too impetuous.

Fu Manchu travels to Antwerp to recruit Nova, a computer whiz. She is wheelchair bound because of a local gangster, Jove, damaged her spinal cord in a deal gone bad. She is distrustful of Fu Manchu so he points out her window, where Kudu breaks Jove's neck. She decides to join forces with Fu Manchu.

Bobby is in London, England, where his team is headquartered. Dan, his best friend and team member joins him along with Dan's fiancé Jilly. They tease him about his interest in Meng and he denies having any.

Tony War challenges Fu Manchu to be leader of the Si-Fan, an organization set up to do powerful things in the world. Fu Manchu is reluctant, but there is no stopping Tony, he wants a fight to the death. They have an epic battle of martial arts with Fu Manchu barely surviving, but winning. Tony dies. It was a battle over the direction of Si-Fan.

Bobby and Meng are directed to attend a meeting in Hong Kong. They are surprised to see each other. Their new assignment is to track down Fu Manchu and kill him. Bobby and Meng don't really trust each other and don't like each other much. They are hesitant to take on the assignment.

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There is a flashback to 1866.

Fu Manchu is six and living in an orphanage. Fu Manchu is heavily made fun of and bullied by the other kids because they know he was born in a crypt – they say he “was born dead”. It is this childhood trauma (bullying) that sparks his interest in the study of immortality. His birth in that mysterious crypt though is what instilled him with superhuman intellect, and he has read every book in the library and taught himself English. He demonstrates his genius and is offered a chance to study in Europe at the very best schools. Fu Manchu accepts the offer.

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Bobby and Meng gather information about Fu Manchu and his whereabouts. An attempt is made on their life by six thugs. They successfully repel the attack in an action-packed street fight. After the fight, Bobby helps to repair a stab wound that Meng received. They begin to bond, but then Bobby opens his mouth to say that Meng has all the charm of a bulldozer.

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*There is a flashback to 1885, when Fu Manchu is a student in Scotland at the age of 25. He's attacked and beaten by other students, sons of the Prometheus Council. A watchful Monk (of the imperial family) (Jackie Chan, Tony Leung) save Fu Manchu's life.*

*There is a flashback to 1886, when Fu Manchu is 26 years old. He has submitted papers on genetic research on immortality, but been rejected for every opportunity for research, but the Si-Fan offers him a job to do research regarding immortality. Fu Manch readily accepts.*

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Bobby and Meng get a hit on Fu Manchu's location and end up in a car chase scene between a Russian Oligarch, Fu Manchu, and the two of them. Eventually the Russian Oligarch's car hits a barrier and he dies. Bobby and Meng are questioning Fu Manchu's right to be the judge, jury, and executioner. Fu Manchu kidnaps them and brings them to his home base, a ship called the Dragon Sky. He tries to convince them that what he is doing is just. Meng and Bobby don't buy into it. They make an attempt to capture Fu Manchu and fail.

In the screenplay's most epic scene, the leader of the Si-Fan dies and Fu Manchu must battle three others in a martial arts fight to become the organization's new leader. Fu Manchu dispatches his foes and unites Si-Fan behind him.

Meng and Bobby have failed their mission and are being demoted by their respective bosses. It is unknown to them at this time that their bosses work for the Promethius Council, which is desperate to capture Fu Manchu alive and learn his secrets on immortality. Bobby is realizing he may be in the middle of something he doesn't understand. He requests help from Dan, his best friend. But Bobby finds Dan dead before Dan can give him any information.

Attempts are made on both Bobby's and Meng's lives. They decide to work together and finally trust one another. Bobby flies to China and they decide to confront Fu Manchu at his estate. Just before they arrive, an attack is made on Fu Manchu's compound. There is intense, gun vs. martial arts fighting. Bobby and Meng save the day when all is lost. Fu Manchu survives, and we learn that Meng is his grand-daughter. Bobby still questions the motives of Fu Manchu.

Bobby and Meng do what is necessary to have their respective bosses imprisoned for working for the Promethius Council. Then they go to the Congo to find the nuclear scientist, that Bobby once rescued in Afghanistan, who is not really that at all. He is using child labor to mine cobalt for the electric car makers. They subdue him and decide they can't become what Fu Manchu is. So, they have a unique way of solving their moral dilemma.

The story and ending are the genesis of an entire new franchise.

**POTENTIAL CASTING:**



**Bradley Cooper  
Christian Bale  
Chris Pratt  
Chris Pine  
Joaquin Phoenix  
John Krasinski**

**As Bobby Morrison**

**A wise-cracking CIA Agent who questions Fu Manchu's vigilantism.**



**Max Zhang  
Simu Liu  
Henry Golding**

**As Fu Manchu**

**A scientist who has found the key to immortality. He uses his genius to execute evil people above the law.**



**Grace Huang  
Gemma Chan  
Zhang Ziyi  
Sarah Chang**

**As Meng Tiantian**

**A by-the-book Chinese Agent and former Kung-Fu champion.**



**Nicholas Hoult  
Tye Sheridan  
Jude Law  
Robert Pattinson**

**As Dan**

**Bobby's best friend and team member of the joint CIA/MI-6 they are both on.**



**Jade Xu  
Liu Yifei  
Bai Lu**

**As Soong Ma**

**Fu Manchu's lover who has eyes and ears on people and events.**



**Jackie Chan  
Chow Yun-Fat  
Donnie Yen  
Tony Leung**

**As The Watchful Monk**

**Fu Manchu was a son of the Chinese Imperial family. This Monk's life's work has been to covertly protect him from harm.**

MOOD / CONCEPT BOARD



# FU MANCHU



