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Loventhal, Leverage toil on 'Recoil'

Ralph Pezzullo to adapt Jim Thompson's novel

By [MICHAEL FLEMING](#)

Producer Charlie Loventhal and Leverage have partnered on a feature film adaptation of Jim Thompson's 1953 novel "Recoil." Ralph Pezzullo has been set to write the script. Loventhal will finance through a development fund he controls.

Story follows a young inmate who's sprung from prison, only to be set up for murder by the same corrupt political insiders who sponsored his parole.

Loventhal will produce with Leverage and Judy Henry, a theater producer ("The Amen Corner") who controlled the source material. Thompson's previously filmed books include "The Getaway" (twice), "The Grifters" and "After Dark, My Sweet." The author died in 1977.

Pezzullo most recently scripted "Jawbreaker," an adaptation of the book he wrote with Gary Berntsen about the hunt for Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan and Pakistan, for Oliver Stone and Paramount. Pezzullo reteamed with Berntsen to write "The Walk-In," a novel to be published in August by Crown/Random House.

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