Traffic was an inspiration to me from its raw projection of our modern day drug war. It provides us with stories from different perspectives of the interconnecting elements that effect and are affected by the drug trade. One of the perspectives was told by the story of Javier Rodriguez, a crooked cop from the streets of Mexico who faces his conscience as he attempts to wipeout a Mexican Cartel alongside his partner while working for a government official who turns out to be corrupt as well. Though somewhat greedy and unethical at times, Javier seems to be a rather neutral hero in his chapter. His actions get the bad guys caught, and he gets a piece of what he wants.

Javier Rodriguez, crooked cop/hero gets entangled in a deeper web of criminal activity when he accepts a roll in the wipe out of the Tijuana Cartel, a leading drug cartel in Mexico. Through this accepted journey, he includes partner and friend Manolo Sanchez. Manolo, trickster and shadow of Javier, is the more reckless and foolish of the two. Through poor decision making and naivety, Manolo puts himself and his partner in danger. Javier attempts to guide his brother in arms safely and good willingly through the path of corruption they are involved in. Rodriguez also advises and guides Sanchez on maintaining loyalty between the two. Both men are working for shape shifter General Arturo Salazar who is also corrupt and in alliance with the opposing cartel.

General Salazar uses his influence of position to employee Javier as his crusader. Salazar pitches a snake of a proposition to his new pawn in order to give Rodriguez the impression he is embarking on a noble deed, simply to get the bad guys in return for a promising future of wealth and life changing prosperity. As Javier continues to aid in the decimation of the Tijuana cartel and gets closer to his desires, he realizes the General’s deceptive selfish intentions on his own prosperity. Salazar also demonstrates traits of being Javier’s mentor as he encourages and guides Javier how to achieve success in different forms.

 Javier’s first objective and proof of capability is shown when he kidnaps a key member/associate of the Tijuana Cartel. Francisco Flores aka Frankie Flowers is abducted by Javier and handed over to the General, who looks to extract information from Frankie. Frankie is the threshold guardian, Javier’s first test in proving himself to be the man for the job the General is proposing.

 As all the events are occurring, a small yet important role maintains a constant connection between employee and boss. The bosses right hand man and soldier in the Generals army “The Torturer” maintains communication, somewhat supervises and assists the General on handling Javier and Manolo. When the torturer appears it delivers us with a serious tone in mood, giving us the hint of importance.