

'Mark Felt' fails to rise to its own story

By LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

As a lifetime Federal Bureau of Investigation agent and No. 2 to J. Edgar Hoover, Mark Felt was not exactly an ordinary man, but he was, it seems, a highly unlikely candidate to topple a presidency. Felt was the man behind Deep Throat, the Watergate whistleblower who led Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein to the explosive truth behind that break-in. He lived only as a shadowy mystery in the popular imagination until he gave up his long-held secret in 2005, a few years before he died. By then what he represented had already transcended anything an actual human could live up to.

It's not a surprise then that the fictionalized telling of his

story in "Mark Felt: The Man Who Brought Down the White House" is a little underwhelming. The mundanities of the truth could hardly be as sexy as decades of intrigue and mythology enshrined in history and the enduring greatness of "All the President's Men." But director Peter Landesman ("Concussion") and star Liam Neeson nonetheless manage to weave together a fairly compelling (if disputed) tick-tock of how it all went down from Felt's purview.

And it all started with a slight. We're introduced to Felt in his ordinary suburban home, getting ready for another day of work at the Bureau. He's a tall and soft-spoken man who hides the dirty secrets of the country, and his organization, behind a stoic poker face. A few characters



Sony Pictures Classics

This image released by Sony Pictures Classics shows Josh Lucas, left, and Liam Neeson in "Mark Felt: The Man Who Brought Down the White House."

at the outset tell him (read: us) how loyal and reliable and competent he is — a "golden retriever" for whomever is in

power. When J. Edgar Hoover dies, Felt is passed over for that top position in favor of Nixon favorite L. Patrick Gray (Mar-

ton Csokas) — a mighty snub that sows the seed of discontentment in Felt.

A little over a month after Hoover's death is when those five men are arrested for breaking into the Democratic National Committee headquarters in the Watergate complex. The peculiar facts of the case raise eyebrows at the FBI, but then the White House starts attempting to interfere with what should be an independent inquiry. So Felt takes it upon himself to go another route — to the press.

As Felt, Neeson is understated and convincing despite his tendency to drift in and out of his native Irish accent. He's also dealing with more than just executive office corruption. On the home front, his grown daughter has been missing for

a year, which has put a strain on him and his wife, Audrey (Diane Lane). While it's understandable why Landesman has included this background, it also feels very tacked on and insufficiently explored to have much of an impact. At the very least, it could have been cut for length.

The film is at its best when it is dealing with the central story, which can also at times feel like a bit of a repetitive slog. Felt's fellow agents are not much more than suits, distinguishable only by the fact that they're portrayed by recognizable actors (Josh Lucas, Tony Goldwyn, Ike Barinholtz, Brian d'Arcy James) and while the day-to-day of what was happening at the FBI is a compelling slice of history, as a film it can feel a little dry.

TV SCHEDULE

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Evening listings
FRIDAY—SUNDAY

FRIDAY EVENING												SEPTEMBER 29	
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
2	KATU	(2) KATU News at 6 (N)		Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel Fortune (N)	Inhumans "Behold...the Inhumans" (N)	Marvel's Inhumans (N)	20/20				KATU News (N)	(35) H.S. Blitz
4	KOMO	(4) KOMO 4 News (N)		Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy!	Inhumans "Behold...the Inhumans" (N)	Marvel's Inhumans (N)	20/20				KOMO 4 News (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel
5	KING	(5) NBC News (N)	KING 5 News (N)	KING 5 News (N)	Evening	Will & Grace	Superstore	Dateline NBC Investigative features are covered. (SP) (N)				KING 5 News (N)	(35) Tonight Show
6	KOIN	(6) KOIN Local 6 at 6	Evening News (N)	Extra	Ent. Tonight	MacGyver "DIY or Die" (SP) (N)	Hawaii Five-0 (N)	Blue Bloods "Cutting Losses" (SP) (N)				KOIN 6 News (N)	(35) Colbert
7	KIRO	(7) KIRO 7 News (N)	Evening News (N)	KIRO 7 News (N)	Ent. Tonight	MacGyver "DIY or Die" (SP) (N)	Hawaii Five-0 (N)	Blue Bloods "Cutting Losses" (SP) (N)				KIRO 7 News (N)	(35) Colbert
9	KGW	(9) KGW News at 6:00 p.m. (N)		Live at 7 (N)	Inside Edition	Will & Grace	Superstore	Dateline NBC Investigative features are covered. (SP) (N)				KGW News (N)	(35) Tonight Show
10	KRCW	(10) Modern Family	Modern Family	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	Masters of Illusion	Masters of Illusion	Masters of Illusion	Masters of Illusion	News at 10 (N)	Mom	Two and a Half	Two and a Half
11	KOPB	(11) Family Travel	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)		Father Brown "The Fire in the Sky"	Vera "The Moth Catcher"				Vera "The Sea Glass"		
12	KPTV	(12) News (N)	Timbers in 30	Family Feud	Family Feud	Hell's Kitchen "All-Stars Arrive" (SP) (N)	The Exorcist "Janus" (SP) (N)	10 O'Clock News (N)				News (N)	Page Six TV
13	KPDx	(13) Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	FOX 12's News (N)	9 O'Clock News (N)	Family Guy	American Dad!			The Game	The Game
14	FAM	(14) Modern Family	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Hell's Kitchen "All-Stars Arrive" (SP) (N)	The Exorcist "Janus" (SP) (N)	Q13 News at 10 (N)				Talkin' Huskies (N)	
20	TBS	(20) Family Guy	Family Guy	** Bad Teacher (2011, Comedy) Jason Segel, Justin Timberlake, Cameron Diaz.		Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	ELeague "CS:GO Premiere 2017: Group D Play" (N)				Two and a Half	Two and a Half
21	KZJO	(21) Friends	Friends	The Goldbergs	Talkin' Huskies	Q13 News at 9 (N)						Two and a Half	Two and a Half
29	ESPN	(29) (4:00) NCAA Football Miami at Duke (L)		Football Score.	NCAA Football USC at Washington State Site: Martin Stadium -- Pullman, Wash. (L)							SportsCenter (N)	SportsCenter (N)
30	ESPN2	(30) (5:00) WNBA Basketball Playoffs (L)		SportsCenter (N)	SportsCenter (N)							Jalen & Jacoby (N)	E:60
31	NICK	(31) Dude Perfect	Henry Danger	Henry Danger	I Am Frankie (N)	** The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie (04) Tom Kenny.						Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince
32	DISN	(32) Raven's Home	Stuck in Middle	Bizaardvark	Raven's Home	Raven's Home (N)	Bizaardvark	Bizaardvark	Bizaardvark	Live and Maddie	K.C. Undercover	Raven's Home	Stuck in Middle
34	FAM	(34) *** Grease (1978, Musical) Olivia Newton-John, Stockard Channing, John Travolta.										The 700 Club	
35	FMC	(35) (5:50) *** Kung Fu Panda 2 (11) Angelina Jolie, Jack Black.		(35) FXM Presents (45) *** Monte Carlo (11, Rom) Leighton Meester, Katie Cassidy, Selena Gomez.								** Monte Carlo (2011, Romance) Leighton Meester, Katie Cassidy, Selena Gomez.	
36	LIFE	(36) *** Derailed (2005, Thriller) Jennifer Aniston, Melissa George, Clive Owen.										** The Stepfather (2009, Thriller) Sela Ward, Penn Badgley, Dylan Walsh.	
38	ROOT	(38) Mariners Access	MarinersPre-game	MLB Baseball Seattle Mariners at Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim Site: Angel Stadium -- Anaheim, Calif. (L)								Post-game	MLB Baseball Seattle vs L.A. Angels
39	FS1	(39) (5:00) NCAA Football Nebraska at Illinois Site: Memorial Stadium Illinois -- Champaign, Ill. (L)				College FB Extra	MLB Whiparound (L)					Speak for Yourself	Skip and Shannon: Undisputed
43	SPIKE	(43) Friends	Friends	Friends	** The Day After Tomorrow (2004, Action) Jake Gyllenhaal, Ian Holm, Dennis Quaid.							** I, Robot (2004, Sci-Fi) Bridget Moynahan, Will Smith.	
44	COM	(44) (1:15) Futurama	(50) Futurama "Benderama"	(25) Futurama								Daniel Tosh: People Pleaser	
45	HIST	(45) Ancient Aliens "The Star Children"		Ancient Aliens "The Alien Architects"		Ancient Aliens: Declassified Episodes of the show with additional information. (N)							
46	A&E	(46) (5:00) Live PD				Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol (N)	Live PD: Patrol (N)	(05) Live PD: Patrol	(35) Live PD
47	TLC	(47) Say Yes-Dress	Say Yes-Dress	Kindred Spirits "Cabin in the Woods"		K Spirits "The Legacy of Lizzie Borden"	K Spirits "Home Sweet Holmes" (N)					Evil Things "Evil Eye and the Attic" (N)	Kindred Spirits "Home Sweet Holmes"
48	DISC	(48) Bering Sea Gold "Cracked"		Bering Sea Gold "Never Say Die"		Bering Sea Gold "Fight and Flight"	Bering Sea Gold (N)					Bering Sea Gold	
49	NGEO	(49) Southern Justice "Wanted Women"		Drugs, Inc. "The High Wire"		Drugs, Inc. "Silicon Valley High"	Drugs, Inc. "Jailhouse Junkies"					Drugs, Inc. "Cocaine"	Drugs, Inc. "Heroine"
50	TNT	(50) Bones "The Blackout in the Blizzard"		Bones "The Finder"		** A Walk to Remember (02, Rom) Shane West, Daryl Hannah, Mandy Moore.						** When in Rome (2010, Comedy) Josh Duhamel, Angelica Huston, Kristen Bell.	
51	AMC	(51) (5:30) *** Con Air (1997, Action) John Cusack, John Malkovich, Nicolas Cage.				** Twister (1996, Action) Bill Paxton, Jami Gertz, Helen Hunt.						*** The Silence of the Lambs (91) Jodie Foster.	
52	USA	(52) Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family
53	FOOD	(53) Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins
54	HGTV	(54) House Hunters	House Hunters	House Hunters	House Hunters	House Hunters	House Hunters	House Hunters	House Hunters	House Hunters	House Hunters	House Hunters	House Hunters
56	FX	(56) (5:00) *** Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol (11) Tom Cruise.				** Jack Reacher (2012, Action) Rosamund Pike, Richard Jenkins, Tom Cruise.						Jack Reacher (2012, Action) Tom Cruise.	
57	CNN	(57) Anderson Cooper 360		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	Life "The Black and White of Heroin"				This Is Life "America's Busiest Coroners"	This Is Life "The Satanists Next Door"	
58	FNC	(58) The Five		Hannity		Tucker Carlson Tonight	The Five				Hannity	Tucker Carlson Tonight	
61	CNBC	(61) Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank	Shark Tank				Shark Tank	Shark Tank	
63	BRAV	(63) To Be Announced										** Sex and the City 2 (10) Cynthia Nixon, David Eigenberg, Sarah Jessica Parker.	
64	TCM	(64) (5:00) A Star Is Born (37) Fredric March.		*** A Star Is Born (1954, Musical) James Mason, Jack Carson, Judy Garland.							(15) ** A Star Is Born (76, Mus) Kris Kristofferson, Gary Busey, Barbra Streisand.		
65	SYFY	(65) (4:30) Serenity (05) Nathan Fillion.		*** Salt (2010, Action) Liev Schreiber, Chivette Ejiofor, Angelina Jolie.				Z Nation "Warren's Dream" (SP) (N)				** Jeepers Creepers (2001, Horror) Justin Long, Jonathan Breck, Gina Philips.	
162	RFD	(162) County Reporter	FarmHer (N)	The Jimmy Dean Show		Cumberland High.	Rural Eve. News	C. Reunion "Rock and Roll Graffiti"		County Reporter	Virginia Dreams	Time Life Library	

SATURDAY EVENING												SEPTEMBER 30	
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
2	KATU	(2) (5:05) NCAA Football Clemson at Virginia Tech (L)				(20) Studio	Jeopardy!	Vacation Creation	Paid Program	20/20		KATU News (N)	(35) HonorWrestle
4	KOMO	(4) (5:05) NCAA Football Clemson at Virginia Tech (L)				(20) Studio	Football Tonight	Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy!	20/20		KOMO 4 News (N)	(35) HonorWrestle
5	KING	(5) NBC News (N)	KING 5 News (N)	L.M. Traveler	Raw Travel	Dateline NBC Investigative features are covered.						KING 5 News (N)	Sat. Night Live
6	KOIN	(6) KOIN Local 6 (N)	Weekend News (N)	Entertainment Tonight Weekend	Steve Raible	NCIS "Philly"	NCIS "Philly"	48 Hours Delve into real-life crime and justice cases. (SP) (N)				KOIN 6 News (N)	(35) Paid Program
7	KIRO	(7) Weekend News (N)	KIRO 7 News (N)	Right This Minute		NCIS "Philly"		48 Hours Delve into real-life crime and justice cases. (SP) (N)				KIRO 7 News (N)	(35) Scandal
9	KGW	(9) NBC News (N)	Naturally, Danny	Champion Within	Give	Dateline NBC Investigative features are covered.						KGW News (N)	Sat. Night Live
10	KRCW	(10) WHL Hockey Seattle Thunderbirds at Portland Winter Hawks Site: Moda Center -- Portland, Ore. (L)				Friends	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	News at 10 (N)	Pawn Stars	Impractical Jokers	Bones
11	KOPB	(11) Great British Baking "Biscuits"		TravelToEdge (N)	Steves' Europe	Globe Trekker "Tough Trails: Vietnam"	The Secret Agent					Doctor Blake "A Difficult Life"	Masterpiece "Endeavour: Harvest"
12	KPTV	(12) (5:00) NCAA Football Oklahoma State at Texas Tech Site: Jones AT&T Stadium -- Lubbock, Texas (L)				5 O'Clock News (N)		James Brown				10 O'Clock News (N)	Family Guy
13	KPDx	(13) Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Portland Timbers	MLS Soccer Portland Timbers at San Jose Earthquakes (L)			Portland Timbers				CSI: Miami	West Coast Wrestling Connection
14	FAM	(14) (5:00) NCAA Football Oklahoma State at Texas Tech Site: Jones AT&T Stadium -- Lubbock, Texas (L)				Seahawks	Two and a Half	Two and a Half	Two and a Half	Q13 News (N)	Seahawks	Superhuman	No Task Too Tall
20	TBS	(20) Seinfeld Pt. 1 of 2	Seinfeld Pt. 2 of 2	Seinfeld Pt. 1 of 2	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory
21	KZJO	(21) WHL Hockey Seattle Thunderbirds at Portland Winter Hawks Site: Moda Center -- Portland, Ore. (L)				Pawn Stars		Q13 News at 9 (N)	Seahawks	Most Wanted	Bones	The Rocker in the Rinse Cycle	The X-Files
29	ESPN	(29) Football Score. (1:15) NCAA Football (L)						(1:15) SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt (N)				SportsCenter	The day's news in the world of sports. (N)
30	ESPN2	(30) (4:00) NCAA Football (L)		Football Score.	NCAA Football (L)							College Football Final (L)	SportsCenter
31	NICK	(31) The Loud House	The Loud House	Henry Danger "Live and Dangerous"		Henry Danger (N)	Game Shakers (N)	Full House	Full House	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Friends	Friends
32	DISN	(32) Stuck in Middle	Jessie	Bunk'd		Raven's Home	Descendants 2 (2017, Fantasy) Cameron Boyce, Sofia Carson, Dove Cameron.			(05) Stuck Middle	Bizaardvark	Raven's Home	K.C. Undercover
34	FAM	(34) (4:50) *** Cars (06) Owen Wilson.				*** Mulan (1998, Animated) Eddie Murphy, BD Wong, Ming-Na Wen.				(35) *** Up (09, Animated) Christopher Plummer, Delroy Lindo, Edward Asner.		(45) Men in Black	
35	FMC	(35) (5:50) *** Hotel Transylvania (12) Adam Sandler.				(40) FXM Presents	*** The Watch (2012, Comedy) Vince Vaughn, Ben Stiller.	(55) FXM Presents	*** The Watch (2012, Comedy) Vince Vaughn, Ben Stiller.	(55) FXM Presents	*** The Watch (2012, Comedy) Vince Vaughn, Ben Stiller.	(55) FXM Presents	*** The Watch (2012, Comedy) Vince Vaughn, Ben Stiller.
36	LIFE	(36) Murder/Laci Peterson "Media Frenzy"		Murder "Most Hated Man in America"		Murder of Laci P "The Trial Begins"		The Murder of Laci Peterson "The Verdict"				The Murder of Laci Peterson "Reasonable Doubt?"	
38	ROOT	(38) MLB Baseball Seattle Mariners at Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim Site: Angel Stadium -- Anaheim, Calif. (L)						Post-game		MLS Soccer Portland Timbers at San Jose Earthquakes			Post-game (N)
39	FS1	(39) (5:00) NASCAR Truck Racing (L)		College FB Extra	NCAA Football (L)								NCAA Football
43	SPIKE	(43) Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	*** Fast Five (2011, Action) Paul Walker, Dwayne Johnson, Vin Diesel.						The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift	
44	COM	(44) (1:15) South Park	(50) *** 50 First Dates (2004, Romance) Drew Barrymore, Rob Schneider, Adam Sandler.			*** The Longest Yard (2005, Comedy) Chris Rock, Burt Reynolds, Adam Sandler.						50 First Dates	
45	HIST	(45) American Pickers "Haunted Honeyhole"		American Pickers "Can't Catch a Break"		American Pickers "The Joy of Sax"		American Pickers "Tough Nut to Crack"		(05) Amer. Pickers "Frank's Birthday"		(05) American Pickers "Grudge Match"	
46	A&E	(46) (5:00) Live PD				Live PD "Rewind" (N)		Live PD Live access inside the country's busiest police forces.					
47	TLC	(47) Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss "Farewell to Momma Mary"	We reflect on the life of Momma Mar. (N)			(05) Cake Boss	"Farewell to Momma Mary"	(05) CakeB.	"Farewell to Momma Mary"
48	DISC	(48) Garage "Blue Ribbon Automotive"		Garage Rehab "Offset Customs"		Garage Dogs "Camp Doghouse" (N)		To Be Announced				To Be Announced	
49	NGEO	(49) Lockdown "San Antonio Gang War"		Lockdown "Surviving Stateville"		Facing "Suge Knight"		Facing "Escobar"				Facing Schwarzenegger	Facing "Escobar"
50	TNT	(50) *** The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (14, Adventure) Richard Armitage, Benedict Cumberbatch, Martin Freeman.				*** The Man From U.N.C.L.E. (2015, Action/Comedy) Armie Hammer, Alicia Vikander, Henry Cavill.						Movie	
51	AMC	(51) *** Moneyball (2011, Biography) Robin Wright, Jonah Hill, Brad Pitt.				Halt & Catch Fire "Who Needs a Guy" (N)	Halt & Catch Fire "Who Needs a Guy" (N)			(05) Moneyball (11, Bio) Brad Pitt.			
52	USA	(52) Law & Order: SVU "Daydream Believer"		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Law & Order: SVU "Nationwide Manhunt"				Law & Order	
53	FOOD	(53) Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins	Halloween Wars "Special Victims Unit"		Halloween Wars "Haunted Motel"		Halloween Wars "Two-Faced"				Halloween Wars	"Demonic Wedding"
54	HGTV	(54) My Dream Home	My Dream Home	My Dream Home	My Dream Home	Property Bros. "Game-time Decision"		LakefrontBargainReno (N)				House Hunters Renovation (N)	Log Cabin Living
56	FX	(56) (5:00) *** The Other Woman (14) Cameron Diaz.				*** Pitch Perfect 2 (2015, Comedy) Rebel Wilson, Elizabeth Banks, Anna Kendrick.						*** Pitch Perfect 2 (15, Comedy) Rebel Wilson, Elizabeth Banks, Anna Kendrick.	
57	CNN	(57) Declass. "Spy and Son: The Nicholsons"		Anthony Bourdain "Hanoi"		Anthony Bourdain "Laos"		Declass. "Spy and Son: The Nicholsons"				Anthony Bourdain "Shanghai"	Anthony Bourdain "Vietnam"
58	FNC	(58) Justice With Judge Jeanine		The Greg Gutfeld Show		Undercover Boss "True Value"		Undercover Boss "Gigi's Cupcakes"				Justice With Judge Jeanine	Watters World
61	CNBC	(61) Undercover Boss "Forman Mills"		Undercover Boss "True Value"		Undercover Boss "Gigi's Cupcakes"		Undercover Boss "Utah Jazz"				Undercover Boss "O'Neill Clothing"	Undercover Boss "O'Neill Clothing"
63	BRAV	(63) (5:30) Wives N	The Real Housewives of New Jersey	The Real Housewives of New Jersey		*** Maid in Manhattan (02) Ralph Fiennes, Tyler Garcia Posey, Jennifer Lopez.						To Be Announced	
64	TCM	(64) (5:00) The Bad and the Beautiful		(15) *** Born to Be Bad (50, Romance) Robert Ryan, Mel Ferrer, Joan Fontaine.		*** So Young, So Bad (50, Dra) Grace Coppin, Paul Henreid, Catherine McLeod.						Eraserhead (1977, Horror) Jack Nance.	
65	SYFY	(65) (4:30) Lake Placid	Lake Placid 2 (2007, Horror) Sam McMurray, Sarah Laffeur, Cloris Leachman.			*** G.I. Joe: Retaliation (2013, Action) Dwayne Johnson, Adrianne Palicki, Channing Tatum.						Horns (2014, Drama) Juno Temple.	
162	RFD	(162) Opry Encore	Dailey and Vincent	Mollie B Polka Party		Larry's Country "The Oak Ridge Boys"		C. Reunion "Rock and Roll Graffiti"		Hee Haw			Time Life Library

SUNDAY EVENING												OCTOBER 1	
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
2	KATU	(2) KATU News at 6 (N)		The Toy Box (SP) (N)		Shark Tank (SP) (N)		Shark Tank (N)		Ten Days-Valley "Day 1: Fade In" (P) (N)		KATU News (N)	(35) Castle
4	KOMO	(4) KOMO 4 News (N)		The Toy Box (SP) (N)		Shark Tank (SP) (N)		Shark Tank (N)		Ten Days-Valley "Day 1: Fade In" (P) (N)		KOMO 4 News (N)	(35) Full Measure
5</													