

LUKE STONE AND THE SECRET OF THE GOLDEN BUDDHA

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"Luke Stone and the Secret of the Golden Buddha"

Act One

FADE IN:

[Note: All scenes are in 1941 unless otherwise noted]

EXT. OCEAN CITY (2005) - DAY

SUPER: "OCEAN CITY, NEW JERSEY, JULY 4th, 2005"

OLD ELIN (GRUDEN) STONE (82), a feisty, elderly lady with gray hair, thick glasses, and a long camel-hair coat from the 1950s, stares out at the ocean as the sun rises. SENATOR BERTRAND NEVEL (55) in a blue suit, white shirt, and red tie stomps over to her yelling.

SENATOR

Mrs. Stone! Mrs. Stone! Where the hell is that husband of yours. I can't wait around all day. Cameras are on the way.

Old Elin scoffs.

OLD ELIN

Senator Nevel, you know Luke! He don't give a damn about cameras. Stubborn, pig-headed...

SENATOR

(interrupting)

None of this would be possible without him. Hell, we might be speakin' German or Japanese if not for him.

OLD ELIN

Don't you go givin' him a big head.

SENATOR

And the Golden Buddha! Does he think they'll find it?

OLD ELIN

Oh! It's there!

(beat)

He knows it's there, but legend says it's protected by the sands of time, whatever that means.

SENATOR

Where the hell is he? Is he always late? Doesn't he care about details?

Old Elin faces the senator with anger in her eyes.

OLD ELIN

Let me tell you a thing or two about Luke Stone. He's always had impeccable timing and an incredible attention to detail! Why, he stood at this very spot on Thursday July 3rd, 1941, planning to go after that Golden Buddha by himself.

BEGIN FLASHBACK #1

EXT. OCEAN CITY - DAY

SUPER: Ocean City, Thursday July 3, 1941

LUKE STONE (25) a tall, dark, handsome man with his signature Boston Blackie mustache, in a bathing suit, studies a primitive drawing of an "Aqua-Lung" along with a short note from Jacques-Yves Cousteau. The note reads: "Professor Stone, Experimental Aqua-Lung unit has problems. 12-18 minutes, and 8-10 meters max, we're not sure! Watch your time! Good Luck, Jacques. P.S. Regulator fails often."

LUKE

Up to thirty feet down for up to eighteen minutes. He has no idea!

OLD ELIN (V.O.)

Luke had just received a detailed drawing from Jacques Cousteau, which he studied very carefully.

SENATOR (V.O.)

The famous Jacques Cousteau?

OLD ELIN (V.O.)

Few people knew that Jacques conducted underwater missions for the French Navy in Shanghai and Japan between 1935 and 1938.

SENATOR (V.O.)

Where he could have learned about the treasure on the Sindia?

OLD ELIN (V.O.)
Exactly! He was eager to help Luke.

Luke studies the primitive one-tank model he re-created from Cousteau's plans. He checks his wristwatch. He loads the Aqua-Lung into a small, but beautiful Garwood boat, and motors out to sea about fifty yards toward the three remnants of the Sidia's four mighty masts.

OLD ELIN (V.O.)
He knew that the old diving helmet suit and hoses could never maneuver in the hull of the Sindia.

He drops a small anchor with flags every ten feet on the rope, tosses on the Aqua-Lung, tests a few breaths, checks his watch which reads exactly eight o'clock. He shrugs his shoulders and falls back into the water.

When Luke is down about 10-feet, the breathing apparatus suddenly stops. Luke is STUNNED and losing air. Anxious moments. Luke pounds his mask with his hand, and air starts flowing. He continues the dive and searches around the wreck.

OLD ELIN (V.O.)
He was looking for two holes that were blown in the hull by treasure hunters in the 1920s.

SENATOR (V.O.)
Did they find anything?

OLD ELIN (V.O.)
(laughs)
Wet sand filled the holes. It stops every treasure hunter. They found some Japanese plates from the top decks.

SENATOR (V.O.)
Japanese? I thought there were Chinese treasures down there.

Luke's breathing apparatus STOPS again. Luke pounds the mask with his hands, but nothing works.

CUT TO:

EXT. OCEAN CITY (2005) - DAY

Old Elin has a look of surprise and shock at the Senator.

OLD ELIN

My historian husband would die of a heart attack if he heard you now.

SENATOR

I didn't know the whole story, sorry...

OLD ELIN

(interrupting)

It all started during the Boxer Rebellion in nineteen hundred in Shanghai, China...

BEGIN FLASHBACK #2

EXT. BUDDHIST MONASTERY (1900) - NIGHT

Ten British Soldiers (20s-40s) and Five Chinese Mercenaries (20s-40s) shoot their way into a peaceful monastery in China. Ten unarmed Monks and Civilians (various ages) are shot dead.

Treasure is looted from the Buddhist temples by the armed attackers, surrounded by Dead Monks (in robes). Two forty-pound Jade Dogs are loaded into a wooden crate.

OLD ELIN (V.O.)

The thieves took everything, including a five- to seven-hundred-year-old solid gold Golden Buddha weighing two-hundred pounds. They say quicksand swallowed several of the thieves.

Several thieves die in quicksand, while loading the Golden Buddha into a crate with ropes and pulleys.

EXT. SHANGHAI (1900) - NIGHT

A massive cargo ship, the four-masted Sindia, is being loaded up with crates.

SENATOR (V.O.)

That's where the Sindia comes in?

OLD ELIN (V.O.)

The largest cargo ship of the day. You could fit an entire football field in the hull.

(beat)

Or three-thousand tons of treasure!

SENATOR (V.O.)

Who owned it?

OLD ELIN (V.O.)

John D. Rockefeller happened to purchase the ship one year earlier.

SENATOR (V.O.)

No coincidence, I bet. Where was it headed?

OLD ELIN (V.O.)

First to Japan for oil, dishes, and ceramics, then on to New York.

The Sindia sails into a storm with a coastline barely in sight.

SENATOR (V.O.)

But it didn't quite make it.

END FLASHBACK #2

BACK TO:

EXT. OCEAN CITY (2005) - DAY

Old Elin and the Senator stare out to sea.

OLD ELIN

December 15, 1901, after a four-day storm, the Sindia went aground, fifty yards from shore in thirty feet of water.

SENATOR

The crew?

OLD ELIN

Thirty-eight, all survived. Last crew member died in 1990.

SENATOR

But sand covered it up quickly?

OLD ELIN

There's a devil down there, they say!

SENATOR

Well, your husband was down there. That's for sure.

OLD ELIN

Oh, yes, Luke! He met the devil
down there!

BACK TO:

EXT. OCEAN CITY - DAY

Luke struggles to get to the surface slowly to avoid the bends. Just before he surfaces, the apparatus begins to work again. He checks his watch. It still reads 8 AM. He taps it. Water fills the face of the watch. He shrugs, and heads back down to the Sindia.

Luke follows the anchor line down, which he marked with flags at ten-foot intervals.

OLD ELIN (V.O.)

He's never without a well-conceived
plan of some kind.

At the ten-foot interval, a huge shark swims overhead. Luke holds his breath until it passes. He swims down.

He passes three flags. He sees a three-foot hole in the hull of the ship ten feet further down. He dives to the hole.

The hull is filled with wet sand. There is no way in. He frantically digs at the sand to no avail.

OLD ELIN (V.O.)

You know Luke. Thought he would
swim right in with his new
underwater gear, rescue the Golden
Buddha, and put it in a museum
until the Japanese retreated from
China!

SENATOR (V.O.)

A little naive, perhaps?

OLD ELIN (V.O.)

Like Don Quixote, Luke always sees
the world, not as it is, but as it
should be. Until...

Luke is digging frantically when he HEARS a RUMBLING coming toward him. He turns and sees a small German U-Boat [Nazi insignia and U-48] slowly passing beside him.

Luke's eyes open widely, just as his apparatus fails again.

OLD ELIN (V.O.)

He spotted that Nazi U-Boat!

Luke pounds his mask. He's out of air. He starts to surface slowly. The air regulator starts and stops intermittently over his slow rise to the top. His anchor line gets caught on the U-Boat's radio antenna.

SENATOR (V.O.)
Nobody believed him!

OLD ELIN (V.O.)
Even President Franklin D. Roosevelt, himself! It would be a full six months before the Nazis started sinking ships along the Eastern Seaboard!

SENATOR (V.O.)
He had no proof!

OLD ELIN (V.O.)
They stole his prize boat!

Luke surfaces just before he runs out of breath. He breathes in heavily, and turns his head to see his boat heading out to sea.

LUKE
Goddamn Nazis! Two kinds of sharks in the water now! They'll pay for this!

Luke begins the arduous swim to shore, ever mindful of two kinds of sharks. He races to the shore.

END FLASHBACK #1

BACK TO:

EXT. OCEAN CITY (2005) - DAY

Old Elin raises her fist. The Senator looks surprised.

OLD ELIN
They shouldn't have made Luke mad. Our country was in grave danger of being invaded, and Luke was determined to stop them!

ROLL CREDITS

Also show newspaper headlines and file footage from 1939 to July 1941. September 1, 1939, Germany Invaded Poland; June 22, 1940, Hitler Takes France; December 29, 1940, Germany drops incendiary bombs on London; March 11, 1941, U.S. To Supply Arms to Fight Axis; September 7, 1941, Germany Blitz on London;

EXT. OCEAN CITY - DAY

SUPER: Thursday July 3, 1941

Two German Thugs (30s; brutes with thick German accents) wait in the beach parking lot in a black 1935 MERCEDES-BENZ 500K ROADSTER. One of the German Thugs is watching Luke with binoculars. He nods to the other thug, and they drive slowly toward Luke, who leans his new Aqua-Lung against the back tire of his black 1936 Ford pickup connected to an empty boat trailer.

The Germans pause beside Luke's filthy truck and smirk at it.

THUG #1
American vehicles?

Luke ignores them as they exit the car. Luke dries off with a towel, and then uses it to cover up the Aqua-Lung. Luke strips off his wet suit in front of the men, and throws on his underwear, socks, pants, and shirt.

THUG #2
You were diving out there, yes?

Luke ignores them as he laces his boots, but he leaves the Aqua-Lung against the back tire.

THUG #1
Mind if we see your diving apparatus.

One of the Thugs pulls a German luger, and points it at Luke.

LUKE
Be my guests!

Luke puts on his felt hat, then uses the wet towel to whip the pistol from Thug #1's hand, then picks up the oxygen tank and swings it into Thug #2's head. Luke thrusts Thug #1 in the stomach with the tank, and tosses the tank and the Aqua-Lung in the bed of the truck. Before he leaves the back of the truck, he pulls out the safety pin on the trailer hitch. Then, he hops in the truck and peels out.

The Thugs give chase in their Mercedes-Benz.

Luke swerves across the road with the truck and boat trailer while gaining speed. The Thugs, in their high-powered car, quickly catch up to him, so Luke swerves some more.

The Thugs begin shooting. Luke takes evasive action, driving on the sides of the road and raising dust. The boat hitch rattles, but the trailer stays on.

More shots are fired. One bullet hits Luke's back window and shatters it. Luke ducks. He sees a narrow dirt road off to the left, and swerves before an on-coming car to make the turn. The Thugs are forced to hesitate before turning, and Luke smiles looking into the rearview mirror. He races on, but the Thugs are soon right behind him, shooting again.

A road sign reads BUMPS. Luke speeds up. The trailer hitch rattles more. More shots are fired as Luke speeds faster, until he hits a massive bump. His boat trailer separates, hits the bump and flies in the air. It flips straight up and lands squarely on the Thugs' windshield, crushing the roof before their car flies off the road. The Thugs bail. Seconds later, the car EXPLODES.

Luke slows down to a safe speed.

LUKE (CONT'D)

My trailer and my boat! Those
Germans are really going to pay for
this!

INT. GERMAN U-BOAT - DAY

In the cramped Captain's quarters, the Captain (50, uniformed, stern) and his Commander (35, uniformed, facial scar), meet with two JAPANESE MEN (30s; diplomats/spies) in suits and ties, glasses, and with black briefcases. The Captain produces a sketch of Sindia and a map of the Sindia's wreck site at Ocean City. Japanese Man #1 pulls out a drawing of two 40-lb Jade Dogs. They are unable to understand each other, so everyone points. Finally, the Commander produces an early photograph of the 200-lb Golden Buddha. Everyone GASPS.

CAPTAIN

(in German)

My Führer must have the Golden
Buddha for his art collection.

JAPANESE MAN #1

My Emperor must have the two jade
dogs to show he conquered China.

CAPTAIN

(in English)

I will remind our Japanese friends
that this is a historic moment:
this first German U-Boat in New
Jersey waters secretly was sent by
der Führer in preparation for
Operation Drumbeat.

(MORE)

CAPTAIN (CONT'D)
Once war is declared with the
United States, the Master Race will
conquer North and South America.

The Japanese Men SMIRK and whisper in Japanese.

JAPANESE MAN #1
How? We will have the Panama Canal.

A German Sailor (20; uniformed) knocks on the door. The Captain cover the maps and treasure pictures with a navigation map, as the Commander opens the door a crack. The Sailor's hand is shaking as he delivers the note to the Captain. He slams the door without speaking, and turns to read the note. The note, in German, reads: "No Aqua-Lung. Professor Luke Stone escaped."

The Captain whispers as he shows the note to his Commander.

CAPTAIN
Find him!

INT./EXT. COLLEGE CLASSROOM - DAY

Luke is before a small class of Twenty Students (mostly females), nicely dressed in new 1941 styles.

LUKE
Remember, about 22,000 Nazi
supporters attended a Bund Rally at
New York's Madison Square Garden in
February, 1939. And, throughout
history, the primary causes of war
have been cultural differences,
religious differences, and our
inability to bargain for resources.

(beat)

So crazed, power-hungry leaders
take the resources by force.
Cattle, sheep, goats, water, gold,
and silver have all been reasons
for war. Who knows, if gasoline
ever goes higher than twelve cents
a gallon, we might be foolish
enough to have wars over oil
someday.

The Students laugh. The bell rings. The students begin to exit slowly, gawking at Luke.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Just because this is summer session, and we're all off tomorrow for July Fourth, doesn't excuse you from your term papers due next week!

A beautiful blonde woman, (Young) ELIN GRUDEN (23) in business attire enters as the students exit. The Students glare at the competition. Elin reads from a small notebook.

ELIN

Professor Stone? Luke Stone?

Luke tosses papers in his old leather briefcase, and wipes off the chalk board reading assignments.

LUKE

Yes, that's right.

ELIN

(whispers)

I'm Elin Gruden. You called our Washington D.C. office about certain sightings you made underwater this morning.

LUKE

You're not Mr. Donovan.

Elin waits for the last student to leave. She shuts the door seductively.

ELIN

Guess we don't need an eye test.

LUKE

Great! They sent a smart aleck who flunked outta charm school...

ELIN

(interrupting)

Frankly, our office in Washington thinks you're crazy, so they sent me from New York to confirm it.

LUKE

(whispers)

I know what I saw down there, and they dragged my boat out to sea.

ELIN

I sent a Coast Guard vessel out.
They found your boat. Didn't have
an anchor on the line.

LUKE

It most certainly did!

ELIN

I sent local police looking for
your boat trailer, but nothing so
far. Not sure what to think about
your U-Boat.

LUKE

U-48.

ELIN

What?

LUKE

On the U-Boat. Next to the
swastika.

ELIN

We have no record of German U-Boats
along our coasts.

LUKE

You do now.

ELIN

Such a report may cause unnecessary
mass hysteria.

Luke glares at Elin.

LUKE

Would you care to see the bullet
holes in my truck?

ELIN

(scoffs)

The sub chased you on land, too?

Elin writes, "Thinks he saw the letter "U" and the number
"48" on the boat" in her notebook in shorthand. Luke steps
closely beside her, and grabs his felt hat on his way out the
door.

LUKE

Next time, I want to speak to Mr.
Donovan personally!

Elin slaps Luke in the face. He's stunned.

ELIN

Look, Buster, I work just as hard as any man in our office and get paid half as much! So don't tell me you'll only talk to another bald-headed idiot in a double-breasted pin-stripe suit, with his tongue hanging out every time I walk by in a skirt and heels they make me wear!

Luke gives her a look like she's crazy, and he races down the hall and out of the building with Elin chasing his heels.

ELIN (CONT'D)

Professor, wait up. You know my father in Foreign Languages.

Luke STOPS and turns to her.

LUKE

You're Heinz Gruden's little girl? Never cared for him either!

Elin finally catches up to him.

ELIN

What?

LUKE

Looks like we may need a hearing test!

ELIN

Touché. I deserved that.

Elin grabs Luke's arm.

ELIN (CONT'D)

Lot of tension in the family since that kook, Adolf Hitler, started conquering the world. He split our family in half. My mom and I hate him, my kid brother and my Papa love him!

Two men approach Elin and Luke at a quick pace. They heard everything. One of the men is HEINZ GRUDEN (50; strong German accent), the other is the U-Boat Commander, FRITZ WOLF (35) in a brand new dark double-breasted suit, with pants that poorly conceal his high black Kriegsmarine boots. The scar on his face cannot be concealed.

HEINZ

Elin, what a pleasant surprise. I didn't know you were coming to see me.

ELIN

Yes, Papa. This kind gentleman offered to show me to your office.

HEINZ

Very kind of you, Professor Stone.

The U-Boat Commander's eyes open widely.

HEINZ (CONT'D)

I'd like you to meet a colleague of mine from...Canada. This is Professor Fritz Wolf.

They all shake hands with suspicious glares.

HEINZ (CONT'D)

My daughter, Elin, is a secretary in New York. And this is Professor Luke Stone from our History Department.

ELIN

Honored to meet you, Professor Wolf. Where and what do you teach?

HEINZ

I'm afraid Professor Wolf speaks very little English. You see, he teaches in French-speaking Quebec.

LUKE

(in French)

What do you teach in Quebec?

Fritz looks confused. He reaches in his coat pocket as if to grab a pistol, but Heinz stops him.

HEINZ

I'm afraid the train has exhausted my colleague. Perhaps tonight we can all get a beer at the Biergarten.

Luke sees a price tag clinging to the side of Fritz's new jacket.

LUKE

Thanks for the offer, but I have papers to grade.

Luke starts to walk away. Heinz grabs his arm.

HEINZ

We insist, Professor Stone. Our whole family will be there. You could get to know my daughter better.

Luke glares at Elin. She snarls back at him.

LUKE

No thanks. I have to track down my boat trailer and boat. I seemed to have misplaced them.

Luke starts to walk away.

ELIN

Papa, the man is busy.

Heinz grabs his daughter's arm and squeezes it until she grimaces.

HEINZ

It's a very romantic Biergarten in the German tradition, Professor Stone. Eight O'clock?

Fritz begins to reach in his coat again. Elin begs Luke with her eyes.

LUKE

Romantic, huh?

(smiles)

I don't think so. The only thing I'm getting hitched to tonight is a boat trailer.

Elin glares at Luke, while the others nervously laugh. Heinz and Fritz guide Elin away.

HEINZ

Maybe after, then, for a night cap?

Elin looks back nervously and sadly at Luke.

Luke sees the concern in Elin's eyes, but turns and begins to walk past the rugby field, toward a parking lot where his truck is parked. Elin, Heinz, and Fritz are out of sight. Two AGENTS (FRANKY; 30, tall;

and MORT, 35, African-American, chubby) in matching gray, double-breasted suits and fedoras, converge on Luke from different directions, and point .38 snub-nosed pistols in his sides. They walk slowly past a Rugby team (Ten big lugs) practicing five against five.

LUKE

Pistols? Be careful boys. You'd kill me and each other with those sawed-off pea-shooters.

FRANKY

Keep walkin'.

MORT

And keep quiet.

LUKE

Who are you?

MORT

He's Franky. I'm Mort.

Franky looks horrified.

FRANKY

God damn it, Mort!

LUKE

Who do you work for?

MORT

We don't know.

FRANKY

God damn it, Mort!

MORT

That's the truth! We're reorganizing into the Office of Strategic Services, but we won't be fully operational for six months.

Franky puts his gun away and yells.

FRANKY

Why don't you give him our goddamn phone number, ya big lug?

A Rugby Player (22, huge) YELLS to Luke.

RUGBY PLAYER

Hey, Professor Stone, wanna join in again.

LUKE
Can't today fellas. Got company.

RUGBY PLAYER
Maybe tomorrow.

Luke turns to Franky and Mort and whispers.

LUKE
You two jokers are spies? Put those
guns away.

They all whisper.

FRANKY
Look, the dame works for us, see,
but her father may be on the other
team, if ya know what we mean.

LUKE
Professor Gruden?

MORT
We was tailin' him 'til you balled
it up.

FRANKY
Poor Elin.

MORT
(chuckles)
Franky's sweet on her.

Franky makes a fist at Mort.

LUKE
No manners. You deserve each other.

MORT
Watch it, pal!

FRANKY
You think you saw a Nazi U-Boat,
Professor? A nut case, huh?

LUKE
I know what I saw.
(beat)
Did you notice the other stiff that
Professor Gruden was with? What did
you see?

FRANKY
Dark suit?

LUKE

Five-eleven, blonde hair, hundred-eighty pounds, scar on his left cheek, new clothes with price tags still on 'em?

Mort takes out a notebook and starts scribbling.

FRANKY

Big deal, hot shot.

LUKE

His shoes?

MORT

What about 'em?

LUKE

Standard-issue boots for a Kriegsmarine officer, you morons.

(beat)

Eight o'clock, Biergarten. I don't have time for you two right now.

Luke begins to run across the rugby field toward his truck. Franky and Mort give chase. Luke yells to the players.

LUKE (CONT'D)

We'll play a little. I'm open.

A player flips Luke the ball. Luke rolls it towards Franky and Mort and yells.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Scrum!

The rugby players pile on Franky and Mort, as Luke runs to his truck.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Thanks, fellas! I owe ya a game.

Luke RACES off in his truck.

CUT TO:

EXT. OCEAN CITY (2005) - DAY

Old Elin and the Senator enjoy a cup of coffee on a park bench.

SENATOR

Where is that husband of yours?

OLD ELIN

Always thinking ahead. That day, he knew the Germans were after the Aqua-Lung design, so he stopped off at home to hide the air regulator -- the most important part.

SENATOR

And the part that kept failing him underwater.

OLD ELIN

He didn't want it to fall into the wrong hands, so he swapped it out and hid it.

SENATOR

Swapped it out?

OLD ELIN

(laughs)

With a water pump from an old car.

INT./EXT. LUKE'S HOUSE - DAY

Luke closes all the curtains in the house. In the kitchen, he unscrews the clamps of the Aqua-Lung regulator, and hides it, along with the plans, beneath a floorboard. He scrounges around the garage until he finds a suitable replacement: the old water pump. He tightens the clamps on a fresh tank of gas.

There is a loud KNOCK on the door. Luke freezes. There is a second loud KNOCK. A sexy student, BRIDGET (19), waits impatiently at Luke's front door.

Luke tiptoes to the front door expecting trouble. He swings open the front door, and startles Bridget.

LUKE

Oh, Miss Applegate, I wasn't expecting company.

Bridget rushes in, and Luke looks up and down the street before shutting and locking the door. Bridget sees him lock the door and she smiles. She stands in the center of the living room, which is dark with the curtains closed.

BRIDGET

You can call me Bridget, Professor. We're not exactly in class. Golly!

Luke stands next to Bridget and pulls the chain for the ceiling light.

LUKE
How can I help you... Bridget?

BRIDGET
It's about my term paper. I'm stuck. I need your help.

Bridget reaches for the light chain and shuts off the light. Luke turns it right back on.

LUKE
What can I help you with?

BRIDGET
My Daddy says the Germans might attack us some day. Is that true?

LUKE
Strategically, if the Germans defeat the Russians first, it could provide the resources to defeat Britain.

Bridget reaches for the light chain and shuts off the light.

BRIDGET
That would be scary.

Bridget flirts with Luke. Luke turns the light back on.

LUKE
Then Germany could theoretically could use the confiscated British ships to send German troops across the Atlantic, while the Japanese bomb and take the Panama Canal and then send their subs to bomb all our major cities.

Bridget puts her arms around Luke like a frightened kitten.

LUKE (CONT'D)
Maybe your term paper can explore these possibilities.

Bridget reaches for the light chain and shuts off the light.

BRIDGET
So... many... possibilities.

Bridget is cooing. Luke almost weakens, but he regains his composure, turns on the light, and gently pushes her away.

LUKE

Miss Applegate, why don't you write about the reasons for a possible invasion of the Germans from the east, and Japanese from the west. That should keep you busy for a week. I've important matters to address this afternoon.

Bridget stomps her feet in anger and heads to the door. Luke unlocks it, looking carefully out the door, left and right, to see if it's safe.

BRIDGET

What's more important than helping a student in need?

Luke pushes her gently out the door. She pouts.

LUKE

I ask myself that question every day. See you Monday in class, Miss Applegate.

Luke shuts and locks the front door.

BRIDGET (O.S.)

It's Bridget!

Luke races to the kitchen, grabs the Aqua-Lung, and RACES out the back door to his truck.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

Luke drives to a spot a hundred yards from where his boat trailer crashed into the Mercedes-Benz. He climbs a ridge and pulls out binoculars, and PEEKS down at the site. The Mercedes-Benz is gone. His boat trailer sits on the side of the road, like bait.

Luke SCANS the landscape. He spots one German-American Bund Youth (17; white undershirt with a lightning bolt on it) playing with a switchblade knife and smoking a cigarette. By moving behind the ridgeline and peeking over, he spots four more young members of the Hitler Youth (late teens), similarly dressed, and each with a switchblade. He spots their vehicle, an old farm truck, with an Old Man (70) unconscious and face-down beside it.

LUKE

Poor guy!

Luke crawls back down the slope, and races to the road. He walks slowly up to the youths, while calling for a stray cow.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Betsy! Betsy! Here girl!

The angry youths quickly encircle him.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Stray cow. You boys seen her?
Brown?

HITLER YOUTH #1

We's lookin' for the guy who owns
this boat trailer.

LUKE

Sorry. Just a farmer. Seen my cow
or not?

HITLER YOUTH #2

Cops said my uncle drove into the
trailer left in the road.

LUKE

Horrible accident. My cow?

HITLER YOUTH #1

Nobody cares about your cow.

LUKE

Army scared her off with their
weapons testing around here
yesterday.

HITLER YOUTH #2

Army? Weapons testing? You jerkin'
our chains?

LUKE

Suit yourselves. Send Betsy home if
you see her.

Luke slowly retreats, and returns to his truck.

He searches the truck. He finds a can of gasoline, rags, and matches. He searches around the truck on the side of the road for old bottles and finds them.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Gotta love fraternities.

Luke removes his felt hat and puts the Aqua-Lung on his back, and RACES to the peak above the Hitler Youths, where he constructs three Molotov cocktails. He places the Aqua-Lung mask on his head, lights a Molotov cocktail, stands, and yells down to the boys.

LUKE (CONT'D)

This is the United States Army.
We're testing chemical weapons in
the area. Vacate the area
immediately!

The boys look up, astonished.

HITLER YOUTH #1

We're not afraid of you, Buster.

Luke tosses the Molotov cocktail down to the road, and races down the ridgeline and yells in a different voice.

LUKE

You're completely surrounded!

HITLER YOUTH #2

Come and get us!

He throws another Molotov cocktail. The boys slowly retreat. Luke races down ridge, stands, and tosses another Molotov cocktail, yelling in a third voice.

LUKE

Don't breathe in this mustard gas;
you'll all die a horrible death!

Finally, the boys scramble in retreat.

HITLER YOUTH #2

Mustard gas! I'm getting outta
here!

The Hitler Youths race down the road to the unconscious old man, take his truck, and RACE away.

Luke returns to his truck, chuckling.

LUKE

Misguided youths. Gotta love 'em.

Luke gets to his truck, throws the Aqua-Lung in the back, tosses on his felt hat, and races to the unconscious man.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

Luke slams on the brakes and races over to the unconscious old man. The man is face-down. Luke shakes the man's shoulder.

LUKE

Are you okay? We'd better get you to a hospital.

Luke carefully turns the old man over to see him aiming a German luger at him.

LUKE (CONT'D)

What the...

Luke HEARS the sound of two other German lugers being cocked behind him. It's the Two German Thugs, both with bandaged heads, and one with a sling. Before Luke can turn around, Thug #1 hits Luke in the back of his head with a luger, and knocks him out.

THUG #1

Thanks, Grandpapa. We'll take it from here.

A new 1941 Mercedes Benz Cabriolet B. RACES up to them. The Driver is Hitler Youth #1. They converse in German.

HITLER YOUTH #1

Where to?

THUG #2

Our warehouse at the beach.

THUG #1

Get the Aqua-Lung.

THUG #2

Jawohl.

They load in the car. Thug #2 fetches the Aqua-Lung.

HITLER YOUTH #1

Nice car.

THUG #1

Reichsmarschall Hermann Göring has one just like it.

HITLER YOUTH #1

Hope they give me one too!

They RACE off.

A moment later, Franky and Mort arrive at the scene in a 1941 Chevy Royal Clipper. They see the smoke from the harmless Molotov cocktails, Luke's truck, and his boat trailer.

FRANKY

He was here, all right.

MORT

Where'd they take him?

FRANKY

They're just after the Aqua-Lung. They'll test out the equipment, rough him up, and let him go, probably at the beach.

MORT

Let's do the lug a favor and bring him his truck and trailer.

FRANKY

After what he did to us with that rugby team?

MORT

Gotta admit. That was a cat's meow kinda plan.

FRANKY

What the hell, Mort? But I guess we may need a favor from him some day.

MORT

Right! Let's radio to check in, then head to the beach.

Mort uses a relatively new two-way radio in the car.

FRANKY

Remember, it's an A-M frequency so anybody can hear ya.

MORT

I know! I know!

LATER

Franky drives the Royal Clipper as Mort drives Luke's truck pulling the boat trailer.

OLD ELIN (V.O.)
 At Papa's house, he tried to
 convince me that Fritz Wolf was a
 Professor, but I knew something was
 up! Mama was in the kitchen making
 strudel, while I was being
 interrogated by Mr. Wolf.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

It's a ritzy house in a nice neighborhood. Elin and Fritz sit
 across from each other with a dining room table between them.
 Fritz speaks in German.

FRITZ
 What is it you do as a secretary?

Elin looks puzzled.

HEINZ
 (in German)
 She never took to German like her
 younger brother, Hans.
 (in English)
 Fritz wants to know about your
 work.

ELIN
 Oh! I take notes, type letters, and
 mail out clothing.

FRITZ
 (in English)
 May I see your notes?

Fritz surprises Elin by speaking English.

ELIN
 Why, sure. I guess so.

Elin produces her notebook from her purse. Fritz examines it.

HEINZ
 I'm sure it's all quite boring.
 (beat)
 But they pay her well enough to
 afford an apartment in the City.

ELIN
 I work long hours, Papa.

Fritz turns to the last page and sees a note in shorthand: "Thinks he saw the letter "U" and the number "48" on the boat."

FRITZ
What this say?

Elin stares at the note.

ELIN
Send forty-eight undershirts to the
Summer Camp in Windham, New York.

Heinz is elated.

HEINZ
That's the German-American Bund
Youth Camp that Hans goes to every
year.

ELIN
Yes, Papa.

FRITZ
Shorthand is like code. But the
Führer uses it.

Elin calmly looks away.

ELIN
Many brilliant minds also used
shorthand, like Isaac Newton and
Charles Dickens. All the girls in
the secretary pool use it.

Fritz slides the notebook back, but he looks at Elin suspiciously.

ELIN (CONT'D)
I will go help Mama with the
strudel.

Elin bounds off to the kitchen, where Mama (45, big, happy woman in an apron) rolls out a table-long, two-foot wide stretch of dough.

MAMA
(in German)
Elin, darling, butter.

ELIN
In English, Mama.

MAMA

Butter. How was work? You don't need that apartment in the City. Stay here. Save money.

Elin spreads the butter.

ELIN

Papa and I don't get along. You know that, Mama.

MAMA

Neither do your Papa and me, but what can you do? I do the apples; you do the cinnamon sugar. But the dough is very sticky, be careful!

ELIN

Yes, Mama. Use that rolling pin on Hans, my idiot brother.

MAMA

He's young and foolish.

ELIN

(whispers angrily)

He's a Nazi, Mama. We don't have to call it the German-American Bund Camp when Papa's not around. They're Nazis, pure and simple. They recruit poorly educated boys like Hans and his friends!

MAMA

He will come around if we enter the war.

ELIN

I hope so, Mama. For his sake!

Hans (Hitler Youth #1, still in his Hitler Youth undershirt) races in the front door with a note for Franz.

HEINZ

Welcome home, my son. I'd like you to meet...

HANS/HITLER YOUTH #1

(in German)

I know, Papa.

Fritz reads the note: "Ocean City Beach, Luke Stone." Hans hands Fritz the keys to the 1941 Mercedes-Benz, and Fritz races out. Hans and Heinz speak in German.

HEINZ
What's all this about, Hans?

HANS/HITLER YOUTH #1
Nothing, Papa. Is the party at the
Biergarten still on for tonight?

Heinz looks worried.

HEINZ
Yes, my son.

Hans smiles.

INT./EXT. WAREHOUSE - DAY

Luke is roped to a chair with a gag in his mouth, and a blindfold covering his eyes. He has his felt hat on. He wakes to the sound of Fritz's German voice. The Thugs speak broken English. Fritz is busy drawing the Aqua-Lung in great detail. All the Germans are smoking cigarettes.

FRITZ
Remove his gag.

Thug #1 removes Luke's gag.

LUKE
What's this about?

FRITZ
Tell him we want to know how the
Aqua-Lung works. Then we will shoot
him.

THUG #1
How Aqua-Loong verk?

LUKE
Verk?

THUG #1
How do it verk? Verk?

LUKE
Oh, work. It works fine.

Thug #1 punches Luke.

FRITZ
Tell him to explain the mechanism.

Thug #2 punches Luke.

THUG #2
Explain der mechanismus!

LUKE
Der mechanismus?

Thug #1 punches Luke.

LUKE (CONT'D)
Oh. The mechanism. You breathe in
the mouthpiece, idiots.

Thug #2 punches Luke.

THUG #1
No verk! No verk.

LUKE
Hand it to me. I'll show you.

Fritz nods. Thug #1 cuts Luke's hands free, but his legs are still strapped to the chair. Luke hears the clicking of a German luger against his temple. Still blindfolded, Luke, feels around the Aqua-Lung.

FRITZ
Kill him if he tries to escape.

LUKE
This is the mouthpiece.
(beat)
The hoses.
(beat)
The regulator, that regulates the
flow of oxygen in the mix.
(beat)
And the tank. So simple, even Nazis
can use it.

Thug #2 punches Luke.

FRITZ
Ask him why it doesn't work.

THUG #2
Why still not verk?

LUKE
No verk because I used the oxygen
up this morning. Tank was empty.
I'll need a wrench to open the
valve on this new cylinder.

The Germans STARE at the cylinder, bewildered.

FRITZ

Get him a wrench. After he shows us how to open the tank and use the Aqua-Lung, we can shoot him.

Thug #2 punches Luke one more time for good measure, and this time it almost knocks him out. Luke shakes his head in pain.

Thug #2 fetches a wrench from a workbench across the warehouse.

OLD ELIN (V.O.)

Now, Luke took two years of German in high school, and he was a little rusty, so he thought Fritz said, "Shoot him, then get him a wrench."

SENATOR (V.O.)

German sentence structure is quite different, I know. Like, "Throw the horse over the fence, some hay."

OLD ELIN (V.O.)

Exactly! Poor Luke, having to learn German all over again.

SENATOR (V.O.)

And under such circumstances!

OLD ELIN (V.O.)

Exactly! Luke thought he had a few seconds to live! And do you know who he thought about in the last few moments?

SENATOR (V.O.)

You?

OLD ELIN (V.O.)

Exactly!

Luke's mind wanders back to the scene where he was SLAPPED by Elin. He shakes his head and snaps out of it.

Thug #2 returns with a wrench. Luke is surprised to feel it slapped in his hand. Thug #2 cocks his pistol. Now, two pistols are pointing at Luke's temples, as Fritz leans closer to learn how to open a gas cylinder.

Thug #1 lights a fresh cigarette and returns the pistol to Luke's temple, as Luke feels for the valve needing the wrench. He finds it.

LUKE
(nervously)
Here it is.

Luke opens the valve, slowly at first. We HEAR a slight HISS. Then, he opens it all the way and HISS is louder. Luke points the cylinder toward the cigarette smoke, and the device IGNITES into a welding torch, growing to a flame thrower. Luke sprays the flame around him. The two Thugs have burning sleeves, and they drop their lugers. Fritz falls back, but is unharmed.

Luke rips off his blindfold, and turns the torch to the rope tying him to the chair. It burns, but slowly. He aims the torch at each of the three Germans who are crawling backwards for their lives.

Finally, the rope binding Luke's feet is burned through, but the torch is burning out of control. Flames are everywhere.

The two Thugs roll around to put the fire out on their sleeves. Fritz escapes through a side door. He hops into the 1941 Mercedes-Benz and peels away, just as Franky and Mort crash through the doors of the warehouse in their car. The back windows are down, and Luke hears Mort yelling.

MORT
Hop in!

We see the Thugs crawling toward their pistols in a smoke-filled warehouse. Luke dives in the back of the car, and Franky RACES away. We HEAR shots.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Just thirty yards from the warehouse, Luke looks back, and the warehouse EXPLODES.

LUKE
Thanks, Franky. Thanks, Mort. But I
had it all under control.

FRANKY
What was in that tank?

LUKE
Oxyhydrogen.

MORT
The gas they use for welding
torches?

LUKE

I knew they were after the Aqua-Lung.

(beat)

Just wanted to make it exciting.

Luke sees his truck, boat trailer, and boat up ahead on the side of the road.

FRANKY

Thanks to Elin, we got your boat.

LUKE

You lugs are okay. That Elin rubs me the wrong way, but if there's anything I can do for you...

MORT

That's why we're here. We need your help.

FRANKY

It's Elin.

(beat)

She's in trouble.

Luke rolls his eyes in disgust.

LUKE

That girl is trouble!

End Act One

Act Two

EXT./INT. LUKE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Franky and Mort follow Luke to his house. Luke backs his boat into the driveway, and unhooks the boat trailer, while Franky and Mort fill him in.

FRANKY

So Elin's probably there now, and her Papa is using her to bait you in. But we don't want to blow her cover.

MORT

He'll blame her if you don't show up.

LUKE

What do you want me to do?

FRANKY

Help us get Elin back. I'm her supervisor, she's a rookie, and a dame, but I don't want to cross her Papa. I like her.

MORT

If it was the German from the sub you saw, he's making a big effort to do something here.

LUKE

They want to dive on the Sindia.
(beat)
Treasure hunters to support their war efforts!

FRANKY

We'll worry about that after we save Elin. She's just a kid! See you out at that the Biergarten in thirty minutes.

LUKE

What's the plan?

MORT

We was hopin' you had one!

LUKE

Quick shower and shave, and I'll see ya in thirty minutes.

FRANKY
Shower and shave?

LUKE
Hot date tonight!

Franky and Mort shake their head in disbelief as they head back to their car.

EXT. OCEAN CITY (2005) - DAY

Elin and the Senator enjoy ice cream cones on a park bench.

SENATOR
Bet your husband had enough of the Germans for one day.

OLD ELIN
And I still had to save him at the Biergarten, but that wasn't the worst part!

SENATOR
You saved him?

OLD ELIN
While my husband, our young, uncoordinated intelligence network, and the nation were overly concerned about the Germans, we forgot about the Japanese! A dear friend once told us, "Don't take your hands off the Germans, and don't take your eyes off the Japanese."

INT. LUKE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Luke soaps up in the shower. As he steps out to dry off, the two Japanese Men (still in suits; and carrying black briefcases) from the U-Boat are aiming semi-automatic Nambu pistols at him.

LUKE
Hi, fellas. Mind if I towel off?

JAPANESE MAN #1
We not want to kill you. We diplomats.

Luke towels off.

LUKE
Your pistols suggest otherwise.

JAPANESE MAN #2
We want information.

LUKE
Try the library.

Luke begins to dress.

JAPANESE MAN #1
It closed.

JAPANESE MAN #2
You open.

LUKE
I'll tell you anything you can find
out in the library. That's it.

JAPANESE MAN #1
Okie-Dokie. Manifest for the
Sindia?

LUKE
It's all there. 4,000 crates of
china, 2,900 cans of camphor oil,
and 24,747 rolls of silk matting,
14 boxes of linseed, 5 cases of
screens, 300 boxes of wax, and 200
cases of manganese ore.

JAPANESE MAN #2
Exact-ree.

LUKE
Then what do you need me for?

JAPANESE MAN #1
Why they carry 200 cases of
manganese ore. It common in upstate
New York, yes?

LUKE
Yes.

JAPANESE MAN #2
Then why ship it ten thousand
miles?

LUKE
Ballast maybe?

JAPANESE MAN #1
Not crated? Nobody crate ballast!

LUKE
You fellas are too smart for me.

JAPANESE MAN #2
What really in those crates?

LUKE
It's got me!

JAPANESE MAN #1
Treasure!

Luke starts to shave. The Japanese Men watch him closely.

LUKE
Nobody knows!

JAPANESE MAN #2
You know, Professor Luke Stone.
History Professor and treasure
hunter!

LUKE
It's all under twenty feet of wet,
heavy, shifting sand. Impossible to
get.

JAPANESE MAN #1
Not for you, and that diving suit.

LUKE
Fifty men in those diving suits
might stand a chance. Not us!

JAPANESE MAN #2
Must be us. Must be day after
tomorrow! At dawn!

LUKE
Day after tomorrow, huh? What's the
rush?

Japanese Man #1 puts down his pistol, opens his briefcase,
and pulls out a drawing of a 40-pound Jade Dog.

JAPANESE MAN #1
Our Emperor must have the two dogs.

LUKE
So he sent you two knuckleheads?

JAPANESE MAN #2
What is knucklehead?

LUKE
It can't be done. It's a fool's
errand.

JAPANESE MAN #1
Must be done. We will be killed.

LUKE
Sayonara!

Luke exits the bathroom.

JAPANESE MAN #1
Stop or we shoot!

LUKE
You would have killed me by now if
you wanted to. You need me.

JAPANESE MAN #2
You must help us!

LUKE
Get help from the Germans.

JAPANESE MAN #1
No trust Germans.

LUKE
Well, I don't trust you! Show
yourselves out, will ya?

Luke grabs his felt hat, before heading out the door.

JAPANESE MAN #2
You not see the last of us!

Luke gets into his truck.

LUKE
Why am I not surprised?

He RACES away.

EXT./INT. BIERGARTEN - NIGHT

We see Franky, Mort, and Luke, peeking over an ivy-covered
fence into the Biergarten courtyard and bar.

Inside, they see about 80 Germans (ten tables of noisy, beer-drinking German Men from 16 to 50 years old) being served by "beer wenches," five blonde, busty women (18-25) in traditional "beer-maid" costumes delivering steins of beers, and plates of wiener schnitzel, sausages and sauerkraut, hoppel poppel, and strudel from the kitchen.

On one wall there is a film projector showing footage of a Hitler Youth Camp in 1937 in upstate New York.
(http://www.slate.com/blogs/the_vault/2014/08/05/history_of_nazis_in_the_united_states_film_of_american_nazi_summer_camp.html)

At one table, Elin sits between the Two Thugs (now with bandages on their heads and right arms), Heinz, and Fritz (holding his pistol under the table aimed at Elin, but she doesn't know this).

Suddenly, five tiny television sets (roundish screens) flash on. They are spaced in the bar so that two tables could see one TV.

TV ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Live, from the DuMont Studios in
Passaic, New Jersey, it's time for
Professional Wrestling!

The crowd CHEERS, and they are glued to a fuzzy professional wrestling match. One Wrestler (30) has U.S.-flag-covered shorts. The other Wrestler (30) has black shorts. Fritz turns his attention to the TV.

Luke, Franky, and Mort whisper outside.

FRANKY
Mort, go check on those Jap
characters like the Professor said.

LUKE
Don't take your eyes off them! Got
it?

MORT
I wanna see the wrestling. You go.

FRANKY
Damn it, Mort. Okay. I'll go, but
tell me who wins.

Luke grabs Franky's sleeve.

LUKE

The Japs will be after sailors who survived the Sindia. And check the library!

FRANKY

You told me. Be careful here. Don't cause a scene. You're outnumbered.

Franky pats Mort on the back, and sneaks away. Luke scans the crowd.

LUKE

No women, except Elin and the beer maids.

MORT

What's that about?

LUKE

It's not a dinner party. It's a meeting!

MORT

A meeting? About what?

LUKE

I'm gonna find out.

OUTSIDE

Luke begins to sneak around the side of the Biergarten to a back parking lot (dirt). A dozen newish cars are parked. Luke hides behind one as Big OTTO (30, wrestler-type), wearing a white apron, exits the kitchen with a large, stuffed duffle bag. He looks at the set of keys in his hands, and struggles to find the matching car. Luke follows him ducking behind car after car.

INSIDE

Mort eavesdrops on the conversation at Elin's table.

HEINZ

Elin, you must learn about many wonderful things happening in our homeland. The Master Race will rule the world.

Everyone else at the table is glued to the TV.

ELIN

I'm sure they are wonderful, Papa.

Half the crowd (including the Germans at Eli's table) CHEER as the U.S.-wrestler is thrown to the mat.

HEINZ

Number one industrial nation in the world now.

ELIN

Yes, Papa.

The other half of the crowd CHEERS as the wrestler in black trunks is flattened by the U.S.-wrestler.

HEINZ

All of Europe is uniting behind Mein Führer. England has all but lost the war.

ELIN

Yes, Papa. Watch this new silly contraption, like the others.

Half the crowd CHEERS as the U.S.-wrestler is flattened by the other.

ELIN (CONT'D)

Papa, what happened to these two men beside me?

Fritz stops staring at the TV and glares at Elin.

FRITZ

Automobile problem.

Elin looks doubtful.

ELIN

You speak English very well. That may come in handy later in life!

Fritz snickers, and turns to the TV.

OUTSIDE

Big Otto finds the right car, opens the trunk, tosses in the giant duffle bag, and closes the trunk. He returns to the kitchen.

Luke tries to get into the trunk without success, until he hears Big Otto exiting the kitchen with another large duffle bag. Luke hides behind a car, but Big Otto hunts him down, and swings the duffle bag at Luke, knocking him into another parked car. A major fight occurs between Luke and Big Otto.

Luke tackles Big Otto, then Luke gets "bear-hugged" almost to death. Big Otto is using professional wrestling moves on Luke, who changes tactics. Luke escapes the bear-hug, and scrambles around a parked car. He begins to wear Big Otto out. Finally, Luke ducks so he can't be seen. Big Otto looks left and doesn't see Luke coming, so he looks right. Luke attacks from the left and flies into the brute feet-first in the back, knocking him down. Once down, Luke jumps on his back and chokes him until he becomes lifeless.

Luke hears the crowd, watching the TVs, CHEERS in the bar.

LUKE

Starting to annoy me.

INSIDE

Half the crowd CHEERS as the U.S.-wrestler has the other in a relentless headlock.

HEINZ

Russia is also very weak, Elin.
Victory is inevitable.

ELIN

I don't care about politics, Papa.

HEINZ

You young people today...

The entire crowd CHEERS alternately as the wrestlers pound on each other.

OUTSIDE

Luke stumbles over to the duffle bag, and begins to unhook the latch, when he hears the crunch of metal on the car next to him. He turns to see Big Otto preparing to dive on top of him from the hood of the car. While Big Otto is in the air, Luke tucks his arms and rolls out of harm's way. Luke pops up, and stomps on Big Otto's back with his foot. Like a wrestler, Luke circles his opponent, dives on his back and strangles him again, until he's lifeless again.

Luke hears the crowd CHEER from inside the bar.

LUKE

Really annoying me! Stay down.

Luke returns to the duffle bag and undoes the hook. The bag is loaded with German rifles. He takes one out and examines it.

LUKE (CONT'D)
Karabiner 98's! Lot of 'em.

Luke hears half of the crowd CHEER again from inside the bar.

Luke does a quick count of the rifles in each bag.

LUKE (CONT'D)
Twenty-four.

He does a count of the cars in parking lot.

LUKE (CONT'D)
Twelve cars. That's Two-hundred-eighty-eight rifles in one night! Where they all goin'?

INSIDE

Fritz turns angry, as he points to the TV.

FRITZ
What this contraption?

ELIN
It's called a television. Live wrestling from the Dumont Brothers' Studio right here in New Jersey.

Fritz addresses the Two Thugs.

FRITZ
Our comrade, Big Otto, would rip them both to shreds, yes?

THUG #1 AND THUG #2
Jawohl!

ELIN
Television: just another wonderful American technological advance. You'll get used to them.

Fritz angrily chugs beer. The crowd CHEERS alternately in a furious wrestling exchange on the TV.

HEINZ
Dear daughter, Germany has the number-one military in the world. At present, the United States has the seventeenth-ranked military in the world.
(laughs)
(MORE)

HEINZ (CONT'D)

We should get used to more beer,
wiener schnitzel, hoppel poppel,
sausages and sauerkraut, and
strudel.

The Germans at the table laugh.

OUTSIDE

Luke hears the crowd inside CHEER again. Then he hears a GRUNT behind him. He turns without looking and slams the rifle into Big Otto's crotch, then punches him with a left hook. Big Otto spins and crashes to the ground. Luke acts like a wrestling referee. Luke pounds the dirt next to Big Otto.

LUKE

One, two, three! You're out!

Luke sneaks to the back door leading to the kitchen.

INSIDE

Luke peeks into the bar to see Mort's face inches from the TV screen nearest Elin. He's cheering on the U.S.-wrestler along with half of the Germans. Luke scans the crowd. He sees the beer maids, and smiles.

CUT TO:

EXT./INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

Franky drives up slowly to the library. He sees the front door has a broken window. He calls on his two-way radio.

FRANKY

Blue Heater here. Public library on
Main broken into. Send the locals.

Franky grabs a flashlight, and steps out of the car. He sees the door is unlocked. He creeps in, scanning with the flashlight. He sees a book open to a photo of the Sindia. The next page is torn out.

Franky jots down a few quick notes, and races out to his car and calls in, just as a local cop car arrives with two Uniformed Policeman (40s, heavyset), who race inside with their pistols drawn. Franky chuckles, then makes, a call.

FRANKY (CONT'D)

This is Blue Heater again. Find out
what's on page thirty-seven and
thirty-eight of *The History of
Ocean City*, will ya.

(MORE)

FRANKY (CONT'D)

Call me right back.

(beat)

Yeah, I know what time it is. Damn Professor was right. We got ourselves some trouble here.

BACK TO:

INT./EXT. BIERGARTEN - NIGHT

Luke flirts with a Beer Maid (22, pretty) who is holding a giant tray of steaming hot, sticky strudel. He whispers in her ear. She smiles and swoons. Luke speaks seductively, against a backdrop of vicious back-and-forth cheering.

LUKE

That strudel looks very hot.

The Beer Maid leans closer to him.

BEER MAID

Very hot and very sweet.

Luke leans in closer.

LUKE

Sweet, huh?

BEER MAID

Oh, yes. Very sweet.

LUKE

Why don't I carry the beers for you?

The Beer Maid swoons.

BEER MAID

Very sweet.

She seductively turns and wiggles away with the platter of hot strudel. Elin sees it all, and snarls at Luke. Luke grabs three beer steins in each hand and holds them in front of his face (covering his signature Boston Blackie mustache), as he follows the Beer Maid as they work their way through the cheering crowd to Elin's table.

There is a lot of pushing and shoving between the U.S.-wrestler fans and the black-trunk wrestler fans. Luke passes a table of five Hitler Youths (Hans and his gang), who are cheering for the black-trunked wrestler. Luke whispers to them.

LUKE

We've got the place completely surrounded. Mustard gas! Be more careful boys!

The boys stop and STARE at Luke.

The Beer Maid and Luke reach Elin's table. Fritz sees Luke and he trains his luger on Elin under the table. Elin sees the Beer Maid wink at Luke and Elin glares at Luke who shrugs his shoulders. The German Thugs on either side of Elin reach into their coat pockets with their good hands. Luke squeezes in front of the Beer Maid, and sets the six beer steins on the table, and crushes two beer steins in the Thug's faces, knocking them back. The Beer Maid turns away to protect the platter of strudel.

FRITZ

Don't move, or the fräulein might get hurt.

Heinz is stunned. He glares at Fritz.

Suddenly, Big Otto RACES in from the kitchen. He tips over tables attempting to get to Luke. Big Otto rips off his apron as he storms toward Luke. Everyone sees he is wearing a lightning bolt on his over-sized undershirt.

LUKE

Uh oh!

ELIN

(angry)

About time you got here, Professor!

Elin sees Thug #1 pull a pistol while lying on the ground, and she lifts her leg and crushes his wrist with her heavy-heeled shoes. She points at Thug #2, and he removes his empty hand from his jacket.

LUKE

(whispers to Elin)

Like you, I'm working on German-American relations.

(yells)

Let's hear it for the good ol' U.S.A.!

Half the crowd yells "hooray," and a barroom brawl breaks out as Big Otto prepares to bear-hug Luke. Luke grabs the hot-sticky platter of strudel out of the Beer Maid's hands, and he smashes it into Big Otto's face.

The Beer Maid slaps Luke across the face.

BEER MAID
For Mein Führer!

LUKE
Such a waste of fine strudel!

Elin glares at Luke again! Big Otto screams and dives on Elin's table. Elin leaps up and away but Fritz, Heinz, and the Two Thugs have their legs stuck under the table and with the weight of Big Otto, who is motionless.

Elin pulls Luke away, then Luke pulls Mort away from the television he is glued to, and they RACE out of the Biergarten!

FRITZ
(calmly)
We must get Big Otto on this wrestling show to prove German superiority!

THUG #1 AND THUG #2
Jawohl!

FRITZ
(angry)
But first, get them, you idiots!

Thug #1, Thug #2, and Fritz squirm out from under Big Otto and the collapsed table, and RACE out to the street, with their lugers drawn. Heinz follows.

We hear SIRENS, while Luke, Elin, and Mort RACE to Luke's truck. Thug #1, Thug #2, and Fritz fire their lugers into the darkness. Elin, Luke, and Mort, duck as they run.

HEINZ
Wait! That's my little girl in the middle of them.

FRITZ
There is no middle ground. The sons and daughters of the Reichland are either for us, or against us.

Heinz looks worried, and Luke, Elin, and Mort keep running.

ELIN
Papa did nothing when Fritz pulled a gun on me!

LUKE

Fritz pushed a lot of rifles into
the hands of half the crowd
tonight.

MORT

Whatcha mean?

A police car pulls up to the Biergarten, and the Germans hide
their weapons. Two Uniformed Policeman from the library, show
up to break up the ongoing brawl.

LUKE

Half the cars in the parking lot
received a duffle bag filled with
German guns!

ELIN

What for?

LUKE

You're the spies! You tell me!

ELIN

Where to now?

LUKE

The Library. Hope we're not too
late! Just stay out of my way!

ELIN

What? I saved your life back there!

LUKE

Yeah! Right. And stay away from
your Papa! He's mixed up in this!

Elin socks him in the jaw.

ELIN

Take it back! He is not!

They pile in Luke's truck and speed away.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

In an old, shabby house, the Two Japanese Men have a Sindia
Crew Member #1 (65; shabby clothes) strapped to a kitchen
chair. He is gagged. The Japanese Men are sharpening ivory
chopsticks with kitchen knives.

JAPANESE MAN #1
You will answer our questions or
die a most painful death.

JAPANESE MAN #2
If you scream, you will die sooner.

JAPANESE MAN #1
You understand?

The Crew Member nods, 'yes.'" Japanese Man #1 removes the gag,
while Japanese Man #2 holds a sharpened chopstick above the
Crew Member's hand.

JAPANESE MAN #1 (CONT'D)
You sailed on the Sindia?

CREW MEMBER #1
That was forty years ago.

JAPANESE MAN #2
Where is your Captain?

CREW MEMBER #1
Allan MacKinzie? Scotland, I think.
Never sailed again after the
shipwreck in 1901. May be dead by
now.

Japanese Man #2 stabs the captive's left hand. The crewman
withholds a scream. The Japanese man repositions to the other
hand.

JAPANESE MAN #2
Where were the stolen Chinese
treasures stored onboard ship?

The crewman winces in pain.

CREW MEMBER #1
We were told it was manganese ore!

Japanese Man #2 stabs the captive's right hand. The Crewman
winces in pain, bet doesn't scream.

JAPANESE MAN #1
Two hundred cases of stolen
treasure! Stupid American! What
about the Jade Dogs?

CREW MEMBER #1
I don't know nothing about no
treasure or Jade Dogs!

Japanese Man #2 paces in the kitchen.

JAPANESE MAN #2

You see, our Emperor had a most significant dream where the future was foretold to him. The Emperor was told he take Panama Canal and conquer world if he has the two giant Jade Dogs he saw in his dream.

Japanese Man #1 positions a sharpened chopstick partially in the crewman's left ear.

JAPANESE MAN #1

You seem unwilling to help our Emperor fulfill his dreams.

CREW MEMBER #1

No... No... No...

Japanese Man #1 pounds the chopstick into the man's brain, and he dies instantly. Japanese Man #2 pulls out a list from his pocket with three names on it. The list reads: "1. Second Mate, Lester Jenkins; 2. Cook, William Dodd. 3. Cabin Boy, Francis De Beau." The Japanese Man #2 crossed out the name Lester Jenkins.

BACK TO:

EXT./INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

Luke skids to a stop, behind Franky's car, with Franky asleep at the wheel. He snaps awake and leaps out of the car, as Luke, Mort, and Elin hop out of Luke's truck. Luke pulls out a piece of paper from his pocket, and hands it to Franky.

LUKE

Quick! There are three survivors of the Sindia in Ocean City. The Japanese will be after them.

FRANKY

I got an extra car checked out from the motor pool. It's got a two-way radio. We'll split up. I'll take Mort.

LUKE

I gotta check out a map from the library, first.

ELIN
I'm not staying with this idiot
Professor!

Franky throws Elin the keys.

FRANKY
(to Elin)
I need Mort, and it's against
policy for a civilian to drive a
government rig. That's an order!

MORT
Okay by me!

LUKE
I'm not getting carted around by
a...

ELIN
(interrupting Luke)
You heard him. It's an order! I
don't like it any more that you do!
So clam up, Professor!

MORT
(mumbles)
They're gonna kill each other!

FRANKY
Me and Mort will take the first two
names. You pick up the cabin boy.

ELIN
Gottcha.

LUKE
(mumbles)
I don't like this!

Mort and Franky hop in the car and race away. Luke and Elin
race to the library door. Luke has a flashlight.

ELIN
Library's locked again, and the
cops boarded the door.

LUKE
Turn your back so you're not a
witness.

Luke rips off the nailed boards, reaches in, and opens the
door.

ELIN
You gonna tell 'em it was like that
when you got here?

LUKE
(snickers)
Now you're learning.

They race in. Luke looks around for a map case. He finds it.

LUKE (CONT'D)
Alphabetical order. Start looking
for a missing map.

ELIN
That's ridiculous. How do you find
it if it's missing?

LUKE
The number of maps in each drawer A
to Z is posted on the outside.
Count the maps in each drawer. You
start with A. I'll start with N.

Elin shrugs, but begins counting.

ELIN
Twenty-four maps in A. They're all
here.

LUKE
Nineteen in N. All here.

They count maps. Elin growls at Luke. He growls back.

ELIN
That over-stuffed beer broad liked
you back there in the Biergarten.

LUKE
Nazi my type.

ELIN
Thirty-seven maps in B. All here.

LUKE
Twenty-three in O. All here.

They count maps.

ELIN
Forty-one maps in C. All here.

LUKE
That's odd.

ELIN
What?

LUKE
Starts with Paraguay. Established
in 1811. Map of Panama should be
first.

ELIN
Maybe it's mixed in.

LUKE
I checked. It's missing. The
Japanese!

ELIN
What?

LUKE
They don't just want the treasure!
They're after control of the Panama
Canal!

Luke grabs her hand and RACES out of the Library. Elin
resents being pulled, and pulls back. Luke turns to her
angrily.

LUKE (CONT'D)
Don't fight me!

ELIN
Give me some respect!

Luke grabs her hand gently, and races to Mort's car without
pulling her.

LUKE
This is serious business.

ELIN
(mumbles)
You just can't make friends, can
you?

Luke snarls as they race away.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Luke and Elin are racing across town. She slides up next to him several times on the smooth, leather, bench seat. They get a radio call from Franky and Mort.

FRANKY (O.S.)
Come in, Tough Dish. This is Blue
Heater. Come in, Tough Dish.

ELIN
That's me? What of it?

LUKE
Tough Dish, huh?

ELIN
Cram it, Buster.

Elin grabs the radio microphone.

ELIN (CONT'D)
Tough Dish, over.

FRANKY (O.S.)
Number one didn't make it. Ugly
scene. Got here too late. Be
careful.

LUKE
Tell him to rush to Number Two,
we'll get to Number Three on Your
Hit Parade.

FRANKY (O.S.)
We copy, Trouble Magnet. On our
way, over.

ELIN
How 'bout that? They call you
Trouble Magnet.

Elin puts the microphone back, and smiles.

INT./EXT. DUMONT TV STUDIO - NIGHT

ALLEN B. DUMONT (40) a balding heavysset man in a gray, double-breasted business suit is turning out the lights of his studio, when Fritz, the Two Thugs, and Big Otto push through the door.

DUMONT

I'm going home. Long night. See me tomorrow.

FRITZ

Allen B. DuMont? You have cash flow problem? Need to expand to New York?

DUMONT

That's me. But come back tomorrow.

The Thugs (still bandaged up), pull out their lugers.

DUMONT (CONT'D)

This is New Jersey. Nothing I haven't seen so far!

FRITZ

Business deal. My wrestler, Big Otto, wrestles tomorrow night. He will win. You get one-hundred dollars U.S., and your life.

DuMont nudges them out, nervously. He gulps.

DUMONT

That's a very generous offer, gentlemen. For one match.

(beat)

I'll have to arrange a weak opponent. I can do that.

FRITZ

You'd better! It's important to inspire local German community before Bund Rally. You understand, Mr. DuMont.

DUMONT

Oh, I think I understand the situation, Mr...

FRITZ

Herr Fritz Wolf.

DUMONT

Yes, Mr. Wolf. Have Big Otto bring the money tomorrow at eight PM.

FRITZ

If there is mishap, and Big Otto should lose, that would be very unfortunate for you, Mr. DuMont.

DUMONT

I understand completely.

Fritz, the Two Thugs, and Big Otto, turn, get in their car, and speed away. Dumont wipes the sweat from his brow.

EXT./INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Luke pulls up in front of a dilapidated house on the edge of town. There's a cab waiting outside. The CABBIE #1 (40) has his yellow cap pulled over his eyes.

Elin gets a call from Franky.

FRANKY (O.S.)

Tough Dish, this is Blue Heater.
Come in, Tough Dish.

Luke smirks.

LUKE

(mumbles)

Blue Heater. Tough Dish.

ELIN

Clam up, Trouble Magnet! They give you the nicks at the academy, ya big lug!

Elin grabs the microphone to the radio.

ELIN (CONT'D)

Come in, Blue Heater.

FRANKY (O.S.)

Number two crew member is pushin' up daisies too. I gotta fill in the local cops. We'll be there when we can.

ELIN

Got it. Over.

Elin returns the microphone. Luke exits the car and ambles over to the cab. He pulls out a five-dollar bill, and hands it to Cabbie #1.

LUKE

Hey, Bub, what's your name?

CABBIE #1

Mikie Davern. What's it to ya?

Luke hands in the money.

LUKE
 Saving your life tonight, Mikie.
 Don't put up a stink. Take the five-
 spot and blow.

The Cabbie examines the five-spot.

CABBIE #1
 The chinks were gonna dish me a
 twenty.

LUKE
 They were gonna kill ya. Breeze out
 slowly, will ya? And beat it!

Cabbie #1 drives slow for twenty yards, then guns it. Elin is standing behind Luke.

ELIN
 You gotta a heater?

LUKE
 Nope.

Elin hands Luke a tire iron.

ELIN
 Take this.

She pulls out a snub-nosed .38 from her tiny purse.

LUKE
 You had that all along?

ELIN
 I wasn't worried. This, I don't
 know about.

LUKE
 Lead the way, Tough Dish.

She sneers at Luke, but quickly leads him around the side of the old house to a kitchen window that is open a crack. They HEAR voices. Elin peeks in to see FRANCIS DE BEAU (56), the cabin boy, is strapped to a kitchen chair, below the pull chain for the single kitchen light bulb in the ceiling. He is drunk as a skunk. The two Japanese Men hold sharpened chopsticks.

JAPANESE MAN #1
 Cabin boy, Francis, know
 everything?

FRANCIS

I was fourteen. Didn't know
nothin'!

Francis screams. Luke makes his way to the fuse box by the
back door.

JAPANESE MAN #2

Nobody hear you way out here. Tell
us about Jade Dogs.

FRANCIS

Never know'd about no Jade Dogs.
Captain said nothin' about no
treasure. I told ya's that.

JAPANESE MAN #1

Cabin Boy, you die anyway. Make
Emperor dream come true. He already
building SuperSub Aircraft Carrier
to rule every ocean.

Luke and Elin hear this. Their eyes open widely.

JAPANESE MAN #2

With the SuperSub Aircraft Carrier
and the Panama Canal, we will
conquer the world -- If we get the
two jade dogs.

Francis screams again. Elin joins Luke at the back door, and
holds up three fingers, two, then one. Luke kills the power,
and Elin bursts through the back door, pistol drawn, and with
Luke right behind her.

As Elin enters the kitchen, Japanese Man #1 pulls a ninja-
like move, and kicks the pistol from Elin's hand.

ELIN

Uh oh!

Luke sees the direction the pistol flew, but he gets a judo
chop to the back as he enters the kitchen, and he drops the
tire iron.

LUKE

Uh oh!

Hand-to-hand combat encircles Francis, who is tied to the
chair. We hear dishes crashing, grunts and groans, and an
occasional punch to the face.

FRANCIS

Untie me. Untie me.

The Japanese Men use judo and kicks, and Elin and Luke get the worst of it. The fight goes back and forth, but the good guys are losing.

Luke is taking a beating in the corner, when Elin scrounges around the floor for her .38. She finally finds it, and fires it in the air.

The Two Japanese Men crash through the kitchen window to the alley, and run off. Luke is doubled over in pain, as Elin races to the back porch to pull the switch for the power.

The lights go on. Elin returns to see two chopsticks in Francis's hands. He is strapped to the chair, drunk, and in pain, but somehow smiling.

Elin unties Francis, as Luke rips a kitchen towel in half, pulls out the chopsticks, and wraps each of Francis's hands.

ELIN
(to Francis)
You're lucky to be alive.

FRANCIS
Luckiest guy on earth. Survived a shipwreck, two marriages, and a Japanese invasion. Who are you?

ELIN
I'm Elin Gruden. This is Luke Stone.

FRANCIS
We met.

ELIN
I've never seen ya...

FRANCIS
Not you! Him. The nosy Professor.

LUKE
Nice to see you again, Francis.

FRANCIS
You find anything down there?

LUKE
Nope. Couple holes. Filled with wet sand like ya said.

FRANCIS

Told ya! Captain of the Sindia
tried get the Golden Buddha after
the insurance company paid the
claim. He failed too! Everybody
has!

ELIN

Let's get this man to the hospital.

FRANCIS

The Japs will be waitin' there.

LUKE

I agree. Come with us.

They lead Francis through the shabby house and out the front
door to the car.

ELIN

We're all lucky to be alive. I
thought Professor Stone would be
tougher than that!

LUKE

If they wanted us dead, we'd be
dead.

Luke and Elin help Francis into the back seat of Mort's car.

ELIN

What'd ya mean?

LUKE

They carried pistols. Semi-
automatic Nambu pistols.

Elin hops in the driver's seat, surprising Luke. She shuts
her door.

ELIN

Why didn't they...

Luke sits in the passenger seat and shuts the door.

LUKE

(to Elin)

They need us. Even you.

(beat)

We gotta find out why!

FRANCIS

Huh? Hey, can we stop for coffee?

LUKE

They know where I live, too, so
that's not a bad idea.

Francis passes out in the back seat! Luke and Elin turn to
face each other.

ELIN AND LUKE

Bennie's!

Luke grabs the microphone.

LUKE

Best call your boys.

Elin grabs the microphone out of Luke's hand.

ELIN

Blue Heater, this is Tough Dish.
Come in, Blue Heater.

FRANKY (O.S.)

This is Blue Heater, go ahead.

ELIN

One word: Bennie's.

FRANKY (O.S.)

(laughs)
Be there in thirty.

ELIN

We'll be there in ten!

Elin peels out!

CUT TO:

INT. HEINZ GRUDEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

In a corner of the dark garage, Thug #1 takes notes with his
good hand. Thug #2 leans into an AM Radio. Fritz stands
behind Thug #1 with squinting his eyes at the radio. Heinz
paces in the b.g.

THUG #1

What is this Blue Heater, Tough
Dish, and this Bennie's?

FRITZ

Anyone can intercept their
transmissions. Idiot Americans.

HEINZ
 (nervously)
 Code names, I imagine.

FRITZ
 That tone. That tone was familiar.

THUG #2
 Who is Bennie's?

HEINZ
 (reluctantly)
 Bennie's Diner. Open all night.

FRITZ
 Where is this Bennie's diner?

HEINZ
 One hour from here. Maybe more.

Fritz stands nose to nose with Heinz.

FRITZ
 Take us to this Bennie's.

Heinz trudges to the car. The German's follow.

BACK TO:

EXT./INT. BENNIE'S DINER - NIGHT

Elin skids to a stop behind a long, black, ritzy limousine. The Driver (uniformed, cap). The diner is deserted, except for a Waitress (DEE DEE; 30; African-American) and one businessman (John D. Rockefeller, Jr./JUNIOR; 66) in a tuxedo. Luke and Elin help Francis into the diner. Dee Dee greets them as they enter.

DEE DEE
 Hi, Professor. Brought company
 tonight, I see.

LUKE
 Hi ya, Dee Dee.

ELIN
 Hi, Ma'am. Our friend needs coffee.

DEE DEE
 Looks like he needs a mortician.
 (beat)
 The gentleman in the corner would
 like you to sit in the booth behind
 him. He's buying!

Dee Dee turns to get three menus. Luke and Elin look over, but the gentleman doesn't turn around. They see the back of his head.

LUKE
(whispers)
Unusual.

ELIN
(angry at Luke)
But if he owns the limo, he can afford it, so clam up, Buster!

DEE DEE
(whispers to Luke)
She's lovely, Professor. Right this way.

Dee Dee leads them to the table, nudging Elin and Luke into the booth so they're back-to-back with the stranger. They recognize the rich man from his profile. Francis, still very drunk and with towels wrapped on his hands, is given the seat facing Luke and Elin.

JUNIOR
Thanks, Dee Dee.

DEE DEE
You bet, Junior.

ELIN
John D. Rockefeller, Junior?

LUKE
(laughs)
Everybody's gotta eat. Three chili and joes, Dee Dee.

DEE DEE
Already made 'em.

She turns and grabs three bowls of hot chili, and three cups of coffee. Francis digs in on the chili.

JUNIOR
Call me Junior.
(beat)
We don't have much time.

FRANCIS
How the hell are ya, Junior?

JUNIOR

I know who the two of you are. Who is the inebriated and injured gentleman?

LUKE

I suspect you already know.

JUNIOR

Cabin boy, from the Sindia, Professor?

Francis swaps bowls with Luke and continues to eat effectively with wrapped hands.

ELIN

How do you know who we are?

JUNIOR

Friends in Washington, Miss Gruden. Including your boss. Let's not waste time. You must prevent a dive on the Sindia. My father owned that ship!

LUKE

He got his insurance claim.

JUNIOR

Half a million on a cargo worth sixty times that, Professor!

LUKE

You didn't come here for the thirty-cent chili and dime cup of joe.

ELIN

(whispers to Luke)

No wonder you have trouble making friends!

JUNIOR

You dove on the Sindia this morning, Professor.

LUKE

Free country.

JUNIOR

Won't be if the Japanese and Germans learn they can waltz right into our country in a U-Boat, and take whatever they damn well please!

LUKE

Right about that, Junior.

JUNIOR

I'd love the Golden Buddha and jade dogs for my museum...

LUKE

(interrupting)

But they were stolen from the Chinese people.

JUNIOR

Yes. And I know you want them returned, too. So, do as I say.

(beat)

You'll fly to Washington tonight, from Philadelphia. You'll meet with the top brass tomorrow morning. Tell them everything you've seen today. Triple the Coast Guard here and along the eastern seaboard. Miss Gruden, tell the brass and Mr. Donovan not to wait on his new agency Office of Strategic Services. We need that spy agency today! You can catch the Marylander train back, and be back home before the fireworks.

LUKE

(sarcastic)

Is that all?

JUNIOR

No. Don't trust anyone! All of your two-way radio communications are broadcast on AM radios. I know, and the Japanese and Germans know every move you make. They should be here any minute now. Let's go. We'll take my car.

ELIN

What do we do with Francis?

JUNIOR

Leave him for Blue Heater to handle. We gotta blow!

Dee Dee is waiting at the door with two to-go bags.

DEE DEE

Coffees, chili, and a little apple pie to go. When you gonna marry me, Professor?

Luke grabs the to-go bags and kisses Dee Dee on the cheek. She turns his head and kisses him on the lips.

LUKE

Thanks, Dee Dee, you're the best.

Junior walks by and slips Dee Dee a one-thousand-dollar bill.

DEE DEE

See ya next time, Junior.

They race out. The limo drives off just as Franky and Mort skid to a stop. We follow the limo two blocks, before it makes a sharp right turn and skids to a stop on a dark street. There sits a blue 1941 Packard Super 8 180. BABS (38; nicely dressed) steps out of the driver's seat. Junior's Driver (40) opens the door to the limo.

JUNIOR

My daughter, Babs, offered to drive you to the airfield in Philly, while I lead your pursuers back to New York.

BABS

Gottcha, Daddy. Come with me, you two.

JUNIOR

To the plane, as we discussed. Open her up!

LUKE

Do we get to take our dinner?

BABS

Dee Dee always sends an extra slice of apple pie for me!

ELIN

Nice to meet you, Babs.

BABS

We gotta blow.

They load up in Bab's car as Junior yells one last piece of advice.

JUNIOR

Don't take your hands off the
Germans, and don't take your eyes
of the Japanese.

Junior's driver takes off north. Babs races west like it's the Indy 500. It's a dangerous and exciting car ride across the state.

EXT. BENNIE'S DINER - NIGHT

Dee Dee escorts Francis out of the diner, shuts off the lights, and locks the doors. She turns away from Franky and Mort who collect Francis. Dee Dee hops in an old jalopy and drives off.

FRANKY

What's that about?

MORT

Yeah! I thought this place was open
twenty-four...

Mort is interrupted by a cab skidding to a stop outside the diner. Two Japanese Men hop out with pistols drawn. They keep aim at Franky and Mort, while they take Francis and drag him to the cab.

FRANCIS

You two again?
(burps)
This isn't my night!

Before they can load Francis in the cab, Heinz drives up and skids to a stop with Fritz and the two Thugs. They all hop out. This time the Thugs have machine guns.

FRITZ

(to Heinz)
You go home in the taxi, yes?
(to the Japanese)
You two come with us, and hand over
those pistols until I learn what I
need to know.

Heinz looks around for his daughter.

FRITZ (CONT'D)

She's long gone, you dummkopf.
These three will help us find her,
yes?

Heinz, worried, gets in the cab and it takes off. The others begin to load in Heinz's big car.

MORT
You ain't gettin' nothing out of
us!

FRANKY
Black limo turned north two blocks
up.

Mort GLARES at Franky.

FRANKY (CONT'D)
It's over, Mort!

For a second, Mort is filled with sadness. Then, Fritz pulls his luger and shoots Mort in the chest. Mort falls to the ground. Thug #1 hops in the driver's seat.

FRITZ
How they say, step on it?

FRANCIS
(still drunk)
Think we can stop for coffee?

INT./EXT. CAR - NIGHT

Thug #1 RACES up two blocks, and turns north to follow the limo. Francis is between Thug #1 and Fritz in the front seat. Thug #2 and Franky hold machine guns on the Japanese Men in the back seat. The limo guns it, and Fritz's car can't keep up. There are twists and turns. Francis gets queasier with each turn. Thick forest is on both sides of the road.

Finally, Francis pukes all over Fritz. Thug #1 pulls the car over. Fritz jumps out and pulls Francis out to the side of the forest.

FRITZ
Dummkopf!

Francis continues puking as Fritz tears off his clothes, swearing up a storm. Fritz turns and yells commands into the car.

FRITZ (CONT'D)
You should have known better! And
keep an eye on that limousine!

The two Japanese Men snicker.

FRITZ (CONT'D)
I've had enough of you two!

Fritz pulls out a luger and threatens the Japanese Men in the back seat.

FRITZ (CONT'D)
We don't need you two. You are not divers! My captain will understand! We don't need any of you!

He cocks the luger, but turns to shoot Francis. But Francis is gone! We SEE Francis, still drunk, running through the trees awkwardly, but fast -- very fast.

FRITZ (CONT'D)
Verdammt! Forget him! We need the girl more!

Fritz hops in and they race away. The stench is awful. A little way up the road, they come to a four-way intersection. Thug #1 slams on the breaks! Fritz hops out, and looks down each road.

FRITZ (CONT'D)
Verdammt! Pick one and step on it!

Thug #1 looks nervous as he drives straight ahead.

LATER

EXT. AIRPORT - NIGHT

At a small airfield outside Philadelphia, Babs skids to a stop. A luxurious DC-3 is waiting for take-off.

BABS
Daddy says what you're doing is just as important for the arts as it is for the country.

ELIN
Your father is very kind.

LUKE
I just hope we don't disappoint him.

ELIN
Can I leave Professor Stone here? He's a trouble magnet. He's unpredictable, obnoxious, and doesn't...

BABS
Father said no.

LUKE
Can I leave her here? She's mouthy,
rude, and...

BABS
Father said no. I stored a few
things onboard and overnight bag
for the lady.

LUKE
What about me?

BABS
I suggest you use the shower in
Daddy's suite in Washington!
(laughs)
Daddy's razor wouldn't hurt,
either.

ELIN
Where we stayin' in Washington?

BABS
Statler Hotel. They're expecting
you. Further instructions are on
the plane.

ELIN
How can we ever repay you?

BABS
Don't let the arts in the Sindia
fall into the wrong hands. Good
luck!

Luke and Elin shut the door, and RACE to the plane.

EXT./INT. STATLER HOTEL - NIGHT

A cab rolls up to hotel. CABBIE #2 (30, black) smiles as he
rolls down the window. We hear Luke and Elin yelling at each
other in the back seat, before they hop out.

CABBIE #2
Junior took care of it. Tipped
handsomely too.

Luke waves as the Cabbie takes off. Luke carries a small bag
for Elin.

LUKE

Doesn't miss a trick, does he?

They're tired, but manage to get to the hotel desk where a lone CLERK (30; uniformed) STARES at them. He SCANS Luke and Elin and grumbles.

CLERK

The bus station is four blocks down and...

ELIN

(interrupting)

We're guests of Mr. Rockefeller.

The Clerk's tone changes quickly.

CLERK

Welcome to the Statler. We have you as Mr. Smith...

LUKE

That would be me.

CLERK

And Mrs...

ELIN

(angrily)

Jones?

CLERK

Wesson.

(beat)

Brother and sister from Colorado, so sharing the suite is okay by you?

LUKE

Have ya got another room?

CLERK

Not on the Fourth of July Weekend. Are you crazy?

ELIN

How many bedrooms in the suite?

CLERK

Four or five.

ELIN

(angry to Luke)

Doesn't miss a trick, does he?

CLERK

And, Happy Fourth of July. It's after midnight. You have a wake-up call scheduled for seven A.M. Deluxe room service breakfast at 7:15 AM, and, all complements of Mr. Rockefeller, a limo at 7:45 to the White House.

ELIN AND LUKE

White House?

Elin and Luke stare at each other nervously.

CLERK

Let's pray he left nicer clothes for you both!

The Clerk hits a service bell and a Bellhop (16; uniformed) shows up with a smile.

CLERK (CONT'D)

Top floor. Take Mr. Smith and Mrs. Wesson to their suite.

BELLHOP

Yes, Sir. Bazinga!

The double doors to the suite open like the gates of heaven to a world foreign to Luke and Elin. Luke tips the Bellhop.

BELLHOP (CONT'D)

Golly Gee. Thanks a lot, Mr. Smith.

LUKE

Forget it, Kid.

ELIN

Get a load of this grass shack.

The moment the Bellhop leaves, Luke heads for the master bedroom. He finds a suit, shirt, underwear, tie, socks, and shoes, and a bath bag of toiletries.

LUKE

Elin! Take a look at this! I'm not wearing that puppet costume!

ELIN

You will if you want them to take you seriously at the White House!

Elin follows Luke and sees the clothes, and a note and two train tickets for the 1-P.M. Marylander on the end table. She reads the note aloud.

ELIN (CONT'D)

Dear Mister Smith and Miss Wesson.
Ha! Keep the treasure buried and
I'll consider us even. Junior. P.S.
The champagne for Independence Day
is in the fridge.

LUKE

I need a shower, more than I need
champagne.

ELIN

We have to discuss what we're going
to say tomorrow!

Luke takes off his shirt. Elin can't turn away.

LUKE

You discuss. I'm gonna shower!

LATER

Elin and Luke arrive to the deluxe kitchen at the same time in white bathrobes. Luke is showered and shaved, and Elin GAWKS.

ELIN

You clean up nice, at least.

LUKE

Hope he's got a beer?

He opens the fridge to see champagne, shrimp cocktails, cheese, caviar and crackers. Finally, he sees a row of beers on the door. A small handwritten note says, Enjoy. Luke smiles.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Man after my own heart!

He grabs a beer, finds an opener, takes a sip, and smiles.

ELIN

I'll have a glass of champagne,
please.

LUKE

I should have guessed.

ELIN
Yes, you should have.

Elin sits on the couch with a glass of champagne. Her beautiful leg is exposed. Luke can't help but stare. She covers her leg, and he looks away.

LUKE
Bubbles.

ELIN
What?

LUKE
Bubbles. Little ones in beer,
little ones in champagne -- they
are both strong enough to make you
forget about all the trouble in the
world for a little bit.

Elin smiles at Luke.

ELIN
Suppose they are. We're in a bubble
right now.

LUKE
What?

ELIN
A magnificently safe luxurious
suite, hidden away from all the
troubles outside.

Luke laughs and smiles.

LUKE
Aren't we the philosophical ones?

ELIN
Aren't we now?

Luke looks away.

LUKE
You got something going on with
Franky?

Elin stands up, steps over to Luke, and raises her hand to slap Luke, but she doesn't. Luke covers his face.

ELIN
Why, you...

LUKE

Whoa! Didn't mean nothin' by it.
Mort said something, that's all.

ELIN

No! Frank's my supervisor. You
should never...

LUKE

I know, I know.

ELIN

Do you? You have all those young,
shapely college girls falling all
over you every day...

LUKE

I know! You should never...

ELIN

But you do, don't you?

LUKE

(angry)
I never said that!

ELIN

(angry)
Yeah, well, neither did I!

They pause. Then they laugh. Elin returns to the couch. Luke returns to his comfortable chair. Elin slugs down her glass of champagne.

ELIN (CONT'D)

Well, don't burst my bubble. Fill
me up.

Elin wiggles her glass. Luke's beer is empty too. Luke gets up.

LUKE

(sarcastic)
Allow me.

ELIN

(laughing)
Oh, I will.

Luke exits to the kitchen.

ELIN (CONT'D)

Still can't figure you out, Luke
Stone.

LUKE (O.S.)
Nothin' to figure out.

Luke returns with another glass of champagne and a beer. Elin yawns. So does Luke.

ELIN
So tired I can't see straight, but
you seem like an honest,
hardworking man to me.

LUKE
Same to you.

ELIN
You think I'm an honest,
hardworking man?

Her beautiful leg is exposed again. This time she doesn't cover it up.

LUKE
You know what I mean. But, there ya
go again, twisting things...

She gets up and sits in Luke's lap.

ELIN
Sorry, sorry. I'm just tired.

Luke cuddles her.

ELIN (CONT'D)
Very... tired... Give me a few
minutes to perk up...

Elin falls asleep in his arms.

LUKE
Sure thing, Kid.

Luke stands, carries Elin over to the couch, and lays her down gently. Elin falls asleep on the couch with her beautiful leg exposed from her bathrobe again. Luke trudges to the bedroom, grabs a blanket, and covers her with a blanket.

LUKE (CONT'D)
You're okay, Kid!

Luke turns to return to his chair.

ELIN
(sleepily)
Not so bad yourself, Professor.

Luke turns quickly, but Elin looks fast asleep. He falls asleep in an over-stuffed, leather chair.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - DAY

IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM

One General (60, uniformed, white hair) is in a conference room with 12 over-stuffed brown leather chairs and dark-wood table listening to Luke and Elin recount the events of yesterday. There is a wall-sized mirror against the back wall.

ELIN
We told you everything! I can't believe no one else is here!

GENERAL
It's the Fourth of July. And I read your briefing, too, and frankly, I don't believe any of this nonsense. German U-Boat, duffle bags of German guns, two Japanese businessmen.

LUKE
Developing a SuperSub Aircraft Carrier.

GENERAL
Part submarine -- part aircraft carrier? Don't be ridiculous!

LUKE
Japanese spies. And they're after the Panama Canal and the treasures on the Sindia.

GENERAL
More of that buried treasure nonsense!

ELIN
We must have a better intelligence network with secure communications!

LUKE
They can hear everything you transmit on an AM radio.

BEHIND THE MIRROR

Unbeknownst to Luke and Elin, behind a large two-way mirror on one side of the room is the President (Franklin D. Roosevelt; 60) in a wheelchair; a civilian, William J. Donovan (60) in a suit; a Navy Commander (60); Army General (60); and Army Air Force Chief. We only see the backs of their heads.

PRESIDENT

Is that true?

ARMY GENERAL

Afraid so, Sir. But we're working on it.

PRESIDENT

How is the Office of Strategic Services coming along?

WILLIAM DONOVAN

Fully operational next year, Sir.

IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM

LUKE

Right now, Germans can waltz in here in U-Boats and arm German sympathizers.

BEHIND THE MIRROR

PRESIDENT

Is that true?

NAVY COMMANDER

I'm sure we would have detected a U-Boat, Sir.

IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM

ELIN

And Japanese spies taking the map of Panama, and killing the surviving crew members of the Sindia? What's that about?

BEHIND THE MIRROR

ARMY GENERAL

We have no evidence of Japanese spies.

PRESIDENT

The Japanese have shown no aggression towards us.

WILLIAM DONOVAN

We have our best man looking into the reported murders, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT

Who?

ARMY GENERAL

Miss Gruden's supervisor. Franky Stiller.

IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM

GENERAL

You were right to bring these matters to our attention.

LUKE

Wait? You're not going to do anything?

GENERAL

Reporting a German U-Boat that close to shore without sufficient evidence would cause mass hysteria. I'm sure you would agree.

ELIN

I said the same myself, but now...

GENERAL

(interrupts, stands)

Now it's time for you to go home and enjoy the fireworks at a Fourth of July celebration. Good day.

LUKE

But...

GENERAL

I said, good day!

Elin and Luke leave the room, dejected.

BEHIND THE MIRROR

PRESIDENT

If Junior sent them here, he must have a reason.

(MORE)

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

Give these two my private number,
and have them contact me if they
have any problems.

ARMY GENERAL

Your private number, Mr. President?
But...

PRESIDENT

You heard me.

WILLIAM DONOVAN

I'll take care of it, Sir.

PRESIDENT

Thanks, Wild Bill. And push the
opening of your spy agency. I'd
like it operational by Christmas.

WILLIAM DONOVAN

Yes, Sir, Mr. President.

Mr. Donovan RACES out the door.

CUT TO:

EXT. OCEAN CITY (2005) - DAY

Old Elin and the Senator enjoy ice cream cones on the park
bench overlooking the ocean.

SENATOR

The top brass didn't believe you?

OLD ELIN

They couldn't afford to believe us!
And they couldn't afford not to
believe us!

SENATOR

But you were in a deep pile of...

OLD ELIN

(interrupting)

What we didn't realize at the time,
was that, if the next twenty-four
hours went poorly for us, we might
have lost the war!

The Senator looks around!

SENATOR

Where is that irresponsible husband
of yours?

OLD ELIN
Seems to show up when he's needed
the most!

BACK TO:

INT. MARYLANDER TRAIN - DAY

Luke and Elin sit in a fancy Marylander railroad car with Six Passengers (20s-30s; various types) scattered about. Their chins are down.

ELIN
They didn't believe us!

LUKE
We'll just have to stop them
ourselves.

A Porter #1 (30; black) meanders through the train car.

PORTER #1
Next stop, Wilmington. Next stop,
Wilmington.

ELIN
Yeah, ya big lug? How?

LUKE
Have to stop them from getting to
that treasure.

ELIN
The Germans and the Japs? The two
of us? Have you got a plan?

The train stops at the Wilmington station. Two German Thugs and Fritz get onboard. Fritz stays at one end of the train, while the two Thugs walk down the train car in front of them. Their hands are in their suits (shoulder holsters). Luke sees them, but Elin is faced the opposite direction. Luke is in his old clothes and felt hat. Elin is in a cute yellow fluffy dress. Their bags are above them.

LUKE
Yeah! Run!

Luke pulls Elin by the hand out of her seat, toward the next train car back.

The Thugs see them and give chase.

Luke pulls Elin through the restaurant car. Four large Gentlemen (30s) are eating meatloaf with mashed potatoes and gravy.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Excuse us. Eloping. Her two ugly brothers are trying to stop us.

ELIN

What?

LUKE

Your two brothers. Wish we could slow 'em up!

ELIN

(whispers)

What the hell are you talking about?

LUKE

Love doesn't stand a chance in this great country of ours.

The two Thugs enter the restaurant car and chase after Luke and Elin exiting the car.

The four Gentleman stand up and fill the narrow aisle. The two Thugs try to push their way past, but the Gentlemen prevent them. Push comes to shove.

GENTLEMAN #1

Let 'em get married.

THUG #1

Out of way!

GENTLEMAN #2

No need to be rude.

THUG #2

Let us pass!

GENTLEMAN #3

I smell Germans. Let 'em have it boys.

Two Gentlemen smash their meatloaf plates into the two Thug's faces. The Thugs pull their lugers, but the mashed potatoes and gravy make it impossible to see the fists that are flying in their direction.

A major fist fight begins, but Fritz enters the car and fires his luger into the car's roof, and the Gentlemen stop.

GENTLEMAN #1

They make a handsome couple.

The Gentlemen offer napkins to the Thugs. The Thugs wipe their eyes and continue the chase. Fritz shakes his head in disbelief.

Luke and Elin RACE into the next train car, a Pullman's roomettes car with eight doors leading to small private rooms. A Passenger (35, male, business suit) is leaving one of the roomettes, so Luke and Elin slip into it.

The Two Thugs enter the car and begin searching the roomettes with pistols drawn. We HEAR screams from the first three roomettes. When Thug #1 opens the door to Luke's roomette, Luke pulls him in and throws him against the wall. The Thug falls to the floor.

LUKE

Get the gun!

Elin takes his luger and tosses it out the window.

ELIN

Done!

LUKE

I didn't say toss it out the window!

Thug #2 shoots his way into the tiny roomette, but misses Luke and Elin. Luke punches Thug #2 in the jaw and pushes him on top of Thug #1. Elin kicks the luger free from Thug #2 and Luke picks it up before he and Elin climb over the Thugs and escape the roomette to the next car.

The two Thugs enter the Club Car, and climb the stairs to the bar and observation room. Eight Businessmen (20s-30s) are drinking heavily and singing "Yankee Doodle Dandy" led by Luke and Elin standing close to the stairs at the other end of the car by the bar. A Bartender (40; Black) sings along.

The Thugs try to squeeze their way through the men, as the song ends.

LUKE (CONT'D)

(yells)

Any man who doesn't know all the words to the Star Spangled Banner on July the Fourth deserves a sock in the kisser!

ELIN
(loudly sings)
Oh say can you see...

The Businessmen crowd to the front, remove their hats, and sing loudly, looking around for anyone not singing. The Two Thugs remove their hats, but clearly do not know the words as they try to fake the song. Luke points to the two Thugs.

LUKE
Those two must be traitors!

A bigger fist fight begins and the two Thugs get clobbered.

Luke grabs Elin's hand and pulls her down the stairs, but Fritz is waiting at the bottom of the stairs with his luger pulled.

FRITZ
We meet again, Professor Stone,
Miss Gruden.

Fritz jabs the pistol in Elin's ribs.

FRITZ (CONT'D)
Don't try anything foolish.

LUKE
Can we talk about this?

They hear the fist fight above. Luke reaches behind him to grasp the luger tucked in his belt.

ELIN
You're getting nothing out of us.

LUKE
Speak for yourself, Sister.

Elin turns and GLARES at Luke.

LUKE (CONT'D)
We just spoke to the military top
brass. You want to know what they
said.

FRITZ
Yes. Spill your guts in your last
minute of life.

LUKE
They're sending Navy U-Boat hunters
to Ocean City as we speak. Sonar,
depth charges, gunships, the works.

Elin sees he's bluffing.

ELIN

Those ships will beat us all back
to Ocean City.

LUKE

Your Captain will see the fireworks
first hand!

ELIN

New Coast Guard stations
established all along the coast
overnight.

LUKE

This place will be locked up
tighter than the hatches on your U-
Boat.

The same Porter #1 opens the door of the car.

PORTER #1

Next stop, Philadelphia!

Fritz turns his luger on Porter #1? Porter #1 steps back and
puts his arms up in fright.

PORTER #1 (CONT'D)

Next stop, New York?

Luke whips out his luger from behind him and shoots the gun
out of Fritz's hand. They fight. Luke finally connects with a
left hook, and Fritz is knocked out. Porter #1 hears the
fighting in the Club Car. He shakes his head in disgust.

PORTER #1 (CONT'D)

Mmmm. Mmmm. Everybody thinks they's
Joe Lewis!

Elin grabs Fritz's luger. Luke grabs Elin's free hand and
pulls her off the train as it slows into the Philadelphia
station.

INT. TRAIN STATION - DAY

Luke and Elin toss the lugers in a trash can as they race
into the station.

LUKE

The Pennsylvania to Ocean City
departs now! Gotta run!

ELIN

What about our new clothes from
Junior and Babs?

LUKE

Dressed-up corpse or a pretty,
breathing girl, take your pick.

Luke pulls her faster.

ELIN

You think I'm pretty?

Luke shakes his head and almost drags her through the
station.

The train to Ocean City is departing, and they have to run
and jump aboard. They look back to see Fritz and two Thugs
miss the train.

INT. TRAIN CAR - DAY

Luke and Elin breathe a sigh of relief. The train is more
modest than the Marylander, with wooden bench seats facing
each other. The car is packed with 14 Passengers (various
ages and genders), with only one bench seat opposite two
small gentlemen in suits (the Japanese Men), with straw hats
pulled over their faces, asleep, and clutching small American
flags and shopping bags. Luke and Elin quietly slip into the
seat across for them. Luke and Elin whisper.

LUKE

You handled yourself pretty well
back there!

ELIN

You keep using the word, 'pretty.'

LUKE

You know what I mean.

Elin tries to look into Luke's eyes, but he is staring at the
passengers across from them.

ELIN

We get training, you know.

Luke continues to stare across toward the two gentleman. Elin
stares at and flirts with Luke.

ELIN (CONT'D)

We're always ready for any
situation.

Elin slowly turns her attention toward the two men across from them. The men tilt their heads and straw hats back to reveal themselves as the Japanese spies. They have their hands in the shopping bags, grasping pistols pointed at Elin and Luke. They all whisper.

JAPANESE MAN #1

No move.

JAPANESE MAN #2

Tell us more about diving apparatus, Professor Stone.

LUKE

You know what I know.

JAPANESE MAN #1

True. We take your drawing from Cousteau. We make identical regulator. We ready to dive.

LUKE

Then you don't need me.

JAPANESE MAN #2

You tested this apparatus, yes?

Luke hesitates. Japanese Man #1 gets up and sits next to Elin. He shows her a Photograph of her mother in a kitchen with one wrist chained to a long chain. Elin gasps. Luke sees the terror in Elin's eyes.

LUKE

Your mother?

Elin nods.

LUKE (CONT'D)

You animals!

JAPANESE MAN #1

We not hurt her. She cook strudel for us tonight.

JAPANESE MAN #2

She complain much. You take her back after we get Jade Dogs.

Elin gets furiously angry, but still whispers.

ELIN

You let her go, now!

JAPANESE MAN #2

Answer questions. How deep is lower hull of Sindia?

LUKE

Thirty to sixty feet.

JAPANESE MAN #1

How deep we can safely dive with Cousteau apparatus?

LUKE

Sixty feet, but for one-hour tops.

CUT TO:

EXT. OCEAN CITY (2005) - DAY

Old Elin has a look of worry toward the Senator, as they sit on the park bench eating peanuts.

OLD ELIN

My husband clearly knew that Cousteau's diving apparatus was only good to thirty feet and maybe eighteen minutes tops.

SENATOR

He wanted them to dive too deep or too long, and die?

OLD ELIN

He was smarter than that, and they were smarter than that. He was buying time, and making it sound like they could successfully retrieve the treasure they were after, just to keep my mother alive!

SENATOR

Weren't they going to find out he was lying?

OLD ELIN

Oh, they were going to find out!

BACK TO:

INT. TRAIN CAR - DAY

The Japanese Men still have Luke and Elin covered.

JAPANESE MAN #1

You will dive with us tomorrow morning at dawn. Miss Gruden will stay on the boat.

JAPANESE MAN #2

You both die if we not get Jade Dogs for our Emperor.

ELIN

But Mama lives, yes?

JAPANESE MAN #1

Yes. Good strudel.

LUKE

All this is about two forty-pound Jade dogs?

JAPANESE MAN #2

Symbols of our Emperor's dream as conqueror of the world. He must have them.

LUKE

Legend says the two jade dogs are protected by a sacred two-hundred-pound Golden Buddha, which, in turn, is protected by the sands of time.

JAPANESE MAN #1

German's after the Golden Buddha. We not care about that.

LUKE

Legend says they must all be returned to China. Anyone who separates them will be cursed forever!

JAPANESE MAN #1

Our Emperor's dream all that matters.

LUKE

You need me to teach you how to dive, yes?

JAPANESE MAN #1

Yes.

LUKE

You give us Mama Gruden. I will
teach you to dive, and your Emperor
will get his Jade Dogs.

The Japanese Men stare at each other, and put their guns
away. They smile at Luke.

JAPANESE MAN #2

No. We bring Mama to beach tomorrow
dawn. We all take your boat. You
train us dive, yes? We get Jade
Dogs, or you all die!

Porter #2 (60, black) ambles through the train car.

PORTER #2

Next stop, Ocean City. Next stop,
Ocean City. Happy Fourth of July,
everyone.

INT./EXT. TRAIN STATION

Luke and Elin look very worried as the train pulls into the
station. The Japanese Men escort Luke and Elin from the
train.

JAPANESE MAN #1

You walk north, or Mama Gruden cook
strudel no more.

Luke and Elin trudge away north, glancing back from time to
time, as the Japanese Men wait until Luke and Elin are two
blocks away.

ELIN

I don't trust 'em.

LUKE

Me neither.

The Japanese Men, in their straw hats, hop in a cab and RACE
away.

EXT. OCEAN CITY - DAY

On a road two blocks from the train station, Luke spots a
Motorcycle Man (20s) riding an Indian Motorcycle. Luke stands
in front of his path. The man stops, and Elin produces her ID
and badge.

LUKE

We need your motorcycle.

MOTORCYCLE MAN

Sorry, going to the Bund Rally.
Can't let you take it.

Luke and Elin see the man has a swastika flag hanging from his back pocket.

ELIN

We're not asking. We're telling!

Luke punches the guy off of his bike. Luke and Elin hop on, and Luke tears after the cab.

They see nothing after racing a few blocks. Then, in the distance, they see a cab. They follow secretly behind it, but the cab races ahead.

Luke RACES ahead, with Elin clinging to his chest. They maintain a secretive distance behind.

The cab turns and twists in and out of streets, with Luke and Elin catching up. They see two straw hats in the back of the cab.

The cab takes evasive action, and races to the beach-front road. It pulls away. Luke struggles to keep up.

Suddenly, the cab stops, so Luke skids to a stop. They see Two Elderly Ladies (60s), wearing the straw hats, exit the cab and walk toward the beach.

Luke races up to the Cabbie #3 and yells at him.

LUKE

Did two Japanese Men pay you to
drive these ladies to the beach?

CABBIE #3

How'd ya guess? For ten bucks, I
would've drove 'em to Florida!

The Cabbie #3 takes off. Elin sees a pay telephone.

ELIN

I gotta call Franky and Mort.

Luke paces in thought, while Elin makes two phone calls twenty feet away. She gets no answer on the first call, and on the second call, she whispers until Luke hears her yell.

ELIN (CONT'D)

Damn him!

Elin hangs up and runs to Luke.

ELIN (CONT'D)

The hospital! Now!

LUKE

What is it?

ELIN

Mort's been shot. He's alive. Says
Franky is bad!

Luke and Elin Race away.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Mort cracks a smile when Elin and Luke walk in. Mort is
bandaged heavily and barely speaking.

ELIN

Mort, are you okay?

MORT

Get Franky. Bund Rally. Tonight!

LUKE

We'll get him for ya, but we may
need a few things.

Luke hands Mort a list. Mort studies the list. Elin takes it
from him.

MORT

Get me a phone, will ya? I know a
guy, who knows a guy.

Mort smiles. Elin and Luke pat his shoulder and exit.

ELIN

What do we do now?

LUKE

Now, we call the President!

End Act Two

Act Three

EXT./INT. HEINZ GRUDEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Luke and Elin skid to a stop in front of her parent's house. Elin RACES in to see her father (Heinz) weeping at the kitchen table. She runs to hug him.

HEINZ

She's gone! How could I have been
so pig-headed!

Luke races in.

ELIN

Not pig-headed, just gullible,
Papa.

HEINZ

I've been so stupid! They told me
it was for the good of the world!
Fritz and those Nazis took her
away.

LUKE

The Nazis? That means they're
working with the Japs!

HEINZ

Japanese?

ELIN

No time to explain, Papa. We need
your help. A good friend is sending
help to look for Mama. We have to
stop the Nazis from distributing
guns to German-American
sympathizers.

HEINZ

Including your little brother,
Hans?

LUKE

I'm afraid so. Here is what we want
you to do. Go to the Biergarten,
and round up all the true Americans
you can find. Have them meet at the
Kaiser Ranch at exactly nine-thirty
PM. Got it?

ELIN

With hunting rifles, pitchforks,
anything they got! Yes, Papa?

HEINZ

Yes, Elin! Anything to get Mama
back and make this up to you!

EXT./INT. BIERGARTEN - NIGHT

We see Heinz coolly greeted as he enters the Biergarten courtyard and bar.

Inside, we see the same 80 Germans (ten tables of noisy, beer-drinking German Men from 16 to 50 years old) being served by beer-maids delivering steins of beers, and plates of wiener schnitzel, veal cutlets, and strudel from the kitchen.

One wall is still showing film footage of a Hitler Youth Camp in 1937 in upstate New York.

Suddenly, the five tiny television sets flash on. Everyone is glued to the TV sets.

TV ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Live, from the DuMont Studios in
Passaic, New Jersey, it's time for
Professional Wrestling!

The crowd CHEERS, and they are glued to a fuzzy professional wrestling match. One wrestler has U.S.-flag-covered shorts. The other wrestler is Big Otto in a black shorts with swastika patches. The crowd is evenly split in their support.

Big Otto is getting the best of his smaller opponent, and half the crowd cheers wildly.

INT. DUMONT TV STUDIO - NIGHT

DuMont is sweating as Fritz and the Two Thugs root on Big Otto during the live wrestling match. DuMont and Fritz whisper.

DUMONT

This is most irregular.

FRITZ

You do now!

Big Otto is ripping apart his opponent.

EXT. FARM - NIGHT

Luke and Elin, with binoculars, are hidden in the trees as cars and trucks begin to park on the edge of a large pasture. The pasture is dark.

LUKE

Those are the cars from the Biergarten carrying the sacks of German rifles!

ELIN

Are you sure those are the same cars?

LUKE

Very sure! My head was thrown into a couple of 'em!

ELIN

What do we do?

Twenty Nazis (adult males) begin unloading six-foot-long 2x4s from the back of pickup trucks, and carrying the boards to the center of the pasture.

LUKE

Looks like they're planning a bonfire.

Elin sees Hans (her younger brother) carrying a few 2x4s to the bonfire spot. She whispers to Luke.

ELIN

Oh, no! It's Hans.

Nazi #1 (60; big brute) claps his hands to hurry the group along.

NAZI #1

We must hurry. The wrestling match will end early, and everyone will come.

HANS/HITLER YOUTH #1

Big Otto will crush him!

NAZI #1

Ja! Ja!

Other Nazis bring 2x4s to the center of the pasture and begin to build a pyramid-cone with them.

LUKE
 (whispers to Elin)
 Stay here. I've got a plan.

ELIN
 You are not to harm Hans! And don't
 let him see you!

LUKE
 Don't worry.

Luke crawls around to the parked cars. He grabs a few 2x4s and hides his face as he marches to the bonfire pile, and then adds it to the growing pyramid of wood. Luke hides his face, avoiding Hans, as he returns to the cars. Elin glares through her binoculars, snickers, and whispers to herself.

ELIN
 What's that idiot doing? Helping
 them?

INT. BIERGARTEN - NIGHT

Everyone is glued to the TV sets, as Big Otto continues to crush his American opponent. Half the crowd CHEERS, half the crowd BOOS. Heinz takes careful note of those who are booing.

INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - NIGHT

The two Japanese Men prepare a meal of sushi and rice for Mrs. Gruden who is chained to a chair, gagged, and glaring at her captors. The Japanese Men smile.

JAPANESE MAN #1
 You like fish?

Mrs. Gruden (Mama) nods 'yes.' Japanese Man #2 unties her gag, and she screams.

MAMA
 I like fish. No like bait!

Japanese Man #2 quickly replaces the gag.

JAPANESE MAN #2
 No eat for you!

Mrs. Gruden screams into the gag to no avail.

INT. BIERGARTEN - NIGHT

Everyone is still glued to the TV set as Big Otto is clobbering his American opponent. Half the crowd CHEERS madly.

INT. DUMONT TV STUDIO - NIGHT

DuMont can no longer contain himself. He yells from one corner of the ring to the American wrestler.

DUMONT

If this Nazi wins, they win the whole war! Get it? You can't let that happen!

INT. BIERGARTEN - NIGHT

Suddenly, the tide turns, and the American begins to get the better of Big Otto. The other half of the crowd CHEERS madly.

INT. DUMONT TV STUDIO - NIGHT

Fritz PACES as he yells at Big Otto.

FRITZ

Dummkopf! Eine Schande!

Super: "Idiot! A disgrace!"

DUMONT

You got him! You got him!

Thug #1 enters the ring and gets leveled by the American Wrestler with an elbow to his throat.

The American Wrestler throws Big Otto into the ropes.

Thug #2 enters the ring and is flipped by the American Wrestler to his back with a mighty thump!

Big Otto attacks the American Wrestler from behind. The American Wrestler reaches down and pulls Big Otto's feet out from under him. Big Otto crashes to the mat, and the back of his head slams down hard enough to knock him out.

Big Otto is pinned.

INT. BIERGARTEN - NIGHT

The America-supporting Germans are wildly happy. The other half of the crowd quickly departs in disgust! Heinz gathers the Pro-American Germans for a secret plan. He whispers to them.

EXT. FARM - NIGHT

Elin, with binoculars, watches Luke add more wood to the bonfire pile as more cars and trucks arrive for the Bund Rally. Elin scans the cars and trucks, when she sees Franky drive in and park with the other Nazi supporters. She whispers.

ELIN

Uh oh!

Elin crawls and scrambles over near Luke walking by. She pulls him by the arm into the bushes. He is startled. She jumps on top of him, covers his mouth with her hand, and whispers in his ear.

ELIN (CONT'D)

Franky's here. If he sees you or Hans sees you, we're dead!

Luke removes her hand and whispers.

LUKE

I'm not done.

Suddenly, several cars and trucks turn on their lights facing the center of the pasture to the huge stack of wood for the bonfire. Everyone, but Elin and Luke, cheer madly.

ELIN

You're done helping their bonfire.

She pulls him by his arm back to the forest, as a dozen more cars and trucks park around the meadow, each pointing their lights in.

Tension builds as a large flatbed truck pulls into the center of the pasture. Fritz, in his dress Nazi uniform, steps out of the truck and climbs atop the flatbed. The two Thugs, and Big Otto stand near the truck as bodyguards with automatic rifles guard them. Franky and Hans join them. Soon, they are surrounded by all of the pro-Nazi Germans. Fritz holds up a huge megaphone, and the crowd cheers wildly.

FRITZ

I'm Commander Fritz Wolf, of the Kriegsmarine, U-Boat number 48, which had no trouble landing me to shore, as you see. Welcome to our Bund Rally!

The crowd cheers. Elin and Luke stare at each other. Elin whispers.

ELIN

We've got to get my brother out of there.

LUKE

Too dangerous.

FRITZ

I represent the most powerful military in the world.

The crowd cheers. Fritz brags in the b.g., while Luke and Elin look in through binoculars.

Luke and Elin are tapped on their shoulders from behind. They put their hands up like they were captured at gunpoint. They turn their heads slowly to see Two Italian Mobsters (30s, black suits and hats).

MOBSTER #1

Guy named Mort said you needed fireworks.

MOBSTER #2

Hush-hush.

Relieved, Luke and Elin put their hands down. They hug the mobsters.

LUKE

You Italian?

MOBSTER #1

NO!!! Never!!! Let's just say we do not come from the boot.

ELIN

Won't they be surprised!

MOBSTER #1

But we don't care to celebrate the Fourth with Nazis.

LUKE
Oh, we're not celebrating with
them. We're celebrating at them!

MOBSTER #2
Where you want 'em.

Luke whispers to the mobsters, and points to the first twenty cars around the pasture. The mobsters nod and quietly slip away.

LUKE
Mort came through.

ELIN
He wants Franky alive! But, Franky,
I don't give a dam!

Luke chuckles! Elin sees a cab in the distance dropping off a man, who looks like her Papa.

ELIN (CONT'D)
Papa?

Luke looks in the same direction.

LUKE
Hans sees him and is sneaking over
to him.

We see Hans gingerly approach Heinz. They whisper. Hans drops his head and weeps. Heinz dries his tears, and sends his son back to the bonfire area.

ELIN
What's he doing?

LUKE
He gave him an assignment.

FRITZ
The Master Race will rule the
world!

The crowd cheers.

FRITZ (CONT'D)
Light the bonfire!

The Two Thugs put down their automatic rifles, and pour gasoline on the woodpile. Hans crawls under the Flatbed truck and steals the two rifles.

The Thugs light the bonfire, and it roars and crackles.

FRITZ (CONT'D)

Let all those here pledge
allegiance to der Führer, as we
hand out new rifles and lugers to
the trustworthy. Otto, bring them
their weapons.

Otto begins to head to the area where the first twenty cars
are parked.

Suddenly, the fire starts to pop like gunfire. Everyone is
stunned, and ducking for cover. Otto turns to see the
commotion. The bonfire pops and sizzles, pops and sizzles.

FRITZ (CONT'D)

Don't panic. I'm sure there is an
explanation!

In the forest, Elin turns and hugs Luke.

ELIN

You put their new weapons in the
bonfire!

Luke smiles.

LUKE

Back in a minute. You get your
brother when you see my signal.

Luke races away to the cars.

ELIN

What signal?

Luke reaches the cars and lights a long fuse just as Big Otto
arrives. The fuze advances.

Luke squares off like a sumo wrestler to delay Big Otto, who
cannot resist the challenge.

Big Otto flips Luke on his back.

LUKE

Ow!

Big Otto punches and throws Luke around as the fuse burns.
Luke puts his hands up as if surrendering.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Okay, you win!

Then he charges head first into Big Otto's belly and knocks
him down.

The fight continues as the fuse burns in the f.g., and the bonfire pops and sizzles in the b.g.

Elin is waiting for a sign.

Big Otto picks Luke up and with a mighty punch, sends Luke flying onto the bushes as the fuse sets off a mighty fireworks display all around Big Otto.

ELIN

That must be the sign!

Elin sneaks into the disorganized crowd as Fritz tried to maintain order.

FRITZ

Don't worry. Just a few fireworks!
Someone's idea of a joke.

Then Fritz spots burning rifle stocks in the bonfire. The two Thugs cannot find their rifles. They see Otto's rifle next to the flatbed truck, and lean down to pick it up, but Hans grabs it first. Hans runs toward the forest, where his sister is running to rescue him. Fritz points at Hans.

FRITZ (CONT'D)

Get him!

Luke sees what's happening and begins tipping over the remaining fireworks. He lights a short fuse. Fireworks start flying at the Nazi sympathizers and the flatbed truck. Luke has to jump over exploding shells as he races back to Elin.

Hans races to his sister with the automatic rifle, but he points it at her. His hands are shaking.

ELIN

It's okay, Hans. We all make mistakes.

Hans is trembling.

HANS

I don't know who to trust. I don't know what to believe!

ELIN

You are a man forced to choose between two countries. Trust in me and believe in your heart.

Anxious moments. The German Thugs are just ten steps away.

HANS

I don't know how to fire this
thing, Sis!

He tosses the rifle to his sister.

ELIN

I do!

She catches the weapon, cocks it, and shoots at the feet of
the German Thugs, who quickly turn.

A shot rings out, and Hans drops. Blood stains his stomach.
Elin screams!

ELIN (CONT'D)

No! You bastard!

Fritz is atop the flatbed aiming his pistol her direction,
when she lets loose a barrage of bullets.

Luke's fireworks converge on the flatbed truck at the same
time.

In the distance, all around the pasture, a mob of 100 pro-
American Germans (all ages, male and female) march toward the
Nazi sympathizers with torches, rifles, and pitchforks. They
are waving American flags.

The Nazi sympathizers scatter! Fritz takes off in the flatbed
truck. He looks into the rearview mirror to see the first
twenty cars and trucks explode into flames.

Elin and Luke RACE Hans to the hospital.

INT. GERMAN U-BOAT - NIGHT

In the cramped Captain's quarters, the Captain and the two
Japanese Men meet. They stop talking when Fritz comes in with
a bandaged hand. The Captain speaks in German to Fritz.

CAPTAIN

These two say they saw the whole
thing! Professor Stone and Miss
Elin Gruden made a fool of you.

FRITZ

It did not go as well as expected.

CAPTAIN

You will be dealt with severely
after you retrieve the Golden
Buddha at sunrise tomorrow.

FRITZ
But, Captain...

CAPTAIN
These two agents will lead the
mission. Is that understood?

The Japanese Men smile.

FRITZ
What is to stop Professor Stone and
Miss Gruden?

CAPTAIN
Idiot! In this American culture,
they care much more about their
mothers than their fathers!

FRITZ
And we have the mother?

CAPTAIN
(pointing to the Japanese)
They have the mother.

The Japanese Men smile.

CAPTAIN (CONT'D)
And they have replicated three full
diving sets.
(beat)
Guaranteed to go down sixty feet
for thirty minutes! Plenty of time
to retrieve the treasure.

FRITZ
And who will lead us to this
treasure?

CAPTAIN
Luke Stone!

The Japanese Men smile.

CAPTAIN (CONT'D)
Then we will sail home. Triumphant!

Fritz does not look convinced.

EXT. OCEAN CITY (2005)

Old Elin and the Senator eat hot dogs, and drink bottles of
Coca Cola.

OLD ELIN

The bullet got him in right smack-dab in the buttocks, but my brother was going to be out of the hospital in a few days.

SENATOR

And they put him in the same room with your partner, Mort?

OLD ELIN

How'd ya guess? But Mama's troubles weren't over. By this time, FDR was starting to believe everything we said was true.

SENATOR

So he dispatched ships to go after the U-Boat?

OLD ELIN

Not yet, exactly. He couldn't stand to let the public know how easy a German U-Boat could slip through our defenses and have landing parties every night if they wanted to, so he was hoping Luke and I could solve this one ourselves.

SENATOR

But he did allocate resources to find your Mama?

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Mort, Heinz, and Hans are busy calling everyone in the phone book.

OLD ELIN (V.O.)

Two phones suddenly showed up in Mort's and Han's hospital room, and they spent all night calling everyone in the book to see if anybody saw two Japanese men.

SENATOR

What about Luke and Elin? (V.O.)

OLD ELIN (V.O.)

They went for a little night swim.

EXT. OCEAN CITY - NIGHT

Luke and Elin motor out to the wreck of the Sindia under cover of darkness.

ELIN
I'm still worried about Mama.

LUKE
They'll bring her tomorrow morning
or they won't get help from me.

Elin is attaching flags to the anchor line, measuring them out with a long tape measure. Luke begins putting on the Aqua-Lung.

ELIN
You sure this will work?

LUKE
Nope.

ELIN
Every thirteen feet?

LUKE
Exactly. I'll tell them we put
flags every ten feet. They won't
check.

ELIN
You sure, ya big Lug?

LUKE
Nope.

ELIN
What are you going to do down
there?

LUKE
I'll chip a line of barnacles off
the hull every thirteen feet as
deep as I can go, so it matches
your flags.

ELIN
Why?

LUKE
Slow 'em down. Use up some time,
until Mort, your Papa, and Hans can
find your Mama.

ELIN
Sure it will work?

Luke is about to fall backwards into the water. He puts on thick, rubber gloves, and grabs a chisel and hammer. He checks his wristwatch, which still reads exactly eight o'clock, and the second hand is not moving. He shrugs.

LUKE
Nope! Lower the anchor, please.

Elin lowers the anchor line and the flags descend. Luke blows Elin a kiss and falls back carrying the chisel and hammer.

UNDERWATER

Luke follows the anchor line down to the first flag, pulls it against the hull of the Sindia, and chips off a line of barnacles.

His Aqua-Lung fails for a tense moment, but starts up again. He swims down to the second flag (26 feet). Breathing is already difficult.

He struggles to chip off a line of barnacles. He begins to descend along the anchor rope, when a massive shark swims below him. He very slowly rises to the surface.

ABOVE WATER

Luke gasps for air as he reaches the surface.

ELIN
Are you okay?

Luke unbuckles quickly.

LUKE
Huge shark down there! Help me out.

Elin leans over and pulls up the Aqua-Lung, and Luke scrambles into the boat.

ELIN
How deep did you get?

LUKE
Twenty-six feet.

ELIN
Not very deep.

Luke glares at Elin.

LUKE

I'd like to see tomorrow morning!
Call it a fondness for life!

(beat)

And I hate sharks!

They motor back to shore.

ELIN

Are you sure Mama's gonna be all
right?

Luke puts his arm around her.

LUKE

Dawn is just a few hours away.
She'll be fine. I promise you.
Those Japanese need my help.

Luke runs his boat up on the beach.

ELIN

What should we do until dawn?

Luke pulls a couple of blankets from under a seat, and tosses
them over Elin.

LUKE

Think you can sleep?

ELIN

Maybe if you hold me.

They snuggle.

BEGIN DREAM SEQUENCES

Elin allows her tired mind to wander back to the previous
night in Junior's suite at the Statler Hotel in Washington.

She dreams of laying on the luxurious couch in her bathrobe,
with her beautiful leg exposed.

She dreams of Luke coming over to the couch in his bathrobe,
and effortlessly taking her in his arms, and carrying her to
his bedroom.

She dreams of him setting her down gently on the comfortable
bed, and covering her with the thick, soft bedspread.

At the same time, Luke allows his tired mind to wander back
to the previous night in Junior's suite at the Statler Hotel
in Washington.

He dreams of Elin laying on the luxurious couch in her bathrobe, with her beautiful leg exposed.

He dreams of coming over to her in his bathrobe, and effortlessly taking her in his arms, and carrying her to his bedroom.

He dreams of him setting her down gently on the comfortable bed, and covering her with the thick, soft bedspread.

Then, as she did in his classroom the day they met, she SLAPS him across the face. He snaps out of it.

END DREAM SEQUENCES

Luke stares at Elin in his arms, both looking like angels.

LUKE
(whispers)
Don't worry, Elin. You're safe with me.

Luke closes his eyes and falls asleep.

EXT. OCEAN CITY (2005) - EVENING

Old Elin and the Senator sip coffee on the park bench at sunset.

OLD ELIN
Truth is, no one was safe. We had taken our hands off of the Germans, and our eyes off of the Japanese.

SENATOR
You needed a little help?

OLD ELIN
We needed a lot of help!

EXT. OCEAN CITY - DAWN

Dawn breaks, and Luke and Elin slowly wake in each other's arms aboard his boat. They hear the sound of a small motorboat. Luke looks over the edge of the boat to see Junior (John D. Rockefeller, Jr. in a blue blazer, white pants, and captain's hat) coming his direction.

JUNIOR
Ahoy, there, Professor Stone.

LUKE

Junior?

ELIN

Morning, Junior.

JUNIOR

Morning, Miss Gruden. Thought you two would have killed each other by now.

LUKE

She's beginning to tolerate me.

Junior holds up a new Aqua-Lung.

JUNIOR

Thought you might try a slightly re-engineered regulator and a new mix of gas this morning.

LUKE

But how did you know...

JUNIOR

Mutual friend called me.

LUKE

The Germans will need help from the U-Boat to haul the Golden Buddha up. We just need to stall them until help gets here.

ELIN

No problem!

JUNIOR

Good to see you two getting along!

Junior hands over a new Aqua-Lung. Then, Junior holds up a pair of swimfins.

LUKE

What are those?

JUNIOR

Article about these about to come out in Science Digest. Idea goes back to Leonardo da Vinci and Ben Franklin, but these swimfins are from De Corlieu in France. They are the cat's meow!

Junior hands the swimfins to Luke.

LUKE
Everything here been tested?

JUNIOR
No, but theoretically, they should help you go deeper, faster, and stay down longer!

LUKE
Theoretically?

JUNIOR
I gotta run. I hear there might be a German U-Boat in these waters.

Junior motors off toward a Huge Yacht in the distance.

ELIN
Thanks for everything, Mr. Rockefeller!

LUKE
Thanks a heap, Junior. We're going to be okay.

Junior yells back.

JUNIOR
Just stall them 'til help arrives.

Luke stares at his new diving equipment and gas cylinder.

LUKE
(snickers)
It's theoretically possible.

As Junior's yacht takes off, Luke and Elin hear an old truck backfire! They turn towards shore to see Mama Gruden exiting the truck with the two Japanese Men. They sit Mama on the park bench. She waves that she is okay.

The Japanese Men carry two sets of Aqua-Lung gear to Luke's boat, along with a wooden crate.

JAPANESE MAN #1
You see? Mama is okie-dokie.

However, the Two Thugs show up with Heinz in tow. The Thugs, with lugers under their jackets, sit on the bench with Heinz and Mama between them. Behind the two Thugs is Fritz, with an Aqua-Suit and a Bottom Scratchers Spear Gun (half wood/half stainless steel). Fritz has a bandaged hand with blood showing on the bandage.

LUKE

You said she would be safe.

JAPANESE MAN #2

After we get Jade Dogs, and Nazis
get Golden Buddha, everybody happy.
Okie-dokie.

Fritz is already angry.

FRITZ

Teach how to use these things or
you all die?

LUKE

You can't get your treasures
without me, so clam up and listen.

Fritz twitches with anger.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Elin, would you be so kind to take
us to the Sindia?

ELIN

If they hurt Mama and Papa, I'm
drowning you all!

Elin motors out to the shipwreck, while Luke gives a lesson
in scuba diving.

LUKE

Check your breathing apparatus.
Descend slowly, but come up very
fast! Got it?

The Japanese are not listening. Fritz looks nervous. Elin
stops. Luke grabs the anchor line.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Very important. The anchor line in
marked every ten feet with a flag.
You're good for sixty feet, but
take is slow.

The Japanese Men have opened the crate and turn to Luke with
armed spear guns.

JAPANESE MAN #1

Good to thirty feet only. You lie.

LUKE

Fine, go as deep as you like. The Sindia hull has markings every ten feet as well.

JAPANESE MAN #2

Thirty feet maximum.

LUKE

Okie-dokie. Just remember to come up quickly.

The Japanese Men each hold a package of EXPLOSIVES.

LUKE (CONT'D)

What the hell is that?

FRITZ

It's how we get into the Sindia.

ELIN

Explosives?

FRITZ

Professor Stone will set them while we observe.

Fritz hands Elin a flare gun.

ELIN

What's this for?

FRITZ

After explosion, fire one flare up, or your Mama and Papa will die.

Luke and Elin look worried.

FRITZ (CONT'D)

How much time do we have down there?

LUKE

Up to an hour.

JAPANESE MAN #1

Thirty minute.

LUKE

Geez! What do you need me for?

Fritz points his spear gun at Elin.

FRITZ

Take us to the treasure, or you both die.

LUKE

How do the explosives detonate?

JAPANESE MAN #1

Pull pin. Swim away. Thirty second. Boom!

LUKE

How do they stick to the hull?

JAPANESE MAN #2

Magnet. We think everything. Lantern too.

The crate contains four crude underwater lanterns, which Fritz distributes.

LUKE

Elin, please pull on the anchor rope every five minutes, so we know how much time we have left. Shake twice at fifteen and after twenty-five minutes when we have to surface.

Elin STARES at her wristwatch, then at Luke.

ELIN

Twenty-five minutes?

The look in Elin's eyes tells us they all might be dead. She hugs Luke one last time.

They put on their masks and give each other a thumbs up. Luke lets the others fall back first, then he puts on his new swimfins. He falls back into the water, where the others are waiting with spear guns aimed at him.

UNDERWATER

Luke swims slowly down to the first flag on the anchor line. He points to the matching scraping on the hull of the Sindia. He holds up ten fingers. The others nod.

Japanese Man #1 has trouble with his regulator, but it starts up again right away. The same happens to Japanese Man #2 and Fritz the deeper they go.

Luke has no trouble with his new Aqua-Lung, as they all arrive at the second flag with intermittent breathing problems.

The anchor flag wiggles up and down (5 minutes).

Luke holds up ten fingers twice. Japanese Man #2 hands Luke his explosives, and signals "thirty" with his hands. Luke looks over at the second flag, and way down to the third flag. His eyes open widely. Japanese Man #1 hands Luke his explosives, and makes a similar sign for "thirty."

Luke swims down the anchor line to the third flag. He looks up at the other divers, and attaches one of the explosive devices to the hull of the Sindia. Luke attaches the second set of explosives. He pulls one pin, and waves to others to swim away. As they swim madly away, he pulls off the second set of explosives and lets it sink to the seafloor almost thirty feet below him. We watch the device float past two more flags on the anchor line (another 26 ft.), and a little more before touching down on the ocean floor. It doesn't explode.

Luke is swimming away when all the divers see, feel, and hear the explosion.

ABOVE WATER

The boat rocks as the explosion surfaces. Elin holds on as the boat rocks more. As it subsides, Elin checks on her parents with binoculars. She fires the flare gun.

We see a periscope off in the distance.

UNDERWATER

Luke is first to reach the three-foot-diameter hole in the Sindia.

Ominously, wet sand begins to sift downward through top compartments of the ship toward the newly created hole.

As the Two Japanese Men and Fritz reach the hole in the Sindia, they have difficulty breathing.

The anchor flag wiggles up and down (10 minutes).

Wet sand moves like molasses and begins to fill the cargo hull. The Japanese Men force Luke inside with their spear guns. Luke enters the hole, and the others swim quickly inside.

They see dozens of wooden crates, but they know exactly where to go. Luke hangs back as the search for the Golden Buddha and Jade Dogs continues.

ABOVE WATER

Elin checks on her parents with binoculars, again. She sets the flare gun down, and opens a glove compartment box and pulls out her snub-nosed .38.

We see a periscope much closer in. The periscope drops.

UNDERWATER

Fritz and the Two Japanese Men have air trouble. Luke is fine. Japanese Man #1 sees this and charges at Luke with his spear gun, and a fight ensues. Luke spins him around and points his spear gun at Japanese Man #2, just as Japanese Man #2 is opening a crate. Wet sand begins to fill the crate from above, faster than before.

They all see a large bright gold light, and two smaller jade-green lights emanating from the crate. They freeze and smile.

Luke pulls the trigger on the spear gun and a spear flies into the leg of Japanese Man #2, but he scrambles for the Jade Dogs.

Only Luke sees the anchor flag wiggles up and down twice (15 minutes). Wet sand moves faster to fill the hull from above.

Luke swims for the hole. Fritz begins to fire his spear gun at Luke, but Fritz's air gives out temporarily, and he has to pound his mask with his fist. Blood leaks from his bandaged hand.

Luke exits the hole on the Sindia hull to see the German U-Boat. He looks down. He sees the explosives. He looks back to see wet sand pouring into the Sindia, and Fritz giving him chase with a spear gun.

Luke dives straight down, aided by his swimfins and new Aqua-Lung.

Fritz exits the Sindia and sees the U-boat. He looks back toward the Golden Buddha, but chases after Luke.

Fritz's hand is bleeding heavily now, and his air is giving out, but he pursues Luke to the fourth flag. Fritz is out of air, and his eyes open widely. He makes a last-ditch effort to shoot Luke, when the shark returns to bite off his bloody hand and arm, just a few feet above Luke.

Luke grabs the explosives, and swims up to attach it to the stern of the U-Boat as it glides by. Luke pulls the pin, and begins to ascend slowly.

The two Japanese Men are nearly out of air. Japanese Man #1 swims through the hole and ascends (too quickly). Japanese Man #2 is being pushed out by wet sand but the spear is in his leg. Luke pushes the spear through his leg so he can exit the hull. Wet sand immediately fills in the hole and pours out to the sea floor.

BOOM! The stern of the U-Boat explodes, but the U-Boat limps away.

Japanese Man #2 also ascends too quickly. Luke goes up slowly and carefully.

ABOVE WATER

Elin holds her snub-nosed .38 on the Two Japanese Men as they suffer from the bends (from surfacing too quickly). Luke surfaces a little later with a big smile. As Luke climbs aboard, he and Elin see Four Government Agents (30s-40s; brown suits and fedoras) sweep in behind the Two German Thugs, and arrest them. Two agents take them away, and the two others head to the beach to help Luke and Elin. Heinz and Mama wave wildly, and hug and kiss each other.

Luke hugs and kisses Elin for a long time. Then Elin goes back to guarding their captives as Luke motors into shore.

ELIN (CONT'D)

What happened to Fritz?

LUKE

Let's just say I'm beginning to like sharks.

As they head to shore, they see two G-men and the General who met with them in Washington. He also is wearing a brown suit.

The boat reaches shore.

GENERAL

Take these two away.

The G-men arrest the two Japanese Men.

GENERAL (CONT'D)

Nice work, Agent Gruden, Professor Stone.

LUKE

What's going to happen to them?

GENERAL

We learned they are Ambassadors.
They have diplomatic immunity, but
they'll be deported. We're not
officially at war with the Japanese
or Germans, remember.

(beat, whispers)

I assume they didn't get what they
were after.

LUKE

Protected by the secret of the
Golden Buddha and the sands of
time. They didn't stand a chance.

ELIN

Professor Stone went to great
lengths...

They all turn to see a Navy Destroyer going by, guided by two
PT Boats.

GENERAL

Not a word of this anyone. Top
Secret. Your entire mission. We
don't want to alarm the public. Is
that clear?

ELIN

Yes, General.

LUKE

But the treasure...

GENERAL

It's safe where it is, protected by
the sands of time like you said.
Not a word of this to anyone!

The General turns and departs.

LUKE

That's all the thanks we get?

ELIN

You brought my family back
together. I can think of several
ways to thank you!

They kiss and hug very passionately.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Luke and Elin (as a couple) visit Mort and Hans who are recovering in the hospital.

ELIN
How you two lugs doing?

Mort and Hans smile.

MORT
I kept calling the big chief, Mr. Donovan, just like you said.

LUKE
I think it worked.

Elin goes to kiss Mort on the cheek.

MORT
(to Elin)
I'll be stuck in a desk job. But Donovan told me you were in for a big promotion -- out of the desk and into the field.

ELIN
I'm getting promoted?

MORT
And he wants your help in finding Tough Dish a new partner.

They both look at Luke.

LUKE
I don't know...

Elin goes to kiss and hug Hans.

HANS/HITLER YOUTH #1
Can you ever forgive me, Sis?

ELIN
Maybe you'll fight for the right team if you get drafted.

HANS/HITLER YOUTH #1
You bet I will!

ELIN
(to Hans)
Get well, you two. We'll check on you tomorrow.

(MORE)

ELIN (CONT'D)

We gotta catch the Marylander to Washington after a quick bite to eat at Bennie's.

LUKE

Somebody big wants to talk to us in Washington. Imagine that!

INT./EXT. BENNIE'S DINER - DAY

Luke and Elin are picking up two to-go bags from the diner. They pay the same nice waitress, Dee Dee, with a twenty-dollar bill. One of the bags is marked "Jr.".

LUKE

Wish it could be more.

ELIN

Thanks, Dee Dee.

Dee Dee smiles and pats Luke's hand.

DEE DEE

You kids run along.

They step outside. Luke and Elin look around, but see no one.

ELIN

How ya know he's coming?

LUKE

I just know.

(beat)

Come on, we gotta train to catch.

Luke sets the bag on the steps. Luke and Elin hop in his truck and race off.

As soon as they are out of sight, a long black limo pulls up to the diner.

EXT. TRAIN STATION - DAY

Luke and Elin are just about to board the train. Out of the corner of his eye, Luke sees Big Otto racing down the train platform at them both. Elin doesn't see Big Otto, who is in a new suit of clothes with the price tag on the coat. He has one hand behind his back. Elin finally sees Otto and screams. Elin reaches in her purse for her snub-nosed .38, but when Otto reaches Luke and Elin, he produces a big box of German chocolates from behind his back. Luke and Elin are shocked when he hands it to them.

BIG OTTO

Mr. DuMont say he pay me forty dollars a week to lose wrestling matches on your TV. He say if I change my name to Count Otto von Hessler, and I wear Nazi patches and a mask, he bump it to fifty.

LUKE

That's as American as apple pie, Otto.

BIG OTTO

Danke! Danke!

Big Otto smiles and hugs Luke so tightly he is breathless. He goes to hug Elin, but she stops him and kisses him on the cheek. Big Otto smiles even more as he exits.

Luke and Elin board the train.

INT. TRAIN CAR - DAY

Luke and Elin sip Coca Cola in the Club Car/Observation Deck. The bartender turns up a radio broadcast.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

President Franklin D. Roosevelt, today, assured the public that he's tripling the coast guard installations along the east coast; actively searching for conspirators and Nazi sympathizers; adding armaments at the Panama Canal; and hastening the development of the Office of Strategic Services, America's first coordinated intelligence agency.

ELIN

How 'bout that?

RADIO ANNOUNCER

In local news, treasure hunters were unsuccessful one more time trying to blow their way into the Sindia that sank in 1901 right here off the Ocean City coastline.

The bartender shuts off the radio, as Luke hugs and kisses Elin.

CUT TO:

EXT. OCEAN CITY (2005) - DAY

An elderly smiling gentleman in a felt hat (OLD LUKE; 84), still with his signature Boston Blackie mustache, walks gingerly to the park bench overlooking the ocean. He is the picture of health and vitality as he hugs and kisses Old Elin.

OLD ELIN

You missed the Senator. Where the hell have you been?

OLD LUKE

Going after the Golden Buddha, of course! Look at these plans.

July 4th fireworks go off behind them. Old Luke lays out a large role of paper showing the Sindia and a large cofferdam and a few big pumps.

OLD LUKE (CONT'D)

All we need now is a cofferdam and a few big pumps. We have to get that Golden Buddha and the Jade Dogs back to the Chinese people!

We VISUALIZE the wreck of the Sindia today, buried under 10-20 feet of sand, with a hint of golden and jade-green sparkles from within.

END OF FILM CREDITS:

December 5, 1901 - The Sindia Sinks off Ocean City, NJ. The 33 crew members are rescued.

1901-1902 Early salvagers recovered only part of the Sindia's cargo before she was buried her under layers of sand.

The Sindia's Captain Allan MacKenzie never mastered a vessel again: a broken man. He died in his native Scotland in 1902.

On February 23, 1942, Japanese submarines shelled the Ellwood Oil Field near Santa Barbara, California.

In June 18-29, 1942, German U-Boats successfully dropped off four spies near East Hampton, NY, and Jacksonville, FL. All the spies were captured by the FBI within two weeks.

June 21, 1942, a Japanese submarine fired 17 shells at antiquated Fort Stevens on the Oregon coast. A nearby baseball field bore the brunt of the damage.

September 1942, a Japanese floatplane dropped a pair of

incendiary bombs near Brooking, Oregon, in the hope of starting a forest fire. The tiny fires were quickly extinguished.

September 1944-1945. The Japanese launched high elevation "fire balloons" at the U.S. They were spotted in 15 states, as far east as Michigan and Iowa. A pregnant woman and five children were killed in Oregon after coming across one of the downed balloons.

A scuttled Japanese SuperSub Aircraft Carrier was found off Hawaii in 2006. The U.S. kept this military secret from the Russians and the American public since 1945.

2016 - the Sindia remains covered by 10 to 20 feet of wet sand under 30 to 60 feet of water.

The treasures of the Sindia, estimated to be worth up to \$30,000,000, have yet to be recovered.

End Act Three

FADE OUT.

THE END